

The Week

A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS
Volume 9 No. 4 January 24th 1968

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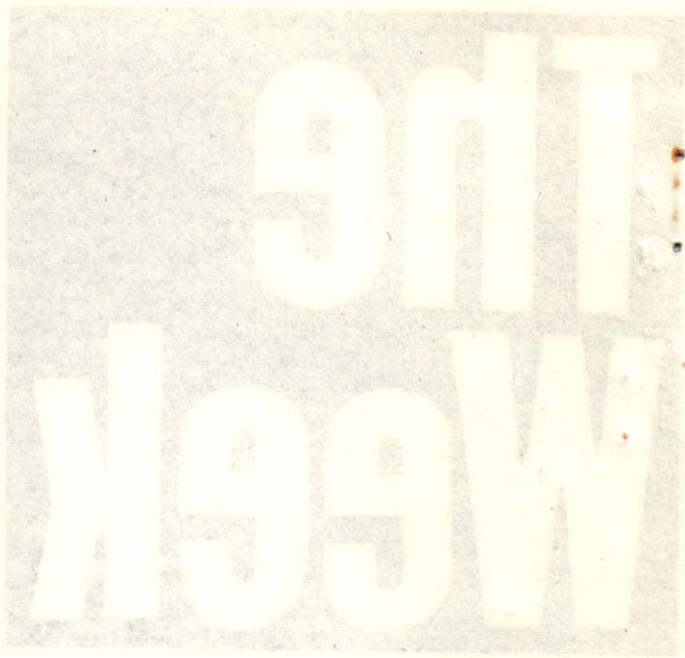
International
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THE BUSMEN

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A NEW ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS
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THE BUSMEN

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EDITORIAL

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SUPPORT THE BUSMEN :

Everything indicates that the Government has chosen its battle-ground for the imposition of a new wage freeze: the Financial Times (24/1/68) reports: "The Ministry of Labour made it clear yesterday that Nottingham Corporation will not be allowed to go ahead with its plans to increase the pay of the city's 1,250 bus drivers and conductors by £1 a week from February 4. However the Government will delay using its pay 'freeze' powers...until it knows the result of tomorrow's conference of busmen's delegates..." At the time of writing the outcome of this conference is not known and elsewhere in this issue we have an extended examination of the busmen's case. The logic of the situation is very clear: the battle over the busmen's pay award is of vital importance to all trade unionists and socialists. The whole apparatus of the Government, the press, the right-wing trade union leaders, etc., will be mounted against the busmen just because they want a living wage. The Government seems to want to choose the case of the busmen to teach the unions generally a lesson. By mobilising support at all levels, by creating solidarity committees, by organising meetings for the busmen to explain their case, by using all the journals of the left in this fight, and many other steps, the left can instead help teach the Government a lesson.

RIGHT WING POLICIES DESTROY DEMOCRACY

The right wing has always justified its policies by calling itself democratic. They have said that the aims of the left may be alright in theory but that the drastic changes which the left advocates could not be brought about democratically. A more gradual ^{approach}; the right wing have argued, is therefore necessary. We have learned that this gradualism is so gradual that usually ends up by going backwards. Moreover, during the process, democracy becomes one of the first victims. This experience has again been repeated in the recent events in Parliament.

It is the M.P.s who abstained who are most consistent with Labour principles, to the election programmes of 1964 and the 1966 General Election. Yet the fact that they took the mild step of abstaining is most likely to lead to them being suspended from the Parliamentary Labour Party. There is no justification whatsoever for this step: by no conceivable stretch of the imagination was the Government's majority threatened -- the Tories abstained, with only 9 Liberal votes against. (In fact we feel that the abstainers would have done much better to have voted against.)

The left M.P.s should stick to their guns and all those loyal to Labour Party policies and decisions should support them. The fact that the right wing is in confusion over the discipline issue should encourage everyone to fight all the harder. Harold Wilson is not so omnipotent after all.

THE TRANSPLANTED HEART

by Charles van Gelderen.

The latest news from South Africa is the fact that Dr. Philip Blaiberg will shortly be returning home. In his white breast will be beating the heart of a coloured man, Mr. Clive Haupt. In almost any other country in the world this would simply be hailed as a triumphant advance in surgery, but happening, as it did, in the Republic of South Africa with its vicious apartheid laws it raises many important issues. As Dee Wells wrote in her column in the Sun ;

"The owner of that heart was someone that few white South Africans would want to drink, swim, dance or walk around the block with. No white South African could have married him. A white South African could have refused a blood donation from him. By law it is a white South African's right to insist on receiving only white blood.

As no insanity is too great for South Africa, black blood banks (sic) and white blood banks (sic) are kept separate for that reason.

They have passed a rats nest full of filthy laws to keep coloured people in what they believe is their rightfully inferior place. They cannot go to white peoples' schools, live in their neighbourhoods, qualify for their jobs, vote in their elections, or even use the same lavatory. The man whose heart was used was not good enough, not advanced enough, not far enough in the evolutionary ladder for any of that. Only his heart, it seems, is good enough."

When Mr. Clive Haupt collapsed on the beach, a special coloured ambulance had to take him to the hospital. If a "white" ambulance had been summoned in error, it would have turned back without its patient. He would have been left to die where he lay. His coloured body was only allowed into a white hospital after death—because part of it was wanted to keep a white man alive. One cannot help wondering what would have happened if it was a coloured man waiting for a heart and a 'suitable' white donor was found?

Other relevant questions spring to mind. This heart transfer marks a great advance in the science of medicine. Yet, in this same Republic of South Africa, where this modern miracle was achieved, the infant mortality for the black population is 200-300 per 1000, for coloureds 121.7 per 1000, and for Asiatics 56.3 per 1000. This in a country going through an unprecedented boom and whose white population enjoys one of the highest standards of living in the world.

Another nagging question persists. The present rulers of South Africa are openly-declared admirers of Nazism and its racial theories. Prime Minister Vorster was imprisoned during the war for his pro-German sympathies. They regard all dark-skinned people as lesser beings, just as Hitler regarded the Jews, Slavs and Gypsies. The 'medical experiments' which were carried out on members of these communities in the Nazi concentration camps are now part of history.

No-one will accuse Professor Barnard and his team of being willing to follow such a vile path. But can any coloured south African who meets with an accident or suffers a stroke, and whose tissue make-up makes him or her a suitable donor for an expectant white recipient be sure that every effort will be made to save his life?

continued over.

The Transplanted heart- continued.

These fears may be groundless but the Republic of South Africa is the only country in the world which enshrines racial discrimination in its laws. It has persecuted scientists like Dr. Raymond Hoffenberg (who in fact was one of the pioneers in the research which led to the successful heart transplant), and Dr. Edward Roux. This is hardly the sort of climate in which 'pure science' can flourish.

A LETTER FROM HUGO BLANCO

from John Edmunds

The following letter was received by the Committee for Solidarity with the Victims of Repression in Peru:

"I write to you with deepest gratitude for your campaign against my death sentence, part of the world-wide activity which stopped me being murdered. The Lima committee has given my family the Christmas gifts which we know you contributed towards. Mrs. Rosa Alarco has taken special care in distributing your gifts, as she is concerned with political prisoners. As I understand that handicraft goods made by me can be sold for the purpose of helping this campaign, I have sent sets of hand-printed cards designed by me here in The Fronton ("The grim San Lorenzo Island prison, in Peru, where Hugo Blanco is serving a sentence of 25 years) "Fortunately, I overcame the obstacles in carrying out this work.

"I would like to know from you the possibility of selling more cards. Besides the letters you receive from the Lima Committee, I send you the following news: Comrade Eduardo Creus encloses two articles, one referring to my co-prisoners; and the other to the case of Cartolin and Molina." (No articles were enclosed when the letter reached London) "We have just heard that in Abancay" (A district in Peru's central highlands) "two active peasant union leaders: Juna Villegas and Dionisio Salinas have been arrested. As they could not be tried for 'union work' - work which is recognised by the state - they were arrested on charges of working against 'The public peace and security of the state.' Their names must, therefore, be added to the list of political prisoners. I can report that their spirit is unbroken by prison life.

"Today" (the letter was dated 5th January, 1968) "Peru's 'Miss World' arrived in Lima after her visit to Vietnam, where she entertained American troops. There was a demonstration in Lima against her servile attitude of collaboration with the imperialist aggressors; rotten eggs were thrown at her, and leaflets, supporting the Vietnamese people, were distributed. The Guardia de Asalto (a special tough anti-riot police) brutally pushed back the demonstrators, wounding many, and eight students were imprisoned. That is all for today.

Hugo Blanco"

ANOTHER C.B.R.-TYPE STRUGGLE?

from an industrial correspondent

Attempts to black the tent-making firm of J.R. Clapham and Sons, Bedale, Yorkshire, are being made by the National Union of Agricultural Workers following a breakdown of negotiations with the firm over accepting union labour. Last month nine men were sacked because they refused to withdraw union membership. The other 30 members of the firm signed a form pledging non-union membership - although the NAUW claims that 17 of these are still members of the union.

Pressure is now mounting from municipal busmen throughout the country for some form of national action to back their demand for £1 a week pay rise. A national strike seems to be widely favoured, although a decision has yet to be taken. The pressure has proved to be too much for Nottingham Corporation - hard-hit by earlier strike action - which has decided to pay the £1 a week, which the Prices and Incomes Board has seen fit to reject. The corporation has made it clear that present rates of pay do not attract sufficient staff. The Government, however, has apparently chosen (see editorial) to force the issue by vetoing the award, thus risking a showdown with the busmen. It has apparently taken this position because it believes that it is likely to win a victory and demoralise opposition to the wage freeze.

No one, however, should doubt the capacity of the busmen to sustain a struggle. In November, 1966, busmen in Hull held out alone for seven weeks (their employer was a subsidiary of the British Electric Traction Company, a vast monopoly, now nationalised with very attractive rates of compensation.) During the recent actions by municipal busmen, London busmen held collections in support. Let us hope that in the event of a renewed struggle - this time in direct conflict with the Government - that wide sections of the labour movement will rally round. The busmen, just as the seamen were in 1966, are ready to fight; they should not fight alone against the Government with its allies in the press and the mass media.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

by George Cunvin

Whenever constituency parties try to draw their MPs' attention to party policy on Vietnam, Polaris submarines, etc., they are told: "Oh! we don't represent the party in the house but the whole electorate. Our actions are guided by the policies we were elected on."

Well, at least one M.P. must be having some grim twinges of conscience. In a last minute campaign leaflet, Renee Short told the voters of Wolverhampton North-East that if the Tories were returned rents would rise and prescription charges would be restored. The food pricing system would be destroyed "by our crawling into the Common Market". "Mr. Heath has stated that he will create unemployment again to solve the economic crisis." The voters of Wolverhampton - and most of the country, were well aware of these dangers should the Tories get back to power. That is why they voted Labour! Now where are they?

AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTSTUDENT VIETNAM CONFERENCE

from Peter Smith

There will be a conference of students from Northern universities who have been active in the Vietnam movement on the week end of 27-28 January, 1968, at the Students' Union, Sheffield University. The convening body, Sheffield University Vietnam Action Group, urge those students planning to attend to arrive by 5.30 p.m. on Friday, 26th January, and join the Sheffield Vietnam Committee, Tenants' organisations, miners and others who are arranging a welcome for Harold Wilson when he attends a dinner at the City Hall to celebrate 40 years of Labour rule in Sheffield. Speakers taking part in the conference will be from national vietnam organisations, students groups and the Stop-It Committee. For information write: Ed Guiton, 6, Victoria Rd., Sheffield 10.

One Labour M.P. is reported as saying: "Those who abstained have probably done less harm than those who are now screaming for blood." To these latter, I would also add those who voted for the Government.

The main point about an opposition group would be that most of Wilson's excuses as to why he should take instructions from the international bankers, and the excuses of those who implicitly accept his case, is that these excuses are a load of nonsense. They are derived from a basic acceptance of mixed economy philosophy, together with the dictum that Labour can get much more from the workers in time of crisis than the Tories.

Hugh Jenkins is reported as saying that such an opposition group would be able to espouse those causes it holds dear, and possibly have an effect on the Government. He went on to say "that the formation of such a group presupposes the loss of the next general election and the collapse of the Labour Party as a coherent political force. It would be, in fact, a policy of despair. I therefore reject it unless it proves unavoidable."

This last point seems to have been written completely ignoring the frustration and apathy shown in the CLPs and the by-election results. It would be clear that if one believed that Wilson was trying his hardest to steer towards socialist policies and only Heath and Zurich Gnomes were stopping him, that a vote of confidence should obviously be given to him.

The abstentions on Thursday have put the Government in a quandary. The measures Silkin put forward were obviously designed to crush the abstaining M.P.s, but they also provided a very useful opportunity for the left M.P.s to turn round and fight to form a viable opposition group, recognisable as such, within the Parliamentary Labour Party.

Every abstaining M.P. must feel the ineffectiveness of their action. It is certainly difficult to see any concrete outcome from them. This has meant that taken with Wilson's "call to the nation", their opposition has borne no fruit at all. While it is certain that deep-seated loyalty of the labour movement exists, it is also true that there is a lot of general discontent and, more particular, lots come from the hardened backbone of the working class, who can see through Wilson and the T.U.C. leadership, and yet who have no viable alternative to which to give their support.

It is this chance that Silkin has now given to the left M.P.s, those who abstained and those who didn't but who are known to oppose Wilson's policies. Wilson's feat of calling a General Election makes very little sense; he surely does not think that the Tories would vote for him because of his attacks on the workers. Even if this were the case, it would be even more important that opposition to Wilson should be clarified around a programme and that a useful number of M.P.s be able to put it across at every opportunity up and down the country.

But it is because the next general election holds very little hope and because the Labour support is collapsing that some-one needs to get up and say "No!, this is not what Labour stands for!" If this is done in a loud and clear way, after 3½ years of Wilsonism it may be that the electorate will give the Labour Party another chance in 3½ years.

The rally at Shanklin Road to mark the end of the historic 9 month lock-out at the C.B.R. Jersey Mills, Brighton, was attended by some 200 people, mainly local trade unionists and students from Sussex University.

It was an orderly affair, which had been timed to catch the change of shift at the factory where men were dismissed for joining a union in order to resist the intolerable conditions and a 72 hour week at half union rates. However, the management changed the time of the shift change and the scabs missed the full benefit of the occasion.

The rally marched into Brighton to hold an open-air meeting which was addressed by speakers from local organisations which had supported the picket even after the strike had become unofficial when the union leadership of the N.U. H.K.W. did a deal with the company. The only incident of the day occurred here: a couple of Conservatives -- a councillor and his wife -- attempted to wave a banner calling for trade unionists to 'turn to the Tories'. The roar of disapproval made it clear that none of those familiar with the practice of C.B.R. would fall for that, and the banner was soon destroyed following a scuffle in which a student was alleged to have been assaulted by two policemen. It appears that the policemen concerned refused to give their names. The significance of this lies in the fact that the police in this area have dropped the practice of wearing numbers. This has caused a good deal of resentment among local trade unionists.

The most encouraging feature of the dispute was the spirit in which it was ended. The Lock-out Committee issued a statement recording its decision to terminate the dispute and its thanks to all those in the labour movement who had helped the pickets and who had contributed towards the appeal fund which raised £1,600. Prominent here were the Brighton Trades Council and the students of Sussex University. In the view of the Committee, the very fact that there was a protest was itself a major achievement, even though it failed to secure recognition.

After referring to the scale of the campaign -- involving 41 weeks of activity, the issuing of 200,000 leaflets and the organizing of innumerable meetings and demonstrations, the Committee makes some interesting conclusions in its statement.

"We know now that there is no effectual remedy for a 72 hour week at half union rates," the Committee says, "which must therefore be regarded as a normal part of working conditions under the present economic and political order. The lock-out has also proved that Britain's ratification of I.L.O. Conventions No.87 and 98 does not mean that they are fulfilled in practice. C.B.R. is now operating a minimum 72 hour week and we are still locked out..."

"The present economic and political order needs to be changed. Even under a Labour Government, we cannot believe that the working class is in power, for if it were the C.B.R. lock-out would never have happened, or would soon have been over.

"In common with the other historic disputes of 1967, at Roberts-Arundel and the Barbican, the men in dispute at C.B.R. had occasion to criticize their

own union. It appears that working people are prepared to put up longer and harder fights than the Union organizations will support. Trade Unions are the natural unity of people at work; the formal organization should be only an offshoot.

"If we had more democratic means for stating our views within the NUHKW, we need not have been so openly critical. We are grateful to the NUHKW for its general financial support for 8 months. We were glad to hear of the superior condition offered by the NUHKW, and were glad to join it. We regret, as does the Union, that legislation does not exist to protect the membership we made. In the present situation, we believe a Union must be militant, that is, using methods of opposition. We believe that a fight on principle requires involving people in wider issues. We have bought one share each in C.B.R. Jersey Holdings, and will state our case at the AGM of C.B.R. in March.

"For us, the C.B.R. lock-out has been a profound experience. We have understood the limitations which keep British Labour in an oppressed condition. We have felt deep loyalties of Trade Union solidarity. Against the bonds of exploitation and victimization, the giant of Trade Union national militancy is breaking into action. We propose to set up, after January 19th, a Committee to Support Trade Union Rights; in order to establish and defend Trade Union rights at all workplaces in Brighton. The remaining balance of the C.B.R. Appeal Fund will be made over to the Fighting Fund of the Committee.

"Towards a United Trade Union Movement, and Justice for the Working People in Britain !"

*Anyone able to help in this campaign should write to Mike Taylor, 7, Sillwood Place, Brighton.

WHEN THE WATER BOILS, THE SCUM... from Geoff. Crossick

It is not only at times of crisis that we have the gratification of watching industrialists and business men contorting themselves in public before finally making no further attempts to disguise self-interest as some more laudable motive. Charlie van Gelderen gave us an example in a recent issue of The Week. A letter to The Times last week provided another. It opened: "Representing as we do many hundreds of millions of pounds of British capital invested in Malaysia and Singapore we are most concerned about the contemplated early withdrawal of Britain's military presence from these countries."

It then continued in a more appropriate vein, referring to democracy, honour, self-respect, desertion of friends, and so on. Then it closed: "...This is essential for the continued prosperity not only of that area but also of our commercial and industrial activities there with resulting advantage to the United Kingdom." The letter was signed, M.D. Farrow, Chairman, Rubber Growers Association, and Douglas Waring, Chairman, Malayan Chamber of Mines, London.

It's not often we are given such explicit statements. Thank you very much.

VIETNAM SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN

from David Robinson.

New Date for Solidarity Demonstration - Sunday, March 17th.

It is unfortunate that one of the organisations invited to the meeting on January 11th to plan a mass demonstration next March took the opportunity to book Trafalgar Square on March 24th with no prior consultation with other anti-war groups. The chairman of this organisation, Y.C.N.D., attended the Vietnam Ad Hoc Committee on January 18th but was unable to accept our invitation to cooperate with the Ad Hoc Committee. Therefore the committee agreed to alter the date of our solidarity demonstration to Sunday, March 17th. We have booked Trafalgar Square for this date and a mass rally is planned for 2.30 p.m. followed by a march to the American Embassy via Dow Chemicals, the main manufacturers of napalm. A number of small actions are planned during the preceding weeks to publicise March 17th.

There will be an Ad Hoc Committee meeting and a work party every Thursday evening at Toynbee Hall, Commercial St., E.1., starting at 7.30 p.m. The printed leaflets, stickers and posters will be available on Thursday, February 1st. The following week, on February 8th, we will be showing a film made by a Japanese investigating team which visited North Vietnam last year.

Change of Address. During the period up to the March 17th demonstration the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign and the Vietnam Ad Hoc Committee will be operating from an office at 8, Toynbee St., London, E.1. Telephone BIS 9845. All correspondence should be sent to this address.

Trade Union Conference. Full details of the conference, including agenda, proposals for future action etc. will be available next week. The coordination of this conference has been taken over by Mike Martin who has done a great deal of work in the past for Humberstone Voice. Woolwich Trades Council will be sending four delegates, we would like full details of those intending to take part as soon as possible.

V.S.C. Medical Aid Fund. The Edinburgh branch of V.S.C. recently had a most successful flag day for the Medical Aid Fund. £160 was collected and this could easily have been improved upon if more collectors had been available. We still have a large number of collecting tin labels and small paper N.L.F. flags for this purpose and would suggest this type of activity for any local group wanting to publicise its activities as well as making a positive contribution to the Vietnamese people.

Australia and New Zealand in Vietnam.

A Teach-in has been organised by A.N.Z.A.W.V., one of the groups supporting the Vietnam Ad Hoc Committee, on Saturday, January 27th. It will be held in the Friends House, Euston Rd., N.W.1, from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. Speakers include Eric Hobsbawm, Peter Worsley, Paul Ostreicher, Steven Rose and Robin Gollin. The chairman will be Kenneth Lee and invitations to speak have been sent to the High Commissioners for Australia and New Zealand; the Minister for South Vietnam and the Ambassador for Cambodia. It is intended that an ongoing organisation should be formed at the end of the discussion. Those interested in the group should contact John Roberts, 45 Norland Sq., W.11.

PRESSURE TO DISAFFILIATE IN D.A.T.A. from a D.A.T.A. correspondent

There are three motions on the agenda of the meeting of the Representative Council of the Draughtsmen's and Allied Technician's Association, to be held in Scarborough, April 22-26, which call for "the union to disaffiliate from the Labour Party.

Devon General merely calls for the Representative Council to agree "that D.A.T.A. be no longer affiliated to any political party." Oxford branch, however, calls for the political levy funds to be used "to participate in any political activity which is in line with D.A.T.A. policy." London South East propose : that payments into the central funds of the Labour Party be withheld for one year. An ironical follow-up to these resolutions is one from Dublin branch calling for branches in the Irish Republic to be free to affiliate to the Irish Labour Party "so that they may have an effective way in which to press D.A.T.A. policies and aims on the political front."

The resolutions from Devon, Oxford and London South East would require a two-thirds majority before becoming policy because, in effect, they call for a change in rule. All changes in rule in D.A.T.A. require such a majority before becoming operative. Not that the resolutions are likely to get a very large vote at all: the leadership of the union takes a very different line, despite its opposition to the policies of the Wilson Government. This was expressed in the December issue of D.A.T.A. Journal, the organ of the union. In a strongly-argued editorial opposing Joe Gormley's idea of forming a new political party, the editors argued "Now for the first time in the history of the British trade union movement there is a prospect of a stable majority for more radical policies. This is the significance of the recent election of Hugh Scanlon as the president of the A.E.U. In Britain's two largest unions, the TGWU and the AEU, the membership have shown they favour a leadership critical of the Government's economic policies."

There are interesting motions on the question of industrial democracy on the agenda too. Port Talbot "endorses the Labour Party document on industrial democracy and calls for legislation for its early application to all industry..." The motion also calls for the "right to inspect books" to be made law. Bristol No. 2 calls upon industrial democracy to be introduced into publicly owned industries "by providing for representative councils consisting of delegates from trade unions and Government departments." Two other branches call for workers' participation in mergers (Greenock) and profit-making (Preston). No doubt many criticisms could be made of the wording and line of these motions but the most important thing is that the idea of workers' democracy is catching on.

Readers of The Week will note with interest that one motion on Vietnam - from Coventry Central - says (1) that the same economic interests which are responsible for the US policy in Vietnam are eroding the living standards of the working people of Britain; and (2) that conference should "pledge solidarity with the people of Vietnam and...support any organisation campaigning on a platform of solidarity with the people of Vietnam." The other motion of Vietnam, from Ealing branch, is also militant, calling for complete withdrawal of American bases and forces in Great Britain.

The agenda certainly indicates that D.A.T.A. will continue to be in the forefront of the struggle against the right wing policies of the Government.

INTERNATIONAL VIETNAM YOUTH CONFERENCE

The following letter has been sent to all radical youth movements in Europe:

"As can be seen from the attached call (published separately) the undersigned organisations call on all socialist youth organisations and groups to participate at the international Vietnam conference. The call is a result of the "Conference of Brussels", a loose confederation of European left socialist youth organisations. At the last SDS conference the representatives of participants in the Conference of Brussels decided upon an international meeting in Berlin. At a meeting in Frankfurt on 30th December, 1967, the call was drafted and the programme of the conference was decided.

The call will be sent to all European left-socialist and communist youth organisations; moreover, several Asian, African and Latin-American student organisations will be invited. From the third world and North America we anticipate some delegates.

The conference starts on Saturday, 17th February, at 11.00 a.m. The following subjects will be discussed:

11.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. The Vietnamese Revolution
3.00 p.m. - 9.00 p.m. Latin America and the Vietnamese Revolution.

The anti-imperialist struggle and anti-capitalist struggle in the capitalist countries.

For the reports the following speakers are expected:

Kurt Steinhaus, Jeannette Habel, a representative of the FNL, a representative of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party, Ernest Mandel, Gaston Salvatore, Rudi Dutschke and representatives of different foreign delegations.

On Saturday evening films on the Vietnamese and Latin American revolution will be shown.

Sunday morning small groups of delegations will have co-ordinating talks. In the afternoon a mass meeting will take place to which J.P. Sartre, L. Basso, P. Weiss, R. Dutschke, a representative of SNCC and a member of the Cuban Central Committee of the Communist Party are expected.

A demonstration for the victory of the Vietnamese Revolution will close the conference.

Please write to us by the 25th of January at the latest whether and with how many people you will participate.

Travelling expenses will have to be met by the participants. Accommodation will be arranged by the SDS in Berlin.

Please publicise this conference as much as possible in your country.

Posters advertising the conference are available.

The Secretariat of the International Vietnam Conference.

TEXT OF CALL FOR THE INTERNATIONAL VIETNAM CONFERENCE

The struggle of the Vietnamese people is fundamental for the international labour movement. A decisive confrontation between international revolution and counter-revolution is taking place in Vietnam. Imperialism, supported by its own international organisations all over the world (e.g. NATO) is trying desperately to prove that it is capable of annihilating every revolutionary movement. The victory of the Vietnamese people would mean a most valuable encouragement to all revolutionary movements that are now fighting against imperialism and its accomplices. The task of every revolutionary is not to ask for a compromising peace but to work with all his strength for the victory of the Vietnamese revolution.

Imperialism is aiming through its aggression in Vietnam, Latin America, Greece, etc., to change the international relationship of forces in its own favour. It is trying to put an end to the development of the world-revolution and to endanger the conquests of the labour movement. The task of revolutionary youth organisations all over the world is to attack imperialism in every place and with all means in order to weaken the international counter-revolution.

The American aggression against Vietnam is a direct concern of the European working class in its fight for socialism. Because of this, Western Europe must not become a tranquil zone for imperialism but must become a decisive field for anti-capitalist and anti-imperialist struggle. The European working class movement and the vanguard socialist youth movement have decisive tasks of international importance; the present objectives of this battle are:

- the fight against the Atlantic Pact and NATO;
- the intensification of class struggle which must refuse every form of integration of the socialist movement and must pose the problem of the conquest of power;
- the combatting of social-democratic ideology which plays the role of accomplice to imperialism and which neutralises the socialist movement.

The OLAS conference has built up a revolutionary strategy of armed struggle for Latin America. OLAS represents a fundamental help to the Vietnamese revolution and to all those who oppose imperialism and who have not abandoned the objectives of socialist world revolution. This strategy is expressed in Guevara's words: "Let us create two, three or more Vietnams." This conception revives effectively the idea of proletarian internationalism. All organisations that have decided to fight against imperialism must build a united front to obtain the final victory of the Vietnamese revolution. It is for this reason that the undersigned organisations have decided to organise an international meeting and demonstration in West Berlin on February 17/18, 1968. They call on all youth organisations which agree with this appeal to take part in the meeting and demonstration.

Signed: Belgium: Jeune Garde Socialiste Belge, Etudiants Socialistes Belges; Italy: Federazione Giovanile Socialista (PSIUP), Falcemartello; France: Etudiants Socialistes Unifiés, Jeunesse Communiste Révolutionnaire; Great Britain: Vietnam Solidarity Campaign, Rebel, Mitcham LPYS; Holland: Politeia; West Germany: Sozialistischer Deutscher Studentenbund.

Editorial note: For further information write to International Vietnam Conference, c/o Gerhart Rott, 1 Berlin 30, Keithstr. 36/8, Germany.

The discussion in the Communist Party's daily paper, the Morning Star, which was sparked off by an editorial criticising the way the Soviet authorities handled the writers' trial, has continued. Several points of interest have arisen.

It would appear that the editorial represented a thought-out line taken by the leadership of the Communist Party. This is indicated by the fact that well-known Communist Party writers such as Maurice Dobb (one of the party's main philosophers) and Margot Heineman, are pitching in on the side of the editorial. Of special significance is the letter by John Hostettler, one of the party's main legal experts, in which he makes a systematic examination of how the Soviet authorities have broken the USSR's legal procedures in the conduct of the trial. (Editorial note: because of its special interest we have reproduced Mr. Hostettler's letter). Mr. Hostettler is no oppositionist - at the last party congress he was elected to be in charge of the appeals machinery of the CPGB, a post always reserved for the loyalest of the loyal.

The discussion has widened out to include theoretical questions and the thorny problem of socialists' attitude towards the leadership of the Soviet Union and the Soviet Union itself. Chris Chapman, of Sheffield, raises the point that because the Soviet Union has been in existence for 50 years "it should be possible for criticism of the Soviet Union to be published within that country without causing any effect on the stability of the state." Several writers point out that it is wrong to assume that the writers had connections with the CIA and NTS just because the Soviet authorities claim this to be so. In an extremely interesting letter, Brian Blain, of North London, replying to a point made by a Communist Councillor in South Wales, Bill Waters, dismisses the idea that the Central Committee of the CPSU would prevent injustices happening. He adds: "They certainly haven't in the past, and the international Communist movement is still paying a heavy price in disunity of the Left for those terrible years of the '30s and '40s." He concludes: "Surely the most obvious fact is that if there were real freedom of expression in the USSR, the ground would be cut completely from under the feet of the NTS and CIA..."

Hyman Levy, who left the Communist Party in 1957 after the disclosures about the treatment of Soviet Jews, argues that the trial can only be explained "in the existence of an internal struggle...between those seeking to retain intact the apparatus of internal power that was deemed necessary at the earlier stage of Soviet struggle and those who...are striving to replace the outdated apparatus, and its outdated bureaucracy, by one capable of expressing the new socialist freedom."

Charles Swain, of Cardiff, seeks a "principled theoretical basis for the assertions made on either side." He notes that the "withering away of the state idea of Marx and Engels doesn't seem to be starting, and no provision for any expression of political opposition, either now or in any programme for the future, seems to occur to the leaders of the USSR."

By contrast, those defending the Soviet Union's leaders, merely reiterate that the Morning Star is helping reaction by criticising the Soviet Union. It is strange that the leaders of the CPGB are now having levelled at their head the very charge that they made against those who stood out against the Moscow trials. There is an important lesson here.