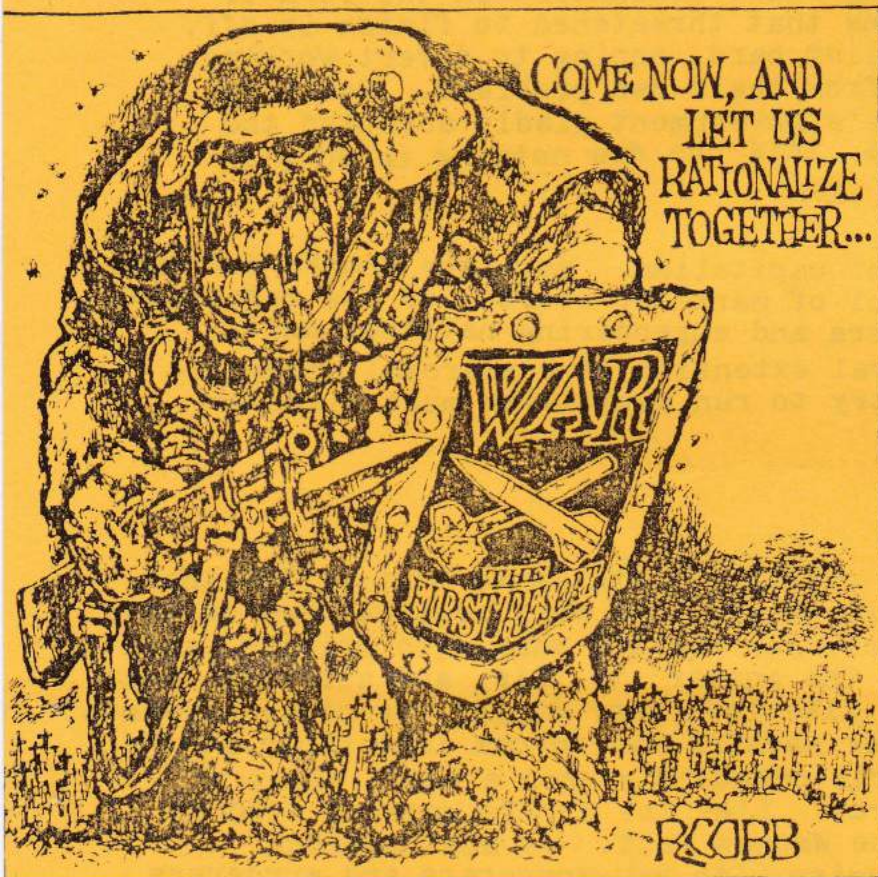


CND, LABOUR AND THE FALKLANDS

The crusade against nuclear weapons is so important, says CND, that we must all sink our political differences and work together. But the Falklands war and the reaction of the Labour party and CND leadership must surely raise serious questions about this approach.

Through marches, carnivals, demonstrations and petitions, CND has attempted to persuade MPs to vote against the Bomb in Parliament. Much work has been put into trying to gain the support of the Labour party, which is thought to be more sympathetic. CND hopes that a Labour party with Michael Foot as leader will behave differently to the victorious Labour government of 1964 (elected to abolish nuclear weapons - it started building Polaris submarines instead).



WHAT LABOUR SAID.....

But can the Labour party's response to the Falklands crisis give us any hope that they would not drag us into another world war? On April 3rd, in the House of Commons debate, with only one exception (Patrick Cormack) they supported Thatcher's decision to send the Fleet. Some now seem to believe that it could be sent and not used - such apparent Doublethink is preposterous. Michael Foot donned the garb, not of pacifist, but of war-monger. He said of the Falklanders, '...they have been betrayed (and)... the government must prove by deeds, because they will never be able to do it by words, that they are not responsible....' His deputy, Dennis Healey, interviewed on Panorama the following Monday, was even more

explicit. He stated that Britain must be prepared to sink Argentinian ships and re-invade the Falklands.

Against 'foul, brutal aggression' (Foot) by a 'tin-pot fascist junta' (Silkin), Labour is prepared to send thousands of young working class men to kill their Argentinian counterparts and die in the process. It is ironic that only a few weeks ago Argentinian sailors were training in Britain, that many Argentinian ships are made in Britain. So much did the Government, Tory or Labour, care about Fascism then.

AND CND????

And what of the CND leadership? Instead of denouncing the war, they supported it:

The Labour Party, Liberal/SDP Alliance, many Conservative MPs and military experts have spoken out against Trident. Quite rightly, it's hardly the best way to defend Britain. Just look at the Falkland Islands. (CND advertisement, the Guardian, 10-4-82)

This clearly shows they think there is a best way to defend Britain and squares with their advocacy of strong conventional weapons. Quite simply CND is not opposed to war - it is in favour of conventional wars. Such wars have killed over 20 million people since 1945. This April the sum population of countries engaged in wars was about 701,600,000 (Sunday Times 21-3-82) - or one person in six. They embrace forces not far short of those taking part in the Second World War.

This war started because the Argentinian government, reeling from the effects of the world recession and 150% inflation, was faced with massive working class discontent in the form of strikes and demonstrations that threatened to finish it off. So it played the nationalist card, hoping to divert working people's attention away from their own problems. For very similar reasons, Thatcher's government gladly accepted the challenge. Like all wars, this one has nothing to do with working class interests.

War is an integral part of capitalism. Wars are fought for many reasons, including control of markets, sources of raw materials, securing national frontiers and engendering national unity. They are simply the natural extension of commercial competition. And all those who try to run capitalism must discover this fact.

CAN WE STOP WARS?

Against this war between capitalist states we must affirm that a nation divided cannot go to war. We must realise that we have more in common with Argentinian workers than with British capitalists and politicians. The answer to this, and all wars, must be more class struggle. Like last year during the civil servants strike, when the NATO war machine was thrown into panic at the threat to Britain's Polaris capability when a small group of dockyard workers walked out. Like the strike wave of 1980 in Poland which paralysed the Warsaw Pact. We must abandon this false road of compromise with war-mongers and murderers of workers, advocated so blatantly by CND. We must choose for a libertarian revolution, for a world with no nations, no states, no 'bosses', no 'workers', no 'profits, where people matter and where things are produced because people need them, not to keep an idle few in luxury and power. Where the causes of war have been eradicated forever.

This leaflet has been produced by a group of libertarians living in the Potteries. We would like to discuss the issues raised in this leaflet with others. If you would like to contact us, you should write to the following address, in the following manner: R.KNIGHT, c/o Students Union, The University, Keele, Staffs.