

Workers' fight

3p

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WORKERS' LIVING STANDARDS —

FACED with a political and economic crisis, the TUC has sacrificed debate and discussion to the simple, heady, pre-election euphoria of "unity".

The one resolution which, for all its imperfections, could have breathed life into the Congress's deliberations — the life of the class struggle, the life faced by ordinary British workers day in and day out — is withdrawn.

Communist Party member Ken Gill, leader of the AUEW technical section (TASS) and hailed as the new "red menace" on the General Council, hadn't been on the Council for more than a day when he knuckled under, withdrew the motion opposing the "social contract" and spat in the faces of the tens of thousands of trade unionists who supported his union's resolution.

FAIRLY

And with that, what could have been an important debate showing where the left stands and what alternatives it can put forward, turned into the same old stale rally-type speeches.

Len Murray and Lawrence Daly made strong speeches convincing the TUC (which didn't need any convincing) to vote for the "social contract". But what they never said is exactly what the social contract is.

One part of the social contract does come out fairly clearly. That is the unions' side of the contract. The unions are to accept wage restraint.

The other partner in the contract is the Labour Government. And what is their side of the contract? Here it is not so clear.

If the unions accept wage restraint, then the Labour Government's side is to impose wage restraint. But that's not much of a contract!

WEALTH

Beyond that, Murray talked about "improving Britain's economic performance and living standards" (how, if wages are to be held down?), and "improving industrial structure". Lawrence Daly talked about the need to get a Labour Government in (to do what? - to keep down wages?) and a redistribution of wealth (we'll certainly get that if wages are kept down — a redistribution away from wages, towards profits!).

The general idea seems to be that the Labour Government will give some social reforms "in return" for wage restraint. But when TASS spelled out eight social reforms to be demanded as conditions for a social contract, the TUC said no. When Alan Fisher of NUPE called for the TUC to demand a statutory national minimum wage of £30, the TUC said no. The TASS resolution was

SIGNED, SEALED, & DELIVERED

of course more like a proposal for a real social contract than a principled opposition to wage curbs under capitalism. Nonetheless, the fact is that if that resolution had been passed, it would have killed the blank cheque, general vague good promises type

social contract stone dead. Ken Gill withdrew it for the sake of "unity". And what sort of unity is it that says: united we stand ready to be fleeced to pay the costs of the capitalist crisis!

Why, in any case, should wage restraint be demanded

before we get social reforms?

The repeal of the Industrial Relations Act was not won by restraint — it was won by the militant action of workers like the 250,000 who struck to support the Pentonville Five.

The freeze on rents was not won by restraint — it was won

by the militant action of tens of thousands of tenants on rent strike, and the courageous councillors of Clay Cross.

The Tories were not thrown out by restraint — but by the determination of the miners to go ahead with their pay claim, despite Phase Three.

The fact is that under capitalism, the working class has to fight tooth and nail, on every front, to get any advances. A policy of "restraint" will simply mean that we get elbowed aside and exploited still further by the capitalist class. And it will be the lowest paid, least well organised workers who will

suffer most.

The "social contract" will not even achieve the unity of the labour movement. Cabinet Ministers and Trade Union officials, earning £5,000 or £10,000 a year, can very easily stand side by side on a platform and say they are united on a programme of wage restraint with vague hopes of the Labour Government doing ... something, for social reform, some day.

The rank and file of the labour movement will not be so impressed. They will continue to save their living standards, by the means that come to hand. That is, industrial action.

AGAINST THE SOCIAL CONTRACT

THE RECORD of the "social contract" since the election of the Labour government is summed up in a few facts.

Figures published in January this year showed average earnings up 12.5% from January 1973. Retail prices were up 10.3%.

In September, average earnings were 15.8% up on September 1973, prices 17.1% up.

Other calculations show that since Labour came into office, the standard of living of working people has gone down by an average 2½%.

In the coming months, unemployment is expected to rise to a level of about 900,000 and prices to continue rising at about 17 to 20% per year.

USEFUL

The Industrial Relations Act has been repealed. But with the various amendments added to it in Parliament, the new Trade Union and Labour Relations Act contains most of the parts of the Industrial Relations Act that the capitalist class still find really useful.

The charges against the Shrewsbury pickets have

not been withdrawn. The Special Patrol Groups have not been disbanded. The two whose sentences have not expired still face more months in prison if their Appeals are rejected. The Clay Cross councillors still have fines amounting to thousands of pounds hanging over them.

Britain's army of occupation is still in

by
Martin Thomas

Ireland, and Republican prisoners are still in British jails.

In the coming election campaign, Labour leaders will once again be promising to do away with rising prices, unemployment, and poverty — if only we give them a majority and give them time.

YES, we should give Labour a big majority. We don't want the Tories back in power, or the Liberals holding the balance for the Tories. But socialists, inside and outside the Labour Party, must challenge those Labour leaders, on every opportu-

ity to spell out exactly what practical steps they are going to take.

To keep down price rises, the practical policy is to nationalise the big food monopolies and supermarket chains, without compensation.

FIXED

To maintain living standards, the practical policy is a legally-binding, automatic zero threshold clause, based on a working class cost of living index worked out by committees of trade unionists.

To safeguard working people against unemployment, the practical policy is WORK OR FULL PAY, with the nationalisation, without compensation, of firms threatening redundancies.

To deal with poverty, the practical policy is a National Minimum Wage of at least £30 (rising automatically with the cost of living) to apply to everybody. Pensioners and others on fixed incomes to receive no less than this minimum wage.

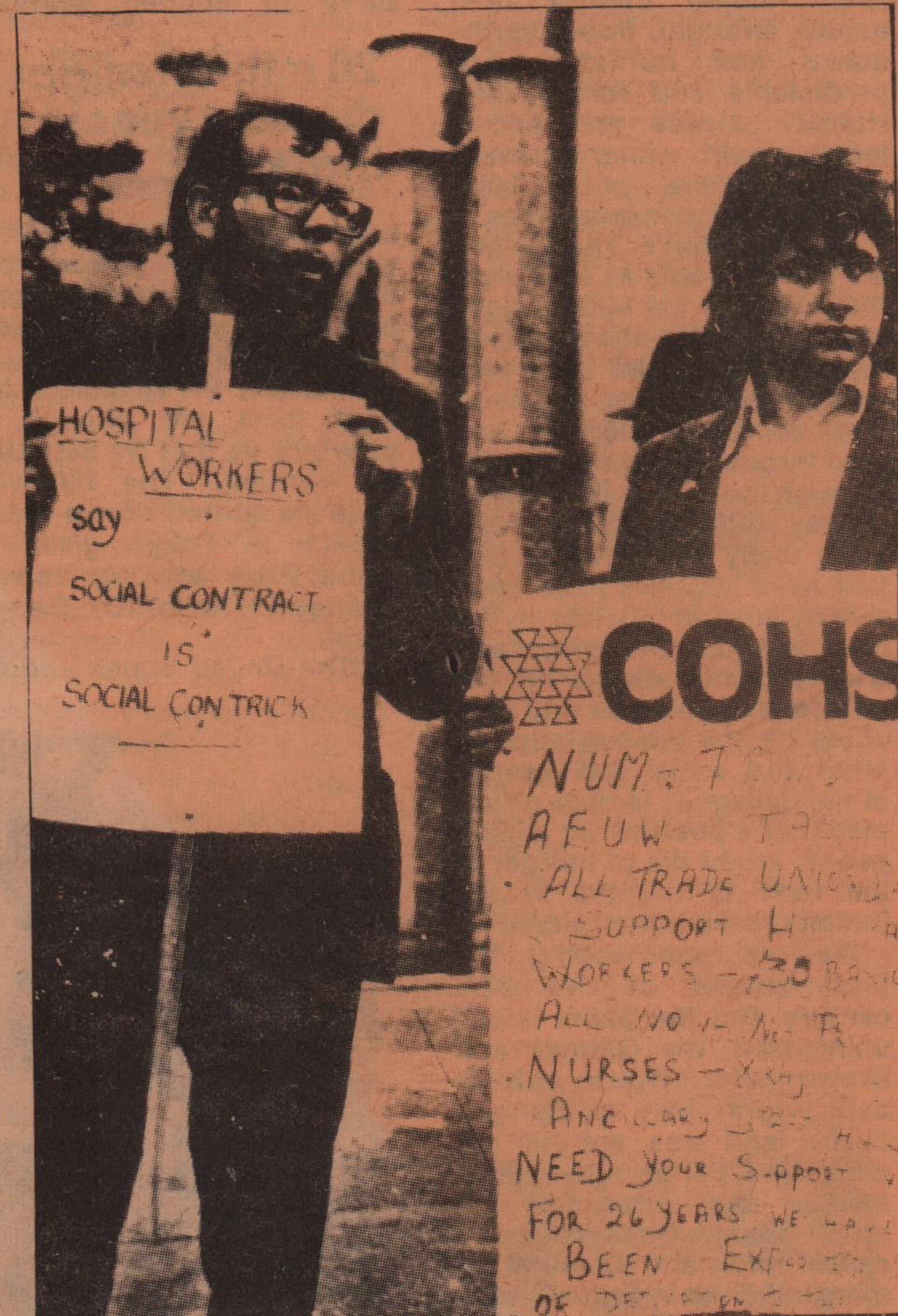
And there should be equal pay for women NOW.

Let us press the Labour leaders for practical policies like these, not for

SHOP stewards from the Manchester Royal Infirmary lobbied the TUC last Wednesday. They had been sent by a mass meeting of the MRI workers, representing COHSE and NUPE members, to get a clear answer out of Alan Fisher and Albert Spanswick about the plans for the coming wage claim.

The mass meeting also affirmed, unanimously, the Branch policy of calling for an immediate claim of a £30 minimum wage, to be tied to the cost of living on a zero per cent threshold, for a 35 hour week, for equal pay for women, and for no productivity deals.

The stewards were received by Fisher (COHSE Gen Sec Spanswick didn't even bother to come out), who proceeded to pour cold water on doing anything before the election, claiming that he would put their proposals to a meeting of the 4 public sector unions to be held the next day. But the delegation was not too convinced.



Against the National Front

FOR THE IRA

THE National Front's hatred of the IRA is part and parcel of their hatred of all the struggles by which men liberate themselves from oppression. The National Front is the upholder of the most blatant colonial and racial oppression — apartheid in South Africa, the US in Vietnam, white supremacy in Rhodesia...

It knows that the real nature of the struggle of the IRA is a struggle for complete national liberation.

We know that too. And because we recognise that, unlike the fascists of the National Front, we applaud the heroic struggle of the Irish Republican Army and urge all socialists to give it their solidarity.

March on Saturday against the National Front.

vague promises. And let us also be warned by the record of recent Labour Governments (still more of Tory governments!) that we cannot rely on hopes of what the Government might do. All we can RELY

on, to defend the interests of working people, is the independent action of the rank and file.

A "Social Contract" which signs away that independence should not be supported.

..AND TEN TONS OF T.N.T. FOR YOU

A COUPLE of plane-loads of medical supplies, some tents and blankets, and about \$7m, is what Bangladesh has so far received to save its population of 75 million people from immediate starvation, long term economic disaster and a recurrence next year or the one after of floods, tidal waves and cyclones.

We live in an age of unparalleled human control over nature. Draught, flood, earthquake and hurricane are predictable and foreseeable. Human science and knowledge could either prevent such disasters, or at least mitigate their consequences.

But they don't. The victims are as vulnerable as ever were the people of the Middle Ages to plague and natural catastrophe. All they can do is pick up a few belongings, gather up their surviving children, and plod through the dust or wade through the mud to the nearest railway station or relief centre, more likely than not to find that relief supplies have been sold by corrupt officials on the black market. Draught, flood and epidemic always hit the poor, already hit over and over again by the vicious exploitation and social indifference of capitalism. It is now estimated that a possible 20 million people might die of hunger in the next 12 months in the Indian sub-continent alone.

We are approaching the third quarter of the 20th century. But the Sahel is still unirrigated, the Ganges and Brahmaputra rivers, whose deltas form half of Bangladesh's land area, are still not controlled. Far from it — time, money and resources are rather spent on creating new catastrophes and disasters for mankind. Even in peacetime.

Aberfan and Summerland in this country; Minamata in Japan — where a whole town suffered crippling mental and physical illness from the pollution of the river they fished; Iraq's 'pink death' that wiped out hundreds of thousands and left others blinded and crippled after mercury-treated seed had been handed out for food; thalidomide:

these are just a few of today's man-made "acts of God".

Indeed, man is today 'godlike' in the ability to create or destroy worlds: perhaps we should, then, think again of natural disasters as "acts of God"...

Most potentially disastrous, and most expensive, are of course nuclear weapons — hardly mentionable now that we've all stopped worrying

20 million might die next year in India, but...

and learnt to take them for granted. Or is it just that they've grown to such proportions that they've overtaken our imaginations?

Whatever the reason, a few hard facts are enough to convince us that we SHOULD be worrying. The following facts are quoted from a recent speech in Tokyo given by Nobel Prize winning Harvard biology professor, Dr. George Wald:

"The United States and the



Soviet Union together have already stockpiled nuclear weapons with the explosive force of ten tons of TNT for every man, woman and child on the earth. You might think that enough, but we are now in the midst of a further escalation on both sides, replacing every single nuclear warhead with multiple warheads and devising new and more devastating weapons.

My country at present is making three new hydrogen warheads per day. The Soviet

The US spends \$22 billion every year on new arms...

Union keeps pace with us....

The bomb that destroyed Hiroshima, and ended by killing about 100,000 persons, was a small one by present standards, with the explosive power of about 15,000 tons of TNT.

One of my friends was in a position about ten years ago to look up what we then had targeted upon a Russian city about the size of Hiroshima. It

was in the megaton range, several hundred times as large. Why? What for? One can only DESTROY a city; one can only KILL a person... It is insane — unless one holds an arms contract. Then it is business, and the bigger the better.

The United States now budgets about \$22 billion (that's a thousand million) a year on new arms. A rapid rate of turnover assures that this business will go on. Our arms sales abroad doubled in 1973-74 over the year before — \$8.5 billion, about \$7 billion going to the Middle East. When early in 1971 the Joint Economic Committee of Congress asked a general from our Department of Defense how much military hardware the department then held that had been declared surplus, mainly to be sold as scrap, he replied \$17 billion worth.

'Sell off \$17 billion worth of nuclear scrap...'

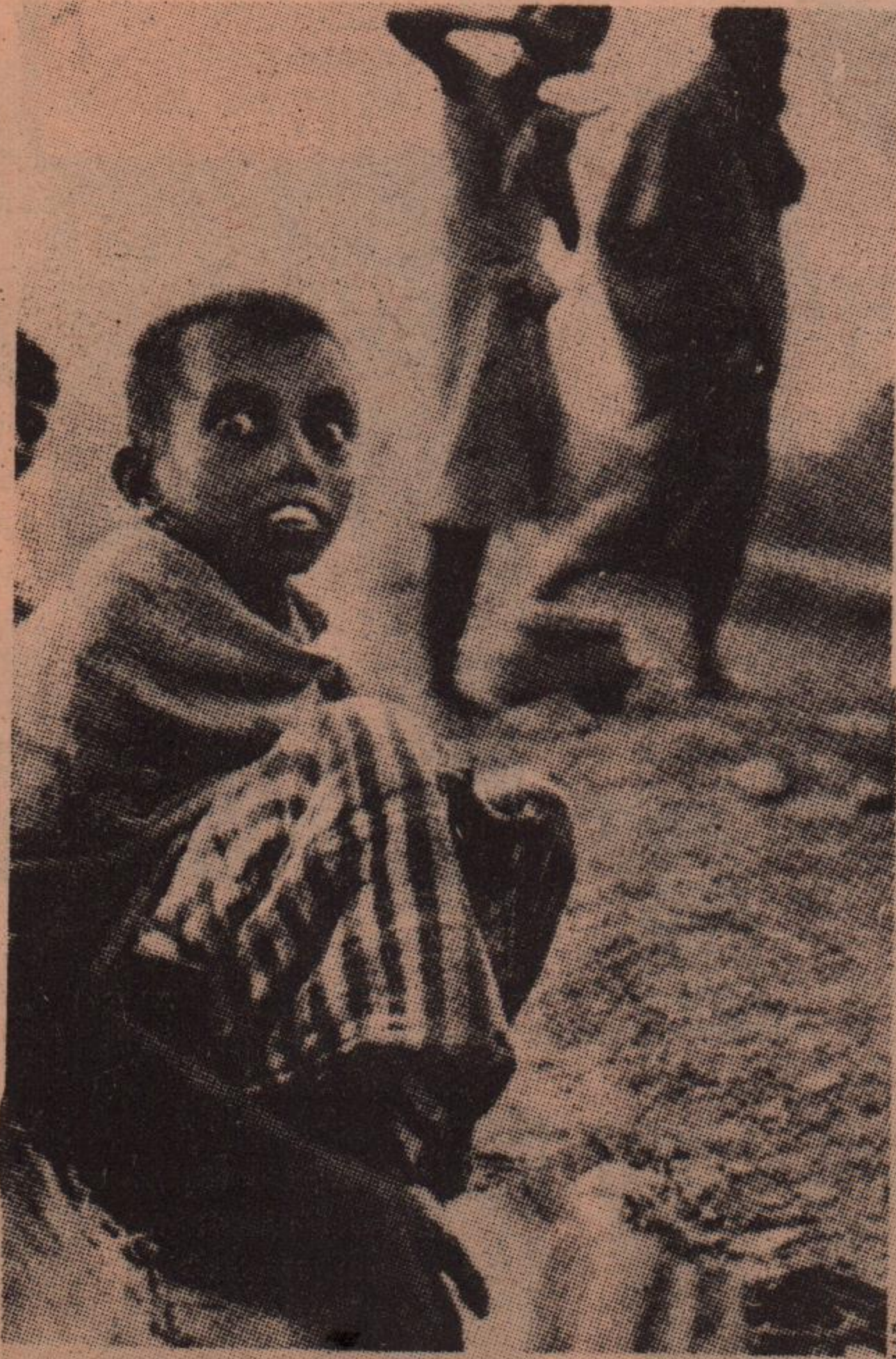
The nuclear arms contracts alone are worth about \$7 billion a year; \$7 billion talks more loudly than any number of humanitarian declarations, or terrified people, or children facing extinction."

Dr. Wald's conclusion is that "It is too late for declarations, for popular appeals, here or anywhere. All that matters now is political power."

We call for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Even in the remote chance that that would happen, it would not protect us from nuclear war. Those nations that have already learned how to make nuclear weapons would produce them in quantity within a few months of the outbreak of a new war.

The only thing that can save us now is political power — for the peoples of this world to take it away from their present masters, who are leading our world to destruction."

Can any sane person disagree?



BOY AWAITING FOOD



SUPPLY DROP



RECOVERING CHILD'S BODY

VICTORIES BUT UNCERTAINTY IN AFRICA

BY BAS HARDY & MARTIN THOMAS

EVER SINCE last April, the white inhabitants of South Africa have been sleeping uneasily in their beds at night. Aware that an attack on their racist police state is pending, they are strengthening the inner ring of defences, now that the 'buffer zone' between South Africa and the north has been wrenched from the hands of Portuguese colonialism.

The coup in Portugal five months ago which put General Spinoza in power marked the beginning of the end for white supremacy in Southern Africa. It was an admission on the part of the Portuguese army that it could no longer contain, let alone defeat, the guerilla movements they have been fighting, on their own and South

Africa's behalf, for more than a decade.

Last week, Spinoza's government reluctantly conceded independence to Guine-Bissau, and announced a few days later its intention to withdraw from Mozambique by this time next year.

MACHINE

The steady Portuguese retreat from Africa has coincided with firm hints from the Vorster regime that it does not intend to defend Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) if the latter encounters, as it will, a strong attack from the guerilla forces. Vorster is in effect abandoning Smith's regime so as not to overstretch the South African military machine, which must, in the final analysis, be

spared for the defence of Apartheid's heartland.

Militant black nationalist regimes on South Africa's doorstep will certainly make the problems facing the white racists acute, when added to the upsurges of black working class struggles over the past year or so. Yet with the probable coming of independence in Angola, Guine-Bissau and Mozambique, the question many socialists will be asking is precisely what character these three new African nations will take on. How this question is answered will have a great bearing on the future course of the liberation struggle in Southern Africa.

PUPPET

Clearly, the new regimes are likely to have a much 'redder' colouration than the so-called independent African nations which exist today. The manner in which independence is being won — by a successful armed struggle — is unique in the history of black Africa.

But between the military defeat of the Portuguese army and the setting up of new independent states, there are a few twists and turns in the road. We must look at each of the ex-colonies separately.

Spinoza's original plan for Africa, on his assumption of power, was an 'equal' federation of the three African colonies with Portugal. This involved an 'Africanisation' of the colonial administration, meaning in effect the creation of a 'native' puppet government in each of the 'territories'.

To achieve this end, the Portuguese have attempted to raise a "third force" (i.e. a political grouping occupying middle ground between the

politics of the white settler population and the liberation movements) based primarily in the towns and supported principally by the black and mulatto business community large and small. Where possible, the Portuguese have also wooed small guerilla organisations to its side to fulfill such a role.

In Guine-Bissau, for example, the Portuguese have gained the services of FLING (Liberation Group for the National Independence of Guine), a reactionary 'liberation' group based in Dakar and supported by the CIA and Senghor, the arch-conservative ruler of Senegal. Last June it was reported that Guinean exiles were recruited as mercenaries by FLING in Senegal, and two shiploads were sent to Guine-Bissau to do Portugal's dirty work in the wake of Portuguese troop withdrawals.

However, this scheme is unlikely to succeed in Guine-Bissau. The liberation organisation, the PAIGC (Independent African Party of Guine-Bissau and the Cape Verde Islands) commands a mass following and controls 80% of the country's mainland. Guine-Bissau also lacks a sizeable settler population and a numerous African middle class, two very important props (potentially at least) for the maintenance of colonial rule.

WITHDRAW

But what has really decided Spinoza to withdraw is the comparative poverty of the Guine-Bissau economy, which lacks both industry and mineral resources. The loss of this colony is very marginal to Portugal, and Spinoza hopes that by granting independence he will show that he is,

after all, an 'honest and sincere' negotiator. (It should be noted, though, that the fate of the Cape Verde Islands, strategically important to NATO and where the PAIGC has no military hold, remains undecided. Despite Portuguese promises to the contrary, Guine-Bissau may well be partitioned, with these islands remaining in Portuguese hands.)

For the same reason as makes Portugal willing to withdraw from Guine-Bissau — lack of economic development — the chance of really radical political and social developments after independence is small. The possibility of the nationalist struggle going forward to



socialist measures, as in Cuba, is remote.

The class character of the PAIGC is that of a grouping of petty-bourgeois and declassed people, basing themselves on the peasantry. The peasantry in Guine is only just beginning to be drawn into national political life. At present it is dominated by its local conditions — which vary widely from semi-feudal forms to communal forms — and local concerns. They have no previous experience of organisation and struggle on a national scale, such as the Cuban peasantry gained from the wars of independence in the 19th century. The 'peasant movement does not have a radical social

dynamic, which would push its leadership to far-reaching measures.

The probable development is along the lines of Tanzania or South Yemen — considerable reforms for the peasantry (beginnings of education etc), and a limited state capitalist development, under a petty bourgeois leadership.

LEADERS

It is doubtful whether it makes sense at all to talk about the possibility of a workers' state developing in Guine. There are some wage earners, dockers and so on, but not really a formed working class. A revolutionary Marxist leadership in Guine would have to look outwards, towards links with the working class in other parts of West Africa (the present national boundaries are almost entirely artificial creations of British and French colonialism).

PAIGC, however, has looked towards links with the governments of Guine-Conakry and Senegal and with the Organisation of African Unity. For the sake of those links, PAIGC leader Amilcar Cabral was willing to sacrifice political integrity. Just months before his assassination — in which President Senghor of Senegal was strongly implicated as an accomplice — Cabral proclaimed a "similarity of views" with Senghor. And he once described Haile Selassie's Ethiopia (a strong voice in the OAU) as "the new flower of the bastion of African independence", and went on to praise the Emperor for "his splendid work for the liberation and preservation of the independence of his people".

In Angola, even the

Nailing the NAZional Front

VERY LITTLE infuriates National Front "Activities Organiser" Martin Webster so much as public reminders of his openly Nazi past. In May, he was fulminating in Spearhead (NF monthly magazine) about the NUS's "disreputable propaganda trick": they had apparently quoted statements of Webster and Tyndall (NF Chairman) referring to their aim of "setting up a well-oiled Nazi machine" and to "Jewish maggots", giving as their source a newspaper article of 5 years ago. Whereas, Webster insists, "the statements made by us were at least 12 YEARS OLD".

In the following issue, Webster is quite beside himself. If the Police don't catch and prosecute those responsible for "criminally libellous 'smear' leaflets" given out during the General election, well, then our society must be "presided over by cowardly or corrupt men".

The leaflet in question is presumably the one showing photos of Webster and Tyndall adorned with swastikas, with a text giving details of their criminal convictions. After all, a string of convictions is hardly the best testimonial for the leaders of an aspiring Law n'Order party!

Excesses

The Front get round these problems by dismissing it all as "youthful excesses".

But in fact, it isn't really necessary to go back 5 years, or 12 years, to see the political character of Webster and Tyndall. That they haven't changed their spots will surprise few. What is remarkable is how clearly the spots still show, despite strenuous efforts at camouflage.

In the very same issue that Webster shrugs off the early quote about "Jewish maggots", Spearhead sports a lurid description (under the incredible headline "Alien cruelty to British animals!") of Jewish and Muslim methods of animal slaughter that could have come straight out of the anti-semitic ravings of Third Reich propagandist Julius Streicher. In fact, in the very same article in which Webster is at such pains to show that his Nazi past is far behind, he manages to throw off some stomach-turning "jokes" about "swastika motifs made out of real human skin."

No it isn't really necessary

to show the old pictures of Martin Webster. The new one is just as clear.

The camouflage is in places just about as subtle as a circus clown's make-up. Writing an obituary to Frank Clifford, Deputy Chairman of the NF who died a couple of months ago at the age of 84, John Tyndall finds it difficult to dismiss his old comrade's activity of even the 1930s as "youthful excesses", unless Clifford was a particularly youthful 40s! He became then, says Tyndall, "connected with some new political groups of the radical right". Perhaps in his grief for the passing of an old comrade, the name **British Union of Fascists** momentarily eluded John Tyndall.

In the same issue of Spearhead, another comrade has to be camouflaged. Eric Butler, notorious Australian arch-Nazi, is described as "the well known Australian political commentator." But there's little chance of camouflaging his ideas on "The Plotters behind the World Crisis" as he raves on about international financiers (Jews to a man, of course) being behind everything from the Bolshevik Revolution on...

Methods

Moreover, there is a strong suspicion that a recent pamphlet attempting to whitewash Hitler by claiming that he only killed a few hundred thousand Jews, not six million, was in fact clandestinely printed on the NF's press.

So much for all the Hitler adulation being past and gone. But even without it, the Front is quite disgusting enough.

One of their proudest campaigns, for instance, was the harassment of a family in Potters Bar who, living in a mainly white area, took in black foster children.

Another 'campaign' which smacks of the Front's methods but which they repudiate, was when official-

looking letters were sent to people in one locality where the Front was up in arms about the entry into Britain of Ugandan Asian refugees. The letters told people that Ugandan refugees were to be billeted on them, and could they please make space in their houses.

Then a few months ago the NF started giving out leaflets to white schoolkids, inciting them to resentment and bitterness towards black fellow-pupils, with accusations that their presence was responsible for poor school standards.

Gesture

In July a hapless NF local organiser in Walthamstow stepped out of line and got a sharp rebuke from his members and then from Webster himself in the pages of Spearhead. He had tried to make a non-racist gesture by offering to find a flat for a homeless local black woman and her baby. After ranting on about "outside predators" and "teeming millions of

black aliens", Webster concluded "We do not expect ... to see NF officials winning publicity by means of helping the invaders to take over our birthright."

"White man! Are you ready to fight?" Webster concludes his column for July.

Discredit

Parallel with the growth of the National Front, has come a growth in incidents of backstreets violence and thuggery. They always deny involvement. Sometimes the denials have to be pretty tortuous, as when an anti-fascist worker on the London underground was badly beaten by four men wearing NF badges. They must have been other left wingers who'd bought badges to discredit the Front', they claim. But in fact NF badge sales are carefully vetted by the central office.

We reported (WF 66) that at a meeting in Camden called to mobilise for the Leicester anti-NF march, men sat in cars outside the building

photographing those going into the meeting. When challenged, they didn't deny they were members of the NF, and threatened the occupants of the building, saying they'd be back to 'get you, you and you'.

On four separate occasions since, the occupants of the building have been harassed. There have been prowlers on the roof, a man breaking into the building, and two men forcing their way past the front door.

Finally, on August 28th, shots were fired at the building just after midnight, making holes in the plate glass on the front. The occupants came out to investigate, and as they were standing there a Bedford van roared up the street and more shots were aimed at the building, narrowly missing the people gathered on the pavement.

The denials of specific acts of thuggery are never allowed, though, to lessen the impact of the menacing aura which, now respectability has been achieved with all the paraphernalia of party political broadcasts etc, is deliberately built up around the NF in order to give a feeling of power and attract thugs and bully boys to it.

Force

They boast in press interviews that stewards on their marches "are young men who know how to handle themselves". They like to describe their marches as "virile". And

there are many hints that they are people to be reckoned with — in a physical sense. Concluding an article entitled "Red Violence: will we have to meet force with force?" Webster says that unless the Police repress the left "the NF will make such arrangements as circumstances indicate are necessary to secure its survival..."

Glint

But for the best picture of the savagery behind the gentility, we can read the rest of Tyndall's obituary to his old fascist friend Frank Clifford, as he mourns the passing of the good old days: "Some of my pleasantest memories of our friendship are of afternoon tea at his well kept bungalow in Sussex, at which, as he passed the delicate china sugar bowl with his familiar old world grace, he would recall with a glint and a chuckle some particularly lively political encounters of the 1930s in which Communists who had come to smash up patriotic meetings (i.e. pro-Hitler Mosley parades) were repaid ... by being hurled from a balcony or efficiently dispatched from the scene at the end of a well aimed British fist or boot."

Get those defence squads organised — and make sure the good old days stay buried with old Nazis like Frank Clifford.

M. LANDIS

ENOCH POWELL GETS UNIONIST SAFE SEAT A DANGEROUS STEP

THERE are still people on the left in Britain who believe that the struggle in Ireland is something really quite separate from British politics.

Enoch Powell, unfortunately, sees more clearly on that point.

Northern Ireland as it exists today, an artificial state chopped out of the body of Ireland by the British government in 1921-22, and maintained by force, is a strong base for the Right. The Orangemen hold fast to the small privileges they have got through their alliance with British imperialism. For the sake of keeping up their ascendancy over the

Catholics, they will vote for a right wing Tory racist like Powell.

The position of Loyalist leader at Westminster can serve as a stepping stone for Powell. Certainly he hopes that, if there are political crises in months to come, he will rally wider and wider support on the right — starting with the Harold Gurdens and the Jill Knights, and reaching out to many more. And the Loyalist armed bands — if Powell manages to bring them in behind him — will be a force behind the British Right that really will make the armies of Colonel Stirling and General Walker look laughable.

For socialists in Britain, there are two things we must do urgently to counter Powell's move.

Firstly, step up our active support for the struggle of the IRA and other Republicans to smash the sectarian cess-pit of Northern Ireland, to drive out British imperialism, and to form a united, independent Ireland. Secondly, to make sure we smash the growing links between the 'Ulster' Loyalist forces and the National Front fascists, expressed in their "smash the IRA" demonstration this Saturday, September 7th.

T. GARY

prospects for a swift move towards independence seem remote. Portugal wants to hold onto the profits it makes from Angola, mainly from textiles, and — what is more important — imperialist capital, British, America, German etc., wants to hold onto its important interests in Angolan diamonds, iron and oil. Moreover, there is a more substantial white population — 350,000 out of 5,300,000.

The liberation movement in Angola is divided. Besides the major group, MPLA, there is the ANLF and UNITA.

EXILE

The ANLF (Angolan National Liberation Front), led by Holden Roberto, has carried out practically no military operations inside Angola since 1963, when its guerrilla forces were crushed in North East Angola.

The reasons for this aren't difficult to find, since most of the ANLF's funds come from the Americans. Based among the Angolan exile community in Zaire, Holden's organisation is the political puppet of General Mobutu, the anti-Communist Zairian president who lives in the pockets of the foreign monopolies which he has been encouraging to invest in the 'new, dynamic,

industrialising Zaire' ever since he came to power. Mobutu encouraged Holden to set up an Angolan movement in exile in the early 1960s, and it was recognised by the Organisation for African Unity (the organisation of African capitalist states) until MPLA successes forced the OAU to drop this recognition in 1968 in favour of MPLA.

Holden's organisation does have a sizeable following, although not as big as MPLA's. The Portuguese are no doubt planning to use him if necessary because his 'safe' anti-Communist credentials make him bendable.

Spinola has already drawn UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) into the role of a "third force" to counteract the MPLA. UNITA, a split-off from Holden in 1966, is led by 'ex'-reactionaries who, after seeing the light, are now followers of "the guiding thoughts of Chairman Mao Tse Tung". It operates on a small scale inside Angola and has no outside connections. To show "goodwill" to the Portuguese it has called off its military activities, and the Portuguese governor has recognised it as the only organisation with which to negotiate so far.

Holden is waiting in the

wings for the outcome of a faction fight within the MPLA between three rival groups. If the MPLA split, his position will be strengthened. But if he steps in now, he will probably show his hand too soon.

The MPLA is certainly the most radical of the Angola movements. It has worked to create a national, not tribal consciousness among the peasantry. But, as Basil

Neither the MPLA, nor the Mozambique movement Frelimo, has made any serious attempt, or even shown any particular wish, to mobilise the urban working class.

In Mozambique, where independence has only been promised at this stage, the 'third force' strategy has fared a little better, owing to the numerical strength of the commercial classes there.



Davidson reported in 1970, "very plainly this movement is not Communist. 'We are a nationalist movement with people of many opinions', Neto (MPLA leader) affirmed. 'We mean to build a nation, but an independent one... We are glad of Soviet aid, that is obvious. But we remain non-aligned. We hope for aid and friendship from the West as well.'"

Mozambique's largest legal native organisation, which came into being after the April coup, is GUMO (United Group of Mozambique), which gives the appearance of having a large following in the cities. This apparent support is probably due to the reluctance of FRELIMO (Mozambique Liberation Front) to 'come out' from the liberated

areas and participate in 'democratic' political activities' as the Portuguese had hoped for.

However, many of those present at GUMO rallies are in reality Frelimo supporters, as is evidenced by the pro-Frelimo slogans which crowds in Lourenco Marques drown the speeches of the aspiring 'professional politicians' in GUMO.

The possibility of GUMO having much success in Mozambique is small, due to the strong military position of Frelimo. With half the country under its control Frelimo is less tempted to adopt any position other than intransigence towards Portuguese compromise solutions, insisting all the time that independence is not 'negotiable'.

However, Frelimo was founded under the auspices of the Ghanaian and Tanzanian governments; it is under strong Stalinist influence at present; and its social programme is unclear.

Mondlane, leader of Frelimo until his assassination by Portuguese agents, said that he would like to see, and it was his personal view, "the achievement of broadly based economic and social progress", to be gained by "strong central planning" measures. But "planning" is a

concept few in the modern world, capitalist or socialist, will disagree with.

With such vague ideas, Frelimo's good intentions will be little avail against the plans of imperialist powers anxious to keep their interests in Mozambique (including British financial interests in the gigantic Cabora Bassa dam project). The imperialist powers will not object much to the abolition of the worst backward features of Portuguese colonialism — the effective apartheid, the forced labour, the total lack of social welfare facilities. But they will draw the line at really radical socialist measures which would drag Mozambique out of "underdevelopment" on the model of Cuba or China.

MARXISM

Whatever the inadequacies of the liberation movements' leaderships from the standpoint of revolutionary Marxism, there can be no doubt that substantial reforms will follow independence. And every one of those reforms — reforms won by the African people taking their own future into their own hands through armed struggle — will echo loudly in the sounding box of South Africa itself.

MOVES are afoot to undermine the most successful action so far in the campaign to black work for the Chilean junta.

For six months now, eight Rolls Royce Avon engines have been sitting untouched at East Kilbride, where the Chilean government sent them for maintenance. The engines are from Chilean Air Force fighter planes, and engineering workers at East Kilbride have refused to touch them.

Since May, they have had

DEMONSTRATE AGAINST CHILE JUNTA

Scots engineers continue to black Chilean aero parts

official support for this action from the AUEW Executive.

But now the Executive is reported to be trying to "settle" the "dispute" — in other words,

get the men to change their minds and do the work for the Chilean murderers.

Also keen to get the work done is the British Labour

government, which prefers to be seen to oblige a regime of butchers than for "British industry" to get a reputation for breaking contracts.

Rolls Royce, of course, want the work done. They have apparently been promised that the Chilean government will drop its other claims and kindly refrain from suing them if only they get these engines back to them and keep up a supply of spares. If not, Rolls Royce might be stung for millions for breach of contract.

Most of all, the Chilean junta want the work done. In a country thousands of miles long, air and sea power can be an irreplaceable factor in the survival of a government and its ability to put down local rebellion.

But with all these powerful bodies itching to get the engines delivered, the workers at East Kilbride are still the only people who can do the work. **And they have no interest whatsoever in taking responsibility for the reputation abroad of the British ruling class or the legal problems of Rolls Royce. Least of all have they an interest in**

helping the Chilean generals to put down working class resistance.

But they are going to come under more and more pressure now to give up the action they have taken. This action is not only extremely valuable in itself, giving both real aid to the Chilean resistance and also a tremendous morale boost to their struggle. It is also an action which has set a marvellous example of internationalism to other British workers.

All of which makes the mass demonstration in London on September 15th all the more important. It has been called by the **Chile Solidarity Campaign**, and with the slogans "No aid - No trade - No links with the fascist military junta - Support the Chilean Resistance" a good turnout should give a boost to that resistance, and vital support for concrete actions of practical aid such as that of the East Kilbride engineers.

C.S.C. are also calling for half hour stoppages in places of work on September 11th (or other tokens of support in workplaces) accompanied if possible by a collection for C.S.C. On the same day, from 12 to 2pm, there will be a picket of the Chilean Consulate in Liverpool (Wheelright House, Regent Road, L'pool 5).

The demonstration itself assemblies at Speakers Corner at 1.00pm Sunday September 15th. (From Liverpool, there is a special train, cost £2.20; details from 051-236-2015.)

PRESSURE MOUNTS TO THROW FASCIST TEACHER OUT OF SCHOOL AND UNION

A TEACHER at Tulse Hill Comprehensive School in South London was spotted in Leicester on August 24th carrying a National Front banner on their racist march.

The black community in Lambeth has made a united call for the sacking of this man, Richard Edmonds. This call has been supported by the two black Governors on the school's board, Paul Stephenson and Headley Johnson.

To add insult to injury Edmonds, in his first teaching job, is expecting to get time off to go electioneering to support his own fascist candidature in the forthcoming elections!

Teachers at the school — and no doubt elsewhere — are torn between their idea of "professionalism" and a 'non-political union' on the one hand, and chucking this fascist out of the school and the Union, the NUT.

As a matter of fact, even on the first score they can set their minds at rest. Leaflets distributed to schoolkids by the National Front ask "Are you tired of lessons that drag on at a snail's pace while the teacher waits for immigrant pupils to catch up? Are you fed up with History lessons that continually run down Britain while Black Studies get every support?"

This sort of this is hardly to be squared with the concept of

"professionalism" held by most teachers!

But that isn't the real issue. The real issue is that we need to fight the presence of fascism and racism — even at their most 'respectable' — both within the teaching situation and within the union.

Those who see it as a "free speech" issue should remember the case of Dorothy McColgan, who was victimised because, in the words of an ILEA official, she was "too trade union conscious"! The fact is that the ILEA, as an employing body, is very interested in trade union activity. We should be demanding that it ceases its victimisation of active, militant trade unionists, and stop covering up for the professed scab and self-exposed racist.

Dick North, NUT Executive member for the area and a leading member of the militant teachers' movement Rank and File, is quite right in saying that he personally thought that "teachers should refuse to work" with the fascist Edmonds. (He added that he thought that Edmonds had been sent to Tulse Hill, where there are a lot of black pupils, deliberately by the National Front.)

Edmonds must be thrown out of teaching like his more notorious Nazi colleague Colin Jordan (and not just out of Tulse Hill, as some people are

demanding because of the number of black kids there). And he should be thrown out of the NUT, and any other union he tries to join. Fascists ought to be treated as untouchables in the trade union movement.

As a first step, North London NUT is debating a motion that points out that the National Front is a fascist organisation, and which calls for a resolution to be sent to the 1975 NUT Conference demanding that the Union leadership make membership of the National Front cause for automatic expulsion from the NUT.

This must become a real campaigning issue in trade union branches and trades councils, but, for teachers, first and foremost within Rank and File.

Ian Hollingworth

Blacking strengthens W & R strike

THE women on strike at Wingrove & Rogers in Liverpool are still out manning the picket line morning and evening after three months.

The blacking of materials for the factory has now intensified, extending to Liverpool docks, Liverpool airport and Manchester Airport.

A meeting has also been called to support the strike. The meeting will be on Monday 9th September at the NUR Club, Deane Road-L'pool 7. There will be a speaker from the strike committee, and also Eddie Loyden, MP.

Hopeful, the meeting will generate more positive support, and more concrete ideas for the winning of a strike which has lasted over the whole summer. Particularly valuable will be help on the picket lines — 70 or so scabs are still keeping production going.

Barbara Wojciechowska

Women at SEI confident of victory

THE strikers at SEI Heywood, near Manchester, thought our report last week a bit too pessimistic. Although the men aren't out, they are giving them support, and have been out on a token picket. They are now getting union strike pay, and the Company is being blacked by various other local workers. Mainly they stress they feel very confident and enthusiastic, they man a very solid picket and are stopping any lorries going through. They feel that they will certainly win this struggle — and that when they do, they won't be working with the scabs.

Sue Arnall

THE WINDSOR COP FESTIVAL

IT MADE the average Saturday afternoon football riot look like a scene from Magic Roundabout.

600 of them came at dawn, vandalising tents and belongings, terrifying little children, scrunching up sleeping people in their bully-boy progress through the park. A woman lost fistfuls of hair. Another, 7 months pregnant, nearly lost her baby.

"Breaking by-laws, they were", say the cops and their friends — any more than most picnickers or beach crowds?

'Junkies, every one. Well, they must have been.' Of course. Free music, free food, democratic discussion on how to run the festival. The place must have been riddled with drugs. And if it wasn't, it certainly was after the squads of police provocateurs had been around.

And the organisers. They weren't trying to make a profit. Must have been criminally mad. Comp-



pletely irresponsible. So cut off the water supplies, bar them from pubs and

shops, then wait till they're settled down, asleep and off their guard and...

smash - wreck - beat - destroy - arrest. That's law and order, that is.

MEETINGS

LIVERPOOL, WF Forum: Imperialism. Wed. 11th September, 8pm, Stanley House, Upper Parliament Street.

LONDON, WF Socialist Forum: "Trade Unions, Red Unions and Rank & File Movements". Speaker: Stephen Corbishley. Sunday September 8th at 8pm at The George, Liverpool Road N.1 (Angel Tube, buses 19, 30, 38, 73).

PHOENIX CLUB SOCIAL. Saturday September 7th at the General Picton pub, Caledonian Road, near Kings Cross, London N.1. Starting 7.30. Tom Presho, Andy Higgins and other folk singers. Entrance 25p. Proceeds to WF fighting fund.

SECOND NATIONAL RANK AND FILE DELEGATE CONFERENCE Birmingham, 30th November. Credentials (50p) from R&F Organising Cttee., 214 Roundwood Road, London NW10.

Published by Workers' Fight, 98 Gifford Street, London N.1. Printed by voluntary labour. Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office.

People of Newry back Provos

IN NEWRY, the Provisional IRA has just scored a victory which in many ways is far more significant and important than the more widely publicised escape of the "wonderful 19" from Portlaoise jail.

Some time ago, a regiment of the Royal Commandoes arrived in the town, and straight away seized control of the town's power supply. After that, they would habitually plunge the republican areas of the town into near darkness. Residents claimed that as a result there were several fatal road accidents, and that the troops used the cover of darkness to terrify and intimidate the people.

At this point the Provisionals stepped in, saying that if the power supplies were not handed back to the civilian Electricity Service, there would be no light at all. They said "The street lighting belongs to the people of Newry by right, and should not have to be begged and bargained for as some sort of concession from England."

The Northern Ireland Office,

the British Army and the SDLP politicians, who supposedly represent the Catholics in the area, were all happy to leave the power off, in the hope that the inconvenience suffered by the people would turn them against the Provisionals. Instead, it backfired on them, and after three weeks without

without any electricity, the people of the area were still solidly supporting the IRA.

When this became apparent, the Northern Ireland Office finally announced, on September 5th, that control of Newry's electricity would be handed back to the civilian authorities.

'Disaffection' campaign starts

AT THE end of August, the National Council for Civil Liberties (NCCCL) opened an important campaign. In part it was to get pacifist civil liberties campaigner Pat Arrowsmith released from jail, and in part to bring about the repeal of the Act under which she was given an 18 month jail sentence — the Incitement to Disaffection Act, 1934.

The first part of the campaign is already redundant. We are happy to report that Pat Arrowsmith had escaped from jail before the campaign could really get off the ground.

The second part is going to be a

much harder job. The Act, also known as the Seditious Bill, not only prevents 'incitement to mutiny' (the name in fact, of the 1797 law that the Act replaced) but it also prevents soldiers from knowing their rights.

Pat Arrowsmith's case highlights this. She was given her 18 month sentence for handing out leaflets at Warminster barracks married quarters which advised soldiers on what to do if they did want to desert — particularly if they had misgivings about being posted to the north of Ireland.

So far, the Home Secretary has refused requests to introduce

legislation to repeal this Act, which can be used as a dangerous catch-all to arrest anyone trying to influence the action of the troops or make them aware of their rights.

For instance, when miners' leader Mick McGahey was reported as having called on troops not to strike-break during the miners' strike, he could have been arrested under this act.

This campaign is one which should be fully supported by trade unionists — both for their own good and for the sake of supporting the full democratic and political rights of soldiers.

NEWS BRIEF

THE SUGAR boycott by Hull dockers continues. This and other isolated actions, like those of Glasgow workers who impounded lentils in a warehouse to stop their boss buying cheap and selling dear, provide the starkest contrast to the mealy mouthed recipes we've heard from the TUC Conference.

Here, workers are taking the decisions into their own hands. On Monday 2nd September, 80 tons of sugar were impounded on the quayside. The new consignment is for 240 tons bound for Saudi Arabia.

The dockers have been quite clear on their motives: there is a shortage of sugar here, with profiteers making a killing; they don't mind the sugar being exported if it is needed urgently elsewhere, but they are not satisfied this is the case.

They are absolutely right to use their organised strength to impose their solution to the sugar 'shortage'. If this were done on a wider scale in industry and in the transport and distribution sectors — if real workers' control were established — the real nature of the system could be exposed and a start made in changing it.

THE Scarman Inquiry into what happened in Red Lion Square on 15th June has opened with a silent bombshell. The inquiry centres around the events which led to the death of Kevin Gately, an anti-fascist demonstrator, during a police charge. And yet... the Inquiry has opened with the announcement that the police Operations Order — the key to the whole affair — will not be made publicly available.

The bombshell announcement is silent in two senses: it imposes a blanket of silence over the most crucial part of the Inquiry, and it is an announcement that has been greeted with complete silence on the part of the capitalist press.

BUT IF the Scarman cover-up got no press coverage, top-cop Robert Mark's speech in Guernsey did. And in the lead-up period to Saturday's big anti-NF demonstration it is quite significant.

Mark said: "Of much greater impact on society as a whole, is the modern tendency for industrial disputes to be settled by strength rather than by reason and the threat or use of force in expressing dissent at political demonstrations. The police are not involved in the former, but are very much concerned with the latter."

At a time when private vigilante groups are springing up all around run by ex-military brass, when the Army's political role is becoming more and more obvious and when the police themselves are using strong-arm squads like the Special Patrol Groups and flying anti-picket squads in industrial disputes, this dirty lie of Mark's must ring more hollow than usual.

THIS year's TUC, like many others, offers a case-study in hypocrisy. The most blatant must be George Smith's protest about the Shrewsbury trials at which 24 building workers were tried for picketing in the 1972 strike.

Smith, right wing UCATT leader, did his level best before and during the trials to scotch any chance of a mass solidarity movement with his members who were being railroaded to jail. Even before the trial started, and in defiance of his General Council, he sent out circulars branding the accused as criminals. And he came down hard on branches contributing from their funds to the defence campaign.

Smith sounding off about this "injustice to my members" is sickening enough. What's worse is that not a man got up to protest. Instead they passed a pious motion — in 1974 — knowing that in 1973 they'd done not a thing to give official backing to the rank and file's solidarity movement.