Coalition collapses in Portugal

As AFM calls for ‘people's committees’

The daily collapse of Portugal’s fourth coalition government since the overthrow of Caetano was forecast this week when the Liberal Popular Party (Popular Democratic) decided to join the SP (Socialist). The MDF (Movement for Democracy), they claimed, had refused to meet the conditions of promoting that ‘western’ democracy would be guaranteed for Portugal in the near future. Again from the soldiers, themselves, the Left Party (Partido Socialista) decided to nicely reject the reconstruction of the cabinet.

Vague

The SP and PPD move has been described as a one and one in a related link to a definite realization of the party. On 13th July, several thousand people demonstrated in Avro to welcome the bishop of the Church hierarchy against the Portuguese government, who have taken over the opposition. The Major, CP and PSP (leftist Socialist) offices have responded.

Shift

The most important differences in this present approach (and “In Place of Strife”) on the hand, and the Social Contract guidelines on the other, is that the sanctions are directed at the employers. This shift reflects the shift in the burden of responsibility for enforcing the anti-working class measures away from the trade union bureaucracy and onto the bosses. The government feels, despite its agreement with the TCJ, that the trade union leaders are not capable of carrying their traditional role of acting as a brake on the wages and the workers. The need to supplement their role to other groups.

This estimate by the Labour leader, right, to be seen as party tribute to the movement and the workers by that, we should start campaigning right away on the basis of:

- NO to the £6 limit!
- NO to the Social Contract!
- NO to any kind of incomes policy

ANGOLA

‘Intervention’ – only under MPLA control!

The Portuguese regime faces a crisis in Angola. The FNLA movement is based in reactionary Zaire and financed by the United States. A mounting increased attacks on the major and more left wing liberation movement, MPLA. The left in the MPLA is advocating Portuguese military intervention on the side of the MPLA, though specifically given the right wing leanings of the Portuguese army units in Angola – the continued presence of Portuguese troops, or an increase in their forces, would be highly dangerous, not only on the specific request and under the control of the MPLA. It is not accidental that there is fierce fighting in Angola, while the transition to independence in Guinea-Bissau and Mozambique was relatively peaceful. European and American economic interests in Angola are far greater, and there is a relatively large population of white settlers (300,000) among them – at present returning at a rate of 2,000 a week, from Portugal, where they will strengthen the right wing.

If the crisis in Portugal becomes more and more chaotic, the chances mount of a conflict engineered by the right wing which could be used as an excuse for NATO intervention. British workers must be prepared to give all possible aid to the workers of Portugal in such an event.

Committee, and the statement insists that the AFM are not going to ignore the political parties who are involved in the construction of socialism nor to militarise.

There seems to be some confusion about the previous AFM statements, but that the AFM passed on the message of a delegation in recent meetings, involving the Prime Minister, who had met with them. This call for the AFM to close the 'Committees for the Defence of the Revolution' has to be closely controlled by the military and the right-wing councils.

On 13th July four members of the Supreme Revolutionary Council were appearing on television, where they swore of their commitment to the "people's power" not to be brought about by discussion, but only by ten or twenty thousand people in the streets.

However, both the AFM's statement and the pressure from the right cannot fail to give an impetus to the creation of genuine workers' councils. If such councils really do develop, they can lead to a workers' democracy far more direct and flexible than that which exists in the system, and would rapidly grow in size as the demands of an increasingly divided AFM and the EEC are realised. In the next few days, it will be the question of arming those who are resisting and permitting free political opinion, or only by granting the Ospaaal, the internal security forces, who are reckoned to be the most left of the political forces, has only recently put up "growing" MRP and "Maoists". No need.

Dissolve

The key question is whether revolutionary socialists in Portugal can take advantage of the situation while remaining clear of the political dangers of reliance on the involvement of the socialists, who are illustrated by the slogans of a demonstration of 8,000 workers and some soldiers on 16 July. Dissolve the Constituent Assembly, and the call for a government in which we want a people's government of workers.

The problem is that the establishment of a people's government, or even a revolutionary government, or 'workers government' may in Portugal be identified with the personalised, and political, power of the military; both military, and with the self-regulating role of the councils, with the narrow concept of party organisation.

Regardless of the orientation of a 'workers government', a society in the social democracies is decided by the workers councils is absolutely essential. In Portugal, there are many dangers in the slogans being mixed, and there are indications that sections of the AFM will be willing to use it in a manipulative fashion and for different aims.
A NEW ICE AGE WITH LABOUR?

THE measures adopted in the White Paper are an evil mixture. On the one hand, evasion of confrontations between the trade unions and the Government; on the other, tough sanctions forcing the workers to sacrifice themselves.

A first look at the nature of the document is the £6 limit on pay increases over the next 2 months. This 2-month limit on increases in the basic rate is not the only limit in the document. All fringe benefits, if anything, are likely to be cut. The government benefits... will be... cut. All fringe benefits, if anything, are likely to be cut. All fringe benefits, if anything, are likely to be cut.

The Government intends to police these measures by directly imposing a limit on the price increases companies employ. This is a new form of price control. If the rate of pay increase is over the limit, then the local authorities and public sector bodies will be permitted to buy the increase in the form of reduced price for goods and services. The White Paper also implies that the Government will take action against those who breach the pay limit.

The cuts in pay and cuts in social services are a consequence of the White Paper. The policy takes effect from August 1st and affects all pay increases over £6. The White Paper also announces the adoption of previously published agreements which impose a maximum of £6 on all increases.

The Daily Mail, a large section of the Daily Mail and Mail on Sunday, along with some Tribune members of the Socialist Democratic Alliance, has combined to try to save Reg Prentice.

On Wednesday 23rd July the General Manager of Consolidated Labour Party (CLP) will vote on a motion calling for Reg Prentice, Minister of Overseas Development and member of the Cabinet, to resign at the next election.

For a moment the fight between left and right is the topic of the week and file and some of the right wing parliaments have been talking of this crucial vote. The right wing MPs are siding with the left and the rank and file are feeling isolated. The right wing MPs, who are MPs, are saying that the rank and file are talking of this crucial vote. The right wing MPs, who are MPs, are saying that the rank and file are talking of this crucial vote. The right wing MPs, who are MPs, are saying that the rank and file are talking of this crucial vote.

...and how to break it!

THE RESPONSE from MPs and trade union leaders to the White Paper has been lacklustre. There has been no comment by the trade union leaders...

Workers' control

The demand for a cut in hours which brings it with the need to reorganise... The response should be in the hands of the workers... The government's attitude to the demand for a cut in hours which brings it with the need to reorganise... The response should be in the hands of the workers... The government's attitude to the demand for a cut in hours which brings it with the need to reorganise... The response should be in the hands of the workers... The government's attitude to the demand for a cut in hours which brings it with the need to reorganise... The response should be in the hands of the workers... The government's attitude to the demand for a cut in hours which brings it with the need to reorganise... The response should be in the hands of the workers...
TO understand Jaya Prakash Narayan’s movement we have to understand the situation in the state in general and in Bihar in particular. The recovery today presents a picture of a society which has little scope left for any kind of development unless the relations of production are qualitatively changed. The most important limiting factors are: first, agrarian and industrial development in the system itself.

The economic stagnation, the widespread famine conditions even in years of good harvests, the under-utilization of industrial capacity even when the industrial products in question are urgently needed, the mounting unemployment even where there is no dearth of natural resources which can be tapped for the benefit of the people - all these are manifestations of production relations which have long outgrown their relevance and have become a crushing deadweight on social development and all the achievements of a nation whose development has been dominated and distorted by imperialism.

Corrupt

As far as the state has been concerned, the party has been reduced to a den of thieves and the landlords-rum-money-brokers and the government officials are mentioned in this context. Sachin Tendulkar’s report, the Hotchpots of Raisa in the cases of evicted tribals in 1989, which the then Chief Minister of Bihar, led the non Government.org. All his efforts for three years resulted in nothing; he could not even get a hearing from the concerned officials, despite several applications he had written to the authorities, including the chief ministers of the state and the Prime Minister of the country. On the contrary, the evicted tribals were intimidated and Prasad himself was beaten up and his concentration of land and hereditary rights case (he was later arrested).

The farmers and landlords all get a sort of official patronage in order to suppress their own exploitation and exploitation by the landlords and the landowners. This is the case all over the country. We can see this from the survey by Pratap Bupin of Dalo village in the Palnaam area. A form of bond slavery, known as rajkari, is widely prevalent there. Father Bupin wrote as follows in New Delhi in the same system as practised here, if a man takes on the rajkari labour and is paid a small amount, he will have to work for the rajkari owner. Many people have been paying a debt of two rupees for decades. They just cannot fight back, so they have to keep working. This is when there is no work with the man they are bonded to. Then they are free to work in the other man’s field. These two rupees are not enough to buy food for a family. The rajkari system is therefore a major source of exploitation.

The government has responded by spreading militancy by clamping down on the districts in which the growing radicalism is spreading among the masses. As a result of the administrative clampdown, there were 37 district and 40 divisional offices where there were 29 districts and five districts where there were 40 divisional offices. The clampdown was complete in the state, and the administrative objective in creating more sub-divisions. A leader of the left landowners party (the Swatantra) expressed “shock” at the fact that Daleshwar Barna had not been made a sub-division, arguing that it was a “Naxilite area”, and that it should be a sub-division to have a higher impact on the situation.

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Tacts

Manmohan Singh, through his leadership of the freedom struggle, succeeded in saving foreign and domestic capital from the people’s hands. JSP is trying to do the same. If there are differences in the tactics of the two, that is mainly due to the changed national and international situation. The people, therefore, the party is to see the present dilemma vis-a-vis JSP’s move as an opportunity to test the waters and examine the views on which the whole system is built.
REVOLUTIONARIES AND THE LABOUR LEFT: THE PEOPLE WILL DECIDE

TWO WAYS TO GET IT WRONG

SOMETHING NEW is happening. For 70 years the problem for revolutionary socialists in Britain has been the Labour Left's working class movement as such. They have built an apparatus in their party organically linked to the Labour Left, and they have energetically developed their capacity to organise, their general understanding of the working class, and their ability to speak on its behalf. The Labour Left is a growing force in the party, and is playing a growing role in it. It is making itself felt more and more, both within the party and outside it, and it is gaining more and more support from workers. It is becoming more and more a force of the working class, and it is a force of the socialist movement. It is becoming more and more a force of the revolutionary movement in Britain. It is becoming more and more a force of the world socialist movement.

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The Maze prison, Northern Ireland's largest, is being designated as an internment camp. This decision, which is not unprecedented in the United Kingdom, is based on the recommendation of the Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland. The decision is expected to have far-reaching implications for the future of the political situation in Northern Ireland.

Drift

Within the general rightwing drift of the British government, one can clearly see the policy of "do nothing". The government has been reluctant to take any action against the paramilitaries, instead choosing to focus on the situation in Northern Ireland.

MARTIN THOMAS

LETTER

ABORTION - Where does W.F. stand?

Dear Comrades,

I would like to hear the reply from the Workers Fight magazine on the issue of abortion, as raised by the letter from Rachel Lever. I understand that the Workers Fight magazine has taken a position on this issue and I would like to know where W.F. stands on this matter.

I appreciate your time and effort in addressing this issue.

Sincerely,

RACHEL LEVER

REPLY

RACHEL LEVER replies:

Thank you for your letter. Of course W.F. does support the slogan "A Woman's Right to Choose". The confusion arises from the exchange of the term "abortion". W.F. supports the right of a woman to decide on the basis of her own "real" choice, and ends up supporting the slogan "A Woman’s Right to Choose". The slogan "A Woman’s Right to Choose" was conceived and drafted in support of the Work’s Women’s Charter. The slogan "A Woman’s Right to Choose" is more radical and stands for women’s liberation. The slogan "A Woman’s Right to Choose" is a call for the recognition of women's rights and the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.

Sincerely,

FREDERICK TOLLAND,

Workers Fight No.105, p.5

IS, IMG and the LABOUR LEFT

FROM PAGE FOUR

N.H.S. workers organise fight against cuts

By Jack Sutton (Umph Muhe)

It's not so long ago that people used to boast about the medical service being the " envy of the world". How about that now? Not so obvious any more. In fact, what happens by way of cutbacks appears to be going on in the health service. There are cuts in budgets, a referendum on the NHS, and the problems of the Europe of Health Care. If they're a lot of cutbacks, what do they amount to? The NHS is at the mercy of the government, and if the government isn't interested in the health service, then we're in for a long time waiting.

Let's take another look at the situation. There's no end to the list of demands, and the government is trying to come up with a way to get around this. They're talking about a "re-vamped version" of the NHS. But no one is really interested in that. All we want is a better NHS, and we're not going to get it from the health service.

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SOCIALIST TEACHERS ADOPT
WRONG TACTICS

ABOUT 150 teachers attended the first Socialist Teachers Conference of the year on Saturday 11th July. The underlying theme of the meeting was the presence of the dangers of a split within the NUT over the policy of the national Marxist Group, which was the main driving force at the meeting. There was concern that the problem facing the conference was not simply a question of the nationalases (i.e. working in or against the NUT), but rather what politics to adopt in order to build the Marxist Group. The argument was that the NUT was the only real way to lead the struggle, so the argument is a serious one.

thrown out

What were the policies of the meeting? The resolution on salaries was thrown out by almost one to one, with a significant number of the National Group voting against the resolution. It is clear that the demand for a living wage is a key issue for most teachers in the NUT.

A national Marxist Group, which was the main driving force at the meeting, initially argued that the problem facing the conference was not simply a question of the nationalases (i.e. working in or against the NUT), but rather what politics to adopt in order to build the Marxist Group. The argument was that the NUT was the only real way to lead the struggle, so the argument is a serious one.

Refusal

In the second the group was defeated, and although some of the policies adopted by the conference were sound and well-received, the emphasis on work inside the NUT has been weakened. A move towards a more political stance is a definite step forward.

at the end of the conference, Brian Regan of the National Group announced its statutory resolution to the Garston Teachers Union. The government is aware of the growing number of teachers who are putting pressure on the NUT to take a more aggressive stance on pay and working conditions.

ON FRIDAY night 11th July there was a meeting of the Garston Teachers Union. The government is aware of the growing number of teachers who are putting pressure on the NUT to take a more aggressive stance on pay and working conditions.

LIVERPOOL MP CALLS FOR BIG MEETING

7 months is a long time in the NUB

THE BRITISH STEEL Corporation at Hartsfall Works, Liverpool, is to reduce its coke output by about 50%.

THE BRITISH Steel Corporation, which operates all the steel plants in the UK, will be reduced to about 30% of its previous level.

What will actually happen is that some mills will be closed down, which will cause massive cutbacks in wages and salaries. A 40 hour week for the workers will then be the job that it looks like a smaller one.

Labour and Ireland meeting defies ban

OVER 400 PEOPLE attended a meeting on "Labour and Ireland" on 11th July, held at the Galston Teachers Union in Liverpool. The meeting was a response to the government's move to ban the meeting.

John Richardson of the Galston Teachers Union, who was speaking on behalf of the TUC, appealed to the government to allow the meeting to go ahead. He argued that the meeting was an important event in the struggle for a more democratic Ireland.

Labour and Ireland meeting defies ban

John Richardson of the Galston Teachers Union, who was speaking on behalf of the TUC, appealed to the government to allow the meeting to go ahead. He argued that the meeting was an important event in the struggle for a more democratic Ireland.

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