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Socialist OUTLOOK

INSIDE

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~~NOT~~ WANTED

'Desperate' John Major, already the most unpopular Prime Minister since records began. Still not brought to justice on a list of serious charges, thanks to blunders by John 'Hard Labour' Smith's inept 'Policy Squad'



● **ROBBERY**

Billions ripped off from Britain's poorest families. Nationalised industries stolen and sold off. Jobs stolen from over 4 million workers.

● **MURDER**

Conspired to launch senseless slaughter in Iraq, and continuing violence in Ireland.

● **RECEIVING**

Secret donations of stolen cash from top criminals and spivs.

● **EXTORTION**

VAT on fuel, soaring prices charged by privatised utilities; growing charges for NHS prescriptions and care of frail elderly.

● **VANDALISM**

Wanton destruction of whole industries.

● **FRAUD**

Masqueraded as alternative to Thatcher.

AT ANY PRICE

Le Pen driven out by anti-fascist threat

by Simon Deville

THE TECHNICAL Group of the European Right, the group of fascist MEPs, have been unable to find a hotel that will accept their booking in either Edinburgh or Dublin, as a result of the efforts of local anti-fascists.

On June 21 the French Front National (FN) announced Le Pen's planned visit to Edinburgh, at which point anti-fascists started organising to ensure that Europe's leading fascist would not visit the city unopposed.

Separate

Although the Anti Nazi League and the Anti Racist Alliance had both been given information that Le Pen was not due to arrive until Tuesday July 6, both groups insisted on organising demos separately on Monday 5.

Despite the danger of these protest demos taking the anger out of any mobilisations during the fascist's visit, within a few days the Scottish Campaign against Le Pen (SCALP) was formed as an umbrella group, drawing in all major anti-fascist forces in the city, and a week of action was planned to drive Le Pen out.

With the threat of such militant action the Sheraton Hotel decided "for the safety and convenience of its guests and staff" that they would cancel the book-



No welcome in Britain for the French fascist, whose extravagant use of EC expenses payments to subsidise binges for far-right Euro-MPs has recently hit the headlines.

ing. Soon afterwards every other major hotel in the city announced that they would not accept the fascists either.

Having given up on Edinburgh, they then announced that they would be going to the Fitzpatrick Hotel in Dublin instead.

Umbrella group

This announcement led to the formation of a similar umbrella group - the Irish Campaign Against Fascism (ICAF) through which a similar hostile reception was planned.

Within a couple of days of the

formation of ICAF the Fitzpatrick Hotel announced that it was "overbooked" and that the group's booking was made "in error".

At the time of going to press the fascists are now trying to find a hotel in Rome that will accept them, so let's hope that Italian anti-fascists can give them a further humiliation.

This attempted visit by Le Pen is of significance both in proving the effectiveness of united, militant anti-fascist action and in showing Le Pen that fascists cannot organise openly wherever they choose.

Manslaughter verdict shocks Ashiq's family

By Jack Starkey

ASHIQ Hussain, a 21-year old taxi driver who leaves a wife and child, was murdered last August when he went to aid a colleague being harassed by three racists.

One of them stabbed him to death. On Wednesday 30 June at Birmingham Crown Court the murderer received a five-year sentence for manslaughter.

Not charged

The police and court refused to recognise the racist nature of the murder and even refused to put the murderer's accomplices up on charges of complicity.

Ashiq's father, Mohammed Iqbal, said:

"The murderer should never have been allowed out on leave from prison. We are writing to the Home Office and demanding an enquiry. The sentence was a disgrace. We demand justice".

Mark Jarvis, the murderer, was on home leave from Winson Green prison, where he was serving twelve years for burglary and the violent rape of a school-girl.

A security officer stated 'Jarvis's record was a horror

story. He assaulted officers, bullied prisoners, led two jail-breaks and a serious assault on an Asian prisoner.

'He is an inveterate racist and criminal and a danger to others if released'.

Jarvis even hurled racist abuse at Ashiq's family at the preliminary hearing.

Birmingham Campaign Against Racism and Fascism (CARF) and the Ashiq Memorial Committee will be assisting the family in gaining their demands.

They call on the labour movement and black community for support. A picket was mounted throughout the trial, several leaflets distributed and meetings held to raise the issues.

The real need for black self-organisation and defence could not be more essential with the rise in attacks and callous indifference of the state.

For further information on other initiatives, messages of support, affiliation and donations contact:

■ CARF(B), CAMC PO Box 1854, Camphill, Birmingham B11 1NJ.

■ Ashiq Hussain Memorial Committee, PO Box 1854, Camphill, Birmingham B11 1NJ

■ Birmingham Racist Attacks Monitoring Unit, 021 454 9500.

Birmingham to demonstrate against racist attack

By Jack Starkey, Birmingham Campaign Against Racism & Fascism

Clive was the victim of an unprovoked racist attack, reported in our last issue, on 13 July after racist harassment from a gang. Two white men carried out the attack with iron bars and left Clive with a fractured skull and broken leg.

He is still seriously ill in hospital. Unfortunately, Birmingham's council has refused to rehouse his heavily-pregnant partner Yvonne.

Those accused of the racist assault appear in Sutton Coldfield court on Thursday 15 July. A picket will be mounted demanding they are found guilty of attempted murder, receiving maximum sentences; justice for Clive and his family, nothing less.

Contact the Clive Forbes Support Committee, Oaklands Sports & Social Centre, Oaklands Rd, Handsworth, Birmingham. Telephone 021 523 7702.

A BIG response from the local community and labour movement is expected on Saturday 10 July, when a demonstration will be held in support of Clive Forbes, the victim of a brutal racist attack on Wyley Birch estate, Birmingham.

The march will leave Falkeners Farm Road at noon and rally at Salford Park Stadium, Erdington.

Speakers will include the family of Stephen Lawrence and other victims of racist attacks. Leafleting has been taking place across the area for several weeks and the response has been excellent.

Timex strikers, print union back Bosnia aid

By Geoff Lowe

WHILE imperialism has given the green light to the reactionary regimes in Serbia and Croatia to carve up Bosnia the international workers' movement is - at long last - beginning to oppose this crime.

The national conference of the 270,000 strong Graphical, Paper and Media Union (GPMU) has agreed to support the aid convoy organised by Workers' Aid for Bosnia.

Further support has been given by the Timex strikers. The convoy will now depart from Dundee on August 9 after a mass picket of the Timex plant. The decision to link support for the convoy with support for their own fight shows a remarkable level of internationalist consciousness amongst the Timex workers.

Bosnian miner Almir Baralic was given a tremen-

dous reception when he spoke at the end of the recent People's March for Jobs in the North West. His emotional account of how the Bosnian miners endured hardship in order to support British miners in their 1985 strike has encouraged activists to get support for the convoy throughout the North West.

Other Bosnians living in Britain - including Indiana Harper of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Information Centre - are actively involved in the campaign.

London busworkers at Leaside garages have added their support - some of them willing to drive to ex-Yugoslavia.

Barking & Dagenham, Bexley, Bury & Radcliffe and Leicester Trades Councils are also helping build the convoy.

International support has come from the Belgian Metalworkers Union, the persecuted Turkish daily paper *Aydinlik* and the Belgian and Swedish sections of the Fourth International. Bus

workers in Athens have been asked to help.

Well known writers on ex-Yugoslavia Branka Magas and Catherine Samary are giving their backing.

It is only a few weeks since the idea of the convoy was first put forward. The support so far shows it is possible for the workers' movement to put forward an alternative to the policies of the EC governments.

We need to build on this initial support to ensure the convoy is a huge success.

Socialist Outlook calls on all its supporters to raise this vital issue in their union branch, Labour Party, women's group, workplace or wherever they can to ensure that the people of Bosnia are not abandoned to the cynical destruction of their country sanctioned by Major, Clinton and co.

Further details from Workers Aid for Bosnia, 081 964 9799.

FIGHTING RACISM

Changing mood puts Johns under pressure

Editorial

TO SAY that the Tories are in crisis has become a truism.

Polls show 90% of the population are dissatisfied with the way they are running the country and only 19% are satisfied with the performance of John Major. These are the worst ratings for a government since records began.

The present level of Tory disarray is qualitatively different.

The sacking of Lamont was a public admission that Britain is still in the depths of recession – a recession now gripping much of Europe.

Clarke's appointment as Chancellor has left the Tory right feeling betrayed and alienated over economic policy.

By-elections

These economic conditions were the driving force behind their electoral catastrophes in Newbury and the county councils. Now face the Christchurch by-election threatens another political disaster. John Major's political survival is in the balance – it now seems he has until next year to change things or go.

The dominant economic problem is how Clarke can reduce the £50 billion deficit in public spending – a deficit which is expected to rise by a further £10 billion next year.

Tory economic policy demands this reduction for two reasons: the unacceptable level of the deficit itself and the Maastricht criteria for European Mon-

etary Union, which require deficits to be cut to no more than 3% of GDP.

Either way, the Tories require a massive attack on the welfare state and increases in taxation. Clarke's Autumn budget is likely to contain the biggest round of cuts and job losses ever seen in one package.

The government's chronic weakness has not stopped its programme of legislation and attacks on the working class. Why can it go on with these attacks and when it is so weak and unpopular?

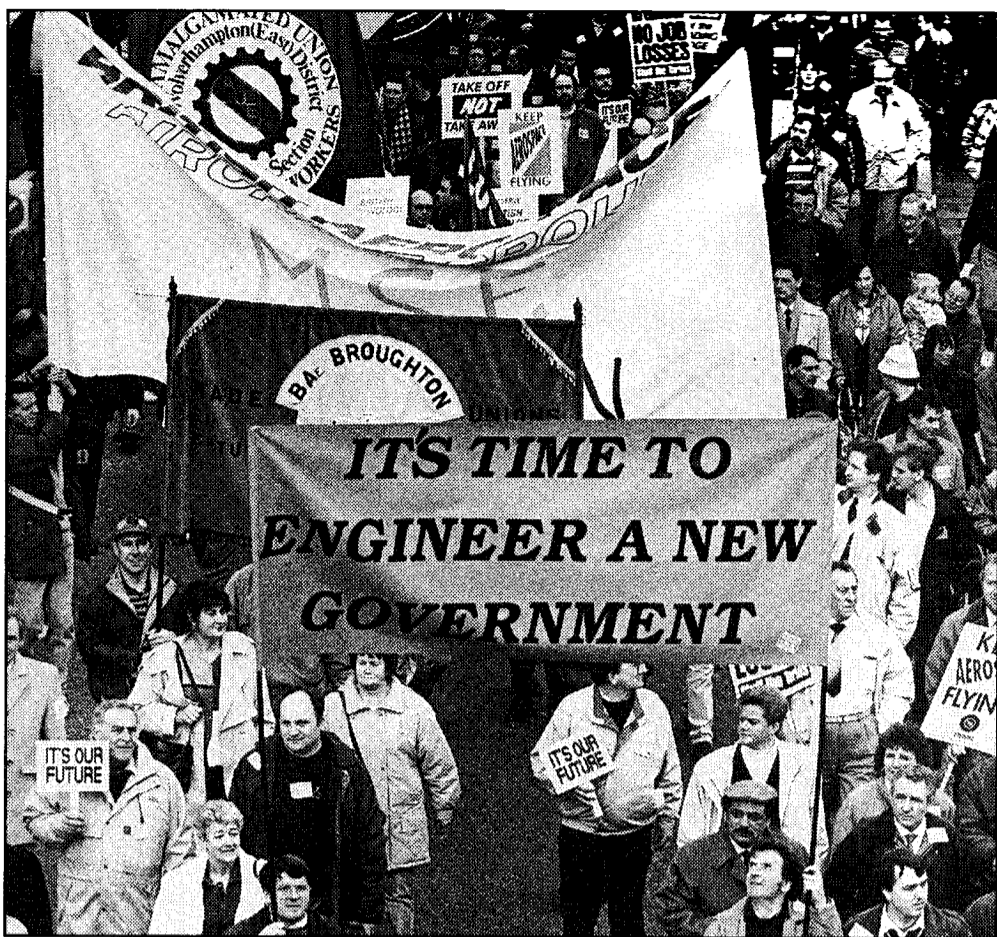
The key factor is the abysmal lack of opposition from union leaders, the TUC, Labour's low-profile front bench, and in the work-places.

Yet there has been a modest but important change. The 'new realists' are still in charge, but they face a crisis of confidence and perspective. The recent stinging attack on the Labour leadership by right wing GMB leader John Edmonds shows the new pressures which are there.

Scargill

The willingness of TGWU leader Bill Morris to echo Arthur Scargill's warnings that the unions might take their affiliation fees elsewhere if John Smith succeeds in breaking their historic links with Labour also indicate a new tension in the labour bureaucracy.

The coal crisis last October was a real opportunity for a radical change. This was only partially realised and the miners have now been defeated. Paradoxically, though defeated over pit closures, the miners have been a catalyst for a limited



Time to engineer a national strike to put pressure on Tories

revival of struggle and confidence in the movement as a whole.

The victory of the teaching unions over SATS was the biggest defeat suffered by the government since the poll tax debacle. Another Tory flagship has been sunk – at least for this year.

The Timex strike and the response to it is another example of the important but limited change of mood. Most strikes are a response to massive attacks on the workers involved, but at last the beginnings of resistance are emerging as the employers' offensive goes ahead with full force.

The resulting higher levels of struggle have been reflected in the union conferences. The left won a majority in the elections for the NCU Executive, and the conference swung to the left – as did those of the MSF, UCW and NALGO. Again this shows a marked rise in confidence at the base of the unions.

Although there will be much arm twisting of union delegates over the summer, there are already signs that compromises are being discussed in order to prevent John Smith facing a disastrous platform defeat over the issue of union links at Labour's conference in October.

Socialists should not exaggerate this

upturn in struggle and renewed confidence but it does open up new opportunities for the left. We should not look for spectacular developments, although they are not excluded.

Anti-union laws

The movement is starting from a long way back. New realism is still there. The anti-union laws are still there and being strengthened and the level of activists has been dramatically reduced. We should expect that the present up-turn will continue and strengthen.

The next stage may well need an all-out strike by a national union to get it off the ground. Increased confidence – the vital ingredient for strike action is there, and will continue to generate a higher level of class struggle than the last couple of years.

The example of the SATs victory is important for the left. It was a victory won not from the top of the teaching unions but from their base. The boycott was fought for by the left and in particular the Socialist Teachers' Alliance in the NUT. The opportunities for such organisation are now opening up elsewhere: they must not be missed.

Fingers In the TILL

A regular look at the world of business, compiled by INSIDER DEALER

Hunt the organ

NISSAN UK managing director Michael Hunt copped eight years in the slammer last week for his role in Britain's biggest-ever tax dodge, which ripped off the Inland Revenue by at least £97 million.

This sort of thing makes even my income tax returns look honest.

The real mastermind behind the scheme, Octav Botnar, has legged it to Switzerland after bunging the Tories a chicken-feed £1 million. I don't suppose he's any more likely to return than Asil Nadir.

The scam worked like this. Nissan UK directors bumped up the supposed freight charges on the cars they imported into Britain by 40 per cent, paying out on false invoices submitted by their buddies at a Norwegian shipping agent, and offset the money against corporation tax. The difference was then laundered through banks in Bermuda and Switzerland.

Hunt personally pocketed £55 million, and the Inland Revenue only want £30 million back. So even after £2 million court costs, he is still £23 million to the good. In the unlikely event of Hunt doing all his porridge, that's £3 million a year, which is even more than I make.

Hunt, incidentally, used a small fraction of the dough to install a Wurlitzer cinema organ in his West Sussex home, which at the touch of button would rise through the living room floor. Personally, I make do with a decent hi-fi instead.

Adding insulation to injury?

MORE on Tory dodgy donors. A double-glazing boss who gave the Conservative Party £25,000 is now facing Serious Fraud Office charges on two counts of intent to defraud



customers.

John Morris was head of Therm-a-Stor, which went bust in 1990 owing £14 million, and a personal mate of Maggie. Our glorious prime minister even opened a factory in Peterborough for him ten years ago.

Morris is now on bail of £250,000 until his trial begins in Birmingham in September. I hope SFO are checking the bookings at both Cyprus Airways and Swissair.

Du Canned

THIS WEEK'S rich-Tory-down-on-his-luck slot features Sir Edward du Cann, former

chairman of both the Conservative Party and Lonrho. He called a meeting of his creditors last month, offering to repay his debts at 40p in the pound in a bid to stave off personal bankruptcy.

Tunnelling out?

THOMAS EAST, a project manager on the Channel Tunnel, will be spending two years as a guest of Her Maj after taking £250,000 in bribes for passing on confidential details of pipework contracts to two so-called 'information brokers'.

Information brokers are 'self-employed traders in details about pending contracts'. Basically, they find out what your competitor has bid for the work, and sell you the inside dirt for oodles of spondulicks, enabling you to undercut the offer. And how do they find out what your competitor bid for the work? Best you don't ask, squire.

EDITORIAL

Labour's links still under threat

Union chiefs score easy points over bankrupt Smith

By Pete Firmin

JOHN EDMONDS of the GMB said it first. Now, Arthur Scargill, in his address to the NUM conference, has repeated it.

There is a connection between the desire of leading Labour Party figures to break the party's links with the unions and their failure effectively to oppose the Tory government.

Scargill questioned the value of unions being affiliated to Labour if it fails to fight for the working class.

Now, Bill Morris of the TGWU has asked, in a rather muted *Tribune* article, what would be the point of affiliation if unions are excluded from the election of party leader and the selection of parliamentary candidates.

Morris has also called for sharp rises in income tax on high earners, and, along with Edmonds is backing a Full Employment Forum, a brainchild of MP Bryan Gould, defeated opponent of John Smith in last year's Labour leadership contest.

Union leaders are right to comment on the feeble performance of the Party. With the Tories in dire trouble, the Labour Party leadership is once again sitting back and hoping that the government's unpopularity will deliver victory in a general election which could be as much as

four years away.

Nothing is further from their minds than building campaigns in defence of the pits, against the new Employment Law or in solidarity with those in struggle.

Yet Edmonds, Morris and the rest cannot escape their own complicity in the situation.

They, more than anybody else, enabled Kinnock to beat back the left gains of the early 1980s, including opposition to all the Tory anti-union laws. The fact that they have begun to balk at this late stage is a reflection of how far Labour policy has gone.

What really worries them is the threat to their own influence over policy and elections.

This explains why they show less concern about union participation in selecting parliamentary candidates, where the unions are involved at branch level.

Judging by the results of recent union conferences it might appear that the proposals to break the Party/Union links are dead in the water, with only the AEEU supporting the proposal to totally exclude affiliated unions from decision-making.

Smith's announcement that he will hold a plebiscite of party members on the issue seems like the last gasp of someone who knows he is on a loser.

But it is more complicated than that. Various union leaders, among them Edmonds, Sawyer of NUPE and Lyons of MSF (despite conference policy)



Joining the Scargill camp? Bill Morris talks tough

have indicated their willingness to consider schemes such as 'levy-plus' - union members paying on top of the political levy to become members of the Labour Party - or a register of levy-paying party supporters for the purposes of balloting.

These involve a considerable shift away from collective decision-making by union members. Smith has indicated his readiness to consider such ideas.

It is more than likely that in the run-up to party conference a 'compromise' will be drawn up along these lines and pressure put on union executives and delegations to accept it rather than rock the boat.

Given the overwhelming verdict of union conferences this

would be a serious setback and only lead to the misnamed 'modernisers' coming back to complete the job in a couple of years, probably arguing that the halfway house scheme wasn't working.

Party and union activists should use the run-up to Labour Party conference to step up the pressure to maintain a collective union input into selections, elections and policy-making at all levels and stop any concessions.

We should also be arguing for union leaders to act on their words and formulate alternative policies that defend jobs, union rights and living standards and lead a fight to commit the Labour Party to them.

Brighton witch-hunt runs out of steam

By Mark Thompson

TO THE EVIDENT dismay of the new realist careerists behind the witch-hunt in Brighton, the Labour Party's National Constitutional Committee has given token reprimands to three former councillors.

They were accused of 'activity against the Labour Party' - meaning disagreeing with the local Labour group leadership.

The hearings were becoming an embarrassment for the party hierarchy, with each defendant taking a whole day to bring half a dozen completely new witnesses, and the prosecution only managing the same embittered four or five (at most) who appeared at the previous thirteen hearings.

The first eight defendants, all Militant supporters, barely fought their cases and were all expelled. The following five received sentences ranging from one to three years suspension from holding office in the Party.

Jean Calder, Fiona Roberts and Hilary Metcalf were the three reprimanded. Hilary is still a councillor but Labour group are refusing to let her back in, although they have never taken disciplinary action against her.

There is no logic to the sentences other than the order people were dealt with. The NEC is keeping its files on us, having spent nearly three years and thousands of pounds, and the result is that they have destroyed Brighton Labour Party - but not the left.

Mines massacre:

TUC leads the wake

'DON'T organise, mourn!' This is the bold new policy adopted by the Trades Union Congress to combat the Tories' drive to shut down much of Britain's remaining coal industry.

After thwarting every attempt to build for effective action on the

foundations of last autumn's massive protests against the plans, the TUC have placed big adverts in national daily newspapers calling for attendance at a 'vigil' outside Downing Street.

As the adverts explain 'the situation is [now] actually worse...It is widely accepted that, not 31, but 38 pits will be closed

by the end of the year'.

And they castigate the government for 'cynically believing that the simple lapse of time between October and July has been enough to turn moral outrage into apathy'.

In fact, miners facing redundancy have been anything but apathetic and they have enjoyed the support of plenty of other people.

At a rally during the North West Peoples March for Jobs last month miners' leader Arthur Scargill called for a 24-hour stoppage against all redundancies - not just those in the pits.

If the TUC's Campaign for Jobs and Recovery is to have any reality, militants must push for that body to support Scargill's call.

'Resign' call at AGM

Knapp's nightmare

WITHIN MINUTES of the start of the RMT's Annual General Meeting, General Secretary Jimmy Knapp's worst fears were realised: a resolution was allowed calling for Knapp and co. to resign.

A series of debates saw the bureaucracy overturned; on Maastricht; defence cuts and Trident; more power to Trades Councils. On Ireland the AGM backed a policy of disengagement and inclusion of Sinn Fein in any talks.

Conference voted to discuss and amend recent NEC decisions. A special redundancy agreement for the union's senior officers was thrown out and major financial restructuring referred to a special recall meeting.

The leadership was further called to account for not continuing the strikes this year; for agreeing a new machinery for negotiation last year, and for selling out the Manchester Piccadilly guards.

By 71 to 15 the AGM voted that the union should have refused to call off the Manchester strike despite the BR court injunction. It also rejected a right-wing move to call off the BR ballot on pay.

The AGM was an overwhelming success for the left. However while the left is still poorly organised and cannot control the union for the other 51 weeks of the year.

The left Campaign for a Fighting, Democratic Union must address these problems urgently.

HOME NEWS

BOOK SALE!

Second-hand books on sale
SATURDAY JULY 17, noon till 5pm
Gorefield House Community Centre,
Canterbury Rd, NW6 (Kilburn Park Tube)



Battle lines drawn on mushroom strike picket lines

Civil servants fight for jobs

THOUSANDS of civil servants in the Department of Health and Social Security went on strike on Friday July 2 in protest at privatisation and job losses threatened by increases in market testing.

The strike was strongly supported by members of the two biggest civil service unions, the CPSA and NUCPS. CPSA members had voted 90 per cent in favour of strike action.

Workers in this section of the

civil service face the possible loss of 8,000 jobs. Those who remain employed are threatened with draconian changes to their pay and conditions.

Further action is planned, with the CPSA leadership proposing a series of three day regional strikes.

Activists are opposed to regional action and will be campaigning for a three day section wide national strike as the next step in the fight against market testing.

Strikes halt Transport

By a CPSA member

A LIGHTNING strike hit the Department of Transport on June 14 with staff walking out across Scotland and the north of England.

The dispute was about the transferring of work, by the Driving Standards Agency from Edinburgh to Newcastle. The walk out came about directly as a result of recent proposals from the government about privatisation and market testing.

The various agencies that make up the Department of Transport were told that the Vehicle Inspectorate and Road Traffic Laboratory were to be privatised.

Everything done by the Driving Standards Agency except the driving test is to be market tested, while market testing would be extended within the Driving Vehicle Licensing Agency.

So far the response of the CPSA national leadership has been weak. They have resisted calls for a national one day civil service strike, instead relying on legal arguments in court, which to some extent have proved successful so far.

The response of the Militant dominated Broad Left cannot be said to be adequate either. In the recent union elections they concocted a rotten electoral bloc in an attempt to win the union presidency.

This failed miserably. Indeed the future of the Broad Left as it now exists is in some doubt.

As hard as it is the job of activists in the CPSA is to patiently argue and win over people to the real threat to civil service jobs.

Where this has happened, people have responded positively to calls to take action. Increasingly a lead is being demanded of the union leadership. Unfortunately, the Broad Left does not seem to be around to lead this fight.

Back Middlebrook women strikers

Boycott Bookers!

By Keith Sinclair

89 WOMEN mushroom pickets from Middlebrook Mushrooms near Selby, remain sacked.

The women were sacked for refusing a pay cut despite having fully co-operated previously with management when they altered their conditions for the worse.

Over the last six weeks there have been serious attempts to build mass pickets to stop the scab bus entering on Saturday mornings. On June 12 around 200 pickets, including Timex strikers, tried without success to stop the bus.

The police had to use horses to get the bus through but there was no real violence against the pickets nor any arrests. The situation on June 26 was very differ-

ent - the police attacked the pickets and nine were arrested.

It is essential that the next mass picket on July 10 is fully supported. The physical location of Middlebrooks means that a picket of several hundred could have a real chance of stopping the scabs.

The size of the picket is also very important to the morale of the strikers who, rightly, feel let down by their union, the TGWU. TGWU officials and banners are noticeably absent from the pickets although rank and file members are present.

T&G officials didn't even reply to a request from Hull Trades Council to attend a Trades Council meeting with the Middlebrook strikers.

The fight in the TGWU is very important. There does appear to be a tendency amongst the strikers to underestimate the impor-

tance of taking up the fight at all levels of the TGWU.

As well as physical support on the picket line there is a need to build support for a boycott of Middlebrook Mushrooms and products of their parent company, Booker plc.

Consumer boycotts are notoriously difficult to implement successfully. One avenue worth exploring is for trade unionists in schools and colleges to fight to withdraw accounts from Booker Cash and Carry warehouses.

Detailed investigations have even produced one Humberside NALGO branch with a Booker cash and carry card!

Donations to/information from Middlebrooks Strike, 33 Park Drive, Campsall, Doncaster, DN6 9NS. MASS PICKET July 10 - assemble 7.00am at Middlebrooks (Junction 34 of the M62).

Tory laws shackle Salford print strikers

By Steve Revins

ANTI-UNION laws are being used to hold off the fightback at Revell and George printers in Salford, Manchester, where union officials, amongst other GPMU members, have been sacked for supporting a nationally-bargained pay claim.

Clearly, putting an end to national bargaining and any role for the unions in settling claims is a big part of the government-led offensive against the unions.

The GPMU is backing the

JULY 12, 6am MASS PICKET Revell and George Cow Lane, off Oldfield Rd Salford

sacked workers, but on condition that they keep to the law.

This means, for instance, that the people in dispute are not allowed onto their own picket line on Monday mornings, when a show of solidarity by supporters takes place; it means not calling on the many unionised companies that deal with Revell and George to boycott them.

It is fairly clear that the dispute cannot be won by 'staying within the law'. The Monday morning mass pickets (without the pickets) have ensured that the place doesn't open now at all until gone midday on Mondays.

The company can put up with this, as they can put up with six men outside shouting abuse, and post workers leaving post in the street.

The union must step up the action, and allow the dispute to be won. This will be a big step on the way to stopping the print employers from destroying the rights and conditions of the workforce, starting by breaking the most militant sections.

TRADE UNION NEWS



World ORDER

Deng's 'new' market

NO FALSE modesty at the recent 14th Congress of the Chinese Communist Party.

Delegates adopted a report by party first secretary Jiang Zemin, proclaiming the beginning of another 'mighty revolution'.

According to a behind-the-scenes source 'adding the word 'socialist' in front of the phrase 'market economy' is unprecedented in the history of world development and is an invention of the CCP.'

This new 'massive theoretical contribution' is the work of top leader Deng Xiaoping who also explained that 'the methods of socialist market economics are basically similar to capitalist society's.'

Any takers for *Socialist Market Outlook*?

Colombia fight for rights

ON A SOBER estimate, once every two days somebody disappears in Colombia. And this is leaving aside thousands of cases of false arrest, imprisonment and intimidation.

Most of the victims are peasants, workers and trade unionists in the bad books of security forces given free rein by the government's 'dirty war' against 'terrorism'. Most of the abductions occur in areas under strict military and police control.

The Colombian Committee for Human Rights, based in London, is attempting to draw attention to this rising wave of terror - backed up by tightening controls on the Colombian press.

Among cases it is highlighting are those of Pedro Julio Movilla who disappeared on May 13 in the Colombian capital Bogota, and trade union activists Pedro Julio, Efrain Gomez Moncada and Efrain Gomez who have also disappeared.

Members of Human Rights Group, who question what is happening are also targets, among them Alirio de Jesus Pedraza, who disappeared three years ago. No such rigour is apparently being applied to investigations into the dirty war and drug trafficking - the pretext for much of the repression.

The Committee can be contacted at Fenner Brockway House, 37-39 Great Guildford Street, London SE1 0ES; tel: 071 401 2225; fax: 071 620 1103.

Somalis reap grim harvest of colonialism

By Bala Kumar

THE AMERICAN-led raids in the capital of Somalia, Mogadishu, are a new version of an old theme - imperialist domination of Africa. Its results will be as disastrous now as in the past.

Indeed, the civil war and famine in Somalia have their roots in the dictatorship of General Siad Barre, supported until 1990 by the United States as part of its Cold War strategy.

When Barre came into power he had to balance out the various Somali clans in order to stay on top. His own clan is formally two per cent of the population: a very slender power base which partly explains how he

was dislodged later on. From the late 1970s on, he started using clans against each other

Most Somali people follow a pastoral way of life. Capitalism has penetrated Somalia to the extent that there are linkages to the ports that export to Saudi Arabia and the rest of the Arab world. Otherwise self-sustaining communities grow just enough for themselves, their family and to raise livestock.

Since colonial times - especially under the influence of the Italians and the British - the growing of cash crops like bananas has been in plantations owned by Italian trading houses. In the last few years Somalis seeking food have been shot or tortured by specially hired guards as a warning not to come into the plantations.

Barre's response to mounting opposition took the form of killing the livestock which belonged to his opponents, the destruction of water tanks, the poisoning of wells. This created a large refugee population dispersed around the country. This in turn made it more difficult for rural populations to make a living from their own land.

One of the products of the US's stake in the proxy war between Somalia and Soviet-backed Ethiopia was that every clan was able to get arms. Today having arms means that they have power.

Now, with the end of the Cold War, the West no longer needs to finance proxy regimes. But some things don't change.

Right from post-colonial

days, Italian imperialism has been present in Somalia. Italy had control of southern Somalia when Britain controlled the north. In the 1950s, they governed it again under a UN trusteeship. They suppressed various anti-colonial movements in that period.

One of the causes for the fighting between supporters of rival 'warlords' Ali Mahdi and Aidid - allies against Barre prior to the fall of Mogadishu - is that Ali Mahdi is closely associated with Italian business interests in Somalia. The Italian ambassador in Mogadishu told Ali Mahdi he should become President!

General Aidid, meanwhile, has been singled out as 'the enemy' by the neo-colonialists.

Regrouping Europe's left

PARIS welcomed socialists from all over Europe to the first Assembly of the European Left on June 12.

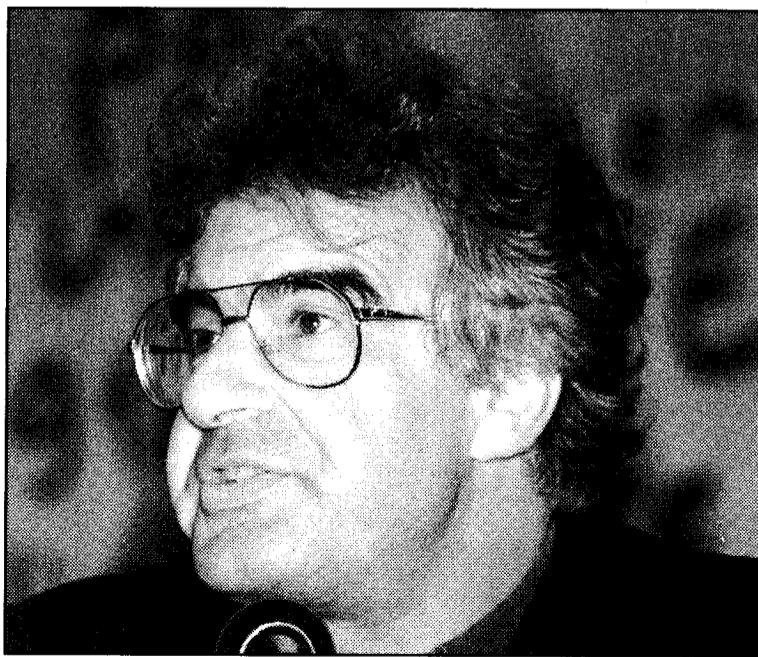
The appeal for the meeting was signed by Labour MPs Tony Benn, Ken Livingstone and Jeremy Corbyn, and a number of representatives and individuals from sizeable European leftwing organizations such as Italy's Party of Communist Re-foundation, the United Left and the Workers Commissions from the Spanish State, and the German Greens.

A wide range of groupings from the French left - among them dissident Socialist and Communist currents and some

Greens - were also involved. The Fourth International and its sections enthusiastically supported the initiative and many of its members attended the event.

The meeting was a product and expression of the need felt throughout the left for a renewed direction and sense of purpose after the collapse of the Soviet bloc - critical currents originating in the formerly pro-Soviet Communist Parties were strongly represented.

The essential points of agreement among all those supporting



Fourth Internationalist speaker Alain Krivine

the event were a determination to maintain an anti-capitalist perspective in the face of the huge world-wide attack on working class rights, gains and organizations at the heart of the Maastricht Treaty and to resist the wholesale abandonment of socialist references by much of the erstwhile left.

Given the diversity of the forces involved, the Assembly was seen as an arena for reflection and debate. It was decided to continue to seek further signatories to the appeal and work towards a further meeting to be held in another European capital next year.



Bosnian troops looking to get even

West fuels Bosnia carve-up

By Colin Meade

REJECTING appeals from Bosnian president Alija Izetbegovic for the lifting of the international embargo on arms to his government's forces, European Community and United Nations mediators have agreed to the carving up of Bosnia into three 'ethnic' states.

The new position means accepting the results of the savage campaign by Serb and Croat nationalists to seize territory and means further waves of 'ethnic cleansing' – this time with the explicit collusion of the 'international peacekeepers'.

EC mediator Lord Owen claims to still believe that Bosnia will continue to exist in this new tripartite form, but there seems little to stop the 'Croat' and 'Serb' statelets merging with Croatia and Serbia.

According to Lord Owen 'you have got to try to reach the solution that may not be ideal, but will bring a peace settlement'.

In fact the process of dividing up the spoils will be anything but peaceful. It is estimated that half a million Muslims would leave Croat and Serb territories. The rump 'Muslim' state would be surrounded by enemies, crammed with refugees and starved of resources.

Obstacle

The Bosnian president does not accept the new plan and has thus become an obstacle in the path of the international diplomats. The corridors of the conference were rife with rumours of plots to replace him with someone more amenable – specifically with Fikret Abdic, a businessman with a murky past who is currently said to be making a fortune from trading

across the new borders.

Izetbegovic may be placing hopes in the United States. President Clinton has called for the lifting of the arms embargo and the new US ambassador in Sarajevo has pledged American support for the territorial integrity of Bosnia.

However, the US have no strategic interest in pursuing the cause of Bosnia and its embattled Muslims. With a respect for procedures not seen in its other arenas of intervention, Clinton has regretted the fact that the embargo cannot be ended because this would not be accepted by the UN Security Council. His pro-Bosnian protestations are aimed at domestic public opinion and scoring points against his European 'allies'.

It would be somewhat paranoid to see in the behaviour of the 'international community' a plot to back up Great Serb and Great Croat ambitions while

seeming to oppose them.

However what is clear is that the leading circles of imperialist diplomacy have not the slightest inclination to support the cause of coexistence between nations in the Balkans – and the independence from Western interests this would enable. Furthermore, the West shuns the thought of destabilising Serbia – the inevitable result of a serious military setback for the Serb nationalists in Bosnia – with all the implications that would have throughout the region.

Counter-weight

Indeed, a strong Serbia to counter-balance German influence in south-eastern Europe has lain at the centre of British, French and American diplomacy in the region since the First World War.

The Arab and 'Islamic' governments, however telling their criticisms of Western hypocrisy

over Bosnia, are also point scoring for domestic purposes – none of these governments is in a position to pursue a diplomatic path radically at odds with the will of the masters of the New World Order.

At every stage of the unfolding crisis in the Balkans both the victims of aggression and those moved by their plight in the West have looked to the 'great powers' and above all the US for help. But the American capitalist class and the agencies it dominates – including the United Nations – are not on our side.

Solidarity with Bosnia must be independent of the US-controlled power system to have any future. Accepting this fact also means accepting the present weakness of the forces opposing war and ethnic cleansing in the Balkans – but a small step in the right direction is better than a big leap in the wrong.

Grim warning from apartheid's cops

By Charlie van Gelderen

THE doubts over the political role of South Africa's security forces have been redoubled by their handling of the invasion by right-wing thugs of the building where the negotiations for constitutional changes in South Africa have been dragging on for 18 months.

This is the most serious problem which will confront a future post-apartheid government resulting from the recently announced elections.

The military, the police and the network of secret services,

have been operating since 1948 as an integral part of the ruling National Party, enforcing the brutal apartheid laws.

In command of these forces today are the same generals and police chiefs who have been in control for four decades.

That there has been no fundamental change was demonstrated when the police, supposedly guarding the building, stood idly by and made not the slightest effort to deter the attack. They made no arrests on the spurious grounds that they could not apprehend the perpetrators as they had all given false names and addresses.

Among those taking a leading part in the assault were Eugene Terre-Blanche, leader of the openly fascist AWB, the for-

mer chief of the South African Defence Force, General Constant Viljoen, and the leader of the Conservative Party Ferdi Hartzenberg. They could hardly have concealed their identities.

There are eye-witness accounts of the police openly fraternising with the armed invaders, making no attempt to conceal their support.

What a contrast this has been to the arrest on June 9 of seven members of the Azanian People's Liberation Army, the military wing of the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC).

African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela has demanded 'joint control of the security forces'. But will this be enough? Will even a majority ANC government be able to con-

trol these forces without drastic restructuring of the whole security edifice?

The provisional government of national unity, which is the basis of agreement between the ANC and the National Party in the current negotiations, may result in shared political office, enjoying the shadow of power. But if the security forces are left more-or-less intact, with only a tinkering of changes at the top, there will be no way in which a South African military coup can be halted.

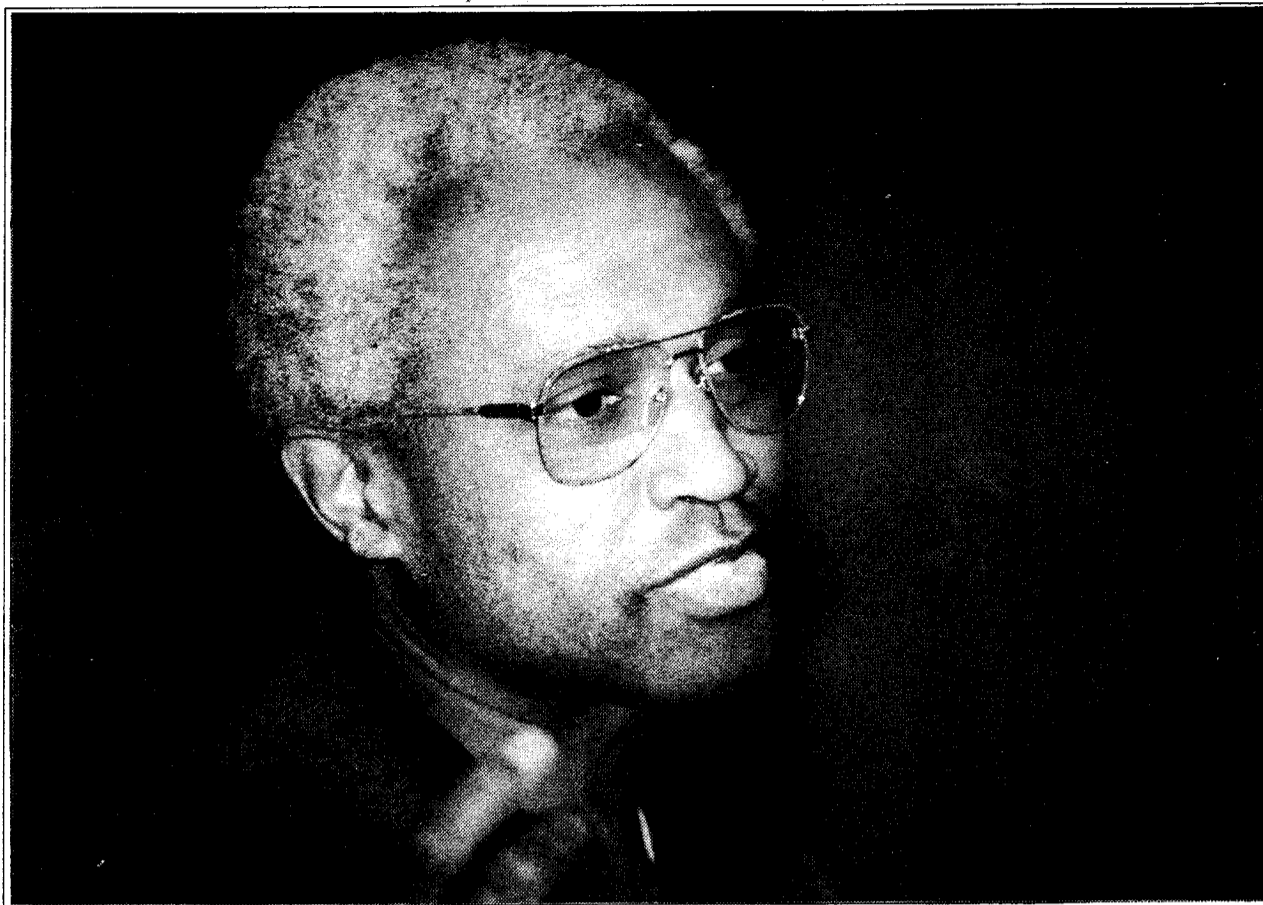
The demand should be, not for shared control of the existing forces – even if an element of the



AWB boss Terre-Blanche

armed wing of the ANC (NK) is incorporated – but its wholesale demolition and replacement by a genuine people's army under democratic control. There is no other way!

KWAME M.A. SOMBURU is a member of Socialist Action, an American organisation associated with the Fourth International. During his recent speaking tour of Europe, Kwame spoke to more than two hundred people at *Socialist Outlook* meetings in Birmingham and London. DAVE PACKER asked him to spell out his opinions on the theme of black liberation and socialism – issues which have been discussed in previous issues of *Socialist Outlook*.



Kwame M.A. Somburu speaking in London

Socialism is key to black liberation

WORLD NEWS

Dave Packer: Where do you stand in the discussion on black nationalism and socialism? Are African Americans a nation, or do they consider themselves to be one?

Kwame Somburu: We are not a nation in the traditional meaning of the term.

There is a general unity of opinion that we share a common history and tradition of racist exploitation, and class oppression - even though most of us would not use that term. The description of our past and present condition is framed in terms of race and class.

However, a common consensus of separation, assimilation, autonomy, or return to Africa, does not exist among us. There does not exist a unanimous definition of 'Black Nationalism', but there is a wide recognition of a common experience of 400 years of oppression, as African Americans.

Today, there are nearly 30 million African Americans, mostly concentrated in the ghettos of the big cities, who share this history.

Marxists should support the unconditional right of African Americans in their varying expressions of self-determination, whether it be for autonomous self-organisation, or for a sepa-

rate state, although we might not advocate the latter.

I also strongly believe that Marxists should be in the forefront of supporting and even initiating cultural, historical, racial awareness, and consciousness of the dual and even triple nature of the exploitation of African Americans. Both sexes suffer racial, class and sexual oppression, while women of course suffer a double oppression as black women.

The sexist oppression of African American males is obviously not the same as with females. However, our gender oppression has earned us the definition 'an endangered species' in the United States.

There is much documentation over the past few hundred years of the many ways that black males have been extremely negatively treated by our oppressors. For example, the lynchings, perpetrated by the Klu Klux Klan, of black males who were suspected of any kind of sexual relations with white women.

D.P: But can nationalism be progressive?

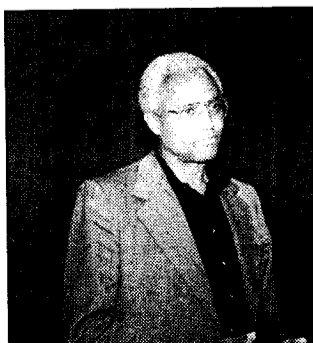
Kwame: Yes, the nationalism of an oppressed people is progressive - if it seeks to unify the oppressed masses around their common national, cultural and class oppression for the purpose of their liberation. On the other hand, the nationalism of an oppressor or advocate of oppression seeks unity for the purpose of oppressing others.

Nationalism that seeks to organize the masses independently and in opposition to the oppressors and their collaborators, will, of necessity, become a class conscious nationalism. That nationalism has the potential to become internationalism, and supportive of all struggles of the oppressed against the oppressor.

Marcus Garvey and Malcolm X each developed into both nationalists and internationalists. They wanted to organize the black masses nationally and internationally. To me and many others, the Organisation of Afro-American Unity was the most promising of many organisational and programmatic attempts by African Americans to defeat the varying types of mental, economic, physical and cultural enslavement that we have been subjected to.

Malcolm's black nationalism in particular was inherently class conscious, being sensitive to the concrete reality of the black working class concentrated in the ghettos of America's large cities.

The ruling classes and their supporters hated and feared them. Their potential to upset



"I strongly believe Marxists should be in the forefront of supporting and even initiating cultural, historical, racial awareness, and consciousness of the dual and even triple nature of the exploitation of African Americans"



Asian youth march in defence of threatened facilities in Leicester



Afro-Caribbean community fighting fascist violence

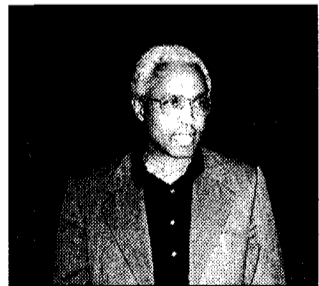
the status quo was realized early in the careers of both men. For over thirty years I have been actively a black nationalist, a socialist and an atheist.

D.P: What did Malcolm X mean when he said 'There must be Black unity before there can be Black and white unity'?

Kwame: I believe he meant that blacks must unite around our special types of oppression, and develop confidence, cultural, political unity, and a programme based on our concrete needs. Then we would be in a better position to discuss programmatic unity with whites around some common issues without our needs being left out.

D.P: But this kind of black nationalism could be interpreted as either autonomous self-organization or separatist development?

Kwame: Yes, it can be either one, or both. We support the right to take either course. That is because in the development of black unity – different views will be a part of it and will develop and change in the process of struggle and growing con-



sciousness. A black unity movement must realize that and make allowance for it. There does not exist a common definition of black nationalism among its adherents in the United States.

As I explained at the public meeting, socialist black nationalism stands for 'association' of all the oppressed, not 'integration'.

The Civil Rights movement exemplified one of the two main strategies followed by African Americans in their long freedom struggle. This strategy of integration is based on the simple idea that Black Americans should have the rights of all other citizens. They should have the

right to integrate themselves into American society 'with freedom and justice for all'.

The other strategic road followed by blacks is often taken when the road to freedom through integration is blocked by the withdrawal of white allies from such an alliance. The history of the African American freedom struggles shows that this other road came under the heading of Black nationalism.

The struggles by blacks for liberation became a struggle against national oppression. But this struggle goes on side by side with the working class struggle against wage slavery, as I have shown in my book. Therefore, my conception of the coming American revolution is a combined revolution for both black liberation and socialism.

D.P: Why do you feel that socialism is a necessary component of black liberation?

Kwame: Blacks are being oppressed not only racially, but also by their being overwhelmingly part of the exploited working class.

The capitalist system supports racism and encourages white supremacist, elitist feelings among white workers to prevent class unity against the system.

The huge profits from the African slave trade stimulated in-

national liberation in our epoch will include socialist ideas and socialist change in their programmes for liberation.

The dangers to their system posed by the evolution in this direction by Malcolm X in his last year, was probably a reason for his assassination.

The year 1963 was a time when the phenomenal mass mobilisations by black Americans against the system of Jim Crow, the American form of apartheid, was mounting and, with the help of Malcolm X were threatening to spill over from the Southern states to the black working class in the Northern cities.

D.P: Britain's black population has a multi-ethnic character, composed in its majority of second and third generation children of immigrants, whose parents have only relatively recently been drawn from the former British colonies as cheap labour. How would a black nationalist or non-European liberation strategy fit here?

Kwame: All of the varieties of non-English peoples are oppressed in different degrees on the basis of gender, race, nation and class.

Whether it is advocated or not, they will develop separate

"Whether it is advocated or not, they will develop separate unity on a cultural basis first. This already exists in Britain"

dustrial development and was a major foundation for modern capitalism. *Capitalism and Slavery* by Eric Williams, is one of the best sources for documenting that development. I am against racial domination and capitalist domination that puts profits over human welfare and dominates the lives of the producers of the goods and services that are the basis for human existence.

The rulers of capitalism and their agents have continually proven by their actions, that they realize the danger to their system posed by blacks and other oppressed peoples.

They recognise, often better than the oppressed themselves, that movements for racial and

unity on a cultural basis first. This already exists in Britain. Their economic, cultural, gender and racial oppression will develop a consciousness for organisations to struggle against their varied oppressions.

Eventually they will see the need for finding common ground for broader unity of all peoples of African and Asian ancestry and eventually with the white working class.

Whether they call themselves black collectively or, for example, the 'Afro-Asian Unity Movement', is not relevant as long as they move in the direction of a broader unity.

From Slavery To Wage Slavery

'A HISTORICAL sketch on the origins of slavery in the ancient world and the continuation of brutal practices by slave-masters and other exploiters into the modern era' is how Kwame M.A. Somburu describes his recent book.

The work covers the history of slavery over a period of several thousand years – including modern wage slavery. It is, therefore, impossible to do justice to all the areas it covers.

In the first section, Kwame relates the existence of slavery to economic developments in society, specifically to the beginnings of stable, agricultural communities and the discovery that human beings – as well as animals – could be 'domesticated' and made to work.

He argues that all religions have historically justified slavery and shows the links between religion, slavery and the oppression of women. Early religions had slave prostitutes. According to Kwame 'priests were the first pimps'.

The term slave is derived from 'Slavs'. 'The Vikings of North-western Europe acquired slaves in great numbers... from slave hunts among the Slavonic peoples... By 850 the Swedes had opened up the Volga and Dnieper as slave routes... Europeans were selling other Europeans to Muslims or any purchasers'.

Thus the notion that slavery was only a phenomenon imposed on black peoples by white Christians is false. Arab Muslims – as well as white Christians – played a key role in the enslavement of the African people.

The second section deals with the 100 years after the first American revolution. It was the conflict between the Northern merchants and the British over who would control the slave and rum trades that led to American independence. However, independence brought no noticeable benefits to most blacks. Almost 700,000 out of a total black population of 757,000 remained slaves. 'Free' blacks had few – if any – rights.



The Civil War also had little to do with abolishing slavery. It was a war for economic domination between the Southern Planters and Northern merchants against the industrial bourgeoisie of the North.

It was mainly the military successes of the Confederacy – alongside pressure from blacks and abolitionists – that forced Lincoln to issue his *Emancipation Proclamation*. However, Lincoln did not free a single slave. The Proclamation only covered the Confederate States – where he had no power. Slave States that remained in the Union were allowed to retain slavery.

The Union victory brought few gains for blacks. They were denied land, their former owners were not. President Andrew Johnson allowed 'whites only' elections in the former Confederate States. Former Confederate politicians and military figures were welcomed in Washington: in the South the newly formed Ku Klux Klan waged a campaign of terror against blacks.

Kwame insists that whatever gains have been made by blacks have been the result of their own struggles. He shows how the poorest white workers – Southern 'Rednecks', Irish immigrants – have frequently been the most active in opposing black demands.

Nevertheless, he concludes, 'Change is the only thing that is permanent in this world...The potential is getting greater for the masses throughout the world, to organise in rebellion against alienation from control over the basics of their existence'.

Everyone who believes in the possibility of ending oppression should read this book

Kwame M.A. Somburu: *A Succinct Analysis of The Social, Economic, Political Foundation for the Murderous, Diabolical, Hypocritical, Exploitative, Brutally Racist Policies, Practices, and Enslavement of Africans and African Americans.* Available from *Socialist Outlook* £6, post free.

WORLD NEWS

Conference delegates stand and cheer for cameras: but who really pays for the Party?



Who pays Tory Piper?

WHO picks up the tab for the Tories? The riddle of Conservative Party funding has dominated political debate in recent weeks, attention centring on several eighties hero-businessmen who have since been revealed as suspected or proven thieves. DAVE OSLER reports

EVIDENCE is now mounting that Britain's party of government is taking indirect backhanders from at least three nasty dictatorships - those of Saudi Arabia, Brunei and 'communist' China.

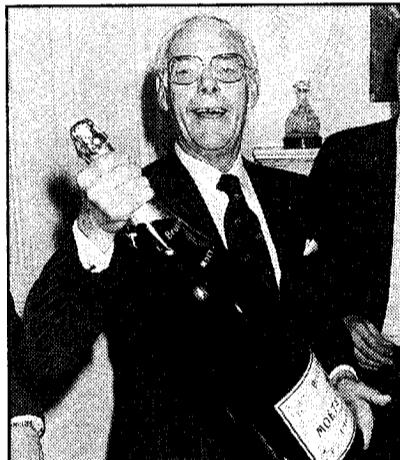
There is clearly a case to answer. Scrutiny of what is laughably passed off as Tory 'accounts' over the last eight years shows that they cannot explain donations totalling perhaps as much as £71 million. Investigators cannot go any back further. Between 1979 and 1984, the Conservatives simply did not publish details of their finances.

Only an annual office-memorandum style basic income and expenditure account has been published since 1985. Even this is not audited, and sometimes simply does not add up.

Tory records lump together company and other contributions in a single line, headed 'donations'. Yet it is possible to strip out payments from the largest 1,500 UK companies throughout the last period, thanks to surveys compiled by Labour Party researchers. Disclosure of political donations over £200 is a legal requirement.

Gifts

In 1989, business gifts to the Tories came to £3.5 million, out of a contributions total of £7.5 million. In 1990 they were £2.9 million out of £7.9 million, in 1991 £2.8 million out of £15.8 million,



Make his a big one

and in 1992 just £2.9 million out of £20.7 million. In other words, donations from unknown sources hit a cumulative total of £39.8 million in the last four years alone.

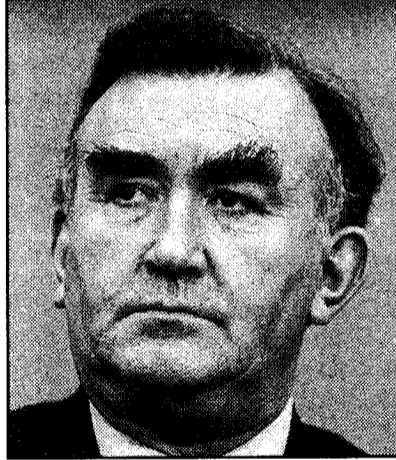
An investigation by a team of journalists from *Business Age* magazine, which had access to Tory insider sources, claimed that two men have consistently acted as conduit for the mystery cash.

One is Sir Brian Wyldbore-Smith, director of the Conservative Board of Finance between 1969 and 1992. The second is Lord Alistair McAlpine, variously treasurer or deputy treasurer of the Conservative Party between 1975 and 1990. Cheques were generally sent to their private addresses, often made out to them personally.

Laundered

The money was then laundered through at least one offshore account with Barclays Bank in Jersey, and four nominee accounts in the names of party agents at the British Overseas Bank and WGTC Nominees, both subsidiaries of the Royal Bank of Scotland.

Wyldbore-Smith, on record as saying 'I don't think a cheque has ever been refused', is a traditionalist party servant. Lord McAlpine of West Green, a member of the famous construction family, was put in place by Margaret Thatcher herself as roving fundraiser: 'I was 33 at the time and it was the first time anybody had offered me a job. No, it was the only time anybody had offered me a job.'



His Mate has caused problems

McAlpine's net worth has been put at £35 million, much of it tied up in property investments in Australia. Not bad for never actually doing anything.

Wyldbore-Smith, his deputy Brigadier Sir Henry Lee (a retired NATO intelligence officer) and McAlpine are reportedly the only three people with access to the full list of Conservative Party donors. Even Sir Norman Fowler, the party chair, and John Major himself, may not know the full story.

Business Age believes that the Tories have received £30 million from overseas sources in the last eight years, with over a third of this coming via Hong Kong. Much of that undoubtedly emanates from China.

McAlpine has admitted accepting money from billionaire businessman Li Ka Shing, a leading member of Beijing's shadow government in the Crown Colony and recently appointed a member of the Chinese parliament.

Li Ka Shing is chief western agent for the Chinese state-owned arms manufacturer, China North Industries Corp (Norinco).

He also owns Felixstowe, Britain's largest container terminal, and has a 27 per cent stake in Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, which in turn owns UK High Street clearing bank Midlands. It is widely believed that he gave the Tories £1 million around the general election of 1987, and smaller donations in 1990 and 1991.

Business Age believes that the Tories have received £30 million from overseas sources in the last eight years, with over a third of this coming via Hong Kong.

Another man with close Norinco links. Tsui Tsin-Tong (better known as T.T. Tsui) is understood to have given the Conservative Party a six-figure sum. Tsui has strong personal connections with the leader of the Chinese Communist Party, Deng Xiaoping.

Another top Beijing bureaucrat, Rong Yiren, has also allegedly made donations. Rong Yiren is the former chair of Citic, the Chinese government's foreign investment arm, and in his new role as vice-president of the People's Republic, arguably the third most powerful man in the country. Citic has a stake in up to one-fifth of all commercial and property interests in Hong Kong.

The motivation for China's realpolitik is readily transparent - the need to strengthen its negotiating hand in the run-up to Britain's handover of Hong Kong in 1997. Do these claims explain last year's appointment of former Tory chair Chris Patten as governor of Hong Kong? Labour should probably be asking.

The Guardian has charged that Saudi Arabian sources gave the Tories up to £7 million, delivered in cash by private jet just days before last general election. The payment allegedly followed a meeting between a cabinet minister - named by Labour MP Clive Soley under parliamentary privilege as Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade - and Prince Bandar Bin Sultan, son of the Saudi defence minister, in March 1992.

Arms deals

Prince Bandar, Saudi Arabia's ambassador to the US, is authorised to sign arms deals on behalf of the government. This is something close to the Thatcher family's heart, after Margaret personally intervened to secure the £20,000 million Al Yamamah arms contract in 1985, leaving son Mark to rake in at least part of the commission.

The last alleged foreign donor is the Sultan of Brunei, probably the richest man in the world. Despite his denials, he has repeatedly been linked with the controversial Al Fayed brothers' takeover of Harrods, during which they lied about their background and resources.

Yet during his stint as trade secretary, Norman Tebbit blocked a rival bid from Tiny Rowland's Lonrho. Presumably, the Sultan readily recognises services rendered.

Speaking to the House of Commons home affairs select committee investigating party finances, Fowler denied outright that the Tories had taken money from Sultan of Brunei, or any member of the royal family of Kuwait or Saudi Arabia, and added: 'We refuse to accept money from a foreign government.'

This is probably no word of a lie. Foreign governments would be stupid to hand over state cash directly when it could just as easily be channelled through any number of intermediaries.

It is a case of our internationalism and theirs. *Socialist Outlook* supports the Fourth International, the only current that groups co-thinkers in 40 countries worldwide in a united struggle against all forms of exploitation and oppression.

The bourgeoisie and the bureaucrats maintain their own Exploiters' and Oppressors' International, in which Tories, Sheikhs and Stalinists back one another in the fight to maintain their rule over us. Against this, we can have only one response: 'workers of the world, unite!'

FEATURE

Women in front line of war for public sector

By Helen Shaw

The public spending cuts, the attacks on the welfare state and the ideological offensive to promote the sanctity of the nuclear family will have major repercussions for women.

The Tories have launched an offensive on the welfare state motivated by European integration and the general economic crisis. Their need to reduce the £50 billion public spending deficit in order to join the European Monetary Union logically means a massive attack on the public sector.

Women make up the majority of the workforce in the public sector, the majority of users of public services, and will suffer most from their reduction. The fight to defend the welfare state raises fundamental questions about women's position within the family, the workforce and the whole nature of women's oppression.

The idea that the workforce and the community and service users somehow constitute separate interest groups must be refuted. The left must learn to move beyond the narrow terrain of defence of jobs and to build broader alliances with service users.

"The need to forge an effective alliance between workers in the public sector and the users of public services is vital for the defence of the welfare state"

The massive cuts in central funding of local government services and creeping privatisation impact sharply on women. As the cake has got smaller the competition for the crumbs has become more ruthless and divisive.

Non-statutory services are pitted against statutory services with women often the biggest losers. Competition has ensued between wages and conditions and redundancies. In Haringey, north London, sickness and maternity pay for the local authority workforce has been pitted against redundancies.

Many services previously provided by local authorities are now privatised, and there is more on the way. Local government and civil service unions have fought hard to win improved equal opportunities policies and maternity and sickness conditions. Privatised services are often staffed by poorly paid, non-unionised workers with no job security and no rights.

Ten million British workers currently

earn less than the Council of Europe decency threshold. This will increase, with women's already minimal pay being pushed even lower than men's after abolition.

With the huge reduction in public services, women are also forced more and more into the role of unpaid carers. There is an attempt by the ruling class to present this as natural and 'how things used to be' and to 'privatise' social care. The reality is and was very different.

The unpaid labour of millions of women caring for dependent relatives in isolated homes is being exploited as a means of reducing public spending and funding tax breaks for the rich.

Both carer and cared-for suffer as a result: indeed in today's more mobile society this form of care is often impractical. The elderly person in need of 'care' may well live hundreds of miles away from the woman who is meant to do the 'caring'.

Many families no longer expect to ful-

fil this role as the state has looked after those in need for many decades.

Women's expectations have also significantly changed with their entry into the paid workforce, particularly the public sector, since World War Two. They do not expect to do for free the 'caring jobs' they have been paid to do and they also expect some kind of financial independence.

However this does not mean women will refuse to do these tasks. The unpaid workforce of 'community carers' is huge. 17 percent of all women are carers; 6.8 million people in Britain currently care for relatives or friends - an estimated saving to the state of £24 billion.

The Tories have not chosen to confront any of the gains women made in the '60s and 70s head on. There have been no government backed attacks on abortion rights and no negative changes to the Sex Discrimination Act or the Equal Pay Act. Some layers of women continue to do quite well and the Tories can exploit this division to their advantage.

A small layer of women without dependents and/or with high wages have benefitted from equal pay and reduced direct taxation.

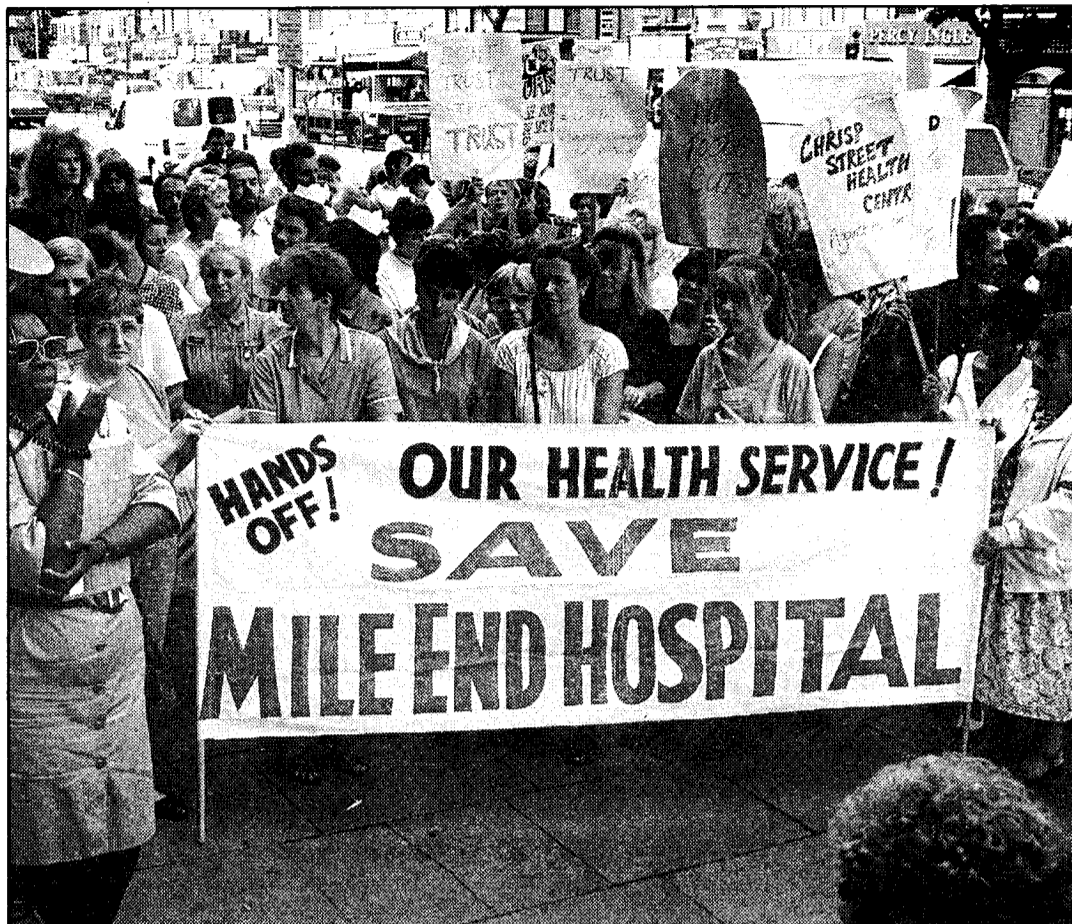
But the vast majority of women have seen their pay levels reduced, working conditions worsened and caring role increased. The independence they previously gained from their access to the paid workforce is under attack by their new commitments, while access to services as diverse as contraception, abortion, childcare and safe public transport has been massively undermined.

This split between women is partly a class divide but it can now be seen between women working in similar jobs in the private or public sector, and between women with or without dependents. This division also masks the fact that attacks on the public sector are de facto attacks on women's rights.

Building an effective alliance between workers in the public sector and the users of public services is vital for the defence of the welfare state.

At the same time it raises questions about the nature of councils as the local state, of women's oppression, the reason for women's responsibility for the reproduction of the family and how women can actually begin to realise the formal rights they have won over the last 25 years.

This inevitably leads to discussions about the kind of society which can realise the liberation of women.



Linking up consumers and workers in defence of public sector

Single mums: Tories debate tactics

By Helen Shaw

A PUBLIC split has broken out between John Redwood, the Secretary of State for Wales and Peter Lilley, Secretary of State for Social Security.

The Cardiff Conference organised by the Conservative Political Centre aimed at 'thinking the unthinkable' about the welfare state heard Redwood argue:

'It must be right, before granting state aid, to pursue the father and see whether it is possible for him to make a financial contribution, or even a fuller contribution by offering the normal love and support that fathers have offered



John Redwood down the ages to their families'.

Peter Lilley rejected Redwood's suggestions saying, 'There is no question of us changing the benefit rules though it certainly is desirable that people should not become dependent on state

benefit'.

Redwood wants to build on the recent legislation introduced in the form of the Child Support Act. Trotting out the same old Tory propaganda he said,

'What is more worrying is the trend in some places for young women to have babies with no apparent intention of even trying marriage or a stable relationship with the father of the child'.

List

Whilst Redwood and Lilley were split on the issue of benefits it should be remembered that it was Lilley who recited a 'little list' of social security 'fraudsters' at last year's Tory conference including 'young

women who get pregnant just to jump the housing list'.

In fact government figures show that of the 895,000 single parents claiming benefit in 1991, only 45,000 were mothers between 16 and 19.

Peter Lilley is also believed to be considering proposals to force young single mothers to provide a court order to prove they have been thrown out of their parents' home before they can claim benefit.

The Tories are 'thinking the unthinkable' and as they wrangle over the best way to dismantle the welfare state it is some of the poorest women who are in the firing line.

FEATURE

When the capitalists led the English Revolution

"This young, expansive, enterprising class lacked the political power to express its dominance. A backward looking state blocked their access to real decision making"

sie represented by parliament, which enlisted the workers on its side, overturned feudalism and established a bourgeois state.

Then along came some researchers, with a couple of uncomfortable facts. There was no working class at the time. The vast majority of the 500 members of the House of Commons were gentry, not bourgeois merchants or industrialists. Those who weren't landed gentry were mainly lawyers. On top of that, all the big financiers allied with the King!

However, if we examine the truth behind those facts, we will find that the difficulty is more apparent than real. It is possible to show there was a revolution, but recognising the differences between then and now is vital.

The total population of England and Wales in 1640 was about six million, the population of Scotland about one million. London however was one of the largest cities in Europe, with a gigantic population of up to half a million people. No other city in Britain had anything more than 25,000.

Weaving and spinning were the main employers outside of agriculture. Other industries has recently begun to grow. There were tiny concentrations of people deriving their main livelihood from such employment, nothing resembling a working class.

But there was capital accumulated through the centuries. This capital had been finding profit not just in luxuries, trade and finance, as had been traditional through the feudal period, but in land, textiles, in the new industries.

So was England feudal in 1642? Capital had permeated into every corner of the economy. There were survivals of feudal relations of production. In the then-backward north and west of the country, peasants were still tied to the land and to their lords.

The rural poor of these outlying regions supported the monarchy through the war, but even there, money relations, such as rents, had replaced the performance of feudal duties. Labour was legally free to move around. Elsewhere it would be fair to say that English agriculture, tied in closely with the wool trade and textile industries, was massively commercialised.

But there were few merchants in the House of Commons. The reason why the few really big financiers backed the King was quite simple: he owed them a fortune! Only if he won would they collect.

So it's clear that in the economy, unlike the political sphere, the relations were capitalist. This young, expansive, enterprising class lacked the political power to express its dominance. A backward looking state blocked their access to real decision making. When neither side was prepared to make concessions it came to use of force, not of lawyers' ink.

Tied in with the physical civil war, there is a battle to justify the new political order. The new rulers aimed to pose it as a turning back - as a 'wheel revolves', not as a revolution. In the hope that others would be more reluctant to demand any future change. The bourgeoisified gentry that won the Civil War was able to invite back the monarchy by parliamentary invitation: by the same body that had overturned the monarchy.

● NEXT ISSUE: 'Making the earth a common treasury.'



TWO HUNDRED people came to hear Tony Benn MP and Peter Purton of the Socialist Outlook Editorial Board speak on the English Revolution earlier this year in London. Opening with this instalment from PETER PURTON, we start a new series.

ON THE SURFACE of it, the history of the English revolution has a tempting similarity to the crisis of the Conservative party caused by the Poll Tax and deepened by the resignation of Thatcher. Three and a half centuries ago the landlords were sold the right to enclose the land for their own profit. There was a major social and political crisis beginning in 1640. The government had been in power for eleven years unchallenged. Parliament hadn't met since 1629.

King Charles governed the nation through ruthless and autocratic ministers and made himself hated amongst all sec-

tions of the population. So unpopular, that the government sacrificed its chief minister in 1641.

Unlike Mrs Thatcher, who went to the House of Lords, Lord Stratford went to the execution block on Tower Hill, watched by cheering crowds so vast they couldn't be counted. Losing was rather more expensive in those days.

The touchpaper had been lit in Scotland. The government had tried to impose an Anglican High Church prayer book on the Presbyterian Scottish church. Rather than wait for the English opposition to do something the Scots launched an armed revolt. The King's finances didn't extend to paying for an army: the Scots marched into Newcastle and Durham.

Poor Charles was forced by imminent bankruptcy and political crisis to convoke a parliament which was dominated by the opposition which had been gathering in resistance to his policies.

Here, I'm afraid, the parallels with Thatcher's crisis end. Not only was the opposition in the mid-17th century willing to make a fight, they were prepared to do so with the ultimate extra-parliamentary action - a civil war. In the process, they unleashed a veritable revolution. In your school history, if you can remember, I expect this was called the English Civil War.

Dashing cavaliers fighting dour Puri-

tan Roundheads. The King tried to make himself absolute. The freedom-loving English people, represented by their parliament, had to fight to defend the liberties first won by the Magna Charta 426 years before. Things got a bit out of hand, the King lost his head, Cromwell had to take over.

He took on the 'unruly Irish' and the 'ungrateful Scots'. He trounced the 'uppity Dutchmen' at sea and refounded the navy. Then he died, and was replaced by that merry monarch, Charles the Second. Popular rejoicing... which makes you wonder whether it was all worth it.

Sanitised

Well of course that's a carefully sanitised version. History is decided by those in a position to write it. Our rulers are very careful indeed to avoid the idea that it was a revolution because, like their predecessors in the parliament of the 1640s, there was one actor in the play they wanted written out: which is why the only reference to the common people in most teaching about the English Civil War is how they hated the Puritans who tried to abolish Christmas.

For early Marxist historians all this was really quite simple. Here was an absolutist monarchy trying to defend the interests of a feudal ruling class being challenged by the progressive bourgeoi-

OUR HISTORY

Shades of Dublin poverty

Juno and the Paycock, by Sean O'Casey, at the Albery Theatre, London

Reviewed by Judy Kendall

THE GATE Theatre Dublin's production of Juno and the Paycock has been feted as the best production ever – and it was certainly very well staged.

The play deals with the dire poverty of many Dublin people in the years after the 1916 Easter Rising. It is set in a confusing and tragic background of bullets and funerals and government soldiers.

The difficulties of their condition are reflected in the set. The dull browns and greys of the impoverished tenement flat are brightened by the gorgeous red of wealth, in the

second act, only to be stripped completely bare by the end, leaving us with a last memorable image as Joxer (Mark Lambert) and the Captain (Niall Buggy) scabble about like rats in the now empty flat.

Joxer was a particularly striking figure, as he captured the audience with his elaborate and subtle scrounging techniques, tucking away an extra scrap of bread or tea into his copious rags when no one was looking, and drawing obvious and easy parallels with the experience of people forced to live on the streets of London today.

It is unfortunate that the other characters slipped easily into the stereotypes of the misunderstood IRA casualty and the poor downtrodden Irish girl, particularly as this play is as much a comment on the present situation in Ireland as it is an historical interpretation.

Malaysian fightback

Not Beyond Repair by Arokia Dass

By K Govindan

'FOR THE PAST 40 years, workers in Malaysia have known a model of trade unionism which is most fully co-opted in the interests of the ruling elite.' Yet as Dass goes on to illustrate things have not always been this way.

When plantation workers rebelled against British planters by organising themselves into estate unions they found friends among the budding communist movement.

In the aftermath of World War 2 state sponsored unions were set up with a hand picked bureaucracy. The banning of the Malayan Communist Party and the severing of its influence over organised labour took its toll.

However Dass believes that the trade union movement is 'not beyond repair'. He justifies his optimism by his own involvement in a transport and machinists union.

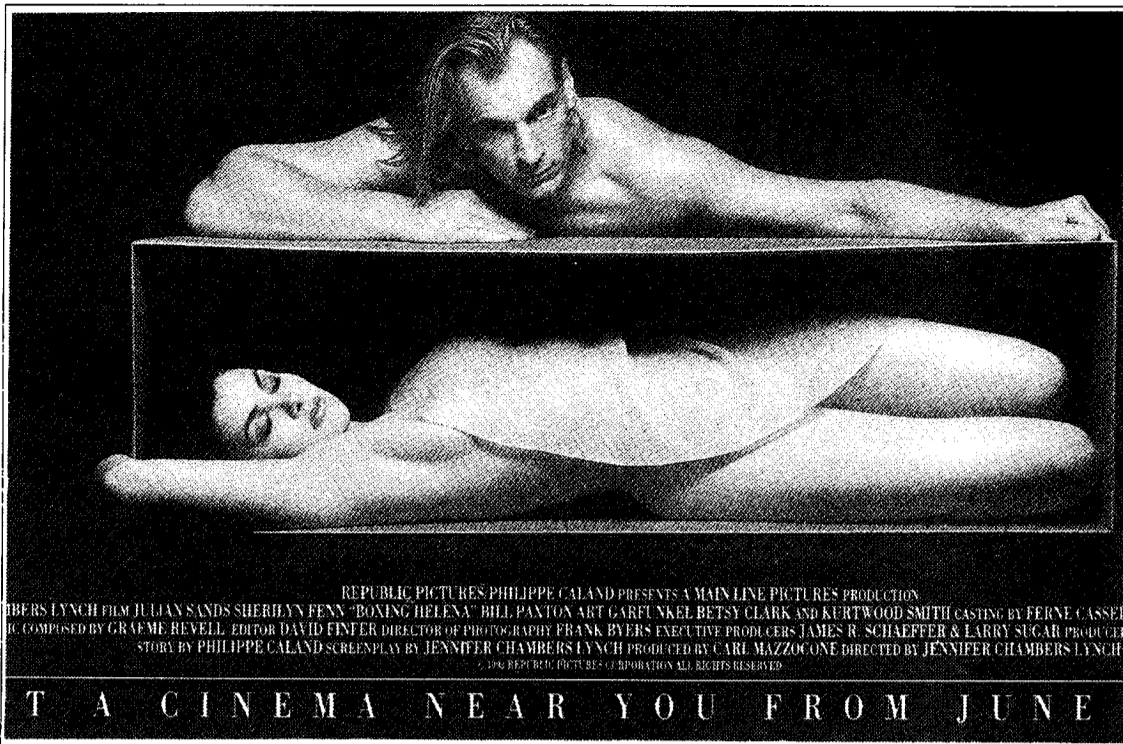
Here the old leadership were forced to leave en bloc and young activists elected with the confidence of the members.

The union became not only a collective for wage negotiation but also to help workers with better housing, to explain medical problems and so on.

'For us to have any real impact on workers we had to become entwined with the joys and sorrows of their lives, not remain mechanically connected to the most hated part of their existence, the factory.'

This original and unique book is easy to read and accessible to all. It inspired this reviewer.

Available from: SIMBA, 84 Long Lane, Borough, London, SE1 4AU £5.00 (inc p & p).



Obsession that can cost an arm and a leg

Ms Lynch goes out on a limb

Boxing Helena, film directed by Jennifer Chambers Lynch

by Jodley Green

BOXING Helena presents us with a puzzle. Jennifer Chambers Lynch, in her first film as a director, shows an extremely sinister side to the fetish of female dependency.

But can a film explore misogynist male fantasies without itself being pornographic and misogynist?

Nick (Julian Sands) is a doctor obsessed with Helena (Sherilyn Fenn), a one night stand who afterwards wants nothing to do with him. Since Helena maintains that she does not want him, Nick amputates first her legs and then her arms so that she will at least need him.

Helena appears to be largely untraumatised by this horrific turn of events, continuing to be as scornful of Nick

as ever before finally having lust and love aroused in her.

An account of the plot so far may lead many to judge the film as sick and even pornographic. After all we are being asked to believe that a woman could be horribly mutilated and then come to love and desire her attacker.

But the twist in this film is a kick in the teeth to all those who might revel in the violence done to Helena.

Fantasy

The mutilation scenario is entirely Nick's sexualized revenge fantasy. This film is an indictment of a mentality which prefers passivity, where rejection is a legitimate grievance, and which ultimately wishes to immobilise a woman in order to possess her.

The audience is unable to shy away from the horror of Nick's imagined actions in the most poignant passage of the film.

A genuinely erotic scene in which Nick is offered the opportunity to love Helena on

her terms and whole, rather than possess her on his terms and mutilated, demonstrates the gravity of her loss more powerfully than any blood and gore cliché.

Jennifer Chambers Lynch, who has had repeated surgery as a result of being born with club feet, also uses the film to explore the relationship of personality to the body, ideas about beauty and physical perfection, and insists on the sexual existence of somebody deemed physically destroyed or deformed.

Boxing Helena is let down by the almost comically bad script in the first half, the poor performances of Julian Sands and some lapses into crass pop psychology.

However, few first time directors dealing with such complex themes would produce an entirely successful film.

Let's hope that harsh criticism and accusations that the film is pornographic don't prevent Lynch and other directors from continuing to explore the sometimes unpleasant subject of male sexuality.

Building communities of resistance

Newham: The Forging of a Black Community

By Bala Kumar

This book is both a record of the development of a Black working class community in Newham and a post-war labour history of East London.

Recruited into factories on the docks and to work on public transport, immigrants from the Caribbean and South Asia found that their labour was welcome but they weren't.

Finding that it was them who were always poorly

housed, whose children were assaulted, who were employed doing low paid night work in unsafe conditions, these disparate communities came together to demand their needs be taken care of.

This solidarity was an organic process fashioned by an awareness of a common oppressor – white society and the racist institutions which underpin it.

This is why anti-racists in Britain use the term 'Black'. It is a sign that we will not allow our people to be pitted against each other on grounds of ethnicity, religion or culture. 'Black' is the colour of our op-

pression and the politics of our resistance.

The white working class faced the loss of jobs in traditional sectors and were resentful of the newcomers in their midst. The unions were faced with falling membership and a loss of influence. The ground was ready for the growth of organised fascism.

But Black workers didn't turn their backs on the unions. In 1975, at Spiralyx factory, the Black workers struck over union recognition. The success of the campaign was largely due to the alliance between the union, Black workers and community organisations.



Defending Newham

The self-activity and self-organisation of Black people means that, through sharing their own experiences and understanding of racism, they are better able to set their agenda for struggle and lead those struggles too.

There is much more in this book. There are accounts of defence campaigns against police brutality and fascist attacks. We are reminded that 'self-defence is no offence'. We learn how Black women campaigned for the banning of the contraceptive drug 'Depo-Provera' and to set up a women's refuge.

It is an excellent model for the unwritten histories of local Black communities all over Britain.

Available from: Newham Monitoring Project, 382 Katherine Rd, London, E7 8NW for £5 (plus 50p p&p)

REVIEW

Brave fighters sold out: Burnsall's strikers, with support from Timex



Betrayal at Burnsall's

By Bob Smith

WEST Midlands Region GMB called off the strike at Burnsall Electroplating on Wednesday 30 June, after 54 weeks of bitter struggle.

The 19 strikers, mainly Punjabi women, struck over low pay (£110 for men, £90 for women); forced overtime; a 65 hour, seven-day week, appalling and dangerous working conditions condemned by the Health and Safety Executive, no union recognition.

52 industrial tribunals are in progress, involving illegal deductions, unequal pay and wrongful dismissal.

13 other cases involve attacks on pickets and supporters by scabs and the arrest of those maintaining the picket on the pretext of allegations from brutal, revanchist employer O'Neill.

Wasted

The regional organiser of the GMB gave his reasons – that the strike could not be won inside the law, valuable resources were being wasted along with his time, and that no further action was possible.

The strikers were not consulted: no meeting was called, and no vote taken. When the strikers protested the GMB threatened to withdraw legal assistance.

Throughout the dispute, the

GMB have refused to mount an effective picket and have consciously demobilised support. They attempted to block solidarity days called by the strikers in conjunction with the support groups.

The GMB have also refused to appeal to workers and trades union officials to demand their employers do not use Burnsall's chemicals and get their components coated elsewhere.

No challenge

Burnsall's management at no stage threatened to use or take up legal restraint on the GMB. Indeed they have had no need to: the GMB have failed to challenge Burnsall in any effective way.

Throughout the dispute the GMB have refused to respond to many of the strikers' basic criticisms and requests. They have bureaucratically imposed their line, which was totally inadequate and doomed to failure, with ruthless arrogance and contempt for the strikers, their culture and opinions.

Even a supporter who volunteered his help as a translator was barred from GMB meetings and denounced as a 'snake' for allegedly distorting the official's demands when the strikers voted against his proposals.

It was necessary to set up support groups to organise the most basic resources and facilities for the strikers; to develop the speaking tours and

solidarity the GMB showed little enthusiasm for. This is a shameful episode, only possibly equalled by APEX, now part of the GMB, and their withdrawal from Grunwick.

One striker told Socialist Outlook:

'Union officials said that they had closed the strike and we couldn't do anything about it. If we agreed with them, okay, if not, too bad.

'They said that if we criticised them to the press or attended the July 3 demonstration they would drop our tribunals.

'They said if we continued the picket we would be arrested. The GMB could not help us. We asked for two weeks to discuss things and decide. They told us it was over. We had to agree.

Money

'They said the money collected for us would only be distributed if we accepted. They then said they had offers of jobs for us.'

More than 250 supporters attended the rally in Smethwick on Saturday 3 July and pledged support for the strikers struggle against Burnsall and now the GMB. Further details and developments will be announced shortly.

■ Support groups:
Birmingham 021 551 4679,
London 071 713 7907.

WHERE WE STAND

Facing mass unemployment, rampant employers equipped with savage anti-union laws, and a war on hard-won education, health and welfare services, the working class in Britain faces a real crisis – an avoidable crisis created by the historic failure of its official leadership.

Socialist Outlook exists to fight for a new type of working class leadership, based on the politics of class struggle and revolutionary socialism, to tackle this crisis.

The capitalist class, driven and politically united by its own crisis, its requirement to maximise profits at the expense of the workers, has been given determined, vanguard leadership by a brutal class-war Tory high command.

The Tory strategy has been to shackle the unions with legislation, and to fragment and weaken the resistance of the working class and oppressed, allowing them to pick off isolated sections one at a time, using the full powers of the state.

In response, most TUC and Labour leaders have embraced the defeatist politics of 'new realism', effectively proclaiming total surrender on every front, while ditching any pretence that they offer a socialist alternative. Every retreat and concession they have made to the employers and the government has simply fuelled and encouraged the offensive against jobs, wages, conditions and union rights.

New realism is the latest form taken by the politics of *reformism*, seeking no more than improved conditions within the framework of capitalist rule.

Socialist Outlook rejects reformism, not because we are against fighting for reforms, but because we know that the needs of the working class – for full employment, decent living standards, a clean environment, peace and democracy – can never be achieved under capitalism.

Nor, as we argued long before the collapse of Stalinism, could these demands ever be achieved under the bureaucratically deformed workers states and degenerated USSR, whose regimes survived only by repressing their own working class.

We are a *marxist* current, based not on the brutish totalitarian parodies of state marxism, nor on the tame, toothless version of 'marxism' beloved by armchair academics, but the *revolutionary* tradition of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky.

Our socialist alternative is not based on parliamentary elections or illusions of peaceful legislative change. We fight to mobilise and unleash the power of the working class – the overwhelming majority of society – to topple the corrupt and reactionary rule of capital and establish its own class rule.

We struggle against fragmentation by building solidarity, working to link and unite the various struggles of workers, the unemployed, of women, of pensioners, of the black communities and ethnic minorities, of lesbians and gay men, of students, of youth – and of those fighting imperialism in Ireland and throughout the world. *Socialist Outlook* is above all an *internationalist* current, in solidarity with the Trotskyist Fourth International, which organises co-thinkers in 40 countries world-wide.

Unlike some other groupings on the British left, we do not believe a mass revolutionary party can be built simply by proclaiming ourselves to be one. Too often this degenerates into sectarian posturing and abstention from the actual struggle taking shape within the labour movement, playing into the hands of the right wing.

Nor do we believe that the demands of women, black people, lesbians and gays or the national demands of people in Scotland and Wales should be left to await the outcome of a socialist revolution. The oppressed must organise themselves and fight now around their own demands, which are a part of the struggle for socialism.

But propaganda alone, however good, will not bring socialism. The fight for policies which can mobilise and politically educate workers in struggle, must be taken into the unions, the Labour Party and every campaign and struggle in which workers and the oppressed fight for their rights.

To strengthen this fight we press for *united front* campaigns on key issues such as fighting racism and fascism – in which various left currents can work together for common objectives while remaining free to debate their differences.

If you agree with what you see in *Socialist Outlook*, and want to join with us in the struggle for socialism, readers' groups meet in many towns across the country. Contact us now, get organised, and get active!

YES, I agree with much of what I have seen in Socialist Outlook, and want to know more about readers' groups in my area.

Name

Address

Phone

Send to: *Socialist Outlook*, PO Box 1109, London N4 2UU

TRADE UNION NEWS

What's HAPPENING

JULY

Friday 9

'MARXISM 93' starts at University of London. *Socialist Outlook* supporters going contact Helen on 081 800 7460

Saturday 10

DEFEND Cuba Campaign public meeting 7pm-10.30pm 2B Prince George Road N16 details 081 806 0742

PICKET of Kentish Town police station called by Rita Porter Defence Campaign. Starts 1pm.

LEWISHAM ARA fundraising auction 7.30pm Lewisham Labour Club Limes Grove SE13

FIRE BRIGADES Union Rally noon Art Gallery Headrow Leeds with John Prescott MP Alan Jinkinson (UNISON) Ken Cameron (FBU) Ronnie Scott (FBU)

DEMONSTRATE against cuts in Harlow. Assemble noon Showground

Sunday 11

INTERNATIONAL Youth Camp pre-meeting 4pm London details from *Liberation now!* PO Box 1109 London N4 2UU

Monday 12

REVELL and George mass picket 6am Cow Lane off Oldfield Road Salford

Tuesday 13

WHICH way forward for Palestine and the Middle East? Socialist Outlook public meeting with Towfic Showmar and Roland Rance 7.30pm Davenant Centre Whitechapel High St

Thursday 15

SOMALIA, Bosnia & the UN Socialist Outlook meeting with Bala Kumar and Geoff Ryan 7.45 Friends Meeting

House Woodville Rd Ealing W5

WORKERS Aid for Bosnia public meeting 7.30 Colin Roach Centre 10a Bradbury Street N16

Friday 16

DSS/NUCPS strike actions in the DSS, DH and Home Office

PICKET Clerkenwell Magistrate's Court, 9.30am, called by Rita Porter Defence Campaign.

Saturday 17

INTERNATIONAL Brigade Memorial, noon, Jubilee Gardens South Bank, London
SOCIALIST Campaign Group steering committee 12pm-4pm London details 061 225 5356

Wednesday 21

WORKERS Aid for Bosnia public meeting 7.30pm Conway Hall Red Lion Square WC1

ARA lobby of Bexley Council 6pm Civic Offices The Broadway Bexley nearest BR - Bexleyheath. Details 071 278 6869

Friday 23

WORKERS Aid for Bosnia public meeting Northgate Community Centre Crawley.

Friday 23- Saturday 31

INTERNATIONAL Youth Camp Jönköping southern Sweden tickets including flight entrance and meals £267 from *Liberation now!* PO Box 1109 London N4 2UU

Thursday 29

PROTEST VAT on fuel! national lobby of parliament.

AUGUST

Saturday 7

WORKERS Aid for Bosnia convoy leaves Scotland details



081 694 9799

Sunday 8

ARAFEST 2pm-8pm Burgess Park south London
SOCIALIST Movement fundraising cycling day details 0272 227768

Saturday 28

SOCIALIST OUTLOOK summer school opens north Wales tickets £95/£35

OCTOBER

Saturday 30 - Sunday 31

SOCIALIST Conference Winding Wheel Centre Chesterfield details freephone 0800 581611

Want your event included? Send details to *What's Happening*, P.O. Box 1109 London N4 2UU.

As usual, *Socialist Outlook* will skip two issues over the summer. Deadlines for our next issues are: 16 July; 13 August; 10 September.

Pickets get into practice for the new union, outside Queen Mary's College

College strikes celebrate UNISON launch

By Louise Holloway

The launch of UNISON was marked by one day strike action across the University sectors in Greater London.

The call for strike action was met with wide support - even in the many colleges where there had been no industrial action for eight years.

The strike was in response to the freezing of London weighting - many believe this is the first step in its total abolition.

For many workers, especially the lowest paid, this means a serious attack on wages. London weighting

makes up a third of many workers wages - particularly part-time workers.

Despite the very short notice, the strike was very successful. At Queen Mary and Westfield College over 65 pickets were out on the gates to bring the college to an effective standstill.

In the afternoon there was a mass rally in central London. Meetings across the colleges this week will decide how to take the action forward and broaden the discussion what to do about this year's 1.5 per cent pay offer.

It is great to see the inauguration of UNISON marked with real industrial action in sharp contrast to the union leadership's expensive jamboree.

International Summercamp!

24-30 July in southern Sweden

Don't miss this chance to meet 1000 young rebels from all over Europe!

At the camp there will be people from Sweden, Britain, Ireland, Russia, Italy, Poland, France, Spain, USA...

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People who fight the power.

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FIGHT THE POWER!

For more information:

Just fill in the form and send it to us. The price is £276 That includes activities, space for tent and food. Ridiculously cheap!

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Liberation now! PO Box 1109 London N4 2UU

The camp is organised by the Young Socialists (Ungsocialisterna) from Sweden, and the revolutionary worldwide organisation the Fourth International!

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MORE and more working people are discovering the thrill and profit of the *Socialist Outlook* 300 club. Even just £5 a month give you the chance to win a massive £50 every month!

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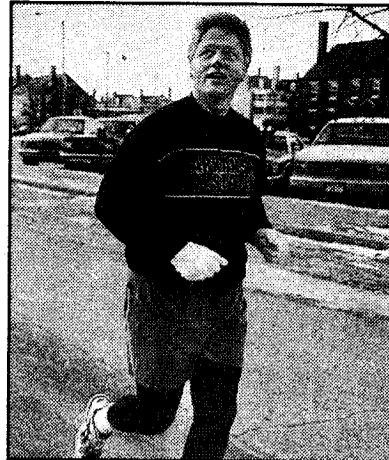
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HOME NEWS

Socialist OUTLOOK



From global cop to global terror against Iraq

Clinton the barbarian!

'I feel quite comfortable with it' - that was Bill Clinton's cynical verdict on the US missile attack on Baghdad. On hearing that eight civilians had been killed by missiles that had missed their target the US president stopped off on his way to church to say how worthwhile the attack had been.



The cruise missile strikes have more to do with Clinton's problems at home than with Iraq. The case against Iraq is based on the word of one person that a small gang of whisky smugglers allegedly planted a bomb at a place George Bush neither went to, went

near, or was due to go near. Hardly water-tight!

The real reason is simpler. That morning's issue of *The Economist*, the magazine for hard-nosed capitalists, said how Clinton needed to launch a 'bloodless' military strike to take attention at home away from the attacks on working people his new government is leading.

Clinton says Iraq needs to be punished for

allegedly threatening the life of ex-president Bush. But Bush was director of the CIA - the organisation that openly admits it has organised several attempts on the life of Cuban leader Fidel Castro. We are aren't holding our

breath waiting for Clinton to nuke the CIA's Langley, Virginia, HQ.

The US is the only worldwide terrorist. This is not the small scale self-defence of oppressed peoples but the systematic violence of a murderous, self-appointed global vigilante desperate to hide the evil it does.

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