

# Workers Press

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WEEKLY PAPER OF THE WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

## ANTI-INTERNMENT MARCH

Troops out of Ireland!  
Prisoners out of jail!

Saturday 8 August 1p.m.  
Assemble Islington Town Hall  
(rear)  
Upper Street, London N1

## YOUTH FOR SOCIALISM

Lobby the Trades Union Congress

7 September 9a.m.  
Winter Gardens, Blackpool

No trade union collaboration with the MSC!  
Smash YTS and all other cheap labour schemes!

- For a massive public works programme with union rights and union rates of pay!
- For a 30-hour week with no loss of pay!
- For workers' control of skill training: a return to the apprentice system with full rates of pay!
- Trade unions must recruit unemployed and all scheme workers!
- For the unity of unemployed and employed workers!

# DOWN WITH REAGAN'S

# HANDS OFF IRAN

BY CHARLIE POTTINS

# WAR!

## THE US navy is preparing for war with Iran.

Ever loyal to US imperialism, Thatcher is giving Reagan every encouragement, in words and deeds.

Reagan needs this war, and Thatcher's support, for two reasons.

- The blows which the Iranian masses gave to US imperialism when they toppled the Shah continue to reverberate. Since 1979, the US has been unable to impose its plans in the Middle East, because it cannot guarantee the safety of any of its stooge regimes.

The famous US marines got a humiliating bloody nose at the hands of Moslems in Lebanon, and were soon withdrawn.

- The Reagan administration's corrupt intrigues exposed in the 'Irangate' affair have brought to a head a deep political crisis for the American ruling class.

Reagan is trusted neither by the American people nor by America's Middle East allies. A war is 'Rambo' Reagan's desperate way of trying to shoot his way out of this mess.

**Crazy? Maybe. But US imperialism is in a deep crisis. The best it can come up with is a B-movie sheriff with comic-book character advisers like Colonel North.**

Whatever the rest of the world thinks, clinging faithfully to his side is Margaret Thatcher.

Last week three new Royal Navy warships passed through the Suez Canal en route to the Gulf to reinforce

the ships already there.

On the stock exchange, billions of pounds were knocked off leading share prices as dealers got the wind up about the consequences of their hero and heroine's deadly game.

The pound wobbled as worried Tory patriots phoned their brokers or bought gold to play safe. Labour Energy spokesman Ted Rowlands called Cecil Parkinson urging emergency international talks to pre-empt 'rocketing' oil prices.

**The Labour leaders have stood aside to allow Thatcher to get on with her dirty war plans. Kinnock has not even demanded the emergency recall of parliament to oppose Thatcher's**

**backing for Reagan, and demand that she withdraw the British navy.**

The Gulf war was started by the US encouraging Iraq's Saddam Hussein to an adventure against Iran. The courage and determination of the Iranian masses threw back this aggression.

But then Ayatollah Khomeiny's religious-bourgeois regime found that continuing a war was better than continuing a revolution.

Youth were sent off to the front to die in droves, while at home workers' gains and rights were destroyed. The old order, in the police and army, wait their turn after the mullahs. That is why the Zionists and US imperialism itself were happy to ship in more arms.

**Whatever our cri-**

**ticism of the Iranian regime, in the conflict between American and British imperialism on the one hand and a colonial country on the other we defend Iran.**

The Stalinists in Moscow, whose Iranian supporters assisted the Khomeiny regime's anti-working class repression and then themselves fell under it, have also been entangled by their own duplicity.

They resumed arms supplies to Iraq, offered protection to Kuwaiti ships, then voiced alarm when they realised Reagan was stepping in.

The Stalinist 'Morning Star' (4 August) expresses concern at 'the vulnerability of the British economy', and urges Thatcher to 'prevail on President Reagan to put a stop to his irresponsible posturing in the Gulf'.

The Healyite 'News Line', excitedly shouting 'Tehran threat shakes Reagan', quotes a boast by Iranian leader Rafsanjani that the Gulf would 'run red', (as though it hadn't already),

continues trying to boost the ayatollahs as leaders of 'the insurgent masses on every continent', and its own funds and morale by cheering on others' struggles.

**Workers Press says the revolution in Iran can only be defended, and extended through the Arab world, as a Permanent Revolution waged by the working masses under their own, Trotskyist leadership.**

The working class in Britain and the United States must oppose the capitalist warmongers, Reagan and Thatcher, demand the Labour and trade union leaders break with them, and organise to bring them down.

- Stop the Iran-Iraq Gulf War!
- Withdraw the British navy!
- Defend the Iranian revolution!
- Defeat imperialism!

— Anniversary of internment — editorial: page 2 —



# Workers Press

## Internment anniversary

# Labour leaders must act!

IT IS 16 years this week since British imperialism introduced internment without trial in the north of Ireland, to pursue its terror campaign against the defiant nationalist communities.

Nearly 3,000 people were incarcerated. Hundreds were tortured, subject to sensory deprivation, hooding and high-pitched noise. Prisoners were beaten, brutalised and thrown into Europe's only concentration camp, Long Kesh — but never tried.

Today Britain has repealed the Special Powers Act in favour of more sophisticated laws, rebuilt Long Kesh and changed its name to Maze prison. But the repression is more savage than ever.

'INTERNMENT BY REMAND' is in force: people are snatched off the streets and locked up for 18 months or more while a fabricated 'case' is built up against them.

**SUPERGRASS TRIALS**, until they were completely discredited, were used to lock up Republicans and other activists for years on end.

**STRIP-SEARCHING** and other refined torture is used together with beatings and kickings.

'SHOOT TO KILL' assassinations, like those at Loughgall and Strabane, are used to wipe out IRA volunteers.

**MORE THAN 1,500** political prisoners are in jails on both sides of the border — including some who were interned in 1971, arrested at the prison gates as they were 'freed', and now serving life sentences.

**THE HILLSBOROUGH ACCORD** means generous assistance to Britain from the 26-county government; now they are preparing an extradition law which will mean the handing-over of those accused of political crimes — and will work retroactively.

The brutal colonial oppression of Ireland is as old as British capitalism itself — even older. That is why the Irish working class, and all those resisting the imperialist occupation, are British workers' closest allies.

Look at MI5 and the army's 'dirty tricks' in Ireland in the mid-1970s. Murders, 'psyops' and other illegal methods were used against the IRA. The same operation was extended with the sabotage of peace talks and 'black propaganda' — to destabilise the Labour government elected by British workers. Behind the whole affair was the belief, within the state, that Irish Republicanism and lefts in Britain combined to threaten the state itself.

The Labour leaders in office at the time not only presented no threat to the state, they condoned its most violent savagery in Ireland. Last week Roy Mason, Labour Northern Ireland Secretary at that time, was rewarded by Thatcher with a peerage.

And when the Labour leaders found out that the 'dogs of war' were out to bring down their own government, they kept — with one or two exceptions — a total and cowardly silence. They never even challenged Thatcher on the issue in the recent election campaign. The Labour bureaucracy's refusal to even whimper when MI5 has a knife at their throats shows their complete subservience to imperialism.

**That is why the demand for a labour-movement inquiry into the illegal state activities of the 1970s must be taken up everywhere. Kinnock and Co. must not be allowed to stay silent!**

This fight inside the unions, against the pro-imperialist bureaucracy, is the way to build solidarity with the struggle in Ireland.

The demand for a labour-movement inquiry into MI5, the campaign against strip-searching torture, the campaign for the release of all Irish political prisoners in British and Irish jails, and the struggle against the intimidatory Prevention of Terrorism Act — all these must be fought for in the labour movement.

So must the issue of the religious discrimination to which officials of British-based unions in the six counties turn a blind eye.

Central to all such campaigns must be the demands 'troops out now!' and for Irish self-determination. This is the way to remember the courageous defiance of Irish nationalists on the internment anniversary.

# No compromise! Expel the EETPU!

**ONE overriding issue faces this September's Blackpool TUC congress: is the EETPU to be expelled from the trade union movement?**

Britain's largest union — the Transport and General Workers Union — is demanding that all affiliated unions oppose single union, no-strike deals with employers.

It seeks to commit all unions to resisting 'the use of no-strike clauses and compulsory arbitration clauses which deny the right to strike'.

But it is silent on the burning question of the EETPU, the principal architect of such deals. This is a dangerous and opportunist silence.

In response, the electricians' union

has tabled a motion asking unions to put to one side 'the problems and prejudices of the past'.

'The problems' include amongst others those of the 6,000 printworkers sacked at Wapping as a direct result of the scabbing policy of the EETPU.

At last year's TUC the majority of the General Council, including several prominent 'lefts', refused to fight the EETPU's blackmail. Wapping was only a part of the price paid for this cowardly retreat. Every employer in the country and above all the Tory government was encouraged to press ahead with their plans to break up the trade union movement.

Last year's climb-down only made the EETPU leaders more determined. They have now declared that they will walk out of the TUC if they don't get their way.

The 'lefts' and the Stalinists can no longer be allowed to hide behind the smokescreen of any fraudulent 'unity'. The future of the entire trade union movement is at stake. The leader of the EETPU, Eric Hammond, is by no means the only leader who favours

deals with the employers which take away all rights for union members.

He has already been joined by leaders of the engineering union. Waiting in the wings are other 'new realists' who have accepted the Thatcher election victory as a signal to end all opposition to the Tory government and collaborate with it on all questions.

With this 'leadership' there can be no trade union movement, but only bodies which discipline the working class in the immediate interests of the employers.

Those attending the coming Blackpool TUC must be told loud and clear:

- The unions must break off all relations with the Thatcher government.

- The scab EETPU must be expelled from the TUC.

This policy is the pre-condition for the organisation of a real fight to mobilise the whole of the working class against the Tory government.



6,000 sacked by Murdoch — the price of retreat

## Poison peril mine kids

**LONRHO**, the giant British company with global operations, has denied a report that teenage mine-workers are being exposed to dangerous cyanide in its Ghana gold-mines.

According to the report from the Anti-Slavery Society in London last week, boys aged between 11 and 16 employed at Ashanti Goldfields have to work almost naked in pools of cyanide solution at the extractor plant.

The cyanide is used to separate out the gold.

Few of the lads are able to work more than a month at a stretch because of sickness caused by exposure to the poison, the report says.

The Anti-Slavery Society report says the boys work in three eight-hour shifts, and are paid the minimum daily wage of 125 cedis — about 50p.

It says child labour is common in Ghana — and elsewhere in Africa — because of poverty and lack of educational facilities.

Because they are illiterate, the mine boys cannot read a notice which warns,

in English, that cyanide can enter the body as dust, gas, liquid or acid.

They have to work with little clothing because of management's fears of theft. Their supervisor, a British expatriate, always wears protective clothing, gumboots, gloves and a respirator.

Lonrho owns a 45 per cent stake in Ashanti Goldfields, and manages the mine under

long-term contract. The managing director is a Lonrho nominee.

In London, Lonrho director Paul Spicer said last week that he didn't 'believe a word' of the report. Mine employees had to carry a government-issued card, and none of those at Ashanti Goldfields was under 16, he claimed. 'Secondly, my people say that in this plant there is no cyanide.'

The Ghana High Commission denied that anyone under 18 was employed in the mines.

But the Anti-Slavery Society said it never published reports based on hearsay, and had conducted serious research. Its report was being submitted to the United Nations Working Group on slavery, meeting in Geneva.

## Tea boss says 'nothing to be ashamed of'

**TORY** tea boss Sir Colin Campbell, whose company has been accused of keeping Bangladeshi plantation workers in poverty and squalor, insisted last week that it 'had nothing to be ashamed of'.

Sir Colin, chairman of Glasgow-based multi-million company James Finlay plc, described charges over its treatment of 30,000 workers in Bangladesh's Sylhet province as 'a great bore'.

A letter from workers' leader Ekhasur Rahman, originally sent in May, was distributed to a Finlay shareholders' meeting by

Scottish War on Want members last week. It speaks of:

- Signs saying 'drinking water' over putrid muddy wells.

- Workers paid under 30 pence for a 10-12 hour day. That is under 320 takka a month — less than half the Bangladesh national legal minimum of 700 takka a month.

- Damp huts, lack of sanitation, and use of outlawed pesticides.

Finlay's meeting on 3 August approved an annual report showing £314 million profits last year.

# Management want a confrontation

BY CHRIS McBRIDE

*'IF THERE is no agreement from the union at Harrow Weald Bus Garage, then everybody will be sacked'.*

George Goodridge, T&GWU Branch Officer at Harrow Weald Bus Garage in north London, spoke to Workers Press about this message from London Transport management to the London bus workers' District Secretary Terry Allen.

A mass meeting of workers at the garage had just rejected unanimously the conditions which London Buses Ltd seek to impose through sackings — a method now being used almost every time workers take a stand in defence of jobs, pay and working conditions.

Goodridge said the proposals included an increase of the working day from 7 hours 36 minutes to 9 hours — and even 13 hours on a spread-over. The proposed shifts include the reduction of the break to half an hour with no guarantee of proper canteen facilities.

Goodridge pointed out that heavy goods vehicles could only be driven by the same driver for four hours at a time without a proper break.

'Longer working hours are dangerous. It will make drivers angry and fatigued and will increase tension between drivers and passengers which will increase assaults,' he said.

Asked how he thought the dispute affected the whole of London Buses and how it would be resolved, he said: 'We hope we can get common sense from managers. I think there will be industrial action but not an all-out strike'.

He pointed out the intentions of London Buses: 'Management want a confrontation.'

## Explosion

The explosion at Harrow Weald Garage came shortly after London Buses announced that it had 'won' ten out of the 13 routes put out to tender (its own routes) in the Woolwich-Plumstead area.

Further explosions in that area are expected this week when London Buses announce their proposals to cut wages and lengthen working hours on the routes they have 'won' in the Woolwich-Plumstead area.



Harrow Weald bus garage union officer George Goodridge with branch chairperson Bonnie Major in the union office after last Monday's mass meeting

## PRIVATISATION OF EDUCATION

# A threat to the whole

# working class

COMMENT BY  
ED PHILLIPS

**BAKER'S Education Bill, heralded in the capitalist press as the most 'radical revolution' in education since the 1944 Education Act, heralds the complete break-up of the state education system as we know it.**

At first glance it might seem that socialists should support the setting up of a national core curriculum.

The question is: who controls such a national curriculum? In what sense is the content of such a curriculum a reflection of social relations (subordinated as these are to commodity relations) under capitalism?

Education is a basic requirement for the development of humanity and for the full spiritual and material development of each individual within it, but under capitalism subordinated to the requirements of the ruling class.

The national core curriculum is a step back into the 19th century.

All the most progressive innovations in educational

theory and practice are to be displaced by a 'traditional' core of disciplines, a Victorian code of morality, and a 'training for life' which might more accurately be described as a training for wage 'slavery' or the dole queue.

In addition to centralised control of the curriculum, the new Bill legitimises Baker's principle of 'opting out', which allows schools to become 'direct grant' schools instead of being resourced by local education authorities.

Assets will be frozen until it can be determined 'in consultation with the Secretary of State for Education', what should be done with them.

Thus, the richer schools are encouraged to opt out at the expense of the poorer ones, and authorities such as Wandsworth (which have already decided to opt out of the Inner London Education Authority) have been encouraged to opt out, taking the resources which had previously been more equitably shared with the most deprived working class areas.

What lies behind all this is the break-up of capitalism on an international scale. This point can never be overstated.

Under the last two Thatcher administrations we have seen the wholesale destruc-

tion of heavy industry and manufacturing and the increasing subordination of government policies to the needs of finance over and above (though not exclusive of) industrial capital.

With real unemployment somewhere between 4 and 5 million, the British ruling class has no need of a large highly skilled workforce.

The printers' dispute demonstrated that every advance in technology is used not for the benefit of the community but for the profits of the capitalists.

The old aristocracy of labour is to be displaced by a new 'yuppy' middle class who can afford to pay for education, while the working class as a whole is de-skilled and trained for a new role under capitalism as non-unionised cheap labour.

Make no mistake! Parents, teachers, students and the whole working class should be aware that education is a top priority for the Tories, not because they regard it as a right for all but because they recognise how important it is as the

medium through which they can indoctrinate youth in undervaluing the only commodity they have to sell: their labour power.

'Opting out' is not some democratically conceived notion for giving parents more 'choice' but its exact opposite: a formula for complete anarchy of resources in education and for further disadvantaging those least able to pay.

Privatisation is an issue affecting the whole working

class and can only be fought by the whole working class.

Campaigns need to be mounted now in every community in the country where workers are already engaged in struggle with this hated government. The fight cannot be left to the Labour-controlled authorities who even now talk of 'influencing' this government.

Every socialist has a responsibility to take up this struggle and link it to other struggles.

## Support conference recalled

DELEGATIONS from strike committees and support groups throughout the country will meet in Manchester on Saturday for the reconvened Support Conference.

Their aim is to establish a network of support for those workers on strike and their supporters to lead the fight back against the present employer and government offensive.

A national strike bulletin is

to be produced which will cover all those currently engaged in struggles.

Important decisions will be taken at the recall conference about future activities.

Proposals will include mobilisation for the lobby of the TUC in September, the conference in Liverpool 'Shrewsbury to Wapping', also in September, and a further National Conference in Leeds on 7 and 8 November.

# The exploitation of overseas domestic servants

**SERVANTS of wealthy visitors are allowed into Britain by a variety of Home Office strategies despite the abolition of the work permit category for 'resident domestics' in 1980.**

This bending of the rules assists the wealthy but not of course their employees.

These workers represent a very exploited group and the problems they face were the focus of attention in a recent radio programme on BBC's Radio 4, 'Face the Facts'.

The problems which were highlighted include the question of immigration. Work permits are extendable for four years, at the end of which time permanent residence is usually granted.

Domestics are only permitted to stay for a year at most. They are allowed in on the basis of being visitors and working is specifically prohibited. Nor can they claim any settlement rights.

The employer invariably negotiates directly with the authorities and thereby retains control of the servant's papers. The worker is wholly tied to the employer and is unlikely to know what their own precise status is.

There is no possibility of a change of job being agreed by the Home Office or the Department of Employment.

Another problem is that of the individual's employment rights. Where a contract of employment exists conditions of work are usually highly unfavourable. There are many instances of those terms being broken by the employer and of unpaid wages.

The position remains obscure whether such terms of contract are enforceable in Britain.

Wage-bonding is a precaution frequently included in the contractual arrangements. A joint bank account is opened between employer and servant thus preserving

BY JEFF JACKSON

the opportunity for the boss to make any deductions 'at source'.

Items which are penalised in this way include common or garden breakages. It is not unknown for 'instant dismissal' to be issued for such 'offences' as pregnancy and venereal disease.

Very long working hours, refusal of time off and confinement to the house are some of the more common abuses involved when the servant is so dependent on the employer.

Beatings, demands for sexual favours and rape feature in the list of what some domestics have had to endure in this type of unprotected employment.

Sharing a room or even a bed with children of the family, especially where there are babies, is another aspect of the living conditions involved. Living out of a suitcase can be a literal experience in quarters allocated for many servants.

No eating without permission, given only leftovers, and being kept incommunicado... ordered around, verbally and physically abused by the employer's children... no health and safety protection or medical care. Depression arising out of overwork... wage levels well below those of workers with recognised status in the United Kingdom — the list is endless.

This gross denial of the most basic rights and conditions for these workers, treated by their rich employers as nothing more than chattels, is sanctioned by the British authorities.



Filipino workers in Britain have been in many battles over the government's racist immigration policies. The field of domestic workers has been less well publicised up to now.

## Holloway's way of death

The vulnerability of Asian women

**THE death in Holloway prison of a 47-year-old Pakistani woman last January brought to light the persecution and deprivation which many female immigrants to Britain have been open to over a long period.**

Akthar Moghul was

awaiting trial for alleged drug-smuggling. She had been arrested at Heathrow upon entering the country. But it took an entire month for the airport police to notify the prison authorities of the serious heart condition from which Akthar was

suffering.

An increasing number of Asian women entering Britain find themselves charged with drug offences. A majority of them come from single-parent situations seeking jobs in this country to support their children.

The vulnerability of these women is exploited in every way imaginable. They arrive in Britain without connections of any kind with the false hope of finding employment.

The dreadful poverty and all-round isolation they are subject to makes some of them easy prey for large-scale illegal drug organisations — but invariably the women are totally unaware of the racket they have become involved with.

The crushing humiliation and victimisation they experience as a result of the widespread racism which is manifest in the British prison system is the ultimate reward for the women's wretched existence.

Undoubtedly similar to that of countless other unsupported Asian women who arrive here in most respects, Akthar Moghul's story, however, came to an abrupt end. The details are as unsavoury as they are now becoming commonplace.

The inquest into her death in custody last April, took more than a fortnight. Of the 16 witnesses who gave evidence only two were unconnected with Holloway prison.

Lack of medical attention by the Prison Medical Service (PMS) and racism were shown to be widespread.

Despite her continued complaints about bad chest pains, Akthar's needs were ignored. According to the prison doctors these were symptoms of stress brought on by her impending trial.

The neglect and degradation she suffered at the hands of the prison authorities remained unbroken until the end.

A week before she died Akthar was put in a cell stripped of all furniture, a punishment for 'violent' prisoners — her 'aggressive behaviour' going undiagnosed as evidence of her heart condition which by then was well known to the prison doctors.

Holloway prison said that Akthar's situation and medical state was not seen to be one of dire emergency and therefore the 'normal' procedure had to be followed. That is, no cell occupied by more than one prisoner can be opened immediately, unless there is more than one prison officer present.

It had been established at the inquest that there had been a delay of five to seven minutes in opening Akthar's cell door. Had there been no delay, the coroner acknowledged, Akthar Moghul might still be alive today.

With acknowledgements to 'Women and Policing in London'.

Further information obtainable from: Asian Women in Prison Group 01-961 5701 or 01-961 6549 (day or night).

## Workers organise

**KALAYAAN, the campaign group which was formed following the radio programme mentioned earlier and who provided the information for this article, is the Filipino word for freedom. The full name of the group is: Campaign for Justice for Overseas Domestic Servants.**

Whilst not being exclusively concerned with the plight of Filipino workers, but of all domestic servants working away from home whatever their country of origin, the statement concludes by giving details of the difficulties confronted by that country's workers in Britain.

'Why then do they come here?'

'In the case of the Philippines, 50 per cent of foreign exchange earnings go to service the foreign debt of \$27 billion, leaving insufficient funds for even welfare services.'

'The result is that many workers are forced abroad. Poor wages and unemployment are sustained in the Philippines by an economic situation which includes privileged status for multinational companies.'

'For many Filipinos there is no escape — neither at home nor in the United Kingdom. Many are unable to

endure their conditions here. Forced by economic necessity to continue in employment, they escape from their original employers and endure a precarious existence in constant fear of discovery and deportation.'

'In recognition of the injustice done to these, and all other overseas domestic servants, we are demanding the equivalent of Work Permit Status; and the basic human rights which flow from that.'

● KALAYAAN can be contacted c/o Camden Council for Community Relations, 58 Hampstead Road, London NW1 2PY. (Telephone Nish, 01-387 1125)

## TREVOR MONERVILLE

### A campaign against cover-up

**THE Family and Friends of Trevor Monerville are looking to get swift action.**

Campaigners for the 19-year-old Hackney man who underwent brain surgery after being held in police custody are determined not to allow a police cover-up and four-year wait before the case is heard — as happened when five Metropolitan uniformed thugs assaulted a group of youth in the Holloway Road in 1983. (They were sentenced only last week.)

Two days in Stoke Newington police station and two days in Brixton prison left Trevor suffering a fractured skull, fits, bruising to his left eye and shoulder and swelling to the soles of both his feet.

The campaigners say

police officers are the only ones who can throw light on the circumstances surrounding Trevor's injuries.

The Metropolitan Police had not provided any information to suggest who inflicted the beating. On 20 July five Labour MPs called for a judicial inquiry into the case, among them Brian Sedgemore, Bernie Grant and Diane Abbott. Sedgemore has been quoted as calling it 'a complicated case'.

● A public meeting — 'No Police Cover-Up' — has been called on Tuesday, 4 August, 7.30p.m. at Hackney Town Hall, Mare Street E8. Diane Abbott is amongst the invited speakers.

● Further information obtainable from: Family Centre, 50 Rectory Road, London N16 7QY (01-249 0193).

# 'Westminster is doing in one year what Wandsworth did in seven'

BY BRONWEN HANDYSIDE

Westminster Council held one of their regular meetings last Wednesday.

This one was different from the usual: 300 people from trade unions and community organisations turned up to boo the Tory administration which is galloping to privatise Westminster's services.

Dolly Stevenson, chair of Lillington Gardens Tenant's Association, said they were there to protest against the council selling off flats on council estates.

'We object to having far fewer flats for council tenants, no possibility of older tenants moving into smaller flats as their families grow up, thus making space for young families, and no flats able to be handed on to the second generation.'

Westminster council is offering £15,000 to tenants who are prepared to leave, but that will not buy another flat.

If the money is accepted, the tenant has to move entirely out of the district, Dolly said.

She had recently declined an invitation from a private developer to drink champagne at the opening of a block of flats built on land filched from the Lillington Gardens Estate.

The block was supposed to be for first-time buyers. One person on the estate was able to buy one, the other 37 flats went to people the tenants had never seen before.

Steven Murphy of Westminster NALGO was there because of the 'grave attack' on Westminster jobs and services.

## Start

'I can see for myself that this is just the start of a national campaign that the government is waging against trade unions in general and against local democracy,' he said.

'Two services are due to be privatised tonight — social services' catering and cleaning — and there are another 11 on the hit list.

'We will be going to four very similar meetings over the next four months. This is an attack on a scale never seen before in local government. Westminster is doing in one year what Wandsworth took seven to do,' he emphasised.

Westminster NALGO has adopted a position of total non-cooperation with the tendering process.

## Ballot

'After a ballot the NALGO NEC gave an instruction that we should not cooperate with the drawing up of job specifications, nor with the drawing up of in-house tenders, nor handle any work associated with the tendering process,' Murphy continued.

'We are carrying out this action because we believe it is a nonsense to cooperate with a process that is geared to attacking our jobs and conditions.'

'The government is looking to smash the trade union movement and to silence any alternative sources of power in local government.'



## Defend Kids? Councillor abstains!

BY ROBIN BURNHAM

PROTECTION of handicapped kids versus the commercial interests of a cement firm — this was the issue facing the Planning Committee of Crawley council in Sussex last week.

A planning application had been made by Ennemix, a cement company, to build a plant near Catherington School for handicapped children. The proposed site was also near a working-class housing estate in Langley Green.

Opposition had come from the residents, who had signed a petition and sent letters to the local press, and from West Sussex education chiefs (Tories!)

Langley Green Labour councillors Bill Buck and Arthur Locke voiced concern about the extra dust, noise and traffic involved. It was pointed out that the surveyors' report on the environment only said that in normal circumstances no abnormal noise, dust etc. would occur.

Handicapped kids, said Locke, are not 'normal circumstances'. Quite right. It seems to some officials the realities of life don't exist!

A letter was read out from the firm which, surprise, surprise,

said there were no environmental problems. In fact, the firm was super-clean.

They said the site was not next to the school — it was 85 yards away. And the petitioners, whose numbers the company spokesperson doubted, were misled.

Labour councillor Laura Mofat, although not a committee member, spoke simply for the kids and the public gallery. She said although it couldn't be proved the children would suffer, the council should not take the risk.

The only dissenter was Bert Crane, a longstanding Labour councillor. He said he couldn't oppose the application because it would seem all industrial applications were wrong, and he didn't think that was the case.

An Alice-in-Wonderland argument! The committee was discussing a particular industrial application, from a cement company, not industry in general.

When the vote came, the application was refused, 5-0. Crane had bravely abstained. However, round one to the kids.

It remains to be seen if the company will appeal to the government. And also whether Crawley Labour Party will censure Crane for his indifference to children and adult working-class residents.

# Moses Mayekiso must not hang!

**MOSES MAYEKISO, leader of the National Union of Metal Workers of South Africa, appeared in court last week.**

He is charged, along with four others, of high treason, sedition and subversion.

They face the death penalty.

Moses Mayekiso joined the newly formed Metal and Allied Workers Union (MAWU) in 1978 after he left his 'homeland', the Transkei, and came to work first in the mines and then in the Toyota car plant in the Eastern Cape.

At Toyota he became a dedicated union activist and a year later was sacked. He became secretary of MAWU for the Transvaal region and played a leading role in many of the struggles in the area.

He was arrested in 1984 during a gold workers strike but released a month later after action by trade unionists.

Then he was charged with offenses related to his union activities. These charges were also later dropped.

In 1985 this process of arrest and release was repeated twice more.

This intimidation failed to deter him from the struggle to build the trade unions and to unite the different sections of the movement.

He played a leading role in the founding of the Confederation of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) in 1985. Within it he was vocal for the independent interest of the working class.

*'We need a workers' char-*

BY BOB MYERS

*ter that will say clearly who will control the farms presently owned by the capitalists, who will control the factories, mines and so on.*

*'There must be a change of the whole of society. Through the Shop Stewards' Councils people are opposed to this idea that there will be two stages to liberation, that we must clean up capitalism first, then socialism.*

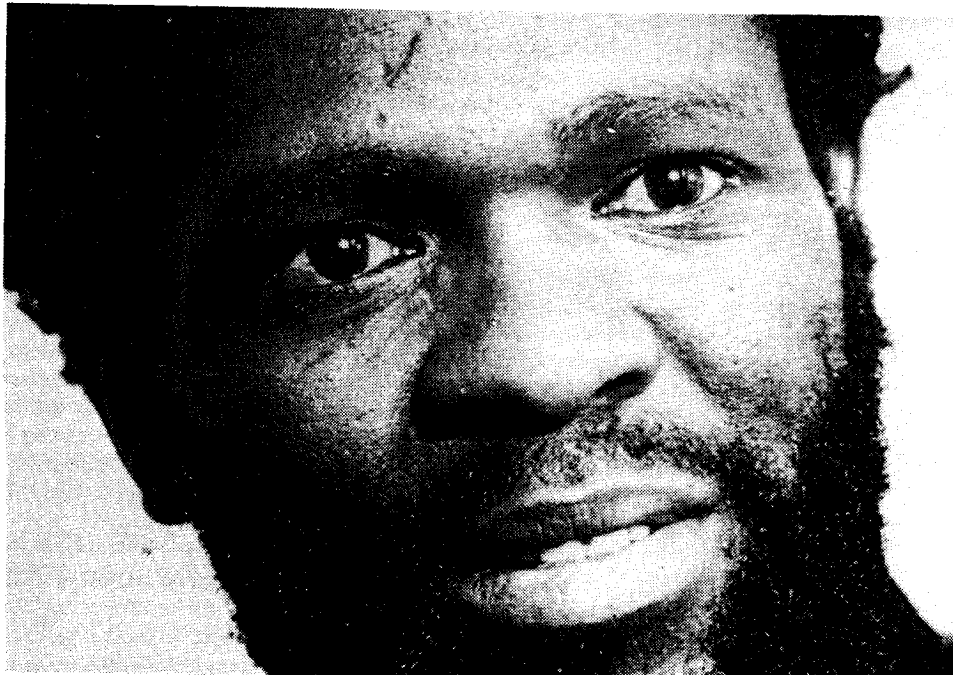
*'It's a waste of time, a waste of energy and a waste of people's blood.'*

As violence exploded across South Africa and as the urban working class turned against the town councils and collaborators, Moses was active in establishing the Alexandra Action Committee and was elected chairman.

It is for their activities in Alexandra, a black 'township' near Johannesburg, that the five now face the death sentence.

The people tried to take control of the township, to impose their own law and control. Moses, by now on the central executive of COSATU, was in the forefront of uniting the struggle of the trade unions with the fight against apartheid in the communities.

Early last year lorry loads of police ransacked his one-room house where he lives with his wife, brother and six children. Moses was again detained but released after widespread strikes by



MAWU members who then elected him general secretary.

MAWU was at this time involved in a bitter dispute with the British Tyre and Rubber Co. (BTR) at its Samcol plant.

Mayekiso came to Britain to raise support for the Samcol strikers. Then he went on to Europe and was in Sweden in June 1986 when the state of emergency was declared. Thousands were rounded up and detained.

On 28 June, three days later, Mayekiso flew home facing certain arrest. He has been in detention, along with many other union leaders since.

His first court appearances are now taking place in a legal battle that could last a year.

Despite the arrest of lead-

ers, the fire-bombing of union offices, the shooting of strikers, trade unionists are continuing to develop the struggle against capitalism:

- The CUZA-AZACTU union federation has emerged alongside COSATU.

- Many unions, like the metal workers have continued to merge with various similar organisations.

- The railway workers' strike of two months ago is now to be followed by a strike of miners and metal workers for wage increases.

The South African ruling class, backed by capitalist governments around the world, is determined to continue the ruthless exploitation of black workers in South Africa

They want the trades unions smashed. They will hang Moses Mayekiso unless the working class

around the world takes action.

Already many unions have called for his release. Organisations like 'Friends of Moses Mayekiso' in Britain, have been formed.

Several union leaders, including Arthur Scargill, have called for a campaign to force Botha to release Mayekiso.

The rights of trade unions in South Africa will not be defended by words. British trade unionists must refuse to handle South African goods to demand the release of the jailed trade unionist.

Marches, meetings, strikes, propaganda, must all be directed to one aim:

- Moses Mayekiso must not hang!
- Release all South African detainees!
- Trade unions must

boycott all South African goods and services!

Mayekiso has many enemies, not only Botha and the ruling classes of the world. In the workers' movement in South Africa, as here, he has opposed those who counterpose the battle for socialism to the fight for 'democracy'.

In Britain members of the Anti-Apartheid Movement and the Communist Party have opposed resolutions calling for a campaign on his behalf on the grounds that it is detrimental to work for one 'named' detainee.

Support for the South African trade unions brings the movement here into direct conflict with Thatcher — apartheid's principal backer. That is to be expected!

The fate of this militant cannot be left to the TUC leaders, who are prostrate before the anti-union laws.

Every reader of Workers Press must begin to organise this campaign.

Already a lobby of the TUC in Blackpool on 7 September has been called. City of London Anti-Apartheid is organising a demonstration in October.

In every area campaign groups must be formed to take this work forward in the unions and trades councils etc.

No matter what obstacles are met, every socialist in Britain must fight for the release of Moses Mayekiso. His fate and the future of British trade unions are inseparable.

Workers Press welcomes any news, letters, articles, about the Moses Mayekiso campaign.

● For speakers, information etc. from the 'friends of Moses Mayekiso' write to: Terry Bell, Friends of Moses Mayekiso, Acorn House; 314 Grays Inn Road, London WCX 8DP.

## Steel bosses buy up bankrupt mine

STEEL bosses from Thyssen, Krupp, Lech-Werke (Saarsteel), Peine-Salzgitter and Klockner are to buy up by auction what remains of the iron mine Leonie (Maxhütte) in the Upper Palatinate in the German Federal Republic. On 8 May it was declared bankrupt after huge amounts of public money had been put into it.

The Bavarian Country Bank (LFA) made vast profits by charging excessive interest for loans (and earned a lot during the period when the iron-mine was in the red). Out of 4,500 jobs only 906 are to remain — 30 per cent unemployment is expected in the area.

For Lufthansa and the nearby nuclear energy plant, WAA, unlimited investment money has been made available. The police and intelligence service are to receive £1,300 million for 1987-1988. Compensation for sacked workers and 'job creation' is a mere 4 per cent of that figure.



The Leonie iron mine when still in operation



Two of the sacked mineworkers on their last shift

# 'Deport all Arabs' says Minister

AN Israeli minister has openly joined the racist call to expel all Palestinians from their homeland. Deputy Defence Minister Michael Dekel says the United States should back mass deportation.

Dekel, a placeman for the right-wing Likud party, made his call for deporting one-and-a-half million people from the occupied territories at a Likud conference on 24 July, and has since repeated it in a radio broadcast.

'We are going to stay in Judea, Samaria and Gaza for ever', the minister told the armed forces radio, 'so we have to seek other solutions. I am talking about repatriation to Arab countries, with international agreement, and the superpowers, including the United States, should be leading there.'

The call for mass deportation of Arabs, on which fascists like US-born Rabbi Meir Kahane have campaigned, was echoed recently by retired General Rehavam Ze'evi, a top 'counter-insurgency' boss tipped to lead the fascist Tehya party before long.

Dekel, named last year during inquiries into illegal land deals and extortion in

the occupied West Bank, is the most prominent Israeli official so far to openly endorse the mass expulsion call.

General Ze'evi, who wants both the Zionist state and the occupied territories made 'Arabrein', has claimed that leading Labour people secretly agree with his ideas. The general was attached to the prime minister's office when Rabin was premier.

But Labour leader and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, who has the job of presenting Israel's 'democratic' and peace-loving image for the outside world, commented on Dekel's call last week: 'Only a sick and disturbed mind could come up with such a proposal.'

As Israel and the Soviet Union move closer to restoring open diplomatic relations, some Soviet-Jewish migrants have been flown to Israel via Bucharest, rather than the more usual Vienna transit.

Zionist officials favour regular traffic this way to stop the migrants choosing another destination once they get to Vienna. Behind talk of 'freedom for Soviet Jews', the Zionists want to ensure a supply of settlers for Israel.

Once in the Zionist state there is a heavy 'tax' to be paid by anyone wishing to leave again. And Israeli prime minister Shamir has asked the United States to assist by denying entry to Soviet Jews.

# Tamils will not give up struggle

PLANS for a ceremonial handover of weapons by Tamil freedom fighters in Sri Lanka had to be postponed twice last week.

It was clear the Sri Lankan government's

'peace' deal with India's Rajiv Gandhi had not won the trust of the Tamils, who were allowed no part in the talks on their future.

More than 3,000 Indian troops were flown into the Tamil-populated Jaffna peninsula on 30 July, and another 6,000 troops were

due to follow. The Sri Lankan army had tried unsuccessfully to subdue the area in months of campaigning and bombing.

The Indian government agreed to police the Tamil areas of Sri Lanka, and to prevent Tamil guerrillas using bases in southern India. The Sri Lankan government agreed to northern and east-

ern provinces, where most Tamils live, having a single provincial council.

This stops far short of Tamil autonomy, let alone self-determination, but halts military plans to carve-up the Tamil lands and impose settlers. At the same time, the acceptance of some Tamil rights in theory, and Indian troops in practice, brought a violent backlash led by reactionary Sinhala communalists and priests.

There were also mutterings from elements in the Army, British-trained officers claiming they could have 'finished' the war if allowed a free hand.

Indian security officers had to step in quickly when a member of a Sri Lankan naval guard of honour swung his rifle butt at visiting Indian prime minister Gandhi.

The Reagan government, which has provided a \$160,000 military training programme for Sri Lanka this year, announced after the Indian pact was agreed that it would be providing military transport planes as part of an international aid package.

Journalists called to Colombo airport on 3 August for a promised flight to northern Jaffna to witness the surrender of arms by Tamil fighters were met by military officials who told them the surrender had been delayed.

Earlier, Indian army officers expecting a heroes' welcome when they entered Tamil areas were disappointed. Crowds surrounding the jeep of the Indian commander shouted for the return of Tamil Tiger leader Vellupillai Prabhakaran.

Prabhakaran was in Delhi. Rumours had spread that he would not be allowed to leave until he'd agreed to accept the Gandhi-Jayawardene accord.

On 3 August, after talks with Rajiv Gandhi, Prabhakaran was flown back to Sri Lanka by the Indian air force, and by helicopter to Nallur in the Jaffna peninsula. He was reported to have reservations for the security of his men if they handed in their arms.

Indian High Commissioner J.N. Dixit said his government was confident the surrender would take place, but then qualified this, saying: 'the surrender of arms will take place even if it takes a long time. It will take place peacefully and within a reasonable time frame. I don't mean six months.'

The Tamil Tigers' war has been waged with their people's support for four years, since the Sri Lanka government-backed pogroms against Tamils in 1983 convinced most Tamils that their future lay with an independent Tamil Eelam homeland.

Whatever agreements are entered into now, Tamil fighters are unlikely to place any real trust in deals between the Jayawardene and Gandhi regimes. Under whatever changed conditions, the struggle for self-determination and social justice in Sri Lanka goes on.

Revolutionaries will insist on the right of the Tamil people to determine their own future, and fight for unity not between bourgeois states but between the oppressed and exploited Tamil and Sinhalese masses.



Tamil fighter

## Rabin's exceptional response to killing

ISRAELI occupation troops launched a massive search-and-round-up operation in the city of Gaza last week, after a lone Palestinian succeeded in assassinating the area's military police chief.

The Israeli officer was shot in the head while driving through the city in a military vehicle. The assailant reportedly got away on foot.

An immediate curfew was imposed on the city centre, and troops cordoned off the area. Labour Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, architect of the Israeli 'Iron Fist' policy of repression, arrived with senior officers, and said 'exceptional measures' would be taken in Gaza.

As troops began house-to-house searches, rounding up scores of people for interrogation, this was obviously Rabin's go-ahead for brutality.

### Stopped

All movement between the Gaza strip and the rest of Palestine was stopped, and fishing boats were banned from sailing. The Israeli military has watchtowers all along the coast and already restricts all movement.

## Who did you say he was?

TURKISH prime minister Turgut Ozal and his Foreign Minister are blaming civil servants for an embarrassing slip-up in arrangements for receiving VIP visitors.

Ozal and Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu found themselves receiving a distinguished-looking American whom they'd been led to believe was a front-runner for the US Democrats' presidential nomination.

Whether it was the visitor's theories about the Queen of England running a drugs syndicate, or a peculiar glint that appeared in his eye when discoursing on AIDS, something

apparently caused them to suspect half-way through the interview that a mistake might have been made.

The important American politician was none other than Lyndon H. LaRouche Jr., one-time radical Leftist, self-claimed former FBI informer, and currently guru of a way-out but well-heeled fascist sect with a special line in conspiracy theory.

Several LaRouche supporters have been indicted recently in the United States for allegedly obtaining \$1 million in campaign contributions fraudulently.

But his self-styled

National Democratic Policy Committee had been doing quite well up till then, with supporters winning Democratic Party locals in more than one state.

And the great leader's scene with Ozal and Halefoglu might not have struck the right-wing Turkish leaders as a Marx Brothers farce all at once. Some of his views on Soviet plots for world domination won't have seemed all that different from what they'd heard from Reagan and Thatcher, or the CIA.

Still, they're saying the meeting was a mistake, and blaming their officials for it.

## Tatar militants are deported

THE Soviet bureaucracy has deported 12 Crimean Tatars who took part in demonstrations in Moscow, and warned others they will be arrested under internal passport regulations if they do not leave the capital.

The Tatars are demanding the right of return to the Crimea, from which their people were deported en masse by Stalin. The twelve are being sent back to Central Asia.

Hundreds of Tatars demonstrated in Moscow last month, demanding the right to return to the Crimea, and an autonomous homeland.

It was announced that a commission headed by Gromyko, president of the Supreme Soviet would examine the Tatar case and prepare a report. The official Tass news agency issued a statement on 23 July admitting the mass deportation of the Tatars had been 'unjust'.

On 29 July however, the Kremlin accused a US embassy official and others of inciting illegal protests by a Soviet ethnic minority. Invoking 'Western incitement' seems to have been the cue for police action against the Tatars.

Stalin ordered the mass deportation of the Crimean Tatars to Central Asia in 1944, supposedly on 'security' grounds, for alleged collaboration with the German invaders.

As Tass observed: 'unfortunately, the decision... was applied not only to traitors but to the entire population.'

The injustice was all the worse, Tass said, since 'thousands of Crimean Tatars actively participated in combat operations against the Fascist invaders and were decorated with high state awards.'

Carried out under wartime conditions, and with typical bureaucratic rough-handedness, the mass deportation caused thousands of deaths and much suffering for the Tatars on their journey to exile.

Similar racist collective punishment was carried out against the Chechen-Ingush peoples in the Caucasus, whose republic was liquidated and themselves deported, in March 1944.

In 1956, Khrushchev referred to this and other cases in his famous 'secret' report to the 20th congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. He said the mass deportation had served no military purpose, had included party members, and had violated basic Leninist principles on the nationality question.

However, for thirty years since then, the Crimean Tatars' cause remained a tabu subject, Tatar militants and their supporters being frequently imprisoned.

● 'Eye-witness in Kazakhstan' see page 14

FIVE women burned themselves to death in the Soviet Central Asian republic of Turkmenia because their families wanted to sell them as brides, the trade union newspaper 'Trud' said last week. The women doused themselves in petrol and set themselves alight in the Chardzhou district, about 80 miles north-west of the Afghan border.

# An 'unknown country' and the Permanent Revolution

**THE KURDS, the fourth most numerous people in the Middle East, are one of the world's largest people without their own independent state.**

When new national borders were drawn from the remains of the once-powerful Ottoman empire after its defeat in World War I, the Kurds, amongst whom national sentiment

Kurdish districts under control and destroy the peshmergas (guerrilla fighters) of various organisations.

In Turkey the term 'Kurdistan' is outlawed and there is no official recognition of the Kurds' separate identity. (They are referred to as 'mountain Turks'.)

Speaking Kurdish is a crime punishable by imprisonment. Yet in the face of all odds, and with their very existence virtually ignored by the rest of the world, the Kurds keep up their struggle for democratic rights and national liberation.

## A brief historical background

THERE ARE no reliable figures for the current Kurdish population,

man state authority were given a certain degree of autonomy in their respective domains.

The new bourgeoisies of the nations carved out of the old empire began implementing every conceivable type of repression to liquidate the Kurds as a nation.

The worst of these has been **Turkey**, where the Kemalist state, well aware of how its predecessors had solved the Armenian issue, undertook brutal violence and repressive measures, including mass evacuations and forced exile.

Over a million Kurds have been forcibly relocated in the west of the country since the 1920s.

At present some 50,000 Kurds are being exiled from the Tunceli area (also known as Dersim) as part of a

tionary leadership.

Above all the movement was the expression of national struggle against the brutality of Kemalist repression.

Throughout all this period the Stalinist government of the neighbouring USSR chose to overlook the oppression of the Kurds and adhered to support for the Kemalist regime, which it characterised as 'anti-feudal' and 'anti-imperialist.'

The Turkish government was successful in silencing the Kurdish movement for some 30 years. In the 1960s and 1970s it regained strength and became a major target for brutal repression of genocidal proportions which has become even worse in recent years.

BY E. REFIK and

the independent Mahabad Republic under the presidency of Qazi Mohammed in January 1946 in a small area of Irani Kurdistan.

Two major factors led to the short-lived republic's end in December 1946.

One was the absence of support from Kurdish tribal chiefs outside its borders, and the second was Stalin's betrayal.

At the time of the Mahabad Kurdish Republic's inception the Soviets occupied northern Iran and Qazi Mohammed was able to take bold steps with Stalin's encouragement.

Shortly afterwards, Stalin made it clear that his interest lay in preserving the status quo. Soviet troops left Iranian soil in May 1946 and when the Tehran government's army marched on Mahabad in December there was no resistance.

The Kurdish movement in Iraq was led by Mulla Mustafa Barzani from 1931 until his death in 1979.

Barzani alternately fought against the various Iraqi governments and co-operated with them in defeating other organisations considered enemies by the regime.

The history of Barzani and the KDP (Kurdish Democratic Party) is long and complex, with many factional struggles.

Barzani was heavily dependent on the Shah of Iran for financial and military aid, and even received United States support.

Pressure from Barzani and his backers led the Baghdad government to propose the Autonomy Law of 1974 which recognised Kurdish existence and granted a limited autonomy, which the Kurdish leadership refused as insufficient.

Following this full-scale war broke out.

Barzani counted on US support which never materialised, as the American government meant to use the Kurdish movement to weaken the Ba'ath regime but never intended them to win outright.

The Kurds quickly lost much of the territory under their control, but fighting continued until March 1975 when Saddam Hussein and the Shah of Iran signed a treaty in their own interests in which Iran agreed to cut off supplies to the KDP.

All in all some 50,000 were killed and wounded on both sides and 600,000 were displaced.



A Kurdish peshmerga in Iraq

and a local bourgeoisie were virtually non-existent, were conveniently overlooked by imperialism and local bourgeois forces.

The land known as Kurdistan since the 13th century, the land which the Kurdish people are known to have been inhabiting for over 2,000 years, was divided amongst the states of Turkey, Iran, Iraq and Syria.

Kurdish history is marked by repression and struggle, rebellion and betrayal.

Fully cognisant of the dangers Kurdish nationalism poses to their own hegemony, the respective central governments have not hesitated in brutal, even genocidal repression, or where possible, in using the movement to meet their own ends.

The Iran-Iraq war has taken a heavy toll on the Kurdish population. On both sides of the border violent attacks, executions and bombings have been used to bring

but it is estimated at some 20 million. The majority, 11 million, are in Turkey. They are of Indo-European descent, as is their language, which bears no relation to either Turkish or Arabic.

Historically they are stock-breeders and many remain so today. Tribal social organisation, blood ties and territorial loyalty have been a source of constant feuding and rivalry, a disruptive factor in the struggle for national liberation.

The history of the Kurdish movement varies from country to country. We have to limit ourselves to a brief summary.

In the 19th and early 20th centuries, there was no concept of national consciousness to speak of amongst the Kurds; nationalism was restricted to petty-bourgeois intellectual sectors and never succeeded in becoming a mass-movement ideology.

During the time of the Ottoman empire, Kurds were considered trustworthy citizens. The Kurdish aghas (big landowners) and shaikhs as representatives of Otto-

man state authority were given a certain degree of autonomy in their traditional homeland and bring enforced assimilation. Millions more may be affected in years to come.

The violence and repressive measures undertaken by the Kemalist state led to insurrection and civil war within the early years of the Turkish republic.

More Turkish soldiers died fighting in the 1925 Shaikh Said rebellion and in the 1931-1937 Dersim rebellion than in the fight against the imperialist occupation in 1918-1922.

The state's policies encouraged the differences amongst tribes and religious sects, as well as applying plans aimed at damaging the peasantry and poor while benefitting the aghas. The aim was to unite the Kurdish landlords with the new Turkish bourgeoisie.

Despite the religious content of the Kurdish rebellions of that period and the fact that the leadership of the movement was in the hands of the landlords and religious leaders, the movement itself must not be confused with its reac-

In Turkish Kurdistan the Turkish military is omnipresent, prisons are full and torture is common.

The new concentration of hundreds of thousands of Kurds in Turkey's major cities, however, led to the development of a Kurdish proletariat and a greater awareness of the nationalist struggle in neighbouring Iran and Iraq.

Children of migrant Kurds raised in the cities have had access to better education and contact with socialist organisations.

In Europe as well organisations formed by Kurdish political refugees and immigrant workers are active in furthering the Kurdish struggle.

In Iran, Kurds have always been recognised as one of the major ethnic groups making up the nation, along with Arabs, Turks and Baluchis. Nevertheless all separatist tendencies have been severely repressed.

The most important event in the history of the Kurdish nationalist movement was the declaration of

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Speakers from the Workers Rev  
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**SELINI SOL**

Kurds form 8 per cent of the population of Syria; many of them fled from Turkey in the 1920s.

The degree of repression has never been as harsh there, although the intensity of Arabism in Nasser's early years led to the persecution of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Syria in 1960. There were mass arrests and Kurdish publications and even gramophone records were seized.

Thousands of Kurds were counted as foreigners, stripped of nationality but still forced to serve in the Syrian army.

Many are still in that situation and repression of the Kurdish movement continues.

**The Kurdish national liberation struggle today**

INFLUENCED by the Iranian Revolution and the atmosphere created by the Iran-Iraq war various political organisations have gained strength and recognition.

Among the main organisations are the KDP, dominated by the Barzani family, the PUK (Patriotic Union of Kurdistan) under the leadership of Jalal Talabani, the SPKI (Socialist Party of Kurdistan-Iraq), PASOK (Kurdish Socialist Party) and Komala.

Armed struggle since 1980 has liberated some 15,000 square miles of territory under the control of the Kurdish peshmergas (guerrillas).

Living conditions in the liberated zone are extremely hard. The Iraqi state makes systematic attacks with chemical warfare.

War conditions make the sale of local products and the purchase of supplies extremely difficult.

Leadership of the zone is primarily through committees controlled by the KDP and PUK. The committees are responsible for military, political and administrative decisions.

Village councils are responsible for local issues. 117 schools have been opened for 6,000 students.

In recent months the Iraqi government has been systematically attacking and trying to annihilate the people living in this area and their villages.

Revolutionary Marxists of the region and internationally must fight together with the Kurdish people against these barbaric attacks.

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A group of peshmergas fighting inside Iraq

At the present stage of the struggle the problem of the movement's leadership has become crucial.

The KDP and PUK are the de facto leadership, yet both organisations are closely intertwined with religious and landlord interests as well as the local bourgeoisie.

Their bourgeois class composition means that these leaderships are constantly capitulating to local state authorities, subordinating the future objectives of the struggle to their own personal interests.

Thus they are incapable of leading an independent struggle against imperialism and the local bourgeoisies.

The most recent example was the agreement signed by PUK and KDP in Tehran in February 1987. They agreed to combine forces to fight Saddam Hussein (whereas previously more of their forces were directed to fighting each other).

This pact, however, also carries capitulation to the Khomeini regime.

Furthermore they have indicated they are willing to make an agreement for combining forces against the Iraqi government.

As a result the struggles in Irani and Turkish Kurdistan are postponed for an unknown future date.

The only way to ensure the survival of a Kurdish state in Iraq would be to unite their struggle with the struggle of Kurds living in Iran, Syria and Turkey.

The best guarantee for victory would be uniting the struggle of the proletarian and democratic forces of the Kurdish nation with the struggle of the revolutionary proletariat of other countries in the region.

The Kurdish workers and peasants know all too well the meaning behind the verbal support given to their struggle by the various state governments.

After years of waging armed struggle for survival there is an open confrontation between the Kurdish people and the regional bourgeoisie which leaves no choice but for the leadership to adopt more consistent and decisive politics.

In the late 1970s socialist forces in Kurdistan began working seriously and have gained recognition in the struggle.

As these forces grow they have begun to cause an evolution now taking place in the movement's leadership towards the left.

In Turkey the oppression of the Kurdish people has reached a peak.

On the one hand children cannot even be given Kurdish names; on the other hand the Turkish military crosses the border to attack the Kurdish population of Iraq.

The governments of the 'democratic' nations of the west, although they are fully aware of Turkey's brutal repression of the Kurds, pretend not to see and give large sums of aid to modernise the Turkish army.

Turkey's attacks on the Kurds are either openly or covertly sup-

ported by the imperialist governments.

After the 1980 military coup d'etat the Kurdish left in Turkey was quickly pushed into marginality and lost its social ties as a result of the repressive conditions.

On the other hand, PKK (Kurdish Workers Party) declared war on the Turkish state in August 1984 and began attacking local military and civilian targets.

The PKK leadership, aware of the revolutionary potential in Turkish Kurdistan and planning to force it into action, fell into political bankruptcy on account of its own Stalinist and bureaucratic structure and ideology. It relies on petty-bourgeois Stalinist methods of struggle rather than building a

workers' party with democratic centralism.

Its brutal attacks against its own people have generated fear and distrust amongst the terrorised Kurdish population of Turkey; the armed attacks and indiscriminate killings by PKK have reached a dimension where it is nearly impossible to distinguish between this organisation's activities and those of the Turkish secret police!

Revolutionary Marxists worldwide, and especially in Turkey, must take an active position against the brutal attacks of the Turkish bourgeoisie and participate in all efforts towards the creation of a revolutionary leadership in Kurdistan.

**TO BE CONTINUED**



Inside Kurdish liberated territory

**ALL THE signs are that the Tories are planning to lift the ban on irradiation of food despite mounting public resistance and evidence of dangers both to consumers and food industry workers.**

Currently illegal in Britain, food irradiation is the process of passing, extremely high energy waves through food to kill off bacteria and insects or to arrest the growth process.

This gives a huge boost to the profit-making capabilities of food wholesalers, transporters and retailers by reducing rotting, maturing and decay, thereby dramatically increasing shelf life.

It is also claimed that the system cuts out the need to use certain chemical additives — such as growth inhibitors and preservatives — while reducing the chance of food poisoning.

Not all foods are suitable for treatment, some changing noticeably in flavour or smell. However it is claimed that:

- potatoes and onions can be prevented from sprouting for nine months;
- soft fruits can be held in stock for weeks instead of days;
- the safe time for keeping fish, meat, sea foods and poultry can be extended significantly and
- the development of moulds on cereals, flour, fresh and dried fruit and vegetables is delayed.

At present in Britain it is illegal both to irradiate food and to import food that has been irradiated elsewhere.

□ □ □

**SO what are the dangers?**

For one thing, powerful radioactive sources will be used on an extended basis by private industry outside the current nuclear industry or hospital orbit.

Food to be irradiated is processed and packaged in the normal way then conveyed past a sterilising radiation source — of gamma rays, X-rays or an electron beam.

Dosages received depend on the speed of the conveyor system and the distance from the source and will vary according to the type of food to be treated.

However, in most cases they will have to be at levels lethal to human beings.

Gamma ray sources will be cobalt 60 or caesium 137, both products of reactor technology.

Units using these will require heavy concrete shielding and underwater storage of rods, complete with remote control operation and monitoring.

These will of course require a back-up provision of cleaning, transporting and removal of waste normal to radio-active materials.

There are plans for low level units for use on fishing vessels and on farms to give an early sterilising dose which can be topped up later.

X-ray units will also require special shielding and safety measures particularly as the dose needed to kill bacteria and insects would have to be one hundred million times greater than those used in medical X-rays.

As for electron beams, these may prove inadequate for many high-dose subjects.

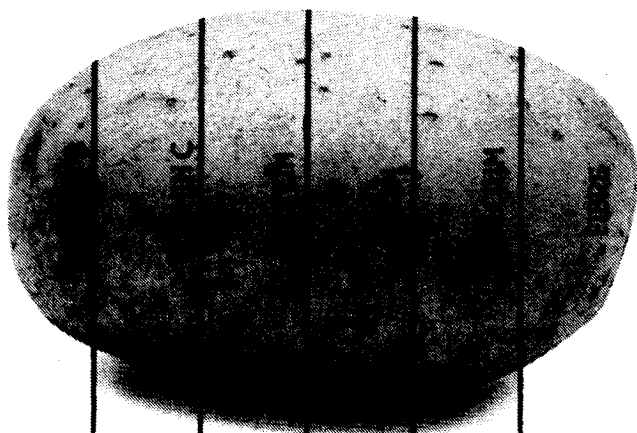
As far as the consumer is concerned, although there is

**BY BERNARD FRANKS**

likely to be little residual radioactivity left in food after treatment, a variety of other adverse effects have been discovered.

□ □ □

THE London Food Commission, an independent body



*The common potato: will the vitamins be reduced?*

set up by the now-abolished Greater London Council, warns of the following dangers:

- reduced vitamin content, especially A, B, B6, C, E and K. Food that looks fresh may be drastically down on nutritional quality, affecting in particular people on low-income diets.
- changed smell and flavour leading to increased use of additives to hide the undesirable effect of irradiation.
- a possible reaction with packaging, generating toxic chemicals.
- irradiation kills dangerous bacteria but does not remove the deadly toxins produced by them earlier.
- irradiation may create aflatoxins, powerful agents for causing liver cancer. Peanuts are especially vulnerable.
- kills essential poly-unsaturated fats, yet foods containing these are recommended by nutrition experts to replace unhealthy saturated fats.
- bombarding material with radiation can alter its chemical structure and actually create toxic substances.
- may induce chromosome defects: examples have been discovered in Indian children fed freshly irradiated wheat.
- will also kill beneficial organisms that keep food poisoning in check, allowing botulism to develop more easily once protective wrapping is removed.

□ □ □

**FAR MORE** sinister is the way the system can be misused — and already has been in spite of the limitations on its use supposedly still in force.

Apparently there is no simple way of knowing if irradiation was applied originally to wholesome food or to contaminated produce to allegedly render it fit for human consumption.

In 1986 Young's Foods, a subsidiary of the Imperial Foods Group, found a high bacteria content in a batch of imported prawns.

The consignment was shipped to the Netherlands

# Irradiation of food may be legalised

given to industry by the Official Secrets Act, on the basis that commercial confidentiality has to be respected.

□ □ □

THE VAST food retail chains obviously stand to benefit if the method is made legal in Britain. Their umbrella organisation, the Food and Drink Federation, has published a free glossy booklet, 'A Revolution in Food Preservation'.

This takes the incredible line that food technologists have 'harnessed a phenomenon of nature', going on to give a description of normal background radiation 'that occurs in nature and surrounds us every day of our lives'.

Nowhere is it stated that the dosages to be used are anything but 'natural'. In fact no mention is made at all of radioactive sources. Instead the terms 'radiant energy waves' and 'energy source' are used.

Especially incredible is the bland statement that 'the equipment used is simple and well established, and stringent supervision procedures are automatically provided'.

In the US a similar powerful lobby to legalise irradiation was launched in January 1985, combining 33 major food firms including Heinz, Del Monte and Campbell's Soup.

However, according to the London Food Commission, food irradiation technology 'has its roots not in the food industry but in the nuclear industry'.

This is because 'the whole nuclear industry stands to

benefit from any use of radioactive material that can be offered to the public in a positive light' ('Food Irradiation — The Facts', by Tony Webb and Dr Tim Lang, 1987).

In this context, clearly a major beneficiary would be Amersham International, Britain's leading isotope manufacturer.

At the same time such a large scale operation as treating a percentage of Britain's food supply 'would make commercially viable the extraction of the alternative caesium isotopes from the radioactive waste at reprocessing plants like Sellafield' (see Webb and Lang).

□ □ □

**ARE the Tories planning to legalise the system?**

LAST year the government's advisory committee on Irradiated and Novel Foods delivered its report.

As expected, it declared that there were no special problems with the safety or wholesomeness of irradiated food.

Chairman of that committee was none other than Sir Arnold Burgen, a director of Amersham International!

On publication of the report — or slightly earlier according to the London Food Commission — the share price of Isotron plc, the firm most likely to be the foremost supplier of irradiation plant, leapt upwards to £33 million on the London Stock Exchange.

In 1983, Frank Ley, Isotron's marketing director and a leading shareholder, was appointed 'economic adviser' to the advisory committee on Irradiated and Novel Foods!

er' to the advisory committee on Irradiated and Novel Foods!

□ □ □

**CAN the system be controlled?**

AN inspectorate already exists to check food wholesomeness, production and public health generally.

But like other public sector institutions its operations have been put under enormous pressure in terms of cash and staff cuts, so that the visiting rate to premises has been reduced to once every seven or ten years.

Irradiation involves so many new and inadequately researched factors that almost total responsibility would fall on the companies in question to say what was safe.

But in the competitive rat-race for markets that both food retailers and nuclear plant producers are involved in, who could believe a word they say?

□ □ □

**SO WHY not a law to ensure that irradiated food is prominently labelled as such?**

FIRSTLY, how is food sold in restaurants and burger bars, or loose on the grocers stall, to be effectively labelled?

But more importantly, Tony Webb and Dr Tim Lang of the London Food Commission say that the consumer organisations which are calling for labelling are dangerously missing the point:

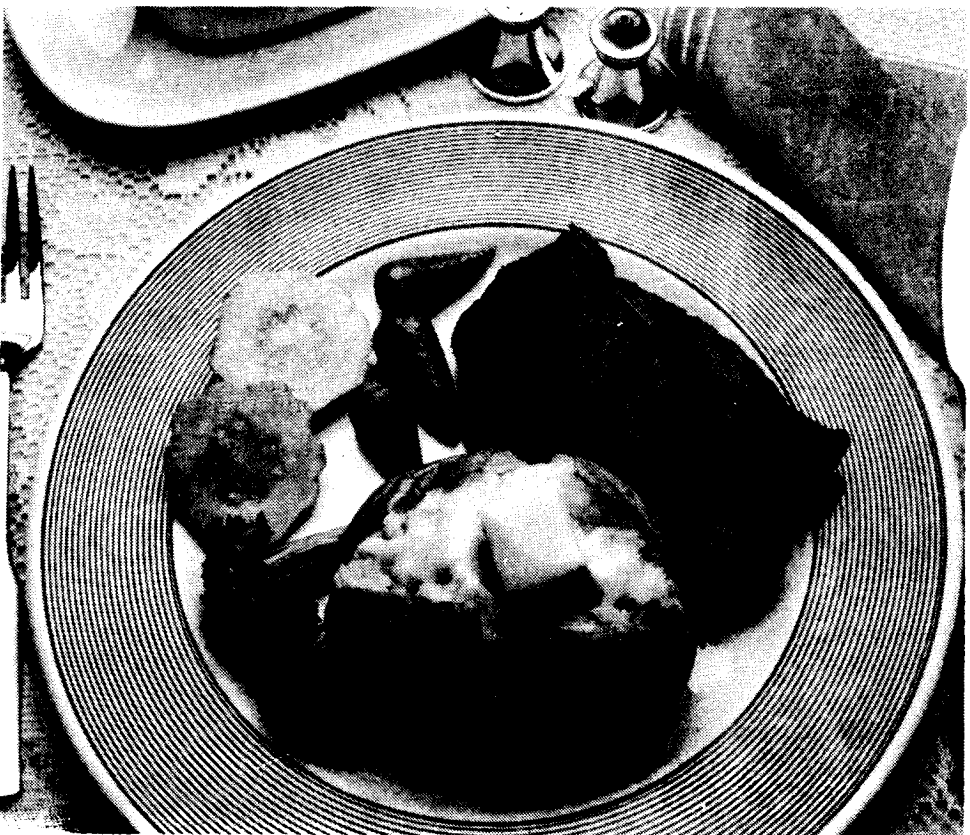
'Even if all those labelling requirements were met we have to ask, should irradiated food be permitted at all while the concerns over safety, nutrition and abuse are unresolved.

'Is it really enough to leave the issue to consumer choice, knowing that we are leaving consumers at the mercy of very powerful interests in multi-national food companies who have the power to manipulate public perceptions by advertising and their control over the economics of food prices?'

They are right. The Zeebrugge ferry disaster was a classic example of the fact that, where the spirit of free enterprise reigns, profits come first and safety nowhere.

It is for this reason that a number of systems have to be criticised and opposed, not because they are necessarily dangerous under all circumstances.

Clearly in the case of food irradiation there is a need for trade unions especially to oppose all imports of irradiated food and any introduction of the system until it is cleared to the satisfaction of the entire labour movement, not merely to that of vested interests.



*The meal looks fresh, but the nutritional quality may be drastically affected by irradiation.*

# NICARAGUA

## The struggle for Trotskyism

**THE US-backed Contras have been driven back by the Sandinist government, but not totally defeated. How much of a danger are they to the revolution now?**

**Bonifacio Miranda:** The revolution is strong enough to resist US-imperialist invasion. So the general strategy of imperialism is to use the Contras to try and force the Sandinists to negotiate with them.

Reagan wants to smash the Nicaraguan revolution — just as imperialism wants to smash Angola, Mozambique and other countries who have become independent of imperialism — and the Contras are one element in this strategy.

There have been stages in the Contra operation. First, they got all the right-wing opposition groups together in the Democratic National Front (Frente Democrático Nacional: FDN). This was made up of officers from the old Somocist army and civilians like Adolfo Calero Portocarrero, who was a well-known member of the CIA.

The US gave military and financial support to the FDN, and in this first period of their existence, 1980-1983, the Contras were turned from a small group of guerrillas to a well-armed and well-trained militia.

It must be said that the Contras profited by the Sandinists' mistakes at this time. The Sandinist government had not started agrarian reform; the peasants' living conditions were exactly the same as they had been before the 1979 revolution — and the Contras were re-

cruiting peasants.

At this stage the military defence of the revolution fell mainly to the reserve battalions (Batallones de Infantería de Reserva: BIR). These were paid workers' militia that voluntarily enrolled to fight the Contras; they had both a salary and an enthusiasm to fight.

But the Contra offensive grew to such an extent that the militia were insufficient to deal with them. The Contras had 15,000 men under arms; they no longer worked as guerrilla columns but settled in certain areas and established social bases in the countryside.

**HOW did the Sandinist government react to this?**

IN TWO ways. Firstly they deepened the agrarian reform. Because of the war many peasants were wandering about the countryside, and these they grouped in 'peasant settlements', with big unpopulated spaces in between.

They established schools, hospitals and practically gave away good housing in these settlements; they divided the surrounding land among the peasants. All the resources of the government were put at the peasants' disposal.

The Sandinists dismantled the previous apparatus they had established for land reform, which was designed to create co-operative farms; they gave away individual plots of land instead.

The peasants preferred to till the land than to fight for the Contras. Thousands of them handed their weapons to the government and took

THE powerful blows struck at US imperialism and its puppets in Nicaragua — and the crisis of the Reagan administration in which its genocidal policy in central America is a major factor — have inspired workers and revolutionaries all over the world.

The campaign to defend Nicaragua from imperialist attack is of central concern to Trotskyists, particularly in the United States and its imperialist allies like Britain. But the political problems posed for the world Trotskyist movement by the coming to power of the Sandinists went beyond simply the need to side with them against imperialism.

Those Trotskyists who in 1979 formed the Simon Bolivar International Brigade (SBIB) to fight alongside the Sandinists (this has been reported in previous issues of Workers Press),

found themselves in sharp political conflict with the new government: the Trotskyists' calls for the total expropriation of the bourgeoisie and firm punishment of counter-revolutionaries, in particular, were opposed by Sandinism. This political conflict grew so sharp that the SBIB was expelled from Nicaragua.

Today the Revolutionary Workers' Party (Partido Revolucionario de los Trabajadores: PRT), a section of the International Workers' League — Fourth International, is continuing the struggle to build Trotskyist leadership in Nicaragua, advancing its independent policies to deepen the revolution.

This is the first part of a three-part interview by SIMON PIRANI with PRT leader BONIFACIO MIRANDA.

part in this scheme.

Secondly, the government changed its military tactics, disbanding the voluntary militia and establishing patriotic military service (Servicio Militar Patriótico: SMP) for all those between 16 and 21 years of age.

In military terms this was an advance: but concretely it meant the dissolution of the workers' militia — apart from the territorial self-defence militia in the areas where actual fighting continued.

Nicaragua is a very mountainous country with a small

population. As long as the Sandinist army was limited in numbers, the Contras were able to do terrible damage by hiding up in the mountains and launching attacks from there.

Patriotic military service made it possible to mobilise 200,000 men: then the government went on the offensive. The agrarian reform took away the Contras' social base. They began to get annihilated.

**IN the first period of fighting against the Contras (1981-1984), the Sandinists had big problems on the Atlantic coast, didn't they?**

YES. In the first years of the revolution, the Sandinists didn't recognise the national rights of the Miskito Indians, who are a majority there.

The Atlantic coast was, for many years, a colonial enclave of Britain: it was recovered from British imperialism in 1894 by Nicaragua.

But all the traditions and customs established there — Anglican churches, the English language, a series of English customs — were markedly different.

Besides this, the Miskitos had their own traditions of communal fishing and hunting — which could have been an excellent starting-point for socialist development — which they also considered their own, as separate from Nicaragua.

None of these traditions were respected by the Sandinists — and this was a brutal mistake.

In 1980, just after coming to power, they started to sell forestry rights on the Atlantic coast to Mexican companies, and this sparked a Miskito rebellion. During the revolution, the Miskitos, together with two smaller Indian tribes, the Sumos and Ramas, were organised in the Miskitos Sumos Ramas Sandinistas (MISURASATA) — but this broke up and the majority of them followed Steadman Faggott, an anti-Sandinist right-winger.

The Sandinists used brutal methods of repression against the Miskitos. The Miskito guerrillas fell under

the control and manipulation of imperialism. So when the Sandinists were trying to tackle the question of the Contras, they had this massive problem on the Atlantic coast.

The policy of autonomous rights for the people of the Atlantic coast had been raised by the Simon Bolivar International Brigade when it entered Bluefields, the main town on the Atlantic coast, in 1979.

This question was raised again by our party during the 1980 Indian rebellion. In 1984-1985, the Sandinists publicly admitted their mistake and started applying the policy of self-determination.

The fighting on the Atlantic coast ended. Miskitos who had gone to Honduras came back to settle in Nicaragua.

All this allowed the government to concentrate their military forces in the north of the country, against the Contras. The Contra forces — which Reagan had hoped to build up to 30,000 — went down from 15,000 to 6,000.

**How great is the danger of a Contra resurgence?**

As long as the Sandinists don't liquidate capitalism in Nicaragua, the military defeat of the Contras can only be temporary.

As Marxists we can't dismiss the possibility of a Contra resurgence — they may settle in new places; they thrive on the hunger and misery of the peasantry, and cynically exploit it, trying to blame the Sandinists.

Today they are isolated: they are unable to maintain a single foothold in Nicaragua except at a place called Chontales, where land reform has not been carried out, where there still exist extremely rich peasants and poor landless peasants side by side.

And of course they have their bases outside Nicaragua.

**Alongside support for the Contras, the imperialists are trying to weaken the Nicaraguan revolution through the Contadora Pact (an agreement be-**

**tween the bourgeois governments of Central and South American countries to try to negotiate peace). Is it working?**

The imperialists hit out militarily with one hand, and with the other put the Contadora proposals in front of the Sandinists as a compromise.

The Sandinists are very interested, and have made big concessions to try and keep the project alive.

They have moulded their political programme to fit in with the demands of Contadora, including elections according to a bourgeois-democratic formula and the re-organisation of bourgeois institutions.

But the stumbling-block is armaments: imperialism demands that the popular Sandinist army is reduced, in terms of numbers and equipment, to the level of other armies in the area. The Sandinists have resisted this key element of imperialist policy.

Recently, Arnulfo Arias, president of Costa Rica, put forward a transitional plan:

1. a ceasefire and the end of US military aid to the Contras;
2. a general amnesty;
3. elections;
4. internal dialogue between the Sandinists and the right-wing bourgeois politicians.

The Sandinists have not openly criticised this plan; they may be prepared to talk about it, because it does not include a proposal to negotiate with the leaders of the Contras and the old Somocists, something they are not prepared to do.

Although they have resisted so far, they may be willing to talk about armaments. Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega told the 'New York Times' at the end of last year that he was ready to accept the setting-up of US military bases in Central America, if this was a means of keeping Contadora alive.

**NEXT WEEK: The Nicaraguan economy, politics, and the issues facing women.**



Volunteers of the People's Militia, Managua



PERSONAL COLUMN

Peter Freyre

# Preparing for power

I SPENT an unusually interesting evening, the weekend before last, at 'Preparing for Power', an annual educational event organised by the Revolutionary Communist Party.

Organisers and participants alike impressed me by their youth, enthusiasm, and sincerity. There is much the entire left can learn, it seems to me, from the RCP's energetic anti-racist activity.

Needless to say, we didn't see eye to eye on everything. Two issues in particular that came up are worth mentioning here, and I'd very much welcome readers' opinions.

One of these issues was to do with the Let Farida Bibi Stay Campaign, recently reported by Zbigniew Wojcik in Workers Press (25 July).

A new genetic test, the DNA fingerprint analysis, has established 'beyond any reasonable doubt' that Farida, threatened with deportation and therefore in hiding, is the natural daughter of Nazir Hussain, who has lived and worked in Derby for 30 years.

But the view was expressed at 'Preparing for Power' that those campaigning on Farida's behalf should be simply demanding the repeal of the racist immigration laws instead of being diverted by what some questioners seemed to see as a side-issue.

I hesitate to label this position as sectarian. But surely serious revolutionaries, engaged in a campaign about reuniting a broken family and saving one of its members from deportation, are obliged to fight with whatever weapon lies to hand?

And surely it is precisely in the course of that fight, for the rights and happiness of one single family, that more and more people can be brought to see how the racist laws which split families and create second-class citizenship are inherently repressive and unjust?

The other issue concerned the common law, i.e. the unwritten law that is 'based on ancient and universal usage, and embodied in commentaries and reported cases'.

I said the common law gave

every citizen the power of arrest when he or she saw a crime being committed. And this, I thought, gave anti-racists the legal right to mount physical resistance to racist attacks on black people.

This view was not, I fear, well received; I was thought to be placing undue reliance on bourgeois law.

But surely serious revolutionaries are obliged to use the weapons fashioned for us by our predecessors, who fought hard and suffered long for such freedoms as we still possess?

And preparing for working-class power surely entails, amongst other things, finding out what those ancient weapons are and how we can use them?

# Black sheep in the family?

HARDLY was the ink dry on my recent note about 'The language of racism' (11 July) when a group of lively students in Derby were quizzing me for my views on 'Baa, baa, black sheep'.

Did I think it was racist? And what did I think about the campaign to call blackboards 'chalkboards'?

Never having given these weighty matters much thought, I answered off the cuff that the black sheep in the nursery rhyme was so described, not for the pigmentation of its skin, nor in the modern political sense, but for the colour of its wool.

This rhyme was, so far as I knew, very much alive in the oral tradition in the English-speaking Caribbean.

Serious opponents of racism, I added, would be using their energy more profitably if they pointed out how great swaths of land were stolen from black Australians ('Aborigines') in the 19th century so that Merino sheep could be grazed there to provide the fine wool needed by British firms and the enormous profits sought by British sheep-farmers.

Some of my hearers were plainly not satisfied, and one young man came up afterwards to tell me so. He personally found the rhyme offensive, he said.

I'm bound to say I can't see why. The invaluable 'Oxford Dictionary of Nursery Rhymes', edited by Iona and Peter Opie, suggests neither a 'racial' nor any sort of anthropomorphic meaning, but rather some connection with an export tax on wool, imposed in 1275.

The versions the Opies cite, from c. 1744 onwards, portray the black sheep in anything but an unfavourable light: having been fleeced of 'Three bags full', she is invariably seen as a good provider.

I should have thought that, if nursery rhymes are to be cleaned up in this way, it would be more to the point to start with 'Eena, meena, mina, mo', the offensive 'nigger' in the second line of which is a comparatively recent import from the United States. (It is a word, say the Opies, 'unknown in any English traditional rhyme or proverb'.)

In earlier English versions of this counting-out rhyme it is invariably a chicken or a tinker that is caught by the toe.

All in all, though, it does seem to me that agitation over black sheep and blackboards is a trivialisation of the struggle against racism and a diversion from the very pressing real issues that confront us in that struggle.

I may be wrong, of course; and I should be interested to have readers' views.

# Trumpets for two

TWO men died recently whose passing, though little noticed, has left the world a distinctly poorer place.

One was Doug Dobell, who sold jazz and blues records, on and off London's Charing Cross Road, to several generations of collectors and enthusiasts.

It's almost 40 years since I first discovered his friendly, well stocked shop, then opposite the branch of Collets that the older generation of left-wingers knew as 'The Bomb Shop'.

Hovering between the two on Saturday mornings like Buridan's ass, I was never quite sure whether to spend my scanty pocket money on a pamphlet or a record.

Doug Dobell was an institution. When he passed over, it's a sure bet that, from Buddy Bolden down, 'all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side'.

The other recent loss that saddened me was that of Gilberto Freyre, the doyen of Afro-Brazilian studies, who died in Recife at the age of 87.

His pioneering book 'The Masters and the Slaves' is several degrees too sentimental for modern tastes. All the same, its scholarly accumulation of detail, its painstaking attention to every relevant source, however obscure, and its pervading and often thrilling passion on behalf of the poorest and humblest of Brazil's citizens make it one of the great books of this century.

Before Freyre, it was commonly supposed in Brazil and elsewhere that people of African descent in Brazil had made no contribution worth speaking of to that vast country.

Freyre's merit was to show that Africans had brought with them, not just samba, delectable sweetmeats, and ancient religious ceremonies, but an entire civilisation, whose chief features he was the first to map.

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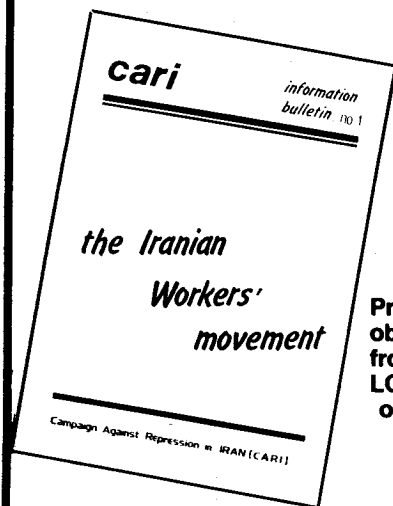
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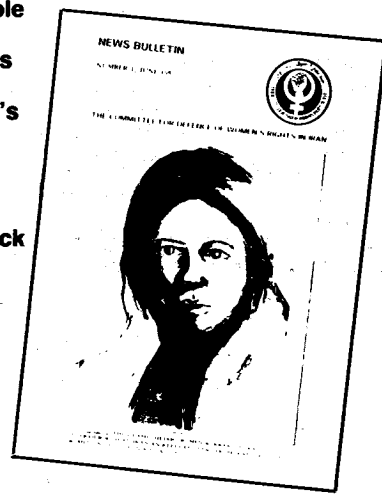
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# Two important pamphlets on Iran



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THE near-uprising which took place just before Christmas in Alma-Ata, the capital city of the Soviet Republic of Kazakhstan, shows clearly the results of the reactionary nationality policy of the Stalinist bureaucracy.

True to the spirit of 'glasnost' (openness), the events have been given some news-media coverage. Previously, mass unrest has gone unpublicised.

However, practically every article or report has been criminally lacking in not only a full account of what happened but a proper analysis of how and why it happened.

In February the Kazakh Premier gave the fullest official account so far. He told reporters that 200 people were injured, two fatally, and that 3,000 took part, contradicting previous reports of a few hundred participants and no deployment of troops.

Meanwhile 'Pravda' has been forced to admit that it has been showered with letters demanding a 'serious analysis and principled evaluation of the events' and the publication 'Kazakhstanskyaya' has 'failed to find any conclusive evidence as to who organised these occurrences'.

Meanwhile the revolt against the chauvinist policy of the Kremlin in the republic has been answered by a racist backlash. Damage of some 40,000 roubles was done to a Muslim cemetery by what the news agency TASS called 'hooligans'. While the official press has been satisfied to report these 'events' and 'disorders' there has been no change in policies and attitudes.

The following samizdat (underground) account, based on an article appearing originally in Russian, gives a very different description of the events from 'Pravda' and the 'Guardian', and is the first to come from the inside.

**AFTER the expulsion of the First Party Secretary of Kazakhstan, Kunaev, a fierce power struggle began in the republic's party apparatus. In view of this it was decided to appoint an outside man and the result was that the obkom secretary from Ulianovsk, Kolbin was chosen.**

The Kazakhs were unhappy with this. The Russians congratulated each other saying: 'Finally there will be order, these Kazakhs are everywhere — in the institutes, they occupy the best posts and are in the first line for apartments.'

On the day of the famous event posters began to appear near the educational institutes and student halls of residence about a meeting in Brezhnev Square. That same morning respectable looking people in two white cars appeared and demanded that the students went along to the meeting.

A peaceful demonstration was taking place in Brezhnev Square. People carrying placards with quotes from Lenin's nationalities policies and with the slogan 'Kazakhstan must belong to the Kazakhs' sang national songs.

### Students

The crowd in the square basically consisted of young Kazakh students. Many were from the Kazakhstan State University, and from the law, agricultural and other institutes.

There were also young workers from youth hostels. There were also Russians amongst the demonstrators.

The chairman of the Soviet of Ministers of Kazakhstan appeared before the crowd and having named all the state posts occupied by Kazakhs said:

'What are you unhappy about? Which of your rights have been violated?' He then ordered everyone to go home. The demonstrators replied that key posts in the army, MVD and KGB of Kazakhstan were occupied by Russians and refused to disperse.

Leaders of the Communist youth movement Komsomol repeated similar calls to dis-

perse but without effect. In the evening some of the demonstrators left. The remainder organised a sit-down in front of the Central Committee of the Kazakhstan Communist Party build-

ing in Brezhnev Square.

The militia and soldiers surrounded the square.

According to some reports the disturbances started because a soldier from the cordon struck a young woman holding a baby over the head with a truncheon.

Other reports talk of the fire service spraying water over the ground to scatter the demonstrators. One of the vehicles apparently crushed a girl who was sitting down.

Demonstrators overturned the vehicle and set it alight and furious young people began to tear off the facings from around the square and throwing pieces at the soldiers and militia.

Fighting broke out. The students had no weapons but they were beaten with truncheons and kicked. The 'instigators' were pulled from the crowd and taken away.

### Battered

Some accounts say the battered students were taken to the militia station, others say they were loaded on to trucks and dumped outside the town.

At the same time hooligans swooped in various parts of the town, and attacked the nursery belonging to the MVD located not far from Brezhnev Square. Subsequently, it was discovered that those arrested had identical knuckle-dusters.

That evening a vehicle drove through the cordon to

the demonstrators from which vodka and cigarettes that had been laced with drugs were distributed.

The demonstration was eventually crushed the following day. The soldiers began to tear into the halls of residence, beating up the students. Some who showed resistance were thrown from third- to fifth-floor windows.

### Names

Several days later the organs of power revealed the names of those who had been present at the demonstration. They demanded to know where those absent from lectures had been and what they had been doing.

There were inquiries at all the hospitals and polyclinics to discover who had applied for medical help. The demonstration had been filmed and this was used to identify demonstrators.

At the present time the arrests are continuing, so are the expulsions from work and from institutes. The students lose the right to enter other educational establishments.

The famous poet Olzhas Suleimenov was present at the demonstration. He turned to the cordon of militia and soldiers with a request not to touch the young people saying they would find a solution themselves.

Olzhas Suleimenov has since been arrested as was a Kazakh film director whose name isn't known.

According to some reports

there were separate outbreaks in other Kazakh towns. Kazakhs travelling to Alma-Ata to join the demonstrations were pulled off the trains. Contact with the town was broken.

It is said that Kolbin rang Gorbachev twice that night. Gorbachev replied: 'It's not possible'.

According to the inhabitants, 2,138 people were arrested, 280 students were killed and 29 militia and soldiers.

Some 400 Russians took part in the demonstration (or were arrested). According to reports circulated by the MVD: 280 were arrested and one 'druzhinnik' was killed.

### Buried

In order to sound convincing the MVD point out that many of the demonstrators do not have relatives in Alma-Ata. The dead are being buried outside Alma-Ata.

Some believe the organisation of this 'nationalist revolution' was the creation of the Kazakh authorities.

At that time, the authorities could not allow the precedent of a peaceful expression of will by the people — that is why the demonstration was compromised and the demonstrators were branded as drunkards and drug addicts.

### Gangs

Recently gangs of hooligans (teenagers and youngsters) have appeared in the town beating up everyone they come across.

After these events some Russians are saying unashamedly: 'What is needed is a machine-gun to kill them all (Kazakhs)', or 'They should be sent to the Urals, Alma-Ata should be cleansed of them.'

There is despondency and sorrow in Kazakh families. However, it is quiet on the streets.

Workers Press is grateful to our guest correspondent on Soviet nationality affairs, PATRICK KANE, who provided this important material

# The revolt in Kazakhstan

## An eye-witness account from an underground source

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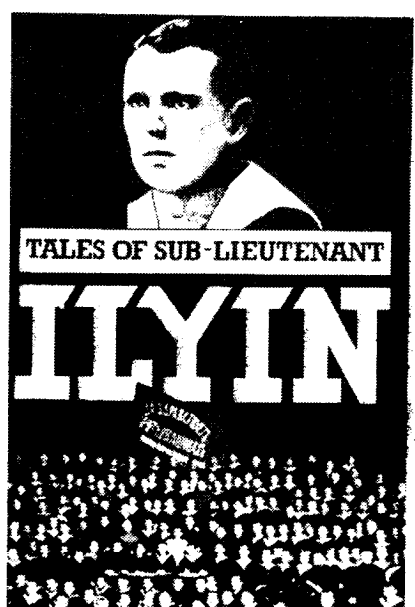
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# ROBSON'S CHOICE

## Verdi, Wells and the Raj

ON Saturday, at 12.05p.m. (Radio 3), a chance to hear Mozart's moving and rarely performed Requiem in D Minor. At 4p.m. (BBC2), a rare chance to see a classic documentary film made in the 1930s, *The City*, which looks at the growth of US industry and its effects on the environment, and poses the socialist alternative to the capitalist exploitation of nature ('smoke makes prosperity — no matter if you choke on it').

At 2p.m. (Radio 3), Maria Callas in Verdi's two-act opera *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* (The Barber of Seville).

At 8.35p.m. (BBC2), the one and only *Citizen Kane*, made for RKO by Orson Wells in 1941 when he was 25 years old. The North American film critic Pauline Kael quotes Françoise Truffaut as remarking that Wells' film was 'probably the one that has started the largest number of filmmakers on their careers', and goes on to explain:

'It is one of the few films ever made inside a major studio in the United States in freedom — not merely in freedom from interference but in freedom from the routine methods of experienced directors.'

Inspired by the corrupt newspaper tycoon William Randolph Hearst (a Rupert Murdoch of the 1940s without the crassness of the latter), it has lost none of its freshness 40 years on.

On Sunday, at 10.55a.m. (BBC1), *The Healing Arts* looks at the medical practices of Dr Patrick Pietroni, founder of the British Holistic Medical Association.

At 5p.m. (ITV), the ebullient David Bellamy investigates the effects on nature of building hydro-electric dams. His conclusion is reflected in the title of the programme: *No Dam Good*.

At 7.45p.m. (BBC2), part 2 of *Flight of the Condor*, the fascinating exploration of wild-life in the American Andes. At 1.15p.m. (ITV), *The Bolshoi from Edinburgh*, a rare chance to see and hear a performance of the Bolshoi Theatre Orchestra.



Football-crazy schoolgirls in 'Those Glory Glory Days' on Thursday at 9p.m. on Channel Four

On Monday, at 10.10p.m. (BBC1), another chance to see Francis Ford Coppola's five-part television version of *The Godfather* (parts two and three on Wednesday and Thursday). At 10.55p.m. (C4), *Are we Winning Mommy*, a documentary on the US and the Cold War.

On Tuesday, at 6p.m. (C4), Bob Godfrey's animated biography of the master British engineer Brunel called *Great — Isambard Kingdom Brunel*.

At 9p.m. (BBC2), Fritz Lang's thriller, *Beyond A Reasonable Doubt*. Unfortunately that it clashes with Dennis Potter's celebrated

*Stand Up Nigel Barton*, a play produced in 1965 which concentrates the experiences of countless working class youth receiving a university education who found their class loyalties severely tested.

At 10.50p.m. (C4), for jazz enthusiasts, *Memories of Mingus*, an evaluation of the American drummer, Charlie Mingus.

On Wednesday, at 10p.m. (C4), *Division of Hearts* looks at the British Raj's parting contribution — the partition of India and the artificial creation of Pakistan.

At 10.10p.m. (BBC1), a

second dose of the *Godfather*.

On Thursday at 2.20p.m. (BBC2), the delightful film by Mario Monicelli, *I Soliti Ignoti*. At 9p.m. (C4), Philip Saville's *Love Story Those Glory Glory Days*. At 9.30p.m. (BBC2), a documentary about British imperialism's agents in pre-partition India, *The Maharajas*. At 10.25p.m. (BBC1), part 3 of *The Godfather*.

On Friday at 9.30p.m. (BBC2), the second part of *The Maharajas*. At 11.10p.m. (BBC2), Richard Fleischer's *The Clay Pigeon*.

TOM SCOTT ROBSON

### INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SOLIDARITY

GLASGOW  
Saturday 22 August

9.45a.m. Assemble at Craigendmuir Street, Blackhill  
10a.m. March to Royston  
10.45a.m. Rally.

Speakers from: Sinn Fein; Pan Africanist Congress; Kashmiri Independence Movement; Campaign Against Repression in Iran; Republican Prisoners Committee

- Britain out of Ireland!
- Down with British Imperialism!
- Support all struggles for national liberation and socialism!

Organised by Republican Bands Alliance and Clyde-side Troops Out Movement

All banners welcome!

## A newly-translated document from the Vietnamese Trotskyists

AN English translation is now being made of 'National Movements and Class Struggle in Vietnam' by Anh-Van and Jacqueline Roussel, originally published in Paris, in French, by the Fourth International in 1947. (English translation copyright New Park Publications).

This work consists of a Marxist historical analysis of Vietnam before and during the French conquest, the class structure of Vietnam, an outline of the development of nationalist movements from their origins in the 1890s, and of the Stalinist and Trotskyist movements in Vietnam.

It concludes with an estimation by the author, a Vietnamese Trotskyist who work-

ed in Paris after World War II, of the nature of the Indo-Chinese revolution.

We are not able at present to print this material. However, this work is invaluable for the study of the Vietnamese revolution, and of importance for the study of revolution in colonial and semi-colonial countries in general.

We are therefore offering Xeroxed copies of this document (approximately 100 A4 pages) for £5 plus postage (Special offer for WRP members £2.50).

Please return the form below within a month if you want a copy of this document. We need finance in order to complete the work on this project.

To: WRP Education Department, PO Box 735, London SW9 1QS. Please send me a copy . . . copies of 'National Movements and Class Struggle in Vietnam'.

Name & Address .....

Please enclose £5 per copy (£2.50 for WRP members) plus postage: 50p — Britain and Ireland; 60p Europe; £1.56 — Middle East and north Africa; £2.12 — America, southern Africa, India; £2.40 — Australia, Far East.

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## CORRECTIONS

IN the article by Charlie Walsh last week, 'Left's responsibility towards Ireland', a number of mistakes found their way into the copy.

They were as follows: Mayor Ronald Bunting to read Major Ronald Bunting; internment by demand should be internment by remand; for supergrass-prepared trials read supergrass-paid perjurer trials and, lastly, the bombings in Dublin and Monaghan Charlie referred to occurred in 1974 and not 1971 as printed.

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

INSIDE WALDHEIM'S AUSTRIA Talk by John Bunzl. Jewish Socialists' Group. Sunday, 16 August 8p.m. Friends' International Centre, Byng Place, off Torrington Place, WC1.

THE ALIENS ACT REVISITED. Exhibition on immigration history, racism, and laws. At Davenant Centre, 178-181 Whitechapel Rd. London E1.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST POLICE REPRESSION (CAPR) Weekly planning meetings every Tuesday at 7.30p.m. 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, 7.30p.m., UCA, Acton Technical College, Mill Hill Road, W3.

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, 6p.m.-7p.m. (Westminster/Charing Cross tubes.) Weekly organisational meetings take place after the picket.

LONDON TOBACCO MASS PICKET in support of sacked women workers. London Tobacco, Chichester Road, Edmon-ton. 17 August, 7-8a.m. and 4-5p.m.

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## Write for Workers Press!

WE ARE receiving more material than ever for Workers Press, but we want to hear from even more of our readers. Please send letters, news from your area, reports of the struggles of the working class, of women and youth, of developments in the Labour Party and Communist Party. . .

## South African Women's Day

JOIN the South African Women's Day demonstration on 9 August at the Non-Stop Picket outside the South African Embassy, Trafalgar Square, on Sunday 9 August from 3p.m. to 6p.m.!

Women in South Africa face the brunt of apartheid. They are triply oppressed: as workers, as women and as black people. They earn the lowest wages in industry and agriculture. Many work long hours for meagre pay in domestic service, separated from their children and husbands.

In the Bantustans, other women bring

up families alone because of the migrant labour system.

But Women's Day celebrates the place of women in the liberation struggle. It commemorates 9 August 1956, the day when 20,000 women from all over South Africa marched on the government's Union Buildings in Pretoria to deliver a petition to the prime minister protesting against the pass laws, which had just been imposed on women.

Since then women have been in the forefront of the liberation movement as well as in trade unions, rent strikes, bus boycotts and against the evictions in the townships.

Hundreds of women have been de-

tained and tortured, especially since the current state of emergency. Among the 32 black South Africans at present awaiting execution in Pretoria is one woman, Theresa Ramashamula from Sharpeville. Britain's political and economic support for apartheid is crucial to the Botha regime.

The South African Women's Day demonstration is focused on Thatcher's role in maintaining apartheid, by demonstrating outside the South African Embassy, where the Non-Stop Picket has faced the brutality of the British police every day for over a year — revealing the complicity of the British government.

## SOUTH AFRICAN MINERS' STRIKE

# British Labour must act!

THE STRIKE called for Sunday by South Africa's 200,000 strong National Union of Mineworkers raises more urgently than ever the question: what are the British trade union and Labour leaders going to do about the hated Botha regime?

Are they going to continue with pious resolutions in the midst of the build-up for what would be the largest-ever strike by black miners?

It has been called over pay and holidays. The gold and coal miners, who earlier this year balloted in favour of strike action, are demanding a 30-per-cent across-the-board increase, against a 16- to 23-per-cent offer by the Chamber of Mines, which represents the country's six largest mining houses.

The union is also fighting for an in-

crease in annual paid holidays from 18 to 30 days, danger pay and an increase in death benefit payments to five years' annual wages. Between 600 and 800 men are killed each year in the country's gold and coal mines and a black miner is twice as likely to be killed as is a white miner.

NUM general secretary Cyril Ramaphosa claimed last week that the employers were already taking a tough attitude towards the threatened strike, refusing facilities for union meetings or for leaflet distribution.

The Anglo-American Corporation earlier warned that a strike would not lead to any further wage increases.

The essential prop of the the Botha regime is the Thatcher government. British imperialism is still the largest

foreign investor in South Africa and without the City of London the Pretoria regime could not survive a day.

This gives the British working class movement a particular responsibility for the struggle in South Africa.

Most trade union leaders have shed crocodile tears about the Botha government. But they have refused to organise and lead a campaign against its chief support — the Tory government.

They must now be forced to take real action in defence of the trade union movement in South Africa.

The call of shopworkers' union USDAW to the coming TUC conference for all unions to organise a voluntary levy of their members of one hour's pay to assist the South African unions is fine as far as it goes and should be sup-

ported. But much more is needed than voluntary levies.

The first step in the working-class movement must be to force the trade union leaders to break off all relations with the Thatcher government. The working class cannot fight Thatcher while their leaders collaborate with her on bodies such as the Manpower Services Commission.

● A campaign for a 24-hour general strike in solidarity with the South African miners must be launched by the TUC!

● For a campaign throughout the European working-class movement for solidarity action with South African workers!

Moses Mayekiso must not hang!  
— see page 6

ADVANCE NOTICE:

March for the release of Moses Mayekiso  
Saturday 10 October  
London

The March for Mayekiso Committee meets every  
Wednesday, 8p.m. at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square,  
London WC1 to organise the march

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City Group Anti-Apartheid's non-stop picket of the South African Embassy last week held a special picket to demand the release of Moses Mayekiso, whose trial on charges of high treason, sedition and subversion had just begun. He and four others face the death penalty.

A militant with a long record of trade union activity, Mayekiso played a leading role in the founding of COSATU. Trade unionists and socialists in Britain must take action to win the release of this leading South African trade unionist. ● See story page 6

## Dockers ban apartheid uranium

DOCKERS in Liverpool have placed a ban on handling uranium imported from South Africa and Namibia which until now has been exported through Liverpool for further processing in the United States.

The Transport and General Workers Union

was given information by the South West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) which led to the decision of the dockers.

Ben Ulenge, of the Mine-workers Union of Namibia and the National Union of Namibia recently described the repression faced by the newly formed independent unions.

He called for sanctions against all Namibian goods, especially uranium, until

South African troops withdraw and independence is achieved.

Uranium is Namibia's main export, accounting for 40 per cent of the total. The company that mines the uranium is 46.5 per cent owned by giant South African exploiter Rio Tinto Zinc.

From January to June last year, over two-thirds of uranium imports to British Nuclear Fuels came from South Africa or Namibia. The dockers say collaboration with the apartheid regime is

unnecessary as there is a glut of uranium on the world market.

So when BNFL claim that sanctions will mean job losses they are lying.

The Liverpool action shows that only the working class can impose meaningful sanctions against the racist regime of South Africa and its stooges in Namibia.

The dockers, and all others who take such action, must get the maximum support of the whole labour movement.