

# **MOSLEY RELEASE—A Challenge to Workers!**

## **Labour Must Answer by TAKING POWER!**

**T**HE release of Oswald Mosley has precipitated the biggest crisis since the Churchill government came to power.. The "News Chronicle" reports that within a few days, 5,000,000 signatures were appended to a petition to keep Mosley inside. From every factory in the country resolutions of protest have been sent to the Government, meetings of protest have taken place and the workers have registered their opposition to the release of the man who personifies, for them, all the foul and brutal acts committed in the name of fascism.

Cynically disregarding the wishes of the overwhelming majority of the organised workers, and even of the people as a whole, they opened the gates of Holloway jail and allowed Mosley to drive away to freedom and luxury.

### **CLASS INFLUENCE RELEASED MOSLEY**

Since the first days of Mosley's imprisonment his friends have been trying to secure his release. Wealthy, aristocratic, influential friends; men who have powerful controlling influence in industry; in parliament; and in particular the Tory party machine. Mosley is a millionaire and has wide family ties with sections of the ruling circles. His wife, a daughter of the notoriously anti-Labour Lord Redesdale, has also extensive family ties with influential capitalist circles. She is connected by marriage to the dictator of AMGOT, Lord Rennel of Rodd, also a notorious hater of Labour. The fact that these families were personally friendly with Hitler arose from their common bond of hatred for the working class.

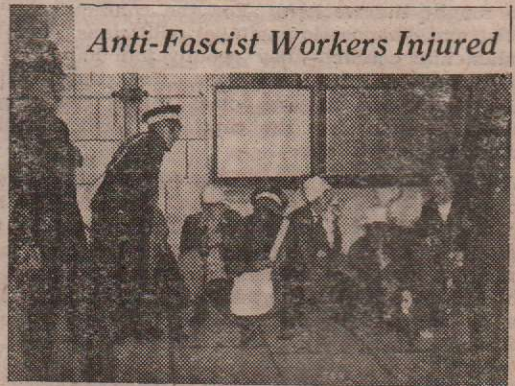
Apart from his influential family ties, Mosley has political and class ties with the political bosses of Britain. The case of Captain Ramsay, Tory M.P. for Peebles, lifted a small corner of the dark veil which covered the widespread Tory tie-up with Hitler. It is alleged that Ramsay's "little Red Book" was so filled with the names of the leading Lords, Tory

By this single act the Government has shattered its loudly blazoned lie that it is an "anti-Fascist Government" fighting an "anti-Fascist War."

What is the excuse upon which Morrison frees Mosley? Phlebitis. A high sounding name, covering an ailment suffered by thousands of working men and women who are still forced to carry on their daily toil. Let any worker seek to free himself from factory work on the same excuse: the National Service Officer can be guaranteed to bring medical evidence to bear witness that the worker is still fit to work. That Mosley has phlebitis may be true, but that it is sufficient reason, or better still the real reason for his release, is clearly a lie.

Thousands of workers have given their lives in the "fight against fascism," thousands more will be called upon to make the supreme sacrifice before the end of the war. But whilst this is taking place the Tory, capitalist government frees Mosley, the would-be fascist dictator of Britain, to pick up his old contacts and plot with his friends against organised labour. No-one believes that the limitations which Morrison has placed on his activities, will end his fascist plotting.

#### *Anti-Fascist Workers Injured*



Anti-fascist workers with their heads split open by the police, who, under Lord Trenchard, PROTECTED the fascists and fought the workers. — London, 1937.

politicians, and industrialists of Britain, who were supporters of Hitler's politics, that the Government were afraid to publish its contents lest there be a wide-spread movement of the masses to sweep these would-be fascists into the sea. It is these people who have secured the release of Mosley. First, they quietly secured the release of his lieutenants, and now they have finally managed to free Mosley himself.

### MOSLEY GROOMED AS BRITISH HITLER

Before the beginning of the war, the capitalist class—at least its heavy industrial wing—were grooming Mosley as the British Hitler. Huge subsidies were poured into his organisation of thugs by the steel and coal combines, the arms kings and other controllers of heavy industry. The capitalist government of the day protected his blackshirted storm troops in their reactionary anti-working class activities. Close police protection was given to his thugs in all parts of the country. Workers everywhere will remember that it was not the blackshirts whom the police clubbed in the streets of Britain, it was the thousands of anti-fascist workers, demonstrating in opposition to the fascists. Just as in Italy and in Germany before fascism finally came to power, so the "democratic" government of the day used its police apparatus to defend the blackshirts and save them from being smashed and destroyed by the might of organised labour.

### WORKERS FOUGHT FASCISTS

Thousands of police were specially drafted into London to protect Mosley during his provocative East End marches. In 1936, the police savagely fought the protesting workers for hours in an attempt to cleave a path through the workers for Mosley and his thugs. It was only the erection of barricades in Cable Street that finally persuaded the reactionary Chief of Police, Lord Trenchard, that it would take an army to get Mosley through and that forced him to call the demonstration off. That was a class victory for the workers. It was a demonstration of the mighty strength of our class which, when once released, can sweep everything before it.

So it was at Long Lane in 1937. The workers fought Mosley's thugs, and the police—at the instructions of the Government—protected the fascists and fought the workers. For the conflict between fascist and democratic capitalist politicians is not a fundamental conflict—they readily join hands in a class front against the workers. Only the working class relying on its own class forces can smash fascism by smashing the capitalist system which fathers fascism.

When Mosley was imprisoned in 1940, it was not because the Government was anti-fascist, but because he was of no more practical use to the capitalist class at that stage and had even become dangerous to their international interests by his pro-Hitler, quisling orientation. At the same time they had to give the appearance of anti-fascist concessions to the workers.

### GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBILITY

His release at the present time has aroused the masses as no single political act has done since the

outbreak of the war. All the more necessary is it therefore to see what lies behind this act of provocation so that Labour can draw the class lessons and take the blinkers off its eyes.

Morrison has made the statement in parliament that he is personally responsible for the release of Mosley. This is a measure of his alienation from the working class. It has made Morrison personally odious to the mass of the workers. But Morrison's statement has clearly been made to act as a shield for the people on whom responsibility for this action must rest. It is Churchill and the Government who are primarily responsible. It is obvious that Morrison would never have acted on his own initiative on a question of this sort. It must have been a cabinet decision.

By freeing Mosley and placing the responsibility on to the shoulders of Morrison, the Tories have delivered a shrewd blow at labour and in the interests of capitalism. Since the beginning of the coalition the Labour representatives in the Government have been captives of the Tory machine—willing captives it is true—who were given the most reactionary and unpopular of tasks. Morrison and Bevin have consistently allowed themselves to be used against the workers, whom they claim to represent, and have operated anti-working class legislation which no Tory minister could possibly have been able to carry out.

### WORKERS QUESTION CHARACTER OF GOVERNMENT

As the balance of war weighs heavily against Hitler and in favour of the "Allies" the workers begin openly to question the policy of the ruling class and its government.

In colonial policy the workers have witnessed the brutal suppression of the popular Indian movement for national and cultural freedom, they have seen 60 or 70 thousand of the democratic leaders of the Indian people ruthlessly thrust in jail, not a single one of whom has been released because he suffered from "phlebitis" or any other medical reason. More recently, despite the attempts on the part of the Government to suppress the news, the workers have read of the terrible famine in India, which ravages the people and is the result of British imperialist misrule.

In North Africa the workers saw the governments of the "democrats" make an agreement with the butcher fascist Darlan, with monarchist anti-labour Giraud, and with semi-fascist de Gaulle.

In Italy they saw that the Government did not turn to the popular anti-fascist masses for allies but to the ex-fascist King, to pro-fascist Badoglio and to the reactionary military quisling clique who kept Mussolini in power and only turned against him when he was toppled by the people. They have seen AMGOT, controlled by a relative of Mosley, keep most of the old machinery of suppression which the fascists used against the workers, intact, whilst giving no real freedom to the popular masses and revolutionary socialists to carry out their democratic wishes.

At home the workers have seen the capitalists piling up the biggest profits in history whilst their wages have been pegged at the lowest possible level: they have seen the meagre Beveridge Plan for social

security chiseled and shelved; they have seen the workmen's compensation Bill guarantee them the life of a pauper if they are injured or have their health impaired in the course of their work; they have seen every progressive step to lighten the conditions of the workers combatted tooth and nail by the Tories and feel only too well that it will be the same old boss controlled Britain with its endless unemployment queues and dole, its overcrowding and poverty amidst plenty that will continue whilst the present gang remains in power. The release of Mosley has brought all these fears of the workers out into the open. It has crystallised all the suspicions of the workers that the Tory coalition is hostile to labour.

On every front the actions of the ruling class have belied their claim to be fighting fascism. They have shown by their every act that they are not motivated by democratic ideals but by imperialist desires and greed.

### CHURCHILL NO ANTI-FASCIST

Before the outbreak of the war the present Tory leaders in the Government praised both Hitler and Mussolini. Right up to the last moment they tried to reach an agreement with Hitler and Mussolini



Barricade erected in Long Lane in 1937 by Trotskyists from the Paddington Labour League of Youth and the Stalinists from the Bethnal Green Y.C.L.

against the Soviet Union. If they fight them now it is not because they oppose their fascist ideology but because they challenge their imperialist designs.

Fresh from his efforts in brutally suppressing the General Strike in 1926, Churchill made a very laudatory speech about Mussolini when he was in Rome on January 20th, 1927. This is a report of what Churchill had to say:

"I could not help being charmed, like so many other people have been, by Signor Mussolini's gentle and simple bearing and by his calm, detached poise in spite of so many burdens and dangers. Secondly, anyone could see that he thought of nothing but the lasting good, as he understood it, of the Italian people, and that no lesser interest was of the slightest consequence to him. If I had been an Italian

I am sure that I should have been wholeheartedly with you from the start to finish in your triumphant struggle against the bestial appetites and passions of Leninism. I will, however, say a word on an international aspect of Fascism. Externally your movement has rendered service to the whole world. The great fear which has always beset every democratic leader or a working class leader has been that of being undermined or overbid by someone more extreme than he. Italy has shown that there is a way of fighting the subversive forces which can rally the masses of the people, properly led, to value and wish to defend the honour and stability of civilised society. She has provided the necessary antidote to the Russian poison. Hereafter no great nation will be unprovided with an ultimate means of protection against the cancerous growth of Bolshevism."

That is how Churchill looked at Fascism then; that is undoubtedly how he looks at it now. Whilst Mussolini was brutally crushing the working class and slaughtering its leaders, he had Churchill's blessing. So also did he have the blessing of all the present-day leaders of the capitalist class. Only when Mussolini tried to build an Empire at the expense of British imperialism, did they take up arms and fight out of sheer capitalist greed. If the issue of fascism or socialism is posed in Britain on the morrow, Churchill himself has stated that he would rather see fascism established than see the working class in power. If this is true of Churchill, it is true of the other capitalist politicians.

The release of Mosley has stripped the Government of all pretence of being an anti-fascist Government. All the lies and deceit with which it has held the workers in check are exposed. The workers see the class connection between the Tories and the Fascists

### WHY LABOUR LEADERS OPPOSE MORRISON

The roar of protest from the working class has shaken the trade union and labour leaders from their placid existence and aroused a panic among the bureaucrats at Transport House. Their hasty repudiation of Morrison's act is a register of their fear of the rank and file. But the main concern of these miserable hacks is not to show the working class that there is no fundamental class difference between the Tories and the Fascists and that only the working class can smash fascism once and for all. It is not to call upon the working class to break with the pro-fascist Tories and place Labour in Power so that real steps against the fascists can be carried out. It is to whiningly call upon the Tories not to expose the racket so blatantly and make it more difficult to keep the workers in check. "How can we get the miners to dig more coal at starvation wages under anti-fascist slogans" they say in effect "whilst you are releasing British fascist No. 1, whom the miners have had to fight on the streets in the past?" "How can we justify the imprisonment of miners who plead sickness when they are absent from work when you release Mosley because he has a sore leg?" they ask.

### STALINISTS MISLEAD WORKERS

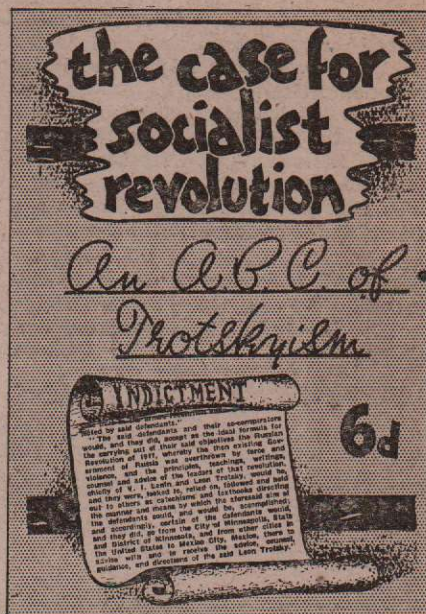
The so-called "Communist" Party has seized upon the issue of Mosley's release as agodsend. Their systematic working class campaign of strike-break-

ing and acting as bosses' and government stooges has led to a growing unpopularity of the Stalinists among the workers. They hope to regain their waning support by utilising the disgust and discontent of the working class at the release of Mosley. And at the same time they are attempting with a fair measure of success to divert the indignation of the masses into harmless channels. They are attempting in the most shameless fashion to transform a class issue into a personal one. They picture the issue as though only Morrison were responsible; attempting to shield the ruling class and its government. They have organised petitions and demonstrations appealing to the War Cabinet while understanding well enough that it is precisely Churchill and the Cabinet who are behind the release of Mosley.

The widespread anti-Mosley feeling among the masses stems from entirely progressive motives. But the campaign to put Mosley back in jail and which does not pose the class character of the Government which released him is a reactionary campaign, and can only mislead the progressive sentiments of the workers into safe channels for the capitalist class. The Labour fakery and the Stalinists cannot have it both ways. They cannot squeal when the National Government releases Mosley and treats the British fascists with kid gloves, and at the same time call upon the workers to support the Government because it is an "anti-fascist" government fighting an "anti-fascist" war. Even if Mosley were to be jailed again it would not solve the question of the destruction of fascism.

### FASCISM OR SOCIALISM — LET LABOUR TAKE POWER

The war has placed the whole future of Britain on the scales. Whether they want to or not the British ruling class will be forced to place the question of fascism in Britain on the order of the day in the period following the war. With her foreign investments, her markets taken over by the Yanks, the British capitalists will be forced to clamp down on the conditions of the British workers. It is unlikely that the boss class will be able to use Mosley for the job in the coming period. He has been too thoroughly discredited among the mass of the people, but they can always find a new demagogue to groom for the job. If it's not Mosley's "British Union" it will be some "Empire Protection League" or other such named gang of demagogues.



The workers must not close their eyes to the lessons of history. If they want to stem the onward rush of Fascism they must see that genuine anti-fascists are in power to do the job. Not a coalition of the left" Churchill wing of the Tory party with a few miserable Liberal and Labour leaders will fight and crush fascism, but the working class in power, taking over the big industries which the fascists seek to protect; ending the power of the capitalists and destroying them as an economic and political force.

Today Labour is the prisoner of capital in the Tory controlled coalition government. To end this hideous farce, to free Labour's hands, and to seek its independent class aims—that is the task of organised labour at the present moment.

By freeing Mosley the Government has surely shattered the last illusion that it is capable of fighting fascism. Let Labour break the coalition and take power into its own hands. For to destroy fascism it is necessary to have power in the hands of the working class.

# An End to the Coalition which Harms Labour and Aids Fascism.

## LABOUR TO POWER on a Programme of Socialist Demands!