

FOUR CHILEANS who had been condemned to death for 'treason' for supporting the former Popular Unity government were reprieved last week.

Labour's Chilean scandal

But it was no thanks to the Labour Government, which had just sabotaged a proposal for a common initiative by the Common Market countries to offer asylum to the condemned men.

When the *Guardian* got hold of this story, they were approached at once by unnamed 'Ministers' (in the Home Office?), who in mitigation 'pointed out that Britain had already admitted more than 100 Chilean refugees — more than the total of all other EEC countries combined'. But this bare-faced lie was exposed within 24 hours.

In fact Britain has admitted less Chilean refugees than most other Common Market countries. As the *Guardian* was forced to admit next day: 'There are known to be several thousand Chileans who have settled in France, Germany, and Italy.'

Nor is this all. While other European embassies in Chile have taken in hundreds of refugees since the coup, the British Embassy has admitted just one — an Irish priest! When Labour was in Opposition there were many protests about this. But the same British Ambassador has remained to pursue the same policy since Labour took office in March — and there has been not a murmur even from the so-called 'lefts'.

DOUBLE-DEALING

This double-dealing — which follows the scandalous decision by Labour to hand over the warships and at the same time allow the junta to postpone repayment of the loan to cover them — highlights the urgent need to build the mass demonstration on 15 September. This has now been sponsored by a number of trade union executives — including the AUEW, NUPE, ACTT and South Wales and Scottish NUM — as well as by the Labour NEC.

The intention of some of these bureaucrats, however, is simply to indulge in a ritual commemoration of the coup as a substitute for organising any ongoing fight against the junta. That is why the campaign for blocking action must be stepped up during this period, and why it is important to work for half-hour stoppages on 11 September (the actual date of the coup) as called for by the Chile Solidarity Campaign.

An example of how the demonstration can be used as the focus for a serious campaign has been shown in Newport, where the local Chile Solidarity Committee in conjunction with the Executive Committee of the Newport Labour Party has organised a 'Chile Week' beforehand. Activities will include a local demonstration, a poster parade, a public meeting, a teach-in, and several films.

It is such initiatives, extended on a national scale, which alone can prevent Labour's sell-out to the junta.

JOHN MARSTON

Page 6: How to fight the Chile junta

Leicester, London — STOP the NATIONAL FRONT!

Roy Jenkins is refusing to ban the National Front march in Leicester. The Home Office has insisted that the Front march and the counter-demonstration be kept one mile apart for fear of 'violence'.

This guarantees more violence. Not necessarily in Leicester on 24 August, where it is now doubly difficult for the working class to drive the NF off the streets, but in the black communities up and down the country. Here the fascists will remain free to terrorise black workers in preparation for attacking the whole of the workers' movement.

The priests, liberals and Communist Party spokesmen gathered in the Leicester Inter-Racial Solidarity Committee, which agreed these arrangements with the cops, see this as a step forward for 'race relations'.

But racism in the workers' movement will not be destroyed without black workers standing up to racism

on the shop floor, as at Imperial Typewriters. Getting the Front off their backs will encourage them. Getting the Front off the streets is the way to do it.

This was recognised at the 1000-strong Bangladesh demonstration in London last weekend, where applause greeted an appeal from the organising committee to support the counter-NF marches in Leicester on 24 August and London on 7 September.

In Red Lion Square, the Communist Party and the IS were not prepared for such a struggle. The police were even able to stop the anti-fascists from marching along their agreed route! Now the hand of the police is even stronger.

In London on 7 September the NF, by linking up with the loyalist thugs will continue to strengthen its violent, reactionary hand.

UNITY

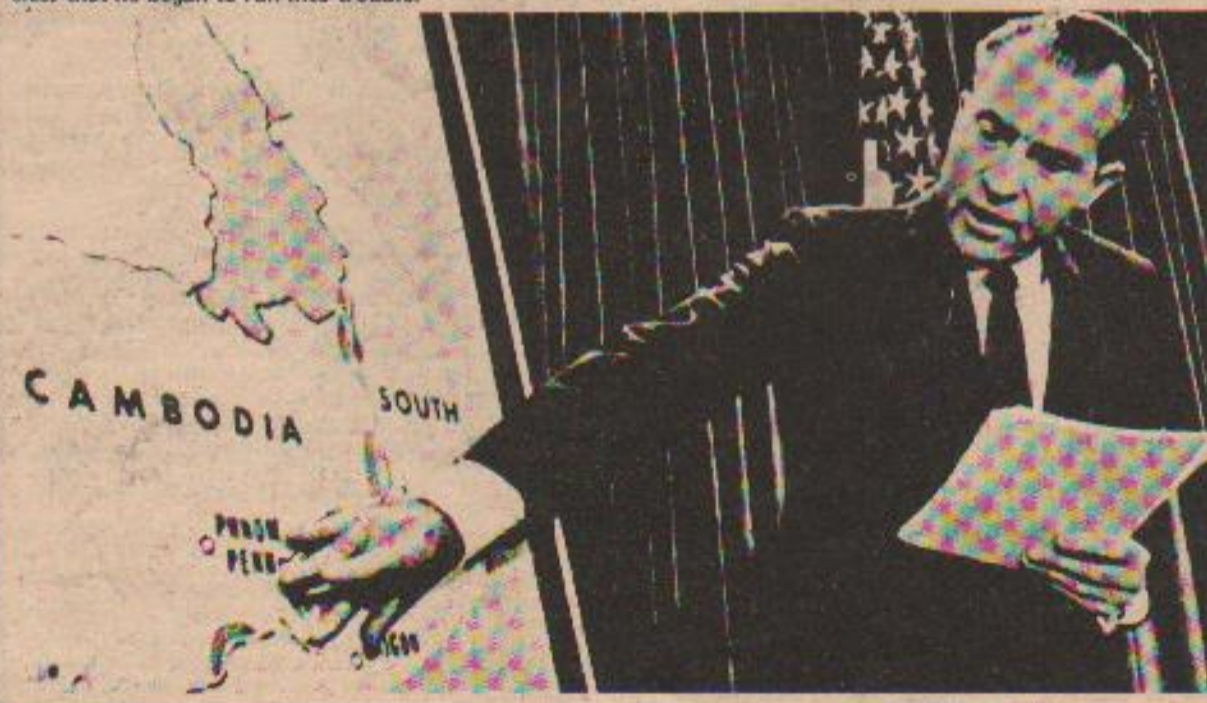
To clear the NF off the streets, we need numerical superiority over the police and the fascists, and a high level of organised self-defence. This demands the maximum unity of the anti-fascists at a national level.

The Warwick Action Committee has voted to call for a national liaison committee to mobilise and prepare for both Leicester and London. This call should be taken up by all organisations that stand against racism and fascism.

At Leicester, it is vital that we begin to see the first signs — not just of numbers, not just of unity — but of adequate preparation of the demonstrators against attack from any and every quarter. Without this, the fascists will never be beaten as at Cable Street in the 1930s.

The IMG will be sending coaches to Leicester from all over the country. Contact your nearest IMG branch for details. The march begins at 3 pm from Spinney Hill Park, East Park Road, Leicester.

A symbolic picture—it was universally admitted that Nixon had made 'illegal' use of the executive power to carry out the secret bombing of Cambodia in 1969-70, but since it served the interests of the whole ruling class no move was made to impeach him for it. It was only when he started to use this power against other sections of the ruling class that he began to run into trouble.



A slobbering, semi-coherent Nixon has left the White House.

Arch conservative, mediocre, Gerald Ford has replaced the double-dealing skyster.

Democrats and Republicans are now scrubbing around trying to re-assemble the shattered pieces that

make up the myth of 'democratic' America.

The alliance built by Nixon in the 1972 elections has been smashed. His use to the capitalist rulers of the United States is over.

Nixon established his pre-eminence by effecting a political regroup-

ment in the USA. He pulled behind him the Southern 'dixiecrats' by his programme of 'law and order' — a policy which effectively put George Wallace on the political sidelines.

In a neat operation he tugged the labour unions away from the Democ-

Cont. page 8

UNITED ACTION WINS PIPELINE VICTORY

TURRIF-TAYLOR, the oil pipeline contractors to BP at Firth Queensferry, Edinburgh, have failed to break union organisation on their site. But the issues opened up in this dispute will have far-reaching effects, as STEWART MACLENNAN, a member of the strike committee, and member of the IMG, explains:

*Turriff thought they could smash us while we were still weak. We responded by walking off the site and setting up an effective picket which was maintained throughout the dispute and within a week we had won.

The dispute began with a demand for proper facilities on the site. The management granted the facilities but four hours later paid off 28 union members including all the shop stewards and deputies. We were replaced the following day by a 'grip-squad' (scabs).

Turriff-Taylor tried in its heavy-handed primitive way to wipe out union organisation on the site. The great physical difficulties — distance, only a few involved — plus the lack of trade union experience forced us to develop rapidly the tools we needed to defend our struggle and win our reinstatement.

We formed a strike committee governed by daily mass meetings at which all of us learned to bring up our ideas and develop them into a co-ordinated plan of action. The mass

meetings issued a daily strike bulletin which was used by the pickets, kept the whole of the TT workforce informed and helped to bring out sympathy strikers.

We formed flying squads of speakers to draw in support from the TT supply workers, whose shop stewards organised the distribution of the bulletin, financial levies and blocking of pipes and asphalt. The united action of the locked-out men, the sympathy strikers, the workers at Brodero Price pipes, the Bovis Myton site and more forced TT back to the negotiating table.

Through our own struggle (the dispute was never made official by

UCATT) we have learned vital lessons about how workers in far-flung sites can organise and can, when necessary, take on cowboy contractors, international oil giants, and win.

It's necessary for all workers in

unionisation and conditions but also begin to work out and impose a workers' energy policy based on workers' control.

Some steps have already been tak-

Stewart MacLennan

the rigs, the supply ships, the fabrication yards, the storage yards and pipelines to pool experience. From such links we can begin not only a united fight on such questions as

on in this direction. The regional shop stewards body of UCATT have set up a 'policy' sub-committee to discuss the setting up of an Action Committee on the pipelines. The oil rigs shop

meeting soon to fully discuss the Turriff-Taylor dispute. I will be speaking at a meeting in the docks and at a few sites in Aberdeen about the dispute.

All these are important beginnings. Most of the steps taken so far have been around the fight for basic trade union rights — which will be no easy struggle — but hopefully we will soon be able to organise some far-reaching discussion on all aspects of the oil industry.

The development of North Sea oil is on everybody's mind in Scotland. We have to get together to work out the exact ways in which we can fight for the benefits of the project to go to the working class, not to line the pockets of the oil giants and contractors.

The fight for workers' control under full nationalisation of the industry is something we have to get under way now. The success of our struggle at TT and the recent moves by others in the industry must become the launching pad for such a fight.*



Police wade into Essex student pickets earlier this year — one of the excuses for the Annan Report, a blueprint for repression!

Annan blames 'unscrupulous' students

The Annan Inquiry on Essex University has delivered the goods — for the University administration and the ruling class.

The titled gentleman blames the recent troubles at Essex on 'a small number of militant students, well organised, unscrupulous in their methods and determined to cause a confrontation with the University authorities.'

The Report blithely ignores cut-backs in social expenditure involving not building a projected new Arts block, an administration building and 'postponing' extension of sports facilities.

By Christmas it is proposed to put up rents of student accommodation by 40 per cent. Canteen prices are due for another boost. The 25 per cent rise in grants already looks sick.

The report is a blueprint for repression. Its aim is to strengthen the disciplinary hand of the University administration against the future struggles of students to fight the effects of inflation.

Already the University hierarchy are floating the idea of using conspiracy charges against students who speak for or motivate acts against the University. These 'learned' people have grasped the lessons of Shrewsbury. All they are looking for is the most appropriate time. Annan has supplied the grounds.

Actors prepare to strike

Equity, the actors' union, wants to reject long-term agreements for its members in exchange for half-yearly pay reviews and annual agreements.

This was decided at the union's Special General Meeting convened after the annual general meeting a few weeks ago had failed to get through most of the agenda. The actors are also preparing for strike action from 1 November in commercial provincial theatres if their pay demands are not met.

Over the past couple of years there has been a growing 'trade union consciousness' amongst many actors rejecting the traditional 'non-political' approach that has dominated Equity for many years. This was reflected in the election of a 'leftish' Executive Council this year.

The Council in fact put forward a

motion calling for support for Chilean artists in the face of severe repression by the junta. Members of the IMG tried to amend the resolution to include support for the resistance in Chile and all solidarity actions in Britain such as the blacking of Chilean goods.

The members and supporters of the Workers' Revolutionary Party, without any motivation, voted against the amendment but for the motion! We were given a reason, though, for this attitude in the latest copy of *The Entertainer* (a WRP journal for the entertainments industry), which lucidly informed everybody that the best way to help the Chilean working class was by... building the Workers Revolutionary Party!

CHRIS MALCOLM

of Chilean political prisoners.

Again, where were the howls of protest from Heffer? Chile was one of the touchstones of the left at the last Labour Party conference.

Wilson made a weekend statement about the links between the Tories and the Ulster Unionists. No such links for Labour!... except that Merlyn Rees is backing the loyalist camp to the hilt. Labour is forced to make concessions to British imperialism's indisciplined monster, and the Tories get all the political support. Perhaps Wilson's statement reveals more sour grapes than principle.

FIRM SMACK

However Mr Wilson's firm smack of leadership and principle have been felt in one place on the Irish issue. True to the traditions of democratic discussion seen so often in operation in the Labour Party, he and his cronies have banned the proposed Young Socialists conference on Ireland.

Wilson realises that the concessions he is forced to make to the Orange Order will show up the real role of the British troops

in Ireland. The links now established between the Orangemen and Britain's neo-Nazis also show the political character of the people imperialism is forced to protect.



Dear comrade editor,

Kevin Todd makes a fair point in his letter published in *RW* 63. The National Front might be able to attract support in the North of Ireland by putting forward a new basis for the Union with Britain, as an alliance between Loyalists and reactionary trends in British politics. The main problem confronting Loyalism is the split between the Union and the Protestant Ascendancy, created by the changed economic interests of British capitalism, and brought out most sharply since Direct Rule.

I put forward the possibility of an alliance between British and Northern Irish reaction in *Red Weekly* after Powell's speech in the Ulster Hall. In retrospect I would be self-critical about this article: it correctly interpreted what Powell was proposing, but did not balance this with an analysis of the real possibilities for such an alliance. In fact shortly after Powell's bid he was disowned by the loyalist politicians, and has not delved into Irish politics since.

Whatever solutions are put forward for the dilemma of the Loyalists, the fact is that the split between the Union and the Ascendancy has already occurred.

All this adds up to a big political crisis in the Labour Party. Yet there has been little noise from the Left... and no debate.

Glad to see there is still consistency in the conduct of domestic and foreign affairs...

PAUL SMITH

and the Unionist monolith has already been shattered. Even the victory of the UWC lock-out has not put Humphry together again. If a strong section of the British ruling class challenged the basic thrust of imperialist strategy in Ireland there might be a re-play of the 1911 anti-Home Rule struggle, but not even Powell has been able to win support for such a challenge.

The National Front is certainly not able at present to pose such a threat. We should be clear about its real strength in the North of Ireland — the highest estimate of its membership I have heard is fifty, and most of its reported eight branches are in small towns.

In Belfast it was started by an eccentric Catholic, the late David Riddlesdell, who was never seen without his Orangeman's bowler hat; it absorbed the tiny Ulster Constitution Party of Lindsay Mason, who is well known for his Ulster-flag-draped wolfhound, and his appeals for the return of his bicycle which is regularly stolen while he sells his scrappy little paper on Saturday afternoons.

There are signs that the UVF is being influenced by the NF's fascist ideology, and the most dangerous intervention by the NF has been to supply fuel for the UVF's campaign against the 'Communist dominated' Irish Congress of Trade Unions.

However the UVF is a highly volatile organisation, and has swung from a conciliatory attitude to the Republicans to its present 'hard' position. And it is only one tendency within an increasingly complex Loyalist political scene. If the NF did grow, or even win over sections of the UVF, it would only be as one of a plethora of splinter groups. The one factor which could re-unite them, a challenge to the existing strategy of British imperialism, by a strong section of the British ruling class, is unlikely.

I am not saying that the NF is harmless, and that we should let it poke about in Ireland unchallenged; but it is necessary to be accurate about its real potential, and therefore to balance the assessment in Kevin Todd's letter.

BOB PURDIE

Where are the Labour lefts?

Labour's left have been very quiet recently.

Meanwhile Jenkins and now Prentice have taken up their cudgels in the fight to strengthen the grip of Labour on the coat-tails of Capital. The limitations of the left are seen not just in the lack of any fight by Benn and Co., but also in the limits of their programme.

Three important events which have recently taken place show that no obstacle whatsoever has been placed on the Right's warpath — at least in matters of foreign policy.

Wilson's oft-repeated fervent prayer, to win peace in Vietnam, has found its outcome in the squalid removal of 118 refugees from Hong Kong to the Saigon death camps. Not one 'left' MP has murmured a word of protest.

Equally, Roy Jenkins' timidity was revealed to all when the *Guardian* reported his sabotage of an attempt to get a common front of EEC countries in defence

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CLAY CROSS ON THE BOIL

THE CLAY CROSS issue is on the boil again. The High Court has insisted that the ex-Clay Cross councillors pay surcharges totalling nearly £7000 — plus interest at 7%! This is the price they are being asked to pay for not implementing the Housing Finance Act when the Tories were in office.

But the ex-councillors, several of whom are unemployed, have all transferred their possessions to their next of kin. So it is now up to the District Auditor to decide how the charges can be enforced.

The Labour Government is playing its customary role. Many other councils face similar penalties for non-implementation. But as David Skinner, one of the ex-councillors, puts it: 'Anthony Crosland (Environment Secretary) is prepared to sit on his laurels and see hundreds of Labour councillors thrown on the slag heap.'

One of the possible outcomes of the High Court decision is that the surcharge will eventually be paid by some 'mysterious donor' as was the case when the AUEW were fined for contempt in May.

Some of the Labour 'lefts' will be arguing for the surcharge to be paid out of Labour Party funds or some such source. But so far not a murmur has been heard from Transport House.

FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY

The ease with which the Government brushes aside the decisions of the Labour Party conference in this way raises many important questions for the whole of the labour movement. While it is true that 'the Government should stick by conference decisions' as another disqualif-

ied councillor, David Nuttall, says, the Clay Cross struggle goes beyond the important issues of Labour Party democracy.

The fight for democracy within the Labour Party and within the trade unions is the plank on which the labour movement must fight for the Labour Government to be responsible to and accountable to the working class.

After all, it is only the strength of the labour movement that can actually implement any Labour programme which goes against the interests of the ruling class. It is therefore the right of the labour movement to decide upon that programme and to use its weight to stop the Labour Government scabbing as it is now doing on the ex-Clay Cross councillors.

Nobody but the ruling class would benefit from the surcharge being paid 'anonymously' or out of Labour Party or trade union funds. The strength of the trade union movement must be used to get all the penalties arising out of the Housing Finance Act scrapped.

The TUC Congress in September should be the arena where the trade union movement can hammer out a programme for the next Labour Government, and the means by which such a programme can be implemented — relying not on the size of a majority in the House of Commons but on the strength of the working class in the factories.

One such task would be to force the Labour Government now to back the struggles of those councillors who defied the Housing Finance Act — not turn and attack them.

NICK ADAMS



The defiant ex-councillors of Clay Cross rally behind their banner after one of the court hearings

British Leyland over the edge?

Lord Stokes has said that if he were forced to pay threshold agreements to the BLMC workforce, the company would go bust.

Lord Stokes powers of prediction

are about to be tested. Four thousand workers at British Leyland's two plants in Llanelli voted to strike from 19 August if the company refuses payment of a cost of living increase.

The Llanelli workers have been stretched to the limit while the local management have been carrying out a 'clean up' operation. This 'sophisticated' rag and bone collection is designed to save money on old raw materials around the plant.

The management do not seem prepared to give an inch. An inch in Llanelli amounts to several yards — ie a possible £40 million — over a massive ailing BLMC Combine. Llanelli workers are between £10 and £12 behind the national average rates in some cases, and have been badly hit by inflation.

SURVIVAL

As one worker told the *Red Weekly*, 'this battle is one for survival. In March, the date of the annual wage negotiations, there was an unwritten agreement that if inflation bit too hard, the workers would be back for more.' John Weakley, the AUEW Convenor and Joint Stewards Committee Chairman, points out that 'a threshold rise will only defend our wage packet, not increase it. But with inflation as it is we obviously want thresholds backdated to May when

the negotiations started.'

Of the 2,600 workers in the Radiator Plant, two thousand are women. They have been particularly hard hit by the recent adoption of a Measured Day Work agreement in the plant. Recently women workers around the country have shown little reverence for their toadying trade union leadership. Many of them cannot see much that's 'social' about the Social Contract.

Nurses, the Asian women in the recent Imperial Typewriters dispute, and NALGO women have all played a leading role in the recent fight against any wage restraint. Things could shape up in a similar way in Llanelli. Indeed they need to!

BACKING

Part and parcel of their fight, along with the other workers, is for official backing — preferably sometime this year! Llanelli workers have defended their union to the hilt. They came out on May Day and supported other National Executive calls. It would be nice if the AUEW Executive would be as speedy in defence of its rank and file. As yet there have been no moves to get a nationally co-ordinated fight.

If Lord Stokes is right, then more than Llanelli and the threshold is up for discussion. We wait to hear from the dynamic Mr Benn: 'pay up or we will take you over.'

STRIKING NURSES SUPPORT WOMEN'S CHARTER

In early August the nurses at Highcroft Hospital in Birmingham went on 24 hour strike — the first time that nurses have taken actual strike action in this country.

The joint action taken by NUPE and COHSE members was in direct defiance of the national decisions of both unions. The response to the strike call was almost 100%, only a few senior nurses turned up for work, (for which they are unlikely to get paid as the management said they were acting as volunteers).

The picket line at the hospital showed the militancy of the rank and file nursing staff. At one point there was as many as 70 pickets. A charge nurse on the picket line said that in many hospitals in the area the feeling was for strike action but that no-one wanted to take action alone. He hoped that Highcroft had now shown the way

and that any future action would be spread amongst many hospitals in the area.

One issue which did annoy many of the strikers was that the management made no stipulation that the volunteers used to man the hospital should be qualified. As one striker said, 'half of those volunteers are just going in for a look round'. A patient said that he had gone to the drugs cupboard himself and pointed out to the volunteers which pill he should have.

CHARTER CAMPAIGN

On the Friday before the strike, members of the Working Women's Charter Campaign in Birmingham leafleted the Nurses' Homes with copies of the Charter and at the strike meeting, although no-one from the campaign was present, the women

nurses decided to discuss the Charter and to vote on it. Support for the Charter was overwhelming: 175 for and 12 against. Nurse Jean Murray commented 'it's the best thing to happen to women trades-unionists for years.'

Since the strike both NUPE and COHSE have sent national representatives to Birmingham to calm down the situation and they have met with some success. At Highcroft Hospital, however, a decision has been taken to prepare for a 3 day strike, but they are waiting for support from other hospitals in the area as there is some fear of reprisals being taken against the strike leaders at Highcroft.

Moves are also under way in Birmingham to spread the initiative taken at Highcroft so that not only other hospitals but other members of the trade union movement are involved in the struggle to defend and improve the National Health Service.

BIRMINGHAM BRANCH (IMG).

LETTER

Dear Editor,

I note that in the last issue of the *Red Weekly* you report the demand of the Health Workers' Conference for a Workers' Inquiry into the NHS.

This is a demand which should receive the support of all trade unionists. I would suggest that trade union members should put down resolutions in their branches calling for:

1. The setting up of a Workers' Inquiry into the NHS.
2. Medging support for such an Inquiry — ie financial, and by encouraging their members to submit evidence to the Inquiry.
3. Calling on the Institute of Workers' Control to initiate such an Inquiry involving as wide a section of the trade union movement as possible.

Yours fraternally,
MIKE WHITE (NUPE)

Workers black wards for more staff

Members of NUPE have blacked three new wards at the Brook Hospital, Shooters' Hill, Woolwich, London.

The new Linton wards intended for geriatric patients have 30 beds per ward. The NUPE members are insisting that there should be five ancillary workers allocated to each ward.

Workers at the hospital point out that other wards have been closed because there has not been sufficient staff to work them. Ancillary workers have been operating a work to rule because of staff shortages on some of these other wards.

A union member told me: 'The shop stewards have done a survey of the new wards. They know that it is absolutely impossible to work them with less than five ancillary workers for each ward.'

The workers' action has forced the hospital management to close the wards. Although no meeting has yet taken place with the management the workers are determined not to work the wards until agreement is reached on manning.

The action of the NUPE members at the Brook Hospital is very important. Mrs Castle's attempts to solve the cash crisis in the NHS involve increasing the productivity of health workers — fewer people doing more work. This means jacking up the workload of a drastically underpaid workforce — pay for ancillary workers is about £24 a week — and a deterioration of care for patients.

The attacks on standards of health care can best be defeated by actions such as those taken at the Brook Hospital by the health workers.

COVENTRY WORKERS PLEDGE ANTI-INFLATION STRUGGLE

The conference on thresholds and the cost of living held in Coventry agreed on the need for a united policy on thresholds when the existing ones run out in the autumn.

Over the past couple of months Coventry has seen some important struggles by different factories to secure the full threshold payments. As John Fisher, ASTMS Divisional Officer and one of the sponsors of the conference explained: 'By resisting the claims for a threshold agreement, British Leyland have served to unify the trade union movement. They may have done the movement a service.'

But not all the recent struggles have been successful and there is no doubt that if any substantial increas-

es or threshold agreements are going to be won in the autumn then a central wages policy with a united offensive against the employers is going to be necessary.

The failure of the local bureaucracy to take any sort of central initiative made the conference, although not large in numbers, an important first step. At the end of the conference a committee was set up with several of the leading trade unionists in the area. The committee will organise a much broader-based conference in the autumn.

If successful that could be a launching pad for a really determined united struggle in the Coventry district for wage increases and thresholds agreements that really can protect wage-packets from rocketing inflation.

"The nazis wrote: 'It is a shameful lie to say that the National Socialists deprive the workers of their supreme weapon: the right to strike. The right to strike was abolished on 16 May 1933 in Germany.'"

Fascism and Big Business, written by the French syndicalist Daniel Guerin 35 years ago, and recently reprinted, is probably the most authoritative book around on the fascist movements and their rise to power.

It should be read by all those in the labour movement who believe the National Front when it claims it does not want to destroy the trade unions.

For Guerin's book shows how Hitler's nazis, and Mussolini's blackshirts, were also trying to sell themselves as being 'respectable' supporters of 'democracy' in the days before taking power.

The fascist NF is simply attempting to learn the lessons of Hitler and Mussolini's rise to power.

Between 1930 and 1933, writes Guerin, Hitler's 'Brown militiamen provoked their working class enemies and assassinated them on public highways. No Sunday passed without a bloody combat.'

Yet throughout this period, Hitler was embarked on a practically uninterrupted electoral campaign, capturing 230 seats in the Reichstag (parliament) in three years. When the Chief Justice asked him: 'Then you intend to follow only legal methods,' Hitler replied 'Certainly.'

From 1919 until 1922, thousands of armed fascists travelled the length and breadth of Italy wrecking union headquarters, burning newspaper offices and attacking workers' demonstrations.

'LEGAL CONQUEST'

At the same time Mussolini was saying that he looked forward 'to a legal conquest of power...the establishment of an overwhelming majority throughout the country; reform of

the electoral law; and new elections that would give the Fascist Party control in the Chamber and hence in the government.'

The National Front—like their fascist predecessors—understand that their way to power does not lie through an armed insurrection which will overthrow the capitalist State. Fascism enters into power at the invitation of big business, who remain masters of the State.

Despite the appearance of an armed uprising, fascism in Italy and Germany assumed power legally: 'Mussolini was summoned to Rome by the King; he went in a comfortable sleeping car and had entrusted to him, in accordance with parliamentary usages, the task of forming a Cabinet.

Only when all this was over, did there begin the spectacle which has been called the March on Rome. By special trains, the 50,000 Black Shirts were brought to the capital, where they paraded.'

Those sections of the big bourgeoisie who first give backing to the fascists would have them compete in the constitutional arena for a majority of the bourgeoisie, and would have them avoid total war on the workers' movement before the full resources of State power are safely at their disposal.

What makes the fascists so attractive to the bourgeoisie is not what they say in parliament, but the acts of terror that they commit on the streets against the workers' move-

Alf Jennings reviews 'Fascism & Big Business'

Fascism and Big Business, published by Pathfinder Press, New York, is available from Red Books, 97 Caledonian Road, London, N.1. at £1.55 including p&p.

ment.

The socialist and communist leaders in Italy and Germany thought that because at first the fascists were supported only by certain sections of capital (essentially heavy industry), the liberal sections of the bourgeoisie would defend 'democracy' and therefore protect the workers from the fascists. Such hopes proved illusory—the fascists took power to raise the profits of all the capitalists. And profit, to a capitalist, is more dear than 'democracy.'

In any case the very instruments used to preserve 'law and order' steadily went over to the fascists. In 1921, the Minister of Justice, Fera, 'sent a communication to the magistrates asking them to forget about the cases involving fascist criminal acts.' The Chief of Staff of the Italian Army, General Badoglio, instructed his commandants to send 60,000 demobilised army officers to staff and direct the *Fascisti* on four-fifths pay!

The liberal minister, Gobetti, enjoyed surprising his dinner guests with the story of a fascist student who took part in punitive expeditions, and was then summoned by the police, to receive...the fascist cap, with the congratulations of the authorities!

It was to avoid antagonising this 'progressive bourgeoisie' that the labour movement refused to defend itself with arms. Instead, on the eve of Hitler's takeover, the German trade union leaders appealed for help from President Hindenburg.

Even after the Reichstag fire and the orgy of fascist violence that went with it, they continued to repeat: 'The unions have always opposed terrorism in all its forms. They have educated their members to struggle for a new social order without using violence.'

The Italian union leaders told their members to 'Stay home: do not respond to provocation. Even silence, even cowardice, are sometimes heroic.'

If the fascists used legal tactics without falling victim to legalism,

the same thing cannot be said of the anti-fascists!

Modern day fascists claim they defend the rights of trade unions. No doubt NF members in the EFTU or the Leicester district of the T&GWU or some of the sugar workers at Tate & Lyle, believe that the left's claim that the NF wants to 'destroy the unions' is sheer fantasy.

FASCISM & LABOUR

On the eve of the March on Rome, Mussolini proclaimed: 'Labour has nothing to fear from the fascist power...Its just rights will be loyally guaranteed...Fascism does not dream of depriving the proletariat of its organisations.'

The nazis wrote: 'It is a shameful lie to say that the National Socialists will deprive the workers of their supreme weapon: the right to strike.'

The fascists even supported some



When barbarism marches on...

Nazi Storm Troopers march on to...

they are not going to get away with anything. It's pie in the sky.

'When the newspapers got hold of this paper they connected me with the National Front, and the NF did not like it. So just temporarily they are a bit angry with me. But they'll get over it.'

With people like Martin Webster and John Tyndall leading the NF, Mr Beauclair is right to be sanguine. After all, one anti-semitic generally retains a soft spot for another, even if he shoots his mouth off at the wrong time.

Coincidentally, 5000 copies of the booklet *Did Six Million Really Die?* were found in the Heidelberg Hotel in Brighton. The hotel is managed by Mr Alan Hancock, an ex-member of Mosley's Union Movement. He and his son appeared to be in charge of stewarding NF meetings during the Hove by-election last November.

EX-SS OFFICERS

The Hancocks used to act as hosts to the Northern League. This organisation has a collection of ex-Waffen SS officers amongst its leaders, and is supported by leading members of the NF.

Hancock is a buddy of Martin

Inside the National Front



John Tyndall, NF Fuel...

THE NATIONAL FRONT was formed in 1967, grouping together members of the British National Party, the Greater Britain Movement, and the League of Empire Loyalists.

Tyndall — the real boss of the NF, who said 'Mein Kampf is my doctrine' — was a founding member of the British National Socialist Movement. The BNSM stated in its programme that it favoured 'deportation of all non-Aryans' and 'the establishment of a National Socialist authoritarian government'.

The BNSM were devoted followers of Hitler. They produced a leaflet called 'Hitler was right'. The leaflet argued that 'Democracy means Jewish control'. The BNSM boasted that 'Hitler raised Germany from the depths of Democracy', and that although 'Hitler fell, National Socialism lives on'.

Tyndall is quoted in the *Sunday Times* of 30 March 1969 as saying: 'The Jew is a poisonous maggot feeding on a body in an advanced state of decay.' Ron Tear, another organiser for the NF as late as 1969, was meanwhile proudly posing for pictures in

front of a shrine of Adolf Hitler.

Martin Webster was also a member of the BNSM, and for some years was a close associate of Colin Jordan — an extreme Jew-baiter with illusions about becoming a British Führer. It was Webster who said: 'We're busy forming a well-oiled Nazi machine.'

'WE ARE RACIALISTS'

The National Front has close ties with the publishers of the book *Did Six Million Really Die?* This publication, put out under the cover of the *Bulletin of Historical Research*, claims that the Nazis only murdered 300,000 Jews.

The pamphlet was published from 23 Ellerker Gardens in Richmond, Surrey. The rates on this house are paid by a Mr Robin Beauclair.

When telephoned by a Canadian student, Mr Beauclair told her: 'We are racials. Both me and my family have been attacked by the Jews for being racials.' He referred her to that well-known forgery *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, which he says 'are the Jewish blue-prints for the destruction of non-Jewish European civilisations'



Could this lead to this again ?

...The

...The miners' strike of San...
...The miners' strike of San...
...The miners' strike of San...

...The right to strike was abolished...
...The right to strike was abolished...
...The right to strike was abolished...



...the workers' movement...and won!!

...Communist Party headquarters in Berlin on January 22, 1932

...ter and Robin Beauclair...
...ter and Robin Beauclair...
...ter and Robin Beauclair...

...ing light in the RPS is Robin...
...ing light in the RPS is Robin...
...ing light in the RPS is Robin...

'RESPECTABLE' FASCISTS

...his rag-bag of Hitler devotees...
...his rag-bag of Hitler devotees...
...his rag-bag of Hitler devotees...



...of Nazi concentration camp being buried after the collapse of the Third Reich

A central theme of Guerin's book is its exposure of fascist demagoguery. This feature arises from the paradox of fascism: it is a movement which mobilises people reduced to misery and despair by the capitalist class, yet does so only in order to put them at the latter's disposal to revive its profits by doing its dirty work against the workers' movement.

This paradoxical situation means that the fascist militants often join the ranks of the movement's bloody victims after it has taken power. Both Mussolini and Hitler had to conduct enormous purges of their organisations. Mussolini had to get rid of 150,000 members of his party. Hitler had thousands of SA men shot down in the streets.

HITLER'S BOSS

The plebeian elements on whose backs fascism rode to power hated the bourgeoisie—often as much as they hated the workers. Fascism had dealt with the workers. The nazis then dealt with their own plebeian supporters. And it was to the millionaire industrialist Krupp that Hitler went to receive his orders before liquidating his faithful followers.

Guerin's book is the best thing on fascism which is available. If it is read widely in the labour movement, the modern day fascists will have fewer surprises in store for the working class than did their predecessors.

'CUT OUT MEAT'

Italian government tells workers

How would you like it if the cost of living went up £30 per month overnight? Well, this is just what's happened to the average Italian family! The price rises have been caused by recent tax increases which amongst other things will put up the price of meat by no less than 15 per cent.

The Government claims that the new tax laws are necessary because of the chronic state of the Italian economy. Inflation soars at a rate of about 20 per cent, whilst it's estimated that this year's balance of payments deficit will be £4,000 million. With figures like these the Italian ruling class is finding it increasingly difficult to get loans from the International Monetary Fund, and there's a great deal of pressure from outside Italy for them to stabilise the situation.

And so the Government has come forward with an economic brainwave. They can't increase exports because most other capitalist countries are in a similar mess—for instance, in Britain the deficit on balance of payments will probably be £5,000 million. So they've decided to cut imports by cutting down the amount of goods demanded at home.

UN embarrassed

This is done by increasing prices, of course, and also by morally arming the Italian people with such choice official Government statements as, for instance, that Italian workers are eating too much meat—especially veal, which is a meat that workers shouldn't eat anyway! Even the United Nations have been somewhat embarrassed by this statement: in a recent report, the UN's agricultural section stated that, proportionally, Italy eats less meat than any other advanced capitalist country.

The meat capitalists in Italy are playing their part too. Even before the tax increases, they had been jacking up the price of meat due to what they called the 'meat shortage'. This myth was exploded when a workers' investigation recently exposed warehouses full of meat just waiting to be unloaded on to the market when prices had risen.

But even by their own standards, these measures by the Government are not expected to have a decisive effect. Luigi Spaventa, a well respected economist, recently wrote in one of the most important capitalist daily newspapers that 'prices will undergo a new impulse to increase certainly superior to any hypothetical positive effect that might be derived from a reduction in demand.'

But not only will the measures affect prices. According to official sources, recent government measures will force unemployment in Italy above the 1½ million mark by the end of the year. Even the employers' federation, headed by Fiat boss Agnelli, can't disguise this. In a recent article, they said that unemployment will rise by 'only' half a million!

Every trick

All this involves a political attack by the Italian ruling class on the working class. Without resorting to the costly enterprise of a return to fascism, the Italian ruling class is trying to make workers pay for the economic crisis which capitalism has sunk into throughout the world. And they're using every trick in the book. Recently Agnelli stated that if inflation exceeds 20 per cent 'no advanced

capitalist country can maintain a democratic form of government.' The watchword of the Italian ruling class is 'tighten your belts for democracy'—haven't we heard that somewhere before?

Just as the economic crisis is international, so are the tactics employed

— by —
Bob Murphy

by the ruling classes and their governments. So too is the treacherous policy of the official trade union movement in face of these attacks. Whilst the trade union bureaucrats

for rotating 4-hour regional stoppages to demonstrate the workers' support for the 'new model.'

These stoppages, they claim, will force the Government to rethink its policy in favour of the new model, notwithstanding the fact that the new model is even more inflationary than the Government's own policy. As one worker at the Fiat factory in Milan put it to me: 'Have you heard about the new model of exploitation?'

It appears from recent events that many share his attitude. At the demonstration in Milan which accompanied the stoppage in that region, the CP bureaucrats were prevented from delivering all of their speeches by cries of 'General Strike!' from the tens of thousands of workers present.

It is left up to the small forces of the Gruppi Comunisti Rivoluzionari,



Militant workers striking against rising prices in Italy

in Britain rush around creating a 'social contract' with the Labour Government holding down wage increases in the face of rampant inflation, their counterparts in Italy are trying to put together their version of a social contract.

'New model'

Dominated by the Communist Party-led trade union federation, the CGIL, the unions have come forward with their 'new model of development.' And what does this new model of development involve?—exploiting investment in Southern Italy, a restructuring of the agricultural industry, reforms in the social services, and...selective expansion of credit.

They even went so far as to welcome the promise by the Government to investigate the question of investments in the South, a statement that was made at the same time as the tax increases were announced! Instead of mounting industrial action to oppose the savage increase in the cost of living, the response of the CP bureaucrats and their bedfellows was

Italian section of the Fourth International, to advance a real workers' solution to the crisis—a workers' answer to the attacks of the employers and their Government.

Our comrades have put forward their own programme to meet these attacks: a sliding scale of wages, so that the standard of living of the working class is not eaten into by inflation; a sliding scale of hours, so that rather than throw millions of workers on the dole, the same number of workers work less hours for the same pay; five days' work or five days' pay—it's capitalism's crisis, and the State must pay workers' wages if they are made redundant.

General strike

These sorts of measures represent a real working class counter-attack, and no amount of 4-hour regional stoppages will pressure the Government and the ruling class into accepting them. Only through a general strike can the workers impose these measures, establish their own organs of power, and open up the road to socialism.

LABOUR BOWS TO LOYALISTS

Photo: ANDREW WILKINSON (Report)



Over 3,000 leaflets were distributed at the Colchester Military Tattoo on Saturday 3 August by supporters of the Troops Out Movement from Colchester, Norwich and London. Many soldiers were engaged in discussion by the picketers, and while mainly hostile at first, were interested enough to discuss the situation at length and consider the position put forward by the Troops Out Movement.

Nothing succeeds like success. That is the Labour Government's motto since the victory of the loyalist general strike in May.

So on Wednesday 7 August, Merlyn Rees, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, held what the *Times* described as a 'long and surprisingly cordial meeting' with the hard-line sectarian leaders of the loyalist strike — including members of the UDA, the UVF, the Red Hand, and other para-military organisations.

That a Labour minister could have 'cordial' talks with these ultra-sectarian elements — who had been the immediate instrument for overthrowing the imperialist strategy embodied in Sunningdale — stems from the fact that any new policy will have to embody the demands of the loyalists for the re-establishment of the protestant ascendancy. What this implies, of course, is an attempt to return to the situation before 1969, and the complete subjugation once more of the catholic minority in the North.

'HOME GUARD'

Such a strategy requires the fomenting of the sectarian divisions in the North as an instrument of policy. The protestants will be pitted directly against the catholic ghettos. Hence it is not surprising that one of the main items of this 'cordial' discussion

was the establishment of a new 'home guard' for the Six Counties.

Of course any such force could be no more than a resurrection of the notorious B-Specials, who were the main instrument in the repression of the catholic masses for half a century. Already John Taylor, ex-Minister of Home Affairs in the Stormont parliament, has threatened that unless such an armed home guard is established by the autumn, Ulster loyalists will themselves set up such a force. This, he claimed, would be armed and number 20,000 men.

This threat is based on the existence of the 'Ulster Special Constabulary Association', a para-military organisation of ex-B-Specials numbering several thousand men. This organisation, which is represented on the Ulster Workers Council, was probably among those with which Rees had such 'cordial' talks.

SECTARIAN FORCE

This is the reality of Labour's new policy as embodied in the White Paper. The perspective is now one of the sectarian organisations fighting alongside British troops in an effort to re-establish the Orange monolith.

British troops have always been a sectarian force. They have never operated in the interests of the nationalist population. Now this is going to be seen to be the case by large sections of British workers, as the British troops become directly implicated in this reactionary project.

It is thus now more vital than ever that we vigorously take up the demand inside the trade unions for the withdrawal of these troops, and throw back the reactionary designs of the Labour Government.

'ANTI-SOCIALIST ALLIANCE'

The Labour Government hopes, of course, to rid itself of the Irish prob-

lem through this policy of concessions to the loyalists. But apart from its appalling effects in Ireland, this policy also has immediate consequences for the working class in this country.

It is no accident that the Monday Club has recently put out a joint statement with the Unionist group in Parliament calling for the reconstitution of Stormont and the creation of 'an anti-socialist alliance of British Tories and Ulster Unionists'. The new situation in Ireland has every prospect of becoming the focus around which the right wing in this country will attempt to regroup.

Red Weekly has already reported the establishment of links between the National Front and various loyalist groups. But as the Monday Club statement indicates, the NF is by no means alone.

Indeed, the *Times* reported last week that 'behind the scenes, Conservative back-benchers and front-benchers have made contact with the Ulster Unionists since the general election'. The newspaper said that a Northern Ireland Group in the Commons had been formed by 70-80 Tory MPs, and that 'Mr Harry West, Unionist leader, attended many of the meetings and had been principal speaker many times'.

Moreover, it now appears that Heath himself has been involved in discussions with West. The very mini-

mum that can be expected from such collaboration is moves to increase the number of Northern Ireland seats at Westminster from 12 to 20, which in a close election could deprive Labour of an overall majority.

But all the indications are that this development goes far beyond a simple fudged-up deal between the Tories and the Unionists in Parliament to keep Labour out of office. It is in fact an attempt to regroup the right-wing forces for an all-out offensive against the British working class.

LACK OF SOLIDARITY

The labour movement is thus beginning to pay dearly for its lack of solidarity with the Irish liberation struggle in its period of upsurge. The reactionary forces which have thereby been able to seize the initiative again are now in a position to be used against the British working class.

This development must be stopped in its infancy. British workers must come out very vigorously for the withdrawal of the troops whose presence props up this alliance. It should now be clear to all that the enemies of the nationalist population are also the enemies of the British working class movement.

In the coming months we must fight harder than ever for such an understanding, and its translation into action. In the first place this means

building support for the 'Troops Out' demonstration in October, called by the Troops Out Movement and the British Peace Committee; and the largest possible mobilisation by working class organisations against the NF-Loyalist demo in London on 7 September.

PROFOUND EFFECTS

At this time of disarray in imperialist policy, even small actions can have profound effects. This is especially true with a Labour Government attempting to implement this turn, for its reactionary designs have to be hidden behind high-sounding phrases, and even the smallest actions can be significant in exposing their dirty work for all to see.

It is for this reason that the Labour Party has come down so heavily against the LPYS conference scheduled for mid-September, on the dubious constitutional grounds that the LPYS is not allowed to call national meetings involving bodies other than itself. The Labour bureaucracy's attempt to stifle discussion in this way must be vigorously fought — it shows how vulnerable they are on the question of Ireland, and how great are the possibilities now of building a mass movement for the withdrawal of troops.

BRIAN GROGAN

WHAT'S ON

BENGALI FRIENDS in Europe and elsewhere, for Bengali books and *Lalal* (Fourth International paper), contact: Bengali, Mullvadens, Box 3274, 10365 Stockholm, Sweden.

IMG GAY GROUP: Contact J. Mills, 153 Woodhouse Lane, Leeds for further information.

LONDON RED FORUMS: A comprehensive political education series, every Tuesday at 8 pm in the General Picton pub, Caledonian Road, N.1. 20 August: 'Britain: the road to workers' power'. 27 August: 'The tasks of the Fourth International'.

SOUTHALL RED FORUMS: Every Friday evening at 8 pm in the 'Featherstone Arms', Featherstone Road, Southall (near Dominion Cinema).

NEW PAMPHLET: 'Why socialists should support Ireland's struggle for freedom'. Authors: Finnbar O'Doherty (Derry) and Fran Brodie (Women's Lib). 15p post free from Polytechnic TOM, c/o Grass Roots, 178 Oxford Road, Manchester.

WOLVERHAMPTON Red Circles: every Wednesday at 8 pm, Limerick pub, West Bury Road, Wolverhampton (near Club Lafayette). 21 August: 'Fascism — what it is and how to fight it'. 28 August: 'Chile — lessons of the coup'.

'CZECHOSLOVAKIA — Six years of "normalisation": Public meeting organised by the Committee to Defend Czechoslovak Socialists. Speakers: Jan Sling, Monty Johnstone, Joe Greenwood. Weds 21 August at 7.30 pm; Mary Ward House, 5 Tavistock Place, W.C.1.

PALESTINE & GULF POSTERS: from various Palestine Resistance groups, also Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman and the Arab Gulf, Yemen. Selection of 4 different £1, 2 for 60p. Bulk orders 20% discount — please state needs. Also 'Al Kifah' (Sheffield Campaign bulletin) 20p post free. Pay: Palestine, Gulf & Yemen Solidarity Campaign, c/o Students Union, University of Sheffield, Western Bank, Sheffield S10 2TN.

How to fight the Chile junta

Unconditional solidarity with the Chilean resistance and the organisation of solidarity movements are the first duties of revolutionaries abroad — of this there can be no doubt.

But this work must not blind us to the fact that within the Chilean resistance itself, profound differences exist on questions of strategy — differences which are crucial to the future of the struggle and contain important lessons for revolutionaries elsewhere. Discussion of these differences must of necessity be an important aspect of solidarity work.

To be sure, the parties of the resistance — both the MIR (Movement of the Revolutionary Left) and those of Popular Unity — have issued joint unity appeals.

But these appeals correspond to what these parties believe to be the needs of work *outside* Chile — the presentation of a common front to the solidarity movements, the unified collection of funds, etc. They do not correspond to any unity that has been achieved inside Chile, despite the widespread desire for unity among the masses after the coup.

The opposition to the junta can be separated into three main components: the leadership of the Christian Democrat party; the sections of Popular Unity organisationally and politically dominated by the Communist Party; and the revolutionary left, chiefly the MIR.

The vast majority of the Christian Democrat party supported the coup, either

passively or actively. But the economic strategy which the junta has since pursued, basically favouring the big monopolies, has led to deep splits within the capitalist class.

The Christian Democrat party, which has been formally dissolved by the junta and forced into a course of illegality, is now dominated by opposition elements. But it is vital to recognise this opposition for what it is — a defence of small capitalist interests against the encroachments of the junta, and not a force capable of leading the resistance to victory.

In the last resort, their fear of the organised masses is greater than their hostility to the military dictatorship, and they will seek to lead the resistance up a blind alley for their own ends.

COMMUNIST PARTY

The strategy of the Communist Party (as set forward, for instance, in their statement published in the French CP paper *L'Humanité* on 8 January this year) is the creation of a united front of all 'democratic forces' against the junta, to work towards a 'national, majority, democratic and pluralist government'.

They reject civil war (armed struggle against the junta), proposing instead simply the weapon of the general strike as though a simple withdrawal of labour, incapable of preventing the coup, could overthrow a junta exercising complete control over the entire repressive apparatus of the State!

The independent organisation of the resistance under the leadership of the working class is subordinated by the CP to the formation of a 'united front' with the Christian Democrats — not with its largely working class base, but with the capitalist leadership who supported the coup.

The Communist Party similarly encourages its supporters to rely on the 'democratic traditions of the army'. By this it means not an appeal to the rank-and-file of the armed forces, but an attempt to form an alliance with some of the leading officers — those very officers who either led the coup or (like General Prats) passively acquiesced in it.

This policy of alliances corresponds with the political aim laid down for the resistance by the Communist Party — simply a return to *bourgeois democracy*. Inevitably this means persuading the capitalists that no threat to their class rule is involved; in other words, signing over the interests of the workers and peasants to their exploiters.

Of course, the struggle around democratic demands will be an important aspect of the resistance — but only as part of a broader programme in which the struggle against the junta and the struggle for socialism are inextricably linked.

However, the Communist Party prefers instead to aim much of its fire at the revolutionary left. The latter, indeed, are accused of having 'provoked' the coup by their efforts to defend Allende's regime by the only means possible — the armed organisation of the masses in the cordones (factory and neighbourhood committees).

REVOLUTIONARY LEFT

Sharply counterposed to the CP's line is the strategy of the revolutionary left (dominated by the MIR, but also including sections of MAPU and the Socialist Party as well as smaller groups). The main axes of this are that!

— The dictatorship will not fall simply



as a result of its own contradictions. — Any illusions that the junta will fall as a result of struggles inside the capitalist class, or that its orientation will be changed peacefully, can only lead to a second disaster.

— Only a struggle under the leadership of the workers in the towns and countryside — the only class capable of assuming this leadership — a struggle including different methods of fighting and mainly the armed struggle of the masses, can lead to the overthrow of the dictatorship.

— The overthrow of the military dictatorship must be seen as only an aspect of the struggle for the proletarian revolution.

It is along these lines, and not along those put forward by the Communist Party, that a successful struggle to overthrow the military junta and establish workers' power in Chile will be built. In a subsequent article we will look at how the MIR specifically is shaping up to this task.

JOHN KEVANS

Portuguese army moves against left

Last Wednesday (7 August) the Portuguese army turned the centre of Lisbon into an armed camp. More than 500 troops of the newly created internal security force, COPCON (Continental Operational Command), heavily armed and equipped with armoured cars, cut the city centre in two and sealed off the two main city squares.

Meanwhile riot-equipped military police moved in against left-wing militants (protesting at the banning of the maoist paper *Luta Popular* and the imprisonment of its editor) and prevented them from assembling, making more than twenty arrests in the process.

This, one of the largest military operations since the coup, was directed against a crowd of no more than a thousand peaceful and unarmed demonstrators. It was clearly designed as a massive show of force to back up the junta's recent warning that no political opposition to the programme of the armed forces will be tolerated.

Red Weekly correspondent Chris Balfour was in Lisbon at the time and the next day obtained the following interview with a militant of the International Communist League (LCI), sympathising organisation of the Fourth International in Portugal.

What led to yesterday's attempted demonstration?

A whole series of measures which the ruling class is trying to introduce into Portuguese political life in order to control the workers' movement. They have begun by attacking the extreme left, but this is only in preparation for a more general repression of the whole workers' movement.

They started by imprisoning a leader of the maoist organisation MRPP—the editor of their paper, *Luta Popular*. Then they intervened in strikes at the Timex factory and by the postal workers. After that there followed a law which placed a whole series of restrictions on the press. There have been purges of left-wing journalists from the newspapers, and the imprisonment of left-wing paper sellers.

The attitude of the military junta towards the organisations of the far left was made extremely clear in Spínola's last speech. He said that only organisations that totally supported the programme of the armed forces would be tolerated. He warned that there would be strict regulation of political organisations along these lines, and that organisations which were not prepared to give such support to the armed forces would become illegal.

The first thing that happened after this speech was the banning of the MRPP's paper, *Luta Popular*. Yesterday's demonstration was called against

this ban and the reactionary restrictions on the freedom of the press.

What has been the response from the left to this attack?

The only organisation to support the demonstration which was called by the MRPP was the LCI. Even the other organisations of the far left did not react vigorously and support this demonstration.

The Socialist Party placed a notice in the press saying that the banning of *Luta Popular* was illegal according to the logic of bourgeois law, but no organisation except the LCI declared itself in solidarity with the MRPP.

What is the significance of these events for the future?

The Portuguese ruling class is currently going through a serious economic and political crisis. The bourgeoisie is trying to overhaul its economic machinery and draw closer to the Common Market. But the economic crisis is difficult to overcome because of the colonial problem (which they are now trying to resolve with the declaration of independence), and the rise of workers' militancy.

The Communist Party and the other reformists are making a big attempt to control strikes and workers' struggles through propaganda that describes these militant struggles as a cause of the economic crisis.

They call for a big effort for 'national reconstruction'. This plays right into the hands of the reactionaries.

But they haven't succeeded in con-

trolling every struggle and we now see, after the big wave of struggles which followed the 25 April coup, a series of particular struggles that have exemplary aspects: the establishment of elected workers committees, of strike committees, democratic bodies for spreading the struggle, workers' coordination committees, etc. In order to deal with these struggles the bourgeoisie sees the need to equip itself with a reliable army prepared to intervene on its behalf in the class struggle. The first time the army intervened in a workers' struggle was during the recent strike at Timex. They prepared to step in a second time during the postal workers' strike.

The political crisis of the ruling class led to the collapse of the first provisional government and the establishment of a second which is stronger, more coherent, and more capable of intervening against these sorts of struggles. One of the first steps of this Government was to establish a special army unit, COPCON. This force appeared for the first time at a demonstration in Lisbon against the arrest of two army officers who had refused to intervene against the postal workers' strike. Its second appearance was against yesterday's demonstration.

Now that the declaration in favour of colonial independence has been issued, there will be an attempt to turn the colonial army into an army of civil war. The present political plans of the bourgeoisie rest almost entirely on the use of the army and General Spínola to take over the Government on their behalf and defend capitalist interests from the economic crisis and the working class.

How is the LCI attempting to respond to these developments?

The LCI has set as one of its central tasks the mounting of a militant fight in defence of the democratic freedoms won after 25 April. In the course of this fight the LCI will attempt to unite the entire revolutionary left, and give a lead to the organised workers' movement, including workers under the influence of the Communist and Socialist Parties.

An important part of this fight will be directed against the fascist groups which are now organising themselves. We have issued a call for a united fight against these groups, both in the revolutionary left and the Communist Party.

We also believe that our campaign in solidarity with the Chilean people is an important means of developing this struggle.



Expelled refugees die in Vietnam

At least 14 of the 118 refugees returned to South Vietnam from the British colony of Hong Kong in June, including two children, have now died according to Amnesty International.

The refugees were handed over to the Thieu regime with the Labour Government's blessing after only the vaguest assurances by the South Vietnamese Consul-General in Hong Kong that they would be 'treated humanely'. Most of them were in fact sent straight to the notorious Con Son Island prison, where several thousand opponents of the regime are kept in cages.

Only 29 of the 118 have been released. Another 21 of conscription age have been sent to the front line without any military training, the traditional penalty for desert-

ers in South Vietnam.

Amnesty International, who were initially involved in negotiations with various governments to grant the refugees political asylum, have now demanded an independent inquiry into the whole affair. This call has already been backed by sections of the Australian Labour Party, including the deputy premier Dr Jim Cairns.

We must now ensure that it is taken up in Britain too, along with demands for the immediate release of the surviving refugees and all political prisoners, and that Labour withdraw its recognition of the Thieu regime in favour of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam.

GILLIAN HURST

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Bengalis launch campaign against Mujib regime

Photo: ANDREW WIARD (Report)

A thousand Bengalis marched to the Bangladesh High Commission last Sunday in protest against the repressive regime of Sheikh Mujib. Speakers at a rally beforehand described the plight of the millions of workers and peasants who live in squalid conditions with no prospect except imminent starvation.

Any attempts to protest against this situation are met with savage repression. There have been many political assassinations, and workers on strike are frequently fired upon. Five thousand political prisoners are now held in Bangladesh without trial.

Intimidation by the regime even extends to Britain. The organisers of the demonstration were all contacted by the Bangladesh High Commission, which threatened to refuse any extension to their passports if the demonstration was held. The High Commission also telephoned militants in the provinces informing them that the demonstration had been cancelled.

Despite these attempts at sabotage and intimidation, the organisers remained undeterred. This demonstration was the first major action on the situation in Bangladesh since independence and as one of the speakers pointed out, it was the beginning of the fight to bring down the regime of Sheikh Mujib on the way to building a socialist Bangladesh.

ANNE CESEK



POLICE RIOT IN HYDE PARK

Premeditated provocation; that is the only way to describe the police riot in Hyde Park on Sunday 11 August, during which a number of demonstrators were arrested for the 'crime' of wearing black berets.

The demonstration marked the third anniversary of internment in the North of Ireland, and was one of scores of Irish marches in London during which black berets have been worn.

Most of the arrests came after the police tried to push back the front line of the demonstration thereby converting a relatively orderly march into a series of scuffles. A young girl was grabbed by police after she snatched the beret from the head of a man being led away, and a 63-year-old woman was also arrested when she picked up a beret from the ground.

Most of those arrested were released on bail in the early evening; about seven were charged with wearing an illegal uniform, and one or two others with the classical 'assaulting a policeman'. But more trouble broke out when relatives and friends of those arrested went to the Police Station to find out what had happened.

The driver of a van carrying Sinn Fein banners and flags was pounced on by police after he had parked outside the Police Station. His shirt was torn off as they dragged him inside. This provoked another angry scene after which several women and young girls were arrested and charged with police assault.

One of the arrested men was informed by a policeman that in the briefing before the march, the police were told that about twenty of the demonstrators were to be arrested, because the top brass were 'sick of the Irish and their bloody marches'.

This police provocation in London follows the events in Birmingham where Irish prisoners are being held on bombing charges. The Irish Political Hostages Committee has released details of maltreatment suffered by them.

One man had sixteen cigarette burns on his body. The police claimed

that he had burned himself, but he does not smoke. Three men were suspended from high windows, and others had empty revolvers held to their heads, and the triggers pulled.

The British labour movement must be roused to the significance of these events. They form part of a consistent pattern of anti-Irish provocation. The same police who took no action against black-shirted fascists carrying National Front banners in Red Lion Square, cannot tolerate an old-age pensioner with a beret in her hand. Who is next?

ROBIN MCGOVERN



Police move in, 'converting a relatively orderly march into a series of scuffles'

Red Weekly and in Belfast...

Meanwhile, in BELFAST, six people were arrested last Sunday after a demonstration of over 1000 had dispersed. The demonstration, organised by the Political Hostages Release Committee, had been prevented from reaching its destination at Long Kesh Concentration Camp.

The PHRC is a united front of the Revolutionary Marxist Group (Irish section of the Fourth International), People's Democracy, and the Socialist Workers' Movement.

The demonstration had evaded army road blocks but was constantly harassed by gangs of protestant hoodlums. The Royal Ulster Constabulary stood benignly by as the protestants launched their vicious attacks.

This open and blatant collaboration of the RUC with the extreme protestant right, coupled with the growing provocations of the army, is a sign of the times.

The need to give concessions to the loyalists means ever greater repression against the Catholics, especially when they stand up and fight back as on this demonstration.

This demonstration was the biggest of this year's anti-internment marches, although Sinn Fein has split from the PHRC. Sinn Fein's own demonstration the previous Friday attracted far fewer people.

The PHRC demonstration shows that there is a big sentiment for unity amongst the nationalist population in the Six Counties. It should help to put real pressure on Sinn Fein to go into a united front movement of all anti-imperialist forces and end their present sectarian stance.



'Uniformed' man is led away by police

NF fails to provoke Imperial backlash

The 'white backlash' at Imperial Typewriters, Leicester, appears to be subsiding in spite of attempts by the NF to hot it up. Some NF stickers have gone up inside the factory but the only real provocations offered to the Asian ex-strikers have come from a section of the shop stewards.

All the strikers are back at work and in good morale. Already about a dozen situations have come up in which they have shown that they cannot be mucked about by the management. It is this militancy that will kill the backlash stone dead.

The Race Relations Board has published its enquiry - an enquiry the strikers boycotted. Its results were predictable: no racial discrimination exists at Imperial but the company and the T&G should cooperate in setting up an Equal Opportunity Office. This whitewash report of the Race Relations Board was more inept than usual, coming as it did a matter of days after the racist one-day strike of some of the Imperial white workers.

George Bromley, the T&G district

secretary, who consistently attacked the strikers, sometimes in what were effectively racist terms, was a founder member of the East Midlands conciliation committee of the Race Relations Board. The company welcomed the report with both hands and have appointed two equal opportunities counsellors: Peter Stribling, who for the past nine years has run the Imperial social club, and Joey Patel, one of the few black foremen at Imperial.

H. Khetani, one of the strike leaders, attacked the report and the Equal Opportunity Office. He described the Office as a 'dummy institution' and argued that the real answer lay in 'shop floor democracy and representation based on a healthy trade union branch organisation'.

THEIR FACTORY

The NF have gladly jumped on the bandwagon that convenor Reg Weaver and George Bromley started for them. The NF realise that they can gain influence by supporting the backward workers and pushing their line that class is irrelevant in the face of colour and nationality. One of their leaflets advised the white

backlash

workers to stand up to the blacks, since, after all, it was 'their country, their city and their factory'.

This campaign, as well as enabling them to capitalise on the backwardness of some of the Leicester workers also helps them to solve the organisational crisis in the Leicester NF. The old branch leadership was regarded as going too far and jeopardising the electoral success of the NF in Leicester. After squatting had been proposed in their campaign by a block of Leicester flats, Tyndall denounced the old leadership as a 'bunch of hippies' and changed the branch executive.

An open split has now developed and the NF 'radicals' with a section of the Enoch Powell Supporters Group have set up the English Nationalist Party under the sponsorship of Dowager Lady Birdwood. This party will 'recruit people who are dissatisfied with the National Front policies and the action they have taken'. The Leicester Front have denounced the party as 'extremist' and hint that it will 'step up racial tension into the violence they preach'.

CANDIDATES

The NF is trying to solve these problems by its intervention on the Imperial issue. It has announced its candidates for the coming general election: one is an ex-Young Conservative, one an ex-paratrooper, the third an Imperial worker. The NF demonstration on 24 August was to have started from Imperial and gone through the immigrant area. On hearing of the proposed counter-demonstration, the police intervened to say that it was considering using the 1936 Public Order Act to ban all demonstrations and political activity in Leicester that day.

The NF obediently agreed to have a short march on the other side of town to their original route. They have also promised one of their usual 'dignified and restrained public marches'. The Imperial strike committee will be issuing leaflets in Hindi and Gujarati calling upon people to take part in the counter demonstration.

ANDREW JENKINS

NIXON

From page 1

ratie Party. He worked out a deal with Fitzsimmons - boss of the mafia-influenced Teamsters - and made Brennan, a leading light in the AFL-CIO union apparatus, his Secretary of Labour.

McGovern's nomination as the Democratic Party's presidential candidate was a gift from heaven. The 'realistic' bourgeoisie deserted the Democrats and 'Democrats for Nixon' was born.

The normal channels of the Republican Party were bypassed. It was the Nixon apparatus, centred around the executive, which organised these forces. In 1972 Nixon won the biggest electoral victory of any American president.

Even the money to finance the campaign was organised through his own creatures. The donations from ITT, crooked financier Robert Vesco, Howard Hughes and the Milk Lobby flowed into the coffers of the Committee to Re-Elect the President. The Republican Party did not get its usual take-off.

Politics shifted from the Congress and the Senate, and both parties were being marginalised. Power and its financial pay-off had shifted absolutely into the White House.

BROKERS

The Nixon gang became the direct brokers between the monopolies, the crooked financiers, and the partisan interests of sections of the capitalist class. Steeped in the capitalistic ethic, the Nixon aides sold the privileges and clipped their percentages. In the past the party machines had performed this role. Under Nixon the executive took it over directly.

Watergate was not simply a third-rate burglary. It was an urgent task. In the Watergate building were documents showing that Howard Hughes' financial donation had been used to grease the palms of Nixon's two

brothers and his secretary Mary Woods. The break-in was needed to suppress that information.

Of course the strengthening of the powers of the executive had been growing at a remarkably fast rate before Nixon became president. Speed and decisiveness are urgently needed in the period of imperialist crisis. But it can only operate when the executive place the interests of national capital above the sectional interests of individual groups of capitalists.

DOOMED

Ironically Nixon had won the 1972 election by appearing as the unifier of the overall capitalist interests. Watergate and the subsequent revelations revealed the executive as using its power against sections of its own class. The honeymoon was over. The 'grand coalition' had fallen apart. From then on Nixon was doomed.

His battle to survive only served to blow the gaffe. It exposed even more corruption which stigmatised not just Nixon and his cronies but by implication the entire political system. The great decisions confronting the American bourgeoisie were subordinated to the need to save the skins of the Nixon gang.

Nixon went because he no longer served the needs of the bourgeoisie like a broken doll, they tossed him aside.

BOB PENNINGTON

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