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DAILY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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BY CLIFF SLAUGHTER

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No 'ceasefire' breakthrough

Hanoi denies US rumours

RUMOURS of 'broad agreement' between the Americans and North Vietnam on a ceasefire to end the Vietnam war were strongly denied by North Vietnamese sources in Hanoi and Paris.

After Thursday's session of the Paris talks, Hanoi's chief negotiator Xuan Thuy said: 'The positions of the respective sides are still very far apart'. Mme Nguyen Thi Binh, leader of the National Liberation Front delegation, told the Americans:

'Each time we make a step forward, you make a step backward. This is why the gap cannot be filled and an agreement cannot be reached.'

But she added that the NLF was willing 'together with other parties' to work out concrete measures to implement the formation of a 'government of national concord' in Saigon.

The 'other parties' may include the Soviet government, which is said to be willing to act as guarantor for a ceasefire deal.

Its role would be to assure the Americans there will be no forcible seizure of power by the NLF.

China is reported to have refused to take this role. The Kremlin has for months been pressing North Vietnam to wind up the war.

The NLF has demanded a tripartite government composed of

field, does it look as if Nixon wants to end the war by serious negotiations?

'It is obvious that at present Nixon is continuing his Vietnamization policy with the aim of prolonging the war... there is no sign that he is concerned about true and serious negotiations to end this war,' it commented.

Rumours of possible agreement over Vietnam were sparked by Nixon's statement at a Washington press conference that negotiations are at a 'sensitive stage'.

He refused to elaborate on this statement, but made it clear the bombing and mining of the north will continue if firm agreement is not reached.

A senior American official later said rumours of agreement in the Kissinger talks were 'totally untrue'. 'The hard fact is there has been no breakthrough,' he said.

In Saigon yesterday, puppet president Thieu was holding urgent consultations with his military advisers following a visit from Major-General Alexander Haig, Nixon's deputy security adviser.

Thieu's government faces a serious military situation on the ground: liberation troops were yesterday reported in battalion strength only 12 miles from the South Vietnamese capital.

American B-52 heavy bombers flew their heaviest raids for more than two years against troop concentrations around Saigon. Fourteen missions—involving more than 40 of the giant eight-engined bombers—were flown against areas within 40 miles of the city.

Tories sharpen it up against unions

What we think

TUC CHAIRMAN George Smith's optimism about the inclusion of the anti-union law on the agenda for the next round of talks with Heath and the CBI is unfounded.

Statements from leading Tory ministers this week make it clear that the government is in no mood for any concessions whatever much less on the Industrial Relations Act.

Tory Home Secretary Robert Carr told a meeting of the Magistrates' Association in London on Thursday that crimes of violence, particularly where they were associated with picketing, must be dealt with firmly.

He said magistrates should not shrink from imposing prison sentences to afford the public 'sufficient protection'. 'I do not intend to shirk that responsibility,' he warned.

He said: 'The problems of violence, disorder and criminality are growing all the time and are taking new forms.'

There was political violence as seen in the Munich tragedy and there was protest violence.

'And there is industrial violence in the form of violent picketing which seems frequently to be inspired by people not directly involved in the dispute.'

In sharp contrast to the flabby phrases of diehard reformists like Smith, Feather and other members of the trade union and Labour bureaucracy, Carr warned:

'Our first responsibility must be a clear and absolute commitment to the preservation of that order which is the very basis of our society. Law and its proper enforcement are not the enemy of freedom, they are the very condition of its existence.'

While Carr spoke about violence generally, including picketing, the most vehement outburst against so-called industrial violence came from ex-Labourite Lord Hartley Shawcross.

Shawcross was Attorney-General in the 1945-1951 Labour government which long after hostilities with the axis powers ended continued to enforce the hated Regulation 1305. This decreed that all industrial disputes must be subjected to compulsory arbitration.

Worse than that, he was the man Labour chose to lead the prosecution of seven London dockers in April 1951 for alleged offences against order 1305.

Now chairman of the panel on City take-overs, he left the Labour Party to become a director of Shell, EMI, Rank-Hovis-McDougall, Caffyn's Motors, Morgan et Cie International, Morgan et Cie, Times Newspapers, Hawker-Siddeley and the Birmingham Small Arms Company.

This week Shawcross branded picketing in recent strikes as an 'unlawful conspiracy' and he called for a severe 'clamp-down'.

There can be little surprise in an ex-Labour Attorney-General taking this line when the present TUC and Labour

Party leaders are falling over themselves to co-operate in the Tories' corporatist plans to ride out recession on the backs of the working class.

The Tories intend to press on ruthlessly with their plans to take the pressure of employers' profit-margins by forcing down workers' wages and living standards.

Behind Carr's statement lies the certainty of fresh Tory preparations for attacks on the working class this winter.

The Labour and TUC conferences have both shown themselves impotent before this challenge, throwing into relief the urgency of the fight for the All Trades Unions Alliance conference in Birmingham on October 22.

Carr and Shawcross have once again served notice on the working class that an alternative Marxist revolutionary leadership must be built in the trade unions and the working class.

Germans deport Arabs

BY JOHN SPENCER

WEST GERMANY'S social-democratic government has intensified its witch-hunt of Arab and other immigrant workers and students following the decision to ban two Palestinian unions.

Throughout Germany police have raided the offices of Arab organizations and the homes of militants and ordered many to leave the country immediately.

The Federal government has refused to disclose the number of arrests and deportation orders, but the German Students' League has put the figure at more than 50 students and an unknown number of workers.

The League is planning legal action to remove the ban on the Palestinian organizations and has accused the police of denying the arrested Arabs their right to legal defence.

Arab students and the Bonn office of the Arab League say that hundreds of Arabs have been ordered to leave the country since the shoot-out at Munich airport when 11 Israelis and five Palestinians were killed.

Figures are available following 30 raids in Munich and other Bavarian cities. Seventeen Arabs have been deported, 30 arrested for protesting their deportation orders and 50 are under investigation, say the police, who have labelled them 'agitators'.

In Baden-Württemberg, nine Arabs are under arrest awaiting expulsion. Ten others have already been expelled. In the industrial Ruhr eight Jordanians and two Egyptians are known to be in prison awaiting deportation.

On Wednesday the government outlawed the 800-member General Union of Palestinian Students and the 1,000-member General Union of Palestinian Workers.

And Brandt now joins attack on all immigrant workers

CHANCELLOR Willy Brandt has followed up the witch-hunt of Arabs with a general attack on the 2.5 million foreign workers in Germany. Their number was approaching the 'critical limit' and the present total could not be arbitrarily increased, he said.

Earlier this week Bonn officials hinted at steps in the near future to restrict the number of immigrant workers,

most of whom enter on temporary working contracts.

The officials said they made up nearly 10 per cent of the workforce and this could lead to severe social tension.

West German industry has in the past encouraged immigrant labour at low wages as a cheap means of expanding industrial production. But the economic recession is now beginning to bite in

Germany with growing unemployment and falling industrial production.

Brandt's answer is to drive out the foreign workers, who are already subject to discriminatory legislation and have few of the rights which German workers have. The witch-hunt against the Arabs is only the beginning of a reactionary and nationalistic campaign.

The arbitrary measures taken against the Arab workers and students put into practice in Germany the similar measures advocated by Harold Wilson in Britain.

They are part of the international turn to the right by social democracy which is today proving its complete servility to the requirements of world imperialism.

Tito clamp on Croats

FOUR Croat student leaders were given prison sentences of from one to four years at Zagreb on Wednesday for 'criminal acts against the people and state'. The defendants, who have been in prison since last December, were said to have led a Croat nationalist movement in Zagreb University.

The Tito bureaucracy is extremely agitated about the growth of nationalist moods in the population which have been fostered primarily by its own policy of economic and political concessions to imperialism.

The regime's answer is wholesale repression—directed against both right and left. The Zagreb trial is only the latest in a series of trials against people classed as opponents of the regime.

Milovan Djilas, the former Yugoslav vice-president and an old comrade of Tito's attacked

the persecution in yesterday's 'Guardian':

'The people at present being persecuted are almost without exception nationalists of various shades, but hardly any of them—at least not publicly and not irrevocably—is for the rise of force or for a return to pre-revolutionary society.'

'In Zagreb they are the student leaders around Budisa, in Belgrade isolated individuals—the lawyer Subotic, the 82-year-old historian Zubovic, three "Trotskyist" students and the philosopher Djuric, while in the provinces I don't know exactly how many "criminals" there are supposed to be, but there are more than enough to serve the purposes of intimidation and power politics, especially in Croatia, and from all classes and professions.'

The political trials in Yugoslavia reveal the desperation of

the privileged ruling clique which is striving to protect its position in true Bonapartist manner by jailing any opposition.

At the same time it is seeking the collaboration of imperialism against the right-wing émigré nationalist groups abroad.

The American State Department is reported to be giving 'active consideration' to a request from Belgrade for a curb on the activities of Ustachi groups in the United States.

These groups, many of whom collaborated with the Nazis during the war, stand for the restoration of capitalism in Yugoslavia and have in recent months been responsible for a number of terrorist attacks.

The question of joint action against the émigré Ustachi was the principle topic of talks in Washington earlier this week between Secretary of State William P. Rogers and Tito's Foreign Minister Mirko Tepavac.

Horse trading over jobs

BY STEPHEN JOHNS

CHANCES of a new work-in at the Clydebank shipyard are now very remote. This became clear from discussions in Blackpool on Thursday between union officials, shop stewards and Texas oil-rig boss Wayne Harbin.

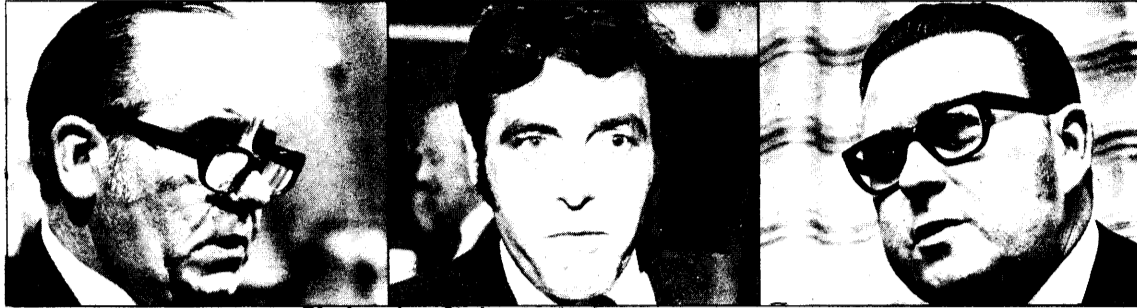
Now the Communist Party leaders of the UCS struggle will meet the liquidator tomorrow to haggle over the timing of 500 redundancies.

After a week of threats Stalinist James Reid, the leading UCS shop steward, meekly admitted after seeing his new boss, Harbin:

'We can only report that we are very optimistic as a result of these discussions and immeasurably more confident that a good measure of agreement has resulted here.'

Reid was speaking after a four-hour summit with Harbin and Boilermakers' Society president Danny McGarvey.

Work-in tactics less likely



Blackpool-on-Clyde with McGarvey, Reid and Harbin

He added that the work-in would 'almost certainly be unnecessary'.

In tomorrow's talks the Stalinists will aim to persuade the liquidator to phase the redundancies at Clydebank.

The first several hundred were expected yesterday, but McGarvey announced after seeing the Texan

Harbin that these were being held over until Monday.

With this hoped-for 'concession' from the liquidator, plus more detailed information of the jobs build-up at Marathon, the stewards hope to persuade the Clydebank workers to accept redundancies and abandon the fight against the new company.

McGarvey refused to reveal how many jobs were at stake. 'This would be unfair to the Clydebank workers,' he said.

He put the Clydebank controversy down to a 'mix-up in communication'. A beaming Harbin, flanked by his equally-pleased No 2, Eldon P. Nuss, agreed and hoped problems

would be solved by Monday.

The problem for the Clydebank workers, however, will not disappear, despite the continued horse-trading.

Even after a massive labour cut which has reduced the Clydebank workforce from 2,500 to 1,700 in 15 months, besides a cut of at least 1,500 at the three Govan Shipbuilders yards, the men still face further massive redundancies.

A total of 400 men now work for Marathon demolishing the Clydebank yard. The liquidator has said he will employ 800 men to fit out four remaining vessels upriver at the Govan shipyard. This leaves approximately 500 men with no work at Clydebank—where the last ship was launched on Thursday.

By the New Year all the liquidator's contracts will be finished so the bulk of his 800 workers will join the 500 on the dole.

In the past Marathon has said it can employ up to 900 at Christmas.

IN AND OUT



OF LABOUR'S CONFERENCE

By ALEX MITCHELL in Blackpool

All his options open

NEXT WEDNESDAY the Shadow Cabinet meets the newly-elected Labour National Executive Committee at Transport House for a post mortem on the Party's conference decisions.

It will be a smug, self-congratulatory meeting. For the five days of this conference all the huge dangers facing the labour and trade union movement were kept at the lowest key, political differences were stifled and unity was forged on a programme of 'let's-wait-and-see'.

This is precisely the sort of political environment that Wilson needs to create for himself: one where he can conduct his politics on a day-to-day basis, all options open.

For Wilson the object of the annual conference is to keep demands on a future Labour government down to a minimum. But if delegates do pass any

THE RIGHT-WING Tory weekly, 'The Spectator', arrived on the conference news-stands yesterday. The prominently displayed billboards declared:

'WILSON RIDES AGAIN'

A wit from Michael Foot's Welsh delegation commented: 'The question is—who is he riding?'

resolution which he does not like he doesn't feel bound by them anyway. Such irritating resolutions will be consigned to the dustbin.

That's been the hallmark of his ten-year leadership of the Party. He has contempt for the aspirations of the labour movement. In that sense conference has become a giant, organized, sickening hypocrisy. The most astonishing

exposure of this hypocrisy came on Thursday during the marathon economic debate.

There were seven resolutions before the conference, ranging from calls for a wealth tax, to control over multi-national companies and the abolition of Value-Added Tax.

By far the most significant, in terms of future Party policy, however, was the one from the Transport and Salaried Staffs' Association, moved by Percy Coldrick, which called for immediate talks between the NEC and the Trades Union Congress to work out a prices and incomes policy.

This unequivocally worded call for an incomes policy is at the very centre of the TUC's talks with Heath, which the conference endorsed.

This question is: should the working class be blamed for inflation, and should the standard of living of millions of wage-earners be cut to pay for it?

When the debate concluded chairman Anthony Wedgwood Benn announced that the NEC was supporting ALL SEVEN resolutions.

This meant backing the TSSA and also the National Union of Public Employees' resolution which stated that 'it is not possible to have an incomes policy even in a mixed market economy which does not have harmful effects on the working class'.

How is it possible to support both propositions at the same time?

It means that the NEC recognizes that an incomes policy harms the interests of the working class (NUPE) but it supports the construction of just such a policy anyway (TSSA).

But this is the sort of contradiction Wilson and his cronies love.

Binding decisions? Not likely!

THERE was only one item which rattled the NEC. This was a composite resolution moved by Caerphilly, seconded by Hull West, which called on conference to instruct the Parliamentary Labour Party that MPs must abide by conference decisions.

The resolution went on to condemn Labour MPs who opposed 'the declared majority policy decisions of the Party' (like its Common Market policy, for instance).

Benn told the seven constituency parties who backed this resolution that

it had been removed from the open agenda, but that it would be heard in the private session during the week.

But no time was found for this crucial discussion. And despite angry protests and a protest petition, the question was postponed

until next year. Delegates are thus expected to wait 12 months for a pledge that MPs might, just might, carry out what was decided this week.

The 'left' did not press the point on the grounds that Benn had been such a good, 'radical' chairman.



Wilson (seen with new Party chairman Bill Simpson of the AUEW): Keeping demands on a future Labour government to a minimum.

Confused No. 3? The Wakefield rich

THE VOTING policy of the Transport and General Workers' Union at this conference has been a ridiculous business. Certainly in deciding how to cast the union's 1 million votes the issue of principles has been absent.

The T&GWU abstained on the NEC Common Market statement, abstained on the Transport Salaried Staffs Association (TSSA) call for a prices and incomes policy and voted for Andrew Cunningham—the General and Municipal Workers' Union north-east organizer mentioned in the Poulson bankruptcy case—thus assuring him of re-election onto the 28-man NEC.

The situation in the delegation is so confused that Alex Kitson, the union's No 3 man, took a bet last Sunday that the union would vote against the NEC statement which talked about re-negotiating terms of entry into the Market.

The NEC statement ran counter to union policy. So Kitson assumed he had a safe bet.

Later in the week we saw a disappointed Kitson shelling out £1.50 to a Transport House official.

Now, if the No. 3 in the union can't predict what the leadership is going to do in three days time on an issue as grave as the Common Market, what chance have the members got?

DENIS HEALEY was on his feet making his set piece reply in the economic debate. The ex-Balliol chap, ex-army officer and ex-Communist Party member, began to wax passionately about the iniquities of capitalism.

'People in Britain now know what is going on. They know how the rich live. They see it on the television. They see it in the colour supplements. They do not need in fact to watch "Man at the Top" on the telly. They can read the court reports from Wakefield.' (Applause.)

It was an unfortunate choice of imagery. Sitting four seats along from Healey throughout the

conference has been Andrew Cunningham, the General and Municipal Workers' Union candidate on the NEC of the Labour Party.

Cunningham dropped from seventh to 11th place in this year's ballot when the AUEW withdrew its support because of his connections with Poulson bankruptcy case.

On three occasions since the public hearings began in Wakefield, Cunningham's name has been raised as a beneficiary of holidays and salaries from Poulson.

When Healey mentioned the case Cunningham was strangely absent from the platform.

THE JAY LOVESTONE STORY

From Stalinism . . . to the CIA. By Charles Parkins. Part One

THE CASE OF TOM MBOYA

'Anti-communism became an important objective of trade union foreign policy, and the AFL-CIO (the AFL merged with the rival CIO in 1955) obtained as Director of its Department of International Affairs Jay Lovestone, former general secretary of the American Communist Party and now a professional anti-communist, who was one of the Central Intelligence Agency's most important contact men.' — Ioan Davies, 'African Trade Unions', p. 201. (Penguin 1966.)

On July 5, 1969, the Kenya political leader and Minister of Economic Planning, Tom Mboya, was assassinated in Nairobi.

Within a week Kenya police had arrested Nahashon Isaac Njenga Njoroge, (32). In court, the police claimed that Njoroge, a Kikuyu, had said when arrested: 'Why do you pick on me? Why not the big men?'

Asked who the 'big men' were, he kept silent.

Although Njoroge denied saying this, and denied responsibility for the shooting, he was found guilty and hanged.

The British Press, true to its usual treatment of African affairs, concentrated on emphasizing possible tribal implications—suggesting that the affair was all the result of rivalry between the Kikuyu and Mboya's own Luo tribe for political supremacy in Kenya. The police, having got someone for actually pulling the trigger, do not appear to have gone very far in finding out who had pulled the strings.

But whatever part, if any, tribalism played in the Mboya killing, its importance was grossly exaggerated.

As a Minister in the Kenya government and a leader of the ruling party, KANU, Mboya's importance was never that of a tribal leader, but of a former trade union leader who, in the course of his political career, became associated with America's Central Intelligence Agency. He rose to be a Minister responsible for promoting anti-union legislation and one of the most powerful men in Kenya politics. The rivalries which formed the background to his assassination were not tribal but international.

The initials CIA have become notorious among politically-conscious workers and colonial peoples throughout the world. They are a byword for aggression and reactionary intrigues carried out on behalf of American imperialism.

It was the CIA which launched the ill-fated Bay of Pigs invasion, aimed at overthrowing Castro, in April 1961. It was the CIA, also, which directed the programme of spy-flights over the Soviet Union, brought to an end in May 1960 when a U2 reconnaissance plane piloted by Gary Powers was brought down over the Urals.

Among the more successful CIA operations was the part it played, in 1953, in the overthrow of the Mossadegh



Above: Tom Mboya, a leader of the ruling party, KANU, before his assassination. Jomo Kenyatta (centre), and Malcolm MacDonald (right).

government in Persia, which had nationalized the oil industry.

Kermit Roosevelt, who was the CIA agent in charge of this operation to open Persia for American oil companies, was made a vice-president of the Gulf Oil Corporation in 1960.

In 1954, the Arbenz regime in Guatemala, which had upset the US-owned United Fruit Company by its land-reform policies, was overthrown by a combination of air-raids from over the border and a military coup from within—both directed by the CIA.

The new military regime returned to United Fruit the land which Arbenz had taken over and repealed amendments to a 1947 law protecting trade union rights. It passed a Preventive Penal Law Against Communism, which involved setting up a special Defence Committee empowered to meet in secret and classify people as 'communists', rendering anyone so classified subject to various restrictions and liable to arbitrary arrest and detention.

So Guatemala was made safe for 'democracy'—and the United Fruit Company.

The CIA is not just an intelligence-gathering organization, but a secret arm of US imperialism, able to use its agents, money, and arms, to intervene in any country to further the interests of American big business and the capitalist system in general.

Towards the end of World War II, the United States clearly emerged as the leading imperialist power in the world. The Bretton Woods agreement of 1944, and subsequent arrangements, made American capitalism responsible for maintaining the capitalist system as a whole. As the world's banker, it also had to become the world's policeman.

The CIA was officially established on September 18, 1947, replacing the wartime OSS with a much more extensive and powerful organization. The National Security Act of 1947 laid down its intelligence functions, and also empowered it 'to perform such other functions and duties related to intelligence affecting the national security as the National Security Council may from time to time direct'.

The following year, worried about events in Czechoslovakia and the support for the Communist Party in Italy, the National Security Council authorized a special CIA division to be responsible for carrying out special secret operations in other countries that must not involve the US government.

In 1949, the Central Intelligence Agency Act was passed, giving the CIA Director the right to spend money 'without regard to the provisions of law and regulations relating to the expenditure of government funds'.

This was an important step in enabling the CIA to operate without too much Congressional or public examination.

In December 1963, ex-President Truman, who was head of state responsible for establishing the CIA, wrote that he had become 'disturbed' by the CIA's expansion beyond its original assignment.

'It has become an operational and at times a policy-making arm of the government,' he wrote.

One area in which it has played an important part in determining US policy is Vietnam. It was involved there even before US troops were officially committed.

The Michigan State Univer-

sity was supposed to have an aid mission in South Vietnam to assist in training officials and police officers. But of this five-man team, only three were genuine university staff. The other two were CIA agents! It was through such means that the US sought out suitable stooges to rule South Vietnam.



Truman said he was disturbed by the CIA's expansion beyond its original assignment.

When open interference in South Vietnam was prohibited by the Geneva Agreement, this under-cover work prepared the way for military involvement.

The Michigan State University was provided with a 'sweetener' in the form of CIA money for research to keep its mouth shut.

A number of American universities have received such funds and have set up various projects to carry out research for the CIA. Large numbers of American scholars — sociologists, economists, political scientists, psychologists, etc.—have become effectively on the CIA payroll. Usually the funds are channelled through various supposedly 'private' founda-

tions and similar fronts, in which the CIA work in co-operation with the big corporations. The activities of these academic mercenaries are not always confined to 'research'.

On November 17, 1966, the annual convention of the Anthropological Association in Pittsburg was addressed by its former president, Dr Ralph A. Beals, who, according to a 'New York Times' report, told them that scholars who went abroad to carry out their work were offered generous sums to serve as intelligence agents. He also alleged that some intelligence agents were posing as anthropologists.

The CIA also makes use of various organizations which are supposedly independent of the government.

On February 14, 1967, it was revealed that the National Student Association had secretly received millions of CIA dollars to finance political activities in student movements abroad. The money was channelled through various conduits, such as the San Jacinto Foundation of Houston, the Foundation for Youth and Student Affairs of New York, the J. M. Kaplan Fund of New York, and so on. It was also revealed that scholarships for African students in America were similarly financed.

The disclosures caused a great deal of commotion in America and abroad. But Victor Reuther, international affairs director of the United Automobile Workers' union headed by his brother Walter, declared that the CIA involvement in the student movement was nothing compared to its activities in the American labour movement.

CONTINUED ON MONDAY

VORSTER THWARTS U.N.

BY JOHN SPENCER

To try and give some semblance of international legality to its continued rule in Namibia (South West Africa) the South African government is setting up 12 so-called Bantustans in the territory.

The establishment of these areas, which are nominally accorded a certain amount of self-government, is aimed at thwarting the United Nations demand that Namibia be given independence as a single undivided country.

South Africa originally held the former German colony under a mandate from the League of Nations which was later transferred to UN jurisdiction.

But for years the United Nations has been trying in vain to implement its decision ending the mandate and granting independence to the Namibians.

Further talks on the future of the country were held recently between UN secretary Kurt Waldheim and the South African government—but the issue remains unresolved.

The government of Balthazar Vorster maintains that the policy of setting up 'homelands' for the various African tribes in the country amounts to implementing the UN resolution.

It is pushing ahead regardless of protests from the UN, which has proved impotent to protect the inhabitants of its mandated territory.

The Bantustan policy for Namibia was first drawn up in outline by the government Commission of Inquiry into South West African Affairs in 1962-1963.

The commission was set up to plan the application of the apartheid policy (so-called 'separate development') and its report has since been the basis of South African government policy.

In accordance with the racist theories of white

supremacy, the commission divided the population into 12 ethnic groups: nine African, one white, one Rehoboth and one coloured, each to be confined to a consolidated 'Homeland'.

The greater part of these areas were in the north of the country where there have long been African 'reservations'—along the coast and the Angola border and in the desert and semi-desert regions of the Kalahari.

Scattered in the predominantly white farmlands in the south were 'Homelands' for the Rehoboths (mixed-race German-speaking community) and the Namas.

The 'Homelands' allocated to the 11 non-white groups are naturally inferior and cannot possibly be economically self-supporting: this is essential if the white employers are to have a ready source of cheap contract labour to work for them.

To implement this policy, families from all parts of South West Africa are being uprooted and transported to their newly-designed 'Homelands', many of them far from the areas where they previously lived.

The commission's report itself gives a glimpse of some of the conditions in the areas to which the various groups are being forcibly transported.

It points out that in Okavangoland in the north-east the extensive grassy plains in the south of the area can be grazed only as long as stored rainwater is available in the pans, while portions adjacent cannot be utilized at all because of lack of water.

Soils in the central area are already being extensively cultivated so that it is doubtful whether any increase in grain yields can be expected in these parts.

And it adds cynically that irrigation would be uneconomic and therefore cannot be recommended.

Owing to the unfavourable rainfall and the absence of large-scale irrigation possibili-



Above: Africans being deported from original homelands to 'new homelands'.

ties the Kaokaoveld, in the North-West, will always have to import its food requirements.

In Namaland, the commission reported that, as in practically all other 'Homelands', the region will remain dependent for its staple food supplies on other areas.

Tswanaland—where under 3,000 people are to constitute a 'nation'—is not at present permanently inhabited, according to the commission, which adds that owing to the low rainfall field husbandry is not likely to play a part in the economy of the inhabitants of this region.

The Bushmen who are being pushed into 'Bushmanland' will be even worse off.

Apart from wild plants it is virtually impossible to produce sufficient food for them, the commission said, adding that 'the Bushmen will always have to depend on environmental sorces of subsistence and on imported supplies'.

Even as a political concept, some of the 'Homelands' were theoretical, to say the least, Damaraland, for example, is an area of land where less than 6 per cent of Damaras then lived.

To implement its policy the government has already bought more than 3 million hectares of land from white farmers at inflated prices: the ultimate bill is to be footed by the inhabitants of the 'Homelands'.

Nearly a third of those who are allocated to the 'Homelands' do not live in the areas designated by the government: they will be forced to move.

In some instances virtually the entire 'nation' as constituted by the government will have to move: 95 per cent of the Damaras live outside their designated area, as do 93 per cent of the Nama.

To drive the unwilling people into their 'Homelands', the authorities resort to measures like cutting off their water supplies and refusing their stock access to water-holes.

Nevertheless the people of South West Africa have resisted with great tenacity and heroism the plan to rob them of their lands and herd them into the Bantustans. The massive Ovambo strike last December has been followed by other acts of resistance.

The essence of the apartheid scheme in South West Africa is completely to deprive the

inhabitants of the Bantustans of any rights outside the confined 'Homelands'.

They become 'temporary sojourners' in the vast 'white' area who are tolerated only if they agree to work for rock-bottom wages on semi-slave contracts.

And even within their own areas, the inhabitants of the Bantustans are allowed only the most limited political, economic and social rights.

The real power is in the hands of the South African authorities who control the purse strings. There is the usual grotesque disparity between their expenditure on the Bantustans and that on the wealthy 'white' farmlands.

For the 514,000 non-whites, the government allocates 35 per cent of the budget. The rest goes to provide for the luxuries of the 96,000 whites.

Meanwhile, Waldheim continues his polite exchanges with the South African racialists . . .

(Much of the information in this article is taken from 'X-Ray', bulletin of the Africa Bureau.)

DAMARAS DRIVEN OUT OF MINERAL RICH LAND

Some of the most powerful resistance to the South African Homeland policy has come from the Damara people, who were previously regarded as extremely docile.

After the Ovambos, they are the second largest group affected by the government's policy.

To try and overcome their opposition to the original proposals, which would have involved the migration of almost all the Damaras, the government is now offering a compromise.

In return for a relatively fertile chunk of 'white' farmland it proposes to exclude from the future Damaraland

some of its most arid areas.

What it has not told the Damaras is that these 'useless' lands are rich in minerals and that extensive mining concessions have already been granted.

The facts, as disclosed in the Johannesburg 'Financial Mail', are as follows:

The proposed Damara Homeland comprises 4.8 million hectares of wasteland. Only 7,736 Damaras out of 64,973 were living there, according to the 1970 census. The majority exist by working on the tin mines nearby or keeping goats and sheep.

Apart from ten headmen paid a stipend of about £30 a month by the authorities, there is virtually nothing to keep an

economically active Damara in the area. The Damaras have described the allocated Homeland as 'a chicken run'.

It is one of the most depressingly neglected parts of the country. That is why the Damaras have described the proposal to make it their Homeland as another step in the policy under which 'we are being systematically disinherited and made strangers in our own land. We have been deprived of all human rights and forced to live in a form of slavery'.

Seemingly in acknowledgement of the claim that the offered land cannot sustain the Damaras, the Department of Bantu Administration and Development has raised the possibility of transferring a

portion of the eastern white farmland in exchange for the apparently useless southern and central part of the territory.

This is a virtual wilderness but for the presence of prospectors and geologists excited about the likelihood of a uranium find.

Prospecting rights at Spitzkop have been granted to the Bantu Mining Corporation, the David Graaf Investments, Di Gamma Mining (an Anglo-Vaal subsidiary) and Dr Peter le Riche. Concessions at Trekopje have been granted to Goldfields, O'Kiep Copper and Desert Finds (Pty) Ltd.

The 'Financial Mail' comments:

'Whether these areas will

yield the same promising results as Rossing, near Swakopmund, where Rio Tinto Zinc holds a uranium concession, only time will tell. But even if they do, it will make no difference to the Damaras since discovery of oil, precious minerals and stones and uranium in the Homelands remains the sole preserve of the State in the granting of mining rights. The best the Damaras can hope for under these circumstances, therefore 'is the creation of a few more jobs on the mines.'

As the 'Mail' cynically adds: 'This hardly seems the way of going about sharing the wealth of the country.' But then, who said anything about sharing the wealth?



THE RENT STRIKES BEGIN

By Philip Wade. Photographs by P. J. Arkell

Tenants all over Britain have moved swiftly into action to fight the first increases imposed on them by the Tories through the justly hated 'fair rents' Act.

The Tories' all-out assault on the basic right to decent housing at reasonable rents has been prepared over many years. Time and time again Tory spokesmen have attacked the 'rich council tenants'. Now they have moved into action. But it was Harold Wilson who, in his 1965 Rent Act, gave the Tories the germ from which the Housing Finance Act monster grew. It was there for the first time that 'fair rents' were introduced into private rented accommodation.

The Tories' plan is simple. Forced home by former financial whizz-kid Peter Walker, it aimed at 'market rents' for council housing and the ending

of government subsidies. If tenants cannot pay, they can always move out to the private market, 'reasoned' the Tories.

Aimed by the craven capitulation of the Labour leadership and the decision by most Labour councils to implement their legislation, the Tories confidently imposed increases of up to £1 as a starter last Monday. More increases are due to follow next April and at regular intervals until the 'fair rent' levels are reached. In fact the Tories want to double rents within three years.

On Monday, however, the Tories got their first major answer from Merseyside. Over 10,000 Merseyside dockers struck work for the day. They were joined by Plessey engineers, building workers from all over the city—who have just ended their 12-week pay strike—and shipyard workers from Cammell Laird's. Many strikers joined tenants

in a massive 5,000-strong demonstration through Liverpool where calls were taken up to force the Tories and their rotten Act out of office.

Liverpool Trades Council then set up a co-ordinating committee to support the tenants. Every organization and tendency was invited to join on the basis that they supported the struggle to get the TUC recalled to lead a campaign to get the Tories out and return a Labour government pledged to socialist housing policies.

In nearby Manchester—the other city where the Labourites decided to implement 'with regret' (whatever that means) massive rent strikes are taking place. And the tenants have successfully adopted the 'flying picket' tactics used during the massive strikes by miners, dockers and building workers this year. Only Manchester tenants dubbed their squads as the 'flying commandos'.

They were soon seen in action following the rent collectors around to make sure no tenant was harassed into paying their rent increase.

More tenants toured the vast Manchester estates urging tenants to hold out against the Labour landlords.

In other areas where rent collectors are a thing of the past, tenants instead picketed the local council offices as people turned up to pay their rent.

When they saw the picket line most tenants felt encouraged enough not to pay up and had their rent books marked up for arrears.

Everywhere the rent increases are universally hated. The Tory £2 wage freezing manoeuvres can now be vividly seen for what they are—nothing more than actual wage-cuts.

The determination to resist the Tories is there for all to see. Now the perspective must be to prevent the isolation of

Top left: Liverpool marchers. Top right: Connie Fahey with 'flying commandos' protesting at Fort Ardwick, Manchester. The rent collector stopped his round. Right: 5,000 demonstrators in Liverpool. Far right: Mersey dockers marching with tenants.

the rent strikers from the struggle of the rest of the working class. In themselves rent strikes will not halt the 'fair rents' Act. The Tories have no intention of being deflected from their offensive which is aimed at destroying every basic workers' right won in years of struggle.

Only Councils of Action established in each area, and comprising tenants, trade unionists and every working-class political organization, can lead the campaign to make the TUC stop collaborating with the government and call a General Strike to force the Tories to resign and elect a Labour government pledged to socialist policies and the repeal of the 'fair rents' Act.



ULTRA LEFT ELEMENTS PURGED

Part nine of a series by Tom Kemp on the history of the German Communist Party

During 1925 the German Communist Party (KPD) moved into a new crisis. Matters came to a head at its 10th Congress held in Berlin in July in the same building, the Prussian Landtag, in which it had been founded. Ernst Thaelmann made the opening speech. Manuilsky, representing the Comintern, demanded that the party purge itself of ultra-left elements.

A number of Ruth Fischer's former left associates struck back, claiming with some reason that she had shifted her position, not they. Fischer warned that the same disciplinary measures which had been used against the right could be used against the ultra-left if it resisted Comintern policy on the trade union and other questions.

Despite the differences which had appeared in the course of the debate, the main resolutions, like the leadership, were elected unanimously. The Congress adopted theses which recognized the stabilization of capitalism and approved the equivocal position of the Fifth Comintern Congress.

But the performance of Ruth Fischer apparently did not impress the Comintern leaders, who soon launched a bitter attack on her and Maslow.

Maslow once again made a blunder when he issued a pamphlet called 'The Two Revolutions of the Year 1917' with a remark in the preface saying that Lenin had been wrong in 1921 in launching the slogan 'to the masses' and the policy of the united front. This was used as proof that the Fischer-Maslow leadership wanted to be independent of the Comintern.

Shortly after the Fifth Comintern Congress, a KPD delegation was summoned to Moscow. All the skeletons in the Party cupboard were brought out in the discussions. Maslow's pamphlet was attacked. Ruth Fischer was accused of instigating an anti-Moscow tendency. Zinoviev denounced his former supporters in the harshest terms:

'The pretension of these intellectuals was to lead not only the KPD, but the Comintern as well.'

Zinoviev accused Fischer of having a system of double book-keeping, supporting one policy in Germany and another in Moscow. Thaelmann was spared from the attack and his report on the trade unions at the Berlin congress was praised.

An open letter was drawn up and addressed to the KPD members which attacked the Fischer-Maslow leadership for not fighting energetically enough against the ultra-lefts. All the German delegation signed it, though Fischer did so only after a struggle.

The left was instructed to dissolve itself as a faction and all tendencies in the Party were asked to unite behind Comintern policy.

The old leadership, which had seemed so strongly entrenched at the Berlin con-



Above: Stalin (left) Rykov, Leo Kamenev, and Gregory Zinoviev. In 1925 Stalin continued a relentless struggle against the left opposition.

gress, was now doomed. Ruth Fischer attacked the letter on her return and won some support; she was recalled to Moscow. The ultra-left also attacked the open letter as offering the Brandlerite right a way back into the Party.



Above: Thaelmann who was praised and singled out for leadership.

Maslow's place as theorist was now taken over by Heinz Neumann who launched a bitter polemic on Maslow's offending pamphlet. At a Party conference in the autumn of 1925 the deposition of Fischer-Maslow was confirmed and the policy of the 'open letter' was endorsed.

LOYALTY

Zinoviev and the Comintern leaders had cleverly succeeded in separating Fischer and Maslow from their base in the Party and from their former associates, such as Thaelmann and Neumann, who had now been singled out for leadership.

They were flanked by former members of the centre and right factions known as the 'conciliators'. The main quali-

fication for leadership now became unconditional loyalty to Stalin and, of course, hostility to the Left Opposition in the Soviet Union.

There remained the problem of settling accounts with the remaining left and ultra-left currents which tried to preserve some independence from Moscow's dictates.

Meanwhile Stalin was pursuing a relentless struggle against the Left Opposition. The break between Stalin and Zinoviev and the right turn of the Russian leadership had repercussions in Germany because, despite the fact that Zinoviev had led the fight against Fischer and Maslow in 1925, they had formerly been associates. In the new circumstances they drew together again in a common opposition to Stalin: but it was too late to save Ruth Fischer.

The fragmentation of the opposition groups made it easy for the new KPD leadership, backed by the Comintern, to establish its hold over the Party. The ultra-lefts, such as Urbahns and Karl Korsch, after trying to organize opposition were expelled and went their different ways with various short-lived groups.

Opposition to Stalinism was broken up wherever it appeared and supporters of the Left Opposition were unable to get much of a toe-hold in the party. Some opponents of the line found their way over to the Social Democratic Party (SPD). The Brandlerites founded their own Communist Opposition. From such varied elements and left-wingers breaking from the SPD the Socialist Workers' Party (SAP) was later formed (October 1931).

At the end of the 1920s

moderate prosperity returned to the German economy. Real wages tended to rise and unemployment fell, though not below about 10 per cent. The KPD leadership adopted a more right-wing policy which conformed with that being pursued by Stalin, in alliance with Bukharin. Apparently a period of capitalist stability and peaceful co-existence was in prospect.

RECRUITING

In this short-lived right phase the KPD concentrated on its work in the Reichstag and other representative bodies, sought positions in the trade unions and carried on propaganda in support of the Soviet Union. It built up its organization and its apparatus along lines which resembled those of the pre-war SPD.

Despite the fact that every government in the Weimar period took the opposition of the communist deputies for granted, it did become, for a time, something like a 'loyal opposition', part of the republic. Membership figures do not suggest much growth in these years and were probably in the region of 130,000 to 150,000; well below the peak of the early 1920s.

In accordance with Comintern decisions, the KPD attempted to recruit and organize workers on the basis of factory cells. The value of this type of organization had been demonstrated in the Ruhr during the French occupation. However, the Party continued to operate mainly on a local basis, despite repeated efforts to build up factory organiza-

In 1930 the party had to

report that it only had cells in 1,441 enterprises against 2,673 five years before, out of 191,211 enterprises employing 11 people and upwards. The Party's influence seems to have waned in the big factories and it often had more members in the smaller towns than in big ones.

In the late 1920s the party had 34 daily papers and 19 printshops. In 1929 it arranged a fictitious sale of its property in the hope (proved vain in 1933) that in this way they would not be subject to state seizure.

Much of the Party press was dull and mediocre with little appeal except to members. However, Willi Munzenberg built up a number of popular papers which were able to win mass circulations and compete with the capitalist press largely by adopting its methods. He also established a number of front organizations which extended the Party's influence into various sections of the population.

A most important factor on which the KPD was able to build was the sympathy which German workers in all parties felt for the Russian Revolution. The fate of the Russian and German revolutions had been closely linked together. Although few recognized it at the time, the failure of the German revolution was a major factor which, by continuing Russia's isolation, contributed to the Stalinist degeneration.

And during the 1920s the KPD became an instrument of Soviet foreign policy. It was in the interests of this policy that it had to accept, in 1928, the final turn which led it to disaster in 1933.

US UNIONS AND THE LABOUR PARTY

US ROUND-UP BY PHILIP WADE

The break-up of American capitalism was clearly shown as the driving force for the collision between the unions and the Democrats at the United Steelworkers of America convention recently.

After some three hours of debate the 4,000 delegates voted by more than a two-to-one margin to support the motion of USWA president I. W. Abell and the executive to withhold any endorsement for the presidential elections which take place next month.

At the same time the hand of the wretched US Communist Party was clearly revealed in the convention hall. The Stalinists' paper, 'Daily World', led a significant minority of delegates from large branches in pressing for the endorsement of George McGovern.

The American trade unions threw in their support for the Democratic Party during the Roosevelt 'New Deal' era of the mid-1930s. This relationship continued steadily throughout the years of the post-war boom.

Now, with the declaration of trade war through the ending of gold support for the inflationary dollar, both Democrats and Republicans agree on the need to destroy the hard-won gains of the American working class through pay freezes and anti-union laws and mass unemployment.

At the recent Democratic convention in Miami, the trade union delegates were publicly snubbed by McGovern and his party bosses. Usually all-powerful in the running of affairs at the convention, the union top brass led by George Meany—AFL-CIO general secretary—were given the cold shoulder.

That the steelworkers should begin to break openly with decades of working relationships with the Democrats flows from the depth of the crisis facing workers in the industry.

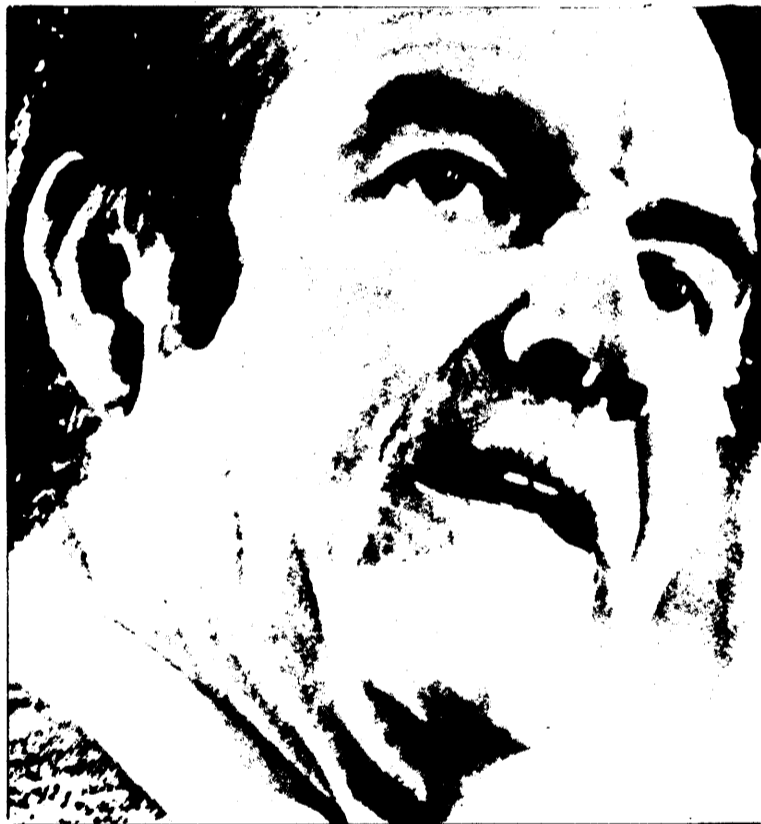
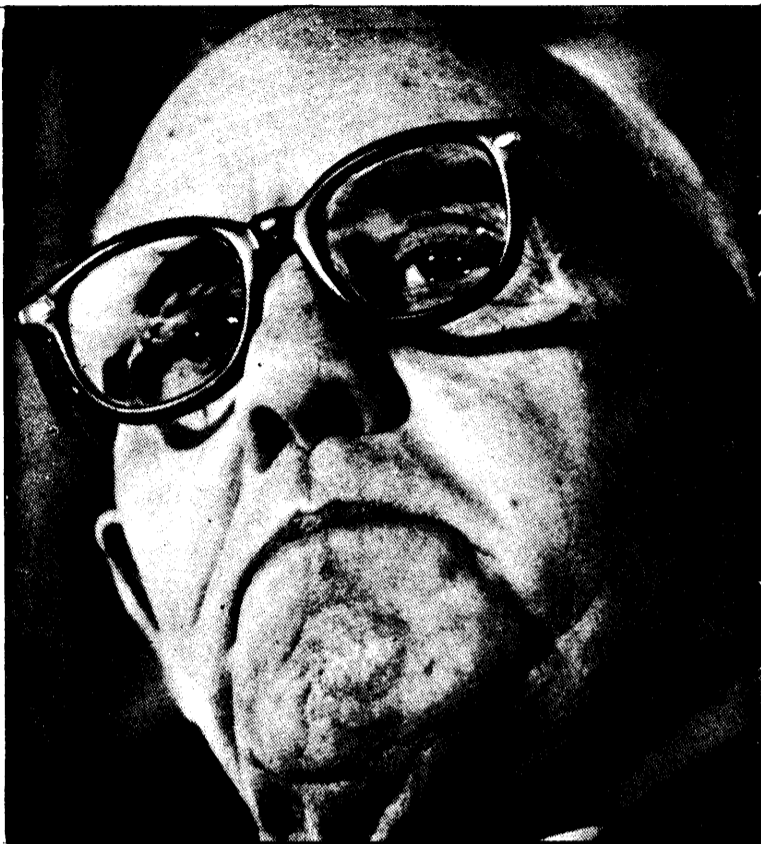
Some 100,000 jobs have been lost in recent years through modernization and developing Japanese competition. Every day brings news of new lay-offs. Since August 15 last year, the Bethlehem Steel Company, for example, has slashed 12,000 jobs at its Baltimore tidewater steel mill.

Now the management at the largest plant of its kind in the world say an optimum workforce could be around 9,000—another 12,000 fewer than at present employed. Labour-saving will be gained with the use of new basic oxygen plants.

Although the US labour bureaucracy in the shape of people like Abel and Meany have made scathing denunciations of McGovern and the whole Democratic Party set-up, which is entirely anti-union, there is still a refusal to break completely with the Democrats.

As a result the steelworkers' convention, for example, ended amid some confusion and without any political perspective for its members.

It was left to rank-and-file delegates from the floor to pose the real alternative of the construction of a Labour Party in the United States to break the working class from support for either of the two capitalist parties.



Top: AFL-CIO general secretary George Meany. Centre: George McGovern. Bottom: USWA president I. W. Abell.

WORKERS NOTEBOOK

CHANGE

The Camden Committee of Community Relations (CCCR) in north London is angry at reports that Ugandan Asians are being dissuaded from coming to the area.

Gurmukh Singh, CCCR vice-chairman, alleges: 'The resettlement board's counselors at the airport have been instructed to bring pressure on immigrants not to travel to Camden, even temporarily, and have persuaded the Supplementary Benefits Commission to refuse money to destitute immigrants who wish to travel to Camden.'

Mr Singh claims that neither Camden Council, the CCCR, nor any other local organization had been consulted before Camden had been put on the 'red' list of places banned to Asians.

It would appear, he says, that these areas had been selected 'on the basis of vociferous opposition by the authorities to the reception of Ugandans rather than on any proper investigation of the facilities available'.

According to the CCCR, a large number of Camden people had answered their appeal to help the immigrants when they arrive, many of them offering accommodation.

The adjoining borough of Brent has also been declared a 'red' area, in spite of the fact that official figures show that about 18,000 people have left the borough since 1963.

Council leader Alderman Philip Hartley (Labour) also says that he has been assured by the Brent Indian Workers' Association that all immigrants would be accommodated without any calls being made on council housing.

A few weeks ago, he announced that Ugandan Asian children could be barred from Brent schools. A statement was issued by the Executive of the Brent Teachers' Association last week, however, welcoming the children, and Hartley now seems to have changed his tune.

He says: 'The education sub-committee will be able to deal with the new arrivals and if necessary hold classes where these children not yet fluent in English will be educated in

the first instance and then filtered into our schools.'

Hartley also announced that the council's co-ordination committee has decided to impose a trade boycott on goods from both South Africa and Uganda.

'We find both these regimes guilty of repulsive racialism,' he said, adding that while the effect of the boycott would probably be negligible, 'it is the gesture that matters'.

LANDLORDS

Wel-Care is a Church of England charitable agency set up to help unmarried mothers. They have an arrangement with a number of local councils to enable them to use short-life houses due for demolition, on condition that they are handed back to the council when required.

Last week, Linda Sayers and Irene Bannon, who had been accommodated in Kilburn, north London, after the births of their babies, won a short reprieve against the one week's notice to quit they got from Wel-Care because Brent Council wants to demolish the property.

They have now been given one month's security of tenure and Wel-Care were told by the Rent Tribunal that they will have to take out a proper court order to have the two girls removed from the premises, which would probably take about another two months.

Linda and Irene say they have been trying to get alternative accommodation for a long time, but have not been able to find anything. The council has said it cannot help.

The house they are living in at present, they say, is 'overrun with mice', but at least it is a roof over their heads and those of their babies. The only alternative Wel-Care has been able to offer is in Norfolk, where the girls were told they could probably get jobs as domestic servants.

The Church Commissioners, who own and administer Church of England property, are amongst the wealthiest landlords in the country.

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**ALL TRADES
UNIONS
ALLIANCE
MEETINGS**

BRACKNELL: Monday October 9, 8 p.m. Priestwood Community Centre. The ATUA national conference.

COVENTRY: Monday October 9, 8 p.m. 'Market Tavern', Junction Street (off the Butts). 'ATUA conference'.

BIRMINGHAM: Monday October 9, 8 p.m. Lecture Room 3, Digbeth Civic Hall. 'ATUA conference'.

WEALDSTONE: Tuesday October 10, 8 p.m. Wealdstone Labour Hall, Station Approach, Station Road. 'ATUA conference'.

WANDSWORTH: Tuesday October 10, 8 p.m. Selkirk Hotel, Selkirk Road, SW17. 'ATUA conference'.

WILLESDEN: Tuesday October 10, 8 p.m. Trades and Labour Hall, High Road, NW10. 'ATUA conference'.

CLAPHAM: Tuesday October 10, 8 p.m. Clapham Baths, Clapham Manor Street, SW4. 'ATUA conference'.

MANCHESTER: Wednesday October 11, 7.30 p.m. Milton Hall, Deansgate. 'Fight the rent Act! Build Councils of Action!'

SOUTH EAST LONDON: Thursday October 12, 8 p.m. Deptford Engineers' Club, opposite New Cross Station. The ATUA conference.

LEICESTER: Thursday October 12, 8 p.m. 'Queen's Hotel', Rutland Street. 'ATUA conference'.

KENT: Thursday October 19, 8 p.m. 'The Legion', Burgess Road, Aylesham. 'Reinstate William Griffiths fitters. Prepare the ATUA conference.' Speakers: A Griffiths' striker and leading Kent miner (both in a personal capacity).

DAGENHAM: Tuesday October 17, 8 p.m. Co-op Hall, Fanshawe Avenue, Barking. 'Force the Tories to resign.'

CENTRAL LONDON (Entertainments and press branch): Sunday October 15, 7 p.m. London School of Film Technique, 24 Shelton Street, WC2. Speaker: Royston Bull, industrial correspondent of 'The Scotsman' (in a personal capacity).

**Blind terrorism
dominates the scene**

Back to square one in Ulster

BY IAN YEATS

THE ATTEMPTED assassination of Vanguard leader William Craig marks another step in the descent into blind terror and civil war in Ulster.

Safe at his home on Wednesday night after gunmen had earlier sprayed the car he was driving with bullets, Craig immediately hinted at a Protestant backlash against the IRA.

Indeed evidence has been mounting for some time of increased anti-Catholic-IRA activities by Protestant extremists.

On Wednesday night Catholic Patrick Connelly (23) and three other members of his family were killed and injured when a bomb was thrown into his Portadown home.

Now a new anti-Catholic council is to be set up, with Craig as president, to wage a 'vigorous campaign' against proportional representation.

The council will include Van-

guard, the Loyalist Association of Workers, the Ulster Defence Association, Orange Volunteers and the Association of Ex-B-Specials.

On Thursday the UDA admitted responsibility for an unprecedented across-the-border raid into Eire for arms, presumably destined for use primarily against Catholics and the IRA.

Admitting responsibility, a UDA spokesman said: 'Until the government of the Republic deals with the terrorists who have been using its territory as a base against Northern Ireland, they will hear from the UDA again and again.'

It is not only against Catholics that Protestant extremists are venting their frustration. More and more their anger is turned against all those who appear to threaten them, including even the army.



MacStiofain: interviewed by 'L'Espresso'.

visionals chief of staff Sean MacStiofain leaves small hope that either wing of the IRA is about to turn its back on their terror policies.

MacStiofain was perfectly right to tell 'L'Espresso' that peace in Ulster was impossible without the withdrawal of British troops, an amnesty for all internees and a conference of Protestant and Catholic groups on the future of the province.

But the burning question is how is this to be achieved? In MacStiofain's view it will be as a result of continued terror.

He went out of his way to stress that even in the unlikely event of the Tories showing some willingness to negotiate on the terms he set out, no truce would be possible. He said the fighting would go on simultaneously with the talks.

Although there was to be no let-up in the IRA's terror tactics, MacStiofain said there would be a switch from bombing to assassinations in order to protect innocent civilians.

Presumably the attempted murder of Craig was part of this. But acts of individual terror are no substitute for political perspective and programme.

After nearly four years of hostilities and state repression, the IRA refuses to learn that this line of thought leads inevitably straight back to square one.

There has only ever been one way of uniting Ulster's Protestant and Catholic workers, of ending internment and of securing the withdrawal of British troops.

This is through the building of the revolutionary Marxist party, linking British and Irish workers in a united fight to force the Tory government to resign and return a Labour government which must be forced to carry out socialist policies.

Based on the nationalization of all major industries without compensation and under workers' control, these policies alone are capable of coming to grips with the economic crisis which lies at the root of the problems facing the working class in Ulster and throughout Britain.

The turn to this perspective and the building of a new, principled, Marxist leadership in the working class requires an end of terror and a clean break with reformism.

More paper tigers at Blackpool

FROM ALEX MITCHELL IN BLACKPOOL

LABOUR PARTY chairman Anthony Wedgwood Benn yesterday called for a mass political action, starting with the Lincoln by-election, to force a General Election.

'We have demanded a General Election—we have demanded it now', he said.

He said the Lincoln by-election announced 50 minutes before he made his speech provided that opportunity.

Benn's rallying-cry, in the closing minutes of the 71st Labour Party conference in Blackpool, came at the end of a week during which he has assiduously steered the conference through a series of right-wing manoeuvres which leave the leadership free to crawl to the Tories.

Without mentioning resigned Lincoln MP Dick Taverne, QC, by name, Benn said: 'He would never be able to do us any damage.'

He said a Democratic Labour candidate was being put up, but the candidate was neither democratic nor Labour.

As he ranted against the pro-

Common Market faction in the Party and the Tory government, the entire National Executive Committee on the platform, including Party leader Harold Wilson, looked distinctly uncomfortable.

And when the delegates broke into cheers it was noticeable that scarcely one NEC member joined in the huge ovation.

Benn singled out the editor of 'The Times', William Rees-Mogg, for a special vitriolic attack.

He said that last Saturday, for the first time in British political history, a political party had been invented by the press.

The article referred to by Benn was the results of a poll which asked people what sort of party they would like to support. The findings showed a significant body of opinion was in favour of a centre-left group which included Labour pro-Marketeters Roy Jenkins and Shirley Williams.

Benn said 'The Times' exercise was like designing some soap detergent or beer.

'As I said earlier in this conference, in our history we have taken on kings, landowners and factory owners. Now we are taking on the mass media.'

He said that people must unmistakably show their will as the giant media tried to exert themselves at the polling booth.

CONFERENCE backed the NEC statement demanding a new government initiative on Northern Ireland.

But an emergency resolution demanding a party programme on the Province was remitted to the executive, which had reservations on one or two points.

The resolution had urged a programme including ending internment, enacting an Ulster Bill of Rights, banning gun clubs and disarming their members and declaring support in principle for a united Ireland.

The NEC statement regretted

the failure of the Darlington talks and the continued violence still occurring in Ulster.

It deplored the government 'intention' to take no further initiative until the end of the year, and demanded urgent new action.

The statement called for further new attempts to achieve all-party talks, first between Westminster and Stormont, leading to talks with Dublin. The talks should consider the 15-point programme put forward by the Parliamentary Labour Party last November.

Socialist Labour League

**LECTURES
THE THEORY AND
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Given by G. Healy (SLL national secretary) in London; Cliff Slaughter (SLL Central Committee member) in Leeds.

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Sunday October 8

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Monday October 9
**GUILDFORD HOTEL
Headrow, 8 p.m.**

The nature of capitalism

Monday October 16
**PEEL HOTEL
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Historical materialism today

Monday October 23
**PEEL HOTEL
Boar Lane, 8 p.m.**

Building the revolutionary party

Monday October 30
**PEEL HOTEL
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PARTICK BURGH HALL
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Rents round-up

South Shields anger over 'mob rule' charge

TENANTS in South Shields yesterday bitterly attacked local press allegations of 'mob rule' and 'outside agitation' at a lobby of the local council earlier in the week.

It is six weeks before council tenants can be asked to pay the rent increases which will follow the collapse of Labour opposition on the council.

Already 100 tenants on a private trust estate are withholding an increase of £1, however.

The special statement issued by South Shields union branches and the tenants' federation rebutted the 'grossly distorted picture of events' painted by the 'South Shields Gazette' in its report of Wednesday's lobby.

It went on to hit out at councillors who 'indulge in the luxury of their own conscience to vote against the policy of their party in betrayal of their election pledge and in defiance of their electors'.

'Commando squads' plan action

OVER 200 tenants attended a meeting at the Fort Ardwick estate, Manchester, on Thursday. Mrs Connie Fahey, secretary of the Manchester tenants' association, said that in Altrincham the rent collector had admitted that over 95 per cent of tenants had refused to pay the increase.

No one could be evicted, she said, until they were £25 in arrears.

'Commando squads' would be out every day. The only way to win,' said Mrs Fahey 'is to clear the Tories out.'

Manchester regional secretary of the building union, UCATT, Jack Lavett, brought support to the meeting from his union.

'Tenants have organized like the trade unions and if the TUC carried out a militant policy forced by the rank and file, the situation could move to a General Election.'

All Trades Unions Alliance member Ian Hampson made a call for Councils of Action.

'In Liverpool on Monday 5,000 tenants and trade unionists voted on a policy to make the Tories resign through the building of Councils of Action.'

'The Tories can and must be forced out. This is the policy that tenants will fight on.'

Other speakers from various Manchester tenants' associations emphasized their determination not to pay the rent increases.

The meeting took a unanimous vote to continue the action against the rent Act and to step up the 'commando raids'—following rent collectors and picketing town halls—planned this week. It also elected a committee to fight in the Manchester area against the increases.

OCTOBER FUND £62.35

GO ALL OUT THIS WEEKEND

THE RESPONSE is still too slow for our October Fund. This month we are determined not to leave it to the last minute for raising our £1,750 target.

Each day the Labour leaders move closer to the Tories. At Blackpool this week, they have no policy to challenge the government on the huge rent increases, growing unemployment and constant price increases which face workers everywhere.

On the other hand, we know that there is growing support for Workers Press. Our paper alone provides the political leadership to fight back against all these attacks. More than ever, a movement is growing to make the Tory government resign.

This weekend, therefore, is decisive. With a special effort, you can change the position for our Fund. Go into action today. Raise all you can. Post all donations immediately to:

Workers Press
October Appeal Fund
186a Clapham High Street
London SW4 7UG.

Picket out at Manchester city hall

MILITANT council tenants in Manchester continued their campaign against Tory rent rises yesterday with their second picket of the city hall in two days.

They argued with tenants who were going in the building to pay their rent. About 50 per cent said they would not pay the increase.

One man from the Miles

Platting area among the 100-strong queue told me bitterly that he simply could not afford to pay the increase.

'The rent where I live has increased to £7 a week. I have two growing children and a total income of £25. This £1 the Tories have put on us is a direct blow against my kids and their right to grow up with a decent standard of living.'

Bob Cars, Beswick council tenants' leader said the first results of their campaign were good:

'There is considerable resistance on our estate. We did a survey of 290 houses and 44 said they had not paid the increase. Only 27 said they'd paid.'

Elsewhere in Manchester flying pickets were out on the estates urging tenants to join the campaign against the increases.

Women councillor backs Coventry rent revolt

THE LABOUR-controlled city council in Coventry has begun collecting 54p a week rent increases. At the same time it is to ask the Housing Minister to give a further dispensation and grant a nil rent increase because Coventry has £1m surplus in the Housing Revenue Account.

The Housing Minister has only just reduced the £1 rent increase to 54p and made clear that this was final. The Tory government will take no notice of yet another council telegram.

At Wednesday's council meeting only three Labour

councillors voted for an amendment moved by Labour councillor Jim Williams 'that this Council resolves not to implement the Housing Finance Act'.

When other Labour councillors voted down the amendment along with the Tories there were cries of 'traitors' from the public gallery.

Many tenants throughout Coventry have stated they will not pay the rent increase. The full extent of the rent strike will not be known until the end of the week as rents are collected from Monday to Thursday.

Cllr Mrs C. Shortland, one of the three who voted

for the amendment, told Workers Press:

'The Labour council is going to the Minister to ask for further dispensation, but meanwhile it is implementing the Act.'

'A considerable number of tenants have said they are not going to pay the increase. They have seemed to be very determined at all the meetings I have attended.'

'As a council tenant I haven't paid this increase myself and I don't intend to pay it. There should be no rent increase at all, especially as the council has £1m surplus. Council tenants are paying enough as it is.'

'I have taken this stand

right from the beginning. I would have voted as I did even if I had been on my own.'

'I will fight for anybody who I think is being dealt with wrongly. I support the old age pensioners. I supported the Young Socialists' Right-to-Work march. And don't forget, private tenants are also going to pay extra in January.'

'This Tory Act is all wrong. I have had tenants come to me already about the so-called rebates.'

'A single woman came to me. She is earning £17 a week. Under this Act she gets no rebate at all even though she will be

paying £6.50 rent. That doesn't take into account gas or electricity. (These rents refer to all the high tower blocks in central Coventry.)'

'I think if all the Labour councils had not implemented the law they would have had support from all the working class. The threats regarding fines, etc. on councillors in the Act have made me more determined than ever.'

'There should be a campaign to get this government out. It has never been any good for the working class. I think a Labour government should take over the land and the banks.'

Fears at Thornycroft about jobs talks

BY PHILIP WADE

WORKERS at the occupied British-Leyland plant in Basingstoke fear that national union officials may try and compromise their 12-week struggle against sackings. Engineers at the Thornycroft transmission and heavy gear box plant took over the factory on August 15 to stop Leyland's plans to hive off the plant.

The buyers, the Eaton Corporation of Ohio, were supposed to have taken over last Monday. They bought the factory off Leyland for £2½m.

Eaton's only have a three-year lease on the plant and want to cut back the labour force.

Thornycroft workers say Eaton's have plans to shift much of the work to their Bolton factory and will eventually close down the Basingstoke plant.

On Tuesday Pat Lowry, British-Leyland's industrial relations officer, travelled to Blackpool for a five-hour meeting with national officials at the Labour Party conference.

A further meeting is now planned in York for next Wednesday. And on the following day Eaton's will join the discussions.

At the Blackpool meeting British-Leyland promised officials plans of their future hiving-off

and manpower policy, said Tom Lewis, occupation committee member, yesterday.

'Apparently Leyland said they have already raised their £25m cash they were after. All we've found out about their future plans is that they want to hive-off two more factories involving 400 workers.'

The occupation committee is strongly opposed to next Wednesday's meeting.

'It's diabolical,' added Tom Lewis. 'It seems they want to separate us off from Leyland as a whole. I think they would like to clear us out of the way of a possible agreement with Leyland on their future policy.'

'As far as we are concerned there shouldn't be a meeting at all. Leyland is in breach of a redundancy agreement they made with us last year. We shouldn't speak to them in this situation.'

'The only guarantee we've got is our ability to fight to keep our jobs. It would be wrong to say we're suspicious of the national officials. But we have our fears and that's why we're going to lobby the York meeting.'

This view was forcefully expressed to AUEW national official Bill John at Blackpool by Thornycroft convenor Gordon Owen-Jones and Leyland convenor Len Brindle.

Yesterday the morning shift at the Basingstoke plant passed a motion declaring that no deal was to be signed by a national official. Any Leyland offer had to be first brought back to the factory.

They will be sending a coach load of men to York to lobby the Wednesday meeting.

Eaton's have again this week offered a 'guarantee' of work to 737 men for a 15-month period—subject to 'market conditions'.

But Thornycroft workers point out that considering Eaton's future production plans, there is not even enough work for this number.

COUNCIL tenants on the Caldwell, Grove Farm and Camp Hill estates in Nuneaton have organized a liaison committee to co-ordinate a plan of action.

Meetings of 200 tenants at Grove Farm, 150 at Caldwell and over 100 at Camp Hill voted to form tenants' associations, refuse the rent increases of £1 and pay the increases to the association for a fighting fund.

During a recent canvass on the Camp Hill estate, 300 tenants joined the association. They agreed to pay the extra money that would have gone to the rent man to the fund via committee members.

Norman Ardle, a Labour Party member and a Keresley miner,

told Workers Press that he hoped this fight would spread throughout the country and force the Tories to take note.

At this stage the action was only a protest. But, he added: 'If I had my way, there'd be a General Strike to get the Tories out tomorrow.'

The Liverpool dockers who struck on Monday against the rent rises had shown the way, he said. And he spoke bitterly of the Labour councillors who had dropped their opposition to the Tories' Act.

A miner from the Daw Mill colliery, Richard Milburn, thought that the big struggle which had taken place against the government over the last nine months would be nothing to the one which was coming this winter.

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