

# Workers' fight

3p

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Jenkins' false amnesty trick —

## WHAT AN OUTRAGE

THE extreme limitations of Labour's so-called 'amnesty' for 'illegal' immigrants are shown up in the first report of its operation.

And so is the Labour

Government's unlimited cynicism.

Three quarters of the 'illegal' immigrants who gave themselves up under the Home Office 'amnesty' and whose cases have been examined are billed for deportation.

Out of 667 immigrants to "surrender", only 90 have had their cases examined. Of the 90, only 21 have been allowed to stay.

Only about 1% of 'illegal' immigrants have given themselves up — and so far, before even a quarter of the cases have been examined, 69 have been told they will be deported. According to Liberal politician Lord Avebury, some of those now subject to possible deportation have been in Britain for over five years.

This is a disgusting trap baited by the Labour Government. It must declare the amnesty to be total. It has tantalisingly dangled before one of the most oppressed, most insecure, and most exploited sections of society, the bait, not of privilege, but of simple freedom from fear, harassment, and a life of hiding... only to use it to deport our black brothers.

This outrage must draw the angriest response from the working class. Labour must be told: Free them all. They are all our brothers.

of keeping wages static for 12 months while prices rise by perhaps 20%.

Whether the TUC's policy — and its ability or lack of ability to make it stick — will satisfy the bosses is another matter.

So, in order to try to stop the looming "autumn wages explosion", we may well see the Labour Government adopting a fierce Tory-style legal wage curb. All in the national interest, of course... just like the Tory freezes!

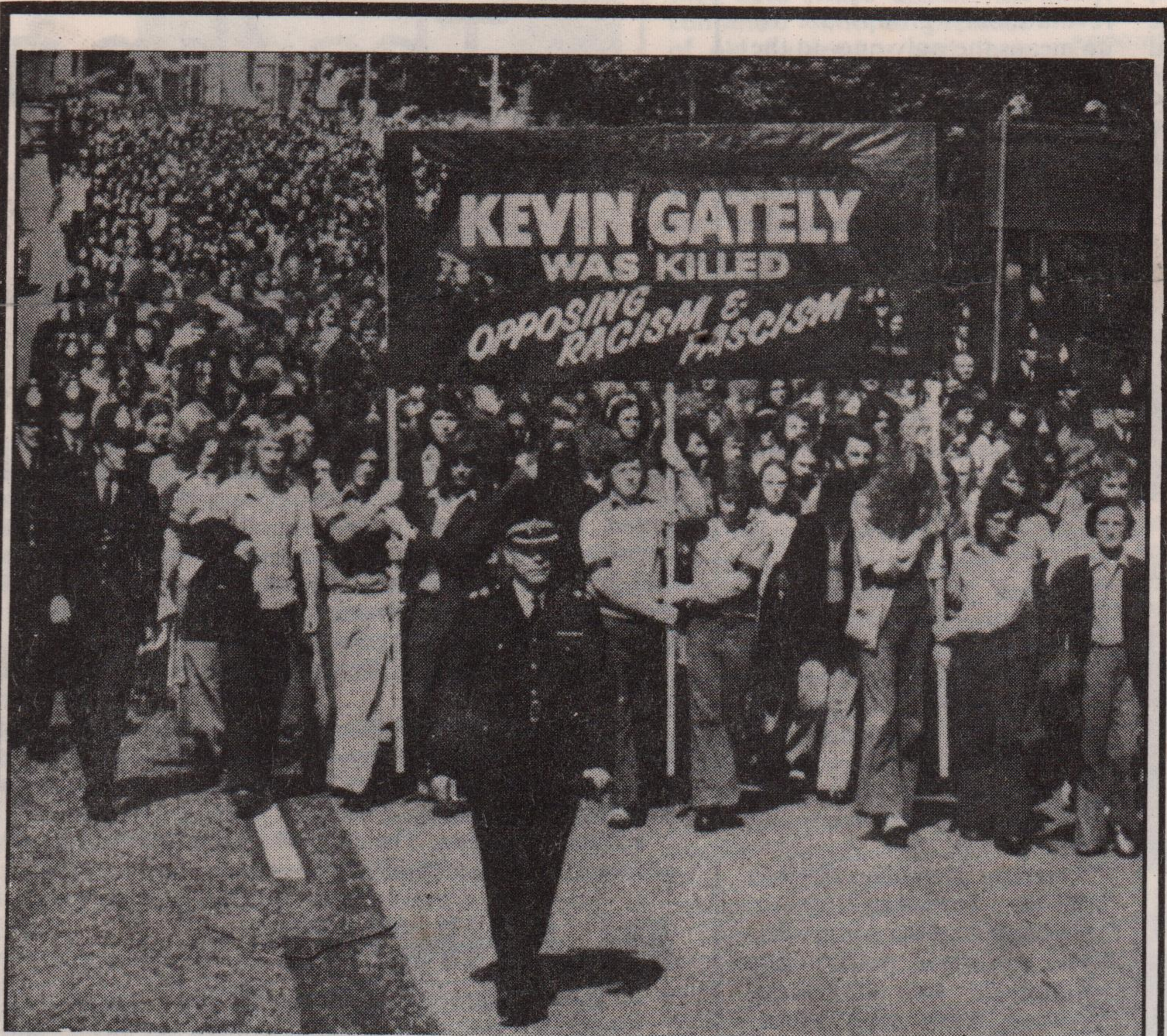
### POLICY

A realistic wages policy for the labour movement must therefore include these points:

—Opposition to any wage restraint under capitalism; readiness to use direct action to smash any legal wage freeze;

—for automatic, legally-binding, open-ended, zero-threshold clauses, whose benefits are continuously consolidated into the basic rate. For a National Minimum Wage of £30, increasing automatically to keep pace with the cost of living. For this National Minimum to apply also to pensions, grants, and other fixed benefits.

# Smash the Social Contract-trick



## Strong protest from student unions, but Trade Unions silent

10,000 people joined a silent march called by the National Union of Students in protest against the killing of Kevin Gately, who died, after police charged an anti-fascist demonstration on June 15th.

Many trade unionists joined the march, but top TUC leaders have been entirely silent on the killing — and in fact on the whole question of the National Front. The lessons of history show that fascism, when it has gained in strength and power, strikes its most deadly blows at the labour movement.

But the leaders of the labour movement ignore the fascist peril. Thus the task of inquiring into Kevin Gately's death will be left to a tribunal appointed by the government and headed by a judge.

This is called 'independent', though it would be difficult to find a single judge in Britain who is not of right-wing Tory views.

There has been no move from the union leaderships for a trade union inquiry.

If the TUC leadership took a simple decision to mobilise hundreds of

thousands of trade unionists to stop the National Front — as it could — it would not only prevent the two further demonstrations to be called in London this year by the NF; it would send the fascists scurrying back to their holes for a long time. And probably without any need for any violence, too.

Until the union leadership does take that decision, though, the responsibility for combatting fascism falls to the left; and we must not shirk it.

THE TUC's wages policy document, out on June 27th, beats loudly on the drum of the 'social contract'.

But already the tone is hollow and cracked. The reality of the working class fight-back against rising prices is shattering the Labour Government's schemes of social harmony.

Ray Buckton of the train drivers' union ASLEF supported the TUC document, which endorses the social contract. When presenting ASLEF's 16% claim just two days before, he had proclaimed that his members would not be "shackled by any compact entered into by the TUC and the Government".

No contradiction, he explained to the press... after all, "anomalies" had to be sorted out!

### SICK

Many other important unions have been or are being forced to tailor their demands to workers' needs rather than to the Labour Government's plans for relieving the sickness of British capitalism.

Electrical contracting workers have already won a 41% increase, and oil tanker drivers about 20%. The builders' union UCATT is pressing a 64% claim, and NALGO is demanding a 20% increase.

The NUM conference will meet next week to consider a claim with the background of the demands of the Scottish NUM charter for rises of up to £20.

None of these demands is any more than reasonable with prices rising at more than 15% per year. But they make nonsense of the Government's plans.

### CURBS

The social contract still has some bite. The decision of the annual conference of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, on June 26th, to postpone drawing up a new claim, was a victory for the social contract.

But the Labour Government undoubtedly knows very well that after Phase 3 goes, sometime in the middle of July, the capitalist class will require it to adopt some firmer wage curbs than are provided by TUC policy.

The policy says little more than this:

—"the scope for real increases in consumption at present is limited";

—"there should 'in general' be a 12-month interval between major increases;

—"priority should be given to achieving minimum standards, such as a £25 minimum wage;

—"support for the Conciliation and Arbitration service to be set up by the Government in September.

It is scandalous that trade union leaders should adopt such a servile policy when real living standards are actually falling. It is especially scandalous that they should adopt a policy

IN MEASURES described by The Guardian as "disturbingly similar to those enforced by the Caetano regime" the Portuguese Government has moved decisively to silence the revolutionary left press.

Indefinite detention, fines of up to thousands of pounds, and 60-day suspension of publication are the penalties just announced for a range of "offences" from incitement to strike and "ideological aggressions" against "the programme of the armed forces movement", to inciting disrespect for military laws and regulations, including conscription, or protesting against the continuing wars in Africa.

The appearance here of the phrase "programme of the armed forces movement" is part of a now familiar ritual. Those really ruling Portugal make it an offence to protest against the wars in Africa — and they do so in the name of a movement in the armed forces whose chief specific aim is the ending of those wars!

## Censorship

Five weeks ago, Observer reporter David Martin quoted some members of that movement in Mozambique. "The officers say Portugal's 13 years of war in Africa have cost 13,000 dead and 117,000 wounded. 'After that, if Spínola does not make peace, the Movement will take over. We will not lose the links we have established among us. Perhaps we should have really taken over in the first place.'"

This was no doubt dangerously overconfident, given the links established by the Junta with the top level and right wing of that movement. But the statement is a very succinct expression of the growing mood of rebelliousness in the army and navy.

Some soldiers have refused to board ships bound for Africa. Others, instead of deserting, are organising opposition in the barracks.

With soldiers already abandoning garrisons in Guinea Bissau and Mozambique without orders, open calls for desertion and insubordination could very easily link with the groundswell of discontent and opposition in the army.

Thus, as Spínola's faithful minister Soares threads his way through seemingly endless and thoroughly leisurely negotiations over the African wars, this gun is still held at Spínola's head. And it is to remove the powder from such a gun that the new censorship measures have been brought in.

## Tinder

In May, a mass meeting of army deserters put out a call to all military units now in Africa or about to be sent there, telling them to desert. The Maoist MRPP paper called for soldiers to desert with their arms.

In the situation of Portugal, such calls could ignite the loose tinder of explosive discontent.

So far, these demands have not yet been taken up on a mass scale by the other major force that threatens to stand in the way of Spínola's attempts to consolidate and normalise a right wing bourgeois democratic state set-up that is, the working class. Though it is very common to see soldiers and sailors at workers' meetings and demonstrations, workers have so far kept their demands to wages and questions of the control of industry — taking bold actions to remove the old Salazarist management.

But with mass conscription for 4 year stints, the army is a part of every worker's

# PORTUGAL IN THE JAWS OF THE TIGHTENING VICE

experience, and the war directly or indirectly touches every worker and his family. Gerry Foley writes in Intercontinental Press: "In the May Day demonstration it was clear that the masses of Portuguese people believed the war was almost over. Hundreds upon hundreds of thousands of persons were celebrating peace. But almost every day since that time the papers have carried lists of soldiers killed and wounded in the Portuguese colonies in Africa."

In a matter of weeks the call for immediate independence for the colonies, and for the immediate demobilisation of the army, could become the foremost demand of every worker, leading to a crisis in which the still-hollow regime could be swept off its feet. If industrial action against the war were to be taken up, it could spread like wildfire and paralyse the imperialist war effort.

Recognising this danger, the Government hastily gave

mass audience of 4,000 to 5,000 people, and their loud chants of "Power to the workers", "Long live proletarian internationalism" and (loudest of all) "Not a single soldier more for the colonies" were relayed at length on television.

When soldiers and sailors in uniform march through the streets carrying banners demanding 'Bring back the soldiers' and supporting the liberation movements of PAIGC, MPLA and FRELIMO, that is enough to worry a regime which, while pledged to end the wars, is dragging out negotiations to try to get every possible political, strategic and economic concession on behalf of NATO, of US imperialism and of the Portuguese capitalists with their vested interests in Africa.

The Communist Party, Spínola's indispensable ally in stabilising capitalism in Portugal, has its own fears, too. It emerged after the coup into a position of

conditions, and threatened to court-martial them if they continued their strike.

Goncalves, newly graduated from trade union leader, thinks that "starvation wages end up causing serious disturbances sooner or later." Starvation itself is of course OK, just so long as the "new governmental coalition (can) win the confidence of the great majority of the Portuguese people"...

Even before entering the government, the CP leaders made it clear that they would not permit the legal growth of parties to the left of themselves (though the revolutionary groups are by no means the only ones to the left of the CP. The SP are, in practice, far less right wing than the CP).

## Trotskyists

This is certainly not new. In Chile the CP members of the UP government urged the disarming of the workers' defence militias and selective repression against the left. In Spain in May 1937 they took the lead in armed clashes against the left, as it defended the continuation of independent workers' militias, and thereafter it entered into a wholesale campaign of murdering and imprisoning left anarchists, Trotskyists and the left centrist POUM. And in Vietnam in 1945-46 the CP slaughtered hundreds of Trotskyists for their opposition to the presence of British and French troops in Vietnam.

Over the years the CP has built up a remarkable system of rationalisations and double talk, ready made for adaptation to any local situation. While their verbal attacks are ostensibly directed at the Right, they are constructed so as to justify bashing the left.

## Malice

On wages, the CP has a sophisticated version of the 'national interest' argument. Unlike Britain, where we're always being told that the 'nation' is everybody but the Red Wreckers, in Portugal 'the nation' is everybody but the fascists, reactionaries and big bosses. So peeved are they by being verbally excluded from the great patriotic nation that they apparently set out to wreck the 'national economy' from which the CP's magic wand has eliminated them, and they've been doing this by cunningly paying out big wage increases out of their profit margins from sheer malice, and actually encouraging strikes against themselves.

## Chaos

It's clear that, according to this system of mental moonshine, anyone leading, inciting or encouraging a strike is "collaborating with the

of the bourgeois establishment — chaos, anarchy, political strikes, incitement to disaffection in the forces — are trundled out for the CP's inverted Red Scare. Thus "postal workers who went on strike have returned after the democratic forces pointed out the dangers of the reactionary forces exploiting chaos that could result."

There are not merely verbal attacks on strikes. The CP-controlled Intersindical, the beginnings of a trade union federation, does its best to block strikes. One group of workers demanding the resignation of the current administration of its factory for "incompetence and abusiveness", contacted the Intersindical — who sent along the police instead!

At FIAT, management told workers that its rejection of their demands was in compliance with a directive of the Ministry of Labour, the Council of Ministers and the Intersindical.

## Acrobatics

By another acrobatic piece of verbal sidestepping, any joint actions of workers and soldiers, or demands by workers for an end of the wars or the return of the troops, are terms by the CP "splitting the alliance between the masses of the people and the armed forces."

Such actions and slogans are, of course, aimed at bringing about a split. They are aimed at separating re:



Republican soldiers in Spain step over the bodies of the revolutionaries they and the Communist Party have slaughtered.

an elevenfold wage increase to troops serving in Portugal. But that may not be enough.

At all costs, Spínola and his government are seeking to keep apart the newly awakened workers and the increasingly disaffected soldiers.

The revolutionary socialists have, on the contrary, concentrated their efforts on developing a mass movement for immediate independence for the colonies. They have attracted to their demonstrations many thousands of workers and soldiers, and also immigrant African workers.

A joint meeting held by 4 revolutionary groups had a

unchallenged leadership of the working class. It claims to have recruited 100,000 new members. But, as it throws its whole weight against strikes and wage demands in defence of the "national economy" (ie capitalism) it is faced with the loss of its leadership to the militant left.

This is especially so because, in the absence of a well established bureaucratic trade union stratum, the class conflict is all the more open and naked — to the point where last week the CP Minister of Labour Goncalves conscripted into the armed forces the militant crews of 4 oil tankers on strike for higher wages and better

manoeuvres of the reactionary employers." One only has to "understand the real situation" (that is, one in which the class struggle is stood on its head) to see that the strike wave of May was a "first offensive of fascist reaction" where "the leftist groups exposed themselves in the sad role of a vanguard of reaction."

Looked at in this way, it's clear that all repression against the left is really against the Right!

All the traditional bogeys

# The thin end the Wedg

"MARXISM on the march", said Robert Carr. vi  
"Revolutionary schemes", cried employers' federation leader  
Ralph Bateman. A matter of "Enabling the private sector in a  
mixed economy to work effectively and responsibly", Br  
according to Harold Wilson. No call for hysteria; the need for  
change must be accepted — in the opinion of Don Ryder, th  
chairman of Reed International, one of the 20 giant firms ne  
listed for greater public accountability. Gr

What do Wedgwood Benn's proposals on industry in fact ha  
say? is

"So far", as Harold Wilson put it, "no specific proposals are fo  
before us". The ideas in Benn's "Current Work Programme of pu  
the Department of Industry" are therefore just ideas, not hard sp  
policies. What they say is this: Gr

1. Nationalisation. The aircraft and shipbuilding industries rai  
are listed for nationalisation. an

## PLANNING

2. Planning agreements. Financial aid to major companies ca  
— currently running at about £2 million per day — should be th:  
linked to planning agreements, decided between employers, ov  
government, and union. These planning agreements would di  
include such things as increased investment and development na  
of new technologies, and investment in areas of high is  
unemployment. we

3. A National Enterprise Board is to be formed on the basis th  
of existing Government holdings, with the possibility of mi  
acquiring an interest in further firms (not industries). It might  
also set up public corporations in monopolised industries with  
a view to providing competition with the big private int  
companies. pr

4. Public accountability. The proposals are vague on this  
point. Benn promises to "open the books" on the £3075  
million public subsidies paid to big business since 1971. In  
addition, he sees for the unions an "intimate consultative  
relationship over the whole field of industrial policy".

The TUC's proposals for 50% trade union representation "r  
on company boards dovetail in here. me

Very little of the Tory criticism has actually been directed at  
these proposals. There have been no voices from the aircraft  
or shipbuilding industry in the loud chorus against  
nationalisation. ce

The fact is that the aircraft and shipbuilding industries are  
only just limping along with large Government aid and almost  
total reliance on Government orders. The powerful  
shareholders would probably be very happy to have their  
ailing firms taken off their hands in return for the usual  
generous compensation. so

Worker representation on boards? It has been long an  
established in West Germany and Scandinavia — as a scheme th  
to get workers to "take responsibility" for the profitability of  
capitalist enterprise. Benn sees it as part of the 'social  
contract': "shared responsibility must mean self-discipline". ele

Planning agreements, and a Government interest in some  
companies? These are no more than an extension of what  
already exists. Public corporations to provide competition  
with capitalist monopolies? The Tories, as champions of the pr



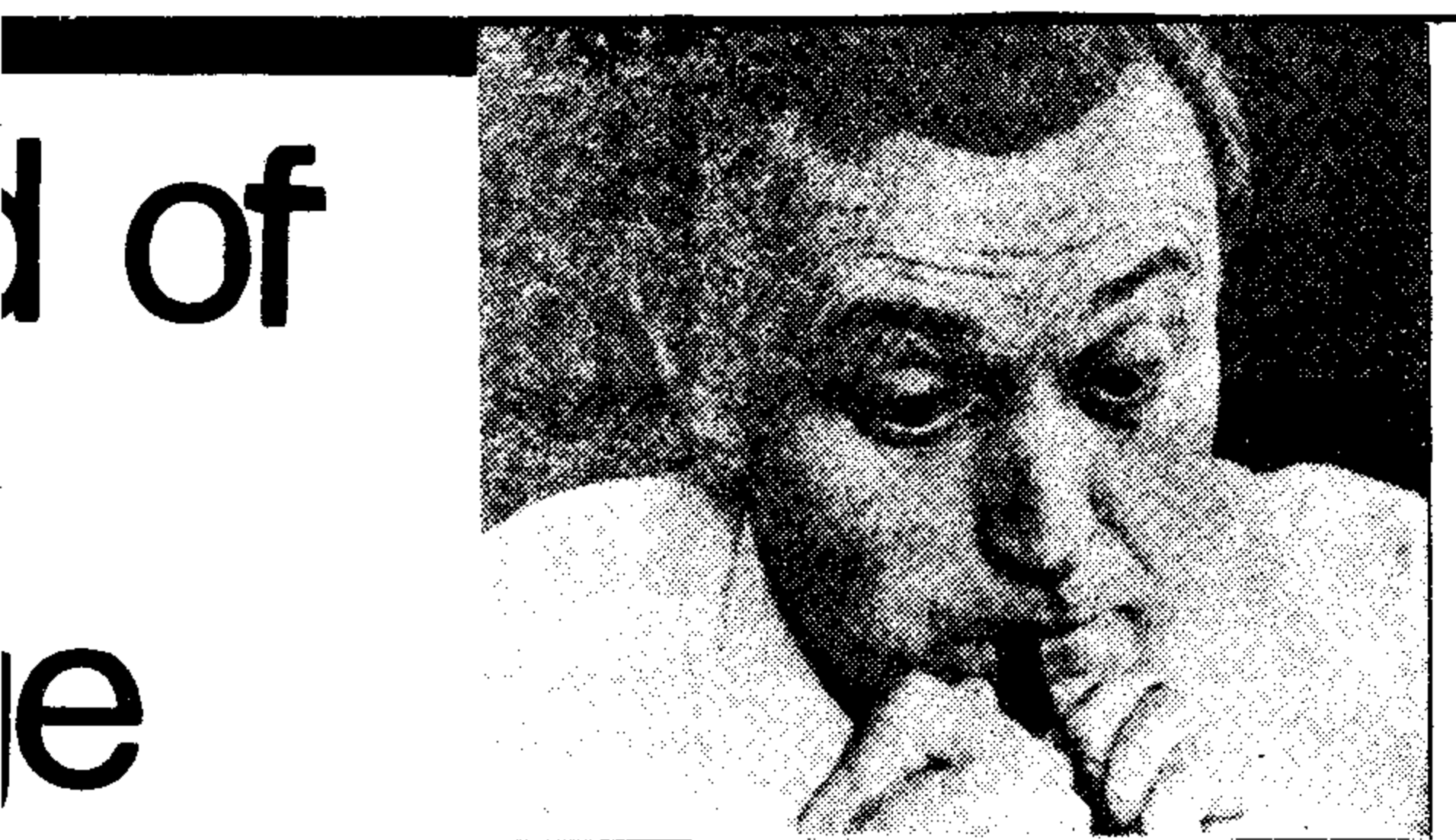
Top: Goncalves, middle: Soares, bottom: Cunhal.

the guns it would need to defeat a now aggressive and militant working class.

The CP exploit the feelings of sympathy that workers have for the soldiers and sailors, using it to try to subordinate both the working class and the conscript ranks and junior officers to the authority of the army as a whole, as an institution of the bourgeois state.

The clearest instance of this is in their elevation of the conscription laws. They not only defend the maintenance of these now (they have refused to give an amnesty to deserters and draft evaders) but even extend support, retrospectively, for their use by the Caetano regime. One June 10th The Guardian reported "At a recent party rally, referring to the estimated 150,000 Portuguese draft dodgers and deserters living in the EEC countries, ... Dr. Cunhal (CP Gen. Sec.) said that they should agree to serve in the Army, as most of their fellow countrymen had done, according to Portuguese law".

On the question of the African wars, the CP waxes plaintive. They are members of a government which is still pursuing those wars. Fortifications and bombing raids have continued. On June 25th, Portuguese troops shot down 7 unarmed miners returning from South Africa when a group of them refused to accept the authority of the Portuguese customs officials.



Benn

... of capitalist competition, can scarcely object. What Benn's proposals represent is much less a socialist programme, even a confused one, than plans for helping British capitalist industry through severe economic crisis. Some representatives of big business see Benn's plans in just a little light. Ryder of Reeds spoke of "one major company" leading hundreds of millions of pounds in cash from the Government. "If industry (he means the bosses) are going to give this money from the Government, then the Government is going to have some say".

And Knight of Courtaulds (another of the 20 firms named in examination of subsidies) has proposed that larger firms should state their aims (all clothed in fine-sounding 'public interest'), with this developing into a 'charter' between firms and Government.

But Tory politicians, and the majority of big business, have had a hullabaloo about state intervention restricting liberty of free enterprise.

Why? For two reasons, it seems.

First, because there is a genuine policy difference in the capitalist class. Many would rather see a few 'lame ducks' sink in than accept any Government restrictions on, for example, overseas investment.

Second, because the capitalist class — irrespective of policy differences — knows that the practical content of ideas of nationalisation and workers' control depend not only on what is said, but who says it. From Mr Benn, nationalisation and workers' control are plans to shore up capitalism (or "the mixed economy", as they like to call it these days). But should the working class take up these ideas and begin to act on them... that would be different! Benn's mild reformist intentions would soon be overtaken by more vigorous proposals from the rank and file in the labour movement.

## NATIONALISATION

That's why Tories and employers start shouting about the "red menace" as soon as there is the vaguest talk of radical measures. They know that the response of the Labour leadership will be to say "we meant no harm" — and thus the centre of debate can be shifted to the right.

Or so they hope. But they may not get away with it. And radicals should try to make sure they don't get away with it.

Nationalisation? Yes. We should press the Labour Government to start taking practical steps right now. For example, nationalising without compensation the food and supermarket chain monopolies so that food prices can really be controlled.

Public accountability? Yes. Why not a workers' inquiry into proposed redundancies or closures, with full access to all accounts.

Workers on the board? Yes — as long as they are directly elected, recallable representatives of the rank and file, answerable to the workers who elect them and not to the board they sit on, and committed to reporting back in full without any "business secrets". They should be accountable only to the workers and their interests, not responsible for profitability.

These wars are continued against liberation movements which the CP claims to support — and yet they have the gall to complain that the left wing groups are "trying to create ... an artificial rivalry between the Communist Party in Portugal and the liberation movements in the colonies." (Morning Star, 25th June)

Though two months ago they demanded independence for the African colonies, they now state: "The negotiations which have been started will not be successful unless they are carried out on the basis of a political plan acceptable to everybody." (Including, of course, Portuguese big capitalism, NATO and US imperialism). "A certain type of propaganda, leftist and irresponsible, can only damage this common search for a just solution." (My emphasis)

Thus the repression of those giving support and solidarity to the liberation movements is done in open and conscious defence of the interests of imperialism in its wars and negotiations in Africa.

## Satire

Trotskyists do not underestimate dangers from the Right. But it is necessary to state clearly where these are likely to come from, in order to take correct measures against them.

They do not come from striking workers demanding higher wages or control of their industries (particularly newspapers and TV, where they have struck against the continued editorial presence of old Salazarists and their censorship of such things as anti-clerical satire). There is no comparison (though no doubt that is what workers are meant to think) between such actions and the explicitly right wing political strikes of truck drivers in Chile against Allende's government.

Nor do such dangers come, at present, from the army. 62 generals and admirals loyal to the old regime were sacked and have little organised influence. Of the remaining cadre, if the right wing acts at all it will do so on behalf of the present regime, not against it. Among the lower ranks, the move is to the left rather than the right. They can easily be won to the working class through bold struggles against the war and against capitalism, and with the setting up of joint organisations with militant workers' factory councils and joint soldiers and sailors' councils against the war.

They would, in the foreseeable future, prove an unreliable force for open repression of the working class.

## Instigator

Nor does the old political police apparatus, in itself, pose any danger. The old institutions of repression and spying and the fascist militias were disbanded, and their members are keeping their heads very low.

The dangers lie in the new repression being brought in and administered by the Provisional Government. And there can be little doubt that the CP, far from being merely a junior partner in this, was a major instigator. It has all along been the chief propagandist of the 'need' for such repression, the chief inventor of ideological excuses for it that might be acceptable to workers, and it is one of the foremost political beneficiaries from it — at least, for now.

Behind this political 'praetorian guard', the real right wing is organising on behalf of Portuguese capitalism. While the CP argues for time to establish 'the new democracy' (complete with censorship, indefinite detention and

courts-martial for strikers), Spinola plays for time.

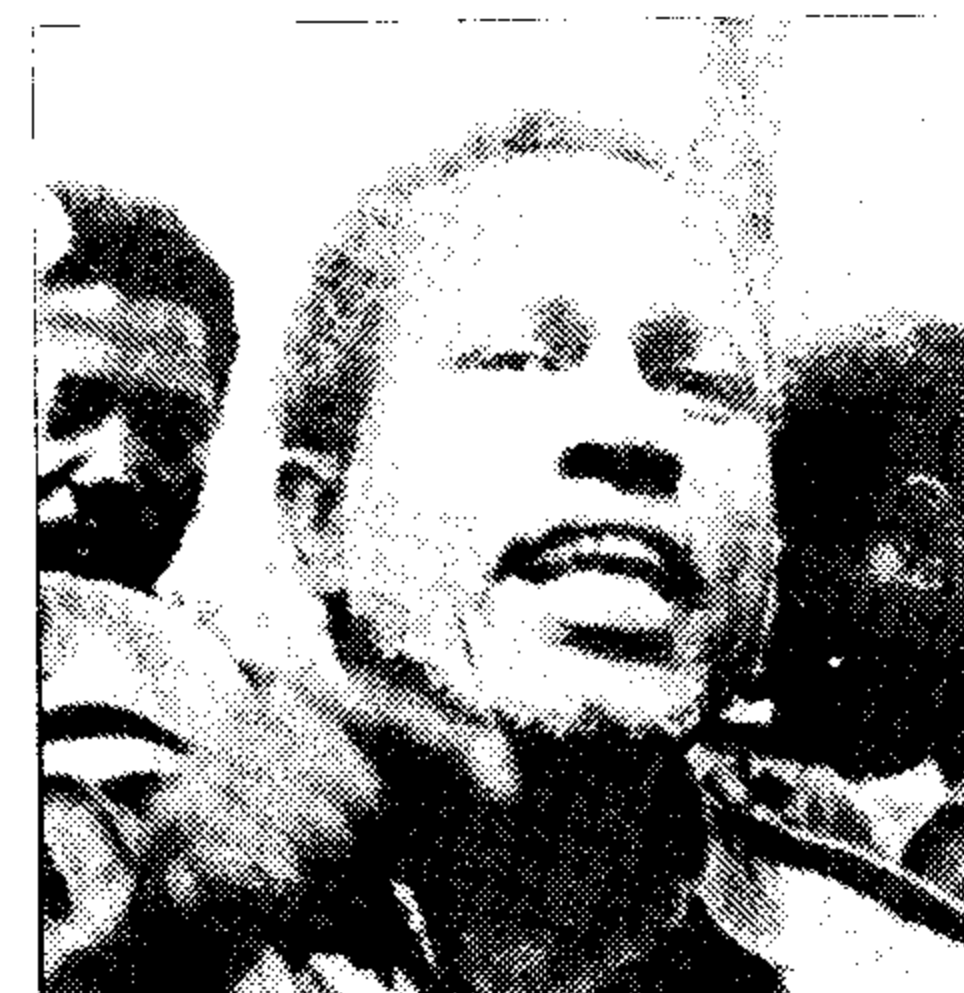
Time to sort out the army, establishing and elevating the more reliable and right wing elements in the Armed Forces Movement while isolating its left wing in preparation for some future 'night of long knives.'

Time to rob the liberation movements of their hard fought victory by manoeuvring to set up a neo-colonial establishment, at least in Angola (which is rich in oil and diamonds).

Time to try to create a servile and tame trade union structure to replace the discredited fascist 'unions'.

And time to rebuild the normal organs of repression of a bourgeois state.

Already, Spinola has made



Victor Cabral of the PAIGC

strong and confident moves in this direction. While the CP holds the working class at bay and the SP Foreign Minister Soares keeps the Africans talking, Spinola has built himself the beginnings of a firm power base.

He has even brought right wing politicians associated with the old regime into his administration. His civilian appointments to the 21-member Council of State include Lazarado Perdigao, a political worker for Salazar, and Dr. Diogo Freitas, a collaborator of Caetano. These, plus Spinola and the six senior junta officers (including firmly reactionary army tops who were all but open fascists) more than balance the seven votes held by the Armed Forces Movement representatives on the council.

But the working class is not quelled; Frelimo fights on, and the PAIGC still insist on full independence for the whole territory of Guine Bissau and the Cape Verde Islands.

For Spinola it is a slow, uphill climb. The repression launched by the CP will not only ease his way, but also, by its own logic, will bring into being a whole new apparatus to administer it. It matters little who they recruit for this job, but of course the most experienced candidates are



A banner of the Trotskyist organisation LCI.

the old DGS. No doubt some will be found willing to serve this new master. And others will learn the ropes soon enough.

For the still tiny revolutionary groups, it will be a race against time to try to wrest the leadership of the working class from the Communist Party.

They will champion the elementary democratic rights which the CP is now attacking, while stressing that those rights can only be made secure by the working class taking power.

In fact the working class needs not a government with neutered Socialist and 'Communist' ministers in it. It needs to develop its independent political activity, to become conscious of itself as a class that can, must and will rule society, that can and should form a common front with the African freedom fighters against its own rulers.

It needs not to wait for the parliamentary elections which the military junta promises for a year from now — it needs, immediately, to cover the country with a network of workers' councils which can challenge the right of the bourgeoisie to rule. The strikes and demonstrations show that that is the thrust of the spontaneous drive of the working class.

## Workers Councils

Marxists must demand:

- \* immediate elections for a sovereign Constituent Assembly, with full rights for all anti-fascist parties to participate;

- \* freedom of speech, assembly and association; complete separation of church and state; immediate repeal of the Salazar/Caetano penal code;
- \* for immediate independence for the colonies, total withdrawal and immediate demobilisation of the colonial army;

- \* democratic rights in the army; unconditional amnesty for deserters;

- \* break-up of large estates in Portugal and land to the tillers. A crash programme of state aid to the peasantry.

- \* for full trade union freedoms; for support for all workers' struggles; for factory councils to be formed, fighting for workers' control and for the revolutionary nationalisation of industry and the banks;

- \* for the arming of the workers, and links between workers' councils and rank and file soldiers' councils.

They must strive to expose the CP and SP leaderships, demanding that they make a clear break from the provisional government and support the call for a Constituent Assembly.

## Solidarity

The revolutionaries in Portugal are going to need all the help we can give them in practical aid and political solidarity. Much of their work will now have to be conducted clandestinely, which will necessitate even greater resources:

The LCI, sympathising section of the United

# IDI AMIN MADE IN BRITAIN



THERE IS only one reason for not beginning this note with the observation that if Idi Amin, the murdering pop-eyed lunatic who has been dictator of Uganda for two and a half years, did not exist, then the racist British press would feel a need to invent him.

Quite simply, they did invent him.

Long before Amin, papers like the Daily Express were using their considerable skill to put down men like Kwame Nkrumah and to misrepresent these African freedom fighters — and they were that, whatever their middle-class limitations and our criticism of those limitations — as little better than Amin is, and possibly worse because they weren't "funny" with it.

But in the case of Nkrumah they had to work at it. Imagination was given free rein and white racist spleen against the leader of the first modern independent African state had to vie with reportage of facts, and invention to do service for news.

With idiot Idi restraint, not invention, is necessary, and they can afford the 'cool' approach. They don't have to strain to demonstrate 'superiority', they can better 'demonstrate' it with restraint and irony.

The excerpts from a brilliant French documentary on Amin which were shown on BBC TV last week were apparently an only too true portrait of the man who was on a conservative estimate, by one of his former Cabinet ministers a year ago, then already responsible for slaughtering up to 90,000 of his countrymen. It is therefore important to get Amin in perspective, or the racists will have a field day, unchallenged.

## Oppressing

Uganda is a backward state, one of the majority of dictatorships in the world. It is not the only country where the Army seized power, and the Ugandan Army is far from being the only one where a psychopath could rise to a position of leadership.

In fact, independent Uganda has little to do with it, because the administrative unit of Africa known as Uganda was a British administrative unit and Amin emerged not as a product of Black Africa or of Uganda but of the British imperialist machine for oppressing Black Africa. Amin was a product of the British, not the Ugandan, or any African army.

He learned the trade of butchering human beings in the service and pay of Britain — in murdering his own people during events like the so-called Mau-Mau uprising in Kenya in the 1950s. There is even some reason to suspect that the British Government of Edward Heath helped his coup d'etat in 1971 against Obote, an outspoken critic of Britain's then attempts to do a deal with white racist Rhodesia.

When they stop their appreciative belly-laughing, the racists should be reminded that neither God nor the Devil created Amin, nor is he the undiluted product of their own sick anti-black imaginations. He is the creation, as he was once the direct creature, of British imperialism in Africa.

J.O.M.

## RACHEL LEVER

LCI Fund Appeal c/o 97 Caledonian Rd, London N1.

## NUT Exec. worries about unofficial action, not low pay

UNOFFICIAL action commencing July 3rd and continuing for at least a week was being planned by militant teachers last Wednesday night, June 26th.

Indeed, there was substantially more support for this action than for the unofficial strikes of a fortnight ago, which brought some few hundred teachers out. Apart from the increased confidence that teachers are feeling as a result of taking the initiative into their own hands, and not waiting for the old men of the NUT Executive, there is mounting tension at the 'divide and rule' tactic rumoured in press leaks before official publication of the Pay Board Report on London Weighting, due on June 23rd.

Press leaks estimate the likely recommendation from the Pay Board at £350 to £400 for inner London boroughs, and £175 to £250 for outer London. The official NUT claim is for £350 for all London, though many militant local associations have called for £500. The Pay Board figures are billed to be maximum figures around which negotiations can take place on the Burnham Committee.

## Lobby

Burnham negotiations start on July 5th. There is to be an emergency meeting of the NUT Executive on July 4th, at which Rank and File, the left wing of the NUT, will be manning a lobby. As a result of some obscure reshuffling, there are now no Inner London members of the NUT Executive on the Burnham Committee.

The NUT Executive itself, always more alert when it comes to suppressing the militants rather than looking after the needs of the classroom teacher, have referred the last series of unofficial strikes to their legal department to see if any NUT rules have been broken. However, it is not expected that anything more than mild warning letters will be sent out. This can be done quite easily since the Executive have been following the strikes in great detail, and have lists of all striking schools and teachers. Since they admit that any large scale reaction by them would result in more than they could cope with, this close scrutiny on their part would seem to imply that they are more than a little worried about the whole business.

Ian Hollingworth 26.6.74

## Tory glee at mass murder tests

Tory MPs cackled with glee as Labour Prime Minister Wilson announced that Britain had test-exploded a nuclear bomb. The Tories — and many Labour MPs with them — rejoiced that Britain was maintaining and developing the capacity to carry out the mass murder of millions of people.

Some Labour MPs have pointed out that the Government is going against Labour Party conference decisions. Some believe that Wilson didn't even know about the test until after it had taken place, carried out by military authorities under

orders from the former Tory Government. What is more fundamental, but not remarked on, is that the ordinary people of Britain and the world — the people who stand to be wiped out while Wilson is hiding in his deep radiation shelter — were not consulted or informed at all. One day it will be for real, not just for testing, that a nuclear bomb is exploded without consulting us — unless before that day we can overthrow the capitalist warmongers, and replace them by the rule of the working people, who have no wish and no need to blow each other to bits.

# 'All Out' call for Nurses' Action Day, July 8th

ALL OUT ON JULY 8th! This call from the National Nurses' Action Group, to all National Health Service workers and to all workers in other industries ready to back them, is the rank and file's reply to the cowardice and manoeuvring of their trade union leaders.

While COHSE members carry out further action to win their 55% wage demand, the government-backed Halsbury inquiry drags on. No definite date has been set for its report; it may take two months or more. Most of the trade union leaders — NUPE, G&MWU — not to mention the RCN, are directing their efforts to undermining rank and file action.

The nurses' weak bargaining position means that support from more powerful working class sections is vital if the nurses

are not to be isolated and demoralised.

The demonstrations and stoppages planned by the Nurses' Action Group for July 8th must be backed by as many workers as possible. In Liverpool dockers have promised to come out, while large numbers of miners in the North West are expected to stop for the day.

The Liverpool CSEU have yet to decide, but the Liverpool Trades Council voted out a request for solidarity from a speaker representing the Nurses' Action committee on the grounds that there was not enough time. Only one delegate, Stan Clare

(UCATT) voted in favour.

The Liverpool Nurses' Action Group are confident of a big turn out by nurses, since they have organised minimum staffing in many hospitals.

In Manchester a meeting called by the Nurses' Action Committee heard speakers from UCATT and the local AUEW district committee pledge their support to the nurses' struggle. A nurse from the Action Committee is to speak to the AUEW shop stewards' quarterly. A local NUPE rally on July 1st may also come out in support of the July 8th action.

T.R.

# Ceilings pushed up, but roof stays on...

DOCKERS could be entering the fight for threshold money. The Mersey Docks and Harbour Board are welsing on the payout due under an already-signed agreement.

At Plesseys, and particularly in the print, victories have been won. The Plessey workers, at a mass meeting on Sunday June 23rd, accepted a deal giving £2.40, with an 'understanding' of further negotiations. Certainly the old ceiling of £1.60 has been smashed, but if the RPI rises much faster, the £2.40 will soon be very inadequate.

When SOGAT stopped part of Fleet Street, closed down IPC and several local papers, as well as most general print factories, their victory was almost guaranteed. The final settlement gives SOGAT most of what it wanted. Some of the most important gains were: progress to equal pay (this to be done in two stages, £1.20 this November and 65p in March 1975); £3.05 on the basic; 80% improvement on the special skills payment; and open-ended threshold cover.

AS the 17-week struggle at Strachans Engineering, Eastleigh, Hampshire, ended on Friday June 22nd, the Joint Union Committee issued a statement warning: "Brothers, wherever you are and whatever your particular fight, beware of the national officers. They are just extensions of the capitalistic system and their God is Money".

Strachans workers occupied their factory after the employers declared all 500 workers redundant on March 1st. Police ended the sit-in after six weeks, but a picket

Out of 10 million organised workers eligible for a threshold clause under Phase 3, some eight to eight and a half million now have a payout. The main groups without threshold cover are in the car industry and in engineering, where the Engineering Employers' Federation is unyielding.

In Coventry, the GEC Stoke telecommunications plant is crippled, with over 4,000 workers out. The local management are offering a ceiling of £2.40, while before the Plesseys settlement they offered only £1.60. But the strikers are refusing this offer.

Another Coventry employer, Herberts, have settled on a £3.80 threshold ceiling.

In British Leyland, despite a week stoppage at the Leeds subsidiary, West Yorkshire Foundry, and over 8,000 assembly workers laid off at Triumph works in Coventry, Lord Stokes is still saying no. Some attempt was made on Friday June 21st to get negotiations going, but it looks like British Leyland are prepared to provoke a strike

over the threshold cover issue.

So far only clerical workers in the main assembly plants have taken action. But their union, APEX, is planning further fights, before the Government tries to impose the Pay Board's interpretation of Clause 176. The Pay Board stated that workers should not gain the full threshold payouts if they missed the June 21st deadline — but Plesseys and SOGAT have knocked a big hole in that.

Elsewhere, threshold strikes have closed the Corley M6 service station and Fords canteens.

Besides the 10 million eligible organised workers, another 12 million workers could legally get threshold increases under Phase 3. The Tory Government legacy has unintentionally provided an excellent opportunity for extending trade union recruitment on the basis of a fight for threshold money. Whether trade union leaders will have sufficient drive to take that opportunity is another matter.

Tom Ramsey

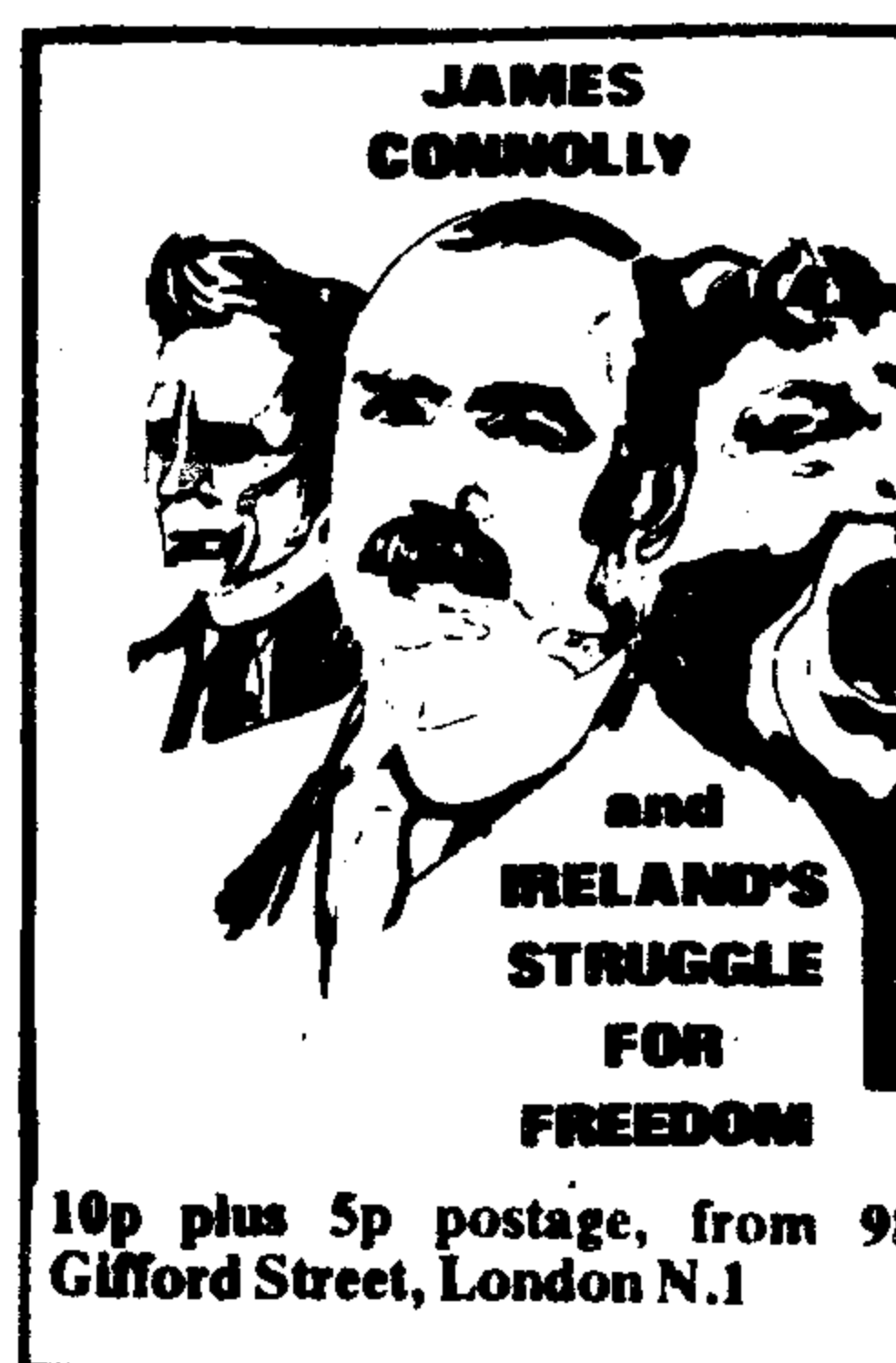
# SOLD FOR £50,000

outside the works has been maintained for a further 11 weeks.

Pressure was building up on Giltspur, the owners of Strachans. For four weeks there had been a rank and file blacking on all Giltspur products, and Southampton dockers, along with various

other docks, had agreed to black all Ford Motor Company products as from June 24th. (The Strachans factory manufactured radiators for Fords).

Giltspur offered, first £25,000 (on June 14th), and then (in a meeting with T&GWU national officials on June 20th) £50,000 payment to the 60 men still unemployed. They also gave an assurance that in future no redundancies would be declared without previous consultation with the unions.



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## LACKENBY SIT-IN AFTER B.S.C. LOCKOUT

by TONY DUFFY, AUEW, LACKENBY

Steel craftsmen at BSC's Lackenby plant are now staging a full scale round-the-clock sit-in, after the management announced that it would not employ us until we returned to normal working.

After the recent sell-out by John Boyd of the AUEW of the craftsmen's national claim, Lackenby men have stepped up action in support of our local £10 claim. There have been bans on overtime and on shift relief, and daily 2-hour sit-ins.

The management's ultimatum was supported by union officials at a mass meeting, where a letter was read out from Hugh Scanlon recommending normal working while Boyd negotiated on the claim. After the national claim experience, this was not well received!

The local Boilemakers' official said he had no such letter, but he thought the men he 'represented' should do as the AUEW men decided. They readily agreed to this, and together resolved to return to normal working... once the £10 claim is met.

Tomorrow (28th) we will attend the meeting of ETU men at the Consett plant, when they are due to decide whether to go ahead on their £10 claim. We hope our latest action, and the need for solidarity against BSC's lockout, will give them more reason to act.

### Permanent Revolution 2

May-June 1974

articles on Chile; Workers' Government; Stalinism in Vietnam; Rosa Luxemburg on the Belgian general strike of 1902. Plus discussion and reviews. 20p plus 5p postage from 98 Gifford Street, London N.1

Union officials brought the Giltspur offer to the Strachans picket on June 21st, and made it clear that the T&GWU would withdraw support if the offer were rejected. Reluctantly, by 20 votes to 13, the pickets accepted.

The Joint Union Committee stated: "The acceptance of the compensation represents a compromise... but the settlement also represents a victory for the labour movement". They thanked everyone who has supported them, adding: "Please do not turn others such as us away, just learn by this and continue the fight".

LIVERPOOL Workers Fight forum. Jon Riley on Stalinism. 8pm, Wednesday 26th June, at Stanley House, Upper Parliament St.

MANCHESTER Workers Fight public meeting. Stephen Corbishley on "The Fight Against the Social Contract". 8pm, Thursday July 4th, at Mother Mac's, Back Piccadilly (just off Piccadilly).

LONDON Workers Fight forum. John Cunningham on "Communism and Social Democracy". 7.30pm, Sunday July 7th, at the

## MEETINGS

'Golden Lion', Britannia St/ Kings Cross Rd.

IRISH Civil Rights Association; Educational and Social Conference. Speakers to include Maire Drumm, Daithi O'Hogan (Sinn Fein), and Boyd Black (UWC). Other speakers invited and provisionally agreed: Eamonn McCann, Glen Barr (UWC), and Kenneth Griffith. Friday June 28th (at the Architectural

# news in brief

A verdict is expected any day now on the fate of the proposed co-operative to be run by workers at Triumph Motorcycles Meriden plant near Coventry.

The workers submitted a plan to the Department of Trade and Industry some time ago, hoping to get a loan on the basis of which banks could be approached for finance. If the DTI — which under the Tories gave Manganese Bronze £4.8 million to "save the motorcycle industry", only to see them months later close the Meriden plant — coughs up, an important example of resistance to redundancy will have been set.

Capitalism's irrationality is often seen at its sharpest in housing. The present time is no exception. Figures have just been published showing a substantial decline in house building activity. The result: a decline in the demand for bricks and 700 workers declared redundant in the London Bricks East Anglia works. Yet all the time the housing situation worsens and families are crying out for decent dwellings.

Michael Foot has decided not to use his full powers under the 1970 Equal Pay Act to introduce a statutory amendment which would compel all employers to pay women workers 90% of corresponding men's rates.

He has decided to "rely on a publicity campaign". Although it is true that between 1970 and 1972 women's pay rates did go up more than men's, the Labour Government's refusal to introduce the statutory amendment is a disgraceful dragging of their feet on the cause of Equal Pay.

Woodworkers in UCATT have begun a strike for bonus payments on Liverpool's Loop Line, the scene of a bitter struggle for trade union recognition earlier this year.

Judith Ward, accused in connection with the M62 coach explosion which killed a number of British soldiers and some women and children, heard at Leeds Crown Court that her trial would begin on October 2nd in Wakefield.

The latest Liaison Committee of Defence of Trade Unions Conference is to be held this weekend, in Manchester Manchester. The crude bureaucracy of this outfit is clearly seen in the fact that trade union branch delegacies have not been allowed, and there was hardly any publicity for it — except where the Communist Party felt safe that it would not attract the attention of anybody to the left of them. No doubt no resolutions or amendments from the floor will be allowed this time either.

Whatever happened to Fisher Bendix? The scene of a great sit-in in 1972 to avoid redundancies, Fisher Bendix was taken over by Mr Harold King. Now Mr King is offering the firm up to nationalisation.

At the inquest on Republican hunger striker Michael Gaughan, the judge refused counsel for Gaughan's parents the right to finish his cross-examination of the doctor who had been supervising the force-feeding of Gaughan. It would, said the judge, be too much like putting the Home Secretary on trial.

Association, 36 Bedford Sq), and Saturday June 29th (at 42 Earlham St, Covent Garden, fourth floor).

TROOPS Out Movement. Weekend school on Ireland. Sunday 7th July, starting 10am, at NUFTO Hall, Jockeys Fields, London WC1. Apply for credentials to T.O.M., 23 Harvest Rd, London NW6.

Nottingham Workers Fight Socialist Forum: Ivan Wels on 'Capitalist State and Workers State'. 8pm, Wed. July 3rd at the Peacock, Mansfield Road.