

# WAR OVER THE FALKLANDS?

Almost incredibly, Britain is blundering towards war with Argentina under the blind leadership of the Tories.

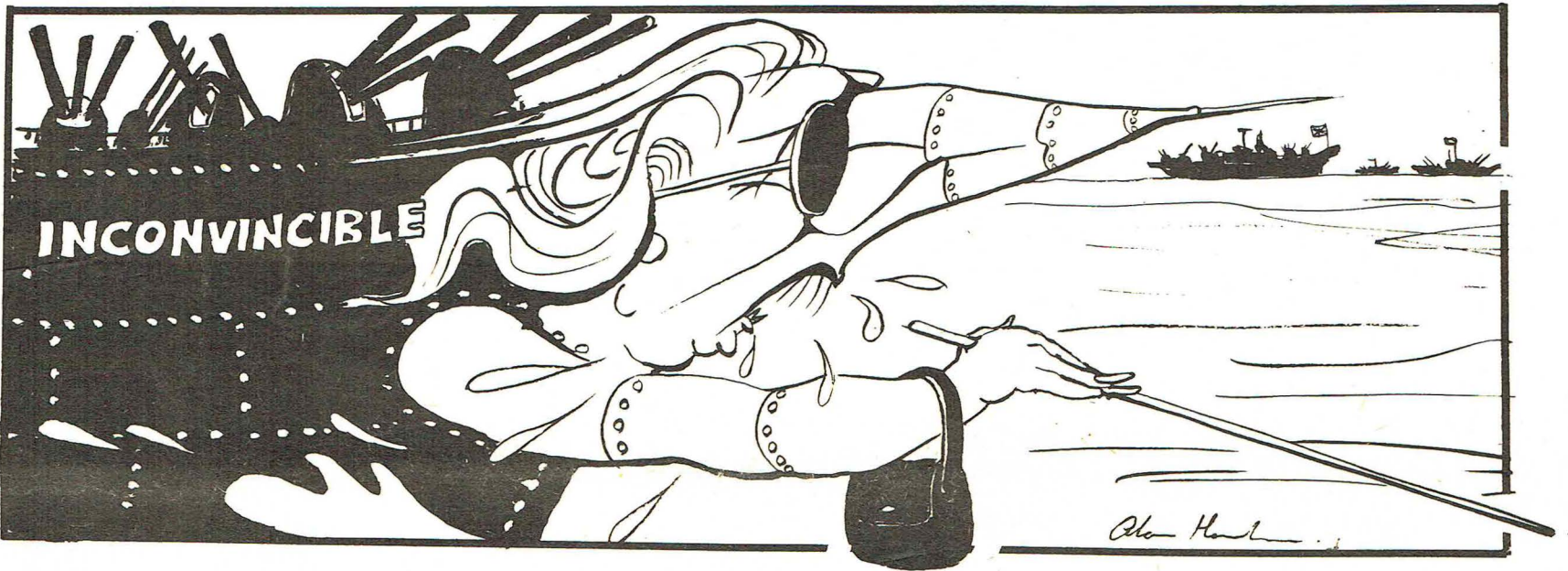
The Falkland Islands are now under the armed control of the Junta's military governor, General Menendez, whose hands are still bloody from his role in directing the Junta's 'death squads' against trade unionists and socialists.

Carrington, Thatcher and company dismissed the Junta's sabre rattling threats in the Argentinian press and other warning signs.

Not even the Junta's invasion plans, handed by 'intelligence sources' to the British government eleven days before the landing, were enough to awaken the Tory government.

Now, taking back the Falklands—if the British government is determined to go the whole way—will inevitably involve a bloody fight. Once taken back, moreover, holding them will be enormously difficult. The Falklands could become a bottomless drain for men, warships, supplies, and economic support.

Yet the Tory government now seems hell bent on hurling all the remaining might of Britain's navy against Argentina, a third—or at best second—rate military power.



By Lynn  
Walsh

Britain's naval forces are undoubtedly stronger and more sophisticated. Nevertheless, defeating the Argentinian navy and air force would involve a major sea and air battle, with the certainty of serious casualties on both sides.

With the task force on its way, however, war in the South Atlantic seems almost unavoidable.

Galtieri, the Argentinian President, cannot back down. An about-turn now would bring down the Junta and open the door to explosive revolutionary developments within Argentina.

But nor can the Tories easily back down, simply accepting the Argentinian occupation under protest. The blunder which lost the

continued back page

Labour must oppose the invasion by Argentina but must not allow itself to be knocked off balance. The crimes of the Junta must not be allowed to obscure the real aims of our own ruling class.

## LPYS Back Militant



Support 'Militant'—with cash. This is the LPYS's chance to reply to the lies of Fleet Street, with interest! Back the paper that backs you.

Last year's LPYS conference raised almost £5,000—from a smaller conference. This year we aim to do a lot, lot better. So if you have supported 'Militant's' ideas

in your LPYS branch, and in the Conference, now's your chance.

Since our column on page 13 was written we've already had more cash from St Helens (£10) and Blackley LPYS members. Onward to £35,000 with a record-breaking collection at Bridlington!

### LPYS CONFERENCE MILITANT READERS' MEETING

Spa Royal Hall, Bridlington  
Sunday 11 April 1982, 7.00 pm

Speakers:

Ted Grant (Militant Editorial Board)  
Pat Wall (Bradford Trades Council, personal capacity)

Chairman:

Laurence Coates (LPYS rep. on LP NEC, personal capacity)



# NO SUPPORT FOR JUNTA- NO SUPPORT FOR TORIES

It is a measure of the instability of domestic and international social relations that the Falklands Islands crisis has developed in the way it has at a bewildering speed.

The possibility of a naval engagement and, in effect, a war in the South Atlantic now looms large, but it has arrived like a sudden black cloud from a clear blue sky.

The origins of the crisis itself are not to be found in simply asking "who struck the first blow?", but in the class relations in Argentina and Britain, and it is on this basis that socialists must look at the possible outcome. Whose class interests are served by the Argentine invasion and whose class interests are served by a British military expedition?

From the point of view of the Argentine regime, there is no doubt that the whole adventure arose because of the growing opposition at home. Argentina has lived since 1976 under the most brutal military-police dictatorship, suppressing all the democratic rights of the working class.

Those who have stood out against the regime, especially trade union and left-wing leaders, have simply disappeared—kidnapped and murdered by semi-official death squads. It has been estimated that well over 20,000 have been murdered in this way.

The economic policies of successive military regimes have led Argentina deeper into crisis. Inflation today is around 140 per cent. Last year's rate was anything from 125 to 200 per cent, depending on whether 'official' or 'unofficial' estimates are taken.

1981 saw the worst recession in Argentina for 16 years, with an increasing number of bankruptcies and a fall in Gross Domestic Product of over 6 per cent. The Peso lost 80 per cent of its value against the US dollar.

The position of the working class has become more and more desperate. There were an estimated 13 per cent unemployed—without state benefits—but there are many more 'under-employed', in short-time or seasonal employment.

Not surprisingly, therefore, there has been growing opposition to the regime in Buenos Aires. Last week there was the first major anti-government demonstration since 1976, leading to the arrest of 1500 participants.

The social basis of the military government, always very weak, has become virtually non-existent. The trade union movement had organised, before the invasion of the Falklands, a further series of strikes and demonstrations, showing that it has grown in confidence and strength.

The position in Argentina is similar to that in the early

1970s when a massive wave of strikes, demonstrations and popular opposition led to the collapse of the then military regime and the return to power of Peron. It was in an attempt to provide itself with some measure of popularity and to distract the opposition at home that General Galtieri launched his adventure last week.

Before the invasion, the economy of the Falkland Islands was beginning to integrate, at least to a degree, with that of Argentina itself. The only air-strip on the islands was built by Argentina who had exclusive rights in the air traffic to and from the mainland from which oil and essential supplies were provided.

## Labour must condemn the Argentine invasion

But a fundamental obstacle to any complete absorption of the islands into Argentina, other than the British traditions of the residents, was undoubtedly the absence of democratic rights there. The Falkland Islanders were quite understandably opposed to Argentine sovereignty if that meant the same 'rights' for them that it meant for ordinary workers in Argentina itself.

It is clear that the fears of the Falkland Island population were well-founded. Already the military governor on the Island has announced penalties of up to 180 days in prison for insulting military personnel, and it has been reported that the islanders have been told they must learn Spanish.

Given the class basis of the Argentine regime and the effect of the invasion on the islanders themselves, there can be no hesitation in condemning the invasion that took place on April 2nd.

But it would be equally wrong to support the jingoism and the chauvinism of the Tory press and the Thatcher government in Britain.

The press have discovered only in the last week that the Argentine regime is a totalitarian police state. *The Times* has described the military junta as "Argentine's fascist rulers", and even papers like the right-wing *Daily Express* have found space to report the suppression of rights in that country.



Photo: PA

In order to save face for itself, the Thatcher government is gambling with the lives of thousands of soldiers and sailors, overwhelmingly from working class homes.

Not one of these papers would have been prepared to carry these comments and reports before the Falklands crisis. They are no more interested in the rights and welfare of Argentine workers today than they were last month and their campaign is in fact designed to give the naval expedition credibility, particularly in the eyes of workers in Britain.

When it was revealed some weeks ago that there were secret US plans to use Argentina and other Latin American forces against the popular revolution in El Salvador, there were no outcries in the British press about the rights of self-determination for the Salvadoreans.

In practice, the British ruling class are not worried about the Falkland Islanders either. As the *Financial Times* commented, "It is precisely because no substantial British interest was involved that the crisis was allowed to arise in such a careless way."

There are reports of huge oil deposits in the South Atlantic around the area of the Falklands and perhaps some British capitalists had

dreams of hanging on to the islands in order to develop these resources. But given the lack of development of this oil now and the self-sufficiency of both countries, this has not been a decisive factor in the present crisis, especially for Britain, 8,000 miles away.

The Tories and the capitalist press display a sickening hypocrisy when they declare their support for the poor 1800 Falklanders. There were no crocodile tears for the thousands of inhabitants of the British Colony of Diego Garcia, in the Indian Ocean, when this island was cleared of its population a few years ago to make way for an American air-base.

The real motive for the belligerency of the British capitalists is simply their enormous loss of face. The British capitalists, like any ruling class, base their position on their income, but also on their power and prestige.

The issue is not for them the freeing of the Falklands. Indeed, it is quite clear that a military 'solution' would probably lead to great loss of life among the Islanders and, in effect, the destruction of Port Stanley and the

colony itself.

It is a comment on the economic and military decline of Britain that the islands were so easily occupied in the first place. At one time the British capitalist class had a "Two navy" policy which meant that the British navy was kept as large and as strong as the next two biggest put together. Now, the major part of the fleet is having to be despatched against what was formerly thought of as a minor power.

## Shrinking British power

But despite the shrinking of British economic and strategic power, the Tories and sections of the British capitalist class have still clung to the illusion of being a global power.

It is ironic that the weakening of conventional naval power has been caused in large measure by the diversion of huge resources to Polaris and now Trident. But what power and prestige British capitalism still has is now in jeopardy and they have declared, in

effect, "this far and no further."

Workers can give no support whatsoever to the lunatic adventure now being prepared by the Thatcher government. In order to save face for itself, it is gambling with the lives of hundreds or thousands of soldiers and sailors, both British and Argentines, who in the overwhelming majority come from working class homes.

The Labour Party and the trade union movement could stop Thatcher dead in her tracks. The labour movement must declare that it has no confidence whatsoever in the policies or methods of the British government.

The past policy of the Tory government at home, where millions of workers have been thrown on the dole, and internationally, where Thatcher has supported US policy in El Salvador, show without any doubt that they have no interest at all in the well-being of workers in Argentina, the Falklands, Britain, or anywhere else.

Labour must demand, not just the resignation of Defence Minister Nott, but the entire Tory government. They must demand a General Election.

The only guarantee that there is for the interests of the people of the Falklands lies in the opposition movements in Argentina itself. A bloody naval engagement will only destroy the livelihood of the islanders—more surely and quicker than the Buenos Aires military junta could do it.

Labour must demand a general election in order that a Labour government can support and encourage workers' opposition in Argentina.

Whatever course developments now take, there will be enormous repercussions from this week's events.

The Argentine government has created for itself a certain amount of support at home on a national basis—because they have freed the "Malvinas". But the demonstrations now being organised in support of the regime will not provide it with a permanent base. The opposition in Argentina will not go away.

On the contrary, there is a strong possibility that the whole episode could lead to a collapse of the regime. Galtieri has put his whole prestige at stake and any retreat or military setback at the hands of the British navy could result in the overthrow of his regime, perhaps triggering off the overthrow of similar bloody regimes in Chile, Brazil and elsewhere.

The American government is in a quandary and cannot openly oppose Argentina precisely because of the danger that a defeat for Argentina could lead to its collapse and the collapse

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## Labour Party

## Reports

# Southern Region VICTORIES FOR THE LEFT

**This year's Southern Region Labour Party conference saw Labour's rank and file in angry mood.**

There was bitter condemnation of the government's decision to close Chatham Dockyard and reduce employment in Portsmouth and Gosport Naval establishments.

Resolutions and an EC statement calling for a labour movement campaign against the closures, including a commitment to 'pursue any channels that will help to bring an early end to this disastrous Tory regime' were all carried by large majorities.

Attempts by APEX, supported by the Executive, to commit the next Labour government to a pay policy were soundly defeated, with several speakers pointing out that the last Labour government foundered when it sought to tie down wage rises to 5%. Labour right wingers, learning nothing from the past, clearly intend to resurrect pay policy, disguised as 'planned and sustained growth in incomes'!

Resolutions opposing the 'privatisation of direct labour services in the public sector' and Tory attacks on local services were passed.

Unfortunately though a stronger resolution from Wokingham which called for a mass campaign 'around a programme of no

cuts and no rate or rent rises to offset cuts' was defeated on a card vote, in spite of strong support from CLP delegates.

An excellent resolution from Reading South CLP which condemned the new Nationality Act and called on the next Labour government to repeal all immigration acts was carried by the conference.

Resolutions were carried which will ensure more democratic control of the Regional Executive by allowing EC members to report back to their sponsoring bodies and the circulation of EC and sub-committee minutes to Constituency Labour Parties and branches and affiliated organisations.

Further support for the left was shown in the election to the Executive of seven supporters of 'Militant'. Six out of the thirteen constituency places up for election went to Militant supporters.

This growing support for the ideas of Marxism was reflected in the well attended Militant Readers Meeting, where over fifty delegates and visitors contributed £158 to the Militant Fighting Fund. Meanwhile at the well publicised but thinly attended Solidarity fringe meeting Peter Shore spent most of his time attacking the left in the Labour Party and in particular supporters of the Militant.

**By Terry Pearce**  
(Executive Committee, personal capacity)



Southern Region Labour Party is committed to fighting Tory cuts. There must be full support for battles like that of Kent's school meal workers. Photo: Militant

## HILLHEAD

### Thanks from the Labour Party

News Editor,  
Militant

Dear Comrade

Hillhead Parliamentary By-Election—Thursday 25 May

On behalf of David Wiseman and myself as Election Agent, may I take this opportunity, through the columns of your newspaper, to express my gratitude to all the many people through the labour and trades union movement who assisted us in the Hillhead Parliamentary By-Election.

Although we were unable to gain this non-Labour seat, we ran a very good campaign with the maximum assistance and without doubt we had the right policies and the right candidate, but there was no way we could break down the anti-Labour vote that has existed for many years in certain parts of the constituency.

Once again many thanks

Yours fraternally

James Allison

Scottish Organiser, Labour Party

## Socialism WINS support

By Ronnie Stevenson

Over the last weeks of the Hillhead by-election campaign, the Scottish media went overboard to characterise the Labour Left and *Militant* in particular as extremists. They implied that socialist ideas are unattractive to electors.

Four days after the by-election, our ward Labour Party organised a public meeting with an uncompromising leaflet on 'Stop the Tory cuts.' It was the biggest local meeting I can remember in this area, including election meetings, with 30 people, only about three of them Labour Party members turning up.

I rose to speak after the three local councillors with some fear and carefully explained the "extremist" and "unattractive" socialist case.

There were no boos, cat

calls or walkouts, but murmurs of approval as I compared the extremes of capitalism and the sufferings of working people. The need for Labour to confront the Tories and refuse to pass the burden of rate support grant cuts on to rates seemed to be welcomed.

I finished with a call for representatives of Labour to fight more forcefully, and asked people to join the Labour Party to fight for a Labour government to take decisive measures against the rich and powerful. Even I was surprised at the degree of support.

In a working class area, people are not alienated by socialist ideas. No one accused us of extremism, seven *Militants* were sold and one new LP member gained immediately and eight new application forms taken.

## FALKLANDS

(Continued from page 2)

of US 'anti-communist' policy in the whole of Latin America. That is a horrifying prospect for American imperialism.

"There is no sign..." the *Guardian* editorial commented, "that Washington will choose to expedite the overthrow of the Argentine generals for a 150-year old 'pimple on the ass' (as one State Department man already describes the Falkland issue)...So much—the cracking of alliances and breaking of governments—seems today to flow from the mugging by an altogether heinous regime of a generally embarrassing (over thirty years) British possession with the population of one decent English village."

But the repercussions for the Tories are just as considerable. Thatcher has put her whole prestige on getting back the Falklands. To back down now would be

the end for Thatcher.

But if there is a naval engagement, which would inevitably result in large-scale loss of life, including, possibly, casualties among the islanders themselves, then opinion in Britain would become sharply polarised and there would be growing opposition to the whole military operation.

In the first trading day after the beginning of the crisis, the pound lost nearly two cents in speculation against the dollar and the Stock Exchange Index fell by over 11 points.

The freezing of Argentine assets in the United Kingdom may deal a blow to the liquidity of Argentina in the short term—a quarter of that country's liquid assets are deposited in British banks—but British business stands to lose out a lot in the longer term.

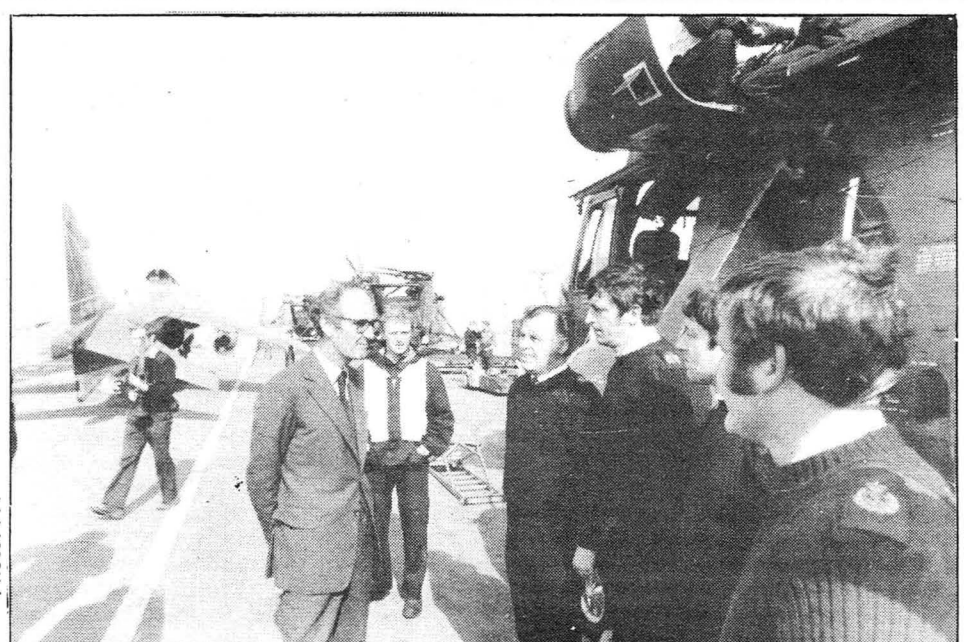
British banks are owed a total of £3,000m. by Argentina and this is not covered

by the assets frozen in London. The cost of the military expedition mounted by Thatcher has already cost about £50m. and if there is any long term deployment of the fleet, or any fighting, then the costs of the whole enterprise will soar even further.

Even now, sections of the capitalist class are declaring their opposition to the whole venture. "The cost of any prolonged engagement is likely to be heavy," declared the *Financial Times*, "and must be financed in a non-inflationary way, if the government is not to sacrifice its central achievements to this deplorable side-show."

The Tories, in other words, are ringing the bells now, but in the not too distant future, they could be wringing their hands.

The labour movement cannot align itself either with the Argentine regime or the Thatcher government. The interests of



Tory Defence Minister John Nott talking to the crew of helicopter headed for the Falklands.

workers in Britain and Argentina will not be served by supporting either capitalist government in this dispute.

On the contrary, the whole issue must strengthen

the resolve of the labour movement to struggle for the socialist transformation of society internationally. There is no difference between workers in Argentina and workers in Britain. The

interests of both as well as those of the Falkland Islanders will only be served by the ideas of socialist internationalism and fraternity.



# NOLS CONFERENCE

**NUS Presidential Election result:  
Herd (Left Alliance) 193.  
Neil Stewart (National Organisation  
of Labour Students) 347.**

**By Linda Castle**  
(Brunel University  
Labour Club)

**A sustained ovation, with many delegates standing, greeted this magnificent result at the recent National Union of Students (NUS) conference. Delegates' enthusiasm reflects the desire of many students to see a real change in the NUS leadership.**

In particular, National Organisation of Labour Students (NOLS) candidates' slogans, for "a campaigning NUS" and "links with the trade union and labour movement" captured the mood of the vast majority of student activists.

Every one of the 7 positions NOLS has stood for, NOLS have won convincingly.

The overwhelming Labour vote and the demise of the 'Left Alliance' of Liberals, Communist Party and 'Independents', was a culmination of the decisive step taken at the December 1979 NOLS conference, where *Militant* supporters moved a motion to break with the 'Left Alliance' and for NOLS to stand independently.

Despite opposition from the NOLS leadership that this would lead to isolation, the resolution was passed and the decisive break made.

Now, just over two years later, the 'Left Alliance' has effectively collapsed, because of its failure to offer any answer to the problems students face. Despite 12 years of such 'left' NUS leaders, the living standards and conditions of students have continued to decline.

NUS itself has been weakened, through attacks on Student Union financing and autonomy.

These were the only possible results of a policy of alliances with the likes of Liberals while merely paying lip-service to socialist policies and the need to orientate to the labour movement.

The 'Communist' Party have now reaped the harvest of their own policy of compromise with the Liberals. They now have no NUS Executive members despite having held three of the five full time positions including President, over the last year.

Every Labour Student must ensure that this fate does not befall NOLS Executive members. NOLS itself must campaign to carry out the slogans of their own candidates.

This will be the task that confronts the forthcoming NOLS conference. There are nine Labour Party



members on the nineteen strong NUS Executive. NOLS must develop as a campaigning body to back up our NUS Executive members.

But unfortunately, NOLS has failed to develop over the last year. By the February deadline, out of 91 Labour Clubs affiliated to NOLS last year, 22 did not manage to re-affiliate. Furthermore, out of the 358 FE and Technical Colleges affiliated to NUS, only 5 have Labour Clubs.

To overcome this situation, NOLS must be prepared to campaign for its policies. But the 'NOLS National Committee Minority Report' by Ordinary NC members, Clive Heemskerck and Peter Mumford questions whether NOLS leaders are capable of building a mass, democratic, campaigning NOLS.

In particular, delegates will listen to the NC report on Further Education when an NC member is mandated to list how many Labour Parties and Student Unions sent amendments in support of a full grant for FE students to the Labour Party NEC Policy Document '16-19: Learning for Life'.

This will be a sign as to whether the NOLS NC are prepared to take their own policy to the labour and student movements.

Another major debate will be on the issue of 'Labour majority in NUS'. There are nine Labour Party members on the NUS Executive. But NOLS only stood 7 candidates because the NC decided not to stand enough candidates to secure a majority!

But other Labour Party members stood, so NOLS Executive members, including the President, will be forced to rely on self-appointed 'Labour Party' candidates with no attachment to NOLS, and assorted 'Independents'.

Indeed, one Labour Party member on the Executive, actually stood as a member of the 'Left Alliance' usurping the name of 'Labour' to ensure election!

Last year the 'Left Alliance' controlled the NUS Executive with just six members. But it is easy to get support from Liberals, Tories or 'Independents' if no effective action or socialist policies are put forward.

Would the 'Independents' or the two Conservatives though, support a call for the NUS Executive to recommend 'Vote Labour' in the May Council Elections, as the only party that could defeat the cuts? Or if it adopted NOLS policy of trade union action to defeat the Tories around 'No rent and rate rises to compensate for Tory cuts'?

The SDP, who have one Executive member, claimed in a conference leaflet that a NOLS victory would lead to NUS affiliation to the TUC and Labour Party and "destroy the credibility" of NUS!

The Easter NOLS conference must elect a campaigning leadership to fulfil the SDP's prediction—not to destroy NUS's "credibility" but to firmly tie NUS with the labour movement and build for a clear Labour majority in Easter 1983.

# Labour Students must campaign for Socialism

Students will have to fight alongside the labour movement in many future battles like this one last November to save Salford University. Photo: John Smith (IFL)

## The hidden millions

**By Jane Ingham**  
(Leeds Labour  
Women's Council)

**The horrific rise in unemployment over the last few years has had a devastating effect on working class women. About one-third of the unemployed are women with the proportion being much higher amongst youth, blacks and Asians.**

However, it is almost impossible to get a true picture as it is estimated that about half of the women out of work do not register as they are not entitled to benefit. The Tories are making it even more difficult for women to register by insisting that women, before they are allowed to register as being available for work, give a guarantee that they have child care provisions.

The notorious statement by Patrick Jenkin "if the good Lord intended us all to have equal rights to go out to work and to behave equally he wouldn't really have created man and woman," sums up the attitude of the Tories.

Manufacturing industries

such as textiles, clothing and footwear, electrical engineering, etc. (where women have traditionally been employed) have been particularly severely hit by job losses. Up to 40,000 jobs have been lost in textiles in Yorkshire alone.

It is estimated that only 25% of women are employed in production, with 75% in 'service' occupations. And, of course, it is precisely those 'service' jobs in health, education, etc. that have been decimated by the Thatcher government's cuts in public spending.

The cuts have a double edge for women. Because of the loss of places in hospitals, closures of nurseries, cutting of home helps, etc. many women have been forced back into the home to care for the sick, the elderly and the very young.

The myth that women are out at work for 'pin money' has to be smashed. Without the contribution made by wives' earnings the number of families living below the supplementary benefit level would treble. Quite often the woman's wage is the only one in the family.

The importance of women's jobs has been shown by the occupations to try to save their jobs at Lee Jeans and Plessey's. Any job loss can be a terrible blow to the family in-

come and being on the dole can be just as demoralising for a woman as it is for a man.

The demand for job quotas for women is no real solution to the problem. This would, in the present situation, only mean an increase in male unemployment in order to give jobs to women. In the fight against unemployment, the unity of male and female workers is vital in building an unstoppable force to bring about guaranteed jobs for all.

Last year's Labour women's conference passed a resolution calling for the Labour Party and TUC to organise a demonstration on the issue of unemployment amongst women. On 5th June there is to be a festival at Battersea Park on unemployment amongst women.

Many sections of the labour and trade union movement have already called on the Labour Party and TUC to hold a demonstration on that day.

Make sure your organisation passes a resolution supporting this. The labour movement must put its full strength behind a demonstration to highlight the effects of women's unemployment and to put forward class demands which will unite all workers, men and women, in the fight for jobs.





### SDP's idea of consistency

With much publicity the Social Democrats promised that they would bring new politics, away from evasions of the old parties. But what happened last Thursday on BBC shows that when you want to speak with two voices the SDP have no rivals.

On BBC's Question Time (recorded earlier in the day) SDP MP Mike Thomas assured everyone that he had not decided who he wanted as SDP leader. Despite being pressed by Sir Robin Day, he said he wanted time to make up his mind. Yet on BBC 2's Newsnight, which was broadcast a few minutes later, there was the same Mike Thomas stating he wanted Shirley Williams to lead the SDP.

But then consistency of principle has never been the SDP careerists' strong point. Otherwise they would have resigned their seats and fought by-elections when they changed their party.

### Queen employs YOPsters

Cashing in on youth unemployment is none other than the monarchy. This week sees four unemployed teenagers beginning work at Buckingham Palace on a YOPs scheme. Although she is the richest person in the world the Queen will only be paying them the normal poverty rate of £25 a week.

The four youngsters will be trained in 'riding horses, driving horse-drawn coaches and riding postillion'. Sounds just the kind of productive job to put Britain back on its economic feet.

### Stock Exchange loses all touch with reality

If anyone thinks that brokers on the Stock Exchange are the fount of all financial wisdom who only buy and sell shares after a careful appraisal of their value, then look what happened this April Fool's Day. One paper printed the share price for the fictitious brewery of TV's Coronation Street. Some dealers were taken in and made bids for the shares. It had to be quietly explained to them that although most shares on the Exchange had little relationship to reality, these shares had literally none at all.

This just about sums up the Stock Exchange. Far from being an important source of new capital, it is an irrelevant casino, where (mostly) the rich gamble for even richer pickings.

### Over a hundred years ago

The Victorian age is often portrayed as a period when everyone knew their place. But if the Tories look back nostalgically and want to re-create that age, they had best forget the fables told in public school text books. One incident from working class history illustrates the point.

On 15 April, 1873 there was a mass demonstration of workers outside Maidstone prison to welcome the early release of five trade unionists. They had been sacked by the Gas Light and Coke company and imprisoned for twelve months for organising a trade union.

Their fellow workers then moved into action. 2,000 workers came out on strike and plunged the West End and City of London into darkness. The sentence was swiftly altered to four months and the prisoners released.

Tebbit beware. If you want to drive us back to Victorian times, you'll get this type of Victorian response. But this time the working class and trade union movement is a hundred times stronger.

# Women's magazines — stereotype roles

In the spring of this year the giant publishing corporation IPC will be spending £4.3 million on promoting the sales of its magazines for women. IPC, the 'Mirror' group, publishes 21 of the 50 magazines now competing for women's cash—in a market worth £150 million a year.

Women's magazines play an important part in creating the stereotypes which capitalist society attempts to impose on women. They have always been used to help push women into the required roles. They encourage women to come out of the home when employers need female labour, and to persuade them that they should really concentrate on their role as 'mothers and homemakers' when the bosses no longer need them in the workplaces.

The latest issue of *Labour Research* (March 1982) studies the latest copies of 15 women's magazines. It finds that they all stick to the traditional formula: agony and gossip columns; a few trivial readers' letters;

knitting patterns and recipes; fashion, beauty treatment and love stories; and a large proportion of advertising.

*Labour Research* reports that any mention of women's involvement in trade unions, or the problems of women at work, or sex inequality, is almost completely avoided. One magazine, *Company*, had an article under the title, "Can a £30,000 plus salary bring happiness?" As *LR*

remarks, the 867,300 women officially registered as unemployed in January 1982 would probably give a rude reply.

Women's magazines, despite some decline in sales recently, are still highly profitable for the publishers. With between a third and a half of these magazines being taken up with advertising, they are a crucial medium for firms selling products mainly aimed at women.

In 1980 *LR* points out, total advertising expenditure in all weekly and monthly magazines totalled £188.8 million. Over half of this figure was spent on advertising in women's magazines, and nearly a third of the total was spent on advertising in women's monthly magazines.

By Glenys Ingham

## PROFITTING FROM THE 'FESTIVAL OF INDIA'

See article p6 on struggle of Indian workers today

The whole idea of the Festival of India is supposedly to promote "goodwill" between Britain and India. But ordinary working people have been almost entirely excluded from its organisation.

Opened by Prime Ministers Thatcher and Gandhi the two governments are each spending £1

million, half of which is coming from private enterprise, various museums etc. The final cost is expected to run into several millions.

In reality, of course, the festival is not just about "goodwill". It is a joint venture to promote the interest of British and Indian big business, especially with India just having received \$5 billion loan from the IMF. The main interest of private sponsors like Grindlays Bank, British Aerospace, Plessey, Nor-

thern Engineering is to obtain massive trade contracts.

The Chairman of the Festival Finance Committee, Swaraj Paul, is also Chairman of Capro Group in Britain (with an annual turnover of £100 million). A champion of Mrs Gandhi, Swaraj Paul founded the Indo British Association in 1975 along with Tory MP Eldon Griffiths, and provided a platform of support for Gandhi's vicious repression. Under the state of emergency this regime introduced the forced sterilisation programme and brutal killings and imprisonment of workers on a massive scale.

The final planning of the Festival in 1980 ironically coincided with the passage of Thatcher's racist Nationality Bill which strips thousands of Indians of their right to come to Britain. What could be more cynical?

While talking about pro-

moting goodwill, both governments viciously attack workers' rights. Neither of these representatives of capital are capable of deepening the unity of Indian and British workers.

But despite their aims British workers can learn much about India in the next twelve months, as the Festival gets under way, in museums, galleries, theatres and department stores throughout the country.

Many workers will be able for the first time to get a glimpse of Indian culture, in all its great splendour and diversity. But the festival will also serve as a reminder of the terrible suffering which capitalism is inflicting on the Indian masses and of the urgent need for the socialist transformation of both Britain and India.

By Trilochana Patel  
(Streatham LPYS)

## Enjoyable play for LPYS

With much hilarity, deliberate over-acting and the occasional moment of seriousness, 'THE BLACK HOLE OF CALCUTTA' is a real treat to watch. Presented by the self-proclaimed 'National Theatre of Brent' (now expanded to a glittering cast of three) telling the tale of the Indian Mutiny of 1857, it involves the

audience as mutinous troops denouncing their imperialist masters.

Organise a party to go from your LPYS when it comes to your area. You'll enjoy it.

APRIL

8-11: LONDON Albany Empire  
13-18: EDINBURGH

Traverse Theatre Club  
20-21: GLASGOW Tron Theatre Club  
22-24: YORK Arts Centre  
27-28: STAFFORD Gatehouse Theatre  
29-May 1: COVENTRY Warwick University Arts Centre  
MAY  
5-6: BURY Derby Hall  
7-8: WHITEHAVEN Rosehill Theatre  
18-22: LONDON  
24-25: CHELTENHAM

Shaftesbury Hall  
26-29: BATH Bath Festival JUNE  
2-3: SCUNTHORPE Civic Theatre  
4-5: KENDAL Brewery Arts Centre  
Performances will be added in the North West on 4 May and in Lincolnshire on 1 June.

By a Militant reporter



# INDIA - Class struggle reaches new heights

**11 March 1982—the biggest workers demonstration in the history of Bombay!**

Well over a million workers surged into the city centre to demonstrate their solidarity with the 250,000 textile mill workers who have been on general strike since 18 January.

Although two-thirds of the textile hands themselves have been forced by economic hardship to leave Bombay for their villages, masses of engineering, transport, chemicals and dock workers came to show their determination that this strike—perhaps the most important since the 1974 railway strike—must be won.

The textile workers' pitiful basic pay has remained unchanged for 30 years. 85% of that sum is in the form of "dearness allowance", canteen allowance, bonuses etc, and 40% of the workforce are unprotected casual labourers.

Figures announced for production and wages lost by the strike reveal that the workers have been paid in wages not more than 10% of the value they produce—an average of 660 Rupees (£40) per month for the permanent employees.

The strike is led by the "stormy petrel" Dr Datta Samant, a militant maverick who has stormed through the engineering factories of Bombay in recent years, riding roughshod over the traditional legalistic niceties of the Labour Courts and demanding decent wages from the bosses.

He has refused in negotiation to look at the bosses' cooked account books and will not wait for procrastinating recognition procedures before calling strikes. His blunt tactics have forced big wage concessions—though often at the cost of intensified productivity and lay-offs—and his name became enough to strike fear into employer's hearts.

Many times he has been jailed by Maharashtra courts and politicians—during the Emergency of 1974 (although he was still a member of Congress Party at the time), on two occasions since then (on murder charges!) and last year for three months under the draconian new National Security Act.

But every time the workers' pressure has forced his release, and he has negotiated 600 settlements

**By our correspondent**

in the last 12 months alone!

Recently workers in other sectors of Bombay, neglected by their traditional trade unions, have invoked his name, demanding recognition of his union, and he has burst into the huge textile industry, the docks, and the Press. (There is a vicious lock-out of workers currently at the *Indian Express*).

Samant takes pride that he has already about 1,500,000 workers under his banner—equivalent to the strength of old-established traditional unions—the CITU, AITUC, AMS, affiliated to the 'Communist' and former Socialist parties. His union's phenomenal rise is an indictment of their conservatism.

He claims: "It is the struggle of people who after 20 years of service get barely Rs 850 per month (£50). For them this struggle is a revolution and they are prepared to suffer."

Samant has publicly defended private enterprise and the 'right of companies to make a profit', and rejected Marxism. But under the fierce mass pressure of the million workers on 11 March, he threw caution to the winds, threatening to "fill the jails with protestors," calling a Maharashtra-wide 'bandh' (general strike), and saying "the mill-owners must be banished to the Himalayas!"

He even made the historic call for the first time, for the urgent creation of "a new political party in Maharashtra—to focus on the economic issues of the industrial workers and toiling masses in the countryside...under the joint effort of all pro-labour organisations" (to tremendous cheers).

He also demanded the nationalisation of the textile mills. Unfortunately, his initial scheme is that these bloodsuckers, who have bled the workers for 100 years, should receive 'compensation' to the tune of Rs 750 million (£44 million), and, moreover, that half of this sum should be provided by the mill hands themselves, who would pay to their exploiters £90 each out of their provident funds!

Nevertheless the call for nationalisation will be im-

mensely popular.

The governments of Maharashtra and of India, taking advantage of the current recession, are determined to crush this strike and 'teach the workers a lesson'. Seven International Monetary Fund officials have moved headquarters to New Delhi since the recent huge \$5.8 billion loan, and are breathing down ministers' necks to see that trade unionism is curbed.

But the workers have no option but to fight in the teeth of bullets, jail, blacklisting and hunger—or watch their children slowly starve.

Despite lying government statistics on inflation, the truth is that in Bombay consumer prices are rising at an annual rate of 18.3% and food prices at 23%. No wage freeze, no lockouts, no emergency prison-camp laws can hold the workers back from an all-out fight to keep their families alive.

In the same state of Maharashtra there are simultaneously prolonged strikes of village labourers, farmers' credit officials and others. In particular, the growing and militant UTUC, affiliated to the Revolutionary Socialist Party, is leading prolonged and bitter strikes of the museum workers and in important silk mills.

One of the 1,250 strikers

at Orkay Silk Mills told me:

"We will not sign any anti-union undertakings. We will face death rather than bow down. In the next ten years the Indian workers must overthrow this capitalist government and take the political power in their own hands. It is only the confusion of the Communist Parties and their miseducation of the workers that has held them back up to now. The workers are craving for a revolutionary leadership. We have to build up the revolutionary forces to lead the workers to power".

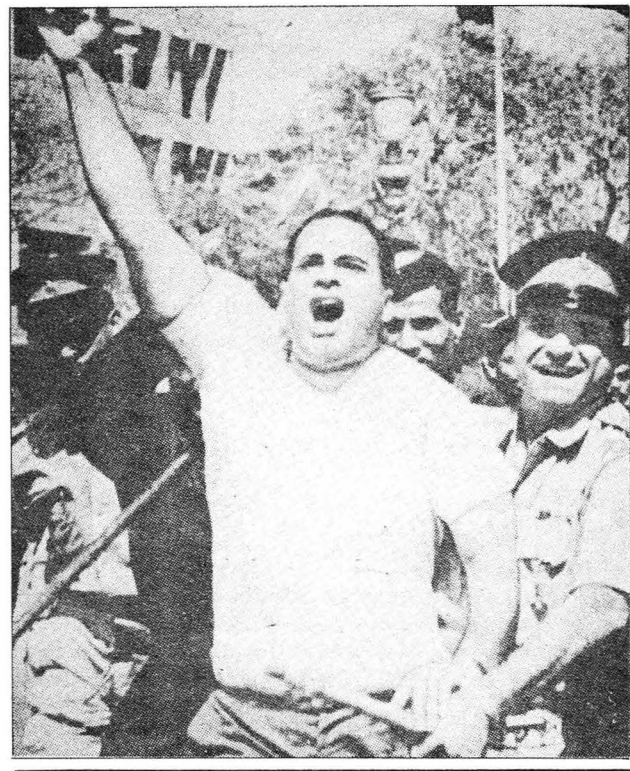
Indira Gandhi, unaccountably, has designated 1982 as 'productivity year'. In reality, in two events alone—the 19 January 'Bharat bandh' (all-India general strike) and the historic textile strike—27 million man-days have already been lost in strikes (compared to a total of 20 million man-days in the whole of last year)—with the year not yet one quarter over.

1982 will without doubt go down in the magnificent history of the Indian working class as the year the class struggle reached glorious new pinnacles of heroism and sacrifice, and began to bring the corrupt and parasitical Indira Gandhi-IMF capitalist state crashing to its downfall.



(Above) Police Constables on strike in 1979. The national police strike was broken only by army bullets.

(Below) Dr Datta Samant—arrested many times for militant trade union activities.



**Order now!**  
**'INDIA—THE GATHERING STORM'**  
By Roger Silverman  
A Marxist analysis of the  
revolutionary crisis facing India  
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## World crisis: Only Labour Movement can change Society

For the first time in history there is now deep crisis in all sections of the world—in the advanced capitalist countries and the Stalinist countries as well as the so-called 'third world'.

In the Western capitalist economies there are now 30 million unemployed. In previously prosperous West Germany the numbers of unemployed are now increasing at three times the rate of Britain.

In the heartland of capitalism, the USA, nearly 10% of the population (9.9 million people) are unemployed. Many have been jobless for over 39 weeks and so get no unemployment benefit.

For working people in the mis-named 'developing world', the economic recession is an horrific disaster.

Even in the boom years living standards took a bat-

tering. From 1969 to 1979, average income per person declined in 15 African countries, and rose by less than 1% in 19 others. In the 1960s food production in Africa declined by 7%, and in the 1970s by 15%.

Mass starvation now faces millions of people in Africa. Consumption of food is now 10% lower than ten years ago.

Political instability and wars are ravaging large parts of Africa, Asia and Latin America. An estimated 700 million people are living in countries racked by civil or external war.

In the past there has been considerable economic progress in countries where capitalism and landlordism have been ended. Massive improvements could be made, despite repressive bureaucratic regimes, on

the basis of nationalised and planned economies.

But in Eastern Europe and Russia these Stalinist dictatorships, ruling in their own self-interest, have begun to strangle economic growth with red tape, corruption and bungling.

Even in Hungary, which has been held up as the model of Eastern Europe, the bureaucracy has predicted zero growth this year.

Countries which borrowed from the West to try to "escape into growth" now have massive debts. Western banks lent \$80,000 million to Eastern Europe from 1975 to 1981—which they are less and less able to pay back.

But in every section of the world, the labour movement has been moving into action. Defeats have been suffered—as in Poland or

By Colin Barber

Korea—but in country after country, such as Greece and France, there have been major victories.

On balance, the working class movement internationally has taken giant steps forward over the last ten years. In the crisis years ahead there is the certainty of gigantic new struggles and the perspective, with bold socialist leadership, of decisive victories.

Only under democratic workers' rule can the crisis of capitalism as well as the problems of Stalinism be ended.

Victory for the working class in just one major country would transform the world situation and give an enormous boost to the workers' movement in all countries.



# LPYS Conference Preview

## Willie Griffin reviews the LPYS Conference document 'Northern Ireland—The Way Forward'

"A doctor made a public appeal to parents to ensure polio immunisation and warned of a typhoid threat."

A comment about a city in the 'Third World'? No, a description of conditions on the Moynard Estate in West Belfast, conditions which are to be found throughout Northern Ireland, where 108,732 or one in five are officially unemployed.

Even the *Economist* has been forced to describe the situation where more than 20% of households rely on social security as "what they call pauperisation". In areas such as Strabane, male unemployment reaches similar levels to the worst blackspots of the 1930s, at an astronomical 48%. Most women don't even bother 'signing on'.

Nor is mass unemployment the preserve of the Catholic ghettos. In predominantly Protestant Ballymena, which is known as Paisley's 'home town', 20.3% are unemployed.

**Class unity is the basis for any solution. The labour movement must fight the conditions which produce sectarianism. The ruling class have no answer.**

The document *Northern Ireland—The Way Forward* being presented to the Labour Party Young Socialists' Conference by the LPYS National Committee shows in graphic detail how poverty, damp housing, and unemployment know no sectarian divide between Protestant and Catholics, but discriminates only between working class and wealthy.

On top of the underlying economic crisis, the "troubles" have taken a terrible toll on the daily lives of working people in Northern Ireland. Over 2,000 people, equivalent to 65,000 in Britain, have been killed. Scarcely a family exists that hasn't seen a relative, neighbour or acquaintance killed, maimed or imprisoned during the last 13 years.

The responsibility for the nightmare must be laid firmly at the door of British capitalism which is responsible for the mass unemployment and grinding

poverty.

Equally, sectarianism in Northern Ireland today is a legacy of the past policies of the British ruling class. They deliberately injected sectarianism to divide and rule over the powerful labour movement that grew up in Ireland in the first two decades of this century.

Although open sectarianism no longer serves the interests of the ruling class, the monster created in the past to serve their interests will not lie down at the command of its former master.

Prior's new 'Rolling Devolution' plan, like all previous twists and turns of the ruling class, is an admission of their inability to solve the crisis and is doomed to failure. *The Times* (22 March 1982) commented: "Politics for Mr Prior is the art of the impossible...Mr Prior is poised to lay on the table...the very dish that has been so frequently refused."

Like all other "power-sharing" deals, if a new initiative gets off the ground, it will sooner or later founder on the sectarian divisions, which are rooted in social conditions and cannot be brushed aside simply by an agreement to share out assembly seats and offices between middle-class political leaders.

For the British ruling class, Northern Ireland today is an expensive embarrassment. They would rather be rid of the problems, and maintain their dominance by economic means, as they have done in the South. Even six years ago the *Sunday Times* commented in an editorial (1 February 1976):

"Britain's strategic interest in Northern Ireland is dead, and its economic interest is all on the side of withdrawal, but moral as well as practical considerations demand that British resources should remain engaged at least until both the political and the public order problems are at least within sight of resolution. There is a political answer which might conceivably emerge within the next four weeks."

In fact the Constitutional Convention that the *Sunday Times* referred to was still-born. The experience of the last 13 years with a series of 'conventions', 'power sharing', and direct rule has shown that the British ruling class have no solution for the situation in Northern Ireland. And at the same time, the army has been proven incapable of stemming the tide of sectarianism. Indeed, making the 'best of a bad job' there is no doubt that sections of the ruling class and general staff see Northern Ireland as a 'training ground' for the army in methods of searches, arbitrary checks,



## NORTHERN IRELAND



Young Socialists from North and South demonstrate together in Dublin last October against unemployment

## LABOUR HOLDS THE KEY

and crowd control, for use against the trade union movement, both in Northern Ireland and in Britain.

Uniting Ireland on a capitalist basis is impossi-

ble. Looking towards the South, there is no incentive for Protestant workers to support a united Ireland. Despite the crisis, unemployment benefit, social ser-

vices, health and education are still superior in Northern Ireland. Added to these factors is the situation where the Catholic church in the South virtually controls education and limits rights such as divorce and the free availability of contraception facilities. Attempts to move forcibly to a capitalist united Ireland against the wishes of the two-thirds Protestant population in the North would result in a sectarian bloodbath and in a bloody re-partitioning of the North which could set back the working class movement for decades.

Class unity is the essential prerequisite to any solution, and this can only be achieved through the labour movement fighting for policies to eradicate the conditions which foster sectarianism, policies with a class appeal to all workers. It is only the labour movement, moreover, which has the power, potentially, to force the army out of the North and bring about a united Ireland.

The only basis on which the support of the Protestant working class can be won for a united Ireland is on the basis of the struggle for a socialist united Ireland, which is the only means to raising living standards, social services, housing etc., both North and South, and breaking the grip of the Catholic church over many aspects of society in the South.

The working class must look to its own organisations to find a solution. Both Protestant and Catholic workers and youth endure the same conditions of mass unemployment and squalid housing. The crisis of capitalism and the cuts in living standards imposed by the Tory government affect workers equally regardless of religion.

Despite the nightmare of the sectarianism, the working class in Northern Ireland has a tremendous history of unity in struggle, even over the last 13 years.

The document points out



# YEAR OF A

# LPYS Conference Preview

**“They (the LPYS) know...the guarantee they demand of a job for every trainee cannot be met”.**

**This was the laughably named ‘Employment’ Minister Norman Tebbit, speaking about the demands raised by February’s 3,000 strong YOPs lobby of parliament.**

It was just one of the attacks by Tories, the press, Liberals and Social Democrats on the LPYS in recent months.

Reading the papers in the last year it has seemed at times that the LPYS or *Militant* has been responsible for everything from the bad winter to the rising price of fresh caviar!

In reality, the millionaire owners of the press fear the growing impact of the LPYS among wider layers of youth, and the growing influence of our clear socialist policies within the labour and trade union movement.

And well they might fear! They understand only too well the increasing anger, frustration, and despair of youth, black and white, who, like two thirds of this year’s school leavers, face the scrap heap and permanent poverty line of the dole queue, or a miserable ‘allowance’ on cheap labour ‘training’ schemes.

It was this growing frustration, combined with continued police harassment, that boiled over in the riots of last summer.

The ruling class was shaken by the riots. But what they fear above all is

**By Kevin Ramage**  
(LPYS National Committee)

the political alternatives to the nightmare conditions confronting the youth gaining the echo they did in Brixton when 600 turned up to a public meeting organised by the London LPYS.

Big business and their kept press fear youth organising to fight for their demands. This explains the attempts to undermine the YOPs lobby of parliament, when papers like the *Express* claimed the day after that there had been a ‘riot of 2,000’ in the Festival Hall.

Such has been the impact of the YOP Trainees Union Rights Campaign, which was launched by the LPYS, that Tory Minister Tebbit was forced personally to try and answer (badly!) the demands of the lobby.

Over 2,000 of those on the lobby were youth participating in their first ever political or trade union activity. Many have since joined the LPYS in their own areas. In Gilfach Goch in the Rhondda, for instance, a new LPYS branch is being formed, mainly around YOPs workers who went to the lobby.

The lobby marked an historic step forward for the

LPYS, mobilising as it did thousands of previously unorganised youth. It gave an indication of the tasks and the enormous potential to build a mass socialist youth movement which lie in front of us in the next period.

If the LPYS has grown through activity on the streets and among YOPs, it has not been at the expense of fighting to win support for our ideas in the labour and trade union movement, among the organisations of the working class which hold the power to transform society.

One of the central discussions of the 1981 LPYS conference was the launching of the Youth Charter. This ten-point charter played a major part in the Labour Party publishing the draft document “16-19 Learning for Life” its first worked out policy on youth for many years.

While the document does not go far enough in many respects, it does partially incorporate many points from the charter such as a call for improvement on YOP allowance, and the introduction of a grant for 16-18 year olds.

In addition the document is open for amendment and comment until the end of April, and the LPYS NC will be presenting a statement to conference and urges LPYS branches and CLPs to discuss the document.

The growth of influence and support for the LPYS has been borne out by the development of our own organisation. From 341 branches in June 1977, the LPYS now has 480, with an increase of 26 since the last conference.

This in turn has been reflected at the conference,

where the attendance has risen from 126 delegates in 1970, to 219 in 1976, and 295 in 1981. All the indications are that 1982 conference there will be well over 300 branches present.

The growth in the LPYS

both in influence and membership is a direct result of the clear socialist ideas of *Militant*. In 1976 *Militant* supporter Nick



# YEAR OF GR



# ACTION

Bradley won 154 votes out of 219—70%, by 1981 *Militant* supporter Laurence Coates won 235 votes out of 278 cast—84%.

During the last five years while the number of branches voting rose by 59, the number of votes for the *Militant* supporter rose by

79. In other words the overwhelming and growing majority of new branches support the ideas of *Militant*, as can also be seen in the 1982 regional LPYS conferences.

The year ahead, and indeed the whole decade of the 1980's will be a decade of deepening and sharpening struggles in society, as the working class, and the youth in particular move increasingly into open opposition to capitalism.

Karl Marx explained that social conditions—the world around us—determine consciousness. The conditions of youth today are in many ways more desperate than in the 1930's.

In 1931 the unemployment of 14-24 year olds stood at 683,781. Today in the equivalent age group, 16-26 unemployment stands at almost 1,500,000!

In all of the great struggles of the working class to change society whether the Russian Revolution, in Portugal in 1974, or Soweto 1976 to take a few examples, it has always been the youth that have been to the forefront of the struggles.

The year ahead will undoubtedly be an explosive one. Two-thirds of school leavers will have no job to go to. At the same time, the

Tories and police chiefs almost seem intent on provoking new riots with their open racial attacks and calls for stepping up police presence on the streets.

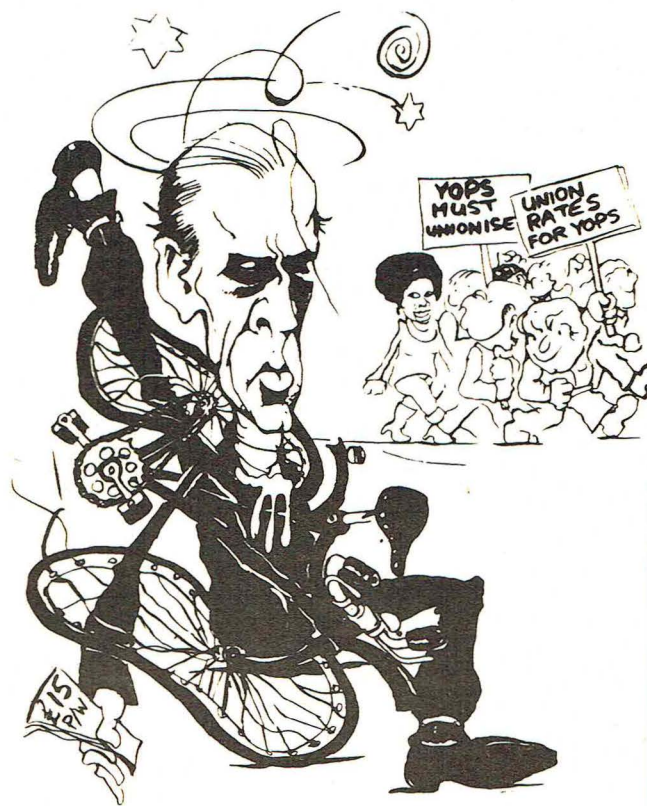
The last few months has seen an increasing tide of struggle in the trade union movement, and undoubtedly any fall in unemployment, however slight, later in the year, will give renewed confidence to workers to move into struggle against the government.

Within the next year or 18 months there will also be a general election, which will bring into the open the hatred of youth for the Tories.

The decade of the 1980's will increasingly develop akin to the 1920's and '30's with mass struggles above all of the youth. The task of the LPYS is to make itself the champion of the struggles of the working class youth, to equip those struggles with clear worked out demands and socialist perspectives.

To achieve this we must begin the task of building a base on every estate, in every factory, school, YOP scheme, and among every group of unemployed youth.

The experience of the growth of the LPYS around the ideas of the *Militant* in the last ten years shows the road to the future.



# ROW WITH

## Why I am standing for the NEC



Our Conference meets at a time when the supporters of *Militant* have come under ferocious attack in the media, and unfortunately from inside the party. I appeal to every young socialist delegate to demonstrate their support for the Marxist policies of *Militant* by backing my re-election to the NEC.

I have been a member of the LPYS for eight years. I'm a member

**Laurence Coates**

(Current LPYS representative on Labour's National Executive Committee)

of Hackney Central branch and NUPE.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

CONTINUED FROM PAGE SEVEN

that "Right from 1907, James Larkin led a united campaign of Protestant and Catholic dockers, carters and tobacco workers in Belfast for better wages. During the dockers' strike of 1911, musicians from Catholic and Orange bands joined to form the 'Non-Sectarian Labour Band'. Significant concessions were secured from the bosses as a result of the workers' unity."

More recently in 1976 when the campaign of sectarian assassinations had reached alarming proportions, it was the action of organised labour which reversed the trend towards civil war, when first milkmen and then busmen took strike action against sectarian attacks.

In 1977 workers defied intimidation by Loyalist thugs and broke Paisley's attempted sectarian stoppage.

On April 2nd 1982, the first ever half-day general strike in Northern Ireland took place. Workers downed tools and marched in protest against unemployment. In Belfast 10,000 workers gathered in the city for a mass rally chanting "Maggie Maggie Maggie, Out Out Out!"

Every strike, such as the civil servants strike, which affects Britain and Northern Ireland has usually been solid in Northern Ireland. But what is missing is a political party based on the trade unions.

Since 1974, when the leadership of the Northern Ireland Labour Party went over to a reactionary loyalist position, the working class in Northern Ireland has been left without a political voice.

The Labour and Trade Union Group (LTUG), formed by Trade Union activists and former members of the moribund NILP, has been the only organisation to argue for a non-sectarian Labour Party based on the trade unions.

A Labour Party putting forward socialist answers to the misery of capitalism could quickly become a major pole of attraction to workers and young people. It would give a political expression to the unity of the

working class at the workplace and in the trade unions. The potential has already been demonstrated by the Young Socialists—set up by the LTUG in a number of areas—which has organised within its ranks Protestant and Catholic youth, and has spearheaded the drive alongside the TGWU, to trade unionise YOPs in Northern Ireland.

The LPYS document concludes by pointing the way forward:

"On October 31st 1981 an event took place in Dublin which showed in embryo how the unity of the working class can be achieved. One hundred people, mainly young trade unionists and working class youth, travelled from Northern Ireland to join the anti-unemployment march and rally organised by the Labour Youth, the Youth section of the Irish Labour Party in the Republic."

Likewise the thirst for socialist ideas in Ireland was demonstrated when over 3,000 from North and South recently crowded into Liberty Hall to hear Tony Benn and representatives of the Irish labour movement speak at a rally organised by the Labour Youth, the biggest labour movement rally in Ireland for many years.

Events such as these, together with the growing support for the formation of a Labour Party in the North point to the rekindling of the tradition of united, socialist struggle which the founders of the Irish labour movement, James Connolly and Jim Larkin forged in the early 1900's.

The sentiment that Connolly concluded his classic pamphlet 'Labour in Irish History' with will once again rise up as the tradition of Irish Labour and bury the sectarian monster:

"In their movement the North and South will again clasp hands, again will it be demonstrated, as in '98 (1798 WG), that the pressure of a common exploitation can make enthusiastic rebels out of a Protestant working class, earnest champions of civil and religious liberty out of Catholics, and out of both a united social democracy."





# Conference Preview

# Who are the War Lords?

Thatcher's government has made armaments Britain's only growth industry. Much of the country's industrial base is being destroyed, a process speeded up by the Tories' monetarist policies. But a handful of giant firms are doing very well from Ministry of Defence (MoD) contracts.

While public spending overall has been cut by £2,000 million (in real terms) since 1975/76, military spending has increased by £5,000 million. It is now running at £12,500 million a year, or 11.5% of Britain's GNP. Over 40% of this now goes on "procurement", that is on buying the military hardware.

Important aspects of the Tory defence policies are analysed in *The War Lords*, the latest report of the independent research group, - *Counter Information Services* (95p). In particular, it contains material about the lucrative role of the big armaments manufacturers which should certainly be in the files of labour movement activists.

Declining Britain, now a second or third-rate industrial power, is attempting to keep up with the super-powers. But as far as nuclear weapons are concerned, "second best" spells disaster strategically, so in reality Britain's "independent" deterrent has always been dependent on the United States, with its far superior industrial and technological capacity.

Trident is just the latest—and by far the most expensive—weapons system ordered from the United States. Trident II will cost £1,000 million, and probably much more eventually.

The cost of weapons and equipment is now rising so fast that the Commons Defence Committee recently estimated that defence spending would have to increase in real terms by 8% a year to 1986—not the 3% envisaged by the Tories—in order to cover weapons and equipment already planned. It is the strategic nuclear weapons and their related electronic equipment are eating up more and more of



**"We are doing something to help this country. We are spending more money on defence."**

Chancellor Sir Geoffrey Howe, mini-Budget, November 1981.

the defence budget.

This explains where some of the generals, MoD bureaucrats and (behind the scenes) arms makers are criticising the Tories' decision to buy Trident. Some generals are afraid that they will not be able to afford to play with the latest tanks, and some of the arms firms fear that their orders may be cancelled or cut back because the MoD will have run out of money. The decline of Britain's navy, once the most powerful on the seas, has been highlighted by the Falkland Islands conflict, as sabre-rattling Tories and Labour right-wingers like Denis Healey have not been slow to point out.

Nevertheless, a handful of highly profitable British firms are still thriving on defence contracts. The Tories, we are told, don't believe in state aid to industry. But out of this year's defence budget about £6,000 million will go to

British arms manufacturers. This spending is nothing if not a gilded prop for British firms.

It is now the aerospace and electronic firms who dominate the defence industry. Military planners are continuously demanding more accurate guidance systems to "deliver" their warheads and more sophisticated surveillance, detection and communications equipment.

*War Lords* gives eye-opening profiles of the main firms, with some graphic details of their rapid growth in the recent period. Rascal Electronics, for instance, started up producing military electronic equipment only about 15 years ago. Last year, its sales were £534 million, and it made pre-tax profits of £73 million.

Arnold Weinstock's GEC, which now controls Marconi, has increasingly moved into military elec-

tronics. Last year MoD contracts generated 54% of its profits. Other key firms, like Plesseys and BAe (British Aerospace, 48.3% de-nationalised by the Tories) also depend heavily on government arms spending. BAe alone accounts for an eighth of all government arms spending, and military equipment contributed £80 million to its trading profits in 1980.

Firms like AEI-Marconi, Rascal, Plessey, British Aerospace would not have remained competitive on world markets without MoD contracts—an argument the arms bosses themselves use when they are after more contracts.

*War Lords* makes clear the advantages of defence contracts. The benevolent MoD hands out big orders. It doesn't mind waiting in the queue after private customers, and is always ready to accept postponement. MoD pays on a "cost plus" basis (that is, pays the

One of the main debates at LPYS Conference will be on the National Committee's document on disarmament. Below, MICK WHALE reviews the latest pamphlet on the British arms industry, 'The War Lords', CIS Report, price 95p (available from World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN. Add 25p for p&tp).

## THE LPYS DEMANDS:

1. Cancel Trident. Use the £8,000 million saved to finance a massive programme of useful public works.
2. For a massive reduction in arms spending. Re-equip the yards and factories affected to produce alternative products as part of a plan of production.
3. Nationalise the entire armaments industry under workers' control and management with compensation on the basis of proven need, to abolish war profiteering and to enable the planning of alternative production.
4. Ban Cruise from Britain and link up with the labour movements of Belgium, Holland, Denmark and West Germany to mount an international campaign.
5. For unilateral nuclear disarmament.
6. Support Labour Councils which refuse to take part in hood-winking the people through Civil Defence exercises designed for nuclear war planning. Use the cash instead to carry out propaganda against the arms race.
7. Commit the Labour Party to campaign for trade union rights for servicemen and women, the right to form democratic soldiers' committees to deal with welfare, the abolition of Courts Martial and the right of servicemen to refuse to be used to break strikes. The right to leave the armed forces after the normal period of notice required in civilian life.
8. No limitations on the trade union rights of junior Defence Civil Servants, and workers' control over military bases.

cost of the work plus a guaranteed level of profit, in recent years at least 3% above the average rate of return for industry as a whole). Above all, the MoD always comes back with new orders.

Past experience, as *War Lords* shows, indicates that military contracts serve to featherbed backward firms, cushioning them from competitors on the world market. However, older arms manufacturers in heavy engineering, like Vickers, are now laying off thousands of workers as orders for tanks, warships, and other "old-fashioned" weaponry are petering out. Decades of secure, highly profitable defence contracts have not left them any more competitive in civil fields.

Although Tories and MoD bureaucrats always argue for new weapons on the grounds that they are vital to "national security", it is amazing how, as the pamphlet points out, "sometimes the assessed security threat conveniently changes to fit the industrial capacity." Weapons are ordered because it suits one or other of the British firms to produce them, and then "strategic" reasons are worked out by the military planners.

The issue of jobs in the armaments industry is a vital one. On this, however, *War Lords* limits itself (in the section on 'The Battle for Jobs') to a critical examination of the MoD's claims about the number of jobs depending on defence spending. It suggests that figures put out by the government and used by Tories and businessmen to justify new arms projects are inflated. It also shows that new weapons orders are not at all guaranteed to secure workers' jobs. However, the arms industry and the war machine it feeds, is still the single biggest industry in the country, providing somewhere around 1½ million jobs, directly and indirectly.

The MoD claims that about 450,000 jobs depend on the Ministry's military equipment spending, with about 200,000 of those employed in private industry fulfilling arms contracts. *War Lords* shows that despite the enormous increase in arms spending the number of jobs in the armaments industry will nevertheless continue to decline as weapons production becomes increasingly concentrated in the modern, capital-intensive electronics sphere.



# WEST BANK CRISIS

## Arab strike wave shakes Israel

**Strikes, demonstrations, and other protest action in the last three weeks by Arabs on the Israeli-occupied West Bank have shaken Israel from top to bottom.**

The strikes brought sympathetic strike action in a number of Arab states, and also provoked the biggest Israeli demonstration for years against government policy in the occupied territories.

A few days of class action by Arab workers and rural poor has achieved more than years of guerrilla fighting by an armed minority.

The biggest movement was the strike action last Tuesday (30. March). This not only shut down many towns and villages in the West Bank, but was also supported by many of the 600,000 Arabs in occupied East Jerusalem and other Arab areas within Israel itself.

Israel occupied the West Bank of the Jordan during the 1967 War, claiming the river Jordan as a "natural frontier". But the West Bank lies in the Palestinian heartland, populated by 1½ million Palestinians. Needless to say, they are overwhelmingly opposed to Israeli occupation, and it was inevitable that Israel would face growing resistance to what amounts to a permanent annexation. At the present time, in the Syrian Golan heights there is already a campaign of civilian disobedience being conducted by the predominantly Druze population.

### Reopening the cracks in the Zionist state

Ironically, the Israeli Civil Administrator on the West Bank recently invoked the British Defence Emergency regulations of 1945 to outlaw the National Guidance Committee, a pro-PLO front made up of Palestinian mayors, trade unionists, newspaper editors, and various other representatives. The Municipal Council of El-Bireh, moreover, was dissolved, the first such move since the occupation in 1967. Administrators were installed to replace the Arabs' representatives.

At the same time, the Arab mayors of Nablus and Ramallah, were dismissed and deported, and Arab newspapers have been subjected to heavy censorship or suppression.

These are the moves which triggered an explosion of the anger and resentment that has been smouldering for years. The Israeli authorities also responded to protest action with closure of the Arab universities, the imposition of curfews, and the beating up and shooting of demonstrators.

By Tim Moody

Israeli vigilantes, made up of fanatical right-wing Jewish settlers, have been allowed to act with impunity by the Israeli security forces. These vigilantes come from the 90 Israeli settlements now established on the West Bank, which have dispossessed even more Palestinian peasants, forcing them to seek low-paid, heavily exploited work within Israel.

Since the 20 March, when the protest movement erupted, at least a dozen Palestinian civilians have been killed, 50 or 60 wounded, and hundreds arrested, many of them beaten up.

The strikes against Israel's West Bank policies have opened up the cracks in Israeli society, giving a glimpse of the deep fissures which reach to the very foundations of the Zionist state.

The economy is in permanent crisis, with the heaviest burdens inevitably thrown on to the working class.

The West Bank crisis has brought renewed questioning of the expansionist aims of Israel, especially among the younger generation of Israeli-born Jews. The Zionist myth, that a Jewish state could provide a safe and secure homeland, has been seriously eroded by three decades of conflict and war.

Zionist leaders repeatedly say they recognise that they have to learn to live with their Arab neighbours. But the occupation of the Palestinians' land, with hundreds of thousands of Palestinians dispersed throughout the Arab states and the oppression of those under Israeli rule, can only mean permanent conflict, with the continual threat of war.

Few Israelis, apart from fanatical, right-wing Zionists, welcome the prospect of renewed war with the Arab states. But at the same time, few have much confidence that the recent diplomatic agreements, reached under pressure from US imperialism in an attempt to stabilise the Middle East, can achieve a lasting peace.

In a few weeks time, Israel is supposed to be handing Sinai back to Egypt in accordance with the 1978 Camp David agreement. Seized by Israel in the 1967 June war and held in the 1973 war, Sinai is vitally important to Egypt, strategically and for reasons of national prestige. It is largely uninhabited, however, apart from Israeli settlers, who Begin is now moving out (with lavish

compensation). The upheaval on the West Bank could mean that everything agreed at Camp David could just evaporate like jet trails in a clouded sky.

Begin's main asset, as always with Zionist leaders, is the division of the Arab states and his ability to use the threat posed by Arab nationalism. If the PLO wins, the Zionists warn, the Jews "will be pushed into the sea". This is the threat to which the nationalist policies of the Arab and PLO leaders repeatedly give credence. Occasional promises that Jewish rights would be respected in an independent Palestine cannot outweigh, in the minds of Israelis, repeated, unqualified threats to crush the Jewish state.

The Jewish state, though it should never have been established on the Palestinians' land, has been a reality since 1948, and there can be no question now of

### There can be no independent Palestine on a capitalist basis

pushing out 3 million Jewish people. They are permanently settled in the region, and their rights to live peacefully must be guaranteed in any resolution of the Arab Israeli conflict.

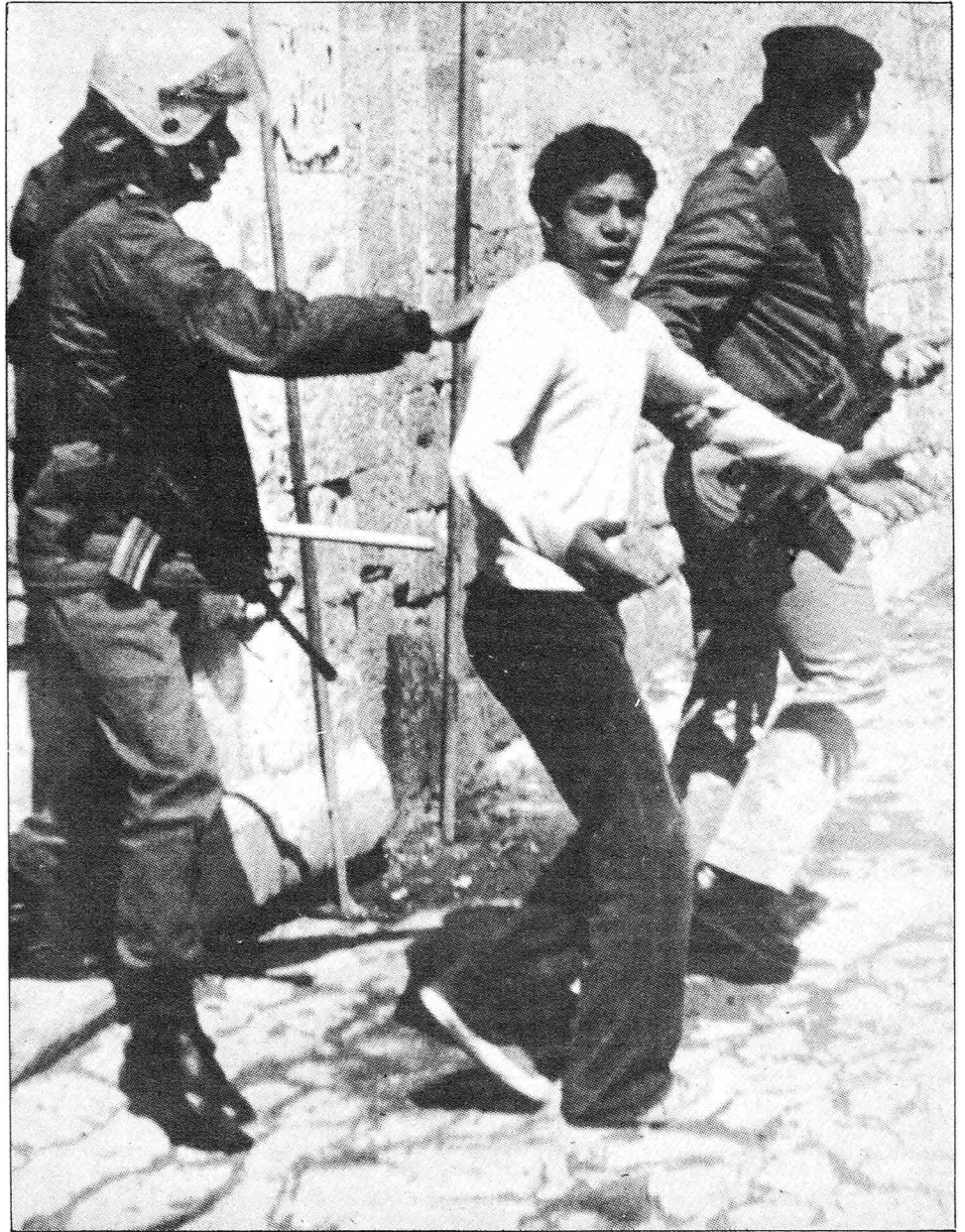
But the national aspirations of Palestinians and Jews will only be reconciled through a socialist solution. A Zionist state, depending on American arms and economic support, will never gain Palestinian acceptance. But if the leaders of the Palestine liberation struggle offered an internationalist, socialist alternative to the Israeli working class they could undercut the traditional appeal of Zionism, which is deeply rooted in the historic experience and fears of the Jewish people.

If the Palestinian movement, hand in hand with the working class of the Arab states, fought for a Socialist Federation of the Middle East, within which there could be an autonomous Jewish state, the few thousand now supporting the "Peace Now" movement would rapidly grow into tens of thousands. Only such a programme can bring the overthrow of the Zionist state.

The leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), however, have made no such appeal to the Israeli working class. On the contrary, their uncritical support for Arab nationalism plays into the hands of the Zionist leaders.

It is ironic that Israel has cracked down on the West Bank mayors, councillors and newspaper editors on the grounds that they are "PLO sympathisers".

Yet, in the last few weeks, the PLO leaders have been



Israeli soldiers arrest a young Palestinian in East Jerusalem during the recent strike wave.

conspicuous for their silence and lack of action in relation to the strike movement. In the face of mass working class activity, far more effective in shaking the Israeli state and mobilising Arab support than the numerous guerrilla campaigns of past years, the PLO leaders have confined themselves to threats to renew the activity of an

states. This means, in practice, that the PLO accepts the class basis of the existing Arab regimes, and refuses to question the rule of landlordism and capitalism.

But one thing is absolutely clear from the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict: an independent Palestine will never be achieved on the basis of capitalism.

### A few days of class action by Arab workers and rural poor has achieved more than years of guerrilla fighting by an armed minority.

armed minority.

The negative attitude of the PLO leaders to mass action undoubtedly reflects their dependence on the Arab regimes, who back and manipulate the PLO, and who fear a class movement of the Arab workers as much as the Israeli ruling class fears such a movement.

The PLO leaders continue to advocate a struggle based on purely national lines, postponing the question of the social character of a Palestinian state until the distant future. Linked to this, is their policy of "non-interference" in the internal affairs of the Arab

Israel will never allow an independent, or even a genuinely autonomous Palestine. This would be so even if the present right wing Likud government were replaced by a new Labour government, as the leaders of the Israeli Labour Party also stand for the defence of a Zionist state. The Israeli ruling class recognises that in a struggle to bring an independent Palestine, the Palestinian workers, peasants and the dispossessed Palestinians in the camps would inevitably move to overthrow landlordism and capitalism.

Even in the form of a deformed workers' state,

confined within the narrow and economically backward limits of Palestine, this would pose a dire threat to the Israeli state, to an even greater extent than the deformed workers' state in Syria over recent years.

The ruling classes of the Arab states are equally afraid of the Palestinian struggle flowing over to social issues, threatening the class basis of their own regimes. They use the existence of Israel, the threat of Zionist aggression, etc., as a lever of influence over their own exploited workers and peasants. The last thing they want to see is a movement capable of uniting Arab workers with Jewish workers in pursuit of socialist aims.

But renewed fighting, with the guerrillas trying to take the initiative again, would not provide a way out for the Palestinians. It would simply give a new twist to the spiral of violent conflict.

Only united class action under the banner of the Socialist Federation of the Middle East, recognising the national rights of the Palestinians, Jews and other national minorities, can provide a way out.

The recent strike wave points to the way forward. It will undoubtedly lead to a questioning of the present Palestinian leadership, and the search for a more effective, Marxist perspective.





# Letters

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

MILITANT, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

## Canvassing— SDP view of workers

Dear comrades,

Out canvassing last Sunday one door was opened by a bloke with a plum in the mouth voice, "Oh no, I'm a SDP member".

He said he supposed I was one of "those people" who believed in nationalisation. "Of course it's the only way to plan industry, but..."

"Do you really think that workers can run industry, that they are really capable of running industry?" he asked. "Yes of course I do, they are the ones with the skills and knowledge so of course they can run industry and society as a whole," I replied.

"What do you know about workers?" he asked. "I am one", I said, getting angry. "Oh yes, on the assembly line and all that" he sarcastically commented.

"That's right, I've worked on more assembly lines than you've had hot dinners" (I was getting very angry!) He then told me that I couldn't be a worker as workers couldn't talk about politics the way I did!

I'll leave you to gauge my reactions and exactly what I said. Just say that I forgot all about the struggle for cultured speech!

Fraternally  
Janice Dale  
Leyton Labour Party

## Canvassing— Workers view of SDP

Dear comrades,

Whilst canvassing as Labour candidate for the council in Southampton last week, two incidents happened which readers may find enlightening.

A little old lady dragged me into her home to sign a declaration that I would not defect to the SDP. She also demanded to speak to the ward secretary to get her confirmation that I was not right wing and that I would not defect to the SDP. On that basis she said she would vote for me.

The second incident happened a few doors away. A woman I was canvassing had a copy of *Militant* in a magazine rack. I asked her if she got a copy regularly. She replied, "yes, it is a pity we haven't got a *Militant* supporter for a candidate."

When I pointed out that I supported *Militant* she was, to put it mildly, pleased. Her eight children also (all at work) read the paper and one is in the process of trying to unionise a union-hating firm with some success.

All this happened in the first night of the election campaign, so I am looking forward to the rest of the campaign.

Fraternally  
Pat Blatch  
Southampton LP.



In 1935 Stockport Labour Party protested outside the Town Hall against the local Tory Council's decision to spend £3,000 on junketing for George V's Silver Jubilee while the government cut unemployment benefit for a married couple from £1.20 to £1.10 a week.

## 12% Royal pay rise

Dear Comrades,

The staff at my school have voted unanimously to give the tea ladies a 10% pay rise this year although our claim for 12% has been met with a miserable 3.4% offer from management and we are beginning the struggle to improve on this sum.

By contrast, the Royal Family have received an extra 12% in the civil list—supposedly because the wages they have to pay have risen—and the Queen immediately announced that she would pay her staff an extra...6%!

This family, already rich beyond anyone's dreams, are also the greediest and least charitable (though they occasionally bung a fiver—an insult one supposes—at "good" causes).

Yours comradely  
Pauline Gorman  
Lewisham NUT

## Signs of workers regrouping in Poland

Dear Comrades,

Despite the military takeover and the struggle of normal daily life with shortages of basic necessities, price rises, and queues, the reports coming out of Poland suggest that the workers are increasingly getting reorganised underground. Both industry and agriculture are working below capacity due to passive resistance by the workers. In some factories it has been reported that the workers have their strength recognised with no victimisation in return for normal working. Due to the intense pressure on managers to raise output such understandings could spread all over Poland in the near future.

Before Solidarity was built in August 1980, to include 12 million members, small groups of activists worked clandestinely to lay the groundwork for an independent union. The 16 months of existence of Solidarity roused the consciousness of the Polish working class, of its own strength and of its ability to run society. It is the consciousness which is producing 8 bulletins a day in Warsaw, carrying information on other parts of Poland. Pamphlets, bulletins and leaflets are increasingly appearing. Solidarity's printing machinery and duplicators are hidden in houses. Clearly, the Polish workers are regrouping their forces. It is a young working class, over half under 25 years old. It could yet lead the political revolution in Eastern Europe and the USSR.

Yours fraternally  
Alan Turner  
SE Leeds CLP.

## Don't feel guilty about bottle feeding

Dear comrades,

I feel I must write to redress the balance in the discussion on breast and bottle feeding. I am a breast feeding mum but I realise it isn't always possible for a woman to breast feed. I agree with everything that has appeared in *Militant* on this subject but I feel we shouldn't make working class women feel guilty if they can't breast feed.

I write from experience. When my baby was only 2 or 3 weeks old I didn't have enough milk for him. I was advised that I should supplement his feeds with a bottle. Luckily the problem has worked itself out now but at the time I felt incredibly guilty and inadequate about having to resort to the bottle, although without it my baby would have been severely undernourished.

One factor that inhibits the production of milk is stress. I'm sure all comrades would agree that working class women are under a great deal of stress especially if trying to bring up a family on a low income or a partner on the dole.

These women shouldn't be made to feel more guilty and inadequate. We should be involving them in getting rid of the system that has put them in this position.

We should be fighting for the nationalisation of these companies who already exploit an already exploited section of society. Problems come with bottle feeding when people don't know how to do it properly. Because of cuts in NHS hospital staff and health visitors are so over worked that they don't have time to deal in great detail with individual problems either with breast feeding or bottle feeding.

As a childminder I have looked after babies of 2 months whose mothers have

had to return to work. These babies had to be bottle fed. I feel it is no coincidence that War On Want have brought out their report at a time when this Tory government are trying to force women into the home.

When we have a truly socialist economy with workplace crèches and working conditions which allow for breast feeding, women will be able to choose for themselves.

Yours fraternally  
Val North  
Brighton Kemp Town  
CLP

## 'Spit and polish' loses the dole queue blues

Dear Comrades,

Unemployed? Are you fed up just hanging about? Have even the afternoon telly programmes lost their attractions? Don't worry. The Scottish minister of state, the Earl of Mansfield, will help you get rid of those mass unemployment blues.

Yes, you too can answer his advert for two dozen housewives to come to his stately home to polish some of his one hundred year old copper pans. Your reward for this will be a free trip round his home (the ancient Scone Palace).

The Earl's wife told the *Daily Mail* that "Scottish housewives are very hard working and full of spit and polish. I'm sure they will all enjoy it. Wouldn't you?"

Just imagine all the women from Lee Jeans and Plesseys running over to help the Earl with his spring cleaning. Somehow I think that working class women have shown they have better things to do, like playing a larger and larger part in the labour and trade union movement!

Yours fraternally  
Ronnie Martin  
Clydebank

## Extremist myth

Dear comrades,

Until recently I have never really cared one way or the other about politics. Having been an avid reader of the gutter press, I have always thought that the Labour Party was infiltrated by extremists and Communists, so I have never voted for them.

With the emergence of the SDP I thought this was the party I will vote for now and started to take an interest. Two of my mates from work, so called dangerous extremists from the *Militant Tendency* persuaded me to read *Militant*, *What Militant Stands For*, and also the *Sunday Times*.

Having an open mind I agreed. You can imagine my astonishment to see by reading both sides of the argument how gullible and naive I had been to be taken in by the media. I just can't wait till the next election to vote Labour.

Thank you, *Militant*, for opening my eyes to these charlatans and careerists of the SDP. Kick the Tories out, say no to the witch-hunts, and make Labour a true socialist party.

Yours fraternally,  
John Thomson  
TGWU Glasgow  
7/17/157.

## Four million claret drinkers

Dear Comrades,

After travelling from the East of Scotland to help in the Hillhead by-election, we had the misfortune to come across some SDP turncoats, among them the MP for Hayes and Harlington, Neville Sandleson, who was elected on a Labour ticket.

This man who got into parliament on the backs of the working class got in-

involved in a discussion with us. One of our comrades was drinking a bottle of orange juice. Sandleson asked him, "What are you drinking that rubbish for?" "What should I drink," the comrade asked him.

"Claret" said Sandleson, as that was what SDP members drank. "How can we afford claret?" we asked.

"Get off your butt and get a job and then you will be able to afford the good things in life", said Sandleson. Watch out for four million claret drinkers.

Yours fraternally  
Moray Howie  
Mayfield LPYS and  
Ali Hughes  
Scottish regional  
committee LPYS

## Gas attack on US workers

Dear comrades,

Ever heard of "pepper fogging"? Apparently this means spraying people with tear gas, one of the latest tactics being used by American police against a group of striking workers.

According to *The Times* (24 March) these workers have been out for 22 weeks. It published a picture of them outside their precision tool factory in North Kingston, Rhode Island. Most of them were crouching on the floor, their heads in their hands.

Literally two feet away a policeman stood spraying them with gas. For *The Times* this was just an interesting picture. For us surely it shows the determination of these workers. The cause of their struggle isn't explained.

It also shows the vicious methods the American bosses are prepared to use to resist workers' demands at home as well as abroad.

Fraternally  
Chris Ridge  
West Nottingham CLP



Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target 11 April
Eastern	1400		2040
East Midlands	1334		1470
Hants & Dorset	637		1100
Humberside	738		890
London East	1956		2010
London West	910		1150
London South	1245		1550
Manchester & Lancs	1202		1550
Merseyside	1249		1950
Northern	1769		2350
Scotland East	758		1290
Scotland West	1388		1980
Southern	1303		1900
South West	717		965
Wales East	413		970
Wales West	688		1130
West Midlands	980		1980
Yorkshire	1992		2290
Others	426		6435
<b>Total received</b>	<b>21,105</b>		<b>35,000</b>

# £14,000 Target!

# This week £2,815

One week to go to reach the first quarter's fighting fund target. We need £14,000 this week to help *Militant* in the struggle against the Tories and for a socialist future.

Nearly £3,000 came in this week and with LPYS conference we have every confidence that this target can be reached.

Some of this week's donations have included the whole of a pool's win of £130 from R Wenborne in East London, £50 from a Scottish dentist to "help *Militant* get its teeth into the Tories!" and £44.50 from S Grant (Narbeth, South Wales) "I am a recent convert to Marxism. As a demonstration to myself that my life is changed I have stopped smoking". Thanks to all these supporters.

Collections at *Militant* meetings at Regional LP conferences in the South-West, Southern and North-West regions have benefited our funds by several hundreds.

Meetings in Sunderland, Teesside, Bradford, Salisbury, Norwich, Cardiff, Burnley, Barnsley, Halifax, Carlisle, Hartcliffe (Bristol), and Wallasey totalled another £598, with some IOUs to come!

Meanwhile thanks also to workers at GEC Trafford, and at Chloride, ACTSS members Tilbury docks, Guinness shop stewards' committee, Liverpool, Coventry workers at BL Self-Changing gears, Print workers, and NALGO members in Liverpool for back pay, supporters in Oldham and Lanark who donated expenses, and all the workers who gave us 'extras' in change at workplace sales of *Militant*.

Other donations we've had, no less valuable, include £5 from a pensioner in Southampton who heard about a meeting on the local

**By Steve Cawley**

radio and came especially to support us with cash, and £1 from a sixth-form student in Harpenden, Herts. A reader in Hull even collected £1.05 for us at a bus stop.

LPYS branches to help us this week were all from the north (what about the affluent south?)—thanks to Carlisle, Stockton, Kirkcaldy, Midlothian YS members, St Helens, E Edinburgh, Chester, Toxteth and Bootle branches for donations or collections while new LPYS members in Manchester gave us £9. £3.50 was also collected for the Fighting Fund at the AGM of Rochester and Chatham Labour Party. Has your constituency had its annual meeting yet? Or what about asking delegates at the GMC?

For reasons of space we can't thank everyone individually, but just to give an idea of the variety of donations we get, we must mention Mr Savage (Arbroath LP, £5), S Wimhurst (Dartford LP, £5), £14 on its way from B Buchanan (Australia), £4 from C Willcox (Addlestone), £2 from L Hockey (Wembley) and £16 raised at a social organised by K Snapes (Cardiff SE CLP).

Tenners included those from K Bevan (Swansea), D Lawley and T McEvoy (London) and R Phillips (Poole), a regular commitment! and a fiver from F Davies (Blackpool). Two

SPOE members in London sent us £56, and two Scottish comrades £50 back pay and £40. £20 came from Rhondda supporters, and from S Wilson (Fife NUPE). B Fee (EETPU Hull) sent us £16, R Barnett (Reigate CLP, £25) and students E Lawson and L McAvoy (Stirling) £55. Shipley supporters by sales of rocks, food etc raised £79.20 this week.

If all our readers respond to our appeal on the day they get this paper, then we can do it! Give our seller whatever you can afford, so

that by the time Easter Sunday is over, we'll know by phone how much is on the way.

Judging from the way our weekly total is getting better each week now, we can just about reach £35,000 if everyone gives us an Easter present. And with the new equipment mentioned last week, we'll be able to do an even better job.

Help us to help you. Send your donation, however large or small NOW to *Militant*, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN.

## Target date 11 April

### MILITANT PAMPHLETS

- Woods and Grant—Lenin and Trotsky: what they really stood for . . . . . £1.50
- Grant—Menace of fascism . . . . . 40p
- Grant—Marxist theory of the state . . . . . 50p
- Trotsky—Lessons of Spain . . . . . 30p
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- Trotsky—Transitional programme . . . . . 25p
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CLASSIFIED: 5p per word, minimum ten words. SEMI-DISPLAY: £2 per 2 column centimetres. All advertisement copy should reach this office by SATURDAY.

# ads

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Third Kent Militant Weekend School will be held on Saturday/Sunday, 5 and 6 June. Three speakers + hotel bed, breakfast, evening meal. Only £7.50 (same as last year). Further information contact: Selby Hotel, 7 Union Crescent, Margate. (Tel: 0843-24309).

### MILITANT IRISH MONTHLY 100th ISSUE!

Out now Marxist Analysis of Ireland, North and South. Price 15p from your local Militant seller. Or order from Militant Irish Monthly, 75 Middle Abbey St, Dublin 1. Six issues £2 Twelve issues £4.

### Out soon: SOUTH AFRICA'S IMPENDING SOCIALIST REVOLUTION

Perspective of the Marxist Workers' Tendency of the African National Congress  
A major pamphlet of approximately 150 A4 pages. Price £1.50 plus 35p p&p (in Britain)  
Available from World Books, 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN

SELL MILITANT! Take out a regular order for 'Militant' and take some to sell on a sale or return basis. See subscription form page 16.

BRIDLINGTON LABOUR PARTY sends comradely greetings to all delegates and visitors to the Young Socialists 1982 National Conference.

Continue to lead the way in the fight for real socialist policies.

### ADVERTISE IN OUR MAY DAY AND 600th EDITION

Salute May Day and our 600th edition with a greeting in each issue. Our 600th edition is the week after our May Day edition so why not take out two greetings? We are having a special offer for two ads at a cut price.

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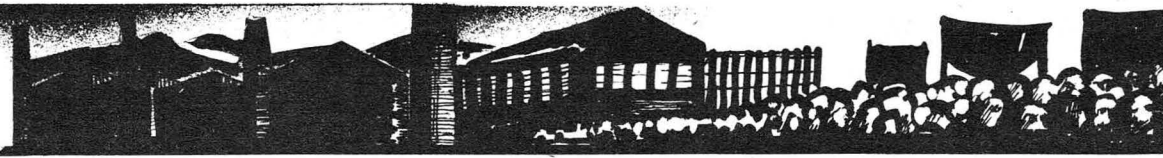
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May Day is an important day for workers internationally show your organisation's solidarity with the world working class and place an advert. The 600th edition is another landmark in the history of *Militant* so give us a boost and show your support for our paper.

Closing date Tuesday 20 April. Cheques payable to *Militant*. Send to *Militant* 1 Mentmore Terrace, London E8 3PN or phone 01-986 3828.



# Industrial Reports



## Manchester demo

More than 2,000 nurses, doctors, technical, administration and ancillary workers marched through Manchester on March 23 to show their disgust at the government's 4% pay offer. The marchers left the many hospitals in the area and met in the city behind the banners of NUPE, COHSE, ASTMS and NALGO, and marched to the Area Health Authority buildings for a mass rally. As LPYS members Dean Loftus and Mark Matthews, both members of South Manchester Hospitals NUPE branch, told *Militant*: "It was good to see at long last unification of health service trade unions."

"We are always being told there is no money for the health service. At the same time the Tories have just agreed to splash out billions on Trident. We work hard to give you a good service with staff shortages, long hours, low pay, poor working conditions and lack of money for equipment. It is hard to take action because of its inconvenience to patients, but dedication won't pay our bills."

## CNALP rally

Labour Party leader Michael Foot addressed a rally organised by the Campaign for NALGO Affiliation to the Labour Party (CNALP) at Camden Town Hall on 27 March. The rally was part of the culmination of the affiliation campaign which has been in operation since NALGO's annual conference in June 1981.

Every member of the 85,000 strong public sector union will receive a ballot paper over the next few weeks to vote on the twin issues of the establishment of a political fund for NALGO and affiliation to the Labour Party.

The rally was chaired by Derek Hatton, Chairman of CNALP and his own NALGO branch, and Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Liverpool Wavertree. Also addressing the meeting were Tom Sawyer, deputy general secretary of NUPE and Danny Purton, CNALP secretary. Michael Foot stressed the Labour Party's trade union base and wished the affiliation campaign every success.

## Parkinson Cowan

On April 2, over 700 workers at the Parkinson Cowan Measurement firm at Stretford, Manchester, again rejected management's third and 'final' offer. The vote was taken to continue strike action by the workforce who are represented by ASTMS, AUEW (TASS), EETPU, AUEW (ES), GMWU and NUSMW. This is the first time in the history of the factory that the whole of the trade unions have been united as one in the fight against threats to living standards. Support is starting to come from other workers in Manchester such as Kellogs, Massey Ferguson, and Gardners. Other unions are helping such as NALGO and the CPSA. Management, this week have sent a letter to all workers containing time worn platitudes such as 'recessionary climate, competitiveness, rising costs' etc. This letter has been unsuccessful in its dividing tactics, because the workers know that the firm, part of the Thorn EMI multinational, will make profits estimated at £2.6m this year!

The whole of the factory have now been on strike since March and the AUEW shop steward, Andy Povah, told *Militant* that the workforce are determined to win a better offer than 7.8%. He appealed to all unions and members for moral and financial support in their fight. Collection sheets can be obtained from: K Frisby, 1 Melbourne Avenue, Stretford, Manchester.

# FORTRESS FERGUSON



The blockaded gates at the Massey Ferguson Banner Lane site in Coventry. Photo: Darrel Cozens.

Since the workers occupied the Massey Ferguson plant in Coventry, it now resembles a fortress reflecting the workers' determination to fight off redundancies.

Gates are chained up and blockaded with tractors and castings, with many of the 3,000 workforce taking their turn on picket duty.

A sustained battle is now unfolding at Massey Ferguson at the Banner Lane site. On Wednesday 31 March, the 3,000 manual workers voted to immediately occupy the plant in response to management's attempt to impose compulsory redundancies on 140 workers.

For the first time in Coventry and possibly nationally a large workforce is locked into struggle to protect a relatively small number of jobs. The shop stewards' committee had bent over backwards to arrive at an accommodation with management.

Jimmy Dunn, T&GWU Convenor, outlined the background: "We have offered to workshare, lose money, and change working arrangements. On Monday we presented the company with worksharing rotas and asked two questions, Are

you prepared to accept weekly rotas? Are you prepared to accept voluntary redundancies? The answer to both questions was an unqualified 'Yes'.

"The following day, management changed their minds and withdrew acceptance. Management then proposed specifically weekly lay-offs and suspension of the guaranteed week and for voluntary redundancy to go ahead. We compromised and accepted it.

"Then on Wednesday morning—another management somersault—they proposed laying off blokes for a month without pay!

"When we said this was not acceptable, management said they would start issuing compulsory redundancy notes, there and then. Incidentally, management's idea of work-sharing is to do 40 hours and get paid for 35!"

One bloke was approached on Wednesday and they offered him two pieces of paper, one transferring him from being an inspector to working on a machine, the other giving him his redundancy notice. He was given

four hours to decide.

On Thursday 1 April, management warned, if the redundancy is not implemented and normal working resumed by 7.30 am on 6 April, then further loss of jobs would occur, and they would withdraw the acceptance of the voluntary redundancy and replace them with compulsory redundancy. Also payment in lieu of notice would be reduced by each day of the strike.

On Friday, the emphatic reply was for entrances to be blockaded. None of the management or staff were allowed in. This Monday (5 April), Scott Glover, the director of Coventry factories, and his right-hand hatchet-man Gosley, with squads of superintendents and foremen turned up for work to be met with locked and greased gates (good for your hair). Inside hundreds of shop floor workers stood by ready to repel any adventurous pole vaulters!

Management have threatened to transfer an export order to France. This was treated with suspicion as just another management trick, and anyway the workers pointed out the French site depends upon the Banner Lane line for axles and gear boxes.

Arrangements are being made for collections to take place throughout factories in the Coventry area and then wider afield. This battle could be the first victory of many.

By Brian Debus

## LT cuts begin to bite

Since the decision of the Law Lords on the London Transport fares there has been concern about its consequences. It will mean cuts in services through the general decline in the use of the bus by people in London because of the increased fares.

At present there are documents being circulated around districts on the proposed reduction of buses.

In all districts, LT want to lose around a thousand buses. In my area, the Forest District, the cuts in

buses will be: Walthamstow—from 106 buses to 95; Leyton—119 to 100; Barking—106 to 96; Seven Kings—67 to 58; Hornchurch—56 to 49; Upton Park—110 to 90.

The LT bosses want to make these cuts by July. Tradesmen will be threatened too—in 67 garages, 826 workers are threatened with redundancy. The LT Executive have remarked this is reasonable!

If these cuts weren't bad enough, we now have the prospect of young appren-

tices standing little or no chance of being re-employed when they finish their apprenticeships later this year. But while our union must fight these cuts, if we go forward with a bold campaign, not just on the defence, but with demands for decent pay we can protect our industry.

By Pat Atkinson  
(T&G 1/951,  
personal capacity)

## ASLEF thanks Scottish LPYS

During the six-week rail dispute earlier this year, the LPYS along with the rest of the labour movement gave its support to the train drivers. Willie Miller, secretary of the Scottish District Council of the train driver's union, ASLEF, told *Militant* what he thought of the part played by the LPYS during the dispute.

"I was pleased with the role of the LPYS in Glasgow during our dispute. As Scottish district secretary, I received quite a few letters of support including the Scottish Committee of the LPYS. I received an invitation to

speak at their conference. Here, there was a collection of £20.75 for the ASLEF strike fund.

"All in all the LPYS in Glasgow especially played a positive role. We had support from many branches, not only moral but financial support.

"When a union is in dispute, especially when you're a nationalised industry, when you're not only taking on your immediate employer but also the government, you need all the support you can get and the support we got from the LPYS certainly did a lot to help us gain a victory."

## NUT strike ends

The strike by teachers in Barking in East London has ended, with the teachers securing many of the jobs threatened by cuts.

At a mass meeting on Tuesday night the teachers, members of the NUT, voted to end the dispute. Out of the 159 jobs threatened, 104 have been recovered, the rest being lost through natural wastage.

What was an important gain was the council eventually agreeing not to use short-term contracts which in the past have been used for 'back-door redundancy'. Now these contracts will only be used in genuine cases, e.g. maternity, and the 12 teachers presently on

short-term contracts in the Barking area will be offered first refusal on any jobs. This is the first council in the country to concede to this demand.

The mass meeting voted by two thirds for the settlement, with a third wanting to continue the strike action. Obviously the teachers are not happy with the loss of 50 jobs but it was felt that the council had been pushed as far as it would go. However, Barking council have learnt that the NUT are determined as any other trade union—and have shown they can exercise some muscle when it comes to action—in the fight to save jobs.

## NUJ back amalgamation

The National Union of Journalists at its conference in Coventry last week continued its commitment to amalgamation with the print union, the National Graphical Association.

A resolution calling for the present amalgamation talks between NUJ and the NGA to be broken off was overwhelmingly rejected.

However, while the delegates recognised the need for amalgamation in the face of new technology and redundancies in the print industry, there was concern that in some cases this mood had not filtered down to local level in the case of disputes. There was particular concern over the Camden Journal dispute which had dragged on for 16 months. Delegates urged the need for a 'picketing pact'. A resolution which called on the NUJ leadership to renegotiate the trade dispute clause in the amalgamation agreement with a view to "commit both unions to the principle that neither will cross the others' picket lines and that industrial support, where asked for, is expected rather than considered", was passed.

In the debate on press freedom, there was anger at the treatment meted out to journalists by police during last summer's riots. Journalists told of harassment, notebooks being confiscated and cameras smashed by police, and in some cases journalists covering the events were arrested. This restriction of freedom was continuing with the coming visit of the Pope—delegates reported how they were being vetted before being given credentials to cover the tour.

Of the many fringe meetings at conference, perhaps the most enthusiastic was addressed by Labour MP Frank Allaun on the need for the NUJ to affiliate to the Labour Party. About 30 delegates and visitors attended, outlining the need for a campaign within the NUJ on this issue.

Throughout conference nearly 60 *Militants* and *Militant Irish Monthly* were sold, as well as several *What we stand for* pamphlets.

By Bob Wade  
(N London NUJ)



# Industrial Reports

Kings Cross

## BR bosses try it on

Against a background of an appalling record in health and safety and a reluctance to grant even the most basic of amenities, management at Kings Cross are now attempting to attack the rights of local union and Health and Safety representatives.

The attempt last week to victimise former branch secretary (and presently LDC member and Health & Safety Rep) Steve Forey of Kings Cross ASLEF, really hammered home the point.

Previous to last week's dispute, the Area Manager began restricting the activities of the LDC, by ruling that neither they nor the Health & Safety reps be allowed to investigate complaints, visit yards and stations or attend site inspections without permission.

Immediately, the Kings Cross branch agreed that if any union rep was victimised for carrying out his normal duties, then action would be taken. ASLEF head office were informed of this decision.

On 1 April, the Area Manager at Kings Cross sent for Steve Forey to attend his office. When Brother Forey quite rightly refused to go without a witness, the Area Manager suspended him without pay. Without any hesitation both ASLEF and NUR members walked out. Footplate staff supported by the guards were joined by the signalmen in a striking show of solidarity that brought the station to a standstill. Within hours management reinstated Brother Forey without any loss of pay. They would not, however, pay those on

strike for the actual time lost.

Nevertheless as it was felt that the point had been made and Steve Forey's reinstatement had been achieved, the locomen urged the other grades to return to work, which they did with reluctance. Meanwhile the ASLEF members remained out, in protest at having their money withheld, until the following morning. Brother Forey donated his pay to branch funds that day.

It is significant that the management should have waited until Brother Forey left the post of branch secretary before pressing home their attack. However, this incident is part of a wider attack.

British Rail management have lost face as a result of the dispute over flexible rostering. They are now attempting to re-gain some of their credibility by trying to score local victories.

This time it looked as though management were attempting to take on a depot, but they took on the wrong one. They came unstuck because of the unity that has been achieved at local level between ASLEF and the NUR. That one issue, galvanised the two unions into one cohesive fighting force. Management will be hard pressed to try it on again.

Although this is a local matter it should be seen in the light of the present proposals contained within the Tebbit Bill and the general attack by employers upon basic trade union rights.

The recent events at Kings Cross show that swift and united action, using full industrial muscle, is the way to counter attack.

By Martin Elvin  
(ex-Stratford  
ASLEF)

## Ambulancemen may strike

There is the possibility of an all-out ambulance strike by Scottish ambulance men, after a shop stewards' meeting representing one-third of the service voted in favour of industrial action in support of a colleague faced with the sack.

Bro Caddell was found guilty of 'bringing the ambulance service into disrepute' by organising a charity disco at which a fight broke out. He has been an active branch secretary for the last two years, and is the driving force behind the 'support the ambulance service' campaign launched last summer to gain public support against cuts imposed by the government. Along with others he organised local days of action in Glasgow and Edinburgh to highlight

the need for more two-man ambulances, more modern equipment and more modern vehicles.

If he is sacked, 600 NUPE members will strike. The seriousness with which the attack is viewed by the union is such that even emergency services will be withdrawn.

NUPE intends to seek support for this action from other unions involved. Management's attitude is seen by NUPE members as blatant victimisation of an activist who has been vigorously campaigning for better pay and conditions for the ambulance service.

By Margie Hugh  
(Glasgow Northern  
Hospitals Branch,  
NUPE)

## CPSA Deputy General Secretary election

The following results in the CPSA Deputy General Secretary election are being announced to CPSA members.

Ellis 25,438 (right-wing candidate), Macreadie 24,261 (Broad Left candidate), Warwick 19,560 and Thomason 9,887.

These results have been challenged, however, by John Macreadie pending investigation into alleged irregularities in the voting in a number of branches.

The conduct of the ballot is covered by Rule 14 of the union's constitution. This states that "votes shall be cast by members present at special general, special sub-branch or workplace meetings specially organised by the branch committee and called with proper notice."

The union's returning officer is investigating claims that meetings in a number of branches did not take place. The returning officer is investigating these allegations and has given the assurance that—although the results have been announced in a circular by the CPSA's President and General Secretary—publication of these results will not prejudice his investigation and ultimate decision.

But even if the results stand, they will still be a blow to the union's right wing. They would show that there is a break up in the right-wing grip on our union. The left have commanded a high vote and have only been denied victory by a wafer-thin margin. The Broad Left has done very well and if it had

been a straight right wing-left wing split then it is possible that John Macreadie could have won. What seems definitely clear is that if Peter Thomason had not stood for election then John Macreadie would have now been elected as the new Deputy General Secretary.

Militant readers will know from previous articles that Peter Thomason appeared before the special Broad Left conference seeking their support, but was overwhelmingly rejected in favour of Macreadie.

However, he continued to stand, with the support of certain Broad Left members in the union's P&T Group. This decision and his vote of 9,887 may well, unfortunately, have given the post to the right wing of the union.

The election of two senior officials of the union who are both right wing, would certainly mark a set back for the union, but with balloting about to start for the union's President, Vice-President and National Ex-

ecutive Committee election, the Broad Left can be tremendously encouraged by the vote of John Macreadie in the DGS campaign.

The decision for John Macreadie to stand for General Secretary and Deputy General Secretary has been totally vindicated by the results in both elections.

Now there must be a full and proper investigation of the alleged irregularities. If irregularities are proved and if without such votes for his opponents John Macreadie would have won, then he should be declared elected. Union activists should go to the next conference in May determined to ensure rules changes which tighten up voting procedures and make the whole election process more open to the scrutineering of CPSA members. And the campaign to elect Kevin Roddy as CPSA president and return a Broad Left NEC must now begin in earnest.

## Sparks take on the Bursar!

"Electricians strike! The university goes back to the Dark Ages. The cruel old master won't pay the wages. A tradesman's right must be his rate. So here we stand to demonstrate. Cheap labour never!"

This was the message on placards which greeted several hundred surgeons attending a conference at Manchester University's Medical School last Friday. The 60 electricians' demand for a 9.8% wage increase, which is the going rate for the electrical contracting industry was flatly refused by the Deputy Bursar who also turned down a compromise worked out by electrical department management.

This Michael Edwardes style "take it or leave it" attitude has split management



Angry electricians picket Manchester University, in their fight against an Edwardes-style management. Photo: Paul Etherington

but hardened the resolve of the shop. One electrician has joined the union after 28 years at the university. "We are just fighting for our rights," explained Norman Bradburn, senior EET-PU shop steward to Councillor John Nicholson, Chairman of Ardwick Labour Party, who came to the picket line to give his support.

That this is a political fight was vividly demonstrated by the publication of sections of the 1980 Employment Act by the Deputy Bursar and Personnel Officer, rumoured to be taking early retirement on a golden handshake. The picket of the medical building (one of 97 university buildings) was deemed "contrary to the

provisions of the Employment Act" as it is not the place from which the electricians' work is administered.

This nit-picking only strengthened the solidarity of the strikers against intimidation, which included an incorrect official departmental circular stating that it was an unofficial strike.

## WE'RE WORTH 12%

The TUC Health Services Committee has called for workplace meetings in working time throughout the National Health Service on Wednesday April 14th at 2.30pm. This is to be the first shot in the pay campaign for our demand for a 12% rise.

The one-hour stoppage and mass meetings must be used to show all health workers their power and unity in action, and to warn

the government that we mean action to end low pay.

However the ambiguity of the call from the top threatens to undermine the potential success of this action. If the union leaders mean a one-hour strike, they should call it such. If they mean nurses to join with other health services workers by taking part in the stoppage, then they should say so.

Joint shop stewards com-

mittees must be set up at a local level to organise this action and any other arising out of this dispute. Speakers at the meetings should make clear the insulting offers made so far.

The present 6.4% offer means only £2.17 after tax for a qualified staff nurse, whilst lodging charges are to go up by £1.20 to £5.83 a week!

The government says nurses are a special case but

they can't think we're very special with a lousy offer like this. And 4% remains the limit for nearly all other health service workers. We must remain united and use April 14th at the rallying point to win the full 12% claim.

By Alistair Tice  
(Chairman NUPE  
Hull  
Royal Infirmary)



## DUMP TEBBIT'S BILL

By Wayne Jones

An important victory for united action was scored at Wembley on 5 April.

Virtually unanimous agreement was reached by TUC affiliated unions on the TUC's eight point plan to defeat Tebbit's anti-union Bill. Only the teachers and actors voted against some clauses in the TUC's recommendations.

The conference, representing 11 million trade unionists, agreed to campaign amongst union members 'to highlight the dangers in the Bill', not to hold or participate in secret ballots on closed shops, and not take money for union ballots.

They also empowered the TUC to co-ordinate and call action against the Bill to boycott government organised tribunals on closed shops and levy 10p per member to establish a Campaign and Defence Fund.

Arthur Scargill, the Miners leader, set the tone, committing the movement to fight. He pointed out the class nature of the Bill, and

that it was 'the crisis of capitalism that lay behind its attempt to smash the trade unions.'

"If any union is threatened, reliance on the law would be insufficient". Direct action including 'industrial strike action was the only way to defend our movement and our class'.

Furthermore, answering in advance some faint-hearted, he called on conference to defy the Bill and the law saying 'We would have no rights today without breaking the law.'

These points clearly answered Eric Hammond of the EETPU who provoked delegates' derision by claiming that it was not the massive pressure of rank and file trade union action, that led to the defeat of the Tory Industrial Relations Act (IR Act) but the Labour government's repeal when it got back into office!

The Labour government, in reality, merely ratified constitutionally the truth

that action from below had made the IR Act a dead letter.

The trade union movement is potentially the most powerful force in society.

True, membership has fallen in some unions, although not all, because of mass unemployment, but even one single union can halt the government in its tracks if it is determined. ASLEF did that—literally!

Workers do not shun the fight against cuts, closures and low wages deals but they feel they cannot win in isolation. There is bitter hatred and anger at Tory policies.

If this was channelled into well-planned co-ordinated national all out action the Tories could be smashed. This above all is the lesson of the ASLEF strike, which the *Sunday Telegraph* 21/2/82 called 'one of the biggest victories for trade union power since the miners clash with Edward Heath'.

It was solidarity on a national basis flowing from resolute leadership that led to ASLEF's victory. The

TUC Campaign must ensure that every single factory, workplace and office is aware of the nature of the Bill and of the TUC's determination to stop it becoming law.

Trades councils should organise an extensive programme of public meetings, demos, rallies and local conferences with lively propaganda spelling out the dangers of the Bill and mobilising workers to fight back.

£900,000 has already been collected in the "fighting fund" which as Moss Evans stated "must be to campaign not to pay damages for damages for compensation."

With the mandate and the wherewithal to fight, the campaign should lead up to a one day general strike and a massive demo including a mass lobby of parliament on a working day.

Tory ministers must be left in no doubt as to the intention of the working class to dump them and their anti-union policies where they belong—the dustbin of history.

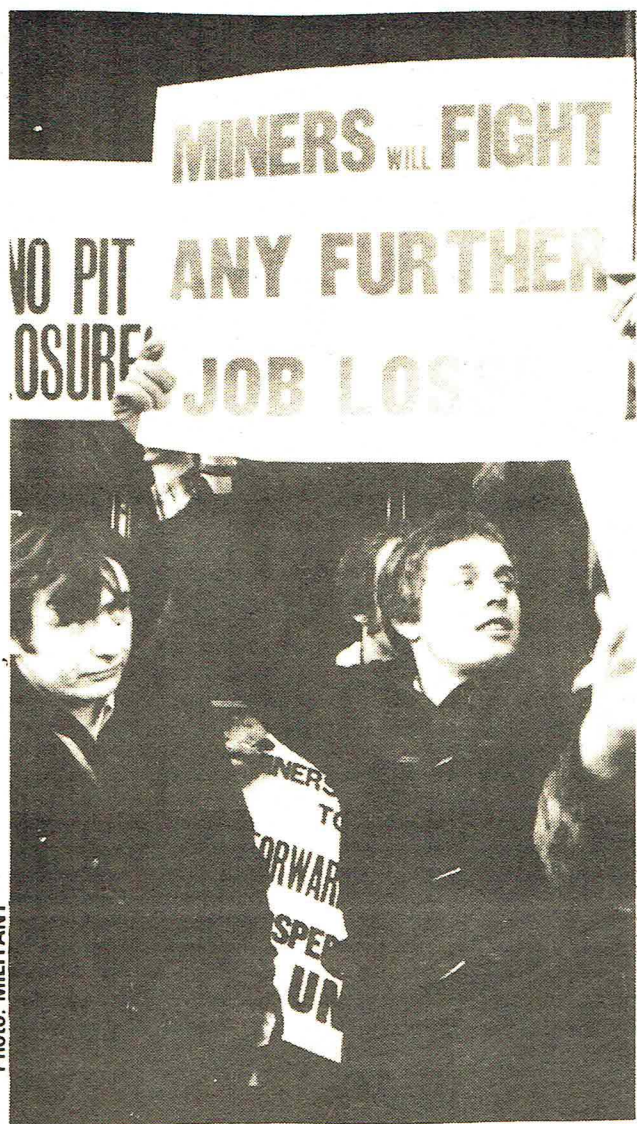
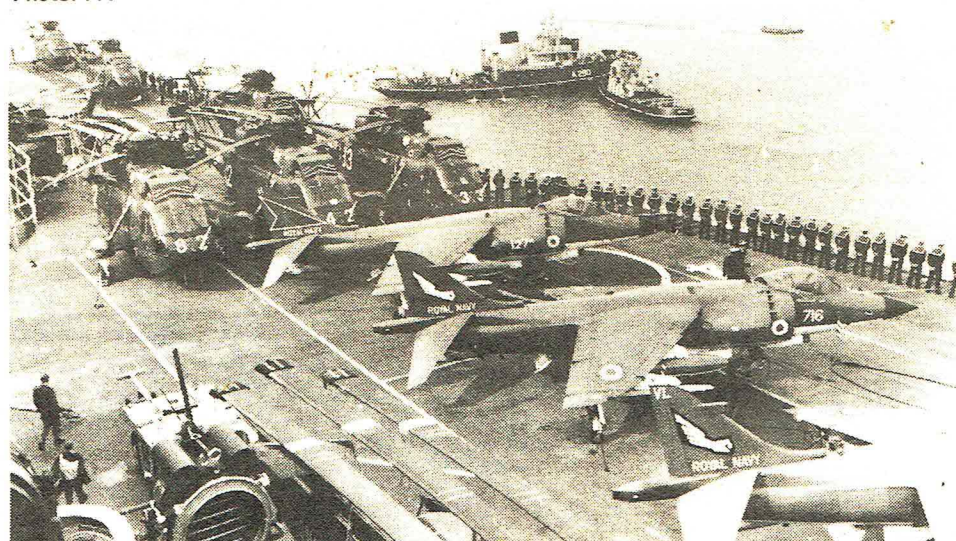


Photo: MILITANT

The unions must fight for their right to fight for their members

Photo: PA



HMS Hermes in Portsmouth, 5 April

### FALKLANDS CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

Islands has already brought the resignations of Carrington, Atkins, and Luce in the Foreign Office. Retreat before Argentina now would mean the end of Thatcher's government.

Taking on the Junta militarily, however, also opens up a sea of problems as wide as the Atlantic itself.

A war with Argentina might be popular at first, but would place enormous strains on the Tory government, further aggravating the underlying crisis of British capitalism.

President Reagan will undoubtedly intervene, trying to find a compromise. He neither wants the downfall of Thatcher, nor the overthrow of the Junta, one of US imperialism's staunchest allies in Latin America. But whatever the pressure from the US government, there is no guarantee that either side will listen.

The power and prestige of British capitalism on the world arena is at stake. Under the wing of American imperialism, Bri-

tain has equipped itself with nuclear weapons and has tried to maintain its role as a great power. But in reality British capitalism long ago lost its pre-eminent position.

The British ruling class has lost control of colony after colony, of one tiny territory after another. The Falklands is the last straw. If British capitalism bows to Argentinian might, British power will lose all credibility internationally.

Suddenly, therefore, the Tories have discovered that Argentina is a "fascist" dictatorship.

Before, British capitalism was only too pleased to provide warships and weapons to the Junta's army and navy.

The City of London was only too pleased to do business with the Junta and its big-business allies.

With the same breathtaking hypocrisy, the Tories have also just discovered the right of the Falkland Islanders to democracy and self-determination. The labour movement has always supported the right of people like the Falkland Islanders to decide their

own future. But what have the Tories or their big-business friends ever done for the Islanders?

The Falklands have really been company islands, with an undemocratic, almost feudal structure. Only recently, the Islanders found out that, after various secret deals, the Falkland Islands Company is now owned by Coalite, based in Bolsover, Derbyshire. On retirement, many of the Islanders are forced to get out of their tied cottages and retire to New Zealand or elsewhere.

Successive British governments have spent next to nothing on developing the Islands, or even on basic education and health facilities. It has even been revealed by the press that the Foreign Office recently drew up a secret plan to buy the Islanders out for £7 million, to clear the way for a deal with Argentina.

Now it's going to cost infinitely more to re-capture these neglected islands, the small change of Britain's colonial past.

In the next two weeks, as the task force ploughs its 8,000 mile furrow across the

ocean, the press and television will try to whip up a patriotic war-fever to support the Tories military adventure.

Many people may well be swept along with such a mood in the beginning, especially as it would be a battle against a dictatorship which uses barbaric fascist methods.

But the labour movement must not allow itself to be knocked off balance. The crimes of the Junta, and the accidental blundering which led to the conflict, must not be allowed to obscure the real motives of our own ruling class.

As always—and especially on a fundamental question of war!—British big business and its Tory representatives will be taking action strictly in pursuit of their own class aims. The labour movement must reject capitalist aims and act on its own, independent policy.

Ultimately, the only action which can in any real way help the Falkland Islanders is international class action against the Junta. It is not excluded that Thatcher will float the idea of a trade boycott through the United Nations, the EEC, and other international capitalist bodies.

The labour movement should give no support to such a policy, which would be based on purely capitalist sanctions against a regime which they have belatedly found to be unacceptably "fascist". The utter hypocrisy of the Tories is underlined by the reported offer from Pinochet to grant harbour facilities to British warships—a friendly favour from Chile's bloody dictatorship for the Thatcher government's approval of their arms purchases from Britain.

Nevertheless, the labour movement has a duty to

take action in support of the Falkland Islanders and the Argentinian working class. We must support the struggle to bring down the Junta, overthrow Argentina's rotten landlord-capitalist ruling class, and establish socialism in Argentina.

This would be a giant step towards a Socialist Federation of Latin America, from which the Falkland Islanders would have

nothing to fear—and everything to gain!

The British labour movement must take the initiative in calling for the blacking of all trade with Argentina, calling on the labour movement internationally for support.

The future of the 1,800 Islanders depends, not on the Tories, or on the British ruling class, but on the action of the Argentinian and the world's working class.

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