

## NATIONAL SUPPORT CONFERENCE

Manchester Town Hall  
Saturday 25 July, 12 noon

This SUPPORT conference has been called by sacked workers and supporters to build solidarity and a fighting body.

SEE PAGE 11

## INSIDE

### Crisis in Camden

— page 3

### The Poll Tax

— pages 8&9

# LABOUR MOVEMENT MUST PROBE MI5

**THE labour movement must call its own inquiry into the illegal activities of MI5.**

While Neil Kinnock is busy ensuring that the selection of parliamentary Labour candidates is taken out of the hands of the Labour Party activists, it is now becoming clear that Tory Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was directly selected by MI5.

In his very first speech to the House of Commons, Ken Livingstone repeated allegations made by ex-intelligence officer Colin Wallace.

Wallace said that MI5 were responsible for 'sectarian' killings in the north of Ireland. SAS officer Captain Robert Nairac was employed to murder the members of the Miami ShowBand and others.

Wallace connected MI5 actions with Airey Neave, the Tory MP who had links with the intelligence services and

**BY CYRIL SMITH**  
masterminded the campaign to get Thatcher leadership of the Tory Party.

Ex-MI5 man Peter Wright has revealed that MI5 decided that the 1975 Labour government was a 'bloody menace'. In the summer of 1975 half of his staff were 'up to their necks in a plot to get rid of the Prime Minister'.

Wright described the plot as a 'carbon copy of the Zinoviev letter, which did so much to destroy the first Labour government'.

He reveals how MI5 officers 'bugged and burgled their way across London in operations not only against the Labour Party but also against the Workers Revolutionary Party, the Socialist

## Bring down the Tory government!

**Workers Party and the Communist Party.**

'Dirty tricks' man Wallace invented press stories directed against the then Tory leader Edward Heath, as well as attempting to 'destabilise' the Labour government and to break up the cease-fire which it had arranged with the IRA.

We are not dealing here with the actions of some 'rogue' unit which got out of hand many years ago. This is the reality of the British state machine, which will stop at nothing to maintain the rule of the exploiting class.

As Workers Press pointed out during the general election campaign, Kinnock let Thatcher off the hook on this issue. In parliament last week, he tried to distance himself from Livingstone's speech, saying that he thought the claims 'were probably unfair'.

This is the issue which can unite millions of people against the Thatcher government, and bring it down.

Although Livingstone rightly raised this question we can't agree with his re-

ference to the 'traitorous activities' of the intelligence services.

These actions — now revealed as part of the crisis of the ruling class — are only the tip of a gigantic iceberg.

MI5 and SAS black propaganda and murder squads are at work both in the Six Counties and in Britain. For them, murdering a Catholic in Ireland, destabilising the British government, or infiltrating trade unions and left-wing organisations, is all part of the job.

Liberal leader David Steel claims that these are the activities of the State within the State, NO! THIS IS THE STATE.

Forensic evidence backing up Wallace now shows that the gun used in the Miami ShowBand killings had also been used by the SAS officer Nairac to kill John Francis Green, south of the border.

Wallace was framed for murder after exposing MI5. He served five years of a ten-year sentence. The question still remains: who did kill the man for whose murder Wallace was imprisoned?

Thatcher's internal investigation denying Wallace's claims was swallowed by MPs who, if not the dupes of MI5, have been its accomplices.

This makes Livingstone's call for a House of Commons committee to investigate the evidence look ridiculous. Only the workers' movement itself can be entrusted with that responsibility.

Workers Press calls for the setting up of a committee by the labour and trade union movement, which can call on the services of experts in order to bring these matters into the open. We call for every section of the working-class movement to press for such a committee to be formed without delay.

Now is the time to act: the death squads are already in operation.

### SAS major helped Contras

AN EX-SAS major who became a millionaire mercenary boss has been

exposed as running missions for the CIA-backed Contras fighting in Nicaragua.

Major David Walker, who runs a mercenary outfit called KMS operating from offices in Kensington, London, was named last week by Colonel Oliver North, the ex-White House aide at the centre of America's 'Contragate' scandal.

Under questioning from Congressmen, North said he hired Walker to carry out operations inside Nicaragua, reported to have included an air attack on airports and a residential area of the capital, Managua.

Exposure of the 'British connection' shows up the hypocrisy of the Thatcher government's preaching against 'terrorism'.

The Right-wing Contras are waging war against the people of Nicaragua. Farmers going to market, doctors, teachers, a village priest — all have been targets.

The young American engineer Ben Linder, helping with an electricity scheme for villages, was ambushed, then shot in the head at point-blank range as he lay wounded.

Major Walker's help for the terrorists who perpetrate such actions could not have been carried out without the knowledge of the British security services.

In fact, KMS is widely regarded as having Foreign Office links. The ex-SAS killers do the dirty work where the British government does not want to be seen involved. In Sri Lanka, they assist the Special Task units waging a dirty war against the Tamils.

Walker himself, who earned his promotion to Major with the SAS in occupied Ulster, 'went private' in October 1974, about the time the Labour government was elected.

He joined the high-powered security company Control Risks, and then bought out its subsidiary, KMS, in 1977. It became the biggest mercenary agency in Europe.

Walker became a millionaire, bought a £500,000 home in Esher, Surrey, and joined the Tory party. He was elected a Tory councillor in 1982. Former associates describe him as 'charming, but a bit less'.

## Miners: Conference, galas — page 16



Durham Mechanics leaders Billy Etherington, (in suit) Dave Temple (centre front) and Jim Perry (behind) at last Saturday's 'Big Meeting' in Durham. Sacked miner Geoff Hartnell is carrying the left banner pole and Alfons, a Basque rail worker marches with Dave Temple.

# PEOPLE BEFORE BANKERS

All over Britain, local authorities are on the point of bankruptcy. The services they are supposed to provide are at breaking-point. As Thatcher's third term gets into its stride, the last remnants of the Welfare State are sold off to anyone who can make money out of them.

Many Labour local authorities have been struggling to keep going through years of Thatcher's cuts. All kinds of makeshifts and tricks - selling off and leasing back all kinds of basic amenities, for example - have been used to postpone the problem, while the debts piled up.

Now, their hopes dashed that a Labour government would somehow show a way out, their deficits are too big to be hidden by 'creative accountancy'. Some face accumulated debts of hundreds of millions of pounds, with massive amounts of money needed every week for interest and repayments.

For millions of workers and their families the implications of this situation are still only beginning to emerge. Thatcher is determined to break up the Inner London and other big Education Authorities, and hand the schools over to the Boroughs. With the limited funds at the disposal of these smaller bodies, this means a rapid deterioration in a system already close to breakdown.

Many thousands of old people face a desperate situation, as social services on which their lives depend are cut back to extinction. Libraries, recreation facilities, refuse collection, and thousands of other basic functions of local government are under threat, along with the jobs of those who work in them.

What is the answer? What are Labour Councillors to do?

Just like the governments of countries in Africa and Latin America, local councils have been turned into little more than tax-gatherers for the banks and other financial institutions. Like these states, a huge proportion of their budgets are now devoted to the servicing of debt.

Their answer must also be the same: stop paying! Put the welfare of people before the income of the bankers!

Of course, for a local authority to repudiate its debt, or refuse to continue paying interest and principal, raises tremendous political and financial problems. But there is no alternative if untold misery is to be avoided.

Local councils should at once call meetings of local residents to explain the real situation, and use all possible means of telling the truth to the people.

Then they will have to organise support for their action in the working class, mobilising the maximum opposition to Thatcher and her friends in the City

## Transport union biennial delegate conference

# Union in turmoil

**FOUR-and-a-half days every two years cannot do justice to the agenda of the Transport and General Workers' Union biennial delegate conference.**

At Scarborough, from 6 to 10 July, 852 delegates representing 1,400,000 members faced 519 resolutions, and 169 amendments, on industrial, political, and international questions.

Over 200 resolutions were merely referred to the General Executive Council (GEC) through lack of time, and others were dealt with in scanty debates. Many delegates, there for the first time, did not get a chance to speak.

Yet time was spared for a one-hour speech by Neil Kinnock, who appealed to the T&GWU - the union with the biggest block vote at the Labour Party conference in October - to support his plans to separate the Labour Party from the working class (the so-called 'one man one vote' amendment to rule). Delegates were bombarded with every possible pressure to support Kinnock.

His arrival was heralded by the TV cameras; police and stewards were in their places; and the chairman, right-winger Brian Nicholson from Region No. 1, asked delegates, with an air of super-importance, to stay in their seats for the arrival of the special guest.

Greeted with a standing ovation, Kinnock gave one of his well-known verbose speeches about the evils of Thatcherism. 'These evils are NOW', he repeated dozens of times - but, he told us, we have four years to prepare!

He ended with an impassioned appeal for delegates to support the proposed changes in the selection of Labour parliamentary candidates.

The GEC had voted by 18 votes to 17 against this change, but Nicholson had swung the decision the other way by his use of the chairman's prerogative to vote twice.



KINNOCK

General Secretary Ron Todd, winding up the debate, said the union's 1,400,000 members faced many problems, and 'I wish there was the same passion on industrial matters as was displayed in this debate.' This was a clear reference to the massive organising and lobbying done by the right wing to secure their narrow victory.

Despite all the pressure, the Kinnock motion got through with a majority of only 35 votes: 415 to 380. This came as a surprise to many of the old hands on both left and right, who had expected a 80 per cent vote in favour.

This vote indicates the ground-swell of opposition to the move to the right at the top of the union, where the last three full-time officers appointed by the GEC have all been right-wingers. Some members recollect the time when Brian Nicholson was an active member of the Broad Left!

The GEC recommendations were rejected on resolutions supporting unemployed centres, calling for the Trades Union Congress to organise a special conference on unemployment, and on pension rights.

All this shows the turmoil in the union, and in the working class, following Thatcher's election for the third term. There is a state of shock and disappointment, and a distrust of leadership.

Ron Todd is generally greeted warmly by the union members, who are quick to point out that he was not afraid to have a second ballot for his election as general secretary when the right wing spread rumours of ballot-rigging.

Todd's speeches to conference often showed the tight-rope he is walking with a GEC dominated by the right wing. Elections are coming

So why wait to mobilise the mass movement in class resistance to this government? Todd should get off the MSC boards now and lead the fight. The future of young people is at stake.

In his speech supporting sanctions against apartheid, Todd made the point that Bishop Tutu had said, of himself, that he didn't know why he should expect the South African youth to support him: he had done nothing for them.

Ron Todd and all those leading the trade unions here must ask themselves the same question about the youth in Britain, unemployed and open to every abuse: drugs, prison, exploitation of the worst kind.

Fear of unleashing and mobilising these youth now against the Tories, on the pretext of helping them to get a training and proper conditions, will lead to many more casualties in the future. And, in the end, their future can only be secured by the overthrow of the system which gives rise to their problems.

In areas where the mass movement was mobilised to struggle for local govern-

ment, support for Labour in the general election was increased. This point was rubbed in by Kathy Crosby of Lambeth when she moved a resolution, which was carried, declaring support for the rate-capped local authorities.

'If you want to know how to fight and win elections, then look at Lambeth and Liverpool', she declared.

Like many others, this resolution had been submitted before the general election, and it called for 'a future Labour government to indemnify councillors who had been surcharged, and remove all disqualifications imposed on them through retrospective action'.

**THE organisation of low-paid and part-time workers was debated, and resolutions were carried calling for special work in this field.**

In fact unions are facing similar problems of organisation as they had in their beginnings with casual labour.

Recruitment of low-paid workers has led the T&GWU to have an international branch in London, where many immigrant workers are employed as cheap labour in hotels and catering.

P. Payne told conference how 27-year-old Everth Marin had fled from the political police in Colombia and come to Britain with his family, becoming an active member of the union's international branch.

In 1986, aged 29, he returned to Colombia to continue the struggle against oppression. In April this year he disappeared; his mutilated, tortured body was found a month later.

The T&GWU conference saluted Everth Marin and condemned the Colombian government for failing to bring the murderers to justice.

C. O'Sullivan from Bristol moved a successful resolution against 'illegal aid' by the US to the Contra forces in Nicaragua, and calling for an end to military training in Britain of armed forces from El Salvador.

One of the resolutions referred to the GEC - it was submitted as an emergency

resolution! - called for an inquiry into the role of M15 in attempts to destabilise the labour movement.

The motion said that 'Midlands T&GWU members can add their own experience of the disruption of the workers' college at Fircroft in Birmingham. It was subsequently revealed by Cathy Massiter that the leading figure in this disruption was a long-standing M15 agent'.

Members of the Workers Revolutionary Party have their own experience of a police raid on their college in 1975. But we would say to T&GWU members: an inquiry set up by the Tories is unacceptable; we must demand a labour movement inquiry.

This is also true of Ireland. Conference accepted a GEC statement about unity of Protestants and Catholics. It was pointed out that the Regional Secretary and his Committee work consistently for a united membership in the teeth of huge problems.

Maybe they will have a better understanding of these problems if they take up the points made in Ken Livingstone's first speech in the Commons, alleging that the secret services have an orchestrated campaign to encourage and organise sectarian murders to keep Ireland divided, and that Thatcher is the main beneficiary of this covert operation.

**Ron Todd must now lead the campaign for a labour movement inquiry into these allegations.**

### A SUMMING-UP BY DOT GIBSON

up at the end of this year, and there was a great deal of lobbying going on behind the scenes.

It is pretty clear Todd knows that all the words about resistance to Thatcher's union laws and to the slashing of local democracy in the inner cities, and about sanctions against apartheid, are going to be put to the test. Time and again delegates made it clear that they do not intend to wait five years.

**CONFERENCE decisions reflect the growing desire to 'get out into the communities'. The miners' strike certainly launched the whole working class in this direction with the miners' wives' support groups.**

On resolutions adopted unanimously on the Health Service, education, and transport there was an understanding of the need to unite with the communities and campaigns to carry forward the struggle against Thatcher and defend services.

One of the most important debates was on the Manpower Services Commission (MSC) schemes: YTS and JTS. Resolutions carried called for greater emphasis on training, and the organisation of recruitment to the union for representation on the schemes to obtain better conditions of work.

**An emergency motion put by London busworkers, for the union to withdraw from the MSC completely in view of the latest Tory move to conscript the unemployed, was rejected by Standing Orders.**

Ron Todd was forced to answer this point when busworkers' chairman Peter Gibson raised it in the debate.

'Let's fight the proposals first and if they push them through then will be the time to consider leaving the board', said Todd.

This is not good enough. The Thatcher government carries out class rule on behalf of the City of London, the bankers and monopolies. Todd was correct to pose the question: 'Are they going to take young people out and shoot them to take them off the unemployed register?'

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TODD

When a delegate told conference that Wright had said he is prepared to organise at Margam against the National Union of Mineworkers, Brian Nicholson merely remarked: 'Thank you for the information, Brother!'

The more these leaders evade the issues, the more problems they are building up for their members and the whole working class.

But members of the T&GWU, in common with the rest of the working class, are ready to do battle. They will not wait five years behind a 'loyal opposition' to Thatcher.

# CRISIS IN CAMDEN

## The fightback begins

**COMMUNITY groups and the largest union in Camden Council decisively rejected pleas from the Labour council to help them make cuts in jobs and services at important meetings last week.**

Hundreds of people from community groups funded by Camden Council pledged to fight all cuts in jobs and services in the Council and Council-funded groups at a packed meeting on Monday night.

BY ANDREW BURGIN

Workers and management committee members from womens' groups, black and minority ethnic groups, community centres, nurseries and tenants' associations were united in their anger at leading Labour councillors who claim there is no way out of making cuts worth £11m immediately.

According to senior Council officers, they must make cuts of £60m next year.

People at the meeting pledged to widen the fight and to meet again next week after the big Council unions have decided their position on the Labour Council's cuts package.

The meeting was convened by councillor Graham Shurety, one of nine Camden Labour councillors opposing the cuts being rushed through the Council.

Originally booked in the Town Hall, the meeting had to be held around the corner in the Camden Centre. Leaders of the Labour group due to meet the same evening had cancelled all bookings in the Town Hall.

**In what is becoming normal practice, the Camden Labour councillors met amid tight security with the iron gates of the Town Hall entrance locked and security guards on patrol.**

Obviously shaken by the anger of the community groups, they have postponed any decisions on cuts in grant aid or freezing vacant jobs in community groups.

**EARLIER the same day, 150 workers from the Camden Black Workers Group also voted to fight any cuts in jobs and services and to work with trade unions and community groups across London to fight back against the Tories and against those intent on carrying out Tory policy.**

Nine Camden Labour councillors, in an open letter to the Council unions, described the cuts policy being rushed through by the majority of the Labour group as 'disastrous' in both financial and political terms.

Urging the trade unions to reject the cuts in jobs and services, agreed in an atmosphere of panic and hysteria following the re-election of Thatcher, the letter from the nine councillors says:

'We believe that it is absolutely crucial that the cuts package being put forward

by the leadership is rejected, not only by the unions but by the local Labour parties and the wider community in Camden.

'Resistance to the package is already increasing as the reality of the cuts becomes more apparent, and we are committed to organising that resistance and to supporting those groups and organisations which are at the forefront of that resistance.'

The letter also points out that neither tenants associations nor community organisations have been consulted or even informed of the cuts proposed for them.

A letter sent to all Camden Council employees by leader Tony Dykes makes clear the complete capitulation to Thatcher by the majority of Camden's Labour councillors.

The only preparations made by the council to fight the Tory attacks on local government were to hope 'that the general election would return a government more sympathetic to the financial problems of local authorities like Camden'.

The letter also makes clear that as well as a job-vacancy freeze, no growth and reducing overtime, 'it will be necessary to look at reducing Camden's workforce'.

Over 8,000 people are employed by Camden Council and a further thousand by Camden's community grant-aided groups. The largest town hall union is NALGO with over 4,000 members.

**THE Camden branch of NALGO came out decisively in defence of jobs and services at a special general meeting last Tuesday in a sports centre in Islington.**

Over 2,000 of the 4,000 members attended the meeting — which had to be adjourned the week before when the Friends Meeting House in Euston Road proved too small to hold the huge numbers who turned up.

In a highly charged atmosphere the motion from the executive committee confirming Camden NALGO's policy of resisting cuts in jobs, pay, services and conditions was passed overwhelmingly.

It says: 'NALGO will refuse to co-operate with management in running down jobs and services e.g. through enforced re-deployment and "flexibility" of working practices.'

'Labour councils in London are weakening or abandoning their commitment to a full protection of jobs and services' and 'the main responsibility for defending jobs and services now lies with the members of NALGO and other council trade unions'.



NALGO members held a mass meeting last Tuesday to discuss the crisis

The motion commits the branch to making the defence against cuts and the threat of privatisation 'overriding priority' and pledges to campaign for the defence of jobs and services 'within both the council and the community and in conjunction with trade unions and other organisations and individual councillors as appropriate'.

By a vote of 1,229 to 854 the NALGO branch defeated an amendment to the executive committee resolution which proposed accepting the cuts and looked for 'co-operation with the aim of blunting as far as possible the edge of the government's attacks'.

Moving the executive committee resolution which then won resounding support, NALGO secretary David Egmore said: 'Liking it or not, willingly or not, on 2 July the majority of Labour councillors voted to do what the government wants.'

**CAMDEN UNEMPLOYED Action Centre (CUAC) is fighting a serious threat to its funding and future.**

Like other such centres, Camden provides various facilities to the unemployed. CUAC have organised campaigns against the Job Training Scheme and harassment of claimants by the DHSS and Job Centres.

The Centre was recently involved in the occupation of Camden Town Hall to demand emergency payments during the DHSS and Dole Office strike. The coordinator, Mick Gavan, says the moves to close down the Centre are designed to put an end to its campaign work and gag opposition to the cuts in services being considered by Camden Council at present.

CUAC lobbied a recent council meeting and is organising a petition in defence of the Centre. The Council strongly denies any political motive in freezing the Centre funds. They point out that the decision to stop all funds dates from 22 June and

'The Labour group is no longer in control of this council. The chief officers now run this council on behalf of the district auditor who quite plainly is running it on behalf of the government.'

Speaking against collaboration with the Labour government's cuts package, he said, 'We must act as a trade union. The rates act empowered the government to take direct control of any level of income of local authority.'

'Local authorities have tried to avoid this by creative accountancy measures. Creative accountancy cannot be used to defend jobs and services any longer.'

'The central issue is that the majority of the Labour group have voted to make cuts. Is it in our best interest to defend ourselves or to collude in those cuts being made as the government wants?'

He concluded: 'We must act as a trade union. We must defend the members of our union under the greatest threat'.

**THOUGH the financial crisis caused by the collapse of so-called 'creative accountancy' measures hit Camden first, all Labour local authorities face the same situation, some with much bigger budget deficits.**

This attack is combined with the Local Government Bill abandoned by the Tories before the election but now being rushed through parliament. It will force local authorities to put all vital services out for competitive bids.

**Trade union and community groups must demand that Labour councils break from Thatcher and refuse to carry out Tory policies.**

**A campaign linking the trade unions and the communities must be launched wherever these attacks are being made.**

Organisations such as London Bridge, the rank and file local authority trade union organisation, must confirm their policy of full support to all those fighting cuts in jobs and services.

Labour councils must consult fully with trade unions and local communities, and organise to fight back against all cuts in jobs and services.

Council trade unions must state their clear opposition to co-operating with voluntary redundancy schemes, vacancy-freezing and other such measures of collaboration.

Labour councillors making a stand against carrying out Thatcher's policies must have the full support of all working class organisations.

## Closure of action centre threatened

therefore predates by two weeks the recent crisis meeting over emergency budget measures.

According to the Council the decision rests on allegations of financial mismanagement. Allegations of violence, racism and sexism at the Centre are also to be investigated by the Women's Unit and the Race Unit.

These allegations of racism and sexism in particular are being pursued by a former Centre user and voluntary worker, Dorothy El Muracy.

Dorothy is a well-known and long-standing activist in women's campaigns and anti-imperialist solidarity. She and other users have been persistently abused, threatened and insulted, she says, as part of a campaign against Women's Day at the Centre.

Dorothy claims that Mick Gavan, the Centre coordinator, has not supported

the victims of these racist and sexist attacks and that he has opposed Women's Day.

'Mick doesn't see women as real unemployed workers,' she concludes.

She claims thugs and fascists are freely allowed to use the Centre and abuse other users.

Dorothy herself has been called 'a dirty f\*\*\*\*\* black lesbian' and threatened with a raised chair to smash over her head.

During the last few months one worker has resigned over complaints of abuse and the chair of the management committee also resigned.

Various women's groups and campaigns are boycotting the Centre in protest over these attacks and the failure of the Centre to take the attacks seriously.

Dorothy El Muracy says that the Centre must be de-

fended and should be staffed by 'genuine fighters of the working class'.

Mick Gavan maintains that the attack on Dorothy was a trivial incident that was as much Dorothy's fault as anyone else's, and that there is a smear campaign directed by political opponents who are trying to silence him and prevent an effective defence of the Centre.

Allegations of racism and sexism must be taken seriously by the labour movement, and appropriate action taken if such allegations are substantiated.

Any attempts by Camden Council to use such allegations to justify the closure of Camden Unemployment Action Centre must be exposed and defeated.

The campaign to defend the Centre is now linked to the struggle to defend jobs and services in Camden in the face of Labour Council proposals which seeks to abandon that fight.

This question should be investigated by the local labour movement, so that these issues can be cleared out of the way, and the Unemployed Centre can be run in the interests of the working class.

THE FIGHT AGAINST THE TORY CUTS

# Privatisation wrecks school meals provision

**A SHOCKING decline in school meal provision in Tory-controlled Hereford and Worcester has followed privatisation, according to a report by West Midlands NUPE.**

The abolition of the school meals service with the loss of 600 jobs was followed with the Tory 'ideal mix' of self-help and private enterprise, the latter involving the catering firms Grandmet Compass Services Ltd. and Main Table Ltd.

Subsequently, nutritional standards declined, discrimination against deprived pupils appeared and school funding — supposed to benefit from the 'savings' — actually fell in consequence.

Of 323 replies to a questionnaire sent by NUPE to schools in the area, 78 per cent were critical of the new meals provision.

Especially mentioned were unhygienic delivery (by taxi), chips with everything, masses of carbohydrates, profits clearly resting on crisps, sweets and soft drinks, all junk food and additives, nothing fresh, fat-saturated foods predominating, no fresh vegetables and no pure meat.

Following introduction of privatisation, prices rose and portions decreased so that at one school pupils organised a petition, but nothing was done.

Over 90 per cent of teachers replying found no switch of resources to books, staffing or equipment as promised.

On the contrary, the new contracts required schools to close their own tuck shops or hand these over to the new private caterers, leading to in some cases to losses of £1,000 to £2,000 to school revenues.

## Groups

On the other hand, although self-help groups had received massive Tory council support in the form of free energy, premises provided with no rent or rates to pay, EEC dairy produce subsidies, block insurance, favourable VAT arrangements and interest-free loans, they had nonetheless failed miserably.

Meanwhile the existing school meals equipment was sold off 'at silly knock-down prices'.

Where the sandwich service operates — under the minimal requirement in law to supply meals to children of families on social security — complaints were that provision was unappetising, stale and cold, having been several days in the deep freeze.

In any case pupils and parents were refusing the packs as being stigmatising in that they clearly indicate 'free meal' pupils.

The only sector of the service receiving a largely favourable response was that provided to schools by

local authority college canteens.

Over 85 per cent said that these were of good nutritional standard.

**THE NUPE report compares the results from privatised areas with those of the Labour-controlled Birmingham Council, where a fight to retain the school meals service and its 5,000 jobs was successful in 1984.**

Since then the service has actually been expanded to include a breakfast provision and development of healthy eating systems to meet cultural, religious and special dietary requirements.

## Extended

The service has also been extended to include local pensioners, sports and conference needs.

This is clearly not the end of the struggle for schools and communities as the Tories plan new legislation to force through privatisation where it has so far been repulsed.



1984: 5,000 NUPE school meals members took strike action to defend their service. The issue led to the downfall of the council's Tory controlling group and the retention of the school meals service.



Breakfast at a Birmingham school: 'We serve only milk drinks and fruit juice. No fizzy pops with additives and nil food value... We have replaced chocbar snacks and crisps with fresh apple turnovers and salad baps at low cost to the pupils.'



'Of course ethnic menus are hard work, but we find our delivery rewarding. We had tremendous support from Moslem parents when our service was threatened.'

# Keep death off The Highway

BY PHIL PENN

**MANY PEOPLE** have died in London's East End under the wheels of cars and lorries speeding through the area.

Wapping Highway, bordered by council estates, is to all intents and purposes a motorway, where the toll in human life is particularly high.

Seventeen years ago this week, a young girl was knocked down by a speeding police car. That event led to the blocking of the Highway by 200 local residents and to the establishment of the Wapping Parents Action Group, which continues to campaign for the safety of local residents.

Wapping, in the borough of Tower Hamlets, is part of the London Docklands, fast becoming an overspill area for the City financial centre. It now boasts £230,000 apartments where warehouses once stood. In order to service the bankers and 'yuppies' now taking over the area, a six-lane highway is to be built which will cut a swathe through the East End.

Maureen Davis, chair of the Action Group, told Workers Press why, 17 years on, she would be stopping rush-hour traffic once again this week to prevent further deaths which would inevitably follow if the new road is allowed to go ahead.

'VICTIMS of Wapping Highway, who themselves have terrible injuries, are helping to organise the demonstration. We have a number of people who have been seriously injured on this estate alone. One resident, a teacher, was killed.

'What is also certain if this highway is built is that homes will disappear. Why should people lose their homes and whole communities be destroyed for businessmen?'

*BUT THE Tories say that this is best for the community; it will bring in money and jobs.*

'But they never have done that yet! They said that about Murdoch, and News International. Not one job was created.

'Our streets were occupied for a year so that a particular businessman could carry on his business.

'Now we are going to see businessmen coming to Canary Wharf from all over the world who will benefit at the expense of the community.

'The Docklands people had six years of war. They didn't run away. They manned the docks and supplied

the nation, but what was their reward? Where are the jobs for the locals? The big boys now tell us that we are not qualified.

'It's a good job, isn't it, that we were qualified for the docks years ago to keep their business trade? And yet as soon as they have finished with you they want to discard you.

'It's the same with the miners and even in agriculture: all of a sudden we are no good for anything any more.'

*WHAT would you say in reply to the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC), who will be demolishing council blocks but say to tenants: 'Don't worry, we will rehouse you in better accommodation?'*

'That's what they told us in Wapping, but not one person has been given a house for rent.

'We have got people here living in tower blocks, both old and new. They have to climb 60 stairs and are sick, disabled and old. Medically they are top priority.

'They are seeing all this grand development going



**Maureen Davis was narrowly missed by a swerving tipper lorry while waiting at this crossing on Wapping's Highway. When she returned a short time later she found the crossing had been wrecked. Luckily no one was killed — this time.**

on around them, yet they will never be rehoused in Wapping.

'From all the millions being made they could have provided a place for the elderly so that they would not have to move away. But they have taken everything and have given nothing at all. The people of Wapping have always been pushed out.

'Both Labour and Liberal councils have, in my opinion, been working with the LDDC. They told us that Riverside Mansion would be done up for local people but the Labour council sold it to the LDDC.

'It has since been sold to

people who in turn are letting them out for £150 a week. It is scandalous in a place where 9,000 people are on the waiting list and people are in bed-and-breakfast accommodation.'

*BUT THE LDDC say the new road will not be dangerous and will have little effect on the local population.*

'This is crazy! It is now almost impossible to pull out of this estate in order to join the traffic on Wapping Highway because it is going so fast.

'Almost every day there is a car crash or someone is

knocked down. Every consideration is given to keep the traffic flying along at the expense of people. People's lives are so cheap.

'Canary Wharf is not in the interests of the people. All these new places going up now will add to the traffic, these people will also be trying to pull out on to the Highway.

'Wapping is already like one big parking lot and yet 67 per cent of people in Tower Hamlets have not got a car.'

*WHAT do you think about the challenge to the verdict of unlawful kill-*

*ing in the case of Michael Delaney who was killed by a truck during the print strike?*

'Michael Delaney used to live in Wapping, he was another victim of the Highway. It is absolutely scandalous.

'I am wondering if ever there is anything called justice in this world. I am sure there isn't.

'That poor family lost a lovely boy like him, and with all the other children who have died in vain, it is a scandal that after 17 years all they can come up with is a road which is even more dangerous.'

## Irish PoWs' prison protest

**IT HAS** been revealed that two Irish PoWs have been staging protests for the last six months at Wakefield top security prison against visiting conditions similar to the ones recently introduced at Wormwood Scrubs (see Workers Press, 27 June).

Hugh Doherty and Nat Vella have refused to wear prison uniforms or do penal work and are refusing all visits until conditions are changed.

Like the situation at the Scrubs, it is only the Irish prisoners who have been singled out for special treatment.

Doherty and Vella say that the new conditions are an attempt to 'break our spirits and isolate us'.

Unlike other prisoners whose visits take place in a room with coffee tables and easy-chairs, tension is deliberately introduced into their visits.

In a small room, under constant surveillance, visitors and prisoners are kept 5 feet apart and only allowed to touch at the beginning and end of a visit.

Relatives complained to the governor but were told that he was only following Home Office orders. The Home Office said, however, that visiting conditions are at the discretion of the Governor.

### Cynical

This double-act is part of a cynical plan to give relatives the run-around. Although it is true that prison governors have an enormous capacity for malice towards Irish prisoners, a pattern is emerging which could only be the result of a centrally worked out attack.

### REPUBLICAN PRISONERS OF WAR

SEAN HAYES, 20-year sentence, 341418.  
SEAN KINSELLA, Life sentence, 758661.

#### GARTREE

HM Prison Gartree, Leicester Rd, Market Harborough, Leics, LE16 7RP  
RONNIE McCARTNEY, Life sentence, 463799.  
STEPHEN NORDONE, Life sentence 758663.  
JOE O'CONNELL, Life sentence, 338635  
ROY WALSH, Life sentence, 119083.

#### FRANKLAND

HM Prison Finchale Ave, Brasside, Durham  
WILLIAM ARMSTRONG, Life sentence, 119085  
BRENDAN DOWD, Life sentence, 758662.  
PAUL HOLMES, Life sentence, 119034.  
CON McFADDEN, 20-year sentence, 130662.  
MICHAEL J McKENNEY, 16-year sentence, L46486.  
EDDIE O'NEILL, 20-year sentence, 135722.

#### LEICESTER

HM Prison Welford Rd, Leicester, LE2 7AJ  
PAUL KAVANAGH, Life sentence, 1888.  
BRIAN KEENAN, 21-year sentence, B26380.  
PATRICK MCGEE, Life sentence, B75881.

#### WORMWOOD SCRUBS

HM Prison, PO Box 757, Du Cane Road, London W12 0AE  
DONAL CRAIG, 4 years.  
VINCE DONNELLY, Life Sentence, 274064.

#### DURHAM

HM Prison Durham, Old Elvert Street, Durham.  
MARTINA ANDERSON, Life sentence, D25134.  
ELLA O'DWYER, Life sentence, D25135.

### REMAND PRISONERS: BRIXTON

HM Prison, Jebb Avenue, Brixton, London SW2 5XF.  
G. (DANNY) McNAMEE, L48616  
LIAM MCCOTTER, LB83693  
PATRICK McLAUGHLIN, LB83694  
LIAM QUINN, 49930

### WORMWOOD SCRUBS INNOCENT MEN AND WOMEN FRAMED BY THE BRITISH POLICE:

CAROLE RICHARDSON, 290719, HM Prison Styl, Wilmslow, Cheshire  
PATRICK ARMSTRONG, HM Prison Gartree.  
PAUL HILL, 462778, HM Prison Wormwood Scrubs.  
GERARD CONLON, 462779, HM Prison Long Lartin.  
JUDITH WARD, HM Prison Durham.  
HUGH CALLAGHAN, 509499, HM Prison Gartree.  
JOHN WALKER, 509494, HM Prison, Long Lartin.  
BILLY POWER, 509498, HM Prison Wormwood Scrubs.  
GERARD HUNTER, 509495, HM Prison Frankland.  
RICHARD McILKENNY, 509497, HM Prison Wormwood Scrubs.  
PADDY HILL, 509496, HM Prison Gartree.  
PATRICK McLAUGHLIN, HM Prison Wormwood Scrubs.  
They are all serving life and in the case of Carole Richardson, indefinite detention.

We thank An Cumann Cabhrach, British section, for supplying and updating this information.

#### LONG LARTIN

HM Prison Long Lartin, South Littleton, Evesham, Worcs, WR11 5TZ  
LIAM BAKER, 20-year sentence, 464984.  
JAMES BENNETT, 20-year sentence, 464989.  
EDDIE BUTLER, Life sentence, 338637.  
ROBERT CUNNINGHAM, 20-year sentence, 131877.  
GERRY CUNNINGHAM, 20-year sentence, 132016.  
JOHN McCOMB, 17-year sentence, B51715.  
ANDY MULRYAN, 20-year sentence, 461576.  
PATRICK MULRYAN, 20-year sentence, 461575.  
NOEL GIBSON, Life sentence, 879225.

#### PARKHURST

HM Prison Parkhurst, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5NX  
PATRICK HACKETT, 20-year sentence, 342603.  
GERRY McDONNELL, Life sentence, B75882.

PAUL NORNEY, Life sentence, 863532.  
TOMMY QUIGLEY, Life sentence 69204.  
PETER SHERRY, Life sentence, B75880.

#### WAKEFIELD

HM Prison Love Lane, Wakefield, W Yorks. WF2 9AG  
HUGH DOHERTY, Life sentence, 338636.  
NATALINO VELLA, 15-year sentence, B71644.

#### ALBANY

HM Prison Albany, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 5RS  
MARTIN BRADY, Life sentence, 119087.  
HARRY DUGGAN, Life sentence, 338638.  
BILLY GRIMES.

# CANADA Spying and provocation against trade unionists

CANADA's official Security Intelligence Review Committee has expressed concern that the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) has targeted 'entire categories of people' for investigation.

The 'watchdog' committee's report, disclosing that the CSIS 'countersubversion' branch has files on at least 30,000 Canadians — and probably many more — comes soon after a leading union official was exposed as an agent provocateur.

Marc-Andre Boivin, who was strike director for the Confederation of National Trade Unions in Quebec City, was spirited away under police protection last month. The same night three fellow union officials were charged with plotting to bomb the Manoir-Richelieu hotel.

According to a Radio-Canada report, Boivin, with whom the three were accused of conspiring, had been a police agent for twelve years.

He had been paid over \$10,000 per year by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Security Service and its successor, the CSIS, for spying on union members.

Union leaders say the state is using the evidence of informers and provocateurs to try to brand the union as criminal.

With 240,000 members, the Montreal-based CNTU is Canada's second-largest union organisation.

In December 1985 millionaire Raymond Malenfant bought the Manoir-Richelieu hotel from the Quebec provincial government. He sacked 306 workers for refusing to take a pay cut, replacing them with scabs.

Gaston Harvey, husband of one of the sacked workers, died at the hands of the police last October after being arrested on a union demonstration.

CNTU Quebec City council member Nicole Madore says Marc-Andre Boivin was not directly involved in the Manoir-Richelieu dispute, but offered to 'give a hand' last autumn.

Last month police made night raids on 15 union members' homes and followed this by raiding the union's headquarters and taking away stacks of documents. Four union officials were arrested.

There were reports that police also wanted to arrest CNTU president Gerald Larose, but were persuaded by government officials that this would be going too far at this stage.

## Boycott

The union had called a national boycott campaign against motels and hotels owned by Malenfant, but the hotel boss got a court injunction barring the union from publicising the boycott.

The Ligue des Droits et Libertés, Quebec's civil liberties group, says the police have 'engaged in a campaign to manipulate public opinion' with the aim of outlawing the union.



Victimised hotel workers lead march of 5,000 trade unionists in Quebec. Police raids on homes came a few days later.



POST PICKET. Members of the Letter Carriers' Union of Canada outside Montreal's main post office. Over 100 workers have been arrested and several pickets injured by scab trucks during postal strikes right across Canada.

'TOO many people are targeted for investigation because they are a member or have a relationship with a targeted group', according to the Security Intelligence Review Committee report on the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS).

'The service is spending time and money on too many countersubversion targets and is intruding on the lives of too many Canadians in this domain', says the review committee's head, former Tory minister Ron Atkey.

The CSIS has files on at least 30,000 Canadians, and probably more. The review committee says it is unable to find out the exact number.

The CSIS was set up in 1984, after scandals over the Royal Canadian Mounted Police Security Service. This was revealed to have conducted regular illegal break-ins, thefts, even kidnappings and arson, against political and trade union targets.

The Review Committee was set up to be a civilian 'watchdog' over the new security police without exposing them to parliamentary questioning.

Now the committee says CSIS does not consider the harm its activities might do to individual freedoms and social institutions (including trade unions); that it 'overestimates' the danger that groups will resort to violence; and that it pays 'too much attention' to US foreign policy requirements.

The committee found that Canadian businessmen and right-wingers organising supplies for the CIA-backed Contras fighting in Nicaragua were not touched, though CSIS is supposed to investigate activities 'in support of political violence' abroad.

However, Canadians campaigning peacefully for civil rights in El Salvador or similar issues were treated as targets for spying, on account of being against US policy.

In May, a report in the 'Toronto Globe and Mail' quoted a 'senior source' on the Security Intelligence Review Committee as fearing the CSIS might carry out 'dirty tricks' similar to those used by the FBI to disrupt and attack working-class and radical organisations.

## Australia Labour

LABOUR's victory in the Australian general elections last week is the first time it has had three terms of government in a row.

Labour's overall vote was down, reflecting workers' dissatisfaction with the Hawke government's austerity policies. But the Labour vote in some marginals was up.

Tory leader John Howard, a declared admirer of Margaret Thatcher, campaigned unsuccessfully on promises of tax cuts and privatisation.

Prime Minister Bob Hawke, a former Australian TUC leader, says he will continue with 'economic reality' policies, imposing austerity on the working class to placate big business.

The Australian economy has been badly hit by falling commodity prices on world markets. Australia has a \$71 billion debt, 8-per-cent unemployment, and 9.2-per-cent inflation.

## Mindbender victim

FORMER US army sergeant James Stanley, a victim of military 'mindbending' experiments, has had his right to sue for damages denied by the US Supreme Court.

The court has ruled that members of the armed forces cannot sue the government or their officers for damages, whatever they have suffered, even if their constitutional rights were grossly violated.

James Stanley was one of 1,000 US servicemen used — without their knowledge, let alone consent — as human guinea-pigs for CIA and army tests of the drug LSD.

These experiments were part of the Mkultra programme launched in 1953, with the object of finding ways to break down a person's resistance and, if possible, reshape and control their personality.

The Pentagon war planners became fascinated by the idea both of producing 'Manchurian Candidate', mind-controlled individuals, and of mass-producing LSD to introduce into the water supplies of enemy populations.

After his discharge, Stanley suffered hallucinations and loss of memory. He would go berserk, beating his wife and children. His marriage was wrecked.

Only later, by chance, did he learn that this was the result of experiments carried out on him while he was in the army.

The Supreme Court ruled on 25 June that, even in such a case, lawsuits by ex-servicemen could not be allowed. They would 'disrupt the military regime', the Court decided.

## Arab Kings See Thatcher

King Hussein of Jordan had two hours of talks with Thatcher on July 13, concerning Middle East issues, the day before King Hassan of Morocco arrived for a state visit.

Labour MPs condemned Hassan's visit, which has included arms-buying talks. The Moroccan monarch is waging a repressive war in

## Israeli army harasses trade unions

PALESTINIAN trade unionists say the Israeli military is systematically harassing trade union work under occupation.

Unions have demanded the release of George Hazboun, general-secretary of the Public Service Union in Bethlehem, who was last month put under three months administrative detention for his union work.

Mahmoud Ziadeh, general-secretary of the General

Federation of Trade Unions has been under detention since January 20, 1986.

In Gaza, troops cordoned off the headquarters of the Trade Union Federation to stop union conferences taking place. Two unions managed to defy the move by holding their conferences on Red Cross premises.

## Arrest

The July issue of 'Palestine Post' lists seventeen union leaders who are being kept under town arrest by the Israeli occupiers, to prevent them carrying out their work.

Seven leading trade unionists were ordered to cease activity at the end of May. Troops also tried to prevent Gaza workers from voting in union elections.

Trade union branches in Britain are urged to protest to the Israeli ambassador, at 2, Palace Green, Kensington, London W8.

the Western Sahara against Polisario guerrillas who want independence.

Both Arab rulers have held talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Peres in the past year, although the Jordanian king's meetings were in secret.

Thatcher was expected to raise the Middle East with President Reagan when they met on Friday.

## Jobless warning in Hungary

HUNGARY's bureaucracy-controlled trade unions say they are ready to help the Stalinist regime's new economic policy, even though it threatens to create unemployment.

The union bureaucrats have merely warned the government not to allow an 'untenable' situation affecting prices and jobs.

The Central Council of Hungarian Trade Unions agreed last week to accept the government's programme, which includes a more market-oriented economy, encouragement for private capital, and pay tied to productivity.

Trade Union council president Sandor Gaspar said unemployment 'is not the road leading out of our economic problems, and the trade unions cannot accept this as a target.'

He added however that workers must prepare to face difficulties in finding

work as a result of the government's reforms.

The ruling Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party (Stalinists) Central Committee warned recently that Hungarians would have to accept belt-tightening, or as its programme says, a social welfare policy adapted to 'the prevailing circumstances'.

The Party statement also warned that 'inefficient' industries could face closure, and that temporary unemployment might result.

Last week's union council suggested establishing an 'employment policy fund'.

In general, the union statement said 'The trade unions note that restructuring is coupled with a certain flow of manpower, but strive to avoid unemployment.'

While accepting tax reforms the unions said these 'should not even temporarily create an untenable situation regarding the level and structure of consumer prices and employment.'

## Israeli MPs head for Moscow

BY CHARLIE POTTINS

SOVIET consular officials arrived in Jerusalem last week, in advance of resumption of relations between the Soviet Union and Israel. Meanwhile veteran Stalinist Meir Wilner and other Israeli politicians were packing their cases for a trip to Moscow.

Ostensibly, the Soviet consular team is only concerned with such matters as Russian Orthodox Church property in Jerusalem. But political observers suggest much more is behind it.

The Soviet visit follows over a year of haggling. Israeli Prime Minister Shamir wanted to hold out for reciprocity, before agreeing to grant visas. Foreign Minister Peres was said to be more flexible. It may be just a 'hard-cop, soft cop' routine.

Soviet Foreign Minister Gerasimov insisted last month that 'no Israeli group is going to visit my country'; and this month the Soviet team arrived.

The Israeli politicians invited to Moscow may not be official diplomatic representatives, but nor are they insignificant. They include four party secretary-generals.

The Communist Party's Meir Wilner will be accompanied by Labour's Uri Baram, Elazar Granot of Mapam, and Shulamit Aloni of the Civil Rights movement. Leading Labour 'dove' Ora Namir is among other Knesset members going.

Although the invitations to Moscow came from the Soviet Peace Committee, a supposedly 'non-governmental' body, Israeli Communist Party spokesperson Uzi Burstein says the Israeli delegation will have talks with senior officials of the Soviet Communist Party.

The delegation will almost certainly be debriefed by the Israeli Foreign Office on their return.

One group that was not invited to Moscow was the Progressive List for Peace, whose leaders include reserve-General Matti Peled, editor and former Knesset member Uri Avneri, Palestinian lawyer Mohammed Miari, and Canon Riah Abu el Assal, of the Anglican Church in Nazareth.

This Arab-Jewish alliance, which has pioneered open contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and some of whose

members are being systematically harassed by the Israeli security services as a result, seems to be persona non grata with the Stalinists.

In the past, Communist Party influence was used among the Palestinians to block Avneri and others by arguing they were not consistently anti-Zionist. (Notwithstanding that CP leader Wilner boasts of being one of the signatories of the Zionist proclamation of statehood in 1948.)

This failed eventually to deter either the PLO leadership from contacts, or Palestinian nationalists within the Zionist state from joining an alliance with Avneri and Peled.

At last year's Bucharest meeting between Israeli peace campaigners and PLO officials, the Stalinists tried to exclude any Progressive List representative, while accepting delegates from Mapam, the 'Socialist-Zionist' party which has been part of Labour governments.

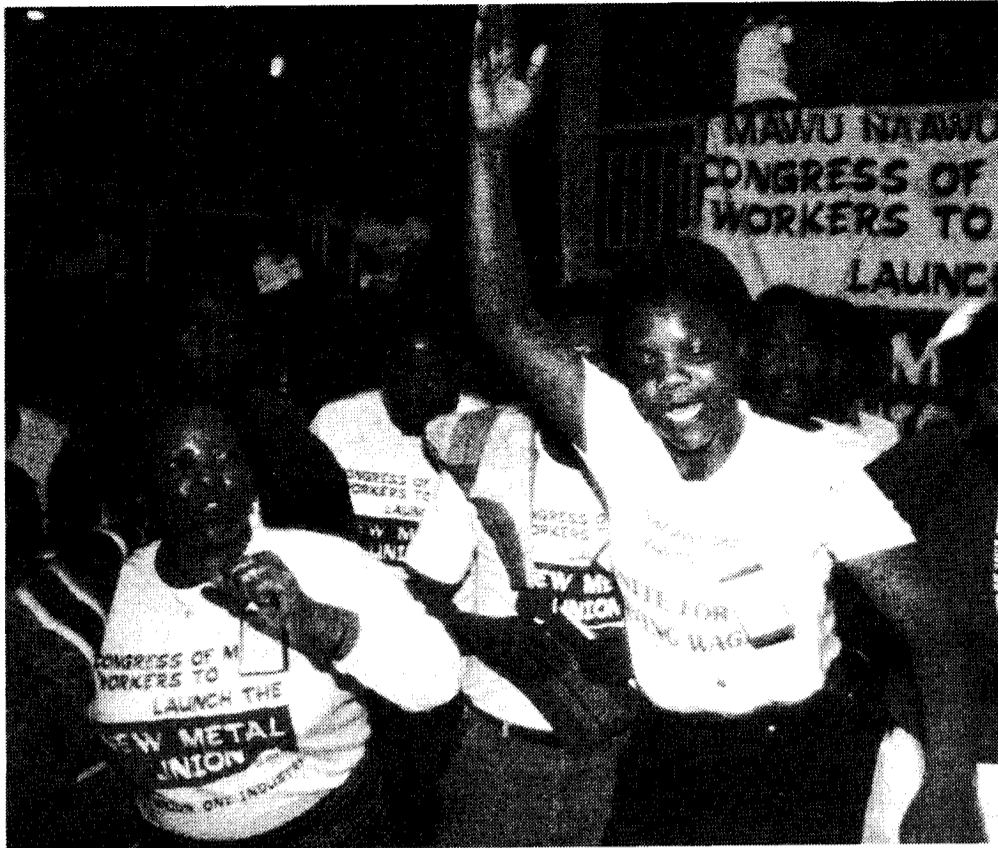
### Talks

Mapam, rather than the Progressive List, was also invited to talks in Budapest on June 11, as part of the delegation led by CP-allied Knesset member Charlie Biton. Now the pattern is repeated in the Moscow visit.

This attitude has gone hand in hand with refusal by the Communist Party to entertain any kind of united front in struggles against land expropriations and anti-Arab discrimination in Israel.

Whatever the legitimate criticisms that might be directed at the Progressive List, its lack of social policy, and the opportunist tactics of some of its leaders, the Stalinists' attitude cannot be mistaken for one of principle.

In effect, they are squeezing out any independent forces, the better to reach out to the Zionist Labour Party on behalf of the Soviet bureaucracy and its diplomacy.



ANC moves closer to liberal bourgeoisie

# Strange happenings

COMMENT BY A SOUTH AFRICAN REVOLUTIONARY

LAST week a motley group of 58 academics, churchmen, sportsmen, politicians, businessmen and other hangers-on met a 17-strong African National Congress delegation in Dakar, Senegal.

Already the bourgeois press is hailing this as a major breakthrough in the struggle for a 'peaceful solution' to South Africa's problems and everybody who finds the system of apartheid 'morally reprehensible' is invited to jump on the Dakar bandwagon.

It would be easy to dismiss this event as yet another public relations campaign on the part of the petty-bourgeois nationalist movement.

But the delegation of whites, mainly Afrikaners, was led by the most important spokesperson of the liberal bourgeoisie in South Africa and the purpose of the meeting, according to the ANC publicity secretary Thabo Mbeki, was to discuss 'a non-racial future, what is needed in terms of strategies for change'. (Guardian, 9 July 1987)

### Ruling-class divisions

IT IS no accident that the talks come at this particular time.

Over the past two or three years a revolutionary situation has been rapidly maturing with the oppressed demonstrating unequivocally they are no longer prepared to suffer under apartheid domination and capitalist exploitation.

The intensity of this offensive has produced serious divisions in the ranks of the racist ruling class as they fall out among themselves over the best means to contain and eventually defeat the mass upsurge.

The uprising of the masses has its roots in a deep-seated and profound social crisis. Productive forces in the country stagnate; unemployment has reached the staggering figure of 5 million; inflation constantly rises and the impoverishment and pauperisation of the working masses proceeds apace.

This chronic economic crisis, reflecting in a particular national form the world-wide crisis of the whole capitalist system, is exacerbated by the fact that the system of

capitalism in South Africa exists on the basis of a racist political system which denies basic democratic rights to the majority of the people in the country.

In real and concrete struggle the masses have learned that apartheid and capitalism are the opposite sides of the same bloody coin.

Through hard and bitter experience they have learned that every feature of apartheid is inextricably bound-up with the capitalist system. The workers who have struck to defend their right to a decent standard of living have learned that the main defender of the exploitative system of the bosses is the apartheid state.

The hundreds and thousands of people who have been forcibly moved into the 'bantustans' (so-called 'homelands') have learned that these are the dumping grounds for those capitalism has made redundant.

In their struggle against the racist education system, the students have learned that the purpose of such a system is to create the cheap and ultra-exploitable labour force for capitalism.

### No trust in the liberal bourgeoisie!

It must therefore cause serious alarm among the masses in South Africa when they read that an organisation which claims to represent their interests meets those who are wholly committed to the perpetuation of apartheid-capitalism to discuss 'strategies for change'.

What kind of changes can these representatives of the liberal bourgeoisie be interested in?

Surely, the ANC is not going to try to convince the

masses in South Africa that people like van Zyl Slabbert (former parliamentary opposition leader) and Alex Boraine are interested in the destruction of apartheid-capitalism?

Since the upsurge in the class struggle these same people have been working feverishly towards some solution in South Africa which would reform features of apartheid but would leave the system of private property intact.

They have enlisted the support of such reactionaries as leader of the Zulu Inkatha movement Gatsha Buthelezi to propagate their policy of a 'peaceful solution' to the problem of South Africa.

With this hated enemy of the masses (who is anything but 'peaceful') they have worked out a system of 'power-sharing' where the protection of the rights of 'minorities' was very cleverly combined with the protection of the rights of capital (the so-called KwaNatal Option).

Now — when the class struggle in South Africa has reached such new heights, when the masses are more convinced than ever before that both apartheid and capitalism must be destroyed, when the oppressed and exploited are closer to victory than at any other time — the ANC chooses to discuss with the implacable class enemies of the masses South Africa's 'non-racial future'.

There is only one thing that these representatives of the class enemy are interested in discussing and that is the future of apartheid-capitalism, or more correctly, how to ensure its survival.

As the most far-sighted representatives of the racist ruling class they realise that if private property is going to be saved in South Africa then they need to enlist the support of a more credible political organisation than Gatsha's discredited Inkatha.

### Standing

They need the popularity and standing of the ANC among the masses to dupe the latter into believing that their concern for change is genuine. They need the 'authenticity' of the ANC to stand between them and the escalating civil war in the country.

## Workers vote for action

SOUTH AFRICA's Black miners were voting this week on strike action that could cripple the racist state's vital gold and coal-mining industries.

Meanwhile, leaders of the new National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa said about 95 per cent of 80,000 members taking part in a ballot had voted for strike action.

The metal workers' union has 130,000 members, in car manufacturing, engineering, and related work. Those involved in the current pay claims could hit 400 companies by their strike decision.

The miners' strike ballot involved 200,000 miners at 27 gold and coal mines. NUM officials predicted a majority favouring strike action.

### Class collaboration

THE ANC were not of course simply cajoled to Dakar by a cunning bourgeoisie.

There had to be a readiness to meet on their part or else no talks would have taken place.

This eagerness of the ANC to discuss 'strategies for change' with the class enemies of the oppressed and exploited can only be explained in terms of the petty-bourgeois leadership of the organisation.

Trapped between the two great classes of modern society, that is, the bourgeoisie and the proletariat, the petty-bourgeoisie is incapable of developing a policy of its own. It constantly vacillates between collaboration with the bourgeoisie and support for the struggle of the working class.

In the absence of a strong working class leadership the petty-bourgeoisie however inevitably ends up in the camp of the bourgeoisie and reaction. This is the main reason for the enthusiastic support which the ANC has given to the Dakar talks.

All class conscious fighters of the working class must reject what is taking place in Dakar.

They must demand that these talks are ended forthwith and that the ANC makes an irrevocable break with the liberal bourgeoisie.

The principle lesson which they must learn from Dakar is the very grave danger of entrusting the leadership of the struggle to the petty-bourgeoisie.

Certainly the petty-bourgeoisie in South Africa can be a progressive force in the struggle against apartheid-capitalism, but if and only if, it is led by the working class.

Without an independent worker's party what we are today witnessing in Dakar will surely be the precursor to another 'Lancaster House' where the petty-bourgeois nationalists trade happy co-existence with the bourgeois for suppression of the struggle of the working masses, as happened with Zimbabwe.

Only the building of a Bolshevik-Leninist party can ensure that the struggle against apartheid-capitalism is not betrayed but that it ends in victory for the oppressed and exploited.

# THE PO

## The charge that raised the Commons of England 1381

**THE FIRST TIME** a poll tax was applied in England it sparked a rebellion of gigantic proportions; the great Peasants' Revolt of 1381. In fact many were involved besides peasants.

Feudal society was breaking down and serfdom declining in a process advanced by the development of commerce and early capitalist agriculture and accelerated by the terrible Black Death (Bubonic plague) of 1348-1351.

Possibly a third of Britain's population of 2.5 million died in the outbreak.

Desperately the government of the day sought to prevent village craftworkers and landless peasants from taking advantage of the labour shortage to seek higher payments and to free themselves from bondage and servitude.

The 1351 Statute of Labourers required that all work be paid for at pre-Black Death wage rates on pain of fines and imprisonment, even though food prices were rising steeply.

Meanwhile, the long war with France which had begun in 1337 and had seen major English victories at Cressy and Poitiers now took a severe turn for the worse. A series of heavy military defeats was followed by French naval raids on English coastal towns.

In 1377 a totally bankrupt government — even the Crown jewels had been pawned — set a one-off poll tax of one groat (4 old pence, one and a third new pence and a week's wage for many) on everyone over the age of 14 except beggars.

BY BERNARD FRANKS

Recommended by the King's uncle, John of Gaunt and enacted by parliament, the payment was in addition to the usual tax on landed property.

The money was soon spent on the war and another exaction was made in 1379.

This time it was a graduated tax but heavily weighted against the poor, dukes paying £6, merchants £1 and everyone else barring beggars a groat per head.

However, an upper limit for big households ensured that the rich did not have to pay for their full retinue of servants and hangers-on.

The following year the situation was no better, in fact the raids were getting worse, invasion was hourly expected and the English army in France was threatened with mass desertions by unpaid soldiers.

This time a three groat tax was applied, to be paid in two instalments by everyone over 15. It was a huge sum to demand from poor people with large families and many elderly dependents. In fact a frightened parliament had met in Northampton to

set the tax, fearing the wrath of Londoners.

Lord Chancellor Simon Sidbury — who was also Archbishop of Canterbury — was concerned that the second poll tax had only raised £22,000 of an expected £100,000, indicating evasion on a massive scale.

The truth was that whole populations had taken to the woods when the tax assessors arrived, so that the eventual returns lists were half a million people short.

On the recommendation of a King's Sergeant-at-Arms, John Legge, special commissioners were appointed to go with justices and armed escorts to enforce payment of the third tax in the nine worst offending counties.

When Commissioner John de Bampton arrived at Brentwood in Essex in May

1381 to secure payment from the three villages of Fobbing, Corrington and Stanford-le-Hope, the villagers arrived not to pay him off but to run him out of town.

When London then sent a Chief Justice, his court was wrecked and he was likewise sent packing.

### Success

News of this success spread through the Essex villages and far beyond.

Manor houses were raided to destroy the lists of dues and services owed to landlords. Towns were occupied to release poll-tax and statute of labourers offenders from prison and to demand freedom charters from the local ruling feudal authority — usually a monastery or

abbey but sometimes a great lord or even a university.

In each case they were called on to renounce all privileges and franchise on pain of death.

Even in those days the south east, as food supplier for London, was probably the most prosperous area of England, with many better off and independently minded peasants.

At Canterbury the cathedral was occupied during mass and the monks advised to get themselves a new archbishop. Rochester Castle keep was captured after a day's siege while Maidstone, where the radical priest John Ball was released from the bishop's jail, became the headquarters of the Kentish movement under the leadership of Wat Tyler.

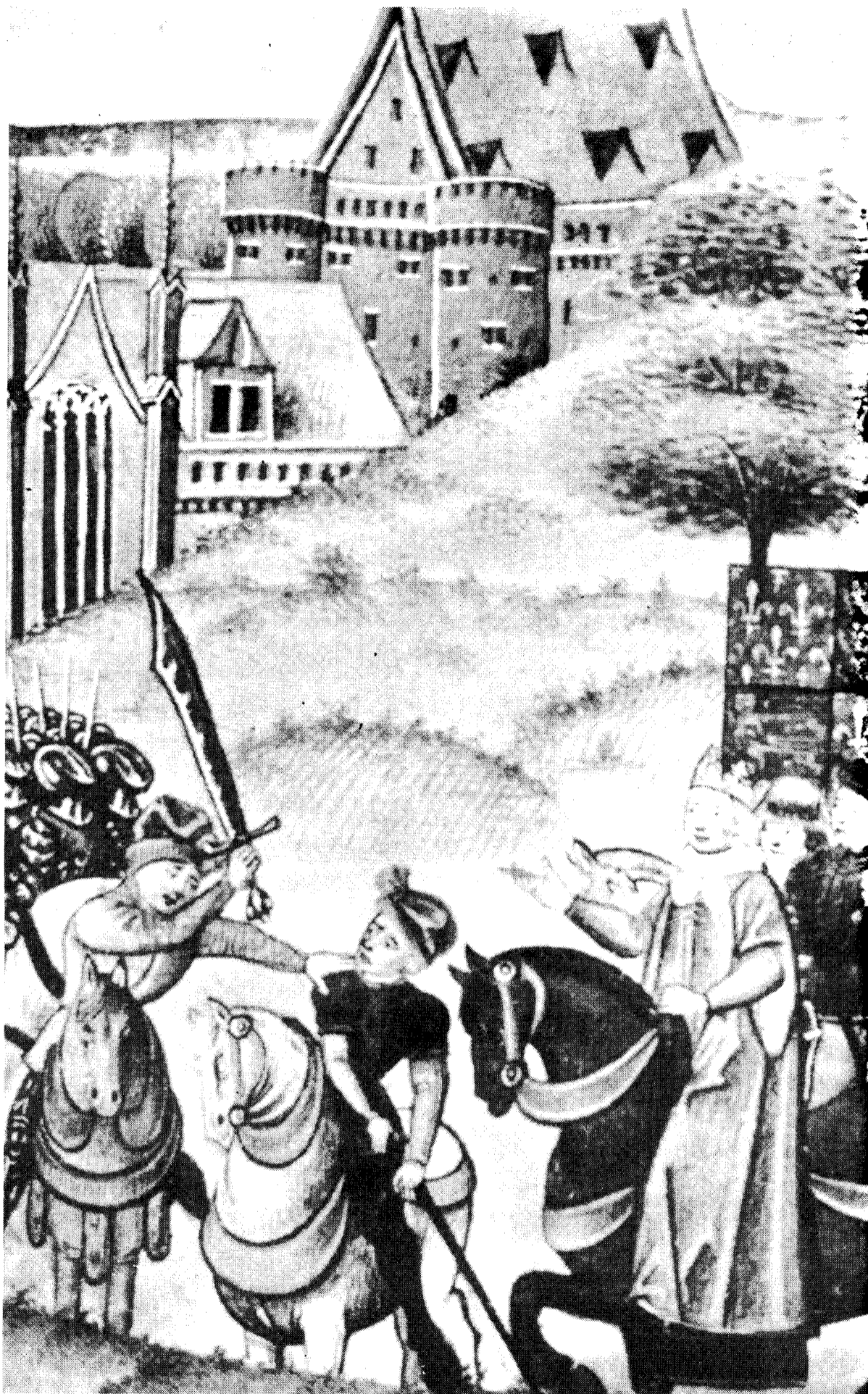
Everywhere, open season

was declared on the lawyers and law clerks who were instrumental in drawing up manorial rolls and government tax lists. Heads of the offending officials were paraded on poles for several days.

Finally, it was decided to march on London to get the King to draw up royal freedom charters for all towns and villages and to have the people's oppressors condemned as traitors.

Two vast armies of peasants, craftsmen and townspeople from north and south of the Thames drew up at Mile End and Blackheath respectively, each estimated at 50,000 strong. Subsequently they entered the city and fraternised with its inhabitants.

However, John of Gaunt's palace and Temple Bar, the



15 June 1381: Wat Tyler, leader of the Kentish movement, is murdered by Mayor Walworth at Smithfield and Richard II



# LL TAX

## Scotland 1989 England and Wales 1991

THE TORY government intends to introduce a poll tax in England and Wales in 1991 to replace the existing local authority rating system based on property valuation.

The scheme for Scotland, rushed through parliament prior to the election, is being brought forward to April 1989.

A poll tax is a fixed charge on everyone, 'poll' being an old English word for head.

In this case it is to be termed a 'community charge' and will apply to everyone aged 18 and over, including housewives, students, pensioners and people on supplementary benefits.

Although there will be graduated rebates for the very poor the government is determined that almost no one will be exempt — except for some elderly and mentally handicapped people in residential care.

Even those on the lowest income will have to pay a minimum of 20 per cent.

The system is wholly regressive in that the same fixed payment on everyone equally — of £8 a week, say — is a far greater part of a low income than of a high salary, while to the Cabinet minister on £47,000 a year it means nothing at all.

Warnings have already been sounded that the scheme will place a huge burden on the poor and on large adult families in deprived areas, which it may induce to split up.

However, it will vastly benefit rich residents in areas of large scale houses, such as the stockbroker belt, or anyone with substantial property holdings.

According to one example, the Thatchers will save £2,000 a year on their bijou retirement retreat at Dulwich.

It has been estimated that house prices may rise by a further 15 per cent if rateable value ceases to be a factor, and concern has been expressed that the right to vote in elections may rest on having paid the tax, a rule applied in other countries in the past.

The government has already admitted that a poll tax will cost twice as much to collect as the existing system and is likely to lose 10 per cent by evasion. On this basis some form of state snooping will probably be set up to hunt down non-payers, particularly young people and those on the move.

One sector to benefit enormously will be the business community.

Employers will no longer be liable to contribute according to the size of property or to the needs of the local services but will instead pay a 'unified business rate' direct to central government. This will then be distributed to local authorities in line with current policy, i.e. rate-capping of councils con-

cerned to fight urban deprivation, slow strangulation of public services and forced privatisation of local authority amenities and services.

As Industry Secretary Lord Young remarked: 'The business rate will stop councils like the Lambeths and Camdens of this world charging firms high rates.' (Inner City Conference speech, 30 June 1987)

The reasons for changing from the existing rating system to a poll tax are very clear:

- To cut the input by the profit-maker, the property speculator, the high flyer etc.
- To give every potential voter an alleged vested interest in electing a low spending council, by making all 40 million electors into direct rate-payers in place of the present 18 million householders.
- To give central government total domination over all elected local authorities by its control of finance.

As new Environment Secretary, David Trippier put it: 'Incompetent or downright loony councils will be swept away.' (Guardian, 1 July 1987)

In general the aim will be to make the poor pay for the poor.

But what has Labour been doing to counter the poll tax threat beyond witch-hunting any member who seems willing to oppose the Tory onslaught?



presents himself to the common people as their leader

training centre for lawyers, were set ablaze and most prisons were forced open and their inmates released.

The King duly drew up the required charters but had only treachery in mind.

### Enforcement

Meanwhile, all those associated with the enforcement of the poll-tax who could be found — Archbishop Sudbury, Legge and England's treasurer Robert Hales — were dragged out of the Tower of London and beheaded by the insurgents. At Bury St Edmunds the Lord Chief Justice was similarly despatched.

The end of the revolt is a well-known story — the parley at Smithfield at which Wat Tyler was struck down. Less well-known perhaps

is the extent to which the movement had spread across the rest of the country to a score of towns from Bridgewater in Somerset up to York, Beverley and Scarborough in Yorkshire, in all cases combining action by villagers and townspeople.

Retribution was terrible, particularly in Norfolk and Cambridgeshire, but the poll tax was never again looked to for a major contribution to the English exchequer — until today.

#### Reading list:

'The Peasants Revolt of 1381', edited by R.B. Dobson. Contains a section on the three poll taxes as well as contemporary accounts of the rest of the revolt. 'The English Rising of 1381', by Hilton and Fagan, gives the feudal background as well as an analysis of the main events.



A rate-capping demonstration in March 1985. The new poll tax proposals raise far more explosive questions.

# KwaNdebele: Independence vote was forced through

**ON 12 August 1986, the Speaker of KwaNdebele's legislative assembly, Solly Mahlangu, announced to the packed gathering in the homeland's parliament: 'Not one of you said independence was all right and should go ahead.'**

'I am of the opinion that the House is quite unanimous with regard to independence. Independence is being uprooted, eradicated with all its roots and thrown into the deep ocean.'

However, at the beginning of May this year, all this turned into its opposite. A thinned-out assembly — missing those members of it who were previously opposed to independence — decided in favour of it, backdated to December 1986.

This move had been back on schedule for some time and may never have been taken off Pretoria's schedule.

The new decision was taken after all the prominent opponents of independence had been dismissed from their parliamentary and 'tribal' posts by the government and while many were in detention, including the powerful Ndzundza royal family.

The Ndzundza Tribal Authority is a constitutional body which represents about 85 per cent of the population of KwaNdebele and has several appointed seats in the parliament.

The chairman of the Tribal Authority, Prince James Mahlangu, his brother and former Cabinet Minister, Prince Cornelius Mahlangu, and their brother Andries — as well as the Speaker of the House, Solly Mahlangu, were all dismissed from their parliamentary posts during the past few weeks and stripped of their Tribal Authority power base.

Along with other people who opposed independence, in both parliament and the civil service, they have in addition been detained intermittently and repeatedly.

The firings and detentions followed a lull in KwaNdebele's recent troubled history.

JUST over a year ago 'independence' first came on to KwaNdebele parliament's agenda.

This was just after a part of Lebowa, another homeland (there are ten altogether), had been incorporated into KwaNdebele with a great deal of bloodshed and violence from, among other sources, a vigilante group known as the Mbokhotho.

Most residents of the incorporated area did not wish to become citizens of an 'independent' KwaNdebele.

The vigilante group was basically made up of KwaNdebele government supporters and small businessmen and led by the late Chief Minister, Simon Skhosana,

BY LUCY BRENT

and the brutal Minister of the Interior Piet Ntuli.

The Mbokhotho used violence against people who opposed independence and in the ensuing bloody civil war at least 200 people died. A number of vigilantes died at the hands of retaliating 'comrades'.

Prince James and his family became the focal point of the anti-independence and anti-Mbokhotho movement, forming an alliance with traditionalists, royalists, the more militant youths, the civil service and local white farmers anxious about the consequences of independence.

The turning-point in the civil war came after Ntuli's death in a car-bomb incident in July 1986. Most of the violence suddenly came to an end.

KWANDEBELE is a 'self-governing homeland' in the Transvaal, to the north-east of South Africa's capital, Pretoria.

Last year the homeland's legislative assembly voted against taking the fraudulent 'independence' of others like the Transkei, Ciskei, and Bophuthatswana.

In May this year KwaNdebele's assembly decided in favour of independence.

How this happened throws some light on the way the apartheid government goes about the business of forcing through its policies. Even after the August 1986 vote against independence, three events indicated Pretoria's contempt for the decision:

- Construction work on the new capital at KwaMhlanga continued, with its Rands 3.7 million independence stadium;

- In April the huge new black township of Ekangala, near Bronkhorstpruit, was in-

corporated into KwaNdebele — and this, like the building of KwaMhlanga, gave the new Chief Minister patronage to dispense to loyal followers; and

- South Africa's Minister of Development, Gerrit Viljoen, announced in April that more powers were to be transferred to KwaNdebele.

The ruling National Party's election manifesto had reaffirmed its commitment to establish 'independent' black states, but pledged that it would not 'force' them to become independent.

It is now clear that the pro-independence decision was the result of manoeuvres by a chief minister acting in concert with a specially chosen South African police chief and under a South African decree conferring emergency powers on him.

This article describes the unsavoury details.

ulations in KwaNdebele — a new Chief Minister was elected: a young man, George Mahlangu, said to have had Mbokhotho associations (and not part of the royal family).

The other candidate was Prince James, but he and his brother Andries had been detained by the South African authorities and were only released shortly before the vote.

All Ndzundza Tribal Authority records were confiscated when the two were detained.

Then a regular programme of harassing the Mahlangu began with a stream of detentions, confiscations of documents and attempts to distance the old King, David Mapoch, from his sons, Princes James and Cornelius.

An attempt was made to repudiate the 'royalty' claim of the Ndzundzas and to replace their Tribal Authority status with the much smaller Manala.

Police banned Ndzundza Tribal Authority activities and closed all its offices.

This was reversed by the Supreme Court in Pretoria, but many documents were never returned and Prince James was detained once more, while his brother was fired from his Cabinet post.

A large recruitment programme began of 'kitskonstables' — hastily trained police — many of whom were former vigilantes.

A NEW newspaper, 'Africa News', found to be funded by the South African government, began publishing reports of the new Chief Minister's speeches, glowing accounts of large loans for development projects, visits by Taiwanese investors — and no mention of the State of Emergency.

In April matters began coming to a head. Andries Mahlangu found himself on the run. Princes James and Cornelius were in detention, and a new session of the legislative assembly was in progress.

Among its first acts was the firing of those members who had been opposed to independence.

Then, with no visible opposition in the assembly, and with the leaders of the anti-independence lobby either in jail, on the run, or utterly intimidated, the legislative assembly opted once more for independence.



Jubilant outside the legislative assembly in August 1986 when independence was rejected. Now the vote has been overturned.

## SUPPORT CONFERENCE 25 JULY MANCHESTER

# A programme for the crisis

**WORKERS and their families face the start of Thatcher's third term with a Labour and trade union leadership which has shown itself utterly incapable of fighting the Tories.**

Behind all the problems facing the working class in Britain is the unresolved crisis of revolutionary leadership.

The rank-and-file conference called in Manchester on July 25, and other such meetings called in different parts of the country, arise from this crisis.

They fulfil an important need in the working class to come together to discuss the common fight.

As the notice for the conference says: 'This SUPPORT conference has been called by sacked workers and supporters in an attempt to build solidarity and a fighting body to win our demands.'

Faced with the need to defend itself against this Tory government, the state and employers, the working class resists, fights and seeks out others involved in the same struggle.

But this movement must go further than just solidarity. It has to work out how to stop Thatcher's attacks, and defeat Toryism for good. For this it must have a programme of action and build a new

leadership on the foundations of Marxism.

We have to work to break the grip on the labour movement of Kinnock's 'loyal opposition' to the Tory government, the trade union bureaucracy's bowing to anti-union laws and the so-called Communist Party's covering up for their treachery.

## Women

In the miners' strike, whole communities, and especially women, organised themselves as fighting bodies. They stood firm against not just the National Coal Board, but against the state's armed police, judges and jailers.

The TUC, Kinnock and the Labour leaders set out to isolate the miners and backed the state against the mass pickets. The Communist Party worked to end the strike, and are now supporting the move to six-day working.

In the Workers Revolution-

## STATEMENT BY THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE OF THE WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

ary Party we have been forced to face our own shortcomings. We realised that, instead of a party of men and women trained as Communists in Marxist theory, developed through a conscious struggle in the working class, we had allowed our party to come under the control of a small corrupt clique.

This group tried to keep the membership away from the miners' wives support committees reducing the party's political work to tail-ending reformist trade union

and Labour leaders, repeating ultimatic slogans, and merely reporting the strike with pictures in our paper.

In October 1985, we expelled this clique, and began the process of making an objective accounting of our mistakes. We are convinced that these actions were an important step towards resolving the crisis of revolutionary leadership. They cannot be separated from the necessity for the whole working class to clear out the bureaucrats and create the conditions for developing revolutionary leadership.

The labour movement was built by the working class, and not these bureaucrats. They must not be allowed to sell our basic rights.

Under capitalism the drive for profit creates slump, unemployment, starvation and war, yet new technology can ensure proper standards of living for the whole of humanity. Only when the working class has the power firmly in its own hands can socialist planning be implemented. And this is not a British question. Capitalism is a world system, and the working class is an international class.

The struggle for socialism in Britain is bound inseparably with the struggle of

workers and oppressed peoples throughout the world as well as those fighting against the Stalinist bureaucracy.

We therefore put forward the following demands for discussion at the Manchester Conference on July 25. Such conferences give working people the opportunity to come together to thrash out an answer to the crisis, whatever party they support.

- Complete independence of the unions from the state, whatever government is in office. The trade union leaders must be forced to end their collaboration with the MSC and all state bodies. They act as policemen in the trade unions and undermine the independent strength of the working class.

- Workers' committees on a national scale to defend all those in struggle against the state, including those who occupy their plants to defend their jobs and families.

- Immediately scrap YTS, JTS and other slave labour schemes. For a public works programme under workers control to restore full employment. A crash programme to solve the housing problem, and to build urgently needed hospitals and schools. Local community committees to take over empty and misused property, to immediately house homeless families.

- Defend local government services. Repudiate the local government debts by the Labour authorities. Build a national movement based on the trade unions and labour movement organisations in the localities to defend the councillors, and ensure that the old, the young and the sick do not suffer.

- Open up the secrets of the City of London, the monopolies, banks and other financial institutions to the labour movement. Place them under the control of workers' committees. Expropriate them without compensation.

- Break up MI5, together with the police and the army. A labour movement inquiry into the allegations that MI5 and MI6 are engaged in activities to destabilise the labour movement, and organise sectarian murders in the north of Ireland. Form a workers' militia to protect the interests of the working class.

- Educational facilities for all who need them. Full maintenance for all full-time students. The formation of teachers', parents' and students' committees to defend the schools against privatisation.

- Break from all imperialist alliances, including NATO. Withdraw all British forces from imperialist bases, including the north of Ireland. Restore the Malvinas Islands to Argentina.

- Throw out the US bases. For unilateral nuclear disarmament.

- Develop a world plan to use the resources of a socialist Britain in collaboration with the peoples of the former colonial and semi-colonial countries, as well as the Soviet Union, eastern Europe, and China. This is the only basis on which problems of world starvation and poverty can be tackled.

## Support for conference growing

BY HUGHIE NICOL

**THIS CONFERENCE was initiated and called by those workers engaged in struggle and their supporters who are in the front line of the employers' and Tory government attack.**

Involved in these support groups are trade unionists, many unemployed activists, students and differing political tendencies and organisations.

The aim of the conference is to counter the employer and government offensive. Those workers in struggle must have a strategy, a programme around which to organise and fight.

Our strength is not in numbers engaged in any particular dispute but the sure fact that millions of workers and their supporters have a common hatred of this Tory government and will respond to those who will be seen to fight back.

We must begin by building a national and international network of support groups and strike committees to immediately strengthen those workers engaged in disputes.

Sacked miners, movements against racialism,

anti-apartheid and unemployed groups, solidarity movements and community groups must be given full participation as a right.

The new Public Order Act is being used by the police and the courts to criminalise the working class as they attempt to fight back against the employers' offensive.

Up and down the country, workers in many industries have been sacked as soon as they begin to dispute.

There is a growing tendency for employers to simply sack their entire workforce and replace them with scab, non-union labour recruited from the dole queues.

Since this conference was called already the Hangers dispute, Trader sacked workers and the Arbride strikers in Scotland have all been subjected to this process of isolation and demoralisation, resulting in these disputes being forced to end — with more than a little encouragement to do so by their trade union officials.

As far as the employers, the Tories, the police and the courts and the TUC and trade union leaders are concerned the working class must not be allowed to mobilise.



The banner of the sacked HFW workers at the Durham Miners Gala last weekend

This is their common slogan. These are the lessons of the miners strike, Wapping, Silentnight which are now faced by every worker coming into struggle.

The conference to date has received wide confirmation of delegations from workers in many industries.

Those in attendance will include the HFW Plastics

sacked workers, Senior Colman sacked workers, Moathouse sacked workers, J.Blake's sacked workers, ex-Silentnight strikers, Ancoats Casualty sit-in, Westminster Workers Against the Cuts and the T&GWU 6/5385 unemployed branch from Liverpool.

Many unemployed groups, rank and file AIS, Austen and Pickersgill shipyard

workers, the Durham Mechanics executive committee of the NUM, the North-East region justice campaign for sacked miners, Wheelers support groups, Arbride support group, Senior Colman support group, Gateshead workers support group, the CPSA union members, and trades councils will be represented at the conference.

# LETTERS

Letters do not necessarily reflect the view of the Editorial Board. Letters over 500 words will normally be cut. Letters should arrive by first post Monday at: Workers Press, PO Box 735, London SW9 7QS, and should include sender's address.

## Distinction between solidarity and political leadership

**YOUR EDITORIAL** of 4 July misrepresents what I said in my letter of 27 June and I wish to reply.

- The letter was sent by the Tower Hamlets Workers Support Group, not by a correspondent as you state.
- You imply that the letter states that the Workers Press called the Manchester conference. Untrue.
- You imply that I or the Group wants to hold up the anti-Tory fight. Again untrue.

My position and that of the Group is contained in J. Rees's letter of 4 July. We support all forms of working class struggle. We have not called for a boycott of the Manchester conference. We were among the first to affiliate.

However, a distinction must be made between a solidarity conference around an industrial dispute (a syndicalist operation, see J. Rees's letter) and a national conference of all support groups with the aim of building a revolutionary political leadership in the working class which can address all the attacks on it and not just single issues.

If this leadership is to be built it must be based on firm principles. One of the most fundamental must be to abide by majority decisions.

Pat Brady  
Tower Hamlets Workers  
Support Group

## Capitalism's latest phase

**THE LETTER** from Keith Gibbard criticising John Crawford's article 'Wall Street Roulette' is very much to be welcomed. It is high time these questions of the latest phase of capitalism were discussed within the movement.

But I think his criticisms miss the main features of imperialism as Lenin analysed them, and which are to-

day intensified a hundred-fold.

In 'Imperialism', Lenin explains how monopoly 'is the deepest economic foundation of imperialism' which 'inevitably gives rise to a tendency to stagnation and decay'.

Lenin also explains how 'the "domination" of capitalist monopolies inevitably becomes the domination of a financial oligarchy'.

Another bit of Lenin: 'The rentier state is a state of parasitic, decaying capitalism, and this circumstance cannot fail to influence all the social-political conditions of the countries affected generally, and the two fundamental trends in the working class movement in particular.'

Keynes thought that parasitism was 'irrational', that is, something which capitalism could do without. But Lenin knew it was at the heart of the system in its death agony. Finance-capital is parasitic because it creates a category of rentiers, people 'who take no part whatever in production, whose profession is idleness'.

These people make billions overnight. Meanwhile, the people whose labour produces food starve to death.

I am not saying that manufacturing industry and workers share a common enemy in international finance.

But industrialists are inevitably forced to become parasitic rentiers. The 'rationality' of this lunatic system makes them sell off their factories and sack the labour force.

The course of the crisis of imperialism today is determined by the movement of finance capital, that is, of debt. The categories of Volume 1 of Capital are absolutely vital to understand these movements, but not sufficient.

That is why Marx wanted Volumes II and III, although he never finished them, and why Lenin had to write 'Imperialism'. Marxism has to develop, in order to grasp the newest forms of the crisis and of the struggles which express it.

The second half of comrade Gibbard's letter, indeed, provides some excellent material to illustrate these points. For example, he shows how the US was transformed in two short years from the world's largest creditor into the world's largest debtor.

Put this together with the information that this rich country is sucking in wealth from all the poorest countries, and you have a splendid example, not of irrationality, but of utter craziness. (That is Marx's word, by the way, in Chapter 1 of Volume I.)

Cyril Smith

## Waldheim's murky past

**THANK YOU** very much for the paper and for sending it so that I just got it on a Saturday!

It's made my day. I can follow Robson's choice this week which I have not been able to do before.

An excellent paper. Very interesting about Barbie. 'Der Spiegel' (Verges) some time ago very much hinted at the same thing.

I would draw your paper's attention to this week's 'Spiegel' which has an article on the anti-semitism bursting out once more in Vienna, the city of our dreams.

The Jewish population there is very small. However, threats have been made against them; words like 'Saujud' are being smeared on walls. It took the amnesic Kurt Waldheim to stir 'em up once more in Vienna.

What a farce.

Well, keep at it. It is the best 25p-worth I have had for a read for a long time.

There is an interesting sidelight to the whole Waldheim carry on.

When he was up for candidate for the presidential election in Austria and certain matters emerged about his murky past, 'Der Spiegel' (again) wrote an article which stated plainly that the Russians knew all about our Kurt's Nazi past and that this gave them a hold over Waldheim while he was Secretary General of the United Nations Organisation.

The USSR supported him as Secretary General for the second time running.

He was regarded as a non-entity as Secretary General.

I am only writing about this from what I read in 'Der Spiegel'.

Waldheim enjoyed the way he was treated in Moscow. They made a great fuss of him there.

Whilst I am no Zionist, I think the way the Arabs make him out to be a big hero is quite ridiculous.

He is a nasty bit of work and typical of the solid yeasaying Vienna Burgher who in the past solidly supported German and Austrian fascism.

Maria Scott

## For music lovers

**WHAT A PITY** Robson's Choice (Workers Press 4 and 7 July 1987) missed the opportunity to draw to the attention of his readers the series of recitals and concerts which have been taking place on London's South Bank over the last fortnight.

'Music from the Royal Courts' has been delighting audiences with perform-

ances by an assembly of ensembles from Africa and the Orient producing sounds unfamiliar to most Western ears.

A large proportion of the concerts have been relayed by BBC's Radio 3 where I have been lucky enough to catch them. The experience has been absolutely breathtaking. For those unable to get over to Waterloo before the concerts end on Saturday, I strongly recommend tuning in to any coverage of them still to come.

While on the subject of the

entertainment's industry, has TSR any suggestions for the forthcoming season of Proms at the Royal Albert Hall?

From reports it appears the concerts are selling out in advance at an almost unprecedented rate. I look forward to reading what performances he considers will be worth standing (or sitting uncomfortably!) for during the next couple of months. (They're all being broadcast too, of course.)

Jeff Jackson



## Viraj Mendis march

BY BRONWEN HANDYSIDE

**A MARCH** of a thousand-strong strode through the streets of Manchester and ended up outside a church in the suburbs last Saturday. The person whose threatened deportation was the reason for the march could only wave from a window of the church where he has taken

sanctuary for the last 6 months.

Cheers erupted as his figure appeared at the window.

For Viraj Mendis the last 6 months have been a prison sentence as surely as if he had stood in the dock and been condemned.

His 'crime' in the eyes of Thatcherism is that he is black. He stands alongside thousands of other black people who are the victims of the racist British Immigration laws — 50 a week are deported from Britain.

Many working class organisations took part, as did several church organisations which were allowed to walk at the head of the march.



**AS WE go to press, angry tenants from the Ferrier estate, south-east London, are planning to lobby Greenwich council at Woolwich town hall on Thursday 16 July in their campaign to get the council to do something about the infestation of ants and cockroaches as well as the problem of asbestos on parts of the estate.**

● Next week we will have a special report on the tenants' campaign during which they occupied the rent office.

## Time runs out for William

BY JOHN DOE

**UNDETERRED** by bad weather about 30 members and supporters of Exeter Anti-Fascist Action turned out at the City's Guildhall last Tuesday.

They handed in a petition with well over a thousand signatures calling on the City Council to drop its plans for the William of Orange celebrations in 1988.

Members of the campaign are concerned that the celebrations will attract

groups like the National Front who have threatened to bring supporters to Exeter from all over the country.

Neil Todd, the campaign's organiser, said it would continue with its fight to keep Ian Paisley and fascists off the streets of Exeter.

'It is an outrage that the City Council should support these celebrations', he said.

If they do take place, Exeter AFA will mobilise its members and supporters against the National Front and other fascist groups.

# Quit Kashmir

**KASHMIR will never compromise in its struggle for national unity and self-determination, a meeting in Glasgow was told last week.**

'The plight of Kashmir is worse than that of Berlin,' Khaled Rahim of the Kashmir Welfare Society told the audience of Asian and British people. 'For 40 years it has been divided by an artificial line which only United Nations officials can cross.'

'At least you can cross the Berlin Wall with the right travel documents. To go from one part of Kashmir to another you have to make a 1000-mile round trip, which most people can never afford.'

'Many of our people have not seen their friends and relatives on the other side for those 40 years.'

Rahim explained that the partition of Kashmir in 1947 resulted in the loss of quarter of a million lives, and a flood of three-quarters of a million exiles.

S. N. Gilani, of the Kashmiri Independence Movement, said: 'We are not anti-India or anti-Pakistan. We are anti-suppression and oppression.'

He compared Kashmir's identification laws with the South African pass law system and condemned the imprisonment-without-trial methods of occupying armed forces.

Former Kashmiri National Student Federation president Sohail Khawaja, and the Scottish secretary of the Kashmiri Independence Movement Ghulam Rabani, spoke in Urdu.

Simon Pirani of the Workers Revolutionary Party told the meeting that the Kashmiri question directly concerned British socialists, because the oppression of Kashmir and its partition in 1947 were above all the re-

sponsibility of British imperialism, and those British Labour leaders who collaborated with it.

While the British Empire was gone, imperialism continued on the Indian sub-continent in the form of super-exploitation by multi-nationals, starvation and 'under-development', and the racist treatment of Asian immigrants to Britain.

Pirani compared the partition of Kashmir to the partition of Ireland: British socialists had a responsibility to support both struggles, he said.

Derek Owen of the Red Front spoke of the need to unite the anti-imperialist struggles in Nicaragua, central Africa, the Indian sub-continent and Ireland.

## LISTINGS

**LISTINGS** are published free by WORKERS PRESS each week for organisations in the labour movement. Please send details to arrive by mid-day Monday for publication the following Thursday.

**CAMPAIGN AGAINST POLICE REPRESSION (CAPR)** Weekly planning meetings every Tuesday at 7.30pm. Stoke Newington Community Centre, Leswin Road, N16. All welcome. Contact: Box CAPR, 83 Blackstock Road, N4 (01-991 2938.)

**BRING BACK VICTORIA WILLIAMS!** Campaign meetings, second and fourth Wednesdays of every month, 7.30pm., UCA, Acton Technical College, Mill Hill Road, W3.

**FRANCE AFTER THE BARBIE CASE** Report from Paris by Barry Smerin. Jewish Socialists' Group. Sunday, 19 July, 8pm, Friends' International Centre, Byng Place, off Torrington Place, WC1 (nearest tube: Goadge Street).

**GREENHAM COMMON WOMEN'S CAMP** To all women — we are still here; we still need your support! Near Newbury, Exit 13 on M4, or BR Newbury, Berkshire.

**VIRAJ MENDIS LONDON SUPPORT GROUP** Downing Street Protest every Monday, 6pm-7pm. (Westminster/Charing Cross tubes.) Weekly organisational meetings take place after the picket.

## PERSONAL COLUMN

Peter Fryer

## Veteran of 1956

IT WAS a privilege last weekend to meet Sandor Racz, one of the remaining living links with the 1956 Hungarian Revolution.

In particular, Racz is a living link with the workers' councils that sprang up all over Hungary during the revolution and that led an obstinate nation-wide strike movement for many weeks after Soviet troops reoccupied the country.

In 1956, at the age of 23, Racz was a toolmaker at the Beloiannisz (formerly, Standard) communications technology factory in Budapest. Despite his youth, he was elected president of the Greater Budapest Central Workers' Council by secret ballot.

When the revolution began, on 23 October, he was in hospital. He discharged himself and plunged into the mêlée of demonstrations against the hated Stalinist regime — a regime under which, in his own factory, management had installed a microphone in one of the workers' lockers: 'The bosses used it to listen to what we were talking about while getting changed.'

He was there when the crowds pulled down the gigantic statue of Stalin, leaving only the boots standing on the plinth.

'It was the people of Budapest, in whose name the statue had been built, who went there and brought it down', he says. 'Everybody was your friend there and then on the square.'

On Monday, 29 October, Racz went back to the Beloiannisz factory, and on that day 500 of his workmates gathered in the main hall and elected a workers' council of 15 members, including himself. The first thing the council decided was to organise factory guards:

'We took it as natural, as a conquest of the revolution, that the manager shouldn't run things, that we should take over the factory ourselves. The guards were needed to defend the machinery and the materials, and to prevent any suspicious elements getting into the factory.'

Eleven days after the Soviet attack, Racz attended a meeting of delegates from Budapest factories in a building which was soon surrounded by Soviet troops. Two soldiers appeared at the door, and he heard the click as they lifted the safety catches of their machine-guns.

One of the workers on the platform got up to go towards them, but they ordered him back to his place. Racz stood up and, with the two guns pointed at his back, walked to the platform, turned to the workers and said:

'Even though there are two Russian soldiers with loaded weapons standing at the door, we still have to discuss the problems of the Hungarian workers.'

This reduced the tension, and the two soldiers withdrew from the doorway.

Why was a national workers' council never formed? Because, when several hundred delegates from all over the country gathered for a conference in the Budapest Sports Stadium on the morning of 21 November, the stadium was so heavily ringed with Soviet troops 'that not even a mouse could have got in'.

The workers responded with a two-day general strike. Two days earlier the workers' councils had led the workers back to work; now they proved their strength by bringing them out again.

It was Racz who challenged



SANDOR RACZ

Kadar personally when over 50 miners and other workers were shot dead in the town of Salgotarjan. It was he who insisted on continuing the councils' activities even though workers were being arrested and shot. And it was he who proposed the general strike of 11 and 12 December.

On 11 December he and his fellow-leader Sandor Bali, a communist, were summoned to a meeting with Kadar in the Parliament building. Soon after they got there they were arrested and clapped in jail. Another 84 workers' leaders were arrested at the same time.

## Imprisonment

On 17 March 1958 — his 25th birthday — Sandor Racz was sentenced to life imprisonment. He was released on 28 March 1963, under an amnesty.

He went back to the Beloiannisz factory but was turned away. And he was turned away from 25 other factories until he managed to find work at last.

Racz has never wavered in his position on the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. This is how he sums up his views:

'I see it as the greatest scandal that after 1948 the regime didn't help in the forming and deepening of the workers' consciousness. Instead — in establishing its system of informers — it undermined the very workers' unity that should have been the starting point for

the development of a true workers' power.

'In 1956 these workers, who'd been cheated before, now judged their situation correctly. They stood firmly and resolutely on the side of the revolution, and they defended it for as long as they had energy left to do so.

'I hold the actions of the Hungarian workers in 1956 to be the most important event in the history of the Hungarian workers' movement, because they acted for themselves, without being manipulated by anybody.'

This was Sandor Racz's first visit to the west: several previous requests for a passport had been denied. He said the 1,500 workers in his factory were excited about his trip, and are looking forward to the report-back meetings that he will be holding in private houses.

What of Hungary's future?

'Thirty years ago', he said, 'the revolution raised problems for the whole nation. These problems remain to be solved.'

In the face of the bland official refusal to acknowledge the realities of 1956 — a rewriting of history on the grand scale, which everyone in Hungary knows to be a monstrous lie — Sandor Racz is a powerful voice of truth.

His continuing courageous activity as a dissident helps to ensure that what he and his fellow-workers did 30 years ago will never be forgotten.

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# ROBSON'S CHOICE

ENTHUSIASTS of modern dance should switch to BBC2 at 7.40p.m. on **Saturday** to watch **Points in Space**, a work specially commissioned for television by BBC2, featuring choreographer Merce Cunningham and composer John Cage. At 11.30p.m. (ITV) a witty, fast moving comedy called **Nine to Five**.

On **Sunday**, at 5p.m. (ITV), the ecological series **Turning the Tide** looks at the anarchic methods of producing food in a capitalist economy, where the rich get fatter and the poor starve to death.

At 7.15p.m. (C4), part seven of the series **The Struggles for Poland**.

At 7.45p.m. (BBC2), part two of **The Gershwin Years**, with performances from Chita Rivera, Rosemary Clooney, Liza Minnelli and many others. At 9.25p.m. (BBC1) the second part of **Hemingway**, a biography of the American writer.

On **Monday** at 4.05p.m. (BBC2) something for children of all ages, the first of three feature films starring comedian Harold Lloyd called **The Cat's Paw** made in 1934.

At 7.35p.m. (BBC2), **SOE-Subversion**. 'The first of eight stories about the Special Operations Executive'. The programme includes unique film footage taken by resistance workers in German occupied Denmark in 1943.

At 10.55p.m. (C4) **Eleventh Hour** presents **Living a Life and Comrades**, a short documentary about the life of the Russian revolutionary Alexandra Kollontai and the dramatisation of a Kollontai short story, respectively.

**Tuesday** has more than the usual quota of attractive programmes. At 4.05p.m.



REECE DINSDALE and NICOLA COWPER star as RAF airman and NAAFI barmaid in Roy Battersby's 'Winter Flight', continuing the 'First Love' series on Channel Four (Thursday, 9 p.m.)

(BBC2), Harold Lloyd in **Feet First** (1930). At 8.20p.m. (BBC2), **Chopsticks, Bulldozers and Newcastle Brown**, a programme about importing the Japanese 'work-ethic' to the North East — a practice which Eric Hammond of the electricians' union has attempted to perfect.

At 9p.m. (BBC2), an excellent RKO thriller by Jacques Tourneur, **Build My Gallows**

**High**. At 9.30p.m. (BBC1), Dennis Potter's play **Traitor**, made in 1971.

On **Wednesday**, at 4.05p.m. (BBC2), Harold Lloyd in **Movie Crazy** (1932). At 8.30p.m. (BBC2), an inquiry into the effects in Scandinavia of the **Chernobyl** Autuma. In conflict with it, also at 8.30p.m. (C4), **Diverse Reports** investigates the plight of **The Asylum Seekers**, those thousands for whom,

like Viraj Mendis, to return home is to face probable death.

At 9.25p.m. (BBC2), **ScreenPlay: Land**, by Barry Collins, is a play about the class war in Rondonia, Brazil, where poor peasants were being evicted from their land at gun-point until they offered the land-owners organised resistance. The nature of that resistance is the subject of the story based

on a first hand evaluation by the author.

At 10.10p.m. (BBC1), John Borman's powerful film, **Deliverance**, worth seeing again at least as far as the duel between the banjo and the guitar. At 11p.m. (C4), **Crimes of War** draws our attention to the presence in the UK of more than 50 alleged Nazi war criminals.

**Thursday** belongs to Channel Four. At 8p.m. the wel-

come return of **Equinox**, the science and technology series, which this week looks at NASA's ambitious plans to colonise Mars. At 9p.m. Roy Battersby's love story **Winter Flight**.

On **Friday** I would advise readers to settle down with a good book, or just watch the sun set.

Tom Scott Robson

FROM PAGE 16

## Haslam dines alone

criticism dominated their contributions. There was no suppressing their hostility to the leadership of Arthur Scargill.

**Thomas**, area vice-president South Wales, demanded an apology for allegations of collaboration. **Rees**, general secretary, described Scargill as a dictator.

**Dutfield**, president of South Wales area, the man who led the struggle at Deep Duffryn and Lewis Merthyr, summed up the philosophy of all those who wished to talk with the British Coal on flexible working.

He denounced Utopian pipedreams: the reality had to be faced, and the reality was another Tory government. If we don't talk they will impose yet again. We will not stand by and see the UDM brought into the South Wales area.

Counterposed to this new reality was that of the Durham delegates. **Billy Etherington**, secretary of **Group No.1** and of **Durham mechanics** explained that the Margam project was a diversion. The type of 301 coking coal was already in plentiful supply. It is even now being burned in power stations.

The reality was that if six-day working and nine-hour shifts were to be accepted, then it would lead to the closure of the peripheral coalfields. That, Etherington insisted, was the reality:

'And don't think, that if you accept this that will be the end of the matter. The only result will be that they

will return with something more draconian.'

**Dave Guy**, Durham area president, summed up the attitude of his area now being threatened with the imposition of nine-hour shifts, by the statement 'If this is the last call to dinner, Haslam will be eating alone.'

**Jack Jones**, Leicester area, came to the rostrum with his shopping bag and a list of goodies that he felt could be purchased from the British Coal if we sold them the six-day week.

When **Mick McGahey**, retiring vice-president rose, he reached back into history to find a precedent.

The five-day week agreement was breached in the fuel crisis of 1947, when the 11-day fortnight was introduced. He failed to inform delegates that this was a voluntary Saturday working.

However, the concept of selling found favour. Yes, let's have a new miners charter; let's have retirement at 55; let's have shorter hours and an increase in wages.

He pleaded unsuccessfully to have the motion referred back to the executive committee. The resolution was put and defeated 49-22 on a show of hands.

What will the new executive do? That is the question miners are asking. Will they promptly campaign for the rejection of the concept of flexibility and ballot their members?

Or will they prevaricate, plead to leave the door open

to negotiations? A clear mandate has been given. We are one national union.

If one pit is threatened we must all act in its defence collectively.

As the media men lugged their cameras back to their city offices an equally important debate began on the plight of the sacked men. A Kent emergency resolution demanded a national one-day strike and a lobby of parliament.

The class hatred of Thatcher against the miners clearly has provided a source of unity in the NUM.

The resolution was passed unanimously after all delegates who spoke pledged their determination never to forget these men.

A second emergency resolution from South Wales calling for industrial action if the British Coal do not withdraw their new draconian disciplinary procedure was carried.

Miners face probably the most critical year in their history. The crisis of over-production has flooded cheap coal on to the world market: cheap coal produced by slave labour in South Africa and child labour in Colombia.

British Coal is determined to drive British miners down to that of their 'Third World' comrades.

If the strategy of the Tory government was to destroy the National Union of Mineworkers, the **Rothsay conference proved conclusively that they failed. The campaign must begin immediately to win the ballot and face British Coal with a united union.**

● FROM PAGE 16

## 103rd Durham Gala

pared speech from his pocket and threw it to the ground.

He gave a shallow and pious address, in his now familiar attempt to 'speak from the heart'. He failed miserably to give any answers and direction to those workers present at Durham.

While Scargill proclaimed his hatred of the ruling class, Kinnock referred to 'our people of all classes' who, he said, 'had understood the important questions in the election.'

Nowhere throughout his entire contribution did Kinnock mention socialism or the working class. His only reference to the miners was to call for the reinstatement of those miners victimised for offences they did not commit.

He did not explain by what criteria he would judge guilt or innocence and made no demand for reinstatement of those victimised as a result of the year-long fight for jobs.

As the crowds dispersed from the rostrum there was a sense of united hostility to Kinnock's lack of understanding of the present crisis. 'What did he say?' was the common feeling as people walked off the field.

The many sacked workers who had travelled to Durham were able to link up with each other and with trade union activists. The event proceeded with the real business of the day — discussing a strategy to win back the jobs of all sacked and victimised workers.

## History conference hammers 'racist' guidelines

AT A recent conference in London, history teachers and parents said the Historical Association's new guidelines give 'a licence for racist indoctrination through schooling'.

These guidelines, for

pupils aged seven to 14, are widely tipped to become the framework for a national history curriculum.

The conference was called by the Association for Curriculum Development.

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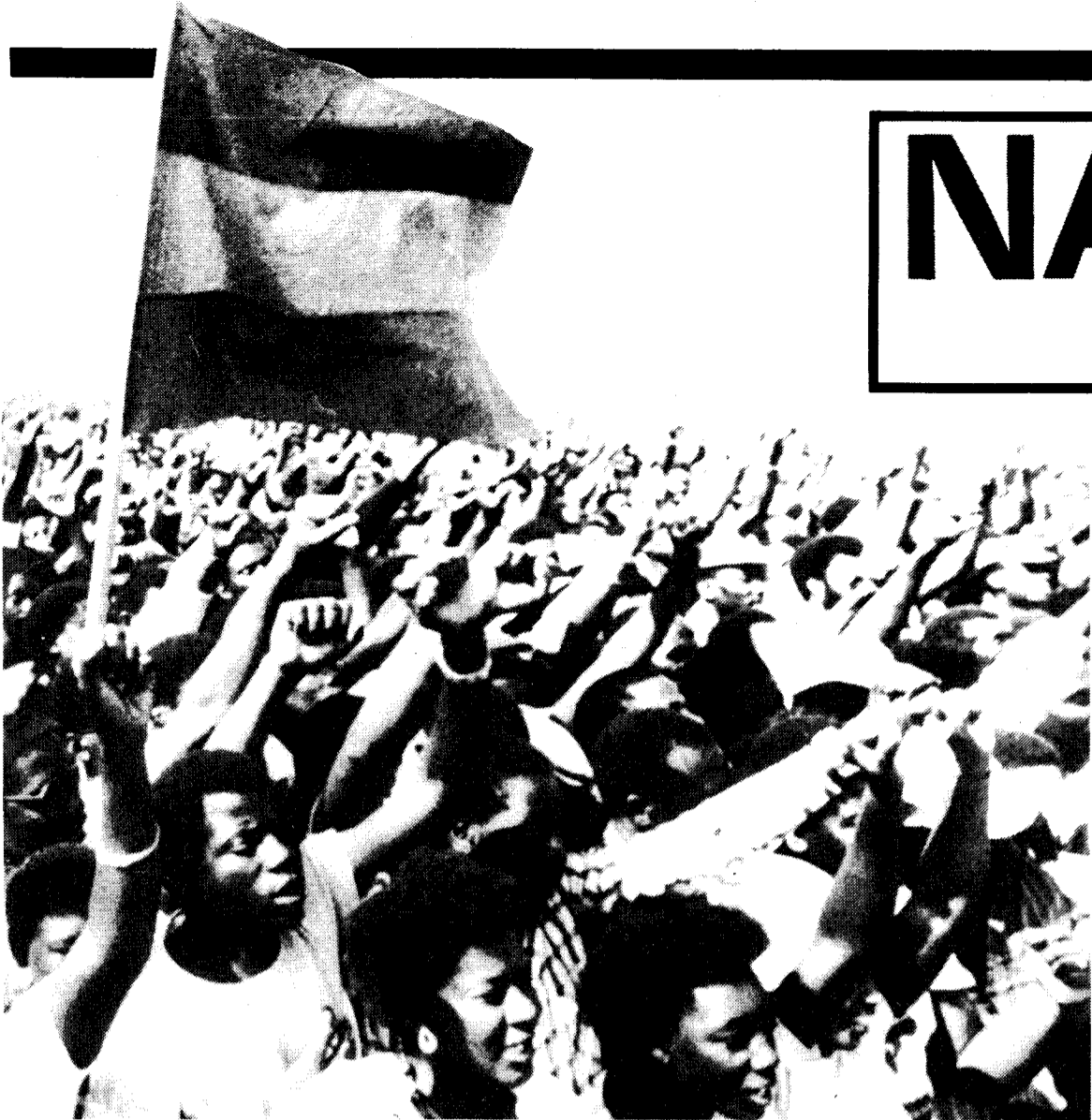
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# NAMIBIA IN STRUGGLE



Strikes and mass demonstrations are common in Namibia in spite of the brutality of the South African occupation



South Africa uses Namibia as a base for military operations. On 4 May 1978, South African troops invaded Angola and massacred 700, mostly children, at the Kassinga refugee camp.



One in ten of the Namibian people now lives in exile. SWAPO has organised education and health care in the refugee camps, like this one at Kwanza Sul in Angola

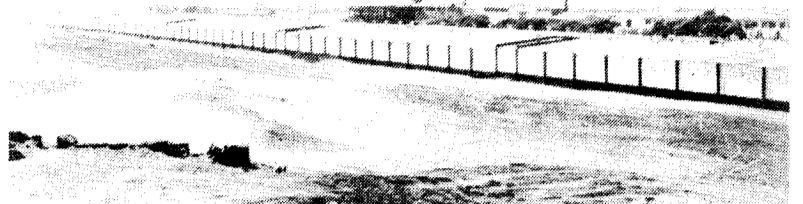
### Namibia in Struggle: a Pictorial History. International Defence and Aid Fund for South Africa, £3.00.

THE PEOPLE of Namibia have been flogged and hanged into submission since the first white settlers arrived in the nineteenth century, but as this excellent new photographic book shows, there has been resistance ever since.

The book shows the Africans who fought German colonialists, especially in the great uprisings of 1904, after which thousands of Namibians were driven into the inhospitable desert, and the more recent struggles against Namibia's illegal military occupation by South Africa.

Namibia has the world's largest diamond deposits, and is rich in uranium and other minerals. The apartheid economy of South Africa depends on low wages and guarded-compound working conditions, with families separated, to maintain the industry of Namibia.

But the people of Namibia have organised — and their leadership, the South West Africa Peoples' Organisation, SWAPO, has been recognised by the United Nations since 1960. Strikes are common in spite of apartheid's repressive laws, and SWAPO has organised in refugee camps across the border in Angola and Zambia.



Workers are housed in barrack-like dormitories while their families are left in the desolate settlements of the bantustans, mostly in the north and east. This is Walvis Bay, the port South Africa annexed in 1977 and made into a huge military base



In the late nineteenth century Germany subjugated Namibia — but met with huge resistance. Thousands were herded into prison and labour camps, and thousands died of starvation and disease



South Africa's domination depends on one soldier for every 15 Namibians. Here police break up a demonstration in January 1986 called to commemorate the United Nations International Year of Peace



Despite repression, SWAPO organises within Namibia, as shown by this mass rally at Katutura

# Workers Press

Saturday July 18 1987. Newsdesk 01-733 3058

## NUM conference Haslam dines alone

**'TRADE UNIONISM means having the courage and using our ability to fight against overwhelming odds both industrially and politically.'**

This one sentence in the opening address of President Arthur Scargill set the scene for what was to prove one of the hardest-fought conferences in the memory of miners. Scargill's speech carefully explained the preparations made by the British Coal in their attempt to smash the power of the NUM.

He clearly demonstrated that the strategy, born in the last years of the Tory government of 1974, was 'adopted by the Board in the lifetime of a Labour government and began the process of introducing the main elements of the plan.

'These elements were:

'1. A pit incentive scheme designed to divide area unions from one another while weakening the national union.

'2. A massive programme of new technology deployed to close pits and eliminate jobs.

'3. To undermine the authority of the NUM by creating splits and divisions and ending national collective bargaining.

'4. The introduction of a six-day working week.

'5. The destruction of the national five-day week agreement won after a generation of struggle by our forefathers.'

Scargill continued: 'It is important to remember that this scheme could not have been implemented without the active co-operation of area unions and the national

BY DAVE TEMPLE

executive committee. As we debate major issues such as the six-day working week, it is right that we remind ourselves of this important central point.'

**It was this one question — six-day working and nine-hour shifts — that dominated the conference.**

A new fundamental alignment of areas has emerged over this question. Scotland and Wales formerly regarded as left-wing areas formed an axis with the right-wing COHSA, North Wales and Leicestershire.

The course of the debate, which lasted two days, was stormy and passionate. The excessive sensitivity of the South Wales leaders to any

● TURN TO PAGE 14

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**A MEETING** between George Wright, Regional Secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union, and the South Wales NUM, called to discuss union membership at Margam, ended with an agreement to meet again next month.

Wright has said that he will go for members at Margam if the UDM or the EETPU make any moves, but only with the agreement of the South Wales NUM.

Wyn Bevan, electricians' leader in South Wales, has also said that he will

only begin consultations with the agreement of the South Wales NUM.

Wright's readiness to recruit miners at Margam demonstrates the growing rift between the T&GWU and EETPU over the issue of single-union deals and membership-poaching by the electricians' union.

He wants to prevent the UDM getting Margam, but is just as keen to ensure that the EETPU doesn't get it either.

George Rees, General Secretary of South Wales NUM, has been reported as

saying that on no account will any other union represent Margam, backing this up with the NUM rule which says that all miners must be recruited into the NUM.

Meanwhile the South Wales NUM, while hoping for a favourable outcome in the national ballot, are interpreting the recent NUM conference decision as not affecting Margam in particular. They pretend it is about six-day working in general.

They are trying to leave themselves the possibility for future negotiations with the Board on the new super-pit.



Miners and their supporters marching onto 'The Racetrack' at last Saturday's Durham Miners Gala.

## 103rd Durham gala

**'TO LOVE YOUR class you must hate those who oppress them. Comrades, I hate the ruling class,' proclaimed Arthur Scargill to rapturous applause from the 20,000 visitors at Saturday's 103rd Durham Gala.**

This year's Big Meeting also marked the year of the 40th anniversary of the nationalisation of the coal industry. Over that period of time, coal mining in the north east has been devastated.

Nowhere is this decline more visible than in the traditional Durham Gala procession which once included over 100 Durham Lodge banners. In 1987 this is reduced to six.

Chris McBride spoke to NUM President Arthur Scargill at last weekend's Durham Miners' Gala on the issue of six-day working — which affects the whole working class.

**What effect in your opinion will the introduction of six-day working for miners have on the rest of the trade union movement?**

It will have a catastrophic effect, it will mean turning the clock back 50 or 60 years. Any trade union or labour leader worth their salt should be supporting the NUM's official position of total opposition to any extended working day or any extended working week,

BY FIONA NICOL

Trade union delegations with their banners travelled from all over the country to express their continuing solidarity with those in the mining industry.

Workers who are now enmeshed in their own bitter disputes marched with the miners, including HFW sacked workers from Gateshead, from Manchester Senior Colman sacked workers and Ancroats Casualty Sit-in, sacked printers, and sacked miners from around the British coalfields.

After the parade of banners, crowds gathered to hear the invited speakers. Tony Benn, first-ever honorary member of the NUM, told the crowd: 'We must fight for however long it takes to reinstate all sacked and victimised miners from

**THE MINERS Gala** social organised by Spennymoor Trades Council was addressed by Rune Sande, representative of the Graphical Union of Bergen, Norway.

He presented the residue of £15,000 collected during the miners' strike to the Durham Miners Support Group in aid of children of sacked and victimised miners.

Sande told Workers Press: 'We raised money and organised for a ten-day holiday in Norway for the children of striking miners. Following this we raised money to support the Wapping strike and we are still supporting the sacked printers. We believe strongly in international solidarity.'

private pits as well as the nationalised mines'.

Benn expressed disappointment that the slick media skills utilised in Labour's general election campaign had not been harnessed in defence of the miners, nurses, printers and the Lambeth and Liverpool councillors.

He called for an end to the exclusion of socialists from the Labour Party which was a diversion from the real work that needed to be done.

Benn said that the Labour Party must renew its commitment to socialism and organise to end the drift towards the police state which as an integral part must include the ending of Britain's occupation of the north of Ireland.

Benn recognised that the years ahead would see bitter struggles for the working

class but that the strength to fight and overcome these battles lay not in the Palace of Westminster but outside parliament.

'Thatcher's strength to maintain capitalism also lies outside parliament. It is not dependent on the 320 Tory MPs or it would end tomorrow,' he declared.

Arthur Scargill came next. Referring to 'our party' he attacked those Labour and trade union leaders who supported the so-called 'one man-one vote' constitutional changes in the Labour Party's constitution.

He attacked those within the labour movement who opposed the defence of NUM national policy of five-day working and to fight for four day working.

'It doesn't help to have parliamentarians telling us how good it is to work six days a week'. He told the audience: 'My message to the coal board is that you have come so far — no further.

'We are standing firm and are going to fight'.

Neil Kinnock was so infuriated by the speeches of Tony Benn and Arthur Scargill that he removed his pre-

● TURN TO PAGE 14

## SCARGILL ON FIVE DAY WEEK

and defending the five-day-week agreement.

In that way we will also be able to defend workers' interests in other fields. If we introduce six-day working it means the loss of over 35 to 40,000 jobs. I'm not prepared to associate myself in any shape or form with that kind of job loss.

No trade union leader and no labour leader should possibly contemplate supporting Haslam's policies.

**What are the prospects of another national miners' strike on the question of six-day working?**

'The NUM will first of all go out and

campaign for support from its members against the concept and principle of any extended working week, and for the defence of the five-day-week agreement.

At that stage, and only that stage, will we consider taking any action if the employer — in this case British Coal — tries to attack our people or to breach the five-day-week agreement.

We are asking at this stage for support from our members on the whole question of defence of the five-day-week agreement. We are also asking our members, of course, to give us the authority to take industrial action if the Coal Board don't withdraw the disciplinary code. I'm sure that is the first issue at stake.