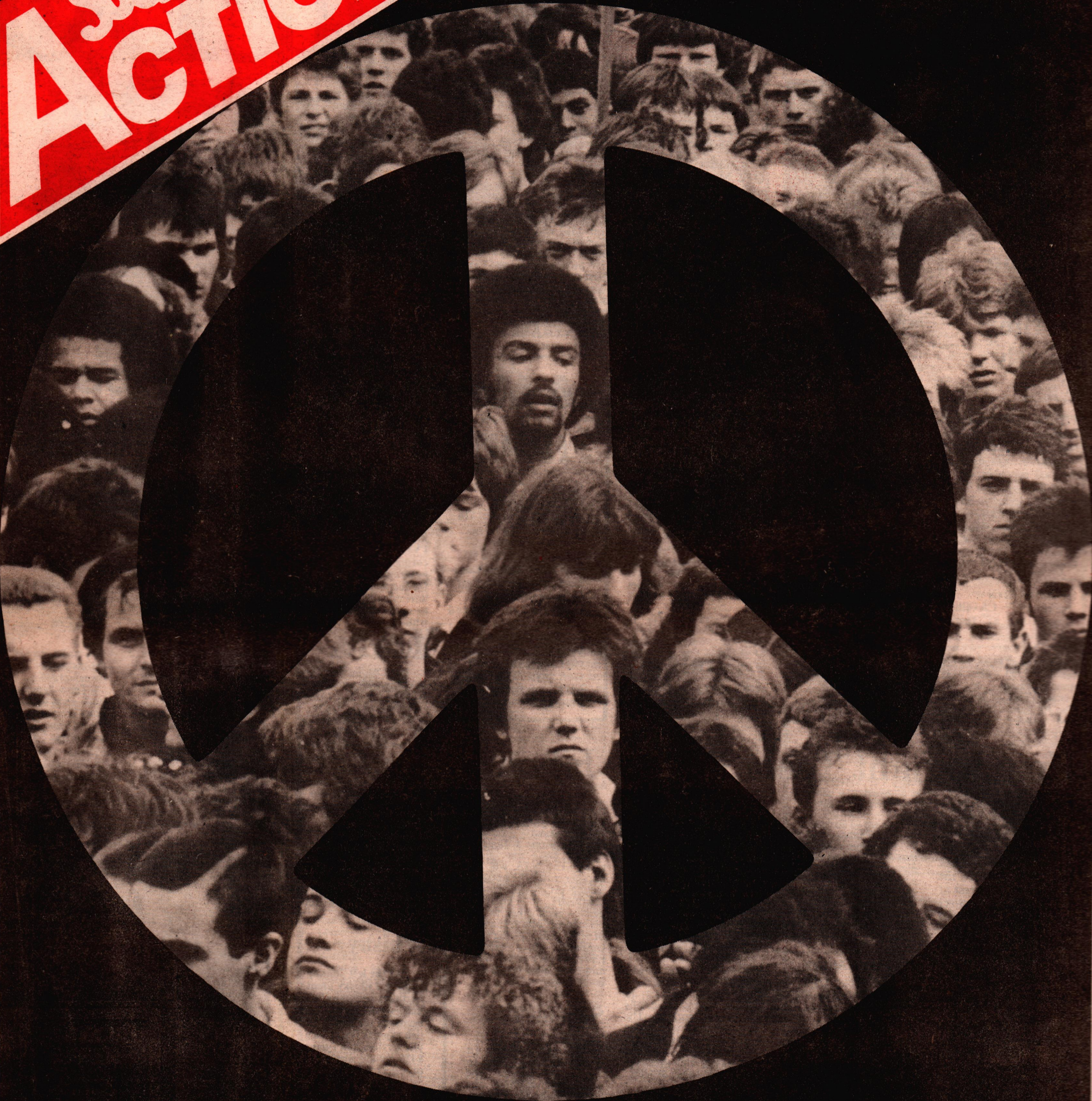


No. 8 6 May 1983
30p

Socialist
ACTION



**ROCK THE TORIES!
ROCK THE BOMB!**

JOB'S NOT BOI

THIS WEEK the main leg of the Peoples March entered England. The stage is set for the march to become a focus for the anger of the unemployed and labour movement against the disastrous policies of the Thatcher government.

On the march: In the North East ...

THE NORTH EAST of England has the highest rate of unemployment in Britain. Yet only at the last moment did a reluctant regional TUC executive agree to sanction a North Eastern leg of the People's March.

The march from Newcastle to Middlesbrough will pass through areas where 30 per cent to 40 per cent unemployment is the norm. Years of domination by right-wing unions and their sponsored

As the march approaches London, it will be calling for the whole labour movement to turn out for the 5 June demonstration in the capital — a mighty demonstration of the massed ranks of the labour movement.

'Manifesto Group' MPs has stifled resistance to the wholesale closures in the region and bred apathy and cynicism in large sections of the labour movement.

The People's March is the first sign for years of a fight back against this despair. Many trade unionists are likening it to the Jarrow Hunger march in the 1930s, an era from which this region has never fully recovered.

The march is beginning to awaken an enthusiasm which started at the Darlington by-election and can now be translated into large welcoming parties for the marchers at the towns along the route.

- Trade unionists, Labour council candidates, and the unemployed are urged to turn out to greet the marchers at the following points:
- * 30 April Newcastle Civic Centre & South Shields
- * 1 May Sunderland Civic Centre
- * 2 May Easington and Horden Labour Club
- * 3 May Hartlepool Civic Centre
- * 4 May ICI Club Billingham & Stockton Town

How to fight Tebbit's slave labour scheme

MORE THAN a quarter of Britain's young people cannot find a job. And it's the same story in the rest of Western Europe where more than 4,500,000 of the 12 million unemployed in the Common Market countries are under 25.

The Tories' response to this catastrophe is the slave labour Youth Training Scheme (YTS). By the end of 1983 employment minister Norman Tebbit wants 460,000 — the majority of young workers — on the scheme.

These are the main features of YTS.

- It is a year-long training/work experience/place for school leavers covering the majority of young employees and trainees
- An allowance of just £25 per week will be paid to trainees
- The requirement for off-the-job training and education is only 13 weeks
- Employers will get a grant of £1850 for every trainee taken on in addition to their normal intake

• The Manpower Services Commission expects that of the total 460,000 places, 300,000 will be with employers, private and public, and about 160,000 will be based in training workshops, community projects and education based schemes.

By Graham Attwell (Branch Sec. NUPE Glamorgan MSC)

In its booklet *Youth Training — a TUC Guide and Checklist for Trade Union Negotiations* the Trades Union Congress tells its members to ask employers for YTS and 'if it is not intended to run a scheme, press for one to run.'

The TUC believes that if the trade unions do not co-operate the government will introduce the scheme with no trade union influence.

Guidelines

The National Union of Public Employees have also issued guidelines on YTS. They point out the shortcomings of YTS and the dangers posed to trade unions.

Hall 5 May: Middlesbrough Town Hall

Yorkshire

By a marcher THE MARCH started at Keighley on 26 April. We are a cross-section of the working class of the area; unemployed building workers, printers, and engineers. We're mostly young.

We started off for Halifax on the 27 April cheered on our way by a fighting speech by Bob Cryer MP. Halifax is a town which shows in a nutshell why our march is necessary.

Its textile and engineering industry are collapsing, throwing thousands on the dole. The local council, Liberals and Tories refused us accommodation, so we slept in church premises.

What a contrast with Huddersfield where we were addressed by the Labour Lord Mayor and were handed a cheque from the ruling Labour group.

We marched into the town with marchers and banners from the trades council and the district committees of the AUEW and TGWU.

Tomorrow, we're in Bradford!

... Ireland!

UNEMPLOYMENT in the South of Ireland is now the worst in

Western Europe — a massive 15 per cent. In addition to the nearly 200,000 jobless there, there are also 115,000 without work in the North.

That's why trade unionists and unemployed came together to organise a Peoples March for Decent Jobs which marched from Cork to arrive in Dublin last weekend.

The protest is part of a movement which has increasingly begun to challenge cuts in benefit and sit-ins against redundancies such as the victorious Clondalkin Paper Mills occupation.

A Marcher's journal

'MAGGIE THATCHER'S tragic; socialism's magic. Da ra ra Da ra ra.' You try dancing a bloody jig to that fifteen miles out of Cumnock, two miles to go to Sanquhar with sheep for company and the rain coming on. 'The reaction's been fantastic', a marcher from the north west says. 'I'm coming back here for my holidays.'

Charlie Howie comes from Kilmarnock. 'After six years of school and two years of college, nine months after leaving and I've still got no job.' According to Charlie, 'the government's responsible for the majority of unemployment. It would be under a million without it.'

High

For Charlie 'the high spot so far is when we reached my home town — Kilmarnock. Up to then my feet were really sore. But with the welcome we got my feet didn't touch the ground. There were over a thousand following us around the town. It felt like a thousand anyway. It was great.'

Kilmarnock is a solid place. The one way system winds past the Palace theatre and an imposing local Conservative HQ — a brave front for a fringe party in Scottish politics.

Whisky

On the left Johnny Walker's whisky plant. Distillers company, which makes Johnny Walkers accounts for half of Scottish exports (extracting oil, services and finance). £426 million worth of its products were sold 'abroad' in 1981. It's the stuff that stays behind that's worth drinking.

Sanquhar is typical of the next stage of the march's long journey south. 'Wee and windy' villages and mining communities, interspersed with miles and miles of countryside.

Through Cumnock we pass a small council 'scheme'. Housing is one of the vital bonds between the Labour Party and the Scottish working class.

In 1915 thousands of Glaswegians went on rent strike. Led almost entirely



Peoples march for jobs

'83 APRIL - JUNE

by women like Helen Crawford, they demanded, and won a war-long rent freeze.

Since then the Labour Party has built municipal housing for half Scotland's population. Most of it is worse than what it replaced. Back in Glasgow on the Castlemilk scheme 48 tenants were arrested last week, demonstrating for

new housing after a deliberate fire burnt out a tenement.

The scheme in Cumnock gives the march a good reception. Roy Cleary from Stranraer puts it this way.

'We have been taken in by the people.' 'Most evenings' adds Diane, 'there's social life laid on and we mix and socialise with local people. We are

ferred even further discrimination with the rise of mass unemployment. The YTS will be another turn of the screw. Young people will be encouraged to compete against each other to get permanent jobs at the end of the year, giving the employer much greater power to pick and choose and offer poor wages and conditions.

Schemes

NUPE considers it counter-productive not to fight to change the schemes given that the TUC had endorsed them. It has cooperated with the Labour Party Young Socialists in producing a Charter of Rights.

But other unions have given YTS their backing. Indeed a deal signed nationally by the Electricians union reduces first year apprentice wages by over £30 per week!

Unless the labour movement wakes up fast YTS could become another stage on the Tory road to the destruction of the trade unions in this country and misery for hundreds of thousands of youth.

'Despite the MSC's assertion that the YTS is about an integrated training programme for all school leavers, in the context of this government's policies it can only be seen as a means to keep young people out of the labour market and off the unemployment register.'

'At the same time it acts in conjunction with their other policies to reduce wages, especially for young workers. The government is doing nothing to create jobs for people. The young people will merely end up being unemployed at 17 instead.'

Basis

The basis of NUPE's argument is that unlike the Youth Opportunity Programme which was for the young unemployed the YTS will be used by employers to replace 'employees' by 'trainees'. Trainees do not have the legal rights and protection enjoyed by employees — for example the Sex and Race Discrimination Acts and the Health and Safety Acts do not apply to them. Young women and young people from ethnic communities have suf-



PEOPLE'S MARCH on the 4000-strong picket against

MBS



definitely getting our aims across with the people. We are getting more and more press coverage as the march goes on. But we need to meet more people.'

Diane wants to get to Birmingham. 'I always wanted to go to Birmingham.'

Roy explains: 'Yes, it's the big towns. That's what we are looking for-

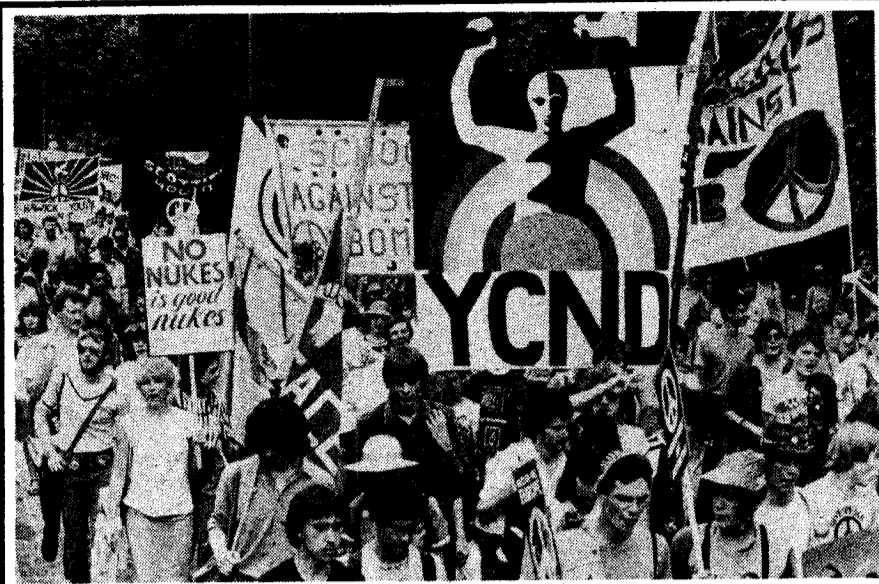
ward to. That's where they've got mass unemployment, like us. It's crowds that get your spirits up. Up to now we have been mostly marching in the country.'

As we talked in the Dumfries church hall Nationwide announced a 'Peoples March' item and as the cheers went up, there was a real feeling that the preliminaries were over.



Photo: John Harris

Minister's visit to Sheffield



COME to the Rock the Bomb festival. 7 May Brockwell Park, Brixton, London. March from the Embankment (11.00am) to Brockwell Park. Music from Paul Weller, Hazel O'Connor, Clint Eastwood and General Saint. (Tel: YCND 01-263 0977 for further details)

TUC and Labour Party back 24 May

LAST WEDNESDAY the Trade Union Congress general council and the Labour Party national executive backed the 24 May International Women's Day for Disarmament. And the Peoples March have declared 24 May a women's day of action.

The call for the day was initiated by the Greenham Common women and the women's peace movement. Speaking at a press conference last week representative Helen John said that this backing showed how successful Greenham Common has been in getting trade union support for their action.

barrack-like homes while their land is used to test weapons.

'Uranium mining is taking place on the land of Navajo Indians in Arizona and New Mexico,' she said.

The British labour movement has a special responsibility in relation to



By Valerie Coultas

Namibia where the British mining firm Rio Tinto Zinc employs Namibians to extract uranium for processing in Britain with appalling wages and conditions.

By drawing out the links between the testing production and siting of nuclear weapons on 24 May women hope to explain the reasons behind the arms race.

While formal support from the labour movement has been overwhelming in Britain it has been more difficult to gain commitments to action.

The TUC Congress, for example, and its last congress passed a resolution proposed by the Transport union calling on the TUC to initiate a demonstration with other European trade union centres on Hiroshima Day on 6 August. But little or no work has been done in this direction.



The best response for 24 May has come from NALGO, ACTTS, ASTMS and NATFHE where the feminist lobby is strong, but here too there is no clear instruction from



national leaderships.

Among manual unions NUPE officials have expressed support and will probably give publicity to the day but are reluctant to give a strong lead because of 'long struggles by our members over pay and privatisation.'

But among rank and file activists support is growing quickly for the day. At every union conference Greenham Common women have met with a fantastic response from delegates.

At the Scottish TUC they spoke at the biggest fringe meeting for years and support came from the militant Plessey and Timex factories fighting back against job loss.

Labour councils have responded to resolutions from women's sections and women's committees. Council employees in Islington and Camden will be encouraged to participate in the day's events.

The Greater London Council's women's committee is planning activities along the North London rail line to protest against the passage of nuclear waste through the city.

Jo Richardson and Harriet Harman hope to get women MPs to visit the threatened South London Women's Hospital to highlight the link between welfare provision and expenditure of arms.

Let's make 24 May the next big step to stopping the missiles in '83!

For further details contact the Greenham Office, 5 Leonard Street, London EC3. Tel 01-251 3133. Special trade union kits are available for those who want to take action in their work places.

CND EVENTS

★ Sat 7 May Youth CND Festival for Peace. Starts at 11am with a demonstration from Embankment marching to Brockwell Park. Bands, speakers and a festival village.

★ 10-12 May Demonstration outside Defence Components Expo '83, in Brighton. Contact (01)-278 1976 for details.

★ Thur 12 May Day of Action against Arms production at Thorn-Brymar's Brimsdown site in Enfield. Organised by London Region CND's Trade Union sub-committee. Details from LRCND, 6 Endsleigh Street, London WC1. Speakers at this lunchtime, factory gate, meeting will include Ken Livingstone (GLC), Jonathon Hammond (NUJ President), Paul Lefley (Sec. Haringey Trades Council), Lou Harris (UCATT London Organiser), Ron Blanchard (Haringey Councillor) and Jeremy Corbyn (Haringey Councillor and PPC for Islington North).

★ Sat 14 May Conference 'Nuclear Disarmament, a Trades Union Strategy. Starts 10.30am at Riddles Court, Lawnmarket, Edinburgh. Speakers will include Gavin Strang MP.

★ Sat 14 May Festival for Peace. Organised by Rhodda CND. Speakers: Ken Livingstone, Ann Clwyd MEP, Alan Rogers MEP, Allan Roberts MP, Women for Life on Earth. Starts 2.00pm at Penrhys Community Centre.

★ 14-21 May Ealing Labour Party Disarmament Week. Contact David Bays (01)-992 0287.

★ Sat 14 May Street theatre, Acton Precinct, Children's Peace Party, Ruskin Hall, 2.30-5.00.

★ Wed 18 May Meeting, Ealing North Labour Club, The Lucas Plan, open to LP members & their guests.

★ Thurs 19 May Public meeting, Acton Town Hall, 7.30: Nuclear-free London - Nuclear-free World with Ken Livingstone, GLC; Mary Kaldor, END; Greenham Peace Camp Woman; Norman Atkinson MP, PLP; Gareth Daniel and Hilary Benn.

★ Thur 19 May Meeting 'Disarmament: The Present State' Organised by S.E. Birmingham CND. At Friends Meeting House, Hall Green, Birmingham, starts 7.30.

★ Thur 19 May Meeting. Speaker Bruce Kent. Starts at 7.30 in the New Village Hall, High Street, Orpington.

★ Sat 21 May Women's Peace Action. Southall bunker. Children's Peace Party, Dorset Hall, 2.30-5.00. YS Peace Gig, 7.30 Ruskin Hall W3. (All part of Ealing Peace week.)

★ Sat 21 May South London CND Labour Movement Conference. Speakers include: Jo Richardson MP, Alastair Macrae (NUPE Nat Officer), Pat Arrowsmith. Workshops: NVDA and industrial action, Alternative products, TUs and the Labour Party. Battersea Arts Centre, Lavender Hill, London SW11. £2/£1 admission.

★ Tue 24 May Glasgow Women for Peace. Day of Action for International Women's Day for Disarmament. George Square, Glasgow. Rally 12-2pm with speakers from Greenham, Faslane, STUC. Women's Festival 2pm-7pm. For more information contact 'Women for Peace', c/o the Women's Centre, 57 Miller Street, Glasgow G2. Tel. 041 221 1177 Sats. after 1pm.

★ Tue 24 May Women's day of action of peace. Details from Carmel McConnel, Tel: (0273)-604265.

★ Thur 26 May Meeting organised by Bristol TUCND. Speakers: Reg Race MP and Greenham Common woman. Also two films. Starts at 7.30pm at Transport House, Victoria St., Bristol.

★ Sat 28 May Greater Manchester CND trade union conference. Speakers: Ron Todd (T&G), Les Huckfield MP. Greenham Common women. Afternoon workshops. Further details, 061-682 9334.

★ Mon 30 May Tormess Festival of Re-Creation, 2pm till late at Barns Ness, near Dunbar. Details from SCRAM, 031-557 4283/4.

CND Events 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 Events, Socialist Action, 328 Upper Street, London N1 2XP.



GET the latest issue of Revolution, the campaigning paper for youth.

Revolution will be on the march to Brockwell Park on Saturday. Join us!

Come to see us at our joint marquee with Socialist Action when you get there! Buy Revolution. 10p.

For more information about Revolution and details of subscription write to PO Box 50, London N1 2XP.

IRELAND UNFREE

Abortion rights and wrongs

By Hilary Driver

'The state acknowledges the right to life of the unborn and, with due regard to the equal right to life of the mother, guarantees in its laws to respect, and, in so far as practicable, by its laws to defend and vindicate that right.'

LAST WEEK the Dail, the Irish parliament, passed this amendment to the constitution in a defeat for the ruling Fine Gael party.

Originally, the proposal to amend the constitution in this way was supported by both Fine Gael and Fianna Fail, who were falling over themselves in the race to be 'more anti-abortion than thou'.

But although the massive debate brought a welcome relief from the spotlight on Eire's economic crisis, it had a stormy dynamic all its own.

The row isn't even really centred around pro or anti-abortion. Abortion has always been illegal in the South, with an estimated 5000 women coming over to Britain each year for them. The proposal to enshrine this in the constitution, won't change this, but it has nevertheless provoked an uproar.

The Protestant churches viewed it as a sectarian provocation, 'the most divisive issue in the history of the state', and attacked it as a misuse of the constitution. Although of course they are anti-abortion, they believed that the laws as they stand are good enough.

Much of the row centred around the wording of the amendment. The term 'unborn' is neither legally defined or easy to define at all. There are real fears that 'unborn' could be interpreted as coming into existence at fertilisation or conception. In this event contraceptives which are believed to act by preventing implantation of the fertilised egg in the womb, such as the coil or the morning pill, could be outlawed.

Similarly, the fact that equal status is given in the amendment to both the right to life of the mother and the foetus, may well lead to doctors refusing to treat women with ectopic pregnancy, cancer, kidney disease and so on if it may endanger the life of the foetus. Many women would die through being denied medical treatment — and of course so would the foetus!

It will be left up to the Supreme Court to interpret the constitution in law. Already, the anti-abortion lobby (who adopt the ridiculous name 'pro-life') are gearing up for test prosecutions. They hope to be able to obtain injunctions to prevent women who they suspect may be planning to travel to Britain for an abortion. It has already been suggested that the 1861 Offences Against the Person Act is updated to make it a criminal offence for an Irish woman to have an abortion anywhere in the world.

The pro-amendment lobby are now pushing for an early referendum on the issue. If the referendum results in a 'yes' vote, this will only see the beginnings of what will undoubtedly be a sustained onslaught on even the limited rights of Irish women.

• The Anti-Amendment Campaign can be contacted at PO Box 1285, Dublin 7 (Dublin 308636).

Colin Roach Campaign

'I hope from the heart that anyone with human feelings will support us'

POLICE in Stoke Newington have a long record of racial violence and harassment.

This has been a central factor in the widespread support locally for an independent public inquiry into the death of Colin Roach. Colin Roach — who showed no suicidal tendencies — was shot dead in the foyer of Stoke Newington police station last January.

The night that Colin died, his father was questioned for three hours by the police.

Despite asking about his son, he was told nothing — only after the interrogation did they tell him that Colin was dead.

They then proceeded to search the house. At one point, a police woman grabbed Mrs Roach by the throat.

The death of Colin and the incredible intimidation of his family and supporters has served to highlight the history of thuggery of the local police.

In 1981, Nellie Knight reported a burglary of her house. The police arrived and Nellie and her daughters, Jennifer and Janice, were dragged outside the front door.

Nellie was assaulted by the police and the three of them were dragged screaming out of the house in spite of their protest that Nellie's six year old daughter was alone in the house.

Nellie was stopped from screaming by being

hit in the mouth by an object produced from a police officer's pocket which caused internal and external bleeding.

By Jeff Charlton

She was thrown headlong into a police van and the door slammed on her feet.

Jennifer, who was then only 13, was forced into a van by two officers, with her arm twisted behind her back. Nellie was lying face down on the floor while the police rested their feet on her. Janice's nose was bleeding.

In the charge room all three were subjected to racial abuse.

Nellie was taken to Hackney hospital where her mouth was stitched, and then taken back to a cell where her daughters had been kept.

Both young women then started vomiting and in spite of numerous requests were denied any assistance. Jennifer was still very ill later, and was denied a sanitary towel.

they've got any human feeling inside them about the prejudice, brutality and hatred of the police towards the black community, will come out and give us their physical support and attention'.

• Messages of support, donations and requests for speakers should be sent to

the Roach Family Support Committee, c/o 50 Rectory Road, London N16 (01-254 7480).

• MARCH & RALLY for an independent public inquiry into the death of Colin Roach. Sat 14 May, 12.30pm, Bethnal Green Gardens (Bethnal Green tube), E2. Called by RFSC.

Kill the Police Bill

THE NATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE POLICE BILL has taken off. A mailing of 20,000 has been set out to get delegates to the conference on Sunday, 15 May, and to publicise the march organised by the Campaign to Curb Police powers on 22 May.

About 10,000 have been distributed by ASLEF, NALGO, ACTT, the Fire Brigades Union, the London region of the Labour Party and others.

The responses are flowing in. MPs, trade unionists, black organisations, police monitoring projects, CLPs, LPYS branches and other organisations against the Bill have all given their

support and are sending delegates.

Organisations in the front line of the fight against police violence, like the Newham 8, the Roach Family Support Committee, the Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign, and the Free David Avondales Campaign, set up to struggle for the release of David, a young Afro-Caribbean from Southall wrongly imprisoned, are all joining the campaign.

By Tim Wright

The conference is going to be large. It has not been called just to discuss the Bill. All the delegates will be aware of its implications. The conference is about organising to fight the Bill. There will be

plenty of time for contributions from the floor, for resolutions, and for the election of a representative steering committee to co-ordinate national activity.

The conference will mobilise for the march on 22 May and for a national picketing of police stations on 4 June.

Socialist Action supporters must build for the conference and organise for these events.

If a June election is called, the NCCL believe the Bill will be rushed through by the Tories. The Bill is liable to become an election issue. Democratic rights are being savagely attacked and the black community is being immediately endangered by the Bill.

The Bill can kill: Kill the Police Bill.

Hackney nursery sackings

By Helen Jamieson



Liz Thomas (left) and Janet Pearce

THE SACKING of two workers on 16 April by Hackney's Market Nursery is producing a profound upheaval within Hackney left and feminist circles, and is raising far-reaching questions about problems of progressive childcare.

The management committee of the nursery, widely regarded as one of the most progressive in the borough, has over the last few weeks been engaged in a blundering but determined campaign to sack two of the staff, Janet Pearce and Liz Thomas.

It has flouted basic trade union and socialist principles in the process and fanned anti-lesbian prejudices.

It has also provided ammunition for scandal-mongering papers like the

Standard, and the Daily Mirror which called the women 'witches'.

On 2 March the management committee attempted to sack Janet and Liz outright at a meeting — with no prior warning and no union representation. Under pressure from NUPE they agreed to suspend the women and have a hearing.

But this could not have been a fair hearing — the women had already been sacked. The management committee had already stuck its neck out claiming that all the problems at the nursery would be resolved if Janet and Liz were sacked.

The management committee was the judge, jury and prosecutor: the hearing was used to try and justify the sackings.

The charges levelled at the women included negligence in their duties, being disruptive influences and having extremist and sexist attitudes.

The only independent observer at the whole hearing, Hackney Labour councillor, Denise Robson, wrote in a letter to the management committee: 'It is my personal observation, however, that the final decision was reached without proper regard for the evidence presented by the defendants.'

During the hearing some charges were dropped because they proved groundless. Others that remained cannot be taken seriously, for example that Janet told a child that Father Christmas does not exist. The policy at the nursery before Janet even started was to have a Mother Christmas!

The real problem was that these so-called progressives had no clearly worked out policies on non-sexist and non-racist practice, on management/staff relations, on behavioural problems of children and how to deal with them.

Tensions arose over policy without any open discussion and debate. Rumours abounded.

Eventually splits arose between staff and between parents. Janet and Liz were blamed because of they were outspoken, and the progressives turned into anti-union witch-hunters.

With the sackings, instead of everything returning to normal, things are falling apart at the seams.

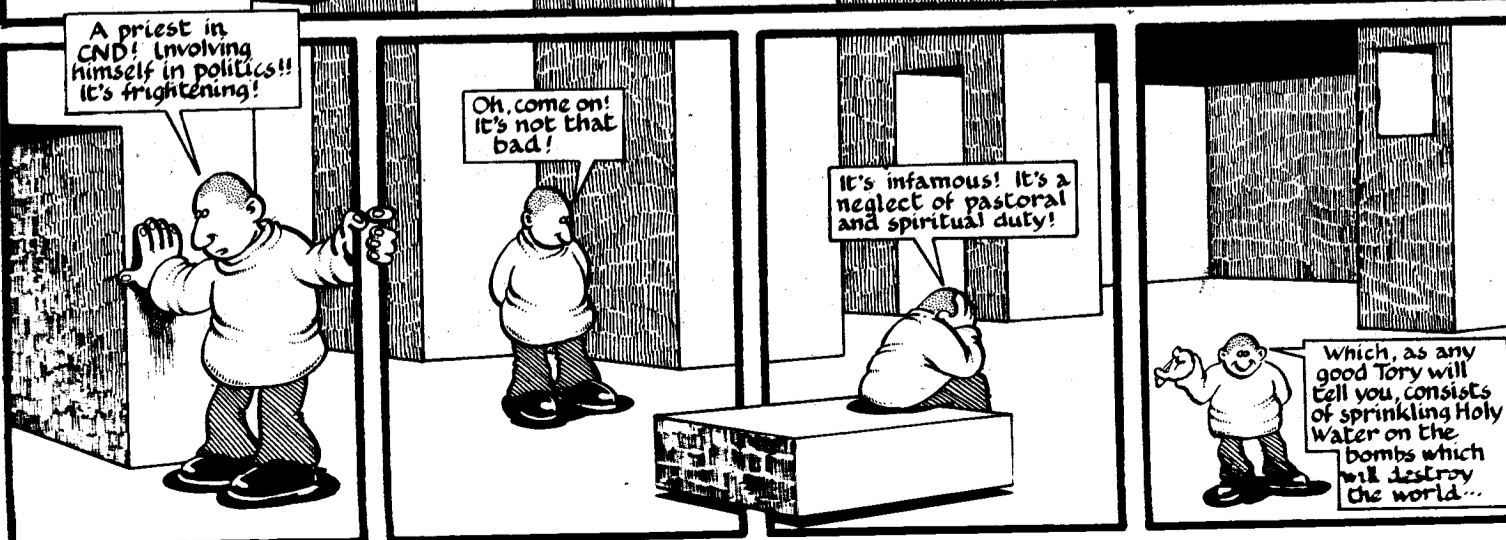
The biggest blow to the management committee has come from a resolution which was passed unanimously at the workplace union meeting on 26 April (one person absent) calling on the management committee to agree to a fair appeal for Janet and Liz, and to agree to an inquiry into the workings of the nursery.

Anyone wishing to help should write letters or pass resolutions condemning the sackings and demanding an appeal, as well as demanding an inquiry into the nursery.

Send copies to the Management Committee (Market Nursery, Wilde Close, off Pownall Rd, London E5); to Anthony Kendall (leader of Hackney Council); and to the Janet Pearce/Liz Thomas Support Group, Box 19, Sisterwrite, 19 Upper Street, London N1. Donations would be appreciated.

A PIECE OF THE ACTION

BY CORMAC #5 5/83



Nuclear free defence?

AS THE PEACE MOVEMENT has grown concern to present a credible alternative defence policy has also grown.

Last week *Defence without the Bomb* was published by the Alternative Defence Commission, which proposes 'de-coupling' NATO from the US nuclear deterrent — making NATO a non-nuclear defence alliance based on conventional weaponry.

The coming book 'Nuclear Free Defence' (Heretic Books) collects numerous individual contributions around the same theme. How can Britain be defended without the bomb?

Paul Lawson

The problem with the 'alternative defence' theorists is that they start to give ground to CND's opponents. To get involved in the discussion about 'alternative defence' means making an assumption about *who* we have to defend ourselves against. The argument in *Defence Without the Bomb* starts from 'common sense' ideas accepted by the Tories, the SDP and the Labour right wing — that we have to defend ourselves against the 'Russian' threat.

Warriors

Once that is accepted, and it is admitted that the Soviet Union does have a big nuclear arsenal, then plans for 'non-nuclear defence' start to look threadbare. What's wrong is the assumption that we have to have 'collective security' against the alleged Russian threat.

The idea that the Soviet leadership is planning to invade and occupy Western Europe is a myth invented by the cold war warriors. With the stability of Soviet domination of Eastern Europe in question, and its having problems with its economy, the last thing the Soviet Union is going to do is invade Western Europe. The USSR would gain nothing

by such a crazy action.

The practical proposals produced by the Alternative Defence Commission are utopian. NATO is an alliance dominated by the United States and based on the first use of nuclear weapons. An attempt to 'de-couple' NATO from the American nuclear 'deterrent' would be bitterly opposed not just by the United States, but by the establishments in all Western countries.

NATO is not an instrument for 'the defence of freedom' against Soviet aggression. It is an aggressive alliance. The Soviet Union is surrounded by US military bases from Norway to Turkey and from Pakistan to Japan. Turkey, one of the most repressive countries in the world, is a member of NATO.

On 12 March 1947 President Truman came out with the 'Truman doctrine' in which the United

Moscow

States would aid 'free peoples who are resisting subjugation by armed minorities'. This meant the preservation of the 'free world' against the 'advance of communism'. From then on, revolutionary or national liberation movements were labelled 'tools of Moscow'.

The United States and Britain helped to put down left wing movements in Greece and Turkey. The 'Moscow aggression' theory was used during the Korean war, and again in 1953 when the CIA helped overthrow the Mossadegh government in Iran and put back the Shah. The 'Truman doctrine' was updated in the 'Eisenhower doctrine' in 1957, in which he pledged to help any right wing government which needed help against 'armed aggression'.

This resulted in the invasion of the Lebanon in 1958, and was followed by the Bay of Pigs invasion of 1961 and the invasion of the Dominican Republic in 1965. The NATO alliance is aimed at the containment of progressive



Harry S Truman architect of US post-war cold war politics.

and revolutionary social movements.

The aggressive intentions of the NATO alliance can be seen in

what happened in Germany in the post war period. When Germany was divided into US, French, British and Soviet occupation zones, the Soviet

Union proposed the reunification of Germany as a neutral state.

But the Western powers were determined to



One of Britain's counter-insurgent gangsters.

keep part of Germany as a bulwark against the 'red menace'. In 1948 the British, US and French zones were merged, and the construction of the West German state set in train. The idea of neutralised states in Europe was thrown out in favour of a ring of steel around the Soviet Union. When talking about 'alternative defence' we have to understand that the forces of NATO and Britain are there to defend the capitalist social system. The British army since the second world war has played a reactionary role everywhere it has been used — in Cyprus, Korea, Aden, Ireland, Malaya — and the Falklands. Today it is one of the best trained 'counter-insurgency' forces in the world.

But surely even a socialist Britain would need to defend itself? Of course, but a socialist Britain could not use a capitalist army for this purpose. To defend a socialist Britain against

foreign aggression — and the only people interested in overthrowing a socialist Britain would be our present NATO allies — we could only rely on working people.

Army

Faced with a foreign threat, or with internal capitalist-backed subversion, only the armed workers could be relied on. Workers' militias would be the very opposite of the present army — the last thing that capitalism wants is for the people to be armed.

Workers' militias could ensure effective and mass resistance to any foreign aggression. But advocating mass civilian defence in a socialist Britain is very different to any scheme to 'reform' NATO or to make the army more powerful through conscription, or relying on conventional weaponry — wielded by the best trained anti-'subversion' force in the world.

MALE ORDER

side effects including a delayed return to fertility, weight gain and depressions.

The public hearing presently being conducted has revealed some very disturbing facts. These have been made public by petitioners who are for the licensed use of the drug in Britain. (Groups opposing the license are not allowed to speak at the hearing!)

A lot of research on the drug has, as usual, been conducted in third world countries.

Conclusions on the drugs effects on endometrial cancer were made from a test on Thailand villagers, but it was admitted that as only 12 women were exposed to the drug, these were inconclusive.

The drug has been used as a short-term con-

traceptive in Britain. At the London Hospital in the east end it was revealed in 1977, only 22 per cent of women given the drug were told about it and discussed with by their doctor.

Many of these women were Bengalis.

A junior doctor at the hospital said: 'It's no use explaining about beagle dogs (a reference to cancer tests) she's an illiterate peasant from the bush'.

Male assault

FIGURES on the colour of assailants for 'mugging' offences aroused criticisms of racism when they were released last year by Scotland Yard.

The Met said they

wouldn't be given in their public announcement of the figures this year. The data is still collected, however, for robbery and other violent thefts.

Although many columns of *Hansard* (the official record of parliamentary proceedings) on 22 and 28 March are devoted to an analysis of assailants' colour, such attention is not given to the sex of assailants in assault cases.

Labour MP Frank Dobson asked the question, how many women were victims of male assault?

The answer from Patrick Mayhew was that 'information separately identifying male assailants is not collected in the Metropolitan

police district and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost'. (City Limits)

Stop Halimat's deportation

HALIMAT Babamba came to Britain in September 1980 from Nigeria to join her husband.

In July 1982 she left him because of his violence towards her. Halimat is now settled in Leeds with her two young children, Hakeem and Mustapha.

Halimat says: 'If I go back to Nigeria, my children will be taken from me. I will face the

same violence from my husband.

'I will not be able to work, I have no family to go to and no home there. I believe my home and my children's home is in this country'.

For further information, speakers etc. contact Friends of Halimat Babamba, Box HB, 59 Cookridge St, Leeds LS2 3AW.



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.

Depo-Provera: the case for?
DEPO-PROVERA is a contraceptive drug that is injected and whose effects last for three months.
Upjohn, the US manufacturers, have appealed against last year's decisions by the Health Minister, Kenneth Clarke, not to license the drug for long term use.
Women injected with Depo-Provera have suffered from prolonged heavy bleeding and other

Fire in the Americas

GUERRILLAS of the Salvadorean FMLN dealt a devastating reply to President Reagan last week, following his speech to Congress in which he said that the 'Americas were on fire'.

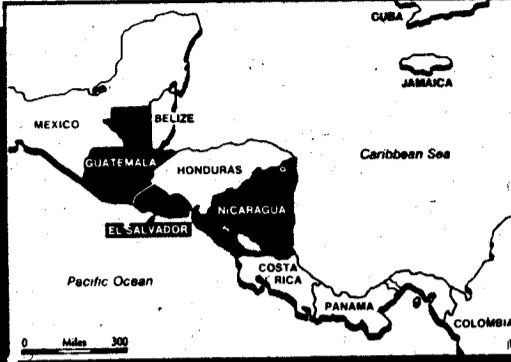
Just two days later they swept into the north western town of Santa Rose de Lima, effectively isolating large areas of La Union and Morazan provinces from government control.

Reagan's speech to a syncophantic Congress was a masterpiece of hypocrisy — but during it he in effect spelt out what was exactly at stake for the United States in Central America.

He called the area 'our front yard', and spelt out that successful revolution in the area could easily spread further afield in Latin America. He pointed out that 'half our supplies to our NATO allies go via the seas of the region'. Reagan's hypocrisy lay in his diatribes about the region being a 'magnet for adventurism' and a victim of 'externally supported aggression'.

Not a word about the grinding poverty, the victims of the right wing death squads, the savagery of the military dictators, which even the *Economist* calls the 'piranha right'.

Most breath-taking of all was his assertion that the United States was not trying to overthrow the Sandinistas in Nicaragua but 'we should not, and will not, protect the Nicaraguan government from the anger of their own people.'

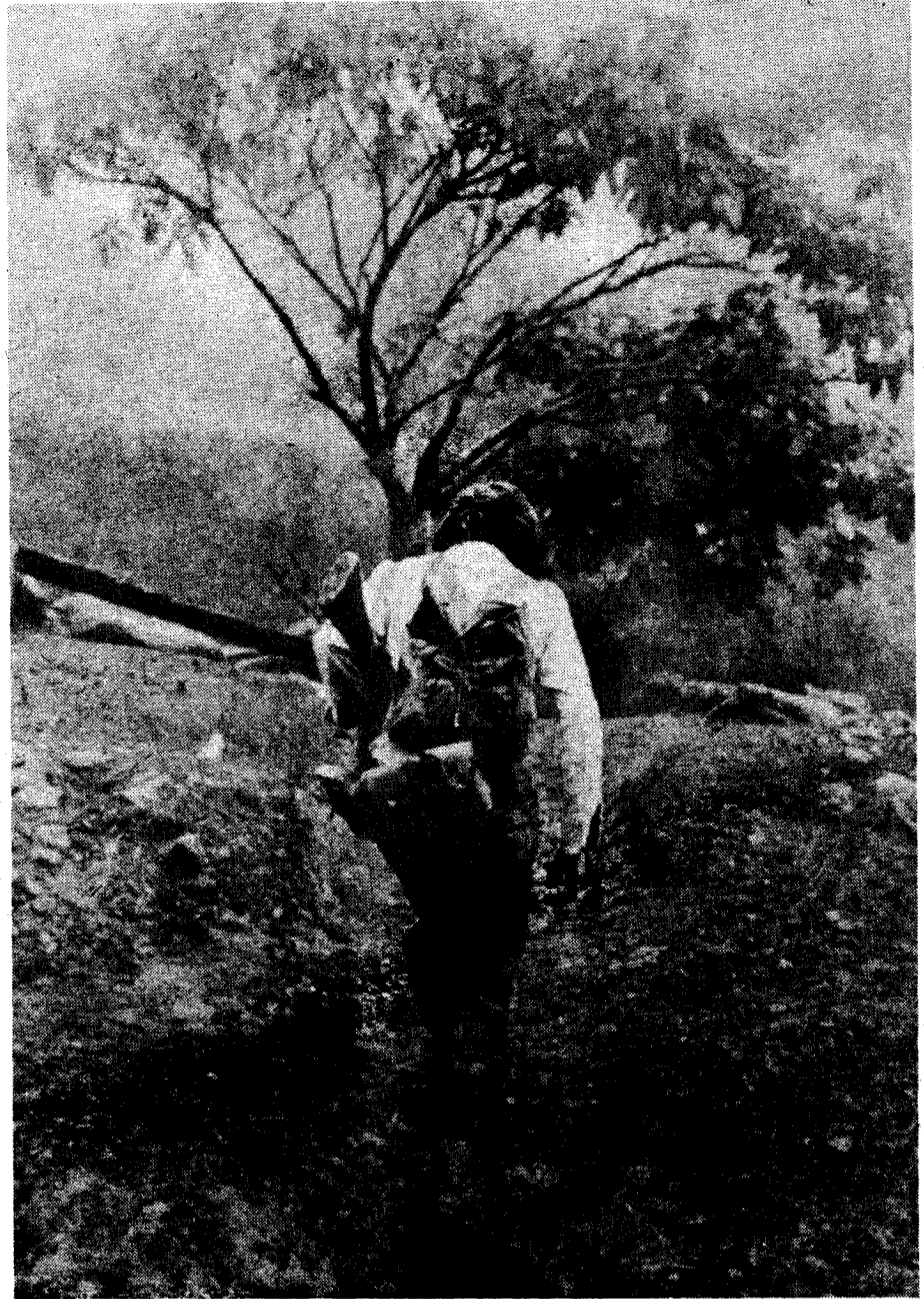


Despite the grovelling response to Reagan in the Congress, the biggest cheers were for his promise that US combat troops would not be sent to Central America. The volume of cheering for that particular point caught Reagan off guard.

But as the *Sunday Times* pointed out last week, such a promise was in contradiction to everything else that Reagan said. If the threat to US interests really is so great, argued the *Times*, then troops would have to be used at some point.

The Congress has given Reagan half of the \$100m he wants to boost the Salvadorean army. 'Our cup is half full' said the President 'and we'll come back for the rest'.

Without some dramatic move from the United States, the Salvadorean regime is within months of falling. As the fighting in Central America escalates, we publish below a country-by-country guide to the conflict.



Nicaragua

Population: 3 million
Main products: cotton, coffee, sugar.

Economic structure: banks, insurance companies, fishing industry and mines are nationalised, together with 30 per cent of agriculture and 40 per cent of the rest of industry. State monopoly of foreign trade and credit. Thus 'mixed economy' but growing state sector.

Political structure: revolutionary government of the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN). FSLN government based on mass organisations — CDS (Sandinista Defence Committees), popular militias, CST (Sandinista trade union organisation) womens organisations, youth organisations etc.

Political situation: following the 1979 insurrection the FSLN inherited an economy in a state of collapse. They have been engaged in a long process of 'reconstruction'.

Food consumption has increased 40 per cent since the revolution. Free medical and dental care has been introduced. Infant mortality has declined spectacularly. Illiteracy has declined

from 50 per cent to 10 per cent.

Political support for revolution among the middle class has declined as the FSLN has moved to more openly socialist orientation.

Opposition groups inside the country include COSEP (employers federation), Constitutional Liberal Movement (MLC), and the Social Democratic Party (PSD). Main voice of the opposition is the daily paper *La Prensa*.

US intervention: US supports, arms and finance guerrilla groups of the *Somocistas*, supporters of the late dictator Somoza, based in Honduras.

They are organised in the Nicaraguan Democratic Union (UDN), led by Fernando Chamorro. This force is responsible for the cross-border incursions in the last two months. US aims to bring down FSLN government.

Operation is controlled by US embassy in Honduran capital Tegucigalpa. CIA has new alliance with Democratic Revolutionary Alliance (ARDE) in Costa Rica, supporters of former FSLN commander Eden Pastora.



Womens militia in Nicaragua.

El Salvador

Population: 5 million
Main products: Coffee (third largest producer in the world), sugar, cotton.

Economic structure: El Salvador is dominated by the 'fourteen families' — the top two per cent of the population who own the plantations. Poverty among the workers and peasants is acute.

In 1975, 58 per cent of the population earned \$10 a month or less. 70 per cent of children under five are undernourished. The per capita calorie consumption is the lowest in the Western hemisphere.

Unemployment and underemployment is a permanent 45 per cent. Over 40 per cent of the population is illiterate.

Political structure: disguised military dictatorship. Last year's phoney elections elected

an Assembly, led by Roberto D'Aubuisson — head of the death squads and the fascist ARENA party.

The president, Magana, is an extreme right wing Nationalist. Army leaders like Jaime Gutterez and Jose Garcia play a crucial role in the government.

Repression: carried out by the death squads, the fascist ORDEN, the National Guard and the army. 40,000 civilian dead at the hands of these butchers in three years.

Political opposition: led by Democratic Revolutionary Front (FDR) and Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) — the alliance of revolutionary guerrilla armies.

FDR includes Communist Party, revolutionary mass organisations (LP-28, BPR,

Central American Revolutionary Workers Party), MNR (social democrats), Social Christian Party, trade unions.

US intervention: 60-100 US military 'advisors'. Includes operational planning personnel, Green Beret counter-insurgency experts, military planning group at the US embassy. All weapons provided by United States, including Huey helicopters. Total aid to government from US (open and disguised) over \$300m per year.

Military situation: FMLN has launched military offensive since January. Large areas of the countryside are 'controlled zones'.

Without substantial new US intervention, military collapse of government within months is possible.

Manchester Rally

Hands Off
Nicaragua



Speakers include: Nicaraguan ambassador, Jenny Pearce (author of 'Under the Eagle'), Colin Barnett (North West TUC).

Monday 9 May 7:30pm
Town Hall Basement, Albert Sq.

Guatemala

Population: 7 million
Economic structure: The Guatemalan economy is based on the export of bananas, sugar, coffee, cotton and meat. But there is a developing oil field and a manufacturing sector based on Guatemala City. 81 per cent of all US investment in the region goes to Guatemala.

The tiny oligarchy which controls the economy includes many people of US origin, with strong links to business in the South-West USA.

At the bottom of the social pile are the rural

Indian population, the rural seasonal labourers and the unemployed. 10 per cent of the population controls 82 per cent of the land. 30 per cent of the population are permanently unemployed. 80 per cent of the children are undernourished. 90 per cent of the rural population are illiterate.

Political structure: Military dictatorship led by Protestant fanatic Rios Montt. In 1982 Montt and the officers supporting him overturned the result of the (fraudulent) election and

installed themselves in power.

The army is waging a genocidal war against the Indians, believing them to be the source of subversion.

The political 'centre' of the country has been virtually destroyed by assassinations of leaders of the Christian Democratic Party and the Social Democratic Party. The death squads are the fascist Mano Blanco (White Hand) who work together with the army.

Montt is waging a campaign to win over the Catholic peasants to Protestantism, fearing that the Catholic Church supports revolution.

Opposition: The legal opposition has been terrorised into quiescence. The revolutionary opposition is the URNG (Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity) — an alliance of four guerrilla organisations of which the Guatemalan Workers Party (PGT) and the Guerrilla Army of the Poor (EGP) are the strongest.

Liberated zones in the countryside are less extensive than in El Salvador, but the guerrillas are active in over half the country.

Besides the revolutionary left, the Democratic Front against Repression (FDCR) co-ordinates 150

organisations, legal parties and church organisations.

American intervention: During the Carter era, US aid to Guatemala was banned because of human rights violations. Arms sales have now resumed to Montt. Although the US is increasingly worried that his regime is isolated.

Guatemala is the crucial country in the region as far as the United States is concerned. If US intervention is at a relatively low level, this could change rapidly if the guerrillas become more powerful. Israel makes up for any military aid that the US misses out on.

GRENADA is a tiny Caribbean island off the coast of Venezuela, with a land area of only 144 square miles and a population of just 110,000, making it one of the world's smallest countries. Yet in the four years since the 13 March 1979, the people of the island have made enormous gains under the leadership of Maurice Bishop's People's Revolutionary Government.

But, in so doing, they have incurred the wrath of the United States government which now directly threatens the revolution.

In these extracts from a speech he made at Kensington Town Hall on 16 April, Prime Minister Bishop explains these gains, the nature of the United States threat and the links between developments in Grenada and those elsewhere in the Caribbean and Central America. (Chris Palmer)

A LOT has happened since 1980, the last time I spoke at a London rally. There has been the world capitalist crisis and now the new threats to peace. There have been invasions, and most recently the invasion of the free sovereign soil of Nicaragua. It has been a difficult and challenging period but also in many ways an exciting and successful period.

The crisis in the capitalist world has had very serious implications for the economies of developing countries. It has meant higher interest rates, while even in the capitalist world, we have seen the phenomenon of negative growth rates as an almost permanent economic feature. Under this pressure, unemployment figures in the capitalist world have been staggering. All this has had severe implications for us in the developing world. These countries, the western industrialised countries, have been buying less of our goods and, when they buy them, buying them more cheaply.

For example, in Grenada, at one point we had 10 million pounds of nutmeg in storage in a situation where the annual production is around 6 million pounds. We have seen cocoa prices fall by 65 per cent in the last two years and, because of the fall in the value of the pound, we have felt this even more.

At the same time the capitalist countries have been selling their goods to us more expensively and so the vicious circle has continued. Such countries have erected more and more barriers to trade with us: their protectionist policies have meant that even when we produce goods the tariff barriers erected around their countries have made it virtually impossible for us to have access to their markets.

So we now have a situation in the developing world unparalleled in the history of mankind. At the end of last year, the developing world was left owing debts of over \$600 billion and had to pay over \$130 billion by way of interest alone.

Over the last three years, as a result of loss of credits, as a result of low prices and high interest rates, we have lost over \$85 billion in purchasing power.

And if this were not bad enough, the capitalist countries have begun to create among themselves a huge trade in raw materials, the main items which developing countries try to export. Thus the exports of developing countries have fallen from 40 per cent of the world total in the 1960s down to 25 per cent in 1979. At the same time, the share of exports from non-oil exporting countries has fallen from 25 per cent to 11 per cent. The

'Reagan claims that the tiny island of Grenada is a threat to the United States'



Photo: GM COOKSON

Maurice Bishop, Prime Minister of Grenada

developing countries also invest amongst themselves more these days, and less in the third world.

Again, it has become increasingly difficult for developing countries to get money from the World Bank or the International Monetary Fund. This is particularly true for countries like Grenada which are following a non-capitalist path of development. The IMF refused us money unless the World Bank approved our expenditure programme. But the World Bank is almost exclusively controlled by the United States so that only those countries whom the US wish to get loans actually get them.

Now developing countries have to go to normal transnational commercial banks to get money. But that means higher interest rates and shorter repayment periods. This has led to the debt trap.

In turn this has meant starvation and death for many of the people of the third world. 20 million children are dying every year from malnutrition; more than 800 million people could not get enough to eat last year.

Comrade Fidel Castro, the Cuban revolutionary leader, has said that if you were to stand for a minutes silence for each person in the world who was dying of starvation every day, then you'd have to stand up right into the twenty first century.

Ronald Reagan and the United States threat

ON TOP of all this suffering, on top of the world capitalist crisis, on top of the crisis in the developing countries engendered by the world capitalist crisis, there is another even worse phenomenon facing the world. This new crisis is called Ronald Reagan — the greatest disaster to hit mankind

since Hitler. He believes he can roll back the gains of the world socialist community and the non-aligned movement, that he can roll back the struggles of the national liberation movements. He wants to establish a new Pax Americana — or maybe I should say Pax Reagana.

He is a man who believes it is possible to win a nuclear war with a first nuclear strike. Instead of asking scientists to develop ways of overcoming world hunger, he asks them to develop a neutron bomb — a bomb that will kill people but leave property intact. And now he's talking about Star Wars!

But his contempt for humanity extends beyond the developing world to his friends and allies in the west. He tells Mitterand and the French people that they are not entitled to put communists in the cabinet; he tells the countries of the European Economic Community (EEC) that they should not give humanitarian aid through the Red Cross to the war victims of El Salvador; he tells the EEC not to receive gas through the Siberian pipeline deal from the Soviet Union.

So now we face not just the usual amount of imperialist destabilisation and pressure which popular and progressive movements have always faced, but increased pressure and aggression. We face propaganda destabilisation, through to economic and diplomatic destabilisation, up to threats of direct military invasion.

Cuba, the first successful revolution in the western hemisphere, stands as a beacon for the people of Latin America and the Caribbean. But the strength of the Cuban people means that Reagan will have to use nuclear weapons if he wants to defeat them. In the cases of Nicaragua and Grenada, much younger revolutions,

processes which are still being consolidated, he believes that a combination of propaganda destabilisation, economic aggression and the use of mercenaries and counter-revolutionaries will be enough to achieve their overthrow.

So, in Nicaragua today, the sons and daughters of Sandino have to face invasion. The counter-revolutionaries — supplied, financed and trained by the United States — have been sent there by the United States as directly as if they had sent their own marines.

It is important to note that the people of Nicaragua, led by their vanguard the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN) are on top of the situation, are daily beating back these counter-revolutionaries. In El Salvador, the oligarchs in power are allied to the United States, which is doing everything possible to keep them in power. Reagan tells Congress every week that human rights are improving, that there is nothing really wrong with the government, that if the guerrillas would just lay down their arms then everything would be all right. But nothing can stop the forward march of the people of El Salvador.

Grenada since the Revolution

ONE of the reasons that Ronald Reagan is so blue mad at Grenada is that not only has he seen us resist all attempts at destabilisation, but he has seen our country go forward. Last year, we recorded an economic growth rate of 5.5 per cent in sharp contrast to the period of backward and negative growth before the revolution. This has meant that over the last four years there has been an

accumulated economic growth of over 15 per cent.

In the same period we have seen a substantial increase in the public expenditure programme — from \$8 million in 1978, the last year before the revolution, to \$101 million in 1982.

We also recorded public sector production growth of 34 per cent last year at the same time as the phenomenon of greatly reduced unemployment — from 49 per cent in 1979, down to 14.2 per cent in the April 1982 unemployment census. Again, last year wages rose by an average of 10 per cent while the cost of living rose by only 7 per cent. This is accompanied by further growth in the social wage, the benefits which our people see but do not pay for. For example, health care is now completely free as is education. So then Reagan says that we have no human rights in Grenada, no democracy. Grenada must go on the offensive — we have the best record in the region.

Democracy doesn't mean voting every five years. To us, it means five things, and if you lack one, then there is no democracy. It means accountability; it means responsibility; it means mechanisms for popular participation, to train the people to become the rulers; it means bringing benefits to the people because you cannot talk of democracy if the needs of the people are not met but are stifled; it means an elective component.

When that approach doesn't work, Reagan claims that Grenada, the tiny island of Grenada, is a threat to the might of the United States. By chance, half the oil and 60 per cent of the bauxite American imports pass off the coast of Grenada. Maybe he would be satisfied if we were to move our island! But our people would not want that; we like it where we are.

So then he says our new international airport, which we hope to be completed by next March and the fifth anniversary of our revolution, is really a military airport. On television, he shows spy plane photographs of our airport. Why take spy plane photos? Go and take the pictures yourself. It is the most popular tourist project in Grenada. Just at the end of the runway is a medical school where 650 Americans are training to be doctors. Every morning they go jogging down the new runway.

Then he claims we are building sophisticated communications networks; then sophisticated soviet-style obstacle courses and barracks. What fantasy will he come up with next?

Solidarity

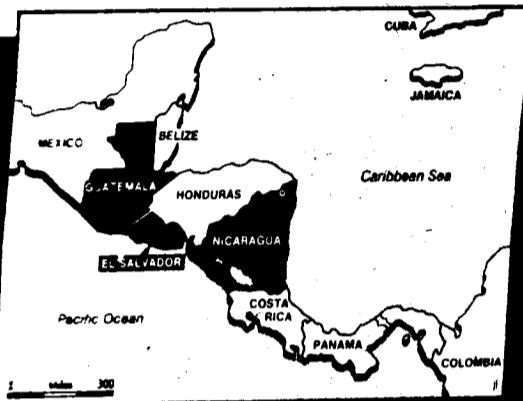
AT THE present time there are 77 warships and over 300 aircraft making manoeuvres off Grenada. We have to alert international public opinion to this threat, just as we have to mobilise internally. All the facts have been provided to our people who have been organised into militia to guard strategic points and factories in the face of this threat.

Our air space is almost daily violated by US spy planes; five unidentified warships have invaded our territorial waters, one ignoring our coastguards and patrolling a stretch of coast for 3½ hours. In the face of this we have to build a strong economy and maintain our defences if we are to earn the name of revolutionaries.

At the same time, we recognise the importance of total solidarity with the revolutionary people of Nicaragua. In Grenada we have held a Nicaragua Solidarity March, we have held rallies, we have made statements of support. Now 1 May has been designated day of Peace and Solidarity with Nicaragua.

Nicaragua, Cuba and Grenada are one revolution! If you touch Cuba, you touch Grenada! If you touch Nicaragua, you touch Grenada! We also recognise that the fighters of the Faribundo Marti National Liberation Front in El Salvador are in the front line of resistance to Reagan whose major objective is to defeat the E. S. N. L. F. We have to stand in solidarity with the people of the Caribbean.

Central America



Despite the grovelling response to Reagan in the Congress, the biggest cheers were for his promise that US combat troops would not be sent to Central America. The volume of cheering for that particular point caught Reagan off guard.

But as the *Sunday Times* pointed out last week, such a promise was in contradiction to everything else that Reagan said. If the threat to US interests really is so great, argued the paper, why would troops would have to be used at all?

... Congress has given Reagan half of what he wants to boost the Salvadorean economy to half full' said the President. 'The rest will be back for the rest'. ... some dramatic move from the Salvadoran regime is being talked. As the fighting in the region escalates, we publish below a country guide to the conflict.



El Salvador

Population: 5 million
Main products: Coffee (third largest producer in the world), sugar, cotton.
Economic structure: El Salvador is dominated by the 'fourteen families' — the top two per cent of the population who own the plantations. Poverty among the workers and peasants is acute.

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population is in an Assembly, led by Roberto D'Aubuisson — head of the death squads and the fascist ARENA party.

The president, Magana, is an extreme right wing Nationalist. Army leaders like Jaime Gutteriez and Jose Garcia play a crucial role in the government.

Repression: carried out by the death squads, the fascist ORDEN, the National Guard and the army. 40,000 civilian dead at the hands of these butchers in three years.

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US intervention: 60-100 US military 'advisors'. Includes operational planning personnel, Green Beret counter-insurgency experts, military planning group at the US embassy. All weapons provided by United States, including Huey helicopters. Total aid to government from US (open and disguised) over \$300m per year.

Military situation: FMLN has launched military offensive since January. Large areas of the countryside are 'controlled zones'.

BOBBY SANDS died on the 5 May 1981 after 66 days of hunger strike. He was 27 years old. He had spent nearly the last nine years of his tragically short life in jail because of his support for the right of the Irish people to determine their own destiny.

For this 'crime' he was hounded by the British government. His political activities were labelled 'criminal' by Labour's Home Secretary, Roy Mason — a charge that Bobby Sands and his fellow Republicans refused to accept.

Bobby Sands and his colleagues showed that it was the British army and the sec-

tarian bigots who policed the corridors of Long Kesh who were the real criminals. In these excerpts from a new book, *Bobby Sands: One Day in My Life* (published by Pluto Press, £2.75), he tells us about the humiliations and brutality of prison life for a Republican in one of her Majesty's jails.

It is an inspiring story of dignity and courage.

When the Whitelaws and the Masons are long forgotten Bobby Sands and his comrades will be remembered by all those pledged to fight exploitation and injustice.

Who was Bobby Sands?

'THE DEATH OF BOBBY SANDS and his writings are but a fall-out resulting from the cruel interference by Britain in the affairs of the Irish nation.

I wish it were possible to ensure that those in charge of formulating British policy in Ireland would read these pages. They might begin to understand the deep injuries which British policy has inflicted upon this nation, and now seek to heal these deep wounds.'

These are the words of Sean MacBride in his introduction to the Bobby Sands book *One Day in my Life*.

There is nothing remarkable about the biography of Bobby Sands until he began his hunger strike. His life mirrored the experience of thousands of men and women born into the forcibly created sectarian state of Northern Ireland.

Strike

The repression and discrimination suffered by the anti-unionist population in the north of Ireland has been responsible for the war and the subsequently huge prison population.

Bobby Sands was just one of these. The policy of criminalisation, introduced by Roy Mason in 1976 is directly responsible for his death.

This meant that all prisoners convicted, in non-jury political courts, after March 1976 were denied special status as political prisoners, a concession which

had been forced from William Whitelaw by a previous hunger strike.

The first stage of the prisoners struggle against this was the blanket protest which later developed into the 'dirty' protest as a result of continuous harassment of those 'on the blanket'.

It is this terrible experience which Bobby Sands portrays in his book.

Liberation

The hunger strike had many effects. Firstly it showed that the north of Ireland could dominate the attention of the world's political commentators. This was highly embarrassing for the British government.

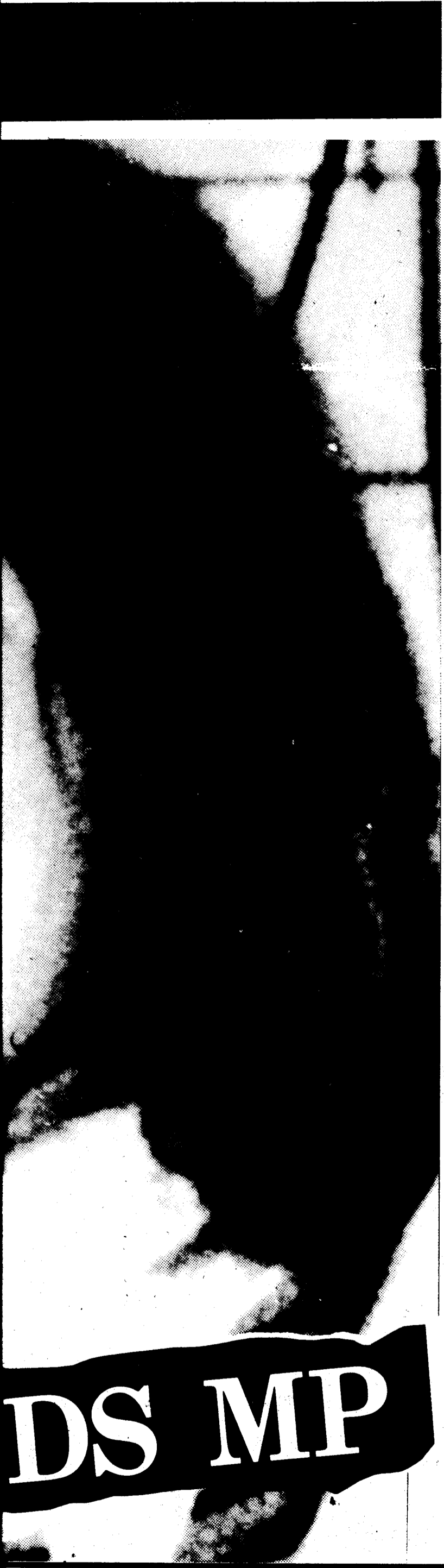
Secondly it dispelled once and for all the myth that the war of liberation in Ireland has no mass support among the anti-unionist population.

The election of Bobby Sands, followed by the election of Owen Carron and the continued success of Sinn Fein is proof of this. The fact that Sinn Fein are marginalising the Social Democratic Labour Party is clear evidence, if any were really needed, that the war of national liberation is based on the mass support of the community.

If this were not the case then Bobby Sands, and others like him, would never have been in prison. They would never have died on hunger strike fighting to be recognised for what they were — prisoners of war!



BOBBY SANDS



DS MP



'One morning I am going to wake up out of this nightmare'

“ It was still dark and snowing slightly when I woke. I don't think I got more than an hours sleep during the long restless torturous night. The cold was intense, biting at my naked body. For at least the thousandth time I rolled over on my side, hugging the blankets close to my body.

The dawn broke and out of the shadows of the dead night materialised the daily nightmare. The dirt and filth, the scarred walls — the inner confines of my stinking, smelly tomb greeted me once again. I lay listening to my own gentle breathing and to the caws of the crows.

A key clinked against the steel door. Footsteps came charging along the outside corridor breaking the silence. The crows fled in an explosion of chattering caws, my mind fought to register the meaning of the disturbing confusion. Panic gripped as the heavy steel door rattled and flew open.

'Right,' screamed the self-appointed tyrant. 'Drop that towel, turn around. Bend down and touch your toes.'

'I'm not bending,' I said.

Within a few seconds, in the midst of the white flashes, I fell to the floor as blows rained upon me from every conceivable angle. I was dragged back up again to my feet and thrown like a side of bacon, face downwards on the table. Searching hands pulled at my arms and legs, spreading me like a pelt of leather.

The door slammed shut and I lay on the concrete floor, chest pounding and every nerve in my body strained. Could have been worse, I tried to tell myself

as a consolation. But this didn't convince me or my aching body one bit.

An empty freezing cold cell, an aching black-and-blue frozen body, a bunch of psychopaths beating men to pulp outside the door and it isn't even bloody well breakfast time yet!

The biting cold refused to yield. If I didn't get a blanket or two soon I'd be in trouble. You don't ask for them either. I learned that a long time ago. Show one weakness and you've dug your own grave. Besides there were 43 of my comrades in exactly the same predicament as myself.

The way a good bit of scéal (news) could liven the wing up was unbelievable. Like after the Coalisland to Dungannon march when one of the lads brought back an estimate of the turn-out, plus a smuggled photograph.

I looked at it and never felt so happy in my life.

Aren't they grand people, I thought. I felt proud to be fighting for them. It brings a lump to my throat even thinking of it now.

The thought of seeing my family was comforting. It was the highlight and only highlight of each long torturous month. Half an hour of comparative happiness each visit. That's six hours of comparative happiness a year, six hours out of 8,760 per year. Six lousy hours and they harass you and your family for every minute of it.

Every minute of my nightmarish surroundings screamed at me. There was no escaping this nightmare unless I gave up! A few — a very few — had already given up. They had put on prison clothes and conformed. Not that they had wished to do this. They just could not bear the unrelenting burden of torture.

The depression, the beatings, the cold ... look

out of the window and concentration camp screams at you.

Who among these so-called humanitarians who kept their silence on the H-Blocks, who among them could put a name on this type of humiliation and torture, when men are forced by extreme torture into the position that they had to embark upon a dirty strike to highlight the inhumanity poured upon them.

But I am determined that I shall never give up. They can do what they will with me but I will never bow to them or allow them to criminalise me.

And I thought of my dead comrades again. My friends who had stood beside me one day and were dead the next. Boys and girls just like myself, born and raised in the nationalist ghettos of Belfast to be murdered by foreign soldiers and lecky sectarian thugs.

How many more lives would be lost before the British had decided they had murdered enough and were forced to get out of Ireland forever?

But I survived. I beat them again. The torturous dungeons and the sadists who manned them had destroyed my body but had failed to break my spirit.

It was a skeleton compared to what I used to be but it did not matter. Nothing really mattered except remaining unbroken.

They have nothing in their entire imperial arsenal to break the spirit of one single Republican political prisoner-of-war who refuses to be broken, I thought, and that was very true. They can not or never will break our spirit.

I rolled over again freezing and the snow came in the window on top of my blankets. 'Tiocfaidh ár lá' (our day will come) I said to myself. 'Tiocfaidh ár lá' ”

Socialist ACTION

Why the Tories witch-hunt CND

WHY ARE the Tories witch-hunting Monsignor Bruce Kent of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament? Over the past three weeks the Tories have waged an unremitting campaign of dirty tricks against CND and its leadership. They have

- threatened to deprive the Citizen's Advice Bureau of half its government funds linking this to the spurious charge that Joan Ruddock, CND's chairperson, was not fulfilling her duties as a part-time CAB employee
- put pressure on the Independent Broadcasting Authority and the BBC to 'balance' coverage between CND and such 'representative' groups as Women for Defence
- put out black propaganda implying that CND is run by the far left
- brought clerical influence to bear on Bruce Kent to relinquish his post and return to his job with the Catholic church.

Dirty tricks

The campaign is by no means over yet. The 'dirty tricks' department headed, as Bruce Kent quite accurately pointed out, by Thatcher nominee, Winston Churchill, will continue its work, aided by No. 10, to the eve of the general election.

And this of course is the reason for the Tory campaign. Quite simply CND is the biggest vote winner that the Labour Party has. And reciprocally the election of a Labour government is the only hope that CND has of realising its aim of stopping the missiles in 1983.

CND can also cause havoc within the Tory ranks with recent polls showing that even Tory voters are deeply split for and against the installation of cruise.

So what should CND do faced with Heseltine's offensive? First of all it should continue not to give an inch in the face of the Tories' charges and hit back against 'dirty tricks' as Bruce Kent has already successfully done. Secondly it should not weaken its line on unilateral disarmament — the policy that ties its fortunes to a Labour victory. It would be illusory to suppose that by soft-peddling its policies, as some tried to do at the last CND National Council, that it can build a broader coalition with the Liberal and the SDP. Both parties have demonstrated that they have no interest in taking the road to which CND is committed.

Outline plans

Lastly CND should take the offensive and outline its plans to stop the missiles whatever government is in power.

That can only be done by the trade union movement taking industrial action to back up this political aim. The trade union support gained by the Greenham Common women for the 24 May Day of Action shows what can be achieved of CND approached its affiliates to organise such action.

A national strike against the installation of the missiles would be a warning to Thatcher, or any other government, that the stationing of the missiles would be met with a determined programme of economic and mass action. It would of course redouble the Tories campaign of hate against CND.

But CND supporters should be flattered by such attention since it would merely mark their degree of success.

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We've walked the course
we've walked for miles
we're back on the road
and we've come a long long way
for the Brockwell Park Roadshow
banners proud voices raised
couple o' cans o' beer
we're out to rock the bloody bomb
and get Maggie out of 'ere

Rock The Bomb

We're mobilising
our rank and file
if you want ACTION
it's us you dial
we'll tread that tightrope
full of cheer
we'll stop cruise
from being based here

By Alex Warner

Labour CND West

A STEERING committee met on 17 April and agreed to hold the inaugural meeting of Labour CND West on 26 June.

We want to protect composite 51, to build links with the trade unions, trades councils and national CND. We hope to help Labour Party members to work with CND members and vice versa.

We want to maintain pressure on the Labour Party leaders, the Parliamentary Labour Party and the national executive committee and to get rid of the loophole left by a 'British non-nuclear defence for Britain' which allows for a non-British nuclear defence for Britain.

Labour CND West will cover the South West Region of the Labour Party. The formation of Labour CND West was initiated by Hadyn Thomas (PPC Westbury) and Jeff Osborne, the probable PPC for Somerset and Frome.

DAF LINCOLN, March Lane Bungalow, Galhampton, Nr Yeovil, Somerset BA22 7AU.

● Inaugural meeting Labour CND West, Sunday 26 June, 2.30pm Taunton CLP meeting room, 24 East Reach Taunton.



Hitching CND to Labour?

PAUL ATKIN asks (SA 22 April): 'Why shouldn't CND call for a Labour vote?'

Labour doesn't have CND's programme. Critically it's not for a break with NATO.

If the final manifesto follows the draft neither will it be clear on the bases (phase them out 'in consultation with our allies') or Polaris, to be kept as a bargaining chip at Geneva.

CND's strength is as a single-issue campaign that stands on its programme and invites all political forces to test their's against this.

We weren't marginalised in last year's Hillhead by-election. It was our independent presence, which often out-stripped that of any of the parties, that made disarmament a central issue — and built CND.

Paul should glance northwards and note there is a substantial party with a more consistent unilater-

Malvinas and Thatcher

JOE GUARNIERI (SA 22 April) obviously believes in putting the clock back to Victorian times.

British imperialism committed a bloody act of aggression 150 years ago when the Falklands were called the Malvinas and were Argentinian territory.

The Malvinas both geographically and historically are part of the Argentine. The people of the Argentine have struggled to expel the British colonialists from their territory ever since, just like the Irish people are struggling to expel the British imperialists from Ireland.

The retaking of the Malvinas by massive force of arms, the armed aggression against Argentina, the violation of the sovereign rights of the Argentinian people, the sinking of the *General Belgrano* — all this is the responsibility of British imperialism. It has nothing to do with freedom.

The Argentinian people are not fascists. They are the victims of fascism and they overwhelmingly support the struggle for



the return of the Malvinas.

Thatcher and Reagan are not believers in freedom! They only want strategic Malvinas for a military purpose, to have British and American imperialist bases such as Diego Garcia, Israel and similar bases around the world!

What the left must be prepared to do is to face the arrogant Victorian imperialist-colonialist Thatcher and tell her, 'Out of the Malvinas and out of Downing Street!'

Dear Joe, history shows that the days of colonialism is gone. JOHN BAKER, Lambeth.

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)

rejected. It would let the right in the Party off the hook, making it less likely even cruise and Trident would go. It would also be disastrous for Labour's election prospects — we can only win if we put unilateralism up front.

Finally, hitching CND to Labour would actually strengthen all the tendencies in that movement against which Labour and trade union members have been fighting for years.

The mass of CND supporters would see it as a cop-out. A lot of them would nail their flag to the individualist direct action mast.

We would thus destroy the very mass movement that is responsible for the victories we've won so far in the Party and that will be even more necessary to force a Labour government to deliver.

TONY SOUTHALL, (Secretary Scottish Labour CND).

CP's dubious role

GERRY COHEN of the executive of the Communist Party tells us that his party supports struggles of working people against oppression in this country.

I would like to mention two recent important struggles in which the CP played a very dubious role indeed — Laurence Scotts of Manchester and Leyland Vehicles in North Lanes.

During the year-long battle to save Laurence Scotts the Communist Party pleaded with the lads and lasses of Openshaw 'to be reasonable'.

They accused the leaders of the occupation, Denis Barry and Stephen Longshaw, of 'irresponsibility' for refusing to accept the sham agreement of July 1981 between Terry Duffy and Arthur Snipe to reopen the factory for three months on the government's Temporary Employment Scheme.

Similarly, when 10,000 truck workers struck in the Leyland Vehicles plant in Lancashire and Scotland, the CP stressed 'the need for caution'.

Jack Adams, the CP convenor at BL

Longbridge and Chair of the BL Combine Committee, refused to accept resolutions from other plants of BL — in particular Cowley — to call a national stewards conference to discuss how the fight in Lancashire could be spread through the BL empire as a whole.

Why? One reason was that they thought that a national all-BL conference would fall under the more left wing influence of the Cowley plant leadership and would lead to an overall defeat and the CP losing convenor and stewards positions.

Workers are willing to fight, if given a lead.

But the CP is an obstacle and a blockage to this fight taking place. They are too integrated into the lower rungs of the bureaucratic ladder in the unions ever to be a progressive influence in the working class struggle.

In short Ken Livingstone (SA 1 April), is right, the left have developed 'beyond the CP and left them behind!'

BILL DODGIN, Southampton.



Free David Avondale

WE ARE writing to request your support for the Free David Avondale Campaign.

In view of evidence on which David was convicted and consequently sentenced to 13 years imprisonment, we are convinced that David Avondale is the victim of a police frame up.

This is because he was continuously singled out and picked up by the police, and he was not arrested until nine days after the crime had occurred. Why?

It is only police evidence which resulted in David Avondale's conviction. David Avondale was never questioned about the other people involved in the robbery. (The police were only interested in David).

The members of the public chosen for the identity parade by the police were significantly shorter than David. And of all the forensic evidence taken in the case, there were none that connected David to the crime/robbery.

We demand that David be released immediately and that the Home Secretary set up an independent public enquiry into police behaviour. Furthermore we demand that David and his family be compensated for wrongful arrest and imprisonment.

FREE DAVID AVONDALE CAMPAIGN, c/o

Southall Rights, 54 High Street, Southall, Middx (01-571 4920).

Tootsie

IN *TOOTSIE* Dustin Hoffman plays an out-of-work actor, Michael, who successfully auditions for a female part in a television soap opera. The film then details his experiences of 'being a woman'.

It is a strange combination of a man enduring just a fraction of what women endure everyday of our lives, and yet, to every woman in the audience, it must have been obvious that it was a *man's* idea of what we have to go through, and how we should deal with it.

As the actress Dorothy, Michael is an instant success. 'She' is an independent woman who informs her male colleagues 'you will have to deal with my mind — not my lips' and the title of the film comes from Dorothy's outburst on set when she is called 'Tootsie' by the producer, 'My name is not Tootsie, or Honey, or anything else. Alan is Alan and I am Dorothy. D-O-R-O-T-H-Y — Dorothy!'

When the inevitable sexual harassment begins, Dorothy makes the men around her look the complete fools that they are. Invariably reducing them to confused, embarrassed silence. Feminism breaking loose in a hospital

soap-opera — a wonderful sight!

Following Dorothy's advice, Julie (a co-star played by Jessica Lange who Dorothy/Michael inevitably falls for) gets rid of her revoltingly arrogant and two-faced lover.

Reviewed by Sue MacDonald

Hoffman plays a woman so convincingly that my initial reaction to all this was 'Great!'. But wait a minute ... Dorothy is *not* a woman and this is *not* a film about feminism or sisterhood. Do women need a *man* to lead them in their struggles? This is what this film shows.

Hoffman plays the strongest, the most outspoken, the 'best' woman — and there is something unbearably conceited about a *man* playing a woman who is in some way 'better' than other women around her.

Nevertheless, the film does expose the hypocrisy of Dorothy's 'sisterly' ad-

vice to Julie, when Michael treats his long-suffering girlfriend, Sandy, with as much disregard for her feelings as Ron did Julie. When Michael utters that age-old cry 'Can we still be friends?', Sandy replies with a phrase that many women in the audience must have stored up for future use. 'No, I don't take this shit from friends, only from lovers.'

There are references to gays in the film but they never become a reality. The film painstakingly reaffirms Michael's masculinity and heterosexuality whenever possible. Sadly, but not surprisingly, *Tootsie* falls into the old, old role of portraying homosexuality as humour, not challenge.

Although some aspects of the film were amusing and entertaining, other parts were positively menacing. For me, the fact that Dorothy could become so physically and emotionally close to Julie without Julie knowing 'she' was a man, was distinctly threatening.

Also, there are times when it seems the sexual harassment of Dorothy is



Dustin Hoffman in *Tootsie*

only terrible because 'she' is a man — were Dorothy a real woman it would be somehow all right, 'natural'.

The most moving part of the film is when Dorothy reveals 'her' true identity, expecting that Julie will suddenly unders-

tand and accept his love. The look of complete betrayal on Julie's face, when she realises the woman she confided everything to is a man, is heart-rending ... and her actions are beautiful. Without a word she walks across the set to him, stares him in the face, and

punches him in the stomach.

Hoffman claims that acting in *Tootsie* has heightened his awareness of what women suffer. When interviewed he said, 'If I was a full-time woman I wouldn't put up with idiot men.' A fair enough sentiment, but to follow

that with, 'I'd love to give people like Goldie Hawn and Jane Fonda a run for their money,' is just a bit too much!

Let's face facts, Dustin, for a *man* playing a woman, you weren't bad — but you'll never come anywhere near to the real thing!



Militia fighters in Beirut

The invasion of Lebanon

Race and Class Special double issue Eds IBRAHIM ABU-LUGHOD and EQBAL AHMAD

£3.00 Institute of Race Relations

RACE AND CLASS bring together, in this special issue, numerous articles, facts, documents and maps on the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the attempted genocide of the Palestinian population and the continuing occupation of the country.

One article in particular caught my attention — Sami J. Al-Banna's *The Defence of Beirut: report from the front-line*. This is a first-hand account of the massive mobilisation of West Beirut's population, both Palestinian and Lebanese (as well as the numerous national groups who had found refuge in Beirut) who organised into many militias and committees to hold back the Israeli invasion of the city.

Their ability to do this, throughout the barbaric bombardments and 60

days of siege is testimony to the courage and strength of this community. According to Al-Banna 'a conservative estimate of fire-power between defenders and attackers was 1,5000'.

Reviewed by Ros Young

It wasn't just the fighters who held off an army of 50,000 combined with air and sea attack: 'Beirut was defended not only by the will and determination of its fighters,

but by the innovation of its children'. The whole community was mobilised under the 'Joint Committee' to defend their neighbourhoods, to mine the streets, build anti-tank barricades, run medical and relief services; collect garbage — the list is endless.

For example, the Joint Committee for Relief was set up to supervise relief, housing and finances for the thousands of refugees who flocked to Beirut after the Israelis devastated the South. Their work, we are told, 'continued well after the withdrawal of the Palestinian fighters'. A Joint Committee for Health was set up from the pre-war public sector, and by the end of July, it was running 25 new medical centres.

Ibrahim Abu-Lughod, who also lived through the invasion examines Israel's objectives in *The Meaning of Beirut, 1982*. 'When Israel spoke of the destruction of the infrastructure of the PLO, it meant the destruction of the institutional bases of the Palestinian people in Lebanon'.

And we only need remember the ruthlessness with which Israel attacked the hospital of the Red Crescent, the schools and cultural centres to see the truth in this. It was also a war against the Lebanese poor, working class, national movement and their struggle for secularism, democracy and Arab nationalism, which Beirut had come to symbolise.

Report

This issue also includes reports from the McBride Commission (the International commission set up to inquire into Israeli violations of international law), a report on internationally banned weapons Israel used, interviews with survivors from the Sabra and Chatila massacres ... and much more.

Providing so much information from so many different sources is the journal's strength — but also a weakness, in that I would have liked more information on the defence of Beirut, the medical effort and the continuing resistance.

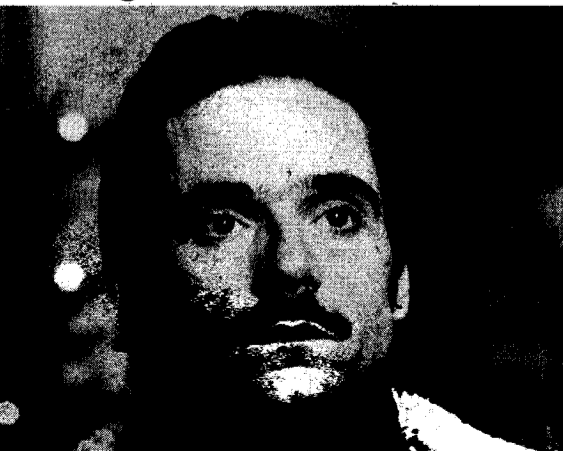
Nevertheless, this is an important addition to an already growing bibliography on the invasion. It is a journal that should be read and can be particularly useful in arming you with the facts for your Labour Party and trade union meetings. Neither has it appeared too late, as we are approaching the first anniversary of the invasion on the 4 June.

Israel continues to occupy Lebanon, thousands are still prisoners, the oppression on the West Bank and Gaza Strip is escalating — but resistance continues and the labour movement must give its full support to this.

Values

Sami Al-Banna sums up the heroic resistance: 'The major lesson of Beirut is that the Israeli army can be defeated. Our people can fight and win when collectively they realise that they are fighting for their way of life, values and sense of dignity ... This is the reason why Beirut fought back'.

TV CHOICE



Jeremy Irons

Moonlighting Thursday 5 May, 9.30, Channel 4

SHOWN in the cinema last year and starring Jeremy Irons, *Moonlighting* follows the story of four Poles stranded in Britain following the imposition of martial law in December 1981.

More a study of personal relationships than an overtly political film, but it works well.

Afghanistan — A View from Kabul

Sunday, 8 May, BBC 2 PROBABLY more from

the point of view of the Afghan government — they invited the French cameraman to Kabul and then censored his videotape.

Leaving that aside it does have some new insights into the Afghan situation not seen before.

Vietnam Monday 9 May, 9.00, Channel 4

IF YOU haven't watched any of this excellent series yet, it's not too late.

This week covers the 1966-67 period when saw a massive increase in the numbers of US troops in the country.

It also looks at some of the methods used by the Americans, including the massacres and forced evacuations.

What makes this series so good is that it is so well researched and factually accurate that, despite the usual so-called 'balanced' commentary, it can do nothing but side with the Vietnamese.

Empire, Inc. Wednesday, 11 May, BBC 2

A SORT of Canadian documentary on the effects of the American presence in the Caribbean.

seduction, blackmail, corruption and manipulation makes this a must for those that enjoy watching the sordid ways of the bourgeoisie.

20/20 Vision — Franco died in his bed Wednesday, 11 May, 8.30, Channel 4

THE programme takes its title from a Spanish saying which implies that Franco's influence is still strong in Spain despite his death. It looks at the ac-

tivities of his state machine (particularly the police), still intact despite the Socialist government.

Ebony — Robert Nesta Marley Wednesday, 11 May, BBC 2

ON THE second anniversary of Bob Marley's death, the BBC's fairly tame black show devotes a special programme to his political scene.

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.

MAY 24

DISARMAMENT: WOMEN'S DAY FOR DISARMAMENT

International Women's Day for Disarmament — 24 May. For more information please contact 'May 24' 5 Leonard St, London EC3

24 May — Glasgow Women for Peace are calling a Scottish Day of Action. Rally in George Square and Festival. For details contact Glasgow Women's Centre, 57 Miller Street or ring 061-221 1177 Saturdays after 1pm.

Nottingham Campaign against Racism and Fascism public meeting with speaker from the Roach Family Support Cttee. Sun 8 May, 3pm, International Community Centre, 61b Mansfield Road.

'British Socialists and Irish Republicans' Red Action public meeting, Fri 6 May, 7.30pm, The New Inn, Tottenham Court Rd (Warren St or Tottenham Ct Rd tubes).

'Ireland and Labour' public meeting with Ken Livingstone (GLC leader) and Clive Soley (LP deputy spokesperson on N. Ireland). Called by Islington South Labour Party. Tues 7 June, 7.30pm, Islington Central Library, Holloway Road.

'Ballots and Bullets' a new and powerful documentary from the Salvadorean Film Institute — available for hire on VHS video cassette for £10 plus carriage. 30 mins, colour. Contact SFI support group, 36 Jackson Rd, London N7, Tel: 01-609 3925.

Campaign for Press and Broadcasting Freedom Conference and AGM, 7/8 May at Goldsmiths College SE14, Lewisham Way, London SE14. Details: CPBF, 9 Poland St, London W1.

Gay Socialist: special issue out now. Available from GS c/o 19 Hamilton Rd, Southall, Middx.

El Salvador — another Vietnam? Norwood Labour Party public meeting. Speakers include John Fraser MP; Jaimie Lopez (FDR representative); plus speakers from El Soc and local trade unions. Film show, bookstalls and exhibitions. Thur 12 May, 7.30pm, Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton SW2.

What is Britain doing in the Philippines? Conference organised by the Philippines Support Group and focussing on the Commonwealth Development Corporation's investment in oil palm plantations in Mindanao. Sat 7 May, 10-5.00pm, Westminster Cathedral Hall, Ambrosden Ave, London SW1. For registration details please write to PSG, BM Box 758, London WC1N 3XX.

International Arguments for Peace Ealing/Southall Labour Party public meeting. Speakers: Dennis Bartholomew (Grenada High Csn); Fred Halliday; Joy Hurcombe (Sec, Labour CND); Wolfgang Rudolf (on the West German Peace Mvt). Mon 16 May, 7.30pm, Labour Rooms, 2-4 King St, Southall.

No Pass Laws in the North West Campaign conference on pass laws, passport checks and police raids. Sat 14 May 10-5pm, 8411 Centre, Moss Side, Manchester. Free admission, creche available — please book. The campaign can be contacted c/o 593 Stockport Rd, Longsight, Manchester 12 (061-225 5111).

Free David Avondale! (see letters, page 10). Support the picket of the Court of Appeal, the Strand, London WC2, Thurs 12 May at 9am.

Stoke Newington and Hackney Defence Campaign public meeting: Defend the right to demonstrate! Drop the charges now! Thurs 12 May, 7.30pm, Stoke Newington Library, Small Hall, Edwards Lane Entrance, Stoke Newington Church St, N16. Speakers include Hugo Hunte, Jillian Whitelock and other defendants; Brynley Heaven (Chair Hackney police cttee); Socialist Action.

Fred Tonge Memorial Lecture given by Ralph Miliband on 'Marxism and the Labour Movement'. Organised by St Pancras Labour Party, Weds 25 May, 8pm, Douglas Hyde Hall, the Irish Centre, Camden Square (Camden tube).

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.

Socialist Republic — newspaper of People's Democracy in Ireland. Latest issue out now — includes report from PDs conference articles on the Labour Party & unions and on the Anti-Amendment Campaign and more. Price 25p (plus 15p p&p) from The Other Bookshop, 328 Upper St, London N1 (226 0571) or 137 Digbeth, Birmingham B5 (021-643 5904).

'The Fight against the Police Bill' Day Conference to launch a national campaign and establish a broad, nationally representative committee. Speakers from LP, trade unions and ethnic organisations. Sun 15 May, 10.30-5, Hackney Town Hall. Further details from National Campaign against the Police Bill, c/o Room 50, Hackney Town Hall, Mare St, E8 (01-986 3123 ext 280).

Roach Family Support Committee

MARCH and RALLY



FOR AN INDEPENDENT PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO THE DEATH OF COLIN ROACH IN STOKE NEWINGTON POLICE STATION

Saturday 14th May
Assemble 12.30p.m.
Bethnal Green Gardens
Near Bethnal Green Tube Station
London E2

Colin Roach — a London-wide demonstration has been called for 14 May calling for a public inquiry into his death. Assemble 12.30, Bethnal Green Gardens, E2. Further details from RFSC, c/o 50 Rectory Road, London N16 (01-254 7480).

'Turkey — a people in chains' Hounslow Socialist Forum discussion led by a

Socialist Action Forums
MANCHESTER 'Coalition and Proportional Representation' — a debate. **Thur 19 May, 7.30pm, Millstone Hotel, Thomas St, Manchester 4 (off Oldham St).**


member of the Turkey Solidarity Campaign. Sun 22 May, George IV pub, 185 Chiswick High Rd, W4, 7pm.

Defend the NHS! Socialist Health Association action pack against private medicine containing information on all aspects of private medicine and how to fight it. Includes pamphlets and factsheets. Copies from SHA, 9 Poland St, London W1V 3DG, £2.50 (includes post). £1.50/75p unwaged.

Popular Planning for Social Need conference. 21 May, County Hall, London SE1, 11-5. £2.50/£1 unwaged, creche available. To develop a democratic Alternative Economic Strategy. Organised by CAITS, Poly of Nth London. Holloway Rd, N7.

'The Galaxy's Guide to Survival' a documentary review is performed by the Fall-Out Theatre Company on 3 May, Methodist Church Hall, High Rd, East Finchley, 7.30pm.

Oppose the Police Bill GLC Police Cttee information pack on the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill. Available from: GLC Police Cttee Support Unit, Rm 567, County Hall, London SE1 (01-633 5944) — free to Londoners.



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MAY 7th DEMONSTRATE

SPEAKERS Mario Capanna, Italian Euro MP; Ken Livingstone, Leader of GLC; Suzanne Bunting, Belfast; Dave Douglas, National Union of Mineworkers; Janice Turner, Chairperson National League of Young Liberals; Irish Republican Socialist Party Sinn Fein



BRITAIN OUT OF IRELAND SELF DETERMINATION FOR THE IRISH PEOPLE

Initiated by the Troops Out Movement
Organised with:
Armagh Coordinating Committee
Cumann na Poblachta
Irish in Britain Representation Group
Irish Republican Socialist Party
Labour Committee on Ireland
London Students Organisation
National League of Young Liberals
Sinn Fein

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Address

..... Tel

Age Union/CLP (if any)

Come to the Socialist Action tent!

THIS Saturday at Brockwell Park, Socialist Action along with the youth paper Revolution has organised a tent especially for our readers and sellers.

Come along to get out of the rain or sun. Whatever the weather, we will be there.

There will be music the whole day. You can get food, drink and a selection of the best socialist books and pamphlets from the Other Bookshop.

We want all our readers and sellers to come along to the tent as soon as they arrive in the park. There we will be selling the paper and a brand new badge all day.

Specially produced for May 7th, the badge reads: **STOP THE MISSILES IN 1983!** In green, white and red it sells for only 20p.

With the paper, our sellers will be making a fantastic offer. This is aimed at people on the anti-missiles demonstrations throughout June, and all along the Peoples' March for Jobs.

The deal is this. If you buy Socialist Action for £1.00, you will get the next three issues delivered through the post with no extra charge.

That means you get four issues of the most lively socialist newspaper around for only £1.00. This must be an unbeatable bargain! With postage the cost it is today, it is almost like giving the paper away.

We think it is going to be worth it, because we are confident that after just four weeks of Socialist Action you will want to become a regular reader.

If you feel that Socialist Action is doing

a worthwhile job, why not make us a regular contribution? Fill out the bankers order form on this page, or send in a lump sum donation.

In return, you will receive a quarterly bulletin with offers of brand new books at reduced prices, reduced subscription rates to the bi-monthly discussion journal *International*, and invitations to all Socialist Action events.

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Swansea	40.00
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How Labour can win

SOCIALISTS for a Labour Victory held its press conference on 28 April in the House of Commons. Mandy Moore, Helen John, Ken Livingstone and Walter Wolfgang of Labour CND called for the Labour Party to join up with the Greenham Common Women and the People's March for Jobs — steps which they said could help to win Labour the next election.

The press labelled SLV as a rival to two other groups — the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy and the Labour Coordinating Committee.

These latter groups both call for unity in the party around 'existing policies, existing membership and existing leadership' and argue for compromise inside the party.

The CLPD have attacked Ken Livingstone and the 'extremists', and added fuel to the stories of a divided left. This is rather an odd way of unifying the Labour Party.

By Alan Freeman

Underlying all this is a debate on how we can win the next election and stop any coalition with the Social Democratic Party. Some Labour lefts think it is irrelevant to start arguing about coalitions now. 'Let's concentrate everything on beating the Tories' is their reply.

Anyone who doubts the seriousness of the threat of the coalition should read the statements of the SDP who are appealing for Labour to drop its 'extremist' policies in return for their support.

Duffy, the right wing AUEW leader, is also quite explicit about coalitions. He told the union's conference it must stop saying Britain should get out of Europe. He added 'I don't think the trade union movement will tolerate a Labour Party in permanent opposition... In the event of a hung parliament, Labour will not be able to work with the SDP/Liberal Alliance unless we agree to a referendum on the EEC'.

Duffy can come out quite openly with his thoughts on collaboration with the Alliance, as the right wing are firmly in control of the AUEW. Other union leaders have to be more circumspect. When they are all locked away in Woodstock on 7 May at the Trade Unions for a Labour Victory conference there will be plenty 'off the record' chats about working with the Alliance.

Labour Party leaders like Healey don't come out openly with a pro-coalition line because they aren't right now. But there is no doubt where Denis Healey will stand in a 'hung parliament'.

The line of 'unite to defeat the Tories' is not enough. Unfortunately the Tories are not the only enemy at the election. Labour has also got to defeat the SDP/Liberal Alliance. Bermondsey spelt out in letters writ large that a witch-hunting right wing leadership can't do that.

Argument

The Alliance have an almost unanswerable argument to stop Labour forming a government. They say Healey is a prisoner of extremism and doesn't really support Labour's present policies. Therefore, if you 'really support Healey' vote SDP. The left can only block this argument and prevent Labour's voters backing the SDP if they can prove that an SDP vote will not put a moderate Healey back in the driving seat.

The Alliance's new role is not incidental as third parties were during the years of the postwar consensus. Since 1969 fundamental changes in British politics have made coalitionism the issue on which the Labour



Terry Duffy — no doubt where his vote will go in the coalition stakes.

Party will founder or split from top to bottom.

Neither Tories nor Labour now command an absolute majority vote, despite the Tory advances under Thatcher. Since 1975, the ruling class have been determined to prevent Labour governing on even mildly radical policies.

The British economy is now in such a mess that they cannot make the compromises needed to pay for such policies any more. The labour movement isn't faced with a series of different options. It can either fight against the ruling class or surrender the interests of working people over to the bankers and the multinationals. There are no compromises on the agenda with an enemy struggling for its very survival. Labour is not going to coast into office with the quiet approval of the *Economist* and by toning down its programme so it does not offend the establishment or by uniting round moderate leaders. Those days are gone for ever.

Lines

Two main lines will emerge in the Labour Party. One from Duffy, ideologically helped by the Communist Party, will reason that because socialist policies do not command majority support a new anti-Tory alliance must be formed around 'moderate' policies. This means giving in to the bosses on everything that matters — just like Duffy has done at Leyland.

The other line from Ken Livingstone and the SLV reasons that a victorious Labour government can only come out of class confrontation not out of class compromise. To take the second of these roads means a radical change in the way that Labour campaigns. It means, for example, harnessing the energy and determination of the people like those at Greenham Common, the trade unionists fighting unemployment, the black people and those in the women's movement defending and attempting to extend their democratic rights.

It means that individual Constituency Parties can't overcome the right wing's sabotage by themselves — as Bermondsey showed. During and after the election they need a national, credible left alternative, campaigning for Labour's radical policies in its own manner, and challenging for the leadership of the party to show that when Healey surrenders to the SDP, others are ready to step in.

Instead of asking 'what policies will win the vote' — which leads to a

manifesto and candidates dictated by Fleet Street — the Labour left, and its rank and file, must decide on the policies that can link it to those actively fighting the Tories. Just imagine, for example, how Labour's campaign would prosper if they put out an election broadcast in support of the Greenham Common women's day of action on 24 May and the People's March for Jobs!

Hundreds of thousands of people, who care enough about their lives and jobs to travel hundreds of miles and suffer imprisonment for their ideals, could infuse their energy into Labour's campaign. Labour could at last come out fighting and prove itself as willing to fight for its class as Thatcher does for hers.

And if the Labour leaders will not do this, the rank and file must. SLV is needed because constituency parties must not go into this battle alone or Fleet Street will cut them off from the very people they have to link up with. Indeed, one of SLV's successes is precisely the fact that such a respected national figure as Helen John has decided that if there are going to be unilateralist candidacies in the Labour Party, she will back Labour's campaign instead of standing against the Party.

Labour Parties must seize the initiative by organising meetings up and down the country for the Greenham women and in support of their actions, and by turning their election campaigns into a crusade in their support with demonstrations, festivals, protest meetings. A real campaign instead of a demoralising frenzy of last-minute knocking on doors.

Policies

In an article in *Socialist Action* (29 April) CLPD secretary Vladimir Derer turned matters on their head. He says that 'another victory of reaction at the polls would find an inevitable reflection in a further reactionary advance within the party.' Thus the left, he concludes, must draw in its horns or it will be accused of 'splitting the party and failing to take account of the conservatism of the electorate'.

The left will be accused of splitting the party whatever it does. This is because the right is dividing the party so it can impose its will and its policies. Therefore anyone who dares resist them is called divisive and said to be acting against Labour's election chances. So how do we defend ourselves against the charge of not taking account of the conservatism of the electorate?

We propose to take account of it by struggling to change Labour's campaigning strategy, and by ensuring that the left is clearly associated with this battle during and before the election.

Derer proposes to stop fighting for those policies which might 'alienate the electorate.' 'Since the Party is a broad coalition, unity is not possible without some kind of compromise,' he says. 'There should not be a public campaign against policies as outlined in the campaign document and later the manifesto, nor against the leadership determined by normal constitutional procedures even though this may mean the possible acceptance of Denis Healey.'

Logical

Derer is logical. He thinks a Labour victory depends on the left retreating. So he directs his fire at the left. He even says 'our appeal is not addressed to the witch-hunting right but to the broad Party and trade union membership.' They are the very people who are opposing the right. Perhaps they should lie on their bellies so the right can kick them around.

Grovelling to the right is not going to stop them, kicking out the policies agreed by the Labour Party conference. Healey and his mate have not the slightest intention of rejecting incomes policy. They will never agree to tell the Americans to remove their nuclear bases. They won't accept that Labour's programme includes women's right to have an abortion when they want one. Going along with Labour's right wing is an absolute guarantee that the election will be lost.

Derer is really giving free rein to the right wing to ditch Labour's conference decisions when he says we should not argue against the Campaigns Document. This means we must keep quiet about the crucial policies that have been left out. So we have to let them get away with saying nothing about the unconditional removal of nuclear bases, incomes policy and women's rights on abortion.

But these are the very policies we need because they are the policies that could involve hundreds of thousands of activists in Labour's election campaign.

Labour can break the electorates' conservatism if it inspires people to go out and persuade others to turn out in their millions to vote against the Tories and the SDP. That could return a Labour government.

Linking Labour to mass campaigns

250 people attended the 'Politics Party' in Southwark, south east London, which was the first in a series of events organised by local Labour Parties (Bermondsey, Peckham and Dulwich) with campaigning groups and trade unions in the area.

The aims were firstly to educate ourselves, secondly to link up with campaigns and local struggles in order to build solidarity, to turn the Labour Party out to mass movements and to jointly develop socialist ideas within the Labour Party.

By Jane Kelly

The third aim was to discuss ways of promoting socialist ideas in an area where for too long such ideas have been absent.

Planning for the 'Politics Party' got under way with a joint meeting between the local Labour Parties and campaigns such as CND, the Southwark Black People's Association and South London Troops Out Movement.

Event

From the beginning it was agreed that the event should be enjoyable as well as educational.

It was this element with the use of theatre, film and exhibitions that ensured the success of the day.

About 250 people from 7 CLPs, 4 CND groups and 14 other campaigns, pressure groups and trade unions attended through the day and evening.

John Harrison started the day with an analysis of the economic crisis and a Southwark councillor spoke on the effects of the crisis on local government.

People then split up into three workshops: CND, Education and Housing.

After a West Indian lunch, Jim Barclay, a socialist comedian and two women performers from Monstrous Regiment performed and then three more workshops followed — Northern Ireland, Health and Black People and mainstream politics.

Critique

To end the day's educational, John Harrison gave a critique of the AES and answered questions from the floor. And Tony Banks, from the GLC, spoke on the need for a socialist Labour Party and discussed the possibilities of carrying out such a socialist strategy through parliamentary means.

In the evening we showed a film, 'Burning an Illusion', and later a sound system played for the social, both these organised by the Southwark Black People's Association.

All in all it was a very successful event achieving many of its aims. In addition it showed to some people sceptical of the Labour Party what can actually be achieved.

We are having a recall meeting to start planning future events: two things will have to be born in mind.

Firstly that while it was successful in bringing together activists, the next stage must be to move beyond this to a wider layer of less committed people.

Secondly the trade union input was small with only NUPE having an organised presence. Involving the trade unions is a top priority for the future.



Swansea occupation

STRIKERS at the Unit Superheaters and Pipe Company in Swansea, a subsidiary of British Steel Corporation, are occupying the plant.

The dispute is over redundancies. Three years ago the company employed 400 workers, now there are 120.

Earlier this month the company announced it would make another 50 people redundant.

Eleven of these were given notice last week. Seven are forced redundancies and include the works convenor Pete Thomas.

On receiving this news the workers, members of the Engineering union, voted to strike. Those occupying the plant since Thursday 28 April have now received letters from management telling them that they are sacked. But Pete Thomas is adamant that they will remain there until all the forced redundancies are withdrawn.

Workers at Unit Superheaters have a long history of supporting other workers in struggle, from the firefighters dispute to joining picket lines of health workers.

● Messages of support and donations can be sent to Fred Evans, 8 Bishopston Rd, Bishopston, Swansea. (Sylvia Gilbert)

Greenings occupation

FOUR HUNDRED workers are in the sixth week of occupation at the Britannia works of N. Greening in Warrington.

Greenings is part of the same Johnson and Firth Brown group as Firth Derihon, another occupied factory in Sheffield.

In an attempt to boost profits and break the factory's effective union organisation the management presented a document to the workforce.

This demanded the sacking of 89 employees of their choice; the abolition of negotiated holidays, negotiated subsidies, an annual wage claim, effective trade union representation including doing away with a full time convenor; the closure of half the site with more sackings within six months.

The workers are touring the country to drum up support. Money has come in from as far afield as London and Bristol. Local miners have been particularly generous.

● Messages of support and donations to N. Greening JSSC Strike Fund, 22 St. John's St, Warrington, Cheshire. Messages

Tebbit's law in Leeds

THE STRIKE of 22 Asian workers at Aire Valley Yarns, Farstey, Leeds is now in its seventh week.

The workers were sacked for joining the Transport union so they could fight the appalling working conditions in the factory with no first aid kit or accident book, broken brakes on spinning machines and low pay for long hours.

Now the bosses are trying to break the growing solidarity with the strike by using the courts. High court writs have been issued against the union for blacking taken against goods from Atlantic Yarns.

AVY workers are still asking for support on the picket line, particularly at 7pm when shifts of scab labour change over and on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

Support from the Labour Party in the area is good and the People's March due through Leeds on 30 April has been re-routed to go past the picket line in a gesture of solidarity.

● Donations and messages of support to L. Ali, 34 Dirkhill St. Bradford 7.

Holden Glass

MANAGEMENT at William Holden's Glass Birmingham have sacked 13 workers in an attempt to prevent effective union organisation.

On 22 March redundancy notices were given to two workers, one a Transport union shop steward. No prior notice of redundancies was given and the men concerned were not the last employed.

The TGWU responded by calling its other members out on strike. The management came back by sacking those who supported the call for 'breach of contract'.

To get reinstated the workers need broader support. With just 13 members, maintaining 24 hour picketing is difficult.

They also need money. Birmingham trade unionists should support the Holden workers to defend union organisation in the city.

● Support is needed for the picket line, particularly between 6am and 7am, at 286-292 Bradford St. Birmingham.

● Financial contributions and messages to Holden Glass Strike Committee, 137 Digbeth, Birmingham B5 6OR.

PICKET LINES. Short 150 word reports by Thursday before publication. Longer stories, contact the Editorial Board by Monday. The week before publication.

CPSA-Pressure for affiliation

THE 1983 conference of the Civil and Public Services Association could pass a motion calling for a continued campaign for the union to affiliate to the Labour Party, paving the way for a membership ballot.

The membership have suffered four years of Tory rule, massive cuts in public services and civil service jobs along with deteriorating pay and conditions. They are starting to think in class terms of the political party that represents their demands.

Motions on CND affiliation and opposition to cruise missiles touches on the jobs of CPSA members in the Ministry of Defence. The fight to protect civil service jobs is fundamental to the work of the CPSA, but awareness is growing for our work to be socially useful.

By a Department of Employment branch secretary

Union members have just witnessed a pay sell out by general secretary Alistair Graham.

He outmanoeuvred the Broad Left controlled national executive by recommending to the membership acceptance of the three and a half to five per cent offer. So the members were confused by contradictory advice coming out of the CPSA headquarters.

Fiasco

With lack of leadership around conference policy members saw the 1983 pay campaign as a non-starter.

The pay fiasco highlights the lack of membership control over the general secretary through the national executive committee.

Left gains strength in tax union

DELEGATES to the Inland Revenue Staff Federation conference in Bridlington on 10 May face an unprecedented attack on their jobs. Gone are the days when tax-collecting appeared to be a job for life.

IRSF delegates face the wholesale destruction of posts in the collector's grades as a result of the infamous 'Gracey Report'.

This document proposes the closure of scores

of local collection offices and their back-up teams.

By Keith Legg and Dave Carter (Secretary and delegate, IRSF Stockton Taxes Branch)

The union also faces the automation of PAYE coding and assessing, which will be the biggest computer project ever undertaken in Britain, and the 'merging' (i.e. closure)



Civil Service unions in 1981 pay fight

of local offices of tax inspectors.

The lack of significant resistance to the government's proposals has led to the growth of a Broad Left within the union which has successfully welded together most of the left in the IRSF. Its formation rocked the right-wing dominated executive which attempted unsuccessfully to suspend the Broad Left leadership from the IRSF.

As a result, the left has increased its strength in

the executive elections.

The unwillingness of the Tories to negotiate meaningfully on pay limits, office closures or political freedom, has meant that the executive is desperate for some success to place before the membership.

Its strategy of 'negotiation rather than confrontation' is now looking weaker than ever as the latest proposals for office closures arrive on members' desks.

This year's conference will be a further test of strength between the two sides. Important motions go beyond the immediate framework of the Revenue. Motion 49 wants to investigate the possibility of merger with other civil service unions, motion 77 attempts to reverse last year's decision to affiliate to CND, and motion 92 is on affiliation to the Labour Party.

Win or lose, Bridlington should mark a strengthening of the left in the IRSF.

astms Labour debate muzzled

THE CONFERENCE of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs meets on 7 May.

It is likely to open with a dispute on whether to discuss the witch hunt in the Labour Party.

As in all unions, the struggle in the Labour Party is reshaping the political debate. There is growing concern at the decline in the union's membership, its £3 million debt and the personalised style of the present leadership.

By Phil Ward (Secretary, SE London Medical branch ASTMS)

The bureaucracy is also trying to muzzle the debate on the Labour Party, to oppose the election by the membership of the union's TUC general council representative and to attack the structure of the conference.

The Broad Left will hold a founding conference in July. The main emphasis of Broad Left supporters at this conference will be the rally for union democracy. Its supporters will be arguing against the leadership view that Labour can only win the general election if it presents itself as a 'moderate' party.

The NEC has slipped in an emergency motion supporting the TUC-Labour Party document *Partners in Rebuilding Britain* which heralds a new social contract.

The view of Broad Left supporters is that only a democratically organised labour movement which acts on socialist policies



will be able to attract working people to a defeat

of the Tories once and for all.

Clive Jenkins

News

Serpell carve-up fight starts

WHEN RAIL GUARDS at Lincoln struck two weeks ago, the National Union of Railwaymen acted quickly to make the strike official. But within seven days a 'truce' deal with the British Railway Board had them back at work with little gain.

The 54 guards came out against the tearing up of the March to Spalding branch line. The NUR instructed guards to boycott trains running through Lincoln and the strike could have spread quickly.

It could have been a shot across the bows of the BRB who plan to tear up two other closed branch lines — Manchester to Sheffield/Wath and Glasgow to Kilmacolm via Paisley Canal.

By Pat Sikorski (NUR)

The election of Jimmy Knapp as general secretary of the union succeeding Sidney Weighell has shown a green light to members to resist the BRB and the Tories.

But after seven days of strike the union negotiators recommended a return to work having got only a promise from the Board that no track would be ripped up in the next ten days of negotiations on closures.

The NUR leaders have delivered a carbon copy of the Cowley deal. Industrial action was called off with no binding commitments from management but only talks.

Union full timers are twitching like hypnotised rabbits in the face of members action and the management. With a

general election approaching they worry that industrial action will cost Labour votes. But it is the members who pay in lost jobs — hardly a vote catcher for Labour!

Their neutral attitude on action against line closure does not give confidence to workshop members facing closure. In addition to Horwich, Shildon and Temple Mills three workshops at Swindon, Glasgow and Derby are under immediate threat.

Trade union leaders are now wedded to Labour's new incomes policy dressed as the new economic assessment. The Board must now be more confident they can drive through their 2 percent offer under a Tory or Labour government.

If Labour is serious about winning the election it must come out on the side of working people not the City, banks and profiteers. That means abandoning wage control, Serpell, and the Tory Transport Bill.

It means a commitment to invest and electrify the network, re-open closed lines and depots and restore wage values.

But it will take more than policy pledges to roll back Serpell and last year's McCarthy type pay deals. United and national in-



Shildon workers on the march

Industrial action is called for.

This means ending the separation of opposition to line and workshop closures. It means a rolling programme of mounting united national action.

Guerrilla action by one section of the membership at a time is nonsense with the confidence of the vast bulk of the membership shaken by the betrayals last year.

A national march, rally and parliamentary lobby have been called for

Wednesday 11 May against the workshop closures.

From this march a date should be set for the first of a series of one, then two day national stoppages of the whole network to force the Board to unconditionally withdraw its closure programme.

If BR refuse to concede, then the time will be right to re-cement the unity of the rank and file for the union to take all out action in defence of jobs and for a basic living wage.

Ford — more jobs, shorter hours

FORD WORKERS in Genk, Belgium, are striking for two hours off the working week and the recruitment of 500 extra workers to compensate for lost production time.

The action started on Monday 25 April following a ballot in which 74 per cent of the workers voted to strike.

There is strong feeling in the Genk plant over job losses arising from automation, and this has been fuelled by Ford's policy of taking on temporary workers and sacking them when they are no longer needed.

At the moment a different department is striking each day as under Belgian law the company cannot immediately lay-off other areas without pay. Nevertheless, the effect on production is total. No Sierra cars are being produced.

Ford workers

everywhere have a real interest in the victory of the Genk strike. It is the first serious challenge to the company's policy of slashing jobs through automation and robotisation, explicitly linking the fight for a 38-hour week with the creation of extra jobs.

Thousands of jobs have been lost in Ford plants across Europe and the United States, and company plans for the future raise the spectre of the workerless factory.

At Cologne, West Germany, Ford are discussing building a new automated line for the Scorpio — the Granada replacement — employing just 70 (seventy!) workers to produce 800 body shells a day.

On top of 7000 jobs lost on the Dagenham estate in the past three years, 10,000 body and assembly plant workers have been warned that 3500 of their jobs must go by 1985.

Four weeks ago, trade

union delegates from Ford plants in Britain, Ireland, France, Belgium, Holland, Spain and Portugal met in Valencia to discuss joint organisation between the workers in different countries.

It was agreed that the priority was to assist the workers of any country taking action to improve their conditions.

The current strike in Genk is the first opportunity to do this. Workers at Dagenham, the other major Sierra producing plant, have a particular role to play through stopping any overtime increase to replace Genk production and refusing any work normally done at Genk.

If Ford workers unite now for shorter hours against job loss, the stronger the international organisation we will be able to build.

● Collections and messages to Louis Van Mulden, ACV, Guldenenspooren Laan 7, 3530 Houthalen, Belgium



Ford workers — practical need for internationalism

South Wales miners in conference

SOUTH WALES miners meet at their annual conference next week. Following the victory of the national Coal Board over the closure of Lewis Merthyr, miners face the problems of seeking ways to continue the struggle against pit closures.

By Barry Wilkins

The Board would like to close half the pits in South Wales in line with Common Market policy of running down the so-called 'peripheral' and

'uneconomic' coalfields.

At the annual Wales TUC conference on May day weekend Emlyn Williams president of the South Wales miners said: 'Thatcher wants to annihilate the South Wales coalfield but we don't intend to sell our jobs. Despite the setback at Lewis Merthyr we are not defeated.'

'We are again preparing our campaign. As trade unionists, our function is to retain our industries, not only coal but steel rail and transport too.'

The Triple Alliance of



Photo: John Harris

Emlyn Williams

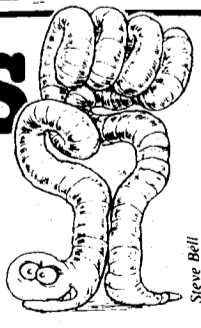
the unions in these industries must now be a major part of any strategy to fight closures and redun-

dancies. Despite the meeting of national union leaderships last week to establish the Alliance, the Wales TUC conference narrowly defeated a resolution on this.

But Ian Isaac, NUM delegate, explained its significance: 'The Triple Alliance can become a massive force to mobilise and unite the rank and file against further attacks on these three related industries.'

Following the Wales TUC decision it is now up to the South Wales miners conference to point the way forward.

WORM'S EYE VIEW



Steve Brill

Harrod's masses deal with Greenham

LADY OLGA MAITLAND and her Harrod's shoppers dealt another blow to the CND 'peace loonies' last weekend. Addressing a mass meeting in Trafalgar Square — at-

tended by 88 people, 141 pigeons, two cats and a stray dog she introduced her 'representative' and 'balanced' platform.

A surprise speaker for nukes was Vice-Admiral Sir John Roxborough who used to be in charge of the Polaris Fleet. Another turn up for the book was Tory MP Sir John Biggs-Davison who some people say wants to use a cruise on Brixton and Southall.

They there was 'Carry On' actress Dora Bryan. You might think her script writers are bloody dreadful but Dora proved the cast are even worse if they have to write their own lines.

Saying she did not like 'to think too much ... about a nuclear war,' she suggested instead that the meeting 'go on singing Land of Hope and Glory, as it does not seem to matter much then.' Nothing like a good sing song when the Armageddon comes!

Dr John Rae, headmaster of Westminster public school, blamed Ken Livingstone for sending the pneumatic drills that nearly drowned his voice. However the Good Lord knows you need a nuclear deterrent so he sent the rain down.

This had the effect of stopping the drilling and

emptying Trafalgar Square. If it rains like that at the next rally the audience are going to send their cleaners and chaps to represent them.

It's absolute

PAUL JOHNSON used to be editor of the *New Statesman*. Now he is a good catholic and Thatcherite.

He has also turned his hand to writing a good book on the history of the world since the turn of the century. This book tends to confirm the view of Tory MP Norman St John Stevas that a 'Tory intellectual is a contradiction in terms.'

Johnson has discovered what has caused the decline of civilisation; No, it's not commies, women, gays or



Albert Einstein's reply

even Ken Livingstone. It's all down to Albert Einstein. Einstein did the unforgivable — he came up with the theory of relativity. Which means that God is not longer the big boss. Space, time and light became free agents who refuse to vote Tory.

After that, all you can say is that St John Stevas is not just relatively correct. He is absolutely right!

How to avoid lapses

WHY IS it that when our police try and do their job people start picking on them?

Take the Brixton police when they went searching for petrol bombs. Just because they smashed up people's homes, broke their televisions, and rip-

ped out the odd bathroom fitting as they carried out their community policing the Police Complaints Board accused them of serious lapses of professional standards.

How do the Board expect them to terrorise the locals if they don't tear their homes apart? Well some of the police bosses have an answer to that. They recommend what the police have been doing for years — plant the evidence.

That makes sure there are no lapses of professional standards. Well not the ones the public can see anyway.

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.

SOVIET ACTION

Let Brent fight the election

BRENT EAST and Brent South Labour Parties are fighting back following the decision of the Labour Party National Executive Committee once again to delay their parliamentary selection.

On Wednesday 27 April the NEC met and it was hoped that both Brent parties — the only parties with sitting MPs who have not yet been reselected — would be given the go-ahead at long last.

By Graham Bash (Brent South CLP, Editor London Labour Briefing)

Both had completed their six month period of supervision by Joyce Gould, assistant national agent, and her report had given them a clean bill of health. But the NEC once again delayed on the spurious grounds that Brent East's sitting MP, Reg Freeson, has not yet been allowed to see Joyce's report.

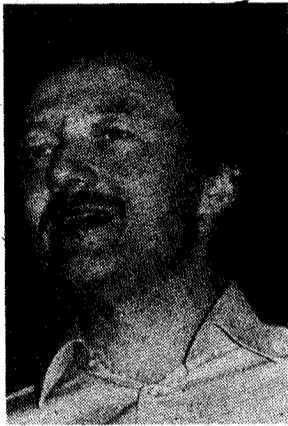
The decision has been referred to the 9 May meeting of the NEC's organisation sub-committee. The aim is obvious — to delay until an election is called and then impose the sitting MP.

Important

This is particularly important in Brent East where Freeson has no support left, and where Ken Livingstone would win any selection conference.

Both GMC's met on 28 April. Brent East agreed to proceed with selection by 71 votes to 4, and by 64 votes to 5 it approved the executive time-table which targets a selection conference for 18 May.

In Brent South a motion instructed their EC to meet within seven days and draw up an election time-table, and seek the co-operation of the NEC was passed by 32 votes to 7. Brent South's sitting MP, Laurie Pavitt, has undertaken to intercede with the NEC to argue against further delay.



Ken Livingstone

So there is a united front of the two Brent parties, and the ball is now firmly in the court of the organisation sub-committee.

Either they concede the right of parliamentary reselection — a right passed by annual conference two and a half years ago — or will they face an explosion from Brent on the eve of a general election.

● **Stop press:** Brent South Labour Party's executive has set up a selection timetable which would be complete by 26 May.

Victory for Turkish socialists



Selim Duzgun

TWO YOUNG Turkish socialists (one a Kurd), Selim Duzgun and Nesat Tolunay, have been granted political asylum in this country.

The Home Office had originally refused their re-

quests but a punctual campaign waged by the Friends of Selim and Nesat forced that decision to be reversed.

A spokesperson for the Turkey Solidarity Campaign said: 'This is great news, it proves that it is still possible to win given the broadest possible united action.'

Nesat and Selim will be joining the struggle for the many future cases like theirs until political asylum in this country becomes an automatic right for refugees escaping from dictatorships everywhere — even those dictatorships belonging to NATO.



Hi Bruce! How are ya? Good, good. Listen, I've had this guy Heseltine hassling me something rotten this last week. What the hell is going on down there ...?

STRIKE AND VOTE TORIES OUT!



4000 angry demonstrators 'greet' Thatcher in Sheffield on 28 April.

WITH the council elections on 5 May, the labour movement of Liverpool and Merton, in South London are hoping for new Labour administrations to reverse the Tory attacks on services.

In Liverpool, the Liberal-Tory council are trying to drive through privatisation of the cleansing and refuse service, with all this means in lost jobs and union

rights and deteriorating service.

In Merton the Tory council plans to abolish school meals, privatise school cleaning and sack caretakers.

But the workers in these areas aren't waiting around to get changes. On 28 April 20,000 Liverpool council workers went on strike and well over 1000 attended a lobby in the city.

They successfully forced the divided council to delay a decision on the refuse hive-off.

On the same day in Merton public service unions had their biggest strike ever in a second day of action against the cuts. In other London boroughs manual workers in education stopped work in solidarity and banners from Leeds and Coventry

joined a march through the borough.

These workers are not deterred by arguments about rocking Labour's boat with industrial action before the council or general elections. Their rights and services are under attack now and they want to leave a future Labour administration in no doubt of their determination to see changes in their interests.

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Solidarnosc: May Day is Ours!

Tens of thousands of Polish workers took to the streets last Sunday (1 May) to demonstrate their support for the banned union Solidarnosc. The demonstrations were violently attacked by the police, leading to the death of one worker in Nowa Huta, the steel town which is a Solidarnosc stronghold.

Despite attempts of the regime to belittle the turnout, the demonstrations were large. Up to 40,000 people demonstrated in front of the Lenin shipyard in Gdansk, 10,000 people took to the streets in Warsaw and thousands marched in 18 other cities.

In Gdansk the workers chanted: 'We want

free unions, free Poland and Walesa'. They were attacked with tear gas.

The well-ordered marches of the bureaucracy displayed none of the militancy and spontaneity of the illegal Solidarnosc gatherings. In Gdansk workers ordered to go on the official May Day marches, joined in the banned union's protests on their way home.

Lech Walesa said that the demonstrations had 'surpassed our expectations'. Indeed they showed that Solidarnosc is far from dead.

The character of the Polish regime is vividly illustrated by the fact that on May Day workers marches are broken up by riot police — the first time it has happened in a so-called 'socialist' country.