

# RED WEEKLY

4 PAGE  
DOSSIER ON  
PORTUGAL  
2,3,4&5

16 OCTOBER 1975

No. 121

PRICE 10p

# FIGHT LABOUR'S HEALTH CUTS!

The bitter truth about the Labour Government's plans for the Health Service became even clearer this week. Confronted with the offensive of the bankers and the consultants, Wilson and Castle are preparing to destroy the backbone of the welfare state.

Already the waiting lists for hospitals are longer than when the NHS was established in 1949. The Camden and Islington Area Health Association admits that in its area alone the expenditure called for by Labour will in the next 10 years only be one third or one half of what is needed. Now further swingeing cuts are being called for.

As one London hospital administrator told Monday's Evening Standard: 'We are going to have to make reductions across the board in staff and facilities. It is bound to have an impact on patient care. It will mean fewer patients will be treated. There are going to be more ward closures during the summer months because of staff shortages.'

To prop up a decaying, decadent and crisis-ridden capitalism, the Labour Government is prepared to sacrifice not only the productive power of industry and the income of the working class, but the very lives of working people. Every cut which Wilson imposes — leading to 50 nurses being sacked in South Glamorgan, 80 nurses sacked in Portsmouth and hundreds of

other medical workers laid off throughout the country — is a condemnation to illness, pain and premature death for thousands.

Wilson now says that to safeguard the profits of the juggernaut god capitalism you must not merely sacrifice your jobs, your houses, and your standard of living, but you must remain crippled with arthritis, condemned to see your children suffer through a hundred easily cured illnesses, and die from pneumoconiosis. Even before its dying agonies bring forth fascism, racism and dictatorship, capitalism shows the world the true face of barbarism. Wilson and his ilk are not merely traitors to the working class, they are in the most literal sense murderers of the working people.

## GREAT BEGINNING

Fortunately the working class movement is beginning to fight back against those who betrayed its great victory in bringing down the Heath Government. Against unemployment, the cuts and the £6 norm a new stirring of resistance is taking place. Conferences in Liverpool and Brent last weekend were the latest meetings to discuss the way forward. The 26 November lobby against employment must be the greatest working class demonstration since those against the Industrial

Relations Act. All the cuts and all the attacks are linked. They must all be smashed - unemployment the £6 limit, education cuts, the slashing of council house building, and the blow to health.

On the NHS a great beginning was made last weekend when 395 delegates from 18 different unions met to discuss how to fight the cuts. This Conference organised by the Medical Committee Against Private Practice was one of the most significant meetings in the workers' movement on Health since the founding of the NHS. Its key demands — no cuts in the NHS; open the books to reveal the secret plans and the profits; automatic increases in expenditure to compensate for inflation; nationalisation of the drugs and supply industries — chart a way forward against the plans of Wilson and the ruling class.

By its programme and by its serious attempt to build united resistance it can and must build a massive movement to fight the crisis in the NHS. The next step will be the local conferences, action committees and demonstrations called for at the conference. With a militant follow-up to the lead which has been given, every attack on the NHS can be rolled back. The struggle to defend and extend the health service will be a vital step to defeating Wilson and opening the road to socialism.

MCAPP Conference Report — Pages 10 & 11.

## SPAIN

Two weeks ago James Callaghan was a veritable fire-eater in his denunciation of the reactionary Franco dictatorship at the Labour Party Conference. Yet last week the Foreign Secretary sent Britain's ambassador hurrying back to Madrid, to carry on his hob-nobbing with Franco's bloodthirsty lackeys.

The ambassadors' return exposes the 'protests' of the European Governments at the recent executions for what they were — empty words designed to pacify the indignation of the workers' movement without striking any kind of real blow at Franco and his cohorts.

Wilson, Callaghan and the other Government chiefs of Europe have already demonstrated their hatred of the Portuguese revolution. They have done everything in their power to sabotage the struggle of the Portuguese workers, and will do the same in Spain if the need arises.

That is the job which the ambassadors are being sent back to Madrid to carry out. Their task is to help Continued on page 9.....



Delegates voting at the MCAPP Conference for a campaign of action against cuts in the NHS



# S.U.V. - Revolutionary

The anti-working class offensive launched by the Azevedo Government in Portugal is gathering strength. After the attempt to seize the worker-controlled radio stations, the arming of the police, the attempt to disband a left-wing regiment and the recalling of reactionary troops from Angola, the Government has now decided to re-enlist and re-arm ex-members of the extreme right wing as part of its projected 'intervention' force (AMI). Meanwhile the capitalist Popular Democrats (PPD) and the reformist Socialist Party of Soares are mobilising their supporters in a series of reactionary demonstrations.

The response of the Portuguese rank-and-file soldiers to these attacks has been huge. The left-wing regiments undoubtedly

have a majority in Lisbon, while the revolutionary 'Soldiers United Will Win' (SUV) has also scored important gains in the North (where 2,000 soldiers in uniform headed a demonstration in Oporto on 6 October) and Centre (where 2,000 marched in Coimbra on 9 October).

The great danger, however, lies in the counter-revolutionary role being played by the Communist Party - which is attempting to use the soldiers' demonstrations merely to strengthen its position in the Government and 'its' section of the Armed Forces Movement - and the inability of most of the organisations of the revolutionary left to take up a programme capable of mobilising the workers alongside the soldiers.

For the Revolutionary United Front, it is above all necessary to break with such infantile slogans as 'Death to Social Democracy', and 'Dissolve the Constituent Assembly' - which serve merely to repel workers from the revolutionaries - and begin the serious work of co-ordinating and centralising the workers' commissions and establishing as central demands the election of officers and the formation of soldiers' commissions.

In order to show how this work is going forward, and the confusions which still exist, we print the following interview with a militant of the SUV, which was carried out in Oporto on 23 September before the latest developments.

**Q** The SUV made its first public appearance during a press conference in Oporto, which issued the call for the 10 September demonstration. Can you tell us how the SUV originated?

**A** The first steps in this movement go back to mid-July, when the political-military crisis broke out in full force. Some soldiers, sergeants, and militia officers began to get together to exchange information about the growing counter-revolutionary activity of the officers among various units in the North. Essentially, these officers were trying to purge the soldiers and militia officers who had distinguished themselves in struggle. When this offensive broke out, it became clear that the soldiers were not organised to oppose it.

The first initiative was to draw up a complete list of all the instances of repression in order to work out how to respond.

Brigadier General Corvacho became the target of the right. He was the commander of the northern military region. The right accused him of being a Communist. In fact, he had supported the organs of 'popular power' more consistently than most of the leftist officers in the MFA (Armed Forces Movement).

For example, he had protected the Oporto Municipal Council, which is composed of representatives of the workers' commissions, neighbourhood commissions, trade union representatives, and delegates from the regimental ADUs (Assemblies of Unit Delegates). In addition, Corvacho had set up a vigilance apparatus within the army that was linked to the workers' commissions and neighbourhood commissions; its task was to struggle against the fascist commandos of the ELP and MDLP, which are rather active in the North. [The ELP, Portuguese Liberation Army, and MDLP, Democratic Movement for the Liberation of Portugal, led by Spínola, are right-wing para-military outfits.]

Thus by taking aim at Corvacho, the reactionaries were actually taking aim at the autonomous popular organs and the struggles of the soldiers. They understood that the presence of Corvacho made this task more difficult.

The co-ordinating body that we set up enabled us to gather information; we thus became totally convinced that reaction had set up a real parallel command centre, which included secret meetings of career officers. We found out that in the course of one of these meetings (in which almost all the officers of the region had participated) it had been decided to remove Corvacho from the military region, this had been decided by a majority of around 80 per cent.

The career officers presented this decision as coming from all the units of the North. To show their opposition to Corvacho and put pressure on the general staff, they decided to confine seven northern units to barracks while Corvacho was in Lisbon to attend a meeting of the Revolutionary Council.

We immediately reacted against their claim to be speaking in the name of the military region when 95 per cent of the forces of the region (soldiers, militia officers, and sergeants) had not been consulted in any way - and for good reason! Also, we were aware that the order consigning troops to barracks could have led to confrontations for which the soldiers would have borne the costs. Because of all this, we had to organise on a higher level.

It was around this theme that the first SUV leaflet appeared. We emphasised the fact that one of the objectives of reaction was to establish discipline in the army by concentrating its offensive in the North, which it considered as a solid base.

You have to remember that along with the purge measures a general reactionary wave was also developing; it was getting

social support from various layers of the petty bourgeoisie, the small-holding peasantry among others. These fascist attacks were hitting the CP, the revolutionary organisations, the trade unions, and the organs of 'popular power' too. In Braga, for instance, the fascists attacked the people's market, which is where the self-managed factories sell their products.

In other words, reaction was developing a real strategy on a regional scale. The reactionaries were totally determined to reintroduce iron discipline in the barracks in order to be able more easily to use the soldiers against the workers and even against their own organisations.

**Q** How did the soldiers react during this fascist wave during the summer?

**A** At the time, the reaction of various units was far from positive. For example, the soldiers of the RIB (Infantry Regiment of Braga) - whom the fascists were inciting by telling them that the communists wanted to confiscate the peasants' lands - marched behind the fascist ringleaders, sacked the headquarters of the CP, and even attacked some CP militants. I want to stress that on the one hand the recruitment of troops for this was done on a regional basis (that is, most of the soldiers are sons of the peasants in the region), and that on the other hand the training of the soldiers, including that of the militia of officers, was then strongly reactionary in character.

Nevertheless, many of these soldiers participated in the 10 September SUV demonstration in Oporto.

**Q** How do you explain this change? I can understand how the most radicalised and politicised soldiers immediately took up the struggle against reaction, but how do you explain the rapid radicalisation of these soldiers who were strongly influenced by reaction?

**A** The radicalisation took place on the basis of the soldiers' need to respond to the oppression resulting from militarist discipline and from a hierarchical system inherited from fascism, as well as the miserable living conditions. The SUV became established as a mass organisation because of its ability to express these aspirations in terms of concrete demands and to link them to the struggle against reaction.

Up to the beginning of 1975 it was the workers' commissions and neighbourhood commissions that held the initiative in struggles. In a certain sense, the soldiers were lagging behind. In large part that was due to the misleading prestige of the MFA. This was expressed, among other ways, in the myth that 'all of us, MFA officers and soldiers, are revolutionaries and have to respect discipline, for that is our strength.' This prestige was an obstacle to the movement of the soldiers for their demands.

But the soldiers began to get tired of this 'revolutionary' phraseology, which was preventing them from developing their own instruments for advancing demands and expressing themselves within the army, and from putting forward their own positions on the main political questions of the day.

Thus, demands came up around pay increases and free transport. For many soldiers a single trip to see their family was enough to wipe out their pay almost completely. Also demands were raised about the quality of the food, and the differences between the food eaten by the soldiers, noncoms, and officers.

On the basis of such demands, the struggle and the methods of combat of the workers were able to penetrate the army, taking advantage of the generalised crisis of authority. The officers then began talking about 'agitation' in the army.

This type of radicalisation set the stage for challenging the MFA - and that was essential.



Marines leading a demonstration of 'Soldiers United Will Win' in the northern city of Oporto



# Answer to M.F.A.



'SUV - Soldiers, always, always on the side of the people.'

**Q** Why and how did this break with the MFA take place?

**A** When we soldiers raised demands, we found ourselves running up against the officers, some of whom were members of the MFA. These officers were not only frequently applying militarist discipline; they were also proving to be incapable of satisfying our demands.

All this made our task easier, and increased our audience among broad layers of soldiers in the region (in the North). This distrust was also built up around the theme: 'We have been wronged; the officers are speaking in our name, but we were never consulted.' This was important in denouncing the attempts by the right to use the soldiers against the workers and against other soldiers. These explanations were combined with propaganda about the need to respond to the conspiracies of reaction.

**Q** You have talked about the basis for the creation of the SUV. But how was the threshold crossed from a sort of coordinating body of militants exchanging information to a real mass movement?

**A** It quickly became clear that the soldiers were sensitive to the themes we were raising. But we did not offer any organisational guarantee assuring them that our movement could really take up these demands and defend them against the hierarchy. It was therefore necessary to work out some way to express this latent combativity, something that would give the soldiers confidence in their own strength and their own capacity for self-organisation.

A central demonstration in Oporto capable of tapping all the forces of the military region seemed to be the most effective way to do this. We organised the demonstration over a two-week period.

The call for the demonstration was not restricted to the barracks. We directly addressed the independent organisations of the workers, calling on them to support our movement. The response we got from these organisations indicated how much they had been hoping for this kind of initiative. They were waiting for a response to the reactionary danger, which they saw was coming closer and closer without

any apparent opposition.

The 10 September demonstration in Oporto altered this atmosphere. The response of the soldiers has broken the reactionary offensive, at least for the moment.

**Q** Had you expected such a massive response from both the soldiers and the workers?

**A** It was the biggest demonstration in Oporto since May Day 1974. The response went considerably beyond what we had hoped for. There were around 30,000 workers; many people thought it was even more than that.

There were about 1,500 soldiers. That made it the largest demonstration of soldiers in all Portugal. About thirty soldiers even came from Braga, although we had not carried on any propaganda activity in the barracks there because of organisational weaknesses. These soldiers came fifty miles to attend the demonstration; they left at 5.30 pm after they were off duty, even though they had been ordered to return to the barracks before 10.30 that night.

That was one of the greatest victories of the demonstration. Delegations came from all the barracks within a fifty or sixty mile radius of Oporto; sometimes they requisitioned military vehicles for transportation to the demonstration (that happened in Lamego, for instance, fifty miles from Oporto). Mandated delegations from Lisbon came to support us from the RALIS (the Lisbon light artillery regiment), from the military police, and from the BRT (transmission brigade). The demonstration did not have simply a regional impact; it had an effect on the whole national political situation.

Confidence among the soldiers grew rapidly after the demonstration. They came from all barracks to make contact with us and discuss the problems of organising an SUV in their own barracks. We then moved to set up a real mass organisation, capable of organising the soldiers in the barracks and enabling us to co-ordinate and distribute material there. Obviously this is only the beginning. Our weaknesses are still great and the hierarchy is already moving against us, as could have been expected.

**Q** What were the consequences of the demonstration in the barracks?

**A** At the CICA in Oporto [the regiment that has now been disbanded], where we had been unable to respond to the purge measures only a few weeks before and where the officers were very reactionary, there was a really beautiful demonstration in support of the Chilean workers on 11 September.

At 1.45 in the afternoon 300 soldiers and draftees went to get some arms from the arsenal, and assembled in the courtyard of the barracks with these arms, without authorisation. They formed up in ranks, held a minute's silence in honour of the Chilean workers, and then they shouted: 'Long live the Chilean workers!' The commander then ran up, accompanied by his officers. One of them shouted to the soldiers: 'You are now going to go on manoeuvres.' Then, all together, the soldiers took up one of the slogans of the demonstration: 'Reactionaries out of the barracks!'

In the general headquarters of Oporto there were three separate mess halls - one for soldiers, one for noncoms, and one for officers. Three days after the demonstration, some soldiers calmly walked in and sat down to eat in the officers' mess. The next day all the soldiers occupied the officers' mess. Since that day there has been a struggle to eliminate the separate mess halls and unify them.

**Q** How do the structures that have been set up by the MFA, like the ADUs (Assemblies of Unit Delegates) relate to the 'soldiers' commissions' that the SUV is seeking to set up and stimulate?

**A** The ADU is a representative body that exists in all the barracks. It's compulsory. The body is composed as follows: 50 per cent rank-and-file soldiers, the other half noncoms, militia officers, and career noncoms and officers. The presence of the commander is compulsory. Inasmuch as these bodies are composed 50 per cent of soldiers, and inasmuch as it is often the most combative soldiers who occupy these posts (in most cases, they are not elected), the ADUs are a thorn in the side of the officers. They throw the hierarchical system out of balance.

Because of this, we are working within the ADUs. We fight within them to push forward the demands of the soldiers, and through this experience we are able to make the soldiers understand that these ADUs cannot fully carry out the task of defending the soldiers.

Many political currents had big illusions about the possibilities of the ADUs. Today the emergence of the SUV marks a widely understood break with this type of organ; the SUV is struggling for the formation of independent 'soldiers' commissions', to use the term used by the workers in the factories and neighbourhoods. These commissions must represent the will of the soldiers as expressed in general assemblies; they must be elected and recallable.

In Lisbon the links between the soldiers and the workers' commissions and neighbourhood commissions had been established, and are still maintained, through the vehicle of the ADUs. There is some ambiguity in this. But because of the combativity of the workers and the very deep crisis of the hierarchy in this region, the link-up between the independent organs of the workers and the ADUs nevertheless goes beyond the project of the MFA.

In the rest of the country, on the other hand, the ADUs have tended to become instruments for re-establishing discipline. For example, the officers have sought to get the ADUs to take disciplinary measures, and they are becoming disciplinary councils. Hence, under these circumstances, they can become channels through which to integrate the workers' commissions, neighbourhood commissions and popular assemblies, in counterposition to the independence of these bodies. It is thus very important to struggle for the creation of real independent bodies of the soldiers.

**Q** The Sixth Government has openly asserted its will to restore discipline in the army. What measures are being taken against you?

**A** When the first SUV leaflet came out, an order was given by the chief of staff, General Fabiao, calling for the seeking out and compiling of lists of SUV 'agitators'. After the demonstration a similar message, addressed to all unit commanders, called for the listing of

all the participants in the Oporto demonstration. Lists are already circulating in the barracks - lists of potential 'ringleaders'.

In the face of the development of the SUV, and especially the creation of an SUV in Lisbon, the Council of the Revolution immediately put the question of the SUV and the crisis in the army on the agenda. The Council of the Revolution has already indicated what its line of attack will be: the SUV divides the army and serves reaction. We know, for example, that the intelligence branch of the general staff in the North has just made investigation of SUV members its top priority. Investigation of members of the ELP and of their links with the right-wing Centre Democrats (CDS) has been dropped to second priority.

At the general headquarters in Oporto the SUV has already begun to respond to the accusation that it is divisive. We have demanded that a general assembly be held around the essential point: 'Why are they hunting down the SUV?' The answer is given in the SUV leaflet that is now being distributed: 'They are hunting down the SUV because it is a "partisan" organisation. Nevertheless, the officers can endlessly express themselves; they can organise, as has been shown in the North. If no accusation is made against them, it is simply because they are members of the party of the top brass. We also demand the right to organise, as workers in uniform.'

**Q** One of the slogans in the call for the SUV demonstration in Lisbon on 25 September is: 'Workers and soldiers, popular self-defence!' Why?

**A** The Government wants to restore discipline in the army at any price, because it is afraid of thinking of using the army against the workers to restore order in society as a whole and stabilise capitalism.

We tell the soldiers that our own organisation, the response that we can organise against the Government's policy of re-establishing discipline in the army, is possible only if the workers are also capable of resisting on the military level. Our propaganda around self-defence puts the stress on the central role of the workers' commissions and neighbourhood commissions, and their link-up with the soldiers. This task of self-defence is one of the most pressing questions.

**Q** What are your immediate plans?

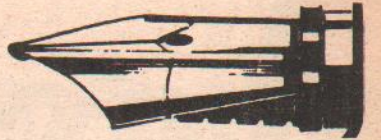
**A** For the immediate future the main thing is to set up a national structure for our movement. The SUV emerged first in the North, because the need to struggle against reaction was felt more directly in the North. The development of the SUV in the South will allow us to raise the level of the demands, to clarify our overall political positions on the question of a confrontation with the regime, and to utilise and generalise the very advanced experiences of struggle in the barracks of the Lisbon region.







# PORTUGAL FORUM



## IS THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY 'CLASS COLLABORATIONIST'?

Dear Comrades,

In his reply to my letter (*Red Weekly*, 18 September), comrade Chris Balfour argues that the Portuguese Communist Party's repeated warnings against sectarianism are negated by a sectarian political practice. He quotes two examples to support this thesis — the May Day rally and the July Socialist Party demo in Lisbon. Unfortunately he gets it wrong both times.

The SP leaders were not excluded from the May Day rally — initially they excluded themselves by refusing to participate unless the PPD was also invited (equivalent to demanding that the British TUC invite the Tory Party to its May Day celebrations). Then, realising that they were isolating themselves, they retreated and, the day before the rally, agreed to take part. But by this time the Intersindical (not the PCP — contrary to the belief held in common by *Red Weekly* and the bourgeois press, the Intersindical does not dangle on strings pulled by the PCP) had fixed the marching order and the SP, as latecomers, had to go at the back.

Soares was asked if he wanted to march at the front, as he would then get a seat on the platform — but he chose to remain with the SP contingent. The march was some two miles long, so that by the time the SP reached the stadium where the rally was held the speeches had already started. Soares and his supporters then tried to barge their way to the front, and heckled the speeches of Vasco Goncalves and Costa Gomes, chanting such slogans as 'Down with the Communists'.

Not surprisingly, PCP militants in the crowd did not take kindly to this, and scuffles broke out. The responsibility for this ugly blemish on what should be a day of working class unity must be laid firmly at the door of the SP leaders. (This information, incidentally, comes via a *Morning Star* correspondent who was the only British journalist in Lisbon who bothered to attend this rally.)

As for the July SP demo, the PCP feared — with good reason — that this would be used as a cover for activities from the extreme right. In the four days previous to the rally, attacks on PCP offices in the centre of the country at Rio Maior, Lourinha and Cadaval (all about 50 miles north of Lisbon) had taken place, and over the weekend of the SP rally another ten PCP offices in the north were ransacked.

Soares had sunk to new depths of demagoguery, describing the plan for Popular Power adopted by the MFA General Assembly as a 'totalitarian manoeuvre', and whipping up a hate campaign against the PCP and against Prime Minister Vasco Goncalves (just entrusted with the unenviable task of forming a new government after the SP ministers had left office). Precisely the sort of atmosphere prevailed which would favour right-wing activity.

On the day of the SP rally, road blocks were set up by COPCON troops round Lisbon and enjoyed popular support. PCP militants helped to man these. Cars going to the capital were stopped and searched: troops found a considerable number of guns and other weapons. However nobody going to Lisbon to attend the SP rally was prevented from doing so. Is this sectarianism, comrade Balfour? Is it not rather a healthy attempt to safeguard the revolution?

Comrade Balfour also asks what initiative the PCP has taken towards the SP leaders in order to win SP members away from Soares. Evidently he discounts the fourteen recorded calls by the PCP for joint talks with the SP between May 1974 and August 1975.

Maybe he will also discount the PCP's proposal of 28 August for a joint meeting between the various factions of the MFA, the SP, and the parties of the newly-formed Revolutionary Front. This was for the specific purpose of heading off the threat from the right — or, as the PCP put it: 'The aim of



Mass rally of the United Revolutionary Front. The FUR takes a position of clear opposition to the right-wing Sixth Provisional Government, but the Portuguese Communist Party is in it.

avoiding violent confrontation and of defending freedom and democracy imposes negotiations between adversaries in an attempt to remove the dangerous conclusion that a solution through force is inevitable.' The PCP was not, as *Red Weekly* appears to believe, trying to force an alliance with Antunes and Soares, but merely to enter negotiations with a view to avoiding civil war.

Now this is a perfectly clear initiative: it fulfils the minimum requirement of such an initiative — to start actually talking to the SP leaders — and it centres on something of vital importance to all Portuguese workers, namely the avoidance of civil war. When it came under attack for making this proposal, the PCP showed that it was aware of the importance of detaching Soares from his supporters and explained that it considered that 'the proposal for a meeting will, without a doubt, make a strong impression on SP militants'.

Of considerable interest here is the attitude of the IMG's sister organisation, the LCI, towards this initiative. Given the frequency with which the LCI has attacked the PCP for 'sectarianism' towards the SP, one would have expected some sort of qualified welcome. Not at all!

The LCI had this to say of the proposal (which, let us remind ourselves, was for nothing more sinister than a meeting at which the SP and the various MFA factions would be represented): 'The PCP is strengthening the position of the capitalist forces. The LCI considers that the PCP leadership has exchanged unity in action with revolutionary forces, desired by the majority of its militants, for agreements with social democratic forces...in compromising itself and attempting to compromise the remaining organisations (of the Revolutionary Front) in agreements with social democracy, it puts in question the possibility of continuing real joint work, showing once again that its politics are those of class collaboration' (reported in *O Seculo*, 1 September).

So while the British section of the Fourth International is demanding that the PCP make initiatives towards the SP leadership, the Portuguese section is accusing it of compromise and class collaboration at any such suggestion! Comrade Balfour, before attacking the tactics of the PCP, you'd better sort out your own fraternal organisation!

It was this absolute refusal of the LCI and four other members of the Revolutionary Front to consider talking to social democrats (the PRP/BR went as far as to declare that the fight against imperialism in Portugal was the same thing as the fight against social democracy) that led to the PCP's exit from the Front, after meetings of the Front's Provisional Secretariat degenerated into bitter attacks on the PCP's proposals of 28 August. Clearly in this instance it was not the PCP that was guilty of sectarianism. Incidentally, despite the hysterical attacks that the LCI and the PRP in particular made against it, the PCP has declared that it is still, in principle, in favour of a united front with other revolutionary organisations.

Judging from his final paragraph, comrade Balfour doubtless considers

that the PCP's participation in the new Government is 'class collaborationist'. The PCP has made it quite clear, however, that it opposes the presence of the bourgeois PPD in the Government, that it will fight against any measure proposed in the Government that is against the interests of the revolution, and that it will not allow its presence in the Government to hinder in any way its activity among the masses in defence of the gains already achieved and in pursuit of the final goal of socialism (see for example, the editorial in *Avante* of 18 September). This doesn't sound much like class collaboration to me, and neither does the PCP's leading role in the new wave of mass struggles erupting in the Alentejo.

In reality, comrade Balfour throws the term 'class collaboration' about, not because it bears any relation to what is happening in Portugal, but because he has learnt from tired Trotskyist dogma that this is how all CPs are supposed to behave. It is about time he removed his blinkers and started producing analyses worthy of a revolutionary Marxist rather than a sectarian pedant. PAUL FAUVET, Wellington.

### Chris Balfour replies

On the factual level, comrade Fauvet ignores the fact that the dispute with the Socialist Party blew up because of the refusal of the PCP-dominated Intersindical leadership to allow a representative of the SP to speak at the May Day rally. This was done on the grounds that no political party was to be represented at the rally — formally true, but the PCP's views were nevertheless to be propounded both by the spokesman for Intersindical and by Goncalves on behalf of the Government. Such an action, coming only a week after the PSP's big electoral victory, gave Soares just the excuse he needed to engage in the sort of provocative actions described by Fauvet.

Nor is it accurate that the barricades set up around Lisbon on the occasion of the national SP demo were the work of COPCON security forces. They were initially erected by PCP militants, in response to a call from the PCP leadership which attempted to label the SP demonstration as a counter-revolutionary 'march on Lisbon'.

But the class conscious workers of Lisbon voted with their feet against this sectarian stunt. Only then did COPCON units step in and take over the barricades, limiting their function to arms searches.

But in any event, it is not necessary for me to document the sectarianism of the PCP in this period. The published account of the special meeting of the PCP Central Committee, to which both comrade Fauvet and I have referred, is studied with open confessions on this point.

As far as the famous '14 calls' on the SP leadership which comrade Fauvet now boasts about, I repeat the challenge I made previously to comrade Fauvet: quote me a single clear call on the SP leadership in the widely-published proceedings of the PCP Central Committee, convened for the sole and express purpose of discussing the Party's response

to the crisis.

In the absence of such a clear, public call, it is irrelevant whether Cunhal made 14 or 14,000 quiet approaches to the SP leadership. There is a world of difference between a confidential 'approach' asking the SP leadership to be nice and change their course, and a clear and open political demand that they agree on a specific set of common measures.

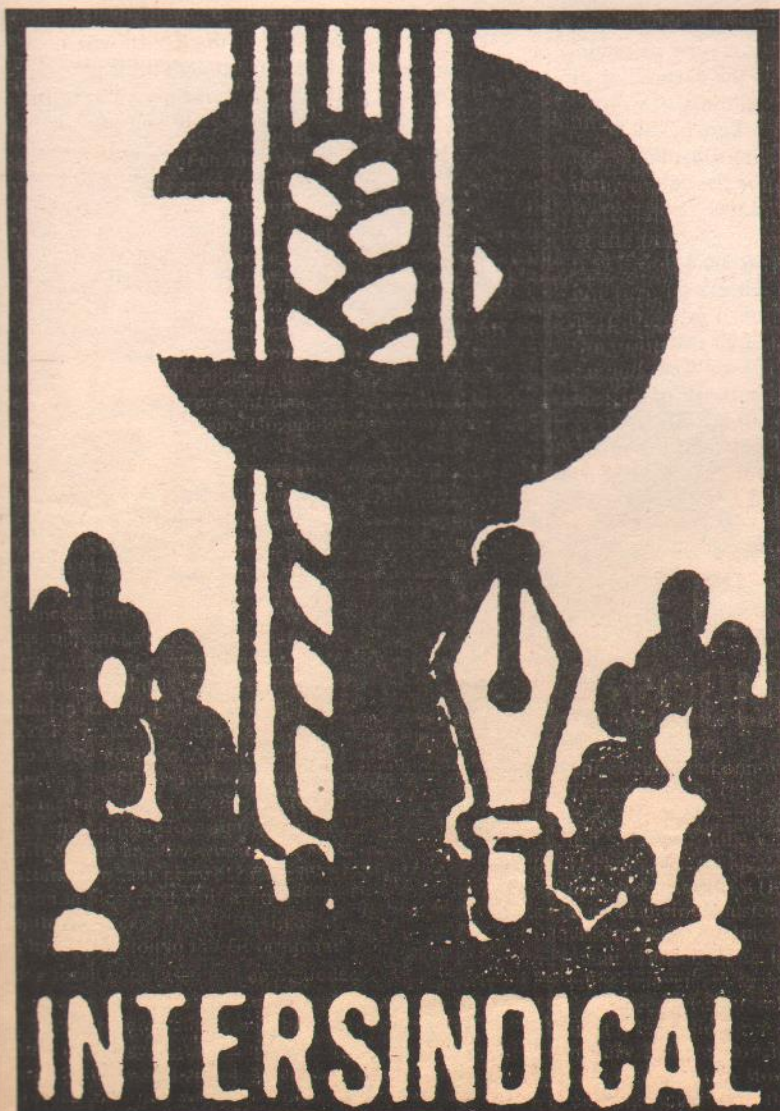
The first is just an invitation to a bur-  
eaucrats' deal, to a phony patching-up of differences, and a capitulation to the reformist leaders of the SP. The second is the diametrical opposite — a concrete political initiative directed towards the SP base, which they can readily understand and fight to impose on their leadership. A campaign based on a call such as this would have helped immensely to open the eyes of the SP ranks to their leaders' treachery, and undermined the splitting tactics and provocations of the SP leaders by developing a real revolt in their ranks.

This, of course, explains the attitude of our comrades of the LCI in Portugal. They were 100 per cent correct to oppose the sort of talks and deals the PCP was proposing — which, far from giving the SP masses a perspective for fighting their leaders, represented a capitulation to that leadership. Their estimation of where the PCP was heading was shown to be correct by its eventual entry into the Sixth Provisional Government — a Government clearly devoted to halting the revolutionary process and re-establishing the authority of the capitalist state (as its recent actions with regard to the media and the army have shown).

The attempts of the PCP — and its apologists like comrade Fauvet — to justify this action only serve to underline the depths of their capitulation. For example, a recent speech by Cunhal given to a mass PCP rally was full of the fine sounding warnings against a 'right turn' which comrade Fauvet seems to think is a break with class collaboration. The presence of the PCP in the Government was justified on the grounds that '...the alternative, at the present time, would be an openly right-wing Government'.

This rhetoric only serves to hide the fact that the Sixth Provisional Government — PCP Minister of Public Works or no — is a right-wing Government. The only purpose that the presence of the PCP serves is to confuse a section (albeit an increasingly small one) of working class militants about the character of this Government. Comrade Fauvet should note that this is not just the view of 'sectarian' revolutionaries, but also of the PCP's erstwhile closest ally, the Portuguese Democratic Movement (MDP).

How has the PCP's policy worked out in practice? Just a few days before Cunhal's speech, the Government moved against the radio and TV workers, in a clear attempt to take control of the information services in the interests of pro-capitalist forces. The PCP — hamstrung by its position in the Government — took a totally confused and ambiguous position towards this clearly a right-wing move. Its main complaint was: 'The PCP finds it strange that measures of such gravity in the complex and dangerous political situation we are passing through should be taken without any





# 'If people don't see their everyday lives changing because of the revolution they'll get discouraged by inflation and hardship'

## by inflation and hardship'

As the revolutionary process develops in Portugal, the struggle between the workers and the capitalist class is intensifying. Women have an important role to play in securing the victory of the proletarian revolution.

The following article, reprinted from this month's issue of the magazine *Spare Rib*, describes a visit by a group of women to Portugal in August this year. It shows how little has been done to alleviate the plight of women in Portuguese society today, despite the advances made by the Portuguese revolution.

The MLM (Portuguese women's movement) is relatively new and weak, given the immense tasks of educating the working class on the need for women to be liberated in order that they may play a positive role in the struggle for socialist revolution. This means organising the fight against all present restrictions on women's rights; for equal pay and opportunity; and for freely available social facilities to relieve the burden of domestic labour in the home.

The international movement has a big responsibility in giving all possible practical aid to the struggle of Portuguese women. Such a campaign not only helps the fight for socialism in Portugal, but helps to bring the struggle for the liberation of women into the international working class.

'What political group are you from?'

'We're from the women's movement in England, and we've come to Portugal for the Week of Action organised by the MLM.'

The response was usually a blank stare or an attack on the MLM.

'They're just bourgeois women — they're lesbians, of course I sympathise, but you can't expect the people to relate to them — they're divisive — there's no point in concentrating on abortion when we've got to defend the revolution. If the fascists get back into power there won't be any legal abortion any way — first things first.'

When the MLM held a demonstration in January to make public the many ways in which women

in Portugal are oppressed, it was reported in the press as a striptease and thousands of men turned up to mock and physically attack the women. Women were beaten, stripped and insulted, and the kids with them were attacked.

The situation of women in Portugal has been appalling. Portugal has the highest infant mortality rate in Europe. There are almost no free maternity and medical services — housing conditions are bad, only 20 per cent of dwellings have a kitchen, lavatory and bathroom. There are almost no nursery provisions. Abortion is illegal and punishable by up to eight years' imprisonment.

### 'EQUAL PAY'

With men working as immigrant labour elsewhere in Europe and serving in the colonial army, large numbers of women had been taken into the industrial and agricultural labour force as low paid workers; although in theory there is now equal pay, this won't be easy to maintain in a situation of economic instability, boycott by the EEC countries, and the return of male workers from the colonies.

The subjective experience of being a women 'revolutionary tourist' in Portugal was a bit like taking an extended walk along a building site wearing lots of make-up and a mini skirt. I felt I had to struggle all the time to be treated as a person and not as a naive woman/sex object.

At the Armed Forces Movement meeting for foreigners, after a long series of questions about the general situation, a German woman asked the captain from the 5th Division what the AFM attitude was to abor-



Women — a vital force that can be won for the socialist revolution, if it takes up the struggle for women's liberation.

tion. What did the AFM think about the report in *Republica* that there were still 150,000 illegal abortions every year in Portugal?

'We are here to express and effect the wishes of the people — this is the meaning of *poder popular* (popular power). When we know that many people want to legalise abortion we will make sure that this happens.'

### NOT 'POLITICS'

We tried to explain that 150,000 women getting illegal abortions were in effect demanding legal and safe abortions. The captain was cornered but couldn't take the point — of course the 5th Division supports the legalisation of abortion, but we are not here to discuss abortion in detail (roughly translated to mean abortion isn't politics with a capital 'P'). At the end of the meeting the captain came up to me and as I tried to make our point again he patted me on the cheek and told me not to worry.

Why, then, did I and other women who visited Portugal come away thinking that the revolution really might change things for women and that the MLM could play an important part in this? Basically because in the process of social and economic change that is taking place in Portugal, women are playing a large part in the daily struggle and through this are having to question their roles.

In the co-operative farm we worked on there were about 10 women and 40 men. The men worked in the fields and the women worked in the house and the fields. At midday the women cooked a huge dinner for 50+ people.

### TAKE TURNS

Big arguments developed because the men got very angry if their dinner was not ready as soon as they got back from the fields, and said that the women didn't really work hard at all. The women were not at all intimidated

Portuguese cotton goods. Many of these factories are in small villages in the church-dominated north of Portugal, and if women are pushed out of work with no understanding of why this is happening their response is likely to be to join the forces of reaction. This seems to be a clear example of a situation in which an explicitly feminist movement could play an important role.

### CONTRADICTIONS

The occupation of the Sogantal factory brings out many of the contradictions of the situation of Portuguese women. The MLM has been involved in helping the women at Sogantal, and during the week of action we saw the play the workers had made of their own struggle.

Sogantal was a French factory producing track suits. Over a year ago the boss tried to introduce speed-ups and lay-offs, and when the women refused to co-operate he threatened total redundancy and closure. The women went on strike and picketed the factory for several weeks.

One weekend the boss sent in 12 thugs, with alsations and guns, who broke through the gates and tried to move the equipment out. Everyone in the village mobilised and the women took over the factory. They have continued to produce goods and at one time were selling clothes to their friends when other markets were blocked.

But now they are stuck — they need money to buy raw materials to continue production. If they were a co-operative they could get help from the State, but they can't legally form a co-operative without the consent of their husbands and fathers, and the men are refusing to sign.

### PROPAGANDA

The MLM has a real role to play in making sure that women recognise the important part they are playing in the struggle and do not allow their demands to be seen as somehow secondary; this also involves women knowing that other women all over the country are engaged in similar struggles and facing similar problems. This could mean more intensive propaganda work at a national level or greater involvement at the base.

But it has to happen. As one woman in the MLM put it: 'If people don't see their everyday lives changing because of the revolution, they'll get discouraged by inflation and hardship. After 40 years of fascism they'll want to go back to having a Daddy figure to rely on. A factory occupation is important, but a woman sleeps with her husband every night and looks after the kids every day. Those are the things that have to be revolutionised for people to believe in and fight for the revolution.'

consultation with the PCP whatsoever, as much because it is an influential political force as because it holds certain responsibilities in the Government.'

As for what response the working class should make, now that this 'right turn' was 'openly' underway, the PCP called for 'vigilance, firmness and calm on the part of the workers and the popular masses'. In case anyone should get the mistaken notion that this was an underhand call for any kind of action the PCP added: 'It is also necessary to be extremely vigilant with regard to demagoguery, adventurism and the violent initiatives of irresponsible ultra-left elements....' In other words, the PCP did nothing.

While we're at it, let's take a look at some of the yet more rotten fruit born from comrade Fauvet's '14 calls'. Cunhal, in the speech quoted above, further stated: 'We firmly condemn, without any hesitation whatsoever, the provocation carried out against the Spanish Embassy this morning.' Well, comrade Fauvet, do you also endorse this licksplittle attitude towards the fascist dictatorship in Spain which your '14 calls' have given rise to?

Nor is that the end of this particular scandal. In the same issue of the PCP's paper *Avante* which published Cunhal's speech, an editorial argues: 'Counter-revolution and pseudo-revolutionary provocation have at their service mercenaries and foreign adventurers who establish themselves in Portugal without any control whatsoever. It is necessary to institute a strict control of the life and activities of foreigners resident in the national territory and expel from Portugal those who take part in whatever form in the disturbance of the democratic order' (my emphasis).

Well, comrade Fauvet, do you also subscribe to this lumping together of the revolutionary left and the far right? Do you endorse police state supervision of foreign revolutionaries living in exile in Portugal? Are you in favour of their deportation — perhaps to the tender mercies of Franco's butchers in compensation for 'the provocation carried out against the Spanish Embassy' (it is well known that a number of militants of FRAP are exiled in Portugal and were active in the demonstrations against the execution of their comrades)? Do you still deny that this constitutes flagrant class collaboration?



Helmeted and on the march.

# SUBSC RibE

For £4.44 only you can receive Spare Rib by post every month for 1 year (12 issues)

Cheques and postal orders should be made out to Spare Rib Ltd and sent to Spare Rib Subscriptions, c/o Linda Phillips, 114 George St., Berkhamsted, Herts. HP4 2EJ

Photograph on this page from 'Big Flame' pamphlet on Portugal - A Blaze of Freedom.





# Abortion - an international struggle

Since the bigots of the Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child found an ally in right-wing Labour MP James White, thousands of women have marched and picketed for a woman's right to choose. Just eight months after the first rally against White's Bill, both the Labour Party and the Trades Union Congress have echoed the call for readily available abortion on the National Health Service.

But despite these big strides forward, it would be both wrong and dangerous to be complacent. It is one thing to get resolutions carried. It is another to get them implemented. Only by developing a widespread and active campaign, rooted in the labour movement and able to keep up an unrelenting pressure, can we make sure that the official leaders of the labour movement do not slip off the hook.

In rejecting the Working Women's Charter, for instance, the General Council of the TUC argued that 'abortion was not an appropriate matter to be within a Charter for the whole trade union movement.' Barbara Castle's opposition at the Labour Party Conference to the resolution on the NHS, which included the abortion clause, is another indication of the real attitude of the Labour leaders to these resolutions.

When the Report of the Select Committee considering White's Bill was published, it was easy to see why Harold Wilson had previously informed the National Abortion Campaign that he, 'and the Government as a whole', were awaiting the Report 'with great interest'. Nowhere did the Report make any suggestions on how to improve and extend safe abortion facilities on the NHS. Instead it catalogued a whole series of measures which would mean more restrictions on existing counselling services and abortion centres.

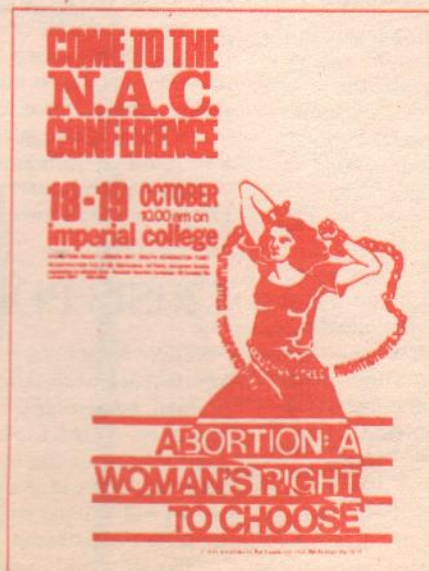
## An old trick

These proposals were justified as necessary to prevent abuses in the private sector. This is an old trick employed by the anti-abortion lobby. Wilson himself told NAC in June: 'The Government shares the concern of Mr White and his supporters about the need to prevent abuses in the private sector'; adding that the Government 'are ready to consider legislation'.

In a typical two-faced manner, he told NAC that restricting abortion to the NHS 'could work to the detriment of women seeking abortions'. This is nothing more than a cover for more restrictive legislation.

The Report of the Lane Committee on the 1967 Act published in 1973, shows how this process is taking place. Abortions on the NHS have dropped from 67 per cent to 51 per cent of all those carried out. Over one third of women seeking abortions on the

NHS now have to wait up to one month before seeing a doctor. There can be further long delays before the abortion is carried out. The latest bout of cuts in the NHS mean that this situation can only get worse.



Why is that a Government which claims to represent working people's interests is prepared to allow women's rights to be hit in this way? The Labour Government has thrown its lot in with capitalism. It is determined to bolster up a bankrupt capitalism and it is determined that the working class must pay for it. Anything that masks this sell-out and blunts working class resistance will certainly not be frowned on by the Wilson leadership.

## Glorification

The glorification of 'motherhood', coupled with the absence of freely available contraception and abortion facilities, the lack of adequate maternity

and paternity leave, and the shortage of child-care facilities, relegates women to the desperate isolation of the home. Large sections of the working class accept this as a woman's 'natural place'.

## Extra burdens

A strengthening of this view, and a denial of a woman's right to choose when and if to have children, only clouds the vicious attacks of the Wilson Government on the living standards of the whole of the working class. When welfare cuts take place — thus putting extra burdens on women in the family — this is often accepted as a female trial to be borne without resistance. When the right of women to work is challenged by redundancy, this is seldom opposed by men and women workers, who see women as already 'employed' in the home.

The fight for the right of women to control their own bodies is thus a matter of concern to the whole working class. Abortion is not a matter of individual conscience or an issue simply affecting women. Unless the labour movement understands this it will cut its own throat.

The NAC Conference this weekend has to build a campaign that will reject the anti-abortion measures of the Select Committee. There is no point in MPs claiming that they support the right of a woman to choose, joining the Select Committee and then endorsing its restrictive proposals.

## Simple issue

Any Labour MP or Cabinet Minister who stands in the way of the campaign for the right to choose should be removed. In every area we should argue for kicking them out and replacing them with Labour MPs who are prepared to fight for a pro-abortion position. The issue is simple. Either the Labour Party takes the side of women or it supports the cuts.

The anti-abortion measures of the Government can be defeated. But this can only be done by extending the campaign already developed by the women's movement into the whole of the workers' movement. Such a campaign will not stop merely at defeating the present measures. It must go forward to win the struggle for free contraception and abortion on demand on the NHS. And in doing so it will win hundreds of thousands of women to the fight for a socialist solution to the crisis as a whole.

Adele Faccio, a leading figure in the campaign, was one of the main speakers at an evening rally on the Saturday evening of the NAC Conference.

Faccio won popular recognition last year for her forcible closure of the Abortion and Sterilisation Clinic in *Candida*, a fascist magazine, after an outcry by supporters in every major city. She was forced to reconsider its attitude.

The following article looks at the debate between the major political parties on the question of abortion.

The old Fascist laws making abortion a 'crime against the Italian race' still exist today in Italy. The result of this is that — according to the World Health Organisation —

## Italy-abortion 'a crime against the Italian race'

the abortion rate in Italy is higher than that for live births, and more than 2,000 women die every year from botched back-street abortions.

Italy has a huge unemployment rate, the lowest percentage of employed female labour in Europe, and the highest infant mortality rate in the Common Market. At the same time thousands of Italian workers are returning to their homes after being laid-off in other European countries. This has prompted sections of the Italian capitalist class to try to introduce some measures of birth control. However, any reforms are to be strictly limited.

## Signatures

The Radical Party has collected 700,000 signatures in a campaign for a referendum on the repeal of the Fascist abortion laws. However, none of the parliamentary parties — except the Socialist Party — want to see it take place. So instead they have set up a commission in the Italian Parliament to bring forward new proposals regulating the right to abortion. The commission is expected to present its findings in the next few days.

The various political parties have all produced proposals on abortion, all of which



# There is a strong possibility that further attempts will be made to push new restrictive legislation through Parliament

Interview with LINDA SMITH, IMG member of the Steering Committee of the National Abortion Campaign.

**Q. Now that the James White Bill is effectively dead, are there still dangers of further restrictive legislation being introduced?**

**A.** The Select Committee (investigating evidence submitted around James White's Abortion Amendment Bill) were unable to give a final report on their findings to Parliament, and so the Bill automatically falls. However, the Select Committee officially exists until the beginning of the next parliamentary session and is in fact meeting three times this month. It is also making application to Parliament to be re-constituted in the next session. This means that, although White's Bill has fallen, the Select Committee (two-thirds of whom are committed anti-abortionists) could continue to consider the evidence presented on the various clauses of White's Bill.

There is also a strong possibility that further attempts will be made to push new restrictive legislation through Parliament. The Society for the Protection of the Unborn Child (SPUC) are at present reported to be working on a new Bill and looking for a sponsor. Wilson has indicated that the Government supported White's basic intentions - if not the form they appeared in - and could well produce its own restrictive legislation.

Meanwhile, restrictions are being proposed which need no legislation. These are contained in the Third Interim Report of the Select Committee, and include such measures as introducing a quota system for clinics performing abortions on foreign women, restricting referral agencies to a specially approved list etc.

These proposals, agreed on unanimously by the Select Committee were being reported to Parliament by Barbara Castle this week, and unless there is strong opposition voiced at that time, will be forwarded to the DHSS for implementation.

**Q. Among those on the Select Committee who endorsed these proposals were some pro-abortion women Labour MPs. How do you explain their apparent change of position?**

**A.** There are two reasons. First, they rely on parliamentary manoeuvres and not the united action of the labour movement to defeat the anti-abortion-



Photo: ANGELA PHILLIPS (IFL)

ists. This has meant they have been forced into compromises on the Select Committee. They are no doubt proud that they prevented the White Bill from being rushed through by 'talking-out' the anti-abortionists.

Of course, the price they have had to pay for this so-called victory is - as they see it - to 'compromise on a few minor issues'. But any measures which restrict women's right to abortion are hardly 'minor issues'. In fact, these are things that should be in the forefront of our fight back in the coming months.

Secondly, let's look at who some of these women MPs are. Joyce Butler and Helene Hayman, both on the Select Committee, are firmly committed to Wilson's anti-working class policies. They have never taken up a fight against the Wilson leadership. On the Common Market issue, on the question of cuts in social spending, and on the Healey measures they have been in Wilson's camp.

By viewing abortion as an issue 'for women alone', and not as an integral part of the working class fight against Labour's attacks, they are simply unable to defend a woman's right to choose.

have made a complaint to the police before an abortion would be allowed.

The CP also state that permission to abort would have to be obtained from a committee consisting of a gynaecologist, a female social worker, and a general practitioner. The minimum age would be 18, and the abortion would have to be carried out within 90 days of conception, under the national health scheme, and only in certain approved hospitals.

The CP's 'progressive' attitude to abortion can be seen in their proposal to fine women who do not follow their procedure between 5,000 and 100,000 lira (£4 and £80 approximately).

It is almost certain that the CP's proposals, aimed at not alienating the 'Catholic masses', will be passed by Parliament. These proposals will complement the law passed in July, establishing family planning clinics on a national basis. This law was hailed by the Unione Donne Italiane (the CP-controlled women's organisation) as a 'victory for the couple'.

The new law, however, allocates a totally inadequate sum of money for the clinics, which are supposed to be incorporated into the new health reforms. Since these are not being applied, this public money is actually being ploughed into financing private clinics; a veritable gold-rush has begun as the Catholic Church and the political parties scramble for their share of the money, as well as an outlet for their ideologies.

## Speculation

But Italian women are fighting back against all these manoeuvres. In most major cities a movement has grown up for free abortion on demand, and against this speculation with public money in private clinics.

Five hundred members of women's groups all over Italy, as well as representatives of the French, Swiss and British abortion campaigns, met together in Bologna last weekend to discuss the perspectives for this fight. The main problems discussed were: whether abortions should be done clandestinely as a personal action, or openly as part of a political movement; how to combine the local groups into a nationally co-ordinated action campaign; and whether and when to have an international demonstration.

It was agreed to have a demonstration in Milan on 10 December, and the international delegates agreed to work in their countries for the largest possible delegations as well as simultaneous solidarity actions. The other problems must still be solved if an effective abortion campaign is to be built in Italy.

**Q. How is the NAC proposing to fight these proposals?**

**A.** NAC called for national pickets of DHSS offices on Monday to coincide with Castle's report, calling for rejection of the Select Committee proposals. In the longer term, the perspectives for the fight against restrictions will be discussed by the NAC national conference this weekend.

At the conference we will be trying to draw up a balance sheet of the campaign to date, and analysing the nature and source of the present attacks on abortion. On the basis of this we hope to agree on specific activities which we can build in the coming months to take us towards our objectives.

The proposals which the IMG put forward to the Steering Committee, and which the Committee endorsed and will propose at the conference, include:

1. A national week of action immediately before the next parliamentary session, against the re-appointment of the Select Committee and for the implementation of the TUC and Labour Party resolutions. The week of action should culminate in a London and region rally with trade union and Labour Party speakers.
2. Regional rallies early in the new year, which we can use to highlight those areas such as Leeds and Birmingham where even the implementation of the 1967 Act is being blocked.
3. International Women's Day in 1976 to be focussed on abortion (and possibly used to launch our own legislation)
4. The week of action to be used to lay the basis for a rapid and effective national mobilisation in the event of new restrictive legislation being introduced into Parliament.

**Q. With the success of pro-abortion resolutions at both the TUC and Labour Party Conferences, how is NAC taking steps to draw in the labour movement at a local level?**

**A.** We want to see the trade unions and Labour Party act on their conference resolutions by developing their own campaigns in conjunction with NAC. It is in this spirit that we have asked the TUC to vote £5,000 as a budget for its promised campaign on abortion, and have made suggestions as to how the money could be spent - eg. on a poster/advertising campaign to co-incide with the week of action etc. If the above proposals are accepted by the NAC conference we should approach the trade unions and Labour Party both at local and national level to co-sponsor and co-organise the activities involved. The January rallies are projected as co-sponsored and co-organised activities.

**Q. How do you see the campaign for a woman's right to choose being tied into the general fight against the pro-capitalist policies of the Wilson Government?**

**A.** One of the most complicated questions the conference and the campaign has to get to grips with is that of the relationship between the attack on abortion and the Government's attempts to solve the crisis at the expense of the working class. We must be clear that this attack is not being waged for direct economic reasons - whereas closing a hospital will save money on the welfare service budget, cutting back on abortions does not have the same effect because maternity services and patching up backstreet abortions costs more than out-patient abortions. Therefore this is not just another cut.

Nor is this another attack on democratic rights of the same kind as the Shrewsbury example. Legally women have never had the right to decide for themselves on this issue, and historically the working class have never accepted this as a right to be defended by class action. In fact we are still fight-



ing against the idea, upheld by so many Labour MPs, that it is a question of individual conscience rather than a matter for the class as a whole.

No, it is an attempt to drive back the offensive which has been developing against women's oppression and for a woman's right to a life independent of family over which she has control. So it is an important ideological battle, but it is also significant in terms of the battles over the material conditions of life of the working class, its standard of living, welfare services, etc.

The more a woman is tied to the home and family and the more her ability to control her independent existence is curtailed, the more effectively the family acts as a shock absorber for the cuts, allowing them to proceed without their full impact being realised until the relationship of forces has been appreciably changed and the combative force of the working class appreciably reduced. The relationship between the attacks in general and the attack on abortion exists not because reducing the availability of abortion is central to Labour's plans, but because it is compatible with the wider attack, and can be turned to the Labour leadership's advantage in pressing its other attacks.

**Q. What role do you see for the Working Women's Charter in the fight against Labour's attacks?**

**A.** I think that the Charter Campaign has an extremely important role to play in this campaign. One of the demands of the Charter is for readily available abortion facilities. The Charter Campaign has been very successful in getting broadly based support in the trade union movement, and this support can be tapped by the abortion campaign.

More importantly, the Charter highlights many other aspects of women's oppression - unequal and low pay, lack of maternity leave, inadequate pre-school teaching facilities, inequality in education and legal rights - which combine with lack of contraception and abortion facilities to deny women real control over their own lives.

**● BRISTOL:** Over seventy trade unionists and supporters of the women's liberation movement attended a regional conference organised by Bristol NAC on 4 October. As well as seeing the immediate need to fight the restrictions on abortion facilities contained in the Select Committee's Third Interim Report, it was decided to re-convene the healthworker sub-group and investigate the availability of abortion facilities in the area.

Dr. Berry Beaumont, the invited speaker, pointed out that despite recent Labour Party and TUC Conference decisions, the effect of the Labour Government's attacks on social spending would be to retard yet further free abortion and contraception on demand on the NHS.

for abortion rights in Italy, will be of speakers and entertainment to be held at 7.30 pm in the Central Hall, West-

when the police arrested her during the ion Centre in Milan, following an 'ex- ne. However, she was speedily released talian city, and the Italian Government

ow taking place in the major Italian pol-

ny the right of women to decide whether not they have an abortion.

The Italian Socialist Party presented its proposals over two years ago. They would

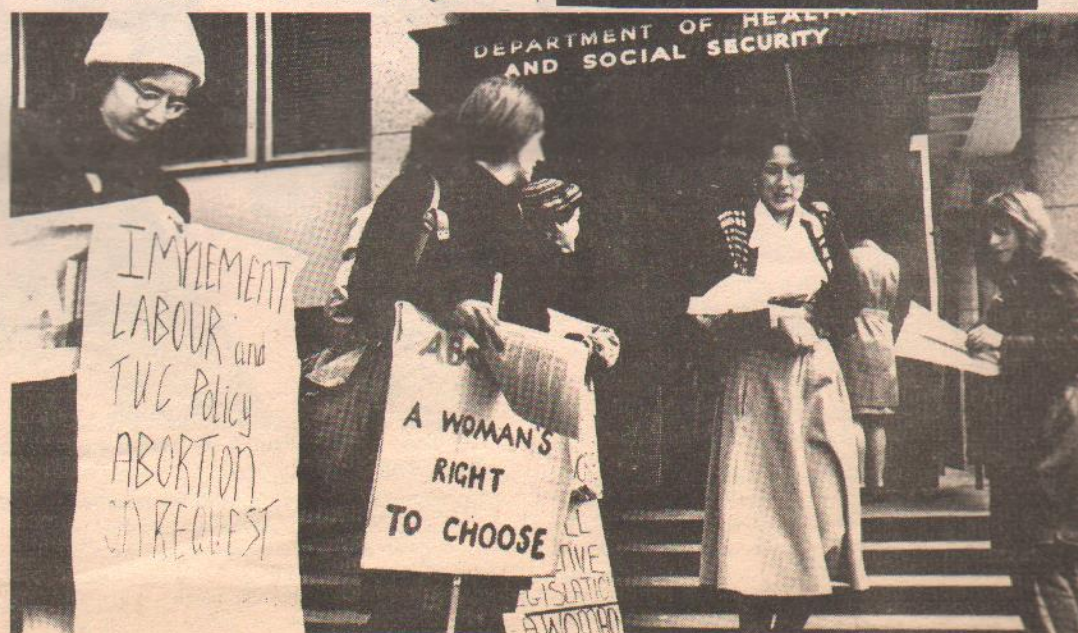
# tion is still nst the race'

ermit abortion when the mother was in grave ental or physical danger or when there was ikelihood of the foetus being deformed, and ould also take into account the 'moral and ial conditions' of the mother. Abortion ould be granted under the national health eme for all women aged 16 or over in the at 10 weeks of pregnancy. After ten weeks uch more complicated procedure would be ssary.

## Minimal

The main capitalist party, the Christian omocrats, propose only minimal changes in old Fascist laws. The only concession y would make would be when there was ave risk to the mother's health. They ll want to make abortion a crime, punish- y up to five years imprisonment for men who abort.

The main workers' party, the Communist ty, also proposes severe restrictions on the to abortion. Though they take into ent the economic, family and social on- ons of the woman, they lay down strict es in the cases where abortion would be rmitted. The circumstances in which they ould permit abortion are similar to those down by the Socialist Party; but they or example, that a victim of rape must



Supporters of NAC picketed the DHSS headquarters in London and offices all over the country on Monday to protest against the statement on abortion expected from Barbara Castle in Parliament this week. It is almost certain that the DHSS will approve the recommendations of the recent Select Committee report, making it harder for many women to obtain abortions in the private sector while doing nothing to improve availability on the NHS. This paves the way for further attacks on women's abortion rights, which Wilson has made it clear would not be opposed by the Labour Government. It is thus even more urgent for activists at the NAC Conference to thrash out a programme of action to fight these attacks in the coming months, and win free abortion on demand on the NHS.

Photo: ANGELA PHILLIPS (IFL)



# 7 DAYS in the 6 COUNTIES

JOHN MAGEE reports from Belfast

Trade union officials and Convention politicians over here have lately been voicing increasingly loudly their fear that Britain has decided to quit the North, and is presently engaged on the economic isolation of this part of Ireland.

The first person to give vent to the economic withdrawal theory was Sandy Scott, the convenor of the unions in Belfast shipyard. Last month Scott told a meeting of 5,000 workers in East Belfast that no new investment was coming

and redundancies, shelving of recruitment plans, and wholesale cutbacks in expenditure. But these increasing economic problems are more directly related to the bankruptcy of British capitalism and the Six Counties' colonial status than any conscious plan of economic withdrawal on the part of the British Government. At the same time it is likely that the British Labour Government will utilise to the full the present economic crisis in its attempts to force agreement between the Ulster Loyalists and the SDLP.

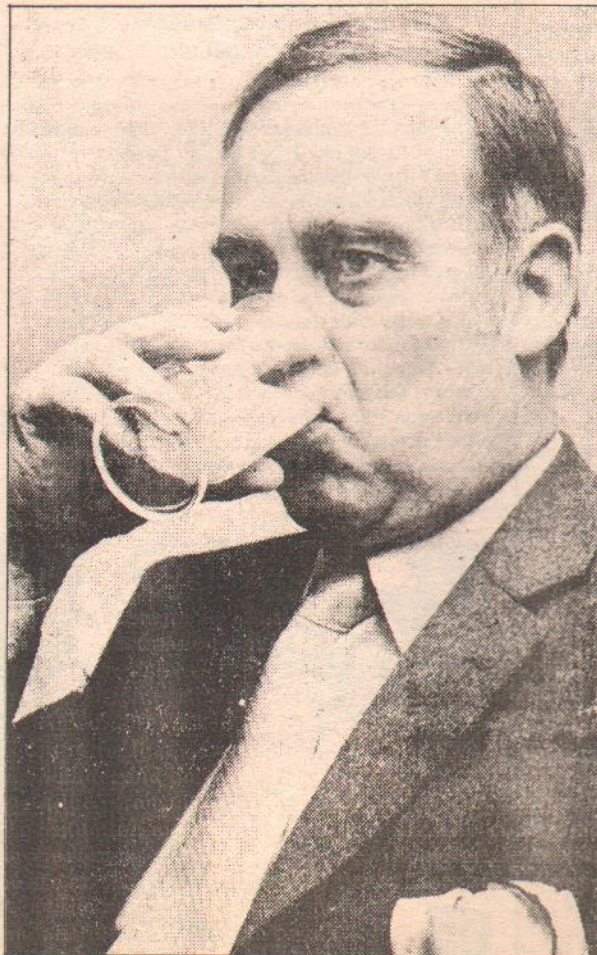
## One illustration

Bill Craig's scheme for voluntary coalition between the UUUC and the SDLP is one illustration of this. At one time he was able to produce statistics pointing to the feasibility of an independent state in Northern Ireland, but the economic crisis and the collapse of industry here has forced him to abandon these, if only temporarily. Craig understands the need for imperialist finance, and believes that this will not be forthcoming unless some deal is reached with the SDLP. He understands also that a few Cabinet seats for the SDLP could well be cheap at the price if it led to the disarming of the anti-Unionist population and prepared the way for a full-scale assault on the nationalist ghettos by the RUC and Loyalist para-militaries under Stormont control. This accomplished, the SDLP could be despatched back to the opposition benches suitably chastened.

The majority of the UUC, of course, reject any notion of power-sharing with the SDLP, and the Ulster Workers Council has now commented that Craig's proposals represent 'a new and sinister threat to our heritage and future'. This debate is by no means ended, however, as Craig's success in winning a majority on the Vanguard Party Council shows.

## Consequence

But the economic situation has one very immediate consequence for anti-Unionist workers. The economic bankruptcy of British imperialism is striking particularly hard at the engineering and textile industries, for long almost the exclusive province of Loyalist workers. These Loyalist workers are now being made redundant with nil prospects of new jobs — at a time when the North's unemployment level is running at more than double the level in Britain, in some areas as high as 25 per cent. Consequently, we are now witnessing large-scale attacks on Catholic workers as more and



Two faces of Loyalism. Left, UDA para-military; above, William Craig.

more Protestant workers turn to the para-militaries to protect their jobs and privileges at the expense of Catholics.

The ground for this has already been prepared by the campaign of intimidation directed against Catholics working in Protestant areas, and the campaign of vilification against the Irish Congress of Trade Unions to which many of the North's workers, Protestant and Catholic, belong. Unfortunately, the trade unions bolster this sectarianism by posing as the solution the strengthening of the link with Britain. This places responsibility for the economic crisis not on capitalism but on those who oppose the British link — the anti-Unionist working class. Contrary to what is believed by the trade unions and those organisations who support this policy, such as the Communist Party of Ireland, such a campaign can only intensify sectarian attacks and place further obstacles in the path of the struggle for socialism and workers' unity.



## 'We are hoping the united anti-internment committee will become a united resistance movement'

Interview with JIM McCORRY, Chairman of the Andersonstown Branch of the Irish Republican Socialist Party.

### ● What is the position with respect to the feud with the Officials?

Their position seemed to be that we had no right to exist as a political organisation. But the feud now appears to have died down and, we hope, ended. For the past eight weeks there has been no physical conflict except on a limited scale.

The IRSP position is that we are vehemently opposed to sectarian tit-for-tat assassinations, and we would see no justification in them from a socialist point of view. We would see them as being counter-productive.

### ● What do you see as the way forward in the present situation?

First of all, that we try to get some kind of united action from the various groups that exist within the minority community in the North. We are hoping that in a short time the united anti-internment committee will become a united resistance movement, and that the Officials and Provisionals will play a full role in mobilising our people — in mobilising them in a real sense. We can't see any alternative to this.

### ● What do you mean by mobilising them in a real sense?

First of all that the concept of mobilising the people isn't simply getting them on the streets. We're talking about creating structures that would meet the immediate needs — the economic needs, the needs of defence, the needs of our old people — structures within the Catholic community, that would be regarded by many of us as providing the embryo of a much longer term tactic in relation to creating structures as an alternative to the present State structures. Many of us feel this should be regarded by the left as a strategy.

### ● Do you feel that the Provisionals ignore this aspect of the struggle?

The Provisionals pay lip service to giving power to the people. The reality would seem to be that once any attempt is made to give power to the people, they regard it as being an attempt to take power from themselves.

### ● But you are finding it possible to work with the Provisionals?

Yes, we have a high regard for many of the Provisional people. I don't think there's anyone in this organisation who would call into question their leadership of the national struggle — the struggle against imperialism — and they have played a very important and courageous role.

### ● Some people would say that the development of the IRSP has so far been rather disappointing.

The development of the IRSP is disappointing to people outside. They expected something dramatic to happen. In fact the hope at the time of the formation of the IRSP was that it would do nothing dramatic, other than work very hard to create a debate within the organisation, so that even people who didn't want to come into the organisation would contribute to developing an analysis of the situation.

### ● Are you trying to get to grips with the different positions inside the Protestant community?

We are saying that if we claim to be Marxists, if we claim to apply the ideology of class struggle to bringing about a socialist revolution, then we can't ignore that. There must be class contradictions internal to the Protestant community, contradictions of the values of the Protestant working class in general, and

the interests of the Protestant working class in general.

Very few left-wing groups have made any attempt to engage in struggle other than on the national question. No work has been done by any organisation in determining the relationship between national struggle and socialist struggle, both on an ideological level and on a tactical level.

● It is said that you have an armed wing, the People's Liberation Army? It is completely untrue. There is no armed group over which the IRSP have control.

● The PLA has come out with statements of support for the IRSP, and it was formed at about the same time as the IRSP.

Yes, but there are also people like the Irish Freedom Fighters who have come out in support of the IRSP position. Any group having a socialist perspective has no choice but to come out and support the position of the IRSP.

No doubt there are members of the IRSP in the PLA, but the relationship between the IRSP and any armed organisation is non-existent.

### ● What are your perspectives for the future?

At this period of time, it does seem that there is going to be direct conflict between the Republican and anti-imperialist population in the North and the Loyalist population. Given the relative positions of the Southern bourgeoisie and the Northern petty bourgeoisie, and the position of British imperialism, what we may be facing — if we're not able to defend our people and if we don't get support from the British left — is a reaction of right against left which could even overflow into England.

### ● How do you intend to forge unity inside the Catholic working class against this?

Along with comrades from PD and RMG, we're organising a series of weekend meetings. We are also engaging with them in trying to develop an overall strategic plan, particularly say for Belfast. In the event of a Loyalist confrontation we see organisation and agitation as being essential. We are also making overtures to the Provisional and Official movements to join in that sort of work as a matter of urgency.

### ● What's your attitude to the Provisional truce and the way in which they're talking about negotiating the British withdrawal?

The Provisionals have to their credit engaged in the struggle almost single-handedly, being attacked from behind by people who should also have been supporting that struggle. They're at liberty to engage in whatever type of discussion they want.

But I feel that in doing so they have left a complete vacuum and have isolated the people, and allowed a demoralisation within our own communities. And in that vacuum, created by their failure to inform the people of what was happening, they have refused — or been unable — to do any political social or economic work.

But the vacuum created is extremely dangerous; it allows the British too much leeway to do as they want and try to persuade our people to see that the establishment can and does work. I believe the Provos have had very little from the British, and in many ways they have trusted them when they shouldn't have been trusted.



into the North, and that British capital already invested here was being withdrawn. He was followed by Convention members John Hume (SDLP) and Ian Paisley (UUUC) on local television, citing events such as the steep increase in airfares, the closure of the Sealink Heysham-Belfast ferry, and the threatened closure of the Belfast-Ardrossan ferry as abundant evidence of Britain's isolation plan.

## Suspensions

Then at the National Conference of Shipbuilding and Repair Unions in Surbiton on 22 September, the minister of State for Northern Ireland, Stan Orme, appeared to confirm these suspicions when he told delegates that the Harland and Wolff shipyard in Belfast would receive no further financial assistance from the British Government after 1978. But worse was yet to come. When Orme later met the shipyard's joint consultative committee, which involves both management and unions, the date he spoke of was not 1978 but Christmas 1975. Orme delivered an ultimatum: there must be a 'marked improvement' in productivity by the end of the year, otherwise the yard — which is operating at a loss of £0.5 million a week — could not continue and the jobs of 10,000 workers would be in serious jeopardy.

There can be no doubt that the Northern Ireland economy is not only facing a crisis but is in fact in a state of general collapse. Each week brings news of more factory closures



# SPAIN

Continued  
from page 1

cobble together some capitalist alternative to Franco which can sabotage the mounting struggle of the Spanish masses to destroy the dictatorship.

There is only one force on the continent that can sweep aside these dirty manoeuvres and slap the sort of isolation on the Franco dictatorship that will bring it to its knees and allow the Spanish working class to finish it off: the European workers' movement.

Already the European working class has displayed a real spirit of international solidarity and mounted mass demonstrations, work stoppages, and blacking of Spanish trade and communications. Aware of the anger of their members, the leaderships of the entire European trade union movement have supported such actions. For the first time since they were split apart by the cold-war manoeuvres of imperialism, the World Federation of Free Trade Unions (made up of Communist Party-led unions) and the European sections of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (based on social democratic unions) engaged in joint actions to protest the executions in Spain. This demonstrates the sort of impact the struggle in Spain can have on the European labour movement and gives the capitalists even further reasons for seeking to 'cool' international action against the Spanish dictatorship.

it receives official backing. Trade unionists — particularly in the T&GWU — should immediately begin to organise to ensure that this call is fully implemented in their localities; but they should also demand that the union executives make the call official and launch a mass propaganda campaign to explain to their members the need for this sort of solidarity.

The full mobilisation of the trade union movement behind this boycott must be seen as just the first shot in a fight to win the British labour movement to a policy of 'break all links with Franco's Spain' — forcing the Labour Government to break diplomatic and political links with the dictatorship, and imposing a total boycott on all economic relations with Spain until the complete destruction of the dictatorship and all its instruments of anti-working class repression.

## Fund Grows

Readers have continued to give generous support to the Iberian Appeal to aid our comrades of the LCI in Portugal and the LCR-ETA (VI) in Spain. The total so far collected now stands at £145.83; we were helped considerably towards that figure by a single donation of £50 last week.

Another way we hope to raise money is through the sale of stickers produced for the SUV soldiers' movement in Portugal. These are a reduced version of the graphic shown on page 3, and are available in multiples of 10 for a minimum contribution of 60p (more if possible). Order now as supplies are strictly limited.

Please send all contributions to: Red Weekly (Iberia), 182 Pentonville Road London N1.

## ASTMS BRANCH CONDEMNS WRP RAID

The following motion was passed last week by ASTMS Publishing 516 Branch:

'This branch strongly protests at the police raid on Saturday 27 September on the premises of the Workers Revolutionary Party. It regards the raid as a threat to the democratic rights of all organisations of the labour movement. It calls on the ASTMS National Executive Council and other union branches to protest to the Home Secretary and to campaign for a trade union enquiry into the circumstances surrounding the raid.'

## BUREAUCRACY

But the trade union bureaucracy is not prepared to launch the sort of massive international movement necessary to bring the Franco dictatorship crashing down. One reason why the bureaucrats are happy to take up international issues like Spain is to cover over the class collaborationist policies they are pursuing at home. But a fighting movement of industrial action in solidarity with Spain would raise awkward questions, such as: 'Why not use our power to deal with our own problems and our own capitalists as well?'

Thus T&GWU leader Jack Jones, in between speeches backing the £6 norm, called for 'maximum harassment' of the Franco dictatorship. But he and the T&GWU executive did nothing officially to organise blacking.

As a result, the two-day protest called by the International Transport Workers Federation was generally a failure in Britain.

The TUC international committee is now talking about organising another day of action next month. This call must be given full support by trade union militants up and down the country, but it will not be the sort of display of international solidarity it should be unless

## POLICE DEFEND FASCISTS

It wasn't just hundreds of uniformed police that turned out to protect the Annual General Meeting of the fascist National Front in Chelsea Town Hall last Saturday. Plain-clothes police had evidently decided to take up photography for the day — and their cameras were certainly not pointed into the Town Hall.

Despite this show of force, several hundred demonstrators picketed the hall for most of the day, and in the afternoon over a thousand anti-fascists marched by. What is vital now is that the anti-fascist forces come together to build a single workers' united front against the fascists — the precondition for driving them off the streets for good.



Photo: CHRIS DAVIES (Report)

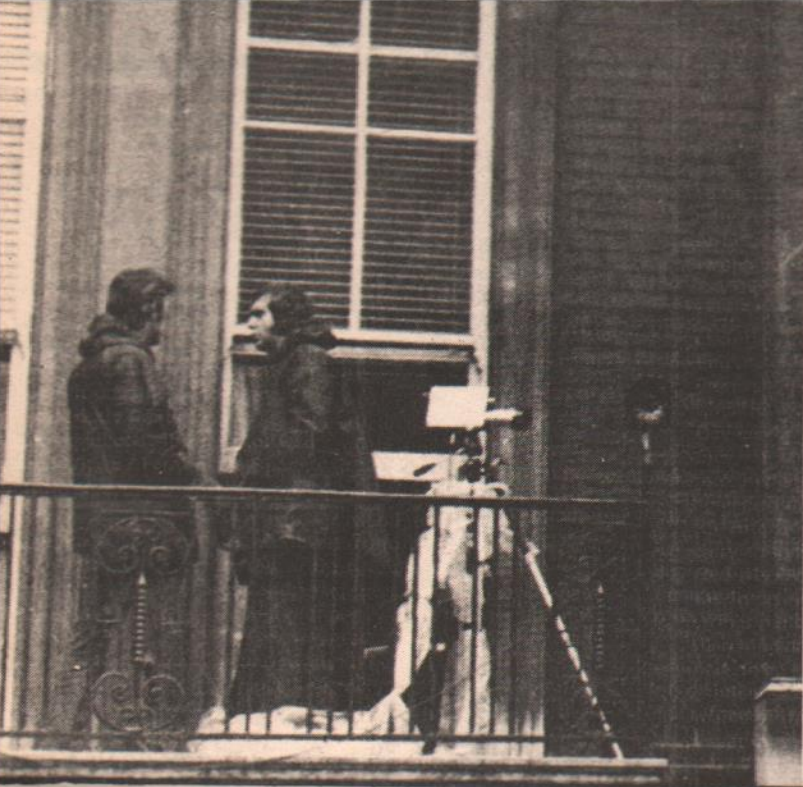


Photo: TER

# BWNIC 14: BRITISH REPRESSION ON TRIAL

The second week of the trial of fourteen members of the British Withdrawal from Northern Ireland Campaign (BWNIC) began with a political debate about Bloody Sunday in Derry. Colonel Marsden, who was responsible for collecting from soldiers various books and leaflets they had obtained from a BWNIC literature stall in Leazes Market, was being cross-examined by defendant Bill Hetherington about a Civil Rights paper with a front page article 'Bloody Sunday Two Years On'.

Colonel Marsden admitted that the paper was referring to the incident when 13 civilians in Derry were 'shot down by British soldiers under Army directions'. At once the prosecutor, Michael Coombe, interrupted with the long expected statement that: 'This is not a trial of the policy in Northern Ireland... It is essential that this trial does not turn into some kind of debate as to the rights and wrongs of the political role which is being carried out by the troops.' Justice McKinnon upheld the intervention.

The judge also blocked an attempt to have the whole of BWNIC's Statement of Intent read. The defence argued that if this was material

to the prosecution evidence, then the jury was entitled to read it in its entirety and not simply passages selected by the prosecution.

## 'NO POLITICS'

Justice McKinnon ruled: 'It is not a proper use of Her Majesty's courts to give vent to your political views from the dock.' The statement is, however, being used by the prosecution as evidence of the conspiracy (six of the fourteen were signatories); it sets out the political basis on which BWNIC was formed, as well as stating the aims (withdrawal of the troops and ending of the union) and suggested areas of

campaign. It is these last, because they contain references to campaigning amongst soldiers, that the prosecution is attempting to isolate from the rest.

The case was adjourned early on Wednesday 8 October when two supporters of the Defend the 14+ Campaign were brought into court on contempt charges for picketing and leafleting outside the court.

Acknowledging that there had been a misunderstanding with the police, McKinnon dismissed the case. Lord Gifford, a defence counsel, then made a strong statement for the right of people to form defence groups for people on trial, and tried to get a definite ruling from the judge about what actions outside the court would be permitted. But the judge refused to define what was permitted, and said anyone took such actions at their 'peril'.

## NAMES TAKEN

Meanwhile, the four BWNIC supporters charged in Aberdeen under Sections 1 and 2 of the Incitement to Disaffection Act for their part in leafleting troops with 'Some Information for Discontented Soldiers' at 45 Commando Condor Barracks, Arbroath, have had their case adjourned until 16 January. After a picket of Arbroath Sheriff's Court, a number of people went back to Condor Barracks and distributed the leaflet again. Some had their names taken by police, but no arrests have been made yet.

The Defend the 14+ Campaign needs as much support as possible. Open Defence Group meetings are held every Friday at 8 pm at 6 Endsleigh Street, London WC1. Please phone 01-837 9794 for details of pickets, etc.

## DISSIDENT TRADES COUNCILLORS EXPELLED

The Greater London Association of Trades Councils (GLATC) expelled three trades councillors at its meeting last Saturday: Mike Knowles (Secretary, Hackney), Gerry McMorrow (Hackney) and Rosemary Sales (Barnet). This follows their expulsion from the GLATC visit to Belfast in July, and their subsequent vigorous campaign in the London labour movement against this.

An emergency resolution condemning the expulsions was passed the following day at the national delegate conference of the Troops Out Movement. It called on trade unionists in the Greater London

area to pass resolutions protesting against the expulsions, and asking trades councils to mandate their GLATC delegates to fight to reverse this decision.

The emergency resolution also called on trade union branches to invite a representative of the three to address a meeting on this issue; and trade union branches and trades councils outside London are being asked to protest about the expulsions to the TUC.

Red Weekly appeals to its readers to support this call. Next week we will carry a full report and analysis of the TOM conference.

# WHAT'S ON

**BENGLI FRIENDS** in Europe and elsewhere, for Bengali books and 'Sran-Dal-Biplab' (Fourth International paper) contact: Bengali, c/o Internationales, Box 3274, 10365 Stockholm, Sweden.

**NEWCASTLE IMG** educational meetings, every Thursday at 8pm in the Bridge Hotel.

**A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE/Free Abortion** on Demand badges available from 97 Caledonian Road, London N1—10p each plus s.a.e., bulk reductions on request.

**'PORTUGAL—Workers' Power or Counter-Revolution'** Workers Fight Readers Meeting, speaker Simon Temple (Vauxhall LPYS), plus PWCC speaker. Sun 19 Oct., 8pm, at the 'George', Liverpool Road, N.1.

**REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST GROUP**, Scottish Regional Day School: Saturday 8 Nov. in Glasgow, 11am—5pm. Sessions on inflation, the crisis and the post-war boom, and the tasks and methods of revolutionaries. For further information and suggested readings, write to RCG, 49 Railton Rd., London SE24.

**CENTRES FOR MARXIST EDUCATION** exist in Leeds, Manchester and elsewhere. Spreading Marxist ideas in the labour movement and on the left is an essential part of the class struggle. CMEs aim to do this on a non-sectarian basis. Sessions and workshops on Basic Marxism, Marxism and Feminism, plus discussions on contemporary issues e.g. Portugal are examples of our activities. If interested contact Tom Steele, 16 Regent Park Terrace, Leeds LS6 2AX.

**ZAIRE TROOPS** out of Angola Picket Thurs 16 Oct., 1—2pm outside Zaire Embassy, 26 Chesham Place, SW1 (off Belgrave Sq.). Organised by ASC.

**MANCHESTER** Trades Council conference on unemployment, Thurs 23 Oct., 7.30pm at AUEW Halls, The Crescent, Salford. Speakers include Frank Allaun MP, Francis Dean (Manchester Trades Council).

**BOLTON IMG** public meeting: 'Unemployment—fight for the right to work'. Speaker: Bob Pennington. Weds 22 Oct., 8pm, Balmoral Pub. Creche provided.

**RUSSIAN REVOLUTION** anniversary social, Friday 7 Nov., 8pm—2am at the West Indian Centre, Manchester. Proceeds to Red Weekly and LCI in Portugal.

**LONDON SOCIALIST FORUM:** 'Women and the Fourth International'. Tues 21 Oct., 7.30pm, in Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq. (Holborn tube).

**WORKING WOMEN'S CHARTER:** Camden Trades Council, together with All-Camden Women's Group, are holding a public meeting Weds 22 Oct., 7.30pm at the Irish Centre, Murray St., NW1. Speakers, theatre group, discussion. All welcome.

**FOR CHEAP** reliable IBM typesetting with fast turnaround phone Steph or Martin, 01-837 9987.

**AFRICA IN STRUGGLE**—new journal by IMG Africa Commission now available price 30p + 8p p&p from Red Books, 97 Caledonian Road, London N.1.

**LONDON** Revolutionary Communist Group public meeting: Chris Davies and Frank Richards on 'The Trade Unions, the Left and the Crisis'. Tues 21 Oct., 7.30pm, Conway Hall (Holborn tube).

**WOMEN AND THE CUTS**—planning meeting for conference on Sat 25 Oct., University of London Union (Room 3B), Malet St., WC1 at 2pm. Anyone interested in helping to draw up guidelines for the conference please attend.

**HULL SOCIALIST FORUM:** 'Labour and the Revolutionary Left'. Fri 17 Oct., 7.30pm at the White Hart, Alfred Gelder Street.

**SCOTTISH NAC** Conference, Saturday 25 Oct., from 9am—5pm at Queen Margaret Union, Glasgow University. Speakers include Dr Berry Beaumont (MPU—ASTMS), Dr Elizabeth Wilson (FPA Glasgow), Angela McHugh (AUEW shop steward) and invited MP. Creche available. Social in evening. For information and registration, contact Geraldine Smyth, 54 Grant Street, Glasgow (041-333 0318).

## VICTORY TO THE CHILEAN RESISTANCE! Homage to Miguel Enríquez

One year ago, on 5 October 1974, Miguel Enríquez, general secretary of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR), an outstanding leader of the Chilean left, was killed in resistance in a suburb of Santiago. In homage to him, and in support of the growing resistance struggle of the Chilean people, a meeting sponsored by West London CSC has been organised.

Speakers include Edgardo Enríquez, former Minister of Education in the Popular Unity government, Neil Kinnock MP, an official MIR speaker and a speaker from the Chile Solidarity Campaign national executive. Music and poetry recital 'Songs to the resistance', including the Chilean group Voices of Yoru, Jack Warshaw and Donald McGuire

Friday 17 October, 7pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, WC1. Tickets 40p on the door.



# FIGHT CUTS IN EDUCATION!

Oversized classes, old buildings, inadequate resources and prime cuts all round. This is the meaning of the Labour Government's 'education' policy for school teachers and children alike. Now a recent government circular (D/E 88/74) aims deliberately to worsen these problems still further. Coming from the Department of the Environment and addressed to Local Authorities, it proposes to freeze expenditure for next year.

With inflation still running at 25 per cent per annum, this represents a savage cut in real terms. The circular also calls for cuts in the number of teachers where the school population is falling, the cutting back of small group teaching, and an end to children starting school in the year they are five.

Up and down the country teachers are facing staff cuts of up to 10 per cent in their schools. Several thousand teachers are already unemployed, with the prediction that between ten and twenty thousand will be unemployed by this time next year. Class sizes are hovering around the 35 mark and rising.

One of the important things militant teachers have to do is to help alert the labour movement to the fact that it is only they who can shape the education system to serve the needs of the working class. The lobby of Parliament against the education cuts on 21 October called by the South-East Region of the TUC can begin to point the finger in this direction. Workers in the Merton (Surrey) bus garage, for example, have asked the Transport and General Workers' Union central bus committee to be represented on 21 October.

## CAVALCADE

And last Saturday 120 delegates at a Conference organised by Brent Trades Council, not only decided to back the 21 October action, but support a local motor cavalcade on 18 October organised by the Trades Council and teachers' organisations against the educational cuts.

Militant teachers must also campaign for trade union action to implement the resolution on education calling for no cuts which was passed at the TUC Conference. In Liverpool, where a joint trade union delegate committee exists to coordinate education, public sector

and industrial unions in action against the cuts, a propaganda campaign, a week of action, and a picket and demonstration are being discussed.

Unfortunately, militant teachers are far from united on the key issues facing them. On 18 October the International Socialist-dominated 'Rank & File' group in the National Union of Teachers will be holding a national conference. But instead of discussing how to build a class-wide alliance against the cuts in education, it seems likely to spend most of its time in exhaustive discussion on the situation inside individual delegates' schools, cataloguing local tactics and making links with IS-dominated 'Rank & File' groups in other unions.

## CRITICISM

It is this sort of criticism of Rank & File — once the dominant force on the far left inside the NUT — which has led to the reconvening of the Socialist Teachers Conference in London on 25/26 October. And despite the fact that teacher members of the International Marxist Group will be raising the arguments put forward here at the Rank & File conference, it is to the Socialist Teachers Conference that militant teachers must look for the beginnings of a class-wide response to the crisis in education.

Nigel Seel (Maghull Teachers Association)

## SOCIALIST TEACHERS 2nd CONFERENCE

10.30am, 25-26 October  
Saturday: Argyle School, Tonbridge St., WC1 (opp. Kings X station)  
Sunday: Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq. Creche, accommodation provided. Fee for two days: £1. For more information, contact B. Regan, 24 St Agnes Close, London E9 (01-986 0570).

# MCAPP SHOWS THE WAY!



GEORGE HARRIS, T&GWU 1/667 branch, Ford's Dagenham

'If I was to go to my branch or my shop stewards committee and give them the four demands put to this Conference as a basis for a stoppage in the public services, they would see that these demands must automatically be taken up in any part of industry that has come under the attacks of the Labour Government.'

'In the four years we have been trying to get something done about the hospitals, we went round the flats and the maisonettes of the East End of London. We never got any real support. This was because we had nothing to give them.'

'But I bet if we went round putting leaflets in their letter-boxes saying we are asking for these demands we would get support. If we offer them something concrete that hospital workers can take action on, then this will get support from the rest of the community.'

## ISLAY FULLERTON, Wandsworth NUT

'Until we have free abortion on demand, on the NHS, until we have full and well planned contraception facilities, women will not be able to play a full role either in organising their own lives, or in making their full contribution for improved health conditions and better living standards for the whole of the working class.'

The MCAPP Conference on 11 October showed the determination of growing sections of the labour movement to fight back against Labour's attacks on the NHS.

The resolution — passed with no votes against — offers a programme around which a fight back can be made and at the same time mapped out practical ways that the workers' movement can fight for that programme.

Conference correctly rejected the amendments from the East London IS Health Workers Branch, which would have deleted the demands for the opening of the books, a sliding scale of expenditure, and the call for a workers' enquiry. These amendments got less than 20 votes.

## Transform

The delegates understood that the fight to defend and transform the NHS is a matter of concern to all the working class. Its future cannot be decided by some 'neutral' Royal Commission but has to be determined by the workers' movement. The fight for the opening of the books and the struggle to win a sliding scale of wages and social expenditure are inseparably linked to the battle against Labour's attacks.

The acceptance of these demands also takes forward the fight for workers' control inside the labour movement. Unless the working class decide themselves on the allocation of resources, and control those resources and staffing levels,

the resistance to the Government's attacks will remain purely defensive and localised.

One of the amendments from the Oxford Health Service 783 Branch of ASTMS, which was accepted correctly explains that the £1,000 million that the resolution demands should be injected into the NHS 'should be under the supervision and control of the workers' committees.'

By coming out clearly for a sliding scale of public expenditure, for a complete ban on all private practice inside and outside the NHS, for the nationalisation of the drugs industry under workers' control, and for a workers' enquiry, the MCAPP Conference did more than offer a programme around the NHS. It showed the way that workers' unity can be established on a series of fighting demands.

The MCAPP Conference was important in that it showed the course the workers' movement must chart to counter the attacks of the Wilson Government. Militants from different organisations — often with different political ideas — are fighting against capitalism's attacks on a series of different issues. The fight on the Shrewsbury pickets, against Government betrayals on Chile, against unemployment, and for abortion on demand, have already involved

# £15,000

The International Marxist Group is an organisation dedicated to the overthrow of capitalism. It is engaged in permanent struggle against the ruling class, and its members devote their time, energy and resources to the socialist revolution.

But the revolutionary work of the IMG takes money and resources. We have no rich backers or sympathetic capitalists to finance us. All we have is the revolutionary internationalism and commitment of our members.

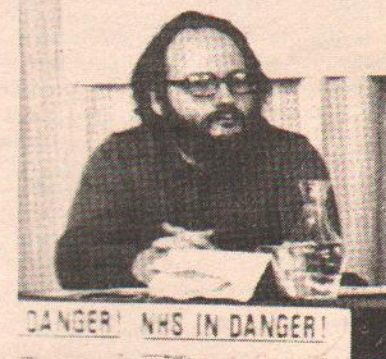
If you support our aims, if you agree with our struggle, then you can help us to meet the needs of the international class struggle by donating money. We need £15,000 to:

BUILD A 16-PAGE RED WEEKLY		ESTABLISH A SCOTTISH CENTRE		DEVELOP THE NATIONAL CENTRE	
	£		£		£
Extra editorial staff	3,600	Office rent, rates and repairs	800	Additional campaign organisers plus technical back-up	4,500
Re-equipment of darkroom	700	Office equipment	500	Expansion of publications	1,500
Design aids and materials	300	Printing machine	100	Office equipment	1,000
Establishment of research library	400	Initial full-timer's expenses	600	Area organisers' expenses	1,000
	<u>5,000</u>		<u>2,000</u>		<u>8,000</u>

We are not afraid to say that we want your money for these resources. To run an effective political organisation costs money — big money. We need your donations for these items, as much as you can give.

Even if you cannot afford to send money but would like to help us build the IMG, then make something for us to sell or raffle; donate an item or unwanted gift. Everything helps, and no gift will be refused.

All contributions should be sent to: IMG Fund Drive, 97 Caledonian Road, London N.1. Cheques/POs should be made payable to 'The Week'.



PAUL STERN, MCAPP Secretary

'The purpose of today's Conference is to formulate a workers' plan to rescue the health service. But it also has to transform it from a health service that has suffered from the chronic ailments of underfinancing and understaffing, and turn it into one that can meet the needs of workers. This means an NHS under workers' control, responsible to the needs of the working class.'

## BROAD COMMITTEE ELECTED

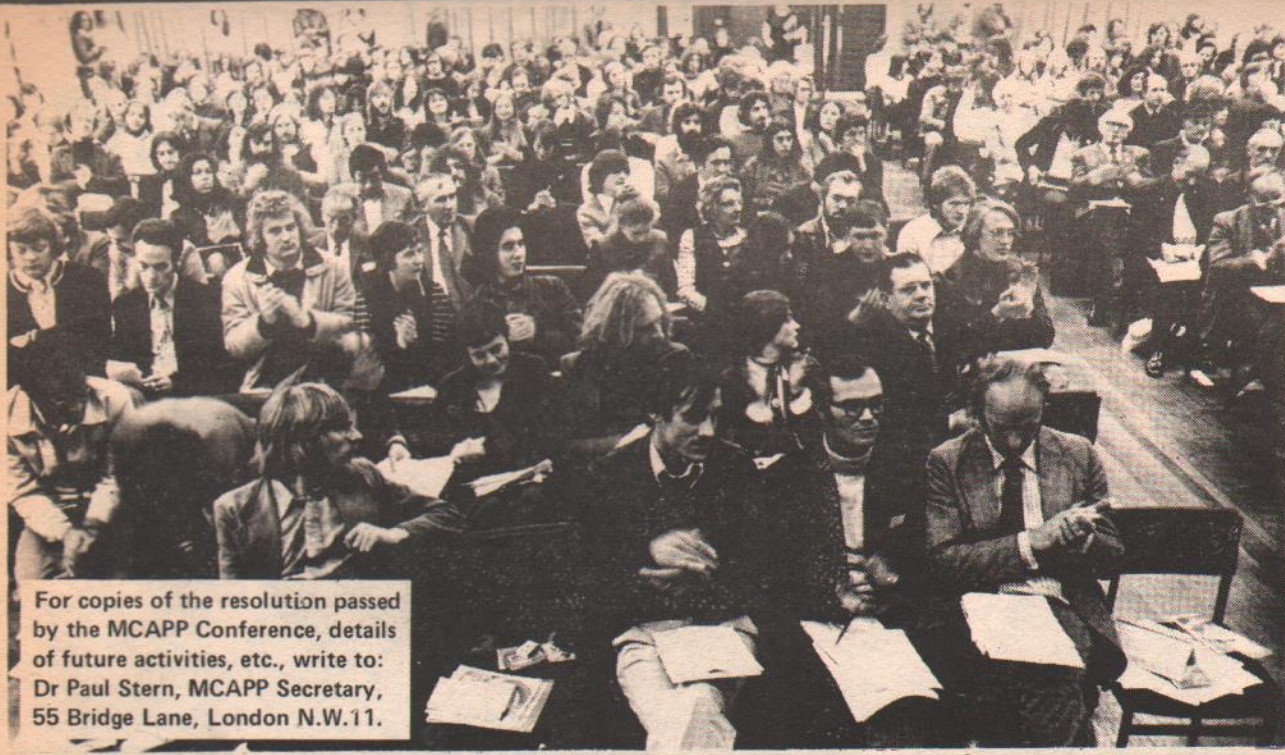
The Co-ordinating committee elected by the 395 delegates is made up of the following:

Jack Collins (NUM National Executive member); Ernie Roberts, (Assistant General Secretary, AUEW); Brian Nicholson (T&GWU National Executive member); Jim Jackson (East London Action Committee); Ron Pearson (NUPE, United Portsmouth Hospitals); Steve Johnson (NALGO, Health Services Officer); Sue Lister (ASTMS, Oxford); Steve Ludlam (NUPE, London); Ian Thackeray (Chairman, Joint Shop Stewards Committee, Laycocks Engineering in Sheffield); Jo Richardson MP (Secretary, Tribune Group); Jack Sutton (NUPE, Manchester Hospitals); Janet Maguire, Paul Stern, Peter Amlott, Mike Silver, Colin Smith, Dominic Costa (ivCAPP); T. Waterhouse (NALGO, National Executive); Sylvia Prentice (NALGO); Ray Perry, Dawn Judd (COHSE, Cardiff); Caroline McCartney (COHSE, Norfolk); Bill Starks (COHSE, Bristol).

Representatives are also being elected from the NUM South Wales Area, Bristol Hospitals, the Institute of Workers' Control, Hull Portworkers' Shop Stewards Committee, T&GWU Rover Solihull, London Branches of NATSOPA, East London National Union of Teachers, the Socialist Medical Association and Swansea Morrison Hospital.

The members of union national executives are on the Committee in a personal capacity with the exception of NALGO, who have already decided to be officially represented. In moving the election of the Committee, MCAPP organiser Janet Maguire stressed that members of the Committee should attempt to get ratification from their respective organisations.





For copies of the resolution passed by the MCAPP Conference, details of future activities, etc., write to: Dr Paul Stern, MCAPP Secretary, 55 Bridge Lane, London N.W.11.

# BIG ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCE

The MCAPP Conference gave a big shot in the arm to the fight against the cuts in the National Health Service. It was certainly the biggest and most representative gathering from the broad labour movement held on this issue for many years.

There were 395 elected delegates, as well as 143 observers. The Conference Arrangements Committee inform us that of the 395 delegates, 178 came from trade union branches, 19 from trade union area and district committees, 38 from trades councils, 36 from Labour Parties, 27 from shop stewards committees, four from the Socialist Medical Association, 26 from National Abortion

Campaign groups, 10 from National Union of Students Health Sections, three from the Institute for Workers Control, one from the Cooperative Party, 27 from various local action committees, 11 from political organisations—the Communist Party, International Socialists, IMG, etc.—six from Working Women's Charter groups, and nine others.

Speakers at the Conference included Audrey Wise MP, Dr Dominic Costa (MCAPP), and Dr Paul Stern (MCAPP secretary). The morning session was chaired by Kent miner and NUM executive member Jack Collins. The afternoon session was chaired by Ernie Roberts, Assistant General Secretary of the AUEW.

many people. But united action has to be forged not just on individual questions but on all the central issues of the day. Until now, attempts to do this have come mainly from the bureaucratically controlled LCDTU or the organisationally sectarian Rank-and-File movement, or through the attempts of the IWC to rally in defence of Labour's Manifesto. MCAPP showed another way forward. It put forward demands which can meet the needs of the working class. It brought together Labour Party and Communist Party militants, as well as militants from the revolutionary left and independents. It was organised in a democratic manner — every point of view was heard.

## Components

Now the need is to extend such an organisation to every central question. MCAPP must be part of that process — it can be one of the components which go together to form a mighty class struggle left wing inside the labour movement.

There was such an organisation in the 1920s when the Minority Movement and the National Left Wing Movement were built. By its Conference and activities, MCAPP has shown that the need for such movements is even more urgent today.

Bob Pennington



**STEVE JOHNSON, NALGO Official**  
'I applaud the activities of the people in MCAPP, who have helped to change the policies of unions like ASTMS and who played their part at the Labour Conference in changing policies, so that NALGO no longer stands alone in the unions opposing private practice — inside and outside the NHS.'

## 'WORKING CLASS UNITY NEEDED'

— says Conference spokesperson.

'One in every hundred people in Britain in 1974 were on hospital waiting lists — that is more than in 1949, when the National Health Service was introduced. Seventy-five per cent of all beds are in hospitals built before 1918.'

These were the opening remarks of Dr Dominic Costa, speaking on behalf of The Medical Committee Against Private Practice at last Saturday's Conference. He explained that the plans of Harold Wilson, Denis Healey and Barbara Castle would not only perpetuate this situation — 'their policies would worsen it'.

He pointed out: 'Only 20 days ago, Camden and Islington Area Health Authority wrote that "funds expected over the next ten years would only be between one half to one third of what was needed, and whole London hospitals would have

to close because of Government restrictions on spending.' At the other end of London, the Regional and Area Health Authorities have produced a plan which means they are going to close down four hospitals without building any new ones.'

But closures are not just confined to London, he told the Conference. He quoted the Chairman of the West Midlands Regional Health Authority: 'Closures of hospitals and clinics are all bound to come.'

Dr Costa went on: 'During the nurses' strike, COHSE... calculated that the health service was 80,000 nurses short. But only four months ago the South Glamorgan Area Health

Authority made its whole intake of 50 newly qualified nurses redundant. In Portsmouth a whole intake of 60 nurses has been made redundant — this in a city with a chronic shortage of nurses in the hospitals.'

'As you can see, the cuts are continuing. In fact they are being spearheaded by the Wilson/Healey leadership, who are subordinating the needs of the NHS and its working class patients to an ailing and bankrupt capitalist system. The health service under the Labour Government is going down the drain, and the luxurious private clinics are going up all the time.....the Labour Government is pulling down the NHS brick by brick.'

He stressed that 'we cannot rely on the Labour Government and the Labour Party alone to stop the cutbacks', and emphasised 'the need for a united political campaign of the whole workers' movement — inside and outside the Labour Party, inside and outside Parliament. This is needed to roll back the attacks and transform the NHS so that it is responsible to and controlled by the working class.'

In his concluding remarks, Dr Costa said that MCAPP would be proposing a national demonstration against the cuts. It would be organising local conferences and trying to build local actions against the run-down of the NHS. It would fight for a workers' enquiry run by the labour movement. Above all else, it would 'campaign for maximum working class unity to achieve its aims'.

## JUNIOR DOCTOR SPEAKS

What is the junior doctors' dispute about?

The dispute is around improved working conditions and improved pay in relation to overtime working. At the moment you have to work 80 hours a week before you can claim an extra-duty allowance, and this depends on the consultant signing an authorisation for the claim. Technically the finance department can refuse to pay it out, and there are several surgeons in Sheffield who will not sign duty claims.

The new contract proposed by Barbara Castle, while it reduces the basic working week to 40 hours, offers only 30 per cent of the basic hourly rate for overtime, and only 10 per cent for 'on call' duty. We are demanding that overtime should be paid at not less than the basic hourly rate.

What do you think junior hospital doctors should be doing?

The junior hospital doctors must be clear of the implications of their fight. The demands they are raising for realistic overtime payments will infringe on the Government's £6 pay policy. The junior hospital doctors' negotiators realise this, and that is why they have accepted Castle's proposals.

If we are to fight the Government, we have to be clear on the demands we are raising and the way in which we organise the struggle. We should be demanding: (a) recognition of the 40-hour week; (b) realistic rates for working in excess of the 40 hour week; (c) the

creation of extra posts for doctors to relieve the existing workload; (d) a workers' enquiry to determine the number of doctors necessary to give the patients adequate treatment.

It is no use junior hospital doctors going on strike if the only people this will affect are the patients, who are already suffering from a declining service. We need to set up action committees and campaign inside the labour movement for support for our demands. The resolution passed at the MCAPP conference spelt this out clearly.

**DES BELL, AUEW Shop Steward,**

James Neill Engineering, Sheffield  
'This resolution states it is a programme for struggle. That is what it is — struggle against the cuts, struggle for the protection of the NHS against inflation, struggle for the immediate injection of funds into the NHS, struggle for solidarity with the health workers' fight. It also says what is to be done, and how it is to be done — it does not quite say when it is to be done.'

'I would like to add a little bit if I may. Time may be very precious. Because if the present Government continues its policies then it may well be a Tory Government we are fighting against.'

'On time scale we should be deciding now about another national conference and regional local conferences, and we ought to be doing this through the official labour movement.'



**JACK COLLINS NUM**

'Public spending is being slashed by millions. Nurses are being thrown on the dole because of hospital cuts. At the same time there are over 1½ million people unemployed. They could be set to work building hospitals, schools, etc.'

**AUDREY WISE, Labour MP**

'The Labour Party candidates at the last election condemned Tory cuts in public expenditure, specifically in the health service. I therefore have every right to be here speaking against cuts in public expenditure, especially if they happen to be done by a Labour Government.'

'But how is this money to be used? I'll give you an example. Workers at Lucas Aerospace agree there should be defence cuts instead, but rather than going on the dole they say they should be transferred to other projects such as production of kidney machines and other medical equipment. I think this provides a real basis for forging links between health workers and such workers in industry.'

Photo: CHRIS DAVIES (Report)



**JANET MAGUIRE, MCAPP Organizer**

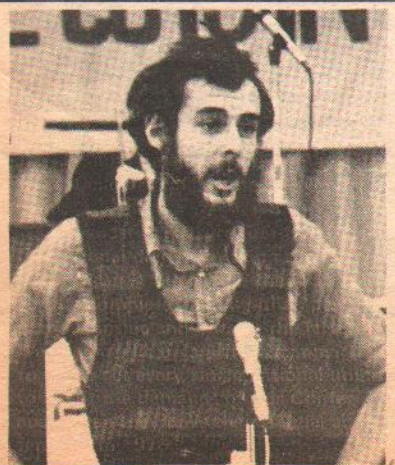
'After this Conference we will be organising a series of local conferences and meetings. The aim is to set up broad based action committees which have the support of significant sections of health-workers and other sections of the labour movement.'

'The National Co-ordinating Committee has widened the basis of MCAPP and will allow us to extend the campaign into wider sections of the labour movement.'

'Delegates should ensure that they

get the demands adopted by the Conference accepted by their organisations. Those elected to the Co-ordinating Committee should make sure that they get the official backing of their organisations.'

'We must make sure that there is a big national demonstration called in the Spring against the cuts in the NHS and for the complete banning of all private practice inside and outside the NHS. We will also be organising a campaign to try to get every single national union to adopt the demands of this Conference when they have their annual conferences in 1976.'



**STEVE LUDLAM, East London IS Hospital Workers**

He moved a series of unsuccessful amendments to the MCAPP resolution to delete the demands for a workers enquiry, the opening of the books, and the call for a sliding scale.

**SUE LISTER, Oxford ASTMS**

'In Oxford we found the only way was to fight for the opening of the books. We did not do this for management to prove that they are broke, but as part of a struggle to supervise and control the development of resources to satisfy the health requirements of workers.'





## COWLEY: OPEN THE BOOKS!

With up to 30,000 British Leyland car workers facing the chop, and BL convenors still refusing to break the secrecy surrounding the negotiations on Ryder's participation proposals, the Cowley plant at Oxford is once again taking the brunt of management attacks. Eleven hundred manual and 300 staff jobs are to be axed by Christmas.

This savage new attack on jobs, manning agreements and working conditions has been accompanied by a propaganda campaign designed to 'prove' to the unions and workers that the cut-backs are 'necessary to ensure the Company's survival'. In addition to the usual tactic of sending individual letters to every worker's home, the management has taken the unusual step of inviting the senior stewards from the Assembly Plant to inspect the factory's 'budget'.

What management are offering with their factory 'budget' is a series of cooked-up and one-sided statistics aimed at winning the senior stewards' rubber stamp of approval for Leyland's job-cutting plans. But the JSSC will have none of it. As soon as the job cuts were announced last week, the 'Open the Books' committee was instructed to draw up a report on the Company's statement so that the members would be armed against the sort of propaganda used to con workers into accepting redundancies and speed-up.

### COMMITTEE

The committee met, and its report included a devastating exposure of the way the Company's statement had rigged figures for sales levels and the run-down of the labour force to try and 'prove' the case for the proposed cuts. The report provided the workers with a detailed breakdown of how the cuts were going to be implemented - information the Company had hoped to keep secret, since it brought home to workers just what the real impact of the voluntary redundancies on manning levels would be.

The stewards also decided that when the factory budget was revealed to the

senior stewards, the 'Open the Books' committee should be in attendance, so that they could draw up a further report with a *critical* assessment of the information provided - and even more important, of the information *not* provided - by the exercise. Sensing correctly that the subjection of their figures to the critical examination of a body answerable to the stewards would be likely to upset their schemes to recruit the senior stewards' collaboration in their plans, the Company refused to admit the 'Open the Books' committee to the meeting, which was therefore called off.

### DIFFERENCE

This episode proves that a world of difference exists between the workers' demand for the opening of the books, *in order to obtain vital information on which to plan a strategy of resistance to the bosses' attacks*, and the sort of 'communications exercise' which the employers are now engaging in as part of the implementation of the Ryder Report.

This is the danger involved in the acceptance by the BL convenors of the Ryder plan for 'participation committees'.

It is not just management that is now being fought for information - the BL convenors have consistently maintained the secrecy over the negotiations on the Ryder 'participation committees'. The trade union participants on the Ryder Committee - such as Harry Urwin of the T&GWU - have equally failed to reveal the secret sections of the Report to BL workers. On top of all this, the Department of Industry - under Benn as well as Varley - has refused to disclose to the workers the details of the secret sections of the Ryder Report.

The demand for the opening of the books at Cowley is an important step to breaking up Ryder's plans for class-collaboration in mass sackings. By fighting for all details of the Company's operation at all levels to be open to inspection by the elected representatives of the workers, a strategy to defend jobs from Company and Government attacks can be planned.

Cowley IMG

## NO MONEY, NO PAPER!

Last week we reported a good start to our Fund Drive: £140.61p in a week. At that rate all our troubles would soon be over. But this week showed that they are still very much with us. With £359.39 needed before the end of the month, only £49.63 came in - made up of small donations from North London, South West London and Oxford IMG and various individuals.

We now need £155 a week for the next two weeks. Over the summer extra bills have accumulated which just cannot be cleared unless we get £500 a month. On top of that postal and telephone charges have gone up. No money - no paper.

So has your branch sent in money this month? Can you afford another couple of pounds? Donations, however small, soon total up. So please, readers, get in your donations now to: 182 Pentonville Road, London N.1.

# ALFRED HERBERT LABOUR THROWS 1200 ON DOLE



Some of the Herbert workers facing the sack - pictured at a mass meeting last Friday

'This has come as a complete surprise', bleated Mr Frank Chater, divisional organiser of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, after the announcement last week of 1,200 redundancies at Alfred Herbert, the Coventry machine-tool company. But the Herbert redundancies, half of which will come from the Edgewick and Red Lane factories in Coventry, should have come as no surprise to anyone.

Earlier this year, when the Government announced £25 million as assistance for Herbert, it called for the firm to draw up proposals for returning the firm to profitability. The redundancies are the firm's answer to the Government's request. Instead of complaining now about being surprised, the local trade union bureaucracy should have started campaigning then for the opening of the company's books, in order to be able to monitor and resist any attempts to cut the workforce.

Nine hundred of the redundancies

Coventry is now a jobs disaster area. Latest jobless figures show over 17,000 unemployed compared with just over 8,000 a year ago. At 7.1 per cent, Coventry has the highest unemployment rate in the Midlands.

This year a wave of redundancies from British Leyland and many motor component factories has swelled the dole queues. The Government-sponsored Ryder Report on British Leyland has acted as a cover for massive redundancies and speed-up. In recent weeks new redundancies have been threatened: - GEC, the biggest private employer in Coventry, wants to axe over a thousand jobs, completely closing one of their Coventry tele-communications factories, after Government inspired cancellation of GPO contracts.

- In the machine tools sector, alongside the redundancies at Alfred Herbert, Wickman's has threatened a number of white-collar staff cuts.

- The same thing is happening in the public sector, where Wilson's policies are forcing massive cuts in jobs and services. With unemployment already at 1½ times the national average, opposition to unemployment is mounting. Local authority manual workers have organised stoppages and led militant demonstrations to the Council House. A mass meeting of these workers in the summer adopted a policy of opposition to all cuts and redundancies and for a sliding scale of wages to defend living standards against inflation.

In the face of similar pressure from the factories, even the right-wing leadership of the local Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions is beginning to discuss a policy to resist unemployment in the area. What is urgently required is a co-ordinated campaign by the local labour movement to develop a common jobs policy against unemployment which can be fought for by all sections of the working class in the area.

are going to come from 'indirect' workers and staff, and it is the staff side that has made the first response. Last Saturday a meeting called by the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs at Alfred Herbert's was attended by representatives from white-collar unions from most of the company's sites.

Faced with the urgent task of preparing a policy to defend jobs and conditions, members of the International Marxist Group advanced the following proposals at the meeting to fight the redundancies:

1 To seek the support of all unions within the company and the Coventry area; as a first step towards this, to lobby the 14 October meeting of the local Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions which is formulating its policy on unemployment;

2 Any attempt to cut jobs to be met by immediate occupation of the factories in order to control the movement of company assets;

3 To set up an elected workers' committee, with representatives from the staff and the shop floor, with unrestricted access to all company information, stocks, orders, investment plans and so on. In this way plans can be prepared for the complete nationalisation of Herbert and the rest of the machine tool industry;

4 To guarantee continued production and full employment, a system of work-sharing with no loss of pay under the control of an elected workers' committee to be set up at once.

5 No compensation to be paid to the major shareholders, and to press for the nationalisation of the banks and finance houses to ensure that funds will be available to maintain production.

Saturday's meeting voted to stop movement of all sub-contract work, technical information and machines out of the Herbert factories. It adopted the proposal to lobby the next meeting of the CSEU, an action canvassed by IMG militants in various unions throughout the city, to seek support for the fight for the right to work. It also voted to elect a com-

mittee with nine representatives from three union sites.

This committee has been instructed to approach the shop floor unions and call a mass meeting of all Herbert workers, and distribute a leaflet at the Herbert factories supporting the 14 October lobby of the CSEU. It will also be drawing up proposals for a common levy on the membership to build funds for the struggle.

Of great importance in the Herbert's struggle is the demand that local left MPs like Audrey Wise give full support to the workers' struggles. In this way a fight can be launched against the unemployment policies of the Labour Government which deliberately called for the redundancies at Herbert's in the first place.

by John Mitchell

## Support Grows For Nov. 26 Lobby

Support is mounting for the 26 November lobby of Parliament to demand the right to work.

\* Last weekend 120 delegates at a conference organised by BRENT Trades Council voted for a half day strike to support the lobby.

\* In LIVERPOOL, 250 delegates at a Trades Council conference gave unanimous support to the lobby and took up the offer of the North West Region of UCATT, the building workers' union, to sponsor a special train.

\* Another special train will be coming from MANCHESTER. The District Committee of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers has endorsed the recommendation of the shop stewards quarterly to support the lobby; and the Bury district secretary of the AUEW has written to all convenors, stewards and branch secretaries asking them to arrange special factory collections to finance delegates on the special train.

\* The 250,000 strong LONDON No. 8 District of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions is also supporting the lobby.

\* The YORKSHIRE regional council of the TUC and the COVENTRY branch of the sheet metal workers union will also be there.



NAME..... SUBSCRIPTION RATES  
ADDRESS..... DOMESTIC: £6 per year  
£3 for six months  
FOREIGN: £9 per year surface mail  
£12 per year airmail

Write to RED WEEKLY (distribution), 182 Pentonville Road, London N.1.