

SOCIALIST VOICE

Journal of the International Socialist League
British Section of the IWL (FI)

Speak Out for Irish Freedom



No to State Censorship

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST LEAGUE

★ Labour and the 'Left'

★ The Crisis of the Workers' States

★ The Left Electoral Front in Argentina

Editorial:

Fight the Privatisations

THE RICH pickings from privatisation gave the Tories added euphoria one week in October as the blue rinse brigade and the young and not so young yuppies gave vent to their hatred of the British working class.

The hearty applause was overwhelming when they were told that the economy has never been healthier, the National Health Service has never had so much money, the mines were for privatisation and the British bullet was given the freedom of the planet to kill any republican.

It is as if they are travelling on the Lucetania, gorging themselves on the richest food and the most expensive wines, while the ship itself is sinking.

Privatisation means picking out anything that can make a profit. It is for the benefit of the monopoly companies that the hiving off of the 'rich parts' has continued at such a pace. Not able to compete on the world markets the Tories turn to the few sources of profit left to them at home.

Electricity and water are to be privatised next. The mines will come soon after forming a trio of rich economic pickings and political attacks.

To defend the jobs of all those who work in these industries it is necessary to develop a programme of struggle. The programme must seek and win support from all the trade unionists and communities involved. Such a programme, based on mobilising the working class in defence of their post war gains, would be a powerful beginning to end the 'profit grabbing' and stem the destruction of industries and communities.

The fight against privatisation should learn from the past. From how the miners and other sections of the class fought against the hated owners of industry towards the end of the last war and subsequently. Nationalisation did not come from the labour or trade union leaders of the time.

Towards the end of the war there were great mass struggles against the bosses. What drove it forward was the hatred of the class and the miners who in particular demanded nationalisation. There had been a history of ruthless exploitation which is now being

re-introduced by the Tory Government.

Yet the Labour Government of the time gave the miners nothing, but gave the mine owners compensation of £165 million. As trotskysts said then, whatever gains are won by the working class, only the nationalisation of all the main industries, under workers control, without compensation and under an independent workers' government could guarantee the end of misery for workers.

Now the Tories intend to take back what they have always considered to be their property, but only for money grabbing and asset stripping. In the forties capitalism wanted the state to take over the areas which it could no longer develop, except by huge expense. The money to be made now runs into billions of pounds.

Union leaders and the labour leadership have no intention of fighting against this. Kinnock has made it plain that Labour will not re-nationalise.

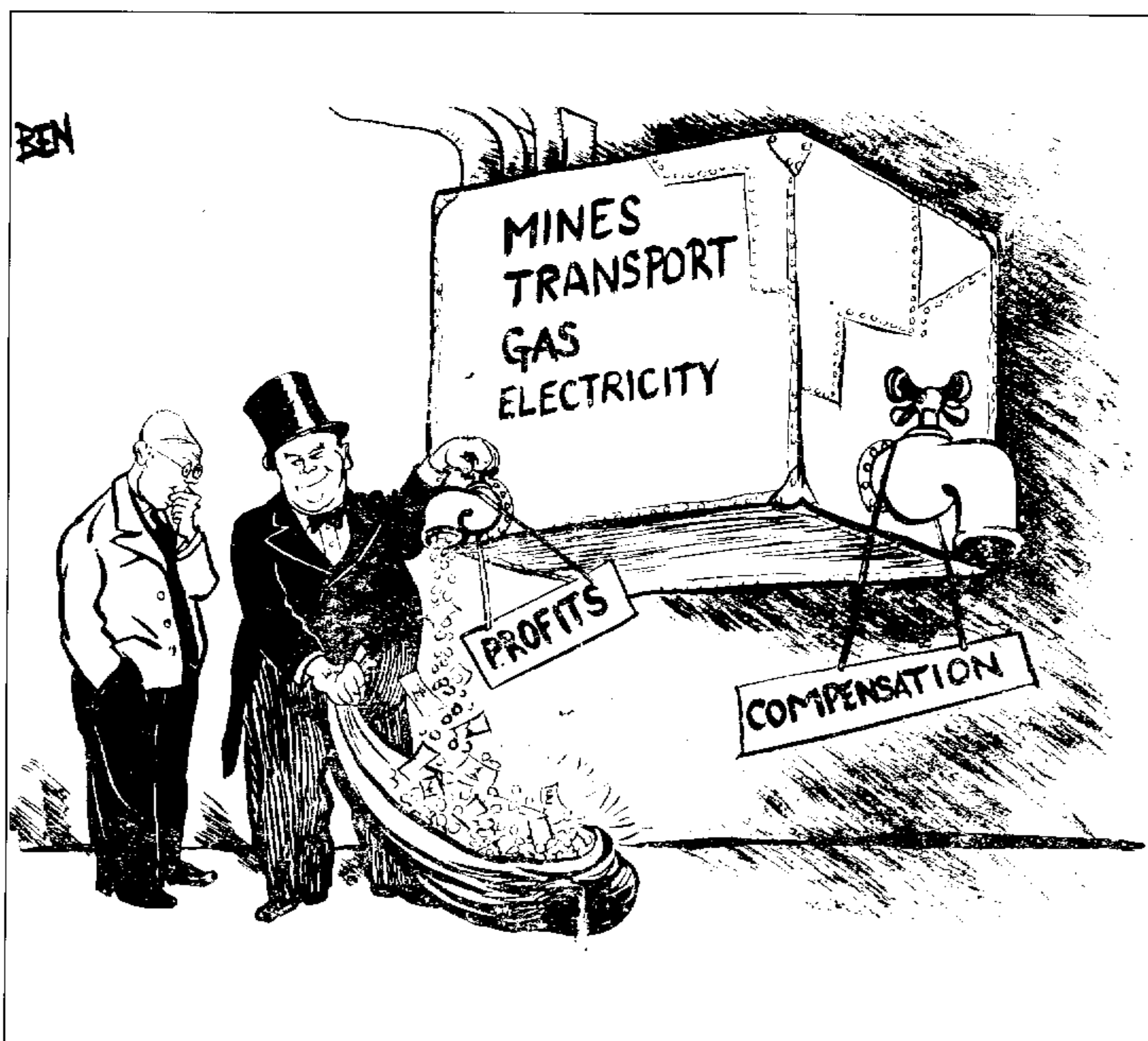
An all round attack on the miners and the National Union of Mineworkers has been

developing through and since the miners strike. Those pits that remain open are facing flexible rostering and the demand for a 6 or 7 day working week. The use of outside contractors by the coal board to do jobs traditionally done by NUM labour is just part of the drive against miners and meets the demands of the stock exchange and bankers.

The old hated 'Butty System' is set to return which was based on groups of contract labour with a lump of money being paid out between them as wages.

No programme that sets out to defend the status quo can succeed against the Tories. A socialist plan for coal has to be linked with the turn to all sections of the working class to class struggle.

As Trotsky said in 1926:
"the destruction of the conservatism of the British coal industry, this foundation of British capitalism, can only be through the destruction of the conservative organisation, traditions and customs of the British labour movement."



Times change but the greed remains the same (Cartoon from 'Socialist Appeal', paper of the trotskyst Revolutionary Communist Party, in February 1946).

Socialist Voice

Editorial Board for this issue

Sue Gwyer
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The Super-Parasitism of yuppie Britain

FRANK FITZMAURICE

TORY LEADERS can hardly make one speech now without telling us how prosperous the British people are.

The fact is that grave economic problems for British capitalism are reflected in the desperate way that Lawson and other Tory Ministers minimise the importance of Britain's trade deficit and trumpet out its "credit-worthiness". The desperation is because the Tory Government is reduced to this chest-banging to maintain the confidence of world

ing class, through the anti-union laws for example. The onslaught has increased productivity, particularly in those industries to be privatised - the mines, steel and rail for instance. The recent "boom", which the Tories boast about, was on the basis of maximum exploitation and maximum overtime.

Maximum overtime and increases at the higher end of the income scale enable the Tories to claim Britain as a country where earnings are increasing while real income is declining for the mass of the population and wages are failing to keep up with the rise in the cost of living.

The Tory's "boom" sucks in imports and is the immediate cause of the balance of payments crisis. It arises basically from the decline of British capitalism which is not only being squeezed out of the world market but is losing heavily to imports on the home market.

The '87 stock exchange crash was like a severe heart attack for the



The Stock Exchanges have no solution to the October Crash

speculators and investors in the stability of British economy.

In the midst of these increasingly acute problems for the world imperialist economy, British capitalism is in relatively greater decline. Since World War Two, there has been chronic under-investment in British industry making it more vulnerable to world economic crises.

British Imperialism is more parasitic than ever before; more dependent on the City and overseas investment. The return of interest, profits and dividends from overseas are a greater percentage of national income than returns from manufacturing industry.

A great destruction of manufacturing industry in Britain has taken place. This destruction has a class character, particularly in relation to the closure of mines. British rulers are set on destroying a militant labour force and its organisation, and British trade union leaders have made a cowardly retreat before them.

At the same time, high exchange rates and the lifting of controls have enabled enormous investments to flow overseas.

There has been an onslaught on the work-

world economy. It appeared to recover but was and still is fundamentally in sickness. In this country money flooded into the building societies and away from the Stock Exchange and accelerated the house price rises which were a big factor in the "boom" and the deficit.

The 'multi-nationals' also contribute to the present trade imbalances by their policies of producing goods in the most profitable places and re-exporting them to Britain. The consumer boom has been a boom among the rich and its source has been the redistribution of income from poor to rich. With tax cuts on high incomes, increased exploitation, increasing relative surplus value, higher profits and the vast returns from the overseas investment that went out to the "Third World" - (i.e. its super exploitation). There is no way up for British capitalism, whatever may have been said to the Tory 'pack' at Brighton.

The prospect in Britain, under British capitalism, is the accelerating decline of standards. **The mass of the British population faces that descent into unbearable living conditions which the masses in the countries of Latin America and Eastern Europe have gone and are going through.**

Public Meeting

The Latin American Revolution

7.30 p.m. Tuesday
15th November
A.E.U. House
Liverpool

International Socialist League



50th Anniversary of the Fourth International

7.30 p.m. Monday
21st November
Mechanics Institute
Manchester

International Socialist League
British Section of the
International Workers' League
Fourth International
L.I.T.-C.I.

ISL FUND

We have a number of documents from the MAS, the IWL section in Argentina, which have only recently become available to us in English.

WE think that these documents are important and should be published here but we do not yet have the resources.

The documents include:

Conversations with Nahuel Moreno

Twentieth Century Revolutions

A Leninist Party or a Mandelist Party

We are sure these will be of interest to many readers.

Our fund will be used, in part, to ensure these documents become available in Britain. So if you want to read them help us publish them by sending a donation to: ISL, P.O. Box 18, Stockport, SK6 4DH.

Unite Against the Poll Tax

THERE IS CONCERN and anxiety among working class communities who know very well that the Poll Tax is going to hit them the hardest. It is another vicious Tory plan to relieve the rich and place burdens on the poor.

In Scotland, where the tax is to be introduced on April 1st next year, there has been a steadily developing opposition with angry demonstrations on the housing estates. The Scottish TUC and Labour Party leaders have mounted a desperate fight against anything but token opposition. They succeeded in getting conferences to repudiate illegal action against the tax. Their big fear is that Labour Councils will refuse to operate it.

Above all, afraid of any movement of workers in their own defence, they declare: Leave it to us and a Labour Government sometime in the future. Today, such advice is

more and more an empty echo.

Masses of workers are going to be unable to pay. The Tory Government has deliberately placed councils in the position of administering the tax. Either refuse, or become instruments for punishing the poor who can't pay, is the choice before the Labour councillors.

The ISL supports the campaigns against the tax and the demands that Labour councillors refuse to implement it. We support the anti-poll tax unions now being formed. But we see every activity in this period as preparation for that explosive time when the poorest sections of society are unable to pay. How do we defend these sections from Tory punishments, from evictions, wage seizures and such like? Only mass action can stop these.

How do we organise to say no to the Poll

Tax? The main question is not individual refusal. That is going to take place in any case as hundreds of thousands of workers will be unable to pay. This has already been indicated by the vast increase in rent and rate arrears on council estates in the last few years and particularly since the Housing Benefit changes this Spring. The question is how to organise class forces, not individual protest. The mobilisation of the mass of the people is the answer to the problems that face workers today. This is the message that must be taken into the communities and the unions.

The Poll Tax struggle must turn towards assisting the building of tenants committees, defence committees, action committees and such like which will have wide connections in the communities and will organise the defence of their members.

Guardians of the Earth ?

THE GOOD NEWS out of Brighton is that the ecologists and similar 'worrywarts' can cease to fret - Mrs Thatcher has appointed the Tories **Guardians of the Earth!**

Some niggling doubts, however, remain. For instance, it is reported that Britain spends 17% less in real terms on pollution research than three years ago, 15% less on water pollution research and 42% less on investigating pollution caused by radioactivity. This is less than one fifth of the amount spent by West Germany. **This at a time when it is alleged that the seas around Selkfield (nee Windscale) are more radioactive than those around the Muraroa Atoll, site of the nuclear bomb tests of the 1950's and 60's.**

Another point is the continuing restriction of the sales of lamb from the farms of Cumbria and North Wales. This is supposed to be because of the effects of the Chernobyl fallout which persists in the poor soil of these regions. If these effects do not persist in the Yorkshire and Derbyshire moors and the Lowlands of Scotland with similar soil conditions, has it anything to do with the absence of

nuclear installations in these regions? Our guardians remain as inscrutable on these questions as that other guardian of the desert, the Sphinx.

Equally deafening is the silence on the refusal of 'Guardian Parkinson' to provide funding to reduce sulphur dioxide emissions from coal and oil fired power stations to the level of

heaps that litter the land from the era of privately owned mines can testify.

The above points tend to raise a sneaking suspicion that these Guardians of the Earth will be about as successful as that well known guardian of the cakes, Alfred the Great, with far more serious consequences. At least Alfred was dreaming of rescuing the country from the Danes while they dream only of profit for themselves and their class.

At the present time great problems concerning the ecology are constantly before us. The depletion of the ozone layer through the use of present day aerosols and the greenhouse effect caused by over abundance of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere released through the burning of fossil fuels, chiefly coal and oil, are just two.

These problems are obviously not going to be solved by a regime hell bent on the pursuit of profit or by those who have not the backbone to stand up to them, so the problem that troubled the ancients returns with full force: "Who shall guard the guardians"?



Direct action against dumping of nuclear waste

other European countries. **He is safe in the knowledge that such contradictions are utterly lost on the numbskulls swilling around the Tory conference, baying approval at his proposal to privatise the coalmining industry.** The coal industry was another triumph for the Tory ecology guardians, as the slag

Tenants Fight Privatisation

THE HULME TENANTS' CHARTER has been adopted as the programme of all tenants' associations in England and Scotland who are fighting the privatisation of council housing estates.

It was at a meeting in London on 10th October, following a lobby of the House of Lords by tenants from all over the country, that the Charter was unanimously agreed.

The Charter was presented to William Waldegrave, former housing minister, at the Department of the Environment, when tenants met him in Manchester in May. It was following this meeting that the Tories withdrew the plans to privatise Hulme and agreed to the tenants demand for a feasibility study.

Margaret Sands, one of the Hulme tenants who are currently occupying their Project

Offices, said of the decision:

"We see this as a big step forward because the campaign, instead of just saying "No to HAT's" is putting forward positive alternatives to privatisation policies. The question is not simply one of bricks and mortar, it involves economics, social, community, environmental as well as housing issues and the way the people can play a part in the redevelopment of their own estates."

As we said in last months Socialist Voice the Tory's privatisation plans are entering a crisis. Now is the time for any council which is serious about fighting the Tories to get behind the tenants' demands and give them wholehearted support.

Manchester City Council have had to withdraw the suspension and charges of discipline

against the former tenant participation staff because the charges were groundless.

Now they must reinstate them and give them the practical support they need to meet the tenants' charter.

The Hulme occupation has been offered assistance from a number a unions, amongst the most recent, the National Union of Civil and Public Servants (Department of Trade and Industry-Manchester) who are threatened with their own version of HAT's in the Civil Service - called "Agencies". This support should be extended to all sectors of the trade union and labour movement.

NO TO PRIVATISATION!

FOR THE TENANTS' CHARTER!

The Charter :

1. Why we want action

Hulme Tenants have said for many years that the Housing, Social Economic and Environmental issues of the area demand immediate close attention and the input of appropriate resources.

2. We want good quality local authority housing

We need Local Authority housing that is uncrowded, has modern facilities, is in a good repair and can be afforded by the people who live in Hulme now.

3. We want security and decent services

Tenants need to be free from harassment, free from the threat of eviction and physically secure. All services need to be effective and heating and insulation needs to be efficient and economic.

4. We want low-rise homes

Much of the area needs to be renovated, refurbished or redeveloped - replacing unsatisfactory housing with low-rise homes. Communal land needs to be protected as open space for the needs of local people.

5. We don't want a housing action trust

Hulme tenants know that a Housing Action Trust would not meet the needs of the people of the area, especially the most vulnerable. The unmitigated disaster of the 1960's redevelopment, our current housing, appears attractive compared with the proposed social engineering of a HAT and the way in which it would push the vulnerable aside.

6. Hulme needs a major input of government resources

We recognise that the redevelopment of Hulme requires massive financial resources from Central Government, and we demand that those resources are made available.

7. We are seeking a genuine partnership with council and Government

Tenants have demonstrated that they are willing to discuss the state's future with both the Local Authority and Central Government representatives in a tripartite arrangement is the feasibility Study Supervisory Group. Whatever mechanism is used to facilitate the redevelopment, it is vital that tenants have affective control over the process.

8. Tenants should have the right to full participation and consultation

Tenants want to fully participate in decisions made concerning renovation, repair and design of housing and its management. If a right of veto is to be given to anyone as regard decisions, it should be those most affected - tenants.

9. Freedom of information and full access to officials

All Councillors, officials and workers of the Local Authority and Central Government need to be more accessible and accountable. Tenants need to have full open access to information affecting the area.

10. Employment opportunities need to be created for local people

Local people need to have major employment opportunities within any redevelopment process, with apprenticeship and skill transfer programmes.

11. We want fair rents which we can afford

If rent fluctuations are to occur they must be in line with housing benefit increases - they should always be based on the principles of fair rent.

12. We want security of tenure

All tenants should be guaranteed security of tenure now, during and after the redevelopment of the area.

13. Priority to be given to housing for local people and the homeless

Redevelopment should be planned, first and foremost, for all people living in Hulme. After redevelopment, properties will be left on the normal Council priorities system (including the retention of succession rights).

14. We don't just want a bricks and mortar redevelopment

Redevelopment of Hulme is nor just a "bricks and mortar" problem. The many social and economic issues of the area need to be fully taken on board.

15. Tenants must maintain the right to transfer elsewhere

Tenants must have the right to transfer to any area of Council Stock and the choice of just one permanent move if that is what the tenant wants.

16. The right to full and adequate compensation should be remain

Manchester City Council's Compensation Scheme should be the basis for tenant compensation, with physical assistance with removals for any elderly or infirm tenants.

17. A proper disinfection programme to be carried out

Tenants demand a Hulme-wide disinfection before and after a tenants moves.

18. Council services need to be improved where possible

There need to be immediate improvements in the level and quality of council services including housing, repairs, social services, leisure services and shopping facilities.

Socialism - not

BILL HUNTER

OCTOBER 1988 was a month in which the Tories at Brighton were baring their fangs to drive deeper into the most exploited sections of society, while they promised more of the golden swill to the very rich in Thatcher's "prosperous Britain".

The Tory rank and file were delighted, even if they did not satisfy their longing for hanging and flogging. (Hanging and flogging of the lower classes, of course, in the good Victorian way.

The YUPpies, who terrorise and create disorder while drunk on champagne are only letting off "high spirits").

October 1988 was also a month where the working class could see the abysmal character of working class leadership in Britain. While the middle and upper class reactionaries bayed joyously at their leaders' attacks on socialism and the working class at the Tory

Conference, the loyal rank and file of the Labour Party was left confused and angry by the performance of the Labour bureaucracy at Blackpool.

No wonder Mrs Thatcher at the Tory conference could sneer at Kinnock for going her way. Mr Kinnock and the gang of

To them must be added the Communist Party. In the October issue of its "Marxism Today" Bryan Gould declared there was a "very great commonality of approach" between the documents of the Communist Party and the new right wing Labour Party policy review documents.

leaders he heads have a fundamental identity with Mrs Thatcher and her Tory leadership. Both are anti-socialist, both fervently uphold the market economy, individualism, the sanctity of anti-working class laws and both find working class struggle offensive.

To them must be added the Communist

Party. In the October issue of its "Marxism Today" Bryan Gould declared there was a "very great commonality of approach" between the documents of the Communist Party and the new right wing Labour Party policy review documents. "Marxism Today" with its wordspinning, drooling articles, aims

to be the "theoretical" journal of the "new realists". Its title is a fraudulent description of its contents. If all things were compelled to have their correct names it would be called "Anti-Marxism Today".

LABOUR LEFT

Kinnock has been removing even the shadow of control which the left in the seventies thought was a real power of the rank and file over the leadership of the Labour Party. They went under the foolish illusion that they were gaining control of the policy of a Labour Government and the composition of its MP's. As usual they saw the resolutions

THATCHER'S BRITAIN

"MARXISM TODAY" (October 1988) declares that: "the Right has glimpsed the future and run with it" and "now appears modern, innovative and brimming with confidence and ideas about the future. It is the Left which seems backward-looking, conservative...".

What sort of place is this Britain that "Marxism Today" declares is a country where Thatcherism "has a clear alternative" and where we live in "New Times".

In the first place, it is a Britain where the Tory Ministers have to cook the books all round to hide the suffering.

Twenty three times they have altered the methods of calculating the unemployment figures, which, in reality, remain at just under five million. Now they are introducing measures to remove dole benefits if claimants do not prove they are "genuinely seeking work". Back to the thirties when men and women had to tramp miles in search of non-existent jobs. And so much for the promises that "Employment Training" would not be

compulsory.

The Government deprived sixteen to eighteen year olds of unemployment benefit in September forcing them on to YTS schemes. Now, according to their figures, there are thirty thousand who they cannot find YTS places but have to live without benefit.

It is a Britain where Tories have produced figures to show that they are protecting the Health Service, something which violently conflicts with the experience of the majority of the population. Hospital waiting lists are steadily growing and have now reached almost three quarters of a million.

It is a Britain where a large number of inhabitants are threatened with having no running water. A thousand Liverpool council tenants have been sent letters stating their water supply will be cut off if they do not pay their water rates. Water rates which the government now demand all claimants must pay in full. A council committee warned of sanitation problems and of

families being left with no central heating in winter.

It is a Britain where the poor are attacked by a Government which removes the right of education authorities to grant free meals; where the Tories cut out the social security special payments and make it tougher for the disabled and the old.

These are only a few of the things that characterise the "New Times"

Yes, some people are "running with the future". The rich and the very rich! Here is the average increase in pay for 'top people', recorded by Charterhouse, an investment banking group.

In the year ending July 1988, the total remuneration of Managing Directors went up 16.2%; that of other Directors went up 14%.

Five people in the City received an increase of more than one million pounds! The chairman of Burtons, Sir Ralph Halpern, had £1.3 million. Shed a tear for the previous year's highest earner - Christopher Heath, the head of Baring Securities. His salary dropped by £2.5 million leaving him with no more than Sir Ralph - £25,000 a week!

on Labour Agenda

they got carried as being more decisive than the actual relationships of power in the party where the right wing bureaucracy had the backing of the dominating institutions in capitalist society.

The problem with this British reformist left is that it learns nothing. Whatever its experience of debacles it continues to believe that power and control is determined by resolutions and committee manoeuvres.

In 1960, the Labour Party conference passed a unilateralist resolution. Gaitskell, head of the right wing group leading the Labour Party, which had strong connections with American imperialism, refused to accept the policy and used the party machine to campaign in the party against it.

Neither the 1964 nor the 1974 Labour Governments made the slightest move on unilateralism nor on American bases. In 1974, the left had the illusion it was steadily moving forward. The conference had decided that the manifesto on which a Labour Government would be elected would be decided by the conference.

The Manifesto declared that the Labour Government would "*bring about a fundamental and irreversible shift in the balance of wealth and power in favour of working people and their families.*"

Without any great fuss and bother, the Labour Government dropped what the lefts had hailed as socialist policies. The Labour Government had come to power in the middle of big wages struggles and struggles against the Industrial Relations Act - which legally crippled union organisation. There was even the possibility of a military coup and the state secret services were seeking to destabilise the Labour leadership.

In the event, the Labour leadership curbed the unrest, put a brake on wages with the "social contract" and, while holding up new laws on the unions, continued the attacks on workers by using already existing legislation to bring in troops against the dustmen and firemen's strikes.

And the Manifesto was flung into the dust-

workers' union, in the early seventies, was much better at it than Ron Todd. He would sometimes go the length of forcing a vote - if he knew he was going to be defeated! Members of his own Broad Left cynically christened him, Pontius Pilate - his hands were always clean.

After Todd and his left executive backed

Do they really think that the bases will be removed by words or unilateral nuclear disarmament come about by a simple resolution pledging the Labour Government? Every Labour Government in Europe, including, in the past few years, the Greek and the Spanish, with left programmes on nuclear arms and bases, has capitulated before its own capitalist state and American imperialist pressure.

bin. Readers should study the 1980 results of an enquiry entitled "State Intervention in Industry", conducted by the Coventry, Liverpool, Newcastle and North Tyneside Trades Councils, which concluded after interviewing MP's and shop stewards, that the effect of this Labour Government was: "*in many ways an erosion of the real power of workers' organisations*".

OPPORTUNISM

It is in this context that we understand the abysmal opportunism of the trade union left in the Labour Party as was seen in the miserable performance of the left wing executive of the Transport and General Workers Union.

Todd's rhetoric on unilateralism was not worth a dried pea pod. This fake beating of breasts about principles is really threadbare. Hugh Scanlon, President of the engineering

Kinnock and Hattersley as leaders of the Labour Party they then declared they opposed the policy on which these two stood. **How crass can opportunism become? Neither Todd nor the lefts on the Executive take seriously the struggle for socialist policies.** That is very clear on the question of unilateralism and nuclear bases.

For them, at best, it is a matter for emotional speeches. Do they really think that the bases will be removed by words or unilateral nuclear disarmament come about by a simple resolution pledging the Labour Government? Every Labour Government in Europe including, in the past few years, the Greek and the Spanish, with left programmes on nuclear arms and bases, has capitulated before its own capitalist state and American imperialist pressure.

The question is one of power. What power would counteract American Imperialism's pressure on a Labour Government which tried to pursue this policy or protect it against the quite realistic situation in the TV play - "A Very British Coup"?

Of course, the only power must come from the working class. The Broad Left, with the glaring example of the T&GWU executive, has no principles or strategy in developing that power. They could not and would not consider dealing a real blow at Kinnock and the right wing bureaucracy in the Labour Party now increasing its power over the ranks.

If you cannot deal with the monkey, how can you be expected to deal with the organ grinder? If this left cannot deal with the power of the agencies of capital within the Labour Movement, how can it help organise the working class to destroy the power of capital itself?

The Struggle for Internationalism inside the WRP

Volume One and Two are available of our struggle for internationalism inside the WRP. The two volumes show why we formed the Bolshevik Tendency inside the WRP and why we left that party, in February 1988, to join the International Workers League (Fourth International).

They are selected documents that establish what we were and are struggling for. In the end we had no choice but to form the International Socialist League as part of the IWL.

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International Socialist League

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Argentine Left in Electoral Front

MARK SMITH

THE MAS (Movement towards Socialism), Argentine section of the International Workers League, is discussing an electoral front with the Communist Party.

The discussions take place in the framework of a deepening political and economic crisis. The Argentine external debt has grown from 42 to 55 billion dollars during the last five years and is the highest per capita in the world. Each Argentine owes \$1.666 to the imperialist banks.

From January to August electricity prices have risen 541.2%. The increase in cost of living was 258% while wages rose by only 223%. In many cases a two months electricity bill is higher than a whole month wage or pension.

Argentine workers have continuously fought back against the attacks of Alfonsín's Government

During August and September there were strikes of workers in the Postal Service, Councils, National Banks, Sugar Factories and News Papers, among others.

There is a movement against privatisation amongst the workers of the state owned Aerolíneas Argentinas, the telephone company and the oil company.

A wide movement in the workers' districts of Buenos Aires is fighting against the price rises in electricity, gas and telephone bills, organising the neighbourhoods to unite the people to boycott the payments of these bills.

capitalists and landlords. Its Presidential candidate, Menem, is an important landowner in the northern province of Catamarca.

The Peronist Party, however, still has a large support among the working class.

During past Peronist governments, which were in power during the post war boom, the Argentine workers had the highest standard of living in the history of Argentina. The party covers its contradictory position with demagoguery.

In a letter addressed to the FRAL (front of the Communist Party with other minor groups)



May Day 1986, the MAS / CP front demonstrate

Meetings and demonstrations have been taking place for a few months and this movement has already achieved an important triumph; more than 250,000 bills were not paid last month.

High school students have been mobilising, demanding half-price fares on public transport for students.

Even Doctors joined the struggle of the health workers demanding better wages and more money for the National Hospitals.

A recent poll showed that 65% do not approve of the Alfonsín Government, 73% do not think that the government has any solution for the present situation and 88% are against the economic plan.

The opposition Peronist party is led by

the MAS posed that it was necessary: "to make efforts to hold a united left alternative to present a real option for those working class, popular forces, students, human rights and anti-imperialist fighters who feel that they are not represented by the parties of the system."

The MAS declared that there were two essentials for such a front: the 23 programmatic points of the Front of the People (electoral front of the CP and the MAS in 1985) and the democratic election of candidates.

In an election in the Province of Catamarca, the MAS and the Communist Party put forward a joint candidate on an agreed programme.

Programme of the United Left

THE main points of the Programme agreed for the United Left in Catamarca are:

- * Non-payment of the illegal and fraudulent external debt.
- * For an immediate rise in pensions. For a Minimum Wage, rising with the cost of necessities.
- * Nationalisation of all the factories which close, under the control of workers.
- * Agrarian reform eliminating the large states.
- * For an alternative economic plan for the benefit of the workers and people, and elaborated by the organisations of the workers and

"small people's" movements.

- * Socialisation of Medicine. Nationalisation of the big laboratories and private clinics.
- * Defence of state enterprises assuring their efficiency by the control of workers and users.
- * Justice and punishment against those responsible for state terrorism. Removal of the laws of the "Punto Final" (Final Term) and "Obediencia Debida" (Duty to Obey).
- * For the purging and democratisation of the armed forces and state security forces.
- * Against the bureaucracy and for demo-

cratic unions.

- * For the recovery of effective sovereignty over Malvinas. The dismantling of the imperialist nuclear military base in these islands.
- * Break all dependence on Imperialism. For the second independence of Latin America, beginning with a break with all colonial pacts - economic, political and military - which tie our people to warmongering Yankee Imperialism.
- * For a workers' and small people's government which will thoroughly carry out this programme.

"Opposition" Prop-up PiNOchet

INSPITE of the overwhelming campaign of propaganda and intimidation from the regime the people said NO to Pinochet.

Only days after the plebiscite there was brutal repression of the demonstrations which celebrated the victory over the 'Jackal'. Demonstrators were killed and injured and foreign reporters were beaten.

Pinochet reappeared in his military uniform to announce that there would be no change to the 1980 constitution. This established that he could stay in government until 11th March 1990, that he could remain head of the Armed Forces until 1997 and that as ex-president he is a senator for life.

Luis Zamora and Ernesto Gonzalez, members of the National committee of the MAS, Argentine section of the International Workers League were in Chile to support the 'No to Pinochet' campaign.

Zamora noted: "if anything was clearly demonstrated it was the strength and the readiness of the workers, the youth and the popular movement to fight for the dismissal of Pinochet."

But the workers of the world must be asking: "Why doesn't Pinochet fall?" Zamora answered: "because the leaders of the opposition parties prevent his fall. On Wednesday night the Chilean people did not go into the streets... the leaders of the campaign for a no vote were insisting the masses did not go into the streets... they constantly repeated that the people must stay in their houses and await

instructions from them. There were no instructions throughout the whole night from the leaders. Only on the Thursday night, when the people were already in the streets and had reached 'La Moneda' (seat of the Government) crying: "**Chi-le, Pinochet must leave**", did the opposition leaders call for a march, on the Friday. **This was not a march against Pinochet but a "march for reconciliation."**

"While the people shouted in the streets that they had won, Patricia Aylwin, one of the Christian Democratic leaders declared: "*there are no winners or losers.*" She said that the result of the plebiscite: "*does not mean the dismissal of anyone. The way forward is to discuss institutional changes with the armed forces.*"

"Volodia Toitelboim, spokesman of the Communist Party had called (before the plebiscite) "*to take to the streets in a popular and democratic uprising and to form a provisional government.*" After the victory of the "No" vote however, Toitelboim himself declared that: "*the communists do not expect Pinochet to immediately abandon the Presidency of*

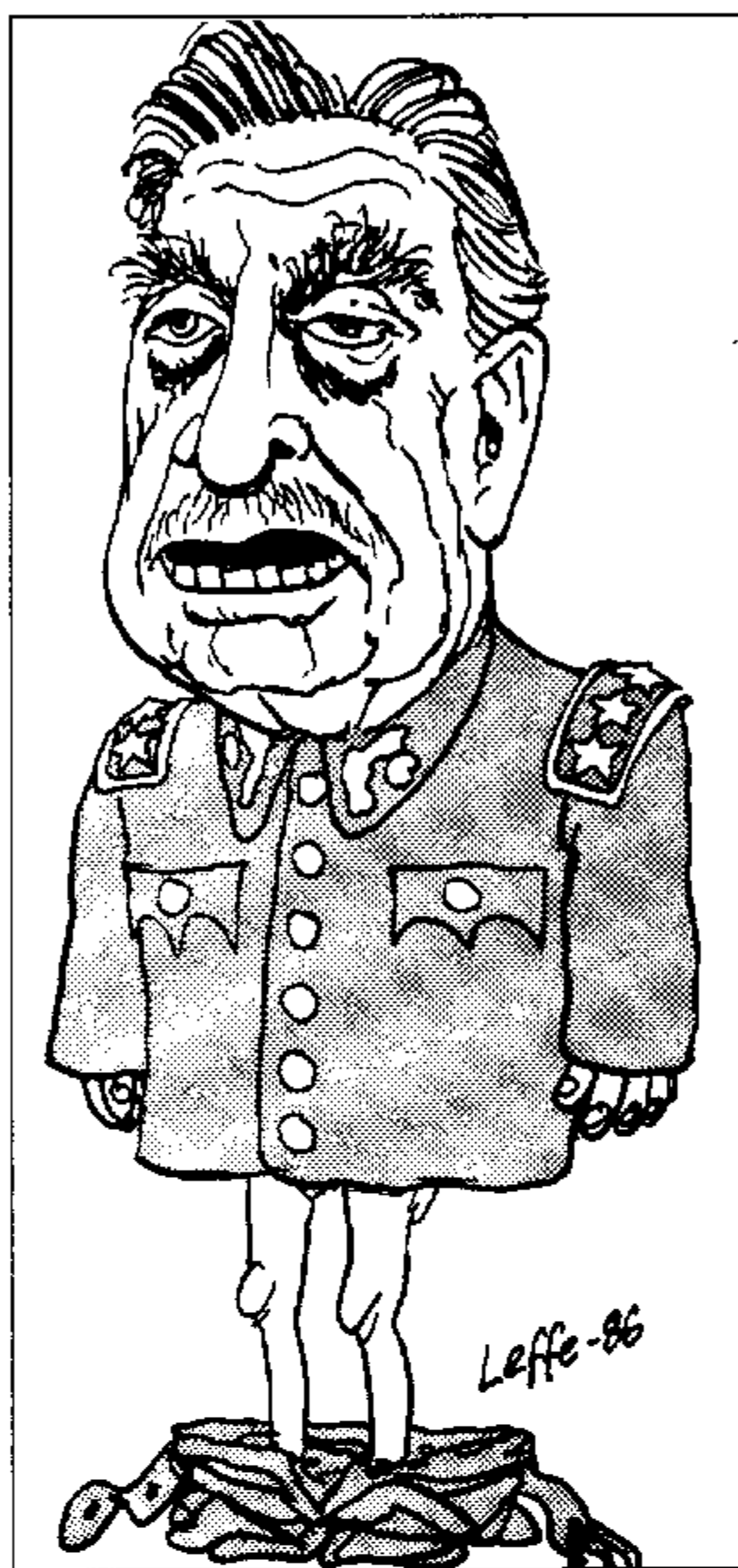
the Republic."

"Like Aylwin, he said that the way forward was: "*to negotiate with the armed forces who would be a valid partner in determining a transition to democracy.*"

"The following day Izquierda Unida (a left front led by Chilean social democracy) demanded the resignation of Pinochet but only after declaring that: "*the armed forces play a very important role and now they have an historic opportunity of rejoining the people.*"

"This is why I say that the leaders of the opposition are the reason why the dictatorship didn't fall or at least why it is not in a crisis and about to fall."

Zamora concluded: "**In Chile it is necessary to discuss Pinochet and the whole armed forces now and to destroy all the bloody institutions of the dictatorship particularly the anti-democratic constitution of 1980.**"



Life of the L.I.T.

BRAZIL

CONVERGENCIA SOCIALISTA, Brazilian section of the IWL, had ten per cent of the 5,000 delegates for the 3rd Congress of the CUT (Central Trade Union). Convergencia worked to build a current called "**Democracy and Struggle**". In the Congress "Democracy and Struggle" proposed a plan to unite the struggles taking place into a national mobilisation against hunger and against the dependence on imperialism imposed by President Sarney and the International Monetary Fund.

"Democracy and Struggle" fought against the proposal of the leadership of the CUT to support the government's new National Constitution, a capitalist constitution. Finally, they fought against the changes proposed by the CUT leader, Lula, to the organisation of the CUT. Lula's aim is to

transform the CUT into a federation and remove the centralised democratic characteristics it has at present.

"Democracy and Struggle" succeeded in winning the Congress to support its 'plan of struggle'.

PANAMA

ON 29TH SEPTEMBER Hernan Luque, leader of the Panamanian University Employees Union and member of the National Leadership of the Socialist Workers Party of Panama, a section of the IWL was released from prison.

The SWP has been supporting the struggle of workers against the policies of the International Monetary Fund being administered by Noriega's Government.

The international campaign demanding the recognition of Luque's detention by the Government and for his liberation was very important. The first demands for his freedom came from Mexico, Peru, Venezuela, Colombia, Brazil and Argentina.

ARGENTINA

SEPTEMBER SAW the 13th anniversary commemoration of the "Massacre of La Plata".

On 4th September, 1975, five members of the Argentine SWP, fore-runner of the MAS, who were actively supporting a factory occupation in the city of La Plata were kidnapped by a para-military, known as "Triple A". The following day their bodies were found showing signs of brutal torture.

After the bodies were found another three comrades disappeared whilst campaigning against the initial crime. The police obstructed the investigation and denied they had the bodies of the three other dead comrades.

The ISL joins the homage to those martyrs of the struggle for the world socialist revolution.

Which Will Prevail ?

THE MYTH that the workers states would by inevitable progress, evolve to communism in peaceable competition with capitalism has been shattered. Only the foolish or the wilfully blind can deny that their future will be one of turbulence, sharp clashes and great political crises.

Throughout the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, China and Vietnam the bureaucratic leaders are being forced to pursue policies which open the door to powerful capitalist tendencies.

Vadim Medvedev was appointed to the Polit-Bureau of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union at the special Central Committee meeting as a supporter of Gorbachov. He has declared that the nature of property ownership has to be rethought and private enterprise is to be encouraged.

The bureaucracy cannot adopt the only course which will lead the Soviet Union and other workers' states to Socialism - the introduction of workers democracy and internationalism. These are the only things which can revive the enthusiasm and initiative of the working class. It cannot adopt them because its bureaucratic privileges were consolidated by the suppression of Soviet democracy.

Problems which faced the socialist development of the Soviet Union in the twenties have now burst through. They were not abolished, only driven underground by the bureaucratic repression. This is what happened to the national question. It now explodes in all the workers states. Used by demagogues such as Slobodan Milosevic in Yugoslavia, national feelings threaten to completely break up the Yugoslav state. The nationalities in Yugosla-

via had been cemented together during the war in struggle against the Nazi occupation and the forces seeking to return to country to the reactionary regime which existed before the war.

But the co-operation of the various nationalities could only be fully consolidated by the extension into a Balkan Soviet Federation which would bring together the nationalities split between Albania, Yugoslavia and Bulgaria. Stalin and the Soviet bureaucracy were violently opposed to this in fear of creating a greater power by the unity of the bureaucracies in these countries. When Yugoslav leaders proposed this traditional Balkan Communist Policy, it was

denounced as a proposition proving the Yugoslavs to be agents of imperialism. When Stalin and the imperialist leaders at the end of the war moved frontiers without concern for the wishes of populations stalinists and left Labourites justified it by chauvinistic arguments or arguments about the necessity of the defence of the Soviet Union.

The Soviet bureaucracy annexed Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, took Polish territory and a slice of what had been Rumania. The Sudeten Germans were expelled from Czechoslovakia, Silesia became part of Poland, Rumania took some Hungarians. The moves had nothing to do with socialist development or the overcoming of nationalism but only with the nationalist opportunism and the interests of the defence

of the bureaucratic cliques.

During the whole post war period they dealt with national problems in a criminal and brutal manner, suppressing national cultures and transferring whole populations. The price that the working class pay for stalinist degenerations is the great contradictions in the struggle now developing against bureaucracy. Undoubtedly certain developments appear on the surface confused and with demagogic and reactionary elements seeking to exploit the opposition to the bureaucracy. However we are only at the beginning of the organisation of the working class in the political revolution.

Whatever the forms taken in the immediate rise of these movements against the bureaucracy it is inevitable that the working class will be forced into deeper and wider confrontations. In these they must learn fundamental class lessons, for the penetration of capitalist relations in the economy offers them

nothing but increased exploitation and increased collaboration between imperialism and the rising capitalist tendencies in the workers states.

Another process is the continuous and growing movement of anti-imperialist revolutionary struggles throughout the world against which the counter-revolutionary front of the bureaucracy and imperialism is hastily developing.

These two fundamental processes can give confidence to the Trotskyist Internationalists in their struggle to build mass sections in these deformed workers states.



Trotsky and Lenin

Capitalism or Socialism

CHINA

THE CHINESE BUREAUCRACY has been compelled to apply panic measures to the forces that were unleashed in the turn to capitalist economic methods because it is faced with immediate threats to its power.

It was reported at the beginning of last month that the Central Committee had ordered a ten year period of "rectifica-

YUGOSLAVIA

THE BUREAUCRACY in Yugoslavia has brought the country to the brink of disintegration. It is facing an abyss, an abyss between the working class and the appetite of the multinationals.

The immediate cause of the unrest amongst the working class and the nationalities has sprung from the repression of those who have demanded legitimate rights against the Communist Party. **But the unrest has been given unprecedented force by the agreements reached between the IMF and the Government. These agreements were accepted because of the dire debt owed to the banks, which is now \$21 billion. This is higher per capita than in Poland.**

The Government agreed to freeze or reduce wages and allowed prices to rise and reduced restrictions on imports. **The average wage is now less than £57 per month. Inflation rose from 149% in May to 217% in October.**

The austerity measures involved moving to a closer reliance on market forces and profitability; any unprofitable concerns would close. There are one million Yugoslavs already unemployed.

There have been 800 strikes so far this year. 9th October saw the largest and most determined strikes forcing a temporary change in the government. The Government has proposed a subsidy on flour, bread, edible oil and milk. At first they decided to allow \$200 million of staple food to be brought into the country and a week later they had increased that to \$600 million.

However, the Government is only allowing wage increases in profitable companies and in state services like health and education.

The western media make more of the national problems than the questions facing workers in the factories.

But it is the deterioration in conditions and standards of life which have sharpened up the problem of nationalities in Yugoslavia which cannot be resolved by the ruling bureaucracy.

tion". Inflation, is at 20 per cent, higher than at any time since 1949. Fear of price rises has triggered bank runs and spending sprees.

The "Independent" correspondent in Peking reported that: *"The leadership, unnerved by this instability and the threat of serious unrest, has decided to slow down ambitious plans to free prices from a web of state controls and to cut capital construction to slow down industrial growth."*

For ten years now enterprises and even lo-



Armed Hungarian Worker

HUNGARY

THE BUREAUCRATIC leaders of Hungary have announced they are to form a joint venture, air freight company, with TNT.

TNT was the scab delivery service used by Murdoch during the Wapping strike and is a company which is well hated by British militant trade unionists.

The Hungarian bureaucratic leaders however, have scant regard for this. The Hungarian Government has reduced subsidies to state enterprises and on workers' necessities over the last three years. **The cuts in subsidies form the backbone of the their**

calities have made their connections with foreign contacts in accordance with government policy, breaking through the monopoly of foreign trade.

Fixers and entrepreneurs have made enormous fortunes. Capitalist relations have inevitably gone hand in hand with corruption. Sections of the Party and the state have been rotted from within through bribery and fraud.

400 million yuan (six billion pounds) has disappeared, according to the State Auditing Commission. 420 million yuan which should have been used for education cannot be found. It was discovered that 178 million yuan meant for poverty relief was embezzled. The thieving was widespread, it spanned over 995 counties and 21 provinces.

570 million yuan illegally found its way to investors in 12 Peking hotels. For many years there have been allegations that the families of Communist Party leaders were involved in corruption. There are widespread reports of the bureaucratic penchant for enormous banquets.

This bureaucracy cannot defend itself as the pre-war Soviet Union did. The whole history of the development of the stalinist bureaucracy in the Soviet Union was one of sharp zig zags. Stalin was forced to make empirical turns in order to defend the privileges and positions of the Soviet bureaucracy.

Today there is a different world context. These bureaucracies are in a far weaker position in relation to the working class which is combative throughout the world. Their bureaucratic rule is now a gigantic obstacle to the productive development of these states while in the pre-war period the planned economy of the Soviet Union was expanding tremendously. Despite any zig zags today these regimes are pushed more and more into the arms of imperialism while the working class is pushed into struggle against them.

programme to place sections of the economy more and more under the domination of the whims of the market place.

It is estimated that, under the process of "restructuring", 60,000 people will lose their jobs in one year alone, creating black spots of unemployment in the country.

The deal with TNT will link Hungary with TNT's world wide network. Once the Hungarian deal is completed, TNT hopes to draw East Germany, Czechoslovakia and the Soviet Union into its clammy embrace.

Continued on page 12

Kurdish Resistance

HOSSEIN NAGAFI

SPANNING the borders of Iraq, Iran, Turkey, Syria and the USSR, the Kurdish peoples have faced many difficulties in their struggle for national self determination, both in the past and in the present. In Turkey, the Government does not even recognise that they exist as a people, they simply call them "mountain Turks".

However, it is in Iran, of all these countries, that the Kurds face their most serious situation. **The end of hostilities between Iran and Iraq has left the way open for a systematic attack on the Kurds by the regimes in both Teheran and Baghdad.**

During the Iranian revolution, the Kurdish resistance supported the masses of the Iranian people against the Shah's dictatorship. However, one of the first actions of the reactionary clique that gained power in Iran, was to turn and attack the Kurds, just as the Shah had

done in the past. The intention behind this, was, of course, to stem the flow of revolutionary fervour that had broken out throughout the country.

The regime in Teheran has from that day to this attempted to wipe out the Kurdish resistance. They, like so many other regimes, have failed to do so. This is because of the heroism of the Kurds in their legitimate struggle.

The Kurdish resistance and the Palestine uprising are a two pronged attack on Imperialism in the region. To say victory to the Palestine people is to say victory to the Kurdish people. Their courage in standing up to the various attempts at genocide by several regimes is something that workers in Britain and elsewhere should applaud.

British workers should carry out solidarity work with Kurdish organisations to give aid to their peoples' struggles for self determination and an end to repression.



Kurdish Liberation Fighter

French Workers Demand Wage Rises



French Railworkers demonstrating outside rail headquarters last January

ONLY A FEW months after winning the elections the French Prime Minister, Michel Rocard, was forced to call for calm and security in face of the new wave of struggles for better wages amongst state workers.

This new wave of struggles began in the last week of September when the nurses went on strike demanding a wage increase of 2,000 francs. On 15th October the government offered 800 francs and the nurses voted to continue the strike.

The nurses movement is led by the National Coordinating Body, an assembly of nurses that works outside of the traditional trade union organisations.

In the third week of October railworkers, bus drivers, teachers, postal workers, government clerks, customs officers and Air France staff were all on strike.

On the 20th October 80,000 workers from seven unions marched in the rain through Paris demanding higher wages. Last year students and railworkers won important victories confronting the Government, Social Democracy and traditional Communist trade union leaderships.

This time, faced with the development of a new, independent leadership, Social Democratic Party leaders urged Rocard to make concessions to the workers.

The Government has been propagandising about the growth of the French economy and the workers are asking for their "slice of the cake". Prime Minister Rocard replies that "the French economy is doing well but it is still fragile and these demands endanger it."

Burma: The Japanese Connection

PETER WINDELER

JAPAN has supplied Burma with \$3.8bn in foreign aid, four fifths of all aid that Burma has received. Since the Second World War, from being one of Asia's richest countries, Burma has become one of the world's ten poorest.

Japan took on the role of principle supporter of Burma as it trained many of the nationalists who eventually succeeded in gaining independence from Britain's colonial empire. In fact General Ne Win, the military dictator who resigned in July this year, was trained at a Japanese military academy.

The west was quite happy for Japan to develop its relationship with Burma. Burma has an important position near pro-western Thailand in South East Asia.

Due to developing economic crises Japan decided to turn the screw on Burma in an attempt to reduce the living standards of the masses. In 1986 Japan only allowed new aid grants if they were to be used to pay the interest on the debt Burma already had.

This policy resulted in subsidies on rice, the staple food of the population being removed earlier this year. The price of rice quadrupled, which sparked the present emergency. The blood shed by the regime in the repression of demonstrations forced both Japan and West Germany, Burma's other main prop of support, to suspend all aid in early September.

Japan now seems poised to lend its support to Burma's new tyrant, General Saw

Maung, who came to power in a military coup on 18th September. In the three days after the coup over a 1,000 people were killed. Leaders of the demonstrations of the past few months are being rounded up and imprisoned.

Reports state that Rangoon, Burma's capital, resembles a Wild West Town. Soldiers stand on street corners weighed down with ammunition belts. Heavy machine guns and artillery are being used on anyone challenging the regime.

While the demonstrations have been led by students many are now leaving the capital to join and be trained by the Burmese guerilla armies which have been waging a war in Burma for the past 40 years. It is estimated that up to 10,000 have joined the National Democratic Front, mainly in its armies in the north and east. The majority of workers cannot leave and join guerilla armies but must take up the struggle where they live and work.

It is in the towns and villages of Burma that the key to defeating the military is really found, in developing a front between all sections of the masses; workers, peasants and students.

At the moment Burma is run as a gambling den. Only under the leadership of the working class with the support of the peasants and sympathetic sectors of the middle class can the economy be developed for the benefit of the toiling masses.



Burmese students receiving guerrilla training

continued from page 10

BULGARIA

Sections of the world's imperialist rulers are watching carefully the developments in the workers states.

THE BULGARIAN stalinist bureaucracy has gone a long way along the road that all these states are following. Thus it has gained the enthusiastic plaudits of an Imperialist statesman, Mr John Whitehead, the US Under Secretary of State for Eastern European Affairs in Bulgaria. He declared, at the end of September that the Bulgarian Government was making very prudent reforms and further reforms in the pipeline were: "even more impressive". He was of the opinion that Bulgaria was making more progress toward "economic liberalisation" (i.e. capitalism) than was appreciated in the West.

The Bulgarian Government is planning a virtual end to nationalised industries through an extensive privatisation plan. The shares in the new companies will be

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Down With State Censorship !

THE TORIES have announced two more "weapons" aimed against the struggle for national liberation in Ireland.

The measures involve an attack on two of the basic civil rights considered normal in a democratic society: **journalistic freedom and the presumption of innocence until proven guilty.**

On the 19th October Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, announced that he had issued notices to the BBC and IBA requiring them to stop broadcasting any "direct statements" made by any representative of Sinn Fein, Republican Sinn Fein or any organisation covered by the Prevention of Terrorism Act. He also involved the Ulster Defence Association but left no doubt that the target is Sinn Fein.

The following day the northern Ireland Secretary, Tom King, along with Douglas Hurd, announced that the right under which silence cannot be interpreted as evidence of guilt is to be abolished in northern Ireland before the end of the year.

These measures, which to most people sound amazingly like those already used in South Africa to defend the racist Apartheid state, immediately won support from President Botha who said he would be considering similar legislation if the black population continued its resistance.

What has been the reaction of the notoriously chauvinist British Labour Party? Roy Hattersley, Deputy Leader wants something much stronger. He described the ban on Sinn Fein as: *"trivial, worthless and almost counter-productive in the real fight against terrorism"*. Kinnock aligned himself full square with the Tories, as always, his only criticism seemed to be that the measures will not convict enough republicans: *"the loss of liberty will be used by the paramilitaries. But it will sadly not mean that many more of them are caught and convicted."*

Tom King, when asked if the government intended to proscribe Sinn Fein, replied: *"nothing is ruled out"*. No doubt this is too weak for the Labour leaders!



Meanwhile, Thatcher, during commons question time suggested that the coming year would see a bill ensuring that all election candidates would have to swear an oath formally renouncing violence. **Another piece of legislation clearly directed at silencing opposition to the British occupation of Ireland.**

The Tory party conference also announced that measures would be taken against the IRA. Yet in the "we-shall-not-be-moved" speech of Thatcher against the nationalist movement there was a barely concealed hint of fear. They ruled out internment because it is a two-edged sword. It would put behind bars the freedom fighters but would increase the support for Sinn Fein and the struggle against the British army amongst the most oppressed communities.

All British workers and those that express concern over these attacks on civil rights should begin from the fact that we live in an oppressor nation. They should demand that the British Government withdraw the troops and their phoney courts and end repression against the nationalist community.

For the moment the repressive tactics are being used against those fighting against British occupation. At another level of the class struggle they can be used here. To impose these conditions on British workers might propel a struggle the Tories do not want yet. But the class hatred is of equal intensity against the British and Irish working class. It is the duty of the British working class to make common cause with the Irish against the Government in Westminster.

The clearest way to show opposition in November is to march in commemoration of the Manchester Martyrs and call on your trade union or labour movement organisation to support the event (see advert).

FOR FREE SPEECH ON IRELAND!

DEFEND THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT!

TROOPS OUT NOW!

Support the Manchester Martyrs March



Sunday 20th November

For further details write to:
Manchester Martyrs Commemoration Committee
P.O. Box 5 South West PDO
Manchester M15 5EZ

Soviet Leaders Want Apartheid Stabilised

MARTIN RALPH

THE SOVIET UNION'S intervention in the southern cone of Africa is stabilising and defending the Apartheid state and betraying the South African revolution in order to maintain 'diplomatic' relationships in the area and prop up the South African economy.

It operates not from the point of principal support for the national liberation movements and the working class but on a balance sheet of profit and loss and how it can develop the interests of Perestroika on a world scale. This means establishing even closer links with capitalist countries everywhere.

labour for this counter-revolutionary front means that the South African Communist Party plays a direct role in containing the black working class.

Joe Slovo leader of the SACP has rejected any pretence of a revolutionary road and is saying change must come through negotiation, meanwhile the African National Congress has rejected the armed struggle in principal.

Their intervention in the union movement that emerged around COSATU, the Congress of South African Trade Unions, has been a history of bureaucratic control and of wreckers of the militant unity that has developed against the Botha regime.

Meanwhile the cost of holding down the African masses grows enormously. South African government spending is running at least 35% of Gross National Product.

The regime will be forced to attack the living conditions and the wages of the black working class even more ferociously than it has in the past. While there has been a pause in the revolutionary upsurge in South Africa, and the stalinists have tried to tighten their grip on the working class and move closer to apartheid during this period, the working class, one of the most advanced in the world, is by no means crushed and the new attacks will be resisted at every stage.



In order to protect its own development it seeks to protect the stability of one of the worst regimes in the world: "Africa is in bad shape and we certainly don't want to see the destruction of its largest and most successful economy, which is in South Africa. That is why we don't want to see too much reconstruction too soon there", a Soviet Policy adviser told Alistair Sparks writing for the Observer in September.

It is in this situation that the diplomatic moves of the Soviet bureaucracy show up in their true colours. They act as always from the interests of the bureaucracy and will not let the development of the African revolution get in their way. The international division of

All these actions can serve only to help Apartheid and are in stark contrast to the positions developed by COSATU who start from the independent interests of the working class and are willing to carry through the struggle against Apartheid and capitalism.

Even with the help of the stalinist apparatus inside and outside of South Africa it is a country heading into deep economic and social crisis.

Grave economic problems are facing the Apartheid regime. Inflation is now 13% and the Rand has been declining in recent years. The external debt in dollar terms now stands at \$22.6 billion and 3 billion of this is due for repayment in 1991.



All Out On 7th November!

PETER MONEY

ON 7TH NOVEMBER the Civil Service Unions will be taking national strike action in defence of trade union rights in the civil service. They will demand the reinstatement of their sacked colleagues at GCHQ.

They must be given the wholehearted support of every trade union member and worker in Britain.

It was on 24th January 1984 that the Tories first announced their ban on trade unions at the massive 'listening station' in Cheltenham. There was no consultation, no reasons given and no discussion. The members were given five weeks to renounce union membership or face the sack.

Over the next month there was almost continuous strike action by civil servants throughout the country. On the last day before the deadline for resignation the TUC called a Day of Action. However, the main thrust of the TUC campaign was a combination of fighting the case through the courts on the one hand whilst trying to appease the Tories on the other with offers of "no disruption".

The Tories, with their keen sense of when the enemy is lacking in determination, refused these offers and demanded nothing short of a complete ban.

Nevertheless, 150 members refused to be intimidated and decided to fight it out and the Tories were forced to back-off from immediate implementation of the ban. The "refusers" were soon joined by a number who initially resigned their membership but re-joined the union when the High Court ruled in the unions favour. However, this victory was short lived. The Appeal Court and later the House of Lords all came down on the Governments side. Since then the unions have been supported by the International Labour Organisation of the United Nations and have taken the case to the European Court. But this has failed to affect the Tories one jot.

This will hardly come as a surprise to those many trade unionists like the miners, printers and seafarers who over recent years have had

first hand experience of the judicial systems treatment of trade unionists. They have learned the lesson that the pioneers of trade unionism learned; that trade unions were built on struggle and can only be defended through struggle.

The aim of the Tories is to destroy trade unionism in the Civil Service. They are trying to establish the right to determine where trade unions are to be allowed and where they are not. If they are allowed to win at GCHQ they will extend the ban further.

The right to belong to a trade union is a basic class question and a question of civil liberties. This is why the sackings have produced such an enormous response throughout the whole

a national strike before the date announced for the sackings, 14th October, although there was time to hold a ballot and despite the fact that members were already taking unofficial action. They hid behind the argument that the announcement of the sackings had taken them by surprise. Well they are either lying or they are fools. The intensification of the attacks on civil servants since the election would have warned any decent workers leader that the GCHQ ban was back on the agenda.

Second they refused to demand the TUC call strike action for November. Again this was despite the overwhelming evidence that such a call would meet with massive support.

In fact the NUCPS leaders have gone further and come out against a strike. At Manchester Trades Council, under the direction of national executive member John Rhodes, NUCPS delegates who were proposing a motion of support for the TUC Day of Action actually opposed an amendment calling for strike action on that day.

This puts the NUCPS leaders to the right of Hammond on this issue. Whilst we are not saying that Hammond has an ounce of principal in him what we are say-

ing is that we were right when we said that the split in the TUC had not been one based on principles but was one based on preserving the role of the TUC bureaucracy in administering the allocation of single union deals.

These bureaucrats must not be allowed to betray the sacked workers at GCHQ.

ALL OUT ON 7th NOVEMBER!

REINSTATE THE SACKED WORKERS!

TRADE UNION RIGHTS ARE NON-NEGOTIABLE!

NO NO-STRIKE DEALS!



Demonstration against Banning of Trade Unionism at GCHQ

trade union movement. **The determination of the GCHQ "refusers" has won an immediate support in every trade unionist in the country.** This is why Eric Hammond was forced to call for a strike by the power workers. If he did not he knew he risked losing them to the new Electrical and Plumbing Industries Union.

The reaction of civil servants to the news that the Tories were going to enforce the ban was to immediately walk out. Every government department was hit by strike action. Members who had not taken action over other issues said they would fight on this one. People who had left the union re-joined and others signed up for the first time.

However, what has been the reaction of the leadership of the TUC and of the civil service unions, principally the NUCPS and the CPSA. First the civil servants leaders refused to call

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