We’ll sell you insurance
We’ll sell you out!

Willis and the TUC,
The biggest SCABS of all!
AN END TO ISOLATION

Eventually, after the various and often trenchant statements that have all too frequently plagued the Support conferences so far, at last something has emerged. At the second conference on Aug 8th in Manchester, steps were taken to set up and produce a bulletin that will pass on and link up information about struggles. Although the main emblems will be on factual information, there will still be room for a political discussion of tactics and the lessons to be learnt from the different levels of struggle. The bulletin will be open to all groups who share the aims of the network and will be monthly. After discussion it was decided to call it to be an external publication although not a glossy expensive affair. It will contain a number of current strike committees and all support groups participating in the Network. Strikers will receive the bulletin free of charge - it will be funded from subs and a £5 levy from local groups. Editorial control and production will be the responsibility of a self-delegated local group, currently Gatehead Workers Support Group, who will be accountable to the central delegate meetings (open to all support and responsibility will be rotated. The first issue will be out sometime in September.

Such a bulletin will totally depend on the quantity and excellence of reports/articles that provide its content. It must be made to work up to date factual information will end the present situation of the Network. The bulletin must become the embodiment of a living, fighting network, something to ensure that it will build upon. By sharing and linking up our experiences, we can finally start to end the isolation and demoralisation of workers.

Salpas Occupied!

Workers at Salfora Plastics in Eicke, Gt Manchester went into occupation on August 22nd after 7 months on strike. A 40 ft high, 20 ft thick barricade of steel hoardings was laid across the factory entrance. The occupation lasted 42 hours - but the time it took the courts to give the company access rights, backed up by police and bailiffs. The occupation was an attempt to stop owner, Barry Chalmers, from selling off - 3 different customers were seen visiting the plant the previous week; some machines were stripped and the rest for removal; 7 processing lines have now been leased.

Chalmers bid to be a millionaire at 56 failed 3 years ago. Now, after sucking his workers to smash the union and head down the road, they're the wage, a list of failures ensued. The injury toll (one scab lost its arm and a man was impaled) and use of rival factors to keep workers from facing down the workers on the sack, appeared to avoid compensation grows stronger. The TWU won't prepare to launch an injunction to freeze company assets. So workers took the initiative and occupied hoping any injunction served by the company would allow them to impose financial conditions on the firm's right to re-enter. The attempt to prove Chalmers's plot through the courts, was hopeless. The TWU officials, who apart from being on strike, were dismissed without right to appeal. The firm's official told the workers to sell, totally breaking the ACAS code.

Secondly management have stated they will refuse to negotiate with any group including miners not supporting the strike. The official isn't 100% sure. The workers are fighting the best they can against the odds. The strike was called on August 22nd and was on for more than a month. The workers are facing a tough fight, but they are determined to win.

Tensions are higher in the mines than at any time since the Great Strike of '84-'85. British Coal has launched a vicious 2-pronged attack backed up by a battery of modern equipment. It has used all the UMDB's scabs to batter down the miners' fighting spirit before they introduced the Torpes to privatise the mines, BC management and the Tories think they can walk all over the miners and that they were broken after defeat in 1985 - well that's not true.

One of the Frickley picket lines

The first prong was planned 6-day working. Originally to be introduced in the new South Wales super-pits it is obvious it was a Trojan horse. Once South Wales accepted it, would be forced on all other miners. BC have never quite explained why model flexible working is needed in super-productive super-efficiency. If you think they're the last places it was needed. The truth is miners will not be expected to work longer hours for much the same money. As one miner put it: "I don't want to work weekends - I want to see my kids sometimes". But the threat of negative opposition with the UMDB led to the EEEPU - how electricians can mine coal is anyone's guess - and the desperate need for jobs meant the South Wales NUM had to give in.

"NORMAL"

The stage was set for the next attack - the Code of Conduct - designed to stop picketing. But the miners are picketing, and not by one, by default, for any trivial reason. BC is doing it as a normal code. It is different from any other industry as it is roughly based on an ACAS code, but as the NUM points out it breaks the ACAS code in several important areas. Firstly it allows a disciplinary dismissal for workers who refuse to transport goods, secondly it gives management the right to representation in appeals by what can only be described as a "neutral" official, effectively totally breaking the ACAS code.

There were definite moves to capitalise on this by elements not supporting Frickley. Although area

work and workplace. The code is applied viciously - Nottingham NUM members were disciplined for putting up NUM posters; in North Yorkshire Ted Scott, secretary of Stillington, was sacked for refusing to hand over the catch-all code; in South Yorkshire 5 miners in Frickley pit were sacked for supposedly leaving work early.

This time they didn't take it lying down. Frickley walked out and immediately sent letters to start new pickets to spread the strike - 16 other pits came out later - they're sympathetic. It's a real attempt to make management's surprise, like South (and maybe North) Yorkshire would entirely close down work. However, Yorkshire area executive told Frickley miners in a high bow, "North is the leader in the national ballot against the code. The men are men and voted almost unanimously to stay out.

PAPER SELLERS

Monday 20th July saw the area council meeting, with delegates from each pit, almost all of whom strongly supported Frickley but were enraged when a group of left paper sellers shouted "traitors" at them. Like most miners, miners of whom refused to cross the Frickley picket lines, were long-term miners telling them what best for them and prepared to fight to the last drop of miners' blood.

There were definite moves to capitalise on this by elements not supporting Frickley. Although area

The result of privatisation, with emphasis on profits at the expense of service, is already seen in the suburbs. The Woolwich to Sidcup services on the London Country Buses first took over buses were reliable and clean. Over the last few years, these standards have fallen - buses regularly break down, are in poor condition and generally is erratic. This is a direct result of not enough support staff and drivers. The result of under-catering in order to win the tender.

If further escalation is to be successful it will need the active support of all other transport workers and the communities who they serve. The London Buses also run the London Transport, a totally public service which can be run as a profit-making enterprise. While their transport is run by their politicians and faceless bureaucrats, the community's real needs will never be met.
The Tools of State Racism

Hellship Prison "Good for tourism"

Immigration laws and controls are among the most clearly recognisable tools of state racism in Britain today. The past year has seen the introduction of tougher visa controls for people travelling from Sri Lanka, Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Nigeria and Ghana; a new Carriers Liability Bill to penalise airlines for carrying refugees not having official documents; the use of a floating detention centre for immigrants at Harwich Harbour; and removal of MP's right of representation.

As well as putting more pressure on people wanting to join relatives here or seeking asylum, the government has increased the harassment of refugees and illegal immigrants in Britain. So-called "illeg- al immigrants" and "overstay- ers" are harried for raids on homes and workplaces, and a whole network of internal controls is enforced in schools, DHSS and housing offices. Information is relayed back to the Home Office. The result has been a sharp increase in the number of women, men and children - imprisoned in detention centres, removed and deported (over 50 a week). As centres near Heathrow and Gatwick have filled up, the Home Office has opened up new ones in Derbyshire and Wiltshire, using unused police stations.

The Earl William, a redundant passenger ferry moored at East House Creek, Harwich Harbour, is the latest of these prisons. Already more than 100 Tamils and Iraqis have been detained on it, kept in cramped cabins originally built for short crossings. The port hole windows are sealed shut, leaving cabins unventilated.

Tamil refugees protesting on the Earl William

During daytime detentions are locked out, unable to return to collect possessions. The ship is guarded 24 hours a day by Securcor guards whose violent behaviour has been the subject of constant complaint. The detainees are not just Tamils but Iraqis, Iranians, Somalis and Eritreans. They are also imprisoned. Their crime? To be black, poor and dispossessed (what more do you need?).

The Home Office is leasing the prison ship from Sealink at £2,300 a day. This provides the company with a convenient excuse not to re-develop the site, recently scene of a National Union of Seamen occupation. The NUS have, for this and other reasons, always been in solidarity with the use of the Earl William in this way. The mayor of Harwich greeted the floating prison with anxious waves. The refugees, in his words, are "lawbreakers, illegal immigrants (who are) violating our space." According to him the Earl William is "good for tourism".

Since June black, refugee and anti-racist groups have been holding pickets every Saturday on the quayside where the Earl William is moored. This brings attention to the existence of the ship as a prison and offers solidarity to the prisoners, whose conditions are harsh and all too often the cause of ill-health and even death if they return to their own countries.

On September 6th there is a day of protest against government treatment of refugees and those held as illegal immigrants focusing on places where immigration prisoners are detained. Information on this and pickets at Harwich from Hackney Action Against Apartheid Campaign on 01-254-6689.

More Family Misery Proposed

The Tories have proposed changes to the 1971 Immigration Act, designed to make it more difficult for people to come to this country in order to join relatives already here.

Men entering Britain before 1973 were allowed automatically to bring their wives and children with them. To do so under the proposed changes they must prove they will have no recourse to public funds - that is, housing benefits, supplementary benefits, family income supplement - and their right to housing taken away. This last restriction will have a particular impact on the Bangladeshi Community about 2000 of whom get temporary person's accommodation each year, in Tower Hamlets the racist Liberal council are trying to evict Bangladeshis on the grounds that they "made themselves intentionally homeless" by moving in. This will become much more widespread when the proposals become law.

People claiming citizenship but not living in Britain will be denied the right of appeal in Britain. They will have to appeal from abroad even though it will be against the interests of this country. As attendance at the appeal greatly increases the chance of winning, most cases will now be lost.

So the sustained attacks on the rights of black people and their relatives increases seem to be continuing into the 1990's. These are another example of the persecution and criminalisation of the black community by the racist British state, continuing attempts to take control of black communities, not to mention the attacks in October 1985 and St Paul's in September 1986.

In response to this the Movement for Civil Rights and Justice has been born: "This Movement is being called because we cannot stay quiet and see our rights being trampled on and replaced with harsher and tougher measures by this police state system. Just look at places like St Paul's, Bristol, Belfast, Brxton, Liverpool, Handsworth, and the missing communities. We still have no real answer what to do."

Many countries such as Trinidad, India and Australia do not allow dual nationality, so becoming a British citizen could mean losing your original nationality and comprimations if you wish to visit or return to that country. However, not registering could lead to deportation or losing the right to work in EEC countries.
"Just Sign Here..."

WOMAN'S CONTROL

Incidents such as this are not unique but must be seen in the context of violence of woman's own violation of her body and control over her own body. Such violation, however, is governed by factors ranging far beyond that of woman's own control and must also be seen as a consequence of injustices along class lines, economy and so on. For example, there was a case in the 1970's of a 26-year-old black woman threatened by officials that her welfare benefits would cease if she refused to undergo surgical sterilisation. More recently the case of a mental hospital patient in which sterilisation was sanctioned by the law. Lords came to light and on a broader scale women in the 3rd world are regularly blackmailed by Western-backed aid programmes into accepting the first dose of contraceptive pills.

A slip-up you might think? A genuine mistake? Not likely. This is just one of the many stories contained in the 19 cases of women's rights that have been reported to the United Nations. The numbers are only the tip of the iceberg. Having 2 healthy children and wanting to continue having more, they demanded an explanation from the hospital who could find a suitable excuse. The couple are now in the middle of legal battle.

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Morning Star Porn Link

The management of the Morning Star paper have finally caved in and sold its offices to the soft porn paper, Sam's, who plan to become a family oriented paper next Spring. They have paid £2.5 million for William Hillaire, home of the Morning Star since 1930.

The new owners are quite clear about the philosophy of their proposed daily. According to David Griffiths, their new director, it will be "a bottom of the barrel newspaper. We don't want to do anything other than that and it will certainly have more colour and boobs than its competitors."

But why should that bother the brotherly Marxist tenants of the Morning Star - after all they have always acted like this. Indeed the management sell their printworkers with a minimum compensation. The paper recently put typsetting of the paper out to contract with the loss of two printing presses.

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Broad Left Groups Curb Militancy

The vote against an all-out strike by the Civil and Public Services Association (CPSA) is not an endorsement of the government's green light to attack low-paid employees and paving the way for attacks on other sections of the working class, especially less and demoralizing regional strikes with the members as a stage army. Within weeks the workers were being wastepapered and then laid off.

The Communist Party's Broad Left '84 (BL '84) group joined the right-wing argument against a strike. Only the Broad Left group was far, but was tied to winning the NEC elections and a Labour general election victory rather than taking the arguments to the rank-and-file. It became clear of the NEC yet didn't call off the selective action. Instead, weeks were wasted in petty bureaucratic squabbles with the right. During the first half of the national strike Broad Left didn't send out speakers and leaflets or hold rallies to argue for an all-out strike but distributed a glossy "Vote Labour" pamphlet.

The NEC at last voted for a ballot and Wembley Conference Centre was designated as a national rally on a Sunday. Of 300 odd activists in an empty hall the delegates mostly Militant supporters, reported there was no problem and victory was in reach. The time for all-out action had long passed. The NEC later admitted, "The ballot...had come too late" - national circular, 16/7/87. Lost wages for little gain were all that selective action achieved. Only the main campaign at the start could have delivered. The rank-and-file cannot rely on the back-benchers - even left-wing ones.

While defeat is demoralising for many, the ballot showed 18,000 members are willing to fight. Members in the DHSS are already taking action over "fixed-term appointments" - "super-casuals" on limited contracts vital to conversion to Income Support. In the DHSS the NEC has been slow to act and a counter-campaign is in progress.

A rank-and-file movement must link these struggles against the unions' sectionalism with struggles of the workers in the DHSS and UBS. Arguing against attacks on claimants and immigrants can create an alternative to union leaders who demand a "better civil service" whatever its anti-working class content. Many of those workers fighting are drawn to Broad Left but end up lost in bureaucracy. A step forward is for the struggle is to argue for workers to control their own disputes through elected strike committees so union leaders can be overthrown and a disastrous campaign against.

DAM Civil Service Workers, c/o 121 Hailton Rd, London SE24.

WORKHOUSE - rank and file civil servants, c/o 75, Stockwell Rd, London SW9.

Don't Reopen or we'll be back!

The 90 sacked printers in the Midlands Trader dispute were forced to return to their jobs but pleased to return to the picket line. Three printers tried to re-open the factory with a scab workforce. After 7 hard months their resentment and frustration the National Graphical Association (NGA) reached breaking point. Many felt that with the union's doing it's utmost to undermine and sabotage their fight, there was no way they could continue. The meeting on June 26th voted 31 - 16 to wind things up. If the chapel had voted to continue they knew the NGA would have tried to call it off.

The union's final stab in the back came at the previous NGA national committee meeting from NGA General Secretary, Tony Dobbins. Ignoring a chapel vote to continue he said, "I want the dispute stopped now." Many Labour Party hacks on the committee suggested giving strike pay if 2/3 of strikers who canvassed for the Labour and only half for those who refused. He wasn't listening - even the committee then defied the instruction of strike pay for 7 weeks was only a step of execution as the printers realised all too well. Militant strikers were prepared to fight without the union, as were all the other groups, but many printers were not.

The 90 sacked printers in the Midlands Trader dispute were forced to return to their jobs but pleased to return to the picket line if former boss, Lionel Pickering, tried to re-open the factory with a scab workforce. After 7 hard months their resentment and frustration the National Graphical Association (NGA) reached breaking point. Many felt that with the union's doing it's utmost to undermine and sabotage their fight, there was no way they could continue. The meeting on June 26th voted 31 - 16 to wind things up. If the chaple had voted to continue they knew the NGA would have tried to call it off.

Endling the dispute won the best media coverage all over the country. On local TV and radio they left Pickering with a clear answer, "You try and re-open Heanor Garages and you'll be in for a surprise... and we'll be back in our hundreds and thousands to stop you." The answer must go towards their union and its self- respect be easily forgotten. The best action in the final weeks was an all-day picket (without NGA permission) of the Welsop factory in Wales where fellow NGA printers are scabbing by printing Trader titles. It brought the union leadership's wrath down on their heads once again. Dobbins demanded an explanation and a promise they'd never picket there again. As to expelling the Welshpool scab, the NGA says this "wouldn't be in the best interests of the union" or to you and me: "We don't want to lose the money these scabs pay union coffer." As one printer said: "The NGA has just become asubs collecting agency..."

Despite the union's victory they learnt a great deal - the best 7 months of my life" said one printer. Although they're actted together to run their own dispute. They've travelled all over the country; picketed day and night; spoken at rallies; been interviewed by radio and TV; produced leaflets; held collections; run stalls; taken photos and found themselves doing things they'd never believed they could have done before the dispute. Now they're edging a video of their fight which they filmed themselves. It has been a living example of self-education, self-activity and mutual aid.

When a supporter was arrested on the picket line at Leicester Trader offices and fined £255 for "aggravated behaviour" the strikers insisted on paying it in full themselves. Into the support groups.

It wasn't the strikers who lost this fight. Time and again they showed their will- ingness to take on the bosses. Their fight has been a defiant "No" to both Pickering and NGA and SOGAT bosses, and working-class militancy. Many of those workers fighting are drawn to Broad Left but end up lost in bureaucracy. A step forward is for the struggle is to argue for workers to control their own disputes through elected strike committees so union leaders can be overthrown and a disastrous campaign against.

ABBEY MEATS STAND OFF

Workers at Abbey Meats near Newtonsabbey, Co Antrim have been on strike since the end of May when they occupied the factory in protest at the sacking of 14 men for their trade union activities. The company has offered the strikers £10,000 each to call off the strike and the union has rejected the proposal. The dispute comes after two years of off/ on disputes over sacks, shift-downs and changes in work practices. Every time management has threatened these very militant workers have beaten back the attacks and stand every chance of being successful this time.

The strikers (TGWU and USDAW members) appealed to the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) to publicise the dispute and black operations at the company's other factories - "United Meats". This has met the usual result - no action despite 100% backing of the workforce for the dispute. However, at the July ICTU Congress in Cork the strikers protested outside. Afterwards they staged a sit-in at a nearby factory owned by the company with the full support of the workers there. This achieved the result of bringing management to the negotiating table for the first time in 2 years. At the time of writing negotiations are continuing with the prospect of success for the strikers.

*TGWU - Transport & General Workers' Union
USDAW - Union of Distribution & Allied Workers
ITALY—Where Striking is a Crime

Italian workers are challenging the power of so-called Autonomous unions by organising - the Comitati di Base. This is a group of teachers with a co-ordinating body (CoB). The structure is hierarchical and based on local groups based on direct democracy. The teachers' committee is in struggle against both the Education Ministry and official unions, who are trying to arrange contracts without consulting the mass of teachers. The old contracts are being renegotiated and they rewarded senior teachers with a minimal 8% rise to job lower staff, junior, part-time, and supply teachers' increases do not even match inflation. Work-to-rules is the main struggle so far and they are refusing to do end of year reports. May 25th saw a national strike and demonstration in Rome by the teachers' unions.

MILITANCY CRIMINAL

The independence of the Comitati di Base among teachers and local, sometimes wildcat character has alarmed both unions and education officials. At the start of the struggle in Rome, the Comitati di Base issued an appeal: to invite into some schools to arrest militants. For failing to do so.

"fighting for a better world"

the organisation is healthy and strong as a steel chain.

rest days' per week; rights to meals when working; and a 160 hour maximum working month. Their ideals are similar to the teachers, demanding worker participation in management and direct democracy. The first national strike - 24 hour stoppage on June 23rd - was a success with 70% of the schools involved in some areas - despite union opposition. Assemblies in many areas discussed the right to strike and formation of a national co-ordinating body at the June 30th conference.

The conference decided on a further 24-hour strike on July 4th, which teachers as workers think best. Such stoppages enable the nearly 20,000 drivers to hold assemblies where different shifts meet to discuss their problems. The drivers state more autonomy than the autonomous unions. Unlike the traditional unions, membership numbers are not measured in union cards but in the number of workers with the June 23rd day of action and assembled in the railway stations.

TOADYING UNIONS

The growth in the rank-and-file grass-roots/official strikes is another blow to the official unions. Their toady- ing has seen strike dates from the fascist era. They are now facing the militant action of Capon dockers (see DA 37). They've had votes against them in some Alfa-Romeo factories. Now they face opposition from teachers and rank-and-file civil servants. (Republican/Social Democratic unions) has called for anti-strike demonstrations. The government is up against the IUL (Republican/Social Democratic unions) with only the CSI (Italian section of the IWA) and some libertarian organisations supporting self-managed worker action. In Italy the unions are part of the state and capitalist system. They have a transmission belt between bosses and workers passing on orders from party bureaucrats to the work- place. Now they cannot channel workers' energy into acceptable forms of protest as they no longer seen as workers' organisations.

WORKERS CONTROL

The growth of the rank-and-file movement demands on various factors. The Communists will try to regain lost ground in 2 hours. But the official rhetoric to draw support from the Comitati di Base back to the CGIL. Attempts to criminalise rank-and-files by legislation to give all decision-making on strike action to official bodies. They are up against some workers. Ideological development depends on libertarian syndicalists arguing the case for total workers' control not just more democratic participation in the existing system. The Catholic unions the CSCI and the ILU take the right direction - it remains to be seen if it is workers' control.

* CSI - Catholics
* CGIL - Communist majority
* UIL - Republican/ Social Democrats

PUERTO REAL BATTLE-ZONE

Puerto Real shipyard used its 'life line' for Cadiz. During the 5 months' struggle there were clashes on the docks and on the streets. Demonstrations and meetings were held In the town. Anti-riot reinforcements were called in from all over as more and more personnel. The shipyard took up the struggle. On February 24th police cut through the fence to attack the assembled workers. On March 10th 1500 cops surrounded 1500 workers who were chased away. Mass assemblies in the town centre usually ended in clashes with police using rubber bullets. Barricades were erected and the road to Cadiz cut off.

CAUSES OF CONFLICT

A decade in 1983 broadly laid out the redeployment of shipyard workers facing industrial losses throughout Spain. In Puerto Real the administration, the firm's management and the UGT (Socialist union) agreed on redundancies - reduction to 3,400 employees. At the time Page came to the Puerto Real union section of the CNT-AIT (Spanish section of the IWLA) stated that the objective was not to be 

"Christian Community, ship

building, but to involve civil sections in crisis or being redeployed. The community was the only way likely making the government back down. He was working on a shipyard, was working, and agriculture (the day farm work is seen as commuting, and having mobilized),

For Puerto Real employers the situation became more and more difficult. The 2,500 workers in the redeployed naval sector only 4,000 had new job offers - promises of new posts in an 'urgent re-industrialisation' zone were delayed letters. Of the 3,400 workers left 1,200 were technically unem- ploved for 4 years. Their

wages were progressively re-
duced and the firm no longer took on apprentices despite initial promises. In December-January social unrest erupted, with the CNT-AIT prominent, due to the workers' anger and violence at the bosses' threats and broken promises.

This struggle has a wider context. On the economic level it is the re-shaping of capital-

ism worldwide. Shipbuilding is no longer a viable industry in Western Europe, Puerto Real might well be a modern shipyard able to compete internationally, but it isn't on the right spot near the Mediterranean capital-

ist cheer. Also there is Spanish politics. After Fran-

cisco's death the transition to democracy was negotiated by the old regime and the left parties (Socialist and Communist) to ensure the dictator-

ship's collapse wouldn't gen-
erate social movements re-act-

tingivate regional hopes. Thus the marginalisation of the CNT was to be a priority.

The UGT (Socialist) and CCOO (Communist) unions, by successive social pact sold out struggle for a few billion pesetas. Today with the de-

cline of the Communist Party the CCOO want to recapture lost ground but has little chance. The CNT is losing its wilderness badly.

STRUGGLE PAYS

The direct action paid off in May when the authorities took measures to prevent a real catastrophe. Negotiations started between all parties. On May 26th in a last ditch attempt management tried a lockout but the resulting riot made them back down. Although the yard hasn't been fully re-

opened many informal demands were won. The conflict has put repatriation back on the agenda - before it was regard-

ed as an endgame. The Socialist Party government.

It also shows the anarcho-
syndicalists strategy of direct action and the use of strikes by strikers themselves through general assemblies works. The CNT-AIT's influ-

cence was decisive. Radical strikes, which normally do not just happen, many CNT activists were hurt, arrested, and subjected to beatings. The small of costs of polls have been set very high and some face years of imprisonment on charges of "inciting to violence". Of 9 prosecuted are CNT members.

SOURCES

The Wall Street Journal has discovered US workers increasingly resort to direct action on the job to communicate - and to win! Page 1 on May 22nd announced: "More Unions Turn to Slowdowns. Workers Keep Getting Paid While Hurting The Firm By 'Obeying Its Own Rules.'"

At the McDonnell Douglas Long Beach, California plant, turning out passenger jet engines workers have slowed down parts without warranties, following the leader, enforcing all safety regulations, generally making the slowdown fun for the bosses. San Francisco McDonnell, chief executive, termed the direct action a "baffling and frustra-

ting". Already, McDonnell Douglas has missed at least 10 delivery dates for jets, and it is reported there are internally behind on deliverys. They recently wrote to workers warning that the slowdown may stultify future business and cause them to lose their jobs. The delays the workers turned to direct action after rejecting demaneg an end to the pay, benefits and work rules.

At Babcock and Wilcox's Barberton, Ohio plant 2 years a year ago the union successfully reversed disciplinary action against workers and workers didn't file a griev-

cence or turn to the government for help. Instead, the Jour-

alists tells: "5 people left their jobs to argue the case, management told them to get back to work or lose and home they went. Another 3 workers went

"...to argue the same griev-

eance. went on the company's behalf and lost their jobs." Such tactics won a new concession-free contract.

Some 700 nurses at Boston's City Hospital a year and half ago launched a work-to-rule; refusing to work overtime, answer phones, move beds or do work outside their job classifi-
cations. Management cared in after 2 weeks, agreeing to a 23% pay rise over 2 years.

The Journal notes: "Union members instead of marching off the job, are now staying at work and battling the Com-

pany. This willingness to keep paying workers part-

time was a major reason despite the inadequacy of their goals because they continue to do their jobs and adhere to the rules. Management consultants all say many and more compan-

ies are using the same strategy to try to find out how to respond to slowdowns."

With the current spate of management-inspired strikes/ lockouts there are 100's of cases that could learn a few tricks by checking their rule books. I remember the place I worked at which would have closed down in 2 hours if we had stuck to the rules.

Source: Industrial Worker
The Cauldron of War

There is so much involved in the Persian Gulf average viewer can be poisoned with confusion as to who's fighting who and for what. The view that the US is committed in Iran or not long after supplying them with arms and after the Iraqis "accidentally" bombed the US Stark says it all.

The Gulf War started in 1980 when Iran attacked Iraq after the 1979 Islamic "Revolution" that brought Khomeini to power. He launched an expansionist, partly religious, partly nationalist, partly anti-west religious war against the region and eventually invaded Kuwait. Khomeini's entire aim was to establish an Islamic state from the Mediterranean to the Indian Ocean. The US walked in to prop up the Saudi government. This war was also partly a war for oil, partly a war for influence, partly a war for Arab nationalism, partly a war for Islamic supremacy and partly a war for Western imperialism.

"HOLY" WAR

Unfortunately, for Iraq, Iran had proven tougher than expected. While the Iraqis are better-equipped and have larger human resources, the Iranian leadership is older, wiser, somewhat more rational and has a better army. The war is not going well for Iraq and the Iraqis are beginning to understand that without a "holy" war might things might start to go sour at home is determined to topple Hussein and install an Islamic regime along Tehran lines.

TANKER WAR

Finding itself on the defensive in the land war Iraq attempted to spread it to the waters of the Gulf in the knowledge that any threat to the flow of oil would offer other countries and the super-powers. The "tanker war" has in fact raged for several years with both sides trying to sabotage the other's oil revenue and it is only recently, with the US military backing the Iranians and the Iranians supporting the Iraqis, that a cease-fire has been agreed upon.

Kuwait asked the US to re-flag its oil tankers hoping for protection in case of Iranian attack. The US readily accepted especially as the Russians also offered protection. Another factor was that after the Iran-Contra scandal Reagan had to prove that he can teach the Iranians terrorists a lesson. But most importantly the leader of the "free" world has to show he can defend US interests in the Gulf, oil and the vast wealth that flows from it for international capitalism.

New heights of hypocrisy and farce came with the UN Security Council calling for an arms-for-oil swap. Having for years armed both sides, Reagan, Gorbatchev and Thatcher and the rest now call on them to stop using the very same weapons that merely a gimmick to isolate the Iranians and provide a cover for possible military action against Iran later. According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) Britain is among 26 countries who have sold arms to both sides. During the recent tit-for-tat expulsions between the US and Iraq, Iran's military procurement office in London (responsible for purchasing arms across Europe) wasn't closed.

Now she has put the "Great" back in Britain Thatcher had to be invol- ved somehow so she's dispatched a few ships for the western armada. Mind you she has a lot of ground to make up to get back to the days when British oil companies virtually ran Iran, when Britain could topple a government that tried to nationalise oil installations and install that great democrat, the Shah of Iran.

These, then, are the ingredients of the Gulf cauldron. Fingers are on triggers and a minor incident could spark a major confrontation whose consequences would be unpredictable. If the West were to lose what they're wanting peace they'd withdraw the battleships, stop fuelling the war with arms and get Iraq to drop the "tanker war". The Gulf War has already cost well over a million lives - no more martyrs are needed to die for warmongers like the likes of Khomeini, Hussein, Reagan, Thatcher and Gorbatchev.

French section of the Western armada

As the British capitalist offensive goes nearly unchecked, the same can be said of America. The images of the current wave of labour-bashing in the US can be traced back to the sell-out agreed by the United Auto Workers (UAW) with Chrysler (facing bankruptcy) in the Carter years - a sell-out by the Democratic administration. Shortly after all the bosses jumped on the "poverty" bandwagon. From steel to textiles union after union granted conces-sions despite rank-and-file opposition.

In 1980 the Professional Air Traffic Controllers took the stage. After months of negotiations this small independent and rather conservative union struck, was broken and all the workers sacked. With PATCO smashed and the unions conceding left, right and centre, the bosses were off to a great start. The only "militant" response by the APL-CIO (TUC equivalent) was a 50,000-strong demonstration in 1981 in Washington. Leftists, labourites and mad at the bosses; the stodgy AFL-CIO was being, well, stodgy, out of a sense of mass, out of a sense of action, out of a sense of struggle. What was needed was in the truth, Anarchist and CIO, an end to the unions, a massive, mass action, an end to the bosses. The APL-CIO has not made one dent in the bosses, offensive, retreat and reorganisation of capital has meant massive declines in basic industries followed by growth of the service sector. This has led to a drop in union membership (to less than 20%) and growth of a permanent underclass of "hamburger flippers" - marginally employed or perma-nently unemployed. There is not the mass base for a mass reformist union to organise this sector as in Britain. Rather than class struggle, union bureaucrats call for the"militant" to be"democratic" to manufacturing jobs; ask us to vote for "friends" of labour - those who realise PATCO, railworkers etc. and collaborate with management. We can't be part of this class. John Grant (EEPTU) put it: "What those companies want is a new system that will do its utmost to avoid strikes, and that's what we offer them. We don't have enough members." No change, no restructuring of the AFL-CIO and no end to the bosses, offensive.

Watsonville Cannery workers give co-operation rather than confrontation - some people never learn!

Direct action, rank-and-file participation and democratic organisation were the corner stones of their fight.

FIGHT

A perfect example is local P-9 (Original) of the UFWC (United Food and Commercial Workers Union) once employed by Hormel in Minnesota. After years of wage and benefit concessions, P-9 rejected a con- cessionary agreement. After arguing against it at local level and with UFWC repre-sentatives, the rank-and-file took matters into their own hands and battled back with some good "old-time" tactics.

"trusteeship" - under control of the UFWC heads - and a contract signed with Hormel was for "bad times only".

Some "Original P-9ers" have formed the independent North Americas Meat Packers' Union which along with some UFWC members and unorganised meat-packingers recently held a rank-and-file conference attended by about 100 people. It was a success being the first time these workers could meet to-gether to discuss common prob-lems and another conference is planned. This is a positive step for one of the most per-turbed and militant sections of the American working class.

VICTORY

Unlike the P-9ers the main-ly Chicana single mothers at Watsonville Canning in Cali-fornia successfully fought the company and Teamsters' union. While the final settlement reduced wages to the current industrial level, the strikers defeated all other company demands. Also every strike returned to work and all scabs were let go. This day and age in the US this was a solid working class victory.

Source: Workers' Solidarity Alliance, US section of the IWOB
In July a video on women in the Spanish revolution was shown at 14 venues. The tour had been a success but some venues had poor creches and 1 or 2 had none at all.

In East London, at the Four Corners Club, over 35 people watched the video, mostly staying for the discussion. This evolved around the situation facing anarchist exiles after the war, the number of women who made it into the antifascist front and then the situation facing Catholicism in Spain. People seeing the video for the first time seemed sympathetic especially the people who were a member of an account of her parents escape from fascist-occupied Spain to France.

Then it was on to the North West leg made by 4 DAM women and 2 DAM men. It took turns to speak, one on the Mujeres Libres, the other on DAM. Crewe’s meeting was in a pub community centre where there were about 20 people who had been involved in 20 people. A good discussion followed on problems of isolation. DAM were not using the local, jargonised responses to situations. The next venue was Bolton Socialist Club, the most ideal place yet with its own creche, bar and larger meeting room. 25 people attended. A lively discussion followed on the relevance of anarchists and socialism to women’s liberation. An older woman comrade remarked that she’d organised and stood by her union all her long life. A plush room in the Burley Mechanics Institute was the venue for Crewe. The meeting for the North West. The discussion covered Federalism, Montaner’s role in the Popular Front government and today’s economic situation.

During the same week 5 North east towns were toured by a DAM leaguer. First was Bradford at the 1-up-1 Club, attended by 30 people. Many were enthusiastic about the film and showed interest in DAM. At Huddersfield the meeting was attended by over 30 DAM members and friends. Nottingham was next, attended by about 20 people at the National Community Centre. There were problems with publicity as people had been suppressed recently for putting up banners.

25 people came to the Leeds meeting, many new to anarchism. People were interested in the prison conditions for the Femen in France. The presence of 18 resolution as compared to the uprising in 1936 was the last meeting. The talk and film were well received by the 20 people there. The discussion centred around the problems women face today. Discussion centred around the problems of women today.

In Bristol, about 30 people watched the video and had a DAM speaker. There were problems with the video getting lost in the post, but a last minute replacement was found.

Further showings and meetings are planned in the next few weeks in Newcastle, Lancaster, Oxford, Bath and others in local areas. The success of the tour was largely due to the good work put in by DAM comrades around the country. The tour will encourage many similar events.

A pamphlet by Mujeres Libres has been produced by the DAM and if you order a book it is not a book is under way. If groups will agree to reproduce the pamphlet which was produced to give back- ground to the projects the women are doing, you can contact DAM Bristol DAM, PO Box 1187, London WC1N 3XX, price is 60p & p.p.

Dear Conrado,

I would like to comment on the article in Direct Action No 42 on 13 July. I thought it was a good article, necessary and raising important questions. That part I’d dispute was in paragraph 2. It stated: "We don’t agree with all aspects of today’s feminist movement. Many of them see the root of women’s oppression as patriarchy and develop a line that capitalism can’t be seen in isolation but in its overall context. If it is, all oppression stems from Capitalism."

This is a mistake which I made myself until someone said otherwise. I would say all men gain from sexism, the oppression of women by men having power over women in the home and in the workplace and divisions in all areas of life. But capitalism is not responsible for its beginning or creation. Capitalism perpetuates it.

It’s right to say women’s oppression can’t be seen in isolation as all struggles are one but all oppression stems from sexism and capitalism. That’s as if to say that before capitalism there was no sexism, women weren’t subjected to violence and rape or there were no forms of oppression.

This is not what the comrade meant when the article was written. It’s just a common mistake people make. What it should have said, and I’m sure this is what the comrade meant, is that sexism and all oppression stem from a society based on a rank structure in all areas of life, of obedience and property in all their forms, on a system of power which are equally relations on a day by day basis and of one class over another. Capitalism may be abolished but if the state remains as it is called "socialist" countries, there will still be domination, exploitation, property and profit. And women will still be oppressed.

In solidarity, Ge.

Dear DA,

I write this letter in response to the article "Forgotten Women" in DAM 41, July/August. So capitalism is the root of all other oppressions. We have to engage with you whilst being able to see the benefits for capitalism of women’s oppression on the one hand. "Floating labour force" is called out in times of need (like war) and it moves into the home in times of recession (as is happening now) to be housewives back on the labour force, or simply a cheap and often un-unionised workforce.

Why do you have to see patriarchy as stemming from capitalism? There are contradictions in seeing both, historically and otherwise there is no real evidence to suggest that capitalism developed first. Although you can argue that patriarchy developed as a means of ensuring that men’s property passed down to their rightful heirs, etc. It was already a moral property.

Although it can be argued that, before you can destroy something you have to understand how it functioned before its present state today. The importance of history. Talking about patriarchy and capitalism, which comes first, is like talking about the egg and the chicken.

To state that patriarchy "stems" from capitalism is not just word and it effectively places the fight against patriarchy as secondary to "the fight" against capitalism which is a stupid mistake.

If you see patriarchy, women’s oppression, sexism, anti-lesbianism, etc. as stemming "from" capitalism then you make the mistake of being myopic. And it all sounds much more like "yes girls, after the revolution we’d talk about that" - I quote: "Only after capitalism is smashed will women be free".

Capitalism won’t be smashed unlesss patriarchy is smashed at the same time.

Nevertheless stems from where, and why are there no women who can be broken unless the other is broken simultaneously? It’s a red herring.

As for the statement that men don’t benefit from patriarchy! I think whoever wrote that needs to have a bloody good think about it.

Yours in question, Chris.

AUTHOR’S REPLY

Dear Conrado,

When I said that capitalism was the root of all other oppressions I am not saying that capitalism created all oppressions. What I am saying is that sexism and capitalism are not de-populated without a strong dependence on women’s oppression like it has racism to its own advantage.

Women’s oppression existed before capitalism and witnessed and couldn’t be oppressed but the material base of women’s oppression. That means that women were working on their own economic independence because they have not been able to control their labour power, that would be destroyed if capitalism was smashed. An economic independence they would have a better position to fight sexism and they would have a stronger place in the fight against capitalism that would not automatically disappear.

Capitalism doesn’t create women’s oppression. It has merely used it for its own ends, through the education system, the church, by keeping women in the home, etc. It has institutionalised it. Because patriarchy is the strongest power structure patriarchy needs the women to be broken, but it is almost always subordinate to it, and as the material base of patriarchy is in the ownership of the state, the state of capitalism and creating an anarchic society and creating an anarchic society, a state of capitalism, that patriarchy "stems from" capitalism.

Until capitalism is smashed women will never be free, no freedom is possible. This does not make women’s oppression a secondary issue, but it is a completely wrong analysis to presume you can smash capitalism without a smashing of women’s oppression as well.
Patriarchy at the same time, you will only destroy patriarchy by destroying capitalism and not the other way round.

Obviously as a revolutionary I do not think women's liberation is possible through reformism but at the same time I do not leave women's issues to a more appropriate time. In the here and now we could be fighting sexist attitudes whenever they appear like we should be fighting racist ideas and homophobia. A divided class only benefits those who own a share in the interest in preserving the status quo.

The question of who benefits from women's oppression is one feminists have failed to adequately answer. Women's oppression is in capitalist society, not just in the workplace, it uses the system where women service men, keep them in good physical and emotional state so they are fit to work, women also produce and rear children - the future producers for capital. This is the point I was trying to argue when I stated that capital not men benefit from women's oppression.

It can also be argued that women's oppression is in the interest of men. If the men were to come home from a hard day's work and have you more energy for you, but surely we are not that short-sighted, surely we believe that women's liberation is in the interest of both sexes? Men would benefit from women's freedom, so they will benefit from the construction of a new society, if that isn't the basis of our advocacy for struggle then what is?

In solidarity, Denise.

Dear comrades,

Following on from your article on Jewish anarchism in the East End in

DA 41, A journalist from a London evening paper was sent to visit and report on the goings on in the anarchist clubs and meetings in the area. He recounted that one evening ended with the singing of an anarchist version of the popular song "After the Ball". He was impressed by it, but unfortunately didn't record the words for posterity. Does anyone know the words of the anarchistic version of this song? If so please write to: 'Dancing Times', Box 99, Freedom Press, Whitechapel High Street, London, E1 7QX.

Solidarity, Larry.

WE REMEMBER

Sixty years ago on August 23rd 1927, 2 I I o-American anarchists, Nicola Sacco and Bartolomeo Vanzetti, were murdered by the state for their supposed part in an armed robbery at Braintree, Massachusetts. They were convicted, not on evidence, but for the crimes of being immigrants and anarchists. Their public trial prompted mass demonstrations by workers around the world in an expression of unity and international solidarity not matched since. Even this wasn't enough to save them from the electric chair since the US was still ruled by the xenophobia and red scare which had lynched the Chicago martyrs some 40 years earlier. In 1977 Sacco and Vanzetti were posthumously pardoned by the Massachusetts Governor who admitted they had not received a fair trial.

To commemorate their murder, the DAM History Group has re-published 'The Story Of A Proletarian Life' by Bartolomeo Vanzetti, first published by the Sacco-Vanzetti Defence Committee, Boston, in 1924. For further details, DAM History Group, c/o Cambridge Free Press, 25 Gwydir Street, Cambridge.

JEWISH ANARCHIST GROUP

This newly-formed group welcomes new members - to discuss our heritage and debate on where we stand as Jews and as anarchists. It is hoped to form a network of contacts and organise actions in your area. Interested? Write to: Jewish Anarchist Group, c/o Box JAG, 52 Call Lane, Leeds 1.

SONGS OF ANARCHISM AND REVOLUTION

A collection of traditional anarchist songs from around the world on audio cassette. It sells at £3 post-free.

Also items are now being collected for volume 2. If you have any recordings, or can sing along you know on a tape please send them to: Spectacular Times, Box 99, 48 Whitechapel High Street, London E1. The first volume can also be ordered from this address.


DAM Council Workers - c/o Box DAM, 234 Camden High Street, London NW1.

DAM Education Workers - c/o Bolton DAM, 15 Bolton Socialists Club, 16 Wood St, Bolton, Lancs.


DAM Railworkers - c/o Manchester DAM, c/o Box DA, Raven Press, 75 Piccadilly, Manchester.

Other Contacts

Altrintal: c/o Just Books, 7 Wentworth St, Smithfield, Belfast 1.

Anarchist-Syndicalist Publications (ASP): B M Hurricane, London WCIN.

Luton Class War: c/o Houseman, 5 Castor Park, Cudworth, Doncaster, N1.

Organise: c/o Just Books, 7 Wentworth St, Smithfield, Belfast 1.

DAM Contacts

North East

Doncaster - PO Box 96, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, DN4 1DU.

Huddersfield - PO Box D20, Huddersfield, HD1.

Leeds - Box DAM, 52 Call Lane, Leeds, LS2.

Newcastle - c/o Tyneside Free Press, 35 Charlotte Street, Newcastle, NE1.

North West

Bolton - c/o Bolton Socialist Club, Wood St, Bolton, Lancs.

Burnley - 5 Hollin Hill, Burnley, Lancs.

Crewe - c/o National Sec, c/o Cambridge DAM.

Liverpool - Box DAM, 82 Lark Lane, Allerton, Liverpool, L17.

Manchester - c/o Box DA, Raven Press, 75 Piccadilly, Manchester.

Tameside - c/o 3 Stannopole St, Ashton-under-Lyne, Tameside, OL6.

Scotland

Balloch, Lanarkshire - Box DAM, c/o Clydebank Press, 37 High Street, Glasgow.

Edinburgh - Box B3, 43 Candlemaker Row, Edinburgh, EH1.

Industrial


DAM Council Workers - c/o Box DAM, 234 Camden High Street, London NW1.

DAM Education Workers - c/o Bolton DAM, 15 Bolton Socialists Club, 16 Wood St, Bolton, Lancs.


DAM Railworkers - c/o Manchester DAM, c/o Box DA, Raven Press, 75 Piccadilly, Manchester.

Other Groups

Bristol - Box DAM, 37 Stokes Croft, Bristol 2.


For contacts in S. Wales, Midlands, East Anglia, Kent, etc. write to the National Sec, Cambridge DAM.


DAM Council Workers - c/o Box DAM, 234 Camden High Street, London NW1.

DAM Education Workers - c/o Bolton DAM, 15 Bolton Socialists Club, 16 Wood St, Bolton, Lancs.


DAM Railworkers - c/o Manchester DAM, c/o Box DA, Raven Press, 75 Piccadilly, Manchester.

WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

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MARCH FROM BROADWATER
FARM TO 10 DOWNING
STREET Sat October 3rd
March leaves 10.00am (Seven Sisters Tube, 243, 123, 219, 259, 240,
76, 171) Rally in Hyde Park 3.00pm

Free Moses Mayekiso

In August Moses Mayekiso, a leading black South African trade unionist, died. His trial for high treason and sedition was the first of its kind, involving 120,000 members, an amalgamation of the Metal and Allied Workers Union (MAWU) of which Moses was general secretary, and 2 unions of Cosatu. Moses' trial was the 2nd biggest union in the Congress Of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) with over 800,000 members. Moses played a leading role in the Cosatu. When he appeared in court in January COSATU's general secretary, J. Nalduo and National Union of Mineworkers' leader Cyril Ramaphosa were among the 200 trade unionists pickingets outside. Moses' trial is thus immensely significant to the balance of class forces in South Africa. The state of emergency involving leagues has led to the murder of 100's who has certainly hit community-based organisations hard and has not managed to crush the working class.

Moses was well-known to many British trade unionists. Last year he visited Britain at the CPSA's invitation of the CPSA to do a speaking tour in support of the independent trade unions. For his troubles he was stripped to Heathrow. As a socialist who has said: "The struggle in South Africa is a class struggle", he was also elected chairman of the Alexandra Action Committee which is comprised of delegates from street committees and in turn from local block committees in Alexandra. It was an amalgamation of many working class organisations which filled the power vacuum as the collaboration between the last black councillors and police were driven out. Moses was therefore a symbol of the growing unrest in the townships and the strength of industrial workers. After his return to South Africa he was arrested and has been detained, mostly in solitary confinement, since June 1978. The state of emergency intensified the South African Defence Force were able to establised more control over the townships in order to maintain the repression and mass detention. Yet the organised working class on whom prosperity depends cannot so easily be "removed" or "occupied".

In the 1960's the unions in the South African Congress of Trade Unions (SACTU) were rendered almost powerless by the banning of its leadership. SACTU's prioritisation of armed struggle meant activities were taken from the factories to waste their time in guerrilla camps. This left the unions vulnerable to state repression. So with the latest wave of repression the so-called "workers"* insisted on strong democratic workplace organisation based on shop stewards' councils. They argued that the black working class might play a leading role in the liberation struggle, warning against replacing white bosses with black ones. The "workers", associated with the African National Congress and United Democratic Front, favour a nationalist class alliance that has been launched and were instrumental in pressing for COSATU's unions to adopt the "Freedom Charter".

"When the power remains with the workers on the shop floor, there is no head to cut off."

Thus the "workerists" have learnt from SACTU's mistakes. As Moses Mayekiso pointed out: "When the power remains with the workers on the shop floor, there is no head to cut off."

An indication of their strategy has paid off as in the past. Last October at the height of the state of emergency by 300 miners in protest at the health and safety conditions led to the Miners' strike. Strikes like this and the long OK Bazaars strike in retailing which involved over 1000 workers show that it's possible for workplace organisation to withstand state repression. During the OK Bazaars dispute, for instance, about 700 strikers were sacked, over 600 arrested and about 90 detained under the state of emergency regulations.

CRUCIAL

The present period is crucial for the black working class. The state has detained around 2,300 trade unionists including 40% of Cosatu's officials, yet its affiliated unions are still growing in size and influence. The trial and possible execution of trade union leaders is no longer an industrial, but a political issue. The South African regime has yet to confront the trade unions head on but Moses Mayekiso's trial and the raids on Cosatu offices signal that a generalised offensive may soon begin. Both will think long and hard before attacking the unions as the South African ruling class is divided over the future of apartheid. The white farmers and most of the white working class are moving towards the far right resulting in the growth of the Conservative Party, the Herstey and even the neo-fascist AWB. To retain electoral support both has to appease the right, the other hand important sections of capitalism, especially the English speaking business community want to remove apartidism in the country. In the business community was prepared to recognise and negotiate with independent unions before the state legalised them. These capitalists favour an industrial relations structure based on joint negotiating bodies and tribunals such as the Industrial Councils. Through this they hope to integrate the unions into the state apparatus the recession and white working class unemployment prevents this from becoming a reality. The workers must identify their interests with apartheid and see power-sharing, sanctions and disinvest.

DECISIVE POWER

Whilst integration of the unions is not possible at present, this has not prevented bureaucratic tendencies developing. Some unions such as MAWU were sharply criticised for taking part in the state-sponsored "Industrial Councils". MAWU was also prepared to use the courts to defend its members' interests. For example, when seeking registration as a non-racial union, they successfully appealed to the Natal Supreme Court after the government would only let them represent African workers. The bureaucratic "workerist" unions like MAWU contrasts with the refusal of the nationalists or "populist" currents within the unions to collaborate with all the state, taking a confrontationist stand and thus suffering repression. In the organisation the workers can wield the decisive power in the liberation movement. Political leadership is still with the African National Congress. This is in no independent working class organisation politically advocating struggle. If the unions can respond, like when half of MAWU walked over Moses' arrest, and if the "workerists" can mobilize in a political direction apartheid capitalism could be buried for good, if the unions back down from confrontation the class struggle could well fall off like in Poland after Solidarity's failed to challenge the political power of the regime in 1981.

In Britain we should support the "Free Moses Mayekiso" campaign in work places to raise the question of working class power in South Africa. As the campaign says: "The struggles by black trade unionists have been an inspiration to us all. It is important that we support countries to South Africa where the working class plays the leading role for social change, providing a powerful example to the people who've written off the working class. By working together we can help the new realism and our movements and "broad democratic alliances" as the political alternatives to Thatcherism are the same people who support the nationalisation of the ANC led by the black middle classes. DAM recognises that support for the struggles in South Africa must be based on black needs and take the form of workers' solidarity action rather than the anti-Apartheid Movement's popular front based on moralism and concern for human rights. In this respect we cannot support the building of direct links between British and South African workers as an important internationalist response to multinationals and imperialism. By publicising and supporting strikes, by adopting detainees and campaigning for the unconditional release of the "74s" we can begin to make the concrete slogan "an injury to one is an injury to all."

The Friends Of Moses Mayekiso can be contacted for further information and for propaganda material C/o Terry Bell, "Friends Of Moses Mayekiso", Acorn House, 312-320 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X.

Moses Mayekiso

*Good or bad, the unions down on 10 Downing Street.