

A Socialist ACTION

HANDS OFF GRENADA!
NATIONAL DEMONSTRATION
Saturday 5 November
12.30pm, Speakers Corner Hyde
Park for march via US Embassy to
Trafalgar Square
Called by the New Jewel Movement
All Socialist Action supporters should attend

Reagan's thugs out of Grenada!

**Boycott
the
Olympics!**
THE Australian Amalgamated Metal, Foundry and Shipwrights Union has called for a boycott of the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles in protest at the invasion of Grenada. Pass it on!

No British complicity

THE UNITED STATES' invasion of Grenada is an act of international gangsterism. Reagan wants the US military to be the 'cops of the world' — smashing down on working people anywhere who raise their voices against oppression and exploitation.

Now in Grenada the US troops are carrying out a ruthless purge. All supporters of the New Jewel Movement are being rounded up and imprisoned.

The first priority is to get the US troops out, and to ensure the release of Howard Austin, Bernard Coard and all other supporters of the NJM.

The imprisoned leaders are being thoroughly 'questioned' — and from Vietnam we know what that means: they are being tortured.

The next step will be to set up a puppet government loyal to the US and eventually to replace the US troops with a Commonwealth force. Neither a Commonwealth force nor a government under the Governor General Paul Scoon will

amount to self-determination for the Grenadian people.

The labour movement must fight against any British involvement in these sordid plans. Self determination means no foreign troops, and the right of the Grenadian people to choose their own form of government.

Thatcher has been trying to distance the British government

from the invasion, but the Tories are up to their necks in this business. They knew for months about US contingency plans. They knew several days before the invasion that it was going ahead, but they failed to tell an independent Commonwealth country of impending attack.

Escalation

The Tories have participated fully in Reagan's anti-communist crusade, aimed directly at Grenada, Cuba and revolutionary Nicaragua. And they are participating fully in the US nuclear escalation in Europe. Thatcher shares the guilt for this appalling act of aggression.

Now in Britain we have to build a mass movement of solidarity with the people of Grenada, and in solidarity with the people of Nicaragua threatened with a similar US-backed invasion.

Reagan's lies

RONALD REAGAN and his buddies have told an extraordinary string of vicious lies about Grenada — most of them faithfully relayed by the media. Here are a few of them.

LIE ONE: 'The US invaded to safeguard the lives of its citizens'

But arrangements had been made for the evacuation of any US citizens who wanted to go. The Principal of the US medical school was instructed by the State Department to

say that the lives of his students were in danger. In fact they were only put in danger when the Americans invaded.

LIE TWO: The US decided to intervene after 'leftist thugs' took power.

In fact the United States had been planning an invasion since 1980 against the government of Maurice Bishop, for whom they are now crying crocodile tears. The CIA attempted to assassinate Bishop by a bomb explosion at a rally in 1981.

LIE THREE: Grenada was being turned into a Cuban/Soviet military base.

The Americans now con-

cede that their figures for the number of Cuban workers on the island was grossly inflated — there were about 800 and not the 1100 they originally talked about. There were more Americans in Grenada than Cubans!

LIE FOUR: The airport was a 'secret' military installation.

The airport, which US students went running on every morning, was neither

secret nor military. The Cuban construction workers were supervised by engineers from the British company Plessey. The EEC funded the airport to aid Grenada' tourism.

LIE FIVE: The Grenadian people were repressed by 'dictatorship' for four years.

This is the really big lie. The New Jewel government which replaced the maniac dictator Gairy, raised the liv-

ing standards of ordinary Grenadians and organised free medical aid and education. Bishop's government was immensely popular, and organised mass organisations of popular participation.

THESE ARE just a few of the lies which your television screens are bringing you. Socialist Action will nail more of them in the weeks to come.

MODERN TIMES



We welcome the American invasion — what else can I say in the circumstances ...?



Photo: CARLOS AUGUSTO GUARITA (Photon)

Socialist ACTION

Grenada for the Grenadians

PROGRESSIVE OPINION everywhere has been outraged by the brutal and cynical invasion of Grenada by the US government and their Caribbean puppets. The heroic resistance of the Grenadian militia and Cuban workers on the island has shown that, whatever the terrible blows to the revolution, the Grenadian people have decided that their affairs are their own to decide and no one else's.

That spirit — to make the USA pay a heavy price for its crimes — must be matched in the building of solidarity in this country and internationally.

The whole world has now been alerted to the logic of the remilitarisation drive of US imperialism — to smash the struggle of the workers and peasants of the third world to throw off the yoke of imperialism. Reagan is using the invasion of Grenada to test world opinion for further adventures — in the Middle East and Central America.

All the western European governments have protested against the invasion. They know that the events fuel further the growth of anti-militarist feeling in their own countries, particularly after the massive demonstrations against the missiles last weekend. The only exception to this is the cowardly and perfidious role of the Thatcher government.

Puppet

But even the Tories own ranks are rebelling at the idea that the British state should take the political consequences of the invasion through the installation of a puppet government by the British monarchy. And while Denis Healey has correctly denounced the US invasion he has not disassociated himself from the idea that Britain should, through the Commonwealth, police the island after the departure of the US invaders.

There is nothing more progressive about British imperialism policing Grenada than US marines. Only the Grenadian people can decide their future.

The events of Wednesday 19 October when Maurice Bishop and a major section of the leadership of the New Jewel Movement were assassinated along with unarmed civilians have been used to justify the invasion. But the USA have contributed to the bloodshed, not halted it.

Revolution

The initial excuse of the US that it was intervening to restore law and order was known to be a lie by the Caribbean peoples who had witnessed the mock invasions carried out by the Pentagon in the period when Maurice Bishop and the Peoples Revolutionary Government were in power.

The media have been surprised that the Grenadian people through their militia and in alliance with Cuban military engineers have fought so determinedly after the heavy blow suffered to their revolution. This is because in the years since the overthrow of Gairy the PRG had fought with the people of Grenada to overcome the dire social and economic problems imposed on the island by imperialism. Now imperialism has returned on a tide of flame and blood.

Aggression

Our job now is to make the US pay the heaviest price possible for the invasion of Grenada; to warn the whole labour movement of the further acts of American aggression being planned against Nicaragua and in the Middle East; to oppose British collaboration in the US intervention — particularly against the establishment of a puppet regime by the British state.

We must also continue our fight against the installation of cruise missiles in this country. US imperialism must be attacked on every flank in order to weaken its capacity to crush revolutions. Out of the struggle of the Grenadian people a mass anti-imperialist movement opposing imperialist intervention in Central America and elsewhere can be born which can link itself to the fight of the colonial peoples and particularly the heroic resistance of the Grenadian people.



By John Ross

'A MADMAN IS loose armed with aircraft carriers, nuclear bombs, and cruise missiles.' That was the reaction of hundreds of thousands of people when they heard of Reagan's invasion of Grenada.

Sir Geoffrey Howe of course had quite a different term for it in the House of Commons. He said the attack on the US invasion by Denis Healey and others was 'pandering to anti-American sentiment'. Howe was right in his charge. But Denis Healey was merely responding to growing sentiment against the United States in the world and not creating it.

What is the nature of this 'anti-Americanism' that Howe is worried about and which has in-

USA and Britain — Special relationship: mass murder



very last moments before Somoza fell.

The regimes that the United States supports throughout the world today are invariably the dregs of the earth. Dozens of secret police forces and petty Gestapos bear the badge 'Made in the USA'. That is the base of the growing 'anti-Americanism' Howe referred to.

Howe is worried about it for a very good reason. The British government has got its hand in the same till as the United States. It is in the same camp as the South African racists, the Lebanese Phalange and the El Salvadorean military junta. These are Thatcher's global mates. Rising opposition to the United States isn't going to stop there. For Britain has plenty of its own 'Grenadas'.

The first will be supporting and forming whatever puppet government is set up in Grenada itself — for the British government is up to its neck in what is happening in the Caribbean today. The second is the continued British military occupation of the Malvinas

The United States is not in Lebanon to 'keep the peace'. It is there simply to prop up a regime it hopes will do a deal with its Israeli allies.

In Central America it is exactly the same story. The junta in El Salvador, financed and armed by the United States, slaughtered 30,000 people last year. It will kill as many again this year. Why this brutality and 'violation of human rights'? Because the El Salvadorean junta is hated by the population it rules over and would be overthrown within 24 hours if the United States did not prop it up.

In Nicaragua the United States openly finances the 'contras' carrying out armed actions against the FSLN government. What is the FSLN's crime in the eyes of the United States government? It taught the majority of the Nicaraguan population to read and write. It has spread doctors throughout the country. It gave land to people who needed it and factories to those who worked them. There is no doubt those really are crimes against humanity according to US imperialism.

And who are the forces the United States government is supporting against the FSLN? They are the remnants of Somoza's National Guard. The National Guard that raped 13 year olds in front of their parents, poured petrol over them and burned them alive. The National Guard that locked people in houses and burnt them down. The National Guard that bombed and burned the slums of Managua right up to the



'I expect she wanted to invade it first'

deed been growing in the last ten to fifteen years?

The 'anti-American sentiment' Howe refers to has got nothing to do with opposition to the American people. No one who has fought against United States policy in the world today has shown any hostility whatever to the people of the United States.

The Vietnamese throughout the twenty years they were fighting against the US invasion of their country, relied on the people of the United States to help get the American army out of their country. The FMLN guerillas fighting the US-backed military dictatorship in El Salvador take every opportunity to go into the United States to explain

States foreign policy is about.

In Lebanon the bomb explosion in Beirut also brought home to many people what is the real situation in that country. The American, French, British and Italian troops have nothing to do with being a 'peace keeping force'. They are there solely to prop up the rotten regime of Amin Gemayel. That government is opposed by the majority of the Lebanese people. Its supporters organised the bloody massacres of the Palestinians at Sabra and Shatila refugee camps. It would be overthrown tomorrow if it wasn't for the presence of the US fleet off the shores of Lebanon.



(Falklands). The third is the British partition of Ireland. Anyone who starts digging in the sordid dustbin of US foreign policy will soon find plenty of rotten British apples there. That's why Howe doesn't want anybody to even start looking.

For Grenada, like cruise, poses the most fundamental of all Britain's choices in international politics that the developing debate in the Labour Party on a 'non-aligned' foreign policy is not going to be able to avoid.

The core of British foreign policy today is the alliance with the United States. It is the American military bases. It is the continued British involvement in dirty policies in Grenada, Lebanon, Central America and the rest of the world. There is no 'non-alignment' whatever while Britain remains in NATO and all that goes with it.

The only other choice is to get out of NATO; get the American bases out of Britain; to get the nuclear weapons out of Europe and to support the people who are fighting against the United States in Grenada.

The link people made in their minds between Grenada and cruise was a correct one. It reflects the real choices in world politics today.



'President Reagan doesn't like your choice of eight gramophone records'

Battle for Grenada

THE FIGHT for Grenada was no push over for the US troops. Their arrogant commanders, who expected a 24-hour walk over against the tiny People's Revolutionary Army and the People's Militia got a rude shock. In particular, the Cuban construction workers and military advisors played an heroic role in the battle.

The invasion started at 5.40am last Tuesday morning. The first attacks came on the two airports — at Port Salines and at Pearls airport in the north of the country. At the same time there were air attacks on Fort Frederick, the main army barracks, and on the capital St. George's.

Early in the morning a US helicopter was shot down in St. George's harbour — one of the three US helicopters shot down on the first day of the invasion.

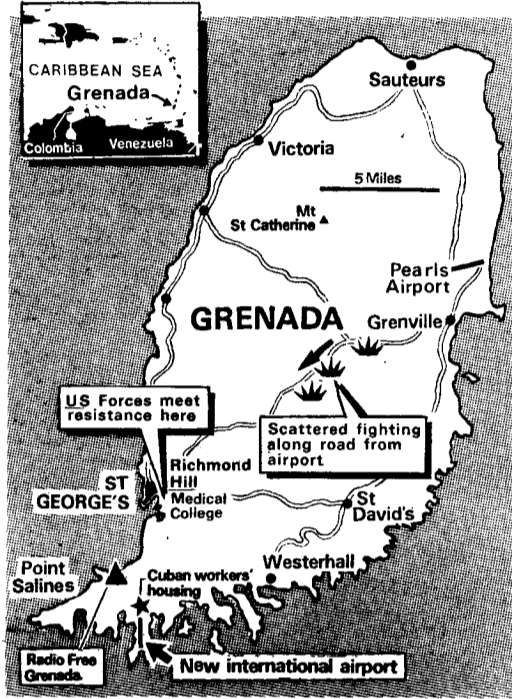
The attack on the Cuban construction workers at Port Salines was particularly brutal. While they slept their wooden huts were attacked by six helicopter gunships. Each of the workers had been issued with a rifle and 700 rounds of

ammunition before the invasion — and they fought back undaunted by the casualties they had taken in the first assault.

By Paul Lawson

Throughout Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday fighting continued in and around St. George's. While American marines tried to fight their way from the Port Salines bridgehead towards the capital, meeting fierce resistance by the PRA and Cubans all the way, troops parachuted in to the north and east of St. George's tried to fight their way south. For three days the capital was bombarded by American jet fighters and helicopter gunships.

Savage fighting took place around Richmond



Hill and Medical College no 2 campus on the outskirts of St. George's before the US troops could fight their way into the capital.

On Thursday and Friday hand-to-hand fighting went on in St. George's, with PRA fighters blocking narrow streets with armoured cars — and in turn being attacked with the murderous helicopter gunships.

During the first three days of the invasion fighting continued along the main road from Pearls Airport which passes through the hills in the centre of the island.

By Saturday there were more than 6000 US troops on the island — three times the total number of the PRA. As Fort Frederick and the capital were taken, resistance fighters moved both into the hills in the centre of the island and towards the south coast — General Howard Austin was believed to be with the second group.

The Cuban construction workers put up their last stand at Calivigny three miles from Port Salines. They fought until only six were left alive — against repeated air at-

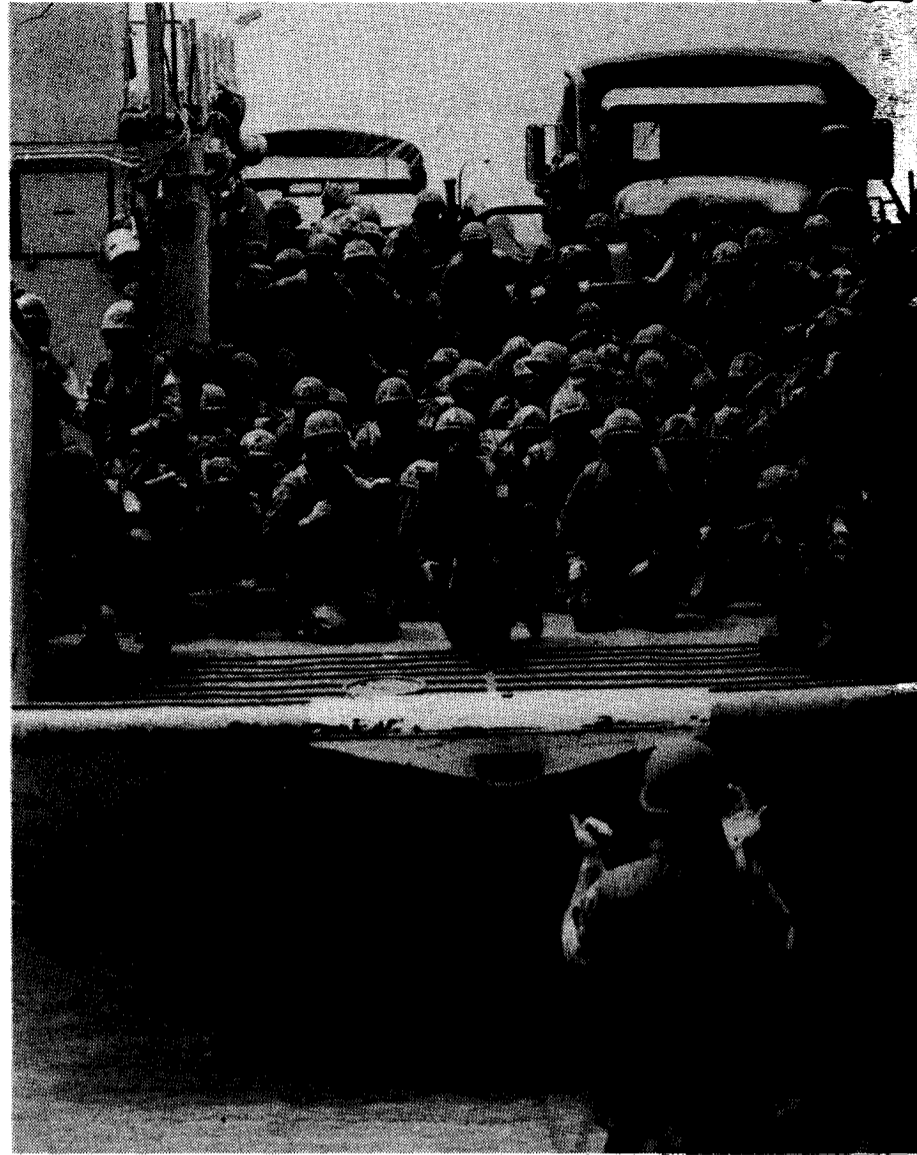
tacks by Corsair A-7 jets.

By Sunday reports were coming through of the capture of New Jewel Movement leaders Austin and Coard. US troops were conducting wide-spread identity checks to hunt supporters of the New Jewel Movement. Without a doubt the American intention is to crush the NJM for years to come.

In addition to the demand for the withdrawal of the US troops, the solidarity movement must demand the release of all supporters of the NJM. In particular, Amnesty International must be pressurised into taking up this campaign.

At the time of writing the resistance has still not been totally defeated. At least some Cuban advisors are thought to be with units of the PRA in the central hills.

Whatever the immediate outcome, the Cuban workers and advisors and the People's Revolutionary Army have written a glorious page in the history of the international workers movement. They have shown that even a tiny island can resist imperialism and they have vividly demonstrated to



imperialism the cost of an attack on Cuba or Nicaragua. And they have laid the basis for regrouping the New Jewel Movement and preparing for the political struggle ahead.

Hands Off Grenada!
Solidarity events

London: National demonstration: Sat 5 Nov, 12.30pm, Hyde Park.

Hackney public meeting organised by Hackney Nth & Sth Labour Parties: Wed 2 Nov, 7.30pm, Stoke Newington Town Hall.

Hounslow forum organised by Socialist Action supporters: Thur 3 Nov, 7.30pm, Old Town Hall, Treaty Road.

Birmingham: forum organised by Socialist Action supporters: Wed 2 Nov, 7.30pm, Birmingham's Other Bookshop.

Rally organised by ELSSOC: Thur 3 Nov, 5pm, Chamberlain Square. Wakefield: public meeting organised by ELSSOC & Britain/Cuba Resource Centre: Mon 7 Nov, 7.30pm, Wakefield Labour Club, Vicarage Street.

(Many more events are being organised up and down the country — contact your local Central America solidarity campaigns for details).

Invasion greeted with world-wide demonstrations

THE OUTRAGE provoked by Reagan's invasion of Grenada was expressed in demonstrations all over the world. On Wednesday 26 October 5000 people organised by the Communist Party and the French Trotskyist LCR demonstrated outside the US embassy.

In Santo Domingo, itself the victim of the US invasion in 1965, demonstrators clashed with police in a large demonstration the day after the invasion.

In the United States 4000 people demonstrated outside the United Nations on 26 October. Smaller actions of protest were held in many US towns, including Berkeley, San Francisco, Chicago, Boston, Washington, Minneapolis, Detroit and New Orleans.

In Mexico City 10,000 people demonstrated last Wednesday, and at least 50,000 turned out last Sunday.

US consulates in several Italian towns were the targets of pickets last week, supported by the far left organisations PDUP, Democrazia Proletaria, the LCR and the Young Communists.

300 condemn invasion

Chris Palmer, El Salvador Solidarity Campaign West Midlands (secretary)

A CROWD of 300 demonstrations marched through the busy streets of Birmingham at 5.30 last Thursday, to protest the imperialist invasion of Grenada.

The demonstration, hastily coordinated by the El Salvador Solidarity Campaign with the support of a series of Afro-Caribbean organisations, was preceded by a short rally.

Speakers, including Paul Mackney, Trades Council President, Albert Bore, city councillor, and Phillip Murphy from the

Afro-Caribbean resource centre, condemned the invasion before the demonstration moved off around the streets to the chanting of 'Reagan, Thatcher, Hands off Grenada. Troops Out Now.'

A message of support was also received from Clare Short, Labour MP for Birmingham Ladywood who was unable to attend.

Later the same evening, a packed room at Digbeth Civic Hall heard Delia Smallman, an internationalist worker recently returned from Grenada, explain the revolution and the implications of the invasion.

Hands off Grenada

'HANDS off Grenada! Troops out now!' was the cry from over two hundred demonstrators in Manchester last Wednesday night.

A town-centre rally organised by NICA gave Carol Davis of the NJM a standing ovation as she denounced the US invasion.

'Reagan has been invited to invade by other governments in the region. If he was to be asked by all the countries of black Africa to invade South Africa to crush apartheid would he do it?', she said to loud applause.

Speakers from Greater Manchester CND and Manchester City Labour Party slammed the invasion and along with Jaime Lopez, representative of the El Salvadorean FDR, drew stark parallels with Vietnam and dangers for the rest of Central America.

'The Marines have gone into the Caribbean to find another Beirut, but what they'll get is another Hanoi.'

For more information contact Manchester NICA, 300 Oxford Road, Manchester.



Marines with sophisticated equipment took days to gain control

Edinburgh Demo condemns invasion

By Neil Cruickshank & Duncan Smith
ON SATURDAY 29 October there was an emergency demo and rally in Edinburgh called by the Edinburgh Latin American Solidarity Campaign against the US invasion of Grenada. Although the organisers only had four days to mobilise, over 300 people from Edinburgh Labour parties, trade unions and other political groups plus contingents from Glasgow and Stirling, assembled outside the US Consulate before marching to a rally in the city centre. The rally was addressed by Ron Brown MP, Alec Wood, leader of Edinburgh council Labour group and Des Tierney of Scottish Medical Aid for Nicaragua.

Tariq Ali expelled

THE NEW Labour Party NEC has expelled Tariq Ali, the party's best known black Marxist.

Tariq's period of officially recognised membership was approved by the Labour Party national conference on the NEC's recommendation, on the basis of legal advice that the NEC could not prevent Hornsey — Tariq's party — recruiting him.

The NEC then took the extraordinary step of recognising his recruitment in order to expel him. The NEC heard a short statement from Tariq but did not question him. Members of the NEC who wanted to ask him questions were instructed not to do so. Diana Minns, Hornsey Party secretary, was not allowed to accompany Tariq into the meeting.

Tariq explained that he had been a Party member before in the sixties, and had — like thousands of others — left in disgust over the party's support for the Vietnam war. He had rejoined after the SDP left, having himself left the International Marxist Group. He accepts the aims and objects of the Party as laid down by the constitution.

The most alarming feature of the discussion that followed, after Tariq had left, was the attitude taken by Neil Kinnock and the reason given for Tariq's expulsion. Jim Mortimer, Party secretary, spoke against Tariq's expulsion. Unlike the *Militant*, he said, Tariq's expulsion was a question of ideology, since he was not a member of any organisation.

Ideas

For Neil Kinnock, however, it was precisely Tariq's ideas that made him ineligible: 'We are a parliamentary party, not a revolutionary party', he said, in the keynote speech of the discussion.

Neil Kinnock has now introduced a new principle

of membership which raises the stakes in the witch hunt.

First, he has persuaded the new NEC directly to contradict the promise given by Jim Mortimer and Michael Foot to the 1982 conference of the Labour Party, that no-one would be expelled from the Labour Party for their views.

Arbitrary

Secondly, Tariq has been expelled for views which contradict a personal interpretation of the Party's aims by Neil Kinnock.

In short, the basis for his expulsion is totally arbitrary. Nowhere in the Party constitution does it state that Tariq's ideas are incompatible with membership; nowhere has the Party ever taken this decision.

Neil Kinnock's aims are quite clear: to reshape the Labour party according to his own narrow political philosophy and

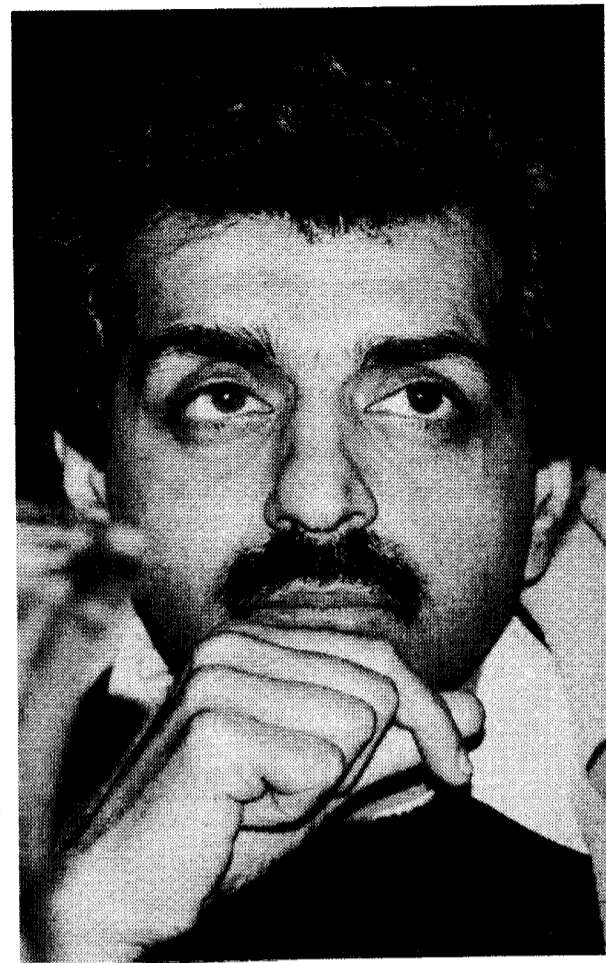


Photo: JOHN HARRIS

Neil Kinnock exclude, without discussion those who disagree with him.

Who fought the witch hunt?

Against Tariq's expulsion were Jo Maynard, Jo Richardson, Audrey Wise, Tony Benn, David Blunkett, Eric Heffer, Steve Morgan, Dennis Skinner and Tom Sawyer.



Tariq Ali

Photo: GM COOKSON

Model resolutions on the witch hunt

LABOUR Against the Witch hunt and the Campaign for Labour Party Democracy have both sent out model resolutions on the witch hunt for three upcoming regional conferences.

Deadlines for motions to regional conferences as follows:

	Resolutions	Amendments
London	18 November 1983	13 January 1984
Scotland	30 November	30 January 1984
Southern	2 December 1983	20 January 1984

LAW's resolution reads as follows: 'This Conference notes the position taken by Labour's leaders and General Secretary at the 1983 Party Conference that there must be no witch hunt and that the party must concentrate on campaigning for a Socialist Britain.'

'Conference recognises that CLPs can efficiently and democratically conduct their own internal affairs including disciplinary matters.'

'Conference therefore calls for the Regional Executive and the Regional Officers to concentrate their efforts on promoting the Party's policies and on political education in the party. Intervention on matters of individual members' activities should only follow a formal request from the Constituency Party of the member concerned.'

CLPD's model resolution, supported by LAW, is on Manchester Wythenshawe and reads as follows:

'This annual meeting expresses its deep concern over the suspension of Manchester Wythenshawe CLP by the NEC following an internal dispute. In particular this Annual Meeting regrets

(a) that the CLP was suspended before the CLP officers were given a chance to state their case; (b) that the section of the 1983 NEC report dealing with the matter states only the case against the CLP officers;

(c) that the NEC enquiry has still not been completed five months after the suspension, thus depriving the CLP of the right to take part in the 1983 Annual Conference and to answer the one-sided account given in the NEC report.

'This annual meeting accepts the right of the NEC to intervene in a CLP where necessary, but considers it essential for the NEC to only do so with due regard for natural justice, and not to abuse the powers which it has been granted.'

Other NEC decisions

● The NEC voted to establish a new 'campaign committee' with sweeping powers comprising the leader, deputy leader, six NEC representatives, six Shadow Cabinet members, four members of Trade Unions for a Labour Victory, one member of the British Labour Group and the General Secretary.

The left believes this committee will bypass the NEC, effectively becoming a policy making body, and proposed amendments to ensure the new body remained within the NEC's control. This move was defeated by 17-8, Michael Meacher having voted against.

● The NEC deferred a proposal to establish a new appeals committee to deal with disciplinary matters.

● The NEC issued an appeal to local boroughs to refuse co-operation with Jenkins in schemes to wind up the Metropolitan Boroughs.

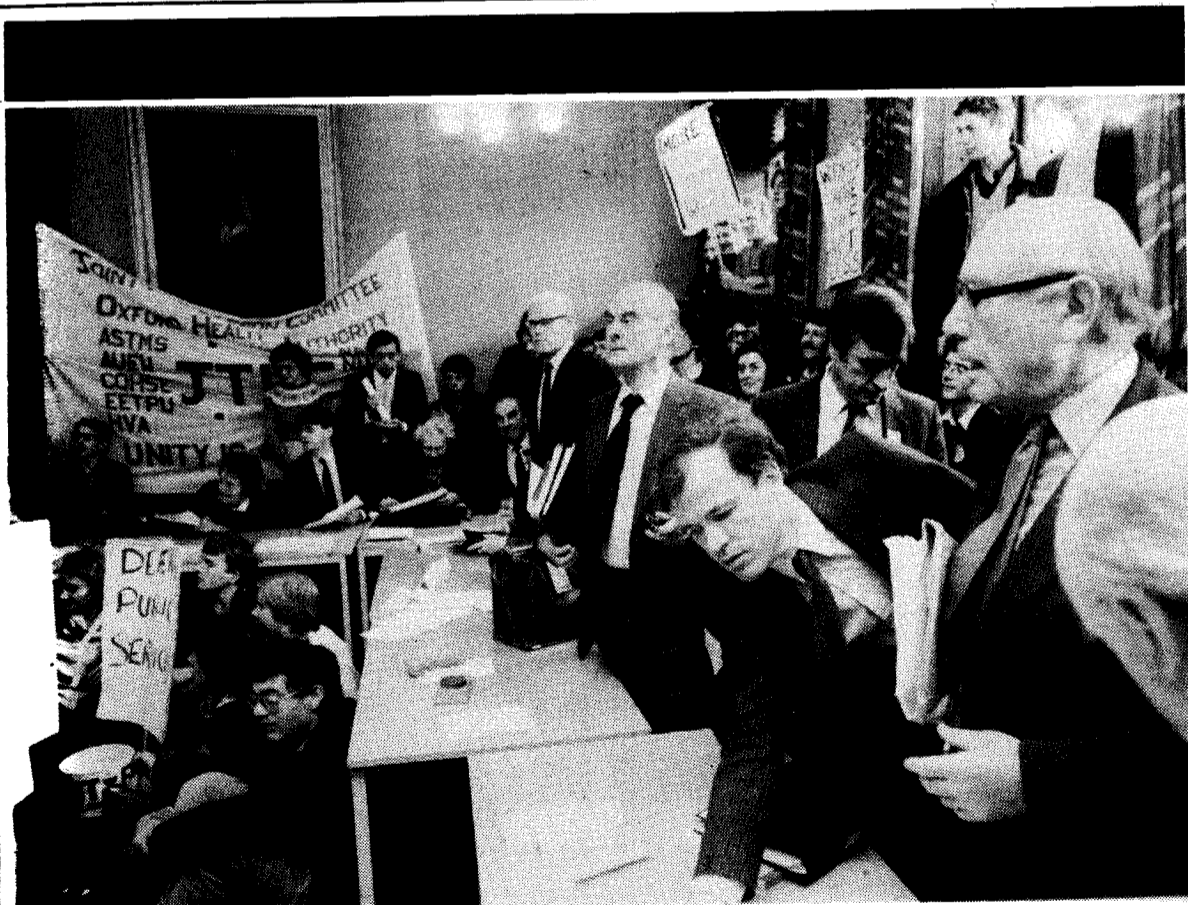


Photo: JOHN HARRIS

Invasion of the health workers

MORE THAN 100 nurses, porters and other health workers invaded a meeting of the Oxford Health Authority last week which was to consider orders to axe 77 jobs. (see photo). Health Administrators had refused a request to hold the meeting in a venue large enough to take the public, and had to abandon the meeting to a later

date. Meanwhile, in the London Borough of Hillingdon, Hayes Cottage Hospital has been occupied by the staff since 25 October to prevent closure.

An appeal from the workers has been circulated by the London Health Service Campaign to trade unions and organisations fighting the cuts to help the occupation by raising cash and sending representatives to help

run the picket lines.

Staff at the nearby Northwood and Pinner Cottage Hospital have also voted overwhelmingly to occupy against closure.

The appeal says: 'Our fight to preserve a decent health service is your fight as well. A victory for Hillingdon will act as an inspiration for every other campaign. Both NUPE and COHSE have made the occupation of-

ficial — now it's up to us to keep the hospital open. This is an action we would like to see repeated wherever cuts have been proposed. Is it possible in your area?'

● Hayes Cottage Hospital Occupation Committee, Hayes Cottage Hospital, Grange Road, Hayes, Middx 01-573 5593.

● London Health Service Campaign, 34 Dalston Lane, London E8 3AZ 01-249 8086.

LABOUR AGAINST THE WITCH HUNT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

26 November 1983

Camden Town Hall

Speakers include: Alf Homes, chair, Manchester Wythenshawe Labour Party
Audrey Wise
Jo Richardson MP

Delegation (with affiliation) from CLPs, wards, and all affiliated Labour Party sections, plus individual affiliates of LAW

Apply to: Keith Lichman, secretary, Labour Against the Witch hunt, 11 Wilderton Road, London N16 or phone (01)-802 1709.

New Bill for the old bill

GOVERNMENT disinformation — otherwise known as telling lies to win an argument — is the order of the day as Reagan and Thatcher limber up to meet the challenge of policing in 1984.

Whether 'policing' Grenada or Britain the exercise is the same: lie through your teeth and rely on the media to report it as the objective truth. The new, revamped, Police and Criminal Evidence Bill is a case in point.

Published last week along with the Bill was a Briefing Guide from the Home Office — 67 pages of propaganda and distortion which most of the media have snuffled up and regurgitated enthusiastically.

By Hilary Driver

The Bill has been redrafted because of the tremendous opposition to the original version, which united priests and the legal and medical professions with civil and equal rights campaigners. The new version attempts to placate the more influential sections of the establishment without ditching the meat of the proposals.

Under the guise of simplifying and regulating police powers the Bill seeks to legalise and extend already current abuses of the powers of search, arrest and detainment. The Tories have given the Bill a face-lift — but even plastic surgery couldn't serve to disguise its intent — a massive extension and legalisation of police powers.

The main changes to the bill are as follows:

● A 'serious arrestable offence' includes murder, rape, kidnapping and so on. But any offence can be deemed serious if it has or could result in harm to the security of the state or to public order: so watch yourself on demos or picket lines.

An offence can be 'serious' if it results in or could lead to serious financial loss to anybody.

And it's the person who suffers the loss along with the police who decide if they think it's serious or not!

If the cops decide to arrest you on a serious offence they can keep you in custody without charge for up to 4 days.

● A new police power of forcible stop and search will be established throughout the country, with the power to use 'reasonable force if necessary'.

● Police would be able to carry out intimate body searches on the pretext of searching for articles which could be used to cause physical injury, as well as strip searches on any pretext.

Insignificant changes have been made in other sections of the Bill which include random new powers to set up road blocks; an extension of grounds to get search warrants; the right to arrest and detain for minor offences of people who have no fixed addresses; criminalisation of the offence of 'affront to public decency'; and detention without charge for up to 96 hours for serious offences and denial of access to a lawyer for up to 36 hours.

Looking at the Bill as a whole it becomes clear who are the targets of the new powers: black and Asian youth, gays, the homeless, trade unionists, demonstrators — the oppressed and the dispossessed.

The Bill aims to legalise the already current prac-

tices of the police. A recently leaked report, commissioned by the Metropolitan Police themselves, concluded that there was already widespread abuse of the power to stop and search on reasonable suspicion, and that racist language and racial prejudice are rampant among London's defenders of law and order.

Along with the increased use of surveillance, computers and informers the Police Bill completes a package which Thatcher hopes will be adequate to deal with political and social unrest which could explode in the future and make the 1981 uprisings look like a picnic.

The National Campaign against the Police Bill has planned a conference on 19 January next year. The unanimous decision of the Labour Party conference to oppose the Bill has to be transformed from paper to practical and active opposition in the labour movement and local areas.

As Cecil Gutzmore, secretary of the campaign says: 'The so-called concessions cannot disguise the essentially reactionary and oppressive thrust of this Bill. If it becomes law, the nightmare of a police state will be a reality.'

● National Campaign against the Police Bill can be contacted at 50 Rectory Road, London N16, 01-249 8334.

National Conference: Sat 19 November, Sir William Collins School, Charring Cross Street, London NW1.

National march and rally: Sat 21 January, Brockwell Park, London to Trafalgar Square.

Police harass gays in Earls Court

Over the past few months, young police officers have been dressing up in ripped jeans and T-shirts in order to entrap gay men outside the gay pub The Colherne.

They have used the 1956 Sexual Offences Act, the so-called 'gay sus-law'.

By Paul Canning

This law, 'soliciting for an immoral purpose in a public place', is specifically designed to keep gay men off the streets. It cannot be used for men who harass women, but is used extensively against prostitutes.

The police know that most gay men charged will plead guilty as there is a very real threat of losing their jobs through any publicity. This charge has the highest clear-up rate: 97 per cent. Officers like it

because it's easy and boosts their arrest figures.

However gays are fighting back. A packed meeting in Earls Court decided to set up a defence campaign to organise the men who use the pub. Many gay men spoke of their experiences at the hands of the police, including one Irish man who was hospitalised as a result.

The campaign is especially relevant as it

highlights what will happen if the police bill is passed with its anti-gay clauses, legally!

Labour parties, campaigns and organisations are asked to give their support through the following motion. Copies to Earls Court Defence Campaign, c/o Gay London Police monitoring group, 38 Mount Pleasant, London WC1X 7SPB. (01-278 6215). Speakers are available.

'This branch/GMC/etc

1. Deplores the conduct of the Metropolitan Police towards gay people and particularly the use in Earls Court of plain clothes officers to entrap gay men on charges of importuning for immoral purposes.
2. Calls for the repeal of section 32 of the Sexual Offences Act 1956.
3. Demands that the Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis should immediately instruct his officers:
 - a) That they should not use entrapment against any gay men for any sexual offence, and
 - b) That alleged offences against section 32 of the Sexual Offences Act 1956 should not be prosecuted without the corroborative evidence of at least one civilian witness as to annoyance caused by the alleged conduct.'

THIS IS AN
UNOFFICIAL PICKET
LINE



Idrish campaign calls for action

AN EMERGENCY meeting of the Muhammad Idrish Defence Campaign was convened in Birmingham on 19 October, which included representatives from NALGO's NEC (Muhammad's union) and from the Bristol support group.

Its purpose was to mobilise the labour movement and black communities to fight Muhammad's imminent deportation.

On the 13 October Muhammad appeared before the High Court in London. He was appealing against the Home Office Adjudicator's interpretation of his marriage as being fraudulent and other absurdities regarding passport regulations. His appeal was rejected and he was recommended for deportation.

Obviously the state and its agencies have singled him out for his voluntary social work activities among the black and Asian communities in Birmingham and Bristol.

By Bob Smith
(campaign treasurer)

Muhammad says: 'My barrister said after the hearing that the Home Office and courts are working together against me'.

The campaign decided on a series of activities to fight the deportation and build support before the final appeal to the High Court.

Coaches will be laid on for supporters to join Muhammad and many Labour MPs in a delegation to the Home Office and later to lobby the High Court hearing in London which will take



Photo: JOHN HARRIS

Muhammad Idrish

place by the end of November.

NALGO are to be asked to call a national labour movement conference against deportations that will highlight Muhammad's case.

The campaign is also circulating a petition and a new model resolution

for unions and Labour parties and will press for Labour's NEC and the TUC to send letters of condemnation to the Home Office.

As well as leading the delegation to the Home Office, Labour MPs are being asked to raise an Early Day Motion in the House of Commons — over 60 MPs have already signed up in support of the campaign.

A film of the defence campaign activities and the large demonstration held in Birmingham plus our future activities is being produced for use in the labour movement and localities and will be available with speakers.

● For details of affiliation, where to send donations and other information on how you can help please contact: Barry Lovejoy, 30 Atrobus Rd, Handsworth, Birmingham 21 (021-523 8923).

Cubans on the Grenadian crisis

"We will overcome"

PRESIDENT REAGAN has now settled on the pretext that the invasion force arrived in Grenada 'just in time' before Cuba took over the island and turned it into an armed outpost.

Below we reproduce extracts from statements of the Cuban Communist Party and revolutionary government on the events in Grenada, which rebut Reagan's slanders in the words of the Cubans themselves.

Havana 20 October

IT CAN be seen clearly that for some weeks, maybe months, a profound conflict has been developing in the leadership and within the governing party of Grenada.

commitment would be maintained as a commitment to the Grenadian people, regardless of the changes in the leadership of the Party and in the country, since these were purely internal matters...

On 19 October in the early hours of the morning we began to receive news that the workers had gone on strike and that the people were on the streets in support of Bishop. Multitudes of people arrived at his home where they freed him from house arrest. It would seem, although the news is not precise, that an army installation was occupied by the people...

During the afternoon the dramatic outcome was made known, an official communique announced the deaths of Prime Minister Maurice Bishop (and the other NJM leaders — eds). It is to be regretted that the divisions between the Grenadian revolutionaries culminated in this bloody drama. No doctrine, no principle, no opinion calling itself revolutionary, and no internal split can justify such atrocious acts as the physical elimination of Bishop and the prominent group of honest and dignified leaders who died yesterday.

The death of Bishop and his comrades must be explained and if they were executed in cold blood, those responsible must be punished as an example.

Now imperialism will attempt to use this tragedy and the grave errors committed by the Grenadian revolutionaries to wipe out the revolutionary process in Grenada and subject her once again to imperialist and neo-colonialist dominance...

Havana 25 October

The Cuban revolutionary government reports that the Cuban Embassy in St. Georges has reported that at dawn today US paratroopers began to land in the area of the new Grenadian airport, which is still under construction. The landings were a short distance from the hostels where Cuban building workers are living. The workers had instructions to defend themselves if they were attacked...

Havana 26 October

A declaration of the Cuban Communist Party and government read by the Head of State Fidel Castro at 1 a.m. press conference speaks of the 'unjustified, criminal, perfidious imperialist attack' on the small nation in the eastern Caribbean by a US air and naval contingent and some members of the arms of Jamaica, St. Lucia and Barbados.

He said that the Grenadian authorities, faced with the threat of invasion, requested Cuban collaboration, a request that was not easy to grant after the things that had happened in that country.

Castro said that the option of immediate evacuation of Cuban personnel at a time in which US warships were approaching 'could have proven to be highly demoralising and dishonourable for our country in the eyes of world opinion.' ...

The declaration adds that the Grenadian leaders were informed that the Cuban civilian co-operators were a very small force to be regarded as a factor of military importance against a largescale US invasion, while the possibility of sending reinforcements was 'impossible and unthinkable'.

The Cuban president stated that in a message to the Grenadian authorities, Cuba said that 'the Grenadian revolutionaries are the only ones to blame for having created this unfavourable and difficult situation for the revolutionary process in the political and military spheres.' ...

The public is informed that at 4.00 hours today, the Cuban ambassador in Grenada reported that Fidel's note to the United States was read to the Cuban personnel and the comrades replied that, as worthy heirs of our people's traditions and that following the example of our Commander in Chief, we will fight to the last man and the last shot and we shout with our moral high: Motherland or Death! We will overcome!

(These extracts are taken from telexes from the Prensa Latina Agency in Havana. The translation is by the Britain-Cuba Resource Centre.)



Grenadian unionists on the march

GRENADA BELONGS TO THE GRENADIANS

New Jewel Movement Support Group (UK)

ON THE MORNING of Tuesday, 25 October, 1983 at 5.00am tiny Grenada was brutally invaded by the United States of America, the most powerful country in the world.

The invasion force consisted of 4,000 US special forces, followed by a token force of some 200 Caribbean soldiers and policemen from Jamaica, Barbados, Dominica, St. Vincent, Antigua and St. Lucia.

The US troops are being supported by a full naval and airborne task force which includes two aircraft carriers with over one hundred bombers, jet fighters, helicopters, gunships and other sophisticated means of mass destruction.

The invasion has violated all international law and has been condemned world wide. The pretext (which is not yet fully constructed) was to restore 'peace and democracy' in Grenada and to remove the military threat which President Reagan said was posed to the US and the region.

Grenada does not, and could not pose a military threat to the US or any of its neighbours. What

Grenada was doing was developing a people's participatory democracy which is an anathema to the governments of some neighbouring states, their imperialistic master, the United States.

Hostility

Ever since the people's revolution of 13 March, 1979, Grenada has been subjected to hostility and threats by the United States administration and governments of certain Caribbean countries.

The revolution did not only survive these onslaughts, but went from strength to strength and brought considerable material benefits to the people of Grenada. The People's Revolutionary Government was admired by many other Third World Peoples, who during that same period faced increased exploitation at the hands of imperialism.

The internal disputes within the NJM, the ruling party, that led to the tragic killing of the comrade Prime Minister; Maurice Bishop and other members of the People's Revolutionary Government, in no way can be interpreted as a breakdown in law, order or the popular democracy practiced in our country.

In any event, these facts are no justification for the Americans to invade Grenada, or, as it is

being put about by the other countries of the region, to invite the United States to invade our country.

As Grenadians, we feel that whatever our differences or internal problems, no foreign power has the right to intervene in our affairs. We believe that the aim of the United States and its lackeys is to eliminate all progressive elements in Grenada and impose on its people a puppet regime to serve the interests of US imperialism.

Resistance

The United States is carrying out indiscriminate bombings of highly populated areas in our country but, there is still fierce resistance, as our heroic soldiers and people defend their homeland and the tangible gains achieved by the revolution.

The United States are also conducting a systematic rounding up and executing the leaders of the government, members of the NJM, and prominent community leaders. Many Grenadians have been killed. Our casualties are heavy and Grenada has a population of only 110,000. Every family will be affected.

The United States has attempted to impose a total news blackout in order to conceal from the

rest of the world the genocidal acts they are committing against our people.

The United States has greatly underestimated the fierce resistance that the Grenadian people mounted to defend their country's independence and territorial integrity. Whatever short term advantage the United States may gain they will never succeed in wiping out the gains of the revolution.

We of the NJM support group call on Grenadians, Caribbean peoples, fraternal political parties, trade union groups, church and community organisations in helping to achieve the following — now:

- Immediate, unconditional withdrawal of all foreign invaders.
- Immediate international aid to alleviate the suffering and care of the injured.
- Sending of observers to stop the assassination of progressive community leaders.
- For Grenadians to be allowed to determine their own future.
- No US bases in Grenada — no mortgaging of our country out with all foreign invaders!
- Grenada belongs to the Grenadians! Forward ever backward never!
- Long live the New Jewel Movement!
- The struggle continues!



Fidel Castro

On 12 October our Embassy in Grenada informed us of the surprising and unpleasant news about the profound divisions within the Central Committee of the Grenadian Party. On the morning of the day, Mr. Bishop himself communicated to our Embassy the differences which had been surfacing for some time and which were being discussed and attempts to resolve them, but he had never imagined the seriousness of the situation that would arise during his absence ...

(Bishop had just returned from Eastern Europe and had briefly stopped over in Cuba — eds)

We continuously received news from our Embassy in Grenada during the subsequent days regarding the positions of the two sides involved in the conflict. In our opinion the conflicts were in fact conflicts of personalities and conceptions of leadership methods, where subjective factors were also present, rather than internal conflicts...

On 15 October, comrade Fidel Castro sent a message to the New Jewel Party Central Committee telling of Cuba's stand, which is ruled by the principle of abstaining from interfering in the party's and country's internal affairs...

In that message it was expressed that Cuba's

'This is the hour of unity in defence of the revolution'

ON FRIDAY 28 October the Grenadian and Nicaraguan flags flew over Lambeth Town Hall in an act of solidarity.

Over 500 people crammed into an anti-intervention rally called by Vauxhall Labour Party, with a further 250 participating in an overspill meeting.

Among the speakers were Fennis Augustine the Grenadian High Commissioner, Salvador Moncada from the FDR-FMLN of El Salvador and Francisco D'Escoto the Nicaraguan ambassador. We publish extracts from their speeches.

Fennis Augustine, Grenadian High Commissioner

THIS IS not a time for tears. This is a time when we have to reinforce the NJM motto 'Forward ever! Backward never!' I want to take the opportunity to thank you for the support which has been given to the Grenadian revolution from March 1979, and hopefully the support that you will continue to give us, because comrades the struggle continues!

You may have heard President Reagan saying on television last night that he had saved Grenada just in the nick of time. You will remember that this is the same Reagan who we mounted a campaign against in 1981 because of a carefully planned rehearsal, code named 'Amber', which we said was specifically aimed at Grenada. Then some people believed us, some didn't.

Foreign Office to be told that Her Majesty's government wished to receive assurances that the lives and property of British nationals in Grenada will be protected. The following day the Foreign Office received those assurances in the form of a broadcast by General Austin.

The very day I was summoned was the day that Reagan issued a similar statement that the lives of American na-

I find it extremely difficult to believe the British government didn't know

There are very pressing reasons for President Reagan to find some means of justification.

He has discovered a major arms storage depot. Comrades, it would have been irresponsible of the People's Revolutionary Government, given the threats of invasion in 1981 and after, not to have prepared themselves!

Comrades, we have arms, we have bullets and we have a militia of 20,000 strong.

We are told that the Cubans are there in force. It is interesting that from the very day of the invasion, the figure of 1000 Cuban troops was quoted. Then we were told that 200 were disarmed and taken to Barbados — but there continued to be 1000 Cuban troops. Now the purpose of that is clear. It is because of the heroic struggle being waged by our comrades in the towns, in the houses, in the hills.

It is a clear indication of the strength and commitment to a system that the Americans did not want to see exist in that part of the world.

I was called to the

tionals should be protected.

Comrades, in politics there is no such thing as an accident. I find it extremely difficult to believe that the British Government did not know or were not consulted.

Let us suppose they disapproved. But if they didn't make this public it appears that they are quietly agreeing.

I don't want to have a long discussion on our 'friends' in the Caribbean who either appealed to the United States, or the United States appealed to them to appeal to them.

These countries conspired in a disgusting way. They feared the one country in the English speaking Caribbean where the people could make a comparison. The Americans have come up, despite their size against a determined people. We ask for your assistance to see what pressure can be brought to secure a ceasefire, immediate withdrawal of all American and Caribbean forces from the Island and a Commonwealth force, excluding the Commonwealth forces involved in the conspiracy.



Francisco D'Escoto, Nicaragua Ambassador

NICARAGUA condemns the unjustified military occupation of Grenada by interventionist troops of the United States.

This proves without any doubt the clear desire of the Reagan administration for war. There is a challenge for us, we must organise ourselves.

Salvador Moncada FDR-FMLN representative

THE SITUATION in Central America and the Caribbean region has changed so suddenly and so much in the last couple of weeks. It has been defined by naked imperialist aggression towards Grenada. We strongly believe that what is happening in Central America and in Grenada is not so far away from the realities of the United States and Western Europe.

The same people who oppose democracy in Central America are the people who oppose democracy in the developed countries.

It is necessary for the people to understand that and unite, because the enemy is the same enemy.

We of course know full well what United States foreign policy is.

It is Guatemala in 1954, it is Cuba in 1961, it is Santa Domingo in 1965, it is now Grenada and it probably will be, if we allow them to do it, Central America in the near

future. While the invasion of Grenada was taking place the army chiefs of Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras were having a meeting to activate their military alliance and see if they will invite Reagan's troops into Central America.

Our intelligence has confirmed that in the near future you will be reading in the press that we, the Sandinistas, have carried out sabotage in economic sectors in Costa Rica and

Honduras.

The reason is to arouse the people of Costa Rica and Honduras against Nicaragua. Tonight we would like to pay tribute to the heroic people of Grenada and to the internationalist spirit shown by the Cuban workers.

We in Nicaragua have Cuban workers in the education and health fields. We are very proud to have them in Nicaragua.

You have heard many

proposals for peace put forward by Nicaragua to the United States government. There can be no peace without justice.

Peace is impossible as long as the powerful maintain their arrogant stand of demanding the developing countries act in accordance with imperialist interests.

This is the hour of unity in action for the defence of our country and revolution. Our people are ready to fight and resist.

We have destroyers, aircraft carriers, planes, helicopter gunships, military advisors and thousands of soldiers on the Honduran and

Honduras has now become a platform for launching attacks against Nicaragua and the forces of the FDR-FMLN in El Salvador. That situation has to be stopped.

The same people who oppose democracy in Central America are the people who oppose democracy in the developed countries.

Nicaraguan border. They have organised joint military manoeuvres with the army of Honduras — military manoeuvres that will last from August 1983 to March 1984.

We are fighting, we are continuing our struggle, but we are completely conscious of the fact that it is necessary also to have your support and understanding.

We need to talk and share experiences in order to be able to find the best way to fight the common enemy.

I want to pay special tribute to those fighters in Grenada who at the moment are in the hills and still resisting. Every Cuban who has given his life for the defence of the territory of Grenada is a hero. By doing what they are doing they are showing that there is no possibility of giving up the fight.

We have to continue and we have to find the most effective way to carry on this fight. I want to finish by saying what the Grenadians always say forward ever, backward never!

Maurice Bishop



Photo: GM COOKSON

THE DEATH of Maurice Bishop is a tragedy for the Grenadian revolution, for the whole revolutionary process in Central America and the Caribbean and for socialists throughout the world. For over four years he was leader of the revolutionary process in Grenada, giving hope and inspiration to the oppressed peoples of the Caribbean. The crocodile tears shed by imperialism are an insult to the struggle he led.

The circumstances surrounding his death are confused. With the United States invasion, the real facts of the internal dissension within the NJM and the precise circumstances of his killing may never be known.

What is certain is that from the days of his return to Grenada in 1970 after his legal studies in London, he was an immensely popular figure on the island. He and other students returning at that time brought with them the ideas of the Black Power movement. In 1973,

along with his legal colleague Kendrick Radix, he set up an opposition organisation called the Movement For Assemblies of the People and began work amongst what he called 'the masses'. With the other leaders of the New Jewel Movement which grew out of MAP, Bishop received brutal treatment at the hands of the Gairy dictatorship. In 1974, his father, Rupert, after whom the main army garrison is named, was shot by Gairy's thugs.

After the revolution he became Prime Minister in the new People's Revolutionary Government which he formed, taking responsibility, not just as a figurehead, for crucial areas of the islands development as the NJM set out on the path to socialism. He became a world wide ambassador for Grenada also taking up support for Cuba, for Nicaragua, for the revolutionary forces of the FMLN/FDR in El Salvador, for oppressed peoples everywhere. He, and his government, refused to bow to the threats and pressures of imperialism as they made their own friends and determined their own future.

Now his tragic killing has been followed by the US invasion. But whatever the disagreements that have come out in recent weeks within the New Jewel Movement,

and within the People's Revolutionary Government, there can be no excuse for the bloody consequences of the disagreements. The Cuban condemnation is absolutely correct. The lesson is that real proletarian democracy is not an optional extra for a revolution but a crucial component.

Despite the positive gains of the revolution, there was no real democracy within the NJM and only a consultative process with the population as a whole. The NJM does not possess the structures of internal democracy by which disputes may be resolved.

The last reported words of Maurice Bishop when a demonstration released him from house arrest were, cryptically, 'The masses'. If the masses had been allowed a real legislative and decision making role, then the US threat of invasion, a real threat for four and a half years, might never have become actuality.

The Grenadian revolution might still be on course, and Comrade Maurice Bishop might still be alive to give the battle cry of the revolution: 'Forward Ever, Backward Never.'

We print opposite his inspiring speech on solidarity with the victory of the revolution: *Together we shall win!* given in Havana on May Day 1980.

GRENADE revolution and counter-revolution

THE IMPERIALIST INVASION of Grenada is aimed at crushing the revolutionary process begun on 13 March 1970, and re-establishing imperialist and neo-colonial domination. Having begun to assert its independence after centuries of exploitation Grenada is to be crushed.

This exploitation, begun by French colonialists in the seventeenth century was based on plantations worked by thousands of African slaves, whose descendants form the vast bulk of the island's 110,000 inhabitants. British take-over changed only which colonial power profited.

Opposition to British rule grew throughout the first half of the twentieth century, reaching a peak in 1950 when Eric Gairy founded the Grenada Manual and Mental Workers Union (GMMWU). His first act, supported by strikes on twelve estates was to demand a 50 per cent wage increase for sugar plantation workers. Sensing mass support Gairy organised a general strike and the burning down of estates. His arrest then provoked mass protest and he was finally released after agreeing to calm the workers. Gairy was now the workers' hero, their undisputed leader.

He quickly took steps to transform this influence into political power, organising the Grenada People's Party (GPP) and winning a landslide victory in the 1952 elections. He inspired pride and rebellion in the Grenadian people shaking rule by the plantation owners to the foundations.

Colonial

But the planters were not beaten. They refused to accept Gairy and set about undermining his power. A further general strike was a failure, Gairy relying on rhetoric rather than politics and programme. His lack of a national strategy led to compromise with the colonial government and his support fell away. The hero became part of the problem, increasingly concerned with his own vanity and eccentricities, spending his spare time practising witchcraft, doing favours for those who helped maintain him in power.

Electoral support vanished in 1957 with the election of the Grenada National Party (GNP) led by Gairy's former henchman, Herbert Blaize. But the GNP did not have the answers to Grenada's problems any more than Gairy as the net income of the planters rose 170 per cent while agricultural pay rose only 15 per cent. Meanwhile, unemployment was 42.6 per cent.

Gairy got back power in the 1967 elections and in the next twelve years ran an increasingly oppressive dictatorship marked by economic deterioration, domestic repression and personal corruption. The Grenada United Labour Party (GULP), as the GPP had been renamed, maintained its power by electoral fraud.

But the 1960s also brought to the Caribbean the Black Power movement as young and radical intellectuals returned home from education in Britain and the United States. So, in 1970, Maurice Bishop, just back from law studies in Britain led demonstrations in solidarity with youth rebellions in

Trinidad, denouncing Gairy and calling for 'more jobs now'.

To cope with this new threat, Gairy unveiled the Mongoose Gang — a paramilitary squad of criminal thugs. They were shortly followed by the night ambush squad and other organisations as Gairy's favourite pastime became creating new arms of the repressive state apparatus.

In response, the new opposition began to organise itself, initially into two organisations: Movement for Assemblies of the People (MAP) led by Bishop and his lawyer colleague Kendrick Radix, and JEWEL (Joint Endeavour for Welfare, Education and Liberation) led by economist Unison Whiteman. In March 1973 the two groups fused into the New Jewel Movement (NJM), not a marxist party, nor yet one which considered the revolutionary seizure of power, but one which took up the central concerns of opposition to Gairy.

Brutality

Events moved rapidly as the NJM convened two People's Congresses, each attended by 10,000 islanders, convicting Gairy of corruption, incompetence and brutality and calling for him to resign within two weeks or face a general strike.

The strike was called but six main leaders of the NJM were arrested and savagely beaten by the Mongoose Gang. At this point, anti-Gairy elements amongst the bourgeoisie formed the Committee of 22 and the strike began on 19 November, 1973. Gairy survived, but a more serious strike began on 1 January, 1974. During the strike, which was eventually broken up, Grenada was granted independence from Britain on 7 February 1974.

Learning from this failure, the NJM began to organise and educate the Grenadian people more effectively, developing support groups in every village and town, establishing organisations for women and youth, and systematically organising its work in unions and amongst the unemployed. An electoral alliance with the GNP won parliamentary representation in 1976 but blatant fraud kept Gairy in power. Realising parliament was a farce and that an electoral strategy would not succeed, the NJM organised a secret military wing, the People's Revolutionary Army (PRA).

Gairy left the country early in March 1979 to further his research into Unidentified Flying Objects leaving instructions for the execution of the NJM leadership. The response was rapid and decisive as the NJM in the early hours of 13 March seized the army barracks and radio station. The response of the population was equally decisive. By 4pm the island was under the control of the new People's Revolutionary Government.

Creating socialism was not seen as the immediate task but as something for the indeterminate future. Meanwhile the plan was for a mixed economy in which the state sector would be dominant. Initial plans to nationalise banks for example, were dropped although state ones were established in competition. Even so, the immediate acts of the PRG were a whole series of pro-working class laws and measures aimed

DA: ution

at overcoming the oppression of women. Radical social measures created the basis of a Welfare State for the first time. Developments like free health care immediately improved the lives of the islanders. State control over key imports and exports was also established.

The concept of Westminister-style democracy was ridiculed and the basis of a real democratic alternative began to be established throughout the island. This took the form of workers councils, parish councils and other mass organisations like the National Women's Organisation and the National Youth Organisation.

The flaw was that these institutions were imposed from above rather than flowing naturally out of revolutionary upheavals. They were consultative not legislative. Certainly leaders were accountable to them, certainly they faced criticisms in them, certainly they took note of them, but, ultimately, the people themselves were not able to legislate through them.

The popularity of the revolution and of Maurice Bishop in particular, diminished these contradictions but gradually popular participation fell away. Major disagreements about the nature of the revolution seem not to have received a full and open discussion as is evidenced by the bloody manner in which concealed disagreements finally erupted into the killing of Bishop.

The most decisive changes however came in the field of foreign policy as free Grenada began to make its own friends in a process Bishop termed 'disengagement from imperialism'. As a non-aligned nation Cuba became the main ally. As the US refused to give aid and blocked aid elsewhere, the Soviet Bloc became a crucial source of economic assistance.

Reagan was enraged. The new airport, crucial to tourist development, was denounced as a Soviet and Cuban missile base. The real gains of the revolution were attacked. The democracy under development denounced as dictatorship. Intervention as planned and rehearsed.

In the face of problems like Reagan's hostility and the nature of the economy, distorted by centuries of exploitation, reliant on nutmeg, cocoa and bananas, Grenadian economic recovery was nothing short of miraculous. Growth last year was five per cent, a rate unheard of in the Caribbean, far outstripping the stagnation crippling the economies of the major western capitalist countries. Even the International Monetary Fund was forced to take notice.

Here was the real threat to imperialism — not a military threat, but a threat by example. The example of the progress a people can make when they free themselves from imperialist domination and begin to determine their own future.

The process started on 13 March 1979, the process of socialist revolution seems to have been at least temporarily brought to a halt by imperialist counter-revolution. The United States tends to establish a puppet regime that subjects the Grenadian people once again to oppression.

Socialists throughout the world must rally to the defence of the Grenadian revolution so that cries of 'Forward Ever, Backward Never' may once again be heard.

'Cuba, Nicaragua, Grenada together we shall win!'

Esteemed Comrade Fidel Castro Beloved Revolutionary Comrades of Free and Revolutionary Cuba

I bring you today warm revolutionary greetings from the people of free Grenada. This morning, comrades, I was addressing a rally in my own country to honour International Workers Day, and I left my country some time after 11 o'clock this morning to travel more than 1000 miles to come to your country. But even if the distance was 10,000 miles, no force on earth could have stopped me from being here today.

The unity, the militant solidarity which unifies our countries, our peoples' struggles, it is this unity and this solidarity which is today making imperialism tremble because we recognise in Grenada just as imperialists recognise that without the Cuban revolution of 1959 there could have been no Grenadian revolution, nor Nicaraguan revolution in 1979.

They therefore have good reason to tremble when they hear the masses of Cubans saying: 'Cuba, Nicaragua, Grenada, together we shall win.'

It is the Cuban revolution that has taught the peoples of Latin America and the Caribbean how to face blockades, how to defeat criminal invasions of their territories. The people of this region have looked at Giron, they have looked at *La Coubre*, they have looked at Escambray, they have looked at assassination attempts on their leadership; they remember the October 1976 destruction of their Cubana airliner, they have seen your struggles; they have been inspired by your victories; and they have observed that even in the face of these difficulties revolutionary Cuba was able to wipe out illiteracy, prostitution, drug-taking, and unemployment. They were able to see you build socialism in your small country. They have seen your strides and achievements in health and education.

Blood

They have seen that today, 21 years after your revolution, your country is able to assist more than 30 countries around the world. And countries like Grenada and Nicaragua will always feel grateful to the people of Cuba and to the Cuban revolution for their assistance with their doctors, with their teachers, and with their selfless workers.

Certainly we in Grenada will never forget that it was the military assistance of Cuba in the first weeks of our revolution that provided us with the basis to defend our own revolution. And when imperialism and reaction keep saying to us in Grenada, why do we need arms, where are the arms coming from, why should such a small country need so much arms, we always give them the answer our people have given.

Whenever mercenaries or foreign aggressors land in our country, they will discover how much arms we have, whether we can use the arms, and where the arms came from as we shed their blood on our soil.

Your revolution, comrades, has also provided the region and the

world with a living legend with your great and indomitable leader, Fidel Castro. Fidel has taught us not only how to fight, but also how to work, how to build socialism, and how to lead our country in a spirit of humanity, sincerity, commitment, and firm revolutionary leadership.

It is important to be in revolutionary Cuba at this period in world history. Today we can see another crisis in international capitalism. Today we can see them complaining that their superprofits are falling. We can see their interest rate running towards 20 per cent. The school lunches they have been providing for their children, even that, they have had to reduce by over \$500 million. Their workers are daily finding that jobs are disappearing. But their more than \$33 billion profit on investments around the world demand that they create new tension in the world, so that their economy which is based on war and armament would once again flourish.

Struggles

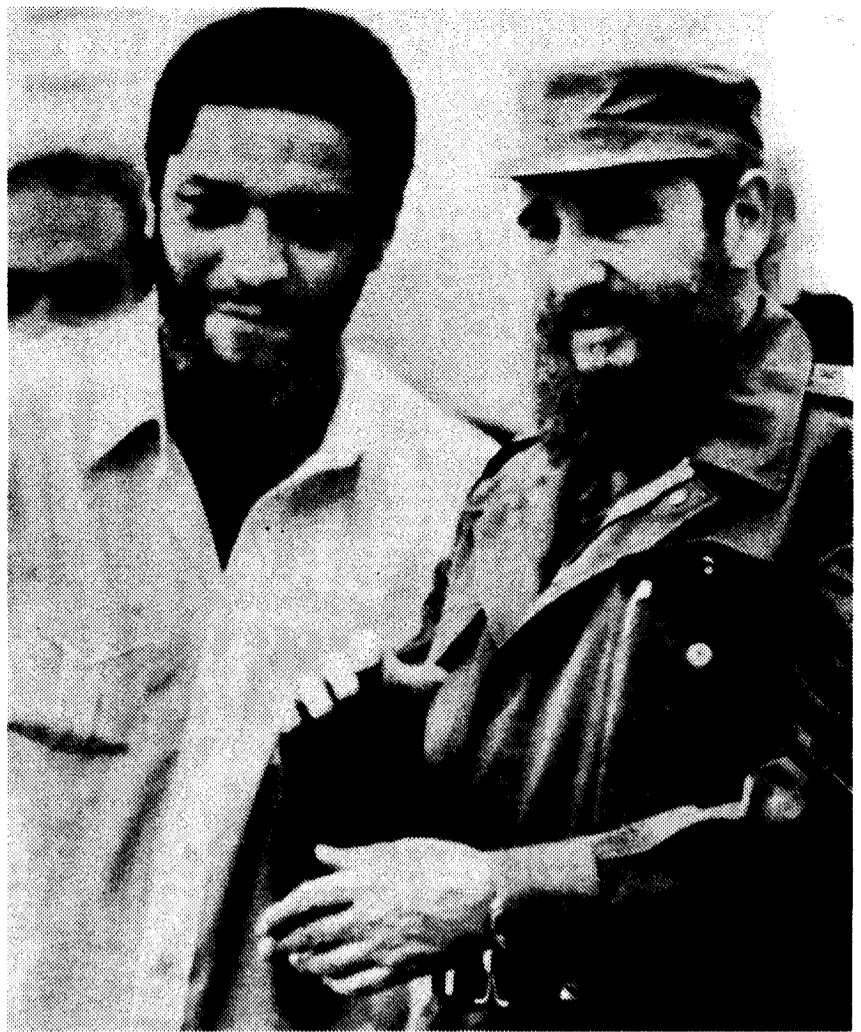
They are also terrified by the victories of the national liberation movements in Africa, in Asia, in the Middle East, and right here in Latin America. They have looked around and they see that today the struggles of the people of the region are continuing to reach new heights. They look at El Salvador and they recognise that while yesterday it was Cuba, Nicaragua, and Grenada tomorrow it will undoubtedly be El Salvador.

So they have decided to step up on their arms supply and their arms race. They have decided to spend this year more than \$142 billion on arms. At the same time, the invasions which have characterised their relations with our region over the years starting with the Monroe Doctrine in 1823, they are shaping now to create new doctrines, to plan new manoeuvres, to obtain new bases to strengthen and deepen their military presence in the hope that this will crush the rising wave of national liberation consciousness that is sweeping our region and the world.

Their interventions in Mexico, in Nicaragua, in Colombia, in Panama, in the Dominican Republic, in Haiti, in Honduras, all of these invasions which they have had over the years ... they are now preparing once again to embark on a new campaign of terror and intimidation of the people of our region.

But sometimes it is no longer by direct intervention, sometimes they rely more on control and manipulation, on the use of threat of force, on the techniques of destabilisation, on the use of diplomatic pressure, on the use of propaganda destabilisation, on the policy of economic isolation. But in each case all of this is done to lay the basis for a United States-organised or -backed coup d'etat.

In 1954, they succeeded in overthrowing Arbenz in Guatemala. In 1973, they succeeded in overthrowing Allende in Chile. But the one lesson that they have never forgotten and will never forget is that in 1961 they failed when they tried at Giron right here in revolutionary Cuba!



Fidel Castro with Maurice Bishop

Today we can hear them setting up their cries against the revolutionary processes in Nicaragua and Cuba. You can hear them talking about human rights, you can hear them calling for elections even though they won't understand that our revolutions are popular revolutions. You can see them encouraging the ultraleftists in our countries to take violent action against our peoples.

Their propaganda has reached the point where our countries have become electoral issues in the presidential campaign in that country. And at the same time, as usual, the threats against revolutionary Cuba, the continuation of the criminal economic blockade against revolutionary Cuba, the creation of artificial crisis after artificial crisis.

First the question of the Soviet troops in October last year, and now the question of so-called refugees at this point in time. All of this is part and parcel of the imperialist campaign to try to defame the Cuban revolution, to try to isolate the Cuban people, to try to lay the basis for an armed invasion or other form of intervention of your beloved country. But in Grenada we have been using a slogan and that slogan has been saying that 'if they touch Cuba or if they touch Nicaragua, then they touch Grenada too'.

Comrades, as the people who own this region, as the people who belong to these countries, it is for us to decide what we want to do with our lives in our countries. It is for us, the people of the region, to demand whether or not we want to have military bases on our territory. It is for us to decide whether or not we want other peoples' planes to fly over our countries. And one of the most contemptuous and arrogant acts of imperialism is today to presume that in 1980 not only do they have the right to have a base in Guantanamo but that they also have a right to operate military manoeuvres on the very soil of free and revolutionary Cuba.

That is an insult and a piece of contempt that the people of the region will never forgive or forget. And the people of this region are going to continue in our demand calling for an end to military bases in Guantanamo, in Puerto Rico, and in all other countries of the region where they have bases. We demand an end to all military bases, forces and air and sea patrols of our region. We demand that the people of the region must be free from aggressive military harassment of any military power. We demand an end to the Monroe Doctrine and to the Carter Doctrine and all other

doctrines which are aimed at perpetuating interventionism or backyardism in the region.

There must be an end to all attempts to use the so-called peacekeeping apparatus of the Organisation of American States to militarily intervene in the region, to hold back progressive and patriotic movements.

We also call today that the right to self-determination for all the peoples in the region must be recognised and accepted. We today renew our call for the independence of the sister people of Puerto Rico. We today insist that all of the people of the region in the 25 colonial countries which still exist — English, Dutch, French, or the American territories — we demand the right to independence for the peoples of those countries. We demand that a principle of ideological pluralism must be respected and practiced by imperialist powers.

We must have the right to build our processes in our own way, free from outside interference, free from all forms of threats or attempts to force us to accept other peoples' processes.

Integrity

Today we insist that there must be an end to the invasions, an end to the landing by marines, an end to the gunboats, an end to the Playa Giron, an end to the slaughters and massacres of our Sandinos, our Ches, and our Allendes.

We call also for an end to the arming and financing of counter-revolutionary and anti-popular, anti-democratic or anti-progressive regimes. There must be an end to the manipulation of regional and world tension for electoral purposes. The future of the region and the future of the world, the question of world peace cannot be compromised because of any election, no matter whose election.

There must therefore be respect for the sovereignty, legal equality, and territorial integrity of the countries of our region.

It is clear today, comrades, that the desperate plans of imperialism can be defeated once again, that we can organise, plan, and act in a way that will bring about the liberation of the Caribbean and Central American region continues to go forward with strength.

We salute you, the freedom-loving people of revolutionary Cuba. We salute your great and revolutionary leader, Comrade Fidel Castro.

THE ACTION INTERVIEW

CAROL DAVIS left Grenada on Tuesday 18 October just seven days before the US invasion and the day before Maurice Bishop died. She is a member of the New Jewel Movement and a senior administrative officer in the Ministry of Education.

She was in Britain to attend a War on Want conference on health and literacy. She is now speaking at solidarity rallies. Below she tells **JUDE WOODWARD** what the NJM had achieved in Grenada and gives her analysis of what caused the dispute inside the NJM.

We are publishing her opinion on the dispute so that our readers can learn from all sides what went on in the NJM. Socialist Action does not endorse Carol's view however.

We agree with the Cubans who in a statement made from Havana on 20 October said: 'No doctrine, no principle, no opinion calling itself revolutionary, and no internal split can justify such atrocious acts as the physical elimination of Bishop and the prominent group of honest and dignified leaders who died'.

Why do you think that the US invaded Grenada this week?

The US government has tried to justify the invasion of Grenada by saying that Grenada was a threat to US security and interests. They certainly cannot mean that Grenada was a physical threat. That would be ludicrous.

The population of our island is 110,000. Grenada is so small you won't find it on a map unless you first know where to look for the pinprick. Our army is only 2000 strong. We don't have a navy at all. Well we refer to 'our navy', but it is one boat hardly the size of this room which is the coastguard's vessel!

Our army does not have high technology equipment. We don't spend our money on armaments, our money is used to raise the standard of living of our people. When the Peoples Revolutionary Government came to power unemployment in our country was 50 per cent. We put a lot of effort into that and the last time we counted which was sometime last year it was down to 14 per cent. That's still too high. But it's a big achievement.

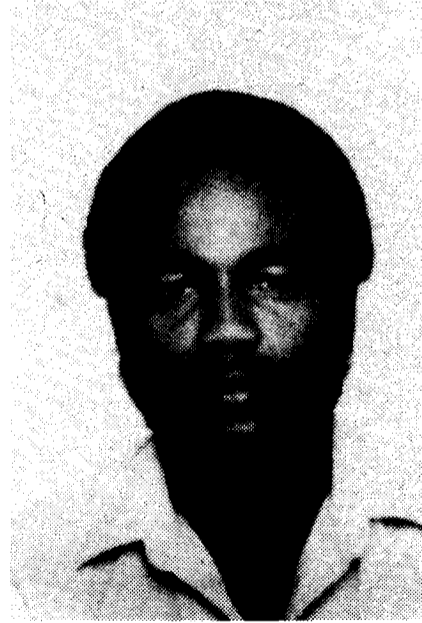
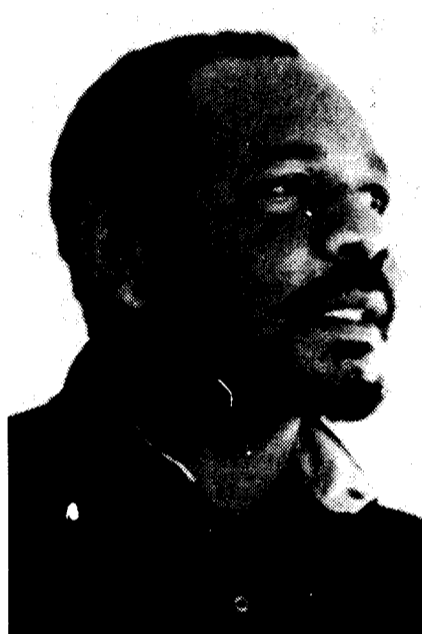
Health

We have a literacy programme and have reduced illiteracy to 10 per cent. We abolished school fees for secondary schools so that no Grenadian child would be denied an education because of the financial circumstances of their family.

We introduced free health care. And we began a programme of house repairs — not of great big buildings, but of the small modest homes of the people in Grenada. Repairs were done to make sure that there were proper floors and that there wasn't a gap between the roof and the walls for the rain to get in.

We achieved a growth rate last year of 15 per cent, the highest in the Caribbean and one of the highest in the world. That is a great achievement, and that we must make real improvements in the life of our peo-

Do you think if every single African state asked the US to intervene to overthrow the racist, apartheid state of South Africa that Reagan would do it? I think not.



Top row, left to right: Maurice Bishop, Kendrick Radix, Unison Whiteman. Bottom row, left to right: Howard Austin, Bernard Coard, Selwyn Strachan

ple. That is what the US means by a 'threat to its security'.

We achieved things through our independence and our government, that the puppet governments of other Caribbean islands have not achieved.

The other reason Reagan gives is that he was asked to intervene by other Caribbean countries. Many of the most important opposed the intervention, like Trinidad.

Overthrow

But it's true that a number of the smaller countries with puppet regimes opposed Grenada and wanted the Americans to go in. But that's not why the US did it. Do you think if every single African state asked the US to intervene to overthrow the racist, apartheid state of South Africa that Reagan would do it? I think not.

There has been a long campaign of lies against our revolution in Grenada from the US government. They are all ludicrous. First of all it claimed that

we were building a secret submarine base for the Russians. But they didn't take much account of the geography of our island, as they claimed it was being built in the dam in the mountains of Grenada, which is totally inaccessible by sea!

Then they claimed that our new international airport was in reality a military base for the Soviet Union. The international airport is a key to our economic development. Our economy is totally dependent on two things — agriculture and tourism. At present we only have an airport for small aircraft, and this can only be used in the day as there are no lights. To develop tourism and bring in large numbers of international tourists, we need the new airport. Increasing tourism is vital to raise the living standards of our people.

Then the US claimed that we had Cuban troops in our country. Cuba sent technicians to help us build our airport, as did many other countries. You have to understand the feat of

engineering involved in the international airport. Grenada is a small and mountainous place. To find a flat space long enough for a runway for international jets involved filling in part of the sea, and chopping bits off mountains.

We are a small island with few people, and we did not have the skills or technology to do this ourselves. We needed help. Even a British company Plessey has been involved, they are doing the lights.

Militia

But when the US intervened the Cuban workers had to fight because a bullet will not dodge around you if you are a worker and not a soldier. A bullet can't choose, and so the Cubans fought alongside our army and militia.

But the US may find that it has bitten off more than it can chew. They have admitted that the resistance was tougher than expected.

And even if they manage to set up some kind of government it will not be over. It cannot ever be over for us. We have fought too long for that. Maurice Bishop who was and is a great revolutionary would turn in his grave at the idea.

How did the differences inside the NJM start to surface?

You must understand that we have two separate structures in Grenada, the government and the party. There was a problem in the party. A majority felt that there should be a joint leadership. No one challenged the fact that Maurice Bishop should be Prime Minister, but people felt that one man running things was not right for the party.

Response

The imperialist press have presented the situation as a 'power struggle'. This is not the case at all. Bernard Coard, who was to be the joint leader of the party, was not promoting his own case. The change was in response to the feelings of the majority of the party which favoured a joint leadership.

Maurice Bishop first of all agreed and then changed his mind and was against it. Then it appeared that Maurice Bishop began to spread rumours about Coard which party members felt could endanger Coard's life. This was unacceptable.

Maurice Bishop was undoubtedly the leader with popular support outside the party. But for a leader to endanger the life of another is a serious matter, and would not be allowed.

It was a matter of principle. This is why Maurice Bishop was placed under house arrest. But for the people of Grenada Maurice Bishop was the New Jewel Movement. Explaining the difference between Maurice Bishop and the party was very difficult.

Things got worse when a few of Bishop's supporters in the NJM leadership led a demonstration which resulted in his release. They then led the march to the fort in St Georges which is the military headquarters and arsenal. It was clear that they were seeking to arm themselves. As the Peoples Revolutionary Army remained loyal to the majority of the NJM this could only have resulted in civil war. It was to prevent this occurring that the shooting took place.

Invasion

This was *our* tragedy, *our* problem, and does not justify the US invasion. We had to sort it out ourselves. And we would have done.

On the Monday, the day before the US invasion, martial law had been lifted and we had returned to civilian rule. Normality had been restored. There was *no* military coup. The military took control temporarily because a military situation was posed. There was a threat of civil war. The army was loyal to the NJM.

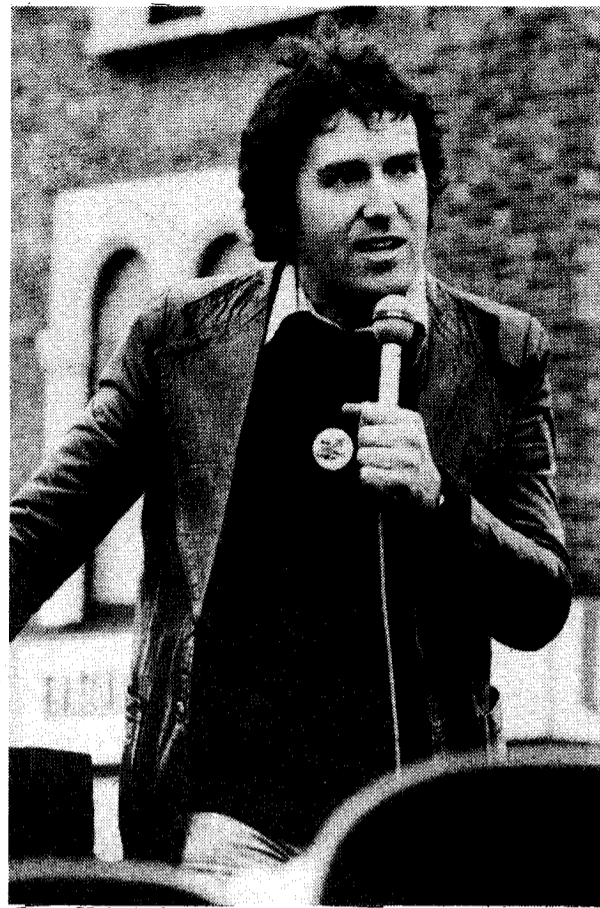
The NJM was in control of the government throughout the situation. It is a misconception that there were major disagreements on policy. On policy we had always had a collective approach and there is no reason to suppose that any major changes in policy were to be expected.

What should happen now?

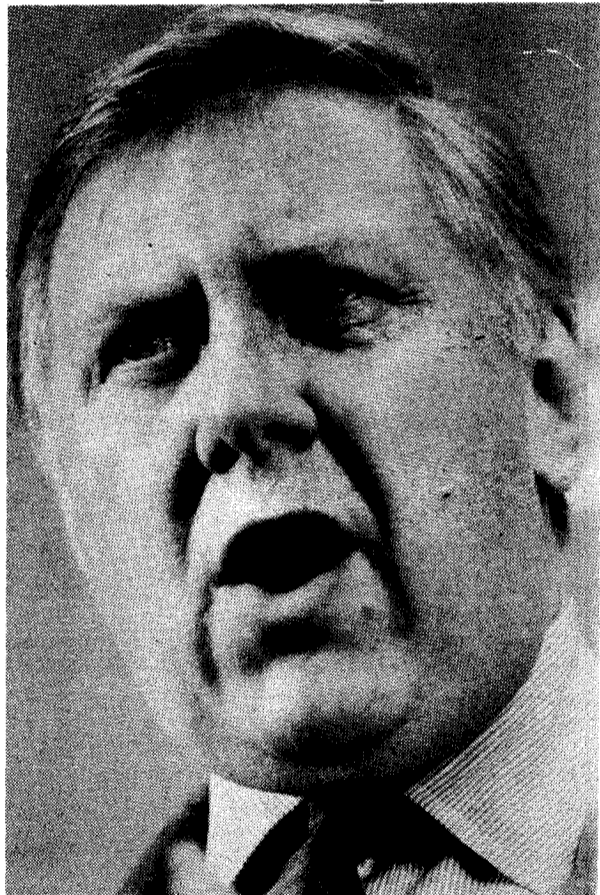
Here you must build up pressure on the British government to get US troops out of Grenada. Mobilise every organisation you can on this basis. And get as many people to London as possible on 5 November. We will fight on in Grenada.

We have to fight. We have nothing to lose by fighting on. And it will not be over when the fighting itself has stopped.

An open letter to Labour's left from the LCC 'Turn the Party outwards'



Peter Hain in his campaigning days



Roy Hattersley



Neil Kinnock

Photo: CHRIS DAVIES (Report)

Photo: JOHN HARRIS

Photo: JOHN HARRIS

The LCC is anxious to explore the basis for a new unity on the Labour left. Our anxiety is underlined by the different reactions to the Brighton '83 conference and to the new Party leadership amongst various left groups.

Even before the conference, the left was severely split, not least between those based in London and those in the rest of the country.

Such divisions reflect a serious fragmentation since 1981, with some groups almost completely marginalising themselves at Brighton, and with the LCC one of the few groups correctly judging both the leadership election and the post general election mood at rank and file level.

Just as the Party has been damaged in recent years by a rigid left/right divide, so the current fragmentation of the left into warring factions prevents dialogue and joint action on the many points of agreement which unquestionably do exist.

However, the LCC remains sceptical about the kind of unity operating in the recent past which — although effective in promoting activity on a narrow range of issues such as the constitutional reforms — has suppressed real political differences between various left groups. The absence of an open and honest political basis for the compromises involved in left unity has contributed to recent fragmentation.

In finding out whether there is any basis for a new unity, the LCC believes a pre-requisite for it is a constructive attitude to the new leadership. It has already boosted the Party internally and externally.

In Neil Kinnock we have the kind of left leader who would never have won as recently as three years ago, before the electoral college. Even Roy Hattersley is more radical and more committed to the majority of Party policies than were many of his predecessors from the right in leadership positions.

We should recognise that the new leadership has

created a new political space in which the left can prosper.

We must also insist that the Party abides by the democratic verdict of the electoral college — our electoral college. This applies both to leader and deputy who each won majorities in all sections of the college.

It does not mean giving the leadership a blank cheque. Rather it means giving a priority to other matters. In recent years Labour's left has developed almost an obsession with the leadership, perhaps understandable after the appalling Wilson/Callaghan legacy, but strategically shortsighted in its neglect of the overwhelming necessity to rebuild the shattered base of our movement.

For historic and other reasons the left has had to adopt an 'oppositionalist' stance in the Party. In the current circumstances that is a luxury we cannot afford. Instead, the left must take the initiative in turning the Party outwards to construct a new, wide base of support.

Above all, the LCC believes there must now be an absolute priority given

to campaigning to re-create support for socialist values and Party policies.

However, such 'campaigning' is not simply a matter of better or slicker presentation of policy it is or should be aimed at encouraging people to fight for themselves. Within this context, we suggest the following basis for unity:

1) Joint discussion on policy areas which have been neglected: notably, social policy; decentralisation (including devolution); ecology; Ireland; a genuinely non-aligned foreign policy; and an updated alternative economic strategy capable of tackling a deepening crisis.

2) Joint campaigning to win union ballots for affiliation to the Party and to strengthen Party/union links.

3) Joint action to ensure that the Party campaigns effectively from national to branch level.

4) An absolute commitment to unilateralism as part of a non-nuclear defence strategy.

5) Building support for the new statutory minimum wage policy, and for campaigns to de-

fend local democracy and the health service.

6) Unless circumstances alter in a dramatic and unexpected way, no challenges to the new leader and deputy, at least until after the next general election.

7) Defence of mandatory re-selection and the electoral college, and opposition to any new witch hunt.

8) Support for constitutional reforms to extend women's rights.

9) Encouragement of wider consultation and involvement in decision-making through local CLP and union branches, whilst maintaining opposition to postal ballots.

10) Support for *Tribune's* continued existence as an independent paper, free from legal attacks by party members.

11) Support for a broad, tolerant Party, with no left group putting its own interests above those of the Party.

We look forward to your comments and to seeing whether you can agree with this 11-point plan for unity in action.

LCC Executive,
October 1983

National Labour Briefing marks successes

THE NATIONAL Labour Briefing Editorial Board met on Sunday 23 October. The meeting was larger than the previous EB meeting, reflecting the success of the first issue (6300 sold) and the impact of the decision to produce a daily bulletin at Labour Party Conference.

Briefing is now clearly seen as the most open forum for debate in the Party for those who are critical of the deals and compromises being proposed by Neil Kinnock and his advisers in the Labour Co-ordinating committee.

The key political discussion was around Briefing's response to the LCC proposals for left unity behind Kinnock.

Approaches differed between Socialist Organiser and Socialist Action supporters.

John Bloxam of Socialist Organiser pushed for an outright rejection while Socialist Action supporters stressed the need to importance of not

isolating Briefing from those who voted for Kinnock in the Party by having clear proposals for left unity ourselves.

Eventually the meeting decided that Jeremy Corbyn should be asked to reply for Briefing outlining a basis for unity. The basis of this unity would be action against the Tories, for the defence of conference policies and a concrete commitment to

fight the witch-hunt. Briefing was also to have an editorial specifying its own views.

Future issues will include a reply to Neil Kinnock's article 'My Socialism' by Jo Richardson, the debate on the EEC will continue and two different views of the recent National Abortion Campaign conference will be published.

An International Subcommittee has been set up under the chairpersonship of Peter Gowan. Tariq Ali has agreed to speak for Briefing in Coventry on Saturday 19 November followed by the next National Briefing EB at Lancaster Polytechnic on Sunday 26th November.

The deadline for Briefing articles is 7 November.

LABOUR BRIEFING

The Street Life Supplement collective is calling a national discussion meeting in November.

The final decision of the meeting was to go ahead and produce a daily bulletin at next year's Labour Party Conference. There were only two votes against this — John Bloxam and Tony Greenstein, supporters of Socialist

Organiser.

All Briefing Groups are entitled to send two representatives as are national campaigns that support Briefing.

• Turn to page 13 for interview with Ken Livingsstone.

A PIECE of the ACTION



BY #31 10/83 G. CORMAC

DIARY

These listings are free for all major labour movement and campaign activities. Semi-play advertisements cost 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.

● **Labour Group for Human Rights in Sri Lanka** public meeting with Tony Benn, Jeremy Corbyn MP, Rajes Balasubramanyam (Labour Group/Tamil Women's League) John Chowcatt (ASTMS) & speaker from EELAM Solidarity Campaign. Thur 1 Dec, 7pm, Hampstead Town Hall, Haverstock Hill, NW3 (opp Belsize Pk tube).

● **Socialist Action Pie and Pea supper** to celebrate the anniversary of the Russian revolution. Sat 19 Nov, 7.30pm, Vale Rd Community Centre, Mansfield Woodhouse. Food, music, drinks, speakers and raffle. For tickets phone Mansfield 653216, £1.20/80p unwaged.

● **The Hour of Liberation** — a festival of films, videos music, food, stalls, speakers and discussion, Harehills Place, Harehills Rd, Leeds 8. Including Fri 11 Nov 8-11pm film *The Hour of Liberation* and disco. Sat 12 Nov 11-5pm videos *Awake from Mourning, The Cause of Ireland, Aire Valley Yarns* plus films, exhibitions, stalls and speaker at 1pm: Tariq Mehmood (Pakistan Workers Association). Sat evening 8-11.30pm film, *The Patriot Game* plus Chilean folk group The Carrascos.

● **Week of Action on Namibia** Thur 27 Oct-Wed 2 Nov. Details from NSC, PO Box 16, London NWS.

● **History Workshop 17 Manchester 1983** Industrialisation and after. Manchester Polytechnic, All Saints, Manchester 15. 11-13 November. Registration and enquiries to: History Workshop 17, 47 Albany Road, Manchester 21. Full fee £7, Students and low wage £3.50, unemployed and OAPs free. Cheques payable to 'History Workshop 17'.

● **Exhibition on plastic bullets** at Islington libraries: Essex Rd 31 Oct-12 Nov; Manor Gdns 14-26 Nov; Finsbury 28 Nov-10 Dec. Organised by Islington TOM with Islington Council.

● **Norwich/Cambridge Troops Out Day School**, 5 November, Kings College, Cambridge. Registration 9.30am. Cost £1, pooled fare. Creche must be booked in advance. For details phone Cambridge 881113.

● **London Lesbian & Gay Young Socialists** meet every four weeks on Sundays at 6pm, Marchmont Community Centre, Marchmont St, WC1. Next meeting 20 Nov showing 'Revenge of the teenage perverts' and other videos. Further details from Martin 01-263 9484.

● **London Labour Campaign for Gay Rights** next meeting Sun 6 Nov, 6pm, Marchmont Community Centre, Marchmont St, WC1. Further details from Mike 01-659 2983 or Bob 01-341 0666.

● **Gay NUR group** just forming. For details of inaugural meeting write to Gay NUR c/o 119 Southwyck, Coldharbour Lane, London SW9.

● **Lesbians in the Labour Party and trade unions** next national meeting Sat 26 Nov, 2pm, A Woman's Place, Victoria Embankment, London WCI (Embankment tube). Creche available. Further details from Sarah Roelofs c/o Gays the Word bookshop, Marchmont St, London WC1.

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● **Nobody's Backyard** — week of action on Central America, 27 Nov to 3 Dec. For details write to Nobody's Backyard, 4 Replingham Rd, London SW18.

● **Films at work** — a series of films at Jacksons Lane Community Centre, 271 Archway Rd, London N6. 6 Nov Saturday Night and Sunday Morning; 13 Nov Salt of the Earth; 20 Nov Finally got the News; 27 Nov The Filleting Machine; 4 Dec Borinage; 11 Dec WR — Mysteries of the Organism; 19 Dec Days of Hope. All start at 7.30pm, £1.50/80p UB40.

● **Labour CND West** meeting, Sat 12 Nov, 10am, Unity Hall, Dampet St, Bridgwater, Somerset. Election of officers am. Public meeting pm with Stuart Holland MP, Joy Hurcombe (Sec Labour CND), Alan Freeman (Socialist Action), John Cleave (SANA). 50p all day/£1 pm only, creche available. Details from Daf Lincoln, March Lane Bungalow, Galhampton, Nr Yeovil, Somerset 0963 40598.

● **National Association of Ethnic Minority Doctors** (NAEMD UK) workshop on the contribution of ethnic minority doctors to the NHS & obstacles to their recognition. Sun 13 Nov, Great Western Royal Hotel, Paddington Stn, London W2, 11am-4pm. £1 for non-members. For details contact NAEMD (UK), 28 Churchfield Rd, London W3 6EB 01-993 6119.

● **Dumfries & Galloway Youth CND events:** Sat 5 Nov meeting to organise peace march from Prestwick Airport to Chapelcross next summer, 2pm, Community Centre, 29 Irish St, Dumfries. Sat 19 Nov phone protest at the production of tritium at Chapelcross. For information contact Alan Conchar (sec), 13 Cotton St, Castle Douglas, Kirkcubrightshire, DG7 1AJ 0556 2030.

● **Anti-Privatisation Newsletter** produced by Public Service Action. Fourth issue out now includes material on council house sales, failures by private contractors, and on privatisation of the NHS, British Rail, British Gas etc. 30p each from SCAT Publications, 27 Clerkenwell Close, London EC1, 01-253 3627.

● **Socialist Bookfair 1983** Covent Garden, London WC2. 4-5 November. Enquiries to Bookmarks, (SBF), 265, Seven Sisters Road, London N4 2DE. 01-802 6145.

● **No Intervention in Central America and the Caribbean** (NICAC) is a broad based coalition of solidarity groups, human rights orgs, aid agencies and political parties. More details from NICAC 20/21 Compton Terrace, London N1 01-226 6747.

● **Labour Movement Conference on Ireland** — Peace through Democracy. Sat 26 Nov. Speakers include Tony Benn, Ken Livingstone, and Clive Soley.

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Reagan Free Caribbean badges in yellow, black and red. 25p each (plus postage); bulk orders 20p each. Money with orders to PO Box 36, 136 Kingsland High St, London E8. Cheques/POs payable to Hackney Book Club.

● **Central America: Nobody's Backyard.** Programme of meetings organised by North London Central America Group, Tuesdays at 7.30pm, Hampden Community Centre, 150 Ossulston St, NW1. £5 for full course or £1 per meeting (£2/50p unwaged).
8 Nov Central America and the peace movement;
15 Nov Liberation Theology: Option for the poor;
22 Nov 'The First Casualty' & 'Ballots & Bullets';
29 Nov Viva Centro America! Further info Duncan Green 01-359 3976.

● **Sri Lankan Research & Information Group** will provide speakers on the current situation there for meetings. Write to 9 Grays Inn Buildings, London EC1.

● **Hounslow Socialist Forum** series of 3 meetings on the internationalisation of the world economy and of conflict: 13 Nov **The world economic crisis** introduced by John Harrison (author of *The British Economic Disaster*); 27 Nov **The crisis in Israel and its effects on the Middle East** introduced by Moshe Machover (member of Khamsin editorial board); 11 Dec **The orchestration of violence and repression** with speakers from Southern Africa, Latin America & Palestine. All meetings Sundays, 7.15pm, George IV pub, 185 Chiswick High Rd, W4 (Turnham Green tube).

● **Nottingham Labour Campaign for Gay Rights** meets monthly. Next meeting 16 Nov, 8pm, Salutation Inn, Maid Marion Way. Details: Chris Richardson, 21 Devonshire Promenade, Lenton 0602 780124.

● **Labour Campaign for Gay Rights national meeting** 12/13 Nov, Community Centre, The Arches Industrial Estate, Coventry. Details from Chris Richardson (see Nottm LCGR listing).

● **American Power & Soviet Threat? Critique** meeting with Mike Cox, Alex Callinicos and Ben Lowe, Fri 4 Nov, 7.30pm, University of London Union, Malet St, WC1, Room 3D.

RACE & CLASS A JOURNAL FOR BLACK AND THIRD WORLD LIBERATION
VOLUME XXV NUMBER 2
AUTUMN 1983 £2/\$4

British racism: the road to 1984

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Capital, 'black youth' and crime — CECIL GUTZMORE
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(Please send cash with order, cheques to be made payable to Institute of Race Relations). Details of back issues available on request.

● **The Future of the NHS & the prevention of ill-health** Socialist Health Association conference, Sat 5 Nov, 10am-5pm, Mary Ward Hall, 9 Tavistock Place, London WC1. Speakers include Neil Kinnock (Leader of LP); Rodney Bickerstaff (Gen Sec NUPE); Cyril Taylor (Pres

SHA). Tickets £3/£1 unwaged. Order now as accommodation is limited from SHA, 195 Walworth Rd, London SE17.

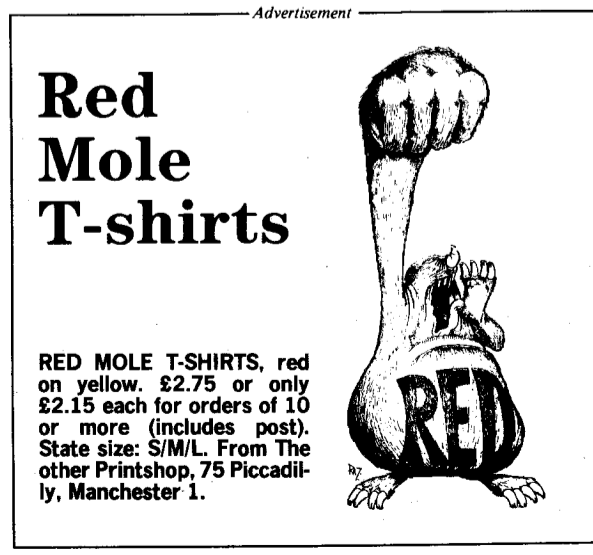
● **Lambeth Lesbian & Gay Action meeting** 15 Nov, 8pm, Lambeth Town Hall.

Jubilee Hall, Covent Garden (next to Transport Museum)
Fri 4 Nov 12.30-6.30
Sat 5 Nov 11.00-5.00



1983 Socialist Bookfair

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What now for the Labour left?

SINCE Labour's election defeat earlier this year, there has been much reflection on the Party's future. How far has opinion changed in the aftermath of Party conference?

CAROL TURNER discussed party fortunes and the future for the left with KEN LIVINGSTONE, Leader of the GLC.

WHAT'S YOUR assessment of Labour Party conference? How do you judge the mood of the Party?

The mood of conference reflects the fact that a lot of people on the left had a genuine blow to their confidence. After Thatcher's re-election they thought there was a real possibility that the Party could be replaced by the SDP. The media and the British establishment created the impression that the Alliance would replace the Labour Party.

This is starting to evaporate now — the Party's started picking up in the opinion polls, and the government is seen to be vulnerable. It's not even necessarily the case that it will survive its full term of office.

So, I think it was a very quiet and subdued conference, with people prepared to take a lot on trust. No one should ever underestimate the level of tolerance and desire for unity within the Party. It hasn't been much in evidence in the post-Callaghan year, but it's very much the tradition of the movement.

The interesting thing about the last four years is that — for the first time — the left have been able to mobilise a better vote in the parliamentary Party than in the constituencies.

That reflects what's been happening in the constituencies.

No. It reflects what's happening in the PLP. MPs are actually mobilising a better vote than CLPs. The CLPs haven't changed drastically — they've always been leftist inclined. But it's a left which has been prepared to give the leadership the benefit of the doubt again and again — and it's lost because of that, again and again.

If you have that assessment, how do you respond to the Labour Coordinating Committee letter?

The letter calls for unity around the present leadership. It says that its proposals for left unity are premised on no challenge to the current leadership before the next election.

The left has to have a positive approach to the leadership. You've actually got to proceed on the basis that the Party has elected the leadership it wants.

We've been arguing for some time that the leader isn't paramount. Now we have to argue about the sort of policies that the leadership are going to carry out up to the election, and after it. The left can't start by saying that the first thing to do is expose Neil Kinnock

the GLC, and so on. These things will settle the question of whether or not Kinnock's up to the job the party's set him.

But I don't think the LCC letter is that straight forward. It aims to unite the left under Kinnock's hegemony. There are whole sections of the labour left who won't be prepared to give up their struggle to change policy. In particular, the fight against witch hunts ...

... the letter says 'no witch hunts'.

Well, it actually says defence of mandatory reselection and the electoral college — which we all agree with — and no new witch hunts. The left has to oppose the current witch hunts too.



Militant are important decisions to change.

If, by accepting that point in the LCC letter, you go along with those witch hunts, I think you're dead wrong.

If I sign that letter, I'm not signing away my right to campaign on anything. But no one can disagree with opposition to new witch hunts, can they?

We need to restore the damage by the readmission of *Militant* and Tariq. I imagine we'll eventually get those decisions reversed.

Meanwhile, the LCC letter contains a clear commitment to no further witch hunts. No one else will be driven out of the party. There's nothing in the letter that says the ban on *Militant* should remain.

Coming back to what we were saying earlier, that the left should go out and campaign. How does the left organise to do this?

If you start fighting on the issues, you're actually drawn into the links that are necessary. If you sit down and try to construct a structure in advance, no one will ever get agreement. You have to get a series of groups coming together on a particular issue, like the Rank and File Mobilising Committee or the Benn deputy leadership campaign.

But leaving aside the fight against the Tories — not because I think it's not important, but I believe we already have agreement on that — there are two key issues I think need raising during the period of Labour's opposition.

The first is the fundamental weakness in our economic policy. It looks as if Kinnock and Hattersley will be buying the LCC version of the Alternative Economic Strategy. In a sense, the AES was exposed as fairly inadequate by the debate in the election campaign. The defenders of the AES will say that's because Shore emphasised the borrowing side of the package, and didn't emphasise any of the controls on exporting capital. But unless you tie the Party down on how you pay for the package, a future Labour government will inevitably emphasise the borrowing and the high taxation rather than the control of capital.

All we want to do hinges on getting the Party committed to take control of capital: the banks, the finance houses, and so on — controlling capital and using it to rebuild our industry and our welfare state. If there's one policy that's streets ahead in importance, it's getting the Party committed to that. If we don't, any future Labour government's bound to fail, possibly within months, because of the economic contradictions that would follow from a programme of trying to reflate the economy without controlling capital.

The second key issue follows from the significance of the left vote in the PLP. Heffer got more PLP than constituency votes in the leadership elections.

We've got to get the Party committed to control of the Labour cabinet. It's not good having won all the advances of reselection and seeing a dramatic, qualitative improvement in the nature of the PLP unless the PLP controls the executive, the cabinet and the Party leadership — like a council Labour Group controls the committee chairs and the Labour leadership.

If we won the next election there'd be an influx of MPs who'd be completely on the hard and the soft left — you'd have a broad left in parliament with a substantial hard left minority.

It would be a big weakness if a good PLP is elected and they all mill around for three or four years unable to actually get to grips with controlling the cabinet and the civil service.

So, you're saying you're pretty confident we can win the next election? I'm not as sure as you.

I think we can win the next election — and we can actually win enough of a majority to survive the full five years of parliament. I'm sure the parliamentary leadership will say roughly the right things in opposition. That's exactly what Wilson did.

It's no good just having a programme for what we do in opposition. We've got to start thinking what to do once we've elected a labour majority. We've got to control the parliamentary leadership, and we've got to have a clear commitment to the control of capital as the basis of all our economic policies. Otherwise the government will be broken by international forces.

Even with your scenario, the left will still need to build because it's been unquestionably the case that what's been won over the last four or five years has been because the left has fought and organised.

Yes, the left has got to give the lead. I would say the left should meet to discuss the LCC letter. If the LCC are prepared to accept that you need to control capital and the parliamentary leadership, then we have the foundations for a socialist programme within the next Labour government.

The left has to organise to make sure Labour wins on a particular sort of programme, that's what you're saying. But what's the potential organiser of such a campaign? The national supplement of *London Labour Briefing* for example?

That's how we originally envisaged *Briefing*, and it played a major role in getting big breakthroughs in the GLC and the London boroughs.

Do you think there's a potential for *Briefing* to play that role nationally?

I think there's a potential. But to be able to do it, *Briefing's* got to capture a broad range of opinion, especially outside London.

Look at what happened with the *Briefing* bulletin at Labour Party conference. The lunchtime editorial meetings were crowded with delegates and visitors, people who weren't part of the regular *London Briefing* team.

They were looking for something to plug into nationally.

Right. And *Briefing* could begin to bridge that gap precisely because it wasn't associated with one particular set of ideas. *Socialist Organiser* bulletin didn't have that pull. If *Socialist Action* had produced its own bulletin instead of helping with *Briefing*, it wouldn't have had that pull either.

If *Briefing* is to fulfill its potential — and that's still an open question — it has to be in the democratic control of briefing groups and briefing sellers up and down the country, it has to have links with the union broad lefts, and it has to include all the different campaigns: Labour Committee on Ireland, Labour Against the Witch hunt, Women's Action Committee, and so on.

I'm not sure the left is at the stage yet where this can be done. It sees things in terms of what'll be happening over the next year or two.

I'm convinced that there's a real possibility that the next government will be Labour. It makes for a completely different perspective. You've got to start planning now for the next Labour government and what it does.

General Electric Company

Britain's fifth bank

THE IDEA that low wages makes for job security has never had much credence amongst shop stewards. Within GEC it's a sick joke. As Britain's most profitable private company, GEC have a record which makes them the envy of every capitalist.

The huge profits accumulated have formed a cash mountain which now stands at £1,319 million and earns £178 million in interest per year. These interest payments have led to the tag that GEC are Britain's fifth bank.

It has been the ruthless application of the concept of semi-independent profit centres operating under strict financial targets of the managing director Lord Weinstock which have been the base of this financial success. Unlike every other major manufacturing company, GEC have prevented the formation of strong shop stewards combine and any inter-site negotiating machinery.

This policy of financial success or closure at plant level has blocked the unity and confidence of trade unionism in the company. With defence contracts in the bag and a big stick policy against strongly organised sites, Weinstock has disciplined the trade unions into isolation and division.

The flip side of this ruthless approach to site success has been the formation of a toothless National Joint Consultative Committee on which national union officials drink tea with managers.

Market

Under the lead of new chairman Lord Carrington (remember him?) the drive to export success has produced a fresh approach. From being a large UK company, the GEC Board has its eye on the multinational market. The cash stockpile and the failed bid for the West German electrical giant AEG are only a taste of the drive for US electronics industry.

Such a policy of expansion

means the rationalisation of large chunks of the existing UK set-up. Under the smokescreen of the recession the company are closing sites and rationalising their product groups into smaller higher technologically advanced units.

In the Traction group this policy is meeting with stronger resistance than elsewhere. The recent decision to close the Sheffield site, losing between 600 and 700 jobs, coincided with a major conference called by Sheffield City Council on 10 October.

Focus

The conference aiming to launch a national campaign for electrification of the railways and a reversal of Tory rail cuts, drew together over 200 delegates from the rail and rail manufacturing sector.

After hearing national rail union leaders call for a positive campaign against 'the introduction of Serpell by stealth', delegates from both the NUR and GEC stressed that the campaign was vital only if it acts as a focus and base for a campaign to defend existing jobs.

Following the conference, GEC Traction stewards from Sheffield, Preston, and Trafford Park discussed the company plans for compulsory redundancies on top of the Sheffield closure. After the largely successful imposition of a nil increase in 1982, the stewards

recognised the uphill nature of the battle and have prepared for a big campaign.

Stewards at Preston have planned a huge town-based rally for 3 November aimed at rail and GEC workers and their families. The rally will be addressed by Sheffield stewards who will earlier that day have heard their fate from GEC.

Campaign

The national combine have agreed to produce 10,000 copies of a special newsletter outlining the Traction campaign and the case for electrification of the railways. This will be distributed in bulk to the three sites in Traction and throughout the rest of the GEC group of companies.

Support for the Traction workers has also come from the City of Sheffield council. Apart from organising and hosting the electrification conference, they have backed the Sheffield stewards with practical help.

Failure

At the conference, speaker after speaker referred to the link between Sheffield Labour group's campaigning approach and the desire of the Tories to abolish the metropolitan authorities.

In facing the giant parent company, GEC stewards are under no illusions. The failure of the rail unions to date to prevent the closure of the rail workshops and the lack of fight by the engineering unions over the shorter working week claim is a grim reminder of the obstacles.

One Sheffield steward summed it up when he said that no-one had yet beaten Weinstock, but someone will and perhaps it will be Traction workers.



Shildon workers lobby Parliament. More closures are on the way

Photo: GM COOKSON



Electrify for jobs

THE CAMPAIGN for electrification of the rail system is supported by the national rail unions (ASLEF, NUR, TSSA); the GEC National Joint Shop Stewards Committee; the Sheffield, Manchester and Preston Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Union District Committees and Sheffield City Council.

It is based on two principles:

- railways are a public asset which should provide the best possible service in transporting people and goods,
- investment by government in electrification of the main line railway network will improve the service and also save or create thousands of jobs. Directly, it will help

guarantee the jobs of railway workers; less directly it will provide work for those in the many industries that supply the railways.

The campaign is organised through the labour movement against the Tories whose clear decision is one of undermining the rail network, cutting spending and slashing jobs.

The need for public transport is clear — 60 per cent of the population do not possess a driving licence. The old, the young, the unemployed, women are most hurt by cuts in the rail system.

British Rail's diesel locos are 3/4-way through their working life and no government decision to replace them will be made without rail union co-operation on productivity and job cuts. In contrast to government job cutting, one transport consultancy argue for a package of electrification which

could:

- electrify 60 per cent of the network instead of the 24 per cent currently electrified
- improve track, signalling and train speeds
- re-open 100 stations on freight only lines, thereby opening the network to an additional 2 million potential passengers

All this would cost only £3.9 billion or the price of two Trident submarines!

The new BR Board ten year plan dictated by the Tories covers the 13 year period from 1983 to 1995. The limited electrification provisions it contains would generate £250 million of equipment supplies and £200 million in civil engineering contracts. The Tory view of such commitments is that all will continue provided the targets of financial profitability of individual lines are met.

This target, together with the planned privatisation of the railway workshops, is designed to break the power of the railway unions and tempt the private sector manufacturers like GEC Traction and Brush. To unite the public and private sector unions around the electrification campaign required a common action programme agreed at the 10 October conference in Sheffield.

● calling local conferences and involving union branches, women's and other organisations

● establishing local campaign committees involving rail and engineering unions and labour councils

● building the national demonstration and lobby in April 1984.

Profits and Workforce of GEC

	Profit per employee	No of employees	Rate of profit (%)
1974	£704	170,000	22.4
1979	£2441	155,000	26.7
1982	£4030	145,000	27.3

Plan for Telecoms victory

All out strike action!

PHONEY WAR gave way to real war in the telecoms privatisation dispute more than three weeks ago. In response to a tremendously effective work to rule by Post Office Engineering Union members at three London International Exchanges, British Telecoms management locked out 1600 workers.

Management have since escalated the dispute by bussing in POEU members from outside central London in an attempt to break picket lines and suspending them when they refuse to do so.

Management has peaked its campaign by threatening the union with its first real casualties — 19 union members received notices of dismissal, which BT have since opted to postpone until after the union's conference in Blackpool on 7 November.

By Ian Grant (POEU)

The present policy of the union to win the dispute is 'selective action'. This strategy was successfully developed by the POEU in its 1978 fight for the 35 hour week and has been employed for some months now in the campaign against Mercury and privatisation which preceded the mass lock out at the International Exchanges.

However today we are no longer in the period of

the phoney war, but are fighting a real war with casualties. Secondly the political situation in the 1982 and the high stakes involved over privatisation have little in common with the dispute over the shorter working week in 1978.

Some have argued all-out strikes are an anachronism, left over from the pre 'hi-tech' revolution. Of course if this were true who would want to go on strike if you could win by a less financially difficult route?

Robots

But the time has not yet arrived when robots will fight our battles for us. The POEU membership may have widely different levels of understanding of the stakes involved in the fight, spread as it is from

the most militant centres of the City of London to the more isolated reaches of the Scottish Islands.

But the membership is mainly young, undefeated in past confrontations and unlikely to respond passively to BT's provocations. Its morale is high, especially in the wake of Mercury's defeat in the courts.

Moreover, it would be a mistake to underestimate the willingness of the membership to fight on an issue which ultimately will determine the future of as many as 1 in 5 jobs. At the moment, the initiative in the dispute is in the hands of management so long as the selective action strategy is adhered to by the union.

Selective

Simply from the financial point of view selective action has unavoidable and inherent limitations. How far is it possible, without acting decisively, to contain a sustained policy of suspensions by BT when every suspended member costs £100-150 per week. (The strike bill is currently running at approximately £¼m per



These workers, bussed in from East Area refused to cross picket lines at the Moorgate Exchange

week.)

The eventual outcome of the legal moves by Mercury are unlikely to go in the union's favour — sooner or later the union must move to avoid this debilitating blow to its finances.

But the real issue lies, not in the cheque-book, but on the level of involvement of the membership in the action. Without mobilising the full strength of the members in national strike action, even the potential disruptive effect of selected key targets is undermined.

Without mass picketing around the clock and occupations, management scabs are capable of reducing the union's impact to little more than nuisance value.

Meanwhile the majority of the non-participating POEU members are fair game for the media and BT's propaganda. The cumulative effect of the selective action policy can only be demoralisation and isolation of the most militant sectors under such conditions.

The Tory government

is at its least confident phase since the election in the wake of the Parkinson scandals and its complicity with Reagan's invasion of Grenada.

Other public sector-workers are sizing up for a fight around the National Health Service and also in the rails and mines.

Concerted action by the POEU for the withdrawal of BT's sacking notices and the return to work of the International Exchange engineers could draw in wide-based trade union support and deal a severe blow to Tory policy.

Idea

The idea that you can win a fight like this on the active participation of only a tiny proportion of the membership undermines the possibility of ultimate victory.

We may, or may not, win public support for our aims. It is extremely unlikely that we will ever do so on the scale that the nurses were able to achieve.

We will definitely not

have the media on our side, nor are the Tories likely to readily make concessions on one of the major items of their legislative programme. The courts too will be against us.

The only base of support capable of winning out against these obstacles is the whole 130,000 membership of the POEU. There is no way that we

can afford to have 99 per cent of them simply putting their hands in their pockets to pay a £1 per week strike levy and standing on the side-lines.

Since management ended the phoney war by locking out the International Services workers' national strike action has been the only option open to the union other than defeat.

Action escalates

IT WAS the British Telecom's management decision to suspend the sacking of 19 POEU members until after the union's conference that hit newspaper headlines last week.

Brian Stanley, the POEU's General Secretary, said, 'it would be a matter for the entire trade union movement if any of the 19 were dismissed'.

Strike action has spread into five cities — Manchester, Birmingham, Liverpool, Glasgow and Swansea.

The Union of Communication Workers has started a £1 levy to support the action and has begun 24 hour walk-outs in areas where POEU members have been disciplined.

British Telecom's management has responded by stepping up its own campaign of provocation.

Its policy of bussing POEU members into other areas was given a new twist when the BT management arranged for faults from the centre area to be reported directly to the North West London Telex office.

Six North West London POEU members who refused to accept the blacked work were then suspended and sent dismissal letters. This was answered by four North West London exchanges taking protest action and occupying their canteens for one to two hours.

More POEU members were suspended when they were bussed into the Fleet Building from the City and refused to cross picket lines.

Meanwhile Mercury is carrying on its campaign through the courts with the active encouragement of the government and the British Telecom management.

Emergency resolutions for national strike action to the POEU National Conference 7 November

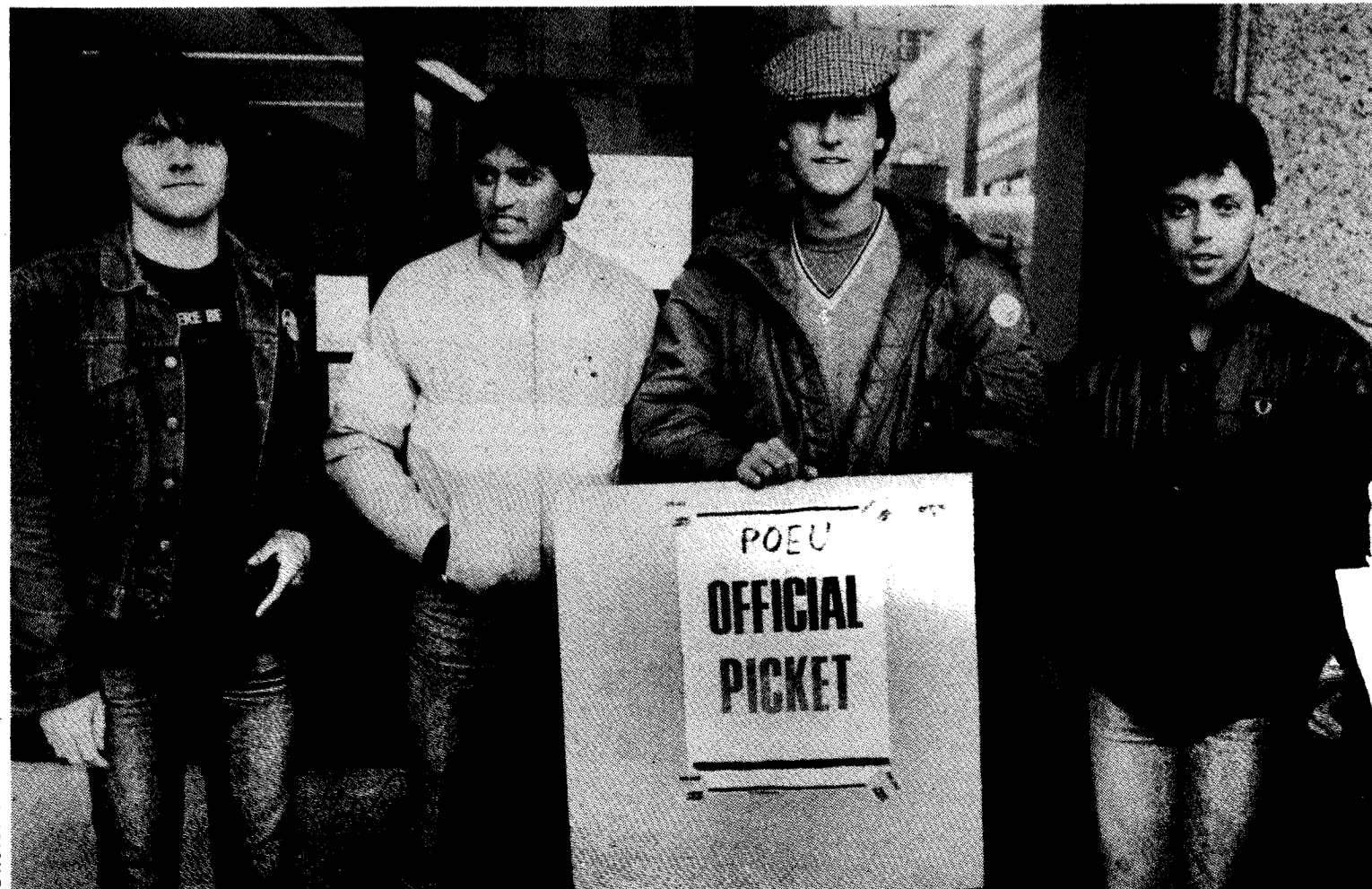
West End Branch
'As a result of recent BT statements conference calls upon the NEC to take all-out strike action in conjunction with other BT unions in the event of any member being dismissed for implementing union policy over Mercury or privatisation.'

West End Branch
'In the event of an injunction being granted against the POEU the NEC should call a national strike calling on

all the unions in the public sector to actively support us.'

City Branch

'The removal of International Services POEU members from their place of work on the weekend of 8 October indicates the determination of management to attack the POEU and stop our opposition to the privatisation of BT. This conference endorses our total opposition to privatisation and the interconnection of Mercury and instructs the NEC to take all steps to defend our union and our jobs, up to and including national strike action.'



POEU pickets at Mondale House in London

Photo: GM COOKSON

A Socialist ACTION



There's a hole in your fence - dear major, dear major

THEY DID IT. The plan worked. Unbelievably all those high powered male security forces surrounding fortress Greenham were foiled again.

Hallowe'en was the opportunity for the Greenham women to take down over a mile of the nine mile long fence surrounding the base where 96 cruise missiles are expected to arrive this week.

While CND asked us to lobby Parliament with candles, the Greenham women were once again capturing the headlines and showing who really leads the campaign to stop cruise.

The aim was to pull down the entire fence. But because the action had to be secret it wasn't possible to mobilise the numbers required to do

that. I shall never forget the delight expressed when one of the women from the Peace Camp brandished her clippers at a discussion about the action telling us exactly how those clippers should be used to bring down each part of the fence in seconds - if you know where to cut.

By Valerie Coultas

In practice the cutting proved more difficult and the tug of war between women and soldiers meant that a certain degree of forceful womanpower was required alongside the wonders of modern

technology. The women said that they had 'taken up tools to cut down this chainmail fence of fear and destruction'.

More actions are planned for this next week as cruise missiles are about to be installed. On 9 November Women Against Cruise will be in court in America attempting to gain an injunction to stop the deployment of the missiles as a violation of International Law.

As it is also likely to be proved that the US may well be violating international law with its invasion of Grenada it could be embarrassing to the hard-line Reaganites.

Women Against Cruise are calling for peace camps to be set up outside every American base that day. This is a mixed action and men are being invited to give support.

The next National Meeting of Greenham Support Groups take place on 12/13 November in Manchester.
Women Against Cruise contact No: 01-720 1374.
Greenham National Office contact No: 01-251 3133.

AS PARLIAMENT debated the arrival of cruise missiles on Monday a Tory plan to keep demonstrations to a minimum was foiled.

The announcement about the debate was left to the last minute so that there would be no time to organise a demonstration.

However, they had considerably underestimated the ability of the local CND groups to respond.

CND's own 'Instant Response Units' swung into action! During the afternoon, CND organised a lobby of MPs which was one of the largest ever organised.

Between three and four thousand people gathered in Trafalgar Square for a march to Downing Street.

As the demonstration left the Square, hundreds of police in buses rushed up Whitehall to block off the route to Downing Street. Undeterred, the demonstrators sat down, and spent the next two hours steadily expanding the area under their control.

The police were not amused, but were unable to prevent the demonstrators systematically blocking all the roads in Trafalgar Square area, and lighting a bonfire in the middle of the road.

All in all a very successful night!



Nuclear dump under No.10?

THE GOVERNMENT'S PLAN to dump nuclear waste at Billington on Teeside or at Elstow in Bedford has provoked alarm among local residents.

They are right to be frightened. The 'intermediate level waste', which the nuclear industry produces at the rate of 3000 tons a year is to be stored either in an old mine or in a disused ammunition dump. The authorities say this will be perfectly safe, an assurance that will come as no comfort to the people of Teeside who already have to put up with 36 petrochemical, gas, oil, nuclear and other installations in their area.

The truth is that there is no safe level of radioactivity. The history of nuclear power is one of disaster, disease and governmental deception. The nuclear industry is a threat to our jobs, but

even worse it is a threat to our lives.

By Chris Bertram

We can still remember the near meltdown at Three Mile Island. At Diabolo Canyon in the USA the industry built a reactor on a fault in the earth's crust, but were forced to close it when they discovered that the cooling system had been installed back to front.

Nor have nuclear disasters been limited to the capitalist countries. In 1958 there was an explosion of nuclear wastes near Cheliabinsk in the USSR. All crops, animals and houses were destroyed and the population evacuated more than 200 kilometres

from the scene of the explosion. The death toll remains a secret to this day.

But it is not only the risk of catastrophe that should alert us to the dangers. The effects on our health are even more insidious. The incident of cancer is *much higher* in Windscale than elsewhere in the UK. Radioactive contamination is now a significant part of all marine foods.

Exhaustion

It is not true that nuclear energy is really needed. The exhaustion of fossil fuels is a long way off and electricity can always be generated using wind, water or solar power. It is hard to resist the view that one reason why the government favours nuclear power is to break the strength of the coal miners - one of the

most combative sections of the British working class.

Civil

There is not a distinct civil nuclear power industry separate from the people that produce nuclear weapons. Any country that has a reactor has the capacity to produce nuclear warheads and the civil and military sides to the industry have fed off each other.

An ICI worker on Teeside summed it up when he said, 'They would not put nuclear waste under 10 Downing Street would they?'

Too right. The right is that if people had the right to decide whether or not there would be nuclear installations near where they live there would be no dumps or reactors anywhere.

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