

Sri Lanka

Workers Face Terror

Nothing has done more to expose all the horrors that the diseased capitalist system means for the 'third world' than the barbarous onslaught on the Tamil minority in Sri Lanka.

The eye-witness reports of Tamils being burnt alive in a mini-bus and in the main Columbo railway station, have provided only a glimpse of the massacres which have been taking place.

The Sri Lankan government is now desperately trying to hide the truth about this pogrom. When banning three left parties last week the government implied they have been responsible for the riots. It is perfectly true that the rioting was organised, not by the left however, but by the United National Party government itself!

These clashes were sparked off by the alleged kidnapping and rape of three Tamil girls by troops stationed in Jaffna, the largest city in the mainly Tamil north of Sri Lanka. In revenge the 'Tamil Tigers' nationalist guerillas killed 15 members of an Army patrol.

The UNP government

then used this attack as the signal to ignite racial clashes. Censorship which had been imposed three days earlier was lifted to allow detailed reporting of the ambush and the government advised all Sinhalese living in Tamil areas to move.

As Dave Nellist MP pointed out during the recent Parliamentary debate on Sri Lanka this was "designed not to lower tension, but an invitation to the Sinhalese racists to begin attacks on the 50% of Tamils who live...in the Sinhalese areas".

Rioting rapidly broke out and as some British newspapers have reported, the Sri Lankan security forces did nothing to defend

TAMILS SLAUGHTERED

SOCIALIST PARTY BANNED

the Tamils; indeed the *Daily Telegraph* wrote, 26 July, that "troops shouted encouragement to the rioters". Rioters began systematically attacking Tamil homes and businesses; many reports tell of rioters armed with lists of who to attack.

For five days the Sri Lankan government said nothing about the rioting, then President JR Jayawardene made a 4½ minute speech stating that "the time has come to accede to the clamour and request the natural request of the Sinhala people that we do not allow the movement for division to grow any more". Those seeking partition will "lose their civil rights and

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Thousands marched through London on Saturday 30 July in protest at the repression in Sri Lanka.

Militant Rally

"MARXISM IN OUR TIME— SOCIALIST POLICIES FOR LABOUR"



Speakers
Ted Grant (Political Editor, Militant)
Peter Taaffe (Editor, Militant)
Anton Nilsson (Former Red Army pilot, 1918-20)
Terry Fields, M.P.
Dave Nellist, M.P.

(Film
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Militant

New purges will be defeated

WITH WORKING people throughout the country facing a fresh round of Tory cuts, attacks on state assets and threats of yet more mass redundancies, Labour Party members have a right to expect some analysis and explanation of the defeat from their National Executive Committee.

But last week at its second full meeting since June 9, the right-wing-controlled NEC postponed all discussion on the election. Instead the NEC spent its time disussing new ways to attack *Militant*.

Had they debated the general election, NEC members would have been compelled to recognise the success of Marxist Labour candidates.

At the Fabian Society's televised debate between the four leadership contenders, all but Eric Heffer vociferously defended attacks on *Militant*. Roy Hattersley was quite prepared to turn the Party upside down, and close Constituencies refusing to expel *Militant* supporters. Neil Kinnock justified a purge because of *Militant's* ideas, which amounted to "a set of separate principles, purposes and propaganda."

Separate from Neil Kinnock he must mean. For *Militant* stands by all the reforms in Labour's Programme, and campaigns for the implementation of Clause Four of the constitution, which expresses the Party's socialist aims.

The right on the NEC promised that 'dealing' with *Militant* would guarantee the party success. Thatcher's victory has given them a blunt answer. The right have now lost Labour two general elections running. It is their past record and present policies that are the electoral liability. They are the "albatross around the party's neck".

Now the NEC has passed a resolution from Dennis Howell advising constituencies not to allow *Militant* to be sold in meetings, nor to invite speakers from the paper, and not to allow collections to made for the paper's funds.

Dennis Howell falsely claims legitimacy from the 1982 party conference. He maintains it ruled that involvement with *Militant* was incompatible with party membership. No such motion was put before conference. The overwhelming majority of constituency and trade union delegates would have been in opposition. This formula was only devised by the NEC after the conference which they had no authority to do. All that conference approved was the establishment of a register of groups within the party.

From the very beginning of the 'investigation' into the paper, *Militant* declared this

was a witch-hunt. It would lead to attempts at thought-control and the banning of ideas—a return to McCarthyism.

At the party conference Michael Foot strenuously denied this. "A register is not a witch-hunt," he told conference. "I would never be a party to any action which would interfere with the right of argument." Jim Mortimer in his report to the NEC of November 24, 1982, actually stated that "to sell a newspaper or even promote the sale of a newspaper among others is most unlikely to provide grounds for disciplinary action."

Yet both of them supported the NEC's most recent decision. What has become of Labour's commitment (Michael Foot's in particular) to press freedom? Dennis Skinner pointed to the disgrace of the Tory dailies being sold from stalls inside the party conference, while a socialist paper would be banned.

Locally 90% of constituency parties will refuse to implement the ban on the sale of *Militant*. They will refuse to instruct their members what they may buy or read. Even in the small minority of extreme right wing parties the NEC's decision will be inoperable. *Militant* will be sold outside rather than inside party meetings.

The effect of Howell's motion will be to enrage party members in the run-up to the annual conference, where all NEC members must stand for re-election. At the same time it will push up *Militant's* sales still further.

The right wing have learned nothing. Every new attack, every new wave of publicity has merely served to boost the support and influence of *Militant*. While the right, who are now being blamed for the election defeat, have lost any basis of support among the rank and file.

Hence their continued desperate lunges at *Militant*. The NEC has even instructed constituencies not to make use of Cambridge Heath Press Ltd, which prints *Militant*. They would rather local parties went to capitalist printers, who are invariably more expensive. Here too the right never learn. This restraint on trade of a commercial company, could lay the party open to more legal action.

Undoubtedly there will be hundreds of resolutions of protest to the NEC from local parties, and many parties will be passing resolutions declaring that they will not implement a ban on socialist papers in their meetings.

In reality this is the last stand of the right wing. They are impotent in the face of the party's continuing swing to the left, and they will be powerless to halt the onward march of Marxism among Labour's ranks.



Dave Nellist Canvassing in the election. Photo: Nick Oates.

THE DECISION of Coventry SE Labour Party's General Management Committee to censure Dave Nellist, their newly elected Marxist MP, and to demand the resignation of his agent, Tom Smith was eagerly seized upon by the Tory press.

No doubt too the right wing inside the Labour Party would dearly love to be rid of such MP's. However to genuine socialists throughout the country, who enthusiastically greeted the victories in constituencies like Coventry SE, the decision will be greeted with amazement.

But the attack on Dave Nellist is in no way representative of the feelings of the majority of those active in his election campaign, and in particular of the new members won to the Party in the course of the campaign.

Typical of the hundreds of sympathetic letters that Dave Nellist has received from ordinary Labour voters was one that began: "Dear Comrade, congratulations on becoming the Labour MP for Coventry SE. I hope that you will represent this Constituency for the next forty years, by which time we should have socialism." That's the real voice of socialist workers in Coventry, not a few sour-faces on the GMC.

The three critical resolutions that were carried came from three so-called left-wing ward branches. At the Binley and Willenhall Ward the critical resolution was actually put as an amendment to a resolution praising the campaign. As this amendment entirely changed the meaning of the original motion it should not really have been discussed. Even so, it was only carried by one vote.

At Cheylesmore Ward the vote was also close. Those attacking the campaign would not even allow the agent Tom Smith to speak in his own defence or even to answer questions. He would have found more 'natural justice' in a capitalist courtroom.

In Lower Stoke Ward the resolution was carried by just four votes.

Of the new members present at these meetings, all but one voted against the resolu-

tions. If those who attended but whose applications had not been processed had been allowed to vote, then all three resolutions would have been thrown out.

It is these new members and those who voted against the resolutions who are the Coventry SE Labour Party of tomorrow.

The main argument against the MP and his agent was the alleged lack of involvement of local Party members. Yet in the campaign there was canvassing every night and every weekend in each ward. Thirty meetings were held and approximately 60,000 leaflets delivered. All the details of the work done were carried in the regular campaign bulletins. All that was required to be involved was to turn up.

Members of the Labour Party Young Socialists who saw the importance of electing a Marxist MP, came from miles around to work in the campaign. Many local party members worked very hard often at considerable cost to themselves. But undoubtedly the campaign generated an enthusiasm all of its own, attracting completely fresh local workers to help in the best campaign in the Midlands.

None of this would have been possible without this particular candidate and his agent, and the ideas which they represent. The Chairman of the Constituency who backed these resolutions fully admitted in a personal discussion that a campaign run on any other lines would probably have led to a defeat.

However the supporters of these resolutions do not seem to have the courage of their convictions, and have only succeeded in making themselves look petty. The Constituency Chairman told the press that Dave Nellist was "one of the finest

Labour MP's in the House of Commons," and that Tom Smith was "one of the most liked men in the constituency." In that case ordinary party members might well ask then what the fuss is all about.

Notwithstanding the

GMC vote, Coventry SE Labour Party will undoubtedly continue to campaign upon the Marxist ideas that won the Parliamentary seat, and will not be diverted from its goal of building a mass socialist Constituency Labour Party.

COVENTRY CAMPAIGN DEFENDED

MANCHESTER RALLY —GREAT SUCCESS

When a young worker at a *Militant* readers' meeting offered to put £100 in the collection, the barmaid's mouth dropped open and the glass she was cleaning dropped to the ground. £500 was collected for the *Militant* fighting fund at the meeting in Wythenshawe, addressed by Terry Fields MP.

The meeting started with a Labour Party activist from Wythenshawe reading out a letter from his ward branch welcoming Terry to Wythenshawe and congratulating him on his magnificent victory in Broadgreen.

The fact that 220 Labour Party activists and workers turned up to the meeting showed that workers are now beginning to sense they have a real voice in parliament.

Instead of evasion and vague statements Terry's

comments were sharp and to the point. When asked what MPs could do in parliament he pointed out that real power lay outside of parliament and in the organisations of the working class.

The mood of the meeting was summed up when Phil Frampton said we could look forward to the day when the TUC returned to its pledge of 1893 to support only those candidates pledged to collective ownership and control of the means of production, distribution and exchange.

The magnificent turn-out at the meeting fully demonstrated that all attempts to ban *Militant* by the right wing in Wythenshawe and to crush the spirit of the party by suspensions and arbitrary decision-making have rebounded on the right wing.

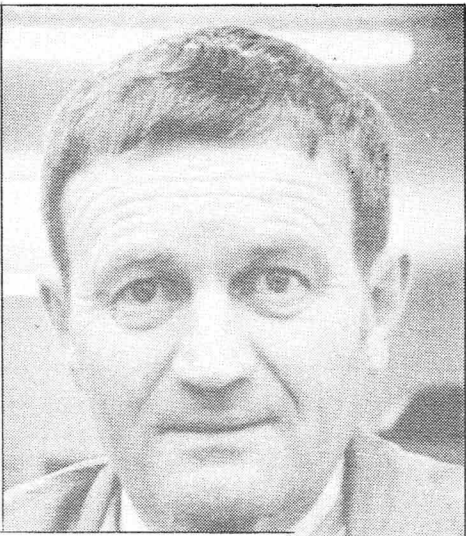
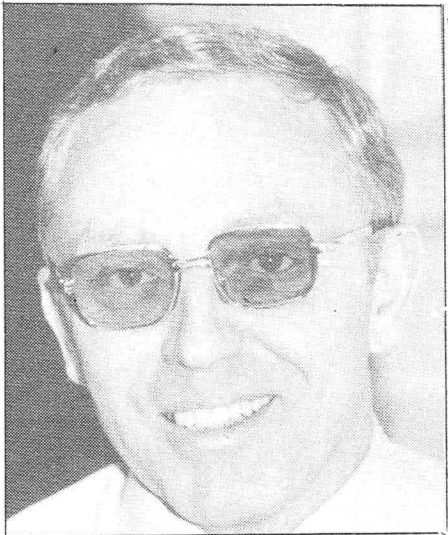
By Martin Lee

LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE GREETINGS

Show that your Labour Party, trade union branch, LPYS, Women's Section supports socialism, not witch-hunts. Advertise in *Militant's* Labour Party Conference issue.

- 3cms (15 words) £4
- 6cms (25 words) £6
- 1/16 page £10
- 1/8 page £20
- 1/4 page £40

Make cheques payable to *Militant* and send to Circulation Department, *Militant*, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN by Tuesday 20 September.

PAT
WALLTERRY
FIELDS

MARXISTS STAND FOR NEC

TERRY FIELDS MP and Pat Wall have been nominated by their constituency parties to stand for election to the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party.

Terry Fields had been a fireman for 26 years until his recent election to parliament, which he won with a 4% swing to Labour. He was a member of the Fire Brigades Union executive, 1977-83 and was their nominee last year to the NEC, where he secured 1.3 million votes. He has been a member of the party for 16 years.

Pat Wall has been a party member for 33 years, standing as the Labour candidate in Bradford North during the election. He is President of Bradford Trades Council, and is a previous candidate in the constituency section for the NEC, last year receiving 103,000 votes.

They explain why they are standing:

For our party, and for working people as a whole, this year's Labour Party conference and the executive it elects will play a crucial role.

As in the days of Labour's early pioneers, we believe that the urgent task facing us today is to turn our movement outwards. A campaign, the like of which the party has never seen before, must be launched immediately, to defend the interests of working people and to explain our socialist policies.

A 35-hour week with no loss of pay; a national minimum wage; a massive scheme of house-building and other useful public works; unilateral nuclear disarmament—these must be the demands of such a campaign.

Above all, we must campaign for the implementation of our party's socialist clause; 'clause four'. If the next Labour government is not to be bullied and black-mailed by bankers and industrialists into abandoning its programme—as has happened in the past—then the power and influence of these parasites must be ended.

The next Labour government must translate 'clause four' into reality. The nationalisation of the economy's "commanding heights" must be the cornerstone of our economic policy.

Those who have argued this case consistently, those who have argued for socialism to be put firmly back on the agenda, have now become the target of a witch-hunt in the party.

The bitter experiences of Labour's election defeat has shattered completely the lie that expulsions would win the party "millions of votes". In fact, the opposite has proved to be true. The attack on the supporters of *Militant* served only to divide our movement at precisely the time when a united struggle was most needed.

We are confident, however, that the message at this year's conference will be that the constituency and trade union rank and file want more socialism, not less. Let's insure that along with decisions for radical socialist policies, this year's conference elects an NEC which truly reflects the wishes and aspirations of the party.



Opening rally of the LPYS Summer Camp in the Forest of Dean. Terry Fields M.P. (bottom right, lower picture) was the main speaker. Over 500 attended, and over £1 200 has been raised for the Militant fighting fund already. Photos: Mick Carroll.

REFUGEE VICTIMISED FOR INTELLIGENCE EXPOSÉ

A SOUTH AFRICAN political refugee, who recently wrote a revealing book on British intelligence, seems to have been subject to special Home Office victimisation. For over a year the Home Office have kept the identity papers, which include a UN travel document, of Jonathan Bloch, co-author of "British Intelligence and Covert Action".

The decision in particular to withhold Bloch's UN travel document for such a long time, in effect preventing him from going outside Britain, is believed to be unique.

All Bloch's residency problems arose after he began his book on British intelligence's post war activities in Africa and the Middle East. He had been granted political asylum in this country in 1978, after being involved in student and trade union politics in South Africa.

Last week the Home Office confirmed to *Militant* that asylum had originally been granted because of a "well founded fear of persecution". The Home Office gave him a UN travel document and for four years he had no problems with the authorities.

Normally after four years, a political refugee is granted permanent residency. But in May 1982, Bloch was only granted a one-year extension. He queried this and sent the Home Office his papers. About the same time he signed a contract with the Irish publishers of his book.

Despite repeated requests over some months, Bloch heard nothing about his residency status, until just before the book's publication date. Then he was summoned to an interview. It was cancelled at one day's notice because the Home Office official was ill.

He has been ill for a long time. For since then Bloch has heard nothing.

When *Militant* asked the Home Office last week when the matter would be resolved, we were told "a year is not abnormal", and "it would take as long as it needs to take". They did not deny that this could mean a

further one or two years delay. They refused to disclose what the hold-up was, but disingenuously tried to claim that the UN document, issued by them, was nothing to do with them, and that Bloch should take up the matter with the UN.

What gives extra weight to the suspicion that Bloch's troubles are related to his book was the government's attempt to stop its publication. Rear-Admiral Ash, Secretary of the D-notice Censorship Committee, asked the publishers, Junction, not to print the book, because it contained detailed accounts of secret service

activities, listed 131 MI6 and MI5 agents and could harm the 'national interest'. Ash stated it contained extensive and serious breaches of the traditional silence about MI6.

No-one has complained about any inaccuracy though. But so far not one national Fleet Street paper has reviewed the book.

A full review of the book "British Intelligence and Covert Action" by Jonathan Bloch and Patrick Fitzgerald, foreword by Philip Agee, publishers Junction, price £5.95 will appear in a later issue of *Militant*.

By Colin Barber

Chesterfield Witch-hunt Farce

AT ITS last meeting Chesterfield CLP passed a resolution against attempts to revive the anti-Militant witch-hunt. This despite strenuous opposition from the constituency MP Eric Varley, who is also a NEC member.

The MP alleged that "loony trots" were responsible for the election defeat. *Militant* supporters pointed out with facts and figures how "loony trots" in places like Liverpool had done much better than Eric in Chesterfield, where for the first time in half a century Labour achieved less than half the vote.

The constituency rejected its MP's apology. It had had first hand experience in recent months of the real 'lunacy' and division that witch-hunts create.

This particular witch-hunt emanated from the Co-operative Party, the last bastion of the right wing in

Chesterfield. Starting with the rejection of four membership applications on the grounds that the applicants were "known supporters of *Militant*", these latter-day witchfinders moved on to attempt to purge an increasingly wide variety of people.

Labour party members, left, right and centre were being denounced as "known supporters of *Militant*". This label was also used as a means of settling personal scores. No one was safe. Even the mayor of Chesterfield was sent an official letter from the Co-op denouncing him as a *Militant* supporter!

The whole thing became so incredible you had to laugh. After the above mentioned GMC, we all spilled out on to the pavement and by coincidence the Mayor's limousine went gliding past. A tremendous cheer went up and necks craned forward to

see if there were any copies of *Militant* plastered on the windows.

As the constituency chairman has put it, "We have reached the stage now where there's snob value in being denied membership of the Co-op, and those who are accepted are the ones looked on with suspicion."

This fight is an important one. With the backing of our CLP the four of us who have been denied membership have sent a joint letter of appeal to the Co-op national executive, and we would ask other Labour Parties and trade unions to send messages of protest to that body. Send to: NEC, The Co-operative Party, 158 Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1 9UB, and copy to 16 Rockley Close, Grangewood Farm, Chesterfield.

By Roy Davies
(Chesterfield CLP)

ads

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SEMI-DISPLAY: £2 per 2 column centimetres.
All advertisement copy should reach this office by SATURDAY.

Militant Readers' Meetings

MIDDLETON: Militant Readers Meeting. Thursday 18 August, 7.30pm, Middleton Civic Hall, Long St. Chairman: Councillor Leo Deace, Speakers: Terry Fields MP, Margaret Creear.

GOSPORT: "Socialism—what it is and how to pay for it." Speaker Nick Brooks

(Southampton LP) at Gosport Labour Club 145 Brockhurst Rd at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 9 August.

SITTINGBOURNE: Wednesday 10 August at 8 pm Murston hall, Murston Rd on "Tebbit's Bill and the Unions" Speaker Nick Bradley. Phone P.Ursell (0795) 72632 for further info.

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SOCIALIST BANNERS, hand painted by skilled artist. LPYS, LP, TU, orders to Tony McKenna, 19 Ashgrove, Musselburgh, East Lothian, Scotland. Sample photos available.

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Northern Weekend School WOMEN AND THE STRUGGLE FOR SOCIALISM

Saturday & Sunday 20 & 21 August 1983
at the Textile Hall, Bradford

Sessions on:

The Family

Speaker: Leslie Holt, Liverpool Women's Council

Women & the Colonial Revolution

Speaker from SALEP (South African Labour Education Project)

Positive Discrimination

Speaker: Margaret Creear, Rochdale Women's Council

The Role of a Trade-Union Activist

Speaker: Doreen Purves, CPSA, Executive Member DHSS Section and Secretary Newcastle Central DHSS Branch.

Low Pay and the Minimum Wage

Speaker: Sheila Woodhead, Rochdale Women's Council

Bradford Textile Hall is on Westgate, very near the City Centre.

The school will open at 10.00 am on Saturday morning and the sessions will start at 10.30.

A crèche will be provided.

Booking fee for School: £2. Book now (or ask for further information) by contacting Margaret Creear, 11 Hadden Way, Shaw, Oldham, Lancs. Telephone: (0706) 842702.

A Southern Weekend School with the same topics will now be held in London on 24 & 25 September.

SOUTH WALES SUMMER CAMP 27-29 AUGUST

Combine political education with a marvellous holiday this August Bank Holiday. Despite mounting pressure the S. Wales *Militant* camp organisers have managed to maintain the cost at the ridiculous low price of £10 per adult and £2 per child which includes lunchtime snacks and guaranteed sunshine.

This year's political line-up includes *Militant* Editor Peter Taaffe who will be speaking on "The American labour movement", Keith Dickinson, one of the expelled members of the editorial board, explaining why "Marxism opposes invidious terrorism", Bryan Beckingham on 'The Colonial Revolution' and our resident speaker Ted Grant, *Militant's* political editor, dealing with the question of 'War and Peace' and 'Marxism and the Labour Party.'

Our highly professional crèche ensures parents can participate in the political session while the kids take part in sports competitions,

fancy dress or watch the camp video.

The Sunday evening cabaret is guaranteed to be as unforgettable as in previous years. Hard training has been taking place for the past few weeks to ensure that the Welsh soccer team recapture the winners' medals in the soccer final which our English comrades luckily retained last year. For those less energetic the nearby splendid sandy beaches are just perfect for sunbathing and swimming, so make sure you are not disappointed by booking your place at the camp early.

Book now for the best *Militant* weekend of the year. Write to 181, Hannover Street, Swansea or phone Swansea 466631 (day) or Swansea 463623 (evening). Cheques made payable to Swansea Summer Camp.

By Alec Thraves

£50,000 by October 8th

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target 8 October
Eastern	375		2400
East Midlands	146		2650
Humberside	89		1450
London East	336		3100
London West	100		1950
London South	326		2700
Manchester & Lancs	144		3000
Merseyside	116		3300
Northern	180		3500
Scotland East	164		2000
Scotland West	143		2700
Southern	304		3700
South West	151		2000
Wales East	52		2000
Wales West	65		2300
West Midlands	100		3150
Yorkshire	346		3300
Others	1399		4800
Total received	4537		50000

Give us a monster donation

Summertime is traditionally Fleet Street's silly season. But this year nothing can disguise the nightmare facing the peoples of Central America, nor the horrors being inflicted upon the Tamils in Sri Lanka.

No-one should be under any illusion. If they had to, the bosses in Britain would be every bit as ruthless in the defence of their profits. All that would stand in their way would be the organised strength of the labour movement.

They would try and divide the labour movement on racial lines. As socialists we must recognise the danger and campaign on a clear class programme to unite all workers. That means building up support now for

the ideas of Marxism, and cash for the *Militant* paper.

Thanks this week to A Walsh (Stretford), C&B Butterworth (Chingford), and T Oram (E Ham) who were among those donating £20 and upwards. Sunderland readers contributed over £20, too: thanks to S Tunney (AUEW), S Reed (UCATT), P Rodgeron (EETPU), Edith (housewife) amongst

others. £5 or more came from D Burrell (Leicester), M. Dowd Jnr (Alloa), I Wilson (NALGO Strathclyde), T Francis, (Gravesend CLP) and N Nunnely, (Bristol AUEW, Rolls Royce).

Space is limited this week, so G Dolman (Sheffield), B Hodge (Tyneside), S Anderson (Leicester, nurse), H Hamberger (Carlisle), J Hitchcock (Edinburgh), three

unemployed comrades from Keighley and M. Dowd Sr. who gives us a £1 a week for his paper, will have to "represent" everyone else. Collections at the Torness Site, £36 from A Price (Cardiff S & Penarth CLP; TU School speakers' expenses), LPYS Branches in Hertfordshire, Manchester, and Scotland (£15 from Alloa LPYS) together with badges, pens, posters, phone money, marathons, teas, pontoon cards, surplus on bus hirings, penny jars, and jumble sales were some of our other sources.

After excluding money from *Militant* Readers' Meetings, of the £1,753 in this week, TWO THIRDS was made up of contributions of LESS THAN £5! So we appeal to all our sellers and readers—put us on target this week!

By Steve Cawley

THIS WEEK £1753

NIVEN AND BUNUEL: REFLECTING DREAM AND REALITY OF BOURGEOISIE

It is a coincidence that two leading figures in the cinema died within two days of each other last week.

One, David Niven, had his profile spread throughout the media, with a half-page obituary in the *Times* and memorial showings of his films on TV. The other, Luis Bunuel, unknown to most people except devotees of foreign film, one of the greatest film directors of the last fifty years, was virtually ignored.

Niven acted out one of the fantasy roles of the English bourgeoisie: an impeccable Public School and Army background, the eternal amateur, who would not settle at a steady profession, but could be relied on to "turn up trumps" when trouble loomed. He played the role in many

Geoff Jones contrasts the obituaries given to two film artists

films from "The Way to the Stars" to "The Guns of Navarone".

It should be added that he was, in fact, an extremely good actor who could turn out great performances such as the ageing major in "Separate Tables" and the French businessman in "Bonjour Tristesse", but even that merely reinforced the picture of the gifted amateur.

Bunuel, on the other hand, was a Spaniard, who directed his first short film in the early '30s, with Salvador Dali. These so scandalised society that they could not be shown publicly in Britain for 30 years.

But Bunuel was no pornographer. His aim was to tear the veil of respectability from bourgeois

society and reveal the rotteness underneath.

Hatred of Hypocrisy

He came from the great tradition of Spanish revolutionary anarchism, which was destroyed by Franco's victory in the Civil War. In fact, Bunuel's third film "Land Without Bread", made in 1932, is still the most moving testament to the need for revolution.

After Franco's victory, Bunuel moved to Mexico, then to Hollywood. He did not return to Spain until 1961. Throughout all that time he made films, many of which were merely "pot boilers".

However, even in these his continuing hatred for bourgeois hypocrisy shows through. In his greatest films each section of bourgeois pretention is

taken apart: respect for the law in "The Criminal Life of Archibaldo de la Cruz"; sexual morality in "Belle de Jour"; religion in "Viridiana"; social conventions in "The Exterminating Angel".

Bunuel was no socialist, and had no picture of the possibility of replacing bourgeois society with anything better. What he did was to portray in films like "Los Olvidados" (The Young and Damned) and "Fever Mounts in El Pao" the desperation of the lives of the poor. But his main strength was his hatred of capitalism expressed sometimes in black humour, sometimes in bitter irony.

Two artists, one portraying the bourgeoisie as they would like to see themselves, the other destroying the pretty myths. No wonder Niven got the obituaries, not Bunuel.

Revolution

PRESIDENT REAGAN, representing the interests of the most rapacious sections of American big business, and especially those with investments and markets in Central and Latin America, is edging towards direct military intervention, against the Nicaraguan revolution.

Four thousand troops have been landed in Honduras, and airfields are being built. The Honduran army is giving artillery and other military backing to the Somocista invasion force, supporters of the reactionary ex-dictator of Nicaragua, Somoza. They are financed and armed by the CIA.

The 12,000 Somocistas will be beaten back by the armed masses of Nicaragua, while in El Salvador, the ruling oligarchy is losing its war against the guerrillas. Reagan and his clique are desperate. They are trying to manufacture some incident, some pretext to make war on Nicaragua.

Reagan's first step may be to unleash the Honduran army like a pet bloodhound saying he is "only" aiding the Hondurans to prevent an invasion of that country. Then when they are defeated, the USA would send in more battleships and troops to defend them.

In the same way Johnson piously promised no escalation of the conflict in Vietnam and then manufactured the pretext of the Tonkin Gulf incident in 1964.

There are similarities between developments in Central America and Vietnam in the 1960s. Even the emergence of Henry Kissinger as head of the special US commission on Central America is reminiscent of the bloodstained role he played in the Vietnam war including involvement in the bombing of Cambodia (now Kampuchea) in 1970.

Another Vietnam?

However the road to another Vietnam is strewn with massive difficulties. The American workers and most of the rest of the population are hostile to their sons and brothers being involved in another repressive war. Also the moment US troops intervene massively and actively in El Salvador or against Nicaragua there will be a tremendous movement of demonstrations and boycotts throughout the continent of South America demanding that "Yankee imperialism withdraw".

On the other hand Reagan and the millionaire cliques in America are afraid of the collapse of their power in all Central and then Latin America. They are faced with an insoluble dilemma.

However, it is important to see the revolution in this area in the context of the present international crisis.

World capitalism is in an impasse at the present time. Since 1976, the capitalists have been unable to use the resources created by science, technique and the labour of the working class. Only 70% of industrial capacity can be used and in the case of some industries such as steel, only 60% of capacity in Britain and 40% in America are used!

The recession of 1979-82 has been succeeded by a minor boom, where production will go ahead in most of the capitalist countries at the rate of 2,3, or 4% per annum.

in Central America



Nicaraguan militias return to the capital, Managua, after patrol against attack from across the border with Honduras

PHOTO: Jenny Matthews

- Nightmare for US Imperialism ...

By Ted Grant

This will be succeeded probably in 1985, by a new and deeper slump than the previous recession. Capitalism will oscillate between small booms and deeper slumps, until in the end there will be a complete collapse like the deep recession of 1929-33.

This crisis of the system bears particularly harshly on the so-called Third World. The goods that they sell, raw materials and foodstuffs, have fallen in price, while the goods that they buy, capital goods, machinery and industrial products are still increasing in price. The result resembles a treadmill, where the harder they work to produce more goods, the less they can sell, and the less they receive in remuneration for the products which they produce.

In addition there is the burden of increased interest rates. Latin America alone owes \$300,000 million in debts to the Western World which will be impossible for them to repay.

The burdens of capitalism, landlordism, and imperialism are loaded onto the backs of workers and peasants of this continent. As in some of the other backward countries of the world throughout the last decade, capitalism threatens to break at its weakest links.

Capitalist crisis weighs heavily on Third World

That means that in Asia, Africa and Latin America, the scene is set for revolts by the peasantry and the working class. Living on a level below that of subsistence in "normal" times; when capitalism is in deep crisis, they find themselves in a position of semi-starvation or even total starvation.

Latin America for these reasons is in the front ranks of revolutionary disturbances and explo-

sions. In Chile, there has been a general strike and various days of action against Pinochet's dictatorship and also in Mexico, Argentina, and Brazil against those regimes. Together with all the smaller states of Latin America the scene has been set for enormous movements by the working class and peasants against landlordism and against capitalism in the next period.

The revolution in Nicaragua is an enormous step forward for the whole of the world working class; a step towards revolution in the whole of Latin America, even if for reasons we will sketch out, it takes a perverted form in Central America at the present time.

On the other hand, the only form of revolution in Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, or in Chile that would be successful would be a socialist revolution taking a classical form. In these countries, the working class is by far the most decisive force in society and from the very beginning the revolution

would be based on the organisations of the working class. A revolution in these, the most important industrial countries of Latin America would have a bigger effect on the entire world than even the Russian revolution of 1917.

The conditions of capitalism are such that all the burdens are unloaded on to the Third World, and a great part of the exports of the Third World go to pay the debts they incurred from the Western industrial nations. At the same time, the Third World forms 20% of the world market, and the shrinking of this market has had an immediate effect on the economies of the United States, Western Europe and Japan.

The far less industrialised countries in Central America are the classical "banana republics", in reality colonies of American imperialism. American capitalism has

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Revolution in Cen

In the economically backward countries of the world, capitalism can not carry out any of the tasks of the capitalist revolution. Central America is a prime example.

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dominated this region since the turn of the century in the interests of profits. This has meant the maintenance of semi-feudal landlord, police and army oligarchies. A handful of millionaires and landowners dominate the economies of the region.

In the past, any attempt to get rid of this oligarchy by people of these countries has been met by the military intervention of American troops, usually US Marines. In the pre-war period, America intervened militarily in Nicaragua occupying the country from 1912 to 1933. Thus American imperialism used all the resources, military, diplomatic and financial to maintain the rotting semi-feudal regimes in this area and even intervened in the Caribbean state of the Dominican Republic as recent as 1965.

For the masses of Central America, the only solution to the problems of the region would lie in the overthrow of landlordism and capitalism and the establishment of a Federation of Socialist Central American States, preparing for a Socialist Federation of all Latin America.

The revolution in Central America requires the carrying out of the tasks of the bourgeois revolution long ago achieved in the West. **The modern epoch in the ex-colonial countries has shown the absolute incapacity of the capitalists to carry out the tasks of the capitalist revolution: land to the peasants, equal rights to minorities, the overthrow of the autocratic state, tasks carried out in Britain for example centuries ago.**

Trotsky, in his theory of Permanent Revolution explained that in the economically backward countries, it is impossible for the capitalists to carry out the capitalist revolution. He explained that in a country such as Russia, the **working class** would be compelled to come to power to carry out the tasks of the bourgeois democratic revolution.

But once having taken power they would not stop at merely having carried out the bourgeois revolution, but would then go on to carry out the socialist revolution, abolishing the bureaucratic capitalist state, carrying out the division of the land and then expropriating the capitalists completely.

Theory of permanent revolution

They would carry through the tasks of the socialist revolution by establishing a workers' democracy. But they could not stop at the borders of their own country. Beginning as a capitalist revolution in one country, this would turn into a socialist revolution, and would spread on a world scale. Socialism is impossible in a single nation, even one as massive as Russia.

That is the theory of the permanent revolution which was brilliantly confirmed by the Russian Revolution in 1917. On the other hand, Lenin had a much more cautious formula, that the bourgeois revolution would be carried out by a "democratic dictatorship of the workers and peasantry", but could only succeed through socialist revolution in Western Europe. This was an algebraic formula which was not entirely clear, and in 1917, Lenin abandoned this and put forward the same policy as had been advocated by Trotsky.

The rise of Stalinism on the basis of the backwardness, oppression and the isolation of the revolution to Russia alone led to the deformation of the policies and theories of Marxism. The theory of "socialism in one country" was adopted as an expression of the interests of the bureaucratic caste; the millions of officials who turned themselves into a privileged elite.

In the Chinese Revolution of 1949 the permanent revolution was confirmed though in a distorted way where the ex-Marxists, the "Communist" Party used the peasantry as a means of eliminating first landlordism and then capitalism.

This was, with the Russian Revolution, perhaps the greatest event in modern history. One-quarter of the world's population began to build a modern industrial state, obviously an enormous step forward. But as the Marxists explained in advance socialism can only come about through the conscious and organised movement of the working class, beginning with workers' democracy, workers' control of industry and the state and then moving on to socialism.

But in China not even the first stage of the revolution as in Russia was accomplished. True, landlordism and capitalism were eliminated, but in their place came the rule of a totalitarian Stalinist bureaucracy. The model for China was not that of Russia 1917 but the bureaucratic Stalinist Russia of 1949.

Cuba clashes with USA

Following the Chinese Revolution, the revolution of the Latin American continent began with the revolution in Cuba. This too, began as a bourgeois-democratic revolution under Fidel Castro. The model for Fidel Castro was the democratic capitalist republic of the United States. Having smashed the dictatorship of Batista, the Castroites **intended** to install a model capitalist democracy.

But Castroism came into collision with American imperialism because they insisted on taxes on American firms. These were less than those on the mainland of the USA; but they were sufficient to provoke the American government to organise a blockade of Cuba.

Cuba replied to the blockade by seizing American assets. As this was nearly nine-tenths of the industry and a great part of the land, it would have been incongruous to stop there, so therefore, they expropriated the one-tenth of industry in the hands of the Cuban capitalists. They used as a model Russia and China, and established a one party, totalitarian regime, that is a proletarian bonapartist, military-police dictatorship.

This was another huge step forward in the elimination of landlordism and capitalism and undoubtedly even at the present time the majority of Cuba's population supports Castro. The regime abolished illiteracy and improved health and living standards. Cuba has outstripped practically all of the countries of Latin America though formerly more backward in output per head of population.

However, the reverse side of this achievement is the establishment of a one party dictatorship which has led inevitably to a privileged bureaucratic elite. This in turn leads to waste, mismanagement, corruption, arbitrary rule and an all pervading terror by the secret police.

In the long term, Cuba like the Soviet Union and other Stalinist countries will end in a blind alley. A workers' regime cannot succeed unless there is broad participation of the mass of the population, checking, guiding, and organising with the full inspiration and capacity of the working class, organising the planning of industry and controlling the state democratically.

Before Cuba could begin the movement in the direction of socialism, it would require, as in Russia, China, and other countries, a political revolution, to install genuine workers' democracy which in its turn will prepare the way for socialism.

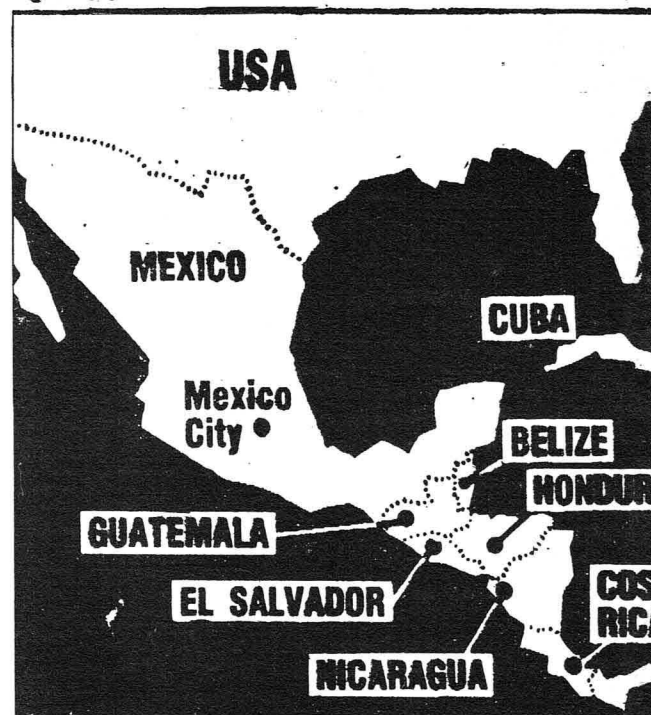
However for the countries of Latin America, particularly the countries of Central America, without a mass Marxist organisation to explain the alternative, Cuba stands out as a beacon for the oppressed workers and peasants.

As a consequence, in the countries of Central America, guerilla movements have been organised by the revolutionary parties with Cuba as a model. In the countries where there is a strong working class, such as Chile, Argentina, and Uruguay, urban guerillaism has had a disastrous effect.

It has been a major factor in allowing the formation of the military dictatorships, which are now on their last legs in these countries. But in Central America, there is a somewhat different problem.

The military police dictatorships were established in the fifties and were the tools of the CIA and of American imperialism. In Guatemala the CIA succeeded in overthrowing Jacobo Arbenz's Popular Front government in 1954.

The Popular Front was established through elections. But without arming the mass of the workers and peasants, it was fairly easy for emigres organised by the CIA and American imperialism to overthrow it.



Central America

Nicaragua

US imperialism tried to repeat the Guatemala overthrow in Nicaragua. It has been a dismal failure because the masses carried out a revolution of the workers and peasants in Nicaragua, to achieve the overthrow of the Somoza regime.

Nicaragua has built up a formidable army of 30,000 with tanks and helicopters and an armed militia of 70,000. This force, which defeated the intervention, did not exist in Guatemala when the US intervened in 1954.

Somoza was a dictatorial puppet of the USA, cruel and oppressive, ruling through a front organisation called the National Guard, composed of criminals and armed killers recruited to terrorise the population. It is this scum which fled from Nicaragua in 1979 which is being used in an attempt to try and re-establish the previous dictatorship.

In the Civil War, 50,000 were killed, that is one in fifty of the population. Practically everyone in Nicaragua had a friend or relative killed in the bloody battles to get rid of the Somoza dictatorship. The country is in ruins, most of the towns have been thoroughly destroyed, and are still being destroyed by the vicious bombing against their own countrymen by the henchmen of Somoza.

The revolution was accomplished through a general strike of the working class, and an uprising of the peasants together with the guerrilla movement of the Sandinistas. **However, the only way forward for the revolution would have been to take power completely out of the hands of the landlords and capitalists, and organise a democratic workers' state on the lines of Russia in 1917.**

Of course, in a small country like Nicaragua, they could not solve the problem on their own, but with the perspective of spreading the revolution to the rest of Central America and then to the whole of Latin America, the result of the revolution would have been entirely different.

The Sandinistas used this movement of the masses of workers and peasants to establish their own control as an elitist organisation. Even in a country of 3 million population it is absurd that the ruling party should limit its membership to five thousand. When the revolution was carried through they only had a membership of 800!

The *Financial Times* editorial of 29 April, warned that "the fundamental causes for the economic instability were long standing domestic problems of poverty, violence and political instability". "The problem with this is that it is (US) policy to push the Nicaraguan government further into the Soviet trap."

This analysis is perfectly correct, but the problem is that on the basis of the present ruins, and on the basis of landlordism and capitalism it will not be possible to build a democracy in Nicaragua or any of the other countries of Central America.

The revolutionary government which has been established in Nicaragua is incapable on present lines of solving the problems. Miskito Indians have been forcibly resettled and have become enemies of the regime.

Reagan has declared a relentless campaign against Nicaragua, where he claimed, "the Marxists took

over and created their own totalitarian government". That explains the attempt to use the old National Guard as a means of trying to fasten a new dictatorship on the people of Nicaragua.

American policy is explained by the need to hold all Central American countries in order to "defend Panama" and in order to "defend their interests in the whole of Latin America". As *The Economist* remarked "if the Central American region fell then Panama, and probably Mexico as well, the United States would have to send in its own fighting men."

The ripeness for revolution of Central America is indicated by the analysis of capitalist economists, one of whom wrote "goaded ahead by increasing costs and tight credit they are in trouble, and many market producers have already gone to the wall. Internationally the high stock, low prices and tight quotas for coffee and sugar, then limits the room for manoeuvre of these countries." The crisis can be

ble out of the country. The black market rate is 60 cordobas to a dollar, rather than the official rate of 20 cordobas to the dollar, but even at that rate, enormous sums of money are being smuggled out of the country.

The capitalists are running industry on a care and maintenance basis only. There is no question of expanding industry even to pre civil war levels.

The contradiction in Nicaragua cannot be maintained indefinitely. Either the economy will have to come under the control of the state, or the state will have to come in consonance with the economy.

Nicaragua faces enormous problems of reconstruction after the American capitalist backed Somocist civil war, with its slaughter and destruction. As a consequence the standard of living is now far lower than under Somoza, but nevertheless the undying hatred amongst the overwhelming majority of Nicaraguans of the former dictator means that most will continue to support the Sandinista regime.

But the US imperialists have decided on the smashing of the Nicaraguan regime as soon as possible under the pressure of the

there is no way forward on the basis of capitalism. Those are the circumstances where capitalist counter-revolution would be possible.

However the dilemma for American imperialism is that it cannot wait till this process comes to a conclusion. They are determined to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution in order to stabilise the position of the landlord capitalist oligarchy in El Salvador, in Honduras, and in Guatemala, and Costa Rica.

The Stalinist powers are trying to square the circle. For example in an interview in the *Guardian* (28 April 1983) Professor Viktor Volsky, Director of the Latin American Institute in Moscow cynically declared "We have never abandoned a friendly country, but it has cost us a lot to send oil to Cuba—two tankers a day for twenty years. We wouldn't like to have to repeat that on a larger scale."

Professor Khatchaturov, Vice Chairman of the Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee with special responsibility for Latin America believes that the Nicaraguan revolution is unique "it has no leaders, there is no frontal collision between the bourgeoisie and the revolution and the private and mixed sector of the economy still remain" The only real danger to the Sandinistas he claimed comes from abroad.

This would retain more conviction if the same nonsense had not been said about Chile, thus preparing a catastrophe. "No more Cubas" says Professor Volsky who then tries to lecture the American imperialists about their own interests.

"What seems unintelligent on the part of the United States is that they push countries towards socialism". Thus the advice given by the bureaucracy is not to provoke the American imperialists by carrying out the revolution to a conclusion.

In reality as events are demonstrating, **the very existence of a revolutionary Nicaragua undermines the rotting regimes of Central America.**

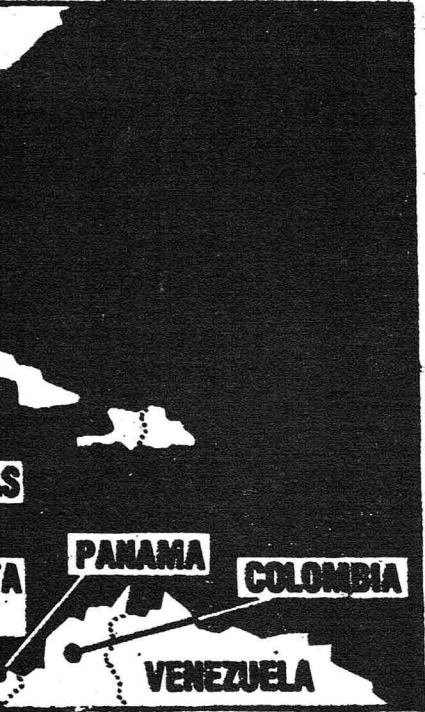
Therefore despite attempting to stop the revolution half way this does not placate the American imperialists with enormous investments in Central and Latin America who fear the consequences of the revolution spreading throughout the continent and are hence determined to achieve counter revolution in Nicaragua.

The Somocistas cannot succeed in overthrowing the regime in Nicaragua, but can cause enormous damage, and they may establish for a time a basis in the more remote parts of Nicaragua. But the mass of the population will never stomach the vile and rapacious bands who they've successfully expelled from Nicaragua through revolution.

The revolution could be pushed forward through the inevitable attempts at counter revolution and the attempt at a conspiracy on the part of sections of the Sandinista government with the capitalists to take control into their own hands. Nature abhors a vacuum. It is impossible to have a government leaning on the working class, the capitalists and the landlords simultaneously.

Either there will be a completion of the revolution at least in the bureaucratic mould of Cuba, China and of Russia or the Nicaraguan regime will face inevitable overthrow.

That is why the argument of certain sectarians in America is so pitiful. They capitulate completely to the arguments of the Sandinistas that the government in Nicaragua is the "democratic dictatorship of the proletariat and peasantry", a hybrid that never existed in history



ST CAN'T
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IES



Alan Handman



Funeral of a Sandinista killed by a US-backed 'Contra'.

The very existence of a revolutionary Nicaragua undermines the rotting regimes of Central America

seen in the problems of the cotton and coffee growing industries in Nicaragua.

Standard Fruit, United Brands (formerly United Fruit), Delmonte are the multinationals that really control these countries' economies. In Costa Rica and Honduras, preparing the way for an explosion in those countries the multinationals have demanded the reduction of export tax as a condition of their continued activity.

Honduras offered to cut 40% off the export tax of these products, but the Shylocks on Wall Street demanded a 10% further cut. All these figures are the statistics for a peasant war.

Sixty per cent of industry and about ninety percent of the land is still in private hands, in Nicaragua. Thus an unstable balance of forces has been achieved. The real power, which Marxists have explained is armed bodies of men, is in the hands of the Sandinistas. With a few thousand members of the party, they control the militia and the army that has been set up in Nicaragua after the collapse of the capitalist army of the National Guard of Somoza.

The capitalist class, which remains the ruling class, because they control the economy nevertheless, has a feeling of helplessness. They are sabotaging the development of industry in Nicaragua, refusing to invest the surplus extracted from the labour of the workers and smuggling as much money as possi-

banana, coffee, sugar and other millionaires in the United States, because of fear of the example of the revolution in Nicaragua on the other countries of the region leading to potential revolution in the whole of Latin America.

That explains what seems inexplicable to the other imperialists, the determination of the United States not to allow—what was, after all, a coalition government of capitalists and revolutionaries in Nicaragua to maintain itself in office.

The delusion of the Sandinistas that it was possible to arrive at a compromise with American imperialism (in which they were undoubtedly encouraged and pressurised by the bureaucracies of Cuba and of the Soviet Union), has failed completely. It is impossible under the circumstances existing in Central America to arrive at such a compromise. **The struggle against landlordism and capitalism and the struggle against imperialism has to be carried through to a conclusion or it will in the long term inevitably result in the collapse of the revolution.**

Leaving the majority of industry and land in private hands clears the way for possible counter revolution from capitalists in the government, state machine and economy during the coming years once there is an ebbing of the revolution. Inevitably after a period, disillusionment among the masses will set in when

CONTINUED ON PAGE EIGHT

Revolution in Central America

Election day 1982. Another civilian in El Salvador murdered by the Death Squads. PHOTO: Pietro Gigli (IFL)

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and never will.

The government is an uneasy compromise between the capitalists and the workers. In reality power rests in the hands of the workers and peasants indirectly through the Sandinistas' domination of the government politically. But economic power remains basically in the hands of the capitalists who in turn look towards American imperialism to give them assistance, for the overthrow of the regime.

It is an unstable situation in which the Sandinistas may be forced into a bureaucratically deformed revolution which could spread to the other backward economies.

Because of the blockade, sabotage by American imperialism, the capitalist crisis and the fact that there is not a socialist planned economy both public and private concerns in Nicaragua are only operating at 60 percent of capacity. There is a shortage of foreign exchange, of raw materials and spare parts.

As one private sector leader declared, "the future is black, or black and red in fact". The ruling class understand better than the Sandinistas the difficulties which they themselves are facing at the present time.

The officials of the Consejo superna de la Empresa Privada (COSEP), the Nicaraguan equivalent of the Confederation of British Industry, demanded negotiations between the Contras the counter revolutionaries and the Sandinistas.

COSEP leaders issued a statement in which they refused to condemn the United States and the CIA in moving the so-called Somoza "army of liberation" into Nicaragua nor the cutting of the nation's sugar quota (50% of the Sugar industry is in private hands). In fact they condoned imperialism's sabotage and economic war against Nicaragua arguing that "a sovereign nation" (the USA) can do whatever it wanted with its trade relations."

Elimination of capitalism

This was said openly despite the rule of the Sandinistas. What they are saying in private can be imagined. The pro-government daily *Nuevo Diario* in its editorial headline 'The patriotism of COSEP' said "Certain captains of industry are hoping to regain their old privileges as a result of the military and economic attacks against Nicaragua". But empty threats will have no effect on the capitalists and on the contrary will encourage counter revolution unless the revolution is carried through to a conclusion.

On 1 February 1982 the Sandinista government offered a non aggression pact and a joint border patrol with Costa Rica and Honduras and offered negotiations with the USA. "It also repeated its commitment to follow a non aligned foreign policy, preserve political democracy and a mixed economy, and to hold democratic elections before 1985"

The American imperialists are in the unhappy position in Nicaragua of being compelled to try and crush a bourgeois revolution as happened in France, Germany etc in past centuries because of the effects it would have on their interests in Latin America. But in doing so they are pushing these countries in the direction of eliminating capitalism completely.



El Salvador "What the Salvadorean peasants want is land and the only way is through the overthrow of the regime."

THE REVOLUTION in Nicaragua triggered off a movement in El Salvador, a full scale guerilla war. The rotten, degenerate regime of landowners, priests and army thugs which has controlled the country for 162 years can only maintain itself, at least temporarily, by support of aid, arms and materials from American imperialism. However the same process is taking place in El Salvador as took place in Nicaragua.

El Salvador is slightly larger than Wales with a population of 5 millions. 8% of the population receive 50% of the income. While there are 20,000 landowners with 75% of the land, 370,000 small farmers own 25% of the land. On top of this, no less than 65% of the rural population are landless seasonal labourers.

These figures are much worse than anything in Czarist Russia or in India or the countries of Asia or Africa. In order to maintain their rule the regime has (particularly after the Nicaraguan revolution) carried out a reign of terror which has been seldom equalled, in proportion to the population in a backward country.

Doctors, nurses, medical students have been murdered for even treating the poor because they were regarded as sympathetic to the aspirations of the masses. The regime maintains itself with 12,000 police and the organisation of thugs called ORDEN, with a hundred thousand vigilantes; who were rewarded with land and money. They are, of course, safe from the security forces.

In addition, in the towns there is a squadron of murder gangs for the purpose of establishing terror in the city as well as on the land. In the jails and in the police stations there are trained torturers who have a refinement of torture not even reached in the countries of the most brutal dictatorship in Latin America in the past.

In 1982 there were 5,000 murders as a result of the roaming of the land by the ORDEN terror gangs;

there were 300,000 refugees outside the country and 200,000 refugees inside the country itself, meaning that 10% of the population are refugees internally and externally.

The attempt to "pacify" El Salvador after the failure to "hold" Nicaragua is meant to "strengthen the resolve of other governments in the area".

Regime fears mass desertions to guerillas

The American imperialist government is frenzied because two thirds of the oil of the USA and a large part of its trade come through the Caribbean and the Gulf of Mexico. It controls a big part of the supplies to Europe.

El Salvador's rulers refuse to use the tactics suggested by US imperialism of small groups of patrols of a dozen or twenty to fight the guerillas because the rank and file are reluctant to take the war seriously. Night patrols are ruled out because of the fear of soldiers deserting; even the staging of permanent guards on railways and power stations called for much persuasion.

The soldiers are press ganged into the army and therefore have no particular interest in the struggle. The guerillas have adopted the tactics of releasing soldiers once they are captured. But the army generals stick to large sweeps through the different departments of thousands of men as otherwise there would be the danger of complete collapse of the troops that they send. If they sent small groups these would melt into the country and surrender to the guerillas.

The elections of March 28 1982 were a farce. The Christian Democrats received the largest number of seats, but on April 22 the extreme right—terror party became government and the leader

of the far right murderers, Robert D'Aubuisson became President of the Assembly.

The elections took place without electoral registers and there was compulsory voting, yet more than one third of the population abstained and another 11 to 18% of voters spoiled their ballots, which means that at least a third of the population in spite of the terror were openly against the regime.

It is also clear that only half of the turnout claimed, according to a Jesuit priest, in the University of Central America, actually took place. The rest were fictitious ballots put in by hired thugs. The nature of this rigged Parliament is indicated by the fact that on May 18 1982 the Constituent Assembly voted by 37 to 18 to suspend the "Land to the Tiller" scheme, i.e the Junta's "land reform" programme for one crop year. This was justified on the grounds that the land owners had no incentive to plant cotton or sugar cane if their land was expropriated, even though they would get compensation.

This was extended to capital and grain land, and to 95% of all rented land. The bulk of the country's land is back in the hands of relatively few people. 10,000 peasant families were evicted from the land 2 months after the election.

The guerilla armies offered negotiations to the US, but General Haig replied on February 2nd 1982 "that whatever is necessary, to prevent the overthrow of the Junta by the guerillas backed by Cuba and Nicaragua would be done". This was a threat of intervention by the army, which it is not impossible for American imperialism to try.

In the face of a terror campaign, and the murder of thousands in the cities and countryside, dozens of deaths every day, murder, rape, arson in the villages to try and terrorise the peasants, nevertheless Reagan has declared with the most monstrous hypocrisy that attempts are being made to establish a democratic regime in El Salvador!

\$160 million military-aid and \$28 million of new economic aid in a year has been given to this small country. The total economic and military aid from the US comes to \$748 millions, 1,000 troops and 5-600 junior officers have been trained by the United States. But all this will be in vain in the face of the peasant war being waged in El Salvador.

The guerillas have become more and more organised with radio stations and arms, mainly taken from the soldiers.

In spite of the terror of the regimes in the regions of Chalatenango, Cunthelean and Morozan, the guerillas are in control of large areas of these regions.

In El Salvador, in spite of all the attempts of American imperialism to "succour" and "save" the regime they will not succeed. Once the revolution succeeds in El Salvador it will spread to Honduras and Guatemala, where the regime is carrying out a policy of almost genocide against the majority of the population of the country, of Latin American Indian origin.

Even if American imperialism should send troops as the example of Vietnam shows that could only delay the revolution and not at all succeed in preventing it. Now at the present time, under the watchful eyes of the American advisers, as in Vietnam the USA campaign for "hearts and minds", a campaign that must fail, because what the El Salvadorean peasants want is land and the only way they can get the land is through the overthrow of the regime. No amount of "concessions" or terror will prevent them from supporting the guerillas against the hated regime.

The crimes of the last 5 years, have resulted in an undying hatred by the mass of the population of the rulers and under these conditions it is only a question of time before the El Salvador regime is overthrown. Because of the bloody nature of the campaign it is most likely that in the event of victory they'll be compelled to go further than the leaders of the guerillas are planning and not only carry through the bourgeois revolution, giving the land to the peasants, but to expropriate the capitalists and try and establish a regime such as that of Cuba in El Salvador.

Revolutionary process will deepen

No amount of aid in arms, money and supplies or even direct military intervention will prevent the victory in the next decade of the movement of the workers and peasants. Now that the revolution has begun in Nicaragua and spread to El Salvador, there is no way even the strength of US imperialism can prevent its continuation and development.

There may be ups and downs, and bloody defeats but history has condemned these regimes to the dustbin of history.

But this in turn will be dwarfed by the events of the future in Latin America. The basis is being laid for an explosion throughout the continent which could result in the victory of the working class on classical Marxist lines, as was the case in Tsarist Russia, where the workers will come to power and give the land to the peasants in countries like Brazil, Mexico, and Chile.

The expropriation of the landlords and of the capitalists prepares the way for a socialist United States of Latin America which will prepare the way for a World Socialist Federation.

Letters

VIEWERS? COMMENTS? EXPERIENCES?
CRITICISM? WRITE ABOUT THEM TO

MILITANT, Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

Terry Fields and the hanging debate Reader's criticism and MP's reply

Dear Editor

I was very shocked to read that Terry Fields was absent from the hanging debate last week.

What also disgusted me more was it was kept out of *Militant*, but if it had been Ben Ford or anyone else you would have made it headlines, so come on be more honest and truthful—what's good for the goose is

good for the gander.

As it happened the vote went the right way. But next time he takes his holidays in the Mediterranean maybe his vote could be just the one that will be missing when it is needed.

Yours fraternally
G T Barker
Secretary, Bridlington
Branch NUPE

Dear Comrades

Bro Barker's reaction to having to read about my "absence" from the hanging debate seems genuine, and he appears to have been influenced by whatever report he read, to have remembered such an exotic phrase as "holidays in the Mediterranean" and all that conjures up. I wish to set the record straight, for Bro Barker and for other comrades who still don't understand the role the press and media play in society.

In speaking of the role of the press might I say that I well understand it when the "gutter press" pick up "lurid details" for sensationalism, or in this case for political, anti-working class attacks. What struck me as both remarkable and disgraceful was that a left newspaper, *Tribune*, stooped to Fleet Street's jaundiced level.

In *Tribune's* case I believe that they must have been fully aware of all the facts, but chose for what can only be described as sectarian reasons, to 'ape' the bosses' press.

Let me detail the facts.

1) The first action I took on arrival at Westminster was to submit a motion opposing the Crawfords factory closure. The second was to inform the Whip's office (who arrange, with others, the working arrangements for MPs) that I had a family holiday booked from before the election.
2) The period booked, although not to my family's liking, was to allow me to fulfill my obligations to my FBU members, to fit into the schedule of national, regional and local meetings, to take account of the exigencies of the Fire Service and my need to submit in advance an application for leave. The main criteria, as an NEC member of the FBU, was the membership's needs. My family, unfortunately, taking second place.

3) The advice from the Whip's Office was to proceed with my holiday, and in discussion with other senior Labour MPs this was confirmed as usual practice. The initial discussion took place on 14 June '83 and periodically I rechecked with the whips. My holiday was due to start on 8 July '83 and right up to 7 July '83 I was in detailed consultation with Michael Cocks, Chief Whip. On that date the Chief Whip informed me that it had been arranged that a Tory 'pro-hanger' would not be voting—to coincide with my absence.

4) Comrade Barker says, "As it happened, the vote went the right way". There was never any real doubt which way the vote would go. Despite the baying of the extremists in the Tory party and the establishment, the effect of a pro-hanging vote would have been a disaster for the government and Thatcher in particular. They ensured this would not occur.
5) Had the subject for debate been the third reading of a piece of anti-working class legislation which the Tory leadership were seriously pushing I would have returned for the vote. Indeed it is a matter of record that I said I would return to cast my vote against the re-introduction of hanging should the Chief Whip consider it necessary. It was not considered necessary.

6) Bro Barker says, "Next time he takes his holidays in the Mediterranean". Well if it takes the twenty-two years it took me to have my first holiday abroad with my family then the next will be in the year 2005. I'll bear it in mind.

7) In those twenty-two years, when we have been able to afford holidays, we have been camping, 'caravanned' in a borrowed van, and have for a number of years had only a week's holiday—to coincide with my union's annual conference. Lately it has been too expensive to do even that.

I wonder how many journalists' families or jumped-up guardians of working class accountability have had to take second place to the movement, and indeed, if their children ever faced the prospect of a cancelled holiday twenty-four hours before it was due to start.

I consider it absolute hypocrisy on their part—but never-the-less expected it. So much so that before I went away I left a full and detailed brief with my constituency secretary to answer the smear.

Let Bro Barker be assured that the reporting in the capitalist press and *Tribune* is a diversion. Let me be judged by my actions in attacking the system, and my whole-hearted support, not only for NUPE members, but for our whole class in fighting job losses, for better housing, education, social services, defence of the health service and so on.

I hope this reply answers the points raised by Cde Barker and clears up the matter once and for all.

Yours fraternally
Terry Fields
MP, Liverpool, Broadgreen.

Liberal boot-boys

Dear Comrades,

The May elections in Liverpool saw a Labour group elected on socialist policies, despite a barrage of Liberal/Tory half-truths and scaremongering.

However, not only has the city been freed from the Liberal/Tory alliance of mutual misrule, but we now see who the real political hooligans are.

At the last full council

meeting, Liverpool Town Hall was ablaze with the voices of Liberal councillors screaming for "democracy and freedom of speech" because council chairman Hugh Dalton would not allow them to make political speeches at the point in the proceedings when they were merely supposed to be indicating their support or opposition to the recommendations made by the Labour policy groups.



Prince Charles ignoring the picket line outside Grosvenor House Hotel in London during last winter's dispute.

PHOTO: Carlos Augusto Guarita (PHOTON)

Queen of the socialist republic

Dear Militant,

While accepting in principle all of *Militant's* policies, I find one area in which I greatly disagree—that of the dissolution of the Monarchy and the House of Lords:—

Despite acknowledging the motive behind such moves, one must, of course,

remember the viewpoint of a large majority of the general public, since it is they who must lend their support to our cause.

Although looking for a radical and feasible alternative to the present situation—that of full blooded socialism—it's my experience that many potential supporters are alienated by our views on the Monarchy and the House of Lords.

To dissolve both institutions is felt by many to represent the first-step towards dictatorship, and who would want to vote for potential dictatorship?

One need only look at the vast amount of support given by the public towards the monarchy on Royal occasions to appreciate how popular they in fact are, and to propose their abolition would incur much

unpopularity.

Thus, why does *Militant* not drop the proposal for the abolition of the Monarchy and House of Lords, which is only a minor issue anyway, while still retaining a radical and vigorous social and economic programme?

Yours fraternally
Mark Liddiard
Folkestone LPYS

Nojob-centres

Dear Militant,

I read with interest and heart Jon Miskin's letter about Saturday morning opening of Jobcentres.

Lincoln Jobcentre has also been part of the Saturday morning experiment and has been picketed every week by members of CPSA from Lincoln, Hull and Nottingham, and comrades from the local LPYS Branch.

As Jon Miskin pointed out is is crass hypocrisy to waste money on an experiment on the one hand and close Jobcentres altogether, as will happen to 22 rural Jobcentres this year and a number of city and town Jobcentres including ones in Nottingham and Sheffield.

The management blacklegs who man Jobcentres on Saturday mornings can earn more money for 3½ hours work than a YOPster gets for forty hours of slavery, a single person gets from unemployment or supplementary benefit and more than a single person gets for attending a local TOPS course. These monies are all paid by the same government department!

Jerry Hull
Lincoln LPYS

EETPU "democracy"

Dear Militant,

Many thanks for the excellent article on union democracy (issue 660), and the pin-up picture of Frank Chapple.

Frank has indeed been a busy man recently corresponding with those EETPU branches who wrote to

complain about his support for the renegade candidate John Grant in Islington during the election.

EETPU members should be warned. The passing of Frank Chapple does not mark the end of an era. He leaves behind a union who's leadership and officials are indelibly stamped with his imprimatur.

He also leaves behind a

Two-faced media

Dear Comrades

Every day the hypocrisy of the present system becomes better known.

We have seen on TV or read in the newspapers about the so-called 'scruffy and smelly' women of Greenham Common who are traitors to British democracy and don't care about anybody or anything but themselves.

Yet since the arrest of Green Peace protestors by the Soviet authorities on the whale issue there has been a sudden change of mood in the so-called unbiased offices of Fleet Street.

Suddenly everybody is sympathising with the protestors who only a few months ago were criticised for their attempts to prevent

the dumping of nuclear waste into free waters by British authorities.

Not that I support the Russian bureaucracy but I am sick of witnessing socialism being misused by the capitalists to authorise their own anti-democratic and anti-working class action.

Yours
Hamid R Daryael
Bradford North

Part-time rip-off

Dear Militant

I work twenty hours a week at a small bakery. Five weeks ago the full-time employees got a 5% rise. there are two part-timers, our wage being £32.

The tax limit since April is

£32.50. So the boss wants to keep us below that limit so she doesn't have to pay national insurance. She wanted us to accept a four-day week and have a rise of 5% on 16 hours.

The other girl thought it was great—until I explained; no right to SSP; less pension; no legal right 'till you work there five years. So we agreed I'd do the fighting to get us a better deal. Unfortunately we're not in a union.

At the end they've told me they're not willing to pay my stamp, but they've given me £32 for sixteen hours the same. To split us they have the other girl a five-day week, a rise on top of £32 and pay a stamp.

Yours fraternally
T Stubbs
Macclesfield

Freedoms of the private sector

Dear Comrades,

At present I live in a damp small bedsit in a crumbling terrace with a grasping private landlord.

One poor tenant fell behind in his rent and the landlord kicked his door down and removed the bed and cooker and the lad had to go to relatives to temporarily house him. His old room has since been let out at a much higher rent.

The six of us in the house share one disgusting toilet, there is no bath and no washing facilities and the council do nothing to help us.

My job in a laundry, at wages I'm ashamed of, only re-inforces my predicament. Callaghan did nothing for me and Thatcher must seem like a heroine to my boss and my landlord. Only *Militant* I believe, can help the private tenant.

Tom Brodie
Middlesborough



Workers at Anderson, Strathclyde fought a long-running battle against take-over. Obstructing management led them into muddy waters. Read on.

PHOTOS: Denis Duran

ANDERSON STRATHCLYDE is a mining equipment manufacturer employing some four and a half thousand people in Britain.

More than two-thirds work at the major Scottish factories in Motherwell, Bridgeton, Glenrothes, East Kilbride and Kirkintilloch.

Three years ago Charter Consolidated, a mining and financial conglomerate, started showing interest in Anderson Strathclyde.

By September 1980 Charter Consolidated had bought up 28% of Anderson Strathclyde shares on the Stock Market. Naturally none of the workers were consulted about this—or about the board room manoeuvres which gave Charter Consolidated a place on the Anderson Strathclyde board.

Charter described their interest as “a reasonable investment with no intention of taking over.”

In May 1982 Charter Consolidated made a bid for outright control.

The fight was on. Thirty-six per cent of Charter's shares are owned by a front company called Minorco, based in a Bermuda tax haven. Minorco is in turn controlled by the South African multinational Anglo American Corporation and the De Beers diamond company, which are part of the powerful chain of companies owned by the South African Oppenheimer Group.

Anderson Strathclyde shop stewards pondered the prospect of a chain of command leading from Scotland to London to Johannesburg.

The take-over was rejected by Anderson Strathclyde management as well as the workers. A temporary unity of purpose was forged. But the Joint Shop Stewards' Defence Committee entered the fray with no illusions.

“Does it matter who your boss is?”

Convenor Kenny Gormal explained, “You might say, ‘What difference does it make who your boss is?’ It's a good question but we're dealing now with companies who don't just make people redundant, they topple governments!”

“We don't like the present Anderson Strathclyde management but we know who they are. How can we get to see Oppenheimer in Johannesburg when the going gets tough?”

The Joint Shop Stewards' Defence Committee got tremendous shop-floor support at all stages in the campaign—not least because regular factory meetings throughout the combine ensured that the workers in all ten trade unions were kept informed.

John Beveridge, the convenor of the large Motherwell plant, was the

‘A reasonable investment...’

Story of Scottish trade unionists' fight against a multinational

BY BOB WYLIE

chairman of the Defence Committee. The teamwork of the Bridgeton convenors and Glenrothes convenor Eric Taylor helped unite all Anderson Strathclyde workers.

“A unique campaign—we were not fighting our own employer”

The Defence Committee contemplated a campaign of industrial action but felt such a campaign would be difficult to sustain since take-over doesn't seem an immediate threat to most workers.

A campaign based on “What might happen if Charter Consolidated take over” was judged too vague. Instead the Trade Union Defence Committee sought legal methods, first attempting to have their case heard by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The shop stewards understood the dangers involved in this tactic but were very confident of their case. As Kenny Gormal puts it, “We were confident. We thought we could use the Commission as one of the safeguards in the system, such as they are. We felt if the Commission came out with the recommendation that the merger was against public interest we'd be home and dry.”

The Defence Committee successfully lobbied Scottish MPs; Younger, the Tory Scottish Secretary of State, openly supported Anderson Strathclyde re-

maintaining an independent company. The Office of Fair Trading responded, referring the issue to a committee of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The first thread in the big business web of intrigue became evident five weeks after the Monopolies Commission inquiry began. One of the inquiry team resigned.

He was Bernard Owens, a former boss of Unichrome, who had substantial investments in De Beers diamonds and Anglo American which own more than a third of Charter Consolidated.

At the end of its deliberations in late November 1982, the Commission reached the conclusion that the merger would be against public interest. The workers were jubilant. But their joy was short-lived.

“The whole matter stinks”

On 21 December 1982, the Tory government over-ruled the decision of the Monopolies Commission and gave permission for the merger to proceed.

Dennis Canavan, Labour MP, in a later parliamentary debate, was to sum up the feelings of the labour movement: “The whole matter stinks...it is an instance of the unacceptable face of capitalism infiltrating the corridors of power at Westminster, Whitehall and even the British cabinet itself. I am forced to conclude that people in high places have been nobbled by their rich Tory friends.”

The decision on the merger was announced by Peter Rees, the Minister of Trade. The top man, Lord Cockfield, Secretary of State for Trade, directly owned 2,500 shares in Charter Consolidated up to three weeks after Charter's bid for Anderson. Dr Gerard Vaughan, Minister of Consumer Affairs at the Department also declared an interest.

Vaughan's parliamentary private secretary, Timothy Rathbone MP, is a director of the big public relations firm Charles Barker. A big client of their's is Charter Consolidated.

City skulduggery and Tory treachery

Further description of the web requires mention of Mr Mark Wolfson MP and also of the parliamentary lobbying firm GJW Ltd.

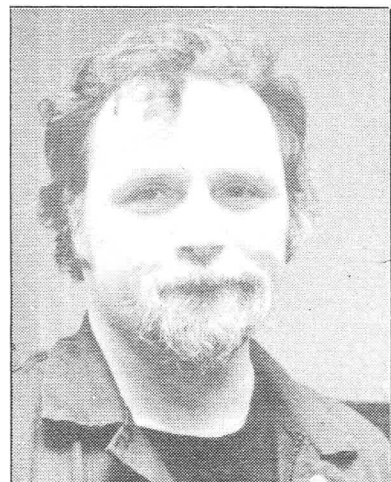
The parliamentary register of interests shows that Mr Wolfson is a director of Hambros Bank. The Hambros Group has given generous donations to Tory Party funds for years—£21,000 in 1980—and one of their major clients in Charter Consolidated, to whom they give financial advice and assistance.

In case any stone was left unturned Charter Consolidated engaged GJW Ltd to spearhead its lobbying of Parliament. The firm is run by former personal assistants of James Callaghan, David Steel and an assistant of Edward Heath.

And John Kay, the vice convenor at Bridgeton, said, “The labour movement put up a good case, but when the City of London moved in it was like Auchenshuggle Shanklifters playing Brazil.”

The Trade Union Defence Committee persuaded the Labour opposition to use a half-day debate to expose Charter Consolidated and their many Tory friends. The debate took place on 22 March and a large delegation of Scottish trade unionists attended, to try to explain their case.

The Tories who had supported



Anderson convenor, Kenny Gormal.

them previously deserted their cause. Younger, the Scottish Secretary of State, told a delegation member, “I stand by your submission, but I'll be voting with the government.”

John Beveridge, the chairman of the Defence Committee, described the Tories' behaviour: “I try not to be political myself but complete treachery is the only way I can describe it.”

Before the debate took place the workers met briefly with Rees, the Tory Minister of Trade. John Beveridge again: “The meeting lasted about four minutes. We asked whether he had received any assurances from Charter about jobs. ‘No.’ We asked him if he had asked for assurances. ‘No!’ We were there representing a lot of people, the workers, the trade unions, organisations from the local community, but he was not concerned with these interests.

“Rees was there representing his gaffer, Lord Cockfield, and the City of London, the people with the cash on the Stock Exchange. He treated us like peasants. I felt like a lump of dirt getting swept out by a cleaner.”

During the parliamentary debate John Kay counted 24 people. But at five minutes to ten the chamber filled up and the vote was lost, by 282 to 209.

John Kay said, “Angry, of course we're angry. We had right on our side. It was our future they were arguing about yet they were sitting there with their feet up—not bothering a tosser.”

Kenny Gormal added, “The skulduggery of the City of London and the shameful treacherous conduct of the Scottish Tories will never be forgotten. The Tories have sold out our future, sold out our well-being for the sake of their own careers.”

Early in April the take-over of Anderson Strathclyde was completed. Charter Consolidated's holding reached 50.5% of Anderson's shares on the Stock Exchange.

Sandhar and Kang's- Defend union rights

WORKERS at Sandhar and Kang Cash and Carry, Birmingham are on strike over management attacks on their union. The union, the TGWU, was recognised by the firm after a six-week strike last June by thirty mainly Asian workers.

Since the strike S & K have cut down the hours of union members to a maximum of 40 per week, giving them a maximum weekly wage of £40-£50, while non-union members were bribed not to join the union by being given weekend overtime.

Over three weeks ago, management announced they had sold the packing room to Euro-Packing Company, which is owned by the husband of a woman who works for S & K in Coventry, and whose offices consist of a flat in Coventry. Two employees, both union members, were to be transferred to the new company. This broke a union agreement on redundancy since both employees had longer service than a number of non-union employees.

Seeing this as an attempt to break the union, the workers came out on strike. Picketing had reduced daily turnover from around

£90,000 a day to just £6,000-£7,000.

Sandar and Kang have cut their prices to below cost price to force customers to cross the picket line, and last week issued a summons for the 23 strikers to appear in high court for preventing people from entering their premises. They hoped to get all the pickets out of the way for a day to move in goods, but found TGWU full time officials, including Terry Austin and George Dowling, picketing on the workers' behalf.

The high court judge restricted the number of pickets to six per gate, and ordered them not to obstruct the footpath.

The union is asking for reinstatement of the two members while negotiations proceed. The matter was pursued to ACAS but the company still would not reinstate the two members, so the strike continues.

Donations and message of support to: S&K Strike Fund, C/O Transport House, 211 Broad Street, Birmingham B15.

Simon Heather (TGWU 5/29) spoke to S&K shop stewards RJ Patel and Hercharan S Rai.

Blood donor Assistants, Manchester

DONOR ASSISTANTS at the blood transfusion service in Manchester have been forced onto the picket line.

Negotiations with management have been taking place for some time. They want to bring in new technology. In order to implement the bar coding system, staffing levels and pay in most departments have been increased.

Donor assistants have been offered neither. They have told management that in order to maintain safety levels they must have extra staff.

Management's answer was if extra staff are required per bed then reduce the number of beds and keep the existing staff. But they expect the same number of donors to pass through the reduced number of beds.

The donor assistants maintain that this would lower the level of care given to donors and would put hospital patients at risk by increasing the possibility of contaminated blood.

None of the workers I spoke to mentioned the stress and strain the increased workload would put on them. Their sole concern is donor and patient safety and they are adamant they are not on strike.

Messages of support to Marion Harthill and Edna Thornton (NUPE stewards), Gateway House, Piccadilly Approach, Manchester.

By Maggie Pountain
(NUPE shop steward,
personal capacity)

Carousel "skivvies" strike

ONE employer in Shettleston, Glasgow, has taken to heart Thatcher and Tebbit's attitude to young workers being used as skivvies.

The owner of the Carousel Wafer Company, in real Victorian spirit, has sacked eight young workers for going on strike to demand trade union recognition.

The young workers, aged between 16 and 20, joined the TGWU in January 1983 to organise against their cowboy employer. After successive attempts to negotiate their grievances, they were met with their boss's final response on Monday, "I will burn this place down before I let the union in here." According to some accounts from the

strikers that might not be a bad idea for this workhouse.

As Carol Rogers, the shop steward, commented, "For a forty-hour week we get a basic of £39 and some of us get less, and the conditions we work in are a disgrace. For instance in winter it was so cold in the factory that even the water in the toilet pan froze over and in summer it must be about a hundred degrees."

They decided enough was enough and it was better to risk their jobs and fight for a better deal.

The morale is good on the picket line despite the fact that some unemployed youth desperate for a job are passing the picket line to start part time. There has been strong

support from unionised drivers turning back supplies, and with enough financial and moral support they could hold out and win.

One young picket summed up the dispute with true Glasgow humour, "They talk about this guy Wilberforce doing away with slavery, well this place must have been forgotten about".

These young workers urgently need support and must win, it is a battle for the whole trade union movement. Send donations and messages of support to: The Carousel Wafers Dispute Appeal, Carol Rogers, 47 Cuthalton Terrace, Parkhead, Glasgow.

"No guard" proposals on tubes



Drivers alone may soon be responsible for passenger safety.

THE introduction of one-man operation on London Transport trains is once again to the fore.

It is proposed to start one man operation on a trial basis on the Hammersmith and City line and then extend it to the rest of the Metropolitan line, and then to the District.

This will eventually lead to the end of guards' jobs on London Transport. Despite any assurances given, some guards will end up on the dole, and thousands of jobs will be gone forever. The extra strain put on drivers,

with responsibility for the passengers' safety by having to operate the doors and protection of the train in any emergency, on top of their other duties, will lead to increased illness and absence from work and probably early death for many.

The union leadership, NEC and Sectional Council seem to have accepted the inevitability of OMO. But the rank and file must take heart from the conference to oppose productivity talks with the BRB. The rank and file must bombard the ECs and Sectional Councils with

resolutions opposing any agreement on OMO and any talks on job losses and for a campaign among the membership to defend our jobs and living standards. We must also involve the Labour Party and put pressure on the GLC to halt the London Transport Executive in their attempt to slash jobs.

By R Law
(East Ham Branch NUR,
personal capacity)

NALGO fight compulsory redundancies

LOCHABER District Council in Scotland made three members compulsorily redundant on 16 June.

The NALGO branch has been instructed by the union nationally and has called all its members out on strike.

The Council is trying to balance the books after a number of expensive decisions over the years. There's talk about a hit-list of twenty further redundancies—about a third of the workforce.

The members have been solid despite a far from militant tradition. As a result the council has been forced to negotiate, something unheard

of previously.

The bones of an agreement, in principle, for withdrawing the compulsory redundancies now exist. It is likely that there will be a closer look for voluntary redundancies.

There are a number of other factors still to be worked out and NALGO is worried by the council's action. The council is made up mainly of SNP and 'Independents', basically

Tories and Liberals, with only a handful of Labour councillors.

The NALGO branch will continue the action until they get a definite agreement from the council. That could be forthcoming at the beginning of next week.

By Stewart Bates
(Strathclyde region
NALGO, personal capacity)

EETPU London Press Branch

FLEET STREET electricians intent on resigning from the EETPU have now been issued SOGAT '82 cards by the London machine branch.

They now hold two union tickets as their resignation forms have not been accepted by the EETPU Executive.

The SOGAT machine branch secretary, John Mitchell, has argued that the time limits under the TUC's Bridlington agreement have not been adhered to by the EETPU and he seems to be accepting the *Express* branch members' arguments that they could end up as non-trade unionists after the TUC disputes committee meets on 1 August.

Well-intentioned or not, the machine branch SOGAT has made a solution to this problem a lot more difficult. The attitude of "ex-EETPU" members was not cut-and-dried. Some were still paying their dues to the EETPU, with

one leading "ex" who is on the body trying to set up a SOGAT press branch, paying in £13 dues to the EETPU very recently.

Others, it seems, are waiting for the TUC's decision before cutting their ties completely, and there are an unknown number who will refuse to belong to the EETPU ever again.

All this takes place against a background of embittered inter-union relations on Fleet Street.

The employers will bide their time—their first priority is profits. But any opportunity to drive a wedge into Fleet Street's closed shop will be utilised and backed up by the Tories.

The TUC's disputes committee met on 1 August and opposed the break-away. But threats of disciplinary action or expulsions are not the solution.

A campaign involving all

**'BRISTOL SURVIVAL',
Rolls Royce management's plan, means death for jobs.**

Over four thousand jobs have gone at Rolls Royce in just over three years. Management are now saying that unless discussions on redundancies continue, last year's pay rise will be taken out of our pay packets this year.

Over fifty agreements between unions and management have been torn up. For over a year they have not taken a blind bit of notice of union approaches, just delivered ultimatums. As a result both manual and staff unions have now pulled out of talks.

The first "all unions on site" circular went round last Friday. An all-unions mass meeting is planned. This is a major step forward. Now we have to face up to the problems.

Do we go back to the talks? If we don't will management implement the rest of the changes they want, handing out "don't come Monday" letters to anybody opposing them? If we walk out or get locked out will the company use the opportunity to put in new machinery regardless?

It's clear that they are provoking the unions, testing the temperature. The final push in their plans requires the smashing of all union organisation on the site. The unions have bent over backwards to aid 'Bristol Survival', now our survival is at stake.

Concession after concession has been made. The company always want more. We now have to stand our ground. They have American contracts to complete with hefty penalty clauses attached.

The message to management must be, "We've had enough—negotiate or we strike!"

By John Sharpe
(AUEW-TASS,
Rolls Royce, Bristol)
personal capacity

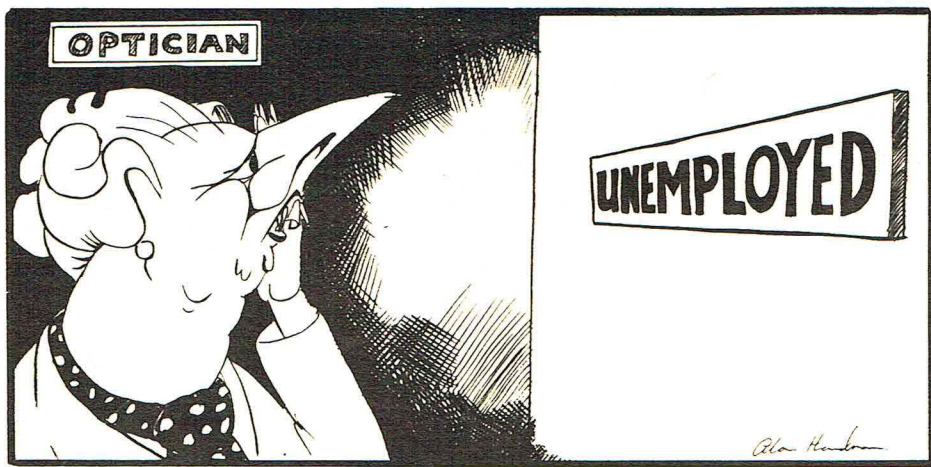
sections of the print unions is needed to convince the 'ex'-EETPU members that their grievances cannot be resolved by opting out. This plays into the right wing's hands and actually strengthens their position.

Paradoxically, if the SOGAT '82 move is 'successful' many of the battles fought in the EETPU will be repeated in SOGAT '82.

Militant supporters in the EETPU and other right-wing dominated trade unions have always argued for consistent work to create more democratic and effective organisations fighting in the members' interests.

- For a united press branch
- For a democratic EETPU

By Bob Faulkes
(London press branch,
EETPU, personal capacity)



S...C...R...O...U...N...G...E...R...S

WORKERS FIGHT PRIVATISATION

WANDSWORTH

The Tory asset strippers are coming unstuck. While Thatcher plans to denationalise British Telecomms and is selling off still more of BP, Wandsworth Tories have run into a "little local difficulty"

In March they closed their direct labour gardening department, and awarded the contract to a capitalist firm—Pritchards. Now the thirty eight Pritchards workers who maintain Wandsworth's gardens and recreation grounds are on strike.

The company has introduced a vicious piecework scheme. Instead of weekly wages, it wanted to set fixed payments for particular jobs. This could have meant the workers putting in ten days for just £35.

If anyone doubted that privatisation means poorer services for the public and a worsening of wages and conditions for the workers, just look at Pritchards.

The workers have no proper contract of employment. There are no gloves for them, no boots or protective clothing, no washing facilities or towels, not even any toilet paper.

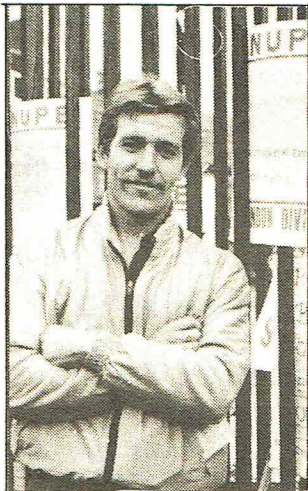
These are the sort of employers to whom the Tories would like to hand over all our public services. And these are the sort of conditions they would like to impose on all workers.

Firms like Pritchards can only take over council work on the cheap by cutting back overheads and wages to the bone.

But already they have notched up £46,000 in fines for failing to fulfill their contract. The company's main large mowers will not even get through the gateways in Wandsworth.

Pritchards did admit that they "knew nothing about British gardening." But a little thing like that did not

Photo: Mark Pindar.



Kevin Povey, NUPE shop steward, on strike.

deter the Wandsworth Tories from giving them the work.

As Kevin Povey, a NUPE steward and one of the strikers said, "Pritchards cannot go back on their new scheme because they cannot make the contract pay otherwise. We are not going to work as slave labour. So maybe the council will have to withdraw the contract and start again." If that happens the whole council workforce must act to reinstate the strikers at decent wages under direct labour.

Tory propaganda would have us believe that by putting the entire national economy into private hands all the problems of the country could be solved. The four months of privatisation down in the Wandsworth gardens are not a very good advert.

By Bob McKee

(Tooting Labour Party)

TELECOMS

The national executive of the POEU have responded to pressure from the rank and file to escalate our union's fight against privatisation and Project Mercury.

On Wednesday 27 July the NEC took the following decision: "As a reaction to the continued suspension of POEU members, management grades doing our work, and in order to pre-empt a full-scale attack on the POEU to bring about Mercury to inter-connect, the NEC instructs the branches to black major Barclays banks, British Petroleum installations, Cable and Wireless Headquarters." (These are the businesses which form the Mercury Consortium).

This decision is a significant change of tactics from previous short sharp retaliatory action in response to the employers provocation. The union is now going on the offensive and will use its almost unique ability to target industrial action against Mercury's financial "supply lines."

The executive have set up an Industrial Action Strategy Committee (IASC) to implement this decision. The IASC is presently consulting branches about the Mercury backers' installations in their areas. While this represents an important escalation in the dispute it is likely to be just a foretaste of things to come as the union prepares to defend its industry and jobs.

By Colin O'Callaghan
(POEU Overseas
Telegraph branch personal capacity)

FUTURE ISSUES

The next two issues of *Militant* will also have 12 pages. There will be no issue on 26 August.

Militant

NSSP BANNED

On July 30 amid continuing racist attacks by UNP 'goondas' (thugs) the Sri Lankan government banned the Nava Sama Samaja (New Socialist) Party and two other parties, the Communist Party of Sri Lanka and the JVP (Peoples Liberation Front).

The NSSP was founded in December 1977. The bulk of its members and supporters came from the old Lanka Sama Samaja Party, which had been the major workers party in Sri Lanka since the 1930s. The LSSP had once been a Marxist party with a long history of struggle against imperialism and capitalism, but its leadership moved increasingly rightwards from the late 1950s onwards.

Opposition to this degeneration developed especially in the mid-1960s and mid-1970s. After the crushing defeat of 1977 the new left wing within the LSSP won the support of the majority of its members, but the old leaders refused to call a Party Congress and finally the left called the meeting which established the NSSP.

The NSSP was the first opposition party to publicly demonstrate against the UNP government. When the UNP changed Sri Lanka's constitution in February 1978 the NSSP ran a 'black flag' protest which resulted in the first harassment of its members.

Throughout the time of the UNP government, the NSSP has been in the forefront, supporting the struggles of workers and peasants and defending the Tamil community, particularly because it is the only major party with support among both the Sinhalese and Tamil workers and peasants. Its leaders and many members have suffered arrest and victimisation many times both under the UNP and the previous Popular Front governments, especially during the 1980 General Strike.

No information is yet available on how many NSSP members have been arrested.

(cont'd from front page)

cannot hold office, cannot practise professions, join movements or organisations."

This speech and the actions which followed it made it quite plain, as the *Times* put it, 29 July, that Jaywardene was attempting "to appease the mobs".

Jaywardene's entire political career has been based on manipulating Sinhalese racism. Today it is clear that the UNP government was hoping to use the communal violence as a cover under which it could attack both the Tamils and the workers' movement.

Thus JR moved to effec-

PROTEST MEETING EYE-WITNESS ACCOUNT

Hear:

- ★ A Central Committee member of the banned NSSP who this week left Sri Lanka
- ★ Terry Fields MP
- ★ Bob Labi (GLLP EC)

Friday 5 August 7.30pm
Conference Hall, County Hall,
London SE1

tively ban most Tamil organisations and the three largest left parties. Carrying through the old tactic of divide and rule the UNP government has used the sectarian violence to move closer to establishing a dictatorship.

It is a complete and utter lie for the UNP government to blame the left for the racist violence. The Nava Sama Samaja (New Socialist) Party has since its formation uncompromisingly fought against the repression of the Tamil people and defended their right to self-determination, including the right to independence if they so desire. In fact this was one of the main issues on which the NSSP leaders fought the leaders of the old LSSP.

While the other two banned parties, the CPSL and the JVP have in the past been tainted with Sinhalese chauvinism, there is no evidence at all that they have

been involved in the recent rioting.

The British labour movement, which demonstrated its solidarity with the Sri Lankan workers and Tamils during the 1980 General Strike and 1981 franchise anniversary, has a responsibility to act again. Protests against the anti-Tamil pogrom and the suppression of democratic rights must be rushed to the Sri Lanka High Commission, 13 Hyde Park Gardens, London W2 2LU.

The Tory government must be told to stop at once the collaboration between the Sri Lankan and British security forces. Over 80 Labour MPs have called for the cancellation of Jaywardene's October state visit to Britain, and this demand must be supported.

The labour movement has to defend the right of the Tamils to defend themselves, as plantation workers near Kandy have done. It is not "terrorism" to defend a community from massacre.

The recent developments in Sri Lanka have shown that the issue is not purely racial, as the Government is removing democratic rights in order to be better able to implement the austerity measures which the capitalist economists say is necessary for Sri Lanka.

The apparent support which Jaywardene's plan to ban the Tamil parties is receiving from the leaders of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party demonstrates again that the only possible ally that the Tamils have is the workers' movement. It is because of the previous defeats and betrayals which the Sri Lankan workers have suffered, that JR is able to get away with this divide and rule policies.

Tragically the NSSP did not have enough time to rebuild the workers movement after the defeats and disappointments of the past period.

The only real allies which the Tamils can have are the Sinhalese workers and peasants and the Indian masses. It would be wrong to see Mrs Gandhi as a saviour. An Indian intervention would be carried out in the interests of an Indian government which has been incapable of preventing massacres this year in Assam or the countless caste murders which take place in India.

The task now is to act urgently to defend the Tamils and the socialists under attack.

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