

# International Bulletin

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## TORIES - OUT! OUT! OUT!

The now famous Orpington by-election has provoked many comments and all <sup>the</sup> political scribes have by now interpreted the result, usually finding evidence in doing so to back up their own particular line. Thus we read in the Reynolds an impassioned appeal for the sinking of differences within the Labour Party, in the Economist a call for Gaitskell to transform the Labour Party into a 'Kennedy like' second party, the Daily Mirror, characteristically enough, jumps on the Liberal Party bandwagon and various people point out what a defeat for the Labour Party the result was. There is no doubt that the Orpington by-election has left <sup>British</sup> politics in a confused and fluid state, but what are the real lessons for those to whom Parliamentary elections, general or by-election type, have a very limited significance anyway?

Firstly, the result was an unqualified and extraordinary vote of no-confidence in the Government from a traditional and typical Conservative Party stronghold, and taken in conjunction with the Blackpool by-election result shows a massive and decisive swing from the Tory Party. If a sense of principle played any part in politics the Tories would resign immediately and call a general election. This fact is clear to all and could make a rallying point for massive anti-Government agitation. Instead our Parliamentary leadership have got very angry about the number of people present at the count. Secondly, honest appreciation of the by-election events (including those of Lincoln and Middlesborough) makes nonsense of the Gaitskell argument that it is necessary to don a liberal guise to win elections. In actual fact what <sup>the</sup> proved that where there is a basis for a large liberal vote people will vote for authentic thing. On the other hand in industrial or semi industrial constituencies like Middlesborough and Lincoln we see that the liberals gained 4 times as many votes from the Tories in Lincoln than from Labour - in Middlesborough the figure was 22 times as many votes from the Tories as from Labour. It is not without significance that both these towns have seen militant action by the working class in the last few months with the consequent revitalisation of the workers movement. Thus even from a purely election point of view the results of Orpington et al give an argument not for the adoption of a less decisive policy but a more decisive one.

The long term effects of the Orpington by-election are difficult to assess. There is no doubt that now the Liberal Party is seen as being more serious consequently, many people who would not vote Liberal because they considered it a wasted vote will do so in future. On the other hand, Hailsham was right when he said people do not know what the Liberal Party stands for, only on one issue has it a clear cut attitude as distinct from the other parties. That is in on the Common Market - it is unequivocally for entry. Paradoxically enough, this fact prevents it from filling the place that does exist for a third party in Britain. There is indeed a place, for the time being anyway, for a farmers' party in Britain based upon decisive opposition to entry into the Common Market. Whether one will arise is dubious. What effect the loss of so many votes will have on the Tories is hard to say. No doubt the Tories calculated on a high degree of unpopularity, anyway, when they embarked on their present policies. They calculate on things being better by the time the next election comes along. So far as the Labour Party is concerned both left and right will seek to use the results to back their arguments. However it looks as though the right are going to be much more vigorous about this than the left. We must seek to give the left the impulse around the general perspective slogan of **TORIES - OUT! SOCIALISM IN!**

P.J. 19/3/62

## A COMMENT ON THE ORPINGTON BY-ELECTION

The following comment was sent in by a comrade who knows the constituency: "To those who do not know the Kent suburban town of Orpington, the bare figures of the by-election result may seem to show a great defeat for Labour, but it should be remembered that this has always been a Tory seat, for many years held by the famous Sir Waldron Smithers. Anyone who has seen the miles of large houses and bungalows in the £5,000 class knows that the Labour Party could never have a chance of a large vote."

## YOUNG SOCIALIST ACTIVITIES IN LONDON

We are happy to produce here two reports sent in by Young Socialists for inclusion in the Bulletin. We will be even happier to receive from other areas such reports as well.

### West London Federation meeting

As in the Regional conference, prior organisation by the 'Young Guard' supporters paid off. The new committee contains 8 'Young Guard' and 2 'Keep Left' supporters together with a 'Y.G.' regional representative. This compares very favourably with last year where there were 4 right wingers, 4 'Keep Left' and 2 'Y.G.' with a right wing regional representative.

A resolution from South Paddington to affiliate to M.C.F. was passed with only a few right wingers opposing.

### London and Middlesex Regional Young Socialist Conference

The new Regional Committee elected at the recent conference is made up of three right wingers and four left wingers and includes a leading 'Y.G.' supporter who will thus be able to get round the branches. All the standing orders committee for next year are 'Y.G.' supporters.

Among the more important of the resolutions passed were:

- (1) The South Paddington resolution demanding full rights of political discussion at federation and regional level.
- (2) A resolution condemning racialism and blaming the housing shortage on Tory policy and not on immigrants.
- (3) A resolution demanding that immediate action be taken against those C.L.P.s who continually hinder the Young Socialists from building strong and effective branches.
- (4) A resolution opposing expulsion of Young Socialists by the adult Party.
- (5) A resolution condemning Civil Defence.

### Comment (by reporter)

Both the regional conference and the federation A.G.M. have indicated the active role that Y.G. organisation can play in Young Socialist affairs. However we must now ensure that <sup>having</sup> won these federation positions, 'Y.G.' supporters will make use of them, especially as their unique position in having no parallel organisation in the adult party, gives them a fairly free hand in the movement. They must look outwards, get out on the streets campaigning against the bomb, the Tory Immigration Bill, the Rent Act, evictions and chronic housing conditions and the Pay Pause. They must organise day schools and social activities, open air meetings, marches and leaflet distribution in an attempt to draw in new members and build strong Young Socialist branches.

### THE ST. STEPHENS TENANTS' ASSOCIATION

This report was sent in by a member of the above organisation. Editor.

This organisation, which has a long record of militant action on behalf of tenants, was formed in one of the worst slum streets in Paddington. The street is also the centre of one of Paddington's key wards.

Two examples of land-lordism at its worst which occurred last week will illustrate the work and problems of the association. The first case was of a West Indian woman who arrived home from work to find that the landlord had removed the bed from the furnished room she rented. An appeal to the association brought a party of members on to the scene and after a short argument the landlord was persuaded to refurnish the room.

The second case concerned two members of the association and Labour Party. On returning home on Saturday afternoon these members found that the landlord had removed their property from the furnished room and let it to another tenant. They, as legal tenants, appealed to the police to help them to be reinstated but the police refused to help them and in fact prevented a group of association members from doing the job themselves.

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This episode shows how, in defence of private property all laws are forgotten or ignored.

The St. Stephens Tenants' Association by raising the level of consciousness of the working class in this area, has done much to help Labour to win a majority in the coming borough council elections in May.

#### COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF MARXISTS IN LONDON

This report was sent in after we gave the preliminary notice of the formation of this organisation. We reproduce the report, nevertheless, because it explains more fully the purpose of the Committee: Editor.

"On February 25th London marxists, individuals committed and uncommitted to existing organisations, came together to co-ordinate their activities. Plans for development of existing forces, however modest, inside the various mass movements - Labour Party, trade unions, youth, peace and anti-colonialist - were drawn up. A series of discussions, to be opened by members of the Committee was launched on March 4th, when a comrade from the C.C. of the L.S.S.P., Ceylonese section of the Fourth International, spoke on "What is the Fourth International?" This very successful meeting was attended by about 40 people."

The report then goes on to list the series of lectures which have already been published in the Bulletin.

#### BOLIVIA - ACTIVITIES OF THE P.O.R. (Bolivian section of the Fourth International)

A weeks cadres school was held from the 10th to 17th of December 1961 35 comrades taking part. The lectures were given by comrades Bravo, Moscos, Alcalá and Arze.

A programme for the peasantry has been issued in a pamphlet form by Regional Committee of Catavi-Siglo XX entitled "Programa del P.O.R. para el Campesinado." It is being distributed in many peasant areas.

At its meeting of 8th/9th December, 1961 the central committee adopted a political programme based upon the following slogans:

"Take the initiative from the Government which is attacking the people. It is necessary to organise a counter offensive and to pass from resistance to attack."

"The workers and peasants should organise a commission to go to the U.S.S.R. and discuss the problems of the tin industry and credits."

"To fight for the nationalisation of the railways under collective workers' control and to develop the railways with Soviet credit."

"To intensify the anti-imperialist struggle and the struggle against the MNR Government which is the agency of imperialism."

"To oppose the Government's 'triangular' plan with a workers' plan for the economic development of the country and the bettering of the standard of living of the workers."

"Unconditional defence of the Cuban revolution and the Cuban workers' state."

#### CONFERENCE OF MARXISTS FIXED FOR APRIL 15th

The conference referred to on the front page of the last Bulletin will now definitely be on April 15th. Discussions held with various comrades have enabled us to stick to this date. So far we have heard from Liverpool, Sheffield, Wolverhampton, Derby and London that people are coming. From London it seems most likely that there will be quite a big delegation. We hope to have attendance from Birmingham, Manchester, Middlesborough, Glasgow and Leicester among other places. It should be stressed that the main purpose of the conference is to arrive at political clarification, organisational matters will flow from that. Please write in immediately if you want to attend.

#### TORIES FORCE REAL WAGES CUT

Recent figures issued by the Government show that for millions of workers especially those affected by the wages pause there has been a real wages cut in the last year. Using 1956 as 100, weekly wage rates were (monthly ave.) 1959 - 117, 1960 - 120, 1961 - 125. On the same basis the cost of living index was 1959 - 109.6, 1960 - 110.7, 1961 - 114.5. Thus wages outstripped the cost of living. But the latest figure for Mid March gives wages - 126.8 an increase of 3.3 over last year, for the cost of living it was 117.5 an increase of 5.2 over last year. The fruits of the wages pause therefore clear.

COMRADE PABLO VISITS FIGHTING LINES IN ALGERIA  
(concluded from previous issue)

If this time the negotiations break down again, <sup>the F.L.N.</sup> will be compelled to bring in its reserve forces, to internationalise the war, to acquire in Tunisia, as in Morocco, the necessary the space which will allow it to utilise its huge modern armaments and destroy the barriers erected by the French. This will lead inevitably to a purely military "Dien-Bien-Phu" solution of the war.

The Moroccan people and even its leaders have been won for this perspective. The coming weeks will be decisive from this point of view.

Everywhere we found the fighters of the Algerian revolution, civil and military, men and women, living in great expectation, confident of the favourable outcome of the negotiations in progress, but at the same time firmly decided to change quickly and with all necessary energy their tactics, to throw into the struggle all the reserves of the revolution.

Thanks to the aid received from Arab countries, the workers' states and some European organisations, particularly from Sweden, Holland, Switzerland, Britain, Italy and even France, the Algerians can send to school a large number of children, boys and girls, either war orphans or refugees. Admirable teachers, men and women, Algerians and Europeans, sacrifice themselves with complete devotion to the education of these children with an earnestness and understanding quite unique, often under the most difficult circumstances.

Notwithstanding the colossal efforts rendered by the social services of the F.L.N. and the teaching staff, the children do not have all the things they need for their studies (books, paper, pencils, equipment for technical education etc.) and in some cases they even lack adequate clothing. Particularly hard are the conditions of the children sent to school in the frontier regions; boys and girls of 6 to 12 years old have to walk, in mid-winter, morning and evening, distances of . 2 to 4 miles, and in some cases more, to reach school, inadequately clothed and fed for such an effort.

Most of them live with their refugee parents, who have for many years lived in precarious tents, battered and penetrated by the elements, with an extreme lack of food and clothing. What a comment on the white man, so-called civilised and christian, of Europe! What a challenge to the European workers and socialist movement!

One imagines with difficulty in affluent Europe of today the conditions under which thousands of human beings are living on that African soil, men, women, children, old people all victims of a bestial colonial war.

It seems an elementary duty, quite apart from any false sentimentality, to tell with force our proletarian brothers in Europe and to all free men and women who are concerned with the liberty and dignity of man, that it is urgently necessary, to obtain massive aid, be it only on a humanitarian level, for the Algerian revolution, that money, medicines, clothing, powdered milk, etc. should be collected and sent to the trade union in Rabat:

U.G.T.A., 30, Avenue Temera, Rabat, Morocco

or to; (especially money)

Mr. Louis Vandeveld, Immeuble Aries, Rue General Laperrine, Rabat(Agdal), Morocco

Such aid would enable thousands of children can be sent to school, fed, taken care of, --- to survive.

And in general, thousands of human beings, children, old people, women, men, would thus be saved this winter from the terrible ravages, which the criminal continuation of the Algerian war is sowing, a war most terrible of all colonial wars of imperialism.

31/12/61

Michel Pablo

ED. NOTE: Comrades are asked to consider urgently how they can respond to comrade Pablo's appeal and to notify us, for publication in the Bulletin, of any steps they take.

It is our unhappy duty to return to the question of the above subject. The following account has been written by a new-comer to the West Nottingham Young Socialists. The charge of the active encouragement of hooligan elements can be confirmed by other comrades. The state of affairs amounts to an attack on a workers' organisation and is all the more deplorable because the target of the attack is the present left wing leadership of the branch. As can be expected the adult party is on the point of intervening, and if this intervention is directed against members of the S.L.L., the latter will only have themselves to blame. Terrible damage has been done to branch by these activities: to give one example, a local left wing councillor who has two young daughters who are members of the branch, and show every sign of developing along left lines, has stopped them attending meetings until the trouble dies down. ED. Note.

"It is only too familiar to many comrades of the disruptive role of the S.L.L. controlled newspaper - "Keep Left" among many Young Socialist branches. This element has become most manifest locally in the West Nottingham Young Socialists. Here, certain comrades of that branch connected with "Keep Left" were given power to run a weekly dance, the money from which would naturally belong to the branch. The secretary who has for a period been paying the cost of branch circulars out of his own pocket sent to the social secretary a request for some money to cover same. However this letter was given to certain hooligan elements with no connection with the Young Socialist movement, to react upon in their own way. When the secretary of the branch went up to collect the money he met violent threats from these hooligan elements, who were being actively encouraged by Keep Left supporters. He beat a hasty retreat. At the next branch meeting this occurrence was brought up with the object of suspending the socials. However, the meeting was packed with people who had no previous connection with the Young Socialists, other than socials, and therefore this logical action could not be carried through. At the next meeting of the branch the same Keep Lefters employed the same tactics to get the branch meetings held in their own area centred around the socials. At the close of the meeting the same people responsible for the violence at the social entered with the object of, to use their words, cutting up the secretary, who luckily had been called away earlier from the meeting. This did not, however, deter these same gentlemen from threatening with violence other branch members. These same tactics pursued by Keep Left elements will no doubt spread to other branches locally to the detriment of the Young Socialist movement, if they are not stopped at their source promptly.

"P.S., since the completion of this report another incident has come to light. On Monday March 5th a meeting was held of the executive of the South Notts Federation of Young Socialists. The chairman of this body is the secretary of West branch. Shortly before the close of the meeting the same thugs entered and demanded to see the chairman who, fortunately, was absent (this was the first Federation meeting he had ever missed) The only way these thugs could have been informed of the meeting was through one of the Keep Lefters who serve on the executive."

FEB/MAR '62 FREE ALGERIA OUT

As is pointed out by the Editorial, this issue of Free Algeria was held up in the hope that there would be concrete information about the settlement before it went to press. However, the talks dragged on and the issue came out before the talks were concluded. This latest issue contains articles on the great intellectual, Frantz Fanon, who died recently, a profile of Ben Khedda, an article on the danger of bureaucracy in the newly independent African states, and a letter which had been smuggled out of a French prison. Of note and great interest is an article by Patricia McGowan which deals with the struggle in Angola. Comrades who want to know something of the differences between the two nationalist organisations there - the M.P.L.A. and U.P.A.- should not miss this. When we consider the harm done by some people misguidedly supporting the M.N.A. in Algeria we can see how important it is to know the facts on such a question.

SOME INTERESTING PAMPHLETS AVAILABLE

A comrade has recently drawn the attention of the editor of the Bulletin to some pamphlets which the comrade has in bulk. They are the Red Army (2d), issued on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Red Army which gives an outline of how it was founded, etc.; Socialism and Religion (1/-) an Engels Society publication; The Revolution in India, (6d), which consists of the founding theses of the Indian section of the Fourth International (1941); North African Tangle, (2/-) which analyses the various factors involved in the Allied invasion of North Africa and the various aspects which made this such a complicated affair; and finally Secrets of the Second Front (2d), which, as its name implies, deals with the C.P. slogan, issued during the 2nd World War, of the second front.

## CEYLONESE STUDENTS SUPPORT CUBA

The following is the text of a resolution passed at a recent meeting of the Ceylon Socialists Students Association:

"This meeting of the Ceylon Socialist Students Association attended by the members of Young Socialist branches, Labour Parties, and colonial movements in the West Indies, Nigeria, South Africa, India, Mozambique as well as Ceylon;

"Enthusiastically welcomes the Cuban revolution and greets the Cuban working people in their struggle to build a free, independent and socialist Cuba, and to defend it against United States aggression.

"We pledge our support to and solidarity with the Cuban people, not only for what they are achieving in their own country, but also for the example they are setting as a spearhead of progress and struggle against imperialism in the whole of Latin America.

"We are sure that, inspired by the Cuban struggle, the masses of Latin America who have been exploited for so long by their own ruling class, by U.S. imperialism and British imperialism too, will make great strides in the building of a united anti-imperialist front.

"We condemn utterly all attempts by U.S. imperialism aided and abetted by remnants of the Cuban bourgeoisie, to intervene in Cuba, and denounce such attempts as a direct threat to world peace, and the success of our anti-imperialist struggles.

"We assure the Cuban people that their efforts are being followed with keen interest and admiration in Africa, Asia, here in Britain and everywhere that working people are fighting for a better life.

"Those present at this meeting - members of the British Labour movement and representatives of various anti-colonial movements throughout the world, wish to assure the London representative of the Cuban people that we will do everything in our power to help in arousing widespread support in defence of the Cuban revolution, both amongst British people and among the many colonial people studying in Britain.

"We would therefore welcome practical proposals in this respect which we pledge ourselves to put before our various organisations and publicise as widely as possible."

## LONDON PROTEST AGAINST COLOUR BAR BILL

The following information has been sent for publication in the Bulletin by an active member of the Caribbean Peoples' Organisation.

The Caribbean Peoples' Organisation with the support of many influential people in Hackney and Stoke Newington has issued a call to all progressive organisations and individuals to assist in continuing the struggle against the Commonwealth Immigration Act. The C.P.O. is, to this end, organising a great protest march on Saturday, 28th April. People are asked to assemble at the corner of Ridley Rd., and St. Marks Rise, N 16 at 2.00. They will then march into Stoke Newington High Street to Stamford Hill where a short public meeting will be addressed by well known speakers. It is especially important that organisations should bring their banners and pass messages of support for the fight against the colour bar Bill to be read out at the meeting.

The comrade has also asked us to publicise the Africa Freedom Day 1962 celebration which is being organised by the M.C.F. This is on Sunday April 8th at the Royal Festival Hall at 2.30. Among the stars and artistes taking part are Patricia Burke, Constance Cummings, Johnny Dankworth, Cy Grant, David Kossof, Eddic Connor, members of the KING KONG chorus, groups from Ghana, Nigeria, the London Co-op, Gambia, the Leeward Islands, and visiting artistes from Cuba, Tunisia, Kenya and Zanzibar. Full details can be obtained from the M.C.F. 374, Grays Inn Rd., London W.C. 1.

## CEYLONESE STUDENTS SCHOOL

We can confirm the dates and subjects as follows:

Saturday and Sunday 29/30 April    Stalinism and the Fourth International  
Speaker:    Pierre Frank

Saturday and Sunday 5/6 May        Industrialisation of underdeveloped  
countries and agrarian reform  
Speaker:    Ernest Germain.

Attendance is by invitation only and comrades should write in for credentials at their earliest.