

# CLASS STRUGGLE

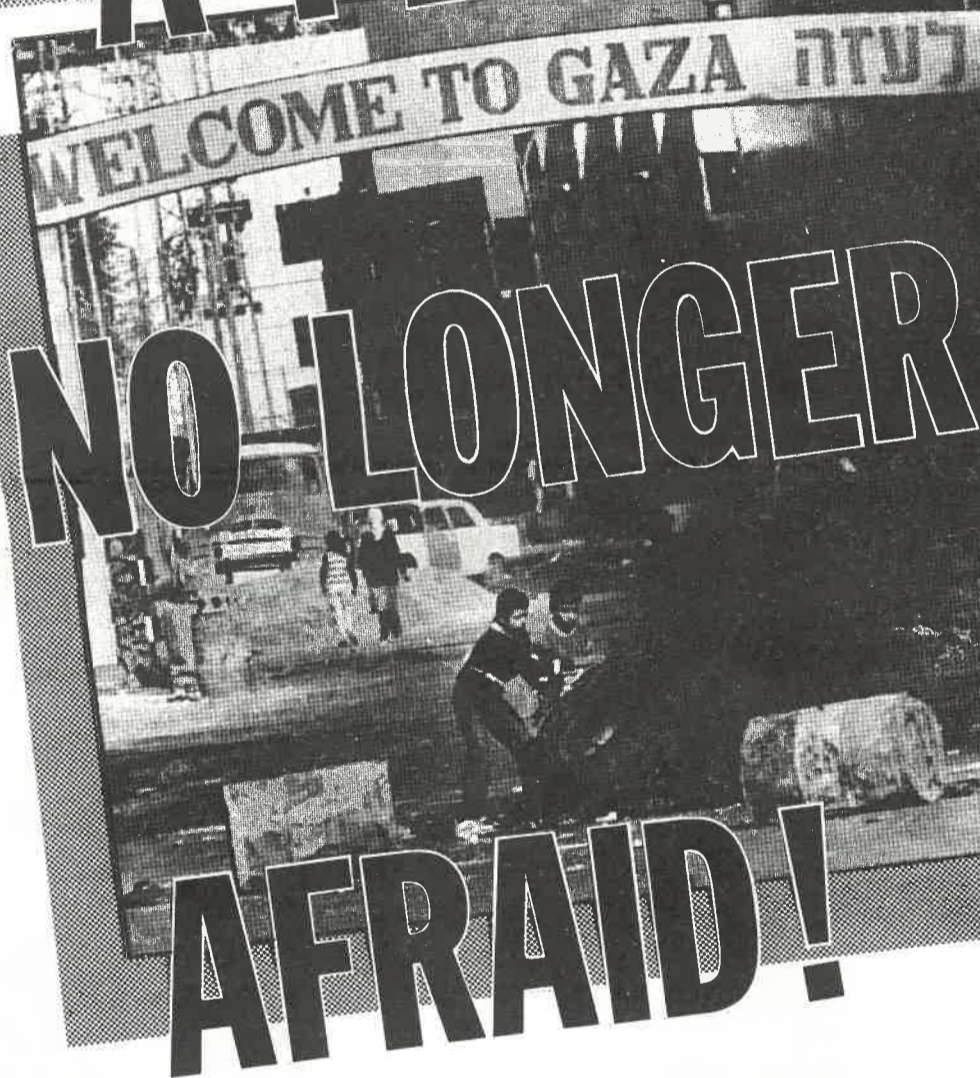


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25P

## A PEOPLE



NATIONAL UPRISING IN PALESTINE

by David Evans.

"When I was a kid," a Gazan told this correspondent, "We used to throw rocks at the Israeli soldiers. We were afraid of three things: the soldiers themselves, our teachers and our parents, who would punish us if they knew what we were up to. But now, everyone is out against the Israelis - the whole population."

Since early December, a popular uprising has been in progress in Palestine, during which Palestinian youths have sometimes cleared whole areas of the towns and refugee camps of Gaza and the West Bank of Israeli military forces, pitting stones and occasionally petrol bombs against heavily armed soldiers. At one point, during protests against former Israeli Defence Minister Sharon's move into a flat in the Muslim quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem, protestors even took over the main street in Arab East Jerusalem for three hours.

The mass character of these struggles has been obvious: besides the repeated street protests, there has been a mass stay-away by Palestinian workers from the West Bank and Gaza, from jobs in Israel.

This has had a serious effect on a number of Israeli industries, and particularly

on agriculture, which has depended heavily on cheap and plentiful Palestinian labour to maintain its profitability since 1967. Some additional workers are being recruited in south Lebanon to help with the citrus harvest, while lead-

ing members of the racist, Zionist labour federation, the Histadut, have volunteered to go and work in the fields as an example to Israeli school-children, who they hope, will help their state to limit the effectiveness of the Palestinian stay-away. Commercial strikes launched at the start of January, were also well supported, in spite of intimidatory actions by the Israeli army.

### UNITED PEOPLE

The national character of the mass struggle was also clear. On December 21st, Palestinians living in Israel, who number around 700,000 held a Day of Solidarity with their people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. They went on strike, and the strike was total.....

Continued on Page 6

"You Want More?  
I've Already Given  
You Moore!"



Local Gov. Bill....P.3



No British Solutions



IN IRELAND



# DEMOLISHING THE TOWN HALLS

CLASS STRUGGLE CORRESPONDENT

Social Security, Housing, Education, Immigration, Public Order, Employment: the government is relentlessly continuing with its programme of "radical legislation". Some has already gone through, like the Social Security legislation, due to come into force in April. Others, like Baker's Bill on Education and the new plans for housing, are planned for later this year. It is a programme to cut living standards in key areas of life for ordinary working (or unemployed) people. The rich, of course, do not need public provision of services and are not affected by the cuts. On the contrary, many will benefit directly from increased profits, such as from private rented housing.

In this issue of 'Class Struggle', we look at Baker's Education Bill and the effects of government policy on the NHS and scientific research (see pages 4 & 5). Another bill going through Parliament at present is the Local Government Bill. This bill relates to different aspects of local councils' spending, and together with the poll tax, will remove or restrict the control of local authorities over a large part of their finances.

## CUTTING SERVICES

An important part of the Local Government Bill will force local councils to put out to tender services that they provide, such as street cleaning, rubbish collection, school meals and cleaning, among others. This move will have the same effect on these services and workers employed in them, as previous directives and regulations have had within the NHS. Competitive tendering has meant worse terms and conditions for many hospital cleaners, porters, laundry and catering staff and at the same time, inevitably a lower standard of service to the consumer. It is important to note that the result of the competitive tendering in the NHS has not always been privatisation: in-house workforces have been forced to accept reductions in wages and increased pressure of work in order to compete for the cheapest bid.

## "MUNICIPAL SOCIALISM"

The government is determined to see the same happen to employees and services in local councils. The Tories, of course, say that they are attacking socialism and promoting individual freedom of choice.

While not for a moment believing that the policies of the Labour Party in town halls and local committees are any more socialist than their policies in national government, we support resistance to the proposed changes as they are not in the interests of ordinary people.

However, resistance is unlikely to come from the town hall bosses. In Leeds (Solid Labour Council), for example, the council is preparing by making their services so "efficient" that they cannot be undercut by private competition. Leeds now boasts high technology street-cleaning and rubbish collection. It is not often mentioned that the workforce has been reduced and the workload increased for existing employees by the new monster lorries. Similarly, money has been invested in a huge new cook-chill kitchen complex for school meals. Again, it is rarely mentioned that council nutritionists have condemned the quality of the food produced. Other councils in West Yorkshire, it is rumoured,



have noticed that the capacity of this high tech kitchen is enough for the whole of the county. Some people have even suggested it may put other councils' school-meal workers out of their jobs. No doubt, Labour councils round the country are making similar plans.

## MORE RESTRICTIONS

Other clauses of the Bill restrict the activities either of the councils themselves, or organisations funded by them. This is a complex area where although we would not defend local councils as socialist, or expect them to play a revolutionary or even progressive role, we should defend gains that have been made. The councils have not been giving anything free. It has all been paid for with our money and they should fund activities that benefit all sections of local people. For example, twenty years ago, there were few if any women's refuges. It is only the women's movement that has forced councils to fund the refuges. Similarly, Gay and Lesbian Helplines, funded by local councils, may now be under threat (see below).

## FREEDOM OF SPEECH

There is another disturbing aspect of the Bill which will limit democratic rights, particularly freedom of speech. One clause will make it illegal for councils or organisations funded by them, to promote policies that can be identified with a political party. At present, it is unclear how this may be interpreted as the clause is so vague. One interpretation is that it would make it illegal for councils to fund organisations like CAB's or advice groups that campaign around or give advice about changes in social security benefits.

## CONTRACT COMPLIANCE

Contract compliance is a practice being brought in by some councils to impose conditions on firms with whom they deal. It has been widely used in the US in order to ensure that firms employ black and women workers. While in no way tackling the basic racism that is endemic in employment as elsewhere in this society, contract compliance has been effective in outlawing the worst employers. It has also been used to boycott firms with interests in South Africa.

The Bill will stop councils imposing such conditions. The original intention was to ban any consideration other than price, although the government

may be forced to agree to compliance with the weak Race and Sex Discrimination Laws that do exist.

## A GREEN LIGHT TO BIGOTRY

As the Bill was beginning its passage through Parliament last winter, a further amendment was added which would forbid councils "promoting homosexuality". In this case, opposition was not slow to get organised

The Organisation for Lesbian and Gay Action (OLGA) organised a lobby on December 14th and a national demonstration, attended by thousands, on January 9th. Their press release stated: "Since the effect of the proposals will be to stifle our voices and deny young lesbians and gays access to accurate and relevant information about homosexuality, the theme of the demonstration is The Silenced Voices. All those attending are asked to bring along a handkerchief or scarf or something similar, and to march gagged and silent."

OLGA have also produced a briefing on the implications of the new clause - number 27. Clause 27 reads as follows:

A local authority shall not:

- promote homosexuality or publish material for the promotion of homosexuality
- promote the teaching in any maintained school of the acceptability of homosexuality as a pretended family relationship by the publication of such material or otherwise;
- give financial or other assistance to any person for either of the purposes referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b) above.

The briefing outlined the way in which the clause was rushed through just before the Christmas recess, and went on:

### "1. Problems of Definition

What is "promoting homosexuality"? As far as we are aware, nobody is "promoting homosexuality". What a few responsible local authorities are doing is presenting lesbian and gay lifestyles in the context of a balanced education and sex education curriculum, ... It is a fact, not propaganda, that many lesbians and gays lead happy, healthy and useful lives. Is this to be ignored? Is it in the interests of "morality" to suppress the truth? .....

What is a "pretended family relationship"? A stable lesbian or gay relationship? A relationship which is not based on blood ties? It is worth pointing out that single parents like lesbian mothers have a very real family relationship with their children...

2. Implications for lesbians and gays

a) Lesbian and gay teenagers have the highest rate of attempted and actual suicide in the country. Parents Enquiry, the counselling service for lesbian and gay teenagers and their families reported in 1982 that out of 5000 teenagers who contacted them in the course of a year, 55% - 70 young people a week - had attempted suicide at some stage.

We have no reason to believe that the picture has changed in the last five years. A study commissioned by the GLC in 1984 showed that out of 500 lesbian and gay teenagers questioned, 1 in 5 had attempted suicide, 1 in 10 had been thrown out of their homes, and 1 in 5 had suffered physical assault from their families.

This catalogue of human misery is something which no one who believes in a peaceful and free democratic society can afford to ignore. Will this Clause improve the situation? We say it will make the situation worse.

b) Attacks on lesbians and gays have increased tenfold in the last two years. Most of those attacks are carried out by youths aged 15 - 21.

Attitudes are formed by a combination of parents, peers, schools and the media. This clause will prevent schools from providing any kind of corrective to violent or antagonistic attitudes picked up from other sources; and if schools are not to be able to do this, then who is?

Further, the violently bigoted way in which the proponents of this Clause have argued their case, has been a positive encouragement to queerbashers. We believe that it is no accident that in the week of the House of Commons debate on this Bill, .... the London weekly newspaper, Capital Gay, had its offices attacked by an ar-

sonist who caused £20,000 worth of damage; while tear gas cannisters were thrown into a gay pub in Rochester by a group of soldiers.....

Interestingly, in London it is a Conservative council, Wandsworth, which has recognised the seriousness of these threats and the need to combat them, in that it has funded a self-defence group for lesbians and gays. If this Clause becomes law, the group will fold.

The briefing from OLGA goes on to point out that the Clause would have implications for heterosexuals as well. For example, many services set up primarily for lesbian or gay people may also benefit others. Much AIDS counselling is done by such groups. In the fields of the arts, the Clause may ban films, or other artistic work that shows homosexual people in a good light and it may even threaten organisations simply because they have an equal opportunities policy which specifies gay and lesbian people. The briefing concludes:

"These proposals have been rushed through the House of Commons in just over a week. No one has had a chance to consider the full implications; even the proposers have been unable to spell out exactly what they mean.

We have produced this paper after hasty consultation with our lawyers. But the fact is that no one can predict exactly what the effects will be.

This is a bad piece of law, bad for public and health education, bad for freedom of speech and academic freedom, bad for Civil Rights and bad for the quality of education and the Arts."

The whole of the Local Government Bill is a bad piece of law partly because it will be one more piece of law restricting our basic democratic rights and because it takes away from people services which are needed now more than ever. It will take a movement organised by the people most affected however, to expose and oppose this latest piece of legislation.

## Power Struggle at Hinkley

CLASS STRUGGLE CORRESPONDENT

Things are hotting up in Somerset where the CPGB is pressing forward with its plans to build a Pressurised Water Nuclear reactor (PWR) at Hinkley Point.

This follows the farcical public inquiry at Sizewell over the first PWR proposal, which, you may remember, resulted in three removal vans full of paper and a decision to go ahead (presumably made after not reading it all!).

However, the issue is red hot in the South West with opposition strong and mounting and being coordinated by Stop Hinkley Expansion (SHE). This organisation, backed by Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth, has been beavering away for years on public opinion about nuclear power, and their long, patient work is now paying off. Somerset County Council is opposed to Hinkley C, as the proposed PWR is called, and has a budget to back that opposition. A public inquiry is thought probable next year and at present public objections are being accepted.

SHE is calling on local people to oppose Hinkley C on the grounds that it is inherently unsafe (the same design as Three

STOP HINKLEY EXPANSION STOP HINKLEY EXPANSION

HINKLEY A&B  
Hinkley C? D? E? F?

DID YOU KNOW THAT:  
The CPGB are planning to build a third and fourth nuclear power stations at Hinkley Point in Somerset - Hinkley C and Hinkley D.  
The CPGB would like Hinkley C & D to be Pressurised Water Reactors (PWR) the same type of reactor as was disastrously wrong at Three Mile Island in the USA in 1979.

Mile Island) and because of the dangers of low level radiation in the vicinity, the unsolved problem of radioactive waste, the horrendous cost, and the availability of viable alternatives for energy conservation and production.

The weight of public opinion is certainly against Hinkley C and, although the CPGB locally is opening its mouth often, glossily and enticingly, it is noted that nothing but ignorance, lies and bad breath comes out of it!

# NHS CUT 'CLOSE TO THE BONE'

I went into hospital on the third of January, feeling quite nervous. Maybe it was because of memories of my first ever visit, though that was with scarlet fever and it was a long time ago. Atlee was still Prime Minister.

I knew in September that I would need an operation and like every other (non-paying) patient would have to wait. However, turning a bad thing into a good thing, I decided that I might be able to use the time to find out a bit more about the current state of the NHS. I knew generally it is in crisis, despite government claims that they were putting more money into it than had ever been done before. So, remembering Mao's saying about 'No Investigation, No Right to Speak', I started

their wages or their views, it might not go down too well. So, in the end, I have just got a few impressions.

Firstly, I had no complaints about the service I received and on the surface at least, it seemed as though there was quite a good rapport between all the staff. I remember both as a child, and from tales from my relatives, that in the past, nurses were almost terrified of the matron and doctors were virtually unapproachable. I also remember vaguely how the BMA had led a fight against the idea of a free and universal health service, financed entirely out of taxation and I can more vividly recall listening to Charles Hill, their right wing spokesman on the wireless.

## CLOSE TO THE BONE

Things have clearly changed though, for I have recently read that the current chairman of the BMA has told the Health

Authority. Among many suggestions, there were plans to close a ward at each of the city's two hospitals, axe a clinic that provides a dental service for expectant mothers and nursing mothers, cancel plans to appoint a specialist to tackle Bradford's appallingly high rate of heart disease and halve the amount spent on sterilisation surgery.

So, even if things were all right for me, for my short stay, they clearly were not going to stay that way.

While I was in hospital, two other things struck me, though I suppose they were nothing new. All my fellow patients were just ordinary men - textile workers, a lorry driver, a teacher who had taken early retirement and an electrician who had worked for the YEB. There were no members of high society, no bankers, owners of large companies or the sort of people who moan about the NHS not giving value for money but who never use it because they can pay for better treat-

is happening to the NHS. It cheered me up no end when on TV a couple of nights after I returned home to see over a thousand health service workers, including nurses at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary staging a 24-hour strike in protest at the Lothian Health Board's vote to put catering and cleaning services out to tender. And later on, someone told me nearly a hundred nurses had marched to Salford Health Authority to protest at plans to close up to 140 beds including quite a few at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital.

Doctor Kenneth Taylor, the physician who organised the action group in Birmingham, said the city's problems were not confined to heart babies (referring to the case of 8 month old Matthew Mulhall who was waiting for a heart operation in Birmingham Children's Hospital.) "It is every area of medicine", he commented.

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119 consultants from Birmingham five health districts announced that they had formed a group for the rescue of the NHS which they said was now providing a second-rate service. Dr. Elwyn Elias, consultant physician at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, where 146 beds are closed, said lack of money was preventing doctors doing their jobs.

## YOUR MONEY - OR YOUR LIFE!

### CLASS STRUGGLE CORRESPONDENT

Suddenly, the media is full of people shooting their mouths off about the state of the NHS! What has been obvious to health workers and patients for some years is at last news: and, as usual, has had to become gruesome and desperate in order to become so.

Even now, we are not seeing the government shouldering the blame. We hear that it's the administrators' fault for wasting resources; it's the doctors'

### NURSES TAKE ACTION

At the forefront of the present furore about the NHS have been the nurses, who injected fear into the government by striking over their overtime payments. It is good to see nurses at last becoming 'visible'.

About one million people work for the NHS and half of them are nurses. The salaries of 2 in 5 of the countries' nurses are less than the Low Pay Unit threshold. But pay is only one side of their degrading exploitation. To bring nurses' pay up to be in line with policemen, for example, would

# CREATING THE UNW

to work out how to.

I'd heard of armchair Marxists, so I thought, for a week maybe I could be a bedside Marxist.

First impressions are always important. So as I walked into the ward, I was surprised to see 24 empty beds. This threw me since I had been led to believe that wards were full to capacity. But within the hour, I began to realise why. In order to save money, they had combined the occupants of two wards into one, over Christmas period, and now some of those patients plus new ones like myself, were filling those beds. Then my shock turned to horror. There were two names at the head of the bed: one was mine and there was another. So, it's come down to bed-sharing, I thought. But no, it turned out to be the name of the consultant.

The first day was really nice: restful, food brought to you, no need to wash up afterwards. But Monday was different. "No breakfast for you, young man." Then pre-medication tablets that take you up to Cloud 7 and the next thing it's all over.

### ACTIVITY OUTSIDE

During the next seven days that I spent slowly recovering, there were important things going on outside. In Lancashire, 37 nurses held an overnight strike at North Manchester General Hospital, in protest at the proposed changes to their special duty payments. And down south, NUPE said that strikes were being considered at two hospitals in Middlesex, both of which were suffering from an acute shortage of nurses.

I knew that I was getting better around this time for I began thinking about how to give the Manchester nurses some sort of moral support. I wondered if I could persuade the rest of my ward to come out and demonstrate if only for five minutes outside the main entrance. It would be good publicity. But then I thought it would probably see a few of them off: clearly a bit of ultra-Left thinking on my part, so there was need for a quick session of self-criticism and get back into bed.

As time went by, I realised it would not be that easy to find out anything. The nurses were always busy, and if I started asking questions about



Minister, Tony Newton, that his incessant talk about more and still more "value for money" was pure nonsense. "We're through the fat. We're into the meat and now are dangerously close to the bone," he said.

Also, the last issue of the British Medical Journal has provided evidence that rips apart the claims of the government that the health service has become bigger and better under their care. In its leading article, it shows that the NHS is quite literally moving towards terminal decline, and provides a grim account of falling morale, disenchantment and ultimate desertion by NHS staff at all levels.

But from where I lay, at first it did not seem like that. Was I just comparing things with 1948? Was the crisis just in London or what? Then I read in the local evening paper that a £2 million programme of cuts in the health services had been drawn up in a report produced

ment elsewhere. Just like having a Minister of Transport who had never had to travel on a bus, I thought.

The other thing that annoyed me was each morning after the woman with the newspaper trolley had departed and I saw almost everybody reading the Sun, Star, Express, Mail, etc. I just thought how ironic it is: they all come in here to get their bodies better but they were still having their minds poisoned.

I must confess that I almost enjoyed my week in Ward 11 - though that does not mean I would have enjoyed it twice as much if I had stayed a fortnight. I came out thankful for what had been done for me. But I also realised that it was not free. I have been paying taxes since 1957. So really that treatment was mine by right.

So I say, good luck to all those people, at whatever level, who are now speaking out about what

fault for not working hard enough. Edwina Currie even blames the patients for making themselves ill in the first place!

However, the facts clearly speak for themselves. The government has deliberately chosen the rundown of the NHS over the last ten years or more, by underfunding:

1. Britain spends less on health care than any other European country. As a proportion of its gross national product, Britain spends 6.0%; France - 8.5%; Germany - 9.5%; the Netherlands - 8.5%; and Switzerland - 7.4%.

In the words of that radical paper, 'The Financial Times': "This gap is too large to be explained easily away. Assuming British preferences are similar to those elsewhere, the figures suggest that an extra £10,000 million or so a year could be spent on health care in the United Kingdom, without distorting the overall allocation of economic resources." Compare this with defence spending, where Britain tops the European league table.

2. The rise in government spending on the NHS since 1980 has not kept pace with targets agreed by its own health ministers.

They agreed on an increase of 2%, needed to keep pace. But the House of Commons Social Services Committee Report, in 1986, stated that "between 1980-81 and 1985-86, the cumulative underfunding of the hospital and community services was £1325 million." Over the same period, income tax has been reduced by £8100 million.

3. In 1987, NHS managers closed 3,500 beds. This results in patients in and out of hospital so fast that the standard of their care is declining and nurses are exhausted and demoralised.

require £125 million each year. A lot of money to find? It only requires holding back on a 1% drop in income tax.

We know that the NHS will never fully serve the majority of people in the present set-up. The NHS was organised by the bosses to serve their own interests and is based on racist and sexist exploitation. We look forward to the time when we will have a properly funded socialist health care system. Of vital importance to people's health are housing, employment, childcare etc. and the struggle for a system which provides these is integral to the struggle for health.

But, in the present situation, it is the NHS or bust for all of us (except the monied few who rely on private health care). We should defend and rebuild it, by putting pressure on its real enemy, the government. As a start, the Tories can abandon their proposed 2% income tax cuts in the next budget and give the £2500 million this represents to the health service instead.

Duncan Walker, cardiothoracic consultant at Killingbeck Hospital, Leeds, signed a letter warning that "increasing numbers of both children and adults will die on increasingly long waiting lists" unless bottlenecks caused by lack of intensive care beds are relieved.

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Central Manchester Health Authority disclosed in January that it is to make up to 150 staff redundant by April. The move is to prevent a recurring £1.7 million overspend next year, when the authority owes its suppliers £5.6 million and has extended its credit to the limit.

# WHAT HAPPEN'S TO EDUCATION?

Hailed as the biggest shake-up of the school system since the 1944 Education Act, Baker's Education Reform Bill is likely to be law by this summer.

What will the changes mean?

Do they really matter?

The right to free (i.e. paid out of workers' taxes) education for all is a progressive demand. We have, however, to be realistic that in imperialist Britain, what the state provides will not meet the real needs of ordinary working people or the oppressed national minority peoples. Imperialism only provides what it needs for its profit-mad system. Any benefits to the people are secondary. The schooling system passes on the ideas and world outlook of the ruling class. Their racist, national chauvinist, sexist and anti-working class views are taught in schools.

What will the Baker Bill mean?

## A NATIONAL CURRICULUM

Although, in theory, this should mean that all children get the same education, in reality the imposition of a national curriculum will mean that students will be forced to follow a narrow range of subjects and teachers will be forced to stick to work that will guarantee good exam marks. It is racist because it does not recognise the right of national minority children to be taught their own language.

## NATIONAL TESTING

Exams at 7,11,14 and 16 years

This will put increased pressure on students and their parents.

Exams are always an arbitrary test on a given day. More exams will only make education more competitive. Exams discriminate against working class and national minority students.

The new proposals are based on the system used in the USA. However, a recent report by the US Congressional Budget Office strongly criticised the system there.

There probably is a role for some exams in the education system but not as Baker proposes, as a basic way of judging the overall performance of students.

## OPTING OUT/PARENTAL CHOICE

Anything that increases the differences between schools will only increase inadequacies in the existing state system. It will, in practice, bring in selection by the backdoor.

## FINANCIAL CONTROL

Headteachers and governors will be given total financial control. Narrow cost-effectiveness will rule. This is almost privatisation in everything but name. Added to the opting out/parental control proposal, it will help bring about a two-tier schooling system.

Along with the competitiveness of national testing, it will put added pressures on teachers. Teachers who are always looking over their shoulders to see if they are cost-effective and keeping up with national norms, cannot develop broad education for their students.

## OPPOSITION TO THE BILL

Besides the expected opposition from the Labour Party and teachers' unions, there are also opponents within the Tory party:

"It is immensely damaging to the education system of this country..... It is divisive and it will be fatal to the education of a large number of children....(Parent choice is) very largely a confidence trick and completely unrealistic."

Edward Heath, House of Commons, 1.12.87.

"An attack on plans to allow schools to opt out of local authority control has been launched by the Conservative Education Association (membership restricted to the Tory

party)..."

Daily Telegraph, 7.12.87.

The former head of the government's school inspectors, Miss Browne, said that she was deeply shocked by the plans for a national curriculum which, she said, was thought up by ministers living in "Never Never land" and was "light years away" from the ideal of a broad education for all.

Daily Telegraph, 5.1.88.

## THE REALITY

Baker's Bill is part of the Tory strategy to save British imperialism. What is intended is to provide a skilled workforce to boost profitability.

In practice, successive Labour and Tory governments have cut education spending. It is those policies that have reduced the schooling system to crisis. Tinkering around with the underfunded system cannot reverse those cuts.

The 1970-74 Tory government cut free milk and school meals. Reversing the phasing out of the two-tier state system of grammar schools and secondary

modern schools. The Barber mini-budget of December 1973 cut £200 million from education spending.

The following Labour government of 1974-79 did not reverse those cuts. In its first two years, it cut school-building spending by a third. Cuts announced in 1974-75 were to have effects that would not be felt until 1976-79. In May 1975, Tony Crosland was quoted as saying: "Next year will be much more austere, but the education service has to take its share of the cuts like everyone else." In September 1975, Circular 10/75 was issued which was the first government circular since 1959 to tell authorities where they should make cuts.

By 1976, Labour had adopted a general strategy of cutting public spending to help to save British imperialism.

As is obvious to everyone, the Tories under Thatcher have continued that policy ever since. Schools are crumbling and running out of books. More and more parents are being asked to run raffles and jumble sales to keep schools going.

## EDUCATION IS A CLASS QUESTION

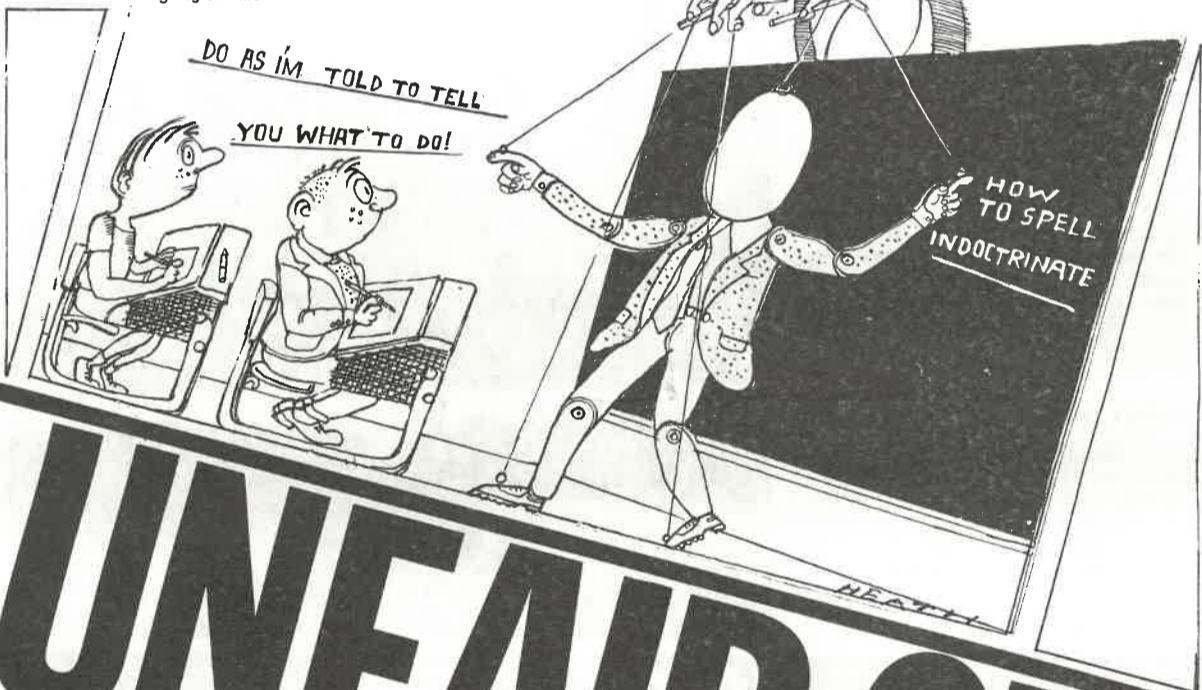
Baker claims that he wants to get away from politics in the classroom. The reality is that it is impossible to have politically neutral education.

There has always been choice between buying better education and state schools, ever since the first state schools were set up in 1870. The rulers of our society have always made sure that they can buy the best for their children.

Baker's Bill does not apply to fee-paying schools. Only 6% of students go to private, fee-paying schools. In reality, educational choice is about ability to pay. Baker obviously thinks that rulers need different education from their subjects.

For the other 94% who go to state schools, the future looks grim. There is nothing in Baker's Bill that will improve things. Schooling geared to the changing needs of the system, followed by pretend jobs on YTS etc.

Schools should not only teach facts but also teach students to question things and develop



# WELL, UNFAIR STATE

## RESEARCH FOR WHOM?

### CLASS STRUGGLE CORRESPONDENT

Recently the cutting of money for scientific research has been the subject of debate in the media.

Many of the top scientists and economic experts who are making a lot of noise about these cuts are worried about Britain falling behind the rest of the world in the competition for profitability. Probably, from the point of view of the bosses and their system, they are right to be worried. However, we obviously have no interest in the survival of a system, imperialism, which is not in the interests of the vast majority of ordinary people in Britain.

So what will be the effect of the cuts?

### MEDICINE

Cancer is one of the major killers in Britain. Yet every major cancer research institute now has to rely on charity (begging) for money.

In 1971-72, funding of university medical research was mainly government funded, via the Medical Research Council (MRC). Charities only contributed about one quarter of the total money. Latest figures now show a drama-

tic change: charities now contribute £60 million a year, compared with the MRC's £48 million.

The MRC has had to close several research units including those working on neurobiology (how the brain works) and trauma (after-effects of injuries) and cutback on units involved in cancer treatment. Plans to open new units working on nutrition and toxicology have not been put into action.

Proposals for cutbacks and possible privatisation of hospital laboratories will further reduce research and development that is of benefit to sick people.

### AGRICULTURE

At a time when food-poisoning is on the increase, research on this problem is at risk from cuts in the budget of the Agricultural and Food Research Council. In 1985, there were 13,000 cases of food-poisoning reported; by last year, the number had risen to 17,000. Some experts argue that the true figure is nearer one million cases a year.

The cuts mean that the team that works on botulism (a serious type of food poisoning

that can kill) has been axed.

Food research, in particular, is likely to bear the brunt of other cuts.

### THE ENVIRONMENT

Major projects to investigate pollution in the North Sea and a study of the effect of the sea on weather are under threat.

The Department of the Environment recently decided not to renew the one and a half million a year grant to those studying the effects of the disposal of nuclear waste at sea.

### GOVERNMENT LIES

The Chancellor's recent promise to boost research funding by £47 is attacked by the 'Save British Science' organisation as a sham.

The "increase" includes money already allocated for AIDS research (£6 million) and for a new Antarctic survey ship (£8.6 million). The remaining £32.4 million is already pledged to cover pay rises.

In fact, when things such as inflation and international exchange rates are taken into account that £47 million is, in reality, more like a cut of £34 million in real terms.

### WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?

British imperialism is a declining power caught in the cutthroat competition of inter-imperialistic rivalry in the midst of a growing world imperialist crisis.

Desperate short-term measures are being used to try and save the system. Research fund cuts are part of the same overall strategy of privatisation of public services and companies. The effects may be less obvious than privatisation but they still will effect ordinary people.

Whilst spending on civil research in Britain remains low, spending on military research remains twice the NATO average and consumes over half the national total spent on research.

in an all round way. Which facts? What questions? are political questions.

There can be no real improvement in education without the whole imperialist system being overthrown. Decent education to ordinary people will only really be possible when we can build a socialist society.

However this does not mean that nothing can be done now:

Teachers have to be supported in their just struggle for better pay and conditions.

Unity between parents and teachers must be built up.

Demands must be placed on the state to fund adequate education

Fee-paying schools must be abolished.

Free state education for all remains a just demand.

The struggle over which class the education system serves is an important political battle.



# Palestine Lives!

The basic cause of the uprising is the Palestinians' rejection of Israeli occupation. The refugees in Gaza and on the West Bank have had 40 years of being away from their home towns and villages in Israel. The whole population of these areas has experienced 20 years of living under the guns of Israeli troops. Around 2,000 have been deported, and 20,000 homes have been destroyed, in hundreds of cases as a means of "punishment". About one in three of the adult male population has spent some time in an Israeli prison. Over one third of the land in the Gaza Strip and about 54% of the West Bank has been seized by Israel and much of it has been planted with settlements.

## from front page

A measure of the extent of support for the protest of 21st December what was happened at the village of Abu Ghosh.

In 1948, the Zionist military groups seized nearly all the road from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, and drove out the entire population of the Palestinian Arab villages and towns on the way. Only two groups of Palestinians were spared: a small number of railway workers and their families in the town of Lydda, who could not then be replaced by Jewish workers; and the people of Abu Ghosh. They had helped members of Zionist terrorist groups fighting against the British during the previous couple of years: at one point, they hid Geula Cohen, who was then with the Stern Gang and is now a leader of the extreme right-wing Tehiya party.

During the last Israeli elections, the fascist, Meir Kahane, who calls for the forcible expulsion of all Palestinians from Israeli-held territory, provocatively turned up at Abu Ghosh and called on its people to vote for him, "in their own interests". He graciously told them that, because of their record, when he expelled them, it would be in air-conditioned coaches - not like the other Palestinians.

Nevertheless, on December 21st, Abu Ghosh's people joined the strike and held a demonstration, even throwing a few rocks at the police!

### RISING GENERATIONS

Many people who grew up before 1967 speak with admiration of the generation which has risen over the past twenty years, and only knows Israeli rule. They call them "fearless" and "determined", and so they are. They have been at the forefront of the street protests, as figures for casualties and arrests show. Of the 58 people known to have been killed by the Israeli forces between December 9th and January 21st, only a handful were over 25, and many were teenagers.

At first, Israeli leaders tended to claim that "PLO agitators" were responsible for what they insisted on calling "riots". But, towards the end of December, a strategy meeting took place in Jerusalem, where people representing Israel to the public abroad, discussed how to present its standpoint during the uprising, and a new line seems to have been confirmed there.

It appears to have become obvious that the "PLO incitement" propaganda was back-firing. Israel has always pretended that the PLO has little solid support in Palestine, and that there is a host of "moderates" just

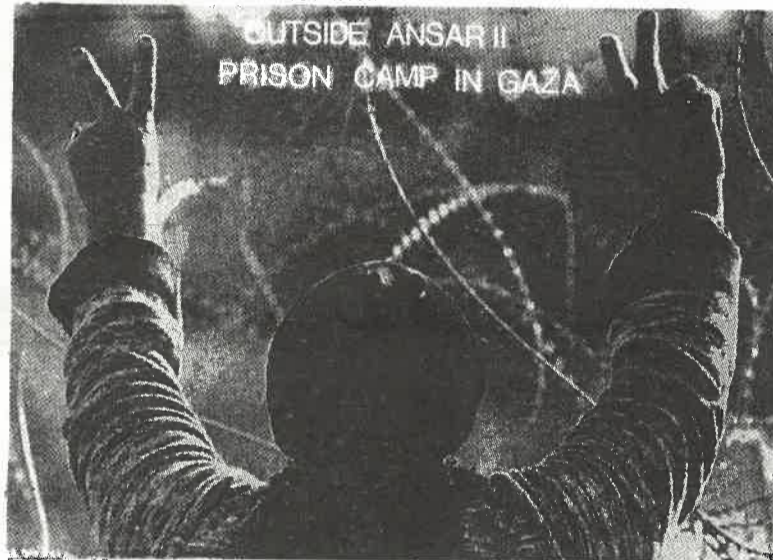
waiting to step forward, given the chance. Yet the protests were clearly those of the mass of the Palestinians, and if Israel kept insisting that the PLO was behind the protests, then it could hardly go on pretending that it was unrepresentative. The new line was that the PLO was trying to cash in on protests that had arisen for local reasons. Nevertheless, the demonstrators have made their support for the PLC abundantly clear through their slogans.

### ROOTS OF THE RISING

Many of the mainstream analyses of the reasons behind the upsurge of revolt only considered recent events: for example, the effect on Palestinian

morale of the attack on an Israeli army base by a lone Palestinian fighter arriving from Lebanon by hang-glider on November 25th.

Certainly, events such as that, or the failure of the recent summit of Arab states in Amman and the Gorbachev-Reagan meeting to deal seriously with the Palestinian questions, had an influence. Yet there has been an intensified level of confrontation in Palestine since December 6th, 1986, when Israeli soldiers shot dead two Palestinians, following the dispersal of a peaceful demonstration: the current clashes represent a further escalation of this confrontation.



A generation hardened by this experience has now come to the fore. It does not believe that the occupation will end suddenly, or that any great power will force Israel to respect Palestinian rights.

Economic and social conditions have worsened in the past few years, as employment in the Gulf countries has declined and less money has been sent back to Palestine. On the other hand, the unity of the various organisations of the PLO, achieved at last year's Palestine National Council meeting, has held firm, and this has undoubtedly strengthened the popular movement in Palestine. A sign of what this has meant was the distribution of leaflets since the beginning of the commercial strike in the name of the PLO. Previously leaflets generally appeared in the name of particular organisations within it.

In 1988, Israel's supporters celebrate the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Zionist state. Palestinian revolt is the uprising of those who paid the price for its creation. Their struggle entered a new stage of intensified confrontation at the end of 1986, exposing the myth of the "liberal" occupation. It will not fade out until the Palestinians' national aspirations are realised.

## REMEMBERING AMILCAR CABRAL

(contributed)

January 20th was the 15th anniversary of the assassination of Amilcar Cabral. In this issue of 'Class Struggle', we print the first part of an article about this great African revolutionary:

### AMILCAR CABRAL - THE LEGACY

"Africa does not exist," once said Salazar, the fascist Portuguese dictator. The grotesque irony of this statement is that for 500 years, Portugal, one of the most backward of colonial powers, clung, leech-like to its African colonies.

Angola, Mozambique, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau and Sao Tome were, on the African continent, the lifeblood of the Portuguese colonial empire. Covering a surface area of some two million square kilometres, these countries, rich in mineral and natural resources, experienced a disarticulation of their national economy coupled with the most inhumane and degrading treatment at the hands of the Portuguese.

### COLONIAL "CIVILISATION"

Through forced labour, organised loot, the setting up of banking, mining and agrarian institutions, economic, political and cultural exploitation and oppression, Portugal integrated the economies of its colonies into its own. Indeed, the 1930 Colonial Act, (the brainchild of Salazar, then Minister for the Colonies),

centralised the colonial structures as the basis for accumulation and expansion of big capital.

By 1951, the term "colonies" was changed into "overseas provinces". The revised Political Constitution of the Portuguese Republic stressed that it was "intrinsic in the Portuguese Nation to fulfil its historic mission of colonisation" and "to diffuse among the populations inhabiting (the Overseas Territories) the benefits of (Portuguese) civilisation".

The 1885 Berlin Conference, which carved up Africa between the various colonial powers, had, de facto, legitimised "Portuguese Africa" and its "civilising" mission.

By the 1950's, over 95% of the eleven million people that lived in the five territories could not read or write.

Literacy and fluency in the Portuguese language was one of the qualifying conditions for becoming "civilised" or "assimilado" according to Article 2 of Decree 16.473 of 6th February, 1929.

Between 40% and 80% of African children died before the age of one. Only 380 doctors were "caring" for the Africans. In Angola, there was one hospital for every 280,000 people, one doctor for every 20,000 people, one nurse and thirty beds for every 10,000 people. The mortality rate among workers was 30%. Primary and secondary

education was almost non-existent for the vast majority of Africans. The litany of Portuguese crimes could be endless.

It is against this background of colonial violence that Amilcar Cabral enters the scene.

### FORGING THE WEAPONS

Amilcar Cabral was born on 12th September, 1924, at Bafata, in Guinea Bissau. His father, a schoolmaster, taught him to read and write until the age of seven when he went to primary and then secondary school until 1944. For a year, he worked at the national printing press at Praia, in Cape Verde.

By 1945, he had secured a university scholarship and left for Lisbon to study at the Higher Institute of Agronomy.

His first wife, Dona Maria Helena Vilhena Rodrigues, remembers him thus: "I have known Amilcar since my first year in agronomy, 1945.

There were a lot of students in that year: two hundred and twenty, including two hundred boys and twenty girls exactly. I did not belong to his set but I remember perfectly seeing him among other colleagues. As he was the only black, he was very obvious... Amilcar did not take the entrance examinations to the university. He was distinguished right off in the first general mathematics tests, with one of the highest scores. Everyone was talking about him, praising his bright-

ness and on top of this, he was attractive and relaxed... As far as his political activities are concerned, I remember that my colleagues were collecting signatures for enrolment in anti-fascist student democratic movements. At meetings he used to lead the discussion, since he expressed himself very well...."

### THE STRUGGLE UNFOLDS

The years following the war were to be rich in teaching and experience for the young Cabral.

The unfolding struggles for national independence and self-determination waged in Africa, Asia and the Americas, were rocking the colonial powers.

In the cultural sphere, a renewed outpouring of Black creativity, unmatched even by the Harlem renaissance movement, made its mark on Cabral.

Among these movements, the birth of Presence Africaine in Paris in 1947 and that of 'Vamos Descobrir Angola' in 1949, and the centre of African Studies in 1951 all spoke of the need to reassert the African personality and to regain consciousness of the self.

Cabral sums up this period succinctly: "It was after the Second World War that a need to struggle to put an end to colonial domination was born and grew in people's thoughts. At that period, a group of students from the Portuguese colonies began to seek how to

# CHINA

EXTRACTS FROM A CHINA DIARY

## FROM SICHUAN TO BEIJING

We print below the second half of the account of travels in China, in the autumn of last year.

### October 4th:

Now back at our hotel and resting - the first time since we have been in Sichuan, enjoying Moon Cakes and drinking tea. The Moon Cakes are special for the Moon Festival, just coming up, and are everywhere. It is a great family festival and we were sorry our hosts were not with their families but looking after us. Moon Cakes are rather like mince pies and much enjoyed by us.

### October 5th:

Although our Chengdu friends could speak very little English, and thus Min (our interpreter) had to work very hard, we had a frank and open talk about some of the problems that Chinese people face at the present time, as follows:

#### Not enough meat:

Although a lot was served in the hotels and too much for us. They explained that as Sichuan is a rich, agricultural province and produces a lot of meat, some of this is sent to other provinces to help their more meagre supplies.

#### One child policy:

All agreed that this was necessary and this view was reciprocated by all our hosts throughout the trip with one exception, and all the younger ones indeed had only one child. This acceptance was born out in practice wherever we went in the cities: just one, very loved one, with father and mother, except once when we saw two children and decided that the eldest was a girl! But they all also agreed that the one child was too easily a spoilt one, but that this was, to some extent, avoided by state nursery schools, of which there were not enough. There were also some private ones and sometimes a mother could be a carer for several other children.

#### Private ownership of shops, etc.:

Yes, this did exist and was all right at its present stage of development. But, they were worried that if it grew too much these people would take "too much profit" as they put it.

### October 8th:

Off at 8 a.m. to Dazu Stone Carvings. These were started in the Tang dynasty, around 890 A.D. and finally finished some 250 years later. Far too many for us to see, so we were

taken to what are considered the finest, at the Great Buddha Bend, which is a cliff face, 15 to 30 metres high by 500 metres long. They are truly magnificent in size and colour and our guide explains the stories they depict as we walk along the galleries provided, always looking upwards at these towering giants. They portray the peasant life of the times, with cowherds and water buffaloes working or lying around and resting.

Another huge set of carvings depict life in Heaven (all pale and luminous colour), Hell (black throughout), sins of drunkenness, and of killing animals and a wonderful section on parents' duties in bringing up children. At least, this is what remains in my memory and the whole complex reflects the Buddhist religion and philosophy of the times. From observation of Chinese visitors (and there are many), it appears they are disinterested and rather jokey about the religious connotations of it all, but clearly impressed by the art of their ancient culture. Words cannot describe this place but a booklet of lovely colour pictures and explanations will always remind me of the day.

A long ride back to Chongqing and over the very impressive long Changjiang (Yangtze) River bridge built in 1976. The four corners of the bridge are surmounted by very big and graceful figures, two men and two women, depicting the four seasons of the year. The figures are strong with flowing robes beautifully offset by the matt silver effect of the finish.

#### On The Yangtze:

##### October 9th:

Awake really early with tea at 5.30 a.m. We stick by our early tea and always try to ensure that thermos in rooms is changed often so that it is hot. No guest room in China is ever without the thermos, lidded cups and tea. Thus we are ready for the three Gorges: Qutang 5 miles, Wu 12 miles and Xiling 9 miles. They are truly magnificent and my words nor my photographs can really describe them. They are too big and high for snaps to do any justice and the day is slightly misty with sunshine filtering through. We see huge bare patches of apricot, sand and black rock and mainly enormous mountains clothed with trees and shrubs and much new afforestation, too. All this interspersed with towns: all with long, steep steps leading up from the river and between towns, many scattered small houses with cultivated plots: they seem so high up the mountains we wonder how anyone can

get up or down to them. Sometimes the tree-clothed mountains and bare rock faces are fringed with pink and red flowering trees. But there were very few birds, even here with much vegetation and comparative quiet, at least, for China.

Thinking how best to describe the Gorges, I decide one must imagine the West Highlands of Scotland, set in the semi-tropics, sliced right down the middle vertically, but with fantastic-shaped tops and then between the mountains, put the swift, wide and ochre-coloured great river. I gather the whole thing was caused by earthquakes - how long ago, a million years perhaps?

structures. Land is leased out to households or groups of them when larger-scale work needs to be undertaken. These groups are organised by the township councils and this goes for building, transport, irrigation, etc. Certain methods of organisation are not uniform all over China, and some former communes prefer their old organisational methods. But this must be quite voluntary. They spoke of a growing point for the future, and as yet in an early stage, of larger groups of families - again quite voluntary - beginning to organise so as to be able to work collectively larger areas of land and thus



As dusk is falling and nature's wonders over, we reach the final accolade for the day: the Gezhouba Dam. This is a huge modern dam, together with equally massive locks, to further tame the river. Looking at the size of the lock gates, with enormous, deep lock sides which appeared as the water was lowered, the whole thing made our locks on British Waterways, look like antiquated toys. Looking at it all, I felt very proud for China, that she has been able to tame the nature of this, the world's third longest river, coming all the way from the borders of Tibet to Shanghai, which is 6300 kilometres. Thinking about this dam later, my mind went back to the 2,000 year old dam and irrigation system of Dujiangyan seen earlier, and this made a concrete thread of ancient and modern Chinese civilisation, and was certainly a great history lesson for me, as was all we had seen over the last fortnight.

##### October 13: Back in Beijing:

Back for the last lunch with our Chinese comrades. And again not nearly enough time to say all we wanted to.

They qualified, to some extent, what we had heard about the Population policy. Yes, it is accepted in the urban areas. But they think still some resistance in the countryside, where it is now agreed there can be two children per family.

On ownership and management of the former Commune structure: This now is the responsibility of township councils, who work through former brigades and teams, that is village

modernise agriculture, which will be more productive using large tractors and other agricultural implements and methods. They, and a 'China Daily' expert report spoke of some more expert farmers taking over land of those who prefer to enter industry and larger-scale handicraft employment. It is a very many-sided picture and not possible to generalise at this stage of development. This was born out by tracts of land we saw eastwards from Wuhan and northwards towards Beijing.

We also had a very interesting talk with a comrade who is of the Hui nationality and therefore brought up a Muslim. He still follows their dietary habits and mentioned no pork or alcohol. He went with the first group of Muslims to visit Mecca and was clearly vastly impressed by this pilgrimage.

They spoke of many other experiences they had had but there was not enough time to hear it all. So very regretfully, and with great warmth, we had to say goodbye.

Many problems in China remain to be solved and new ones will arise as the years go by. Mao Zedong once said "making revolution is no tea party" and that is certainly true about building socialism. But it was a wonderful and ever-engrossing visit to a country I understand a little more each time I go there. I so wish I could live - which I shan't - to see the fulfilment of the socialist stage thus leading to the long-fought road to communism.

# BOOKNEWS

## POVERTY AND LABOUR IN LONDON

Peter Townsend

Between 1971 and 1985, nearly half a million jobs in manufacturing were lost in London. With over 400,000 unemployed, the capital has the largest concentration of unemployed of any city of the industrial world. This study illustrates the widening inequalities and stark contrasts in the standards of living, the growth and "feminisation" of poverty amidst the much-heralded richness of the City.

£4.95 + 37p P&P

## POLICING IN HACKNEY 1945-1984

A report commissioned by the Roach Family Support Committee

It was the death in 1983 of Colin Roach in the foyer of Stoke Newington police station that led to the Independent Committee of Inquiry to examine the circumstances of his death and the policing of the related public protest. The report brings together the experience of the policing of one community, tracing the policing of Hackney in the post-war period and looking in detail at relations between the police and black people in this inner-city borough.

£6.95 + 70p P&P

## LIAM MELLOWS AND THE IRISH REVOLUTION

C. Desmond Greaves

Executed in December 1922, Liam Mellows had played a major role in the IRA's opposition to the treaty which divided Ireland. He had organised the only significant rising outside Dublin in 1916 - in Galway. His biographer writes: "This book tells the story of the revolution through the life of the man who should be its symbol."

£7.95 + 70p P&P

## A MAN APART: THE LIFE OF HENRI CURIEL

Gilles Perrault

Assassinated in 1978, Curiel's life was tied to a country's struggle to regain its identity. An Egyptian Jew, the son of a millionaire, he rejected his class origins and gained prominence in the Egyptian and Sudanese communist movements and activity in support for the Algerian FLN. This is the first of a two volume biography that was on the French best-seller list for over a year.

£6.95 + 43p P&P

## GOD'S BITS OF WOOD

Sembene Ousmane

In 1947-48, the workers on the Dakar-Niger railway came out on strike. Sembene Ousmane, in this vivid and moving novel, evinces all of the colour, passion and tragedy of those formative years in the history of West Africa.

£3.95 + 37p P&P

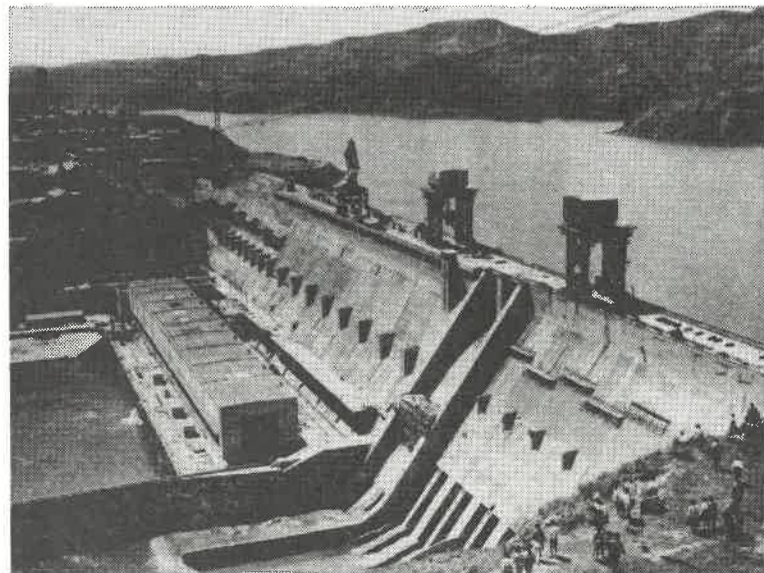
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# FREEDOM FOR IRELAND



## BRITAIN'S AGENDA FOR IRELAND..... NEW YEAR, NOTHING TO OFFER...

Anyone reading the daily newspapers or watching the television news over here, could be forgiven for believing the only thing that every happens in the Six Counties is killing and bombing. And, since the media only concentrate on those sensational aspects of the north of Ireland situation, it is easy to end up playing the British game of collapsing the issues into unrelenting and unexplained violence.

What the media coverage ignores, of course, are the whole social, economic and repressive dimensions to Britain's war against the Irish people. These are the real causes from which the armed struggle arises. As the New Year unfolds, however, there is no evidence that Britain intends to do anything to remove them. Instead, the people of Ireland face further repression and further violence at the hands of the British state and its junior partner in the south.

In the past couple of months alone, people both north and south of the border, have been confronted with further massive cuts in welfare provision and services. In the six counties, cuts of £100 million in planned expenditure have been announced by the Housing Executive. This comes at a time when there are estimated to be at least 7,000 and perhaps as many as 9,000 homeless in the province. Waiting lists for council housing currently stand at 30,000 with no prospects of the demand subsiding, especially after this round of cuts.

The DHSS meanwhile, benevolent as ever, has announced an allocation of £21 million for the Social Fund (the system of grants and loans due to replace single payments for bedding, furniture, kitchenware, etc., later on this year). This compares with an already inadequate £38 paid out for single payments last year. People on a low income or unemployed in the north will therefore have to prepare themselves for further poverty.

Of course, the nationalist working class will bear the brunt of this attack on living standards. Figures just released indicate that the number of children living in poverty in the six counties is only slightly higher than the rest of the UK (33 in 100 compared with 31 in 100). In nationalist areas, however, such as Twinbrook and Divis Flats the figures are as high as 85 and 95 out of 100.

### SIMILAR CUTS IN SOUTH

People in the south are facing up to similar rounds of cuts. Education Minister, Mary O'Rourke, is currently demanding the loss of 2,000 teaching jobs. If her demands are met pupil/teacher ratios will rise to 40:1 - the highest in Europe (average 27:1). The health service meanwhile, is set to lose 3,600 hospital beds. Emergency services are being cut back and a package of job losses and wage cuts has been put forward, as the price of further government aid to the ailing B&I shipping line. On top of these measures, the Rate Support Grant, which enables councils to provide services to the community at a lower rate than would otherwise be possible, is to be cut by £31 million

### EMIGRATION

Faced with this situation, and the "jobs famine", it is not surprising that young people from all over Ireland (somewhere between 30-50,000 each year) are "choosing" (being forced) to emigrate. And, as the Republican Movement has pointed out, responsibility lies with

legislation rather than a temporary provision renewed each year by parliament; that a suspect's right to silence be ended; that the use of search warrants and embarkation cards be extended. Should we become concerned that the PTA is more concerned with harassment and surveillance than preventing (so-called) terrorism, Colville recommends that statistics on the PTA should no longer be collected.

strategy that forms the basis of the Hillsborough agreement. In recent months, and most spectacularly, cross-border collaboration on the "security" issue saw over 11,000 RUC, British army personnel, Gardai and Free State troops involved in a "nation"-wide search. At the time, it was said to be an attempt to locate shipments of arms believed to have reached the IRA. Searching the homes of people like 92-

Kane was pursued by Special Branch and carloads of Gardai and eventually re-arrested.

Since then, he has been refused bail and lost his appeal against the legality of the second arrest. On January 3rd, he appeared in court and applied for legal aid to appeal against his impending extradition only to find that legal aid is not available to anyone arrested under the Extradition Act. The fact that the sentence Kane was originally serving was quashed last year by the Belfast Appeal Court has proved to be of little interest to either the British or Irish governments.

### ANGLO-IRISH COLLUSION

Far from "ending the nightmare of the nationalist people", the Hillsborough Agreement, and all that has followed it in the name of "consultation" between London and Dublin, has had one objective: to further repress the people of Ireland and their struggle for self-determination. Along with the massacre at Loughall and repeated attacks on Republican funerals, it should therefore come as no surprise that the RUC should report a massive decline in co-operation from the nationalist communities in the six counties. In the past year, operators of confidential telephone lines set up to encourage people to give information on paramilitary activity, have received less than half the number of calls they received last year. As a result, it seems that more direct methods of information gathering and repression will be introduced.

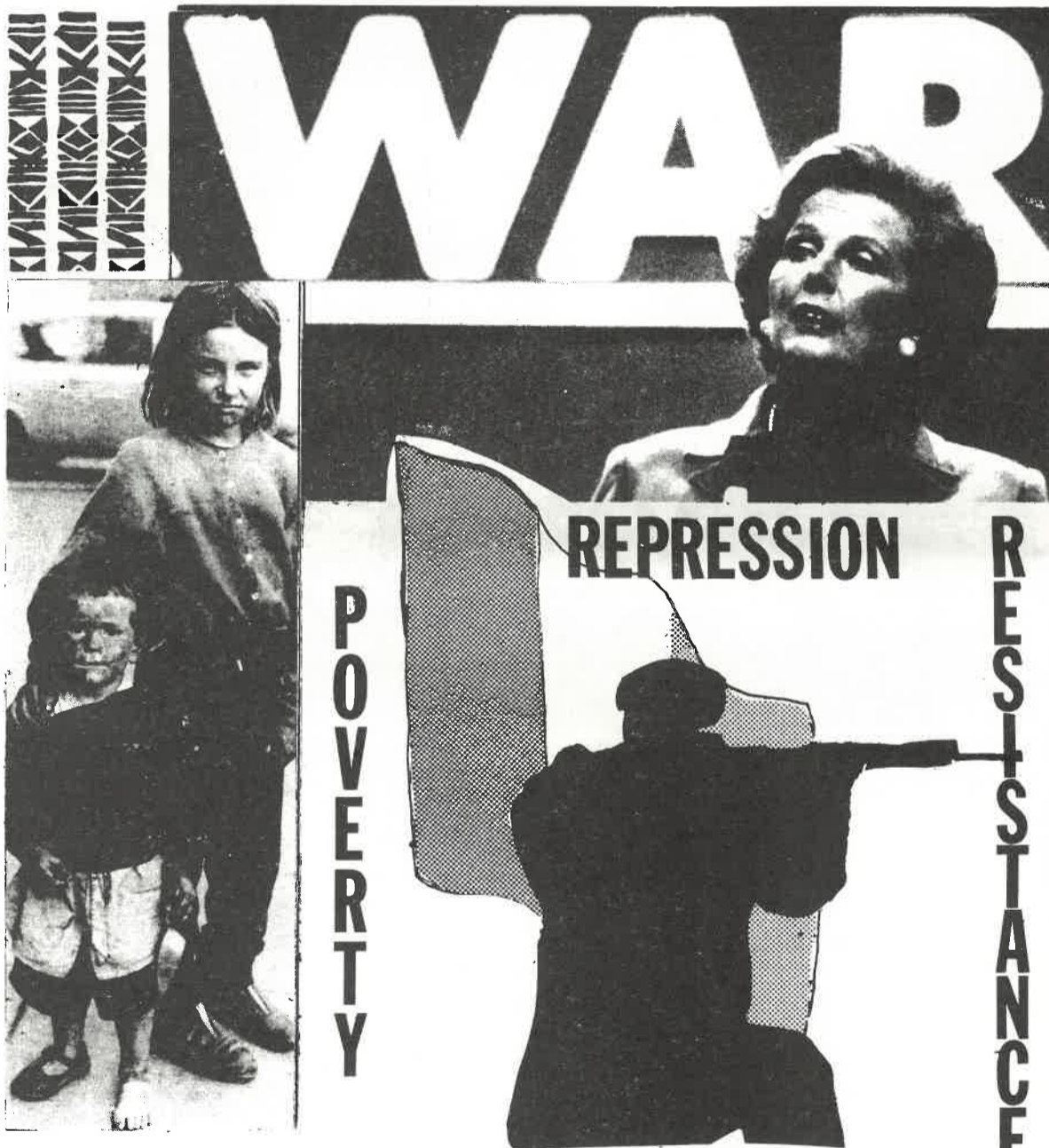
Scaremongering in the media over recent weeks has played an important part in preparing the ground for further strengthening of the already awesome Emergency Powers. Stories have been given out to the press by the RUC's chief constable John Herman that the IRA now has surface-to-air missiles in their armoury. He has claimed that these will be used against both military and civilian aircraft. The Republican Movement, in contrast, are anticipating the story being used as a pretext for more repression. Already the week-long 'national' search has been seen as a dry-run for the re-introduction of internment. Seen as a mistake in the early 1970's by certain British government figures, the possibility of Dublin's co-operation could well make it seem an attractive possibility.

Whatever happens will not, of course, be to the benefit of the long-suffering Irish people. Instead, it will serve the interests of the British state in its brutal, but ultimately futile attempt to keep a risen people down.

Entering 1988, twenty years after the founding of the Civil Rights Movement, Britain still has nothing to offer other than violent repression and prolonged agony. Eventually, it will be forced to recognise this and do what it should have done long ago - withdraw from Ireland and leave the Irish people to settle their own affairs.

### TROOPS OUT NOW!

### SELF-DETERMINATION FOR THE IRISH PEOPLE AS A WHOLE!



partition and the resulting subjection of Ireland's economy and political life both sides of the border, in the interest of British and other imperialism. "The politicians ... and their business bosses have no interest in Irish people before Irish profits. And the foreign companies which make profits from those Irish workers lucky enough to have jobs export their profits as enthusiastically as the Leinster House politicians export the unemployed." (AP/RN, 7.1.88).

### MACHINERY FOR REPRESSION

Meanwhile, and just in case anyone should object to this state of affairs, the whole machinery of intimidation, censorship and repression has been geared up for further action. December saw the publication of Viscount Colville's review of the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA). Ignoring all evidence against the PTA, he has recommended that: the PTA should become permanent

In the south, Section 31 of the Broadcasting Act, which denies any voice to the Republican Movement, is to be renewed despite Fianna Fail's election pledge to have it repealed. The about turn comes at the same time as allegations from the Irish Council for Civil Liberties that raids and searches have been carried out by the Gardai virtually at will. Bundles of blank warrants, signed in advance and the appropriate details filled out after the fact, have apparently been used in raids that form part of an "information" dragnet aimed at trade unionists, tenants' groups, cultural and legal reform activists and, of course, the Republican Movement.

The Dublin government clearly has its own interests to protect. However, its increasing use of surveillance and intimidation against its own people dovetails neatly with the "all-Ireland" security

year old Hugh Nugent, trade unionists etc., gave the lie to this claim. The search, which involved raids on more than 4,000 homes, proved to be a massive exercise in information gathering, smashing up people's homes and otherwise intimidating the people of Ireland.

### EXTRADITION

The other aspect of Anglo-Irish relations which has received much attention in the past couple of months has been the Extradition Treaty. The treaty only came into force on December 1st but already we have seen something of the prospects for anyone arrested under the act. Paul Kane, wanted for some time by the British after his escape from Long Kesh in 1983 along with 37 other Republican prisoners, was arrested in the south during the week of the Nation Search. Released after extradition warrants from the RUC were found to be faulty,