

Militant

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TROTSKY MEMORIAL MEETING

"Trotsky's role in the Russian Revolution".
Speaker: Ted Grant. Tuesday 25 August 7.30pm, Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1. Admission 50p. Creche



Solidarity with South African miners



SOUTH AFRICAN miners are locked in an historic trial of strength with the Chamber of Mines and the apartheid state. As the NUM General Secretary Cyril Ramaphosa has said, it is already the biggest strike in South African labour history.

By John Pickard

The miners face the full power of the state machine. Besides this, the mine bosses have their own private armies of 'security guards'. Gold Fields of SA have even patented a rubber bullet for use against their employees and forced workers underground at gun point on the first day of the strike.

Already up to three workers have been killed by state forces, and 200 injured. But this is nothing to the violence that has been used against mineworkers in the past, or of which the state is capable.

But despite this intimidation and terror, the union have succeeded in pulling out a third of a million members, threatening the already weak S African economy.

The mining industry has always

been one of the bulwarks of apartheid, based on workers forced to travel hundreds of miles from their families to work for poverty wages in dangerous conditions and live in squalid hostels.

Working conditions, as much as two miles underground in temperatures over 28 degrees celsius, are appalling. 177 miners died in the Kinross explosion last year, a year in which 681 were killed and another 1351 suffered 'reportable injuries.'

Despite the enormous profits being made, especially in gold, last year black miners' wages averaged only £1602 in the gold mines and £1806 in the coal mines. Although the union has been able to chip away at the huge disparity in wages between white and black miners, which was 21 to 1 in 1970, it is still 5 to 1.

But inflation over the last few years has meant an actual fall in living standards, which is why the union is determined to go all out for its claim for a 30 per cent rise. As important are claims for improvements in death grants from two years' pay to five and in holidays from 14 days to 30.

They are also demanding negotiations on family accommodation. In the hostels as many as 24 miners share

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SANUM President James Motlatsi carried aloft by S.African miners. Photo: Report/IDAF

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Iran revolution hijacked P10



Militant

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Historic strike

THE STRIKE of 340,000 black mineworkers is the biggest ever industrial struggle in South Africa—and the most important. Half a million workers mining gold and coal, at the nerve centre of the economy, face S Africa's most powerful bosses.

The central issue is the demand for a 30 per cent pay increase, but the strike has a far wider importance. It is the first serious trial of strength between the Chamber of Mines and the SANUM since the union's birth in 1982.

Above all—with the NUM the largest union in COSATU—it is a key political battle in the revolutionary struggle of black workers and youth against the apartheid state and the system of capitalist exploitation which it defends. It marks the highest point yet in an avalanche of industrial struggles following the political stalemate which set in after the enormous revolutionary upsurge of 1984-6.

Impelled into struggle by the pressures of poverty and repression, emboldened by a temporary economic upturn, sections of workers have won important victories in recent months—in particular railworkers, employed by the apartheid state itself and previously among the most downtrodden sections of the class.

The whites-only election on 6 May was met by the first-ever two-day national general strike, supported by three million workers and youth.

Now the mood of the mineworkers is reported to be more determined than even that of the striking railworkers. The numbers who came out vastly exceeded not merely the projections of the bosses, but those of the NUM leadership.

With at least 300,000 other black workers presently in dispute, a national general strike over wages is inherent in the whole situation. Already short spontaneous solidarity strikes have taken place in different parts of the country.

NUM General Secretary Cyril Ramaphosa said, at the start of the strike, that "The struggle we are involved in on the mines is a training ground for our people for the ultimate goal which is liberation".

To enforce their demands, the mineworkers need the widest and most determined solidarity action by organised workers, and the youth movement.

The ideal vehicle for united action is the national minimum wage campaign launched by COSATU this year, but as yet a campaign in name only, because the leadership has refused to name a specific national target.

The COSATU leaders should now name the figure, and call national general strike action. To unite workers in supportive struggle across the sectoral bounds of industry is precisely why COSATU was brought into being.

Such a campaign would draw thousands more workers into COSATU, building strong COSATU branches in every area, and galvanising the huge revolutionary energies of the heroic black youth. If 80,000 non-NUM members have come out in the miners' strike, how many more unorganised workers could be brought into the unions by generalising the struggle around a definite campaign of battle?

There is also the need to organise workers' self-defence against vigilantes, mine 'security forces' and the state. But for this to be organised there has to be a clear lead. Hesitation by the COSATU leaders will not impress the bosses or the state.

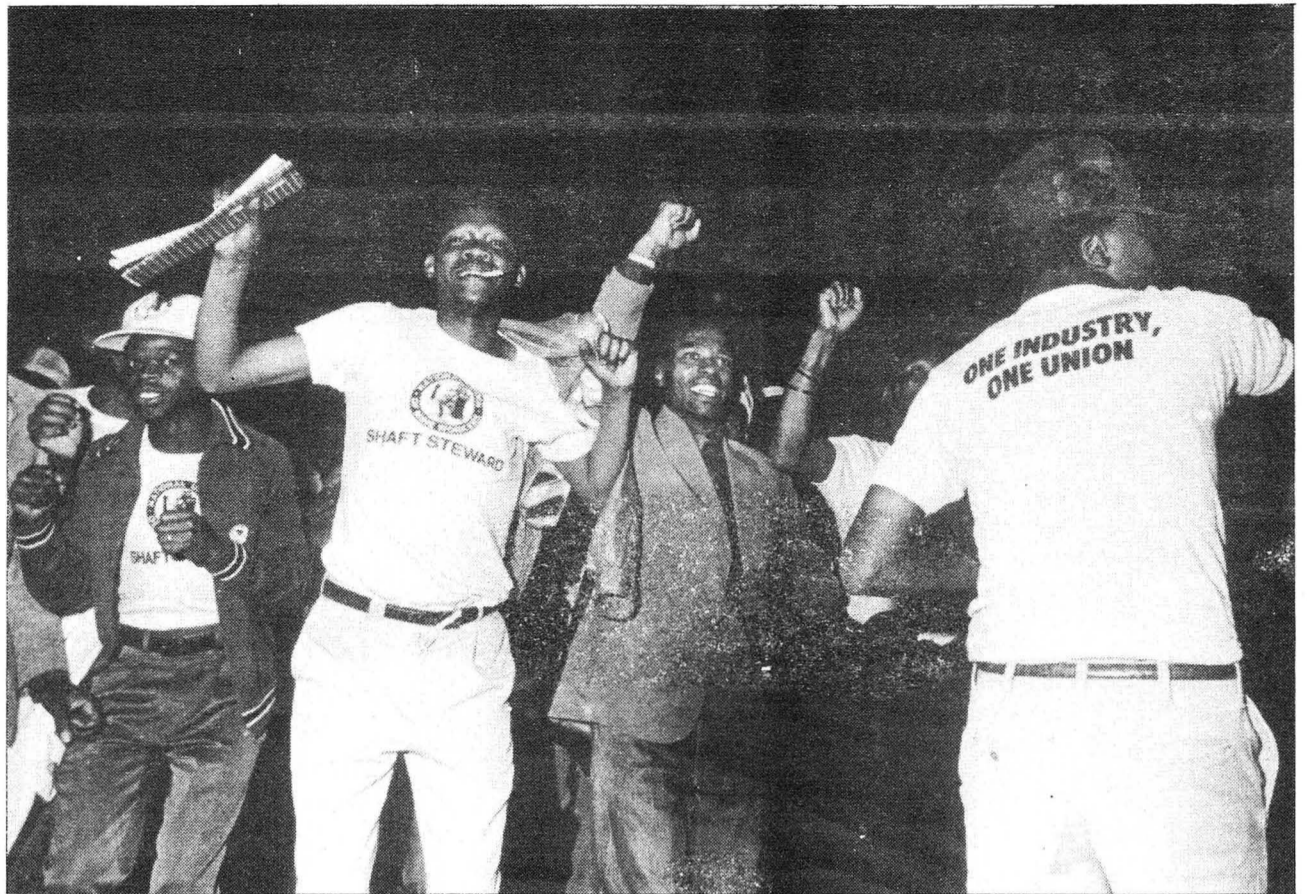
Unfortunately, the leadership of the Chemical Workers Union have suspended the SASOL strike because a striker was murdered by vigilantes; this could surely not have occurred if the COSATU leaders were providing a bold and decisive lead for nationwide action.

Fortunately, another mistake was averted when mineworkers overwhelmingly ignored the call of their leadership to leave their hostels for the strike and return to their homes in the Bantustans and foreign countries.

The potential advantage to the bosses this would have given was spelled out by an employer who welcomed the call because "This means that those who want to stay at work will be able to do so...It also means that in the event of a long strike we will not have to evict strikers but merely recruit new workers to replace them."

Now battle is fully joined and the potential is there for a victory. Every active worker, not only in S Africa but around the world, will want to play their part in bringing that about. It will be a big blow to the apartheid state and cheap labour system and a victory for workers everywhere.

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Striking South African miners.

Photo: Report/IDAF.

Anglo-American apartheid monopoly

ACCORDING TO polls, even recognised in the capitalist press, the overwhelming majority of South African black workers are in favour of socialism. They are all the more bewildered, therefore, when leaders of the movement refer to their bosses as 'progressives' or 'patriots' or other such epithets.

By John Pickard

At the March Congress of the NUM, Winnie Mandela talked about carrying forward the new democratic order 'hand in hand with the true business patriots of this land'.

The Anglo-American

Corporation is one of the companies often cited as being among the 'progressive' capitalists. Its present and past chairmen Gavin Relly and Harry Oppenheimer, have been among the staunchest supporters of the liberal white Progressive Federal Party and the company has a reputation for a benevolent paternalism.

Anglo-American can afford to be more liberal than other capitalists because of its dominant position in the economy, and, moreover, it has more to lose if it fails to persuade the leaders of the movement to abandon or derail the socialist aspirations of the black working class.

But when it comes to the day-to-day running of its mines and the defence of its profits, Anglo-American is no more 'liberal' than any other cheap-labour boss.

No sympathy

When the chips are down, it backs even the worst state repression against the working class movement. When COSATU appealed to the employers for protection against the state, Relly replied that the union "should expect no sympathy", and in his Chairman's report he backed Botha's repressive State of Emergency.

The Anglo-American

group is the biggest monopoly in South Africa. This one company alone accounts for nearly two thirds of all the shares on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange. It is responsible for 69 per cent of all capital invested in mining in the country and has extensive interests in Southern African industry and finance.

40 per cent of all gold mined is brought out of AAC mines. In addition, Anglo-American has a controlling interest in JCI (Johannesburg Consolidated Investments) and a 28 per cent shareholding in Gold Fields of South Africa.

Nationwide strike wave

ALONGSIDE THE mineworkers, at least 300 000 other black South African workers are presently in dispute with their bosses.

★ After voting 9-1 to strike over pay, 100,000 members of National Union of Metal Workers (NUMSA) had their strike suspended by their leadership when it was declared illegal. But 7000 NUMSA workers are on strike at the state-owned Iron and Steel Corporation. 1100 others have been sacked following a two-day strike at Samcor's ferro-alloys plant. NUMSA workers are on strike at Mercedes Benz in East London.

★ 15,000 Chemical Workers Union members are in dispute at four plants of the state-owned SASOL oil-from-coal complex.

★ Thousands of municipal workers are on strike in several major cities.

★ Some 15,000 postal workers are on strike around the country.

★ The strike wave is spreading even to isolated and weaker sections of the class, such as agricultural workers. 900 tea-pickers are on strike in Natal.

Socialist South Africa

THE CAMPAIGN for a Socialist South Africa (CSSA) was launched by *Militant* and *Inqaba Ya Basebenzi* (Journal of the Marxist Workers' Tendency of the African National Congress) to send money to workers and youth fighting for socialism inside South Africa.

The miners' strike demonstrates most clearly the need for cash to aid those members of the NUM and other workers who are fighting for worker-youth unity and the self-defence of workers, which are vital to win this strike, and to build a mass ANC armed

with socialist policies.

When the eyes of workers around the world are focussed on South Africa, the possibilities for raising money are great. Readers in every area should use the opportunity to turn to pits and other workplaces to win new readers to *Militant* and raise money for the CSSA.

Donations should be sent to CSSA, c/o 80 Crossmount House, Bowyer Street, London SE5 0XB.

By Philip Masters

Solidarity

Continued from page 1

one room and they are separated along tribal lines to keep them divided. The union is demanding family accommodation near the mines, as is already provided for white miners.

Coal and gold are vital for the bosses. Gold accounts for half the country's foreign exchange earnings and coal accounts for a further 10-15 per cent. Once reserves are used up, the strike will be costing the economy more than £5m a day.

The Congress of S African Trade Unions has threatened that if the

government intervenes against the miners, it will face sympathy action from the rest of the union movement. There is a huge reservoir of support for the miners in every other industry and in the townships. There is the potential for an historic victory.

Solidarity from British trade unionists, especially the miners, who are themselves balloting on industrial action, can help achieve that victory. The British NUM is to be congratulated for launching an international Strike Appeal Fund.

This should now be linked to a campaign for an international trade union boycott of all S African gold and coal and any other products of subsidiaries of mining monopolies like Anglo-American, until the SANUM's claim has been met.

Summer camp success for Marxism

MARXIST IDEAS are unstoppable—that is the message from the Forest of Dean. The Workers' Education Group summer camp brought together Marxists from all over Britain and many other parts of the world, exchanging ideas and making plans for campaigns to defeat the bosses' system.

By Sian Rhys

Far from being depressed by the recent election results, the 350 workers and youth present were confident of future victory.

Marxists from Spain, Ireland, Australia, Canada and South Africa brought news of great successes for their ideas with stories of workers' courage and willingness to struggle.

Political discussion dominated every day with seminars on current and historical topics. But comrades still managed to tear themselves away to enjoy a full sporting and social programme and take in the local scenery. A vital feature was the creche which looked after 70 children all day and evenings too. This allowed the full participation of parents.

In one of the excellent debates, Paul Thompson, a guest speaker from the La-

bour Coordinating Committee said that Labour needed a miracle to win the next election. He said "We need to appeal to the 'have-somes' in areas like Basildon. It is not enough to prick their consciences. If by some miracle, Labour wins next time, it will be because of those kind of policies."

Marxists from Spain, Ireland, Australia, Canada and South Africa told of successes.

But Peter Jarvis from *Militant* explained that Labour could have won this time if it had been able to reproduce the results where Marxist candidates stood. "We need a programme which will unite the whole working class against the Tories and against their whole system. Under socialism the middle layers would also be much better off."

Another debate was between *Militant* and the Labour Friends of Israel, who were supported by Lord and Lady Cocks of Hartcliffe! They showed the reactionary outlook of the

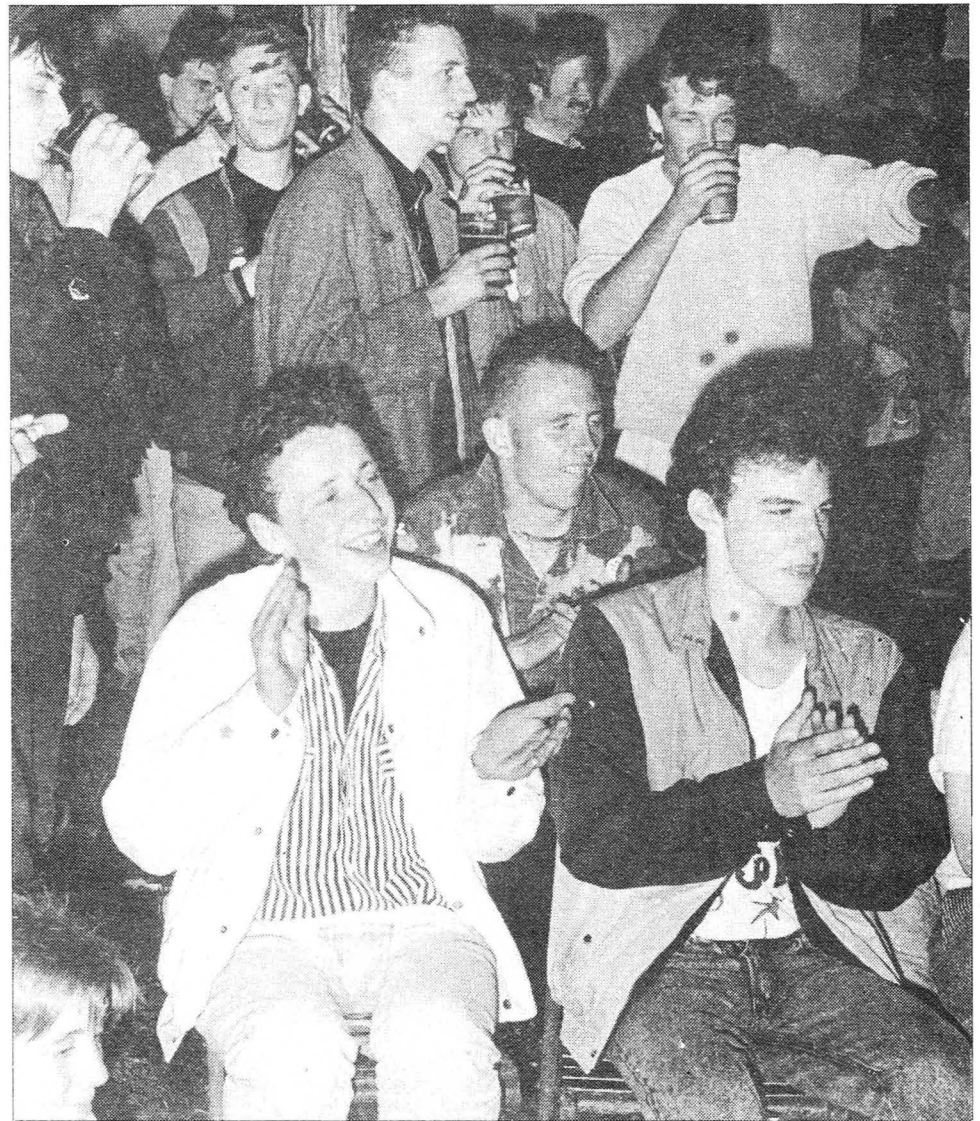
reformist leaders and their utopian approach towards peace in the Middle East.

Militant bases itself on workers' unity between Arab and Jewish workers, not on Zionist ideas. It bases itself on international socialism and has a realistic programme which can produce results.

Almost every camper squeezed into the *Militant* Readers' Meeting. Enthusiasm and marxist perspectives helped the holiday money pour into a fighting fund appeal totalling £2400.

As Ted Grant said: "The only people who are happy are the Marxists. In this atmosphere of gloom and doom, every other group in the labour movement is miserable. But we understand the processes taking place in society. The election is not the end, it is the beginning."

"Under the Tories' attacks, all kind of workers, particularly young workers, will be forced into struggle. From now on it will be an uphill struggle against the capitalists for everything that makes life worthwhile. The Marxists will use those struggles to prepare for the socialist transformation of society throughout the world."



Audience enjoying Ian Saville, the Marxist Magician at the summer camp.

The SDP's legacy

THE VULTURES are still squabbling over the Social Democratic Party's bones after David Owen resigned as leader.

The SDP faithful voted to merge with the Liberals but the new leader until the moderate marriage of the decade could be Robert Maclean who opposed the merger. He has been an MP both Labour and SDP, for decades, so this new Vicar of Bray is used to ducking and weaving. The party was born of careerism and is being buried with it.

Public arguments are spoiling the Alliance's 'nice' image. A Mexican wave is rippling through the Liberal ranks as leading figures like Richard Wainwright and John Pardoe throw their hands up in exasperation at their leaders. Alliance election mastermind Pardoe is 'disenchanted' with the "ludicrous idiocies" of Steel and Owen.

Militant predicted even before the SDP was formed that the early eu-

phoria would fade. We warned that even small electoral gains could stop Labour becoming a majority government, the main aim of the SDP.

But we said (*Militant* 6 February 1981) "given the continued crisis of British capitalism and the deep class polarisation, there is no room for the long term survival of a new Centre or Social Democratic Party." That will be just as true for the new hybrid.

Labour's punch on the nose tendency

THE SDP IS on its last legs, but Labour's leaders seem to want to ape their policies and their undemocratic structure.

Labour's general secretary Larry Whitty has called for more central control of the party. Along with the plan to

close down *Labour Weekly*, *Socialist Youth* and *New Socialist* the aim is to silence the rank and file.

Right wing Labour MP Austin Mitchell, writing in the *Guardian* on "one member one vote" showed how he wants the party to move.

"Is it right to give more power to members when our members are the problem?" he asks, describing them as "a cross between the Mothers Union and the Polytechnic Staff Association." He asks who lost the election and answers "the members". They split the party in 1979/82, he claims.

He wants a "low commitment, low involvement large membership" with a very low membership fee. "Conference should become a rally, a publicity platform for the leadership." And he wants "a leadership taking on its own followers and showing them the facts of life preferably by a public whipping or a punch on the nose."

Mitchell often says what other right wingers feel but dare not say. These thinking careerists didn't see a percentage in leaving Labour; instead they want to transplant both its policies and structure into the Labour Party.

The rank and file must fight for a party which gives the Tories a "punch on the nose" and for socialist policies, not the pale Toryism and contempt for the working class that many right wingers now openly favour.

Gulf war threat of escalation

THE LOSS of five lives when the supply ship *Anita* was blown up by a mine in the Gulf of Oman has brought home the dangers facing merchant seamen, even outside the Persian Gulf war zone.

By Pat Craven

When five days earlier in the same area an American tanker, the *Texaco Caribbean*, was holed by a mine, the British government reversed its earlier decision and dispatched minesweepers to join the Navy patrol already in the area.

Seamen, many of whom have been forced to sail through the war zone on threat of losing their jobs, will welcome this belated attempt to provide them with some additional protection against mines. But they will also fear that the increased naval presence will escalate the war.

Although the British government has an interest in protecting merchant shipping, this is not their only motive for sending minesweepers. Along with other capitalist powers they are involved in diplomatic and military manoeuvres,

seeking to advance their own interests.

British imperialism bears a heavy responsibility for the present bloody war in which thousands of lives have been shed. Its role since 1945 has been to prop up reactionary regimes, as they are still doing in the Gulf states.

"Containment"

They backed the deposed Shah of Iran right up to the revolution which led to the Khomeini regime. (See article page 10) Then, with their American and French allies, they armed and encouraged the Iraq dictatorship to attack the Iranians and begin the war.

Now that the situation has changed and it is clear that Iraq cannot win, these three capitalist powers are worried about the war spreading and fear for their oil supplies. Their aim now is to contain the Iranian regime. So they are sending ships into the area under the pretext of 'peacekeeping' and protecting merchant vessels, to put pressure on Iran to reach a negotiated settlement as favourable as possible to them.

With the Russian bureaucracy also cynically

attempting to exploit the area's instability to gain diplomatic advantages, the European capitalists want to be able to maintain ties with the Iranian regime after the war.

Britain and France earlier refused to co-operate in the botched US naval operation, because they feared that Reagan's blundering could have unpredictable consequences and reduce their room for manoeuvre with Iran in the future.

As the *Sunday Telegraph* crudely put it: "Islamic fundamentalism is not the most dangerous kind of regime Iran could have. Dangerous it may be, but if it were replaced by a Communist regime or a non-Communist regime prepared to look to Moscow, that would be infinitely worse".

The labour movement must support measures to save the lives of seamen, in particular defend the right of workers to refuse to sail in war zones without threat to their jobs. But there can be no support for the Tory government's hypocritical exploitation of concern for lives to advance their cynical diplomatic manoeuvres.

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Stop racist deportations

IN JULY 1986 Donald McIntosh came to Britain on holiday. Whilst here he met Lorna and according to her, "we fell in love, married and applied for him to stay with me here."

That was in November. Nine months later the Home Office ruled that Mr McIntosh had to return to his native Jamaica. By this time, Lorna was pregnant. Upon hearing the news, the couple decided the only course of action was for Lorna to have an abortion.

For people to be put in such a position is an absolute disgrace, but this is no isolated example.

When Mark Thatcher married his American girlfriend last year there was no problem regarding the Home Office or Immigration Authorities, yet when Mr Lakhani, a British citizen too, married his Indian girlfriend who was a temporary visitor to the country, the Home Office refused her application for permanent settlement despite the fact that since being married she had conceived and given birth to a child.

Lakhani family

Her visa expired on 8 August and the choice Renukaben faced was to be separated from her husband or her four month old child. Instead she and her family have taken refuge in a Hindu temple in Leicester and the local Asian community has launched a campaign to prevent her deportation.

The Lakhani case is one

By Don Finlay

of 400 cases concerning immigration problems that newly elected Labour MP for Leicester East, Keith Vaz has had to deal with since the General Election.

The Mandalia family fled Uganda two years ago after harsh treatment from the government of that country. They fear murder if forced to return yet they too have been given an August deadline to leave Britain.

There is the case of Mrs Jogia, also from Leicester, who has been fighting to get Home Office permission for her husband to enter the country for seven years.

So much for the Tories being the party of the family and family values!

The present Immigration Laws are both racist and arbitrary. In Leicester, a 'Divided families campaign' has been launched to highlight the problems that many Asian workers face. Leicester East Labour Party is mounting a campaign inside the Labour and Trade Union movement and will be organising a public meeting to which Keith Vaz and Dave Nellist MP have been invited.

In Tower Hamlets 70 Bangladeshi families are now facing eviction due to the policy of the Liberal

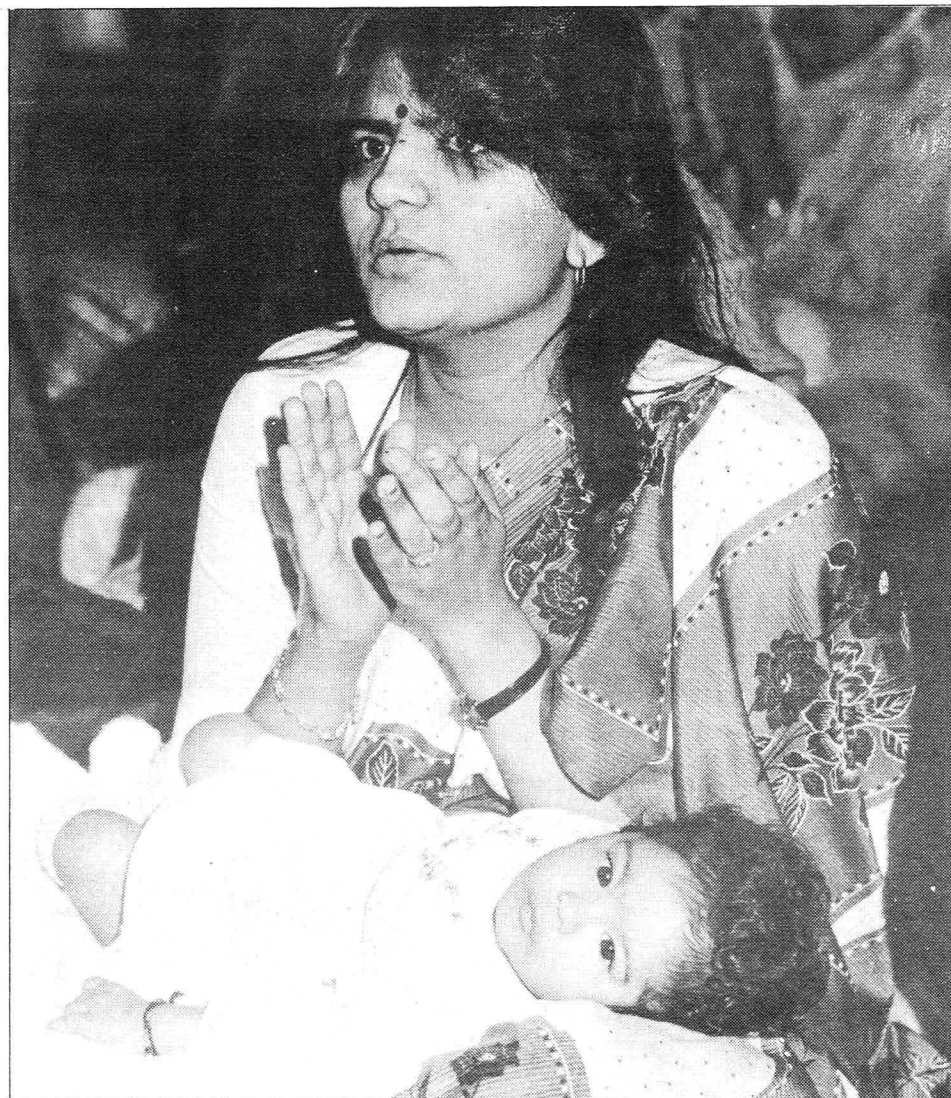
local council. Four of these families have been fighting in the High Court. In each case the man has been settled in Britain for many years, but had periodically returned to Bangladesh for visits. During these they married and then had to struggle for "years not months" before their families received clearance certificates to come to Britain.

Tower Hamlets council placed the families in a catch-22 position, because it refused to allocate accommodation until the families arrived, but now, after paying for bed and breakfast hotels for some months the Liberals are trying to remove them.

Evictions

The 1980 Child Care Act obliges local authorities to house families where the alternative would be for them to be taken into care. If the evictions take place, this piece of legislation may as well be torn up, quite apart from the racist implications of the case.

According to council officers the families made themselves "intentionally homeless" by leaving Bangladesh. In a report of July 1986 a senior social services officer wrongly stated that any social services obligation would only be temporary, merely delaying the day when the families would lose their homes, and therefore to house them would be "a waste of ratepayers' money."



The Home Office have told Renukaben Lakhani she must go. Photo: Mark Salmon

★ Grant asylum to the Earl William detainees, and to others seeking refuge from repression.
★ End the visa requirements

for visitors from the Indian sub-continent, Nigeria and Ghana.
★ Abolition of all immigration controls.

Victory for seafarers in Gulf

THE HOLING of the Texaco Caribbean in the Sea of Oman has highlighted the dangers facing seafarers operating tankers and cargo vessels in the region. The impact, which blew a 10 foot hole below the waterline of the 274,000-ton tanker happened just days after the oil giant, Texaco, had backed down on its threat to sack seamen who refused to go to the Gulf.

Angry letter

Dave Nellist MP had publicised an angry letter he had received from a merchant seaman. He had been told that a refusal to risk his life for his multinational employer in the war-torn area might constitute grounds for dismissal.

Now the merchant navy officers' union, Numast, has written to tell him that they raised the matter in a meeting with the company. Texaco said that they had now told officers not to sack seafarers for "refusal to proceed to the Gulf". Numast thanked Dave for his help.

It was obviously the combination of unfavourable publicity and union pressure which forced the company's climbdown. But how many other employers act the dictator away from the glare of publicity and operate a rule of "do as I say or be sacked"?

Every worker knows that the bosses are ready to demand we sacrifice health and even lives for the sake of their profits, whenever they can get away with it.

By Tony Cross



Refugees on board the Earl William

End prison hulk scandal

THE SCANDAL of refugees incarcerated in the converted Sealink ferry Earl William was only spotlighted when 49 of the Tamil detainees recently went on hunger strike for 10 days.

They are claiming asylum. Sugirithni Nararatnan, 18, explained why: "I was forced to leave Sri Lanka. My house was burnt down when Government troops attacked our village."

The ferry was opened up as a detention centre in May but some of those on board have been in detention for almost a year. The Home Office employ Securicor

guards to monitor the movement of the detainees, who are from Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, Somalia, Uganda, Nigeria, Malaya and the Seychelles. Most fled to Britain to escape repression and slaughter.

Conditions are bad. Guards have been accused of harassment, detainees are locked out of their cabins for 12 hours at a time, the food is poor and proper medical treatment has been denied.

The women have complained that they have had no access to sanitary towels and no separate lounge. The petition sent to Home

Secretary Douglas Hurd stated that "since our arrival we have been detained and forcibly separated from our families."

The purpose of the hunger strike was to get immediate improvements in conditions on the Earl William and a speeding up of the legal proceedings onshore.

Now the Home Office has reluctantly conceded that it "may" send an official to discuss conditions but has said nothing of the future. They had suggested the Tamils seek asylum in India but with the recent agreement between President Jayawardene

of Sri Lanka and Indian leader Gandhi the detainees are fearful that would mean being returned to Sri Lanka anyway.

The Labour movement in Britain has a responsibility to these victims of bloody repression. It must take up their plight. The refugees must be given political asylum and the Earl William which formerly provided jobs for seafarers and a service for the public should be returned to the function it was designed for.

By Tim Harris

Health hazards

THE BT employees at Cwmcarn (see below) are not the only ones at the factory getting a raw deal from 'Victorian' standards. The employees of one of the main sub-contractors, Tele-Trading Limited, have also been shabbily treated. Tele-Trading Limited were the first company to be prosecuted under the 1985 Ionising Radiations Regulations.

The work that Tele-Trading contracted to do for BT involved the dismantling of BT Trimphones' dials. The workers had to deal with luminous betalights, each betalight is a thin horseshoe-shaped glass tube coated internally with phosphor and bonded to a plastic backing plate, containing two Curies of tritium gas.

The sub-contractors were working on the evening shift and of the 28 regular evening shift workers, 12 were below the compulsory school age. When interviewing the children at home, the HM Factory Inspectorate, found that tens of thousands of dials had been dismantled, but no warning had been given to the employees of the potential danger from radiation.

Dial breakages were occurring at a rate of 10 per cent, which is very high. The main cause of the breakages was the use of pneumatic screwdrivers on small screws alongside the fragile tubes containing the potentially damaging substances.

High exposure

Urine samples were collected to assess the extent of tritium absorption. Initial results showed high levels of exposure, so the tests were expanded to include all who had worked in that particular area of the factory. All of the workers monitored had absorbed significant levels of tritium, out of these, four women declared during the tests that they were pregnant.

The Health and Safety Executive who carried out the tests said that as the work had only gone on for about four weeks, no one had exceeded the annual dose rate recommended under the 1985 Regulations. However, there is a wide body of opinion that considers any dosage harmful.

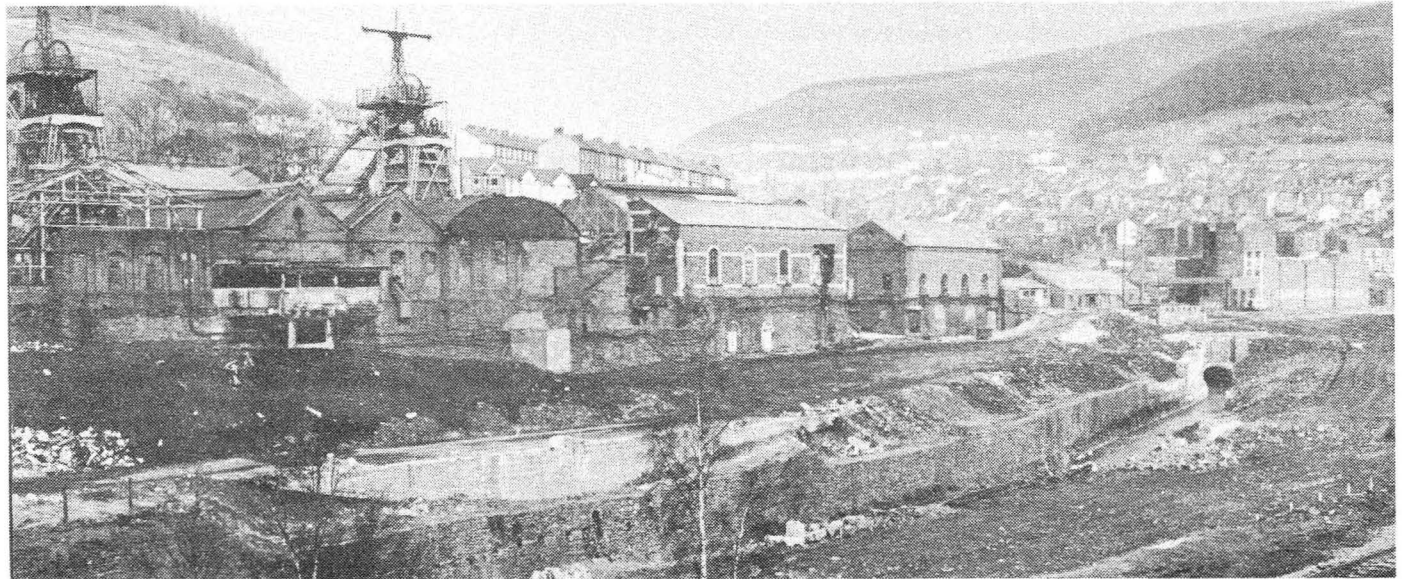
Examples such as this show the cavalier approach of management to the welfare of their workforce, all safety standards forsaken in their rush for profit: employing child labour, one as young as 13, and giving scant regard as to whether any of the female staff were pregnant and could be affected by the tritium.

Such dreadful working conditions in what is known as the sun-rise industry only give added proof of the bankruptcy of the capitalist system.

Class struggle in GWENT

Gwent is situated in the mining valleys of South East Wales. Now all but a few of the mines have been closed down and the remaining industries are under threat. One of the three major steel plants left in Britain is at Llandwern just outside Newport and

even this has suffered considerable cuts in jobs over the last few years. Unemployment is high and those still in work are facing more and more attacks. This is Neil Kinnock's backyard and yet so far he has done little to defend his members' interests.



The once prosperous mining valleys of Gwent have been reduced to ghost towns. Photo: Dave Sinclair

Islwyn witch hunt continues

ISLWYN CONSTITUENCY Labour Party has decided to launch an inquiry into John Fletcher because he sells *Militant*, a workers' paper.

This is the latest outrage enacted by Islwyn Labour Party. There has been an intimidatory atmosphere for the last three years in the constituency and *Militant* supporters have had to endure physical and verbal abuse from Labour Party members.

Many Labour Party

members feel it is a waste of time arguing with Labour Party Young Socialist members who are overwhelmingly marxists, and have urged other young Labour Party members not to go to LPYS meetings in case they get 'corrupted' by the Marxists.

The intolerance has reached remarkable proportions and at the CLP annual meeting a vote was taken vetoing the LPYS's choice of representation in the Execut-

ive committee—John Fletcher.

John was banned from going to the next executive. When he attended the officers threatened to call the police.

Unconstitutional

The Executive Committee, on advice, corrected this unconstitutional position and at the following EC recommended an inquiry into whether John is a 'member

of the Militant Tendency'.

John, *Militant* supporters and the LPYS are taking the campaign against this latest attack to the local labour movement.

Letters of support for John to: 78a Newport Rd, Cwmcarn, Cross Keys, Newport, Gwent.

Letters of protest to Pam Mills, Islwyn CLP secretary, 7 Pant Farm, Newbridge, Gwent.

BT workers' bitter choice

BRITISH TELECOM Consumer Electronics (BTCE) factory in Cwmcarn, Gwent, is a warning to the rest of the labour movement.

BT management nationally had drawn up battle-lines with sections of the BT workforce (the engineers who work from depots and fix the public telephone system) hoping to keep their pay rise down. But the management of the factory in Cwmcarn went a step further and in the early part of 1986 looked at the possibility of reducing the pay bill.

One option proposed to split up the various units of the factory ultimately resulting in closure. The units would be moved to new sites where the workforce would be paid 'market rates'. This option would be a crushing blow to an area of high unemployment. The only link with industry that would be left in Cwmcarn would be a scrapyards. Thankfully this option was shelved, but workers we have talked to think it's only a temporary reprieve.

Management rewarded the workers for their loyal years of service with either loss of job or a pay cut. It seems that local mana-

gement has taken on board the techniques of American management and demanded what is known in America as Give-backs.

In some cases the pay cut amounted to nearly £60 a week and the sick pay entitlement deal was scrapped meaning those on the sick would have to rely on government handouts.

Pay cuts

These pay cuts, although offset in some cases by a lump sum (which was given to everyone depending on age and experience) have naturally affected the workforce significantly. Mortgage payers, car owners and especially those with a family have all had to tighten their belts.

What must be particularly galling to the Cwmcarn workforce who broke productivity targets and proved to be one of the most profitable plants in BT was that workers in other BT factories were given pay rises.

BT management nationally gave the best possible assistance to the local plans by employing

classic divide and rule tactics by appeasing one section of workers and attacking the next. Will the other factories be next in line for attack?

The backing the workers got from their union, the NCU (Engineering) left a lot to be desired and was bitterly criticised. The 86/87 National Pay Committee endorsed the deal with the management by the union and they were taken to task for this at the National Conference.

The Cwmcarn Branch Committee didn't mount a fight back and were limited to a rear-guard action in the face of a slick disinformation campaign aimed more at scaring the workers with the dole unless they agreed to the pay buy-down. The figures the management used to support the buy-down were challenged by the branch and were shown to be grossly misleading. The figures put out by management exaggerated the wage bill in relation to 'other costs'.

The deal gave the workers three options:

1. "To not accept the buy-down, stay at present scale of pay and proceed on that until you

reach the maximum on the scale."—This means in effect that your pay scale will be frozen until the others catch up. 60 have chosen this option despite the rumour, probably well founded, that they would be the first to go in any future redundancy programme. Those who didn't accept the buy down now have Personal Rates shown on their records, they have obviously been branded as problem cases by management.

2. "Accept the buy-down and move to your new scale of pay applicable to your new grade."—The buy-down amounted to a few thousand pounds (£5,000 the maximum) for the pay cut and £150 for the restructured grades.

3. The final option was to accept the buy-down and resign with a lump sum. A few who had had a guts-full did this and left.

Conned

This deal was railroaded through and the mainly young workforce were conned by management into accepting the deal.

Sections of the workforce are drawing the conclusion that only a union with a leadership prepared to back up its members can hope to defeat a well organised management campaign.

At the National Conference the motion to endorse the Pay Committee's action in allowing the pay cut to go through was defeated and a new Pay Committee elected. In the debate a delegate from Cwmcarn criticised the NEC and said that too much emphasis had been put on management's threat of closure which had affected the ballot result, because Cwmcarn was in an area of high unemployment and many of the members didn't relish having to look for another job. Len Theobald, the Broad Left President added that there was positive proof that accepting pay cuts had never saved jobs in the past.

Now that hopes of a Labour government have been temporarily set back, Marxists and workers prepared to fight must work to mobilise the working class on a counter-offensive against a ruling class and management willing to crush the Labour movement.

International Union of Socialist Youth

The Red beginnings

Youth and the first world war

AT THIS YEAR'S International Union of Socialist Youth (IUSY) festival in Valencia the IUSY leadership tried to claim that Marxism had no role to play in their organisation.

The Marxists were harassed and decried as splitters and wreckers. (See *Militant* 7 August) The recent history of IUSY has been full of witch hunts against left wingers, and of stories of CIA infiltration. But Marxism played a vital role in the formation of a socialist youth international.

Ironically IUSY's leaders, who had tried to freeze out all Marxist opposition at the Valencia festival, have recently published their own history of the international socialist youth movement, edited by the IUSY general secretary Dirk Drijbooms.

This book gives chapter and verse on how Marxism played a founding role in the international youth movement. It shows that Marxists were the best fighters to preserve the international solidarity of working class youth during the first world war which split the Second International.

In the first of an occasional series of articles, John Jennings reviews the section dealing with the early history of the youth international.

THE FIRST international conference of Socialist Youth Organisations took place in Stuttgart in 1907. It upheld three principles for the building of the organisation, reflecting the problems faced by young people just before world war one. These were:

★ For the struggle for better living and working conditions for apprentices and young workers.

★ For the struggle against militarism.

★ For the socialist education of youth to prepare young people for class struggle in their organisations.

In particular the fight against militarism preoccupied many of the different youth organisations throughout the world. In 1900 the Paris Congress of the Second International had passed a resolution on international politics following a paper by the great Marxist Rosa Luxemburg which said:

"The socialist parties have to start with the education and organisation of youth all over the world with the aim of fighting militarism with strenuous effort."

This was the first step to developing workers' youth organisations in the various countries.

The Stuttgart conference elected a five person bureau to coordinate the work of the new youth international. It included Karl Liebknecht who, the minutes recorded, had won "big lasting applause" for his paper on anti militarism.

Collapse

However the conference failed to tackle the basic organisational and political question of the building of a united genuine socialist youth international. It just remained a co-ordinating centre for the different national youth organisations.

This failure made it inevitable that when the war broke out in 1914 the youth international at first collapsed. Like the parent parties within the second international, many sections capitulated to the chauvinist nationalist ideas spread by the ruling classes of Europe, despite the numerous resolutions and even protest actions before the



Willi Munzenburg speaking to a meeting of the Swiss "Free Youth" in 1916.

war.

However Willi Munzenburg, the secretary of the Social Democratic Youth of Switzerland, whom the book describes as: "strongly influenced by Lenin," and who had been a fierce advocate of a unified youth movement took the initiative to save the youth international from national disintegration.

He called a congress in Rome on 4-6 April 1915 to discuss the tasks of the socialist youth during war and the reorganisation of the International. 14 delegates from 10 countries attended.

The book reports that Lenin watched the conference from a nearby cafe and wrote a resolution for the Russian delegate. Though this resolution was defeated, the successful resolution said that the war was "the result of the imperialistic policies of the ruling classes in all capitalist countries that...(were) in opposition to the interests of the working class, endangered and destroyed its vigour, paralysed its organisation, and hampered its ability to react against in-

ternational exploitation."

The resolution ended with the demand to "inform young workers more intensively than before on the roots and realities of war and militarism as an inevitable phenomenon of capitalist systems, to educate them in the spirit of international class struggle and thus rally them stronger and in increasing numbers around the banner of revolutionary socialism." They also set up a fund against militarism.

The ideas of Marxism are the only means of maintaining the unity of workers and youth of the world.

The youth international's clear stand against the war allowed it to organise young people internationally in opposition. On the first International Day of Youth on 3 October 1915 about 120,000 people demonstrated including many in Italy, Germany and Austria. The second international day in September 1916 is described as "a lot more successful than the last."

This was undoubtedly a

result of the influence of Marxism. The paper *Jugend International* gained a circulation of 50,000. Its first issue called on the socialist youth of all countries "to support attempts to resume the revolutionary activities of the class struggle everywhere...the soil for revolutionary insurrection has become fruitful, we think."

Among the contributors were Lenin, Trotsky and Liebknecht.

Under the influence of Lenin and the Bolsheviks the link between the struggle against war and the struggle against the chauvinist reformist sections of the workers' movement grew.

A meeting of the international bureau in May 1917 "...most heartily and fraternally welcomes the socialist revolutionaries of Russia, and celebrates their victory, the victory of revolutionary ideas...It is also true for all other countries that revolutionary tactics can only win by vigorously fighting social patriotism."

Unfortunately many other sections of the second international did not learn

these lessons and the youth international too split.

Ironically for the situation in IUSY today the book describes how the division of the international youth movement into revolutionary and reformist wings meant that "often these social democratic forces united with the forces of the bourgeoisie against the revolutionary trends of the workers' movement."

Just as in the first world war, the ideas of Marxism are today the only means of maintaining the unity of the workers and youth of the world against capitalism and exploitation. At the start of the first world war Lenin was shocked at the chauvinist position of many leaders of the labour movement and exclaimed that reformism leads to betrayal. IUSY's history confirms Lenin's view.

The betrayals of 1914 led to the deaths of millions of young workers. A world war today would mean nuclear annihilation. That is why socialists are fighting for a mass IUSY in the campaigning traditions of Willi Munzenburg but firmly based on Marxist ideas.

LEFT and RIGHT

Sun tan fans

THE EDITORIAL in the *Sun* was scathing about the treatment Argentinian football star Diego Maradona got when he played for the Rest of the World against the Football League. "Instead of enjoying his magical skills, the crowd at Wembley booed and jeered at him every time he touched the ball. They disgraced themselves" the *Sun* said. "They disgraced soccer. And they disgraced Britain."

The football hooligans were just following the lead of the

press of course. Like the paper which hailed the sinking of an Argentinian ship with the headline "Gotcha" in the Falklands war; the same paper that had the headline "Dirty Diego quits on us." and "Orrible Argy set to pull out" three days before. Yes you've guessed it: the *Sun*.

Lefties collared

THE TORY mayor of Falmouth in Cornwall may not be in favour of all traditions of town councils. We don't know how he feels about supplying council housing for instance, though as a Tory we can

guess.

But one tradition he loves is proper dress for councillors. When two Labour councillors turned up for August's council meeting with no ties, Mayor Smith, a retired Major, made them leave. "I represent the Crown and authority and they should be properly dressed."

"We've had left wingers here before," the Mayor complained "We had one who was a Communist. But he still respected tradition. He still went to church even though he didn't believe in God."

Sell

Militant

LAST WEEK we missed an issue of *Militant* to give production staff a holiday. Our phone lines were buzzing, as readers and sellers called to complain that they had not got their paper.

The break did not stop many sellers from going out on the streets. For example in Gillingham there was an extra push

of the *Militant* Irish Monthly.

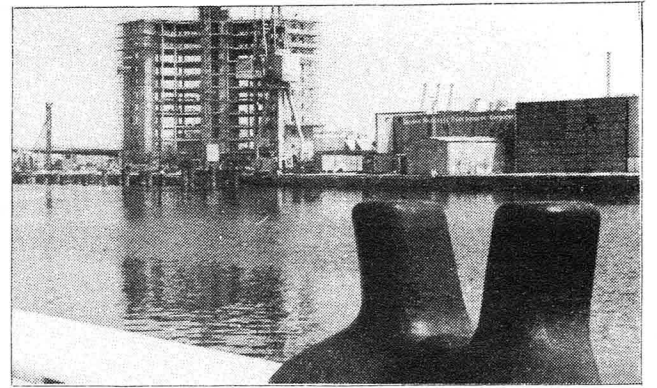
Sales in the villages in the Forest of Dean where the Socialist Summer Camp was held, proved that no town is too small for *Militant* to be sold. On the Wednesday market day in Coleford 50 copies were sold by a team of sellers from the camp assisted by local supporters. We sold 42 more on Friday morning in Cinderford.

Now we are back to normal production, sellers can gear themselves up to repeat these successes up and down the country.

By Gerry Lerner.

Docklands

How can we fight the LDDC?



THE FOLLOWING letter, sent to *Militant* from a reader on the Isle of Dogs, raises issues about the massive commercial development of London's Docklands and the role of the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC), which has widespread powers in the area. We welcome any further comments from tenants, readers or labour movement activists about Docklands.

"Dear Comrades,
The feature on Docklands (*Militant* 856) illustrated the exploitation of the area for big business and the rich. But it didn't explain that the reason the London Docklands Development Corporation (LDDC) was able to take such power was the failure of the Labour government and local councils from 1974 to 1979 to develop the area.

The main question being raised by local labour movement activists is how can the LDDC's plans be defeated?

After the election of a Labour GLC in 1973, and the Labour government's return in 1974, the five Dockland borough councils, all Labour controlled, and the GLC set up the Dockland Joint Committee as a new planning authority for the area.

Much of the unused land at this time was publicly owned. The Labour government and the Joint Committee failed to use it to benefit local people.

From 1976 to 1980, 287 new homes for rent were built on the Isle of Dogs, with another 293 on site. In Wapping and on the Isle of Dogs then, there was enough publicly-owned land to provide 3,000 dwellings. In 1980, there were 7,000 on the housing waiting list in Tower Hamlets, nearly 11,000 seeking transfers and 733 homeless families.

Some of the Labour right-wing later became members of the LDDC board. Much of the land was later used for private housing, beyond the means of most local people.

Now we must fight to ensure that Labour remains committed to the abolition of the LDDC and returning power to the democra-

Photos top to bottom: LDDC headquarters surrounded by massive commercial developments; Cath (right) and Carmen who live on West Ferry Estate. Their block has a dangerous structure notice put on it; New Wimpey homes being built next to neglected council estate.



tically elected councils. Before the election, a document was being circulated amongst some leading Labour figures which advocated retaining the LDDC with a 'better' board.

This is unacceptable to the local labour movement, as there would still be no control over these unelected board members.

Improvements

However, what should our position be if the LDDC offers money to improve local council housing, and other schemes that would bring some benefit to local people? And how can we defeat the LDDC's plans for new road schemes that will mean destroying council flats and noise and misery for hundreds of people?

A final key issue is jobs. Not only are small local firms being forced to close down or re-locate because of the redevelopment programmes, but in some areas, with land prices approaching £3 million an acre, some companies are literally receiving 'offers they can't refuse' to sell up.

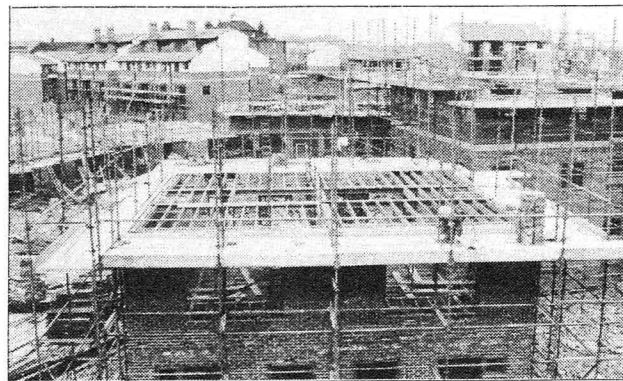
This is the real meaning of Tory policy for the East End workers' jobs being destroyed so that land can be used for luxury housing."

West Ferry Estate -tenants ignored

WEST FERRY estate, one of the remaining council estates on the Isle of Dogs, is surrounded by new building developments.

Up the West Ferry Road the giant Cascades development of luxury riverside flats is being erected in a matter of months. In contrast to the millions being poured into just this part of London's Docklands, only £7,000 a month is available for running repairs for the whole of the Millwall housing area, including the West Ferry and two other estates.

West Ferry Estate has been prioritised by the government's Priority Estate Programme, as the one most urgently in need of attention. Yet one block, Conway House, has recently had a dangerous structure notice slapped on it by Tower Hamlets borough surveyors. Weak concrete on other blocks



has been chiselled out from beneath the walkways—but the contractor has got up and gone, leaving the job unfinished and the reinforcement bars showing through.

No Warning

Cath, who lives in Conway House, told *Militant*: "The worst thing is not knowing what is going on. When they came to do the balconies they just turned up without warning".

"I'm sure it was the building work next door which has done the damage to the block. The council say it was due to bomb damage in the war. But when they started building they were using pile drivers and concrete crushers. The vibration was terrible. You could watch your dinner jump across the table. Since then the door frames keep moving. I came home one day to find the front door wide open, because the frame had moved so

Local jobs get the push

DESPITE THE LDDC'S everlasting cry that its Docklands projects will create jobs, over the four years of activity from 1981 to 1985 unemployment rose on the Isle of Dogs from 19 per cent to 24 per cent.

The jobs which are on offer are often not available nor suitable for local people. Virtually none of the 800 jobs at the *Daily Telegraph's* huge new premises were available to local people. Few staff will be employed on the Docklands light railway.

The community paper *Neighbourhood News* suggests that out of 277 firms on the Isle of Dogs which it surveyed, 98 expected to move out of the area within the next year.

much out of position.

"The railings have fallen out of the stair-rails, so the kids swing from one flight of stairs to the next. There are about 22 children living in this block, even though it's got a dangerous structure notice on it.

"I don't really care where the money comes from to repair the blocks. But I don't agree with the LDDC. I've had dealings with them before. They promise things and then don't deliver. I'm not against things changing, but we won't get anything from it".

Carmen, who lives three doors away from Cath surveyed the Wimpey homes going up a hundred yards from her front door. "Look at that—we could have that here. These flats are nice inside, if only the work was done on the outside. But we could never afford to buy places like that".

Fighting Fund

Area	Received	% of target achieved	Target
1 South East	269		2250
2 East Midlands	92		3250
3 Wales	126		4850
4 Yorkshire	292		8450
5 London	229		9400
6 Northern	90		4600
7 Scotland West	71		3500
8 Eastern	38		3050
9 Manchester/Lancs	54		4050
10 Merseyside	39		7500
11 West Midlands	35		4850
12 Scotland East	0		2800
13 Southern	3		3100
14 South West	9		1900
15 National	1012		6950
Total	2359		70,000

Send us the serious money!

AUGUST MAY be the silly season for the Tory press, but this doesn't stop our supporters from raising the cash to print what workers need to know in the *Militant*.

The *Militant* readers' meeting at the Workers' Education Group summer camp raised over £2,400 in cash and IOUs. Together with the £1,400 we've already received, this could be another bumper quarter to match the last quarter's record of £48,000.

But we need more than a Marxist paper that exposes the rottenness of capitalism. Workers are looking for answers and an alternative to the constant cycle of hardship, unemployment and inse-

curity. That's why we need a bigger and more frequent paper to put the socialist case—in the factories, the hospitals, schools and dole queues.

To underline this need a reader from Manchester writes: "I've started reading your paper and what it says seems right. I've been to a couple of political meetings but people waffle on too much for me. Some of them like to hear the sound of their own voice but their hearts in the right place, and I'm glad of them... I hope you'll accept a donation off me. I know it's not a lot but I'm unemployed... Those councillors in Liverpool; they must feel betrayed by this Labour Party which

seems ashamed of socialism. They have my admiration, thank God someone's got guts. Keep the Red Flag flying!"

Other contributors this week include; Dave Watts, Hull £9.00; Kim Leach, Fulham £50; Adrian Lee, Leeds £5.00; a Gillingham Labour Party member £100.00; Mick Barwood £30.00; Richard Barnett, £15.40; NUM Gelding meeting £6.90, while a collection at NUM Hemdheath raised £11.90. A *Militant* meeting in West Wales raised £30.00, and finally, a late election result in from Chesterfield supporters... 'Guess Tony Benn's majority', which netted us £15.30.

August 1917 - Kor



When the ruling class of Russia took fright at the growth of revolutionary feeling and supported Kornilov's coup, the Bolsheviks did not rely on the government to repel the attack. On the contrary, they reactivated the soviets which organised the workers to defend Petrograd. Railway workers and telegraph workers organised the sabotage of Kornilov's army and won the rank and file troops to the cause of the revolution. Photo below: Kronstadt sailors defend the revolution. Poster above from 1919 "Defend Petrograd with all your strength".



RUSSIA IN 1917 saw the forcible entry of the masses on to the stage of history. The sharp pace of change reflected the swift changes in consciousness amongst the mass of the people.

By Rot Sewell



BUT no revolution ever proceeds in a straight line. This struggle of living forces unfolds through dialectical contradictions; revolutions, the ebb of revolution, periods of reaction, followed by a further impulse towards revolution on a higher level.

The July period was in many ways the watershed between the February revolution and October. In all great revolutions, there are times when the masses, in a period of retreat, feel the gains of the revolution slipping from their grasp and move spontaneously to recapture lost ground.

This happened in June/July in Russia. A similar pattern can be seen in Spain in 1937 and Portugal in 1975. The main difference lay in the existence of the Bolshevik Party in Russia which put itself at the head of the struggle in order to keep the forces of revolution intact for more decisive future struggles.

The inevitable immediate result of the Bolsheviks' restraining of the masses' revolutionary impatience was to open up an attack by the forces of the Right. July was the "month of the great slander," where an intense hate campaign was instigated against the Bolsheviks. (See *Militant* 7 August).

However the July reaction was neither deep nor long lasting. The hostility whipped up by the right evaporated within weeks and by early August support for the Bolsheviks was visibly recovering. Layers of workers, drawing the lessons of their own experience, turned again to the ideas of revolution.

The Bolsheviks made electoral gains as people registered discontent with the moderate socialists who controlled the Central Soviet. Lenin's Party did not gain a majority in the Petrograd soviet until early September but the tide was clearly beginning to turn.

Worsening economic conditions and unpopular government policies such as the restoration of capital punishment boosted the Bolshevik cause. Pro Bolshevik resolutions were now passed condemning the government persecutions of those involved in the July events. As one contemporary noted: "The repression of the extreme left served only to increase its popularity among the masses."

Towards the end of July the Kerensky government faced a deepening social, political and economic crisis. Food shortages, economic dislocation, inflation, civil disorder and peasant unrest all served to fuel the growth of revolutionary ideas, which caused acute alarm amongst the ruling circles.

The government was paralysed. The Russian bourgeois, anxious to destroy the revolution searched desperately for a way out. John Reed, in his famous book, "Ten days that shook the world" relates that a large proportion of the ruling class would have preferred a German victory in the war to a complete victory of

Kornilov's coup fails

Workers' united front saves the revolution



Reactionary top army officers chair Kornilov on his arrival at the State Conference in August. But the rank and file soldiers and sailors mutinied and isolated the reaction.

Russian Revolution 70th anniversary

the Soviets. In the ruling circles, there was great disdain for Kerensky's weak kneed government.

The idea of the "salvation of the motherland" by a strong dictatorship which could end revolutionary anarchy seized their minds more and more. This view was shared by the main capitalist party, the Kadets, the All Russian Union of Trade and Industry and the Union of Landowners.

General Knox of the English Military Mission put into blunt words the attitude of the privileged: "What is wanted is a strong dictatorship; what is wanted is the Cossacks. This people needs the whip! A dictatorship—that is just what it needs."

IN these circumstances the emergence of an officers' plot was inevitable. Even the premier Kerensky had fed this conspiracy by discussions he had with the military command. His ambition was to establish a strong personal dictatorship to do away with Bolshevism—led by himself. Trotsky pointed out "Kerensky wanted to use the revolt of the generals to reinforce his own dic-

class sees no alternative it will drop all its democratic talk and turn to military dictatorship to crush the masses by force. The Bolsheviks gave leadership to the struggle in Russia, defeating Kornilov and building the forces which carried out the successful revolution in October. The lack of such a party in Chile and Spain had terrible consequences.

The counter revolution in Russia began in earnest from that time on. Kornilov's plans were simple. "The coup will be in place in the suburbs of Petrograd by evening of August 28. I request that Petrograd be proclaimed under martial law on August 29."

Kerensky had opened up secret negotiations with the conspirators, aiming to incorporate Kornilov into a new 'national government'. The General replied that such a government could only be under himself and that Kerensky had better leave Petrograd at once.



AS Trotsky commented, "At the same time that Kerensky and Savinkov were intending to clean up the Bolsheviks and in part the soviets, Kornilov was intending also to clean up the Provisional Government. It was just this that Kerensky did not want."

Faced with this predicament, Kerensky turned tail and ran to the cabinet with news of the attempted coup. True to form the Kadet ministers resigned on 26 August wanting no responsibility for putting down a "patriotic" revolt!

As in Spain in July 1936, the majority of the High Command went over to the counter revolution and high government officials were almost all sympathetic to Kornilov. Divisions were dispatched from the front to crush the revolutionary capital. On 28 August prices in the Petrograd stock exchange rocketed; the counter revolutionaries had high hopes of victory.

But the reaction had misread the political situation, especially the mood of the masses. The coup's social basis was still very shaky. The essence of counter revolution as of revolution is timing.



THE Bolshevik Party was still operating in semi-illegal conditions after the July events. The Party leadership was scattered: Trotsky was in prison and both Lenin and Zinoviev were in hiding. Nevertheless the Bolsheviks swiftly went into action as soon as the news broke.

From Finland, Lenin warned the Bolsheviks that in the fight against Kornilov, they should give no credence or support to the moderates, the Mensheviks and Social Revolutionaries. There could be no mixing of their political banners.

"In these circumstances" wrote Lenin, "A Bolshevik would say our soldiers will fight the counter revolutionary troops. They will not do so to protect the government...but independently to protect the revolution as they pursue their own aims."

This was the policy of the United Front. In the face of a common enemy the United Front serves to unify different workers' parties *in action* to achieve a particular object. It does not mean abandoning different political programmes or criticisms under the guise of 'unity'.

There is no merging of political differences but a unity in action. "March separately under your own banners but strike together" was the dictum. This not only raises the level of consciousness but it shows in practice the superiority of militant struggle.

A United Front of Socialist and Communist Parties in Germany could have prevented Hitler coming to power in 1933. But such a vital policy, advocated by Leon Trotsky was rejected by the Stalinists as 'counter revolutionary'. This prepared the defeat of the German proletariat at Hitler's hands.

In Russia the local soviets were reinvigorated under the guidance of the Bolshevik activists as the enthusiasm of the masses centred on the defence of Petrograd. Mass meetings were held which passed resolutions attacking Kornilov and demanding the release of the July prisoners.

A "Committee of Revolutionary Defence" was set up where the Bolsheviks played a prominent role. Large numbers of workers were organised to erect barricades, dig ditches and put up barbed wire as part of the defence of the capital. Workers' organisations immediately took over the supply and distribution of food to the population.

"While participating in the front lines of the struggle against Kornilov, the Bolsheviks did not take the slightest responsibility for the policy of Kerensky. They denounced him as responsible for the reactionary attack."
—Leon Trotsky

The Soviet of Factory-Shop Committees helped co-ordinate the distribution of arms. "Red Guard" units were created and supplied with weapons and materials from the armaments factories. Many new recruits got military training from the Bolshevik Military Organisations. The Petrograd Carters' Battalion pledged their 500 carts to help shift military supplies, while the Sixth Engineers organised a 600 man detachment to build defence fortifications.

The Baltic Fleet followed suit with the Kronstadt garrison dispatching 3000 armed sailors for Petrograd's defence. The fleet's crew had arrested some disloyal officers, some of whom were summarily shot for treason.

After the Provisional Government asked for assistance the Kronstadt Military Technical Committee sent a message demanding the release of "our comrades, the finest fighters and sons of the revolution who are at this minute languishing in prison."

The Bolsheviks categorically refused to enter the Kerensky government but they were the best fighters against Kornilov. The most militant sailors and soldiers were Bolsheviks.

Trotsky recalls: "During the insurrection...Kerensky must go to the sailors of the Baltic fleet and demand of them to defend them in the Winter Palace. I was at that time in prison. They took him to the guard and sent a delegation to ask me what must be done: arrest Kerensky or defend him? ...I said: 'Yes you must guard him very well now;

tomorrow we will arrest him.'

The telegraph and railway workers dealt a enormous blow to the counter revolution. Their leaders instructed their members to redirect 'suspicious' telegrams and by any means block Kornilov's path. They should dismantle tracks and bridges, leave their posts, misdirect trains and delay all counter revolutionary shipments.

In Trotsky's words: "The railway workers ... did their duty. In a mysterious way echelons would find themselves moving on the wrong roads. Regiments would arrive in the wrong division, artillery would be sent up a blind alley, staffs would get out of communication with their units."

Petrograd stayed a fortress of the revolution. The counter revolutionary army's movement was paralysed. Detachments of revolutionary agitators from the factories and Soviets surrounded the stationary troops and harangued them with political propaganda.

The troops had no idea what was happening as their officers had kept them in total ignorance. Mutinies broke out. Officers were arrested in the Savage Division made up of Caucasian mountaineers, and in the Ussuriishy Mounted Division, which now pledged themselves to the cause of the revolution.

The "counter revolutionary" army simply melted away; there was never any fighting between Kornilov's troops and Petrograd. Kornilov's next in command, General Krymov, encircled by his own troops, reluctantly agreed to negotiate. General Denikin was locked up by his own troops. The revolt had crumbled.



KRYMOV realised the hopelessness of the situation. "The last card for saving the Motherland has been beaten—life is no longer worth living," he said then shot himself. Kornilov was arrested on 1 September.

This defeat for the counter revolution abruptly shifted the balance of forces to the left. The revolt radicalised the masses; in the words of Marx, the revolution sometimes needs the whip of the counter revolution.

A surge in support now developed for the Bolshevik Party. "This upswing" explained Trotsky "was made possible only thanks to the double edged Bolshevik policy. While participating in the front lines of the struggle against Kornilov, the Bolsheviks did not take the slightest responsibility for the policy of Kerensky."

"On the contrary they denounced him as responsible for the reactionary attack and as incapable of overcoming it. In this way they prepared the political premises of the October revolution."

Through patient and consistent work, with correct tactics and slogans, the Bolsheviks gained a majority in the Petrograd Soviet in early September. This became the springboard for winning the majority of the working masses to their banner.

Within two months, the leaders of Bolshevism emerged from underground and prison to lead the first workers' state in history. The events of August 1917 played a decisive role in preparing the party and its leadership for that historic transformation.

IRAN-the revolution hijacked

Photo: Associated Press

THE OVERTHROW of the Shah by a mass movement in 1979 was welcomed by workers the world over. Yet eight years on, a grotesque parody of a revolution remains. Khomeini's brutal bonapartist regime has outlawed all independent workers' organisations, parties and the right to strike. The regime still rules in the name of 'Islamic Revolution'. But it is a regime of counter revolution. Because of the weakness, division and isolation of the Iranian ruling class after the Shah's overthrow it has had to disguise itself as a continuation of the revolution.

By Phil Hutchinson

It was only in the absence of a genuine Marxist party, based on the working class, that the Mullahs, who had become a symbol of opposition to the Shah, found themselves as leaders of the revolution. Under the dictatorship, the mosques had been one of the few places where any kind of criticism of the Shah could take place. Khomeini's denunciations of the Shah, from the reactionary standpoint of opposition to any kind of modernisation of the country, had, in the political vacuum which existed, earned him a reputation he did not deserve.

All the so-called workers' parties bear a responsibility for the confusion which inevitably existed in the minds of the politically untutored masses. The Tudeh (Communist Party) originally supported the Shah. Eventually they switched support to Khomeini. At no stage did they struggle for independent working class policies.

Under enormous pressure from the masses such as massive strikes and factory occupations and with the flight of half the capitalist class the regime was forced to announce the nationalisation of wide sections of the economy. But the Mullahs feared an independent workers' movement. They sought to reverse the land seizures which were taking place and undermine the independent workers' factory committees (shoras) which had sprung up during the revolution. Whilst the revolutionary energy of the masses burnt itself out the regime was able to consolidate a toe-hold for reaction and begin an offensive against the working class.

Imperialism

Even given the counter-revolutionary nature of the regime US imperialism feared its volatile anti-American character. This was especially shown in Khomeini's demagogic support for the seizure of the US embassy. Nevertheless, it was miscalculation on their part to stimulate Iraq to attack because it led, temporarily, to a strengthening of the Islamic regime. The regime could hide behind it using anti-imperialist demagogy, to deflect the attention of the masses from the real social and economic problems within Iran itself.

US imperialism had a vested interest in promoting the war because this also tied up Iraq, preventing it from launching any hostilities against Israel, the USA's key ally in the region.

However, the impact of falling oil prices changed the strategic landscape for both sides in the war. Oil revenues financed 90 per cent of Iran's imports in the past. Iran's oil earnings have been

more than halved from 16 billion dollars annually to 6 billion. Continuing the war has meant choosing between buying arms and equipment or providing food for the population. The national debt is mounting alarmingly. The Iranian regime has to save up for every battle.

The war has cost the Iranian economy 300 billion dollars, or 100 million a day in a country whose GNP works out at 183 million a day. Inflation is running at 20-25 per cent. Half Iran's factories have been closed down. Most Iranian companies are operating at 25-40 per cent of capacity because of the crisis in the economy due to the collapse of oil export earnings. 30 to 40 per cent of the labour force are unemployed, and in addition there is severe underemployment. Living standards have fallen.

In a country with a population of 50 million Iran has lost between 500,000 and 700,000. One and a half million have been injured and there are 3 million refugees.

Despite lulls and downturns the working class movement has never ceased struggling since the coming to power of Khomeini. Whereas in 1981 and 1982 the regime's paid mercenaries the Hezbollahi gangs would roam the streets terrorising the workers, today they fear provoking mass protests. There have been over 300 strikes and sit-ins officially recorded in the last two years. The regime has been forced to put whole areas under martial law to try and quell local uprisings.

Iran has suffered between 500,000 and 700,000 dead, one and a half million injured, and 3 million refugees in a country of 50 million. In the first two months of this year alone 45,000 Iranians and 20,000 Iraqis were either killed or wounded in just one offensive. The regime is confronted with more and more difficulties in supplying new soldiers to the front lines.

Workers faced with factory closure are told 'you are not unemployed there is a job for you ... at the front!' Confronted with the danger of being press ganged into this hell hole of nerve gas, mines, bombs and bullets workers have gone on strike in certain industries against recruitment to the front. Anti-war demonstrations have been reported, and even the revolutionary guards have participated, with very signi-



Demonstrators in Tehran broke the windows and set fire to the Kuwaiti Embassy, condemning Kuwait as an accomplice after hearing reports of the death of 200 Iranians on the annual pilgrimage to Mecca in Saudi Arabia.

ficant signs of unrest within the Iranian armed forces. Recently leaflets against the war were given out by a General in Tehran. The authorities were unable to take any immediate action because he received enormous sympathy from the people in the streets.

The youth hide and refuse to join the forces. At first the war was seen as a heroic defence of the revolutionary nation against imperialist aggression, especially in the villages. Yet now even peasants try to hide the youth. Under threat of the sack 90 per cent of white collar civil servants refused to fill in a form to go to the front.

Iraq cannot hope to win the war against Iran. Both sides are bogged down. Iran hopes to overwhelm the Iraqi forces with three or four times the number of troops, using the Iranian youth as

so much cannon fodder. Iraq has more than 600,000 soldiers along a border of 700 miles.

Iran is making painful headway in the war on land and although this puts enormous pressure on Iraq, it is not without huge costs to Tehran. The failure to achieve a quick victory over Iraq has led a radical section of Mullahs to welcome a clash with the USA—'Great Satan'—in the Gulf.

Unrest

Paradoxically for the Mullahs, an end to the war would be dangerous. A victory would result in a wave of euphoria amongst the Iranian masses. The main justification for the policies of austerity and repression over the last seven years would disappear. There would be, at some stage, a massive new wave of strikes and unrest.

Thus even the possibility of some kind of negotiated end to the war has opened up enormous splits within the Iranian regime. However the economic crisis in Iran is the fundamental reason why the Iranian regime may be compelled at some stage to seek an end to the war.

A genuine revolutionary regime in Iran based on workers' democracy and internationalism would achieve an enormous echo from both the Iranian and the Iraqi masses. It would explain this as a war of the imperialist powers serving neither the Iraqi nor the Iranian masses. With an unconditional return to 1980 boundaries such a regime could easily inspire the Iraqi workers and peasants to revolution and open up the perspective of a socialist federation of Iraq and Iran as part of a socialist federation of the Middle East.

Private medicine's ultimate crime

A GROUP of children are playing football in one of the poorest parts of Medellin, a Colombian town at the foot of the Andes. Suddenly a big, shining Cadillac drives up. The children stop their game, curious at the unusual sight.

A couple of people get out of the car. Without saying a word they grab one of the children, put him in the car and drive off with

squealing tyres.

The little boy returns home a few days later with a bandage over one eye. Doctors find that a skilled surgeon has removed the cornea from his eye.

This case is not isolated; it is one of many. The police know it is the work of a criminal organisation, involving top surgeons and some of the wealthiest families in the country. Rich

people standing to benefit from transplants are willing to pay big money for the 'parts'.

According to reports, a surgeon involved has boasted that the business is 'lucrative'. The police seem unable to stop it. So the kidnapping and maiming of innocent children goes on.

By Soraya Lawrence



Hospital workers from Janraja Health Service Union (NSSP) picket in Colombo in support of the recent doctors' strike.

Big strikes in S Korea

THE FALL of the dictatorship of President Chun in South Korea has seen an explosive out-break of strikes and upheavals as the workers use their newly found freedom to redress their appalling conditions.

On 10 August 1500 striking coal miners fought a pitched battle with the infamous riot police for 15 hours at a key junction of the railway network at Kohan. They occupied the station as part of a two day old miners strike including 15,000 nationally. These workers normally produce 80 per cent of the country's anthracite.

No less passive, both car and shipyard workers have been on strike. 2,000 workers at Daewoo, Korea's second largest car makers have occupied the factory demanding wage rises.

Daewoo's shipyards are strike-bound. Up to 4,000 are involved in a wildcat strike sealing the gates of the yard with forklifts. They also siezed control of the yard offices and ransacked them.

Hyundai, Daewoo's main rival, are no better off. Hyundai's heavy industry shipyard in Ulsan, Korea's largest shipyard, has been closed by strike action on behalf of its 24,000 workers. At the time of writing they had been on strike for six days. Hyundai car plants are reported to have lost up to \$6.25 million a day during a four day strike.

This wave of industrial unrest is not supported by the leader of the main opposition Kim Young Sam. He has urged moderation and said that "Labour chaos will give anti-democratic forces an excuse to hamper democratisation."

Such advice is fortunately falling on deaf ears as workers redress the balance after years of tyranny and continue to struggle to change Korean society.

Will Tamil accord end communal strife?

AFTER MORE than four years of bloodthirsty massacres of innocent civilians, the uprooting of entire villages, the blockade of the city of Jaffna, the torture and mutilation of thousands of youth, and similar atrocities which have led to about 6,000 deaths, the war between the Sri Lankan government and the Tamils has at least temporarily been brought to an end with the intervention of Indian troops under the terms of the Jayawardene-Gandhi accord.

By Martin Riley

The ambiguous peace agreement in practice appears to concede the Tamils' demands for a united 'homeland' linking the Northern and Eastern provinces, with law and order nominally under Tamil control.

These concessions are put in question by the provision for a referendum in the Eastern Province next year, which could mean its separation from the North, on the one hand, and the disarming of the Tamil guerrillas and the presence of thousands of Indian troops, on the other.

Nevertheless, the respite offered by the agreement has been given a warm welcome by the Tamils, exhausted by the toll of years of war.

Neither the guerrillas nor even Jayawardene's own party and Prime Minister were consulted about the settlement. It was dictated by the crucial class interests both of the Sri Lankan and the Indian bourgeoisie, who imposed it on the Sinhala politicians and the Tigers respectively, by force of the Indian military presence.

The Sri Lankan economy faced absolute catastrophe. The prices of tea, rubber and coconut—the commodities on which it depends—have slumped to a fraction of their former levels on world markets. On top of that, produc-

tion of paddy, coconut and other staple crops had been devastated by drought (the worst since 1951).

The tourism industry, which was gearing up for a boom in the early 1980s, had practically ground to a standstill since the 1983 race riots as a result of the war and the fear of bombings and new communal massacres.

Sri Lanka had become a pauper economy, propped up by foreign aid, which financed half its domestic budget last year. The total debt in 1986 was 56 per cent of the gross domestic product. The imperialist aid donors and creditors insisted on further privatisation measures, cuts in subsidies, and devaluation. Above all, with foreign aid largely consumed by defence expenditure to finance a futile war, they demanded a peace settlement, failing which future aid would be cut off.

There was a serious reduction in commodity loans and to some extent project loans. The lifeline of the Sri Lanka economy was threatened with strangulation.

Destabilisation

At the same time, the Indian ruling class could no longer tolerate the continued destabilisation of the region by the Sri Lankan regime's murderous repression of the Tamils' struggle for self-determination, a struggle which was attracting growing sympathy among the masses of Tamil Nadu and increasingly also of other Indian states. Faced with the nightmare of countless overlapping communal and national conflicts within the ramshackle Indian union, Rajiv Gandhi and the Indian Government had to take decisive action to end the Tamil war in Sri Lanka.

If the Jayawardene regime had attempted a military storming of the Tigers' stronghold of Jaffna, it would have meant a bloodbath. The pressure of the Indian Tamils and the Indian masses as a whole

would have forced the Indian government to invade the island, leading to outright partition as in Cyprus.

Without the capture of Jaffna, the war would have lingered on as a continual running sore, ending eventually in the victory of the guerrillas.

This outcome was even more dangerous from the point of view of the Indian ruling class. Even if the Tigers could have been persuaded to abandon their latest project of a 'one-party Socialist state' in Tamil Eelam, the very fact of the victory of the Tamils following a long and heroic guerrilla struggle would have acted as an inspiration to all the persecuted minorities of the sub-continent.

The Indian ruling class will be as incapable of solving communal tensions in Sri Lanka as it has proved in India itself.

Thus, the interests of world imperialism and the ruling classes of India and Sri Lanka coincided in dictating the need for some kind of imposed settlement, no matter how bitterly resented by the guerrillas or the Sinhala masses.

The settlement has brought Indian troops on to Sri Lankan soil, and Indian warships to all the island's harbours, for the first time. Sri Lanka in effect will be from now on a satellite state of India, the major capitalist power in the region, under an agreement heavily underwritten by American imperialism.

This gross affront to the independence of the island and the national feelings of the Sinhala people has been imposed on the Sinhala masses by JR's parliamentary bonapartist regime.

Whatever the antics of the Sinhala chauvinist politicians—irrespective of any parliamentary vote, election, referendum, or come to that of a military coup—the presence of Indian troops is an accomplished fact. No-one is going to declare war on India. That is why even such rabid communalists as Prime Minister Premadasa and SLFP leader Sirima Bandanaraika have been muted and tentative in their reactions to the deal.

Meanwhile, disarmament of the guerrillas will be hard to enforce, especially in the East, where the agreement is most shaky. In the North too, the Tigers will obviously have buried their best arms in preparation for future contingencies.

Even the Tigers, however, who late last year were manning road-blocks, levying taxes, holding summary courts, and even talking of issuing their own currency notes, and who had ruthlessly wiped out all opposition and all rival guerrilla groups in the North have had to meekly accept the agreement in public.

This deal solves none of the problems of the Tamil masses, nor of the Sinhala masses either. The Indian ruling class will be as incapable of solving communal tensions in Sri Lanka as it has proved in India itself. On the contrary, its intervention threatens even greater communal polarisation.

Despite the influx of aid which will follow in its wake, which in such a small country could temporarily have some effect in ameliorating the worst effects of the crisis, the pathetically weak neo-colonial economy of Sri Lanka stands on the brink of the coming world recession facing even greater turmoil.

Without massive investment and the provision of productive jobs for the youth, there will be new riots, uprisings, and guerrilla wars, which in the absence of a

clear socialist lead from the trade unions and working-class parties, could again take an ugly communal form, provoking renewed movements for secession by the Tamil minority.

In the two decades leading up to the great 'hartal' of 1953, Sri Lanka could pride itself on a fine revolutionary proletarian tradition.

After the disastrous experience of the so-called 'United Left' government of 1970-77, however, which tied the working-class parties to the bourgeois and communalist SLFP, that tradition became eclipsed, and the workers and peasants suffered a series of defeats: the electoral debacle of 1977; the smashing of several powerful trade unions and the victimisation of 100,000 workers following the abortive General Strike of 1980; the re-election of Jayawardene in 1982 and the subsequent cancellation of parliamentary elections; and the bloody race riots of 1983.

Socialist solution

The rise of the national question to become the dominant issue overshadowing all others on the island was itself a reflection of the despair of the Tamil people, who felt betrayed by the leaders of the workers' parties and could see no way out other than political separation from the Sinhala community.

The New Socialist Party (NSSP) is the only party that upholds the best traditions of the labour movement in Sri Lanka.

It will now have renewed opportunities, both in the Tamil and Sinhala areas, to demonstrate the incapacity of any section of the capitalist class, nationally or internationally, to lead Sri Lanka out of the impasse of misery, unemployment, rioting and war, and the need for a socialist solution under the leadership of the working class.

Companies vet clients

Dear Comrades,

The report in the *Independent* on 3 August that Mercantile and General, the re-insurance arm of The Prudential is to quiz unmarried men about their sexual orientation coincided with a letter from a doctor who was being inundated by requests from insurance companies requiring summaries of his patients' medical records to assess a claim.

Insurance companies cynically play on the fears of workers about whether or not their next of kin will be provided for in the event of their death, disablement etc, yet pick and choose applicants for those who they may have to cough up for, without a decent return on their money.

Not only is this new policy a slur on the large number of gay men who have pioneered 'safer sex', set up the Terence Higgins Trust and other AIDS helplines around the country, but entirely misses the point. Married men are probably more likely to be engaging in unsafe sex, on a casual basis, than are openly gay men.

The parasitic insurance industry has no scruples about people dying from an incurable disease. The quicker it is taken into the workers' hands and the money used for the benefit of the mass of workers the better.

Yours fraternally
Jon Johnson
Newham South LPYS

Letters

Send us your views, comments or criticism.

Militant,
3-13 Hepscomb Road,
London E9 5HB

Snap-happy coppers

Dear Comrades,

On Saturday 21 July, myself and four other comrades were selling *Militant* in our shopping precinct. We noticed a man taking photographs of us, he was using a camera with a tele-photo lens and was concentrating on each seller individually.

We approached the man who was standing with a uniformed policeman, and asked him why he was photographing us. He denied that he was and maintained that he was a member of the public photographing the street. He became irate and told us to 'push off'.

We walked away and so did the photography 'enthusiast' and the policeman. We followed them and they led us to a police car where the photographer got into the driving seat. He still refused to talk to us and drove away, but not before we got the licence number.

We contacted a local Labour councillor and our local paper. The local police station maintains that we are making a fuss

Labour man may lodge official complaint

POLICE DENY TAKING PHOTOS OF ACTIVISTS

Scarborough police have denied claims that they took photographs of Labour Party activists.

Five members of the Scarborough Labour Party were selling copies of the *Militant* newspaper in the town's Westborough precinct when they say a police photographer walked among them, taking pictures.

Mr Pollock, a member of the Labour Party for three years, was accompanied by brothers Phil and Graham Cunnell, Paul Cunningham, and Simon Chester.

Mr Pollock said he was considering making an official complaint against

the police. The five had gone to Scarborough police station after the incident, but he said, had been told that the police had nothing to do with it.

But Superintendent Mike Paxton confirmed to the *Evening News* that the man was a police photographer.

He added: "He was working at the scene of a crime. He was taking pictures of the precinct, but certainly not of these men. It was pure coincidence that they were there while we were taking photographs. There was certainly nothing sinister about our actions."



David Pollock... selling *Militant*.

about nothing.

Who ordered the plain clothes officer to photograph us and why? And what are the photographs being used for and who has access to them?

Yours fraternally
Dave Pollock
Scarborough

That wasn't the last I saw of that police van. When I

left my house for work on Wednesday morning it was parked about ten feet up the road, and drove away just after I left. Two other comrades live here and the police must have been able to trace at least one of us. I think they just wanted to attempt to frighten us.

Yours fraternally
Simon Chester
Scarborough LPYS

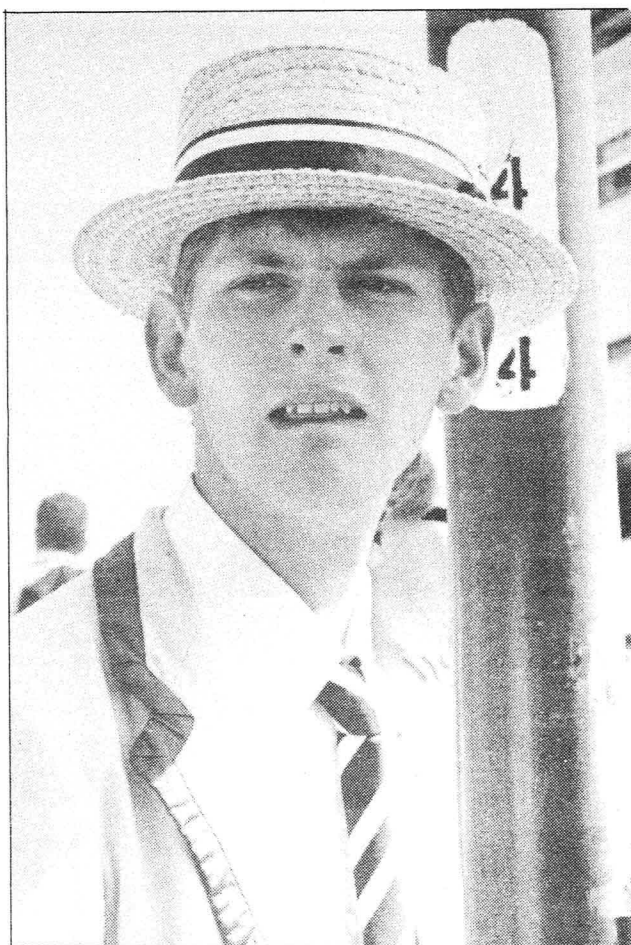


Photo: Dave Sinclair

Young Henley-ite worrying about the threat of Poll Tax?

Rich gains from Poll Tax

Dear Comrades,

Tony Cross mentioned in his article on MPs' pay (*Militant* 859) that the latest pay rise for MPs made no difference to Tory MPs like Tim Sainsbury. His article in the *Brighton and Hove Leader* explained why the poll tax will be beneficial to the majority of Hove residents.

For someone who has accumulated such a large amount of money, his arithmetic isn't up to much, he has failed to realise that any average family of three will be worse off.

Perhaps the real reason for his enthusiastic support is that he will pay the same community charge on his luxurious residence as my parents do on their council house in the same town.

Yours fraternally
Clive Walder
Brighton Kemptown Labour Party

'Hard pressed' MPs

Dear Comrades,

Whilst doing the family ironing last week, who should come on TV but two of our new Labour MPs, Ken Livingstone and Diane Abbot. As I listened to these two 'left' workers' representatives, I got hotter and angrier—and it wasn't just the ironing!

Sitting there like a pair of silly school kids (apologies to school students), when asked about the money they would be getting, £18,000 a year, all they could come up with was that as they spend it (a new house for Diane), it will filter back down into the

community. This is their version of redistribution of wealth! Seems to me that the Tories have been distributing wealth this way for years!

Watching these two twittering away with hardly a word about why they're supposed to be in Parliament, made me sick. Give me Terry Fields any day, a workers' MP on a worker's wage!

Yours fraternally,
Julia Firth,
Edinburgh (unemployed).

Classified ads

20p per word, minimum 10 words. Semi-display £3 per column centimetre. Three weeks for the price of two. *Militant* meeting ads free. All advertisement copy should reach this office by first post on Friday, the week before publication.

□ **Cassette tape debate.** Richard Venton (Merseyside *Militant* spokesman) and John Blevin (features editor *Morning Star*). 'Way forward after the election' (10 July). £1.75 (inc. p&p) from M Cock, 309 High St, Rochester, Kent, ME1 1VU.

○ **Cassette tapes** with two issues of *Militant* (one each side.) Available fortnightly. Tapes £3.50 per quarter, £13 per year. To be returned or send blank C-90 tapes. Contact Dave: 14 Harrowby Road, West Park, Leeds 16. Tel: 0532 624917.

MILITANT Red enamel flag badges. £1 each + stamped addressed envelope to Mick Griffiths, 20 Trilby Street Wakefield, W Yorks.

Militant meetings

□ **Chorlton** every Thursday, The Southern Hotel, Mauldeth Road West, Chorlton. 8.30pm.

○ **Southampton** Marxist discussion group. Wednesdays 12.30pm. 7 Goodwin Close, Millbrook, Southampton. Creche provided. Thursdays 7.30pm. Tel 786879 for details.

Labour Party Campaign Group Supporters (UCATT)

A meeting to discuss the socialist policies needed and the way to defend and extend democratic accountability both within the Labour Party and UCATT is being held on 5 September 1987 at 12.30 Merseyside Trade Union Club, 24 Hardman St, Liverpool L1. The main speakers will be Eric Heffer MP and Kenny Stewart EMP. There will be plenty of time for discussion from the floor.

All UCATT members welcome.

Differences over devolution

Militant replies

In *Militant* 859 Dave Milson asks whether Marxists take a different approach to the assembly for Scotland and one for Wales.

We have to start by considering what will best secure the unity of all workers in their struggle against capitalism and for socialism. However, it is clear that there has been a certain re-emergence of nationalism especially in Scotland.

The responsibility for this lies with the failure of successive Labour governments to transform society. Consequently, amongst the middle class and sections of the working class, support for some form of autonomy (an assembly) has been raised.

Militant believes that the unity of workers would best be maintained by supporting the demand for an as-

sembly for Scotland but with real power to deal with the social and economic problems faced by workers.

Such a position clearly differentiates us from all strands of opportunism and the nationalist poison of the Scottish National Party and Plaid Cymru.

Any 'independent' nation would be dominated by imperialism, as is the case with Southern Ireland—where conditions for workers are a nightmare. The leadership of the labour movement have come out in favour of a Scottish assembly. It is no contradiction for Marxists to support an assembly but to understand for what reasons the labour leaders do so—and to state them.

Firstly, it gives them a campaign issue which hides their nakedness on other

issues—what campaigns will they launch on the poll tax?

Secondly, excluded from the avenue of governmental positions many see a whole host of well paid, representative positions—they want to get their noses in the pork barrel!

Their support for an assembly, which is opportunistic, is totally different from ours. There are however differences between the situation in Scotland and Wales. In Scotland there is substantial support for an assembly, despite the manner in which it has been presented, ie without linking it to the social issues.

One of the reasons for support was the existence of oil in the North Sea which many workers felt could be used to regenerate Scottish industry. In Wales the national question to a certain extent was around the question of the Welsh language. Marxists will demand facilities to preserve

Firms still refuse to accept liability for deaths

Dear Comrades,

The local paper recently reviewed the latest book by a female novelist in Swansea. The research for the book involved interviewing the elderly widow of the last ferryman on the River Tame in Swansea.

Part of her husband's job meant ferrying lead workers back and forth across the river to their place of work. All who saw the lead workers were struck by their sickly, ashen appearance and their rotten teeth, but the factory owners steadfastly refused to recognise, back in the 1920's, that lead poisons the blood. "We all knew different though" said the old lady "because whenever a leadworker died, the owners bought the coffin".

As the Zeebrugge disaster hearing proved, capitalists are as reluctant as ever to admit their liability for death and destruction, and despite their massive profits, the compensation payments are still almost as inadequate as were those lead workers' coffins.

Yours fraternally
Mandy Moss
Swansea

We expose the asbestos cover-up

Ban the killer dust

SOMEWHERE AT some time on one of his jobs as a casual labourer cleaning out ships' boilers, my father was exposed to asbestos dust.

He did not know it was lethal but the company he worked for did. His wife, Bessie, did not know that washing his clothes could kill her so she died too.

By a Liverpool worker

Such firms as my father worked for have always known the dangers of asbestos. By shutting shop, and becoming untraceable they could avoid paying compensation, nobody could be charged and they could re-emerge elsewhere to commit the crime again.

Tragically, such tactics are still used. In March three companies were found guilty of exposing workers and public to asbestos dust. These firms have now gone into liquidation.

Because they kept no proper records some of their workforce cannot be traced. Such methods are themselves clear evidence that the bosses have always known the truth about asbestos.

We now know that at least 40 per cent of all workers exposed to asbestos for long periods will die as a result. A study done in New York by Professor Selikoff, based on 632 workers in white asbestos, showed some years later only 100 still alive. Lung cancer had claimed 105 lives, other cancers 238, and mesothelioma 50.

Exposure to asbestos is lethal. A single fibre can kill in one of three ways: asbestosis, the scarring and thickening of lung tissues; mesothelioma or cancer of the pleura, of which asbestos is the only known cause; and numerous other cancers of the lung, larynx, ovaries and intestines.

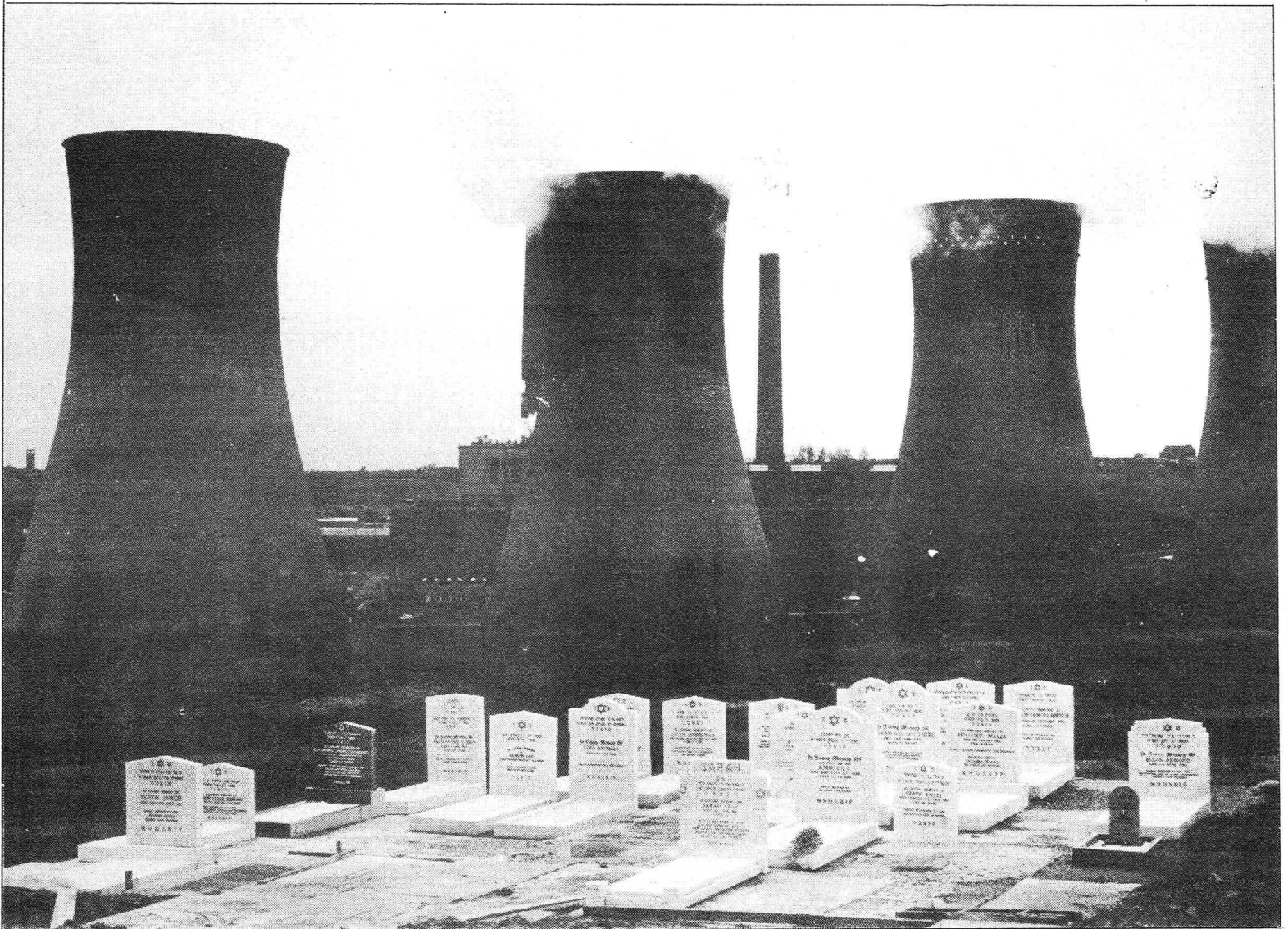
Myths

It is now thought that children are more at risk than adults. The *Lancet* points out that 10 people under 24 years have died in the last six years, one being only eight. The incidence of mesothelioma alone has probably been underestimated by five times. 10,000 deaths are predicted from this disease in Britain over the next 13 years. Until recently it was considered to be a rare malignant disease.

Such knowledge has not slowed down the growth of the asbestos industry. Before 1930 the world had used a total of three million tons of asbestos but twice this figure was produced in the 1960's when the dangers were proven and understood by the asbestos bosses.

Factory rooftops spew fibres into the air and probably four million of Britain's council houses (the vast majority) contain asbestos. It's also a major component of ceiling and floor tiles, paint, cement and many other products used in homes, hospitals and schools.

Worldwide, production is expected to double by the end of the century, mainly in poor countries where there are cheap labour costs, non-unionised labour, and few health and safety laws. Between 1969 and 1982 production in Mexico increased from 180 pounds to 1.2 million tons. Production has rocketed in Brazil, Venezuela, Taiwan and South Africa. The companies responsible know that their product is lethal.



The stripping of asbestos from power stations and other buildings can be a lethal hazard.

As far back as 1929 the asbestos industry knew its workers were dying. So it conducted a survey through an insurance company of 126 workers. The damning evidence, although hidden in a maze of statistics, showed 67 had asbestos diseases.

In 1943 a report was sent to two of the world's largest asbestos companies—Turner Newall in Britain and Johns Mannsville in America. It revealed a clear connection between asbestos and lung cancer, and was so damning it was not published. Turner Newall deny even having received it.

Big business attempted to keep the workforce ignorant of the hazards, but as the evidence mounted they had to become more ingenious. They invested in research, and they created myths about the product, primarily that blue asbestos was the only dangerous form. This myth still survives.

In Britain in 1976 the Labour Government appointed an advisory committee on asbestos under Bill Simpson. This committee set up an enquiry and contacted the British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS) for a report.

The BOHS had two extremely important reports accessible. One of them showed that at Turner Brothers Asbestos 58 per cent of workers were showing first signs of asbestos related disease—a staggering discovery. This report was never published. It was later revealed by Dr Morris, author of one of them, on the Yorkshire TV documentary, "Alice—a fight for life."

When the union GMBATU challenged their claim that only one in every 300 of their workforce was affected, the asbestos giant Turner Newall said that mesothelioma was not necessarily caused by asbestos but could develop "spontaneously"! Every serious investigation conducted

has shown asbestos to be the cause.

Another unused piece of evidence available to BOHS came from a study of Mintex Clutch and Brake in Bradford, which revealed that nearly half the workforce had the first signs of asbestosis. This information was leaked through the same Yorkshire TV programme and started a strike at the factory the next day.

Mintex had told the Simpson Committee that no workers who had started since 1952 had contracted the disease! This statement was repeated on TV by Mr. R. Hunt, the health officer of Mintex's parent company, in 1983.

Labour must be pledged to ending all asbestos production and to the removal and replacement of all asbestos with trade union control over the safety of stripping operations.

What is even more disturbing is the fact that the BOHS report had never even been given to the Simpson Committee.

The tactic of dominating committees, controlling research, losing reports and simply lying was not all the industry had up its sleeve. Long before all this had been exposed Turner Newall had seen difficulties ahead and set up the Asbestos Information Committee. The name gave the false impression of independence and authority—it was an industrial lobby funded by the asbestos companies.

Protests from trade unions and

pressure groups brought legislation in January and August 1984. However, this was totally inadequate applying only to the industry and allowing the continued production of white asbestos.

Most major unions are committed to the phasing out of all types and medical reports confirm the danger of white asbestos. One, from two scientists at the Medical Research Council was published with such a fanfare of silence that, in effect, it was suppressed.

Another report presented to the Simpson Committee wanted the same limits put on white as other forms of asbestos. If these reports had been accepted the 1984 legislation would have been far stronger.

What went wrong? The latter report was presented to Simpson but numerous attempts were made to suppress it because of its radical implications on safety levels. It also laid bare the proliferation of bad practice in the workplace which needlessly exposed workers to the killer dust.

Simpson wrote to its author, Stephan Grant in May 1984 asking him to amend it in view of its far-reaching recommendations. Grant threatened to resign if it wasn't published, but further attempts were made to change it.

Clearly, this committee is controlled by those in the industry and government who don't want the full facts to come out. Such enquiries and committees will inevitably reflect the interests of big business unless controlled by the working class.

Look at the Health and Safety law. In no other areas is the law so lax. There are two great escape clauses in the 1974 Act. Firstly, "we can't afford it," and secondly, "it's your own fault anyway."

This tradition is honoured through the latest legislation relating to the stripping of asbestos. Since 1984 asbestos removers have only needed a licence, obtainable for £60, and a signed declaration that they have read the new safety code.

This means that contractors with a bad safety record can jeopardise their workers' health. Worse, there has been no update of fines or sentences, and the Tories have cut back on the number of Health and Safety inspectors.

The stripping of asbestos is itself big business. The cost of stripping a small power station, for example, will be at least £1.5 million. With sums like this involved the temptation exists for unscrupulous contractors or local authorities to cut corners.

Profits

Despite the proven dangers of asbestos and despite there being a substitute for every asbestos product, the industry is still trying to convince us that the white is safe. On a global scale profits are enormous and growing.

In other words, a very powerful lobby, assisted by friends such as the *Daily Mail*, which recently attacked ILEA's asbestos-removal campaign for being "a scaremongering loony left campaign that costs too much", still ensures thousands are dying a slow, painful death.

The only solution is the control of industry by the workers themselves. Labour must be pledged to ending all asbestos production and to the removal and replacement of all asbestos with trade union control over the safety of stripping operations. In the meantime the trade union movement internationally has to fight for these measures as immediate steps. The lives of millions depend on it.

Industrial Reports

Bosses rifle Ordnance jobs

By a Royal Ordnance union representative

ALMOST 1200 workers at the recently privatised Royal Ordnance factory in Enfield are facing redundancy following the decision of new owners, British Aerospace to move production to Nottingham.

The decision represents asset stripping at its worst. While British Aerospace estimate it will cost £13.5 million to close the plant, the site itself is worth £125 million.

The redundancies have started already, but in order to keep production going until the end of 1988 the company have said that anyone joining from now on will get six months pay in lieu of notice if they work until the end.

This is to ensure that they can squeeze another 65,000 guns out of Enfield before it closes. It contrasts with their attitude to workers who've been here for years: if they leave before the end of the 90 day consultation period to take up another job, they'll not get a penny redundancy.

Redundancies

This year Enfield is expected to break even. Apart from a £10 million loss last year when there were problems with a new gun, up until privatisation we always made a profit. A £100 million order has just been won from the Ministry of Defence to produce the SA 80 rifle. Clearly closure isn't due to an empty order book.

An axe has been hanging over the factory for a long time but at the very worst the workforce thought production would be phased out over three years. Now they feel stunned and shocked.

The jobs of AEU, TGWU and civil service unions' members are threatened. Some trade union officials, and even convenors in the factory will argue that the best we can hope for is good redundancy terms.

But two thirds of the workforce have not got very long service. Most of the redundancy payments will be peanuts compared to what British Aerospace will be picking up as a result of the closure.

Jobs will be lost in an area of high unemployment. Unions at Enfield must link up with the Nottingham workforce to oppose the closure.

*** All redundancies must be fought.**
*** Unity must be forged with all sites.**
*** Organise a stewards/ reps conference to link all three sites, open to the members, to decide action.**



Bus workers have shown they are prepared to fight.

Scots bus pay victory ..but defend jobs and hours

THE RECENT industrial action taken by Scottish bus drivers and conductors has for the moment ended. Management and union negotiators, after lengthy discussions came to an agreement on Saturday 31 July after Scottish Bus Group (SBG) members had been out on indefinite strike since the previous Wednesday.

Industrial action in defence of wages and conditions had begun with two day strikes but at a delegate conference of all SBG stewards a decision was taken to escalate the action.

At this conference the management offer was put forward for £150 basic and a minimum guaranteed day of five and a half hours.

This would mean drivers working a five from seven day week, consolidating weekend payments (double time and time and a half) into the basic wage, giving one person operated drivers a £156.63 basic, with the addition of their

urban bonus—a loss of earnings of £25 per week.

Ballot

Delegates to the special conference were lobbied by several hundred members who let their feelings be known as to how their representatives should vote. A national ballot on this deal had already rejected it by an overwhelming 82 per cent.

Management said they would be prepared to drop the deal but only on the condition of a return to work and then local nego-

tiations. This would mean the breaking up of the SBG, with no recognised national agreements—the beginning of divide and rule.

The delegates voted by 41-9 to reject the offer, and escalated the strike to indefinite action. Three days later both sides met again and a new management offer was accepted by a majority of the union's negotiating committee.

The new deal would mean a £153 basic with a minimum six hour guaranteed day, plus guaranteed overtime of 20 hours in any given four week period. With urban bonus added to this, their wage would be £181 per week.

In many garages this overtime will be incorporated into the five day working week, increasing the working week from 39 to

44 hours.

Since this has been the first major dispute in the industry for over 10 years some mistakes could have been expected. The biggest of these was to ask the members to return to work without them having the chance to endorse the deal first. There should have been a mass meeting of all SBG union members giving them the opportunity to question and explore the deal.

Enthusiasm

At the time of writing, two garages in the Clyde-side company have voted to reject the deal, with one, Paisley, in favour. The result here was due to garage union strength and thus confidence in getting the best possible from it.

This strike has shown the

latent capacity of the busworkers to fight for a better deal—to themselves and to management. In particular the enthusiasm, tenacity and ingenuity of the young workers came to the fore during the dispute.

However the members must prepare now for the possibility of further strike action if the deal is rejected throughout the whole of the SBG.

Management are already discussing 500 redundancies. Any weakness shown now will only invite further attacks. We have the strength to force management's hand again but unity between garages will be essential. We have to win on wages and hours, in order to fight job losses.

By a Paisley Militant bus driver

London: All-out action required

ON MONDAY 10 August 14,500 bus workers at 51 garages throughout London took strike action for the day to defend their colleagues at Norbiton and Harrow Weald who are faced the results of tendering—longer hours and less pay.

London Bus (LBL) management were forced to concede the strength of support for the action. The workers at Norbiton took strike action for a week and those at neighbouring Sutton for two days over the

previous weekend. In addition, after lunchtime meetings the previous Friday, drivers and conductors from 20 garages across London did not return to work.

Suffer

LBL, acting at the behest of the Tories, are attempting to break up the London network, with each garage tendering for routes. Services will suffer—so too will bus workers.

The management scheme

for South East London involves closing Sidcup and Plumstead garages and re-opening Bexleyheath. Their proposed conditions which they claim are necessary to win the routes in the face of private competition are for a 43 hour week with no increase in pay for drivers and conductors. This is five hours more than at present.

Under pressure from the strike action, management seem to be backing down marginally on hours, but are still intent on pushing

their plans through. This means the action must be stepped up.

Common fight

Workers on the Underground are facing the threat of privatisation in a big way. Chiswick Bus Works is facing sale or closure, and 500 jobs hang in the balance here. These groups have a common fight and should be linking together.

The tripartite committees in the bus depots

should be brought to life and linked up with the stewards on the Underground.

The best way to cement these links would be through a London Regional Transport stewards/ reps conference to discuss a strategy to fight back.

The stakes are now high—thousands of jobs. Central to any fight has to be preparation for all-out strike action if management don't back off on the issues of tendering and privatisation.

Industrial Reports

Ballot set to back pit action

IT LOOKS as though British Coal have had their fingers burnt.

Their attempt to turn the clock back to the era of private coal-owners, when the pit manager assumed tyrannical powers of Lord and Master over the workforce even in their leisure time and away from work, looks likely to result in a resounding "Yes" vote for industrial action in the National Union of Mineworkers ballot on the disciplinary code according to our reports.

There will be analysis of the result and a strategy for the union in next week's paper.

Forgive us our trespass

THERE ARE a number of gross anomalies in the way the disciplinary code has been implemented.

As we have reported, four NUM branch officials have been suspended at Sherwood colliery merely for distributing NUM material. Another NUM member in Notts was fined for a fight in his local welfare—despite the fact that the police had not pressed charges. British Coal considers itself above the law.

Meanwhile Shireoaks colliery in South Yorkshire area has twice in recent months been subjected to a massive sticker and leaflet drop by the UDM. Shireoaks is a 100 per cent NUM pit. On both occasions the leafletters have forced their way into the pit head baths to drop leaflets in men's lockers until they were stopped by a pit security man.

Contempt

Shireoaks workers treated these incidents with contempt. But it doesn't alter the fact that despite the offenders' car registration number being passed on to the police and British Coal no action has been taken against an act of trespass.

Redhill postal workers

POST OFFICE management moves towards casualisation were met with united resistance by postal workers in the south-east recently when strike action erupted at Redhill Sorting Office, where 15 casuals had been employed to cover seasonal work arising from holidays.

The dispute started on 27 July when management sent home 60 staff at the end of their early shift when the volume of mail fell, tearing up a 20 year old agreement that when casuals were employed overtime could be worked if wanted.

Other workers at the office walked out, an effective picket was organised,



British Coal boss Sir Robert Haslam dons pit gear—is he trying to supplant his income?

The Board are determined to prop up the UDM by victimising NUM activists while sanctioning UDM propaganda. A massive "Yes" vote would help the fight back, strengthening the hand of the NUM against this vicious code.

By a Yorkshire miner living in Notts.

Unity

As Redhill is a key distribution centre, the dispute soon began to bite. When drivers from Horsham and East Grinstead refused to collect mail from Redhill they were suspended and these offices joined the dispute.



The ballot vote will be the beginning not the end of the battle.

Haslam's money worries

SIR ROBERT Haslam is finding it difficult to make ends meet. His annual salary is a meagre £145,000—only double that of his predecessor, MacGregor. Four full-time members of the Coal Board are struggling along on £65,000 to £70,000.

Miners all over Britain will be eagerly awaiting the announcement of a joint wage claim from Haslam and the National Union of Mineworkers. Or will they?

The British Coal Chairman only recently imposed a miserly wage increase of £4 per week across the board on mineworkers.

Of course, there was also a £50 per quarter attendance bonus—not payable if you have time off for trade union business, and a £25 per quarter

Source: NES and NCB

Industry	% of employees receiving Productivity	Productivity bonus as % of pay 1985	(Productivity bonus as % of pay 1978)
All industries and services	43.2	7.6	(8.9)
Electricity Supply	6.1	0.5	(12.1)
Mineral Oil Refining	15.8	1.7	(0.0)
Chemical Industry	31.3	2.7	(4.7)
Mechanical Engineering	40.5	6.4	(10.5)
Motor Vehicle Manufacture	52.0	7.1	(7.4)
Gas Industry—all workers	57.2	17.3	(15.9)
Coalmining—all workers	91.6	18.9	(11.9)
Iron and Steel	82.7	20.6	(14.7)
Coalmining—underground	93.6	25.2	(12.8)

"conciliation" bonus—a no strike bonus. Not to mention the £1 increase on achievement of standard task under the incentive scheme. Big deal!

Underground mine-workers in Britain now rely on productivity bonus for as much as 25 per cent of their basic pay. No other major group of workers is

dependent on bonus for such a substantial proportion of their income.

Not only that but miners have fallen from third in 1980 in the industrial wages league to tenth for lowest grade manual workers. What has Haslam to say about that? Presumably, miners aren't working hard

enough or long enough.

Well we know who works and who doesn't. We know who has to put the knee pads on and eat dust for a living. And we also know what Haslam will have to eat when we next take strike action as a national union. Enjoy your cash, Bob—while it lasts.

Metal Box lock-out

MANAGEMENT HAVE locked out 250 workers at two Metal Box plants in Salford and Clayton. This follows prolonged pay negotiations in which management refused to offer anything above four per cent.

Metal Box has withdrawn from the General Print Agreement and its workers are very low paid. When the Sogat members voted for an overtime ban, management interviewed everyone before they locked on on Friday 7 August, and told them to leave the premises if they were not prepared to work overtime.

The workers insist that they are available for work during normal hours, but that they won't give in to intimidation. Many of them cannot work overtime because they have children

to look after.

As Eddie Furey, Manchester Sogat branch President pointed out, "Very little overtime is worked here anyway. We believe management were looking for an excuse to lock these workers out. The company made a substantial profit last year after struggling for several years, and the workers have worked hard and co-operated with management. Now they are being treated with contempt."

At a rally last Wednesday an overwhelming majority voted to continue the struggle against poverty pay and to defend basic trade union rights.

Donations and messages of support to Sogat '82, 4/8 Great George Street, Salford M3 6EH. Cheques payable to Sogat '82.

Tax Union boycotts Moathouse

MEMBERS OF Leicester IRSF were horrified to receive invitations to attend a union school at the Moat House Hotel, Peterborough.

They immediately contacted their regional union head office advising them that they would not attend unless the venue was changed to a unionised hotel. This was done and Moat House lost another valuable customer.

Broad Left supporters in the IRSF and trade union activists in general, must raise the issue of the strike in their branches to win solidarity and financial support for the Moat House strikers.

By an IRSF member

Militant

inside

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Scottish tenants fight sell-offs

TENANTS IN Scotland are fighting the threat of having their homes taken over by unscrupulous private landlords.

That is one probable consequence of the new housing authority being established in Scotland, Scottish Homes.

As with the Poll Tax, the Tories are using Scotland to experiment with some of their nastiest legislation; they set up Scottish Homes to carry out their policy of breaking up local authority estates and "diversifying tenure."

Abolition

They talk a lot about housing co-operatives and housing associations but this is only a small sweetener. Most public sector houses will be handed over to private profit making landlords and housing trusts.

The immediate effects of Scottish Homes will be felt by tenants of the Scottish Special Housing Association (SSHA), a government run authority which currently has 85,000 public sector houses.

SSHA, along with the Housing Corporation in Scotland, will be abolished and the 85,000 houses taken over by the landlord division of Scottish Homes. But this will be a temporary measure as the houses will be handed over to the private sector in one form or another.

The government's consultative document gives te-

By Colin Fox

nants no choice whether their homes are taken out of the public sector. SSHA tenants could find themselves with a new landlord whose priority is not to maintain houses but to make profit out of tenants. That will push up rents and cut repairs—a disaster for SSHA tenants.

Already tenants' associations are organising to oppose SSHA's abolition. The chairman of one tenants' association in Hamilton told *Militant*: "Tenants are really angry about this. We don't want our houses handed over to private profiteers. SSHA aren't perfect but they're a damn sight better than a private landlord."

"We want to link up with the SSHA trade unions. We've been in contact with the NALGO branch and they've sent us some petitions. We're going to fight this."

Last weekend, the SSHA held a conference for tenants; the mood can be judged from the fact that the chairman, a former Tory councillor, was removed from the chair by a vote of no confidence.

The tenants set up a Federation of Scottish Special Tenants to fight the abolition of SSHA. Gov-

ernment plans have led to federations and ad hoc bodies to oppose them throughout Scotland.

At present, SSHA tenants and workers are in the front line but eventually all public sector tenants will be affected by these Tory proposals. Labour councils must also give a lead and organise meetings with their own tenants and unions to explain the threat of Scottish Homes.

Labour should insist that there should be no privatisation of public sector housing, and that tenants should be balloted to see if they want their houses taken over by privateers. The labour movement must back the tenants in their fightback.



SSHA homes are the Tories' first target but all public sector housing is at risk.



It's not just in Scotland. Tenants in Wandsworth have faced sell-offs by their Tory Council.

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Make cheques payable to *Militant*.

What we stand for

- The immediate introduction of a 35-hour week without loss in pay as a step towards the elimination of unemployment.
- Reversal of all Tory cuts and a massive programme of public works on housing, education, the health service, etc.
- A minimum wage of £120 a week tied to the cost of living for all, including sick and disabled people.
- A socialist plan of production democratically drawn up and implemented by committees involving the trade unions, shop stewards, the unwaged and small business people.
- Opposition to the capitalist Common Market, the EEC. For a socialist United States of Europe as a step towards a World Socialist Federation.
- Workers' management of the nationalised industries. These should be run on the basis of one-third of the places on the management board coming from the unions in the industry, one-third from the TUC representing the working class as a whole, and one-third from the government.
- Opposition to the Tory government's anti-union laws and reversal of attacks on the trade unions.
- Massive cuts in arms spending. Support for unilateral nuclear disarmament, but with the recognition that only a socialist change of society in Britain and internationally can eliminate the danger of a nuclear holocaust.
- Nationalisation of the top 200 monopolies, including the banks and insurance companies which control 80 per cent to 85 per cent of the economy. This should be through an Enabling Bill in Parliament with minimum compensation on the basis of proven need.