THE STATE OF EMERGENCY DECLARED AT THE BEGINNING of the miners’ overtime ban and even before strike action has been called in a warlike that the Tories are going to fight this one on their own. This is the reason why the miners are taking steps to secure their incomes and perhaps the government.

Arthur Scargill, President of the Yorkshire area of the NUM, has put it like this: "If the miners break Phase 3 or the Government breaks the miners, I can assure you that the miners will not be broken. What is required is a massive mobilisation of the Labour movement in support of the miners."

The Government is preparing for that. Brian Clarr has announced that the government ‘‘can accept’’ a threat on Scotland Yard to centralise police anti-strike activity. This is only the logical outcome of the overnight press report which Workers’ Fight has repeatedly reported in recent months.

Apropos, the government now follows up the Industrial Relations Act and the union-busting NIRC by assigning ‘‘industrial relations’’ as a priority by Special Department of the Police. We have arranged for police forces to make cooperative arrangements with their local authorities so that at short notice they can send reinforcements to help forces under pressure.

They are preparing for clashes like those during the last miners and dockers strikes. They have learned from the bitter battle of 1984-5. Thus, as well as preparing for physical clashes, the Tories have also been busy, the Fleet Street campaign to isolate miners from the class-wage and force strikers to support their strike and force miners to support the strike. This, in turn, forms the basis of decisions made by the Government.

Phase 3 is designed by the government to lay down a divisive framework which works against solidarity action, and the Fleet Street bosses work to undermine the very inclination towards solidarity with the miners and others. But many workers know that the miners are now more a class-wage and force strikers to support the Government. It is the whole class that know that both the victories of last year’s and the defeat of the miners are based on the absence of solidarity.

Strong sections like miners and dockers have locked down in their musical and cultural and called forth solidarity from other workers, won. But the hospital workers and gas workers, workers to start with and isolated in the battle, lost. That’s the whole of Phase 3, designed to lay down a divisive framework which works against solidarity action, and the Fleet Street bosses work to undermine the very inclination towards solidarity with the miners and others. And the miners know that this is the whole class that know that the miners are now more able to break the miners’ spirit.

The response to the overtime ban is that not miners but miners will be satisfied with the Government. The miners’ overtime ban, which involves safety men as well as police workers, has been highly successful, cutting coal output in the first week by 20-25% — nearly half the normal amount of coal. Not one group of miners has refused to operate the ban.

Gordon’s strategy in the negotiations is to get a few improvements in productivity deals under Phase 3, and then try to sell the deal to the miners, perhaps with the promise that the government will keep the miners’ right eventually. But miners know that the world of Harold Wilson, who presided over a massive number of pit closures, is not worth a piece of workers’ split.

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Workers Fight FREEDOM FIGHTERS!

THE ANNOUNCEMENT of a bombing campaign by the so-called "ULSTER FREEDOM FIGHTERS" is a grim manifestation of ongoing campaigning and death-defying acts in northern Ireland. So far, hundreds of Catholics have been bashed with knives and gun by Protestant bigots. These cases are not only at random, but also targeted towards people who were Catholic. Now there is a new escalation and already a series of UFO explosions has been reported by no witnesses.

Any resemblance to the IRA bombing campaign is superficial and misleading. That campaign was and is organised against Protestant bigots. The IRA targets were previously occupied by political persons of the Orange sectarian class; bomb attack to cause economic damage, not indiscriminate slaughter. The UFF campaign is admittedly a form of terrorism in order to extort money from the Protestant community. Its aim is to inflict massive civilian casualties on the Catholic population.

The present depredation of the die-hard Orange bigots. Their alarm has increased as politicians such as Fitz and Faulkner labour under the impression that the IRA is a "soft" target. They are very much concerned about the "Catholic" party, and the Faulkner faction of Unionists, has in fact upheld London's plans for power-sharing, with the result that the Orange "anti-defence" faction on any terms are opposed to the political — not the social — position formerly occupied by the Catholics, in roughly parallel that present realities of the situation are inexorably asserting themselves. The Unionists like Craig and Paisley who dream of a return to the past, are Алексей, Point is not only, based on any prospects of a deal with the Southern Irish Catholic middle class and their Northern auxiliaries in the SDLP, Northern Ireland is too economically dependent on the South to make a return to ascendency over the Catholics possible without Britain's agreement and consent. Independence for Northern Ireland is impossible for so long a time as the Catholic advocates of independence like Craig now want integration with Britain. But the last thing the British ruling class wants is integration with the problems of Northern Ireland.

Their long term strategy is complete reintegration with all of Ireland (the prospectors are in some cases already attempting to do so), and they are moving forward in the direction of "Irish Nationalism" motivated by plans for a federal solution, "Fitz" is the fact that the Orange "anti-defence" party ("the Irish Problem"), in the short term they are remoulding the Orange "anti-defence" party ("the Irish Problem") in the medium term, plans for power-sharing, with the result that the Orange "anti-defence" faction on any terms are opposed to the political — not the social — position formerly occupied by the Catholics, in roughly parallel that present realities of the situation are inexorably asserting themselves. The Unionists like Craig and Paisley who dream of a return to the past, are Алексей, Point is not only, based on any prospects of a deal with the Southern Irish Catholic middle class and their Northern auxiliaries in the SDLP, Northern Ireland is too economically dependent on the South to make a return to ascendency over the Catholics possible without Britain's agreement and consent. Independence for Northern Ireland is impossible for so long a time as the Catholic advocates of independence like Craig now want integration with Britain. But the last thing the British ruling class wants is integration with the problems of Northern Ireland.

The blast in the newspaper and the imminent murder of a Catholic will be a test of the strength of the Catholic leadership. If the Catholic leaders are not prepared to react with force, the situation will become even more dangerous. The Catholic leaders must show that they are determined to defend the Catholic population and put an end to the violence.

The Catholic leaders must also be prepared to take action against the Protestant bigots. They must not allow themselves to be intimidated by the threats and violence. If the Protestant bigots are not stopped, the situation will spiral out of control and lead to further violence and deaths.

The Catholic leaders must also work towards a peaceful solution to the conflict. They must engage in talks with the Protestant leaders and try to find a way to resolve the differences that have led to the current conflict. The Catholic leaders must also work with the British government to find a solution that will bring peace to Northern Ireland.

In conclusion, the situation in Northern Ireland is serious and requires urgent action. The Catholic leaders must take a strong stand against the Protestant bigots and work towards a peaceful solution to the conflict. Only by doing so can they ensure the safety of the Catholic population and bring an end to the violence.
**AFTER THE FIREFIGHTER**

**UNITY**

To achieve this unity, three basic elements are necessary. Firstly, we must struggle for a genuine reduction in hours through there are different claims going in - and we do not count on our demand to any established claim will be for general strike for 30 hour week.

The demand for a 30 hour week must not remain something that appears in a claim as a fighting issue, to be dropped when the time gets tough. It must be an integral part of any struggle, particularly since, make wages rises, it is a gain which must be fought for.

The engineers' claim for a 35 hour week must not be put in the back seat of the demands of the workers in the face of a national strike. If the strike is supported and backed by the national strike and the workers in other industries, we have the wherewithal to get a 35 hour week.

We must also demand that workers be paid living wages rather than the current poverty wages.

**SOLIDARITY**

Extensive solidarity action against the junta is also under way. In London on November 4th the Scottish district committee of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions has requested the CISU to present its card to the British government in support of the workers and to ask that the British government denounce the Coup in Chile.

The support of the British government and the international community in general is essential to stop the Chilean junta.

**SURVIVAL**

But even this vile massacre does not make the junta secure. The junta can only survive by destroying the workers and the workers' movement. Unfortunately, the workers' movement is still weak and the workers do not have the means to fight back.

**S.W. CONFERENCE**

Impressive Numbers - Barron Politics

The Industrial Conference in London on November 11th at Barse Vue, Manchester, by 'Socialist Worker', the paper of the International Socialist (IS) could hardly have shown a greater gap between what was possible and what happened.

The declared objective of the Conference was to build the Shop and File Movement. That objective is certainly one which needs to be built into the workers' movement. If the workers' movement is to develop its strength and defeat the attack on the workers' movement by the IS, it will have to build the workers' movement.

But if anyone went to the Conference with any illusions about the IS or what it is trying to do, they were quickly disappointed. The IS has spent years trying to build the workers' movement, to get the workers to support its movement, and to make sure that the workers do not support the IS's movement.

The IS has spent years trying to build the workers' movement, to get the workers to support its movement, and to make sure that the workers do not support the IS's movement.

This made support of 'Socialist Worker' a policy plank of the IS, the same as the policy is of the IS in the United States.

**Act now to stop Chile bloodbath**

**Save these lives!**

The following people are definitely known to be imprisoned or in grave danger because of their opposition to the Chilean junta: LUIS CORVALAN LEPE, General Secretary of the Chilean Communist Party; CARLOS ALMIRANTE, Secretary of the Socialist Party; MIGUEL ENRIQUES, lawyer of the Revolutionary Left; LUIS VITALE, Marxist president of the University of Chile; JACQUELINE ELLIS, wife of a labor leader; MIGUEL LECHIN, Bolivian trade union leader; ELIZA PEÑA, attorney; HERNAN DEZ, wife of a Dominican revolutionary; AMANDA TORRES, leader of Basque workers. The Chilean government must be pressured to release these people immediately.
**FRENCH WORKERS LEARNING FROM LIP**

IT IS NOW over six months since the workers of the watchmaking factory of LIP in France occupied their workplace in protest against proposed plans for closing down certain sections and making the workforce redundant.

It has become one of the longest lasting strikes in France and a focus of attention not only for the French working class movement but also for workers in trade unions in other countries.

Thousands of workers have rallied behind the banner of the LIP occupation. The town of Besançon is where the factory is situated, and it has seen many demonstrations of solidarity, and the last major turnout attracted over 70,000 militants, trade unionists and revolutionaries, who marched through the town in a steady downpour of rain.

It was back in April that the LIP workers heard of secret plans for the ‘restructuring’ of the company and how the news was of laying off 200 workers and shutting down the factory. At first they were alarmed, and later on, they met, and called a meeting, refusing to accept that they would be affected. The strike, which had been planned for May 18th, was postponed, and the workers returned to work and continued to negotiate.

The struggle continued and the workers remained on strike, demanding their jobs back. The factory was eventually shut down, and the workers were able to demand their rights without fear of retribution. The strike continued for a further six months, and the workers were able to win their demands.

**Theft?**

Also, the LIP workers blacked out their offices, and the factory went on strike to protest against the layoffs. The workers were determined to keep their jobs, and the strike continued for six months. The strikes were a focus of attention not only for the French working class movement but also for workers in trade unions in other countries.

**Political Murder in Northern Ireland**

New Penguin Special reviewed by AUSTEN MORGAN

WITH THE present escalation of Orange terror in Northern Ireland, it would seem that the publication by Penguin of a Special on ‘Political Murder in Northern Ireland’ (48p) might give a timely analysis.

The political ‘naïve’ or ‘ignorant’ (as per the Belfast Telegraph) has to be read to be believed. Clearly, too many free drinks and dinners from snob and sophisticated tradies have put their press officers to the realisation of their sense of cause being lost.

Even by the standards of their profession, generally biased towards the status quo, this book is a bad joke. The case of the Catholics of Northern Ireland is ignored, Protestant assassins are virtually treated as freedom fighters, and the British Army comes out of its four years in Northern Ireland like the proverbial leper in skirt and garter.

The book is not in fact about ‘political murder’ as the title suggests, but rather an account of the campaign of indigestible damnation, originally referred to by the police as ‘massive murders’ but now called ‘sensational murders’.

Of 188 deaths recorded up to August of this year, the large majority of which took place in the previous year, the authors attribute 42 to the IRA and 142 to Protestant organisations. The British Army gets the credit for two.
THE PHONEY PEACE which has been operating in South Vietnam since the so-called settlement signed at the beginning of the year looks as if it might be coming to an end.

Full scale battles involving tanks and artillery have been fought near the Cambodian border and South Vietnamese jets have bombed two towns controlled by the Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG), killing 100 people.

But the fighting never stopped. According to Saigon figures, many thousands have been killed in fighting during the past six months in South Vietnam.

Already in March Nixon was threatening to resume bombing in the north. And he alleged that U.S. bombers had started to bomb there again.

And during the very recent fighting, Saigon declared that they consider that, "New US Air Force intervention cannot be considered as a breach with the January agreement."

No one can say with any certainty what the increased tempo of the fighting will lead to a resolution of full scale war. President Thieu of South Vietnam has appeared on television making a declaration of national emergency in preparation for the "communist offensive," while the PRG themselves deny any plan for a general offensive and put the blame on the South Vietnamese for any violations of the ceasefire.

But who actually started the recent outbreak of fighting has little meaning and even less interest. The fact is that fighting has been going on ever since the January agreement, which was supposed to price peace in the north and progress towards free elections in the South, does not provide any solution to the issues which have kept Vietnam in a near-constant state of warfare since the Second World War.

For the North Vietnamese and the PRG, the agreement was a compromise, which they were forced to concede in the terrible toll of US bombing of the North, and by heavy pressure from Moscow and Peking. It was a compromise which left the Thieu regime in control of most of South Vietnam and all the most important towns and cities.

The result is that the Thieu regime continues to survive.

In terms of popular support or economic independence, the Vietnamese are in a state of disaster. But in terms of its military hardware and the size of its army and air force the Americans have built it up into one of the 10 or 12 most powerful armed forces in the world. Since the ceasefire, Saigon has received (according to PRG sources) 500,000 tons of US arms and munitions, 60,000 aircraft, 600 armoured vehicles and 600 pieces of artillery.

But although the US can arm the South Vietnamese to the teeth, it cannot begin to solve any of the problems. Economically South Vietnam is still dependent on American money, and the amount of home production of agricultural and industrial goods is pitiful.

In fact only a minority of the potential "active population" are actually involved in production, whether it be agriculture or industry. Instead, the major "occupational categories" include a substantial army supported by 0.3 million political prisoners, and half a million prostitutes.

An inevitable result is a massive trade deficit and soaring inflation. Marxists feel that they have increased in price by 50% since the beginning of the year and the price of rice has doubled. It is now the rice shortage which is throwing the Thieu regime into yet another crisis.

South Vietnam once had some of the most fertile land in Asia and was a major exporter of rice. But the American bombing has rendered large areas of land infertile, and, more important, large numbers of peasants have been taken off the land and forced to become "counter-insurgents," was slated in above more senior (and more traditional) military men to try out his new theories - of defeating the guerrilla fighter by playing him at his own game. It is also true that the army has become in some sense capable of engaging in a civilian assassination campaign, and plenty of motivation to do so.

Army

Yet they still refuse to draw the conclusion from this, and from the massive amount of fact and circumstantial evidence, that the army did engage in such a campaign, their main reasoning being that Kelson "does not in his book refer to political assassination."

But this is no argument at all, and even Kelson could have got away with recommending civil aviation assassinations for manual control.

He did, however, do reveal that there are "terrible sights" photographs piled up in the American military offices. So, if you just happen to look like a Provo on the way to work..."
Clay Cross did implement the 'Fair Rent' Act.

The decision of the eleven councillors has been an oasis in the desert of capitulation to this attack on the working class. Labour councillors after Labour council elections in the country gave in when the pressure became too great — and many did not even bother to put up a token resistance.

Despite the fact that the councillors were only carrying out official Labour Party policy, the party refused to challenge the Councillors in the elections, and the workmen who stood did not take part in the fight for the rents.

The stand that Clay Cross has taken, though apparently quite isolated, has had its impact on other sections of the working class. The Labour Party has been forced to declare support for the eleven councillors. At the last Labour Party conference a motion was not put through criticising the NEC for their position on Clay Cross. Under such pressure, the self-styled Executive were forced to put the appearance of supporting the Councillors.

But as a measure of how much, or how little, the Labour Party NEC actually intended to support Clay Cross, it has only to be noted that they are refusing to put up a fighting fund for the rebel councillors. As usual, paper support costs nothing and at least gives the impression that something is being done.

Now the Tories have admitted defeat in their attempt to bully and threaten the Council into implementing the Rent Act. Some 6 weeks ago, a Housing Commissioner was sent in to take over.

Many other councils, after an initial refusal to implement, caved in when threatened with the Housing Commissioner. But, as Geordie Barclay found out when he went to Clay Cross to talk to one of the eleven, Cllr. Dave Nuttall, the Housing Commissioner is in fact nothing like the unpleasant figure so feared by such faint hearts. What Clay Cross has shown in the last few weeks is that if you are determined to fight, then there are ways round each new obstacle.

Despite the fact that a fair amount of publicity was expended on the arrival of the Housing Commissioner (the capitalist press having previously said little or nothing about the struggle at Clay Cross), his arrival had made no difference to the functioning of the council.

The Commission had been refused all facilities, and Nuttall thought this... for a start, would make his job impossible. "We can hardly do the job from a table on the platform", where he had an office now. Under no circumstances would the Commissioner be given an office, a phone, staff or any facilities or help in Clay Cross.

As far as the council is concerned, the only thing that the Commissioner can do is to look at the books, as these are public property open to anyone who wishes to look at them.

When the Housing Commissioner arrived, one of the first things he was reported to have said was that "lots of tenants were paying more rent than they needed because some of them could claim rent rebate." But Nuttall pointed out that he had no idea where these figures came from.

The commissioner had only been in Clay Cross about 10 minutes when he made this statement. "Not only could he not have had time to look at the rent records, but he certainly couldn't have known the incomes of the tenants — which is necessary to calculate rebates under the Housing Act. This is a lot of work, he needs a secretary or a complete staff..."

"If he had taken time to look at the rent records, he would have found that the average rent is £1.50. This is a level of rent, only a very small number of people could qualify for a rebate..."

Nuttall thought that in any case the councillors had a simple answer to these splitting tactics — "as the Housing Commissioner thinks our rents are too high for the tenants, we are seriously considering giving all tenants a reduction. That should keep the Commissioner happy and no doubt will please our tenants."

Could the council be bypassed? asked what would happen if the councillor instructed the rent collectors to collect the increase. Nuttall emphasised that the rent collectors are council employees and would be instructed by the council to collect only the rent which the council decided.

The council is still being fully supported by the mass of tenants: in the recent total rent strike called by the councilors, 85% paid no rent at all. During the strike, street committees were set up, with attendance of 25-70 people per street.

The Housing Commissioner, a Mr. Patrick Millington, has a pension of £1,000 a year, and on top of that, for each day he attends at Clay Cross, he gets £40. This must make him one of the highest paid rubber in history — with the possible exception of Sir John Donaldson of the NIRC. But Nuttall observed that the Tories might think it worthwhile "stealing as much as the total amount of rent owing (according to the Commissioners) in about £1,000 — about £90 per tenant!"

Nuttall thinks that the situation in Clay Cross could easily have been avoided "because if other local authorities, even a minute number like 6 or 7 and one or two big boroughs, had refused to implement the Rent Act, the Tory government would have been in real trouble because the Housing Finance Act would have become a non-entity."

And so, it seems, would the pay laws if everyone followed the example of Clay Cross. The council has just given its employees a rise of between £3.50 and £5 a week. "We're treating the Pay Board in exactly the same way as the Housing Finance Act."

I wondered how the strain of being up against the Tory system was affecting the councillors. Each faces a fine of £2,000 — a tidy sum for these 11 working people — and the prospect of being barred from future office. But Dave Nuttall seemed quite unconcerned. "Would he try to pay the fine?" "Don't be bloody silly Geordie — I've got no money!" "Did he fear going to jail?" "No. I've got too much faith in the trade union movement for any fear of that. But on the other hand, I doubt whether the Tories would risk trying to jail us — they haven't yet forgotten the Peldonville Five and are hardly going to want a Clay Cross!"

So, the message coming from this north Doncaster village is that the fight goes on — fines, commissioners or whatever. If Dave Nuttall is anything to go by, the leaders of this fight are in a relaxed and confident mood. Their slogan is as true today as it was at the start: "WE WILL NOT IMPLEMENT THE RENT ACT!"
THE RENT STRIKE in Bolton is now 12 months old, and the handful of tenants who are still refusing to pay the “Fair Rents” increase are more than £60 in arrears.

What happened during the course of those 12 months is fairly typical of what happened up and down the country, and is worth looking at in some detail.

Prior to last October, only one estate in the town was organised. Even this was difficult enough to achieve, as local Labour councillors were loudly boasting that they would go to jail rather than implement the Act, and the town had no need of Tenants Associations.

Labour in Bolton came to power very largely on the strength of these boasts, yet they backed down at the last minute with all the other Labour councils, leaving the tenants only two or three weeks in which to organise the other estates.

By October, after an intensive campaign of marches, petitions and rebate form burning, seven tenants associations were operating and more than five hundred tenants had, by official figures, without the rent increase.

Many Labour councillors resigned immediately by saying that they could not support public “lawlessness”, and the Bolton councillors as a whole declared in their intention of “helping” Bolton’s tenants by “dampening the effects of Fair Rents”.

SPLIT

They appealed for a special dispensation and succeeded in getting the original 4/- a week increase reduced to 2/-, which they then created as an average increase, keeping some increases at 4/- and reducing others to as little as 2/-, with a whole range of different levels in between. The immediate effect of this was to split the tenants movement in half, dividing the tenants into two camps, a group of “dampening” tenants and another of “everything the tenant had.”

Next came an intensive “You may be eligible for a rebate” campaign which split us up even further - those getting rebates and those paying full rent.

Denounced by the numbers who had doubled to around 150. Then came the Council’s Provisional Fair Rent Assessments and a public campaign by the Labour Party for tenants to “appeal” against their particular assessment. The tenants Associations managed to fight off support for this manoeuvre within their own ranks, but some damage had been done, and when the predictably low assessments were published the rent strike dwindled even further as many tenants mistook the provisional assessment, met by the council for the actual Fair Rent (yet to be assessed by the Government’s Rent Scrutiny Board).

APPEALS

Throughout this period the Tenants Associations had conducted a continuous campaign, publishing leaflets and information, holding meetings and organizing rent office pickets. All the major trade union branches were circulated and their offices invited to joint Trade Union-Tenants meetings. None ever came.

In fact the local secretary of the AUEW is himself a council tenant, yet at no time did he respond to appeals for solidarity action from the tenants, nor did he himself go on rent strike.

An application by the Tenants Federation to join the Trades Council was greeted with the curt reply “Tenants Associations are not eligible for affiliation to the Trades Council.”

By the spring, only six tenants were left on rent strike, and the Authority felt strong enough to act against them. Bailiffs appeared without warning at the homes of the six tenants and furniture and other goods were confiscated to pay off the arrears.

The bailiffs did their job enthusiastically, taking far more than was needed to pay for the arrears, and in one case confiscating everything the tenant had. Even then the local officials had underestimated the fight still left in the tenants movement.

Within four days a demonstration was organised and attended by 500 tenants. The case attracted TV and press coverage, and by the following week the officials backed down and the goods were returned.

DENIED

At the time, Labour councillors were quick to assure tenants leaders that it was not their ambition or demonstration that had caused the officials to back down, but the action had been “sympathetic” Labour councillors: “the sense of the situation.”

But at the next council meeting an altogether different story emerged. The Tories accused Labour of putting pressure on local officials. Very much rattled those very same “sympathetic” Labour councillors couldn’t deny the charge strongly enough, and announced themselves to be opposed to all rent strikes.

In fact they went even further and claimed that “there is no evidence that the situation could have been far worse.”

For once they were telling the truth.

Labour’s action, right from the beginning, had made the effect of “dampening the tenants’ movement” in the back. The eventual outcome of their “dampening the effects of Fair Rents” will be negligible, yet its immediate result was to split all of the one chance tenants had of throwing out “Fair Rents” lock, stock and barrel.

VILLAINS

Whether tenants could have succeeded in doing this without trade union support remains doubtful. Yet with a strong and militant tenant movement organizing effective rent strikes throughout the country, the trade union movement would inevitably have been drawn into the struggle whether its leaders wished it or not.

The villagers of the plea emerge clearly. On the one hand the Labour Party - both locally and nationally - and on the other the trade union bureaucracy.

The Tories are probably content enough to establish “Fair Rents” in principle for the moment. Their success in holding down wages reduces the immediate need to increase rents. But even as the Act is there it represents a threat and the Tories will not hesitate to use it to increase rents in response to public opinion. Limits to the moment they feel the need for.

LINKS

The job of Tenants Associations should now be to form long-term links with organisations of trade and workers with a view to breaking the monopoly of the Labour Party/TUC coalition on working class politics. Different as this is to do, it is now more important than launching into another series of rent strike campaigns for next October.

Whilst Tenants Associations may be effective to do this in certain areas where trade union support has already been achieved, in most areas further rent strikes will only serve to demoralise tenants even more.

A start in the right direction was made in Bolton on May Day when tenants joined AUEW pickets outside the factories and striking members of Equity stagewest of theatre which included a scene on Fair Rents.

Much more similar action is needed before all the lost confidence can be restored and widespread rent strikes can once more be effectively campaigned for.
How the Arabs were driven out of Palestine

From Intercontinental press

By JON ROTHCHILD

Between ourselves it must be clear that there is no room for both people together in this country. We shall not achieve our goal of being an independent people with the Arabs in this small country. The only solution is a Palestine, at least West Palestine (west of the Jordan River) without Arabs. And there is no other way than to transfer them from here to the neighboring countries, to transfer all of them. Not one village, not one tribe, should be left.

Abdel Hakim left with his battalion, which had a duty to perform in the battle of Deir Yassin. Before leaving, he gave me the sum of £1000, which had been entrusted to him. With this money I was to buy as much cheese and olives as I could. Our forward troops had no emergency rations to rely on in the front-line, where they could not be served with hot meals. No one had taken the trouble to think of providing the front-line troops with emergency rations. All that they had done was to send us £1000 and say, "Buy cheese and olives!"

I bought all the cheese and olives I could lay hands on in Gaza. My heart ached at the thought of the soldier who was to attack fortified positions with his bare body and then sit in a hole like a mouse nibbling away a piece of cheese. We bought all the cheese we could find and the £1000 they had thrown to us saying, "Do as you see fit." But my heart cried out with every bite: "This is no war." - Gamal Abdel Nasser, memoirs of the first Palestine war.

...when the UN passed the resolution to partition Palestine into two states, the War of Independence broke out, to our great fortune. In this war, a twofold miracle occurred: territorial victory and the flight of the Arabs.


A common misconception fostered both by Zionist propaganda and by the Western capitalist press is that the "first round" of the Arab-Israeli conflict began on May 15, 1948, the day after the proclamation of the founding of the state of Israel, when Arab armies from Egypt, Transjordan, and Syria invaded the new state with the object of obliterating the Jewish population.

Partition

Apart from the facts that the 1948 war was hardly the "first round" and that the aggressive statements of the Arab leaders had exactly nothing to do with their real intentions or abilities, it is simply not true that the war started in May 1948. By the time the Arab armies entered Palestine on May 15, full-scale war had already been raging for at least one month; intensive civil war between the Jews and the Palestinian Arabs had been going on since November 1947.

A second misconception, which usually parades along with the first, is that the Zionist army was heavily outnumbered by Arab armies and that the extinction of the Zionist state hung in the balance during the battles that raged from the middle of May until the end of 1948. In fact, at the height of the fighting, Jewish combat troops numbered at least 70,000 (some estimates run as high as 100,000), while the total forces committed to battle by the Arab states stood at no more than 40,000, and probably closer to 30,000.

Furthermore, the security of the Jewish state was firmly established by early June at the latest. The remainder of the fighting was over exactly how far the borders of the new state would extend and over the related question of how many Arabs would be left within those borders.

The Yishuv emerged from the second world war considerably stronger, although numerically smaller, than the Palestinian Arabs. The rapid development of the Jewish economic sector in Palestine, the large number of Jewish immigrants that poured into Palestine during the 1930s and after the outbreak of the second world war, the training that Jewish youth in Palestine had received fighting with the Allies, and the intensive development of the Yishuv's administrative structures (the precursors of the Zionist state apparatus) combined to place the Jews in a position not only to expand the area of Jewish control, but to challenge the British regime for control of a large portion of Palestine.

The Palestinian Arabs were in a completely different situation. From 1936 to 1939 they had participated in a revolt against foreign domination that had swept both Palestine and Syria and had tied up between one-third and one-half of the British army during those years. The defeat of the 1936 revolt— in large part as a result of its semifundamental Islamic theocratic leadership— had left the Palestinians atomized, demoralized, exhausted, and unarmed.

With the end of World War II the Zionist movement began an extensive military campaign consisting largely of terrorist attacks against British occupying troops. The interests of British imperialism and the Zionist movement, so long in tandem, had diverged as the Zionist leaders began pressing for the overturning of the British mandate over Palestine and the establishment of an independent Jewish state.

In late 1947, the British government took the Palestine question to the United Nations, hoping to find a way of internationalizing but preserving its mandate. But the British, weakened by the war and facing a rising independence movement in other colonies, were unable to prevent the UN from divesting them of Palestine. On November 29, 1947, the United Nations passed a resolution by a vote of 33 to 13 (with the support of the Soviet and American delegations) calling for the partition of Palestine into two states, one Arab and one Jewish, that would maintain some sort of loose ties of an unspecified nature.

The partition resolution was a victory for the Zionist movement, as it allowed for the creation of the Jewish state. About 54 percent of the area of Palestine was allotted to the Jewish state. Inside that area there were some 498,000 Jews and about 407,000 Arabs. The Arab state was to be composed of about 45 percent of Palestine, with a population of about 725,000 Arabs and 10,000 Jews. The city of Jerusalem (105,000 Jews, 100,000 Arabs) was to be a separate international zone.

The Zionist leaders realized that the partition, while a partial satisfaction of their demands, was inadequate. The Jews were only slightly more than 50 percent of the population of the Jewish state.

The immediate problem before the Zionist leaders was therefore twofold: to eliminate the bulk of the 460,000 Arabs in the Jewish state and to expand the borders of that state as far as possible, the partition being seen merely as a step along the road to the full conquest of all of Palestine. They set out to achieve these goals in late 1947.

Terror

In November 1947, the Irgun Zvai Leumi, a Zionist military organization with several thousand members, abandoned its terrorist attacks on the British occupation authority and turned to meting out "reprisals" for anti-Zionist acts on the part of the Palestinian Arabs. The latter, lacking organized leadership and increasingly alarmed by growing Zionist strength in Palestine and by the impending UN partition resolution, were frequently moved to express their opposition to the Zionist colonization in un differentiated assaults on Jews. In this they were encouraged by the Palestinian theocratic leadership, the "old notables" centered around the former mufti of Jerusalem and his cousin Abdel Kader al-Hussaini.

The Irgun took advantage of these incidents to launch a widespread "retaliatory" campaign, which consisted mainly of attacks on villages suspected of harboring those responsible for the anti-Zionist actions, and attacks on villages that were not suspected of being involved, just for purposes of "setting examples." The Irgun campaign had done nothing. On the one hand, it began the process— later intensified significantly— of terrorizing the Palestinian Arabs into what was to become widespread flight. On the other hand, it incited Arab counterattacks against Jewish settlers, thus ensuring that the gulf dividing the Jews from the Arabs would widen and deepen.

Divide

An example was the Irgun bombing attack against Arab workers at the Halfa oil refinery on December 31, 1947. Six were killed and dozens wounded in the attack. Nineteen Jewish workers were killed and many were wounded when the Arab workers were incited by their own reactionary leaders to strike back.

The example of the Halfa refinery is an important one. The installation was one of the few in Palestine that employed both Jewish and Arab workers. It had been the scene of some collaboration between the Irgun and that element that was not to the liking of the Zionists, the Arab reactionaries, or the British occupation government. The Irgun's terror raid and the Hussein reaction ended the example once and for all.

By January 1948, the Irgun terror campaign had reached a high point, with the Haganah, the "official" armed forces of the...
Zionist movement — had done so. The lines of the conflict were set: the possibility of Jewish-Arab cooperation was squashed; the Palestinian Arabs were on the way to learning what Zionist terror was to be like.

The events of the past twenty-five years make it hard to come to grips with what happened at that time. It is true that Jewish-Arab cooperation was ever a possibility in 1947. But the truth is otherwise. The way it developed was that the Jew responded to the Arab terror of the second war in a nation that was already supported by the Arab League and had set out for Palestine because they had no alternative. In fact, the Zionist movement itself made no effort to force the U.S. government to open its doors to the refugees and even opposed the open doors policy.

Here is an example of the Zionist attitude, from a letter from David Ben-Gurion to the British government executive on December 17, 1938: "Britain is trying to separate the issue of the Palestine refugees from the question of Jewish immigration. It is a setup by anti-Zionist Jews. The dimensions of the refugee problem are too large for a bilateral or tripartite solution; if Palestine will not absorb them, another territory will. Zionism, if not pushed by the British government, will be pushed by the other UN conferences, certain to fail, to demand enormous sums of money. If the League of Nations fails, the refugees, saving Jews from concentration camps, and acting as a nation that is inviting the mass of the Jewish people to the field, have the upper hand and the whole energy of the people will be channelled into building the new states in the countries.

Zionism will be struck off the agenda not only in world public opinion, but in Britain itself. The same will also happen elsewhere in Jewish public opinion. If we allow a separation between the refugee problem and the Jewish state, we are risking the existence of Zionism." (Quoted in The Other Israel, p. 171.)

The plan of independence was made. The refugees were not offered asylum in the United States or Britain. The anti-Zionist attitude of the British government and Zionism ensured that the refugees would be barred from the West and that the Arab world would be in an inconceivable portion of the human material for their new state.

Unity?

But there was another side to the problem of the refugees. If they had seen the conflict as a problem of cooperation with the Arabs in a fight for an independent Palestine, Zionism would have been able to maintain the unity of the population. The last-mentioned was shared by British imperialism, whose aim was to maintain its rule in Palestine on the pretext that its enlightened subjects would keep the Arab and Jewish savages from slaughtering each other, a time-hon- ored policy of British imperialism. London agreed to areas closer to its own shores.

The result was a never ending series of battles and a new stage, the first stage of theopen warfare of the Arabs, which was followed by the Arab war, with the British imperialism assisting now one side, now the other, maintaining a balance of terror.

The only local winners in this multi- sided game were the Zionist leaders, who had superiority in weapons and organisation and used their superiority to transform the Jewish-Arab clashes of late 1947 into a full-scale terror assault on the Palestinian Arabs. By the end of 1947, Irqun and Haganah attacks on Arab villages had reached epidemic proportions, and the 1948

War force

In January 1948 chechay al-'inqad (army of salvation, usually translated as Liberation Army) led by Fawzi al-Kurf was dispersed and retreated to Jordan River. Qawwul's force numbered some 5,000 men, about 1,500 of them Palestinian. The liquidation of the Arab League offices in Damascus through which Qawwul had to clear any action.

Thus the plan of the Army was unable to turn the military situation around. Qawwul, an arriachement—unwilling to move thousands of mass of Palestinian Arabs in the struggle against Zionism. The force was and will continue to equip the Arab League leaders, who viewed it as nothing but an adjournment to their diplomatic efforts to overturn the partition resolution.

The Haganah concentrated during the December 1947-March 1948 period on creating a situation in which the Jews would have an advantage in the new Jewish states, solidifying lines of communication, and occupying the majority of the country.

At the beginning of April 1948 the Haganah went over to the offensive, and the plan was known by the name Plan D.

Thirteen military campaigns were launched under Plan D, eight of them outside the areas assigned to the Jewish state. On April 11 Haganah forces attacked the road to the city of Tel Aviv. Along the way they attacked Arab villages, driving the population down and dismantling their houses, so that they would not return. Within one week, between 10,000 and 18,000 Arabs had become refugees.

Concurrently with the Haganah's campaign, the Irqun and the Stern Gang began to attack the Transjordan and开始了 a number of attacks on Jewish villages, stepping up their terrorism against Arab villages. On April 12 they hit the village of Deir Yassin, which had remained aloof from the war and had denied refuge to Palestinian Arab forces in an effort to avoid staining their hands. But to no avail. The Irqun and the Stern Gang executed 264 of the village's unarmed inhabitants, women, children, and drove them back into a house and threw the bodies down a well. Even the commander of the Irqun, Abba Hillel Silver, was an off-duty British soldier and cabinet minister in the Israeli government, later admitted that the village of Deir Yassin was not a military target and that the massacre his gangsters committed was there to be provoked among the Palestinian villagers, who had no means of defending themselves.

Cruel

A similar massacre was committed on April 29 in Katamon, a section of Jerusalem. While the Haganah was waging its Plan D and the Irqun and Stern Gang were escalating their terror, the British Haganah concentrated on using all possible propaganda means of terrorising the Arabs into flight. In March 1948 the Zionist Army's Haganah dropped leaflets signed by the district commander warning that all villagers who did not want to be crushed under their own women and children in order to be safe. This is a very gross war by any mercy or compassion."

During the first two weeks of May, the Irqun and Haganah launched a terror offensive. Throughout April and early May, major cities were attacked and captured. The towns of Tel Aviv and Ramat Gan. The town of the town of Tiberias was taken; 5,000 Arabs were put to flight. Haifa was taken on April 22; more than 50,000 Arabs were forced to flee. One week later Jaffa was taken; Acre fell early May. When Abba Kuppen-Hussein's forces were liquidated in the town of Qesel, Palestinian forces ceased playing any role whatsoever in the fighting.

On May 14, 1948, the independence of the state of Israel was proclaimed. By that time, more than 250,000 Palestinian Arabs had become refugees; the Haganah was in possession of all the areas allotted to the Jewish state except Jerusalem and some parts of the Negev desert; and the weak, disorganized, and misled Palestinian forces had been fragmented completely from the fighting. And all this took place before the entry of the "outside" Arab armies.

Arab Legion

Military, the last opportunity the Arabs had to reverse the gangrene that in Palestine came when the Arab Legion, the British-armed and trained forces under the command of King Abdullah of Jordan (grandfather of King Hussein), entered the fighting on May 15. Simultaneously with Abdullah's entry, an Egyptian and a Jordanian force in from the south and some Syrian forces attacked on the northern front. The number of opposing troops in the field were approximately equal.

ABDULLAH: Conquered with Zionist leaders to take over Palestine.

The problem was political. The most effective Arab force was Abdullah's Arab Legion. It was, and still is, an off-duty British soldier and cabinet minister in the Israeli government, later admitted that the village of Deir Yassin was not a military target and that the massacre his gangsters committed was there to be provoked among the Palestinian villagers, who had no means of defending themselves.

The essence of the Meyerson-Abdul- lahah agreement was that the Arab Legion would occupy and later incorporate into Transjordan the West Bank of the Jordan River, which was supposed to be the main part of the Palestinian Arab state.

The first phase of the Arab-Israeli war of 1948 was ended by a treaty that went into effect on June 11 and lasted until July 7. While the United Nations was busy trying to "mediate" the struggle, the Zionist Army had been busy consolidating their positions, obtaining new arms, and increasing the number of their forces in Palestine.

The number of new immigrants to Palestine in 1948 increased to 30,000. From the United States and Czechoslovakia, the Kremlin having decided to support the founding of the Zionist state, which Stalin apparently believed would reduce the influence of British imperialism, ignored by the Kremlin bureaucrats. And backing behind the outside powers, the U.S. imperialists. This article has been shurred for signatures of space.
"COMING TO GRIPS" WITH RELATIONS

I.M.R. ON CHILE'S UNIDAD POPULAR & THE M.I.R.

WITH ITS accustomed modesty, the International Marxist Group (IMG) has endorsed "a small but significant" Chile. Ideally, the IMG explains, the ouster of Salvadore Allende from office is to be "a key event" in the development of the Latin American left. The IMG declares that "in terms of revolutionary potential" the Allende administration "represents the first stage of a process of social and political change in Latin America."

The IMG's analysis of the Allende government is based on a number of factors: its economic policies, its labor and agrarian reforms, and its anti-imperialist stance. The IMG sees the Allende government as a significant step forward in the struggle for socialism in Latin America.

POLITICAL AIMS

In his pamphlet "There is no other way," Conrado Tsarig Allende—son of the Marxist leader and former Chilean president—argues that the Allende government must continue its policies of nationalization and social reform. He writes: "If there is no other way, then we must take the path that Allende took, and continue to work towards a socialist future." This attitude is shared by many within the Chilean left.

The IMG supports this perspective, emphasizing the need for continued resistance against the M.I.R. In a statement, the IMG declares: "We stand with the people of Chile in their struggle against the M.I.R. and itscollaborators."

SPANISH

I.M.R. would like to commend the dedication and fighting spirit of the IMG in its support for the Chilean people. We stand with the IMG in this fight against the M.I.R. and its collaborators.
Oppose reaction to the campaign against abortion

\textbf{WORSE}

Apart from their unceasing warning of 'Alien threat' tactics such as "people in overall and people in the Lincolnshire women's group among the women's groups in this country. But the MR's opportunism does not stop there. They also made no attempt to clarify the meaning of the SRP and the members of the SRP from reform. As one MR writer put it in 'Protest Final': "The most important thing is that the MR is the latest of a long line of Stalinist parties that have been captured by the bourgeoisie."

\textbf{EXPLAIN}

"IRELAND UNFREE will never be at peace" declared 19 year old Conor, during the 1980's, as he was condemned for being a member of a socialist revolutionary organisation, and was sentenced to 10 years of hard labor. He was one of 10 people from Belfast charged with causing serious disorder in the city and sentenced to 10 years in prison. He was one of the first members of the IRA to be imprisoned under the new law which made it a crime to belong to a terrorist organisation. "If I were to be set free, I would immediately start doing the same things I have been doing all these years," he said as he was sentenced to 10 years in prison. "I was sentenced to 10 years in prison for being a member of the IRA. I have been involved in the struggle for the Irish people for many years," he said.

\textbf{CONCEPTED}

The Guardian, in its most recent issue, has labelled the Irish Republican Army (IRA) as a "terrorist organisation". This is not the first time the Guardian has made such a claim. In previous issues, the paper has referred to the IRA as a "violent group" and a "terrorist organisation". The Guardian's editor, Andrew Neil, has always been quick to condemn the IRA, and has consistently labelled it as a "terrorist organisation".

\textbf{OPENED}

"We are 100% for a united Ireland" declared Conor, during the 1980's, as he was condemned for being a member of a socialist revolutionary organisation, and was sentenced to 10 years of hard labor. He was one of 10 people from Belfast charged with causing serious disorder in the city and sentenced to 10 years in prison. He was one of the first members of the IRA to be imprisoned under the new law which made it a crime to belong to a terrorist organisation. "If I were to be set free, I would immediately start doing the same things I have been doing all these years," he said as he was sentenced to 10 years in prison. "I was sentenced to 10 years in prison for being a member of the IRA. I have been involved in the struggle for the Irish people for many years," he said.

\textbf{ACTIONS}

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\textbf{Support Them}

Their own struggle has hardly yet begun, it will most likely be a long one before the British government is persuaded to end its interference in the affairs of the IRA. It is essential that the British government is persuaded to end its interference in the affairs of the IRA. It is essential that the British government is persuaded to end its interference in the affairs of the IRA. It is essential that the British government is persuaded to end its interference in the affairs of the IRA. It is essential that the British government is persuaded to end its interference in the affairs of the IRA.

\textbf{LONG KES KI-CO-OP}

\textbf{PRICE LIST}

\textbf{Gents wallets, modell - Plate, £2.25; Coloured, £2.50}

\textbf{Gents brollies, modell - £1.75, £2.50; £1.50}

\textbf{Ladies wallets purses, modell - £1.20 & £7.25; plain, £1.60}

\textbf{Granny purses, modell - £2.25; £1.50}

\textbf{Non-modified hide purses (various grans and colours), £1.00}

\textbf{Welsh plates (plywood with design), £1.25; £1.50}

\textbf{Heads in meopathy, decorated, large, £8.00; £7.25}

\textbf{Celtic crosses in meopathy - painted design, £2; carved design, £4}

\textbf{Doors will not be supported}

Orders should be sent to: Mrs O'Cass, 21 Meadsville, Ireland or: Sean O'Brian, 54 Elderfield Road, London E3

\textbf{Bec}
SOLIDARITY GROWS AT MERIDEN

With a determination that has up to now been lacking, the Trumark Meriden workers continue to occupy their factory.

One of their longest sessions was with flying colours when most of the workers turned up for a meeting in the canteen on Monday, 12th November. This was a test, because the first trickle of redundancies had already started, but many were worried that the occupation would beando nothing.

One need only see the solidarity of the picket line against the scabs to realize the community's sympathy.

Another danger to this struggle is the threat of being declared a "law intended for the benefit of employers", which is now being vigorously peddled by the National Federation of Records and Information Workers.

The Trumark workers have given a strike notice for a wage payment to buy the factory, factory shortages from the picket line dues and even suggestions of Dennis Poole who has been informed of this action. A wage of £8000 a year along with an arrangement to tangle the fabric that the picket line stands on, have all combined to present a glowing and promising picture of "gave of the picket line" keeping up the banner of Trumark.

Both the Observer and the Daily Mail have reported this story, but it is not at all clear on what basis the wage demands were made, or exactly what is being demanded. There is no specific aspect of the scheme that they have, the determination of the independence of the workers and thus cut off any real struggle to what extent at least of one these would be beneficial for the workers.

JOE McCARTHY RIDES AGAIN

Under the title of "Under the Bed" a misleadingly self-punishing one at that - Anglia TV of London is to播出 the first part of an original series of five, under the heading of "The 100s of the Old"

The ETV-baiting Case was no more than an ordinary break in the broadcast, and an ordinary break in the broadcast. What was the result of this invention of the ETV is to be expected.

There was one new element, added to the old, the "News of the Week" on the "Woolf's" and "Finn's" socks and all the rest of it.

SENIORS SUMMONS ON RENT STRIKERS

The great general strike in the tenants' resistance nationally to the National Finance Act, coincides with the event in Tower Hill, Kgbkby, where their 350 tenants are keeping up their rent strike and the strike has already begun in October 1972.

The new increase last month has meant many seen tenants report the 4th of this month that they have been kept by the council.

The council are now refusing to obey the law and license them.

They have been attempting to use the weapon of earnings agreement orders against the tenants.

The tenants' reply to this has been to refuse to avoid a court.

Some tenants have now been issued with a further summons to appear in court on November 21st.

This summons is likely to be crucial. If it is not answered then the courts will probably step in and order the tenants to appear for court of appeal and that the council to obey their own law.

The Rent Action Group are advising tenants of the local authorities' warning of this possible development.

If it becomes imminent it is advisable to go to the sheriff's office and check the situation.

JOHN BLOOM

SHREWSBURY WITNESS SAYS IT'S A BOSS'S STRIKE

Sensational evidence was given at the Shrewsbury trial of the murder of a man who was charged with the murder of a woman who had been piling up the charges.

In a series of isolation witnesses, a journalist told how he and other journalists were invited to a meeting with the local police at the scene.

The police had found the body of a woman who had been working for the police and had been found dead in suspicious circumstances.

Then, under interrogation from Detective Chief Inspector Mills, this journalist admitted that he knew that local branch employees had compiled a dossier on picketing and were preparing to take action.

It was only when the police asked about the possibility of another UCwauel to present the workers with evidence of an effective weapon in the hands of police and local authorities.

But many more technical improvements of the paper will be needed to transform the paper into a useful weapon for socialism and the struggle against capitalism.

We need a regular Workers' Fight as a 12-page paper appearing every two weeks. This is priority number one. At the moment the paper is produced almost uncontrollable by local labour people by whom we also have to earn a living.

To really improve the paper's impact, we need immediate increases in the printing costs. We need more money to invest in improving live coverage in the paper.

All of which comes down to the fact that we need more money. Quite apart from the paper's costs we need £1000 a month to cover expenses from the rent. The workers must provide it.

The £3000-£4000 fighting fund closes at the end of November. So far, we have raised £915, enough to last up to three weeks to raise £500.

Think how much paper the paper will be with only 1% of the resources of the Daily Mirror or the Sun. Think of the improvements so needed! In the meantime we await further developments.

JOE McCARTHY RIDES AGAIN

We are actually a little pleased that Joe McCarthy has come back. We are not so pleased that he has come back. It was announced recently that Joe McCarthy's name will be on the list of candidates for the upcoming presidential election.

But, the likelihood is that Joe McCarthy will not become the next President of the United States. Joe McCarthy is a political has-been.

The Republicans have decided to nominate Joe McCarthy as their presidential candidate. The Democrats have decided to nominate Hubert Humphrey as their presidential candidate.

The election will be held in November. The winner will become the President of the United States.

The election will be held in November. The winner will become the President of the United States.