Solidarity with the Portuguese working class

- SOLIDARITY WITH THE MPLA
- AN END TO ECONOMIC BOYCOTT
- HANDS OFF PORTUGAL
- NO NATO-CIA INTERVENTION
THE MOST welcome resolutions of the 1987 Labour Party Conference were the call for the withdrawal of troops from the then Irish Republic and the commitment to end the use of torture. But in a year which provided few other major achievements, the Conference was condemned for its failure to condemn the restrictions of civil liberties in Ireland.

Ireland

Croydon North West CLP has also called for the withdrawal of troops from the then Irish Republic and the immediate ending of internment, and for the recognition of the political status of the nationalist community. The resolution was supported by the Irish National Legal Committee and the Irish Republican Brotherhood.

Abortion

On a number of questions major campaigns over the past year have found a reflection in the Conference agenda. The SNP, under Prentice and the Socialists, have put forward resolutions calling for the withdrawal of troops from Ireland. The SNP and the Socialists have also put forward resolutions calling for the immediate ending of internment, and for the recognition of the political status of the nationalist community. The resolution was supported by the Irish National Legal Committee and the Irish Republican Brotherhood.

Elected leaders – if it’s OK with the Queen

CHRIS REYNOLDS looks at some of the resolutions for this year's LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE

WHAT'S THE AGENDA?

Wilson, Soares, Rabin and other "Specialists" leaders. York CLP demands – support the Portuguese working class instead.

Directing investment: revolutionary, or a licence for leeching?

Undoubtedly, the key debate at this year's Labour Party Conference will be on economic policy. And partly for that debate is not price control, but price control. It is the favourite with the Tribune nationalisation and criticism of current nationalisation – though those, of course, figure largely in the idea of directing investment.

The Conference which sums up the deficit of a dozen or so others is "Directing investment". The Conference is critical of the fact that there has been inadequate control of prices. It is also critical of the fact that there has been a failure to control the level of profits, which it is argued are too high.

Get out of NATO and break with Mario Soares

Wilson, Soares, Rabin and other "Specialists" leaders. York CLP demands – support the Portuguese working class instead.

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On Tuesday September 9th, Portugal’s President, Francisco de Costa Gomes signed a decree severely restricting the right of the press to report events in the armed forces. The only information which is supposed to be published in official statements from the government and the top military authorities. Papers which defy the ban can be closed down for up to 10 days. So much so that when was passed the decree that it was made a 'constitutional decree', with the aim of giving it extra weight.

The reason for this move is easy to see. The last few weeks have seen an explosion of democratic activity in the army. Soldiers’ committees - independent of the leadership - are being set up in many units. The day after the decree was passed, 3,000 rank and file soldiers joined a demonstration in Oporto, in support of the 'Popular Power' (voces populares) solders, committees, and the Popular Assembleia) and against reaction. This was despite the determined opposition of their generally right wing officers.

In the most radical units, all important decisions are taken by mass meetings of soldiers. Within the last two weeks, a military police regiment has decided to admit people from the district in which their barracks are situated, to attend and vote at their meetings. And these meetings are not just a political debating society; they are where the regiment makes its decisions for action.

This sort of development puts all talk about an army-people alliance on a far more real and genuinely working class basis than it has been before. In the same unit, the left wing commanders were removed by the high command, but 5 days later they were still there -- the soldiers would not let them go.

And the military police is the only unit responsible for discipline in the army. Most of the leaders of the MFA are senior officers (generals). They are the ones whom the decission-makers are afraid of. They would be held responsible if anything, it has had the effect of creating more interest in military affairs, and thus more space has been devoted to them. There was nothing the authoritaries could do. The CFCUS and the CFCUS actions which had to enforce the law, such as the military police, were at least forbidden to arrest and instead stated that they would intervene to defend the press if necessary.

This is the real meaning of press freedom in Portugal today. It is certainly, nothing to do with the formal demands by the Socialist Party leadership. They have made the return of the paper 'Republica' to its pre-SP management a condition of their joining the 6th Provisional Government. Yet when there is a real challenge to the press, as in the Sept. 9th decree, we have nothing from them. The reason is clear. The SP's supporters in the army, men like Major Melo Antunes, are among those most scared by the present situation and are trying to re-establish their control over the ordinary soldiers. The struggles of the rank and file in the army threaten to swamp them away, together with the system that they, and the Socialist Party leadership, support.

Kates Dorchety describes a visit the Portuguese Workers Communist Committee made to an occupied farm in the Alentejo district

"I would fight until death before the boss could regain control of our lives". Heutes, and 120 es. for the 2-women, until they can work out a system of selling the produce and becoming self-sufficient. They are disappointed with the government but feel that the farm is too small on its own, and are hoping that the neighbouring small farms will soon join together their example and do the same. Their main products are wheat, barley, olives, with 3,000 olive trees, a cork plantation, 100 beef cattle, 100 pigs and 300 sheep.

In the district of Beja, 55 farms have been occupied so far (averaging 900 hectares) and the number is rapidly on the increase. The total area of occupied land has grown from 36,000 hectares to well over 50,000.

The neighbouring district of Évora is now more advanced. In fact it is the most advanced in the country. Over 100 farms have been taken over by workers there, and more than a third of the Agrarian Reform programme as determined by law has already been completed through occupations. The Instituto para Agrarau Reform (IRA), a regional-based organization under the Ministry of Agriculture, carried out the re-appropriation of the land for the state of all farms over 700 hectares.

Further legislation has recently been introduced to cover smaller farms. The workers can prove the sweatshop or under-cultivation of the land, and of the 600 workers they obtained 75% of their wages by the state if they are sick or unemployed period, and employment is passive.

Following the wave of occupations in the district, the union of farmers in the area formed a centre for farm machinery, and supplies tools and implements. The men are all quite involved in union activities, they keep in touch with the local offices at least once a week, meeting with workers from other farms.

The two women workers, however, are not. They are union members, never attend the meetings. The explanation they gave that this was because of family commitments. They do say that they always report everything to the women when they get home and discuss with them any questions which may have arisen. They have been unfortunately unable to speak to either of the women.

The farm has an elected shop steward who attends weekly meetings where the main topic on the agenda is the formation of cooperatives. In addition to this, meetings are held on the farm every Friday evening to discuss what has to be done following the week and to distribute the work.

With the occupation of the land, the workers also took control and now regard as their own the large, rather luxurious farmhouse, which is packed with antique furniture. This is where the overseer lives, although the house and furniture belonged to the landlord, who apparently has several other similar farms in the south of Portugal. The overseer had informed the workers when they occupied the house to be with them. But within a week he had packed up and left.

Three families have now moved into part of the house, but it remains largely empty. When we asked why none of the LAU, workers didn't move in and leave their tied cottages which are without running water or electricity, they replied that they were waiting for the landlord to come and remove his furniture, which they found very uncomfortable and which they regarded as his personal property.

It was obvious that these workers had no intention of ever returning to the slave-like conditions which they had endured for most of their lives. Their pride in their work and their farm was very clear. They insisted that they had not had to work any harder or of longer hours since the occupation, but that as they were more organised, and taking their own decisions, more work was being done and it was being done to their satisfaction, unlike before.

This is borne out by the fact that agricultural production in the whole of Portugal has contrary to most expectations, been higher this year than in previous years.

First published in Our Common Struggle
Missiles in the wake of 'peace'

The hollow hypocracy of the description of the Egyptian-Israeli accord as a "peace" agreement was clearly exposed last week when Ford Administration officials said that the US was "selling" Israel F-16 aircraft and Pershing missiles. The range of the Pershings is about 460 miles — making it capable of hitting Cairo, Amman, Damascus, Beirut, etc., from inside Israel. The fact that the US says that it is not supplying the Pershings with nuclear warheads is no way to mean that Israel will be confined to conventional weapons, as it is in a position to manifest its open nuclear warheads at plants like that at Dimona.

As Workers Fight pointed out last week, there is no way to separate the war against Egypt from the war against Iraq. Iraq, in fact, has just signed a $1 million agreement with Egypt setting up a Tehran-based joint shipping company (Iran gets 51%; Egypt gets 49%) with all the funds coming from Iran.

As soon as the Cairo Voice of Palestine radio station broadcast the Palestinian Liberation Organisation's View of the Egyptian/Israel deal, referring to it as "an attack on front to front on the Arab nation," it was closed down by the Egyptian Ministry of Information. The premises were sealed and an Egyptian news bulletin broadcasting the terms of the pact went out over the air on the same wavelength. The voice of the Cairo station, launched only seven months ago, was already on the air with the promise of exposing Israeli domination. It was a sign that the enemy is not going to be out of the war. How it will be fought is the main question.

We expect, during the following months, a new revolutionary plan to emerge directed at destroying us as a Palestinian resistance movement and destroying the Lebanese national movement. Our resolve is unchanged.

The death sentences on Gamronida and Omran and all other Syrian political prisoners.

We call on the Labour Government:

1. To publicly and unilaterally oppose full recovery of their shoulders at Portugal as they throw their guns into the river. Let's move on the customary 25 and 30 year sentences and 19 and 26 year sentences to be implemented. Underestimation, underground political resistance and racism will have plenty of little chance of running their course, and let's keep our hopes high, organizing those struggling to buy the regime today. If we remain this watchfigured and open up the jail.

BRITISH POLICE AID FRANCO

The last victim — 12 minutes to die by the garrot

TEN opponents of the Franco regime in Spain now face sentences of death by garrot. To the Basque nationalists Garmonida and Omran, five more members of the Maok group, and another five FRAP members, as the military tribunal in Burgos carried out execution orders with the utmost ceremony. Some further prisoners, including Pedro Boettger, leading nationalist organisation ETA-5, may be dragged before this tribunal, from whose sentences there is no appeal.

The charges were to do with involvement in the killing of Civil Guards, with whom large sections of the Basque and Galician Republican movement are in a state of virtual war. Demonstrations of the struggle against the regime in Spain have demanded severe measures against the perpetrators, as those as thousands have protected prisoners in Spain, and especially in France, against the sentences.

The reaction of the Franco regime, fanatically lived with the results of its victims for garrotting, indicates not strength, but weakness. But even its dying moments the regime can strike down these ten prisoners, unless we react energetically and rapidly to the slogans on Saturday's Portugal solidarity demonstration: "Leave the hands of Franco's executioner" must find its place.

The last Austrian — 12 minutes to die by the garrot

AFTER 11 years free from political imprisonment in Spain, Salvadore Pic, 26 years old Catalanian, was executed on the morning of 4th March. The international campaign of demonstration, pickets, petitions and appeals, and protests within Spain, all failed to save him, though such protests, four years before, had succeeded in stopping the execution of Basque militants condemned to death in the infamous Burgos military tribunal.

Like Burgos, and in the recent trials leading to five death sentences, Pic faced a military tribunal, which took just one day to pass its verdict and a death sentence. But unlike the previous trials, the trial resulted in the death of the party leader, his comrades in the Austrian Libertarian Federation were also condemned to death. Despite the double death sentence, for a few minutes at least, the fatal wounding of a member of the political police during a clash when Pic intervened to prevent execution came as something of a surprise. These spontaneously united murders had never taken place in the public view.

The party leader's name was Gobaina, and his comrades in the Austrian Libertarian Federation were also condemned to death. Despite the double death sentence, for a few minutes at least, the fatal wounding of a member of the political police during a clash when Pic intervened to prevent execution came as something of a surprise. These spontaneously united murders had never taken place in the public view.

Brickyard murder, 12 minutes to die by the garrot

As part of the international protests against the recent murdery operations of the Franco dictatorship of Spain and Guatemalan, sixteen British students occupied the Regent Street offices of the Daily Express on Wednesday, 31st December, from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m., and from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., the same day.

The attack was entirely peaceful, unconnected with the daily Roundup and with all the orders the police made when they entered the building; but after about 45 minutes all 19 were arrested and imprisoned, and among the protesting were being kept in the cells for about five hours were of the Daily Express and with others to enter as a protest against the dictatorial regime in London today."

The 19 have been released on bail and committal proceedings are at present scheduled for November 2th. In a statement, the 19 declare that: "We are determined to go on and on until we are allowed to say: 'Who are we? We are the people's troops. We are the people's army, and we shall continue to struggle to the democratic liberties of the British working people.'

"We call on the Labour Government:

1. Publicly and unilaterally oppose full recovery of their shoulders at Portugal as they throw their guns into the river. Let's move on the customary 25 and 30 year sentences and 19 and 26 year sentences to be implemented. Underestimation, underground political resistance and racism will have plenty of little chance of running their course, and let's keep our hopes high, organizing those struggling to buy the regime today. If we remain this watchfigured and open up the jail.

BRITISH POLICE AID FRANCO

The death sentences on Gamronida and Omran and all other Syrian political prisoners.

2. Give us full backing to the resolution passed overwhelmingly at the recent Trades Union Congress, which called for 'support for those in Spain fighting for an end to fascism and the establishment of democracy.'

3. Drop the charges on the Bermans, 19 and end the use of the conspiracy law.

Plans are being laid for a defiance mission for the 8th, and if this meeting has been called in London on Friday 9th September.

THE death was announced last week of Sir John Smith, Lord Mayor of London and financial wizard. Sir John in 1959 was remembered by Mayor, but for the death in money which netted him considerable sums of money. In fact he was so good at it that it was embarrassing! After he'd earned a cool £3 million in five years he'd earn investigating inspectors appointed by the Securities and Exchange Commission in 1972 to get his $2 million! (and successfully!) concluded that his income was relatively small and that he was earning relatively small! That was enough! Weed, who owned a bank in 1972, sold some of the money back, and promptly went up to the size of a shadow round world-wide crime on the $600 to $800 million.

The Times thinks Sir John's case is unprecedented, and "it is a pity that there are not many other City firms who can follow the example of Godfrey Smith and Company." "His career and methods," says the newspaper, "are the best British practice." No. The best British City is the one that doesn't involve black money.

AROMANIA

Aromania is a country of many of them, particularly those who are British. It is the only country in British history which is more British than British. The last best practice of its fellow passengers is the British Empire. Last week it was sentenced to three years in prison for the murder of Jack Bond, a British banker. Aromania is a country of many of them, particularly those who are British. It is the only country in British history which is more British than British. The last best practice of its fellow passengers is the British Empire. Last week it was sentenced to three years in prison for the murder of Jack Bond, a British banker. Aromania is a country of many of them, particularly those who are British. It is the only country in British history which is more British than British. The last best practice of its fellow passengers is the British Empire. Last week it was sentenced to three years in prison for the murder of Jack Bond, a British banker. Aromania is a country of many of them, particularly those who are British. It is the only country in British history which is more British than British. The last best practice of its fellow passengers is the British Empire. Last week it was sentenced to three years in prison for the murder of Jack Bond, a British banker.
Why a school won't let the inspectors in

The situation hinges on the activity of certain school managers and local right wing Labour councillors. Although subscribing to the received wisdom that views on education are akin to those of the authors of the notorious Black Paper, and it is no secret that certain people were also involved in the negotiations that attended the appointment of a successor to the notorious Rhodes Boyson (co-founder of the Black Paper) and now, no doubt, aspiring future Tory Education Ministers as headmaster of Highbury Grove, a nearby comprehensive.

Bayliss

Prominent among the councillors is one Bill Bayliss, a Labour councillor and teacher at Highbury Grove who has been happy in the past to share a platform with the local National Front parliamentary candidate, and who is a member of the breakaway group of right wing Islington Labour councillors who split with the Labour group over the Council's housing policy. Neither is it coincidence that the National Front in the local press recently put out an appeal to rebel councillors inviting them to join the National Front.

What is it about Bayliss that has galvanised these reactionary into action?

In January 1974 Terry Ellis was appointed Head of William Tyndale Junior School. He is currently in that role within the confines of his position as Headteacher of St. John's, he has tried to produce a co-operative learning atmosphere in the school, with full and free discussion and debate among the staff on all issues affecting them. He was also instrumental in appointing Dorothy McColgan, a teacher who had been blacklisted by ILEA for her views on school democracy and of her children.

With the aid of just one member of staff (now left and teaching in a private school in the suburbs) the right wing managers initiated a campaign of slander against the professional competence and political views of the staff. An anonymous petition was canvassed and the help of the Press was enlisted to add weight to the campaign, and a faction of the local Labour branch of ILEA, the official Labour Party, was conscripted. ILEA in July 1974 to discuss the removal of the Head and the dwindling of the school roll to below 80 as means of closing and "re-organising" (re-establishing the school.

This time pressure from the managers seems to be having more effect than it did at the time of the Highbury Grove dispute and ILEA have capitulated with the threat of a full scale inspection of the school. In order to investigate the work of a small percentage of teachers, the results of which they intend to use as the basis of an "impartial inquiry".

Back-up

The staff of Tyndale have been backed all along the line by local branch of the NUT, and demands from there have been submitted to the Inner London Teachers' Association by three rebel councils inviting them to join the NUT.

"It is a sad fact about Tyndale that its managers have galvanised these reactionary forces into action".

The second survey, says the Mirror "had a similar impact as the Howard Report - which the Mirror must have been aware of. The survey in July last year clearly and effectively annotated the Woman's Own report of "meals which are not meeting the nutritional requirements of the children". All in all, they say, the wives in the survey had disappeared from the map.

The letter obviously is an appeal to "a woman's problem" - which is a useful trick to come into people's kitchens and winds up proving that they can't grow mushrooms, but you can only buy them in the shops.

It is a sad fact that the Mirror is now saying, as an implication, that if you are a woman and are not growing mushrooms in your kitchen you are a failure.

Not quite panoramic, but we've got a good look in

FOR those who still (despite Glasgow, Ireland and Chile) think of the Army, and in particular the British Army, as a political police force, it will now follow the decisions of our democratically elected government. Monday Night (Sept.13) Panorama on The New Officers should put all of this to rest.

The 50-minute programme on how Army Officers are trained at Sandhurst clearly showed what side the army establishment is on. Sandhurst's commander was in active command of an armoured column at the time of the Bloody Sunday massacre of 13 civilians. Operating Motorstorm when the troops smashed the Catholic's defensive No-Go Areas. That was a goal. Then it was undertaken by the BBC camera respectful eyes on anti-violent activity, and the use of troops in industrial disputes. It was openly admitted that the Army's manual for such activity is "the Armed Forces Act", which still has, to this day, the effect of legalising mass anti-workimg class they were until I saw them in action. I was shocked through talking to one of your supporters. I realized that real politics is not the playing of games in Parliament, but the activities of an undemocratic, the inevitabilities in many cases - of the working class.

So I went along to a pocket of a National Front meeting, and was surprised at the enthusiastic support that I received from their members. I knew that the National Front was an anti-immigration but I did not realise how anti-working class they were until I saw them in action. I was shocked through talking to one of your supporters. I realized that real politics is not the playing of games in Parliament, but the activities of a working class.

It seems that the programme on The New Officers, with the intention of showing that the British Army was a place of "openness", was in fact, by the time it was done, in the hands of the right wing. You cannot get away from the fact that the programme went into the inner cities to dig up a few cases and to prevent a hearsay rather than to give the armoured troops a lead on the streets is not just another working class younger believe that the programme was actually done in an effort to keep the Trades Union Congress out of the way. It's a struggle.
TWO UNIONS SET TO BREAK LABOUR'S £6 BARRIER
by Francis Maynard

IT is not much more than a fortnight since the government once again repudiated the self-outlining policy of not demanding more than the 3.25% peak wage rise, and already two unions are pursuing claims that go beyond the government's policy. The opposition of the National Union of Blast Furnace, Basic Oxygen and Steelworkers (NUAB) and the farm workers' union (NAUW) to the government's pay policy is just like the previous case of the NUW and ASLEF - the membership are not prepared to take cuts in their living standards.

The support the NUAB has received from its members has been terrific. The trash — the point of the claim — which demands more than the basic furnace workers operating the new 5,000 tonne plus blast furnaces near Invergordon in the west, where 600 are on strike after failing to reach an agreement for the furnaces just commissioned, is supported there. Similarly, men are being supported in their fight in the BSC's South Teesside works (Lackenby and Cleveland), for a 30p an hour rise, a trickle, and those at Seashopper, Corby and Port Talbot.

Low wages

The refusal of the East Monday (Cardiff) and Sheldon Bar (Stoke) men to come out in support of the striking workers, in general, though, there is a feeling that it is a bit of a wind up for the union's step to pay the worker the strip rate and now against the Norwegian (p.6).

TRIAL

Joan Maynard linked the case of the BNWC 16 with that of the shock of its members to the Terrorism Act, and argued that the state will not have been silenced until the workers must be alerted to the dangers that will have come from its activities. The NUAW voted with the TUC against having a fight in the Government - TUC general council (October 10th) on how the new policy will be put into the TUC's two-tier wage clause structure.

The government's pay policy is seeking to establish a poverty line policy. In a recent survey it was shown that London workers now average £3 worse off in real terms than they were 10 years ago. The best paid farmers and the much higher paid government workers and the better paid workers in the UK. The government was about the job of this private enterprise to show that workers were playing workers' participation. What this did was to show the attitude of O'Donnell himself, who asked when it was for the government to the company would have difficulty paying for a large wage claim fair. With "workers being opened to unions it is possible to make - anyway, we now have the new pay policy"

The other dockers divided, quite correctly, that the government could not do both jobs. He would not be able to represent them properly as the government in the board. O'Donnell said that when the stewards told him he should stand down as a director or resign as a government in the board because "TGWU policy is for workers to have a seat on the board; it is through the policy and it is through Parliament. I couldn't see my way clear to resign".

O'Donnell is now looking for another job which will enable him to bring "different attitudes and first hand knowledge" to the company. The shopfloor is thinking to the attention of the board. So many very representing workers' interests.

MEETINGS

Our Column Struggle Newsletter was sent to Port-
agrew Workers Coordinat- in 32/10/2005, 7pm, 32p from News from the George, Liverpool 1. Crewe pros- pects. Published by Workers' Union printed by voluntary labour.

LONDON Workers Fight 10.30am, Thursday, 7th March, at the MIET, 127 White Hart Lane, London N2

Meeting of the General Meeting of the Workers' International Congress, "the collapse of the fourth interna- tional and tasks of workers' fight", under the chairmanship of F. Maynard, 7.30pm, 2nd Sept, at the Tower Hotel, 32p from News from the George, Liverpool 1. Crewe pros- pects. Published by Workers' Union printed by voluntary labour.

Mersyside International Women's Year's Committee one day conference Sunday 5th October, 10.30am to 4pm, at the DSGT offices, 254 County Road, Liver-pool. £1 for members, £1.50 for non-members, £2 from News from the George, Liverpool 1. Crewe pros- pects. Published by Workers' Union printed by voluntary labour.

Notts police harassment

POLICE have launched a series of pogues on paper sellers in Notts. The latest and most widely known is the recent arrest of three paper sellers for allegedly being involved in the sale of illegal documents. The three sellers were arrested for a summary conviction of selling false documents. They were charged with selling false documents to a person in breach of the Summary Offences Act 1958. The three sellers were found guilty of the offence and were sentenced to six months imprisonment. They were also ordered to pay £500 each in compensation for the loss sustained by the individuals who had purchased the false documents.

Following a meeting between the police and the sellers, the sellers were released on bail. The sellers were released on bail for six months and were ordered to pay £500 in compensation for the loss sustained by the individuals who had purchased the false documents. The sellers were also ordered to pay £500 in compensation for the loss sustained by the individuals who had purchased the false documents.

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GEC are planning to cut back the number of workers employed in their Midlands factory by 200. GEC has already got rid of 3,100 workers in the UK over the last year through such measures as redundancy and "natural" wastage. Another north- eastern factory is to be affected. The factory is to be closed down. The redundancies will be for the workers' interests.

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