

What we think
Capitalist laws today

THE GRIM example of Canada, where overnight emergency powers have clamped the working class in an iron ring of repressive laws, and a stroke of the pen has sufficed to do away with basic democratic rights, must not be allowed to obscure what is happening under our very noses in Britain.

When the Tories agitated for 'law and order' during their election campaign, they were not making idle threats. This was not in the least an election gimmick. Nor is it just a question of getting more laws on the statute book to hit out at the working class.

Over the past few years, and especially since they took office, the Tories and their friends in the judiciary have been quietly and systematically testing out the colossal armoury of legal repression at their disposal.

Like the Army, the police force and the Civil Service, the law is part of the machinery for the protection of property and the power of the ruling class. In Britain more than anywhere else in the world, the law embodies the centuries-long experience of the ruling class in its struggles with the working class.

With its divisions of Common Law, Statute Law and Case Law, its ability to call on precedents established in the distant past, and yet allow judges to constantly make new law, the British ruling class has an enormously flexible instrument of class rule at its disposal.

When Lord Justice Sachs described the law as 'a living thing moving with the times and not a creature of dead or moribund ways of thought' he was expressing all the confidence of the British employers in their legal system.

So flexible are the Tories' legal weapons that a group of conservative lawyers, none of them noted for their liberality — recently undertook a careful study of the law relating to public order and drew the conclusion that 'the provisions of the law... are generally adequate in the field of public order'.

They went on to list more than 50 offences with penalties ranging from fines to life imprisonment that could be used against demonstrators. The Garden House case in Cambridge provides a glaring example of the possibilities open to the ruling class under the law.

Here six students were jailed for up to 18 months and two sent to Borstal on charges of unlawful assembly.

These are Common Law offences, and there is no statutory limit on the sentences that can be passed. They are also so broadly defined as to cover almost every type of demonstration. An unlawful assembly is an assembly of three or more persons with intent to carry out any common purpose, lawful or unlawful, in such a manner as to give firm and courageous persons in the neighbourhood... reasonable grounds to apprehend a breach of the peace in consequence of it'. This is broad enough to cover just about any demonstration or even poster parade.

Other offences in the armoury include sedition—used twice this century to send John McLean to prison, twice against Communist Party leader Harry Pollitt, once against Tom Mann and against other prominent leaders in the labour movement.

One legal authority says that 'it still seems to be law that it is tedious to publish any matter tending to possess the people of an ill opinion of the government'. Sedition, like other Common Law offences carries an indefinite penalty.

Add to these laws the sweeping powers of suspending *habeas corpus* in the Emergency Powers Act, the powers of censorship, requisitioning and the like, which can be activated merely by Order in Council, and it is clear that the

...PAGE FOUR COL. 1

The trade unions must take

United action

against the Tories

THE MOBILIZATION of the trade unions to fight the Tory government is now the key issue before every active trade unionist.

Stalinists cover TUC inaction

COMMUNIST PARTY opposition to the all-out mobilization of the trade union movement against the anti-union laws was brought right into the open at Tuesday night's Edinburgh Trades Council meeting.

The Trades Council executive—predominantly CP members—attacked a resolution from the city's STMS branch which defended the right of workers to withdraw labour whatever the circumstances, pledged support to the sacked Pilkington glassworkers and called on the Scottish TUC to organize a one-day strike against the anti-union laws.

This resolution, it was alleged, was 'bulky' and the call for strike action was 'jumping the gun' because the need for an agitational programme had not been emphasized.

There can be no illusions about such allegations. They are consciously designed to head off and prevent the pitting of the great strength of the trade unions into a showdown with the Tories.

This is confirmed by what occurred over the Trades Council's own motion on the same subject. This called for the Scottish TUC General Council to organize an education campaign and regional conferences on the Industrial Relations Bill and to organize—in consultation with affiliated organizations—a mass lobby of parliament on the appropriate date and for a national stoppage on that day.

Challenged over the meaning of 'the appropriate date' it was said that this could either be the day on which the Bill was being read in parliament or the day on which it was passed!

This is in line with CP pessimism about the ability and willingness of the working class to fight the Tories. The Croydon No. 6 AEF branch has called on the labour movement to reject the TUC's 'no action now' policy on the Tories' anti-union laws and to organize a national strike to force the Tories to resign.

YOUNG SOCIALIST STUDENT SOCIETY MEETING

Thursday, October 22, 6 p.m.
IMPERIAL COLLEGE
Room 664
Mechanical Engineering
'The Arab Revolution'

There are approximately ten million workers organized by unions affiliated to the Trades Union Congress and these cover all the vital services affecting life in Britain today.

Together they constitute the most potentially powerful force within the working-class movement.

It is this force which the Tory government wants to break in order to cur the workers' standard of living.

That is the reason for the anti-union laws and government plans to defeat the council workers. The Tories are going all out to organize the most reactionary forces against the unions.

The right wing and fake left trade union bureaucrats are the main prop of the Tory Party within the labour movement. By refusing to fight the government they are disarming the rank and file which is now face to face with its most bitter class enemy.

Dangerous

However, it would be the most dangerous of all mistakes to abandon the struggle against this bureaucracy by turning exclusively in a one-sided way towards forms of militant action in the ranks.

This can only be effective provided it aims to bring the unions into action as a whole.

All militant activity must therefore be directed towards forcing the trade union leaders to act against the government's laws.

Syndicalists, professional rank and file-sts and Stalinists will denounce this policy as a waste of time. In practice such revisionist trends always serve to divert the working class away from the main issues, and by their abstention provide a left cover for the bureaucracy.

The trade union bureaucracy itself occupies a middle-of-the-road position between the capitalist class and the working class.

Although it is an agency of the capitalist class, it rests on the working class which can force it to act in times of real danger.

This does not mean that the bureaucracy will change for the better under such pressure. The more workers fight to make it act on their behalf, the more they will expose it as an agency of capital in the struggle.

Their political experience will be sharpened and this, in turn, will facilitate the replacement of the bureaucrats by militant leaders from the ranks who will reflect the real desires of the trade union members.

The most important lesson which emerges from the struggle against dictatorship in the years before the Second World War was contained in the Leninist theory of the United Front.

The theme was unity in action, which mobilized the mass organization against the common enemy. This required a form of unity which brought together the ranks and the leadership of the workers' organizations to defend workers' democratic rights against the capitalists' threat to take them away. The Stalinists in those days adopted the ultra-left policy of the United Front 'from below' which, in practice, separated the militants from the broad mass of uncommitted

...PAGE FOUR COL. 5



TUC's Feather speaking yesterday

THE LIFE-and-death issues involved for workers in the rapid growth of multi-national combines only occasionally broke to the surface at yesterday's TUC teach-in on the links between international capital.

Delegates drew attention to international threat by the Ford combine to close their plants in various countries when they were hit by disputes, the attempts to transfer component production when strikes threatened and the sacking threat to sections of expatriate workers in Europe.

The dominance of US capital was emphasized and the dangers of factory transfers to low wage areas to force down rates where unions were strong.

But instead of a programme to rouse labour internationally against these schemes, TUC general secretary Victor Feather merely posed nine 'stages of trade union co-operation'.

These would include 'collection of information', 'consultation with international managements' and 'international synchronization' of pay claims.

ON CALL

...in view of the possible danger to public health and the need for a margin of safety, the government considers it their duty as a precaution to make military personnel available on call to serve at any time when it is necessary to meet a demand for public health', it said.

There appeared to be some confusion in Whitehall yesterday as to the precise legal framework in which such a mobilization would take place.

A Home Office spokesman said that first a local authority would ask the government for help, they would then discuss the procedure to be adopted. The mobilization itself was a matter for the Ministry of Defence.

The government has a number of acts on statute that it could invoke to meet the emergency, with or without calls from local authorities.

Not least of these is the Emergency Powers Act of 1920 passed to meet the explosive situation developing in the British working class after the First World War—expressed primarily in the famous Triple Alliance made between miners, transport workers and railwaymen.

Only an Order of Council would be needed to activate the Act's clauses. This could be done with great rapidity, as the recent Canadian example shows.

In addition the government could invoke one of a battery of Acts to prevent disaffection or attempts at disaffection in the armed forces.

One of the most recent of these is the Incitement to Disaffection Act of 1934 passed as a result of the

Troops still at the ready as

Council unions reject latest wage offer

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

AS SEVEN more councils agreed to pay their manual workers the full increase, union leaders in London yesterday rejected the 38s rise, but made fresh appeals to employers for a new offer.

The authorities who agreed to meet the demands in full were — Kildsgrove, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Bedworth, Cleethorpes, Falmouth, Ruthin in Wales and Skelmersdale.

This brings the total number of authorities who have conceded to the claim to 14.

The pollution operations room at the new Ministry of Environment was on 24-hour alert yesterday ready for distress calls from local authorities.

But a spokesman denied reports that they were taking river samples or that they would act without requests from councils.

REPORTS

This is despite newspaper reports yesterday claiming that the Home Secretary would necessarily wait for local authorities to appeal to the government before sending in troops to prevent pollution.

As yet no local authority has asked for help and Reading corporation has expressed puzzlement at the government announcement that troops may have to be used in the next few days to prevent contamination of the Thames.

They pointed out that this will harden the local strikers' attitude and made it clear that there is as yet no real pollution threat to the river.

At Swindon too it was thought that the threat of military intervention may jeopardize peace talks held in the borough today.

Later the Swindon council's policy and finance committee held a special meeting to discuss health hazards.

A Home Office statement late on Tuesday night stated that it was the government's responsibility to ensure a danger to public health did not arise.

ON CALL

...in view of the possible danger to public health and the need for a margin of safety, the government considers it their duty as a precaution to make military personnel available on call to serve at any time when it is necessary to meet a demand for public health', it said.

There appeared to be some confusion in Whitehall yesterday as to the precise legal framework in which such a mobilization would take place.

A Home Office spokesman said that first a local authority would ask the government for help, they would then discuss the procedure to be adopted. The mobilization itself was a matter for the Ministry of Defence.

The government has a number of acts on statute that it could invoke to meet the emergency, with or without calls from local authorities.

Not least of these is the Emergency Powers Act of 1920 passed to meet the explosive situation developing in the British working class after the First World War—expressed primarily in the famous Triple Alliance made between miners, transport workers and railwaymen.

Only an Order of Council would be needed to activate the Act's clauses. This could be done with great rapidity, as the recent Canadian example shows.

In addition the government could invoke one of a battery of Acts to prevent disaffection or attempts at disaffection in the armed forces.

One of the most recent of these is the Incitement to Disaffection Act of 1934 passed as a result of the

...PAGE FOUR COL. 5



DUSTMEN in WESTMINSTER came out yesterday and Buckingham Palace and Whitehall including No 10 may soon have a rubbish problem. The Houses of Parliament are also affected.

The strike was escalated in the WEST COUNTRY yesterday and in YORKSHIRE workers in the North and East Ridings may be brought out before the end of the week.

BRISTOL housewives with their children lobbied the city's education committee yesterday demanding the Corporation pay up and meet their manual workers' claim in full.

The strike has closed nearly all Bristol's 220 schools and the polytechnic.

Transport and General Workers' stewards have decided to call all their members

working for COVENTRY council out for a token stoppage tomorrow.

At a mass meeting in OXFORD men voted to stay out on strike. Mal Lewis, a dustman, said:

'This is not just a fight over wages, we are fighting for our rights. My father fought for the rights of trade unions as a miner in Wales and went to jail and we are prepared to do the same.'

Following the lead of Swindon engineers Croydon No 6 AEF branch has backed the council's fight by calling on the district committee to organize a one-day strike in their support in the area's factories and workplaces.

In a letter to foreign news agencies, Mrs Athina Panagoulis appealed to them to inform world public opinion and heads of states who support the present Greek regime of the 'true conditions' under which her son is living in prison.

Palace pickets out as rubbish mounts

Palace pickets out as rubbish mounts

Palace pickets out as rubbish mounts

Palace pickets out as rubbish mounts

Palace pickets out as rubbish mounts

Palace pickets out as rubbish mounts

Palace pickets out as rubbish mounts

Palace pickets out as rubbish mounts

Palace pickets out as rubbish mounts

THE DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

What we think
Capitalist laws today

THE GRIM example of Canada, where overnight emergency powers have clamped the working class in an iron ring of repressive laws, and a stroke of the pen has sufficed to do away with basic democratic rights, must not be allowed to obscure what is happening under our very noses in Britain.

When the Tories agitated for 'law and order' during their election campaign, they were not making idle threats. This was not in the least an election gimmick. Nor is it just a question of getting more laws on the statute book to hit out at the working class.

Over the past few years, and especially since they took office, the Tories and their friends in the judiciary have been quietly and systematically testing out the colossal armoury of legal repression at their disposal.

Like the Army, the police force and the Civil Service, the law is part of the machinery for the protection of property and the power of the ruling class.

In Britain more than anywhere else in the world, the law embodies the century-long experience of the ruling class in its struggles with the working class.

With its divisions of Common Law, Statute Law and Case Law, its ability to call on precedents established in the distant past, and yet allow judges to constantly make new law, the British ruling class has an enormously flexible instrument of class rule at its disposal.

When Lord Justice Sachs described the law as 'a living thing moving with the times and not a creature of dead or moribund ways of thought' he was expressing all the confidence of the British employers in their legal system.

So flexible are the Tories' legal weapons that a group of conservative lawyers—none of them noted for their liberality—recently undertook a careful study of the law relating to public order and drew the conclusion that 'the provisions of the law... are generally adequate in the field of public order'.

They went on to list more than 50 offences with penalties ranging from fines to life imprisonment that could be used against demonstrators.

The Garden House case in Cambridge provided a glaring example of the possibilities open to the ruling class under the law.

Here six students were jailed for up to 18 months and two sent to Borstal on charges of a riotous assembly.

These are Common Law offences, and there is no statutory limit on the sentences that can be passed. They are also broadly defined as to cover almost every type of demonstration.

An unlawful assembly is an assembly of three or more persons 'with intent to carry out any common purpose, lawful or unlawful, in such a manner as to give firm and courageous persons in the neighbourhood... reasonable grounds to apprehend a breach of the peace in consequence of it'.

This is broad enough to cover just about any demonstration or even poster parade.

Other offences in the armoury include seditious—used twice this century to send John McLean to prison; twice against Communist Party leader Harry Pollitt, once against Tom Mann and against other prominent leaders in the labour movement.

One legal authority says that 'it still seems to be law that it is seditious to publish any matter tending to possess the people of an ill opinion of the government'.

Sedition, like other Common Law offences carries an indefinite penalty.

Add to these laws the sweeping powers of suspending *habeas corpus* in the Emergency Powers Act, the powers of conspiracy, requisitioning and the like, which can be activated merely by Order in Council, and it is clear that the

The trade unions must take

United action

against the Tories

THE MOBILIZATION of the trade unions to fight the Tory government is now the key issue before every active trade unionist.

Stalinists cover TUC inaction

COMMUNIST PARTY opposition to the all-out mobilization of the trade union movement against the anti-union laws was brought right into the open at Tuesday night's Edinburgh Trades Council meeting.

The Trades Council executive—predominantly CP members—attacked a resolution from the city's ASTMS branch which defended the right of workers to withdraw labour whatever the circumstances, pledged support to the sacked Pilkington glassworkers and called on the Scottish TUC to organize a one-day strike against the anti-union laws.

This resolution, it was alleged, was 'bulky' and the call for strike action was 'jumping the gun' because the need for an agitational programme had not been emphasized.

There can be no illusions about such allegations. They are consciously designed to head off and prevent the pitting of the great strength of the trade unions into a showdown with the Tories.

Confirmed
This is confirmed by what occurred over the Trades Council's own motion on the same subject.

This called for the Scottish TUC General Council to organize an education campaign and regional conferences on the Industrial Relations Bill and to organize—in consultation with affiliated organizations—a mass lobby of parliament on the appropriate date and for a national stoppage on that day.

Challenged
Challenged over the meaning of 'the appropriate date' it was said that this could either be the day on which the Bill was being read in parliament or the day on which it was passed.

This is in line with CP pessimism about the ability and willingness of the working class to fight the Tories.

● The Croydon No. 6 AEF branch has called on the labour movement to reject the TUC's 'no action now' policy on the Tories' anti-union laws and to organize a national strike to force the Tories to resign.

YOUNG SOCIALIST STUDENT SOCIETY MEETING
Thursday, October 22, 6 p.m.

IMPERIAL COLLEGE
Room 664
Mechanical Engineering
'The Arab Revolution'

BY A POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Kenya Asian

THE NEWLY formed Immigration Appeal Tribunal yesterday refused Miss Shaheen Lakdawalla a Kenya Asian, permission to stay in Britain indefinitely.

'In legal terms they have always said it', commented Miss Lakdawalla. 'There is no future for me if I go'.

● PAGE FOUR COL. 9

£1,250 Fund 10 days to raise £731 3s 10d

AN ALL-OUT drive must now be made to change the position of the fund. At the moment we have £518 16s 2d. This leaves £731 3s 10d to raise in ten days.

We cannot afford to sit back. The Tories are going into action determined to cut wages, enforce anti-union laws and make hundreds of thousands unemployed.

The Workers Press is our most powerful voice to mobilize trade unionists everywhere in a massive fight to defeat this Tory government.

Leave no stone unturned. Step up the campaign for the October fund immediately.

Post all donations to: Workers Press Appeal Fund, 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4.

● PAGE FOUR COL. 5

There are approximately ten million workers organized by unions affiliated to the Trades Union Congress and these cover all the vital services affecting life in Britain today.

Together they constitute the most potentially powerful force within the working-class movement.

It is this force which the Tory government wants to break in order to cut the workers' standard of living.

That is the reason for the anti-union laws and government plans to defeat the council workers. The Tories are going all out to organize the most reactionary forces against the unions.

The right wing and fake left trade union bureaucrats are the main prop of the Tory Party within the labour movement. By refusing to fight the government they are disarming the rank and file which is now face to face with its most bitter class enemy.

Dangerous
However, it would be the most dangerous of all mistakes to abandon the struggle against this bureaucracy by turning exclusively in a one-sided way towards forms of militant action in the ranks.

This can only be effective provided it aims to bring the unions into action as a whole.

All militant activity must therefore be directed towards forcing the trade union leaders to act against the government's laws.

Syndicalists, professional rank and file-lists and Stalinists will denounce this policy as a waste of time. In practice such revisionist trends always serve to divert the working class away from the main issues, and by their abstention provide a left cover for the bureaucracy.

The trade union bureaucracy itself occupies a middle-of-the-road position between the capitalist class and the working class.

Although it is an agency of the capitalist class, it rests on the working class which can force it to act in times of real danger.

This does not mean that the bureaucracy will change for the better under such pressure. The more workers fight to make it act on their behalf, the more they will expose it as an agency of capital in the struggle.

Their political experience will be sharpened and this, in turn, will facilitate the replacement of the bureaucrats by militant leaders from the ranks who will reflect the real desires of the trade union members.

The most important lesson which emerges from the struggle against dictatorship in the years before the Second World War was contained in the Leninist theory of the United Front.

Theme
The theme was unity in action, which mobilized the mass organization against the common enemy.

This required a form of unity which brought together the ranks and the leadership of the workers' organizations to defend workers' democratic rights against the capitalists' threat to take them away.

The Stalinists in those days adopted the ultra-left policy of the United Front 'from below' which, in practice, separated the militants from the broad mass of uncommitted



TUC's Feather speaking yesterday

THE LIFE-and-death issues involved for workers in the rapid growth of multi-national combines only occasionally broke to the surface at yesterday's TUC teach-in on the links between international capital.

Delegates drew attention to international threat by the Ford combine to close their plants in various countries when they were hit by disputes, the attempts to transfer component production when strikes threatened and the sacking threat to sections of expatriate workers in Europe.

The dominance of US capital was emphasized and the dangers of factory transfers to low wage areas to force down rates where unions were strong.

But instead of a programme to rouse labour internationally against these schemes, TUC general secretary Victor Feather merely posed nine 'stages of trade union co-operation'.

These would include 'collection of information', 'consultation with international management' and 'international synchronization' of pay claims.

French-Canadians bear brunt of economic crisis

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

BEHIND the kidnap crisis in Canada and the assumption of dictatorial powers by premier Trudeau is a mounting economic crisis which presses down with most force on the oppressed French-Canadian workers.

Latest figures show steeply rising unemployment, with over half a million workers—6.7 per cent of the labour force—out of work.

Highest unemployment is in basic industry and agriculture, with many of the jobs in trade union shops.

Over the past few months, Trudeau has imposed a 6 per cent wage norm, despite the very rapid price increases and attempts to impose new anti-union laws.

The trade union leaders in the Canadian Labor Congress and the social-democrats and revisionists of the New Democratic Party have done nothing to organize the working class against these measures.

The NDP has been pressing for a Canadian Development Fund to take US-owned industry and place it in the

Troops still at the ready as

Council unions reject latest wage offer

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

AS SEVEN more councils agreed to pay their manual workers the full increase, union leaders in London yesterday rejected the 38s rise, but made fresh appeals to employers for a new offer.

The authorities who agreed to meet the demands in full were—Kingsgrove, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Bedworth, Cleethorpes, Falmouth, Ruthin in Wales and Skelmersdale.

This brings the total number of authorities who have conceded to the claim to 14.

The pollution operations room at the new Ministry of Environment was on 24-hour alert yesterday ready for distress calls from local authorities.

But a spokesman denied reports that they were taking river samples or that they would act without requests from councils.



REPORTS

This is despite newspaper reports yesterday claiming that the Home Secretary would necessarily wait for local authorities to appeal to the government before sending in troops to prevent pollution.

As yet no local authority has asked for help and Reading corporation has expressed puzzlement at the government announcement that it was the next few days to prevent contamination of the Thames.

They pointed out that this will harden the local strikers' attitude and made it clear that there is as yet no real pollution threat to the river.

At Swindon too it was thought that the threat of military intervention may jeopardize peace talks held in the borough today.

Later the Swindon council's policy and finance committee held a special meeting to discuss health hazards.

A Home Office statement late on Tuesday night stated that it was the government's responsibility to ensure a danger to public health did not arise.

ON CALL

... in view of the possible danger to public health and the need for a margin of safety, the government considers it their duty as a precaution to make military personnel available on call to sewage authorities at any time when it is necessary to meet a threat to public health,' it said.

They appeared to be some confusion in Whitehall yesterday as to the precise legal framework in which such a mobilization would take place.

A Home Office spokesman said that first a local authority would ask the government for help, they would then discuss the procedure to be adopted. The mobilization itself was a matter for the Ministry of Defence.

The government has a number of acts on statute that it could invoke to meet the emergency, with or without calls from local authorities.

Not least of these is the Emergency Powers Act of 1920 passed to meet the explosive situation developing in the British working class after the First World War—expressed primarily in the famous Triple Alliance made between miners, transport workers and railwaymen.

Only an Order of Council would be needed to activate the Act's clauses. This could be done with great rapidity, as the recent Canadian example shows.

In addition the government could invoke one of a battery of Acts to prevent disaffection or attempts at disaffection in the armed forces.

One of the most recent of these is the Incitement to Disaffection Act of 1934 passed as a result of the

Palace pickets out as rubbish mounts

DUSTMEN in WESTMINSTER came out yesterday and Buckingham Palace and Whitehall including No 10 may soon have a rubbish problem. The Houses of Parliament are also affected.

The strike was escalated in the WEST COUNTRY yesterday and in YORKSHIRE workers in the North and East Ridings may be brought out before the end of the week.

BRISTOL housewives with their children lobbied the city's education committee yesterday demanding the Corporation pay up and meet their manual workers' claim in full.

The strike has closed nearly all Bristol's 220 schools and the polytechnic.

Transport and General Workers' stewards have decided to call all their members

working for COVENTRY council out for a token stoppage tomorrow.

At a mass meeting in OXFORD men voted to stay out on strike. Mal Lewis, a dustman, said:

'This is not just a fight over wages, we are fighting for our rights. My father fought for the rights of trade unions as a miner in Wales and went to jail and we are prepared to do the same.'

Following the lead of Swindon engineers Croydon No 6 AEF branch has backed the councilmen's fight by calling on the district committee to organize a one-day strike in their support in the area's factories and workplaces.

Bernadette 'resting'

MID-ULSTER MP Miss Bernadette Devlin was released from Armagh jail early yesterday morning and, according to her Maghera constituency office, has left for a few days' holidays.

She had been in prison since June 26 after losing an appeal against a six-month sentence for her part in the Derry disturbances.

Her first engagement will be to address a rally in Carrickmore in her constituency on Saturday night.

Panagoulis 'in a tomb'

ALEXANDROS PANAGOULIS, 32-year-old Greek soldier sentenced to death two years ago for his part in a plot to kill premier George Papadopoulos, is slowly dying in his cell which resembles a tomb, his mother said in Athens yesterday.

In a letter to foreign news agencies, Mrs Athina Panagoulis appealed to them to inform world public opinion and heads of states who support the present Greek regime of the 'true conditions' under which her son is living in prison.

YOUNG SOCIALISTS
WEEKEND SCHOOL
OCTOBER 24 & 25
WINTER GARDENS, MARGATE

Saturday guest speaker
JOHN McGRATH
(Author of two highly-praised films 'The Reckoning' and 'The Bofors Gun')

Polities and the Commercial Cinema
2.30 p.m.

Sunday
CLIFF SLAUGHTER
(Central Committee member of the Socialist Labour League)
How to defeat the Tories and their attacks against the working class
9.30 a.m.

Saturday evening at 8 p.m.
DISCOTHEQUE
Cliftonville Hall, St Pauls Rd
Cost of the weekend is £2 which includes school, return fare, bed and breakfast and discotheque. Details from John Simmance, 186a Clapham High St, London, SW4.

● PAGE FOUR COL. 5



BBC 1

9.38 a.m.-12 noon Schools. 1.00-1.25 p.m. Swyn y glec. 1.30 Watch with mother. 1.45-1.53 News and weather. 2.05-2.25 Schools. 2.50-4.10 Racing from Newbury. 4.20 Play School. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Blue Peter. 5.20 Scooby-doo. 5.44 Magic roundabout. 5.50 News and weather. 6.00 NATIONWIDE. London. 6.45 THE DOCTORS. 7.05 TOP OF THE POPS. 7.45 BACHELOR FATHER. 'The Peter Pan Syndrome'. 8.15 THE MORECAMBE AND WISE SHOW. 9.00 THE NINE O'CLOCK NEWS and weather. 9.20 PLAY FOR TODAY. 'The Right Prospectus'. By John Osborne. With George Cole. A middle aged man returns to school. 10.35 24 HOURS. 11.20 CHILDREN GROWING UP. 'Making Sense'. 11.45 Weather.

REGIONAL BBC

All regions as above except: Midlands, E Anglia: 6.00-6.45 Nationwide. Midlands today. Look East. weather. 11.47 News. weather. North, NW, NE, Cumberland and Westmorland: 6.00-6.45 Nationwide. Look North. weather. 11.47 News. weather. Wales: 6.00 Wales today. weather. Nationwide. 6.45-7.05 Heddiw. 7.45-8.15 Week in week out. 11.47 Weather. Scotland: 2.30-2.50 Around Scotland. 6.00-6.45 Reporting Scotland. weather. Nationwide. 11.47 News. weather. N Ireland: 6.00-6.45 Scene around six. weather. Nationwide. 11.47 News. weather. SW South, West: 6.00-6.45 Nationwide. Points West. South today. Spotlight SW. weather. 11.47 News. weather.

BBC 2

11.00-11.20 a.m. PLAY SCHOOL. 7.00 p.m. KNOW HOW. 'Is Sintering the Answer?'. 7.30 NEWSROOM and weather. 8.00 FIRST ELEVEN. 8.15 THE MONEY PROGRAMME. 9.00 LOOK, STRANGER. 'The Money-spinner in the Back of the Car'. 9.20 SHOW OF THE WEEK. The Johnny Cash Show. With guests Ray Charles, Neil Diamond and Tammy Wynette. 10.05 HAMLET REVISITED. An exploration of Shakespeare's famous character. 11.00 NEWS ON 2 and weather. 11.05 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP.

ITV

11.00 a.m.-2.55 p.m. Schools. 3.50 Mad movies. 4.17 Origami. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Flipper. 5.20 Maggie. 5.50 News. 6.02 TODAY. 6.35 LAUREL AND HARDY. 6.40 PEYTON PLACE. 7.10 ON THE HOUSE. 7.40 THURSDAY FILM: 'The Frogmen'. With Richard Widmark, Dana Andrews, Gary Merrill, Jeffrey Hunter and Robert Wagner. An underwater demolition team in Second World War must plant explosives at vital Japanese strategic points. 9.30 THIS WEEK. 10.00 NEWS AT TEN. 10.30 CINEMA. 11.00 EDGE OF CONFLICT. A look at the United Nations through the eyes of five diplomats. 11.55 THE LAW ENFORCERS.

REGIONAL ITV

CHANNEL: 11.00-2.55 London. 4.00 Puffin's birthday greetings. 4.10 London. 4.25 Wendy and me. 4.55 Skippy. 5.20 London. 6.00 News. weather. 6.10 Cheaters. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Film: 'Rope of Sand'. With Burt Lancaster. 9.00 London. 11.00 All our yesterdays. 11.25 News. weather. WESTWARD: As Channel except: 3.58 News. 4.00 Gus Honeybun. 4.10 Origami. 4.30 Diary. 11.30 Faith for life. 11.35 Weather. SOUTHERN: 11.00-2.55 London. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 Ivor the engine. 4.30 London. 4.55 Forest rangers. 5.20 London. 6.00 Day by day. 6.30 On the house. 7.00 Film: 'Valley of the Kings'. With Robert Taylor and Eleanor Parker. A young archaeologist accompanies a beautiful woman and her villainous husband to Egypt. 8.10 Department S. 9.30 London. 11.00 News. 11.10 Aquarius. 11.35 Weather. Action 70. HARLECH: 11.00-2.55 London. 4.18 Women today. 4.40 Hatty town. 4.55 Forest rangers. 5.20 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Movies: 'The Running Man'. With Laurence Harvey, Lee Remick and Alan Bates. A pilot takes a glider accident and disappears. 9.00 London. 10.30 Gallery. 11.00 Tales of Edgar Wallace. 12 mid-night weather. HTV (West) colour channel 61 as above except: 4.16-4.18. 6.18-6.35 HTV (Wales) colour channel 41 and HTV (Cymru/Wales) black and white service as above except: 5.20-5.50 Dibyn-dobyn. 6.01-6.18 Y dydd. ANGLIA: 10.58-2.55 London. 4.30 News. 4.40 Paulus. 4.50 Joe 90. 5.15 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.30 Arena. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Survival. 7.30 'The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes'. With Basil Rathbone and Nigel Bruce. A criminal intends to commit the master crime of the century. 9.00 London. 11.00 Prisoner. 11.55 Reflection. ATV MIDLANDS: 11.00-2.55 London. 3.49 Horoscope. 3.52 Women today. 4.10 Peyton Place. Enchanted house. 4.55 Fireball XL5. 5.15 London. 6.00 ATV today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Movies: 'Legend of the Lost'. With John Wayne, Sophia Loren and Rossano Brazzi. Story of a quest for treasure in the Sahara desert. 9.00 London. 11.00 Untouchables. weather. ULSTER: 11.00-2.55 London. 4.30 Komper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 Joe

YOUNG SOCIALIST RECRUITING TEAM IN N. EAST



A labour exchange in Sunderland.

N East school-leavers wage fight against unemployment

WITH great bitterness the North East remembers the terrible effects of the 1930s depression. Memories of the 1936 Jarrow Crusade to London, the endless search for jobs, the struggle to make ends meet on the pittance doled out by the Ministry of Labour, still live with the older generation. For the youth who never went through it, this period rests like a grim shadow, a constant reminder of the depths to which monopoly capitalism will thrust the working class to save itself and its system. Today under the Tory government such blurred images from the 1930s are brought sharply back into focus for workers and their families in the North East. Unemployment now stands at 63,139 in the northern

region with much of it concentrated on Tyneside. The area is dominated by heavy engineering of the shipping industry. But in a highly competitive world market the out-of-date machinery and inadequate yards of the British shipbuilding industry must face a production race in which the far more modern facilities of Japan and continental countries set the pace. The employers have an answer — speed-up, intense exploitation and a smaller labour force. This hits the youth particularly hard. With no security of training in the shipyards (those who do get an apprenticeship are the lucky ones from a very long list of school leavers) for thousands of youth there is only the dole queue. Every Friday morning from 9.30 to 12.00 first the boys then the girls line up to receive a miserable £2 16s. In their last year at school these young people were told about their bright future with a career and all the trimmings. When they leave they find that at least ten are chasing just one job.

Sixteen-year-old Liza said she had been unemployed for three and a half months. Her friend Rosemary was on the dole for five months. Both complained of the treatment meted out to them by petty officials at the youth employment office. 'They send you to a job but in most cases ten girls have already been interviewed. You're just told there aren't any vacancies.'

Costly 'land reform' in Egypt after 1952

CLASS STRUGGLES IN AFRICA

THE 1952 AGRARIAN reform laws of the Nasser-Neguib government failed to solve the land question to such an extent that the peasant struggles forced a new law onto the statute books. This law, of 1961, reduced the permissible maximum of land holdings from the 1952 figure of 200 feddan (1 feddan=1 acre approximately), to 100 feddan. Once again massive compensation was paid to the landlords whose lands were redistributed. And once again the fellahin had to pay with their cheap labour and taxes for this compensation. The 1961 law was followed by another of 1962 in which foreign landowners who were expropriated were compensated. The total of the 1952, 1961 and 1962 land reform laws, when fully implemented under the Plan of the Arab Socialist Union—the only legal party in Egypt—would be as follows: That ultimately only one million out of the six to seven million feddan of cultivated land would have been redistributed, i.e. about 16 per cent of the land area. Ultimately 250,000 families, or some eight per cent of the fellahin, would benefit from the land reform laws of 1952-1962. The fact that the land was not freely redistributed and that peasant seizures were illegal, restricted the reforms to one sixth of the cultivated land area and one twelfth of the fellahin. Over 90 per cent of the fellahin continued to suffer from absolute or relative landlessness under the 'radical' agrarian reform laws of Nasser's Arab or African socialism. This paralleled the failure of the Ben Bella and later Boumediene regime in Algeria to solve the same problem. Both failures were due in the first place to the tie up of the ruling national bourgeoisie with the imperialists who retained their basic interest in the primary industry nature of Egypt and Algeria as semi-colonies. In Egypt's case, in addition, the national bourgeoisie had historical ties, through the Mistr group, with the feudal landowners and the latter had financial links, since the 19th century, with British, French and other imperialist powers.

remain landless, 2.5 million less than one feddan, half the minimum for basic subsistence. The extent of Egypt's financial and commercial ties with the West is reflected in its exports. Only one per cent of these go to Africa itself. The bulk are primary production items destined for the US and W Europe. Mining, farming and the monoculture of cotton, which is the largest, comprise over 50 per cent of national production. The 1952 National Charter Declaration of Nasser rejected industry as an immediate target, thereby retaining the economic structure imposed on the country by imperialism. The characteristic complement of the imperialist concentration on primary industry (mining and farming) in the semi-colonies is the starvation of industry. As its immediate aim this has the preservation of the existing manufacturing industries inside the imperialist countries, which do not want to create competition for themselves. At the same time the creation of urban manufacturers inside the semi-colonies would result in an increased urbanized working class and imperialism has more or less deliberately set its face against this development. There have been some exceptions to this, including Japanese techniques of super-exploitation in certain areas; and of industry in Rhodesia and S Africa. But the industrialization of S Africa and Southern Rhodesia is simply an expression of the fact

JOHN SPENCER EXAMINES THE EFFECTS OF NOISE IN INDUSTRY

Deafness at work

'NOISE POLLUTION' is the latest fashionable by-word, with agitation against jumbo jets, airports and motorways heading the list. In the glamour of this new-found catch-phrase, it is generally forgotten that noise pollution is nothing new, and that in industries like textiles, heavy engineering, shipbuilding and nail-making, 'noise pollution' has been a reality for many years. Unlike a number of other harmful pollutants—poisonous chemicals, asbestos, carcinogens etc., the worker has virtually no legal protection against noise. Controls are, to all intents and purposes, non-existent. Yet the effects, while less dramatic, can be as crippling as exposure to harmful chemicals. The effects of loud and continuous industrial noise are not very dramatic in most cases. In simple terms the sufferer slowly but surely becomes deaf. He or she may not notice for some years that their hearing is less acute. By the time the deafness is noticed, it may be so marked as to prevent hearing of normal conversation. Over a working lifetime, industrial noise can produce almost complete deafness. The reason why this happens is now fairly well understood by scientists and doctors who treat and study industrial deafness. It appears that constant exposure of the delicate ear membranes to strong vibrations and changes of pressure thickens them and makes them less sensitive, particularly to the higher tones which play an important part in speech, and a key part in music. Hearing ability is at its peak in youth and deteriorates with age, even under normal conditions. No doubt this ageing process is connected with the exposure which everyone undergoes at one time or another to loud noises, which have a cumulative effect.



Noise is the worst part of working in this linen mill in Belfast.

over the noise and ear-mufflers would lead to a deterioration in safety. Much of the research that has been done comes from the National Physical Laboratory—a government laboratory with a record of objective and painstaking research in industry. This laboratory is now threatened with the Tory axe. The new Trade and Industry supremo, John Davies, has made it known that the government is to be 'disengaged' from industry—laboratories like the National Physical Laboratory will be cut to the bone. 'The government,' Davies says, 'should only be involved in industrial research and development if industry is prepared to pay the government to do it.' In other words, the Tories are going to break up the government laboratories and put the damper on all industrial research which is not directly financed by industrial firms. The current research into hearing loss and industrial deafness will undoubtedly come very low on companies' priorities if they have to pay for research themselves.

JUST OUT

NEW PARK PUBLICATIONS STALINISM IN BRITAIN A TROTSKYIST ANALYSIS BY ROBERT BLACK

Available from New Park Publications 186A Clapham High St. SW4 Price 24s post incl.

Germany Leon Trotsky IMPORTANT READING price 2bs post inc

I would like information about THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE Fill in the form below and send to NATIONAL SECRETARY, SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE, 186A CLAPHAM HIGH ST, LONDON, SW4. Name Address

Peasant poverty Part of the poor peasantry of Egypt is the wage-earning farm labourer. The Arab Socialist Union's programme froze wages at the equivalent of four shillings a day for migrant, seasonal and other semi-migrant farm workers. At the same time the overall economic plan continued to stress cotton production, the traditional imperialist crop. Agrarian Reform Co-operatives, under state control, were set up in order to rationalize this primary crop production and thereby perpetuate the cause for Egyptian poverty and landlessness. Over 1.5 million families

Depot strike could halt tubes

LONDON tube depot workers meet next Monday to consider striking each Monday over a bonus dispute. Motormen, shunters and guard shunters from a dozen London Transport tube depots want a bonus scheme in line with that already introduced for other motormen and guards. "We are fed up with the delay in settling our claim" said one of the men involved. If the strikes go ahead the tube system could be brought to a standstill as no trains could be made up and put on the main lines.

Struggling to survive on £13 a week Farm pay award means fight ahead

FARMWORKERS were yesterday considering their reply to the Agricultural Wages Board's contemptuous 16-per-cent offer of a £14 16s minimum wage for a 42-hour week.

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

Many of them were rightly incensed by this derisory answer to their 37-per-cent claim.

Britain's 350,000 agricultural workers are on the march; they are tired of labouring long hours on the land for pay that no factory worker in the country would tolerate.

They are tired of the gruelling hours of unpaid overtime, tired of the stingy paternalism of many farmers, tired of tied cottages and the ever-present threat of homelessness, tired of the hand-outs and myths about life in the country and tired of the near-feudal relationship between master and men.

They now want £18 for 40 hours—a modest claim which they say they will strike for if the National Farmers' Union do not pay.

They were on the streets of London last year. In November, 2,000 men women and children rallied at Trafalgar Square for £16 and 40 hours.

Days later back in the country districts they had to swallow their anger and bitter disappointment when the union accepted a paltry 15s bringing their rate to its present level of £13 3s for men and £9 17s for women, both for 43 hours.

WARNING

Now they have warned their leaders in the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers, that any retreat on the Agricultural Wages Board whose recommendations have statutory power—will lead to withdrawal of labour and for the first time for over 50 years Britain's farms may be without men and women to bring in the produce.

But the Board, taking advantage of the farm union's refusal to lay concrete plans for strike action, has come up with a mere 33s-a-week offer—plus a cut in the working week of one hour.

Life on the farm in 1970 is far from idyllic for women like Mrs Jenny Young, wife of a Warwickshire farm worker.

When she was working they could manage, but now she has brucellosis contracted, she thinks, from drinking untreated milk.

"It's no way to live really. Since I gave up work we can't manage so well. I would say on the wage we get we just about exist. That means hardly ever going out for enjoyment everything goes on the kiddies and food."

"We would leave the land, but you see we have a tied cottage which we would probably lose if Trevor gave up his farm job. Some of the cottages are just hovels, rural slums I would say."

"On the money my husband gets, the building societies just laugh at you when you go for a mortgage—we couldn't afford the interest on one anyway."

John Pratt is an older farm worker from Cherington, Warwickshire. He told us of the near feudal conditions that prevail on some farms.

"You often work long hours overtime and get no pay. The farmers are very casual about this they just scribble out the wage slip on a bit of paper it takes you all your time to work it out—tax and insurance are all lumped together."

NO BONUS

"This summer's hay harvest was one of the worst I worked on. I did up to 95 hours overtime and they said they would give me a bonus, but then they forgot that when it came to pay time."

"Often they pay you late, perhaps three or four days after the official pay day."

"These are typical of the conditions that Britain's 350,000 farm labour force (180,000 of them full time) must work under."

But NUAAW secretary Reg Bottini's 'disappointment' at the size of the Board's pay award and its refusal to grant a 40-hour week—we don't think that this is right—is a far cry from the militant calls for strike action issued by farmworkers' meetings in Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire.

Many farm workers would like to see an end to the Wages Board—composed of eight representatives of the NUAAW, eight representatives of the NFU and five government appointees. It can impose settlements without the agreement of the farm workers' side.

Farm workers earn 3s 6d an hour less than the average factory worker and 9,000 adult farm workers take home less than £13 for a 43-hour week.

If their latest claim is to see the end of their role as the cinderella of the working class, however, it will clearly require the most determined struggle not only against the NFU and the government-backed Wages Board—but against their own union leaders.



Kent miners taking part in the pit-head ballot.

MINERS' PAY CLAIM

With the results of their strike ballot due tomorrow some miners talk to Workers Press

STAN SHANKS, Bilsthorpe Colliery (Notts) and ROWLAND BURTON, Ollerton Colliery (Notts):

THIS FIGHT is for the lower-paid worker mainly. If you're a power-loading worker, it's possible for you to be trapped or maimed anytime.

If a man gets a physical disability he can be put on haulage work or on the pit top and he would want a reasonable standard of living.

Our whole point is that any high-paid worker could be a low-paid worker tomorrow through injury.

The majority of low-paid workers are where they are because of disability.

If a man's health means he has to keep out of heat or dust, he's on these low-paid jobs.

A man starts on a low wage and he works up to a better-paid job. Then when he gets older, injured or ill he's back on low pay again.

This is the only industry where a man starts on a low wage and finishes up on the same low wage after 20 to 40 years' service.

The offer of 50s now and phasing the rest over two years is no good. The simple reason is the rate of the cost of living is going up so fast, we will be no better off.

The last thing anybody wants is a strike. But if there is no alternative, what must be must be.

JOE THIRLWELL, Thoresby Colliery (Notts):

IF WE LOSE this, we might as well jack up—we would be giving in to the NCB. We've got to go with the strike, especially for the lower-paid men.

Robens is trying to bribe us with the offer of 50s. That offer is an insult and in my opinion we have bowed down to them long enough.

I'm prepared to stick it out for the full '65—nothing less. We'll stick it out to the finish.

I'm not a political man, but I think the time has come to stand out now.

M. ALLEN, Thoresby Colliery (Notts):

I AM IN favour of the strike. We are lower than the low now; we will be even lower if we don't strike.

The government says workers should produce more to earn more, but nobody says how much we have to produce nor how much more they'll give us for producing it.

What can I say? It's a strike against the government and it's, about time we had one.

They are letting the prices go up in the shops and holding our wages down. The union should

not settle for less than £5. I was earning more 10 years ago than I am now, and I'm working harder for it today.

The 50s offer? Robens said accept that, there's no more, the meeting's closed. Well then, all right, that's it.

They have been openly blackmailing the miners with the threat of closures for years. Well, if he shuts them, he shuts them, it's not going to bother us. He's trying to frighten the men, especially those of 50 or over. It won't work this time.

PADDY HANLEY, Thoresby Colliery (Notts):

IF WE DON'T stick to our guns now, we might as well hang our heads in shame.

Those who say we should accept 50s don't know what they're talking about. Heath is going to charge us 5s to see the doctor. He'll have £3 a week off us in rents, fares and prescription charges.

The leaders want watching so they don't back down. All the branch officials went to Downing St two years ago about closures. They didn't take the rank and file down and the leaders did nothing about closures.

But the Coal Board can't frighten us with the threat of closures. It's sink or swim now. We should not accept less than £5. Nothing whatsoever.

If they compromise now, the union will be breaking itself up. The rank and file have been sick of the leaders for some time. They'll be even sicker if there's a sell-out now. If we don't win, the management will be told to get the whip out.

At the present time some of the older workers are coming off the face and still getting the face rate even though they may be doing light work.

If we are defeated, these men will find that their wages will drop to the minimum day wage. They could drop £2 10s a day.

The ballot has been wrongly worded. It should have said: 'Do you want £5 a week rise, Yes or No'. Then those who say 'Yes' are for the strike.

FRANK SCULLION, Thoresby Colliery (Notts):

CONDITIONS in the pits are bad. Dust conditions are getting no better, especially with the new machines that are being pressed into the collieries.

Also, today they can send you to the shift bottom to seek materials (under the Power-Loading Agreement). This is no benefit to the lads in the pit.

The wages in the pit now are an insult, especially to the lower-paid workers. There are men on contract work who have lost as much as £5 a week, because the Power-Loading Agreement finished payments for contract work. The conditions under PLA don't make up for the dangers to health from the dust.

Robens' television interview was nothing new. He was asked about his own rise, and said the miners buy things at the same prices as him. Why should Robens get his huge rise? He's not working in the dust.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1971. 11 a.m.

ALEXANDRA PALACE
Wood Green
London, N22

Young Socialists and All Trades Unions Alliance
GREAT NATIONAL RALLY AGAINST TORYISM

BOOK THIS DATE NOW!

ADVANCE NOTICE

FRANCE

Unions try to split aircraft pay strike

BY DAVID BARNES

THE STRUGGLE by the 43,000 workers of France's state aerospace industry (SNIAS) for a new wage contract is threatened by the two main unions' splitting tactics.

President who gave Trotsky asylum dies in Mexico

GENERAL Lazaro Cardenas who died in Mexico City this week, aged 75, was the Mexican president who gave asylum to Leon Trotsky in 1937.

General Cardenas was one of the leading generals of the Mexican revolution from 1910 to 1920 and was elected president in 1934.

His land reform policies won wide support among the peasantry, though Cardenas himself occupied a Bonapartist position, balancing politically between the peasantry and workers and the great oil interests.

When Trotsky and his wife were ordered out of Norway in 1937 the Mexican painter Diego Rivera interceded with Cardenas and asked him to give Trotsky asylum.

Pressure

Cardenas agreed, despite the intense Stalinist diplomatic blackmail and pressure against this decision.

He declared that he had not only granted Trotsky asylum, but had invited him to be the government's guest.

Right up to Trotsky's assassination on August 20, 1940, Cardenas was faithful to his pledge.

His only condition was that Trotsky should not interfere in Mexico's internal affairs, a condition to which Trotsky adhered scrupulously.

Despite a virulent Stalinist campaign inside and outside Mexico against his actions in harbouring Trotsky, Cardenas defended his right to speak out against the Stalinist slanderers.

Cardenas was not a revolutionary, despite his offer of asylum to Trotsky. But by standing up to the Stalinist slander campaign during those bleak years of reaction, he did an important service to the development of the Fourth International.

Faced with widespread unofficial stoppages in plants throughout France, SNIAS President Ziegler finally offered a national contract which gave only derisory wage increases and included anti-strike clauses.

Socialist 'Force Ouvriere' union leaders have now called on their members to decide either to accept the contract outright or go on immediate indefinite strike.

In their hands, this is clearly a manoeuvre to get the contract accepted whilst the Stalinist CGT leaders are still calling for 'pressure' to improve the terms.

Division

There is here a clear division of labour. FO chiefs, faced with great militancy by their own members, especially in the Toulouse factory where Concorde is being built, can put on a 'left' mask.

The CGT, with a policy of actions at plant level, provides the means to keep the struggle at the pace of the least militant sections.

In doing so they cover up the FO leaders' bluff. FO militants know that only a joint indefinite strike could win the day.

Ban

French dockers have been operating a ban on overtime and weekend and night shifts, in support of claims for improved fall-back pay, a lower retiring age and against the running-down of the ports.

The CGT dockers' federation has appealed to other sections of workers for solidarity in operating the ban.

Over 4,000 miners in the Merlebach coalfield (in Lorraine) are on strike following a call from the major unions last week. The action has been called against management attempts to reorganize the shift system without offering any compensation whatsoever.

Occupying

In the Oise region over 800 Tréfontaines metal workers at Serrfontaine are occupying the plant in a week-old strike for a pay increase and a sliding scale of wages.

Management has so far refused even to offer parity with workers in their other plants.

Background to the daily struggles on wages and jobs in France is the report just issued by the Centre for Economic Studies of the CGT on unemployment.

About 440,000 are now without a job—almost as many as the recorded figure shortly after the May-June 1968 general strike.

But now a high proportion of these are long-term unemployed and young people.

An estimated 40 per cent of the jobless are less than 24 years old.

NEW SUBSCRIPTION RATES FOR 6-DAY WORKERS PRESS

The Workers Press is now being published on six days a week. The production of the extra Monday issue will be decisive at this time when the Tories are planning an all-out onslaught against the working class with their anti-union laws and attacks on wages and living conditions. Only Workers Press has fought for revolutionary leadership inside the working class in order to force the Tories to resign.

We thank all our present subscribers for their support, which has helped us make this big step forward, and urge all new readers to become regular subscribers.

Money outstanding on present subscriptions will be credited to the new rates. When these subscriptions expire, readers will be notified and the new rate will then apply.

The new rate for six days will be:

£13 for 12 months (312 issues)
£6 10s for six months (156 issues)
£3 5s for three months (78 issues)

If you want to take Workers Press twice a week the rates will be:

£1 for three months (24 issues)
£4 for 12 months (96 issues)

PLEASE DON'T DELAY. TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY NOW TO TAKE OUT A SUBSCRIPTION OR EXTEND YOUR EXISTING ARRANGEMENT.

Fill in the form below NOW and send to: Circulation Dept., Workers Press, 186a Clapham High St., London, SW4.

I would like to take out a subscription/extend/change my present subscription to Workers Press.

Days required MONDAY THURSDAY
(Please tick) TUESDAY FRIDAY
WEDNESDAY SATURDAY

Or Full subscription (six days) for months.

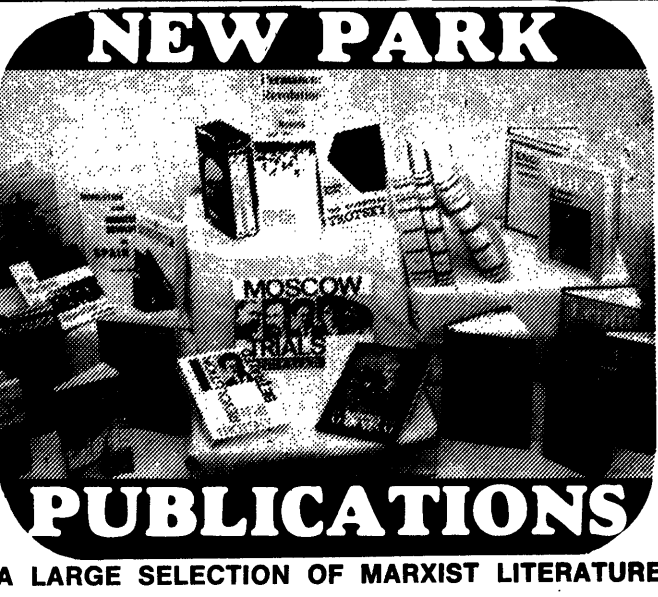
Name

Address

.....

.....

Amount enclosed £ s d



NEW PARK PUBLICATIONS

A LARGE SELECTION OF MARXIST LITERATURE

Send a self-addressed envelope for a free booklist to: 186a Clapham High St, London, SW4.

Help the Young Socialists make their

GRAND XMAS BAZAARS

a great success

If you are able to sew, knit, paint and can make goods for our bazaars. If you can give us jumble, gifts, tins of grocery. Please contact Young Socialists Bazaars, 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4.

THE BAZAARS ARE AT:

LONDON LEEDS
Saturday, November 28 Saturday, December 12
Plasnet School Corn Exchange
(nr East Ham tube) Leeds
Doors open 12 noon Doors open 12 noon

PUBLIC LECTURES

Elements of Marxism

The importance of Marxist philosophy in the building of the revolutionary party.

Lectures by

G. HEALY

(National Secretary of the Socialist Labour League)

DAGENHAM OXFORD
Monday October 26 Thursday October 22
Monday November 2 Thursday October 29
Thursday November 5

Kay's Restaurant Northgate Hall
271 Ilford Lane Oxford
Ilford. 8 p.m. 8 p.m.

Three lectures by

M. BANDA

(Editor of Workers Press)

ACTON BLACKFRIARS
Thursday October 29 Monday October 26
Thursday November 5 Monday November 2
Thursday November 12 Monday November 9

'Kings Head' Friars Hall
High Street Blackfriars Road
Acton. 8 p.m. SE1. 8 p.m.

Three lectures by

C. SLAUGHTER

(Central Committee of Socialist Labour League)

BIRMINGHAM SHEFFIELD
Monday November 2 Sunday November 1
Monday November 9 Sunday November 15
Monday November 16 Monday November 22

Digbeth Hall Crooksmoor Vestry Hall
Birmingham. 7.30 p.m. Crooksmoor Rd, Sheffield 6.
7.30 p.m.

Two lectures by

G. HEALY

in Glasgow

Sunday October 25 Sunday November 1
Wednesday November 11 Wednesday November 25
Royal Institution, Colquhoun St (near Bold St). 7.45 p.m.

Capitalist laws

FROM PAGE ONE

Tories have at their disposal the most formidable legal weaponry which they will certainly use against the working class.

The experience of Canada is not an isolated incident.

In France, young left-wingers face long jail sentences and deprivation of civil rights for distributing illegal literature.

In Germany, only three years ago, the government put on the statute book the most sweeping emergency powers, more all-embracing than Hitler's Enabling Acts. It is absolutely clear that behind the façade of parliamentary democracy the employers internationally are preparing for the suspension of all the democratic rights of the working class and the imposition of Draconian legal repression.

When the Tories talk about 'law and order' they are not referring simply to anti-union laws.

They have in mind the preparation of the machinery of military-police dictatorship which is concealed behind the façade of the democratic state.

The working class must be prepared to meet this challenge, in the course of a ruthless struggle against all the reformist and Stalinist purveyors of the illusion of 'peaceful roads to socialism'. That is the only worthwhile defence of the democratic rights workers have won in struggle against the employers.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

- BIRMINGHAM:** Thursday, October 22, 8 p.m., Small Heath Tavern, Coventry Rd.
- WILLESDEN:** Thursday, October 22, 8 p.m., Labour and Trades Hall, Willesden High Road.
- OLLERTON:** Saturday October 24, 12 noon, "The Plough", Ollerton.
- NEWCASTLE:** Sunday, October 25, 7.30 p.m., Hesperus Hotel, Haymarket.
- SOUTHALL:** Tuesday, October 27, 8 p.m., Southall Community Centre, Bridge Road.
- SW LONDON:** Tuesday, October 27, 8 p.m., Princes Head, Falcon Road, Clapham Junction.
- W LONDON:** Wednesday, October 28, 8 p.m., Prince Albert Pub, Balfe Street, Kings Cross.
- N LONDON:** Wednesday, October 28, 8 p.m., Co-op Hall, Seven Sisters Road.
- THANET:** Wednesday, October 28, 8 p.m., Willson Hall, Willson Road, Ramsgate.
- SE LONDON:** Thursday, October 29, 8 p.m., Artichoke Pub, Camberwell Church St, Camberwell.
- DEAL:** Thursday, October 29, 8 p.m., Pier Hotel, Beach Street, Deal.
- MANCHESTER:** Wednesday, October 28, 8 p.m., Whitehead Hotel, High Street.

WEATHER

In Scotland and N Ireland it will be rather cloudy with occasional rain.

NW England and N Wales will be mainly cloudy with perhaps some rain in places.

England, except the NW, will have frost at first but will be mostly dry with sunny spells, but there may be a little rain in NE England later.

It will be rather cold in E England otherwise temperatures will be near normal.

Outlook for Friday and Saturday: Changeable in the North with a little rain at times, but with sunny periods in the South.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE CONFERENCES

- Support Pilkington glassworkers and their right to strike!**
 - Defeat the proposed Tory anti-union laws**
- SUNDAY NOVEMBER 8**
- COVENTRY:** Keith's Club, Cox Street, 3.30 p.m.
 - NEWCASTLE:** Royal Turk's Head Hotel, Grey Street, 3 p.m.
 - SHEFFIELD:** Crooksmoor Vestry Hall, Crooksmoor Road, 7.30 p.m.
- SUNDAY NOVEMBER 15**
- GLASGOW:** Partick Burgh Lesser Hall, near Merkland Street underground, 7.30 p.m.
 - LONDON:** Woodlands Hall, Crown Street, Acton, 7.00 p.m.
- Speakers will be from the Pilkington Rank and File Committee

LATE NEWS

CHOCOLATE JOBS TO GO

Chocolate Tobler Mellis Ltd, the Bedford chocolate and confectionery firm, are to sack 300 of their 850 workers on November 13, due said the company to cost inflation.

PROTESTING WIVES QUIZ ROBENS

Protesting housewives yesterday halted the car taking Lord Robens, Chairman of the National Coal Board, to Newstead Colliery, Nottinghamshire. About 60 women gathered outside the gates, waving banners and shouting slogans.

Registered as a newspaper at the Post Office, Published by Workers Press, 186a Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4.

Printed by Plough Press Ltd, (TU), 180b Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4.

IMG revisionists ban Pilkington speaker

LANCASTER Trades Union Defence Committee, which is backed by shop stewards at Lansils and other workers, is planning to distribute leaflets in the local factories, exposing the dangers of the Tory union legislation, and to call a public meeting in the town on opposition to the Tory laws.

However, a suggestion at the Committee's last meeting that Pilkington's rank-and-file leader Gerry Caughey be invited to speak at the public meeting was turned down, although it was initially supported by workers on the Committee.

Opposition to inviting Caughey came, after his name had been added to the list of proposed speakers, from supporters of the revisionist International Marxist Group.

BRIDLINGTON

IMG announced, after presumably having paused to think about the matter, that if Caughey spoke no union officials would be able to appear on the same platform. They claimed that this was because of the Bridlington agreement.

When it was pointed out that Pilkington's workers had been in the front line of the struggle against the employers, and that their struggle was being followed by other NW workers who would welcome the chance to hear a speaker, the revisionists replied that it would be all right to have a speaker from Pilkington's committee at a meeting about Pilkington's, but that at the meeting on union legislation it was important to have union officials speaking.

ALTERNATIVE

The position was made somewhat clearer when it was suggested later that an alternative speaker might be Bill Hunter, Lucas-CAV steward, from Liverpool.

There could be no objection under the Bridlington agreement, and Bro Hun-

ter's factory had taken part in all the struggles against incomes policy and union legislation under the previous government.

This suggestion was again opposed by IMG supporters.

A university lecturer, supporter of IMG, made it clear that the objection was political, and that in his view nothing must be done to offend any union officials.

BURROWING

It seems that in the face of the Tory offensive and the union leaders' retreat, these revisionist 'Red Moles' have decided to do some more deep burrowing and hide themselves without trace behind the union bureaucracy.

Just what sort of struggle against the Tory legislation can be conducted under these conditions is hard to imagine.

However, as the issues in the struggle are made clearer, bearing in mind that the Mole is a blind animal, the revisionists are unlikely to be followed much further. The credibility gap is growing.

Farm offer is 'pitiful'

- Union organizer

THE OFFER of a £14 16s minimum wage to Britain's 180,000 farmworkers was described as both 'inadequate and pitiful' by a local union organizer yesterday.

'We wanted an £18 minimum and what we have got will do nothing but give our men and women who work on the land a living wage.'

'It will not narrow the gap between them and industrial workers,' David Harrison, Beds', Bucks' and Herts' organizer for the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers told the Workers Press.

'The Agricultural Wages Board has been very crafty here. They have not offered a satisfactory increase, but they hope it will be enough to dampen the spirits of the moderates in our ranks,' he said.

'Reports I have received from the areas so far suggest that farm workers are disgusted with the offer of £13s. Half of it will not be paid until January and the other half will be eaten up by price increases before that date.'

'They are making a big play of the fact that this is twice what we have ever received before—but then look at the ridiculous increases we have accepted in the past.'

The Board will meet again to consider objection to the offer in December, but this is usually a formality. The increase will then be given statutory force.

End Board

Many farm workers would like to see an end to the Board on which their representatives are in a minority.

'I personally would like to see a system where we would negotiate directly with the National Farmers' Union, but again this offer may take some of the steam out of the demands for this,' said Mr Harrison.

● A full analysis of the claim and modern conditions on the land appears on page 3.



Liberation fighters training in N Chad.

United

FROM PAGE ONE

trade unionists still supporting the right-wing bureaucrats.

The Leninist United Front was directed towards forcing the trade union leaders to defend democratic rights under conditions where revolutionists would be able to expose them.

The Stalinists abandoned this fight and in Germany allowed Hitler to come to power because the German working class was divided.

The Tory government constitutes the beginning of a threat which can open the door for dictatorship.

It can be defeated, but to do this we must learn the lesson from past experiences to achieve the United Front.

There is a danger that the militants can be isolated if we do not pursue policies which unite the working class in action from within their mass organizations.

We must mobilize the ranks in order to force the leaders to fight.

Caught between the Tory threat from the right and the mass movement from below, the trade union leaders can be forced to act.

The more this is done the more they will be exposed and the mass education of the working class facilitated.

The central task before us is to force the trade union leaders and the TUC to call a one-day general strike against the anti-union laws.

Chad liberation forces gaining strength

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

FRENCH imperialism is now seriously concerned at the prospect of a ruinous colonial war in Chad—one of the the nominally 'independent' states of the French Community in central Africa.

While Tombalbaye, France's puppet dictator in Chad, has demanded an increase in the number of French troops stationed there, Gaullist minister Leo Hamon declared, in the Paris National Assembly, that all forces will be withdrawn in 1971.

French capitalism, always ready with a hypocritical attack on the US war in Indo-China, has already had its fingers burned in its African territories.

In 1964 paratroops had to be sent to protect President Mba of Gabon against a threatened insurrection, and in 1968 an armed con-

spiracy was necessary to install a pro-Gaullist regime in Congo-Brazzaville.

KEY AREA

But Pompidou cannot simply leave the Chad government to its well-deserved fate.

Though Chad itself is one of the poorest countries in the world, with a calculated income per head of less than £10 a year, the struggle there is the key to a much wider area.

In the October 1970 'France Afrique' Jean Miale (a close collaborator of Jacques Foccart, the high official responsible for French policy in Chad) explained the dilemma:

'The affair in Chad is not a simple question of maintaining order in the heart of Africa... a deterioration of the situation in Chad, which would be highly probable if France had not intervened, would

seriously damage the whole of French policy in Africa south of the Sahara.'

Opposition to the Chad dictatorship is now well organized despite the routine use of torture and terror by Foreign Legionnaires.

The main liberation movement, FROLINA, has 13 separate units of an average size of 800 men.

There are more volunteers than can be accepted as recruits.

Their determination can be seen from the fact that each new recruit is given a simple spear and told, at the earliest possible opportunity, to replace it with a rifle captured from French government forces.

MOBILE

Using camels and horses, the liberation forces are highly mobile, protected by the population, and are even equipped with a number of rocket-launchers and mortars, effective against the helicopters and armoured vehicles used by the French troops.

The French government has not the slightest hope of destroying this resistance in any swift military operation, and are therefore hesitating before committing themselves to a war from which they can see no exit.

The war in Chad, like that in Vietnam, is the concern of the international working class.

All organizations of the labour movement must demand the immediate withdrawal of all French troops from the country.

Caledonian-BUA link confirmed

CALEDONIAN Airways is taking over British United Airways to form Britain's independent 'second force' airline, it was confirmed yesterday.

The new airline has been assured by the Board of Trade that there would be no problem about powers to transfer routes from BOAC.

BOAC said that it would not agree willingly and yesterday Mr Clive Jenkins of ASTMS said that legal action would be taken against the President of the Board of Trade if BEA and BOAC routes are cut without their approval.

New labour laws debate in Spain

FRANCO'S puppet 'parliament', the Cortes, has begun its debate on a draft labour law, aimed at putting a more 'liberal' facade on the fascist corporate unions.

Independent trade unions have been illegal in Spain since the Civil War and all workers are forced to join the 'sindicatos' in which their employers and the government are represented.

Not surprisingly, the fascist unions never call strikes and their functionaries have waxed fat over the years on the income from compulsory membership levies.

And though the new law is couched as a 'liberalizing' move, Franco's government is giving nothing away.

In the past all union officials were appointed by the government, but now election is to be allowed for certain lower posts.

However, top officials will still be appointed, with the power to discipline any workers who step out of line, and dissolve branches which go against the regime's fascist principles.

Same dog

As one Spanish militant put it:

'It's the same dog with a different collar.'

The new law will not fool Spanish workers, and will certainly fuel the strike struggles and the growth of the illegal 'workers' commissions'.

The original impetus for the new law came from the Tarragona congress of the Franco unions four years ago.

Pressure for changes in union structure came to a head with demands, even from the fascist functionaries, for a semblance of democracy inside the unions.

Over the past four years the Tarragona proposals have been systematically emasculated by Franco's lawyers, who finally came up with the draft now before the Cortes.

Convince

Main purpose of the new legislation is to convince the International Labour Organisation and the Common Market countries that workers in Spain have the right to organize.

Spain hopes to get into the Common Market, but objections have been raised about the repressive laws in force there.

Algerian regime murders Krim

BELKACEM KRIM, one of the famous 'nine fathers' of the Algerian uprising, was strangled to death in a Frankfurt hotel by a group of Moroccan and Algerian mercenaries last Sunday.

W German police are looking for three Moroccans and an Algerian who checked in at the luxury Continental Hotel, where Krim was staying, on the Sunday of his death.

Krim, 48, came from a peasant family in the Grand Kabyle, an area largely populated by Berbers.

He served in the French army and, after the war, played a prominent role in building the Movement for the Triumph of Democratic Liberties which was led by Messali Hadj.

Disillusioned by the failure of the Messali leadership and the rival faction of Yazid to organize effective resistance to the French, particularly after the Constantine uprising of 1945 and the terrible repression that followed, Krim, together with Ben Bella, Ait Ahmed, Ben Boulaid, Ben H'Idi, Rabah Bitat, Boudiaf, Didouche and Mohammed Khider, formed the CRU—the Revolutionary Committee for Unity and Action.

It was this committee which prepared the uprising of November 1954.

One left

Of the original group of nine, only one, Rabah Bitat, occupies a position of authority in Algeria today.

Ben Bella is either dead or in prison; Ait Ahmed led an uprising in the Kabyle against Ben Bella and was outlawed; Ben Boulaid was killed by the French in the Aures mountains in 1955; Ben H'Idi was tortured to death by the police; Boudiaf formed a socialist opposition group and lived in exile; Didouche was killed in 1955 by the French; and Mohammed Khider, who was entrusted with millions of pounds taken by the FLN 'tax collectors' in France during the war, absconded to Madrid where he was assassinated.

Krim had four death sentences passed on him by the French and one by Boumediene—all in absentia.

Krim, who was war minister in the GPRA—Revolutionary Provisional Government of Algeria and signed the Evian Agreement with the French, later disagreed with Ben Bella's policies, went into opposition in 1963 and fled to Switzerland.

He formed the opposition Democratic Movement for Algerian Renewal in 1967 in Paris.

In April 1969 Boumediene sentenced Belkacem and six others to death, *in absentia*, for conspiracy to kill a leading Algerian politician.

Belkacem stated recently that he did not believe the Boumediene government would assassinate him for his views which, paradoxically, were pro-French.

He believed that 'Algeria must play the franc game with France. French private capital should be introduced in Algeria...'

Defended

He was certain that Boumediene's regime would fall.

While opposing Ben Bella, he nevertheless defended him against the regime.

'I find it inhuman and undignified of the Algerian people that he should be treated in this way,' he said in his last interview.

The murder of Krim and the 'disappearance' of Ben Bella are indictments of the reactionary Algerian regime which cynically gives refuge to Black Panthers and hippy leaders whilst ruthlessly suppressing its political opponents at home and abroad.

Kenya Asian

FROM PAGE ONE

back to Kenya because I cannot work. I can only go there as a tourist.'

Miss Lakkawalla, 20—who was granted a 12-month entry certificate in October 1968 to come to Britain as a student—was born in Kenya and issued with a British passport in 1965.

She applied for an extension to her permit in September 1969 to allow her to continue her studies.

When this was refused she applied for a new passport which would enable her to stay in Britain permanently, the only difference between this passport and the one she held being the country of its issue.

She was refused this and consequently appealed to the Tribunal.

Representing her, Miss K. S. Nathan said:

'She has no travel document. All she can do is to go to the British Home Office and ask for a passport.'

Troops

FROM PAGE ONE

Invergordon naval mutiny against cuts in servicemen's pay.

Section 1 of this act makes it an offence to endeavour to 'maliciously and advisedly' seduce any member of the forces from his duty or allegiance.

Any advocacy of a policy which conflicted with a government policy, which in the military field gave rise to a variety of specific duties, could be regarded as intending to seduce the armed forces away from such duties.

Clearly with such statutes a Tory government has the power to outlaw a whole range of activities that could be undertaken in support of the council workers' claim.

Their continued offer of troops to authorities, who have clearly stated that they do not want them, and the rumours of more direct military intervention, are seen by many council workers as an attempt to scare union officials to the negotiating table again.

Swindon and Reading workers have already given their answer to this government pressure.

Union officials must not retreat and must insist on the full award.

Miners suspended for ban

BY AN INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

FOURTEEN branch officials at Hem Heath colliery, Stoke on Trent, have been suspended by their area executive for twice ignoring a call to end their overtime ban in support of the miners' £5 pay claim.

'We believe we have been victimized because we have not toed the line laid down by both the area and national executives,' said one of the suspended officials who represent 1,400 men at the colliery—one of the most modern in Europe.

'We received a letter saying we had been suspended forthwith. But morally we have a duty to represent the feelings of our members and the decision to continue the overtime ban was unanimous at a mass meeting.'

The 12-man pit committee say they will take further action if the Midlands area executive of the NUM does not reinstate their branch officials. Their ultimatum runs out sometime tonight.

About 70 per cent of the 37,000 Nottinghamshire miners are operating a similar overtime ban. An area executive spokesman said yesterday that there were no moves to discipline their members and that they had in fact recommended the action.

A spokesman in London admitted yesterday that the executive had recommended no action be taken before the results of the strike ballot, due this Friday, were known.

Union to meet St Helens building firm

UNION representatives are to meet the Stockport-based construction firm of Rowlinsons Ltd who have sacked St Helens building workers for marching in support of the victimized Pilkington's glassworkers recently.

The men who were sacked and locked-out at the firm's Liverpool Rd site, St Helens, are maintaining their picket at the site gates.

'All we can do is wait now,' Kevin Ryland, who was an Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers' steward on the site, told the Workers Press.

Italian Stalinists admit 'mistakes' in Reggio

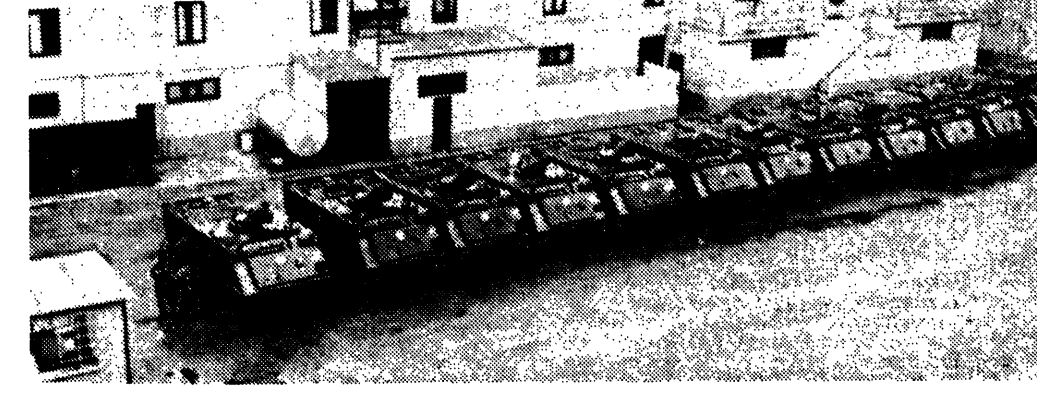
BATTLES which flared again last week in Reggio Calabria, in which the paralysis of the official leaders of the labour movement paved the way for the military occupation of the city and a wave of provocation by extreme right-wing elements, has thrown the Italian Communist Party into confusion.

At a weekend press conference Communist members of the Calabria Regional Council, who previously claimed that the clashes were the work of fascist hooligans, said:

'We have no hesitation in recognizing that the protest expressed a popular demand for justice. We received a heavy blow from the elements of Reggio. We did not succeed in controlling the masses. We did not succeed in reorientating the terms of the struggle. (Our emphasis.)

But their apologies were followed by the same tired recipes that led to the treachery in the first place—calls for 'structural reforms' to solve the problems of southern poverty and unemployment, but no intention of mobilizing the working class against repression.

Their position on the insurrection in Reggio is fully in line with their parliamentary tactics, where they are trying to modify the government's 'decree' on the economy in favour of a more inflationary policy—submerging the question of class power beneath a discussion of taxes and public spending.



Armoured vehicles remain on the alert in Reggio.