

# Militant

South African  
emergency

See page 11



The Marxist Paper for Labour and Youth

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# Support South African miners



*AS I WAS SAYING ONLY THE OTHER DAY  
REFORMS ARE OVERDUE*

**THE EXPLOSION** of anger and opposition in South Africa has rocked Botha's monstrous apartheid regime.

By R Marker

Black workers have shown enormous determination and courage in the fight for basic human rights in the face of a murderous apparatus of state repression.

The key development for South African workers has been the formation and struggle of black trade unions.

This month a major test of strength will take place between the government and the 240,000-strong SA National Union of Mineworkers.

At a special conference of the NUM on 3 August, 450 voting delegates, acclaimed by 12,000 non-voting delegates, representing most of the gold and coal mines, voted for strike action from 25 August. This is in support of their claim for an across-the-board 22 per cent wage increase, and acceptance of May Day as a workers' holiday.

It was also resolved to boycott white businesses in protest against the state of emergency.

The miners were also incensed by Botha's threat to repatriate foreign workers if international sanctions are

**SOUTH AFRICAN NUM** general secretary, Cyril Ramaphosa, has issued a statement, extracts of which are below:

"The South African National Union of Mineworkers welcomes the growing support from the international labour movement for the black workers of South Africa. This support will be decisive in our struggle with the mineowners.

"Our problems of low pay and exploitation are problems faced by workers throughout the world, indeed in many cases we have the same international employer. So our struggle is a common one, for freedom, for democracy and for socialism . . ."

"Donations for our strike fund are very welcome . . ."

imposed on SA.

"Many delegates", according to the Johannesburg Star, "said the strike should be implemented as soon as possible, even today".

The decision was for 24-hour stoppages, with maximum disruptive effect, from 25 August, and an all-out strike should Botha implement his threat.

The mining bosses and the government are terrified by the strike, both because it threatens their power to im-

pose cheap labour conditions, and because it is a rallying point against the state of emergency.

The mineowners are moaning, despite making record profits even in SA's economic recession, that the workers' demands would represent "intolerable" wage increases. But NUM General Secretary Cyril Ramaphosa responds: "We are tired of the Chamber's arrogant at-

Continued on back page

Leon Trotsky commemoration meeting

Tuesday 20 August, 7.30pm

Hear: Ted Grant

At: Conway Hall,  
Red Lion Square,  
London WC1  
(Nearest Tube: Holborn)

Admission: 50p

"Life is beautiful,  
let the future  
generations cleanse  
it of all evil,  
oppression, and  
violence and enjoy it  
to the full."

Leon Trotsky  
February 1940

**LEON TROTSKY**, co-leader with Lenin of the Russian revolution fought a tremendous battle against the Stalinist degeneration of the world's first workers' state. This meeting honours the memory of a great Marxist and reaffirms the socialist ideals for today's struggles.

# Buthelezi responsible for Durban killings

THE TERRIBLE violence which broke out between Africans and Indians in Durban from 8 August resulted from the racial divisions imposed by apartheid and enshrined in the new constitution.

Indians are given certain business and political privileges denied to the Africans, to act as a "buffer" between white and black. In this case the tide of nationwide resistance burst out against this "buffer".

Attacks on Indian people, and particularly on the Phoenix Settlement mark an undoubted setback to the struggle to crush apartheid and capitalism. However, what was initially involved here was an explosion of class anger, diverted and hijacked along chauvinist lines by the mafia-like Zulu tribal Inkatha movement of Chief Buthelezi.

The trigger to the violence was the murder of Victoria Mxenge, a lawyer defending

leaders of the United Democratic Front on trial for treason, at the hands of a Latin American-style death squad.

The original outburst was directed—as in other townships—against government buildings, and the shops and homes of suspected "collaborators", African and Indian alike.

But lumpen Inkatha gangs attacked the UDF-organised memorial service for Mxenge, and may well have been the provocateurs to fan the reactionary fires of inter-ethnic tension. This in turn, has evoked an echo among Indians for the reactionary anti-African rantings of the middle-class elite.

It is ironic that Buthelezi is billed internationally by the capitalist media as the black mass leader who supports "non-violent" change. In reality Buthelezi rules over Natal Africans through the apartheid machinery of

the Kwazulu Bantustan and by the murder and violence of lumpen Inkatha gangs.

On many occasions these have been used against African youth who oppose his defence of capitalism and compromises with the regime. He has recently issued similar threats to the UDF, which has a lot of Indian support in Natal. Periodically in the past, moreover, he has launched demagogic attacks on Indian radicals and threatened a bloodbath for the Indian people.

The regime has used this "peace" created by Buthelezi to inflame matters by, for example, removing Africans from some areas to make room for Coloureds and Indians. Durban is now a massive urban sprawl of squatter camps of young unemployed and these desperate social conditions are a tinderbox to the demagogues.

At the same time, the union movement in

Natal has been the instrument for building class unity between African and Indian workers. Over the recent period, Natal, like other parts of the country, has experienced a number of protracted strikes. At present there is the BTR dispute in Howick (see past issues of *Militant*), which mobilised a successful general strike in Maritzburg on 18 July.

The unions now have an awesome responsibility for dowsing the flames of hatred, for organising trade union defence units to protect the homes and lives of workers and small traders, and for providing the bedrock for combatting the pernicious influence of Buthelezi around a class programme for democracy and socialism.

# Notts breakaway leaders run scared

IT IS clear from a letter sent out by Roy Lynk, leader of the breakaway Notts union (see opposite), that Notts officials are doing everything they can to sabotage the 'Keep Notts National' campaign.

The letter shows stunning evidence that Lynk and his supporters have no interest in upholding democratic practices, but only in defending their own careers. Members cannot discuss the NUM's arguments because the Notts officials are scared of a debate which they will not win.

Roy Lynk declined to share a platform with Ray Chadburn and Arthur Scargill at the meeting organised by Notts Women Against Pit Closures in the mining town of Sutton. Most welfare will not allow such meetings. Any branch official or committee man who campaigns for the national union is liable to find himself suspended from office. Two former officials from Creswell have been suspended for two years for just that.

Despite these dictatorial measures the campaign for a united national union is continuing—through discussions on the ground, leaflets, the *Notts Collier* and open meetings. Over 200 attended a meeting at Bolsover, 100 at Cotgrave and 400 at Sutton.

Many were ex-strikers, but some worked during the strike.

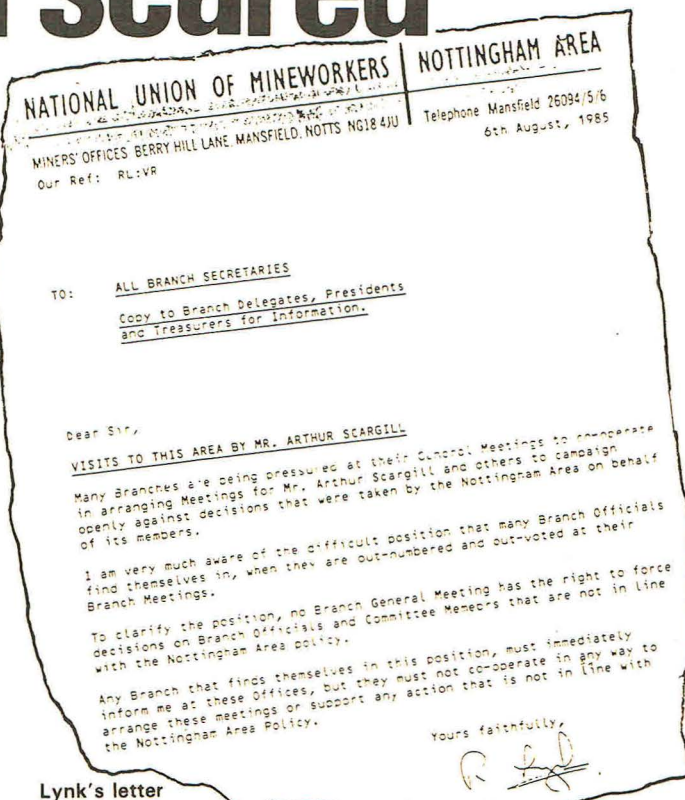
As Ray Chadburn put it: "We are all working now. The question is whether we have one union, whether we stay that way and fight closures, redundancies and privatisation". These are the issues facing Notts miners.

For a number of years the board have planned to close many South Notts pits. Pyehill and Moorgrieve have just closed this year. Pits like Blidworth and Sutton in the North are also under threat. The strategy is to leave a few 'super-pits' which will get the investment and higher wages.

MacGregor has recently talked of miners earning £27,500 a year, but he and Thatcher are ardent supporters of privatisation and anti-union. That is the long-term plan—sell off the profitable pits and destroy the union. Then what price wages and conditions?

This is the road Lynk and Prendergast apparently want to go down. It is reported that they have had secret talks with Ian MacGregor, James Cowan and Michael Eaton from the NCB and government minister James Hunt.

A ballot is planned for September. One option for the champions of a breakaway is to change the Notts area rules, but they are doubtful whether they will



Lynk's letter

get the necessary two-thirds majority.

Despite the harassment and threats of victimisation, NUM men are putting the truth across to the men at the pits. Slowly the message is getting through. Any miners in other coalfields who think there is unanimous support for a breakaway in Notts and are thinking of going along with it, should think again.

Rank and file trade unionists and Labour Party members must show they

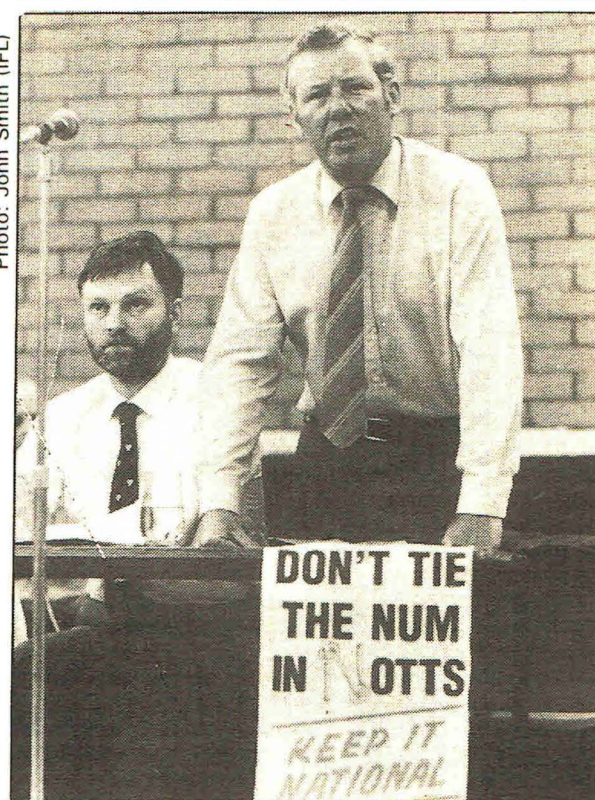
won't have anything to do with a breakaway. Already the Notts Trades Council and several local Labour Parties have said they won't recognise any breakaway union.

A victory for the NUM would be a victory for the industry, the miners and their families and trade unionism. It would be a devastating blow to the NCB and the Tories.

By Chris Ridge

## Keep Notts National Campaign

Photo: John Smith (IFL)



Ray Chadburn, speaking at 'Keep Notts National' meeting in Cotgrave.

THE COAL Board are doing everything possible to encourage a breakaway union in the Nottingham Area and prevent the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) from keeping its position in the area.

Paul Kilakowski, Sutton NUM explains how they have attempted to prevent the National Union distributing literature and campaigning in Notts:

I went to the pit for the afternoon shift with two women from the Ashfield Women's Support Group. The security man immediately cleared us off the premises and took all the copies of the *Notts Collier* (paper of those supporting the National Union). When I asked him what he was doing he said it was 'management's orders'.

So I went across to the

manager's office, but he probably saw me coming, because the 'wait' sign came on when I got to the door. Then I collared the branch president and secretary who said that if it was left to him I could give them out, but it was NCB policy to have no literature on the premises.

I asked what was happening about the *Notts Miner* (paper of the breakaway union) and literature from the area executive, to which he just shrugged his shoulders. I asked him again if he was going to do anything about it, but he just answered that it was Coal Board policy. So I said: 'If that's your type of democracy, you can keep it'.

I have heard that at Ollerton and Harworth men have been threatened with the sack for being seen distributing the *Notts Collier*, because it is not an 'official union paper.'

## Kent festival

FOR THE second year running the 'Mines not Missiles' festival is to be staged in Aylesham, Kent. Last year £6,000 was raised for the Kent NUM hardship fund and the event attracted thousands of visitors.

This year it has been extended to three days and will feature the themes of peace and solidarity, with speakers from the peace and labour movements. There will also be music, theatre, exhibitions and a fair.

The festival will take place at the Snowdown Welfare Club grounds from 24-26 August. Enquiries to Roger Gates. Phone: Canterbury 459676.

By Shelia Hudson  
(Barnsley LPYS)

# Women against pit closures

THE FIRST conference on Saturday 17 August of the National Organisation of Women Against Pit Closures and the miners' wives support groups is a welcome if overdue event.

It is a testimony to the determination of the miners' wives to defend their communities.

About 1,500 delegates will be present with 500 visitors. The women's support groups were an inspiration to women and men up and down the country. Women in the mining communities showed they were capable as any other section of the movement of getting organised and fighting for

their future. It was their organisation that sustained the year-long strike.

Other workers and their families when they move into action against the Tories have much to learn from the miners' wives, such as in collecting money, organising food distribution and building support. For example, in the struggle for Liverpool City Council against the Tories, a Councillors' Families Support Group has been set up. It would be a great opportunity for the Liverpool group if they were invited to address the miners' wives' conference, with delegates returning and inviting speakers to their

areas—not only to support the case for Liverpool council, but for the council support group to learn how the miners' wives organised in their year-long strike.

The conference will be addressed by leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers, and there will be reports from all the areas. However, given the conference is only for one day, time will be limited. There will be little time for speakers from the floor with in-depth discussions on the lessons of the strike or on such issues as how best to return the support given to the miners by the South African NUM, who are about to enter into

a bitter struggle with the brutal apartheid regime. Nor is there time for deciding what form and constitution the conference should take in the future.

Even so the Saturday conference will infuriate the Tories. Far from being cowed and subjugated, the size of the conference alone shows that the mining communities—both the miners and their wives and families—are determined they will defend their future.

# No cuts in Liverpool

**FIVE HUNDRED shop stewards heard Liverpool Council leaders confirm that under no circumstances would they implement cuts in jobs or services.**

At this stage the responsibility of the council is to use the existing finances and to mount a political campaign to mobilise support amongst other workers. There is no intention to introduce any hidden cuts and business is being conducted as usual.

Despite some press reports the banks are continuing to finance the borrowing of Liverpool City Council. The refusal of the public works loan board to renew loans does not radically effect the city's position at this stage. All vacancies are being filled. Services are being provided in line with past policies although changes have been made to the normal financial procedure.

The councillors are authorising all orders which are being placed and reviewed on a monthly basis, but the monthly spending is at the level of £255 million on an annual basis. Spending at this level will mean that the council will probably run out of money around November.

The change has obviously led to some problems—rumours of cuts are rife, partly fuelled by officers, anti-Labour elements and the press. The council spending has to take account of maximising the payments of wages and the continuation for as long as possible of council services to protect the elderly, handicapped and young children.

With the agreement of the unions it has been agreed that emergency and essential services will be maintained—if necessary on a voluntary basis in the event of money running out. The council has created an emergency committee

together with the executive of the joint shop stewards committee to regularly review the situation. All steps are being taken in conjunction with the unions.

Some suggestions have already arisen that the council could capitalise and use the funds for day to day spending. This could only be done if the capital programme was cut.

The Labour council has honoured an electoral commitment by building houses and creating 10,000 jobs in the private sector. At a time when the council is asking for united support from workers in the private sector it would be suicidal to adopt a course which would threaten this programme. That is why Liverpool City Council has totally ruled it out. The only solution is for the Tories to provide £30 million and withdraw penalties.

By Dave Cotterill

## Support for council

**THE LATEST round of public meetings to explain Liverpool City Council's case were a great success, particularly in Broadgreen.**

Two well-attended meetings in Kensington and Old Swan demonstrated the support of local people for the council's fight for more resources for Liverpool. Questions from the audience showed no disagreements with the policies of the council, but instead concentrated on what tactics Liverpool would need to adopt in order to ensure victory over the Tories.

At the meeting in Old Swan, attended by nearly 150 people, Terry Fields

received warm applause when he said this year's campaign against the government was only one battle in the class war and that socialism presented the only possible solution to the problems of Liverpool.

Kathy Lloyd, wife of Cllr Peter Lloyd, explained why the partners of the city councillors had formed a Family Support Group. This group would play the same vital role in the struggle in Liverpool as the miners' wives groups had done during the pit strike.

But the warmest applause of the events was reserved for an elderly woman who spoke from the audience. She admitted that she was nervous of speaking and

thought she would probably be strung up because she was owning up to having a been a life-long Tory voter.

However, she was so appalled at what she could see happening to Liverpool under the Tories that now she strongly supported the city council and wished them the best of luck in their campaign.

All over the City the same story is being repeated—packed public meetings, giving full support to the city council and even converts amongst the Tories and Liberals, who are heartened by the prospect of Liverpool fighting back.

By Fiona Winders

## National conference called

**A CONFERENCE organised by the Merseyside trade union and labour movement campaign committee has been called to discuss the threats to local authorities and work out a strategy to beat Tories' plans to reduce spending on local jobs and services.**

The conference, which is to be held at Central Hall, Liverpool, on Saturday 21 September, aims to bring together

trade union and labour movement organisations from all parts of the country concerned with defending local authorities.

Make sure your organisation is represented—get your trade union branch, shop steward's committee, Labour Party branch or LPYS branch send delegates.

## Southwark youth festival

THOUSANDS OF young people are expected at Southwark council's first youth information festival at Southwark Park.

The Labour council has organised the festival with the help of the Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign. The festival, on Saturday 1 September, will feature bands, entertainers and stalls from Southwark council and other organisations funded by the council giving information on recruitment and training. Youth organisations, trade unions

and tenants and voluntary organisations will also be there.

Southwark Council deputy leader John Bryan told *Militant*: "I hope all local working class youth turn up to this event."

"The council is the largest employer of young people and the largest training body in the borough. We do proper apprenticeships and send young employees to college. The government is doing nothing. Youth have more chance of a sniff of glue than a sniff of a job around here.

"It's important that youth come along and see what is available to meet organisations like YTURC who are fighting for youth and get stuck in."

Artists appearing at the festival include the Faith brothers, Mikey General, Big Sound Authority, Gary Crowley and the Rage.

Southwark Youth Festival, Southwark Park, 1 September 2pm-5pm. For more information contact 703 1718 or 1747.



**THE BROADCASTING services of Britain were crippled in an unprecedented fashion by the the protest strike last Wednesday.**

The NUJ action over the banning of the BBC documentary *Real Lives* won more support than any other previous calls for industrial action. It rocked management and the governors at the BBC. Staff in ITV and in other media-related unions took unofficial action in support.

Amidst the action and the subsequent criticism of the Tory government, the Director General of the BBC announced that the offending programme would be shown at a later

date, after alterations.

Government censorship is not something new at the BBC. In 1926 the general secretary was the future Lord Reith who wrote parts of Stanley Baldwin's speeches to the nation.

These were broadcast by the BBC during the general strike, while the Labour leadership were refused any opportunity at all. Since 1959 some 48 BBC and ITV programmes on Ireland have been banned or otherwise doctored.

By a media worker

## Drugs epidemic—councils act

**CROXTETH'S drug abuse epidemic is in the news, but it is not the only area of Liverpool affected. Local people, community groups, the city and county councils are all taking action.**

A federation of community groups in Croxteth met last week and agreed on a statement which included complimenting the city council and county council on the initiatives that they have taken in the area.

The statement also called on the government to supply funds to the city and county council to continue and expand the work and the services in the area, for example, to extend the housing programme.

The city council is due to open a sports complex in Croxteth in September. Increased funds have been given for the housing pro-

## Mirror's lies answered

gramme, which involves the renovation of houses and new building. The council have set up a community school.

The city council have provided the cash and the county council provided the building and seconded a social worker to assist a drug users' help group called 'Shadows'. The council have also employed a Drugs Liaison Officer and plan to ensure that support is provided for the drug parents' support group.

The two councils have funded joint projects like 'Theatrix' which goes around to youth clubs and schools and, in a play form provokes a discussion on the question of drugs.

Part of the city council's education programme will be

to have one teacher in every community and other secondary schools who has been trained on the question of drug abuse. These teachers will have the power to refer pupils to other agencies where necessary. Within the schools curriculum, training is going to be provided for the school students on the question of drug abuse. The council is hoping to extend these initiatives to the Further Education sector.

Youth workers are to be trained on dealing with the drugs question and there is a drugs unit in the Liverpool Unemployed Centre which provides information, training and research funded by the county council.

By Anne Beales

## How the young get hooked

**MARGARET from Croxteth has a son of 17 who has been an addict for between 12 and 24 months.**

He worked once for seven months.

The first three months of the job he stayed in every evening and was fine. Then he started to go out and became hooked again, and left his job. At the moment he is off 'smack' but that is because for months he has not set foot outside his front door.

Margaret says: "There is no way a 17 year old can live like this". She understands that as soon as he goes out of the house again he will inevitably go back on to the drugs. Margaret explained: "The commonest thing that the young say is that coming off 'smack' isn't their problem: it is staying off. What else is there for us to do?"

Margaret says: "I reckon that there are two to three users in every street in the area now". She pointed out that users are not really welcome in youth clubs, and most, if not all of them are

unemployed and therefore they hang around all day in each other's company and that is why they carry on using.

Margaret also says that you can see where the pushers live on the estate. Their houses look like palaces. A friend of Margaret's knows two housewives who clubbed together to set up as pushers.

A common method used on the estates now is to pay the user with the drug and then get them to sell the drugs on the street so the

pushers are at no risk. And when dealing takes place from a house the police cannot always bust them. First of all, money has to be changing hands, drugs have to be in there and people have to be in there. The places where the drugs are bought from are like fortresses. The 'gear' is sold in and out through the letter box at certain times during the day and if they should be busted, then by the time the police get in the 'gear' is all gone down the loo.



### Militant Third National Rally

**21<sup>st</sup> Birthday celebration  
Sunday 3 November, 1985  
Royal Albert Hall**

**Speakers include: Jack Collins (Kent NUM)  
Peter Taaffe Ted Grant Harry De Boer**

**All tickets £3 (Cheques to "Militant Rally")  
('Crèche available, but places must be booked)**

## Trotsky's ideas live on

LEON TROTSKY'S assassination forty-five years ago this week was a vain attempt to suppress the political ideas he represented, the tradition of genuine Marxism.

The penetrators of his murder, the Russian Stalinist bureaucracy, which usurped power after Lenin's death, are no less determined today to stamp out those ideas to defend their positions and privileges. The Communist Party of the Soviet Union, except for its name, has long since abandoned any living connection with the Russian Revolution, and is today, as at the time of Trotsky's death, merely an appendage of that monstrous parasitic caste.

Lenin laid down four basic conditions for the maintenance of workers' democracy after the revolution: that all officials be elected and subject to recall; that officials receive the average wage of skilled workers; that official functions should be regularly rotated to prevent a bureaucracy taking root; and that there should be no standing army but the armed people. Today, almost seventy years after the revolution, not one of Lenin's conditions applies in Russia.

Trotsky's 'crime' as far as the bureaucracy was concerned was to correctly analyse the reactionary role it played, and then to raise the banner of *political revolu-*

*tion*, to restore the genuine workers' democracy and internationalism upon which the October Revolution were based.

Even the economic development of the USSR in the recent period has emphasised the debilitating role of the bureaucracy. In the past period the economy moved ahead, despite the waste and mismanagement of the bureaucracy, at a greater rate than the capitalist economies. Now even that is no longer true.

Economic development is grinding to a halt so that in the past ten years even the USA has increased production at a greater rate than the USSR. The bureaucracy, has changed from being a *relative* fetter on society to an *absolute* fetter.

The Stalinist bureaucracy is organically incapable of playing any progressive role, either domestically or internationally. Its foreign policy is determined by its narrow, nationalist self-interest with no perspective of the extension of socialist ideas around the world.

The advice currently being given by Moscow to the Sandinista government in Nicaragua is not to continue the revolution through to its logical conclusion—the expropriation of capitalism and the formation of a planned economy—but the preservation of Nicaraguan capitalism. This is in order not to upset relations with America.

Where there have been revolutionary movements in the past fifty years, even in the ex-colonial world, they have taken place against the wishes of the local Moscow-orientated 'Communist' Party. Thus in Cuba, before the revolution, the CP actually supported the rotten Batista regime. Today in the Phillipines the Moscow-line CP sup-

port the corrupt President Marcos.

Even where the Communist Parties have moved away from the direct influence of Moscow, they have done so with the most shameful dishonesty, without analysis, criticism or understanding of the bloody past of Stalinism. No less than the traditional Stalinists, the modern 'Eurocommunists' have abandoned any serious struggle for socialist ideas, taking up pseudo-liberal ideas out of embarrassment for words like 'class' and 'socialism'.

The present day leadership of the Communist Party in Britain, for example, would be comfortably at home on the right-wing of the Labour Party, sharing the same loathing for genuine Marxism and open debate of ideas. Eurocommunism is no more than Fabianism dressed up in the stolen clothes of the October Revolution.

But what both shades of Stalinism still share is a common hatred of genuine Marxism and a determination to stifle discussion of any views opposed to their own. In the Labour Party and trade unions today Marxists have to fight against Stalinist methods of witch-hunts and suppression of ideas.

But ideas that correspond to the objective needs of the working class cannot be suppressed. Trotsky was killed 45 years ago, but his ideas are stronger now and more relevant than at any time in the past.

The best possible tribute Marxists can pay to the enormous contribution made by Trotsky to the storehouse of socialist theory would be to show the same determination and courage as he showed in the fight for the propagation of socialist ideas and the struggle for a new society.

# Fair hearing blocked for expelled member

**THE DOUBLE standards of Labour's right wing were revealed at the last meeting of the Newcastle-under-Lyme party's general management committee.**

It was decided, by 31 votes to 13, that party branches in the constituency should not invite Dugald McKinnon to their ward meetings to allow him to present his case against expulsion from the party.

The general committee also discussed the outcome of his appeal against expulsion last month. On legal advice McKinnon refused to take part in the procedure, but presented the representative of the National Executive Committee with a letter pointing out that Newcastle's decision was invalid because of constitutional irregularities and in-

venting the party to reconsider the case.

Llin Golding, president of the Newcastle Labour Party, said that as far as they were concerned there was no appeal, that the case was closed and that she was unaware of any irregularities in the party's conduct.

### Not advised

The decision to bar McKinnon from presenting his case to rank and file Labour Party members has prevented him from pointing out that no written allegations were made prior to the constituency party's decision not to accept his transfer from Ayr Labour Party. This is contrary to advice from David Hughes, the party's National Agent. The only written allegation that he was a 'member of the *Militant* tendency' was made five

weeks after the expulsion.

Complaints that it was not made clear what inconsistencies there were in the constituency party's conduct, combined with moves to stop him from explaining to ordinary party members about these inconsistencies, are typical of the right wing's disregard for free speech and democracy.

Already one invitation to speak from the Audley and District Ward has had to be withdrawn. Dugald McKinnon is adamant that this will not be the end of the matter: "Far from it! I will take legal action to secure the justice I have been denied in the Labour Party. Bureaucratic attempts to stifle debate only make me more determined to regain entry to the Labour Party to fight for the ideas of Marxism."

By a Militant reporter



Photo: Dave Sinclair

Selling *Militant* at last year's Labour Party conference. Right-wing Labour Partys have bent the rules made by conference endeavouring to ban all sales of *Militant*.

## Sheffield campaign in full swing

THE DEFEND *Militant* Supporters Campaign, set up to oppose the attempts to expel *Militant* supporters in Attercliffe Labour Party, Sheffield, is now in full swing.

Resolutions and letters of protest are coming in from Labour Parties and trade unions from inside and outside Sheffield.

Three NUM branches, Houghton Main, Darfield Main and Treeton have passed resolutions which will go to Attercliffe constituency Labour Party and to the Yorkshire Area Council of the NUM. TASS divisional council have not only passed a resolution but are demanding a re-run of the selection conference for Attercliffe's MP, Pat Duffy, as they had received no notification of the conference.

On the doorstep the overwhelming response has been for unity against the Tories and opposition to the expulsions. In the Woodhouse area 86 papers were sold and many promised to come to the campaign meeting.

At the first campaign meeting last week in Mossborough there were several pledges to help in the activities. £17 was raised for campaign funds.

The right wing were answered earlier in the week by Mossborough ward branch who refused to recognise the expulsions and will continue to allow their four expelled members to participate in meetings. The right are under increasing pressure to drop the expulsions and it would be in the interests of all if they stopped now. Nevertheless the campaign will continue as long as it is necessary and will rebuild the Attercliffe party from this battle. Resolutions and letters of protest should go to Rob Murray, Secretary, Attercliffe CLP, 102 Handsworth Road, Sheffield 9.

By Alan Anderton

## No to bar

PENARTH LABOUR Party Women's Section has unanimously decided to submit two resolutions to the Cardiff South and Penarth General Management Committee supporting *Militant* supporter Chris Peace, barred from taking his seat on the Regional Executive Committee.

One of the resolutions deploras the debarring of Peace and the other expresses support for unity in the party and concern at the threat to *Militant* supporters in the constituency.

The Vale of Glamorgan Constituency Labour Party has also unanimously backed a resolution opposing the debarring of Peace from the regional executive at their general management committee meeting on 31 July.

# Party branch investigation foiled

THE EXECUTIVE Committee of the Isle of Wight Constituency Labour Party has been defeated in a move to investigate the Sandown, Shanklin and District branch.

This was evidently an attempt to stiffen disciplinary action being proposed against three *Militant* supporters.

The decision to investigate the branch was taken on the grounds that members were not properly informed of meetings and that thereby the branch was being run unconstitutionally.

To head-off what was seen as a blatant manoeuvre by the executive, the branch secretary circulated a letter describing the EC's actions and calling the members to

a special meeting to discuss the work of the officers and the future of the branch.

The meeting gave the officers a unanimous vote of confidence and passed a resolution based upon a letter of protest that a party member had written to the constituency party secretary. During the discussion it became clear that these tactics, designed to clamp down on opposition, had backfired and steered many of the branch members for a political fight.

As a result of this meeting together with letters, phone calls and visits to the party secretary from angry branch members, the decision to investigate the branch was dropped at the next meeting of the General Management Committee.

If a majority of the Ex-

ecutive Committee have turned their backs on fighting for socialism, the Sandown, Shanklin and District Branch has not and we shall struggle to the last to bring the constituency party back on to its original course.

By Vic Dale  
 (Secretary SSDLP,  
 personal capacity)

● ROBERT JONES, the secretary of the Isle of Wight Labour Party, where three *Militant* supporters are facing disciplinary charges, has written to Faversham Labour Party congratulating the party's moves to expel *Militant* supporters.

"As one who is under the most vicious and contempti-

# NUM back Chris Peace

IN WALES there is mounting anger at the exclusion of a member of the Labour Party Wales Executive Committee.

The South Wales National Union of Mineworkers executive council have "unanimously declared their full support on behalf of the South Wales miners behind Chris Peace" and "will do everything possible to see that those within the establishment who are doing a disservice to the Labour Party will be made accountable for their actions and scurrilous statements."

George Wright, regional secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union, spearheaded the

move to expel *Militant* supporter Chris Peace from the committee, to which he was elected top of the poll in the South Wales constituency section.

David Hughes, the Labour Party National Agent, has ruled that the action taken against Chris Peace was unconstitutional. There is growing resentment at the way in which Wright blatantly disregards both the Labour Party constitution and the policy of his own union which is opposed to witch-hunts, bans and proscriptions in the Labour Party.

Chris Peace's own constituency, Cardiff North, have sent an amendment to this

year's Labour Party conference "opposing expulsions by the back door, such as the exclusion of duly nominated and elected delegates on bodies of the Labour Party".

## McCarthyite

In particular, they are furious at the secret, McCarthyite witch-hunting report that Wright has produced demanding that the Labour Party National Executive Committee expel Chris Peace from the Labour Party, because his constituency party will not do so.

The South Wales NUM have readily agreed to sponsor the Wales Unity Con-

ference which takes place on 5 October. The conference has also been sponsored by the Campaign Group of Labour MPs as well as many local Labour Party and trade union sponsors. Already applications for delegates credentials are flooding in.

If the Labour Party is to win the next election, there is need for maximum unity. Witch-hunts destroy unity and the conference will a great opportunity to call for an end to witch-hunts. Let's unite as a campaigning Labour Party around socialist policies and get on with the real job of kicking out the Tories.

## Benefits changes found illegal

ON 1 August High Court Judge Mann found Norman Fowler's new board and lodgings rule to be illegal.

However, although the rules broke the law we cannot expect to see Fowler behind bars or debarred from office, or surcharged.

This is despite the fact that these regulations were directly involved in the deaths of a number of young people who committed suicide rather than be evicted from their homes.

The rules were found to be unlawful on two grounds: a) that a minister doesn't have the power to say that different areas of the country should receive different rates of benefit; b) that the minister doesn't have the power to say that benefits should have time limits for different people in the different areas. The DHSS undertook not to put these two parts into practice, so no formal declaration was made by the court.

The court has held things in abeyance until an appeal can be put together by the DHSS. This means that people who have already had

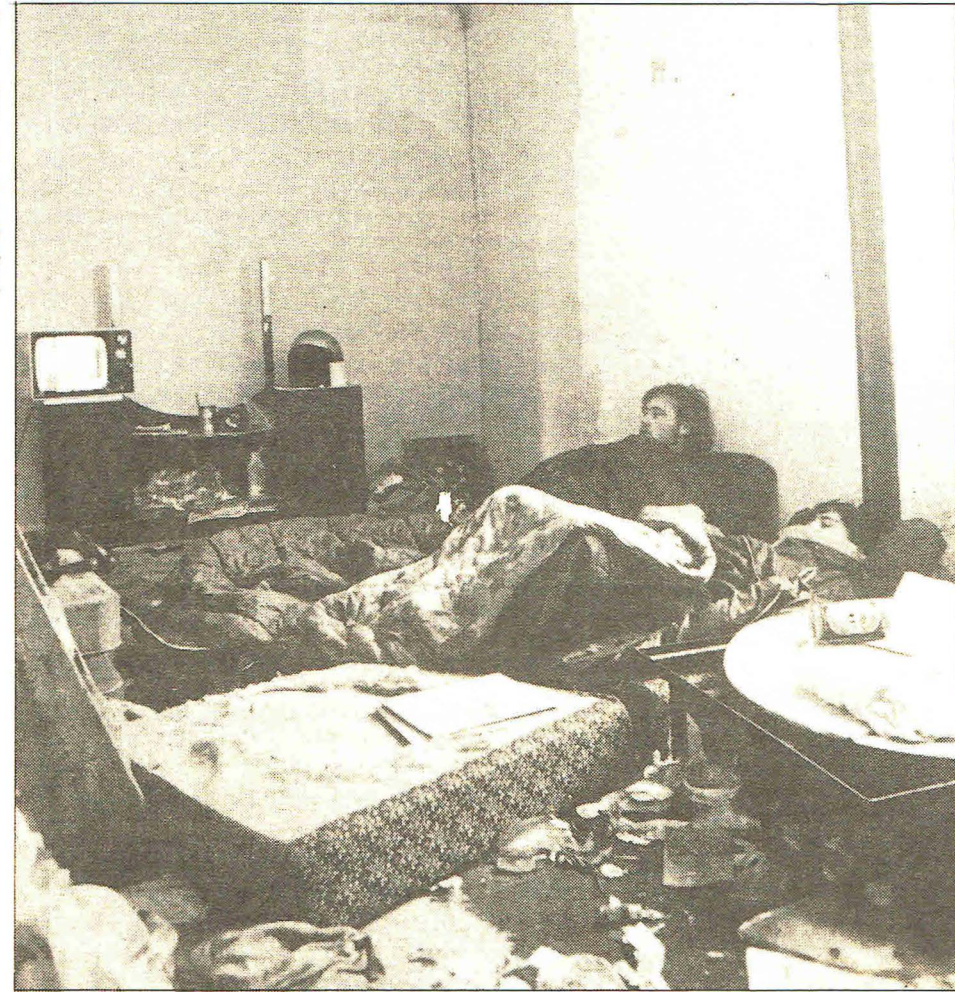


Photo: Philip Gordon (Reflex)

Two unemployed youths living in a derelict house in Barnsley—the rent is £20 a week. Unemployment and Tory regulations are driving hundreds of young people into a desperate situation.

their benefits cut to £22.45 or less before 1 August and have either been evicted or have had to pay all their benefits over to the landlords to keep their accommodation, will not receive any arrears.

They will only get their

benefit increased when they make "representations" to the DHSS, according to the circulars issued to all local offices of the DHSS.

This court case, taken by a young worker in Birkenhead has upset the Tories. But undaunted, they

are now looking for ways either to overturn the court decision or to change the law more permanently.

By Dave Murray

## Media machine buries A-bomb challenges

THE TORY media machine carried out its surreptitious propaganda role last week with its selective reporting of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki anniversaries.

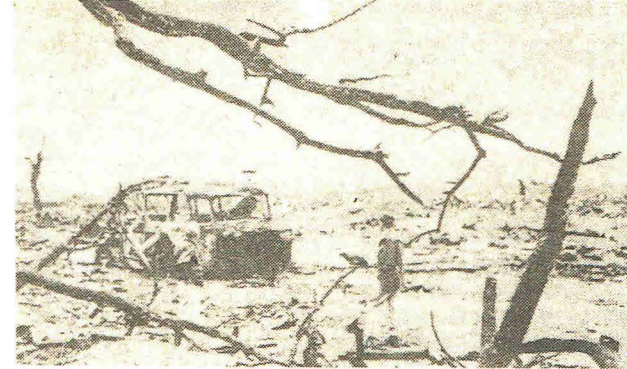
The media faithfully defended the excuses given by President Truman and US imperialism 40 years ago in justifying the dropping of the atom bombs. Full-page articles in papers like the *Daily Telegraph* or the *Daily Mail*, and programmes like the appalling US television film *Enola Gay* peddled the myth that the bomb was necessary because anything up to a 'million' American and 'four million' Japanese lives would have been lost in a US invasion of Japan. Therefore the 200,000 killed by the atom bombs was justified.

But saving life and limb was not the main concern of US imperialism when they calculated using the bomb. They wanted a speedy conclusion to the war now that

the Soviet Union, having crushed Nazi Germany, was poised to sweep down through China to Japan. The atom bombs were to be a demonstration of US strength to Russia, warning it to keep out of the US sphere of influence.

Hard news stories that last week challenged the Truman administration's excuses for using the bomb were met by a conspiracy of silence from the British press.

There were no reports of the furore in the USA where General Curtis Lemay, who carried out the bombing orders in 1945, has said Japan could have been beaten without the bomb. He told the *Omaha World Herald*: "The war could have been won without an invasion and without the atomic bomb. We felt that our incendiary bombings had been so successful that Japan would collapse before we invaded." He added: "We went ahead and dropped the bomb because Presi-



Hiroshima after the atom bomb attack.

dent Truman told me to do it".

General Lemay's remarks backed up evidence, also produced last week, by an Indian physicist, Arjun Makhijani, and author John Kely. They have located documents in US government archives that show that the Truman administration's real predictions of US casualties in an invasion were 55,000.

Even the death, believed to be suicide, of one of the navigators who participated

in the Nagasaki bombing was kept out of the press. Paul Begman was found hanging in his apartment last week on 4 August, after reportedly being despondent about the 40th anniversary of Nagasaki.

The press were taking no chances. Any news story that had the slightest chance of provoking their readers into questioning the use of the bomb were quietly ignored.

By Bob Wade

## Unity conferences

### W. Midlands

21 SEPTEMBER at the Dr Johnson House, Bull Street, Birmingham. Speakers include Dave Nellist MP, Derek Hatton, Liverpool City Council and Ian Schofield, Senior Steward, Rover. Five delegates allowed per labour movement body; £2 per delegate. Details from P Pritchard, 115 Ridgeway, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B17 (cheques to West Midlands Labour Unity Campaign Fund).

### Wales

5 OCTOBER. 11am in the Temple of Peace, Cathays Road, Cardiff. Speakers will include Terry Fields MP, Derek Hatton, Deputy Leader of Liverpool City Council, Chris Peace and Tony Wedlake, LPYS representative on the Welsh executive.

Delegates' credentials, £2 from Chris Peace, 21 Manor Street, Heath, Cardiff.

## Tyneside tenants improve conditions

TENANTS ON an estate in North Shields have suffered for years. Bad housing conditions, loan sharks and high food costs was all part of life on the Meadow Well estate, reputed to be the worst in North Tyneside.

Now, with a flourishing tenants' association, a credit union has been set up and the idea of a food co-op is being floated.

Since 1971 the council has been modernising the estate. They reduced the number of flats and converted many into self-contained houses, halving the population to 3,000.

We talked to Margaret Nolan member of the tenants' association:

"In 1976 a community rights centre was established and with an influx of people into the tenants' association three years ago, things started going.

"The first problem we encountered was that the majority of people in Meadow Well were in some sort of financial difficulty. Most forms of credit are barred to people on the estate, most shops won't even give HP to residents. So the estate is a haven for finance companies and loan sharks.

"One woman was charged £30 for sheets that would normally cost £14. The debt was passed to a finance company on the basis that she

borrow another £30. So with added interest the total was £96, all for sheets!

"So last year a credit union was set up. After saving for ten weeks, £50 can be borrowed plus the amount saved, of which interest is only 1 per cent, compared to the Provident who charge 42 per cent on every £100 loan.

The union also doubles as a life insurance. If you die your loan is wiped out and next of kin receives double their savings. The aims of the union are to give us, the community, a means of controlling our own finances, of investing directly into the community and breaking the circle of debt and high interest charges.

"The idea of a food co-op has also emerged with the aim of bringing down prices of basic foods, such as tea, sugar, flour, by buying in bulk and selling at cost price.

"We also pressurised the council into converting waste ground into a play area. We have been so successful that we have designed the layout ourselves even choosing equipment and plants at a cost of £120,000."

This is an example of how a community can help itself. If workers can organise so well now, there is great potential for the future.

By Dave Metcalfe and  
Clare Hannaby  
(Wallsend LPYS)

## 'Dogs of war'—State link revealed

A RECENT Channel Four, documentary, tucked away on a Tuesday afternoon, revealed the links between the government and security agencies who illegally hire mercenaries through innocuous sounding advertisements calling for 'security personnel to work abroad.'

In case any of you have been worried by unaccountable coups or assassinations recently then rest assured. One mercenary organiser claimed that he always informed the foreign office in advance of any activities he had been asked to organise, including coups, assassinations, and the security of heads of state.

It was also claimed that foreign government officials were bribed to provide 'end user certificates' required to buy weapons.

Of course, it wouldn't do for the British government to directly interfere with affairs of other countries, but according to mercenary organisers who were interviewed, the government not only 'approved' operations but also actively assisted them.



One organiser claimed that he received regular help from Special Branch and intelligence officers on 'approved' operations. Another explained how, on an operation, they were met by a group of men before departing from Britain who drove them to the airport and took them through customs and security to avoid complications. One of the men disclosed that he was from the Special Branch. On returning they were again met by Special Branch who made sure there were no problems re-entering the country.

If there has been connivance between the government and illegal mercenary operations abroad, then it would not be too great a step to use the same methods at home.

By Dave Morgan  
(Worsley LPYS)

# FIIGHTING FUND

This week: £430

**YORKSHIRE AND the West of Scotland are off to a flying start in the first few days of the quarter. The offensive in your area should be organised by drawing up fundraising planners. The £70,000 target is easy if we start now. Send money regularly to avoid a last minute panic.**

Oxford have set the tone by raising £55 at a jumble sale this week. Now is the time to plan events such as jumble sales, discos, parties and video nights which need

preparation in advance. South Staffs took the plunge with a sponsored swim which raised £39. Simon Le Bon isn't the only one to have a dip this week!

Sticker sales are reaching epidemic proportions in some areas, with some comrades covered in orange spots. Car dashboards, pushbike spokes, crash helmets, rattling tins have also been adorned and have provided an extra source of revenue.

Attack is the best form of defence—a request for donations at ward and union and constituency meetings will gain respect for our ideas. Caerphilly Labour Party

members have sent us £35. Greenwich LPYS sent us £20 this week. could your local LPYS branch match that? Above all we can't afford to slacken off our efforts. The nightmare of capitalism continues until we have the resources to beat it.

**By Simon Rodgers**

**THANKS FOR donations from:** Mrs C Bintley, Birkenhead £5; Neil Barns, Loughborough £1; 'Chunky' from TGWU, Cannock £2.68; Walthamstow dust depot £1.30; Celynyn South Colliery, Gwent £2.18; Six Bells Colliery, Wales £2.50; J Maxwell-Taylor £2 this week and every week.

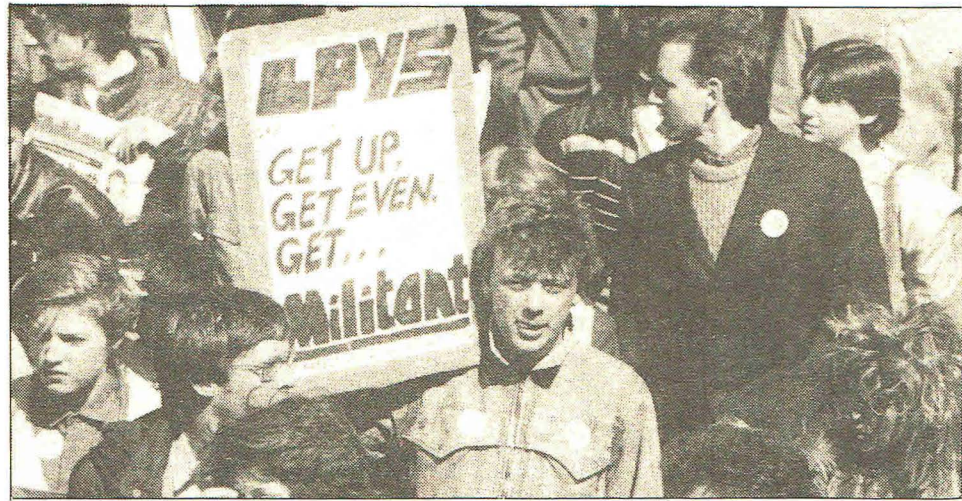


Photo: Rick Matthews (IFL)

caretakers' dispute in Tower Hamlets. On the basis of that one small article local sellers sold 30 papers to the striking caretakers. That's one in every five strikers.

So, if there's something going on in your area—tell us about it. And tell us how many papers you sold too! Finally, this is the last issue of *Militant* for two weeks. We are taking a break from production. But there is still plenty that can be done in that week. Back copies can be posted through doors as samples in preparation for an estate sale with the next issue. The 'Get *Militant*' posters can be used. And regular readers can be offered one of the many *Militant* pamphlets, or perhaps the *Militant International Review* or the *Irish Militant*, if they have not had it already.

your area—why not try the Attercliffe approach? Build your support as well as your sales and take the *Militant* to every doorstep on your estate, in your ward, in the street where your head witch-hunter lives.

Don't forget to write and tell us about it either. It's so much easier to sell the *Militant* if there is an article about something that's happening in your area. Take, for instance, the article in issue 759 about the

## GET Militant

**THE WITCH-HUNT against our sellers may not be doing much for Labour's right wing, but it's put pushing our sales up like nobody's business.**

In Attercliffe at the weekend, where five supporters have been expelled, *Militant* sellers sold 86 papers—all on one estate sale!

If you're facing attacks in

**THIS WEEK** has seen an improvement in the money raised for the Building Fund, with £324 sent in.

The blackout of the BBC and ITV through strike action in protest at the government's censorship has shown more people the need for a workers' paper that prints the truth.

In a socialist society, we would have a press with free access to every group (except fascists of course), depending on their support in society.

In capitalist society, the press is only free in the sense that it is free to slander and lie about the working class, their trade unions and their political party. If you do manage to get a socialist paper going that depends on advertising from big business, its policies are determined by the whims of the advertisers.

A daily Marxist paper cannot rely on advertising—the only money it can count on is that raised by the commit-

ment and sacrifice of its supporters.

The wider we can spread the burden of financing a Marxist daily paper, the easier it will be. That is why we have asked all our supporters for a week's wages—have you given yours yet? What about supporters who have only recently started to read the paper? Have they been approached yet?

This week, we have had

### Marxist Daily Building Fund

	£		£
Eastern	2913	Scotland East	2238
East Midlands	3267	Scotland West	2546
Humberside	1683	Southern	4037
London NE	3306	South West	902
London NW	4115	Wales East	1946
London SE	2108	Wales West	1538
London SW	2184	West Midlands	2061
Lancashire	606	Yorkshire	1708
Manchester	2629	National	1302
Merseyside	5181		
Northern	3270	<b>Total</b>	<b>49,532</b>

donations from a supporter in Herts who has sent £60 and a further £22 has come from J Hayes in Poole making his total contribution £101. £55 has come from Merseyside and £45 from Rotherham.

If every area keeps contributions like this coming in, we will soon break the £75,000 barrier.

**By Dave Campbell**

## ads

**CLASSIFIED:** 15p per word, minimum 10 words.  
**SEMI-DISPLAY:** £2 per column centimetre. Three weeks for the price of two. *Militant* meeting ads free.  
All advertisement copy should reach this office by Saturday.

**MILITANT MINER POSTERS:** 'Miners unite, no splits'. Bulk orders from Circulation Department, 3-13 Hepscott Road, London E9 5HB. Price 50p per dozen (post free).

**MAKE some Fighting Fund for your Area!** *Militant* 'No Slave Labour On YTS' stickers now available. Price: £1.50 for 100—but they must be sold for a donation! Send order to *Militant*, 3-13 Hepscott Rd, London E9. Cheques/Po's made payable to *Militant*.

**WANTED:** Co-op stamps. Loose, part or full books for F/F. Send to Circulation Dept, 3/13 Hepscott Road London E9 5HB.

**MILITANT** Liverpool Broad-sheet 'Defend our City' 25p (including postage) Orders of 10 or more 10p each. To Circulation Department, 3-13 Hepscott Rd. London E9 5HB.

**SMASH PINOCHET** Public meeting to commemorate the military coup of 11 September, 1973. Wednesday 11 September 7.30 pm, Camden Town Hall, Bedford Street, Opposite St Pancras Station. Organised by Chile Socialist Defence Campaign and London LPYS.

**WHY I Read Militant**—Sales leaflet. Stocks available from Circulation Department 3-13 Hepscott Rd. London E9 5HB.

**SUPPORT THE people of Chile.** Picket the Chilean Embassy, (12 Devonshire Street, London W1) 12-2 pm, 11 September. Bring your banners.

**NOTTINGHAM AND Derby** Militant supporters send warmest and comradely greetings to Jean and Chris in celebration of their wedding day.

**AIRE VALLEY BLOC** meeting: "For a fighting democratic engineering union." Speaker: John Tocher. Tuesday 20 August 7.30pm. Lecture Hall, Keighley Library, Keighley.

**FOR SALE** Rotoprint R75 Offset Litho plus platemaker, complete with chemicals, plates etc. £300 Phone: Oxford 715055.

## Conference greetings

**GET YOUR LPYS, trade union or Labour Party to place a greetings ad in our Labour Party Conference edition. Hurry, the closing date for copy is 18 September.**

Make cheques payable to *Militant* Publications and send with your greetings to 3-13 Hepscott Rd, London E9 5HB. Rates: 3 column centimetres £6; 6 col. cm. £12; sixteenth of a page £20.

**BACK THE PAPER THAT BACKS YOU!**

## Marxist Weekend School

London 14/15 September

**WHY STUDY theory?** Isn't practice enough? The ideas of Marxism provide a means of understanding the unfolding class struggle.

The Marxist weekend school in London on 14/15 September is a weekend of socialist education that will equip every worker, youth, activist in the labour movement with a more thorough understanding of how the struggle for socialism needs to develop.

Take your pick from the nine courses with three

seminars in each. Come and hear leading Marxist speakers such as Ted Grant (political editor *Militant*), Peter Taaffe (editor *Militant*), Lynn Walsh (assistant editor), Alan Woods, John Pickard and many others. Each course will be accompanied by a detailed reading list/study guides—sent out on booking.

Don't miss out! Make transport plans in your area now! Send your bookings in now!

Courses on: Marxist philosophy, Marxist economics, the Russian revolution, Marxism and the state, black workers and the struggle for socialism, the colonial revolution, the trade unions—the 1920s and today, the lessons of popular frontism, women and the struggle for socialism.

Plus a rally/debate on Saturday and disco. Professionally run creche. Put the date in your diary and make your transport plans now!

Only £7 (£5 unwaged). Book now! Cheques to: "Marxist Weekend School" 3-13 Hepscott Road, London E9.

I would like to register for the course on \_\_\_\_\_ at the Marxist weekend school (reading guides will be sent out from July).

I will need accommodation (bring a sleeping bag) for Friday/Saturday night(s).

I will require the crèche for the following children (name(s) and age(s)) \_\_\_\_\_

Name . . . . .

Address . . . . .

## Militant Meetings

**BARNOLDSWICK**, Nr Colne, Lancashire: Silentnight Militant Readers' Meeting. 'The Silentnight strike—the way forward for the trade unions' Wednesday 21 August 7.30; Civic Hall, Barnoldswick. Speakers: Keith Narey (Shipley Labour Party), Gerry Cumiskey (FTAT shop steward, Silentnight).

**BIRMINGHAM** Militant Readers Meeting. 'The iron fist of apartheid' Thursday 22 August 7.30pm at Carrs Lane Church Centre, Birmingham city centre. Speaker Darcy Du Toit (SALEP).

**BRISTOL EAST** Militant Marxist Discussion Groups. 19 August 'Do we need a revolution?'; 17 September 'Marxism and the Labour Party.' Further details ring (0272) 656591.

**HARROW** Militant Marxist Discussion Group. Monday 2 September, The Communist Manifesto.

**ISLE OF WIGHT** Militant supporters. Are you coming to the Island for a holiday? Do not miss your *Militant* when on holiday. We sell the *Militant* in two towns on Saturday. Ryde, High Street, 11am to noon. Shanklin Regent Street, 11am to noon. If you cannot see us on the Saturday Phone IOW 854759.

**LONG EATON** Militant Reader's Meeting. 'Stop privatisation—Defend Liverpool Labour Council,' Wednesday 21 August 7.30, Chatsworth Centre. Speakers: Local council steward, Liverpool City councillor.

**MILITANT** Marxist Discussion Group meetings held monthly in Swindon. Phone Martin on 24796 for details.

**YORKSHIRE** Militant meetings. 'Liverpool council take on the Tories.' **Huddersfield** Zetland Hotel, Queensgate, (opposite Poly) Thursday 29 August 7.30pm. **Halifax**. AEU Club, 11 St James St (by bus station) 7.30pm Tuesday 3 September.

**WEST MIDLANDS** Labour Unity Conference. Saturday 21 September 10.30am to 4pm. Speakers include Dave Nellist MP, Derek Hatton, deputy leader Liverpool Council and Ian Schofield (Senior Steward, Rover). Venue Dr Johnsons House, Bull St, Birmingham city centre. £2 per delegate to P Pritchard, 115 Ridgeway, Edgbaston, Birmingham 17.

**NORTHERN WOMENS** Weekend School 31 August-1 September, North Hulme FE Centre, Jackson Crescent, Hulme, Manchester. Saturday—Origins of the Family. Workshops a) Warnock, Powell, Gillick. b) The Fowler Review. c) Violence against women. Reports backs and summing up. Working class women and the struggle for socialism. Sunday—Internationalism. Workshops a) Northern Ireland b) South Africa c) Famine and food policy. Creche provided, but please book in advance. Social-Saturday evening. Cost £2.50 waged, £1 unwaged. For further details please contact and bookings to: Maureen Reynolds, 2 Brown Hill House, 48a Sandy Lane, Chorlton Manchester 21. Telephone: 061 860-4652.

# Racist immigration laws extended

**THE RECENT change in the immigration rules was another kick in the teeth for black and Asian workers, many of whom will now face further discrimination from immigration officials.**

Ironically the rule change was forced by the findings of the European Court of Human Rights which decided that Tory immigration rules were discriminatory on the grounds of sex. In order to comply with these findings the Tories were forced to change the rules—and the result is equality of misery.

The whole argument centred around the 'primary purpose' rule, under which husbands and male fiancés of British citizens who wanted to settle in this country had to prove that the primary purpose of their application for settlement was **not** to gain entry to Britain. Under the new rules, the primary purpose rule has been extended to wives and female fiancées, which will mean an extension of the rigorous testing and cross-examination which thousands of people have been subjected to since this rule was first introduced in 1981.

## Rule change

The rule change will mean that even more wives and husbands will be kept apart for several years, many with no prospect of ever being reunited.

Immigration statistics show how the rules discriminate against blacks and Asians in particular. In most Western countries, there are virtually no queues for entry clearance (visa) applications. In Bangladesh, however, the waiting time for the first interview is two years. It is nine to 11 months in Pakistan and eight to 12 months in India. After the first interview, there are several more months waiting for the decision.

If the decision is negative, then there can be one, two or more years' wait for appeals to go through. Last year 46 per cent of husbands and fiancés seeking entry from India to join their wives in this country were refused—88 per cent on 'primary purpose' grounds.

The Tory government (and previous Labour governments) justify immigration



Asians on anti-immigration law demonstration in London. Photo: Carlos Guarta (Reflex).

rules by saying that strictly controlled immigration is necessary, especially at a time of mass unemployment, for 'good community relations.'

That is rubbish. In the last 20 years, there has been a **net outflow** of people from Britain—since 1964, 937,000 more people have left the country than have entered.

The figures also show that people from Asian, African or West Indian countries are far more likely to be refused entry. Of those who were refused last year, one in 140 were black and Asian, compared to one in 4,100 from Australia, New Zealand and Canada.

There is also class discrimination in the immigration rules. The wealthy are treated very differently from workers seeking entry to Britain. The rule for 'persons of independent

means' says: 'For an applicant to obtain entry clearance he will need to show that he has, under his control and disposable in the United Kingdom, a sum not less than £150,000, or income of not less than £15,000 a year.'

The implementation of the immigration rules by immigration officials bears out the class nature of the rules. A farm labourer from Pakistan was recently refused entry into Britain to visit his brother and his uncle, whom he hadn't seen for several years. He was refused because he came from a poverty-stricken background and the immigration officials didn't believe he would return after his time limit expired. In fact he has elderly parents in Pakistan who rely on him to tend the farm and to keep the rest of the family

alive and he has to return before the winter harvest.

Unless the labour movement explains these issues and takes a clear stand against immigration laws, then many black and Asian workers will continue to view Labour's policy on immigration with cynicism. At a time of acute economic crisis, with society in the process of decay, it is even more urgent that Labour explains the root causes of racism, and puts forward a programme of socialist policies which will unite workers from all races, and will end the evils of unemployment and poverty—the breeding ground for racism.

By Liz Floyd

(Newham North West Labour Party)

## Newham 7 supporter charged

A MEMBER of Tottenham Labour Party Young Socialists, Kridos Pavlou, has been fined £200 for 'threatening behaviour.'

He was arrested after allegedly pulling a policeman to the ground and kicking him at a demonstration in support of the Newham young Asians arrested after a day of racial attacks on Asians.

Pavlou was accused of attacking the policeman as part of a gang at the demonstration in April,

although he was the only one to be charged. During the court case the policeman concerned couldn't be produced. The defence solicitor called it the case of the 'missing policeman'. Also, Pavlou was charged with 'threatening behaviour' and not the more serious charge of 'assaulting a policeman'. The defence produced three witnesses who said that no policeman was attacked by Pavlou.

A defence fund has been set up which is appealing to

all labour movement organisations to make donations.

Send donations to: Kridos Pavlou Defence Fund, Box 273, London E7. Make cheques payable to 'Kridos Pavlou Campaign Fund'.

The Newham Seven Defence Campaign is still appealing to anyone who witnessed arrests on any of the Newham Seven demonstrations or pickets to come forward with information. (Tel: 01 555-8151).

## Black youth campaign

IN A move to combat racism, Southampton Labour Party Young Socialists have set up a local Newham Seven support group. The group was set up at a meeting addressed by Linda Douglas—LPYS National Committee, local LPYS member Sandra Howell and a speaker from the Newham Seven campaign.

The group has won a good response from the black and Asian community. We visited several local groups, including the Indian Workers Association and the newly formed Southampton Afro-Caribbean Youth Association (SACYA).

We leafleted the local West Indian club as well as door to door, distributing

over 2,000 leaflets and finishing up with a successful paper sale of *Socialist Youth*. At the meeting, many questions were raised from the floor, particularly "what can actually be done to fight racism?"

One young black, Chris, asked: "Can anything be done just by going to meetings?" He said that he and his mates thought that the only way things would be changed is by doing something drastic, by violence: "Like the riots, that's the time when they took notice and things got done. You fight them back, and they listen to you, then they ignore you again and you have to keep on fighting again."

But it was pointed out that

none of the causes of the riots such as unemployment and rotten housing were even alleviated let alone eradicated by riots.

The only way to fight racism is by fighting the perpetrators of racism though black and white workers organising together to fight this system. This can be done by joining the LPYS and the Labour Party, to ensure that policies in the interests of the workers are carried out.

The meeting raised over £43 for the Newham Seven campaign.

Sandra Howell  
(Southampton LPYS)



Fascists of the British National Party recently held a rally in Newcastle. Photo: Militant.

## Anti-fascist defence set up

AN ANTI-FASCIST Defence Campaign has been set up in Leicester to raise money to defend those arrested during a protest against a meeting in April by the British National Party.

The police allowed 60-70 fascists into the hall with a slightly larger number of protestors, who started to heckle and sing the Red Flag and Internationale to prevent the main speaker, John Tyndall, speaking. The fascists retaliated by starting

a number of fights. The fascists and police then worked side by side to eject the protestors and nine were arrested.

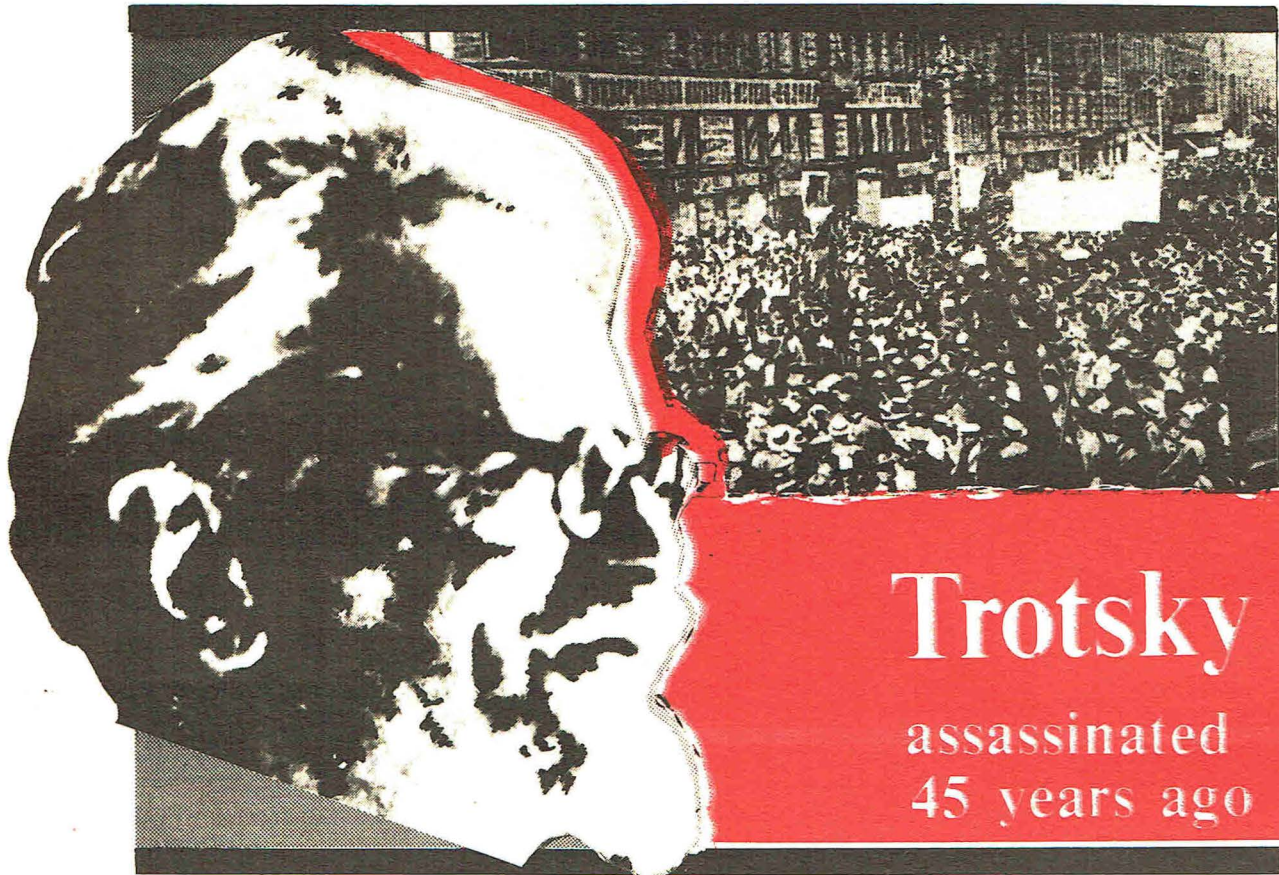
Already one defendant has been fined £250 plus costs on a first offence.

The campaign has so far sent out 150 letters to trade unions and Labour Party branches in and around Leicester. A number of donations have already been received, notably £173 from Leicester NUT (after a strike

meeting) and £30 from street collections. Also Leicester Trades Council made available £88 from its fines fund.

Meetings have been planned in the Asian and black communities of Belgrave and Highfields, to campaign against racism and fascism.

Any further messages of support or donations should be sent to The Anti-Fascist Defence Committee, 25 Hipwell Crescent, Leicester.



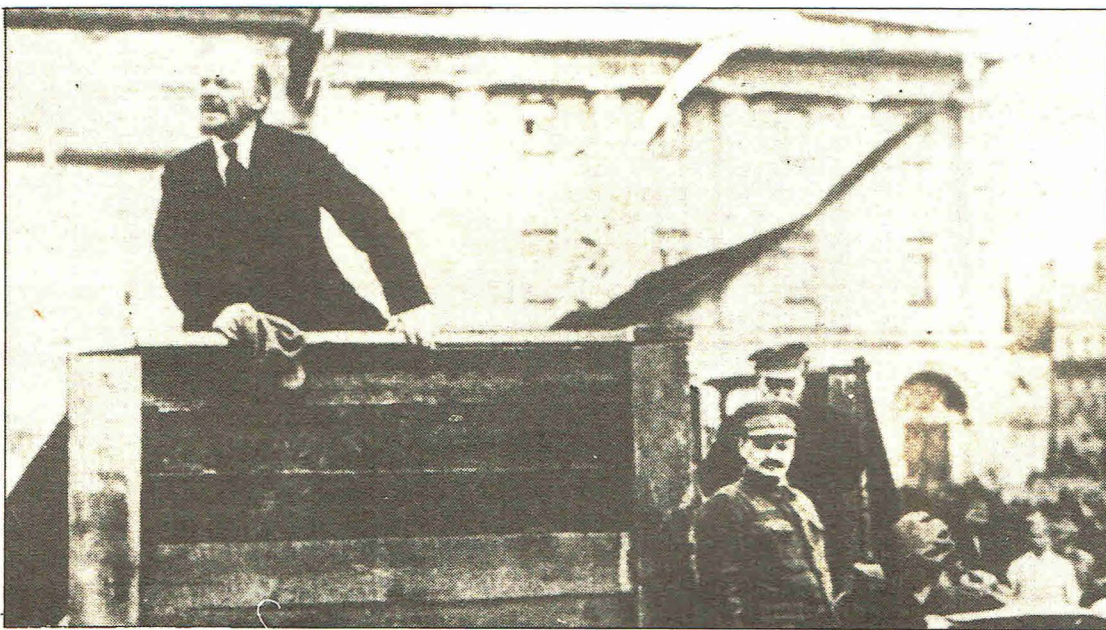
**Trotsky**  
assassinated  
45 years ago

# Leon revolution

**ON 20 August 1940, Leon Trotsky was pickaxed to death by a Stalinist agent, Ramon Mercader.**

**By Rob Sewell**

**"DO YOU think that Stalin has not discussed the question of your physical removal? He has considered and discussed it thoroughly. He has always been held back by the same thought, that the young people would pin the responsibility on him personally, and would respond by acts of terrorism. He therefore believed that he first had to disperse the ranks of the oppositionist youth. But a job postponed is not a job abandoned."**  
**(Statement of leading Bolshevik, Gregory Zinoviev to Trotsky, 1926).**



Trotsky in Red Army uniform listens to Lenin. In later versions of this picture Trotsky was removed.

Trotsky had devoted the whole of his life to the emancipation of the working class. He headed the famous Petersburg Soviet in the 1905 revolution, originated the Marxist theory of the 'Permanent Revolution', became co-leader with Lenin of the October 1917 revolution, constructed the Red Army, and was co-founder of the Third Communist International.

His murder was no accident or spontaneous action by the dictator Stalin, but a monstrous pre-conceived act that was the culmination of a murder campaign against the whole of the old Bolshevik leadership of the revolution and those who stood by the genuine ideas of Marxism.

All those who posed any threat to the totalitarian regime of the bureaucracy were systematically hunted down and eliminated at the hand of the Stalinist secret police, the GPU.

Central to this murder plot were all those who stood close to Trotsky around the International Left Opposition that fought for the ideas of Leninism, of Marxism. The struggle between Trotsky's adherents and those of the Stalinist bureaucracy was not simply a debate about ideas. It represented a clash of living forces—between the parasitic ruling elite, defending its material privileges and the forces of working class internationalism and socialist revolution.

This privileged elite derived its income and power from its bureaucratic control over the nationalised planned economy. To protect its ruling position, it expropriated the Russian workers and peasants politically. All the points of workers' democracy under Lenin and Trotsky were gradually crushed and gave way to the totalitarian dictatorship of Stalin—the personification of the bureaucracy. Only through this regime of Stalinist terror could this privileged cast be maintained.

Those who joined the Trotskyist opposition were met with terrible persecution, slander, expulsion, victimisation, the sack and imprisonment. Later they were driven into Stalin's concentration camps and murdered.

Nevertheless despite the trail of blood, persecution and lies, of historical falsification by the Stalin clique, the ideas of Leon Trotsky—of genuine Marxism—have not only survived but have grown and become a beacon to all those activists to-day faced with the horrors of capitalism and Stalinism.

Trotsky's fate was bound up with that of the Russian October Revolution of 1917. This proletarian victory was seen by all as the beginning of a world transformation. Nobody in the Bolshevik Party—Lenin, Trotsky or even Stalin—believed that socialism

could be established in one country, let alone a backward one like Russia.

The isolation of the revolution, due to the betrayal of the leaders of social democracy in the West, led to the growth of a parasitic bureaucracy, a caste of officials in the state, party and industry. The international defeats reinforced the feeling of isolation and weariness. As Trotsky explained:

"It is absolutely beyond question and of major importance that the Soviet bureaucracy became more powerful as the blows struck harder against the world working class. The defeats of the revolutionary movements in Europe and Asia gradually undermined the confidence of the Soviet workers in their internationally. Inside the country acute misery still reigned. The boldest and most devoted representatives of the working class had either perished in the civil war or had risen higher, and for the main part, been assimilated into the ranks of the bureaucracy, having lost their revolutionary spirit. Weary, because of the terrible efforts of the revolutionary years, without perspective, poisoned with bitterness because of a series of disappointments, the great mass fell into passivity". (Writings 1935-36 p 174.)

**"RETRIBUTION will come! Throughout his entire heroic Davidovich believed in the emerald future. During the last years of falter, but on the contrary became more firm than ever. Future me all oppression will triumph over**

**(How it happened, November Natalya Sedova)**

The Left Opposition was formed in 1923 by Trotsky to defeat this bureaucratic reaction against October. Just before Lenin's death, he and Lenin had organised a bloc to fight bureaucracy. In his 'testament' or 'will', Lenin called for the immediate removal of Stalin who became the figurehead of this reaction.

In the will Trotsky was singled out as "distinguished not only by his exceptional abilities"—"to be sure, the most able man in the present Central Committee".

With Lenin's death in January 1924, Stalin and those who wished to denigrate Trotsky's authority suppressed the Testament and later denounced it as a Trotskyist forgery! Its authenticity came to light only in 1956 with Khrushchev's speech to the closed session of the 20th party congress.

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# Trotsky

## Great martyr

The defeat of the German Revolution in late 1923, together with Lenin's death, resulted in a speedy crystallisation of the powers of the Stalinist bureaucracy.

Soon after Stalin came out with the anti-Marxist theory of 'socialism in one country', which reflected the interests of the privileged elite. Zinoviev and Kamenev, two old Bolshevik leaders who had sided with Stalin could no longer stomach this betrayal and came over to Trotsky to form the Joint Opposition in 1926.

At the time, the defeat of the Chinese Revolution was a terrible blow to the Russian workers, who looked towards a workers' victory in the East. It was a great encouragement however to the developing bureaucracy. By November 1927, Trotsky and Zinoviev were expelled from the Party and Kamenev from the Central Committee.

As a result of this growing repression, Abramovich Yoffe, who had returned as Ambassador to Japan to work as Trotsky's deputy, committed suicide.

Exiled to Alma Ata (January 1928) and later to Turkey (January 1929), Trotsky hit back at the betrayals and slanders of the Stalinists, and began to assemble the cadres of genuine Marxism on an international scale. In July, he published the first issue of the Russian *Bulletin of the Opposition* as the central organ of his work.

In the few years that followed,

the vile murderers. and beautiful life, Lev Trotsky, a man of his life, his faith did not come only more mature, kind, emancipated from oppression of all sorts. . . ."

1940 by Trotsky's wife,

personal blows were hurled against him; his young daughter Nina had died with consumption at the age of 26. His other daughter, again suffering from acute health, was driven to suicide in Berlin in early 1933. Both their husbands were sent to Siberia.

Trotsky's first wife, Sokolovaya, was imprisoned in a labour camp where she died later. His son, Sergei, a scientist who was not interested in politics, was arrested on trumped-up charges—refused to betray his father—and perished in prison. Trotsky's secretaries and aides in the USSR were executed: Lazman, Butov, Sermuks and Ozansky.

The Stalinists, under orders from Moscow, constantly attempted to infiltrate Trotsky's household as well as the International Left Opposition, causing disruption, pro-



Trotsky in Mexico with his wife Natalya and grandson Seva.

vocation and murder.

Examples of Stalinist infiltration are numerous: Senin and Roman Well, Etienne Zborowski, Serge Efrom, Marcel Rollin, Louis Ducomet, Francois Rossie, Renata Steiner, Floyd Miller and Sylkvia Franklin to name but some.

Until the victory of Hitler in March 1933, Trotsky had conducted a vigorous campaign for a united front policy against fascism in Germany. However he was denounced by the Stalinist leaders who continued to lead the German working class into a bloody debacle. Ernst Thaelmann the leader of the German CP, stated in September 1932:

"In his pamphlet on the question, *How will National Socialism be Defeated?* Trotsky always gives but one reply: 'The German CP must make a bloc with the social democracy...' In framing this bloc, Trotsky sees the only way for completely saving the German working class against fascism.

Either the CP will make a bloc with the social democracy or the German working class will be lost for 10-20 years. This is the theory of a completely ruined fascist and counter-revolutionary. This theory is the worst theory, the most dangerous theory and the most criminal that Trotsky has constructed in the last years of his counter-revolutionary propaganda". (*Communist International*, no 17/18, 1932, p 1329).

The failure to heed Trotsky's advice led to the paralysis of the German labour movement and resulted in the victory of Hitler without any major resistance. It was the greatest betrayal of international socialism since that of 1914.

Feared by the capitalist class, Trotsky was refused the right of asylum by all the European powers. In 1933, however, he was allowed temporarily into France, but before long was expelled as an undesirable by the government.

### Purge trials

From France, Trotsky was allowed into Norway where the Labour Party had recently come to power. Within a matter of a few months the purge trials opened in Moscow with Trotsky placed as the principal defendant.

Stalin put pressure on the Norwegian government for Trotsky to be gagged. This obliged by expelling his secretaries and placing him under virtual house arrest. Desperate to answer the lies and slander of the greatest frame-ups in world history, Trotsky eagerly accepted the offer of asylum from the Mexican government of Cardenas. He arrived in Mexico City in January 1937.

*The bureaucracy sought a deal with the Western Democracies against Hitler and therefore attempted to demonstrate their respectability. The first Moscow Trial began the systematic frame-up and murder of the old Bolshevik leaders. Out of fear for the success of the Spanish revolution and the impulse it would give to the new political revolution in the USSR, the bureaucracy began to wipe out all living connections with the real traditions of October.*

Between 1936 and 1938 it has been estimated that eight million perished in the terror, this 'one-sided civil war' to use Trotsky's words.

**YEARS LATER, Leopold Trepper, a courageous anti-Stalinist and ex-leader of Soviet Intelligence working in the underground during the war, wrote in his memoirs:**

"Yugoslavs, Poles, Lithuanians, Czechs—all disappeared. By 1937, not one of the principal leaders of the German Communist Party was left, except for Wilhelm Pieck and Walter Ulbricht. The repressive madness had no limits. The Korean section was decimated; the delegates from India had disappeared; the representatives of the Chinese Communist Party had been arrested. The glow of October was being extinguished in the shadows of underground chambers. The revolution had degenerated into a system of terror and horror. . . .

"... And yet we went along, sick at heart but passive, caught up in machinery we had set in motion with our own hands, mere cogs in the apparatus, terrorized to the point of madness, we became the instruments of our own subjugation. All those who did not rise up against the Stalinist machine are responsible, collectively responsible. I am no exception to this verdict.

"But who did protest at that time? Who rose up to voice his outrage?

"The Trotskyites can lay claim to this honour. Following the example of their leader, who was rewarded for his obstinacy with the end of an ice-axe, they fought Stalinism to the death, and they were the only ones who did. By the time of the great purges, they could only shout their rebellion in the freezing wastelands where they had been dragged in order to be exterminated. In the camps, their conduct was admirable. But their voices were lost in the tundra.

"Today, the Trotskyites have a right to accuse those who once howled along with the wolves. Let them not forget, however, that they had the enormous advantage over us of having a coherent political system capable of replacing Stalinism. They had something to cling to in the midst of their profound distress at seeing the revolution betrayed. They did not 'confess,' for they knew that their confession would serve neither the party nor socialism."

An International Commission of Inquiry into the Moscow Trials was established under the head of the distinguished American philosopher, John Dewey. All the testimonies and evidence were sifted vigorously. Trotsky was personally examined and cross-examined about the fantastic allegations of being in the pay of the Nazis, etc, made against him by the Stalinists.

He demonstrated, with the assistance of his extensive archives, that the forged 'confessions' in the trials were absolute lies and that they constituted the greatest frame-ups in history. The Dewey Commission found "the Moscow Trials to be frame-ups" and concluded: "We therefore find Trotsky and Sedov (his son) not guilty".

The Second Moscow Trial began within a fortnight of Trotsky's arrival in Mexico. Stalin's aim, however, was the physical annihilation not only of the old Bolsheviks inside the USSR, but the obliteration of the Trotskyist leadership internationally.

In Spain, the GPU murder gangs were used systematically to suppress all opposition to Moscow, leading to the execution of Andres Nin, Andrades, Erwin Wolf (one of Trotsky's secretaries), etc.

In September 1937, Ignace Reiss, a former GPU top agent who renounced Stalinism and came out in favour of Trotskyism, was murdered. In France the Stalinists infiltrated the Opposition's Headquarters and 'collaborated' at the highest level with Trotsky's son Leon Sedov. On 16 February 1938 Etienne Zborowski fingered him to the GPU who in turn murdered him whilst in hospital.

The grief stricken Trotsky wrote a moving tribute to his dead son under the title *Leon Sedov—Son, Friend, Fighter*: "Together with our boy has died everything that still remained young within us. Goodbye, Leon, goodbye dear incomparable friend. Your mother and I never thought, never expected that destiny would impose on us this terrible task of writing your obituary. We lived in firm conviction that long after we were gone you would be the continuer of our common cause. But we were not able to protect you. Good-bye Leon! We bequeath your irreproachable memory to the younger generation of the workers of the world. You will rightly live in the hearts of all those who work, suffer and struggle for a better

world. Revolutionary youth of all countries! Accept from us the memory of our Leon, adopt him as your son—he is worthy of it—and let him henceforth participate invisibly in your battles, since destiny has denied him the happiness of participating in your final victory."

A month after Sedov's death, Stalin launched the third and bloodiest of the purge trials. In Paris Rudolf Klement's decapitated body—another of Trotsky's secretaries—was found in the river Seine.

The GPU murder network closed in on Trotsky, through a string of secret agents. Ramon Mercader, Stalin's prize assassin, set up the infiltration of the Trotsky household by seducing a young American Marxist, Sylvia Ageloff.

Meanwhile, the first failed attack on Trotsky's life came on 24 May, 1940. Stalinist GPU raiders—led by the Mexican CP leader Siqueiros—forced entry to the premises and machine-gunned Trotsky's bedroom. Fortunately he his wife and grandson narrowly escaped death. One of the guards on duty, Robert Sheldon Harte, was abducted and his decomposed body discovered in a lime-pit one month later.

The second attempt on 20 August 1940 proved fatal. Leon Trotsky was murdered by the hand of GPU assassin Ramon Mercader. After being found guilty of murder he served a 20 year sentence and then returned to Eastern Europe where he was decorated for his services by the Stalinist regime.

### Great martyr

Trotsky was the greatest martyr of the working class. Trotskyism or Marxism has been and remains to this day, the most persecuted tendency in history. The attacks upon *Militant* and its supporters are but a continuation of this campaign.

Whilst the faint-hearts and sceptics made peace with Stalinism, Trotsky and a small band of co-thinkers defended the ideas of Marxism in a time of historic retreat and reaction. That was Trotsky's greatest role.

This new generation owes a colossal debt to those who fought against the stream. It is now up to us to arm ourselves with the genuine ideas of Marxism as a concrete preparation for the future storms and upheavals that will inevitably unfold.

## Book review "The Russians"

# Progress and privilege in the Soviet Union

**ONE WORD** of advice: read Trotsky's brilliant analysis of Stalinist Russia in *The Revolution Betrayed* to understand the deformed workers' states of Russia, Eastern Europe and China.

If you pick up Smith's book before you read Trotsky, you'll be more confused about Russia than before. He peddles the line that Stalinism is the inevitable child of Bolshevism. In the last pages he goes for a more 'popular' explanation. As there was repression under the Czar and under Stalin, Khrushchev, Brezhnev, Andropov and now Gorbachev, the Russians obviously prefer repression.

What ignorance he betrays in these remarks, especially about the Russian working class who carried out the greatest step forward yet in human history.

The other main drawback is that Smith gets most of his quotes from members of the intelligentsia and the lower bureaucracy. The Russian working class is 120 million strong, the largest, most cultured proletariat on the planet. Not one line in this book even hints that this force will change Russian society. Such an idea evidently never crosses his mind.

The voice of the working class is hardly heard. But this book is not entirely worthless. Some useful facts and colour can be found. There are after all not many books which even attempt to deal with the daily life of 250 million Russians. The writer in fact confirms Trotsky's views unwittingly.

### Transformation

Smith is an unrepentant capitalist but he has to admit that six decades up to 1973 "transformed a backward emerging continent into an industrialised state. It developed the world's largest network of hydro-electric power stations, opened up the incalculable mineral rights of Siberia, produced atomic ice-breakers, space platforms and mechanical moon explorers and surpassed America in such basic measurements of industrial muscle as steel, cement and oil".

Between 1956 and 1975, 44 million housing units were built, unprecedented anywhere anytime.

He quotes an American economist that "from 1950 to 1970 Soviet per-capita food consumption doubled, disposable income quadrupled, the working week shortened, welfare benefits increased, consumption of soft goods trebled and hard goods rose twelve-fold". With free health care and education and job security on top, no wonder people in the USSR today are two or three inches taller than pre-war.

Smith is forced to conclude that most Russians

**JOHN THRONE** reviews *The Russians* by Hedrick Smith, former *New York Times* correspondent in Moscow. Published by Sphere Books Ltd, £2.95.

"prefer socialism to the freer but less secure lifestyle of Westerners."

For Smith of course this is not due to the superiority of the planned economy. For him 'Moscow' achieved all this. No mention either when comparing Russia with the USA of the effect of the 20 million killed and the productive forces destroyed in World War Two.

The inefficiency and corruption of the bureaucracy can also be gleaned from this book. One of the few inter-

ship of the Communist Party at 14 million which gives an idea of the privileged caste in Russia. The very pinnacle of this elite according to Smith, live in the Moscow suburb of Zhukova with its own special stores.

As Smith speaks overwhelmingly to the intelligentsia, you only get a rare glimpse of the hatred of the bureaucracy.

He quotes a mechanic: "Look at what they have! Why did we fight the revolution?" An older woman worker: "We hate those special privileges. During the war when they really were our leaders, it was all right. But not now." Another worker said: "It is so humiliating, so insulting to have stores in our country where our money is not valid." He was referring to the special shops for the bureaucracy where only Western currency is accepted.

**The spectacular progress in the USSR is due to the advantage of the planned economy over private ownership and the market. The problems stem from the inability of the bureaucracy to plan efficiently. A Soviet executive is quoted as saying it took consent from 18 different organisations for him to produce a simple aluminium cup.**

**Workers' control and management is the only way to realise the full potential of the planned economy. The greatest untapped resource of all in the USSR is the brain of the proletariat.**

views' with workers explains the three phases in each month; "The first is sleeper time, the second is hot work and the third is like fever. It is only in the last third of the month that all the necessary materials can be gathered and the quotas of the plan are then 'stormed' in the last ten days.

"Consumers always try to avoid goods produced from the 20th of the month on. All goods are date stamped. 80 per cent of the quotas are produced in the last ten to 15 days of the month".

Smith quotes Soviet statistics that while the USSR's economy is second to the USA, its output per capita is only 15th. The 1973 Soviet year book rated Russian industry about half as efficient as American, the construction industry about two-thirds as efficient and agriculture only a quarter.

Smith gives many examples of the bureaucracy's privileges and corruption. An entire department of the Central Committee, the "Administration of Affairs" has a secret budget to provide special privileges for the bureaucracy, the special shops, houses, servants, the hard currency, special health care, etc. Smith estimates the "privileged class" as he wrongly describes the ruling caste as numbering one million plus their families. He also puts the member-

If the reader approaching Smith's book has a clear understanding of the nature of the deformed workers' states, then useful material can be recognised. Sometimes it is in the jokes of workers. The workers have a saying about their position at work: "As long as the bosses pretend they are paying us a decent wage, we will pretend that we are working". In reference to the intelligentsia the workers use the proverb: "A fish rots from the head first".

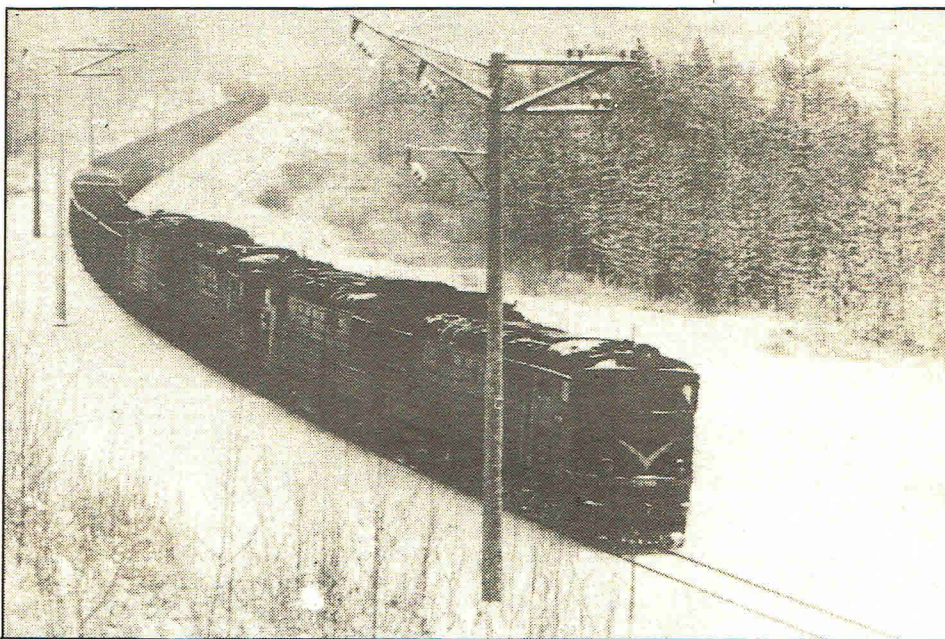
### Working class ignored

One issue that comes across in this book is the workers' clear hatred of the intelligentsia. This is a very positive feature given the role that this group played in Poland in 1980-81. The division according to Smith is growing wider between the intelligentsia and bureaucracy on the one hand and the workers on the other. Unfortunately, Smith himself failed to cross this divide and document workers' feelings.

So we get little idea of the consciousness and conditions of the working class--in the book he talks of a go-slow in a plant. This took place on three lines in this plant. A worker is quoted as saying: "... three lines is an



Gorbachev on a 'walk-about' talks to the Russian workers. But the regime is incapable of using the skills and intelligence of the working class to run the planned economy.



Huge achievements of the planned economy. The Trans Siberian railway has transformed this previously barren area of the USSR.



Agriculture remains extremely inefficient compared to the most advanced capitalist countries.

emergency. It means someone organised it. That's very serious. I do not know what happened to the organisers, but I heard that the bosses had to back down and lower the norms". Smith is totally unaware of the significance of this incident and makes no effort to follow it through.

The same worker says that: "If there were ever a second revolution it would be first against the bosses in the black Volgas..."

Smith opens his book by quoting from a Russian Communist Party official. "Beneath the flat surface of society in Russia, as presented by *Pravda*, a rich and complex life abounds but it totally lacks any means of communication. We are not a 'one dimensional society' as Westerners believe". Later in the book he quotes another Russian: "the most interesting things are going on in private where you cannot see them. Not only you as a foreigner but other people, Russians as well." Smith failed to get beneath the surface or see into these

"private" places.

What is going on amongst the workers of the giant industrial complexes such as the production complex of Kama River Tractor Plant? It has 175 miles of computer-run conveyor belts. It covers 23 square miles, an area larger than Manhattan. It dwarfs anything in the Ruhr or Detroit. Unfortunately and significantly Smith does not say how many workers work there.

### Drawback

It is in places like Kama that the embryo of the future

is being developed. It is there that discussion groups are taking place and the ideas of the working class turn to taking control over society once again. Smith's failure to tell his readers of this is an enormous drawback to the book.

However, *The Russians* is worth reading for the facts and information and the descriptions of the author's meetings and conversations. But don't forget, read Trotsky's *The Revolution Betrayed* first and again when you've finished Smith's book in order to fill in the political gaps he leaves.

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# 'Emergency' will not end black workers struggle

**FACED WITH an unprecedented year-long explosion of mass struggle, political and industrial, Botha's regime on 21 July staked its authority on declaring a state of emergency in 36 key areas of the Transvaal and Eastern Cape.**

By Richard Monroe

But already, within weeks, it is becoming clear that intensified repression cannot fully restore the grip of the ruling class.

Apartheid is not just white supremacy and petty discrimination; it is the system which for a long time has served to enslave the black majority as cheap labour for Western and South African capitalists.

But for the last 12 years the regime has been increasingly unable to enforce a system which has become intolerable to the masses. The heroism, determination, and persistence of their struggle must be unsurpassed anywhere in the history of the working class internationally.

At the same time, with the economy in decline, the regime's attempts to find a wider basis for its rule only spurs the movement on to further demands. It was the introduction of Botha's 'new constitution' a year ago which sparked off the current explosion.

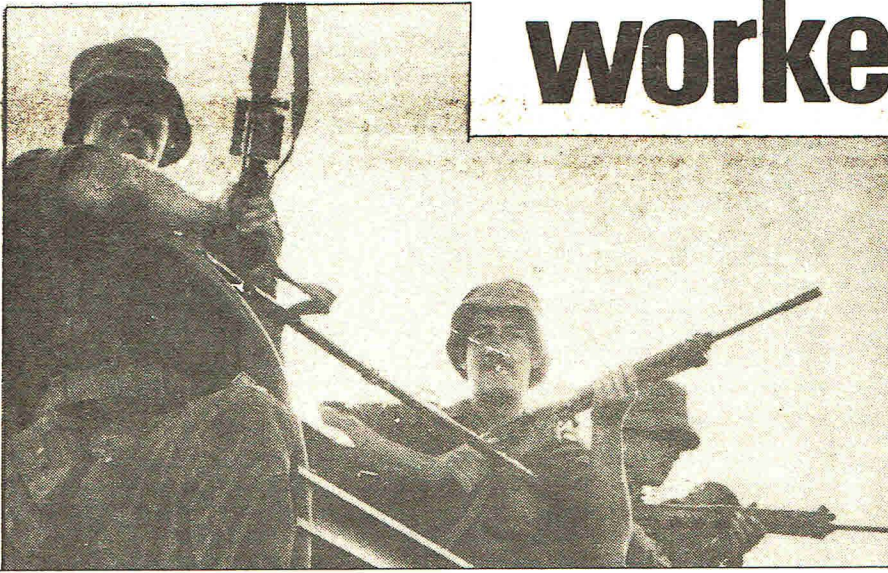
Even to the ruling class it is clear that the focus of the movement is increasingly not just this or that minor issue, but a determination to be rid of the whole system—apartheid, its brutal state machine, and the profit system it defends.

The *Economist* (10/8/85) writes in horror that in the townships, "they see their political oppression and big business as 'two sides of the same bloody coin'".

The state of emergency was imposed to try and restore "law and order" in the worst affected areas—particularly because the ferment was beginning to spread into Soweto, South Africa's largest township. But while at least 1500 youth activists have been detained, and the police and army can operate in the emergency areas free from the gaze of the media, the movement has by no means been brought to a halt. Mass anger has exploded in Natal albeit in confused form (see page 2); and also in the Western Cape. A boycott of white businesses continues in the Eastern Cape and other areas.

**Most importantly, the South African National Union of Mineworkers has called strike action from 25 August, is supporting the boycott of white businesses, and will call a national strike should Botha repatriate "foreign" workers.**

Big business and the imperialist powers have recognised the regime's "need" for the state of emergency, but are fearful that it too—like half-hearted



Photos clockwise from top left: SA police patrolling black townships; President Botha; London rally in June, to commemorate the 25th anniversary of Sharpeville.

"reforms"—will only fan the flames of revolution.

Within the regime, and among the big capitalists, there is clear division, confusion and uncertainty. In the same speech President Botha warned that it may be necessary to extend the state of emergency to Natal, he also stated that he personally "would like to lift the emergency regulations."

## Bubbling insurrection

The mining companies are also bitterly divided in their approach to the black mineworkers' demands. One side argues that further concessions will be taken as a sign of weakness. The other side maintains that, in the present climate, they cannot be avoided.

"Now, with the country's state of emergency" comments the *Financial Times* (6 August), "in which police and army units are stretched in holding down the bubbling insurrection in many of the nation's black townships, police action to quell mine labour disputes would seem to be out of the question."

"Anglo-American, SA's largest mining house... believes that military action to quell mine disturbances would necessitate large-scale mobilisation of army reserves. This would be

widely interpreted as proof that SA's unrest was increasingly out of control".

At the same time that the murderous police and army rampage in the townships, the regime "leaks" promises of further "reforms"—the restoration of SA citizenship to those in the "independent" Bantustans; "multi-racial" regional government structures; a fresh "look" at the pass laws; appointment of Africans to the President's Council.

But, as the more far-sighted capitalist spokesmen point out, these will not halt the movement either: a section of big business and imperialism is calling for even more "drastic" measures of reform.

The fundamental problem for the ruling class is that the oppressed will be content with nothing less than one-person-one-vote in a unitary South Africa—because nothing less than majority rule will give working people the power to solve the problems of poverty wages, homelessness, joblessness, and all the other burdens heaped on them by apartheid and capitalism.

But one-person-one-vote in a unitary state is, for these reasons precisely, a non-negotiable issue not only for the regime but for every section of the capitalist class; and they have stated so repeatedly. All those who are calling for "negotiations"

with representative black leaders have an agenda which involves new forms of division ("federalism", etc), to protect capitalist power and white privilege.

Any black leader—such as Gatsha Buthelezi in Natal, who has also defended the state of emergency—who declares his willingness to compromise on the issue of one-person-one-vote in a unitary state will lose mass credibility and, thereby, the power to bring the movement to a halt in the interests of the bosses.

South Africa is presently buzzing, according to the media, with rumours that Mandela will be released. "Progressive" capitalists and their representatives are certainly urging this.

## Nelson Mandela

Unquestionably, just as the banned African National Congress is the organisation under whose banner the masses are struggling to unite to carry through the political and social transformation of South Africa, so the long-imprisoned Mandela is its most popular leader. His release would be greeted with overpowering enthusiasm.

But, like every leader in the country, a freed Mandela would face the key issue: either capitalism, enforced by the existing (white) state machine, or the struggle for

militant organised working class, and rallying around it the additional courage and ingenuity of the youth, which has reduced the South African ruling class to their present degree of impasse. Yet their state machine remains a formidable one, and neither it nor the ruling class is yet irreparably divided or paralysed.

What will take the movement forward to victory is not the expectation of reforms from "progressive" capitalists, nor the search for a negotiated solution with the ruling class, but clear class policies for democracy and socialism. In time, this can also open up class divisions among the whites, and split away or neutralise this social base of the state and the bosses.

Today the struggle of the mineworkers, a rallying point for the fightback against the state of emergency, is pointing the way forward. Just over the horizon now, before the end of the year, could at last come the formation of a new federation of democratic trade unions, uniting the heavy battalions of the organised workers.

## Socialist ANC programme

Around a clear class programme the new federation could become a huge fortress of the struggle against apartheid and capitalism. The struggle to mobilise into its ranks the unorganised workers could be a powerful rallying point for the youth movement.

On the solid basis of the working class organised in the trade unions there can be built, clandestinely and then openly, a mass African National Congress on a socialist programme that can in time defeat the regime and the bosses.

The state of emergency cannot, against a movement stronger than ever before, open up a period of reaction and repression such as followed Sharpeville in 1960. At worst, if opportunities are not taken by the movement, there can be temporary setbacks and a lull.

At the same time, the ugly side of the recent events in Natal provides a small glimpse of the future nightmare that could be opened up by a failure to unite the working class around a revolutionary programme at the head of all the oppressed.

In the future, if a powerful movement is not united around clear class policies, the spectre opens up of an anarchic civil war between white racists and the black majority, with the tops of the state machine powerless to restore control or prevent their own ranks from plunging in on the side of white reaction.

The working class and the youth have the interest and the power to forestall such a catastrophe, through a determined struggle for revolutionary mass organisation around the internationalist programme of Marxism.

# From Hitler's agent to dear friend

SOCIALISTS WITH long memories will have raised their eyebrows at the Communist Party's paper, the *Morning Star* over the past few weeks, as it turns its hand to various 'anniversary' articles. History can be so cruel.

The 24 July edition carried a gushing biography of Lord Fenner Brockway. The article (by Kay Beauchamp of Liberation) called Lord Brockway "our dear friend", applauding his "determination to challenge the murderous ideas of racism and imperialism". Explaining how he had "devoted his life to ending the British Empire" it outlined his life's work for 'peace, colonial freedom and anti-imperialism' from the 1920s to present.

But there was one ominous gap—the second world war. Not surprisingly the CP would like to forget this little hiccup. For 43 years ago Brockway was not their "dear friend" but the target of the CP's bitter invective as they leapt to the defence of the Churchill coalition government.

With the Stalinist leaders of the CP tied to the Moscow line, the 1930s and '40s saw the party carry out spectacular political somersaults. From opposing Hitler and fascism in the 1930s, they found themselves tied in theoretical knots with the Hitler/Stalin pact of 1939. With the invasion of Russia in 1941 they back flipped again, settling down to unconditional support for



Stalinism then and now: left, *The Daily Worker* in the war, giving full backing to British imperialism's war aims (complete with picture of General Montgomery) and the *The Morning Star* last week, wringing with pacifism.

British capitalism and the war aims of the Churchill government.

One of the most infamous incidents of this period was the Cardiff East by-election of 1942. With the Labour Party in Churchill's coalition, they had an agreement not to stand against sitting Tory MPs. The election of Cardiff East's MP, Tory War Minister Sir James Grigg, should have been a formality. However, the Independent Labour Party, who opposed the war mainly from a pacifist position and attacked British Imperialism's ulterior motives, decided to fight Grigg. Their candidate was Fenner Brockway.

This infuriated the Communist Party. Unlike the cooing doves of peace in the CP today, the wartime 'Communists' had no time for

pacifism. The *Daily Worker*, (23 December 1942) even described the aims of the Peace Pledge Union (the peace movement of the time) as "on lines closely paralleling those of Nazi policy".

Sir James found an unlikely group of canvassers in his election campaign. The South Wales CP mobilised, turning their venom on Brockway. Their election slogan was: "A vote for Brockway is a vote for Hitler".

In one scurrilous leaflet they claimed Brockway's policies would "endanger the lives of our lads in the forces"; that Brockway "competes with Hitler in his lying attacks on Stalin"; and even that: "Brockway wants freedom for India, but does not explain that India can only be free by joining with



Britain and Russia in the fight against fascism". British Imperialism, the brutal oppressor of the Indian masses for 200 years had overnight become their guardians of freedom.

The CP's conclusive evidence to the Cardiff workers was: "Far better vote for Sir James Grigg, the honest capitalist, than a false socialist".

The CP took similar hair-raising positions following the dropping of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs. Yet last week the *Morning Star* (6 August) had the gall to proclaim: "Most people at the time accepted the story put out by the US military that presented this massacre as a sort of boon that could save thousands and thousands of lives by bringing the

war to a speedy conclusion."

Unlike the true Marxists based around the paper *Socialist Appeal* in 1945 (see last week's *Militant*, page 10), the CP were amongst those hoodwinked. Their paper, the *Daily Worker*, said after Hiroshima: "... valuable lives in the Allied Nations will have been saved by the new discovery". And after Nagasaki: "The use of the atom bomb has mercifully shortened the war, with a consequent saving of human life".

Oh how times change. But while today's Stalinists blandly rewrite history, little has changed about the totally un-Marxist nature of the 'Communist Party'.

By Bob Wade

## Letters

Send us your views, comments or criticism. Write to *Militant*, 3/13 Hepscoot Road, London E9 5HB

### Nuclear threat

Dear Comrades,  
Over the last two evenings, having watched both *War Game* and *Threads* I can quite imagine why *War Game* was not shown in 1964 when it was originally made. Not because it was too "upsetting", but because of the effect it would have had on working people, the labour movement especially. To have seen how the ruling class will act in such a situation would have had an enormous effect on the consciousness of workers in general.

But what a complete condemnation of capitalist society these two films are. Knowing all the consequences of such a war, these ruling class lunatics are still flexing their nuclear muscles.

In 1983 during the general election, Ben Ford the right

wing traitor who stood against the Labour candidate in Bradford North, commented of *Militant* supporters that we were "not normal", that we were always "out there politiking". Well the reason that we are always "out there politiking" is precisely for the reasons demonstrated graphically in these two films.

We know the choice faced by the working class: socialism or nuclear annihilation. But we also know that lapel badges and posters in the window are not enough. Working people must not only be awakened to the threat of nuclear war and its consequences, but also to the tasks which must be accomplished in order to avert such a war.

Yours fraternally  
Greg Moran  
Bradford North CLP

### Private keep out!

Dear Comrades,  
I am nearly 70 years old and was brought up in a small Kent village and have frequently visited the Isle of Sheppey, since long before the war.

Imagine my surprise last week when I went to walk to the top of the island. I was confronted by a group of very arrogant tennis players together with a warden in a yellow Land Rover with two fierce dogs. The tip of the island was completely blocked off by gates and barbed wire.

Apparently the small

smattering of rather grotty little dwellings there have been taken over by a private owner, and are now called the Snellsea Private Estate. I fully understand people wanting to protect their property in this violent age but I was given to understand in no uncertain terms by its guardians that it was more a case of 'them' and 'us.'

It would be interesting to know if they can prevent people from just walking through. I lived on a private estate for years but we never prevented anyone walking through. I have always walked by these houses in the past—for years and years!

Yours fraternally  
Alfred Martin  
Kent



Mass support for nuclear disarmament on a CND demonstration, 1981. Photo: Militant.

### On the other side

Dear Comrades,  
It is interesting that in the time of a recession how Thatcher can give the heads of the armed forces a £450 a week wage rise and an extra £212 for the Judges.

The other side of the nation lives differently. Salford is one of the poorest parts of Manchester with over 60 per cent unemployment. Crime and alcoholism are part of everyday life.

Whilst in the local, I heard the barmaid saying how she had to pawn her wedding

ring that day so that she could feed her children.

Also a girl was telling my flat mate that every day she puts a saucer of milk plus some breadcrumbs out at night for the cats. When opening the door for work in the morning she found local kids eating the milk and breadcrumbs.

The gulf between the rich and poor is getting forever larger. The sooner we get rid of these rich parasites the better.

Yours fraternally  
Robert Marshall  
Salford LPYS

### Hungry for profit

Dear Comrades,  
The press is interested in *Live Aid*. It sells papers. More importantly so are millions of working people, distressed by the horrors that television and *Live Aid* have highlighted.

In 1984 nearly 5 million African children died from lack of food and diseases related to famine or by an inability to fight illnesses like measles. They have lost the fight started the moment they are born.

Thatcher tells us how

much her government has done. But they allow thousands of tonnes of potatoes to be dyed red and made inedible in Britain. Her system and the rest of the EEC allowed:— 41 cauliflowers, 75½ lbs of tomatoes, 3,170lbs of apples, 1,358lbs of oranges, 438lbs of peaches etc to be destroyed by the EEC every minute in 1982-3.

People dying? Oh dear. People cannot afford to buy food? Tough. Let the free market decide. Feelings and caring cannot come before profit.

Yours fraternally  
Garry Freeman

## LEFT and RIGHT

### A dead cert

GREVILLE JANNER Labour MP for Leicester West, is a keen writer on industrial legislation. Writing in this month's *Mind Your Own business* magazine, he explains that through the Employers Liability (Defective Equipment) Act, bosses are liable for any injuries to their workforce caused by defective machinery. Or as Mr Janner puts it: "Any employee injured or killed by defective plant or equipment supplied at work is on a marvellous wicket."

### Onward christian socialists

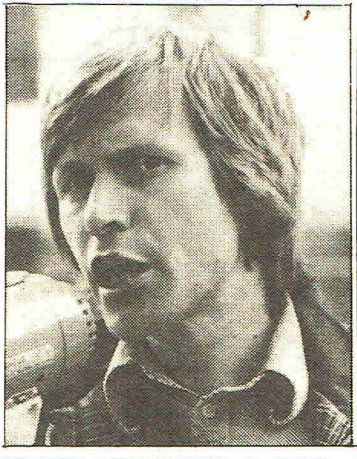
TEN SALVATION Army workers at its centre in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne have joined the Transport and General Workers Union. Meanwhile the Lincoln Theological college which trains Church of England ministers has set up a Labour Club and affiliated to the National Organisation of Labour Students.

### Black sections support grows

NEW LIFE, the country's main Asian weekly reports on 26 July: "The black sections movement has an unlikely ally in its fight for recognition and power... At what a press statement from the National Front's head office call 'the extraordinary branch meeting of the Enfield and Barnet NF on 10 July' an undoubtedly quite extraordinary motion was proposed and passed. In admirably logical NF fashion, it stated that: 'This branch welcomes the establishment of black sections within the Labour Party as the first stage in the re-alignment of British politics on racial lines...'

## Print industry in crisis

LAST WEEK, Peter Jarvis, right, a member of London Region NGA, outlined the dangers that face the print unions and the closed shop arising from new technology and the aftermath of the *Stockport Messenger* dispute. In part two this week, Peter Jarvis looks at the need for trade union unity and public ownership of the industry.



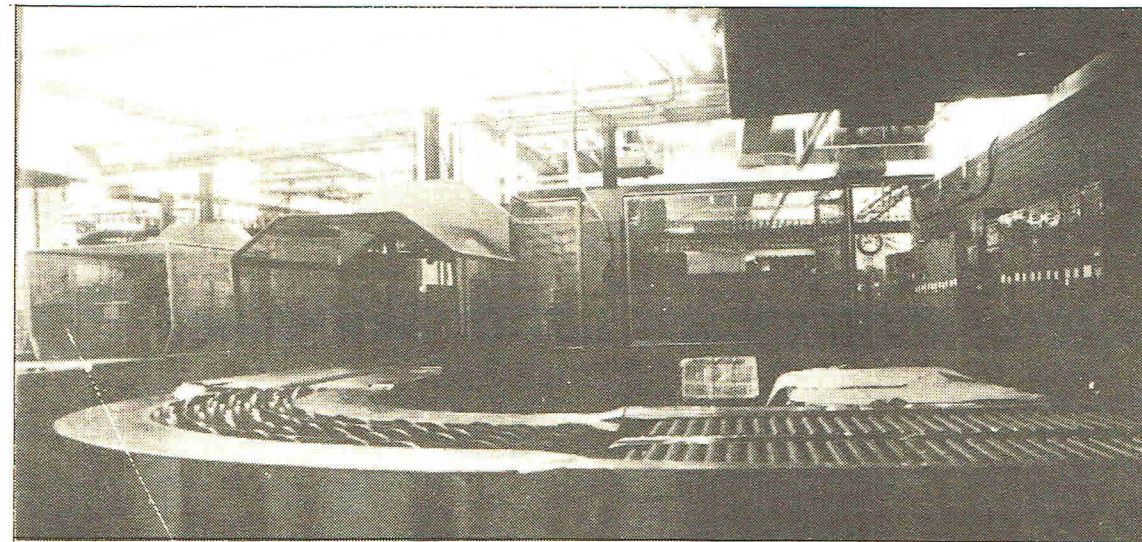
# Unity is strength

UNITY IS strength has always been the watchword of the trade union movement. This common aim alongside the development of industrial technique has over the past century led to amalgamation and regroupment of trade unions.

This has been the case for the print industry. As far back as 1907 the TUC were urging amalgamation of the small craft unions in the print trade—at that time there were 27 separate print unions. This process has taken place, and today there are three main unions; the National Graphical Association, the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades '82, and the National Union of Journalists.

The arrival of new technology demands this process continues, with the three unions amalgamating or at the very least formulating a common policy. Yet instead we find the leaders of these unions hurling abuse at each other and even undermining each other's strength and threatening the existence of the closed shop.

Of course there are genuine fears amongst the various union members. Amalgamation or a joint plan raise questions of differing union structures, reallocation of



The presses fall silent at the *Sun* during the strike in support of the *Stockport six* in 1983. Photo: Militant.

work under new technology etc; all areas that need to be thrashed out between the three unions. But this elementary step has been stopped dead by the bureaucratic interests of the various union leaderships. They all think they can gain over the other unions with the introduction of new technology. To add to the confusion, the right-wing leaders of the electricians union, the EETPU, are encroaching into the print industry, offering no-strike deals to the newspaper

bosses, notably Eddie Shah.

The miners' strike if nothing else should have impressed on these leaders the need for unity. The experience of the trade unions under the Thatcher government is that no union can stand and fight alone.

Every print worker must demand that the unions come together to plan a common strategy. Approaches must be made at chapel level to formulate a united front on the shop floor.

The need for unity is nowhere greater than on Fleet Street. Enormous problems are rapidly developing.

### Pole-Carew

The notorious print union buster of the 1970's Pole-Carew, former owner of the *Nottingham Post*, has now been brought in by Rupert Murdoch's News International empire (owners of the *Sun*, *Times*, *News of the World* etc) to plan its new London paper and oversee moving its printing site to Wapping in the East End. Here, SOGAT have said they are willing to discuss production and distribution of the paper without the agreement of the NGA, because they say the NGA are demanding complete control of the machine room.

Similar inter-union rows could develop on Fleet Street. Maxwell is planning to spend £100 million on the *Mirror* Group. The *Daily Telegraph* has raised £110 million from the City to move to a new site on London's docklands. Associated Newspapers (the *Daily Mail* group) plan to move to a new plant in Surrey, costing £100 million.

The dangers are obvious. With millions at stake the newspaper barons will be determined to try and break the unions, leaving them

open to introduce new technology at their new sites, slashing jobs, driving down wages and conditions to boost their profits. They will find their task made all the easier if the three unions continue to stab each other in the back, rather than uniting to defend all print workers' interests.

It appears that the union leaderships think that if they co-operate with the bosses they will be able to scramble to the top of the pile. If unions like the NUJ, SOGAT and now the EETPU think they can squeeze out the NGA to increase their own industrial strength, they are gravely mistaken. The bosses have no union favourites, they want rid of all unions. If they succeed in breaking a well organised and strong union like the NGA they will be in a far stronger position to come back and pick off the remaining unions.

While unity is essential in defending jobs the introduction of new technology brings another aspect sharply into focus: ownership and control of the print industry.

The arrival of the microchip should mean a massive expansion of the industry and the ability to drastically reduce working hours. Yet under capitalism, as with other industries, new technology will bring massive redundancies and just more profits for the established owners.

However, unlike with other industries, the labour movement has often shied away from the demand of public ownership of the printing industry. The fear often raised is would nationalisation encroach on free speech? It is a fear the capitalist class play on, often prattling on about the 'freedom of the press'.

It must be understood that there is no real press freedom under

capitalism. All the major newspapers are owned and strictly controlled by big business.

By 1983 the three major newspaper barons, Maxwell, Murdoch and Matthews controlled 83 per cent of national Sunday paper circulation and 75 per cent of national daily circulation.

The value of the media is not measured by the capitalist class in profit. Indeed the chairman of the National Publishers Association in 1982 pointed out the the national press made a net loss, bolstered only by profits in the multi-nationals' other areas of investment. Clearly, ownership of the media is used for political influence.

Where is the press freedom in a situation where all the national dailies have a hostility to the labour movement bordering on hysteria, yet the TUC representing over 10 million workers has no national daily voice?

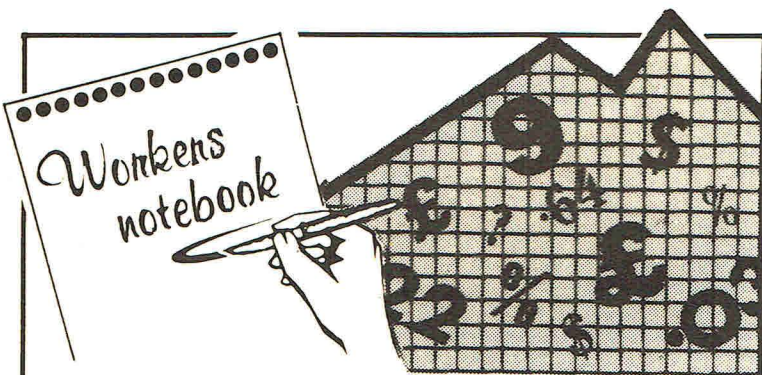
### Workers control

The labour movement has increasingly tried to combat this bias. The print unions as we saw in the miners' strike have used the strength of its closed shop to stop the publication of the more outrageous articles. Last week saw the television unions hold a one day strike to fight the government's attempt at censorship of a BBC programme.

But while these actions are to be applauded the print and media unions cannot be expected to keep the media barons permanently in check with perpetual industrial action. A free and democratic press can only be achieved when the printing resources are taken out of the ruling classes' hands through nationalisation.

This does not mean that the *Daily Mail* as such would be taken over and ordered to write 'socialist stories'. It is the industry's facilities that must be nationalised and then, under a democratic socialist system with the industry under workers control, access to all the press and media facilities could be allocated to groups within society in proportion to the support they have. Similarly, nationalisation under workers control and management can guarantee jobs using new technology to cut the working week and, through opening up access to the media to whole new sections of society, a massive expansion of the industry.

New technology poses the greatest threat and the greatest challenge to the print unions. If we stand divided we will fail. If we unite we can win.



DESPITE GOVERNMENT denials at the time that the miners' strike was having an effect, financial reports show the year long strike cost the government billions of pounds. Losses incurred were £2.22 billion to the electricity board mainly through burning oil instead of coal; British Steel £180 million; British Rail £250 million; the coal industry itself £1,200 million; lost income tax £290 million; police costs £200 million; and social security extra payments £50 million. The strike worsened the balance of payments by £4 billion and reduced national output by over one and a quarter per cent.

THE BIG four banks—Barclays, Lloyds, Midlands and Nat West—have announced record profits of £1.2 billion. They explain the massive 116 per cent increase in pre-tax profits is through high interest rates, increased bank charges, new bank services and the cutting of staff through new technology.

## INDUSTRIAL REPORTS

Caretakers  
join up

THE DISPUTE involving Tower Hamlets caretakers against the local Labour council is over—at least for the moment. The dispute was referred to the London councils' dispute committee and the council have been told to take the caretakers back on their old conditions, pending negotiations.

The dispute began when the council attempted to impose a 16 hour increase in the working week with no increase in pay—when the caretakers refused to work these new rotas they were in effect locked out.

The dispute was solid throughout—even after a month without pay there was not a single man prepared to go back on the basis of the management's offer.

The local LPYS were very active in the dispute in raising money for the hardship fund and in organising public activity, so the caretakers could explain to tenants what the dispute was about.

Tower Hamlets council agreed to comply with Tory spending targets and now the implications of that decision are becoming clear. They are forced into making cuts in jobs and services and are searching for just one sign of weakness among their workers and they will pile in.

One result of this dispute which the council didn't count on has been the effect it has had on the caretakers themselves. Twelve have joined the Labour Party so far to kick out the councillors responsible for these attacks and replace them with people who are prepared to fight the Tories.

By Dave Fryatt  
(Bethnal Green and  
Stepney LPYS)

Hadden  
Costello

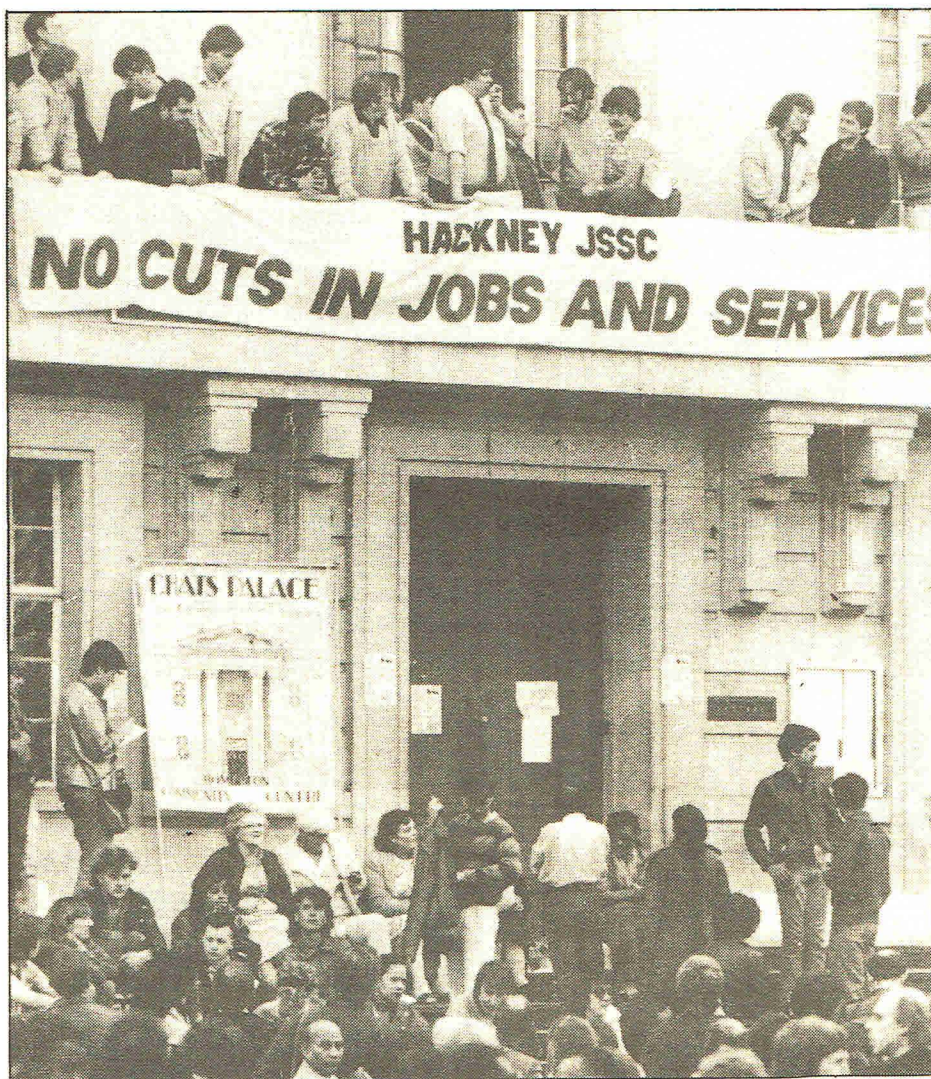
ONE-THIRD of the workforce is still out at the Hadden-Costello shop components' firm in Leicester in the two month old strike.

The dispute was sparked off in June by management withdrawing union recognition and locking out the workers. The management have since taken on casual labour at much higher rates of pay than normal. One of the strikers who has been with the firm for 12 years was paid £80 per week—yet one of the casuals started on £90. Collections have been undertaken by the strikers, in the city centre every week.

The sacked workers are suffering intense hardship after two months on strike. Financial support is urgently needed if the workers are not to be driven back to work. Please send donations to: Haddon-Costello Strike Fund, c/o Leicester Unemployed Workers' Centre, Charles Street, Leicester.

By Adrian Schwartz  
(Leicester West LPYS)

## Hackney—worker reinstated



Black and white Hackney council workers rally to defend the council during the anti-rate-capping campaign earlier this year. Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report)

THE STRIKE at Hackney council Department of Technical Services ended last week on 7 August. As a result of the strike, the suspension threat to one worker which caused the strike was lifted, and for the first time there have been talks between management and unions as to what constitutes grounds for dismissal.

The worker was suspended for alleged racist abuse. As *Militant* reported last week, the black worker involved did not want the matter taken further and the general feeling of the workforce was that it was an isolated incident as tempers flared in an argument.

Yet management bypassed relevant procedures and suspended the worker. As far as the workforce was concerned, management had used the incident as a screen to carry through their real policy of testing out the workers, looking for soft-spots for possible future cutbacks.

Both black and white workers came out on strike and picketed the depot, joined by black and white members of NALGO on the DTS section.

However, the dispute was marred by the decision of Hackney NALGO branch meeting not to back the strike. Certain elements said

the strike was racist, without hearing arguments to the contrary, while one individual from Hackney Commission for Racial Equality even went as far to say NALGO members should cross the picket—a stab in the back to the black workers manning the picket lines.

Confused and uninformed about the real issues, the meeting said the DTS NALGO members should lift their picket.

As a result the DTS fitters, around whom the dispute hinged, feeling that a racial slur was being cast over the dispute and without backing from NALGO, decided to return to work. Even so, the strike had the desired effect and management lifted the suspension and opened discussions on procedure.

It would be wrong to blame the majority of NALGO members for what happened, and it is certainly wrong that NALGO members resign from the union in anger, as is beginning to happen at the DTS. Not only should they remain in the union but get active in its organisation to ensure that those uninformed elements are kept in touch with reality.

By Tim White  
(Hackney South and  
Shoreditch LPYS)

## Islington—keep racists out of workplace

OVER 400 staff working for Islington council in North London in the local 'Neighbourhood offices' have been on strike from 5 August.

They are protesting at the appointment of a supervisor who had been found in breach of the council's Equal Opportunities Code. This dispute has not dropped out of the blue as the press have tried to portray it. The staffs' union NALGO has been trying to force manage-

ment and the council to take action against racists in the rent accounts section for the past 18 months. Arising out of this situation, the supervisor concerned, Vi Howell, was found guilty of racial abuse of one of the staff.

Later the NALGO branch decided their members would not co-operate with such people if they were allowed by management to continue working in posts with contact with the public. However, when Howell was

slotted into a post at the Quadrant Neighbourhood office, staff said they would work with her if she agreed verbally to stand by the equality code and recognise the discriminatory nature of her actions in the past. She refused.

Quadrant NALGO members unanimously decided not to open the office and a meeting of all Neighbourhood NALGO members voted 107 to five to strike, such was the strength

of feeling on the issue. Similar action was taken by staff in other social services sections.

All NALGO are demanding is the relocation of officers who have broken the code into areas where they do not work with the public and that no one is disciplined for taking industrial action. All we are demanding is the status quo.

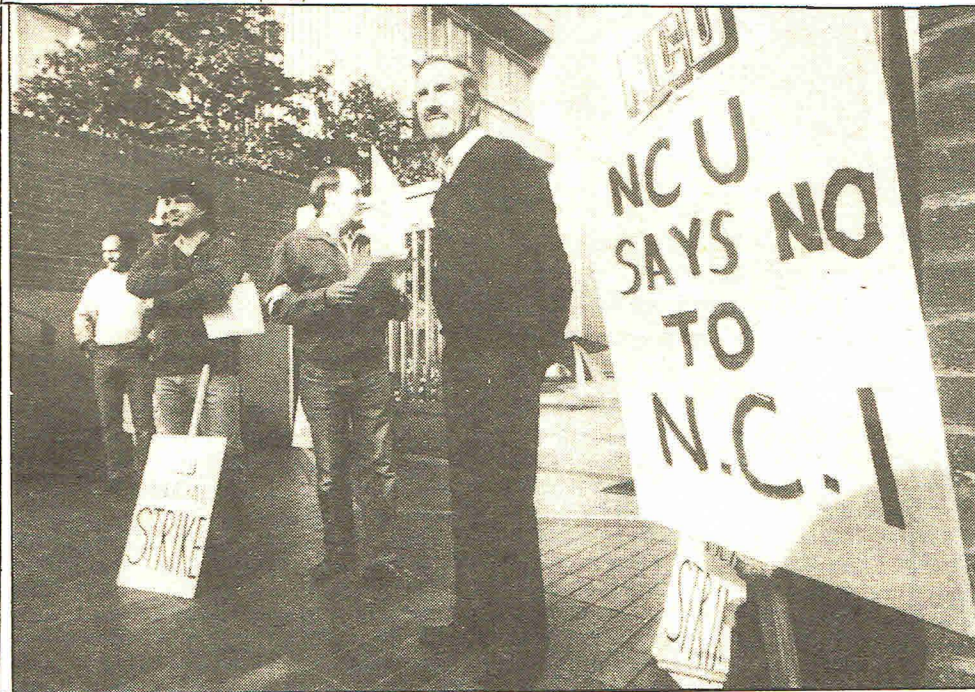
We think the present situation will be sufficient to bring home to 'left' Islington

Labour councillors the gravity of the situation and there are signs already that many councillors have been taken back by the strength of feeling and are anxious to settle the dispute.

Messages of support and donations needed to: Dave Burn, NALGO secretary, 153 Upper Street, Islington, London N1.

By an Islington  
NALGO member

Photo: Jez Caulson (IFL)



## Telecom workers in NCI protest

MEMBERS OF the National Communications Union held a 24-hour strike in protest at the sacking of a worker through NCI—'Non Caupable Inefficiency'. The NCI procedure introduced by management says workers who may 'not be up to the job' but are not to blame can still be victimised. Following the sacking at Keybridge House in south London, the London South Central External NCU branch set up picket lines and were supported by Westminster NCU.

Fight DHSS  
overtime threat

LAST WEEK'S court decision on the 'Cotton case' was a setback for the government. Their attempts to put time limits on people under 26 staying in board and lodging accommodation while on the dole has been ruled illegal.

It is a decision that must be pushed by staff at DHSS offices so that those youth who have lost money in the past four weeks get their benefit reinstated.

However, with staff shortages in local offices at present, the unions must make sure that this decision is not used by management to try and bring in overtime.

About this time every year we see an increase in overtime so as to implement the November increases in benefit. Offices up and down the country, especially in central London, have already got

massive amounts of work outstanding.

New technology will be coming into offices in the next few months which will be seen as a way of cutting staff levels. We are expected to work overtime and then face staff cuts!

The civil service unions must put pressure on management for increases in staff levels. This action has got to be fought for by the unions locally.

The government are still not prepared to announce the DHSS staffing cuts for next year—there can be no doubt there are to be yet more attacks on jobs.

It is time now that the unions don't just fight for no overtime to be worked, but turn this into a demand for more staff so that a better service can be provided.

By a DHSS worker

## INDUSTRIAL REPORTS

## Stelrad workers defend stewards

**WORKERS AT Stelrad, part of the Metal Box Company in Hull, rallied around to support two victimised stewards last week.**

A union activist in our factory was recently moved to the far end of the site because he was a 'trouble maker.' The stewards sent a letter to management stating that unless he was returned to his normal place all negotiations would be broken off.

But at a further meeting, the convenor, on the instructions of the full time General and Municipal official told the stewards to drop the action—they refused.

A dispute soon developed. Two stewards (regular readers of *Militant*) were approached by management for a meeting on a particular issue. They refused, sticking by the stewards' decision. As a result they were hauled before the management, with the convenor and full time official present, and suspended for three days. A mass meeting was held which agreed to hold a one day

strike in their support, against the 'advice' of the G&M official.

When the two stewards returned from their suspension, they were again hauled up before management who demanded they withdraw their stewards' credentials for three years, or face the sack.

Reluctantly it was decided to comply. While most of the shopfloor had shown a willingness to defend victimised shop stewards, we could not be sure of the attitude of some stewards and the full time official, who was demanding a two-thirds majority ballot before official backing could be given. Also management had picked the right time—our two week annual holiday period was looming.

This is an obvious attempt to 'test the water' before they launch further attacks on the union. Despite the current setback the active stewards will continue to fight for the membership and a union represents the real interests of the shop floor.

## Scottish NLACC conference 31 August

**Madisons Playhouse, Edinburgh  
11 am - 4 pm  
5 delegates per TU branch,  
2 per workplace  
Delegation fee £1 per delegate  
to: Peter Luke,  
14 Rosslyn Crescent, Edinburgh**

# Morris workers stay out

TWELVE WEEKS after being sacked, 35 members of the Furniture Timber and Allied Trades union at Morris's in Glasgow are still out.

The strikers, including nine apprentices, are fighting for a 39 hour week and union recognition. They also want conditions improved—last week one scab lost a finger in an accident.

Three years ago the union members verbally agreed to increase, for a year, their working week by two and a quarter hours, to help the company through a "sticky patch". Their reward at the end of the year? They were told they would have to continue working a 41¼ hour week and the union would not be recognised.

Anger built up over the years, and three months ago the workforce voted in favour of walking out after working 39 hours. On attempting to leave the factory, they found the millionaire owner Robert Morris waiting at the door with a 'heavy' and police. Despite knowing he would sack them, 29 walked out, joined by six others who refused to cross the picket line.

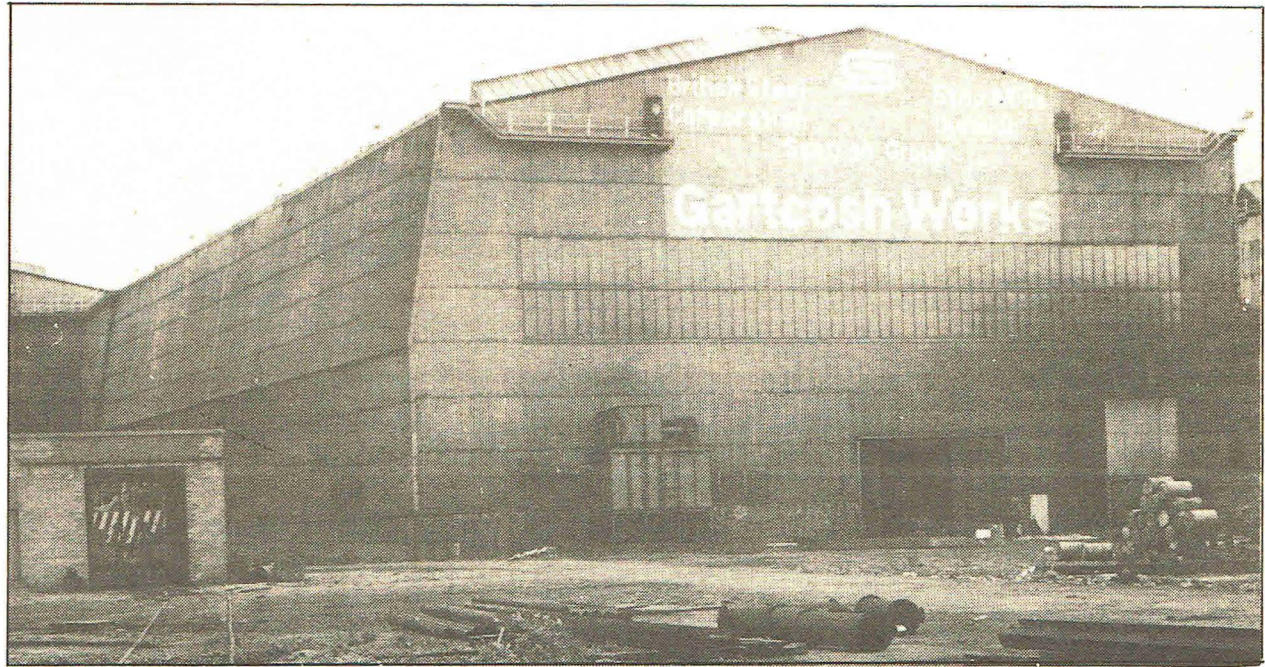
There has been great support from various unions, from the shipyards to the fire brigade, and the local LPYS



Morris strikers march with local councillors by the Morris furniture factory in June.

branches have been building support. During the general secretary election in the shop workers' union, USDAW, LPYS members established contact with the USDAW Broad Left. They have used these contacts to put Morris strikers in touch with USDAW stewards—already one large store has refused to

# Steel mill faces axe



The doomed Gartcosh BSC strip mill in Coatbridge.

Photo: Rick Matthews (IFL)

IN A classic example of Tory double-talk, George Younger, the Scottish Secretary of State, revealed this week that the British Steel Corporation's Gartcosh strip mill in Coatbridge is to close by March.

Eight hundred workers there were subjected to the gloating of Mr Younger who said at a special press conference: "This is good news for Scotland and I am delighted". In an attempt to hide the closure details the Tories reported somewhat astonishingly that the axing of Gartcosh meant that Ravenscraig was now safe.

The truth is that Ravenscraig has been hammered and the death-knell sounded for the entire Scottish steel industry. Three years from now, if Thatcher has her way, there will be no steel industry in Scotland.

The closure notice was received with complete surprise by the unions at Gartcosh who had recently witnessed the investment of £2 million in new machinery at the plant (completed in May) with cuts in the workforce, as part of a plan to keep the mill open.

"We have been betrayed. George Younger is a traitor" was how Clive Lewis, ISTC regional official, greeted the news. The fact that to many this betrayal has long been predicted (especially by *Militant*) does not alter the fact that this news is a body blow to steel workers. Fear of this announcement had led the steel men down many a blind alley in the past year or so. The praises bestowed on them by Thatcher were always mistrusted, but the folly of actions they were led into taking during the

miners' strike and afterwards can be clearly seen now.

The Scottish steel workers have been disastrously conned by the British Steel Corporation and the government alike. The failure to give support to the miners, the 'go-it-alone' policy adopted on last year's pay claim, an attempt to "prove" Ravenscraig's economic viability by breaking production records, now makes sad and almost pathetic reading against a background of Tory lies and hypocrisy.

The immediate effect of Gartcosh's closure will mean disaster for the Coatbridge area which already has an unemployment rate amongst the highest in Britain at around 32 per cent. Youth unemployment in the area is over 90 per cent.

However, as long as the

lessons can be learned and a proper leadership given, the fight is definitely far from over. Repairs have to be done, fences must be mended in relations between the ISTC and other unions like the NUM and railway workers, it is true, but this is not impossible. The first steps can be taken at the special rally on the closure called by the Scottish TUC in Motherwell on 29 August.

A real campaign, this time organised throughout the entire labour movement, can ensure the future of Gartcosh and of the Scottish steel industry.

Attacking the steel industry has been a soft target in the past. But now this is a life or death issue for the West of Scotland's working class—a battle which can and must be won.

## "Mr Wonderful" — a disaster

AFTER TEN weeks on strike, workers at Silentnight bedding company are more determined than every to win.

They are particularly disgusted by the management's response at ACAS talks two weeks ago. The union, the Furniture, Timber and Allied Trades, has a clear case that a rise offered on basic rates should be linked to a rise for workers on the time rate per job system. But managing director Arthur Beattie's only answer was that management **did not know** how the piece-rate scheme was to be worked out.

When Thatcher visited Silentnight in 1983, she called the chairman Tom Clarke "My Mr Wonderful", saying that what industry in this country needed was hundreds of Tom Clarkes. Such

brilliant management has reduced production to a trickle.

Although the bosses are now trying to recruit a new workforce, less than 1,000 beds are being produced each week, and substandard beds are being returned. Normally around 14,000 beds per week are produced, and 9,000 are needed just to break even.

On Wednesday, 21 August, a *Militant* Readers' Meeting will be held at 7.30pm in the Civic Hall, Barnoldswick.

Messages of support and donations to: FTAT, Cravendale Branch no 92 Strike Fund, c/o Mrs Ann King, 10 Rainhall Crescent, Barnoldswick, Colne, Lancashire.

By Linden Stafford  
(Skipton Labour Party)

## Black Caucus

Continued from  
back page

the Liverpool *Post* reporting that the meeting had been peaceful.

These events have hardened the determination of the city council to hold its own public meeting in Liverpool 8 which will allow a genuine discussion free from physical harassment. The council must refuse to be intimidated by a small, increasing-

ly lumpen group, unrepresentative of the black community.

Once the issues are fully explained, local people will be allowed to make up their own minds about this issue and, no doubt, will also back Liverpool council in its crucial struggle with the Tory government over finance and resources.

By Dougie Blackstock  
(Hillhead LPYS)

# Militant

Scottish steel  
closure fight

See page 15

## Bosses provoke rail strike

BRITISH RAIL have decided to sack 270 guards. The ultimatum was first announced to the press as rail bosses extended their strategy of 'Management by provocation.' This is the most serious threat made by the board and it affects not just the guards but all railway workers.

By Bob Russell

Since July, British Rail have deliberately rostered driver only trains to see how far the NUR membership would go in defending jobs. The response has been effective enough for management to take this unprecedented step.

Strikes have taken place in every region, and over 500 members are directly affected. The guards at Margham, Llanelli and Glasgow Central are all under threat and depots such as Westbury and Immingham may follow.

Solidarity will be vital as the board's attitude hardens. At the Willesden no 1 branch they have called on the NEC to: "Organise immediate strike action as soon as the guards are sacked". One of the branch members also stated that: "There should be no hesitation by the union, if people are sacked, in calling out all our members because the issue is now the right of the members to strike and also about how management could carry through changes without the agreement of the workforce... If the trade



Guards from Glasgow Central on picket line. Photo: Rick Matthews (IFL)

union allows sackings what will be our chance of doing anything?"

Special branch meetings will have to be called to allow the members the chance to discuss their response to the sackings, already the board are trying to split the members with differently worded letters going out to the older guards promising security of employment, if they return.

Building support for the ballot should still go ahead as a means of complimenting the campaign, and if necessary other members should be balloted to take action. However, as one

NUR member at Tinsley stated: "It's past the DOO issue now, it's the existence of this trade union that is now at stake. It's the same sort of situation the miners face."

### Battles looming

Already some of the regional managers are squaring up for a fight. At ScotRail they have declared that: "The dismissal notices are ready to go out". In the Strathclyde area, the Regional council have informed the NUR that grants will be stopped if they don't go back. What a disgusting

attitude from a Labour authority.

Picket lines are operating well, and with strike centres being set up the dispute looks set to escalate. Joint meetings of rail workers should be called to help build solidarity and the Rail Federation.

As a Glasgow guard put it: "We are fighting for our jobs and our future, and not just for the guards but for the workshops and the station staffs also. I couldn't visualise what would happen if they got away with this, twice as many jobs could go immediately".

## S Africa

(from front page)

titude; they do not take the union seriously. Negotiations are a farce. They arrive at the talks with their minds made up and expect us to make all the concessions. This is what the strike is really all about".

The strike is being called (legally) at 29 mines, but members at other mines have said they will support the action and if they do the union will support them.

Thus the overwhelming majority of the half-million mineworkers could be drawn in. It is this solidarity in the face of poverty and oppression that the mineowners fear—even while publicly they are proclaiming that most mineworkers don't want the strike!

The capitalist press is also suggesting that the union is weak because it has few financial resources and no strike fund.

Significantly, in the wake of the NUM conference, the Minister of Manpower claimed that the mine dispute had "no connection with" the state of emergency, that the government would not "get involved", and that employers and the union should settle their differences. Both's threat to expel foreign workers, he implied, has been misunderstood.

The regime is worried that its police and military are already overstretched in township repression, and that it would be necessary to call up army reserves to crush a strike on the mines—which would be seen as a sign of the weakening of the regime. Mineowners are reported to be buying arms, ammunition and armoured cars to be used against the strikers.

At the same conference, the NUM resolved to disaffiliate from the Council of Unions of South Africa, and joined with the Federation of South African Trade Unions and a number of other unions in a statement promising concerted union action against the state of emergency. The details, possibly including strike action, are to be announced later this month.

Such joint action constitutes a solid lead to the fightback by the organised working class, but it also represents a decisive new step towards the formation



of a single democratic trade union federation, long on the agenda, but continually delayed.

International support for the struggle of the mineworkers is vital. Messages of support have already been sent from Britain, including some from Labour Parties, trade unions and Labour MPs.

The whole labour movement must send resolutions which:

★ Express its complete solidarity with the present struggle of the black mineworkers organised in the SA NUM for the full implementation of their demands by the Chamber of Mines;

★ Condemn the imposition by the apartheid regime of a state of emergency, which increases its powers to maim, torture and murder the majority in struggle against apartheid and the capitalist bosses;

★ Give its fullest support to the democratic unions, the youth, the United Democratic Front, etc, in mass action in support of the SA NUM against the state of emergency, and for democracy and socialism.

Miners, miners' support groups, other trade unionists, Labour Party, LPYS branches as well as individuals with positions in the labour movement must respond urgently to this appeal, with messages and cash, to give the maximum encouragement to the SA mineworkers in the build-up to 25 August and after: -

Messages of support to: National Union of Mineworkers, PO Box 10928, Johannesburg 2000, South Africa.

NUM bank account: Barclays Bank, Bree Street East, Johannesburg. No. 8001659294.

Please send copies of messages to: Federation of South African Trade Unions, 30 World Centre, 48 Railway Street, Germiston 1401, South Africa. (Telex: 5-21682).

## Black Caucus assaults Derek Hatton

SUPPORTERS OF the Liverpool Black Caucus have once again stooped to the disgraceful level of physical assaults upon a Labour councillor.

At a meeting last Tuesday, organised by the Merseyside Community Relations Council, run and stewarded by Black Caucus supporters, Derek Hatton was viciously punched as he went into the meeting.

Despite the assault, causing a bleeding ear, Derek decided to speak as he had been invited, to explain the City council's position on the appointment of Sam Bond as race relations advisor. However, he was not allowed to speak and explain the case

properly.

Also in the meeting a black woman was manhandled, forcibly removed and spat at by Black Caucus supporters.

Supporters of the City Council who tried to speak were heckled and prevented from approaching the microphone, and many people left in disgust.

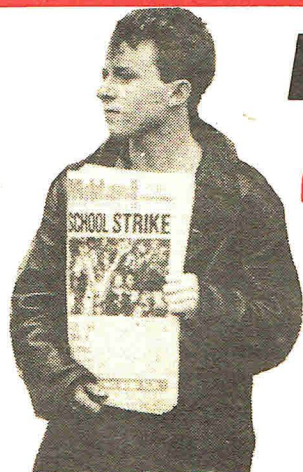
Some Labour Party members believe Derek Hatton was 'set up' for the assault by the stewards of the meeting. Black Caucus supporters have on more than one occasion in the past been responsible for disrupting meetings and physically assaulting those who do not agree with them.

Known supporters of Liverpool council accompanying Derek Hatton to the meeting, including black workers, were pointed out and their entry barred, although it had been advertised as a public meeting and pledges had been made that it would be orderly.

There is also considerable anger at a disgusting BBC news item earlier the same evening which put a disgracefully biased picture of the city council's policy on race relations, including a police spokesman virtually blaming Sam Bond for any racial disturbances that may occur and lies to the effect that he had withheld grants from a Somali group in Liverpool.

Incredibly, after the meeting, the press continued the distortions, with

Continued on page 15



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