



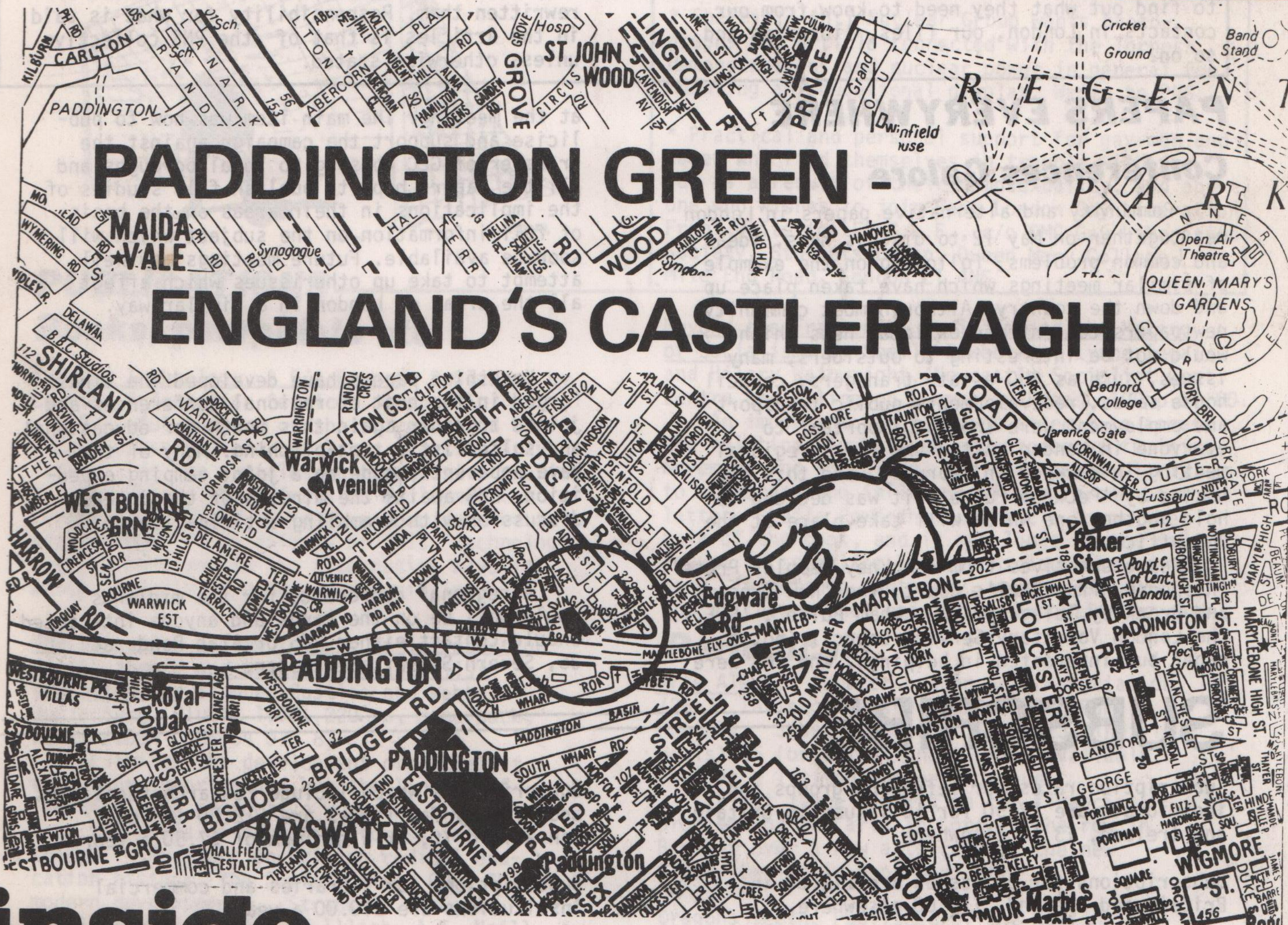
Peoples News Service

No. 172

June 12, 1979

OXFORD HOUSE, DERBYSHIRE STREET, LONDON E2. Tel: 01-739 4568.

25p



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WHAT IS PNS?

PNS is a left-wing, non-sectarian news service with the aim of providing information that is not readily available in the conventional press. We focus on issues not covered in the national papers, bringing out ignored or distorted details doing background peices and researching into national and international stories. We invite other papers to reprint stories from PNS and only ask that they credit us as a source.

Apart from the bulletin, PNS also provides special services for community papers and the alternative press. We index all the community papers we receive and this is available to anyone at a small fee to cover printing and mail. We also provide, at a slightly higher subscription rate, special research services, encouraging people to investigate stories themselves and helping them to find out what they need to know from our contacts in London, our files, libraries and so on.

PNS is run by a small collective and nobody gets paid for the work they do on the paper. We want to make PNS larger and give readers more, but this is impossible unless we get more people to help out.

We particularly need correspondents outside London, but anyone who can help with writing, layout, or distribution is encouraged to contact us at Oxford House, Derbyshire St, London E2. Phone 01-739 4568.

We are holding regular meetings at Oxford Ho House, which are open to anybody, on every other Thursday at 6.30 (June 14, 28 and so on). The deadline for material is Wednesday June 20. All copy for issue 173 must reach us by then.

Articles bylined with (PNS/-) mean that the Peoples News Service collective has edited or rewritten them. Responsibility for what is said in the articles is that of the PNS collective unless otherwise stated.

PAPERS EVERYWHERE

Conferences Galore

Community and alternative papers in London met together on May 12 to discuss news, ideas and common problems, following on the example of similar meetings which have taken place up and down the country. Although most community newspapers concentrate on local news which would not be interesting to outsiders, many issues, such as GLC estate transgers, council house sales, redevelopment, public transport and employment were thought important to everyone in London. After the first regional meeting in Hackney in February, and this one hosted by 'Peckham Pulse', it was decided to hold another one which will take place at the PNS offices.

Representatives from 'Hackney Peoples Press', 'Response' from Earl's Court, the 'New Cross and Brockley Telegraph', 'Peckham Pulse', 'S.E.1.', the London Voluntary Service Council (not a paper but interested in helping), and PNS were

at the meeting. The main item was how to publicise and support the campaign against the transfer of GLC housing to local boroughs and all the papers hope to publish full studies of the implications in their areas on the basis of full information on the subject which will soon be available. Future meetings may well attempt to take up other issues which affect all the areas of London in a similar way.

Yorkshire papers have developed the links forged in the heat of regional conferences and joined together again this month for educational and solidaristic tent-pitching. Many of them have apparently gone on a joint camping expedition. PNS awaits the minutes of the intense discussion with trembling anticipation.

A regional conference for the midlands would well be on the cards and anyone interested should contact either PNS or Alan Pond at 36, Severn Street, Leicester.

SUBSCRIBE

Subscription rates for left-wing groups and individuals are £2.50 for 10 issues in Britain and Ireland, £3.10 elsewhere.

Subscriptions for 50 issues are £12.00 in Britain and Ireland, £15.00 elsewhere.

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PADDINGTON GREEN — ENGLAND'S CASTLEREAGH

London (PNS Correspondent). May was a merry month for the Anti-Terrorist squad, the Bomb Squad and the Special Branch. Eleven people were subjected to interrogation at the Anti-Terrorist Squad's headquarters in Paddington Green police station in west London, all of them arrested and detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) in what many believe is the first salvo in a new offensive by the state against its political opponents.

Some of those arrested were active members of the Irish Republican Socialist Party (IRSP). The IRSP says that there is no connection between it and the Irish National Liberation Army, which claimed responsibility for the bombing of Airey Neave, but the two have been frequently associated in the press. Among the arrested was Peter Grimes, a former leader of the IRSP, who was arrested twice in the course of three weeks, and has been held under the PTA nine times in the past two years. He spent three months in prison for 'withholding information', an offence under the Act.

The very last legislative act of the Labour government was Merlyn Rees' signing of the seven-day extension of Peter Grimes' detention under the PTA on May 2. Following that he was offered by Commander Richards protection, a new job, a new name, and more in return for turning informer. They gave him two weeks to think it over and when it became clear he had no intention of taking it up, they arrested his former girlfriend, telling her that it was as a result of information given them by Grimes. He denies vigorously that he implicated her in anything.

Grimes was subjected to nine hours of continuous interrogation and a beating. The police tried to put so much pressure on Grimes, who has been under psychiatric treatment, that he would crack. He admits that he almost did so himself, and says that if he had not been released when he was, the police may have had a nervous breakdown on their hands. Shortly before his release, his solicitor had applied for a 'habeas corpus' in the High Court. The application hearing was adjourned, but in the meantime, he was released. A doctor had testified that he was unfit for detention, but the police refused to allow a psychiatrist into Paddington Green to see him.

After he was released he says he received a mysterious phone call. This came from a police section calling itself 'C 13' offering him armed protection because they said that his life was in danger. From the treatment he had received in Paddington Green it seems that the only danger to his life came from the police themselves, and he refused their offer point blank. Only the police themselves can say for sure what was behind this bizarre manoeuvre.

When the eleven were arrested they were all taken to Paddington Green and held for varying periods of time, some for five days and others only for a few hours. Jimmy Scanlon, who was picked up with two friends also held under the PTA but who have no political affiliations, is still in Brixton as we go to print appealing against the order for his 'exclusion' from mainland Britain. He was the only one who qualified for exclusion, all the others being either English, or Irish people who have lived in Britain for more than 20 years. Although contact with Scanlon has been very sporadic, it is believed that he had only one night's sleep at Paddington Green, since police officers came to his cell every half hour banging on the door. If this failed to wake him, he was shaken and made to walk around the cell.

Apparently it is now standard practice when the police are holding Irish political activists under the PTA to use the technique of sleep deprivation to try and break them before they must be released.

Those arrested and their friends believe that the reasons for the arrests were twofold. First, to update their intelligence on republican activists in Britain and secondly to show some results in the inquiry into who killed Airey Neave. With the former they have probably had some success, although their action indicates that in the Neave investigation they are getting nowhere.



Many have described the police hunt for Neave's killers as 'fishing', and in casting the net as wide as they can they still haven't managed to catch any big fish. Last week, another two IRSP members were lifted in Liverpool and held for two days. As part of the harassment of the IRSP which has increased tremendously since Neave died, one member has lost his job because of the police coming to his place of work asking for him, instead of visiting him at home. Another IRSP member narrowly missed losing his job in this was recently (his boss was absent at the time the police came). Since the IRSP's members in London and Liverpool have drawn so much fire, there should be no surprise if police 'fishing' takes them to another IRSP group in Manchester.

People cannot be blamed for thinking that the election of a Tory government has given free rein to the Special Branch and the Anti-Terrorist Squad to pursue political activists. The three hundred arrests under the PTA in the first quarter of 1979 (25 arrests per week) marks the most extensive use of the PTA in any three months of the year since the Act was introduced in 1974.

At the same time, the police are following worrying new trends. In recent times, when asked if they were holding someone, the police have refused to say one way or the other. Generally, they wait until the initial 48-hour period of detention is over. If, after then, they get an order signed by the Home Secretary to continue to hold the person for a further week, they do reveal that the person has been arrested. This only manages to cause anxiety to the friends and relatives of the person arrested. As part of this new trend, the list of people being held in the police station has code numbers for those held under the PTA. Peter

Grimes and Jimmy Scanlon, for instance, were known as 'N' and 'X' respectively. It was because the arrested people saw the list that they knew how many people had been detained when they were taken to Paddington Green.

The state's harassment of the IRSP is expected to be extended to other political activists, and the proportion of people of Irish origins being arrested and/or held under the Act is decreasing while its use in general

becomes more extensive. As someone who believes the experience of the British state in Ireland is being brought back to mainland Britain and who has experienced it on both sides of the Irish Sea, Peter Grimes is in no doubt about the trend for the future. He told PNS, "Everyone has heard about Castlereagh and its interrogation methods for implicating innocent people, but these tactics are now being implemented in Paddington Green."

Q.C.S MEET THEIR WATERLOO

London (PNS Correspondent). Residents of the south side of the Thames forced a Public Inquiry into local development plans to a halt last week. They were protesting against the "take-over" by well-paid QCs representing big commercial interests, who had turned the proceedings into a "private legal inquisition".

At one point, one QC had referred to a Lambeth Borough planner as being in the "witness box". And instead of producing their own witnesses, the QCs took advantage of their position to put evidence into the record during their interrogation of planning and housing witnesses. "In view of this, all parties should have the opportunity of cross-examining these QCs," asserted one community group - the Coin Street Action Group.

The inquiry, into alternative plans for construction on a publicly-owned, 16-acre site on the South Bank, had begun on May 22. Contracts for housing construction were about to go out to tender (an irreversible step) more than two years ago, when the Tories took over the GLC in May 1977. They first authorised the construction work, but on the basis that the houses should be sold on the open market when completed, which would have denied access to council tenants. (The present price for such a house might well be £18,000.) But in July 1977, the GLC decided to back another scheme for one of Europe's largest office and hotel complexes.

This plan was put forward by Heron Corporation (the second largest private company in the U.K.) and Commercial Properties. It includes a 450-foot hotel (the tallest in Europe), 1.4 million square feet of offices, sports and entertainment facilities, and 200 flats (as a sop to the community). As local residents point out, these flats would violate both minimum daylight and maximum density standards, and would be totally unsuitable for families (they start on the fifth floor). A third company, Greycoat London Estates (half owned by McAlpines) submitted a modified version of the other hotel/offices plan shortly before the Inquiry began.

The South Bank sites, known as the Coin Street sites, overlap two boroughs - Lambeth and Southwark. In the autumn of 1977, Lambeth Council adopted the Waterloo District Plan, which zoned the Lambeth sites for housing and open space. The WDP went into full force when the Secretary of State revoked an earlier plan in 1978, making Lambeth the higher planning authority for the area, superseding the GLC.

In October 1978, the Association of Waterloo Groups, an umbrella organisation for 24 tenants' associations and other community groups in the area, submitted a planning application for an extension of the former GLC plan. Their plan includes a new riverside park, low-rise family housing with gardens, specially designed flats for older people and playspace. The Borough of Lambeth backed them by applying for a Compulsory Purchase Order for three of the sites owned by the GLC.

However, because the plans for a park and housing were not now being put forward by the GLC, the QCs at the inquiry were able to argue

that witnesses from the GLC - who would be qualified to talk about the efforts that went into the development of the GLC plans - should not be called to give evidence at the Inquiry. The Inspector of the Inquiry, Mr S.G. Walters, has so far agreed with the QCs, which puts the burden of providing background information onto the community groups, who don't have access to that particular information.

The QCs for the hotel and offices complex also have tried to challenge the work and consultation that had gone into the development of the Waterloo District Plan. By creating confusion about the validity of this plan, they tried to shift the Public Inquiry into alternative schemes for the South Bank, to an examination of the WDP, which covers the north end of Lambeth. Area residents point out that this inquiry was not publicised as an inquiry into the WDP, thus people who would have been able to give evidence on the subject are unfairly excluded.



After two weeks, the inquiry had reached the point where representatives of the Coin Street Action Group were being told to sit down and shut up while the QCs reinforced their control of the proceedings. On Tuesday, June 5, about a hundred area residents turned up to protest. A Councillor from the Borough of Southwark was allowed to read a statement from the Coin Street Action Group:

"What can be done to save this inquiry, to

make it a genuine public inquiry? The Inspector and his assessors (an architect and a surveyor) must take control of the QCs rather than the other way around as is happening at the moment. There must be no double standard in dealing with questions to those giving evidence. The QCs must not give evidence, using their position to press their own planning theories and policies. Those that have done so should now take their turn in the 'witness box'.

"The Association of Waterloo Groups has asked for an additional assessor to help the Inspector assess social need and the effects of the alternative proposals on community life. The Coin Street Action Group supported this request because we have seen how, in the past, planners have made disastrous decisions because they have not understood how ordinary people live and how their communities work. The way this inquiry has been conducted so far gives us no confidence in the assertion that these aspects will be adequately investigated and reported. Therefore we say again: someone with an appropriate background and experience should be appointed to assess social need and the impact of the proposals on community life."

For more than an hour residents held the floor, demanding that the Inspector curb the excesses of the QCs (described as "educated idiots out to outwit ordinary people"), that the status of the Waterloo District Plan be clarified, and that the Inspector request a social assessor to assist him.

When the Inspector saw that the inquiry would no return to the "calm and orderly fashion" of the previous two weeks, he adjourned for half an hour. On his return, he tried to turn down the demand for a social assessor. "I've understood what has been put to me so far," he said. "You only need to walk around, or look at the people here (the local residents) to see the public spirit of the community."

Residents began to denounce the Inquiry as a farce, so Mr Walters adjourned it until the following morning, saying that he would "think about" the demand for a social assessor and that he could only give the answer he thought it deserved, i.e. "No."

Several dozen area residents turned out the next day to hear his considered reply, which

was negative, as expected. The proceedings had barely got back to cross examination of a Lambeth witness on traffic flow and parking facilities in the area, when representatives of the Coin Street Action Group again interrupted, insisting on getting reasons for the refusal. Unable to defend his own qualifications regarding community needs, the Inspector again adjourned the Inquiry, saying that he would await an official response from the Department of the Environment to the request by the Association of Waterloo Groups for a third assessor.

He has, in other words, passed the buck. The demand for a social assessor had been made before, and at the beginning of, the Inquiry, but was denied. The Inspector said he was sure that he would be able to understand any evidence of social need, and that if he could not understand, he would say so!

"It is important to get across to other community groups that the decision (for a social assessor at future inquiries) has to be made before the beginning," said one member of the Coin Street Action Group.

This inquiry is unique for two reasons, according to community activists. Not only has the community demanded a social assessor, but witnesses from the community are presenting evidence at the inquiry in support of their own planning application, on equal terms as the commercial developers! Also it is said that this is the first time the community has succeeding in disrupting a planning inquiry (rather than, say, a Motorway inquiry).

"The QCs grumble about how much money is lost during the adjournment," said one resident, "Does anyone think about the cost of this inquiry to us. Some of us have stopped our jobs, others have given up our holidays. I've taken a two-thirds cut in salary in order to be able to attend."

This inquiry will cost the community groups many thousands of pounds, aside from the sacrifices of area residents. Those who plan to give evidence know they will be submitted to heavy cross examination by the QCs. But by asserting their strength, the community has undermined the QCs' quiet control of the proceedings, and they will stay with it until it's finished, sometime in the autumn.

MANCHESTER COUNCIL HIVES OFF SITES

Manchester (PNS/NMR). In total defiance of the City's Labour Party policy the Labour-controlled council in Manchester has drawn up a list of sites which they want to hand over to private builders. Most of the sites are already owned by the council and some have already been earmarked for council housing. A few others are privately owned and the council is proposing to compulsorily purchase them under the Community Land Act. This would get around the difficulty of owners reluctant to part with land because they would have to pay Development Land Tax.

It was first revealed in New Manchester Review that Town Clerk Robert Calderwood had held a private meeting with representatives of fourteen major building firms to discuss selling council-owned land to them. This was in defiance of Labour's policy and there were angry protests from both councillors and the City Labour Party. Assurances were given that the policy would not be changed.

Just over ten acres involved council walk-up flats which are being demolished because they have become impossible to let. It is difficult to visualise what sort of private homes

will be built on these sites. The flats at Mellor Street now being pounded by the demolition gangs are at the centre of a grim area where amenity comes in minus quantities.

Labour Councillor Pat Karney told NMR, "It's amazing that anyone would consider private building in that area. The tenants who are going to move out of the high-rise flats need need council homes in the in-fill areas where the demolition is taking place."

The almost tongue in cheek suggestion that private house building would be viable in depressed inner-city Miles Platting is equalled in audacity only by a proposal concerning a site in Maidston Road, Chorlton. Although this site is privately owned it has been suggested that the Community Land Act should be used to grab it for a private firm to then make profits! A spokesperson for Leslie Fink estate agents who manage the site said: "This would seem to be a strange use of the Community Land Act and certainly not one for which it was intended".

The sites being discussed total about 100 acres and provide over 1500 houses. That's a lot of profit for the private builders - and

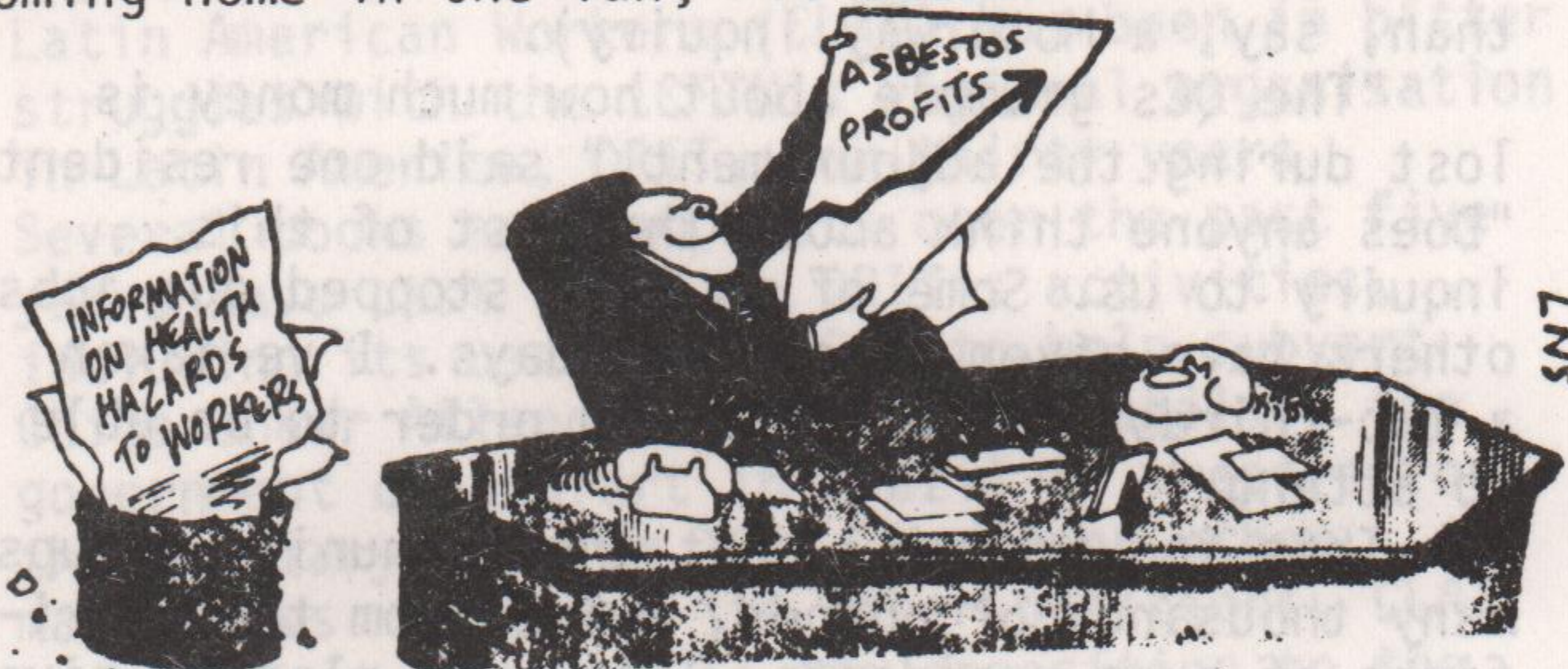
the end, in a city with a shortage of building land, of re-housing hopes for people who cannot afford to buy but do not want to bring their families up in the ageing council flats which no tenants will ever want to buy from Mrs. Thatcher.

The issue also raises a fundamental question about the accountability of Labour councillors once they have won their seats. Like Islington, whose secretive plans to axe advice centres PNS reported on last week, it seems that Labour councils are free not just to ignore local party policies, but to actually operate entirely against the spirit of those policies and election promises.

'TOO YOUNG' FOR ASBESTOSIS

Leeds (LOP/PNS). A 32 year-old man who contracted asbestosis after working for a company of insulators has been refused any assistance from either the firm concerned or the Department of Health and Social Security. Alan Holdsworth can now just about make the fifty yards to his Bramley local. Any further and even this small pleasure would be denied him.

In a sworn statement to his solicitor, Alan says that the only times he ever came into contact with asbestos was when he worked for John Alderson & Son. The statement goes on to describe how they wore only woefully inadequate cotton masks when stripping the material. "You would even notice the dust coming home in the van," it added.



Mr A V Alderson, one of the partners in the firm told Leeds Other Paper, "It has nothing to do with us. Mr Holdsworth has got asbestosis alright and for some reason the insurance company won't pay up." According to Mr Alderson it is unfortunate that Alan has the disease, but it is just one of those risks in life. "He worked with it at the same time as myself and my son, but we're OK," he added philosophically. Clearly a man who feels that once you pay your insurance premium, you lose responsibility.

The DHSS, too, seem reluctant to take up their responsibility. Three doctors have diagnosed the disease in Alan, including Dr Mann of Halifax Royal Infirmary, who dealt with the notorious asbestosis cases at the Cape mill near Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire. With such a weight of medical opinion behind him, Alan should be entitled to a pension from the DHSS. But in their wisdom the Department have chosen to disagree with the doctors on the grounds that he is 'too young' to have the disease. With legal advice Alan has now decided to wait a year before appealing against the decision.

GREY FASCISTS

London (PNS Correspondent). A fascist group responsible for the murder of a thousand people in Turkey, the 'Grey Wolves', have turned up in Britain and other parts of Europe in a concerted attempt to extend their influence and terrorise leftists in the Turkish communities abroad. London, Birmingham, Leeds, Manchester and London

all have sizeable Turkish communities and in all of these a number of vicious assaults have been reported since early 1978, in which clubs, knives, and razor blades were used.

The 'Union of Turkish Progressives in Britain' (UTPB) says that the 'Grey Wolves' affiliated to the fascist 'Nationalist Action Party' in Turkey have been sent into this country as part of a systematic plan, directed from Turkey, to establish themselves in the major cities of Europe. Most of the 'Grey Wolves' in Brighton, for instance, came from the same university, the Black Sea (Karadeniz) University in Trabzon. Many of those in Leeds arrived together. The UTPB also suspects that the fascists have set up links with the British fascists, the National Front, the League of St. George and Column 88.

PNS'equivalent in West Germany, 'Informationsdienst', reports that they have also been very active in West Berlin. Turkish people distributing leaflets for the social democratic party in Turkey were attacked with chains and clubs, and in late March seven Turkish workers were shot at, presumably by the same gangs. Turkish progressives and German anti-fascist groups in West Berlin have called demonstrations to protest against the attacks and to demand more response from the authorities and the newspapers, which have played down the incidents.

The fascist parties in Turkey have been responsible for several massacres, as well as the systematic campaign of terrorising left-wingers in shooting attacks. The UTPB is calling on all "progressive, anti-fascist organisations to do what they can to expose the fascists and halt their attempts to organise in Britain."

RTZ UNDER ATTACK

London (PNS Correspondent). Expecting stormy scenes, Rio Tinto Zinc, the largest mining company in the world, organised strict security measures for its Annual General Meeting, held at the Royal Commonwealth Society in London on May 24.

Falling back on sophisticated investigative journalism techniques, your PNS correspondent managed to enter the meeting for 30 seconds, before being summarily kicked out by RTZ heavies.

Several members of the 'People against Rio Tinto Zinc' (PaRTiZans) did, however, manage to enter the building and ask embarrassing questions, whilst others staged a picket outside.

Jannine Roberts, author of the book "From Massacres to Mining" detailing RTZ's policies towards aborigines, questioned the Chairperson, Sir Mark Turner, about the operation of the company's Australian subsidiary.

Sir Mark had earlier made a statement about Australia, in view of the widespread criticism of the company's activities there. In particular, he referred to a GRANADA TV "World in Action" programme on RTZ and the aborigines as "grossly libelous". RTZ would not, however, take any action against Granada, but invited the TV company to take action against them!

Sir Mark then proudly told shareholders that shortly before the AGM he had received a telegram from the Weipa South Aboriginal Council praising RTZ and attacking the "World in Action" programme and the North Queensland Land Council. Meanwhile, company secretaries searched high and low for a copy of the telegram, which appeared to have been lost in the excitement.

It is not surprise that the Weipa South Council were praising RTZ. The Council, while representing some Aborigines in the Weipa area where RTZ mines bauxite, is recognised by the racist Queensland Government. However, the North

Queensland Land Council, which represents Aboriginal communities containing 80,000 living in various parts of Queensland including the Weipa area, and is opposed to RTZ, is not. When Jannine Roberts asked Sir Mark if RTZ would negotiate with the NQLC she was told that the latter did not represent the Aboriginal people.

Recent developments indicate that RTZ will not have a happy future in Australia. Following a meeting earlier this year with NQLC representatives, shopstewards at RTZ's Avonmouth bauxite refinery in Britain stated that they would boycott Australian bauxite if asked to do so by Australian trade unions.

While the Australian unions have yet to take this initiative, the recent decision of the Australian Congress of Trade Unions (ACTU) to boycott materials going to the Ranger mine, (where along with nuclear power, aboriginal rights are an issue) makes such action a possibility.

RTZ revealed its plans for other parts of the world in response to questions from the floor. Asked whether RTZ had contacted the tribal people in a region of Brazil where they were prospecting, the board replied that they were not aware of the existence of any tribespeople.

In Labrador, Canada, the RTZ subsidiary, BRINCO, has announced the opening of a uranium mine in spite of a demand for a 10-year moratorium from the Inuits (Eskimos). Questioned about RTZ's plans, the company stated they would "take the lead of the Newfoundland government". Relations in the past between RTZ and the Newfoundland government have been more than cordial. In the 1950's BRINCO persuaded the government to sell off large amounts of land for mining purposes.

Despite widespread criticisms in the British press recently, the AGM indicated RTZ's determination to continue and extend its activities. The last of RTZ's worries has been the British Government. Paul Foot writing in the 'New Statesman' June 1, 1979, reported that a former chairperson, Sir Val Duncan, was selected by the Labour government in 1969 to report on the state of British embassies and consulates overseas. Not surprisingly, he recommended that "ambassadors, consuls and attaches should 'forge closer links with British business interests'". Now these links have been drawn even tighter with the appointment of Lord Carrington from the RTZ board to Foreign Secretary.

TRADE UNION NEWS

Sanctions Against SA

London (PNS Correspondent). 174 trade union delegates attended a one-day conference on Saturday June 2, organised by the Anti-Apartheid Movement to mobilise support for the imposition of economic sanctions against South Africa.

The delegates voted in a programme of action which included pledges to mobilize British trade unionists "for the imposition of total and comprehensive mandatory sanctions against south Africa by the United Nations Security Council and oppose any moves by the British government to veto such measures" and a "campaign for action by the British government to stop the flow of British investment to South Africa, halt bank loans, terminate export credit guarantees and to introduce other appropriate measures to bring all British economic collaboration with South Africa to an end."

While the unanimous acceptance of the programme of action indicated a consensus among delegates that sanctions should be applied, there was a wide variety of opinion on how sanctions could be implemented in practice. The afternoon discussion, chaired by Jack Jones of the TGWU, former chairperson of the TUC International Committee, particularly pinpointed the difficulties in co-ordinating anti-South African action among trade unionists and the need for the TUC to organise an education programme on the situation in Southern Africa.

Andy Blundell of ASTMS told the conference of the unsuccessful attempt of workers at International Computers Ltd. (ICL) to stop production of a computer for the South African police force. Although strong opposition on the shop floor prevented ICL from building the computer at their main plant, the company moved production to a site in another part of the country and built the computer secretly under a pseudonym. With no direct links between workers on the different sites, it was impossible to stop production. From their experience the ICL workers saw the need to build organisation within the company based on a network of militants which would be capable of putting sanctions into effect. Criticisms were made of pamphlets on British companies supplying South Africa for not outlining any programme of action on the shop floor or recog-

nising workers' attempts to take such action.

The ICL case also illustrated the possibilities for action by trade unionists in all sectors of the economy and not just those handling South African goods coming into Britain. Control of the investment of pension funds was one area where it was suggested effective action could be taken.

A recurring theme in the discussion was the need for further education of British trade unionists about the situation in Southern Africa. Several delegates urged the TUC to make funds available for an education programme, and were disappointed that this had not been done in the past. John McEugene of NUPE acknowledged that while funds were short in the TUC Education Department, a programme should be initiated by the TUC International Department. Referring delegates to the booklet "Where were you, brother?" he criticised the International Department, which receives one-third of the TUC's annual budget, for not giving a detailed account of where the money was going. To ensure effective implementation of sanctions against south Africa, he urged that these funds be diverted to educate British trade unionists on international questions.

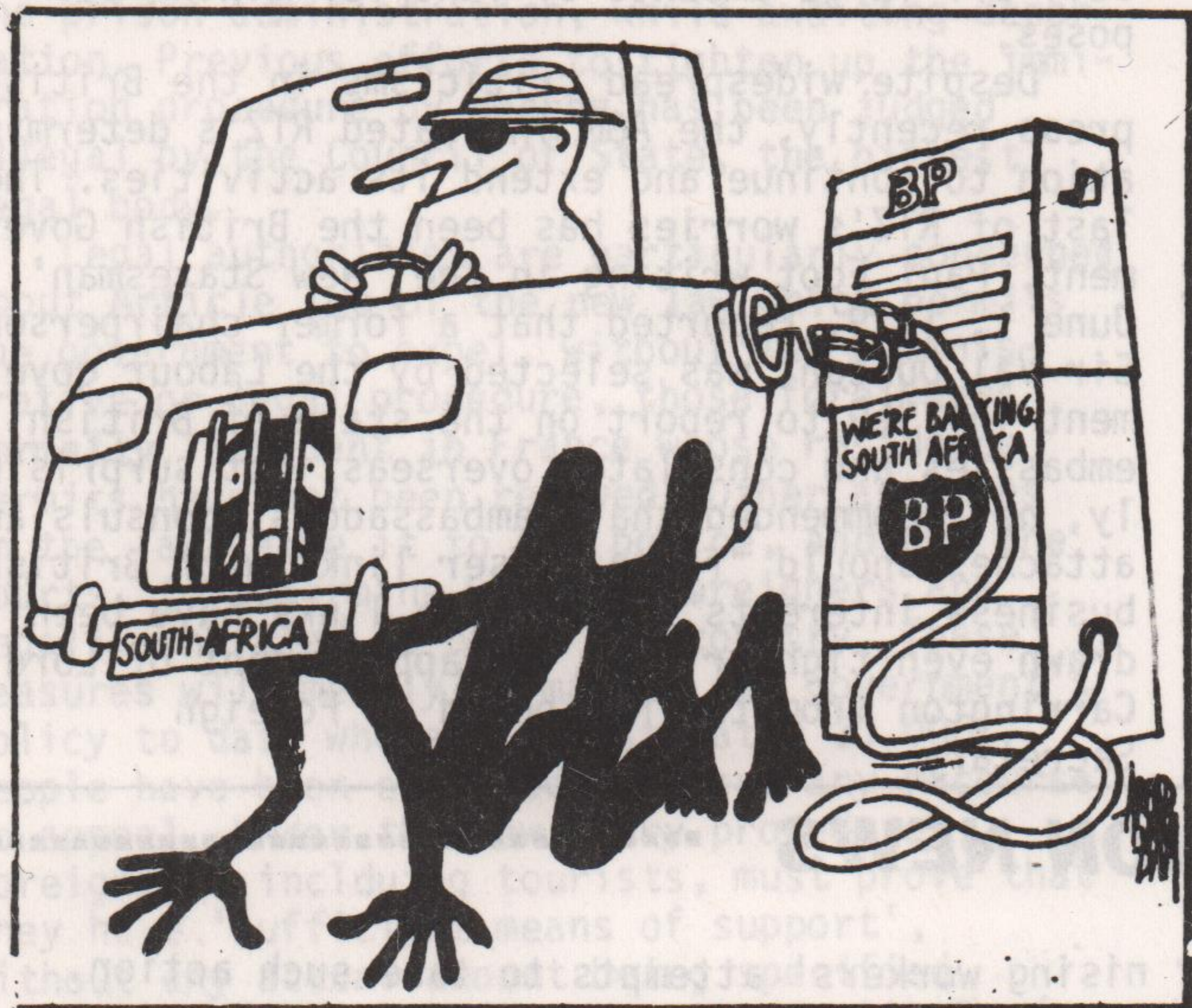
Don Thomson of ACTSS reiterated this point, giving the example of Holland and Sweden where movements had been set up to mobilize trade unionists on international questions. He pointed out that the TUC spends vast amounts of money on International work, but very little on courses for ordinary trade unionists. Demands must be made in the TUC for the channelling of these funds into education.

Dennis McShane, former NUJ President, observed that no member of the TUC International Committee was present at the conference. He then challenged the conference to name three members of the TUC International Committee. Tom Jackson was the only name coming from the floor. The TUC also came in for criticism.

The TIC also came in for criticism over its handling of matters concerning South Africa in the past. Tony Trew, an ASTMS representative on the Norwich Trades Council, referred to the TUC policy of training South African trade unionists in Britain. He pointed out that only those trade unionists approved by the South African government

would be allowed to attend British training courses. On these grounds, he stated, TUC policy should be reversed.

A point raised by a number of other delegates was the failure of the TUC to consult with the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU), whose leaders have been banned since 1961 for their efforts to organise an independent trade union movement among South African workers, on their policy towards South Africa. Failure to con-



sult South African workers themselves had led to a number of mistakes in international policy. A SACTU speaker referred to a directive from the International Metal Workers Federation (IMF) to its affiliates saying that SACTU should not be consulted with regard to policy on South Africa because this would create problems in IMF dealings with unions in South Africa. He also pointed out that the IMF had accepted the recommendations of the Wiehahn Commission (see PNS 170), which, in essence, laid the foundations for a more repressive labour structure in South Africa. In the content of the programme of action adopted by the conference, most delegates hoped that these criticisms would be raised in forums within the trade union movement itself.

Social Workers Return

London (PNS Correspondent). On Monday June 11 Tower Hamlets social workers return to work after nine and a half months on strike. Details of the agreement with the council are extremely complicated, and nobody yet knows exactly how they will stand on the new pay scales, designed to fit into a national framework which allows for separate negotiating rights.

It is clear, however, that the decision to go back to work was not easy. At the branch meeting on June 4, attended by 110, the motion accepting the council offer was only passed by a majority of eight. It was also agreed that the failures of the settlement should be pointed out to the council - such as the community workers, who got nothing from the deal, and who are to be phased out completely. In support of their reluctance to accept the deal the social workers will be working strictly to their job interpretation until further concessions can be wrung from their employers.

Assessing the effects of the strike will take many months, but the workers pointed out that considerably less damage might have been done if the council had not refused to negotiate for so long. It is now expected that it will take more than two months for the social work department to return to anything like normal.

There is also uncertainty over the question of filling posts left vacant before the strike began, and ones which became vacant in the course of the strike (about 50 social workers left for good). The council showed by its handling of the strike its contempt of the service. So, even if it does decide to advertise for more workers, few will be willing to take up the posts. Most Tower Hamlets social workers are very pessimistic about the future of the social service department.

At a national level, one effect of the strike has been to cripple the finances of the local government union, NALGO, so that they have reduced the strike pay from two thirds of full pay to a token £4 per week.

Imperial Metals Strike

Leeds (LOP/PNS). For the second time this year Imperial Metals Ltd have a crippling strike on their hands. On May 10, 600 clerical workers, all members of APEX, walked out after management had threatened disciplinary action against a member who had refused to make a special payment to a non-union member. On May 21 a mass meeting voted to continue the action after it was revealed that management were refusing to talk.

According to a spokesperson for the strikers, trouble at the factory had been building up for years. "Ever since the new managing director started two years ago, relations between management and workers have been appalling.", he told Leeds Other Paper. In October 1978 a provocative stance was taken over pay claims.

An offer of 6½ percent plus a productivity deal was accompanied by a refusal to even discuss it, let alone negotiate on it.

Although the threat to discipline the worker has been withdrawn, the strikers decided to continue the action to force the management to discuss the pay claim. They have been joined by 400 more workers at branch offices in Dundee, Glasgow, Birmingham and Swindon.

In January this year, 2,500 metal workers walked out after management had refused to discuss a miserable £2 per week offer. The strike lasted three weeks and the workers returned only after what they considered to be a sell-out by their union, the General and Municipal Workers Union. The GMWU put pressure on the shop stewards to recommend accepting the offer instead of the £60 per week minimum they were demanding. The stewards agreed, but two resigned at what they felt was an 'atrocious' decision. One said afterwards, "they have allowed themselves to be used by the company."

Garners Strike Over

London (PNS/Time Out). The Garners Strike, begun 17 months ago on January 26, 1978, was ended by the strikers themselves on May 24 when they decided to throw in the towel over their fight for trade union recognition and re-instatement.

Most of the blame for the failure of the strike has been laid at the door of the Transport and General Workers Union. The strikers believed that if the T&G had put more weight behind their dispute, it could have been won with ease. But the strike was hampered throughout by the T&G's fear of adverse publicity if they brought the same tactics to the West End as were used at Grunwicks.

In March this year the strikers decided that they had to have more support, or the management could hold out indefinitely. At a regional committee meeting of the T&G last month, the demands of the strikers were rejected, and from then on the end of the strike became a formality.

ITALY: NO POLL SURPRISES

Rome (PNS Correspondent). On Sunday May 31 and June 1 Italy went to the polls and the PCI (communist party) met with a big defeat, losing four per cent of its previous vote and 26 MPs in the lower house, while the Christian Democrats (DC) held their own. Many had expected the PCI to do badly and thought that the DC would reap the benefit. Although the DC vote remained fairly stable (they lost one MP) the PCI losses have meant that the DC will be able to form a coalition with a clear majority over the PCI. The 'historic compromise' of the PCI is now somewhat irrelevant, since they will be in opposition whether they like it or not. With the final addresses of the parties on television the traditional lines were drawn. While the PCI declared "We are the only party which will stand up to the DC's arrogance", the DC replied with "We are the bulwark against communism".



The small centre parties, the Republicans, Liberals, Socialists and Social Democrats more or less maintained the level of their polls while the MSI (neo-fascists) lost 0.8 per cent to end up with 5.3 per cent while the Nuova Sinistra Unità (NSU - New United Left) polled a disappointing 0.8 per cent, gaining no MPs at all. The previous extreme left-wing coalition, Democrazia Proletaria (Proletarian Democracy) had had four MPs, and there will be a great deal of soul-searching going on there. One of the features of the NSU campaign was its backing of local militants in various localities. In Rome, the free radio station Radio Citta Futura, took part in the NSU campaign backing as a candidate one of the women who was wounded in the fascist machine-gun and fire bomb attack in January (see PNS 163).

But the biggest surprise in an election which seems to have left unanswered as many questions as it was supposed to resolve, was the tripling of the vote of the civil rights party, the Radical Party. Their share of the vote went from 1.1 to 3.4 per cent, a total of nearly 1,300,000 votes, giving them eighteen MPs, and two senators in the upper house. Both the NSU and the PCI had accused the Radicals of picking up votes from the right, especially because of their ambivalent stance on the armed resistance during the war, but this is belied by the fact that the vote of the extreme right was relatively stable. The indications are that almost their entire increase came from disillusioned PCI voters.

One of the factors in the very low poll for the extreme left is believed to be the fact that their name did not carry any reputation like the other parties which have been standing in elections for many years. Voters may not

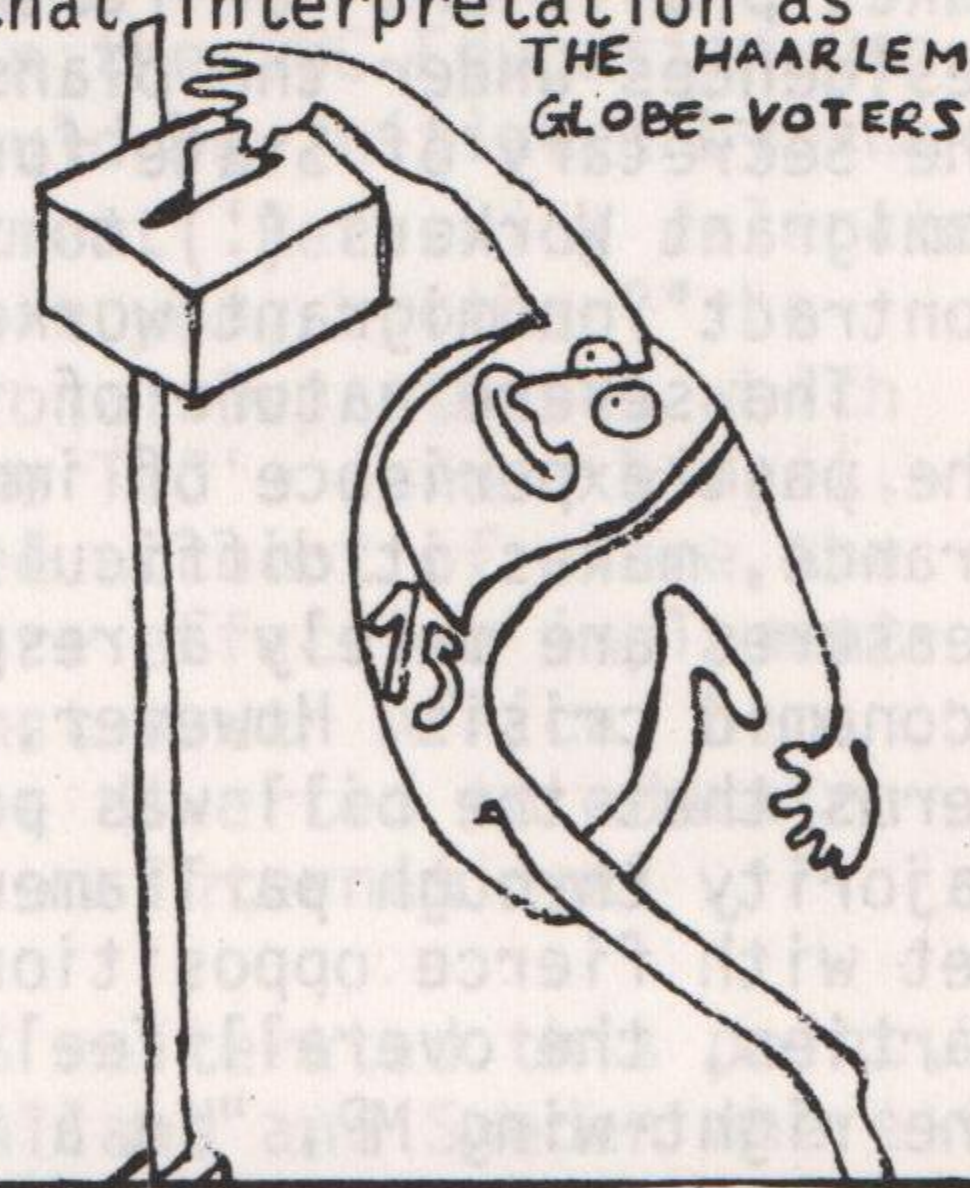
have been able to identify the NSU as the new Democrazia Proletaria, and the resemblance of the initials to a type of German car can have been of no assistance either.

One interesting fact in the disappointment of the PCI is that they lost two per cent in the upper house elections, and four in the lower house. Voters for the upper house have to be over 25 while those for the lower house 18 and over, showing clearly that PCI support among young people has fallen. It is most likely that these were the people who turned to the Radical Party.

PNS readers will remember that the campaign got off to a spectacular start with the Red Brigade bombing of the Christian Democrat headquarters and the shooting of a policeman. During the campaign the Red Brigades were urging abstention, and from a different political perspective, the Autonomists were too. Although the number of spoilt ballot papers doubled, and the rate of abstention stood at around ten per cent (abnormally high for Italy) it is not possible to say whether the Autonomists had any influence on that.

Lotta Continua, the revolutionary left daily paper commented that "The PCI is no longer the party of hope and illusion" in what they saw as the beginning of an expression of the exasperation of its working class rank and file who have been told to wait for so long, and yet have seen so little in return.

Now there is expected to be efforts by the new Christian Democrat government to introduce more repressive legislation and continue the state's attempts to identify in the popular mind communism with terrorism. In a move which seems designed to work against that, the imprisoned Autonomist political philosopher, Toni Negri, has spoken out against the Red Brigades. He said that the BR's attitude towards the seizing of state power was still fundamentally characteristic of the Third International, while Autonomists saw that interpretation as completely misleading.



THE HAARLEM
GLOBE-VOTERS

FRANCE TOUGH ON MIGRANTS

Paris (PNS/Liberation/Afrique-Asie). New French immigration laws, approved by the French parliament on May 31, will increase the powers of the police to detain foreign workers.

Immigrant workers in France have already been subject to continual police harassment. Under a 1945 decree police have been able to detain foreign workers if they represent "a menace to public order". Wide interpretation of this decree has led to increased police repression of foreigners, notably in the form of spot checks in the Paris metro. It has also institutionalised unofficial detention centres, symbolised by the secret Arenc prison in Marseille, previously used during World War 2 and the Algerian war. The Movement against Racism and for the Friendship of Peoples (MRAP) has likened these policies to the repression of

Jews under Marshal Petain. The number of expulsions of foreigners has steadily risen - 3175 in 1975, 4836 in 1976, 5000 in 1977.

The new Bonnet law on immigration sets out to provide a formal and a tighter framework through which expulsions can be made. Detention centres will also become an official part of government policy. The law states that foreigners judged to be 'undesirables' can be detained by the prison administration, while awaiting deportation. Previous efforts to tighten up the immigration procedure by decree has been judged illegal by the Council of State, the highest legal body.

Legal authorities are particularly concerned about Article Two of the new law which permits the government to expel, without any administrative or legal procedure, those foreigners normally resident in France whose residence permits have not been renewed. Other articles in the law leave it to the police, and not the courts, to determine whether foreigners are legally entitled to be in the country. These measures will merely formalise the government's policy to date whereby an estimated 20,000 people have been expelled without any recourse to appeal. Under the new entry procedures, foreigners, including tourists, must prove that they have 'sufficient means of support', without any actual amount being specified.

Another area where repression is likely to be stepped up is with regard to living conditions of foreign workers. After the rent strike by immigrant workers at the Sonacotra residences in Paris, starting in 1975, hundreds of tenants were prosecuted and police checks of residences have increased, especially with the introduction of the riot police, the CRS. (In France housing is provided for immigrant workers by the firms that employ them). At Strasbourg and in the Paris region, armed members of the CRS have occupied residences at 5.00 am. The new law makes provisions for further control of residences under the plans of Mr. Lionel Stoleru, the Secretary of State for the Condition of Immigrant Workers (!) to impose a 'residence contract' on migrant workers.

The severe nature of the Bonnet law, and the past experience of immigrant workers in France, makes it difficult to accept that these measures are merely a response to the French economic crisis. However, it was under these terms that the bill was passed with a large majority through parliament. Although the bill met with fierce opposition from the opposition parties, the overall feeling was summed up by one right-wing MP, "in a time of crisis, one must know how to make 'difficult' decisions".

FRG STRUGGLES WITH PAST

Lower Saxony (PNS Correspondent). When the Tories enter the European parliament they will be joining the Christian Democrat group there and one of their colleagues is very likely to be the German author of a book on 'Judeo-Bolshevik imperialism' written for the Nazis in 1943, Hans Edgar Jahn. A prominent politician in Lower Saxony, Jahn is the top candidate there of the Christian Democrats for the EEC parliament, has sat as a West German MP for fourteen years, and as an MP at the EEC for nine. Jahn sits on several committees at the EEC, including Health, Information, Environment, the liaison committee with the US Congress as well as being the foreign affairs spokesperson of the Christian Democrat group.

The British political representatives

might like to consider some of Jahn's earlier comments to them, like "The English and Americans will one day thank God in Heaven that German victory will have saved them from the domination of Bolshevism", and the French should be happy to know that "France had to be attacked by Germany so that it could once again return to the fold of European culture". Nigh on 400 pages of Nazi propaganda fill the now-controversial book, complete with literary index, the main thesis of which is summed up like this, "With the destruction of Bolshevism, the last great bid by Jewry for world domination will have been defeated... Thousands of years from now Man, and above all Youth, will speak one name with reverence and awe: Adolf Hitler".

When 'Stern' magazine published an article going into Jahn's book and his career from young sailor in the Hitler Youth to member of the Nazi party, to student at the Nazi-run Berlin High School for Politics, to being introduced to Hitler, to an important post as National Socialist Leadership Officer, he reacted "with tremendous shock". This contrasts with the fact that his lawyers had written to 'Stern' before the article appeared threatening legal action if their client were defamed in any way.

Jahn has dismissed his early literary efforts as 'youthful indiscretions' for which he cannot be blamed, although he was 29 when he wrote it. He was a Nazi member for ten years, and in his replies to 'Stern' said nothing about his post as National Socialist Leadership Officer, nor of the charges that he was once friends with members of the narrow circle of Hitler's acquaintances.

The Lower Saxony Social Democrat Party speaker on European affairs has demanded Jahn's resignation but he has said that "I will continue my political work as before". Having had a spell in prison which officially 'de-nazified' him in 1947, Jahn also claims that material which came to him in prison convinced of the falsity of his previous ways, and also that the Nazi propaganda ministry altered his manuscript inserting the word 'Jewish' in several places. Yet Jahn became the head of the Christian Democrat anti-communist organisation, 'The Working Group of Democratic Circles' during the late forties and fifties, and was an outspoken and virulent critic of the Soviet Union during the Cold War. He claims that, "in over 5000 speeches and discussion, in 3000 articles and about 20 books I have set myself against any form of totalitarian domination and fought for human rights".

Carstens the ex-Nazi

All this comes in the midst of a controversy over the national Christian Democrat party's recently elected President of the Federal Republic, Karl Carstens. When demonstrators marched in a procession to Bonn wearing SS uniforms, with others dressed as judges, businessmen, priests and members of the Hitlerite women's organisation, the police did everything they could to harass them. Several of the marchers were arrested and hundreds of police accompanied the thousand or so demonstrators into Bonn itself. The media had been requested by the Christian Democrats and the Ministry of the Interior to play down the affair, and as a result television carried no reports on it.

Carstens, a former member of the National Socialist Party of Germany, was not the Christian Democrats' first choice. According to the West German weekly 'Die Tat' their first candidate for the Presidency was Hans Filbinger from Wuerttemberg, who had to withdraw after it

became known that he had been a judge at field courts martial during 1945 and had sentenced deserters to death. However, the final choice is very much a personal victory for the ultra-conservative Christian Socialist Union of Bavaria, and in particular its leader Franz-Josef Strauss (the CSU is joined to the CDU in parliament, although the two are organised separately).

The Social Democrats had considerable problems in getting a candidate to stand against Carstens, although they, like many Germans, were worried about the prospect for Germany's international image of having a former Nazi succeed a popular head of state with an anti-fascist record, Walter Scheel. While there may be fears abroad that West Germany may be rehabilitating the fascists, Carstens' accession is also significant in view of the current debate over whether there should be a statute of limitations on crimes committed during the Nazi era.

SA'S INTERNAL SETTLEMENT?

London (PNS Correspondent). The bill to amend the existing South African labour legislation, tabled in Parliament by the Botha government in the last week of May, fell short of creating a framework for the "humanising reforms and "dramatic" changes in the apartheid system that the Western press had expected. The bill follows the report, earlier in May, of the "Wiehahn Commission of Inquiry into Labour Legislation", a body set up by the South African government after the major crisis in the South African economy in 1976 (see PNS 170).

Wiehahn's recommendations that black workers should be allowed to join officially sanctioned trade unions, and that "job reservation" be abolished, were heralded by the Fleet Street press as a move away from racial discrimination and a victory for black trade union rights. Now that a bill has been tabled which does not accept all of Wiehahn's recommendations, these same papers are writing about "a stunning blow" to "the new black labour deal".

The bill tabled in Parliament does not diverge substantially from Wiehahn's recommendations. It extends the definition of employees to include black workers resident in the urban areas, so bringing them within the framework of the Industrial Conciliation Act. The much criticised aspects of the bill that maintain the privileges of white workers by permitting the continuation of closed shops, that allow white unions to veto the admission of black unions to industrial councils, where the main part of negotiations about wages and work conditions are carried out, that ban racially mixed trade unions and that exclude migrant workers from the definition of "employee" and order black unions to expel these members are no surprise when the repressive intention of the Wiehahn Commission's report is recognised.

The amendments proposed to the legislation were never intended to overturn white privilege or emancipate black workers. And it is no surprise that Professor Wiehahn, who left South Africa once the bill had been tabled to tour the world attempting to convince potential investors in South Africa and international labour bodies of the benefit of the changes, has made no criticism of the bill.

The new labour bill is one element in the strategy of the South African ruling class to solve their economic and political problems by both attracting back foreign investment and producing a black petit-bourgeoisie. The strategy may be viewed as one of South Africa's own

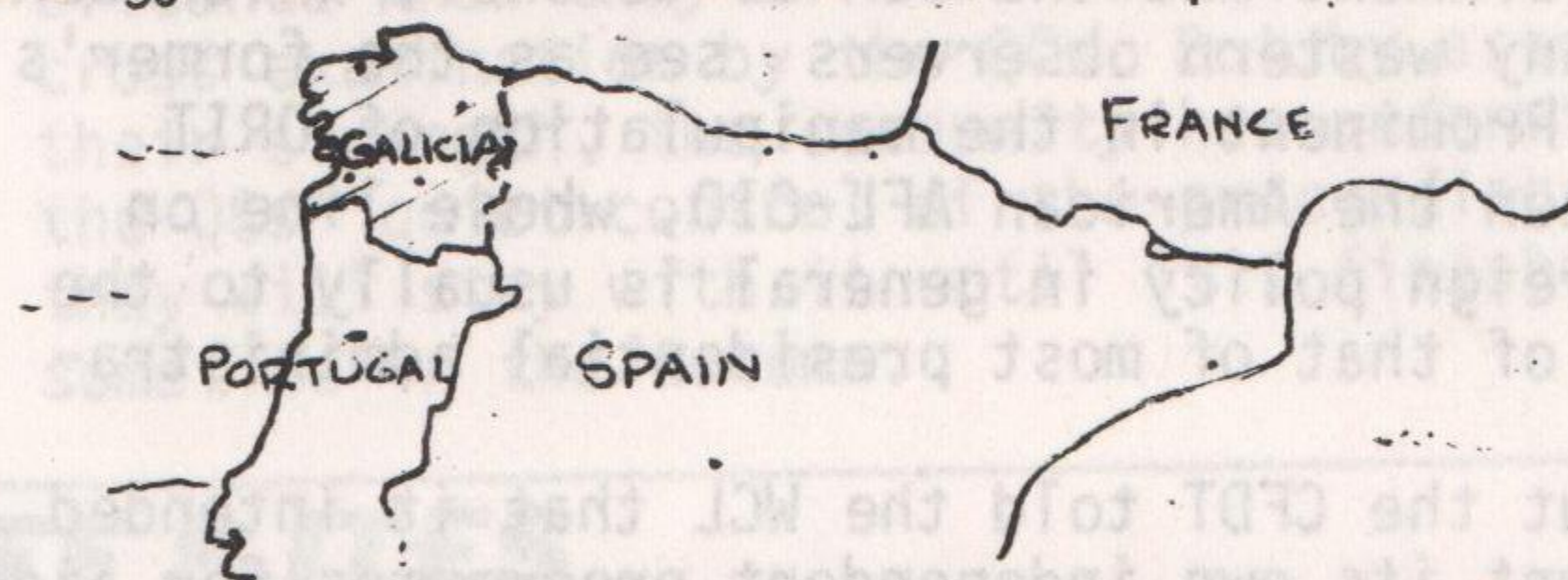
"internal settlement", following its policy on South-West Africa and Rhodesia.

In the week the bill was tabled, the deputy governor of the South African Reserve Bank made a speech pointing out the advantages of the South African economy to foreign investors, and appealing for foreign capital to help finance South Africa's new growth phase. In previous weeks the Riekert Commission report was published, which advised the recognition of the rights of black families to remain in urban areas. Koornhof, the so-called Minister for co-operation and development, called for meetings with bourgeois leaders of the black community like Dr. N. Motlana in Soweto.

The strategy has not fallen on deaf ears abroad. A Washington Post editorial quoted with approval the Johannesburg Rand Daily Mail's opinion that: "In the past week there has been greater and more hopeful racial change than we have seen in the nearly 31 years that the Nationalist government has been in power". The editorial went on to remark that there must be change in South Africa now because "blacks of substance" were paying "careful, if quiet" attention to the reforms. The BBC broadcast a long interview with Botha, the South African Prime Minister, in which he justified his government on the grounds that it stood for peace and prosperity for all the people in the land.

GALICIA: NO NUKES DEMO

Santiago, Galicia (PNS/A Nosa Terra). Opposition to nuclear power in Spain is not limited to the Basque country, where anti-nuke activists are strong enough that the Spanish government has cracked down on demonstrations - one woman was killed recently when police forced into a crowd of anti-nukers. In Galicia, the north-west corner of the Iberian peninsula, some 15,000 demonstrators protested the proposed construction of nuclear plants, which would produce energy for industrial areas in Spain.



Galicia is already a net exporter of energy, and has enormous potential for hydro-electric power from river and the Atlantic - enough to meet all its own future needs. Spanish companies profit immensely from their investments in Galicia, because of their control of Galician resources, cheap labour and motorways and railways designed to encourage access from Spain. Galician emigrants also provide labour in more industrial parts of Spain.

The nationalist movement in Galicia thus has strong reasons to oppose nuclear power. The benefits of more energy would go to Spain, while the hazards of radioactive contamination are left to Galicia.

"We don't need a nuclear plant," chanted the Galicians at demonstrations on May 20, "the colonialists do!" The demo had been called by nationalist party AN PG, and it got the support of the whole nationalist movement.

Among the groups supporting the demo was the Congress of Farmers' Councils, CC LL, which met in April with some 1000 delegates, the first Congress since it was begun in 1973, under Franco's regime. The CC LL has participated in other demonstrations in recent years.

WORLD TRADE UNION MOVEMENT HITS THE ROCKS

London (PNS Correspondent). The news that the French Socialist trade union federation, the CFDT, has just confirmed its suspension of membership from the World Confederation of Labour (WCL), the smallest of the three world trade union federations, has spotlighted the enormous problems of all the three world organisations. The WCL, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU) and the Soviet-dominated World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) are all experiencing significant crises of confidence from some of their most important affiliates, leading to speculation that a break-up of the three which have dominated the world trade union scene since the war may well be on the cards. One of the most crucial events in any efforts to renovate international trade unionism will be the conference of the ICFTU in Madrid in October.

The CFDT left the WCL (which claims four million members world-wide) because it says that the WCL has not done enough to help re-structure the world trade union movement by uniting with the ICFTU. It is also believed that they fear the WCL does not have enough industrial clout. The WCL is also under pressure from the Dutch trade union federation, the FNV, to get together with the ICFTU. The FNV unites two federations, the NKV and the NVV, the former affiliated to the WCL and the latter to the ICFTU, and wants to resolve this obvious contradiction by seeing the two world federations unite. If the CFDT is joined by the FNV in withdrawing contributions, the WCL's fate may well be sealed.

However, unification is by no means as simple as it sounds. One of the WCL's principle opponents in its trade union activities has been the ICFTU. The WCL's strongest wing, its regional organisation, the Confederation of Latin American Workers (CLAT) has been in bitter struggles with the ICFTU's regional organisation in Latin America, ORIT, for thirty years. Several books and pamphlets over the past five years have cast light on ORIT's activities, including its use by the CIA to help subvert Chile under Allende, to help de-stabilise the government of Goulart in Brazil to prepare for the military coup in 1964, and many other manoeuvres. Whatever its other positions, CLAT has been as vigorous in its opposition to the US government and the CIA as to ORIT, which CLAT and many western observers see as the former's tool. Prominent in the manipulation of ORIT has been the American AFL-CIO, whose line on US foreign policy in general is usually to the right of that of most presidential administrations.

But the CFDT told the WCL that it intended to mount its own independent programmes for aiding trade unions abroad. In reply, the WCL pointed out the dangers of independent programmes, particularly as it has been the AFL-CIO which has used this form of aid to weaken and split trade unions in the Third World, and even in western Europe - shortly after the war in France, Italy and Greece.

The WCL may also have been referring to the overseas activities of the DGB (the West German equivalent of the TUC) which has been mounting divisive bilateral programmes abroad with massive funding from the Friedrich Ebert Foundation which is allied to the ruling Social Democratic Party in Germany. They have been most active in supporting with huge finances the building in Portugal of a rival trade union federation to the largest federation, the Intersindical, because they see it as dominated by communists (see PNS 165 passim). One danger that the CFDT will be facing is that the only place that they can find enough funds to mount any meaningful programmes abroad will be from the French government. Right-wing thinkers on trade unionism in the USA have already pointed to the possibility of the CFDT joining in overseas work with the AFL-CIO and thus being able to apply



successfully for French government funds, particularly in the African francophone countries. The most naive trade unionist must know that the interests of trade unions are rarely served by governments, and the dangers of government financing should be obvious.

The TUC received money in the past for its overseas work from the Ministry of Overseas Development, and with the axing of that department by the Conservative government, the TUC will be getting money for international trade union solidarity directly from the Foreign Office. It seems that governments in the West are taking advantage of the parlous state of international trade unionism in order to influence how their trade unions spend money abroad. So far, the TUC, DGB, and AFL-CIO have been willing partners.

WFTU has not been without its problems either. In 1978 it lost one of its last remaining western affiliates, the CGIL of Italy. Now it is in serious danger of losing the CGT of France as well. With the loss of these two huge federations and the continuing repression of trade unionists in the USSR, WFTU's credibility is also very low.

WCL and WFTU have their problems, and the ICFTU is no exception. ORIT has been so embarrassing to the ICFTU that they just don't want to talk about it, and in all their publications conveniently ignore its total subservience to the AFL-CIO and the US government, even though the AFL-CIO has not been a member of the ICFTU for ten years.

The ICFTU's regional organisation for Asia, the Asian Regional Organisation (ARO) has a none too rosy reputation either. The Federation of Korean Trade Unions (part of the ARO) had its origins in the military occupation of South Korea by the Americans, a tradition it displays by training goon squads in the martial arts to help break strikes which threaten the martial law dictatorship of President Park Chung Hee. As for the African regional organisation, it only has one major affiliate left. That is in Tunisia, and most of its leadership is now in jail.

Influential unions want change, and they

want the WCL and the ICFTU to provide the lead. The Dutch FNV, for instance, has combined its pressure on the WCL with notification to the ICFTU that the AFL-CIO must not be permitted to come back into any new organisation or the ICFTU without fulfilling certain conditions. These have not been spelt out in detail but are believed to include the ending of its independent overseas programmes and a stop to its control of ORIT. The AFL-CIO is plainly very unwilling to give up ORIT, but its leaders are sensitive to the pressures and have already attempted some cosmetic measures to 'clean up their act', by reforming ORIT. Proposals for a new inter-American organisation are already on the table, and they also tried to save face by instituting a boycott of Chile. However, pressure and friendly consultations from the AFL-CIO leaders' friends in influential giant corporations have led to the whole scheme being silently dropped (see PNS 165). They will have to try a bit harder if they want to win the confidence of the Europeans.

To die in Madrid?

Nevertheless, the ICFTU has committed itself to winning a return of the AFL-CIO. When, at the ICFTU congress in October, General Secretary Otto Kersten retires, he will do so a defeated man. His aim to bring the Americans back has failed and the prospects, with the AFL-CIO's bizarre interpretation of trade union solidarity getting better-known, seem no better.

However, the ICFTU has never before debated the problem of the AFL-CIO and its possible re-entry and evasion of this issue could be disastrous. For instance, the WCL will on no account consider amalgamating with the ICFTU the AFL-CIO is let back in. But with pressure from the Dutch and other quarters it is likely that the AFL-CIO will be discussed, and the attitude of the two biggest ICFTU affiliates, the DGB and the TUC, will be of paramount importance.

The TUC is formally committed to an American return, but it is no secret that not all of the TUC is ecstatic about the idea. The German attitude is unknown at the moment, but the support of at least one of these giants will be essential for the success of any moves towards amalgamation with the WCL and/or the setting of strict conditions on any re-entry of the AFL-CIO. With 12 million votes out of the 53 million members of the ICFTU, the TUC's attitude will probably be decisive.

To all who care to examine it, it is plain that the ICFTU is in a chaotic condition and extremely ineffective. Just as transnational corporations are challenging the ability of trade unions to organise internationally as they never have before, we see that organisation incapable of responding.

One of the reasons the congress in Madrid in October will be so important is that it meets only once every four years, and any optimism about the prospects for change should be guarded. It is almost certain, even now, that Otto Kersten's successor will be one of the present general secretaries of the International Trade Secretariats, the world-wide trade and craft bodies for industrial unions. Of the fifteen ITSSs, only four have not been used at one time or another by the AFL-CIO to mount their divisive bilateral programmes - many have actually been used by the US government's Agency for International Development.

At the last congress in Mexico City, delegates were assailed by lobbyists passing around

pamphlets on the CIA's use of ORIT in Chile, and other AFL-CIO manipulations. Concerned trade unionists present in 1975 are asking themselves, "Will the penny drop in 1979?" Whether anything will come of the new initiatives to shake up this moribund organisation and breathe new life into the world trade union movement as a whole, depends entirely on the will of the ICFTU-affiliated federations, particularly the TUC, to face the problems and take on the responsibilities for international solidarity which they have ignored for so long.

USA NUKE SPOOKS

Washington (PNS/LNS). The nuclear accident at the Three Mile Island reactor in Harrisburg has focused American attention not only on the dangers of nuclear power, but also on its critics. What has received far less notice than it deserves is the growing body of evidence showing that these critics have been the objects of considerable attention by government and corporate spies for quite some time.

The excuse offered by various US government agencies and power companies for spying on anti-nuclear activists has been the threat posed by both organised terrorists and the mentally unbalanced. But anti-nuclear groups cite that danger as merely another reason to shut the plants down. They also point out that the intelligence apparatus has been directed against every major movement for social change in this century. Just as even pacifists who opposed the war in Vietnam were viewed by the intelligence community as direct threats to the government, non-violent anti-nuclear activists can now be targeted as 'potential' terrorists, or even as 'identified terrorists'.

The State Department's list of terrorist organisations has listed the 'Clamshell Alliance' which has done nothing more dangerous than use the traditional tactics of non-violent protest and civil disobedience to fight construction of a nuclear reactor at Seabrook, New Hampshire.

The federal agencies with jurisdiction over threats to nuclear plants (the FBI, Department of Energy, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission) have maintained a relatively low profile in surveillance of nuclear critics. The Department of Energy apparently does collect files on nuclear critics. Not much has come out about FBI surveillance since its general intelligence operations brought its activities into the limelight. Mostly, surveillance of nuclear power critics seems to be conducted by state and local police and by private security operations carried out by the companies themselves.

On the West Coast of the USA, when non-violent 'Abalone Alliance' protesters occupied the grounds of the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant in 1977, two of their forty participants turned out to be undercover deputy sheriffs. These two continued their surveillance even while the legal defence for the trespass charges was under way. Some of the allegations by 'Abalone Alliance' members merit special attention. According to the Alliance members, the conduct of the undercover agents fitted the traditional behaviour of agents provocateurs. The undercover sheriffs "were the only two who had talked about violence."

In addition to state and local law enforcement, the companies themselves have been extremely active in carrying out intelligence operations. An investigation of the Securities and



Exchange Commission records shows in hard figures that nuclear power is more dangerous than conventional power sources to civil liberties as well as to health. For instance, the records show that in 1976, 76 nuclear power station companies paid out a total of nearly \$3 million to private security firms. By contrast, the contracts for 56 corporations with conventional power sources tallied only \$8,900. These figures include only hired security companies; many nuclear power companies have set up security/intelligence units of their own.

There is also some evidence that these private power company units can get data from official sources by tying into an old boy network. One former Georgia Power intelligence official said, "I could get anything I wanted on your background by going directly to a sheriff or possibly a chief of police in this state, anything that had been fed into the national computer... The only hesitancy is that you are supposed to burn the information after you get it."

This use of private security companies also presents some clear risks to public safety. The private security companies have a history of abuses. Private industry used them to spy on the labour movement - a function which was outlawed in the 1930s when congressional investigators concluded that these companies had a 'pecuniary interest' in fomenting trouble.

Accounts from anti-nuclear protesters give cause for concern that this could happen again. One anti-nuclear critic reported, for example, that a 'friend' had tried to get him interested in learning about explosives. Later he learned that his 'friend' was working under cover for Georgia Power's security unit.

STRIKES ON US BASES

Tokyo (PNS/New Asia News). The smashing of a strike by 20,000 workers at four United States military bases in the Philippines signified the re-cementing of US/Philippine relations following President Marcos' so-called 'non-aligned' policy..

All strikes other than those by base workers are illegal under martial law, and Marcos' extension of that rule to the bases,

at the request of the US embassy, indicates how close relations between the US and the Philippines have become since the signing of the new 'Bases Agreement' in January.

It also demonstrates the hollowness of Marcos' previous 'non-alignment' policy, which was designed to pressure the US into providing more aid. In a March 24 speech, Marcos left little doubt about that, stating bluntly that "without the US military bases, we will always be under threat from a prospective enemy." Opposition to the US military presence is a key issue stressed by democratic opponents to military rule. In returning to a loyal, pro-US stance, Marcos has the support not only of the other ASEAN (the Asian equivalent to NATO) nations, but of China and Japan as well. The most likely area of dispute involving the Philippines is the uninhabited but oil-rich Spratley Island group. Both the Philippines and Vietnam have occupied several atolls, making an armed conflict a possibility.

US ASIA QUARANTINE

Tokyo (PNS/NAN). During his forthcoming visit to south Korea President Carter will announce his 'quarantine strategy' doctrine, based on the premise that a new era has arrived in which the traditional east/west conflict has been replaced by a struggle between China and the Soviet Union for influence in Asia. The new strategy purports to quarantine the United States and other pro-American countries in order to prevent their involvement in Sino-Soviet rivalry.

The strategy includes the following two measures. Firstly, increased economic and military assistance by the US and other western countries to non-communist regimes in Asia. During Thai premier Kriangsak's recent visit to Washington, US leaders assured him that the US would provide more assistance to Thailand to raise its military capacity to a level sufficient to cope with the 'threat from Vietnam'. The White House, under the new doctrine, will generally be very responsive to requests for weaponry from ASEAN (the Asian equivalent of NATO) countries, and will strongly urge Japan to strengthen its air and sea defence capacity.

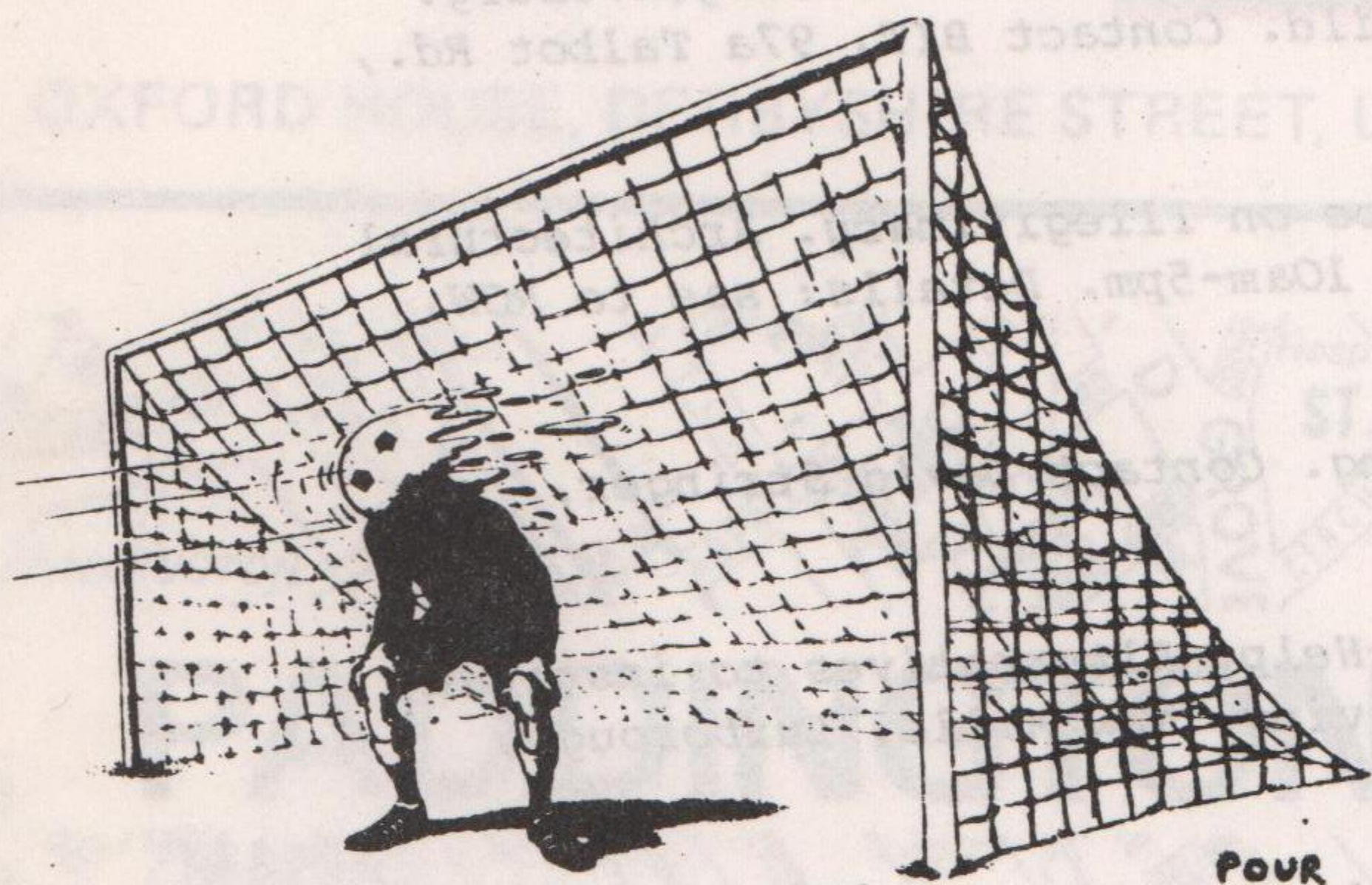
Secondly, to maintain US military strength at approximately its present level. President Carter's promise to withdraw US ground forces from south Korea by 1977 and the Pentagon's discussion of reducing the Seventh Fleet by one task force have not been carried out, and further reduction of US military forces in Asia will not take place. Earlier this year, Carter said as much, "because of the existing situation in this region (Asia)."

The Carter administration has already asked Japan to provide Thailand with aid for security purposes. Japan, in compliance with this request, will supply an additional 50 billion Yen for 'rural development' in north-eastern Thailand, and has expressed its desire to co-operate in the reconstruction of the St Sathap air force base.

Japan's politically motivated economic aid includes military assistance to south Korea in the form of support for Park Chung Hee's munitions industry. The eleventh meeting of the Japan-Korea Economic Committee held in Seoul from April 2 to 4 was attended by representatives of Japanese firms that operate joint ventures in Korea and produce weapons and military equipment. These include various Japanese giant

corporations manufacturing rifles, guns, communications equipment and heavy equipment for military purposes. The 'International Exhibition of Electronics Technology' is considered a significant example of US-Japan co-operation with south Korea's efforts to develop its own arms industry. The event will be sponsored by the Korean Productivity Centre and will be held in November in south Korea. President Park Chung Hee's military regime's appalling record on human rights does not seem to be putting off either the Americans or the Japanese.

ça c'est du sport!



PUBLICATIONS

Books, pamphlets etc.

The New Technology. A CIS Report. Published by Counter Information Services. 40pp. 75p.

A useful summary of the introduction of microprocessors into our lives. Particularly interesting are articles on the massive profits being made and the effects on employment. Perhaps more space could have been devoted to projections of the effects of this 'technological revolution', and to the alternative ways in which it could be used under socialism.

The education of the future: an introduction to the theory and practice of socialist education, by Stephen Castles and Webke Wustenberg. Pluto, 1979, 220 pp, Paperback, £3.95 (ISBN 0 86104 070 8).

"Examines the development of socialist education theories and how the linking of learning with productive work has always been the basis of education for social change." Chapters on British radical education history, the Soviet Union, GDR, China, modern developments. Strangely, however, the influential names of Illich, A.S. Neill, Godwin, Paul Goodman, White Lion St. Free School, etc do not appear in the index.

Hallucinogenic mushrooms. Release, 1979. 19pp, 45p. (ISBN 0 904932 18 4)

"Outlines all the precautions that prospective mushroom eaters should take. Several species... are described in detail" Also deals with legal aspects and cases of mushroom poisoning.

The Guillotine at Work, by G P Maximoff. Cienfuegos Press, 1979.

An Anarchist account of the Red Terror carried out by the Bolsheviks after the 1917 revolution, up to the death of Lenin and the accession of Stalin.

ADS

PNS is starting here to devote space to free advertisements. Send the legible, short texts to our office.

*Anybody interested in forming an alternative radio project in the London area? Letters only to John Smith, c/o PNS.

* "Radio Citta Future is a free radio station of the revolutionary left in Rome. It was featured in the recent Granada TV programme 'Chain Reaction'. The comrades of RCF will be organising a series of talks and film shos in Britain this July, on 'Free Radio and the Changing Political Situation in Italy'. If you would like us to come to your town, please write to us at this address: Radio Citta Futura, Via Dei Marsi 22, 00185 Roma, Italy."

* Sheffield Anti-Nuclear Group wants photographs and article connected with the Torness demonstrations and nuclear power in general for mounting an educational display. Write to PNS.

* Practical and personal support for gay men and women who find themselves in trouble with the law as a result of their homosexuality, and anyone who wishes to join East London Gay Liberation Front write to: EL.G.L.F., c/o QMC Gay Liberation Society, Students Union, Queen Mary College, Mile End Road, London E1 4NS

Beyond the Fragments; Feminism and the Making of Socialism, by Sheila Rowbotham, Lynne Segal and Hilary Wainwright. Newcastle Socialist Centre and Islington Community Press. 100pp.£1.00.

An important and relevant attempt to assess the relationship between an autonomous feminist movement and socialism, and more particularly, to summarise the influence of the former on the latter. Sheila Rowbotham's article forms the bulk of the book, and it she looks at the major issues of socialism (e.g. consciousness, democracy, leadership, autonomy, vanguards, etc.) and discusses the feminist controbution to each.

Periodicals

Arts Alert. Greater London Arts Association. (25-31 Tavistock Place, London WCIH 95F) Monthly. Subs: members of GLAA: £3 (individuals) £5 (organisations). Also available free at a limited number of venues.

First issue reports on the financial problems of the arts in London, the row in Bromley over a new arts centre, the new Albany Empire in Deptford, etc.

Dragons Teeth. Published by the National Committee on Racism and Children's Books. The Methodist Church, 240 Lancaster Rd., London W11. Price 25p. Subs: £2.00 p.a. institutions, £1.50 p.a. individuals.

ICSA Bulletin. 6A/77 Anson Rd., London N.70AX. Free. Published by the International Committee against Apartheid, Racism and Colonialism in Southern Africa.

ICSA is made up of permanent representatives of the ANC (South Africa), SWAPO and the Patriotic Front with the aim of mobilising political, moral and material support for the liberation movements, and ensuring the effective isolation of the racist regimes of Pretoria and Salisbury. Bulletin gives comprehensive account of events in southern Africa.

Events

June

- Fri 8 - Sun 17** London. Women's Festival '79. Theatre, films, workshops, video, music, poetry etc. Women's Arts Alliance, 10 Cambridge Terrace Mews, NW1. Details: 01-935 1841
- Wed 13** London. Campaign to Stop Namibian Uranium Contract. 7.30. Friends House, Euston Road, WC1
- Sat 16** London. Soweto Anniversary. An evening of music, poetry and film ("A battle for South Africa"). ANC speaker. Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, WC1 7pm., Adm. £1.50
- Sat 16 - Sun 8** South-west Midsummer Free Festivals, Stonehenge, Glastonbury, Avebury. For the International Year of the Child. Contact BIT, 97a Talbot Rd., London W11. Tel: 01-229 8219
- Tues 9** London. Rights of Women Day Conference on Illegitimacy. Architectural Association, 34 Bedford Square, WC1. 10am-5pm. Details: see to ROW, 374 Gray's Inn Road, WC1
- Thurs 21** Glastonbury. Summer Solstice gathering. Contact David Stringer, 3 Daglands Road, Fowey, Cornwall
- Fri 22 - Sun 24** Somerset. Approaches to Medical Self-Help. Alternatives to institutionalised medicine ways of healthy living. New Mills, Luxborough, nr. Watchet.
- Sat 23 - Sun 24** Leeds. Women in manual trades national conference. Details: Tess McMahon, 16 Sholebroke Avenue, Leeds 7.
- Fri 22 - Sun 24** London. Racism Awareness Workshop: for whites to wake up to their unquestioned assumptions and prejudices. Information and booking forms: Fellowship of Reconciliation, 9 Coombe Road, New Malden, Surrey. Tel: 01-942 6521
- Mon 25 - Sat 30** Gay Pride Week. Events all over Britain; co-ordinated from London. Contact Barry Jackson, 01-278 5670, 01-263 4918 or (evenings) 01-373 5497. Culminates in Carnival and Concert at Hyde Park on Sat 30.
- Tues 26** London. Southern Africa in the 1980s. One-day conference to mark South Africa Freedom Day. ICO, Berners Street, W1. Details: AAM, 89 Charlotte Street, W1. Tel: 01-580 5311
- Fri 29 - Sun 1** Oxford. Fascism Today: weekend conference for anti-fascists. Registration £2.50 (£1.50 unwaged). Registration forms: Oxford ANL, P.O. Box 16, Oxford OX1 2JE.
- Sat 30** London. No Tory sellout in Zimbabwe. Assemble 2.30pm. Smithfields Market, (Farringdon Tube) march via Fleet Street and Rhodesia House to Trafalgar Square for rally at 4pm. Contact: AAM, 89 Charlotte Street, W1. Tel: 01-580 5311.
- Sat 30** Brighton. Women's Festival (women only). 10am - 6pm. Friends Centre, Ship Street. Films, exhibitions, discussions, Self-defence demonstrations, poetry readings. Playgroup for children. Evening: disco with Devil's Dykes, Resource Centre, North Road.
- Sat 30** Leeds. Yorkshire Humberside Regional Socialist Feminist Conference. 9.30am-6pm. Swarthmore Centre, 3-6 Woodhouse Square, Ls.3. Tel: 0532 789240

July

- Mon 2 - Sun 22** London. Fringe Theatre Summer School. Lectures, seminars and experiments on the history of fringe theatre; its developments and achievements and current relevance. £75. Details: FTSS, City of London Polytechnic, Calcutta House, Old Castle Street, E1 7NT
- Sun 8** London. Save the Whale demonstration. Trafalgar Square. Contact: Tim Clarke, FOE, 9 Poland Street, W1V 3DG