SAVE THE LIVES OF THESE TWO SOCIALISTS!

2nd. MONTH ON HUNGER STRIKE

TWO SOCIALIST MILITANTS ARE AT THIS MOMENT BEING STARVED TO DEATH BY THE AGENTS OF HEATH'S TONY GOVERNMENT, WHO RULE NORTHERN IRELAND IN THE INTERESTS OF THE BRITISH RULING CLASS.

MICHAEL FARRELL and TONY CANAVAN, members of the libertarian Socialist and anti-imperialist organisation PEOPLIES DEMOCRACY are now (4.8.73) in their 31st. day of hunger strike to support a demand that they be treated as political prisoners, instead of being lodged with loyalist prisons.

Loyalist prisoners who were a permanent threat to their lives.

Death for one or both of them could be a matter of a few days away.

After a month without food they remain inviable in their determinations. Unless their demand is granted it is certain that they will die.

Weal and barely able to get out of bed, they have spent the month of their hunger strike in a secret stone cell, denied even such care as would ensure that they consumed the 8 pints of water each day which doctors consider necessary if permanent kidney damage is to be avoided.

The water was placed just inside their cell doors and they had to crawl out of bed to get it.

In the last few days they have been unable even to keep water in their stomachs, and throw it up. It is probable that even if the strike ends with them still alive, serious and permanent damage to their health will have occurred.

Farrell and Canavan started the strike to demand the status of political prisoners. This is automatically granted even to "people" such as the men who raped a Catholic woman, Mrs. Conaghan, immediately after shooting dead her 14-year-old mentally retarded son before her eyes.

But Farrell and Canavan, imprisoned for their part in organising a demonstration, were denied political status.

The custom is for political status to be granted only to those serving more than nine months - custom, not even law. Farrell's sentence is 8 months and Canavan's 6, so they don't qualify as "political" but as normal "criminals", to be housed in the ordinary jail population, which naturally includes many loyalists. Thus their lives are placed in danger.

The prison authorities' attitude was to tell them that nothing could be done about that until after they had been sentenced.

So they went on hunger strike.

Northern Ireland Socialists believe the reason why Whitehall refuses to budge is that the authorities want to see the strike continue until they break Farrell and Canavan.

Farrell, especially is seen as a formidable opponent by the rulers of Northern Ireland. Peoples Democracy, with Farrell as its main spokesman, has repeatedly set the pace for action in the streets, often disrupting the attempts of middle class politicians such as those of the Social Democratic Labour Party to do a deal with British rule.

They have refused all deals, resisted blandishments and ignored threats. Farrell, more than anyone outside the ranks of the IRA, has personified determination to have done with British rule in Northern Ireland. To break him would be a big thing for the Whitehall Administration.

After 31 days it is clear beyond doubt that they are more likely to kill Canavan and Farrell than to break them.

Michael Farrell

SCABS

While Farrell and his comrade Canavan are standing to death other leaders of the early Northern Ireland civil rights movement, or people who jumped onto its bandwagon - "men" like Fitt and Hume of the SDLP - are jostling with hangman Whitehall and Orange bigot Faulkner (the architect of Interment without charge or trial) negotiating for ministerial "honours" and salaries.

The Fitts and the Hulmes had their price. They could be cajoled, flattered, terrorised or corrupted into stopping short of freedom for Ireland - or even of a prospect of independence.

For them the result of the oppressed Catholic masses in Northern Ireland has now become merely a means whereby little political whores can carve out "big" careers within a six-county state reconstructed so that a few Catholic middle class politicians can get their snouts in the trough alongside their Orange and Unionist counterparts.

Meanwhile imperialism and capitalism continue to exploit and duly the working people.

But for Canavan and Farrell and many other socialists and republicans, it was and is a struggle for a real change.

To end imperialism domination, not help give it a face lift. To end capitalist exploitation, not to secure lucrative jobs confining the working people into bending their necks under its yoke.

To win self determination for Ireland, not induce people to forget that all the horrors of Northern Ireland are the result of the brutal imperialism denial of Ireland's right to unfettered control of its own affairs without interference by British capitalism.

Money in the bank and personal advancement can satisfy a Gentilly Fitt. For Farrell and his comrades there must be the advancement of the working class - or else a permanent struggle against imperialism and capitalism.

Beyond doubt Canavan and Farrell, like the other fighters jailed and tortured in Northern Ireland today, would not for one moment consider changing places with the pampered whores of the SDLP.

British workers have difficulty in understanding or identifying with the oppressed workers of Northern Ireland. The divisions, conflicts, traditions, the methods of struggle - such as those of the IRA - are too unfamiliar, too far beyond the experience of life in Britain, so far.

CONTINUED BACK PAGE
Race Laws: Charter for thugs and Blackmailers

TUC/CBI

LIVING Happily ever after...

FRIDAY FROM HONG KONG with the TUC and CBI. Heath gave a press conference in which he enthused about the prospect for the country and demonstrated his conviction that all reasonable men — including Labour’s Feather and the other TUC leaders — would be able to come to an agreement over Phase 3.

First of all he gave a glowing report of the state of the British economy, capturing up images of the bulging order books of British firms brought about through devaluation. He also admitted that the working class is bearing the burden of the resulting price increases. Heath could see only two bios on the horizon — this continued in — ability to control prices and the increasing evidence of bottle necks in some sectors of the economy as a result of the boom.

Most importantly, Heath made clear what he expects from Feather and the others in the TUC. Heath said that "both (TUC and CBI) recognised that where you have got greater increases in our raw mat- ing, the blackmailers, thugs, and racketeers that go under the neutral name of 'agents'. In fact the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants offered the police substantial information about M’s case. But the police only seen interested in the victims. ANDREW BOURNING

CAMBODIA

Double danger threatens fighters

As stalemate and sporadic fighting continues in South Vietnam, both Laos and Cambodia are approaching key turning points. Nixon’s extended deadline for bombing over Cambodia, obtained from Congress in June, expires on August 15th. Meanwhile, the Cambodian puppet regime shows no sign of being able to withstand a single day on its own. Massively corrupt and massively unpopular, its army has an enormous desertion rate.

The US is preparing for the future, two week arming of the government, various government spokesmen have said openly that they think it necessary they will apply for a further extension of bombing. Right now, they are pouring bombs down as fast as they can, 2000 tons a day. They are dropping the puppet regime (as far as possible) with their bombs. The massive airforce they have built up in South Vietnam could have been used against the guerrilla forces.

But there is no doubt that the US has now set its sights on the Vietnamese army. While keeping military force in readiness, they are also pressing for an agreement with Prince Sihanouk, titular leader of the guerrilla forces.

In Laos, according to the Paris paper ‘Le Monde’ of 31 July, an agreement for the implementation of the 21st February accords (so far largely a dead letter) looks likely. This agreement would involve a provisional government headed by Prince Souvanna Phouma (the present head of state), with Prince Sihanouk (titular head of the resistance) as one of two deputy prime ministers.

Clearly the US is aiming for a new communist ‘settlement’ in Indochina (with ‘peaceful coexistence’, for now, for North Vietnam), on the model of the settlement of Geneva 1954 and afterwards. Clearly also the Chinese bureaucracy is not hostile to this settlement; they have stopped supplying weaponry to the Cambodian fighters. As a large power to decide in the hands of the guerrilla fighters, they are the political stumbling block for the Communist Parties and the DRV. Without them, Sihanouk or Sihanoukavong are nothing. On 19/21 July a congress of the Cambodian resistance forces was held, for the first time since the struggle started in 1970. Its declaration hailed Sihanouk as head of state and called for a ‘neutral’ Cambodia.

According to some accounts, the congress declaration and the Laos agreement, like the clauses guaranteeing ‘free enterprise’ in the Vietnam agreement, are not to be taken literally — the Indochinese Communist Parties are simply manoeuvring for tactical advantage to prevent the movement can not stop short of socialist goals.

In the light of the whole previous history of the Indochinese struggle, we cannot rely on it. At the very least, the Stalinsts are deceiving the people, spreading illusions, and offering a lifeline to capitalism and imperialism in Indochina.

MARTIN THOMAS

PICTURE AGAINST NIXON’S BOMBING: Cambodia 12 noon, August 16th, U.S. embassy.

The 32 million Solidarity Campaign will be organising a picture if the bombing does not halt on the 16th.

A ‘crack’ unit of the Lon Nol army — hungry and demoralised

In this case, the author’s name and other information have been removed for privacy.
THRESHOLDS: WHO GAINS?

It is mainly the ERP guerrilla organisation that is being hurt under the slogan of "get the Trotskyists". As the Wall Street Journal put it: "The ERP guerrillas are described as Trotskyites, which in Argentina means mostly that they are tough and won't give up."

But it is necessary to say that the confusion of the ERP's strategy may hinder them in their fight against the regime. It is not necessarily wrong in principle (given suitable circumstances) to adopt a strategy of revolutionary guerrilla warfare. It is not necessarily wrong in principle to use tactics of kidnapping individual capitalists and military figures. But in principle (if the situation dictates) to temporarily renounce armed attacks on the government and the police.

But it certainly is a dead-end to try to wage a military struggle for power through tactics of individual terror, while renouncing armed action against the government — as the ERP appears to be doing to try to do. As the French revolutionary paper Rouge put it: "To proclaim that war against the armed forces will continue may symbolise a vigorous refusal to submit or capitulate, but it is incoherent and a waste of effort for the masses".

JOHN STERLING

Argentina: Left in retreat

SINCE TAKING POWER on 25 May, the new Peronist regime in Argen- tina has had some success in its project of a 'social pact' to prop up tottering Argentine capitalism.

Almost all the guerrilla groups have called a cease-fire. The regime has held to its promise to free all political prisoners, while keeping control of the army, who threatened to prevent such a move by force. It has fixed an agreement between unions and management. It has managed to ride over the demonstrations and upheavals of recent weeks.

Clearly the immediate prospect is of radical government measures, including nationalisations, as in Chile and Peru.

The government has privately promised American and European capitalist interests that they will intervene to help. And in present world conditions, a really sustained radical improvement in Argentina, even of the limited sort that took place under Peron during World War 2, is ruled out.

But before the government is rich enough to reduce the guerrillas' risk being sucked into the wave of popular sympathy for the Peronist regime, or isolated and in due course smashed with President Campora stopping down a few of the "old Peron" Peron himself, the dangers and the repression promise to be even greater.

As long as we have the power and the opportunity to push our living standards up through straight, simple wage increases, and do not be diverted by the swindle of threshold agreements. PAUL ITIZE
Psychiatry: pins or people?

MOST WORKING PEOPLE know someone who has had a serious mental illness. In fact, it is difficult to avoid the subject nowadays, with women outnumbering men five to one and almost as many men spending some part of their life in a mental hospital, or in a group home, with very odd or depressed people, we feel moved to help, but helpless. In most cases they end up in mental hospital for a time.

Most people get over fairly soon. But "treatment" usually means pills or electric shocks, with no attempt made to change the material and social situation of the patient. Indeed, the patient is often lucky to speak to the doctor at all.

To the patient at least, his condition may seem clearly related to his life situation, but psychiatry is concerned only with the diagnosis and treatment of mental "diseases", as though these were strictly similar to physical diseases and had nothing to do with the conditions of life.

So the helplessness we feel in the face of mental illness is inexcusable by psychiatrists telling us that this illness is really just a reaction to life's pressures and to an individual's life situation.

Lazig suggests that certain families have an "inherently unstable" one. When the external world becomes intolerable for this member, he or she tries to compensate by making internal adjustments to his own mind, so to speak.

Lazig's ideas were taken up by newly-radicalised students, particularly after 1968, and have passed into popular circulation. Their effect on psychiatry is on mental hospital's minimally, though.

The problem is the number of different illnesses which have to be understood together to make sense of the individual's family, alienation, the structure of the mind, etc. To pull any one of these elements out of the total synthesis makes results fall in a truism of reality.

Thus in some "left" accounts, the ideas of Lazig and Cooper are massively overgeneralised into a story of psychiatrists as mind police going out to arbitrarily seize dissidents and force them into subjection by drugs and shock therapy.

So, confronted by the reality of mental illness, even more demanding, we have set, for the theory gives us no guide to what we should be doing.

This break between theory and practice has started to come together in the experience of the Socialist Patients' Collective (SPK) in Heidelberg, West Germany. The SPK started in the psychiatric clinic of Heidelberg University Hospital with therapy groups comprising about forty sick people. They conducted a theoretical and practical critique of the institutions and unveiled the ideological function of psychiatry.

The first stage in the escalating repression against the SPK was when Dr Hüber was sacked in 1970; the patients responded by occupying the administration, and obtained Hüber's reinstatement and expansion of the use of the buildings for their work.

Further moves were harrassed by police cuts, refusing prescrip- tions and so on, but by another occupation they were able to reintegrate in the University.

The next escalation was the intervention of the Minister of Educa- tion to demand the expulsion of the SPK; several suicides followed this threat, and the SPK's protests managed to defeat it off.

The final stage in the escalation was the raid by 300 armed police in July 1971. Most of the patients were sent to asylum, and Dr Hüber and his wife were put into solitary confinement for fifteen months till their trial, now taking place.

There is still much which is unclear about the SPK. It meets, both in their therapeutic and their political methods. But it certainly represents a more radical and human attempt to deal with mental illness than is provided by armed police.

ED COLLINS

A few firms provide grants, usually just for the summer school. But only if the degree course is related to your present employment. A person on the shopfloor finds he is not eligible for such help. Why does he want a degree anyway?

You ask what one of the very few courses where there is no summer school is education, where the majority of students are teachers.

Finally, you must renegotiate all the material you have managed to memorise in a three-hour examination. The Open University, in its way, began, still refuses to tell students how much weight is placed on continuous assessment and how much on the examination. If you want to be educated, you will never last the Open University course. But if you merely wanted the piece of paper, then I advise you to wait for it arriving through the post, and not to go to the degree presentation.

First, you will not be presented with your degree anyway. This is reserved for honorary degrees, not for mere students. Likewise there are no refreshments for the 600 or 700 students and their many guests. Such luxur- lies are reserved for the press, the TV, and the hundreds of VIPs.

Pomp

The ceremony, nothing so common, the "meeting of the Congrega- tion" began, on, often, on a Thursday, at 2.15, and for 20 minutes, the crowd, sorry, congregation, stood while the processions in gowns and fancy hats of very colour died and took their reserved seats, at the front of course.

The arrival of Ed Lee's evenings were allowed to sit, while the Pro-Chancel- lor declared the Congregation. The Vice-Chancellor arrived in the Chamber, and it took another 40 minutes to "install" him. The Pro-Vice-Chancellor — this is yet a fourth person, in yet a fourth different gown, explained why Jennie Lee (sorry, the Reverend Lee of Aberdare) should have an honorary degree. Then, more professors in fancy dress attempt to provide reasons for more honorary degrees.

Finally, the students were allowed to walk onto the stage, and bow to the Chancellor.

Does the Open University attract you?

ROSY LITANSKI
**In Brief**

**What do you do with a spare foot?**

What is the socialist line on dead bodies - of the human variety? As good materialists, one might have expected all socialists to agree on the same line of argument. But in this case, there is no use to you once you die, it, or the better parts of it anyway, ought to be used as ‘grue’ or more unfortu-nate brothers who have bits missing or worn out.

This was with some surprise that we listened to Paul Foot (plats-up of I.B. and the liberal establishment) expounding contrary views this ‘theses on the’ on the radio programme ‘Any Questions’ recently.

The panel, of which Foot was the only left-wing member, were asked what they thought of a recent case where a surgeon transplanted a kidney from a boy killed in a road accident to another person.

Foot launched into a demagogic attack on the establishment, arguing that since the career interests of surgeons were the main motivation in the development of medical science, we should be resolutely opposed to these all-powerful white-coated Quasars and their British body-snatching schemes.

The impression he gave was quite clear from the letters read out on the following ‘Any Questions’ programme. Foot was supported by a motley collection of spiritualists who, in the main, believed the ghost of the dead person’s car could not get on with the spirit in the rest of the body to which it was being transferred.

The best letter, critical of Foot, came from a liberal who had donated his body to a hospital to be used in the best interests of humanity as doctors claimed it was the time of his death. Having heard Foot’s ‘dear’ expose he had now added another clause to the agreement he had stipulated saying that on no account was Paul Foot to get any of it.

**A load of Bull**

ONE OF HISTORY’S greatest errors is the fact that when King William of Orange came to the throne of the Orange Pope and the Papal States! A small magnus was celebrated in the Vatican to thank God for the victory over the British Empire.

It isn’t known if the pope’s prayers actually helped William make Ireland safe for British rule and protestant ascendancy in 1691. But the donors expressing his goodness could help Britain keep control in the year 1973.

Moreover, the Bishop’s weekly weekly tabloid weekly of loyalty paper suggested that the best way to stop “Violence” in Northern Ire-land is for the Pope to “place Ire-land under an interdict!” An Interdict or (as it is known in the Church of England) an interdict against a whole country, is to all - until the struggle in northern Ireland ceases!

As to Catholics in the British Army, terrorising and murdering people in the Catholic majority - One I.B. branch only participated in the scandalously small demonstration. 8th March for the “lives of our own comrades”.

**Dog days in Belfast**

RUBBER BULLETS, live bullets... CS gas, water cannons, electrical shock torture, hoods, truth drugs, etc., etc., etc.

The people of the six occupied counties have had to face these, and more. Resistance is high - but even now - not the Irish people, but against the British Army. They have been dismal failures.

But now a new weapon has been introduced by the “Free Army in the world”!... not against the Irish people, but against the Irish people’s own people.

The first victims to be our brave soldiers, were two Irishmen, shot dead in the streets of London, by a Free Army who has been shot dead! And we heard from Paul Foot that the Pope was speaking for a special dispensation for them. And presumably the Pope will ask the Pope for a special dispensation for them? And presumably the Pope will ask the Pope for a special dispensation for them? And presumably the Pope will ask the Pope for a special dispensation for them? And presumably the Pope will ask the Pope for a special dispensation for them? And presumably the Pope will ask the Pope for a special dispensation for them?
U.S. corporations and the Soviet government are in the process of negotiating the largest commercial ventures yet undertaken by private industry or public agencies. These are two projects to pipe thousands of millions of cubic feet of natural gas from the fields of eastern and western Siberia to the Soviet ports of Murmansk and Nakhodka, respectively, where the gas will then be shipped to the east and west coasts of the United States.

The Yakutsk-Nakhodka project, involving the Occidental Petroleum Corporation and the El Paso Natural Gas Company, is already at the agreement stage. It will include investments of $10 thousand million and covers twenty-five years of construction and delivery. If fully exploited, the mammoth Siberian oil fields will produce per day twice the average daily consumption of gas in New York state.

These are the largest of more than 1,000 joint manufacturing or production ventures now existing between the capitalist West and the workers states of the East. New York's two largest banks, the First National City Bank and the Chase Manhattan Bank - two of the central pillars of world imperialism - are opening branches in Moscow. This most illustrating the striking turn in economic relations between the United States and the Soviet Union that has developed in the last two years.

What is the planned and potential scope of the new partnership? What are Washington's objectives? To answer these questions it is helpful to glance at the background of the economic turn. The relaxation of the Cold War embargo on imperialist trade with and investment in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe did not begin in the United States, nor is it only a few years old. It began in Western Europe more than a decade ago.

Fiat

Trade relations between Western and Eastern Europe gradually opened up in the late 1950s and early 1960s. Even with the barbed wire around West Berlin, trade mounted between the two German states from $560 million in 1961 to $1,600 million in 1971, so that West Germany became East Germany's biggest trading partner next to the Soviet Union. But this was relatively unpublicized until recently.

The largest breakthrough was the Western capital into the Soviet market itself was Moscow's May 1966 agreement to allow the Fiat corporation of Italy to build an $887 million auto plant in the Ukraine. Constructed in the river city of Stalinspol-on-the-Volga (renamed 'Togliatti' to suit the occasion), this gigantic plant is expected to produce about 2,000 medium-sized cars a day by 1972 (the Fiat 124 modified for Soviet weather conditions)!

Large-scale operations are one of the typical features of the new 'co-production.' When completed, the Togliatti plant will raise Soviet car output from roughly 200,000 autos a year to 700,000-800,000. The plant will employ 70,000 workers, turning the old river city 300 miles east of Moscow into a large industrial center.

The giant sums of money required for such projects are raised by banking syndicates in combination with governments. Credit is advanced to Moscow on a long-term, fixed-interest basis. Italy itself provided credits of $322 million for the Fiat venture. The loan is to be repaid by Moscow at 5.5 percent over fourteen years.

In December 1969 a second large-scale Fiat-Soviet agreement was projected, whereby Italy would be supplied with 100 thousand million cubic meters of Russian gas over a period of twenty years. The purchaser is ENI, the big Italian oil firm. This would run to about $3 thousand million. But at the time the agreement was announced, it provided for only $200 million worth of purchases of Italian machinery over five years at 6 percent interest. (See the British Financial Times, December 11, 1969.)

Parallel to these developments Japan had begun regular commercial trading with the Soviet Union and also was conducting periodic high-level meetings to explore the possibility of opening up the Siberian gas fields. Japan's 1960 and 1970 trade between Japan and all of the Eastern workers states had climbed sharply. Eastern exports to Japan rose from $110 million to $750 million, an increase of 682 percent. Japanese exports to Eastern countries rose from $75 million to $1,040 million, an increase of 1,287 percent.

The trade between the USSR and Japan in 1968 exceeded $500 million, and it tripled the exchange of Western technology for Soviet raw materials. Japan supplied the USSR with iron and steel, tractors, construction machinery, scientific instruments and machine tools, lumber, and heavy electrical equipment and home electrical appliances. Soviet exports to Japan included 2.7 million metric tons of coal, 2,750,000 metric tons of oil and oil products, 1,224,000 tons of ferrous ores and almost 6 million tons of timber.

But Japan hesitated to supply the large-scale credits asked by Moscow to develop the Siberian natural gas reserves. It was not until the United States entered the picture in 1972 that a joint U.S.-Japanese project in Siberia were announced. The extent of Japan's participation, undoubtedly small by comparison to that of the United States, has not been made clear. (See New York Times, October 30, 1972.)

Meanwhile in 1969 the West German firm of Mannesmann in Düsseldorf had agreed to supply the Soviet Union $559 million worth of pipe to be re-paid in gas shipments to Western and Germany over a twenty-year period. The smell of the multimillion and sometimes multibillion dollar contracts reeks of West Berlin. In 1969, 1970 and 1971 Ford 2d, inheritor of one of the capitalist world's gigantic fortunes, went to Moscow.

Ford was accorded the diplomatic treatment usually offered heads of state. He was asked to build a trucking complex at Naberezhnye Chelny, 550 miles east of Moscow on the Kama River. It would be the largest truck plant in the world, with a planned output of 150,000 eight-ton trucks a year by 1974. The price would be several thousand million dollars and the British, French, and West German capitalists had already been forced to turn down the offer. Ford said he would think it over.

One month later the project was scotched by Washington. In May 1970, after all, U.S. imperialism was at war in Southeast Asia with one of Moscow's allies. The USRR was shipping weapons to Hanoi, as U.S. war secretary Melvin Laird pointed out to Ford. Washington chose to keep the basis of economic aid dangling in Mos-
Billion Foot In

Policy

United States to increase foreign trade with workers states. In September 1971, the US EEC released a statement entitled "New Trade Policy toward Workers States." It states, "The decision by the United States to increase foreign trade with workers states is based on the understanding that the United States has the right to trade with all countries, including workers states."

The EEC sharply criticized this statement, saying, "The decision by the United States to increase foreign trade with workers states is based on the understanding that the United States has the right to trade with all countries, including workers states."

The maintenance of restrictions by the United States is a gesture in fulfillment of the policy of American business firms and their foreign subsidiaries, which have been deprived of numerous export opportunities. These have been seized by European and Japanese business competitors.

While strongly recommending removal of restriction on exports to the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, and China, the EEC specifically noted, "There has been no change in the restrictions on embargo on North Korea, North Vietnam or Cuba."

Furthermore, it recommended that the export control chapter of U.S. history should not be treated as closed.

In its own terminology the EEC emphasized the main advantage that the U.S. capitalists have in catching up with and overtaking their imperialist rivals: economic clout. "The most important factor affecting the U.S. trade potential in Eastern countries may well be the extent to which there is complementarily between the U.S. economy and the communist economies—taking into account not only comparative advantages in production but also geographical location and costs of transportation," the EEC stated.

In August 1971 the Nixon administration imposed a freeze on American wages, devalued the dollar, and accelerated U.S. protectionist measures in world trade warfare. The same factors that forced this drastic turn also forced the White House to reverse its policies on Soviet trade. The May 1972 Nixon-Brezhnev summit in Moscow, however, did not go beyond setting up a "Joint Commercial Commission." But since then, the new difficulties seem to have been clearing up. On May 30, Soviet Trade Planning Committee deputy chairman Mikhail Minkin told New York Times reporter Theodore Shabad, "It's about time we moved beyond the stone age practice of saying, 'the camel is the limit.'

These new developments have reversed the three year for Economic had reversed its "lukewarm support for trade with workers states."

Contracts

Western businessmen argue for multilateral trade relations based on credit. The big coproduction agreements are of this type. The Kama River truck plant that Ford had been out of, for example, was by 1971 being built under contracts with a number of firms. Relnaut is the main contractor for its machine tools. A $2,000 million British loan for the Exports Credit Guarantee Department backs up British participation in the project. The West German firm of Uhthoff Verband signed a contract for $125 million machine-tool contract in the Kama operations.

In the summer of 1972, Peter G. Peterson, by then U.S. Secretary of Commerce, attended the first meeting of the 11 USSR Commercial Commission. The "U. S. has no longer has the monopoly it once enjoyed in the production of certain goods," Peterson once again warned. "The increased availability of high technology products elsewhere removed some of our original curbs on exports to the Soviet Union increasingly anachronistic. The real loser from these particular restraints would have increasingly been the U.S. producer and worker, not the Soviet consumer or the Soviet economy. There comes a point at which we must face the fact that business is business, and, if it is going to go on in any event, we might as well have a piece of the action."

This came rapidly:

- On July 8, 1972, an agreement was reached providing credit through the U.S. Commercial Credit Corporation for Soviet purchases of U.S. grain, originally announced at $750
million worth over a three-year period.

- On October 14 a maritime agreement was concluded that removed barriers to commercial shipping between the U.S. and USSR.
- On October 18 a settlement of the Soviet-Lend-Lease debt was signed. "The Russians agreed to settle $1.1 billion (millions) in Lend-Lease debts for a total payment of $722 million between now and July 2001."

This newsletter magazine explained October 30, "In 27 years of economic bargaining since the end of World War II, Russia had never offered to repay more than $500 million of the total bill. In return for the Lend-Lease settlement, the U.S. Export-Import Bank was authorized to extend credits and guarantees for the sale of goods to the Soviet Union."

- By this time there was also talk in the air of a multibillion-dollar deal for the development of Siberian natural gas.

Business for Minneapolis

The headquarters of the Cargill Grain Company is a World War 2-era building in the wealthy west suburb of Minneapolis, Minnesota. This giant firm with grain elevators throughout Minnesota, the Dakotas, Iowa, and Montana ships grain abroad from its twelve terminals on both coasts, the Gulf, and in Duluth, Chicago, Buffalo, and Albany. Of the roughly 11 million tons of wheat sold to the Soviet Union in 1972, Cargill's share was about 2 million tons. Its larger competitor, Continental Grain Company, picked up almost 5 million tons, or 6% of U.S. sales. All actual-new agreements were made secretly through the U.S. Agriculture Department. While they were operating, a top aide of the Agriculture department, Clarence Palumbo, quit his $36,000-a-year government post to take a $100,000-a-year job as an official of Continental Grain.

This demonstration of Nixon administration in the pre-Watergate period, ultimately priced at more than $1 billion, secured about one fourth of the U.S. crop. It drove the price of hard red winter wheat, the principal crop of the Soviet Union, from $1.68 to $2.49 per bushel. This is a significant factor in the political exploitation of inflation.

New York Times: "They account for a quarter of the world's food reserved 40 percent of the iron ore, at least one third of all natural gas and oil and recoverable percentages of the world's reserves in nonmetallic minerals."

"Most of these huge reserves, particularly those in Siberia and Kazakhstan, are almost unknown even to the Soviet shortage of developing capital and technology."

"Gigantic capital is the increasing U.S. need for fuels in the next 15 years. The Soviet will expand its mining industry output by $65 billion or $65 billion, of which $25 billion to $25 billion may be available for export," according to Alexander Sutulin, visiting professor of metal mining at the University of Oregon.

Other aspects of the changing circumstances were added by The Economist in its January 6, 1973, survey of "East-West Trade. "Russia, the prices of oil and fuel and only recently from dollars which the countries demand exploration and extraction from the fumes of east and northeastern Europe."
THE LITTLE RAT WHO STARTED INTERNMENT


IN ALL THINGS MODERATION — said the sage old motto. If we amend it to read “in all things smallness”, it sums up the subject of Andrew Boyd’s new book perfectly.

A rat, but a little rat; an orange rat, but willing to dox deal with Whitehall, one of the new breed of “moderate” Unionists bailed out under the wing of the British military dictatorship, but buckling under Vanguard pressure; a renegade from hard-line orangeism, but afraid to stand against it; a collaborator with Whitehall, but a foe to one — in all things a little man, scurrying and bustling to make the best deal he can in any situation. That is “See Brian” Faulkner, former Prime Minister of Northern Ireland.

Boyd’s book is really an account of the years 1968-72 in Northern Ireland, years of the biggest upheavals in anti-imperialism in Ireland for half a century. Faulkner is merely a focal point, a piece in the big game of Northern Ireland politics, which includes the Orange Order, the Unionist Party, and its internal factions. Internment (the Faulkner ‘solution’ whose failure brought about the fall of the Stormont regime), and direct rule and military dictatorship under the Joyal Faulkner Northern Ireland. Boyd takes the account up to May 1972.

The choice of Faulkner as centrepiece is a wise one. Who is Brian Faulkner? He is a small capitalist, born in 1931, the son of a clockmaker in Co. Tyrone, he is in the Orange Order, the elite Apprentice Boys of Omagh, and the Royal Black Institution — mere elite still. He has been an MP since 1949, was Stormont Home Affairs Minister from 1959 to 63. In early 1969 he resigned from the Northern Ireland Cabinet in protest at the timid reform measures of Taoiseach O’Neill.

Boyd shows him remoulding his Orange bosses to “take care of their own” — to find jobs for fellow Unionists (Ie, is not for Catholics). In 1960 he warned against the “hate and dangerous suggestion that the Orange Order was a religious body only and that its members should not concern themselves with politics.” Simultaneously, then, as now, he expressed public indifference against the very suggestion that there was an Orange ‘Madia’ system, discrimination, electoral frauds (verminisation) and, in sum, a Tory-unionist dictatorship in Northern Ireland.

Listen, for example, to this in 1967: “We in Ulster should know that most if not all the criticism flung at us has been unmerited and unjustified... but we should make certain that we never take any action that would weaken Ulster’s position within the United Kingdom... On the maintenance of our white future beyond.” Quite consistently he continues that policy now in several changed conditions: that is, he aims to defend Orange privilege in alliance with the British ruling class.

To maintain his grass roots base he resisted O’Neill’s little ‘reform’, irritated against him with men like Paisley, publicly and behind the scenes, now, to maintain what he can of Orange ascendancy he collaborates with the British in trying to renovate the Northern Ireland state.

No wonder the Catholics distrust and detest this opportunist rat, now being used as the best upstart frontman he has by dictator William Whitelaw.

THE APPARATUS OF REPRESSION — A RAIDING PARTY

DANGER SOLDIERS AT LARGE

POLICE throughout the south of England recently were alerted when two soldiers, formerly stationed in Northern Ireland, broke out of a mental home and proceeded to terrorise the inhabitants of a Hampshire hamlet.

British television and press give wide coverage to the incident until the escapees finally were run to ground and returned to the institution.

Every day in Ardmore, Ballymurphy, and New Lodge the local people are subjected to the same sort of terrorism by armed soldi- ers as were the natives of the Ham place village.

In those areas young people go in constant danger of being shot at and, indeed, murdered by these invaders. The casualty list in these areas contains a large percentage of persons and schoolchildren.

However, the British press and

TV is strangely silent on coverage of these events, and, worse still, so are the shoddily media of the 26 Counties.

It would appear that two krazy, unarmed Brits, breaking windows in an English village, warrants more attention than armed killing and pillaging in the little side streets of Belfast.

(Slightly edited from 'An Phoblacht')
Spanish militant appeals for support

"ROUGE" SAVED BUT 'CP 'BANS' LIGUE

Dear comrades,

Thirty-four years ago General Franco won his victory over the republicans in France. French troops challenged the republican government in the name of a unity that for Spanish people never existed. Now, 34 years later, the oppression continues more than ever.

The prisons are full of political prisoners, workers whose only crime was to ask for their human and civil rights. The police "punish" as we call them, because of their "loyalty" (very uniform) in order to torture until the cells, because blood is the only thing that runs freely in the streets and in the streets, the police.

In the factories as universities all over the country you do not know whether the police will be sitting now, if one of your comrades fighting for our rights, or one of the many policemen in disguise trying to find.”

Cubanpetrol is one of the most terrible prisons where political prisoners cry as without any trial, in fact however, where they are tortured and stay for months and months to come, and one day you discover that the man who was one of the leaders has died. His death is announced with such a disinterested article as the one that could be written from died old age.

This is what we want generally speaking, all our time, we still have to work, 48 hours a week and people are forced to do many hours of overtime to solve their most important needs. Trade Unions fight for better wages and workers' rights instead of confronting against the bosses.

Culturally speaking we want to abolish the vicious censorship which leads to the continual banning of any sort of artistic expression in the cinema, painting, literature, theatre, etc., as is happening now.

When people think of Spain they think of the sun, the fine weather, good food, wine, joy... as if these were the most important things.

Comrades — thousands of innocent people are screaming in the Spanish jails — thousands are now fighting in the streets, factories, and universities all over the country — shall we not support them?

V.P.
North Wales 24

STEP UP THE PRESSURE TO SMASH THIS SHOW TRIAL

ELEVEN OF THE TWENTY-FOUR North Wales building workers charged with a mugging in the city were acquitted for want of evidence. The jury saw that the prosecution had not proved their case beyond reasonable doubt.

Print Unions' recipe for the deep Freeze

THE CLASS fight now in Fleet Street is an important running for the battle over Phase 3.

The Newspaper Publishers' Association has refused to stand by the nationally negotiated two years' agreement with the unions involved in the running of the national and provincial newspapers in Manchester and Fleet Street.

The union said that if the Retail Price Index rose above 174.5 - in any two successive months, then an 8% pay rise due to be paid on 1st October would be brought forward to begin 1st July. But the NPA, looking towards Phase 3, said it would not be prepared to pay up.

So far the unions have been less than militant over 174.5 - the AUEW, EEFTU, BLADE, NGA, and SOGAT have worked out a 'legally' way of getting the £16 million due to print workers under the agreement into some sort of uni-environment or benefit fund.

The NPA, at this stage, probably do not want a showdown. The last year or so has seen higher profits from advertising, increase in profits from the more profitable periodical papers owned by the 'national', and higher profits from companies associated with the national dailies, for example, the Chorley group has made a lot of money.

S.E.I.

Strikers battle Weinstock

THE STRIKE at Salford's electrical instruments, goes on. The management has been back to its old tricks, and has offered a far smaller pay rise than the 8% due on the 1st October.

The workers, who are members of the AUEW, have called a one-day strike this week, and are expected to continue their strike until the pay rise is agreed.

The NPA has been quick to call for a national strike, and the workers are expected to join in.

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The struggle at SIMCA

In the factories of Simca — the French branch of the international automobile company, the CFT. This pamphlet gives details of the activities of the CFT, the oppression of Simca's immigrant workers, and the fight back.

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TORNY CANAVAN AND MICHAEL FARRELL have been on hunger strike in the British Military Barracks, Belfast, since July 6th. Their motives for taking this step are explained in an article, which was entered out of the jail on that date.

"Our case is simple and clear. We were imprisoned for our part in a political demonstration against internment, repression, and sectarian murders. We received mandatory six-month sentences which are reserved for political offenders. Our trial was blatantly political and we were convicted and sentenced by a political judge — W B Topping, a leading Orangeman, a Unionist MP for 15 years, chief whip of the Unionist Party for six years, and minister of the Unionist Party for three years...

When we entered this prison we refused to wear prison clothes and demanded political status. We were threatened with 50 days' idleness in the cell and since then have been held in a cell 13 ft x 7 ft, locked on the outside only. We have been denied all recreational facilities and association with other prisoners...

We have been subjected to constant threats and intimidations...

We respect the refusal to grant us political status and our confinement to the basement as sheer victimisation by the British authorities and the Ministry of Home Affairs. We are determined to get our rights!"

Said (August), on the 28th day of their hunger strike, Canavan and Farrell are in the hospital wing of the prison. It should be pointed out that the only difference between hospital and normal cells is that prisoners held in the former are visited every two hours to ensure whether they are still alive.

BREACH

They have refused to let prison doctors examine them because these doctors have been issuing inaccurate statements to the press concerning their condition, without their consent — an obvious breach of medical practice. They have also refused to be examined by their own doctors. The request has been refused.

Both men are extremely weak, too weak to fetch the water which is placed just inside the door rather than carried to their bedsides. Demotions of solidarity with Canavan and Farrell in Belfast on Sunday 26th and Monday 27th were banned.

30th July were banned only hours before they were due to commence. The reaction to Sunday's action in the Lower Falls by the British Army shows clearly that it was used as an excuse to once again harass the Catholic population of Belfast, in a well-planned military exercise.

Armagh was held in London by the People's Democracy on Sunday 25th July, followed by a turn-out of 24-hour hunger strike outside the Home Office. Although the demonstration was supported by representatives of most of the left-wing and Irish organisations in Britain, it did not receive a great deal of publicity.

It is obvious that Canavan and Farrell have been imprisoned in order to silence their opposition to the White Paper and the Assembly. PD has long represented a threat in the side of the Whitelaw administration.

So far, the administration has acted as it is prepared to allow Canavan and Farrell to die. Undoubtedly, this is the case in Britain: they may indeed die. Socialists in Britain must take steps in defending the lives of these comrades.

D. DOCHERTY

PORTS

A YEAR AGO, registered dockers were successful in their campaign to end the conflict with unregistered dockers in the Hunterdon region. The registered men from Coole and Hull tried to close the docks, non-NIDPS dock.

Since then, the Hull dockers have had to face entirely new problems. In association with the rise of Hull into an important Common Market port, a grapple from Teesside to Kent has seen a rise in the tonnage handled; but men who handle cargo have benefited.

Following the National Ports Council, a strike by what owners are under heavy pressure to pay better wages. Now the unregistered men have begun to see the point that the registered dockers tried to make last year. The struggle for the highest conditions are tiresome. As one of them said "Sometimes there are no few of us working a ship that it's like slave labour. This is where the employers are coming — they should be paying more."

The Hall and Coole dockers still see the unregistered ports as a threat to the moment the sharp surge in traffic has pushed this impingement problem into the background. Like in many other registered ports, the central problem still remains the three casuals.

The fight over casuals has so far been very confused. Ports with a system of registration of militancy in given way (Liverpool), while ports with no great tradition like Manchester and Tilbury have fought back. As yet their efforts have not led to a systematic campaign to defend the National Dock Labour Scheme.

From p.1

That is no justification for the widespread indifference to the liberation struggle of the Irish people. But it does partly explain it.

With Farrell and Canavan there can be no problems of identification for British millitants. Those comrades are socialists, totally and absolutely dedicated to the working class. Their goal is to unite the working people, and achieve Irish independence. With methods they have been the methods of agitation, guerrilla warfare and demonstrations. True, they have faced up to the fact that the Protestant working class has not been made aware of the racist contempt and hatred for the oppressed Catholics, and have taken

Unregulated Threat

This would be possible through a fight to open the register and cut the working week. The latter demand would certainly prove attractive to them, as yet unregistered, working the small wharves in the Hunterdon and South Eastern region, thus making them our allies instead of enemies.

Yet there is still a chance to reach them. Though many employers have been pressing hard (so they say) to get "limited permanent recruitment" and its successor, the Tory government has said no.

The NDLB, which is supposed to mediate in such disputes, has effectively reacted like a puppet on a string, going along with government instructions and refusing the local Board in London permission to recruit permanent men.

If dockers cannot take advantage of the present dispute between the employers and their government, then the two will unite in the future to make sure that the problems are solved at the expense of the dockers.

As a first step the National Ports Shop Stewards Committee should initiate a meeting of all stewards registered and unregistered dockers to discuss these three things:

* How to get all dockers onto the permanent register;
* How to stop the employers playing port-to-port; and
* How to improve our conditions by cutting the working week.

The protest staged by the Northern Ireland Office. Organise pickets and demonstrations to stop these socialists from being murdered by the Home Office government. Act now - URGENTLY - SEAN MATAGMA

Sparks Picket ETU Head Office

HOSPITAL electricians from many parts of the country picketed on July 30th. The demonstrators, about 100 in number, were protesting against the renewal of their previous decision to back strike action over the Government's refusal to implement the recommendations of the Davidson Enquiry. Chapter's excuses for the delay: "The Enquiry recommended that hospital electricians' pay should coincide with the Electricians' Collective Agreement. At the present time, a collective agreement which day is £3.70 behind the Contracting Agreement, and will still be 92p short when the planned agreement to legal Phase 2 is implemented. The decision to picket the ETU headquarters was coupled with a 24-hour unfruitful strike which had strong support in Manchester, Birmingham and Leeds; Liverpool hospital electricians also staged unofficial strike action last week.

Temperatures soared among the pickets who were effectively told by General Frank Chapelle to return to a delegation from the men until after the month's E C meeting, which was then taking place, was over. The women's office staff were allowed to leave.

The blockade went on for 25 minutes until Chapelle appeared to meet all the men in the canteen: "The EC's decision not to back strike action did nothing to soothe the sparks instead of smooth things out. An agreed number of the 7,200 electricians in the hospitals was due for strike action and that taking that action at the moment would have opened the EC to legal action by the government. "When we feel legally able to insist on improvements we shall be there but we are doing so. The time for action could be right in a little while."

I spoke to an ETU steward at Manchester Royal Infirmary who took part in organising the demonstration. He was highly critical of Chapelle and ETU's leadership's lack of support for their demands and said that if the EC refuses to call a strike then they will go ahead and organise it themselves. And another M R electrician said -- "Cape feels that we would do better to demonstrate outside the Department of Health, and thus be there leading us".

An unofficial co-ordinating committee has been set up to organise further action.

JACK SUTTON

JOHN MACLEAN COMMEMORATION

Panel of speakers at General Election rally at Albert Road, Kings Cross, 8pm Friday August 10th.