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BY JOHN SPENCER

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CONDEMNED to death twice—for allegedly executing political-police chief Manzanas and for 'banditry' with the Basque revolutionary movement ETA—are (top row, l to r) Javier Izzo, Joaquin Gorostidi and Eduardo Uriarte.

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All six defied the military court with statements that 'Mirror' house agreement: case adjourned

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Their sentence, after a mockery of a trial before a military court, is ample evidence, if more were needed, of the Franco regime's monstrous barbarism.

But humanitarian protest by itself against the fate of Izzo and his comrades will not weaken Franco or make the slightest dent on Spanish fascism.

The Burgos trial is not just the concern of Spanish workers. It is part and parcel of the system of imperialism, the system of monopoly and exploitation which is the fountainhead of barbarism in Spain, Vietnam and all over the world.

Imperialism in crisis is swinging sharply to the right. US president Nixon continues to devastate Vietnam and Cambodia and turns his police and troops loose on the students of Kent State university and the Black Panthers of Chicago and New York.

Jails crammed

In Greece the colonels' junta is entering its fourth year of rule, its jails crammed with trade unionists and political prisoners.

At home, Heath and the Tories plan stringent laws to do away with trade union rights.

All over the world, imperialism is striking back at workers, whose determination to retain and advance their rights and gains threatens the basis of capitalist private property.

Capitalist democracy, in Britain as in the United States, Canada, Italy and France, is more and more a facade for the preparation of civil war against the workers.

That is the real significance of the Burgos verdicts. They are intimately tied up with the fate of every trade unionist in Britain and every worker internationally.

The Labour leaders and the Stalinists try hard to maintain the lying fiction that Spanish fascism has 'liberalized'.

Many of them take their holidays in Spain and establish diplomatic and commercial relations with the blood-stained Caudillo and his functionaries. These people have rendered Franco enormous services.

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Less than a year before they turned their tanks on the workers of Gdansk and Szczecin, the Polish Stalinists sent coal to Spain and helped break the Asturian miners' strike.

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press in Spain and recently opened a tourist office in Madrid.

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The Stalinist bureaucracy's mortal fear of workers' revolution in Europe gives it no option but to line up against the working class with the most reactionary and discredited regimes.

Moscow's protests against the Burgos trial are a worthless fraud.

They have made not the slightest effort to rupture their new ties with Franco, despite the protests of the Spanish Communist Party itself.

The same goes for the British Communist Party and its leaders, who have yet to

PAGE FOUR COL. 9

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Countries highlighted were Britain, West Germany and Japan, where the trend towards higher wages was if anything increasing in tempo.

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About 100 people have been arrested since November 26 following a bomb blast in Athens' centre and the discovery of two unexploded home-made bombs near the radio station.

The latest arrests were made over the Christmas holiday period in Athens and Salonica, the sources said.

Beware of provocations

THE SAVAGE sentences against the Basque nationalists are a timely reminder to the international labour movement of the nature of capitalist 'law and order'.

The wave of demonstrations and strikes that has followed the announcement of the death sentences will also be the occasion for the capitalist state to intensify its infiltration of workers' ranks and engage in provocation.

In this they will be aided wholeheartedly by the capitalist press, ever willing to launch a witch-hunt at the drop of a hat and on the flimsiest of evidence.

According to yesterday's 'Daily Telegraph', following the Burgos verdict, they received a telephone call—anonymous, of course—threatening 'action' against six members of the Spanish Embassy in London.

The front-page report continues:

Franco has not changed

BY ROBERT BLACK

SPAIN is still ruled by the military dictatorship that butchered its way to power over the bodies of countless workers and peasants in the civil war of 1936-1939.

From the very beginning of his military career, Franco, born into a wealthy Galician family, dedicated himself to the preservation of capitalist 'law and order'.

Whether it was against striking miners in Asturias or the rebelling Riff tribesmen of Spanish Morocco, Franco excelled all other officers in his lust for retribution against the enemies of his class.

SUPERVISED

It was Franco who personally supervised the butchering of the Asturian miners after the suppression of their October 1934 uprising against the ultra-right-wing Gil Robles regime.

As many as 10,000 miners are known to have died at the hands of Franco's firing squads.

Yet this was but a small-scale rehearsal for the massacres Franco unleashed after the outbreak of the civil war.

Backed by Nazi Germany and fascist Italy, and with the connivance of the 'democratic' imperialists, Franco's mercenaries slaughtered trade unionists, communists, socialists, anarchists, even liberals and right-wing republicans, not in their tens, but hundreds of thousands.

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BASQUE and Spanish exiles in Britain maintained a vigil outside the Spanish embassy in Belgrave Square yesterday after some of them stayed all night in the cold to protest the Burgos verdict.

They were joined by members of the Socialist Labour League, Maoist organizations and the Communist Party.

More than 200 people, shouting 'Franco Assassin!' and 'Free the Burgos 16' stood outside the embassy within hours of the Burgos verdicts being released.

Demonstrators had Basque flags and carried banners denouncing Spanish fascism and supporting Basque independence.

The embassy windows were shattered and a heavy force of police kept the protesters well away from the door.

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The main aim of the deal is apparent from statements after the deal was approved by a mass meeting of UCS men on Monday.

James Murray, Scottish executive council member of the Boilermakers Society, said that the deal would provide increases for his members and the company.

'We can hope for a period of peace with UCS', Murray said. 'It will give the company and our members an opportunity to show what really can be done, providing facilities are made available for us to continue.'

'We understand our future lies in working together and not going on strike,' added Murray.

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Harland and Wolff outline plans: Deal agreed at UCS

From our industrial correspondent

A UNION delegation from Harland and Wolff, Belfast's debt-beset shipyard, heard management plans for the future of the yard yesterday.

Already the delegation from the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, headed by boiler-makers' president Dan McGarvey, have had discussions with Greek shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis, the Norwegian shipbuilder Fred Olsen and Swan Hunter of Tyneside, who have all expressed an interest in the yard.

Despite an order book of £70m Harland lost £4m last year.

An announcement about its new owners is expected from the N Ireland government in the next two weeks.

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The mountain of material to be issued between now and D-Day—February 15, 1971—was revealed yesterday at the Decimal Currency Board's London press conference.

But nowhere is there to be found a mention of decimalization's impact on the cost of living.

Answering questions, DCB chairman Lord Fiske stated that 'the fear of rising prices has been submerged by the price rises themselves'.

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He admitted that there would be no checks on price trends, other than those carried out by 'ten million housewives'.

It would be 'unfair to use the force of law', he added. In some cases manufacturers could be bankrupted if their prices were rounded down!

'I don't think we'll see shopkeepers trying to make a quick profit', he said, but admitted that the Board would not be making any price surveys after D-Day.

'It's not our job', he said. To cope with the changeover, banks are closing after February 10 until D-Day and Post Offices are closing from Friday, February 12.

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PAGE FOUR COL. 1

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Saturday January 2, 1971 at 2.30 p.m. East India Hall East India Dock Rd, London E14

National Speaking Contest Special Photo Competition

Report to be given by Aileen Jennings, Editor of Keep Left

Dance to 'The Uptights' in the evening TICKETS 7s 6d Apply to: 186a, Clapham High Street, London SW4.

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A Queen for a day

BY FRANK CARTWRIGHT

A CHEAP TV programme to make is one that uses the audience as contestants and 'gives away' prizes donated by subsidiaries, advertisers or other members of the trade.

'Double your Money' and the old format for the intermission during Sunday Night at the London Palladium are examples of this form of cheap entertainment.

No expensive artists or sets, no expensive film or travelling. Just the anchor man.

Cheap to mount, cheap to run, cheap to get an audience watching the commercial breaks—the whole idea of commercial television after all—and very cheap and nasty to watch.

Impoverishment

They appeal in a deliberately perverted way to all the economic and cultural impoverishment, competitiveness and hunger for accomplishment in the audience.

The height or depth of such shows was reached in the US some few years ago in a programme called 'Queen for a Day'.

The producers brought together about half a dozen women

On the US TV show 'Queen for a Day', women told stories of poverty, illness and hunger. Desperate for food, the poor in Detroit's North-East side will even eat possum and coons at 43 cents a pound.

and each in turn told her story to the studio audience. At the end the audience used a meter which allegedly measured clapping to show which of the women was their choice as Queen for the Day.

And the stories the women told? Without exaggeration they were of paraplegic husbands dying, crippled children and bed-ridden relatives who required constant attention.

They were stories of poverty and oppression, of lives utterly blighted through illness, through lack of even the simplest foods and facilities.

The women were made to compete with each other in recounting their bitterest years. All the stories were true and none of them needed over-telling.

'My husband died five years ago; my mother who lives with us is bed-ridden so I can't go

out to work unless I put her in an institution.

'My son, living at home, doesn't make enough to support us all and any way he is a mental defective because of the conditions in which we lived when he was born.'

That would be a simple story on the show and most were of a degree of desperation and hopelessness which make it pale into insignificance by comparison.

It was a spectacle of capitalist society getting profit even from the human misery its relentless profit-seeking causes.

Crowned

No opportunities for a quick return are ever lost.

When each woman finished her story she was asked by the compere what she would like if she was elected.

They said food, medical care,

a washing machine, a new stove... never anything much, never anything which was in short supply as long as you had the money.

The winner would of course get an abundance over and above her request and would actually be crowned and wrapped in a mock ermine robe by scantily-clad girls.

She would invariably sob uncontrollably in big close-ups and you would sit and wonder if this is what they do to the winner, what the hell is happening to the losers?

The memory of this show was brought back by watching the re-appearance of our own Queen after a short absence on Christmas day.

Unlike the traditional show when Her Majesty simply sat in the palace and broadcast her message this one had credits at the end to film cameramen and sound recording, to producer's

assistants, the dubbing mixers and to a producer.

It was an elaborate affair clearly planned a long way in advance and revealing the reason for last year's temporary respite.

Special film shot during the royal tour of New Zealand, Australia and Canada was all tied together with HM doing the links from the front room in the customary way.

She'd met

She spoke of all the interesting people she'd met all over the Commonwealth and she soft-sold with conspicuous restraint the notion of the Commonwealth of Nations.

No mention of the nasty economic or political realities.

Instead we watched chats that she and the Duke had with Eskimos in Canada, or that Princess Anne or the Prince of

Wales held on the lawns of Balmoral with athletes during the Commonwealth Games in Scotland.

It was all part of the desperate attempt to bind up the crumbling facade with gay informality.

But the informality struck this viewer simply as inanity and the new modern monarchs and their children came across to me not as new models, but as very obviously re-conditioned old ones.

The producer was, of course, Richard Cawston, head of documentary programmes at the BBC—the same fellow who produced the hour-long Royal Family film (repeated yet again this week) and who also helped to man equipment which kept the BBC on the air during the technicians' strike a year ago.

No accident of course that it should be such a chap who is recruited for the job as TV public relations man to the Royals.



HONOURABLE REBELS

'THE TIMES' has reported that 'left' Labour MPs are considering some form of protest action in the House of Commons on January 12. To 'demonstrate solidarity' with trade unionists striking against the anti-union law, they are discussing the possibility of a 'sit-down' at Westminster or the disruption of the division lobbies.

We need only recall the variety of delaying tactics employed by Irish Nationalists in a century ago. The disruptive activities of a Member called Cromwell come in a different category—that of revolution, not 'protest'. A rather closer and more recent parallel was the incident in 1929 described by Fenner (now Baron) Brockway in his book 'Inside the Left'. Brockway himself had upset the House by refusing to obey the Speaker in protest against the continued holding of Indian political prisoners by the Labour government. MacDonald moved his suspension and a vote was forced by

some Independent Labour Party lefts. Brockway, in the way, a young man named John Beckett, decided to hold up the proceedings by grabbing hold of the Mace and running off with it. 'The Members were scandalized,' says Brockway. 'First there was a gasp of astonishment, then a storm of angry, cries of "shame", "scandalous", and even "you swine". The Labour MPs were as shocked as any, a revelation of how deeply they had fallen in idolatry to the institutions of the capitalist state.' (Lord Brockway wrote this a quarter of a century before entering the House of Peers.) Both Brockway and Beckett

were suspended, after the sacred lump of metal had been restored to the clerks' table. Protests of this variety are part of the history of parliament under capitalism: Westminster is just the place to let radicals blow off a bit of steam.

So the 'Tribune-ites', who applaud every step of the TUC and Labour Party leaders' retreat in front of the Tories, may well make some noise there on January 12. But a campaign to force the calling of an official General Strike to bring down the Tories—that is something quite beyond them. He became a leader of Mosley's British Union of Fascists, later forming a breakaway British People's Party, modelled more closely on Hitler's Nazi Party.



'ADMIRER' SUSAN KERWICK

Trailing Ted

'THEY say she wants to appear in pictures, and she's being taken; that she tries to pick up his conversations with other people on her tape recorder and often steps in holding a microphone; and that she tends to follow him into private meetings—including one press conference'. The lady referred to in this 'Sunday Express' report is 19-year-old Miss Susan Kerwick. 'I suppose in America I would

be called a political groupie,' says Kerwick. The object of her attentions is none other than Mr Edward Heath, and Tory Central Office is very worried about it. Apparently she has been trailing him since the General Election campaign. The 'Express' quotes her father as saying, 'She's genuinely mad about politics, but people distort it and it's wrong.'

Important reading

NEW PARK PUBLICATIONS

STALINISM IN BRITAIN

A TROTSKYIST ANALYSIS
BY ROBERT BLACK

Available from New Park Publications, 186A Clapham High St., SW4.

WORLD CHAMPIONS

LAST Wednesday's 'Morning Star' declared that Mr Heath was 'two-faced'. 'Any Prime Minister who can go straight from approving the bombing of Vietnam to conducting Christmas carols in Broadstairs should have no difficulty in taking first prize as hypocrite of the year,' said an editorial. In hastily awarding Heath the Duplicity Cup, the Stalinists are too modest. Combining the treachery of Stalinism with the humbuggery of English radicalism, they have few rivals in hypocrisy. Having applauded the crushing of workers' democracy in the Soviet Union and grovelled before Stalin as he murdered the leaders of the Russian Revolution, they now pose as apostles of peace and freedom. While using every trick they know to cover up the actions of the bureaucracy against the working class in Poland, they bring all their energy to bear on the task of doing the same thing in Britain. Above all, while they pretend to wax indignant at each move of the Tory government, they fight to prevent the mobilization of the workers' movement in a struggle to bring it down. So we have no hesitation in declaring the British CP leaders champion hypocrites. They should be allowed to keep in perpetuity the Forked Tongue Trophy.

Workers Press notebook

Germany 1931 1932

Leon Trotsky

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tv

BBC 1

10.25-10.55 a.m. Schools. 12.25 p.m. Nai Zindagi—naya jeevan. 1.00 Disc a dawn. 1.30 Watch with mother. 1.45-1.53 News and weather. 1.55-3.00 Out of school. 4.20 Play school. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Madly sad princess. 5.15 Screen test. 5.44 Magicroundabout. 5.50 News and weather. 6.00 NATIONWIDE. London. 6.45 'HORTON HEARS A WHO'. Horton the elephant answers a cry for help. 7.10 TOM AND JERRY. 7.20 STAR TREK. 'Requiem For Methusalem'. 8.10 SOFTLY, SOFTLY—TASK FORCE. 'The I Direct'. 9.00 THE NINE O'CLOCK NEWS and weather. 9.20 'SO YOU THINK YOU'RE KIND TO ANIMALS'. Are you looking after your pet properly. 10.10 SYBIL THORNDIKE REMEMBERS. 11.00 JANET BAKER, DIETRICH FISCHER-DIES, Accompanied by Daniel Barenboim in a song recital. 11.55 Weather.

REGIONAL BBC

All regions as above except: Midlands, E Anglia: 6.00-6.45 Nationwide. Midlands today, Look East, weather. 11.57 News, weather. North, NW, NE, Cumberland and Westmorland: 6.00-6.45 Nationwide. Look North, weather. 11.57 News, weather. 6.00 Wales today, weather. Nationwide. 6.45-7.00 Golden. 7.00 Heddiw. 7.20 Drosodd at Williams. 11.57 Report. Scotland: 6.00 Report. Nationwide. 6.45-7.10 Scotland for wildlife. 11.57 News, place for six, weather. Nation around 11.57 News, weather.

BBC 2

11.00-11.20 a.m. PLAY SCHOOL. 7.30 p.m. NEWSROOM and weather. 8.00 TIMES REMEMBERED. 8.10 MAN ALIVE. 'Alone'. Loneliness is increasing. 9.00 'THE PRICE OF LOVE'. By Arnold Bennett. With Stephan C. and Adrienne Frank. £1,000 disappears from Mrs Mald house the night her two nephews come to dinner. 10.20 NEWS ON 2 and weather. 10.25 LATE NIGHT LINE-UP. 'Laughter In Despair'. Joe Orton writing is discussed by actors, directors and producers.

ITV

11.05 a.m.-12.52 p.m. Out of school. 4.17 Adventures of Rupert Bear. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Lift off. 5.20 Sexton Blake and the puff adder. 5.50 News. 6.02 THE SAINT. 7.00 THIS IS YOUR LIFE. 7.30 CORONATION STREET. 8.00 THE CHAMPIONS. 'Autokill'. 9.00 A FAMILY AT WAR. 'A Hero's Welcome'. 10.00 NEWS AT TEN. 10.30 GETTING THE YEAR TOGETHER. Highlights of 1970. 11.15 CINEMA SPECIAL. 12.00 midnight OUTLOOK 71. Discussion of the British Council of Churches' report which in effect supported the use of violence against apartheid in S Africa.

REGIONAL ITV

CHANNEL: 4.00 Puffin's birthday greetings. 4.10 Rupert Bear. 4.25 Granny gets the point. 4.55 London. 6.00 News, weather. 6.10 African patrol. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Treasure hunt. 7.30 London. 8.00 It takes a thief. 9.00 London. 12 midnight Epilogue. News, weather. SOUTHERN: 11.05-12.52 London. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 Wind in the willows. 4.30 London. 6.00 Day by day. Crime Desk. 6.30 My three sons. 7.00 London. 8.00 Saint. 9.00 London. 12 midnight News, 12.10 Weather. Action 70. WESTWARD. As Channel except: 11.00-12.52 London. 3.58 News. 4.00 GRAMPAIN: 11. News. 3.52 Women today. 4.15-4.12 London. 3.40 Car. 6.00 News. 6.35 Crime. 6.10 Gram. news. 9.00 London. 7.00 Epilogue. 12 midnight

INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

PLANS HAVE been laid by the Fleet Street press barons for a thorough-going attack on wages and conditions throughout their paper - and - ink empire.

Behind the 'Daily Mail' redundancy-pay dispute forced seven days ago lies a strategy to enforce spirit and letter of the Tory Industrial Relations Bill at every news desk and in every machine room.

It must be combated.

But union leaders representing both editorial and production staffs have left their members in a dangerously weak position.

In fact they have in some instances even aided preparation of the employers' battle plans.

Issues in the 'Daily Mail', 'Daily Sketch' and London 'Evening News' journalists' dispute with Lord Rothermere's Associated Newspapers-Harmsworth Publications group, however, are clear and unmistakable.

'Liability'

Harmsworth is unwilling to continue a current house agreement beyond January 14 because its redundancy clauses 'might commit the company to a liability which it would not be able to fulfil'.

Formally expiring tomorrow, the present agreement guarantees four weeks' pay for each year of service.

With the 'Mail' still reeling from an £824,000 loss in its last financial year and the circulation-losing 'Sketch' eating up about £250,000 every 12 months, journalists understandably fear staff cutbacks could be implemented before new terms are negotiated.

So they are insisting the agreement stands until a fresh one is concluded.

What is at stake here is the future of all the current house agreements in the industry.

Closed shop

Many of these have allowed the establishment of relatively favourable wages and conditions through ensuring strong closed-shop trade union organization.

'The Street' faces speed-up drive



The Tory anti-union Bill would outlaw the closed shop and in this way pave the ground for just the kind of speed-up, rationalization and redundancy the newspaper chiefs need to prop their ailing profits.

Fleet St is the powerhouse of the Tory propaganda campaign against the unions.

But December 8 and the 'Evening Standard' printworkers' action over the Jak cartoon aimed against the power strikers demonstrated that it has another face, and it is this which is currently exercising the press lords.

In insisting that any new house agreement must be subject to the terms of the proposed but much-criticized pay settlement between the NUJ and the Newspaper Publishers' Association, Harmsworth is no doubt just the herald of further attacks of the same kind.

But by allowing the inclusion in this proposed agreement of a clause guaranteeing the employers an 18-month freeze on house pay negotiations, the National Union of Journalists' leadership has struck a blow against its own side.

Opposition

And its equivocal position on the Industrial Relations Bill—it accepted that some parts were good, while coming out in verbal opposition to the package as a whole—has further weakened its members' position.

Both journalists and printworkers face similar leadership problems in what must be their united struggle against the employers' attack.

With jobs already in question in the Thomson organization,

writing is also appearing on the wall at Beaverbrook Newspapers.

Top Beaverbrook executives have recently been taking soundings in London, Manchester and Glasgow about their plans for staff reductions, conversion of existing buildings and introduction of new plant.

A forward planning group has drawn up a five-year, £11 million plan to re-equip, rationalize and integrate the company's operations in a bid to overcome present heavy losses.

Output

It has become clear that the front-line target here will be existing agreements with the print unions, which Beaverbrook regards as hampering its output.

The company claims that its present London agreements allow

a maximum running speed of only 38,000 an hour on modern presses capable of 50,000.

Net output per press per hour of a 16-page 'Daily Express', it says, is as low as 17,200 copies in one office.

In another office, 'Sunday Express' output is claimed to have fallen near the 11,900-an-hour mark.

Speed-up, flexibility of operation and redundancies are the standard response of employers facing such problems.

So far they have received considerable assistance from union leaders.

In a Scottish agreement signed in May this year, print unions accepted the principle of a one-third manning reduction in return for a pay increase of the same order for those who remained in work.

A two-year deal reduced manning requirements from 104 for letterpress to 73 for web-offset at the Glasgow 'Daily Record' and 'Sunday Mail' plant in return for a new agreed minimum of £50 for a 40-hour week, as compared with an existing basic of £35 to £40.

Productivity

'Isn't this what productivity is all about?' asked Society of Graphical and Allied Trades assistant secretary Arthur Davis at the time.

No doubt the press lords now hope that principles marketable in Glasgow can also be bought in Fleet St.

The 'Record' agreement, which was in fact drafted by Davis, also provided for complete interchangeability between members of SOGAT and the Scottish Typographical Association.

Such opportunist retreats must be halted.

Defence of jobs, conditions and trade union organization is essential to the wages struggle and the first prerequisite of the fight against the Tory anti-union plans. They are not for sale.

Sprouts glut ploughed back?

ACRES of brussels sprouts may be ploughed back into the soil as a result of bumper yields over and above contract amounts having been produced this year.

Factors contributing to the surplus are better techniques, improved varieties, bigger acreage and the good summer.

According to 'Farmers' Weekly', many acres of good sprouts on the E coast could be too uneconomic to be harvested.

In this situation, a sharp frost which destroys a percentage of the crop might be looked on as beneficial to maintenance of high prices by some farmers, though individually each would prefer that his own crop was unaffected.

Such a cutback would mean higher prices to the housewife and would fit in with the Tories' intention to bring to an end what they refer to as the 'present cheap food policy'.

Panthers refused bail

NINE members of the Black Panther Party on trial in New York for an alleged bombing conspiracy, were refused bail on Monday because the judge was displeased with their court-room behaviour.

Their lawyers were criticized for continuing to question witnesses along lines Judge John Murtagh had ruled inappropriate.

A three-month effort to raise bail for Clark Squires, one of four other defendants in the trial, failed when the judge rejected a bond for £21,000 on the grounds that he had set that sum for each of two charges against Squires.

The group which raised the money afterwards charged that the judge was using the 'bail issue to punish the defendants in advance of a verdict'.

Daily expression of CP bureaucracy's crisis

THE DEEPENING crisis of Stalinism in E Europe and the USSR is now expressing itself every day in pronouncements by government and Communist Party leaders.

Desperate to overcome the hostility of the workers, the Polish Gierek regime is cynically trying to evade all responsibility for the recent riots.

Despite its support for all major policy decisions of the previous government the new ruling group is demagogically blaming the crisis on the ousted Gomulka leadership.

References to 'hooligans' being behind the strikes and demonstrations have now been dropped from Polish press and radio.

For example, the Warsaw daily 'Zycie Warszawy' commented after Gomulka's removal:

'In the last few days our country has found itself in a deep crisis. The reason for this crisis, the immediate causes of which were the recent economic decisions (price rises), was much deeper—namely the fact that the dialogue between the Party

leadership on the one hand and the working class and the community on the other broke down and was more and more frequently replaced by unilateral decisions often taken in a very narrow circle.'

The same article went on: 'The shocking events in the three coastal towns, (Gdansk, Gdynia and Sopot) and Szczecin, Elblag and Slupsk were a dramatic consequence of that fact: they faced our nation with the gravest danger.'

The frankness of the admissions is not surprising—every Pole must know by now exactly what did happen in these areas.

More significant is the reluctance of the new leadership to provoke the already bitterly roused working class of the Baltic towns with accusations of 'hooliganism' and 'anti-socialism'.

Weakness and isolation

The Gierek leadership's weakness and social isolation forces it to speak in this way, while at the same time cementing links with

reactionary forces in the church, the army and the countryside for future use against the working class.

This strategy is extended on an international plane by Gierek's pledge to continue Gomulka's policy of 'detente' with W German imperialism.

But, Gierek is able to offer the working class very little either in terms of socialist democracy or improved material conditions.

Apart from vague promises of a 'dialogue' between the bureaucracy and the workers—and this from a regime which claims to be ruling in the name of the working class—all the major concessions are being made to the political right—the Catholic Church, the small traders, the artisans and the rich peasantry.

Official Soviet reactions to the Polish crisis have contrasted sharply with the pronouncements of the Gierek regime—and for very good reason.

While Gierek is forced into demagoguery under the immense

'It was those anti-social criminal elements, and not the protests of workers that were vigorously rebuffed. Those who looted a set fire to buildings and those who fired from around the corner received the treatment they deserved.'

This 'treatment' included, as eye-witnesses have confirmed, the crushing of women and children under tanks!

Another broadcast, after accusing the Chinese leadership of using the same terms to describe the Polish crisis as those employed by various 'imperialist propaganda agencies', concludes:

'The Polish workers have quickly restored order and stopped the hooligans' criminal activities. Even the "Voice of America", the mouthpiece of US imperialism, has to admit that normal life has been restored in Poland.'

Deeply divided

There are, it seems, agencies and agencies!

The tremors of the Polish clashes have certainly made themselves felt in the leadership of the Czech Communist Party which is deeply divided over how to resolve its own political and economic crises.

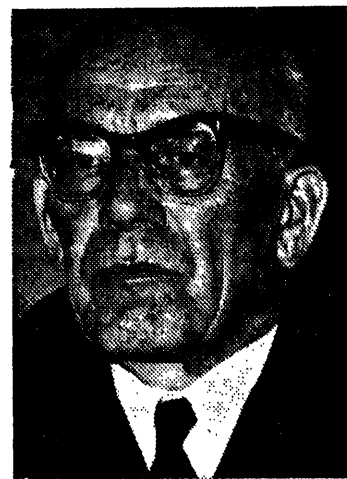
The 'hard-liners', already pressing Husak for firmer action against the remnants of the Dubcek group and for stiffer discipline in the factories, are obviously using the Polish crisis to strengthen their case still further.

In his speech to the recent session of the Czech CP Central Committee, ultra-Stalinist Bilak said:

'It is not popular to refer to Stalin today, but one statement of his strikes a sympathetic chord: "for old merits bow deeply, for new mistakes a slap on the back with a stick". I regard this statement as very fitting for our conditions.'

In this same speech, Bilak had made an explicit attack on Trotskyism, saying:

'Anyone who proclaims himself as more left wing than the Party cannot but end on Maoist and Trotskyist positions. Such is the logic of the struggle and such is the logic of the development of life.'



Gomulka

pressure of an aroused working class, the Kremlin is compelled to play down the scale of the clashes, as well as distort their origin, for fear of provoking discussion inside the USSR on the crisis just over its western frontier.

Soviet broadcasts for home consumption have scarcely made any reference to Poland, while foreign language programmes have slandered the movement in vintage Stalinist fashion.

Referring to the murder of workers in the Baltic ports, one broadcast to Asia said:

A new ATUA pamphlet 6d

Just off the press

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Dentists attack Tories' plan to cut NHS

BY A WORKERS PRESS CORRESPONDENT

AN ATTACK on Tory plans to dismantle the National Health Service has come from the secretary of the 12,000-strong British Dental Association.

Mr Jack Peacock said on Monday that if the government were to take dentistry out of the NHS 'it would be a tragedy, a classic example of spoiling the ship for a ha'porth of tar'.

He said that the BDA was worried about the profession's future as the government 'is now intent on the destruction of the NHS'.

Demand fell

'For those people who have lived all their lives under the 22-year-old NHS, we are way ahead of the US,' he said.

'In 1948 in this country, 11 per cent of the people under 30 had lost all their teeth. Today this figure has been cut to 4.6 per cent.'

Mr Peacock stated that when charges were introduced in the early 1950s—£1 for treatment and a maximum of £5 10s for dentures—demand fell by 30 per cent in the next three years. It had been shown that even

today charges were still a strong deterrent to going to the dentist.

Last year dental treatment under the NHS cost £85 million. This covered 20 million treatments compared with 12 million in 1958, said Peacock.

A British Medical Association spokesman said that no approach had been made from any official source to test their views about changes in the Health Service.

He said that the BMA supported the NHS and a great deal of thought would have to be applied before any far-reaching changes were made.

There is now growing unease in the medical profession over the Tory proposals to slash the NHS and the impact on health standards.

Doctors' fees

The government will soon be revealing its plans in full, but it is already known that dental treatment will cost up to £10 from next April and that a return to doctors' fees is favoured.

A WORKERS PRESS PAMPHLET

Just off the Press

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Elements of Marxism

Lecture by G. Healy, national secretary of the Socialist Labour League.

BEXLEYHEATH: Roberts Hall, Christchurch, Broadway, Tuesday, January 5, 8 p.m.

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Gas men angered by pay 'ceiling'

Decimal

FROM PAGE ONE
The latest edition of the Transport and General Workers' Union journal 'Record' says: 'Whether the new rate is 51 new pence a loss of just over 1d, or 51½ new pence a gain of just over 1d is going to have to be negotiated between managements and unions...'

Allowance
It will be essential when the new rates are negotiated to get an allowance to cover the increased cost of living. This is absolutely correct and trade unionists must use their organized strength to make sure that the necessary increases are achieved when the negotiation of wage rates takes place.

ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS
Miners and the Charter of Basic Rights

STLEFORD: Saturday, January 9, 12 noon. Ship Inn. Speaker: Sid Hinchcliffe (Glasgow Colliery). BENTLEY: Sunday, January 10, 12 noon. Bay Horse Inn. Speaker: Frank McCabe (Brodsworth Colliery). BERTON: Saturday, January 16, 12 noon. Ship Inn. Speaker: Eckel (Ollerton Colliery).

WEATHER
E AND S ENGLAND will remain cloudy, with further sleet or snow, heavy in places. The remainder of England and Wales will be rather cloudy, but there will also be a few bright intervals, with scattered wintry showers. In Scotland will be rather cloudy, with snow showers, but will become brighter during the day. In Scotland there will be variable amounts of cloud, and a few scattered snow showers. Look for Thursday and Friday: a coming cold with sunny intervals. Snow showers, especially in the N and E, where they may be prolonged.

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LATE NEWS

***HOLDING' GAS OFFER?**
(See story this page)
Britain's 60,000 gas manual workers may be made a 'holding' pay offer today pending the Wilberforce report on the electricity claim.
The gas men's union representatives are meeting the employers in London when a better offer has been promised than the 30s a week — just under 10 per cent — which they have already rejected.

POLISH-SOVIET TRADE SIGNING

Soviet foreign trade minister Nikolai Patolichev and his Polish counterpart Janusz Burakiewicz yesterday signed a new five-year trade agreement between the countries and a trade protocol for 1971. Patolichev, who arrived here yesterday, is the first high-ranking Soviet official reported to have come here since the change in the Polish

UNION LEADERS representing the gas industry's 60,000 manual workers today return to the negotiating table to re-open talks on their claim for a substantial pay increase.

The unions earlier rejected the Gas Council's offer of just under 10 per cent, but are now hard up against the government's determination to hold state industry pay rises below this ceiling.

Croydon gas workers yesterday expressed their anger at being singled out for such treatment.

General and Municipal Workers' steward Mr L. Grant told us: 'We don't agree with the government freezing the claim. 20 per cent would mean some-

GAS price increases in Scotland will start on January 1. Estimated gas revenue will go up 6.7 per cent in full year, producing an additional £2,500,000.

The Board estimates that the increased cost will not exceed 1s a week for any domestic consumer with a credit meter whose present annual bill is £50 or under.

The increase for people with pre-payment meters should not exceed 1s 3d a week for those with an annual bill of up to £50.

The price of gas in Scotland was last increased in April 1968, when there was a rise of 3 per cent.

thing like business. 10 per cent doesn't make sense. 'We're doing the dirtiest job in the company on the purifier department and our wages for a flat week are as little as £18 before stoppages. This is no use to a man with a family.'

Higher

'Everything's going up higher and higher since the Tories got in.'
The SE Gas Board is 'putting up gas prices so they're supposed to be able to pay the rises.'
The area's 1½ million dom-

Nationalized Egyptian property in danger

EGYPTIAN President Anwar Sadat has ordered the setting up of special courts made up of a panel of judges able to return property taken over from employers in the last ten years.

Property nationalized in this way, sometimes for political reasons, will thus be channelled back to private ownership.
President Sadat, announcing the measures, said he was im-

plementing undertakings of his predecessor's manifesto of March 30, 1968.

This document which was met with a wave of student and workers' demonstrations in most of the Egyptian cities, was drafted by Nasser and contained similar intentions.
Sequestration of foreign property began at the time of the 1956 Suez crisis, when British and French imperialism was particularly affected.

A considerable amount of private property had been taken over ever since by President Nasser.

Together with the manoeuvres of peace talks, this can only be seen as part of the rightward swing on the part of Arab governments, so carefully planned and implemented with the aid of the Soviet bureaucracy.

Prospect of a successful Arab workers' revolution strikes terror in the hearts of both the Arab governments and the Soviet Stalinists.
Consequently private big business in Egypt has recently received increased assurances of security from attacks from Arab workers.

'Chairman' Birch in Peking

REG BIRCH, executive member of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering and Foundryworkers, spent his Christmas in Peking as a guest of the Chinese government.

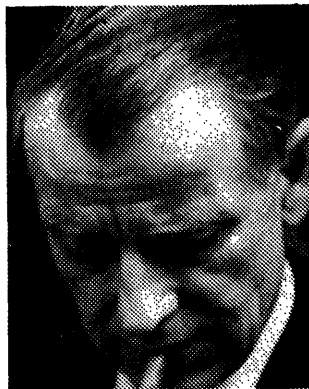
He was leading a delegation of Maoist 'British Communist Party', which publishes the monthly journal 'The Worker'.

Peking Home service informed its listeners that 'comrades of the delegation were given a warm welcome at the airport by Chou En-lai'.

Previously the Birch group has only been awarded recognition by the Albanian government as Britain's 'official' Maoist Party.

The presence of the Chinese Prime Minister at the airport, together with the news that 'comrades Chou En-lai, Yao Wen-yuan, Chiu Hui-tso and Chi Teng-kuei had a cordial talk with Reg Birch and other British comrades before and after the banquet' suggests that Peking has now awarded Birch the same honour.

Final confirmation came when the radio report referred to 'Chairman Reg Birch', a title usually reserved for Mao himself.



The reactions of Birch's Maoist rivals in Britain should prove both interesting and amusing.

Topple Hashemite throne call New Mid-East movement emerges

AS PRESSURES increase for the resumption of another round of 'peace' talks in the Middle East, a new Jordanian resistance movement has emerged.

The movement, calling itself 'The Free Jordanian Movement', issued a statement calling for mass support against the authorities.

'The treacherous and lackey authorities', it said, were implementing an imperialist plan to humiliate the Jordanian people under the pretext of fighting the revolution of the Palestine people.'

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine has stated that the movement is not affiliated to the Palestine resistance movement.

ELIMINATE

The movement's aim, the statement continued, was to eliminate imperialist hangers-on by toppling the Hashemite throne... and establishing a national, revolutionary government which can lead the country towards complete liberation and independence.'

Meanwhile Arab guerrillas launched two rocket attacks—the first since the fighting in September between guerrillas

and government forces—from Jordanian territory against the Israeli town of Beit Shean yesterday.

Bazooka fire was also reported coming from the Syrian side of the ceasefire lines against Israeli army posts in the occupied Golan heights during the night.

Guarantees of military and economic aid and other political assurances from Washington have played a decisive part in enabling the Israeli Prime Minister, Mrs Golda Meir, to announce that conditions are now ripe for the resumption of peace talks.

STATEMENT

The Israeli cabinet unanimously decided on Monday to rejoin the Middle East talks under Dr Gunnar Jarring. The present cease-fire expires on February 5.

Attempts have been made to hold separate talks with Jordan.

BY A WORKERS PRESS FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

The movement's aim, the statement continued, was to eliminate imperialist hangers-on by toppling the Hashemite throne... and establishing a national, revolutionary government which can lead the country towards complete liberation and independence.'

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and government forces—from Jordanian territory against the Israeli town of Beit Shean yesterday.

IMPROVED POLISH-VATICAN relations welcomed

The Polish Press Agency (PAP) has issued a statement welcoming the improvement in relations between the Vatican and the E European Stalinist regimes.

It notes that 'the new international policy of the Vatican... was started by the late Pope John XXIII... [who] appealed to Catholics to join their efforts with those of different world outlooks, to attain by common endeavours what is good because of its very nature or what leads to the good.'

This praise is obviously timed to coincide with the 'detente' under way in Poland itself between the Church and the new Giersek regime.



Mr L. Grant, G & MWU steward, talking to Workers Press yesterday

Franco has not changed

FROM PAGE ONE

people' would be sacked and its occupants shot out of hand.
Then, using the trade union records, a systematic witch-hunt of all working-class militants would be launched, until not a single socialist, communist or anarchist militant remained at liberty.

MOWN DOWN

Herded into city squares, bull rings and stadiums to intimidate the local population, they would be mown down—sometimes to the peal of church bells—by Franco's hired gunmen, armed to the teeth by Hitler and Mussolini.

This is how Franco came to power.
This is how he intends to hold on to it now.

This grisly ritual did not end with Franco's military victory in March 1939. For another three years the firing squads worked on, tearing the guts out of the Spanish workers' movement and rendering it powerless to resist the exploitation and repressions of the capitalists and landlords.

Even official fascist figures reveal that at least 200,000 militants were executed in the years that followed the end of the civil war.

Franco's crusade against the working class did not halt at the frontiers of Spain. He sent his infamous 'Blue Division' into action against the Red Army when Hitler invaded the Soviet Union in 1941.

IRON CROSS

Franco's future foreign minister, Castiella, was awarded the Iron Cross by Hitler for his services to the anti-communist cause on the eastern front.

Yet recently, the Kremlin began to boost him as the leader of a 'liberal' trend within the Franco regime.

With the defeat of the Axis powers in 1945, Franco began to make overtures to the 'democratic' imperialist camp. 'Without in any way "liberalizing" his regime, Franco began to win friends in the USA and Britain.

The official United Nations policy of boycotting fascist Spain was dropped, and, by 1950, Spain had secured admission to one of its affiliated organizations.

Then, with Soviet approval, fascist Spain became a full member of UNO.
But inside the country, the working class, recovering from the blood-letting of the previous decades, had begun to move.
In 1962, a strike wave swept through the Asturias

mines. Workers in other areas began to stir.
Franco's reply—the only one he knows—was to call out his firing squad.

In the Spring of 1963, after months of brutal treatment at the hands of Franco's police sadists, Spanish Communist Party leader Julian Grimau was shot.

CASTING VOTE

His death sentence had been confirmed by a Cabinet meeting in which Franco had used his casting vote against a group favouring 'clemency'.
This brutal murder did not divert the Kremlin from its chosen policy of seeking better relations with the Franco regime.

Already Soviet sports and 'cultural' links had been established with Spain.
Then, starting with Rumania, the Stalinist bureaucracies in E Europe opened up trade and diplomatic relations with Grimau's murderers.

Today only E Germany has no known links with fascist Spain.
But Stalinist betrayal is nothing new for the Spanish working class.

Franco's victory in the civil war was only made possible by the 'popular front' policies of the Stalinists, who, instead of mobilizing the working class and the poor peasantry behind a socialist programme, tied the whole anti-fascist struggle to the coat-tails of the republican capitalist parties.
This counter-revolutionary

Labour 'left' suggests half of power men's demand

NORMAN ATKINSON, reputed theoretical brain of Labour's Parliamentary 'left', has come out in favour of awarding power workers a 16 per cent wage increase instead of the 30 per cent they are demanding.

In an open letter to Lord Wilberforce, (chairman of the court of inquiry into the dispute) published in Tuesday's 'Guardian', Atkinson also warns that any increase less than this will jeopardize further productivity bargaining in the industry.

I respectfully suggest, Atkinson said in his letter, 'that your inquiry should start thinking in terms of not less than a 15 per cent rise and work up

from there.
'To offer anything less will, I believe, do great

damage to any remaining sympathy for productivity bargaining; wealth-redistrib-

THE TRIO to investigate the power workers' £5 16s wage claim was completed yesterday with the appointment of Raymond Brookes, chairman and chief executive of the engineering giant Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds and Jim Mortimer, member of the Prices and Incomes Board and a former trade union official.

Hence the implied approval by Atkinson for productivity dealing, which has reduced the power labour force by 25,000 in the last three years, and his fear of 'increased wage tension' (read class struggle).

UCS

FROM PAGE ONE

Is 1d to 1s 3d an hour plus a further 1s-an-hour bonus if certain minimum tonnages are achieved, comes after a strike in October where boilermakers demanded a straight 3s 9d increase in their basic rate.

Rates

Basic rates under the new agreement, at 13s 6d and 14s 6d are still 2s below the 16s basic demanded in October.

Throughout the year union leaders have been weakening the resistance of the yard's 8,000 men by repeating the employers' threats of total closure.

Massive redundancies of over 3,000 were, for example, accepted during 1970 by leaders without a fight.

This latest settlement is similar to the one recently rejected by workers at Yarrow's naval yard on the Clyde. There a strike notice is due to expire on January 15, but there are to be talks before that date.

GUINEA'S security forces have arrested a number of the country's leading personalities in connection with last month's Portuguese-backed invasion of the W African republic.

Assassin

FROM PAGE ONE
make the slightest condemnation of the barefaced treachery of the Kremlin and its E European subordinates.

Franco is not an archaic survivor of the past epoch, but a terrible warning to the world working class of the fate in store if imperialism and bureaucracy are not defeated.

The British labour and trade union leaders are in a similar position.
Not a single union chief has raised the question of working-class action in solidarity with the Burgos 16.

Boycott

French and Italian dockers have boycotted Spanish shipping.

Transport and General Workers' Union chief Jack Jones fought in Spain during the civil war. But he has yet to call on his dockers members to emulate the dockers of France and Italy.

Labour Party leaders hope for an official government protest to Franco.
Shadow Foreign Secretary Denis Healey petitioned his Tory counter-part Sir Alec Douglas-Home yesterday in the hope that he would inter-

cede with the Tories in support of Franco.

It was the Tories of Britain under Chamberlain who helped Hitler and Mussolini strangle the Spanish working class and install Franco in his Madrid palace. The Tory government supports Franco.

They know that the only alternative to fascism in Spain is workers' revolution.
The best assistance British workers can render the workers of Spain is to fight to force this Tory government to resign.

Protests to Home are worse than useless.
Toryism is already striding along the road to the enslavement of the British working class. Its class sympathies are with the 'gallant Christian gentlemen' of fascist Spain.

International working-class solidarity with the victims of fascist terror means:

- Union chiefs must call for a boycott of Spanish trade.
- Demand the Kremlin breaks relations with Franco fascism.
- Fight to force Franco's friends in Britain, the Tory government, to resign.

Liaison Committee drags feet as G & MWU urges 'keep quiet' on Tory Bill

OPPOSITION to any further strike action against anti-union legislation is now being mounted in earnest by the right-wing union leaders.

It may help the Tories, claims a policy statement from the General and Municipal Workers.

Little is being done to counter such activities by the 'left' and Stalinist protesters against the government's Industrial Relations Bill.

With only three weeks to go before the planned January 12 stoppage and three days before a possible Midlands-based protest strike, the so-called Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions is visibly dragging its feet.

Yet what lies behind the G & MWU approach is acceptance of the Bill's essence and a hope that the Tories will negotiate alternatives more acceptable to the trade union bureaucracy.

Main aim of the campaign against the government's Industrial Relations Bill must be to inform public opinion 'which at the moment has little understanding of the implications of the Conservative Party executive, says the G & MWU executive.

This can best be done by fully supporting Trades Union Congress activities.
Strikes could result in the Tories calling a snap election and gaining an increased majority, argue the union's leaders.

In other words, if workers keep really quiet and do nothing to upset the TUC's do-nothing policy 'the justice of our case' will shine through... and work a change of heart by the government, presumably!
The statement goes further:

Positive
'If our campaign is to be successful', it says, 'we must also put forward in a positive manner how the trade union movement thinks British industrial relations ought to be tackled...'

The attention, energy and resources of both management and unions should be devoted, as the Donovan Commission argued, to improving collective bargaining at both plant and industry level.'

An example of the way G & MWU chiefs think industrial relations ought to be tackled is the pay-and-productivity deal it wants its members in the Pilkington glass monopoly to accept.
Formulated after lengthy deliberations with manage-

ment, this would largely remove pay negotiations from the orbit of shop stewards and place them in the hands of a hierarchy of joint committees.

Existing bonus schemes would be replaced by a type of Measured-Day Work.

Sacked glassworkers from the monopoly at Helens and Pontypool plants have recently attributed the G & MWU's apparent reluctance to fight for their reinstatement to fear that they would spearhead concerted opposition to this scheme.

Who will sponsor Len Wincott?

IS THE Communist Party going to help one of its old members, Len Wincott, return from the Soviet Union to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Royal Navy mutiny at Invergordon?

Wincott, who led the famous revolt against forces pay cuts imposed by the MacDonald National Government, is now a Soviet citizen and requires a sponsor here to secure a visa.

None of his relatives in Britain has so far come forward to sponsor him.
The reluctance of CP leaders to speak up for him is understandable. For Len Wincott, like millions of Soviet citizens, went through the living hell of Stalin's slave camps as an alleged 'enemy of the people'.

At least Wincott came out alive.
Thousands of political exiles and refugees from Nazi Germany, Franco Spain and other anti-Communist regimes in Europe were simply butchered in the cellars of Stalin's secret police.

They knew too much about the betrayals of Stalinism.
British Labour should certainly take up the case of Len Wincott.

He should be made welcome in Britain, even though his stay might prove an embarrassment to Communist Party leaders.