

## With Hussein on the run U.S. poised to intervene in Jordan

BY ROBERT BLACK

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Government leaders from all over the world will gather in honour of this imperialist agency to prepare new moves against the international working class and the semi-colonial peoples.

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In fact, Syrian armour, manned by Palestinian guerrillas, is fighting against Hussein's counter-revolutionary army.

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## Biggest step forward yet

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This was certainly evident by the storm of applause that echoed through Beaver Hall on Monday night and the substantial collection made after SLL national secretary Comrade G. Healy explained the plans of the Central Committee to fight the Tories and their agents in the labour movement.

It was the most inspiring event since the publication of the daily Workers Press, whose first anniversary we shall be celebrating in a few days time.

Of course, as Mr Lincoln might have said, it is not possible to please all the people all the time.

One man's inspiration is another man's despair, and the Workers Press certainly cannot claim exception to such a rule.

Every forward step of our movement is the product of a conflict against all forces who try to hold back the development of Marxist consciousness in the struggle to create a revolutionary leadership in the working class.

Without revolutionary leadership, in which the daily paper plays a decisive role, there can be no talk of socialism in Britain.

### FEAR

That is why the emergence of the daily paper has caused consternation, fear, envy and general despondency amongst our social-democratic, Stalinist

and revisionist enemies.

The paper has confounded every prediction and prognosis of these middle-class opponents of Marxism and turned every hope against them.

The state capitalists, we recall, predicted that the Socialist Labour League would 'break its neck' in trying to produce a daily paper and they really believed what they said.

These professional, petty-bourgeois confusionists cannot, and will not, understand workers' revolutionary potential and capacity to build the instruments of liberation because they, long ago, rejected dialectical materialism.

The Stalinists were even less charitable than the state capitalists. First they said we wouldn't last more than a month, then after the month had passed, they said we wouldn't be able to print six times a week because we couldn't afford the overtime pay.

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The task of the Workers Press is to expose the

Trotskyist groups as "agents of imperialism" is to continue, but on five days a week instead of two. (Our emphasis.)

The crimes and betrayals of Stalinism will now be analyzed, criticized, debated and denounced not two, not five, but six days a week.

We are absolutely convinced that it is necessary, possible and indispensable to conduct a savage and uncompromising struggle against the reformist leadership in the trade unions in order to overthrow capitalism.

We are equally convinced that this is the only way in which the Workers Press is going to develop into a viable weapon of the working class, as a consumer agitator, propagandist and organizer of the revolutionary party.

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### ROLLS-ROYCE LOBBY TODAY



### United fight on speed-up urgent

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The Coventry strike committee, which has been fighting for a £5-a-week, no 'strings' pay increase since July, has urged Draughtsmen's and Allied Technicians' members from Rolls-Royce factories all over the country to support the lobby.

Company fortunes have drastically changed since last year's three-week strike by Scottish draughtsmen won a £3 increase for all the union's members working in the combine.

If there is no settlement at today's central-conference meeting between company representatives and union officials at national level, the company—which clearly requires a big all-round productivity speed-up to bolster confidence that it can restore profit-levels—may lock out DATA members from all its plants.

These have so far resisted pressure to handle work transferred from Coventry.

A united struggle by all sections of Rolls-Royce workers against the company's speed-up plans is becoming more and more urgent.

BY A FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

nature of the revolt against the Royalists, and present the fighting as 'an internal conflict between Arabs'. (Moscow Radio, September 19.)

This strategy runs like a thread through all the Stalinist propaganda being churned out by Soviet press and broadcasting agencies.

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And with tactical variations, it is slavishly echoed by the British Stalinist daily, the 'Morning Star'.

### Lecture brings lively discussion

LIVELY discussion followed the second of the Socialist Labour League's Trotsky memorial lectures held at Beaver Hall, London, on Monday.

The topic of this last session, Trotsky's fight against revisionism, clearly stimulated great inquiry in the minds of the packed audience.

In his lecture, Gerry Healy, SLL national secretary, traced the development of Marxism as a science that discovered the material conflicts in nature and society, from this developing a body of theory and principles as part of the struggle of the working class to overthrow capitalism.

Trotsky's main contribution was his own principled fight to defend the gains of the October revolution in Russia by his insistence that the Soviet Union remained a workers' state—though one deformed by the rise of Stalinism.

He took this stand in

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### Office girls on brewery picket



OFFICE WORKERS at Whitbread's key Luton brewery were again on picket duty yesterday in their two-round pay strike—despite the management's sack threat. Pickets told Workers Press that they had been expecting their cards to be brought out to them through the main gate.

The strikers came out for the second time last Friday

after pay talks had made no satisfactory progress.

Their original demand was for a £6-a-week increase and they now say that they would be willing to accept an interim increase of £2 during negotiations with management.

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### Barber warns on wages

CHANCELLOR of the Exchequer Mr Anthony Barber came down firmly yesterday against fluctuating exchange rates. These would, he told delegates at the International Monetary Fund conference, encourage wage demands by workers and weaken employers' resistance.

In countries where domestic inflationary pressure would cause an unpegged rate to depreciate, the fall in the rate would, through its effect on domestic prices surely add fuel to the wage demands.

'At the same time the resistance of employers might well be weakened by their expectation that present and future movements in the exchange rate will protect their international competitiveness,' said Barber.

### Oil profits

Why is Nixon compelled to challenge and fight the Arab Revolution, and now move against the Palestinian guerrillas as its spearhead?

Sixty-seven per cent of all Middle-Eastern oil is extracted by US companies. Over the last few years, US profits from the exploitation of Arab oil have more than doubled—from \$150,000m to \$425,000m.

American capitalism relies more and more on these fabulous profits, pumped out of countries where the population is half starving, diseased and oppressed in every way.

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ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE

## CONFERENCE

The Pilkington struggle and the right to strike

Defeat the proposed Tory anti-union laws

St George's Hall, Lime St LIVERPOOL

### Saturday October 3

2.30 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Credentials and visitors' cards 5s each from Conference Secretary, W. Hunter, 58 Leighton View, Liverpool 8.

### Pilkington committee seeks cash

PILKINGTON rank-and-file committee is appealing for increased financial support to meet legal expenses which include the representation and appeals of 18 pickets who were arrested in the seven-week Pilkington strike.

Three were given sentences of three months' imprisonment and the rest were fined sums ranging from £15 to £45.

Two of the imprisoned men were released on appeal after a month.

Donations to be sent to the rank-and-file committee, 10 Greenfield Road, St Helens.

### Seven days to go Sept £1000 Appeal Fund stands at £403 4s

AFTER A tremendous effort over the weekend, yesterday's post brought £41 12s 1d. This gives a total of £403 4s 0d for the fund.

We have seven days left to raise the figure of £500. Our plans to print the Workers Press six days a week will be greatly assisted if we can raise most of this outstanding amount before the weekend.

We know we can do it by the magnificent support you have always given the paper in the past. Help us now carry out this great step forward—send your donations today to: Workers Press Appeal Fund, 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4.

# Workers Press

The daily organ of the  
Central Committee of the  
Socialist Labour League

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PRICE 6d.

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For United States imperialism, the policeman and hangman of world capitalism, is at this very moment mobilizing its armed might for action against the Arab Revolution.

Hussein's Royalist army, torn by defections and demoralization, is on the run. Both in the North, where commando tanks pulverized the vaunted Royalist 40th Armoured Brigade, and in Amman itself, where guerrillas yesterday defied the regime's curfew to renew their attacks on Royalist positions, the revolution is on the offensive. Only outside military aid, on a massive scale, can save Hussein. And it must come quickly.

### Cover

Using the safety of the US citizens in Amman as a cover, Nixon has already ordered his crack 82nd Airborne Division, based at Fort Bragg in N Carolina.

This 10,000-strong unit is held permanently in readiness for use anywhere in the world. A fleet of C-41 jet transport planes is now standing by to parachute the division directly into Jordan for action against the guerrillas.

The 17,000-ton helicopter carrier 'Guan' is at this moment approaching the E Mediterranean at the head of a naval and airborne task force, where it will join the two 60,000-ton US aircraft carriers 'Saratoga' and 'Independence'.

The aptly-named 'John F. Kennedy'—one of the most modern attack carriers in the US fleet—is also heading for the Middle East.

The W German-based 8th Infantry Division has also been alerted for the same mission. Together with the US Sixth Fleet now patrolling along the Israeli and Syrian coastline, these forces constitute the spearhead of the armed counter-revolution against the Palestinian guerrillas and their supporters in the other Arab states.

Make no mistake. Nixon will use this force against the workers and peasants of the Middle East just as the American ruling class has, for the last ten years, turned its fire power, men and material against the heroic fighters of Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos and Thailand.

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In this way, Stalinism actively assists the intervention plans of the imperialists and undermines the very necessary campaign to win the working class for action in solidarity with Palestinian freedom fighters.

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### 'Get tough' government action on lay-off pay

TEST CASES contesting a Department of Employment and Productivity decision to withhold unemployment benefit from 2,500 carworkers laid off at Cowley, Oxford, are being set up by the trade unions involved.

They will be considered by local tribunals next week.

The men, mostly day-workers at British-Leyland's Morris Motors plant, were laid off when 1,500 struck in support of a demand for 'shop-averages' pay while the new ADO 28 production line is priced.

Management want to open the new line with a controlled piecework system similar to the one which operates on the Minor 1,000 line, shortly to be closed.

They also want to retain the existing Minor 1,000 labour force as the nucleus for the new line, breaking established practice in the factory.

### Benefit

The DEP has decided that the 2,500 men laid off at Morris Motors stand to benefit from the strike and has stopped unemployment pay for the whole factory.

This despite the fact that the strike is against an attempted management breach of custom and practice in deciding the rates for the new line.

The new 'get-tough' line by the government departments over unemployment and social security benefits follows Lord Stokes's heavily publicised outburst against these payments to strikers.

The government, Stokes claimed last week, was financing strikes by paying benefit to strikers.

The Tories are under considerable pressure from big business to tighten the law on

By industrial reporter

benefits, particularly to prevent strikers and their families getting any.

At the moment, however, the Tories seem content to rely on the extremely harsh provisions of the 1965 National Insurance Act, a legacy of the Wilson government.

This Act provides for withholding of benefit from all laid-off workers who cannot prove that they are not 'participating in or financing or directly interested in the trade dispute which caused the stoppage of work.'

These Labour government provisions, greeted with a fanfare of praise by the parliamentary 'left' at the time, give the Tories all they need to hit out at strikes and do their best to drive them back to work.

It is yet another case where the Labour government opened the door to Tory anti-strike measures.

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TV

## BBC 1

9.38 a.m. Schools and colleges. Science all round; 10.00 Music Time. 10.25-10.45 DYSGU CYMRAEG; 11.10 Discovering science; 11.35 British Social history; 12.00 p.m. New horizons. 12.25-12.50 Nal Zindagi—1.00-1.25 Iris. 1.30 Watch with mother. 1.45 News and weather. 2.05-2.25 Schools and colleges. Science session. 4.20 Play school. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Snow White. 5.15 Tom Tom. 5.44 Babar. 5.50 News and weather.

6.00 NATIONWIDE. London. 6.45 THE DOCTORS. 7.10 TOM AND JERRY. 7.20 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE. 'The condemned'. 8.10 SOFTLY, SOFTLY—TASK FORCE. 'Sunday, Sweet Sunday'. 9.20 WEDNESDAY PLAY: 'Close the Coalhouse Door'. Life in a mining family.

10.35 24 HOURS. 11.10 CONFERENCE REPORT 70. Liberal Party Assembly. 11.20 Weatherman.

## REGIONAL BBC

Midlands. E Anglia: 6.00-6.45 Nationwide. Midlands today. Look East. weather. 11.22 News. weather. North, NW, NE, Cumberland and Westmorland: 6.00-6.45 Nationwide. Look North. weather. 11.22 News. weather. Wales: 6.00-6.45 Wales today. weather. Nationwide. 6.45-7.10 Heddiu. 7.20-7.40 Ask the family. 7.40-8.10 Dysgu Yr Dail. 11.22 Weather. Scotland. 10.20 Schools. 10.25-10.45

## BBC 2

11.00-11.20 a.m. PLAY SCHOOL. 7.30 p.m. NEWSROOM and weather. 8.00 TIMES REMEMBERED. 8.10 WHAT SORT OF WORLD DO WE WANT? Part 3. 9.00 FANNY CRADDOCK INVITES... you to a Television Meal. 9.20 SHOW OF THE WEEK. Scott on Communication. 10.05 FACE THE MUSIC. 10.45 NEWS ON 2 and weather. 10.50 LINE-UP. Interview with Mel Ferrer.

## ITV

9.30 a.m. Liberal Party Assembly. 11.00 Schools: My World; 11.16 Finding out. 11.35-11.55 People work here. 11.55-12.30 p.m. Liberal Assembly. 1.40 Schools: Seeing and doing. 2.00 World around us. 2.23 It's fun to read. 2.35-3.00 Drama. 3.50 F. Tingha and Tucker club. 4.30 Crossroads. 4.55 Secrets of the deep. 5.20 Ace of wands. 5.50 News.

6.02 TODAY. 6.30 THE SAINT. 'Simon and Dillah'. 7.30 CORONATION STREET. 8.00 THE CHAMPIONS. 'The gilded cage'. 9.00 SPECIAL BRANCH. 'Not to be trusted'. 10.00 NEWS AT TEN. 10.30 ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL. 11.25 PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING. From Wryton Stadium, Bolton. 11.55 WHAT THE PAPERS SAY. 12.10 FROM ONE POINT OF VIEW.

## REGIONAL ITV

CHANNEL 1: 11.00-11.55 London. 1.40-3.00 London. 4.00 Puffin's birthday greetings. 4.10 Wind in the willows. 4.25 Beverly hillbillies. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. weather. 6.10 African patrol. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Treasure hunt. 7.30 London. 8.00 Baron. 9.00 London. 11.55 Epilogue. weather.

WESTWARD. As Channel except: 9.40-11.55 London. 3.38 News. 4.90 Gus Honeybun. 6.00 Diary. 11.55 Faith for life. 12 midnight Weather. SOUTHERN: 9.30-3.00 London. 4.00 Houseparty. 4.15 Wind in the willows.

4.30 London. 6.00 Day by day. Crime desk. 6.30 F Troop. 7.00 Jokers Wild. 7.30 London. 8.00 Saint. 9.00 London. 11.55 News. 12.05 Weather. Action 70.

HARLECH 1: 10.00-2.00 London. 3.00-4.15 Liberal Assembly. 4.25 The making of a teacher. 4.55 London. 6.01 Report West. 6.18 Report Wales. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Jokers Wild. 7.30 London. 8.00 Bold Ones: 'Man With out a Heart'. 9.00 London. 11.55 Weather.

HTV (West) Colour channel 61 as above except: 4.23-4.25, 6.01-6.35 Report West. HTV (Wales) Colour channel 41 HTV (Cymru/Wales) black and white service as above except: 6.01-6.18 Y Dydd.

ANGLIA: 9.30 London. 3.00 Liberal Assembly. 4.15 Decimation. 4.25 Newsroom. 4.35 Romper room. 4.55 London. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Ghost and Mrs Muir. 7.30 London. 8.00 Hawaii Five-O. 9.00 London. 11.55 Reflection.

ATV MIDLANDS: 9.30-3.50 London. 3.50 Your stars tomorrow. 5.52 Women Today. 4.10 Peyton Place. 4.40 Tingha and Tucker. 4.55 London. 6.00 ATV Today. Police Five. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Broadside. 7.30 London. 8.00 UFO: Exposed. 9.00 London. Weather.

ULSTER: 9.30-2.35 London. 4.30 Romper room. 4.50 News. 4.55 London. 6.00 UTV Reports. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Jokers Wild. 7.30 London. 8.00 Bracken's World. 9.00 London.

YORKSHIRE: 10.00-2.45 London. 3.00 London. 4.30 Matinee. 4.55 London. 6.00 Calendar. weather. 6.30 Hogan's heroes. 7.00 Jokers wild. 7.30 London. 8.00 Randall and Hopkirk (deceased). 9.00 London. 11.55 Weather.

GRANADA: 9.30-12.30 London. 1.40-3.00 London. 4.10 News. Peyton Place. 4.40 Tingha and Tucker. 4.55 London. 6.00 Newsview. 6.10 This is your right. 6.15 Laurel and Hardy. 6.30 Avengers. 7.30 London. 8.00 Baron. 9.00 London.

TYNE TEES: 9.30 London. 3.00 Liberal Assembly. 4.10 Newsroom. 4.15 My three sons. 4.40 Paulus. 4.55 London. 6.00 Today at six. 6.30 Survival. 7.00 Jokers Wild. 7.30 London. 8.00 UFO: Exposed. 9.00 London. 11.45 News. 12 midnight Epilogue.

BORDER: 9.30-12.30 Liberal Assembly. 1.38 London. 3.00 Liberal Assembly. 4.10 News. 4.12 Ghost and Mrs Muir. 4.40 Tingha and Tucker. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. weather. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Jokers Wild. 7.30 London. 8.00 UFO. Exposed. 9.00 London. 11.58 News. weather.

SCOTTISH: 9.45-3.00 London. 3.40 Dateline. 3.50 Your stars tomorrow. 3.52 Women today. 4.15 London. 6.00 Dateline. 6.30 Wally Whyton style. 7.00 Jokers wild. 7.30 London. 8.00 Bonanza. 9.00 London. 11.55 Late call.

GRAMPIAN: 10.58-3.00 London. 3.52 Women today. 4.15 Cartoon. 4.25 Survival. 4.55 London. 6.00 News. weather. 6.10 Grampian Weeks. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Jokers Wild. 7.30 London. 8.00 Randall and Hopkirk (deceased). 8.55 Police news. 9.00 London. Scottish football results. 10.00 London. 10.30 Sportsport. 11.25 London.

# Unions back clothing work-study film

A FILM 'Work Study in the Clothing Industry' has been specially produced by the British Productivity Council in association with the clothing industry Economic Development Committee 'to illustrate the basic simplicity of work study and the benefits which can result'.

Made with the help of management and union representatives and with advice from the TUC, the film is another weapon in the 'communications' armoury of the employers.

## Campaign

At the present time a big campaign is being launched to rationalize the clothing industry.

This is based on government proposals — put forward through bodies like the EDC — that clothing must be changed from a labour-intensive to a capital-intensive industry.

In particular, introduction of mechanization, automation and time-and-motion methods are expected to pave the way for an immense reduction in the industry's labour force.

NOBODY can deny that Jon Kimche is an extraordinary journalist. At any rate, his methods of newsgathering are highly original.

As 'Evening Standard' Middle-East expert, Kimche has had plenty of work to do lately, drawing on his many close contacts in Zionist and top Israeli circles.

But the inside information on which he has based many a sensational story seems to be geared to what Tel-Aviv wants people to think, not what is actually happening.

So, while Nasser was being prepared in Moscow for negotiations with Zionism, Kimche was beating the drum about how alarmed they were in Washington at the Soviet missile build-up on the Suez Canal.

His confident predictions of an imminent US-Russian clash were far from reality, but when this became absolutely plain, did Mr Kimche engage in self-criticism? Not at all.

But he still kept up the pressure. On August 4 he wrote about 'Russia's secret arms build-up in Egypt'.

## Dossier

'United States intelligence sources have presented President Nixon with a formidable dossier, it is reported in Washington on unquestionable authority, giving details of an unprecedented sea-and-air lift of military supplies and "river-crossing" equipment from the Soviet Union into Egypt'.

By the time this was written, the real significance of the Soviet military presence in Egypt was clear even to the White House, which seemed to have been out of touch with the State Department during July.

Moscow was using Nasser's dependence on Soviet missiles to pressure him into the Gunnar Jarring talks at the UN, and had kept Washington informed at every stage.

But on August 17, Kimche can tell 'Standard' readers 'Why Israel agreed to talks'.

It was because Gen Mosha Dayan had been assured that the Americans would admit Egypt had broken the ceasefire, and would then begin pouring arms into Israel to meet the Soviet menace.

The Israeli cabinet crisis at the end of August sends Kimche to work again. On September 1 he explains that 'Mrs Meir fears Dayan takeover'.

His unquestionable sources told him that the Israeli premier had let Nixon know of the danger that Dayan would run amok, attacking Egyptian missile sites.

## Statement

And three days later, he has it on the highest authority that 'US backs Dayan plan to strike'.

In fact, it was that very week-end that Dayan made his statement indicating how clearly he understood the nature of Soviet aid to Egypt.

Not one whit abashed, Kimche states on September 7 'Suez missiles withdrawal "under way"'.  
However, it was on September 2 that the most startling news appeared in the 'Standard' — so firmly stated that it even found a tentative echo in our own 'Late News' section.

Without any qualification, Kimche declared: 'Nasser sends troops to back Hussein'. The story ran 'Egyptian and Saudi Arabian troops today began moving into Jordan to support King Hussein against the threat of Israeli military intervention'.

Not a single other paper carried a word of this development, nor the report which followed, that Yasser Arafat, Al Fatah leader, had agreed in advance to back the move to attack Habash's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and its supporters.

What a scoop!

Of course, nobody has ever seen or heard of these troops to this day. Kimche's 'unquestionable authority' must have spirited them away.

# How to be an expert

Workers Press notebook



King Hussein

# ROYAL LACKEYS INC.

THE ANXIETY shown by Fleet St over the fate of King Hussein is very understandable. The 'Hashemite' kings, of whom Hussein is the last survivor, have been faithful servants of British imperialism for over 50 years.

Great-grandfather Hussein, Sheriff of Mecca, started the tradition. (This title belongs in the family of the descendants of Hashim, Mohammed's grandfather—hence 'Hashemite'.) He and his sons decided to fight for the British against the Turks in 1915. In return, he got a letter promising that an Arab state would be set up after the war, and it was planned for one son, Feisal, to be King of Syria, including what is now Lebanon, Jordan and Israel.

Another son, Abdallah, would be King of Iraq. (Under the Turkish Empire, it must be remembered, there were no boundaries between different Arab countries; these were created by French and British imperialism.)

Under the guidance of the British agent, T. E. Lawrence, the Hashemites proceeded to launch the Arab revolt. Before it was victorious, of course, the British had promised to make Palestine a 'Jewish National Home'.

But neither Jew nor Arab knew that in May 1916 the British and French had signed the Sykes-Picot agreement, under which they carved up the whole area between them. This document only became public when Leon Trotsky found it in the Tsarist archives

in 1917—and broadcast it to the world.

So, after Feisal had claimed his share of the reward by crowning himself King of Syria, the French drove him out, marching on Damascus in July, 1920.

Young Feisal did not give up the King business so easily, however. By dint of hanging around the Paris peace conference he got the British to install him as King of Iraq.

Brother Abdallah was not amused at being displaced.

He decided to recapture Syria from the French. On the way, his army set up an administration in Amman, in January 1921.

Winston Churchill, then Colonial Secretary, went to meet him in Jerusalem, and persuaded him to be King of a brand new country called Transjordan.

With a British trained and officered 'Arab Legion' and a grant from Whitehall, he set about defending the East bank of the Jordan for his masters.

After the 1947 partition of Palestine, Abdallah annexed the West bank too, and in 1950 his kingdom was renamed Jordan. But he did not reign over it for long. In July 1951, a Palestinian nationalist shot him dead.

His son Talal was not a great success as King—largely because he was mad. In 1952, his 16-year-old son Hussein was called from Sandhurst to take his place.

But times were bad, both for British imperialism and its lackeys. The wave of struggle sweeping the Arab world in 1956 forced Hussein to dismiss John Glubb Pasha, head of the Arab Legion.

Two years later, revolution kicked cousin Feisal II from the throne of Iraq, and it looked as if Hussein would go too.

But—this time anyway—imperialism looked after its own.

The US Sixth Fleet moved into action and landed marines in Lebanon, while British airborne troops flew over Israel—with Zionist approval—to save Hussein's throne from his subjects.

Since then, Hussein's army and government have been increasingly financed by Washington rather than London.

At the time of writing, it is still not clear whether this loyal retainer of imperialism will survive to oppress his people or not.

# tv column

## CIA—not so ridiculous

SOONER or later, the heroes of Independent Television's popular Wednesday evening series 'Special Branch' just had to meet up with their transatlantic professional colleagues.

The result—'The Pleasure of Your Company' (Thames, September 16, 9 p.m.)—was a cleverly-contrived and well-acted comedy which finds MI5 and the Soviet KGB in an unholly alliance against uppity Ed Potter of the CIA.

The plot—certainly a topical one—revolves around an Anglo-Soviet trade deal about to be signed in London by top Soviet bureaucrat Anatoli Golovin.

Unfortunately for Special Branch boss, Inman, Golovin's visit is complicated by two

unforeseen factors which jeopardize the progress of peaceful co-existence.

One is Golovin's new wife, who, as it turns out, is both a KGB agent and an old flame of Inman's understudy, Jordan.

### Problems

Inman's problems are further multiplied by the arrival of Potter, fresh from a CIA 'snatch' of a Soviet defector in Vienna.

Anxious to maintain his reputation, Potter sniffs out another would-be defector—Golovin's wife.

In this particular case, business and pleasure mix excellently for both the KGB and MI5.

Jordan is detailed to chaperone the Soviet couple around London, his old KGB girlfriend strings Potter along, and makes tape recordings of his conversations with her and finally the Foreign Office step in to insert the official boot.

Potter, would-be wrecked of Anglo-Soviet trade and exponent of unethical business conduct, is packed off to Washington, his career ruined.

### Appearance

Presented in this way, CIA activities can be made to appear rather ridiculous.

In fact, this body has one job only, and that is the organization of counter-revolution.

In the single-minded pursuit of this task, it may cross wires with British and other imperialist intelligence services. It most certainly does not trust its 'allies' and keeps a careful watch on all their activities.

But all this is incidental to the daily war the CIA wages against workers and colonial peoples all over the world. Just look at a few of its more recent achievements and failures:

● The overthrow of the nationalist Mossadegh government in Persia (1953).

● The abortive 'Bay of Pigs' invasion of Cuba in 1961. The Greek colonels' coup of 1967.

● The overthrow of Prince Sihanouk in Cambodia, March 1970.

The CIA operates like a state within a state.

### No rules

It respects no rules except those of its own officials—who frequently pose as humble employees of various American government departments.

It has a pay-roll of 50,000 and an annual budget of £200 m.—a considerable slice of which is set aside for bribing politicians, rival agents and would-be defectors.

CIA boss is 57-year-old ex-Naval intelligence officer Richard Helms, of whom ex-president Johnson once said: 'He is no James Bond, but I have yet to meet a 007 in the CIA.'

£17,000-a-year Helm oper-

The Greek colonels' coup: CIA-inspired

## SPECIAL BRANCH THAMES TV

ates from a Langford (Virginia) mansion valued at £16 m.

### Dedication

His staff have to be content with £4,000, which has caused many commentators on CIA affairs to speculate that political dedication, and not cash, is the main motive for their choosing such a hazardous career.

None of this came out in the 'Special Branch' episode—but then, it never claimed to be an exposé of US imperialism, but rather a boost for the more pedestrian, gentlemanly ways of the 'intelligent' boys in blue.



Derren Nesbitt plays Jordan

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## THE HOLROYD REPORT:

# Firemen under attack

**THE FIREMEN'S** anger and disgust at their treatment by the employers is likely to blaze into industrial action again soon if no move is made to improve their situation. Working long hours to cover under-manning and having to take part-time jobs to make up pay, the firemen get nothing but kicks from the much-publicised Holroyd Report.

At the same time use of police to enforce a lock-out at the Hadleigh, Essex, fire station shows what methods the Tories are prepared to use to hold down wages and attack trade unionists. According to the Authorities, under-manning must be covered by longer hours on station duty and longer hours on 'stand-by'. At the same time, more part-time firemen should be recruited.

Meanwhile, the sort of pay increase and conditions that could really make the job more attractive are simply not discussed.

The Prices and Incomes Board report on fire service pay in May 1967 was a direct intervention by the Labour government in the work of the fire services. Rather than outline comprehensive productivity strings as the Board usually does with any industry it looks at, it simply recommended the adoption of 'more exacting work' and 'changed working practices' and left it to the Holroyd Committee to take up productivity in detail.

But the fact that the PIB has looked at the fire service is a clear indication that moves to cut costs and attack the service have become a political question.

No one could pretend that the need for a fire service is declining, or that the job is

getting easier. The number of fires in buildings increased by 88 per cent between 1957 and 1967. There has been a continuous rise in the number of fatal and non-fatal casualties.

In 1968 the fire service in England and Wales answered 188,045 calls, and if present trends continue, this would mean coping with up to 600,000 calls annually by 1977.

At the same time, fires and fire-fighting equipment are becoming increasingly more complex.

The number of fires due to fuel and energy ignition, particularly electricity, has risen dramatically, and the fireman undergoes a continuous training programme to keep up to date with the new hazards he must tackle.

The technical development of industry has led to a considerable increase in the application of new materials and chemicals.

Natural gas containers are in common use along with gas cylinders which can be as lethal as a bomb if involved in a fire.

At the same time, many toxic and explosive chemicals are used in factories and often stored or transported under a brand name, with no clue as to their chemical properties.

A number of processes have extended the use of pressure vessels and pipe systems and

increase productivity? According to the report:

'The only means by which measurable productivity of firemen can be increased is by their offering longer hours of availability.'

In particular, the report advocates the day-manning system whereby a full-time fireman is required to be available for duty for up to 80 hours a week of which not less than 45 hours is performed at the

Paragraph 137 of the digest of the report's findings says: 'We recommend that the Home Office Fire Department should review arrangements for the introduction of modern organization and methods techniques, e.g. standardized reporting forms, greater use of dictating machines, etc.'

Organization and Methods (O&M) was devised in the British Treasury during the last war. Time-and-motion consultants refer to it as the 'office work-study system' and explain that it eventually leads to full use of advanced time-study methods.

● The introduction of flexibility of labour by which all firemen receive training and are expected to carry out any duties required.

The duties of some firemen, for example turntable ladder operators, require a high level of skill and specialization.

The breaking down of all demarcation lines between trades and special skills is seen by many employers as a way to cut back on manning by being able to instruct any worker available to undertake any task as required.

● Employment of operational staff for inspection duties in commercial and industrial buildings.

The report explains that under this system firemen go out in teams with their appliances and are contacted by radio if required for an alarm.

Most firemen have no objection to the prevention scheme under which operational firemen visit premises and check equipment, hydrants, etc.

However, this cannot be condoned as a system for getting more work at no extra cost. Many feel that this must be paid for as extra work with a substantial increase.

● Extended use of part-time firemen.

These are people in other

trades, often shop-keepers, who get paid for turning out on a call, and more, if their services are used. The report claims that:

'Where the number of fire calls is low, employment of whole-time in place of part-time firemen would result in an unnecessary increase in costs and inefficient deployment of manpower.'

It recommends that:

'All possible steps to be

## BERNARD FRANKS DISCUSSES FIREMEN'S CONDITIONS IN THE LIGHT OF A RECENT GOVERNMENT STUDY

fire-fighters and all conflagrations were tackled by un-organized volunteers.

If any publicity campaign is to be undertaken, it should be for the recruitment of full-time firemen.

● The setting up of productivity committees.

The report calls for 'consultative committees' to be set up in every brigade. These, it says, should consist of officers and men who should not, however, be nominated by the trade union or staff association to which they belong.

As the report makes it clear such committees should discuss subjects 'other than pay and conditions of service', little is left to talk about besides the management problems.

In fact, these committees would be an extremely dangerous imposition on firemen.

On the one hand, they would exist as productivity talking shops to try to get workers to adopt speed-up flexibility, etc.

On the other hand, they would stand as an alternative to the Fire Brigades Union. They would be the beginnings of a bosses' union.

The report also calls for increased and improved 'efficiency'. It recommends on this:

'The Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Scotland should be given specific statutory responsibility for promoting the efficiency of the fire services and for providing research and management services.'

However, this efficiency has not the same meaning as the fireman understands by the word; correct use of equipment, using proper fire-fighting and rescue procedure.

The fireman has long ago evolved this type of efficiency in order to stay alive.

Catford, accused the GLC of cooking the books on safety.

The local union branch produced a special report which showed how closure would cause a slower emergency service and would increase the risk from fires to local people, particularly as a great increase in housing, schools, hospitals and old people's homes had taken place since the fire station was built in 1928.

The Home Office regulations require that the brigade in the Downham area must be able to reach a fire in ten minutes.

The report made it clear that this was not possible and that the GLC's special test runs to prove it was could justly be called 'cooking the books'. In fact, many areas have constantly improved on the Home Office regulations and have ensured a three-minute arrival.

Closures, meaning longer runs for outside brigades, often in dense traffic, must cut this schedule to ribbons.

Inside the stations there is concern about deterioration of conditions. Recreational facilities, used in the firemen's own time, are poor or non-existent. Anything extra wanted in this line has to be paid for by the men themselves.

At the same time, sweeping and general cleaning still has not been eliminated from the list of general duties.

Another cause of chronic dissatisfaction is the housing situation. Many firemen have to travel 30 miles or more to work while others on day-manning find themselves caught up in the invidious tied-house system.

Loans from borough councils at 8 and 9 per cent offer nothing except never-ending debts to repay.

A survey made last year found that most firemen pay a minimum of £6 10s to £7 10s rent a week.

It is important to avoid any misconception that firemen are somehow separate from the rest of the working class. They are strong trade unionists and in some areas have fought for and won a closed shop and in consequence considerably improved their conditions.

Action by firemen in pursuit of their wage claim last year showed that there was no lack of fight.

The same cannot be said of the leadership of the Fire Brigades Union.

In November last year irate members threw fruit and bags of flour at executive members who had totally failed to take up their members' struggle.

In the present situation, when the firemen face a political attack on the service and their jobs and wages by the Tories, the need for a new socialist leadership in the union is vital.

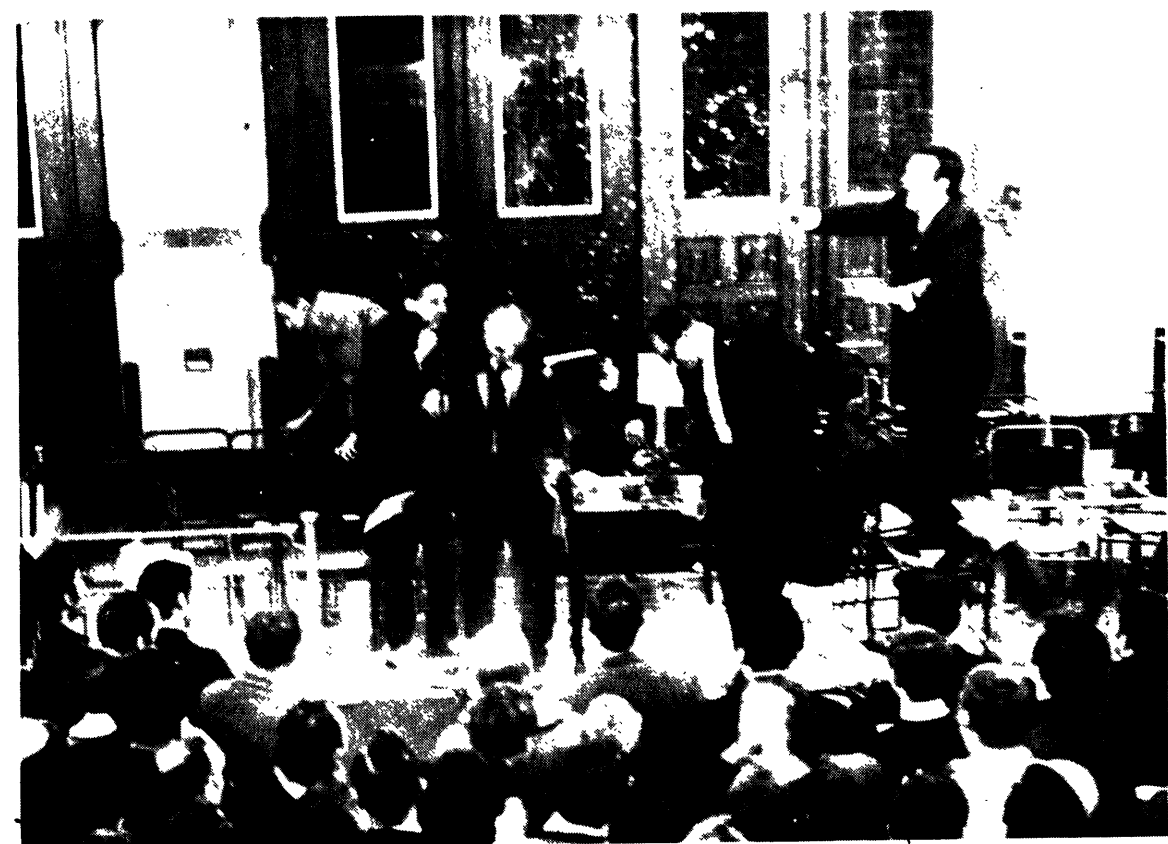
This would demand:

- Total rejection of the Holroyd Report.
- No acceptance of any 'productivity deal' measures in any shape or form.
- Total opposition to the so-called consultative committees.
- A substantial wage increase — some firemen are talking in terms of £48 for 48 hours as a more reasonable payment scheme.
- Either provision of subsidized housing or payment of a substantial rent allowance to help with the chronic housing situation.
- Total control of the fire service by the firemen themselves to guarantee no deterioration in the service or attacks on jobs and conditions.
- Action in support of the Essex firemen who have been locked out.
- A fight alongside all other council workers and public employees to defeat the Tories and their plans to skimp, cut and close sections of public services.
- Firemen consider that at a time of rising fire and fatality figures any attempt to cut back on the present provisions for fire cover would be absolutely criminal.

Only by joining the All Trades Unions Alliance can the firemen start to build the alternative leadership which will fight for these policies and work to throw out the Tories for good.



Angry firemen pelt union leaders with flour and eggs during the 'emergencies-only' campaign last year



increased use is being made of liquid oxygen, hydrogen, etc.

Fire appliances also need to carry radiation detectors because widespread use is being made of radio-active isotopes in a variety of industries. The fireman has to be equally sure of how certain substances will react with water as well as fire when he is faced with a call to industrial premises.

The Holroyd report emphasizes that increased use should be made of sprinkler systems and automatic detectors. All very fine for protecting commercial buildings; but as 70 per cent of the increase in the number of fires has occurred in private dwellings (where 80 per cent of the deaths happen) this cannot be accepted as an excuse for not expanding the service.

However, Holroyd proclaims that recruiting should be kept as low as possible and that all manner of efficiency and job-analysis schemes must be used to keep down numbers.

In fact, this report is not a publication concerned with the welfare of firemen or the safety of working people at all. It is a blueprint for a productivity deal, substantially no different from anything that employers attempt to apply to industrial production-lines.

But how does the fireman

station on day duty basis and the remainder on stand-by duty at home.

This is on the understanding that he will respond to any fire call received at any time during the standby period.

Other 'productivity' measures outlined in the report include:

● Introduction of time-and-motion study into the control room.

Firemen lobby County Hall to demand increased accommodation allowances



## JUST OUT

### STALINISM IN BRITAIN

A TROTSKYIST ANALYSIS  
BY ROBERT BLACK

Available from  
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U.S. poised

FROM PAGE ONE
to offset the declining rate of profit in US-based industries.
Nixon's Zionist watchdogs also have every reason to fear the defeat of Hussein.

tains, and is beginning to display, all the tensions of a country pregnant with upheaval, with Jewish working-class action against imperialist war and in solidarity with their fellow Arab workers in the occupied territories and Jordan.

Courage

The Palestinian workers and peasants, with their sublime courage, tenacity and devotion have opened a new front in the world revolution.

War spending

Prices soar in an economy which devotes 85 per cent of its taxation to war expenditure.

An Israeli economist

WITH DEFEAT and retribution staring him in the face, Hussein has unleashed a bloody massacre of Palestinian refugees in the camps around Amman.

Cairo Information Minister Heikal stated yesterday that 7,000 Palestinians have been slaughtered in the Wahdat Refugee Camp alone.

Guerrilla leader Yasser Arafat insisted that the figure was even higher—around 80 per cent of the camps' 31,000 inhabitants.

Incensed by this pogrom, the Central Committee of the Palestinian Liberation Organization accused the US government of instigating the 'Amman bloodbath' which killed over 8,000 people and wounded tens of thousands.

And in the only language understood by imperialism the guerrillas warned the US that all American interests in the Middle East would be destroyed if Nixon sent his troops into Jordan.

recently admitted that the regime's crisis had ceased to be purely economic.

'The problem is now a political one.'

Pacifist movements are now developing among the Palestinian population, while even in front-line units, anti-war unrest amongst the troops has been admitted by the regime.

Despite all the propaganda of Zionists and their imperialists.

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LATE NEWS

HABASH GETS PRICE ON HIS HEAD
Beirut, Tuesday — Jordan today put a £5,900 reward on the head of George Habash, guerrilla organizer of the airliner hijack operations.

A similar reward was announced by Amman Radio for the capture of a second guerrilla leader, Nayef Hawatme. The radio described the two men as 'criminal traitors and butchers.'

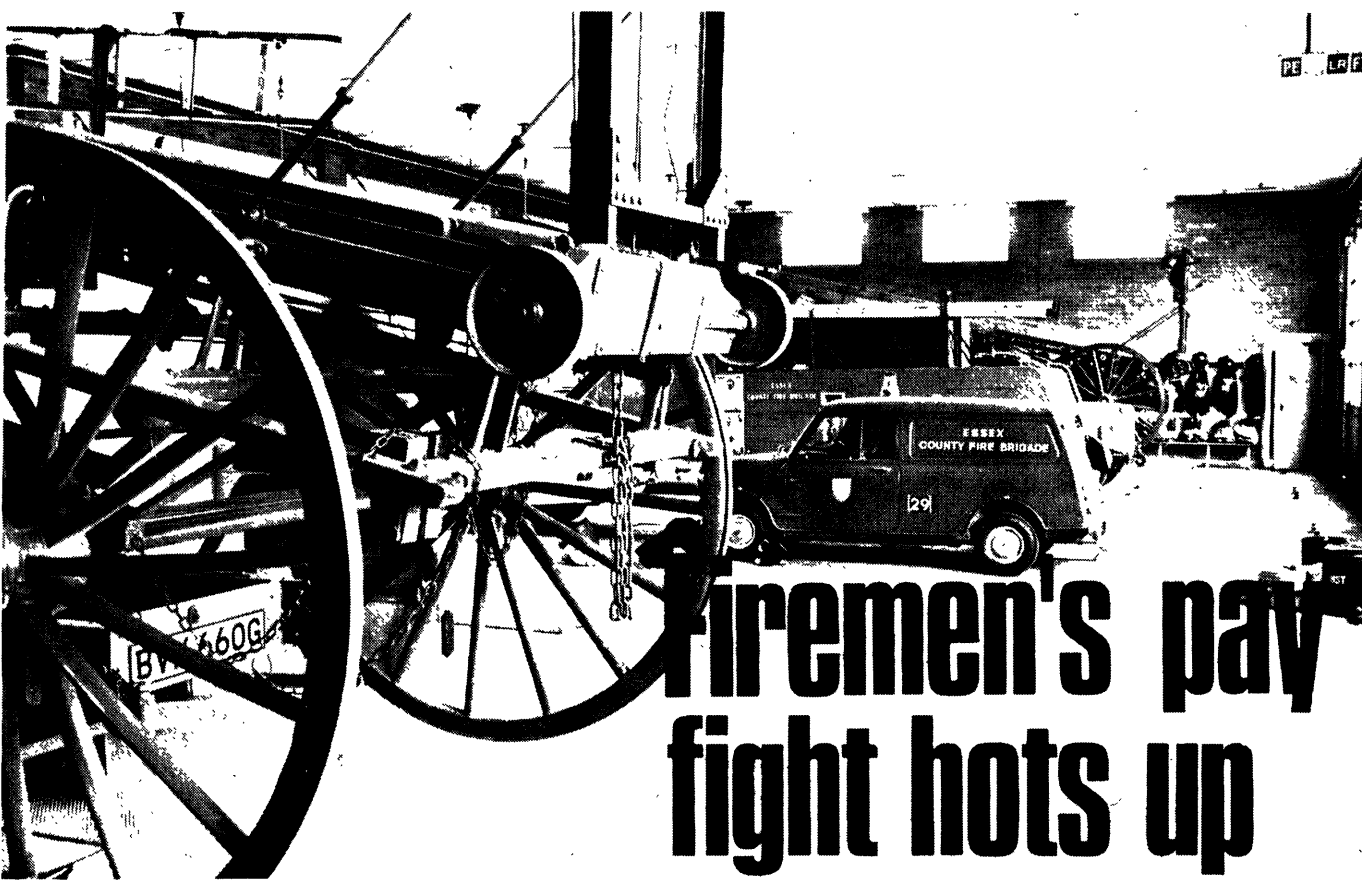
DENIS HEALEY ON S AFRICA
Shadow Foreign Secretary Denis Healey arriving at Heathrow airport yesterday after a five-day tour of S Africa, as guest of the National Union of S African Students, said he was surprised by the number of S Africans who were opposed to apartheid and were trying to 'moderate its brutalities.'

FARM WORKERS CLAIM REJECTED
The claim for a 37 per cent increase in pay for 350,000 farmworkers was completely rejected by the farmers' leaders yesterday.

The men were demanding a minimum of £18 for a 40-hour, five-day week and have made it quite clear that they will resort to strike action if this is not forthcoming.

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FBU delegates meet as



Firemen's pay fight hots up

in London and Essex

MILITANT ACTION over pay by 4,500 London and Essex firemen forms an appropriate backdrop to the recalled Fire Brigades Union delegate conference starting in the capital today.

From our industrial correspondent

Sir Ronald Holroyd's Home Office report on the fire service — the main topic of today's conference — does nothing to alleviate the chronic problems of low pay, long working hours and undermanning which fuel disputes like that in Essex.

From this first report into the service in 30 years, Britain's 30,000 firemen—as Bernard Franks' detailed analysis on page three points out—receive 'nothing but kicks'.

It is now certain that the Essex fire authority's attempt to restrict payment of a £63-a-year Outer London 'weighting' to only a handful of stations in its area will loom large in the FBU delegates' discussions over the next two days.

Union officials failed to budge the authority in talks on Monday and over 70 per cent of London firemen yesterday began 'emergency' calls only in support of the 500 Essex men's three-month struggle to force their employer's hand.

Fears

Many firemen believe the county council's hard-line attitude is bound up with fears that extension of the 'weighting' will encourage

other local-authority workers in their forthcoming fight for higher pay.

This places the Essex dispute squarely in the context of the Tory government's determination to press home their attack on wages, conditions and trade union rights—for which Holroyd can only provide further ammunition.

As Grays, Essex, FBU station delegate Barry Grey told Workers Press: 'The report's really just a lot of half-truths; old-fashioned before it came out. In any case, authorities will only take out of it things they think are good for them.'

Recommended

On the subject of productivity dealing, which Holroyd explicitly favours, he pointed out that 'the only thing the fire brigade's interested in is time.'

'If you can't sell them more of that they don't want to know. But we're already working long hours—especially some of the officers. Some of them will soon be working about 96 hours a week.'

It was against this background that the Essex authority tried to limit application of a July de-

cision from the excess rates committee of the service's national joint council.

This recommended that the £63 'weighting' be extended outside London. 'It's absurd that anyone could swallow the idea they could pay us the allowance here, but not pay others—and get away with it.'

'We're constantly in contact with men in the other stations; working with them one way or another every day. It's completely impracticable. If a leading fireman was transferred from one station to another—from one which wasn't getting it to one which was, say—he could be earning 12s less for a shift than the men under him!'

A particular point of grievance with the Essex men is that they claim to have been given assurances some years ago that pay-differentials with London—at that time 9s 2d—would not be allowed to rise. 'Now it's £4 10s,' says Barry Grey.

Dissociated

Tempera have also been frayed by the action of a group of Essex brigade officers in writing to the county council condemning its previous 'appeasement' of the firemen and calling for 'a very firm line in dealing with the present situation, and steps to retrieve some of the ground lost on the question of discipline.'

Some London members of the National Association of Fire Officers have already completely dissociated themselves from this letter.

Whether or not the Essex fire authority has taken note of the letter, several groups of firemen in the county—and whole shifts at Hadleigh and Basildon stations—have been suspended without pay as a result of their bans on 'spit and polish', 'whole-time retained' and 'out' duties. At they are at present supported financially by levies on other union members organized by the FBU's area committee.

Donations and messages of support can be sent to Terry Segars, the union's Essex area secretary, at Station Cross, Basildon, Essex.

Biggest step

FROM PAGE ONE

machinations of imperialism and Stalinism, no matter how difficult it might be, and fight to convince thousands of new readers of the correctness of the strategy of Trotskyism contained in the charter of demands.

The struggle to implement this strategy in the struggle against the Tories is the most decisive struggle begun by the daily paper. No one understood this task better than Trotsky and his words, spoken in 1921, have an immensely important significance today for all readers of the Workers Press.

'Europe and the whole world are passing through a period which is, on the one side, an epoch of the disintegration of the productive forces of bourgeois society, and, on the other

side, an epoch of the highest flowering of the counter-revolutionary strategy of the bourgeoisie. We must understand this clearly and precisely.'

STRATEGY

'The task of the working class—in Europe and throughout the world—consists in counterposing to the thoroughly thought-out counter-revolutionary strategy of the bourgeoisie its own revolutionary strategy, likewise thought out to the end.'

The struggle for this strategy is inseparably linked to the struggle to increase the fighting fund and subscriptions and, through this, to recruit large numbers of new members to the SLL.

Only in this way can the defeat of the Tories—and the Stalinist and social democratic traitors be accomplished.

Summit flops

FROM PAGE ONE

WITH many of its key figures missing, the Cairo 'Arab summit' began yesterday with informal talks between Egyptian and other government leaders.

Neither are Morocco nor Algeria represented. Attempting to cover up this serious setback for his regime's diplomacy, Nasser's Information Minister Heykal commented: 'Their actual physical presence is not necessary.'

In fact, the summit had been postponed by eight hours at the suggestion of the Libyan delegate, so as to give time for more pressure to be put on Hussein and the other absent leaders.

Prices to rise after crop failure

PRICES of bread, beef, eggs, poultry and bacon are expected to rise sharply in the near future following the upsurge of world grain prices—with a US maize crop failure—over the last few weeks.

while Syrian President Atassi flew back to Damascus after private talks with Nasser on Monday night.

Neither are Morocco nor Algeria represented. Attempting to cover up this serious setback for his regime's diplomacy, Nasser's Information Minister Heykal commented: 'Their actual physical presence is not necessary.'

In fact, the summit had been postponed by eight hours at the suggestion of the Libyan delegate, so as to give time for more pressure to be put on Hussein and the other absent leaders.

'Co-operation'

Heykal went on to push the Kremlin bureaucracy's line that the Arab leaders 'must find a way for co-operation between the Jordanian authorities [Hussein's military regime] and the Palestinian Liberation Movement.'

Soviet spacecraft returns with moon rocks

MOON ROCK samples—the first to be collected by automatic robot—are now well on their way back to earth, following the successful flight of the Soviet unmanned spacecraft Luna 16.

rocks

BY MARTIN ZARRO

Despite the tremendous publicity given to the American manned landings on the moon, the latest feat of the Soviet Union is justly admitted as putting the Russians years ahead in their planned programme of lunar and interplanetary exploration.

Luna 16 landed in the hitherto unexplored Sea of Fertility on Sunday and tracking stations at Jodrell Bank and Bochum in W Germany detected its departure from the lunar surface on Monday.

The Soviet description of the apparatus used in the sample-collection indicates that it is of very advanced design.

The samples were automatically cut by electric drill and placed in special containers.

TECHNIQUE

Soviet sources indicate that the techniques used in leaving the moon were similar to those employed by the Apollo shots, with separate rocket units for descent and ascent.

However, any similarity with the US programme ends there. If the near-tragedy of the Apollo 13 mission finally showed the extravagance and danger of sending men to the moon at this stage, the completion of the Luna 16 flight emphasizes this a thousand times.

The Soviet space programme has consistently worked towards the construction of permanently orbiting space stations as the necessary prerequisite for interplanetary exploration, while the Americans poured \$24,000m into their programme for 'getting an American on the moon first'.

REALITY

The reality behind the ballhood is now clearly seen in what appears to be an astonishing reversal of positions over the past year.

While Apollo-11 was being given the maximum publicity boost, there were many sneers and sighs of relief from the capitalist press at the failure of Luna 15 to match this technological feat.

Now the complete success of the latest Luna flight is on the cards (at a cost far less than a manned flight), while the remainder of the Apollo programme lies in ruins as the Americans plead with

Guerrilla activity in Thailand & Philippines

COMMUNIST guerrillas last week carried out a daring ambush in N Thailand, in an area close to the border with Laos.

They killed the governor of Chiang Rai province, his police chief Phumipraman and the head of the Thai third army, Colonel Messagna, in the course of a half-hour machine-gun battle.

Last week guerrillas also inflicted serious losses on government forces in a clash in Petchabon, another of the country's northern provinces. The regime in Bangkok, despite massive US military aid, has clearly lost control of considerable areas in the north.

The 'HUK' movement in the Philippines—pro-Chinese Communist liberation fighters—last week attacked a village in Zambales province, NW of the capital, Manila. The Japanese occupation of the islands during the Second World War.

The country, under the dictatorship of President Marcos (whose wife was recently the guest of the Queen), is an American colony in all but name. Large US Air Force bases there are used daily in support of American imperialism's war on the Vietnamese revolution.

Socialist Labour League Trotsky Memorial Meeting

GLASGOW
Partick Burgh Hall (nr Merland St underground)
7.30 p.m.
Admission 2s.
'Trotsky and the coming English Revolution'
Speaker: G. Healy (SLL national secretary)
Sunday
October 4

Hungary-W German pact signed soon?

THE RICH prospects opened up for the big monopolies, and especially for W German capitalism, by the recent Soviet-W German treaty are being further enlarged with the first long-term trade agreement to be signed between Hungary and W Germany.

Initiated recently in Bonn, it provides for large increases in trade between the two countries in the five years from 1971.

Karl Schiller, chief German economics minister, is expected to sign the agreement, after discussion with the other Common Market powers now meeting in Brussels, when he arrives in Budapest on October 25.

His visit will reciprocate the trip made to W Germany last March by Hungarian Foreign Trade Minister Josef Biro.

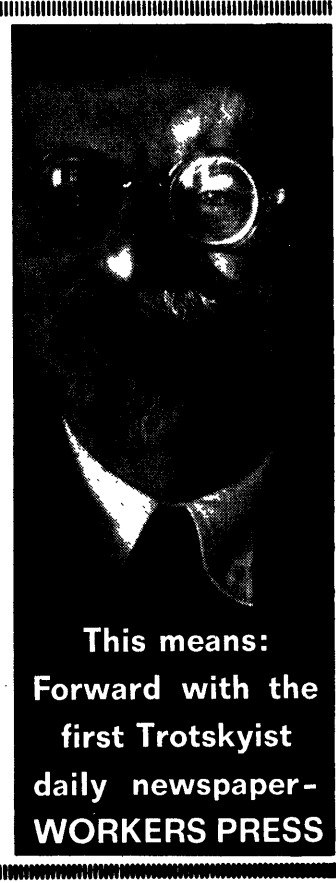
ALL TRADES UNIONS ALLIANCE MEETINGS

WELLINGTON: Monday, September 28, 7.30 p.m., T.M.C., Wrenkin Buildings, Walker St. 'Speed-up and unemployment—The GKN-Sankey and Pilkington disputes.'

BRISTOL: Thursday, September 24, 8 p.m., George III, Filton. 'No to productivity! Full support for Pilkington workers! Force the Tories to resign!' Speaker: Bernard Forkes.

SWINDON: Sunday, September 27, 7.30 p.m., Oxford Hotel, Drove Rd. 'Unemployment and the Tories.' Speaker: Alan Thornett, leading Oxford workers' steward.

READING: Thursday, September 24, 8 p.m., Palmer Hall, West St. 'No to productivity! Full support for Pilkington workers! Force the Tories to resign!' Speaker: Tony Richardson, I.T.A. National Committee member.



This means: Forward with the first Trotskyist daily newspaper—WORKERS PRESS

Australian LETTER

Sydney, September 16—The Australian Labour Party Federal Executive moved into the Victorian state branch with its big guns this week and blasted the branch out of existence, leaving in its place a 12-man committee dedicated to the resurrection of a more 'representative branch'.

Victoria's determination to adopt some socialist measures in the party's programme came to a head when it refused to go along with the Federal Executive's aid to independent schools policy.

This, the Executive claimed, was losing them votes in the state, pointing out that the Labour Party had only 11 of the state's 34 Federal seats to back up its claim.

A general election is due in 1972 and the ALP is fighting for a middle-of-the-road line which it hopes will put it in power for the first time for 23 years. The decision to overthrow the Victorian Executive was carried by ten votes to seven. But although the Federal Executive claims this as a victory, the Victorian 'left' are optimistic that it will only be a short time before they are once more elected to positions of control within the state.

IN THE words of capitalist economists, the Australian labour market 'eased' from its position of 'overfull' employment during August, and with it came a slight hope that the increasing level of strikes would recede slightly.

For, according to The Australian Financial Review: 'The cause and effect relationship between overfull employment and industrial strikes and other forms of direct action is generally accepted as being close', although it did agree that 'Such questions as inflation and working conditions are also important factors in the industrial scene.'

Despite the optimism that the 'overfull' situation (0.99 per cent of the labour force is unemployed) is going to improve, other sources are predicting a record year for strikes. The first six-months of the year have already produced 1,297 disputes, 24 more than the whole of 1966 and only 717 less than 1969. So the bosses will have to continue their fight for profits. They could, of course, step up the war—withdrawing the men and 'easing' the market further.

BY AIR MAIL PAR AVION

