

# Socialist Worker

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## USA 1956

## BELFAST 2001



# TIME TO END BIGOTRY

**LOYALIST thugs have targeted school children from Ardoyne. It is their latest attempt to ethnically cleanse—and it is the Glenbryn area they are trying to control.**

So called moderate Unionist politicians have called on the Catholic parents to send their children in the back entrance. But the days when people accepted this second class status are over. The UDA, which is behind these protests, is trying to turn the anger of Protestants against poverty onto their Catholic neighbours.

They should be resisted by every progressive Catholic and Protestant.

The teachers unions should be taking a lead in calling action to demand that this disgraceful bigotry end.

The UDA simply have to be faced down on this one. But the issue of poverty in north Belfast has to be addressed. We need a united working class fight for better housing, for decent jobs and proper hospital facilities.

As bigotry grows, a socialist alternative has been never more so urgent.

## BERTIE BACKS BIGOTS

**BERTIE AHERN has been holding meetings with anti-abortion groups to draw up plans for a new referendum.**

Abortion is supposed to be legal in Ireland for any woman who is suicidal, according to the 1992 Supreme Court judgement. But no government has drawn up guidelines on how this should be implemented.

### Forced

Instead up to 10,000 Irish women are forced to travel to Britain each year, often at great personal expense.

The *Sunday Tribune* has now revealed that Ahern has been meeting the bishops and the bigots to draw up plans to roll back the 1992 judgement.

He wants to hold the referendum before a general election.

He is also trying to strike a deal with the bigots to give them this referendum in return for dropping opposition to the Nice treaty.

Pro-choice activists though are determined to oppose these moves.

They want women to have the right to control their bodies—without having to travel to Britain to suit Irish hypocrisy.

.....

★ THE ISRAELI government is planning further measures to stop the truth getting out about its murder of Palestinians. From January all Palestinian journalists working in Israel will have their press passes taken away.

"The fact is that many of these jobs could be done by Israelis," says government chief press officer Daniel Seaman.

.....

★ A British government sponsored report has recommended that an investigation take place as a matter of "top priority" into fears that air passengers and crew are being poisoned by chemicals.

The chemicals known as organophosphates are used in engine oil but can sometimes leak into the cabins.

Dr Jean Balouet estimates that 30,000 passengers may be affected each year. Aviation unions have also claimed that pilots have been so badly affected they have to hand over the controls to colleagues. The airline industry was warned about the risks twenty years ago but did nothing.

## CIE rip off

NEW EVIDENCE of the rip-off of state industry will surface in an enquiry into a link between CIE and Esat, the phone company owned by Dennis O'Brien.

In 1997, Esat was allowed to lay telecom lines alongside CIE tracks in conjunction with a new signalling project. CIE chairman, Michael McDonnell claimed it was a "risk free investment".

In fact the costs of the signalling rose by an incredible £36 million. Licence payments from

Esat amounted to a mere £2 million.

The signalling company that caused the overrun was made up of four former CIE directors—including Brian Powell, the head of procurement.

The deal gave Esat a huge fillip and was a major factor in persuading British Telecom to pay a huge price for the company.

Meanwhile the same fat cats who benefited from all this are still demanding the total privatisation of state industry.

## Side effects no block to profits

Two drug companies are facing major investigations because they did not tell patients about side effects.

★ Bayer produced an anti-cholesterol drug called Baycol, which has been linked to 53 deaths.

Evidence is growing that it can lead to a muscle wasting conditions which destroys internal organs.

The company is now under investigation by

the German prosecutors office.

★ GlaxoSmithKline is being sued for side effects associated with its "wonderdrug" Seroxat, an anti-depressant used more commonly than Prozac.

People who tried to stop taking the drug suffered jolting pains, loss of co-ordination and vertigo.

The company tried to blame these side effects on their own depression.

## CIA fairy stories

HOLLYWOOD has a new plan to rehabilitate the CIA. It is making a new television series called *The Agency*, which has been filmed inside the CIA headquarters.

The programme is being made with the help of Chase Brandon, the CIA's "entertainment liaison officer".

According to Brandon "I made some comments and the creator made some changes".

Unbelievably, one of the plots features the CIA trying to save Fidel Castro's life.

In real life, they tried to kill him several times.

There are no plans to make a programme about the CIA's activity in Chile when they helped overthrow the elected left-wing government of Salvador Allende.

Recent documents have shown that the agency devoted \$10 million to overthrowing Allende.

The agency organised the assassination of the head of the Chilean Armed Forces, Rene Schneider, because he would not stage a coup.

The US Ambassador Edward Korry said the plan was to make "Chileans suffer utter deprivation" to turn them against Allende. But none of this will feature in Hollywood's dream machine.

## NO TO PRIVATISATION!

# Global PPP summit to come to Dublin

**DUBLIN IS to be the venue for a global conference on privatisation attended by government ministers and business people. It will help corporations take over basic public services.**

Access to the conference which is due to take place in the Burlington Hotel from the 10-12th October is restricted to those willing to pay a staggering £1,200.

In closed session global multi-nationals will be given advice on how they can take over services such as water supply, schools and health provision.

The conference—organised by the elite group City and Financial—is fully backed by the Irish government.

The invitation includes a letter from Finance Minister Charlie McCreevy in which he boasts that it will help the "private sector to share in the risks and rewards of public service provi-

sion". McCreevy claims that he has "the employers, the trade unions and the construction industry" on board for the expansion of Public Private Partnership projects.

### Claims

PPP projects—Private Finance Initiative projects, as they are known in Northern Ireland—are at the cutting edge of the privatisation project.

They open up areas like the health sector to privatisation in a way

that even Maggie Thatcher never dreamed of.

The Taoiseach Bertie Ahern and Mary O'Rourke are also due to address the conference.

O'Rourke is supposed to be responsible for state industry but she is holding up funding to force through more business involvement.

### Protests

Major protests are now being planned so that the corporate elite gets the message that "Our World is Not for Sale".

## NO TO PRIVATISATION SHUT DOWN THE PPP CONFERENCE

Wednesday October 10th  
Day of protests includes rally at 6:30pm Burlington Hotel, Dublin.

Called by  
**Globalise Resistance**  
ring 0864098186

email: globalise\_resistance@yahoo.com

## Free the Colombian 3

THE ARMY brigade that arrested Niall Connolly, James Monaghan and Martin McAuley in Colombia is linked to right wing death squads.

The 13th Brigade of the Colombian army released hit-

men from custody to carry out murders.

Human Rights Watch, a US based organisation, claimed that the brigade worked with paramilitaries under the command of the notorious Carlos

Castapo. The 13th Brigade was also assisted by the CIA in its arrests of the three Irishmen.

The disgraceful media witch-hunt of the men has helped to put their lives in danger.



South African workers on strike against privatisation

## Amnesty are right

Amnesty International has been attacked by the Advertising Standards Authority of Ireland for running a campaign.

It showed pictures of Ahern, Harney and O'Donoghue under the slogan "Some say they are involved in racism. Others say they are doing nothing about it".

ASAI said they should have asked for and received written permission from the politicians before they used their faces.

But this is ludicrous. As Amnesty replied, "It would mean we would have to get permission from

Milosevic before criticising him about genocide."

The ASAI is a corporate body that represents advertisers and PR firms. The big business interests that dominate it were only doing a favour for their politician friends.

### Hollow

Meanwhile Amnesty is running a follow up campaign, which exposes O'Donoghue's hollow rhetoric at the anti-racism conference in Durban, South Africa.

According to Amnesty sponsored research:

★ 80 percent of black people in Ireland say that racism is a major problem.

★ 78 percent say they have been

victims of racism. ★ Many claim they have suffered racism at the hands of the Gardai.

★ Most people who suffer racism are reluctant to go to the Gardai because they see them as part of the problem.

The government is playing a major role in whipping up this racism.

Even as the first sign of the recession bites, politicians like Mary Harney are talking about curtailing work visas for immigrants.

And on O'Donoghue's trip outward to Durban he called in on the Nigerian government to offer an £8 million bribe to facilitate quicker deportations.

# what we think

## WORLD RECESSION LOOMS...

# Resist and revolt

**OFFICIAL optimism about the Celtic Tiger is disappearing. Figures indicate that government revenues are £1 billion lower than expected. Manufacturing has begun to contract. And every week brings new announcement of major cuts in US firms.**

The reality is that we are on the brink of a global recession.

Three quarters of a million jobs have disappeared in the US. In Japan, the situation is even worse with unemployment levels doubling in the nineties. In Germany unemployment is expected to hit five million.

Stockbroker economists try to play all this down. They claim that US consumers will continue to spend and drag the world out of recession.

However the problems of the US economy are very deep. Capitalists invested heavily in the nineties with

exaggerated hopes of high profits. Many were mesmerised by the stock market boom. When the profits were not high enough, they slashed jobs and started a recession.

Recessions are not an inevitable feature of life like bad weather. They arise from the capitalist organisation of production, from its greed and lack of planning.

### Organised

Our only answer has to be resistance. We need to demand that the rich take a cut in profits rather than forcing through job cuts. But recessions also raise deeper questions about how production is organised and how the resources of society are used.

The anti-capitalist movement needs to be at the centre of resistance from workers in order to provide answers.

### Trimble helps UDA thugs

David Trimble held two formal meetings with Ian Paisley recently in an effort to form a united Unionist opposition to changes to the RUC.

Trimble and Paisley have not met formally since they both appeared at the Drumcree protests in 1996, shortly before Trimble was elected as Ulster Unionist Party leader. The meetings clearly show that Trimble is more concerned with holding his own party together than continuing the peace process.

### Rejected

Two days after arriving back from holiday, Trimble held a meeting of the UUP Executive which rejected the Patten reforms and refused to nominate members for the new policing board.

The Unionists want to protect the notorious Special Branch (which is widely believed to have colluded with loyalist killers throughout the Troubles) as well as resisting any changes to the

RUC's name or police badge. The refusal to nominate and joining forces with Paisley has handed the initiative to the hardliners in the UUP, like Jeffrey Donaldson and David Burnside, who refuse to countenance any reform in the structures of the Northern Ireland state.

Trimble's behaviour gives encouragement to the loyalist thugs who attack Catholic homes with pipe-bombs and petrol bombs. They pick up on his claim that "too many concessions are made to Catholics" and give it a more deadly intent.

Many people in North Belfast are living in sub-standard accommodation and suffer high levels of poverty. But the UDA feeds off Protestant poverty and tries to deflect the anger on to Catholics.

They gain a hearing because the leaders of official Unionism pretend that Protestant people are "under siege" from their Catholic neighbours.

There is need for resolute opposition to the UDA thugs. But we also need socialist, class-based politics to tackle the dead end of Unionism.

### Greece



Thousands of anti-capitalists protested in Greece at the beginning of September. Anti-NATO protestors (above) gathered in the northern port of Thessaloniki to rally against Costas Simitis the Greek prime minister.

## U.N. anti-racism conference farce

THE United Nation's World Conference Against Racism in Durban South Africa has ended in a farce, with governments struggling to agree a set of platitudes about racism.

The US and other Western governments wrecked the conference by rejecting all attempts to raise the racism of the Israeli government towards Palestinian people and pushing aside calls for the West to apologise for the slave trade.

The conference exposed the hypocrisy of our rulers, mouthing



empty words at international conferences, while implementing racist policies.

The US government made it clear that it wanted no discussion of

its own terrible record on racism, even though there are more black men in prison in the US than attending college. A week later, Tony Blair's government was found guilty of illegally jailing refugees.

But there were inspiring signs of hope and resistance in South Africa, not inside the plush conference centre but outside in the streets.

On the opening day of the conference 20,000 people marched under the banner of the Durban Social Forum, an umbrella group of anti-privatisation campaigns and land-

less peoples' movements, demanding land reform and an end to privatisation of water and electricity services by the ANC government.

The march marks the beginnings of a new radical grassroots movement, to the left of the ANC, which is making a conscious connection with the global anti-capitalist movement.

The demonstration coincided with a two-day general strike called by COSATU against privatisation, the first since the end of apartheid. This is where the real fight against racism will be fought.



### JOIN THE SOCIALISTS

To join the Socialist Workers Party, fill in this form and send it to: SWP, PO Box 1648, Dublin 8

Name .....

Address .....

Trade Union .....

Phone ..... E-mail .....



—Turkey

# Fight the F-blocks

**ONE THOUSAND** people recently marched in Dublin to highlight the plight of political prisoners in Turkey. Since last year hundreds of Turkish political prisoners and their supporters have been on hunger strike and at least 40 have died.

Last year the government announced its intention to re-house political prisoner in F-type prisons.

The F-type jails hold prisoners in solitary confinement or in a group of three whereas up to now they have been held in dormitories of 60 prisoners. Many in Ireland have drawn the connection with the H Blocks.

At the four F-type prisons currently in operation—Edirne, Kandira, Sincan and Tekirdag—prisoners may leave their cells only once a week if a member of their immediate family visits. Otherwise, they are held permanently in “small group isolation”.

They are not allowed any kind of association.



Some 1,000 people rallied in Dublin in support of the Turkish hunger strike

unarmed prisoners with live rounds, gas and stun grenades. They started fires to force the prisoners to move. In all 30 prisoners were killed.

Autopsies on women prisoners killed showed they had been sprayed with inflammable chemicals and burnt alive.

## Repression and human rights abuses

**The Turkish government has used brutal repression to clamp down on all opposition.**

It holds between 11,000 and 12,000 political prisoners. Of these 8,500 are

members of the guerrilla group, the PKK (the Kurdistan Workers' Party) while the remaining 2,500-3,000 are members of other left-wing political groups.

Others facing repression include those seeking

ethnic and religious rights, such as the Alevis and the Anatolians.

People in Turkey may be arrested and held for up to several years without trial, accused of “terrorist” activity, for attending left-wing meetings, selling

left-wing papers or taking part in left-wing rallies.

Under the Turkish “anti-terror” law, activities like attending meetings, rallies, or writing for newspapers published by any of the banned groups is an “act of terrorism”.

Laws even prevent publication of the hunger strikes or opposition to the F-type prisons. But despite its barbaric human rights record, Turkey is a member of NATO and the third biggest recipient of US military aid.

*“Our struggle is about more than the right to work, it is about the right to have free thought in trade unions, to have free talk on rights for the workers. But the more the IMF and the World Bank control our country the more our rights are going backwards.”*

—Turkish trade unionist

## In debt to the IMF

**THE TURKISH economy is in severe crisis.**

Last year it was forced to take out a \$10 billion emergency IMF loan.

This involved swingeing cuts in working class living standards.

Earlier this year interest rates soared to 5,000 percent and the Lira went into freefall after market turmoil forced the

government to abandon an IMF-backed reform-package.

Then in May the IMF agreed to extend the country's credit to \$19 billion (£16 billion).

This makes Turkey the IMF's largest debtor.

There is huge discontent and the government's only answer is more repression.

### Brutality

Given the brutality of the Turkish regime where beatings and murders of political detainees in police cells and prison are commonplace, prisoners wanted to continue in large groups where secret beating are more difficult to carry out.

In October last year 865 prisoners in 18 prisons went on hunger strike.

They were demanding the closure F-types prisons, the trial of police and prison guards accused of torture and the annulment of the Special Security Courts for political suspects.

On 19 December last year the government launched the “Return To Life Operation”, supposedly to “protect the terrorists from their own terrorism”. 10,000 armed soldiers stormed 20 Turkish prisons to smash the non-violent protests and transfer the prisoners to the recently built F-type prisons.

Troops fired on the

### —Australia

## Disgusting hypocrisy over refugees

**THE AUSTRALIAN government has set new low standards for the callous treatment of refugees.**

Its attitude to the 460 desperate refugees rescued by the Norwegian freighter Tampa from their sinking boat was “let them drown”.

It was happy to leave

them (including two pregnant women and 43 children) living amongst the ship's containers with little food or water in the baking sun.

Over 400 refugees are estimated to have drowned off the coast of Australia in the past year.

The refugees were from Afghanistan, which was wrecked by years of war after the Russian

army invaded in 1979. Now Afghanistan is ravaged by drought and those who oppose the Taliban regime face persecution. Western governments exploited the Afghans' fight against the Russian army.

Then they abandoned the country to rival warlords and eventually to the Saudi-backed Taliban. They haven't wel-

comed the six million people who have fled the horror of life in Afghanistan over the last two decades.

Around three million Afghan refugees are being left to rot in camps in neighbouring Pakistan and Iran.

This is not the first time refugees have been turned away from what they hoped would be a safe haven.

In June 1939 some 937 Jews from Germany were on a ship trying to escape the Nazi regime.

They were turned away from Cuba, the US and Canada. The Canadian immigration minister argued that “the line must be drawn somewhere”.

The Jewish refugees ended up in various European countries where two thirds of them were murdered in concentration camps after the Nazis invaded.

Australian premier Howard, like politicians in Ireland, does not argue that refugees can be a

resource for the countries that welcome them.

They are teachers and doctors. They are young people eager to learn new skills and get qualifications to work and contribute to the society.

Industrialised countries face a chronic shortage of labour. One international body, the Commission on Global Ageing, reported last week that falling birth rates will undermine the

economy. “The major social crises of the 21st century will be the by-product of labour shortages,” said the report.

It concluded world leaders should encourage immigration.

Instead politicians present refugees as a “problem” that must be treated ever more harshly.

In the process they give confidence to racists.

### —Italy

**THE RIGHT wing government of Silvio Berlusconi has forced the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the UN to move a conference due in Rome in December.**

It did so fearing another Genoa-style demonstration. “It is necessary to save the capital from the risk of devastation,” claimed Berlusconi, although the police, not the protesters were, responsible for the devastation in Genoa five weeks ago.

Judicial and parliamentary inquiries are making this increasingly clear, with police chiefs con-

tradicting each other and also contradicting the account of what happened put out by the interior minister.

Magistrates finally released 11 German protestors, but four more are still locked up.

As the government begins to push through a new anti-strike law, a stoppage was due on the Alitalia airline, and rail strikes are planned for 21 and 22 September.

The following week the No Global movement is organising big protests against a NATO summit in Naples, two days before the Washington demonstration against the World Bank.

### —Argentina

**NINETY thousand workers took to the streets of Buenos Aires, the capital of Argentina.**

They were protesting at wage and pension cuts imposed by the government in conjunction with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The protest was called jointly by two of the country's three trade union federations.

It included teachers, and workers in shops,

transport and electricity.

The protest followed three weeks of road blockages by the unemployed and a month of strike action by teachers.

The latest deal with the IMF involves further loans to the government to allow it to pay interest on what it owes the banks.

But it does nothing about the cuts and unemployment.

And few mainstream analysts expect it to solve the financial crisis.

## Eamonn McCann

### The end of the road?

ON THE day after a blast-bomb was thrown at children going to the Holy Cross school in Ardoyne, a committee of the Northern Assembly published a Consultation Document on the appointment of a Commissioner for Children.

Small wonder the unveiling of the document attracted little attention. Not only were four-year-olds being splattered with hate at the time on their first day going to school, but nobody could be confident that the Assembly would be around for much longer anyway to put whatever emerged from the consultation into practice.

*The coincidence of these contradictory developments says a lot about the politics of the Agreement.*

The campaign for the establishment of a Commissioner for Children was an expression of the hopes many liberally-minded people in North had of seeing progressive social advances under the Assembly. Human rights organisations were confident that, with the old bigotries no longer dominant, their own agenda would come centre-stage.

The Equality and Human Rights commissions have been seen as the beginning of the realisation of these hopes. Likewise with the campaign on children's rights.

A push for a full-scale Ministry for Children failed, but, as a second-best option, the Assembly set in train a consultation process on the role and remit of a Commissioner for Children.

The positive intention behind the move is expressed in the Document, compiled by an all-party committee: "We must...recognise children as citizens in their own right and ensure that conditions exist to enable them to enjoy a happy, safe and secure childhood. We must ensure they are able to live fulfilled lives and to develop and grow into secure, confident and resourceful people".

#### Proposals

The Committee spent six months sifting through evidence and proposals from a wide range of interests. A key role was played by an ad-hoc forum involving groups such as Barnados, the Children's Law Centre, the NSPCC, Save the Children, the Voice of Young People in Care etc. etc.

The weighty, well-researched document published on September 6th was the result. It described how a Commissioner for Children would operate, across what areas and armed with what powers. A time-table envisaged the completion of consultation by November and the Commissioner in place by Spring 2002.

The document saw the Commissioner filling "a wide-ranging, powerful role to act on behalf of children", "child-proofing" legislation and with rights to intervene in the proceedings of courts and statutory bodies to vindicate children's interests.

Many children's rights campaigners would have wanted the Commissioner given stronger powers and a more incisive mandate. But the document certainly represented a big step forward, and provided the basis for a much-needed debate on the rights of children generally.

All this could be presented as a good example of the Agreement working as its strongest supporters had intended. It's how reformists—and not just in Northern Ireland—see positive engagement with the system delivering the goods.

But the Agreement had worked successfully only in the abstract. The practical reality of children's lives took the form of small girls whimpering with terror as adults with contorted faces gouged at them on their first day at school.

*The same images told us, too, that the days of the Assembly are almost certainly numbered. What Ardoyne illustrated is that the pattern of politics taken entirely for granted by those who negotiated and campaigned for the Agreement is constructed around the idea of the competitive rights of "the two communities". There is no space for children to be considered as a distinct group of "citizens in their own right" with clear and separate interests.*

Children are automatically—like all other groups: workers, women, lone parents, gays, whatever—considered as components of one community or the other, and the communities locked into permanent competition for scarce resources.

Why should it be a surprise, then, that on the very day they are promised a new dawn, shiny-faced four-year-olds find themselves looked on as legitimate targets for sectarian hate?

### Holy Cross shows

# The real face of loyalism

**PEOPLE across the world have been shocked at the TV pictures of Catholic school children, some as young as four, running a gauntlet of hate as they attempt to get to school.**

The school children from Holy Cross Girls Primary in North Belfast and their parents have had a blast bomb thrown at them.

The suffered taunts like "Fenian scum"; "your children are animals" and "get back to your ratholes"

This is reminiscent of Little Rock, Arkansas in 1957 when nine black students "the Little Rock Nine" were attacked by racists when they attended the all white Central High School.

They too were forced to use the back entrance.

#### Reality

The media has run headlines such as "City of Hate" and "Belfast's Bile". But the reality is that the current situation was brought about by the UDA.

After last year's feud between the UVF and the UDA many UDA members were rehoused in the Glenbryn estate where the school is situated. These UDA men belong to Johnny Adair's notorious 'C' Company.

The Glenbryn/Ardoyne interface shares all the problems of other interfaces in North Belfast but in spite of all the problems it was one of the few interfaces which had seen some contact between Catholics and Protestants.

Catholics could take their children to school through the Glenbryn area while Protestants shopped at the local Catholic shops at Ardoyne.

Children from Holy Cross go on joint holidays every year with the children from the Protestant Wheatfield Primary School, which is just next door.

Catholics from the Ardoyne who work on the Crumlin Road would regularly walk through

Glenbryn to get to work.

When the UDA's 'C' Company arrived it wanted this contact to stop.

Local Protestants were leafleted by the UDA ordering them not to use the local Catholic shops. The UDA then set about blockading the Holy Cross Primary School.

#### Abuse

*Socialist Worker* spoke to two parents with children at Holy Cross.

Maureen has a five year old who started P.1

"People have seen it for themselves on TV what we have to go through.

"Grown men shouting disgusting abuse at wee children. What kind of society produces these people? What kind of person will call a five year old child those names.

"It's not as if we've done something wrong. We just want to do something people do all over the world, bring our children to school through the front door. Is that wrong?"

Raymond's daughter is in P.2

"All this talk about using another entrance to the school doesn't make sense. If we go the other route we go a half mile out of the way.

"We then have to through St. Gabriel's secondary school, then walk over a mucky grass bank then over a football pitch.

"Why should my child have to walk over a football pitch on a winter morning to get to school?"

"Is she not good enough to use the proper entrance?"



A child blocked from going to school in North Belfast

## More schools under attack

**Loyalist protesters have talked about "grievances" that lie behind the protest. This is just**

**a smokescreen for bigotry.**

There are a number of Catholic schools in North Belfast that are

in areas that were once mixed but are now controlled by the UDA.

These have come under sustained attack in recent months as the UDA attempts to "ethnically cleanse" Protestant areas.

Our Lady of Mercy' Girls Secondary School a half mile from Holy Cross, has had about a dozen serious attacks since January, this has included attempts to burn down the school and several "elaborate hoax" devices left at the school gates.

The girls cannot walk to or from the school and are bussed in and out every day.

## The UDA's Nazi links

**THE UDA and its allies in the Loyalist Volunteer Force both have links to the British Nazi movement. Johnny Adair was photographed at a National Front demonstration in Belfast during the 1980's.**

In the photograph beside Adair is another prominent UDA man Sam McCory he has been pictured in recent years with "white power" tattooed on his hand. Adair was one of 30 or 40 young members and supporters of the Belfast branch of the National Front and now makes up the core of the UDA's 'C' Company.

Links with the Nazi's continue. Several visits have been paid by White Power

bands to the Lower Shankill and Portadown as guests of the UDA. The LVF-Nazi band 'Razors Edge' played at a "memorial gig" to LVF leader Billy Wright in Portadown in 1999.

Combat 18's magazine 'Blood and Honour' carried pictures of UDA men in prison and messages from UDA prisoners promising to "Keep Ulster British and white".

The LVF openly uses the language of racism, talking of the need to stop "Catholic immigration into Protestant areas".

Adair boasted to a *Guardian* journalist that the only Catholics who travelled in his car were dead ones. He said "Once you get your first Fenian blood it's easy after that."

### Public Private Partnerships

## Ireland goes private

"IRELAND GOES private." That was the headline the British company Jarvis chose for their press release after they were awarded the contract for five Public Private Partnership schools.

Dun Laoghaire has gone a step further. £30,000 of public money was spent on a feasibility study into a PPP. The result is a plan to build and run a crematorium in Shanganagh cemetery. The council will provide the land for 20 years and "the private partner" will build and run at a profit the crematorium.

Government ministers can set up Public Private Partnerships without consultation. Up to now the projects have been largely of infrastructure and local authorities. But now everything from school dinners to cleaning post offices has been contracted out.

They are also in charge of the development of a new third-level music college for the Cork School of music. The schools will be run by Jarvis who are expected to provide a profit.

Public Private Partnerships or PPPs are the big idea of the moment. They are a way of continuing the privatisation drive that Thatcher spearheaded.

### Investment

For example, new road projects under PPP involve a fixed estimated investment of about £100 million.

The National Roads Authority will provide the land. But the private companies who invest will be allowed to collect tolls and will control the finished roads.

This means that taxpayers provide the seed capital for big business investment in the provision of waste management services.

National Toll Roads has pioneered the concept. Over the last three years NTR has made £12 million in profit—mainly by collecting tolls.

The company also gave £15,000 to the Dublin County Council to build a new toll road. Unluckily, this opened the way to a good business opportunity.

The whole economy surrounding motor vehicles has provided the fat cats with big opportunities for large, safe and secure profits. The theory part of the driving test is now run by a private company.

Car tests are organised by the British firm NCT. National Toll Roads runs key road crossings. Six private car parks are being built with the help of public money.

Even the traffic lights in Dublin are controlled by a private company. And even if you get the car out you will find that the new LEAS is set to be run as PPP for profit.

Private investment must be brought in, we are told because "there is no money for local government."

Around the country many local authorities want a new town hall. Twenty are to be built in the next five years but private companies will run all of them.

## THE ZAPATISTAS

by SIMON BASKETTER

# The fight against free trade

"A global decomposition is taking place, we call it the Fourth World War — neoliberalism: the global economic process to eliminate that multitude of people who are not useful to the powerful — the groups called 'minorities' in the mathematics of power, but who happen to be the majority population in the world. We find ourselves in a world system of globalisation willing to sacrifice millions of human beings."

■ Sub Commandante Marcos

**THE ZAPATISTAS** became a symbol of resistance around the world when they rose up on 1 January 1994 and took control of San Cristobal de las Casas in Chiapas.

They are based among the Mayan Indians of Chiapas, the descendants of people conquered by Spanish colonisers 500 years ago.

From then through to today the Maya have

been oppressed and kept in poverty by Mexico's rulers.

The Zapatista uprising signalled the beginning of a revolt against neo-liberalism.

As the Mexican daily *La Jornada* put it: "The Zapatista movement was an important precursor of the movement which has developed through the streets in Seattle, Washington, Australia and Prague."

The Zapatistas declared in 1994, "We have been denied the most elementary instruction in order that to use us as a cannon fodder and loot the wealth of our

country without any care for the fact that we are dying of hunger and carrying diseases." Today in Chiapas, a peasant without land, a gang member in the slums, an unemployed worker, an unemployed student.

At the time of the Zapatista rising Chiapas produced half of Mexico's hydroelectricity, was the country's largest coffee exporting state and was the country's second largest producer of oil.

It was also an important

carica producer.

Yet of the three million people in Chiapas, one third were illiterate, half lived in homes without running water, disease was rampant and life expectancy lower than in the rest of the country.

The date of the 1994 rising was chosen to coincide with the launch of the North American Free Trade Agreement, or NAFTA, which could only make their lives worse. NAFTA tore down all restrictions on foreign investment and opened up Mexico for big companies to exploit.

Because of the huge support for the Zapatista rising from the rest of the Mexican society the state did not dare use the army to crush it outright.

But the Zapatista area has been surrounded by thousands of Mexican army troops, and are often deprived of water, electricity and medical supplies.

The army has also repeatedly launched brutal raids and massacres of villagers, for example, at Actal in December 1997.

Repression

The Mexican government and the US responded with heavy handed repression. 10,000 troops were stationed near villages that supported the Zapatistas.

The US gave \$1.2 billion in direct aid to the Mexican army.

■ Subcommandante



"The transformation of a reality is not the task of one single actor, no matter how strong, intelligent, creative and visionary he might be. Not just the political and social actors, not just the intellectuals, can bring this transformation to a good end. It is a collective work. And not just in action, but also in the analysis of that reality, and in the decisions concerning the directions and emphasis of the transformation movement."

■ Sub Commandante Marcos

## A new form of politics?

"In the same way, the world we wish to transform has already been worked before by history, and it has many holes. We must find the talent necessary in order, within those limits, to transform it and to make a simple and straightforward figure: a new world. Don't forget that ideas are also chisels."

■ Sub Commandante Marcos

FOR SOME, the Zapatistas do not just provide inspiration in the struggle against neo-liberal free-market policies, they provide the world with a new form of politics.

Naomi Klein, the author of *No Logo*, has written that the Zapatistas have become "theorists of a new movement, another way to think about power, resistance and globalisation."

Zapatistas aren't interested in overthrowing the state or naming their leader, Marcos, as president. If anything, they want less state power in their lives.

Their goal is not to win control to seize and build

to compromise before the neo-liberal agenda would be a terrible waste of the heroism of the Zapatistas struggle.

But if the Zapatistas fight on, they cannot defeat the neo-liberal agenda alone. Indigenous peoples make up only 10 percent of the population of Mexico and other live in the most remote rural areas.

A powerful movement against neo-liberalism can, however, be built by linking together all those who are suffering from its effects.

Devastation

For example last year students at the National Autonomous University of Mexico staged a huge occupation of the university.

There are tens of millions of workers across Mexico. Many of them are struggling to survive on wages that are barely enough to get by.

These conditions are sure to produce further eruptions of struggle that have enormous potential to bring about change. The Zapatistas face choices. Which path they will follow we do not yet know.

## Can there be peace?

**LAST YEAR** the ruling PRI party was defeated in the presidential elections, losing its near total grip on power for the first time in over 70 years.

Through the 1980s the PRI had pioneered a drive to open Mexico up to US-based multinationals.

The new president, Vicente Fox, wants to continue that drive.

He is a former Coca-Cola

executive.

Many US and other multinationals firms already have factories in Mexico, taking advantage of cheap labour.

These "maquiladoras" are mainly concentrated near the Mexican-US border.

Stalabale

Fox and US big business want to extend that down to other areas of Mexico, including the south.

To make this possible Fox hopes to end the conflict in Chiapas to

### Issues for anti-capitalists



## Can there peace in the Middle East?

**PALESTINIANS** protest against the Israeli army

**SINCE THE** Palestinian uprising began ten months ago many Israelis have called for the Israeli state to use even more force against the Palestinian people.

Since the election of Ariel Sharon as leader in February, Israel has stepped up its attacks by assassinating Palestinian activists.

The last of violence has led many Israeli liberals to call for less separate states, one for Palestinians and one for Israelis.

There are around one million Palestinians who live in Israel-20 percent of the population.

There are 400,000 Israelis who have settled through the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Two states would either mean large-scale removal of people from their homes or something similar to the existing situation.

The much wanted Israeli-Palestine peace process allowed here left and the brains want to allow the Palestinians.

When the intifada exploded last year agreements reached meant the Palestinian Authority would only control 17 percent of the West Bank and around 60 percent of the Gaza Strip.

Israelis were to still control the roads, resources and huge areas of land they have occupied illegally.

With or without mass removals, a two-state solution would mean the huge imbalance of power

between Israel and the Palestinians. A prosperous, massively armed Israel subsidised by the US would still loom over the Palestinian state.

Any Palestinian state would in effect be a Bantustan—the name given to supposedly independent states scattered South Africa.

Since the election of Ariel Sharon as leader in February, Israel has stepped up its attacks by assassinating Palestinian activists.

The imbalance of power reflects the fundamental problem: the expulsion of 750,000 Palestinians from their homeland by Jewish militias in 1948.

The state of Israel was founded by the act of theft and brutality.

That is the reason it is the most militarised state in the world.

It has to defend itself from the original corner of the land it occupies—they cannot be allowed to return to their homeland.

A Zionist, exclusively Jewish state cannot be part of any solution in the region.

Its existence means tragedy for the people of the Middle East, especially the Palestinians but also the Jews.

As Palestinian writer Edward Said says: "Palestine is and always has been a land of many histories. It is a radical antipole to think of it as principally, or exclusively, Jewish or Arab. Palestine is an irreducibly mixed region."

The only way that Jews and Arabs can exist peacefully in the Middle East is a democratic and secular Palestinian minority government that exists alongside a Jewish majority government. That will require a revolution throughout the region to where Jews and Arabs have equal citizenship.

Both the Palestinian and Jewish peoples have a long tradition of solidarity and internationalism.

Jews have not always looked to Zionism—the movement for a Jewish homeland in anti-Semitism—the heart of Jews. There has long been a strong anti-Zionist socialist tradition.

It was the problem of the six million Jews in the Nazi Holocaust between 1939 and 1945 that they looked to the socialist movement in Europe and fighting alongside non-Jews against the capitalist system.

When the US backed the state of a Jewish state in Palestine after World War Two, many Jews felt they could no longer escape the suffering they had experienced in Europe.

The Jews of Israel responded by being the oppressor in the Middle East.

Israel has been at war with the Palestinians ever since the birth of the state in 1948. It is the violence of Israel towards the Palestinians that is the cause of anti-Jewish feeling. It exists amongst some Arabs as well as of the suicide bombings.

The only hope for peace in a Palestinian state where Jews and Arabs can exist peacefully and democratically together. That will require a revolution throughout the region to where Jews and Arabs have equal citizenship.

## International Socialism Journal Anti Capitalism

■ Susan George & Walden Bello - What next for anti capitalism  
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Thousands head for Washington DC to...

# Shut down the World Bank / IMF

**THE next big anti-capitalist convergence is September 29th when up to 100,000 people will congregate in Washington to close down the annual meeting of the IMF and the World Bank. Visits by cabinet ministers from all over the globe have already been curtailed because of the fear of protests. Here JAMES READ explains the issues at stake.**

MOST PEOPLE are naturally suspicious of banks, and with good reason. But imagine a bank that gave you a mortgage and then dictated not only how you spent it, but also how you treated everyone around you, and how you could live your life for the next thirty years.

Then you will have some idea of how the International Monetary Fund and World Bank operate.

These are two of the biggest organisations propping up international capitalism. Founded in 1944 at a conference in the US, the IMF and WB were the starting point for the process we now know as globalisation.

As World War II came to an end, America wanted to strengthen its position in global trade.

In order to ensure this growth continued, American companies had to find new markets to exploit.

But the economies of Europe and Asia were shattered by six years of devastating war, and Africa and Latin America were not sufficiently developed to provide markets for consumer goods.

The World Bank and IMF, with the financial backing of the US Federal Reserve—and the "hidden fist" of American military power—organised loans to economies around the world to "develop."

Of course, bankers don't lend out of the goodness of their



Protesting against World Bank in Prague

hearts. Western financiers did extremely well out of their benevolence.

For every dollar the US contributes to the IMF, three dollars return in the shape of contracts to American companies to supply goods and services.

The economic tie of debt was also a useful way of ensuring military and political ties in the Cold War.

The World Bank and the IMF got a stranglehold on the developing world after the debt crisis of the early seventies.

Like every gangster loan shark, the World Bank and IMF proposed the poorer countries borrow even more to finance the original debt.

But they proposed a set of conditions, which give the multi-nationals more control.

## The four steps to damnation

**JOSEPH Stiglitz was formerly the chief economist to the World Bank but was fired two years ago for criticising their policies. He has described the conditions the IMF lays down as the "four steps to damnation".**

The first is privatisation. Local politicians use the IMF "restructuring agreements" to flog off electricity and water companies to multinationals.

This leads to rampant corruption as these politicians get commissions to shave a few billion

off the sale price.

The biggest sell-off occurred in Russia in 1995.

Ordinary Russians watched their public services and national industries sold by finance minister, Anatoly Chubais, to banking conglomerates "at bargain basement prices" in "a climate of corruption and theft."

Since then wages have been halved and the value of employee pension funds slashed by 30 percent.

US companies stripped Russia's assets, cutting national output in half.

The average Russian man now has a life expectancy ten

years shorter than in 1989

Step two is "capital market liberalisation" or as Stiglitz calls it "the hot money cycle". It means that states give up all controls over the movement of money.

This is supposed to attract foreign investors but they also flee at the first sign of trouble.

When that happens the IMF demands that interest rates rise to 30 percent, 50 percent or even 80 percent to attract the speculators back. But this destroys local industry.

The third step is raising prices on food, water and basic essentials.

According to Stiglitz, his bosses knew this would lead to "the IMF riot". In 1998, there were huge riots in Indonesia after food subsidies were removed.

Last year Bolivia exploded over water price rises. In February riots broke out in Ecuador over the price of cooking gas.

An IMF report on the country acknowledged that its plans would mean "social unrest".

The final step is "free trade" as poorer countries are opened to EU and US companies whose own markets are barraged against Third World agriculture.

Stiglitz likens this to the Opium Wars, which Britain fought to demand its "right" to sell drugs to China. In the Opium Wars, they used a military blockade. Now they use a financial blockade.



## No relief

### How user fees devastate Africa

IT IS in Africa that the policies of the IMF are at their most sickening. Nowhere has been harder hit by the burden.

Africans are paying for the military spending of corrupt governments allied to Washington and the amassing of private wealth by local ruling classes.

The most perverse situation of all is in South Africa, where black workers are paying for the IMF debt that the apartheid regime used to build the military apparatus used to keep them down.

Nearly 75 percent of all World Bank projects in sub-Saharan Africa include a provision for user fees. These are fees imposed for health care or education.

They have been a disaster for the poor. ★ Zimbabwe: UNICEF reports that twice

as many women are dying in childbirth in Harare as before 1990 as attendance at prenatal clinics dropped. One British charity has reported cases of schools girls going into prostitution to pay for school fees.

★ Ghana: 65 percent of rural families said they could not send their children to school consistently because of the fees.

★ Kenya: Nairobi's special treatment clinic for sexually transmitted diseases introduced fees for patients. There was a decrease of 45 percent for men and 65 percent for women. Failure to treat STDs increases the likelihood of transmission of HIV/AIDS

Yet when Malawi eliminated a modest school fee in 1994, primary school enrolment soared by 50 percent overnight.

tries is supposed to fall. ★ Debt repayments grow from 24 percent of government revenue to 35 percent in 2002. ★ Debt repayments grow from one and a quarter times the combined budget for primary education and basic health to twice these budgets in 2002.

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tries is supposed to fall.

Yet the British charity Oxfam has labelled it "debt relief fraud". In a recent report they showed that Zambia, which is part of the HIPC scheme, will see:

★ Debt service payments increase from \$170 million in last year to \$235 million in 2002.

★ Debt repayments grow from 24 percent of government revenue to 35 percent in 2002.

★ Debt repayments grow from one and a quarter times the combined budget for primary education and basic health to twice these budgets in 2002.

## in my view

### Which side of the fence are U2 on?

**U2'S SHOWS at Slane on Saturday August 25th and September 1st, were their first Irish appearances since the Lansdowne Road concerts in August 1997. They also mark the twentieth anniversary of their only previous appearance at Slane when they supported Thin Lizzy.**

Slane concerts very nearly went out of existence, with planning problems that have affected all major outdoor shows in Ireland and a fire that nearly destroyed the castle.

Witness has replaced the Feile shows of old, being our only proper "festival", but pales into insignificance in terms of interest. Slane is still the big one, in spite of massive commercialisation of the show.

There were ads in the paper advising people to bring water to avoid dehydration. Security guards took plastic bottles off people at the gate for safety reasons, but allowed them to buy plastic bottles of water inside the show!

U2 have turned their backs on the massive stage and special effects that have made their gigs so famous over the last number of years. They have decided to take down the big screens and return to a "simpler", yet still impressive stage set-up so you can concentrate on their music.

#### Improvement

This is a pity because their last four albums have been poor. They choose not to play as much of their earlier work live anymore. Their new album *All That You Can't Leave Behind* is an improvement on recent work, but not up to the impressive standards of *The Joshua Tree* or *Rattle and Hum*. The two shows were electric though. The boys still have the stage presence and energy to entertain the masses.

Maybe the slide in the standard of their work has something to do with Bono's notion of himself as a fount of political wisdom. Bono and Bob Geldof recently dropped in to visit the G8 summit in Genoa (actually U2 were playing a gig in Turin the night before). Unfortunately they met the shower on the wrong side of the fence.

I don't want to knock Bono for at least publicly highlighting the Drop the Debt campaign. Everyone should make the type of protest that they feel will be most successful, but it is his inconsistency that is irritating.

He lectured the crowd in Slane on going to the next G8 summit "armed with ideas, not petrol bombs". I'm not sure which side of the fence he was describing, but presumably ours.

His wealth-created cocoon also led him to call on the IRA, UVF, UDA etc. to disarm now. But no mention of Bush dropping Star Wars or the British government dropping some of its arms sales. Again, vague political statements that aren't too radical or offensive to the political elite.

The simple fact of the matter is you cannot get along with the Pope and world leaders when you have an anti-capitalist message. It's like trying to talk about eliminating corruption with Charlie Haughey.

U2's second gig in Slane only came into being because Bertie bent the planning laws. The teachers strike was in full swing, and students were daring to side with the teachers. So to win the "youth" back, Bertie gave them a second Slane show. Young people don't need a decent education, just another day out during the summer!

This is not to say that U2 cannot sound a little radical sometimes. Their Hannover Quay studio has been threatened by property "developers". The band remained quiet while the docklands all round them were turned into banks and luxury apartments.

There was not a peep out of them during the anti high-rise campaign but now Bono's own world is in danger from his wealthy mates and their drive for quick profits.

Welcome to the real world.

## book

# The course is set on hope

**VICTOR SERGE was an agitator, a novelist, a journalist, a poet, and a political writer of the first order.**

He never went to school and learned to read in his father's library of revolutionary books. Active from an early age in the left-wing movements of Europe, his refusal to inform on a group of comrades practising "expropriation" (robbery) led to a five-year jail term.

After being released he travelled to Spain to take part in a failed uprising. Initially influenced by anarchism he enthusiastically supported the Russian Revolution and concluded that the organisation of the Bolsheviks was necessary to win real freedom and democracy for the vast majority.

#### Experiences

These experiences led to his first three novels *Men in Prison*, *Birth of our Power* and *Conquered City*. Together these books form a unique and compelling record of some of the most calamitous years of our century.

Serge arrived in Russia in 1919, at the height of the civil war and defended the revolution with pen and machine-gun.

The superpowers of the day, Britain, the USA and their allies, made a prolonged attempt to destroy the new regime, already beset by famine and industrial collapse. They invaded Russia, inspired a ruinous civil war and imposed an economic blockade. The civil war period left a terrible mark on the revolutionary regime. Its human foundation was destroyed: the workers of 1917 perished either in battle or through famine, or they disappeared into the countryside.

Soviet democracy gave way to a fight for survival. It was a desperate situation, which dictated what Serge calls "measures of public safety, sometimes terrible ones".

Serge deplored any infringements on liberty, yet he wrote, "The Revolution has the right and the duty to defend itself against those who, even with the best intentions, try to shoot it in the back".

From 1919 onwards revolutions had spread across Europe but none had come to victory. The beleaguered Russian Revolution was undergoing a counter-revolution. Victor Serge joined with Leon Trotsky in opposition to Stalin and was expelled from the Soviet Union in 1936.



October 1917 was the key moment of Victor Serge's (inset) life. Above the Putilov factory soviet and sailors take to the streets in Petrograd (below)



The members of his family remaining in Russia all disappeared in the purges. Serge wrote two wonderful books on the Russian revolution:

*Year One of the Russian Revolution* which shows the diversity and freedom of the revolution and *Twenty Years After*, a fascinating account of the rise of Stalin.

Serge always felt that it was the responsibility of the writer to speak on behalf of all those who have no voice and his books are crammed with the authentic lives of ordinary people.

His novels are much more than fictionalised autobiography.

Much of their power lies in his ability to build the broad picture from a mosaic of small scenes, each centring on a different individual or group.

Perhaps the best example of this is his novel of the purges *The Case of Comrade Tulayev*.

Serge dedicated himself to the struggle against a system which enriches tiny numbers of

people at the expense of the vast majority.

During what Serge called the midnight of the century he transmitted a

simple message of revolutionary hope: "Nothing is ended, everything begins".

— SIMON BASKETTER

■ **Victor Serge: The course is set on Hope.** Susan Weissman. Verso. £20

## music

### Fusion of revolt

by MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN

**ANTIBALAS—literally translated as Anti-Bullets—are a diverse co-operative of radical musicians based in Brooklyn, New York.**

The late great Fela Kuti who created 70's African funk, drawing on jazz influences in New York and Latin America, inspired their music known as "afrobeat".

Fela's radical politics and electrifying music altered world music. His uncompromising stance against the Nigerian establishment landed him in jail several times.

Their latest album *Liberation Afrobeat* is a pulsating mix of African

rhythms, jazz funk and Afro-Cuban dance music combined with furious anti-capitalist lyrics.

They joined the protestors at the Republican convention in Philadelphia last year and have performed for a variety of causes including Chiapas Indians in Mexico.

Songs like N.E.S.T.A. (never ever submit to authority) and Battle of the Species have an amazing mix of Afro and Latin-jazz rhythms that are almost trance like yet reach powerful climaxes.

Lyrics in songs such as *Dirt and Blood* and *World War 4* are full of

rage at the war and destruction that capitalism and the warmongers that preside over it create.

Other tracks contain little or no lyrics but the music is refreshingly original and liberating.

There is a wealth of African funk and jazz inspired by the movements of the 70's that remains undiscovered.

Antibalas have sought to resurrect this music while drawing influences from many different countries to create a revolutionary new sound that reaches out to many who are disillusioned with the system.

Their latest CD is available from Afrobeat records.





Workers create all the wealth in capitalist society. A new society can only be constructed when they collectively seize control of that wealth and plan its production and distribution.

#### FOR REVOLUTION, NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be reformed out of existence. Parliament cannot be used to end the system.

The courts army and police are there to defend the interests of the capitalist class not to run society in a neutral fashion.

To destroy capitalism, workers need to smash the state and create a workers' state based on workers' councils.

#### FOR REAL SOCIALISM, EAST AND WEST

The SWP welcomed the break-up of the USSR and the end of the East European dictatorships. These states were not socialist but were run by a state-capitalist class.

We are against the domination of the globe by imperialist powers and we oppose their wars. We are for the right of all nations, East and West, to self-determination.

#### FOR AN END TO ALL OPPRESSION

We oppose all forms of oppression which divide and weaken the working class. We are for full social, economic and political equality for women.

We stand for: free contraception and free, legalised abortion and the right to divorce; the complete separation of church and state, an end to church control over schools and hospitals; an end to discrimination against gays and lesbians; an end to racism and anti-traveller bigotry.

We argue for working class unity in the fight against oppression.

#### FOR WORKERS' UNITY IN THE NORTH

Northern Ireland is a sectarian state, propped up by the British Army.

Catholic workers are systematically discriminated against by the state. The division between Catholic and Protestant workers weakens the whole working class.

Workers' unity can only be won and maintained in a fight to smash both the Northern and Southern states.

We stand for the immediate withdrawal of British troops. Violence will only end when workers unite in the fight for a workers' republic.

#### FOR A FIGHTING TRADE UNION MOVEMENT

Trade unions exist to defend workers' interests. But the union leaders' role is to negotiate with capitalism-not to end it.

We support the leaders when they fight but oppose them when they betray workers. We stand for independent rank and file action.

#### FOR A REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To win socialism workers need to organise in a revolutionary party. This party needs to argue against right-wing ideas and for overthrowing the system. The SWP aims to build such a party here.

## 500 TRESPASS TO SAVE OLD KINSALE HEAD

# Battle comes to the Head

**"THIS IS theft of the Old Head by a golden circle!" says Ted Tynan, spokesman for Free the Old Head of Kinsale.**

This group initiated the first of many protest picnics on July 1st this year against the opening of an exclusive golf course, Old Head Golf Links, at the Old Head of Kinsale and the subsequent disregard of an ancient public right of way.

#### Disregard

The Old Head of Kinsale, a beautiful promontory of over two hundred acres on the south-west coast of Ireland, is home to many species of birds and wildlife including fifteen species of whales in the surrounding waters.

In the past, the Old Head has been a popular location for the public, locals and tourists alike. Leisure activities included activities like bird-watching, hill-walking, rock fishing and rock climbing.

An ancient Celtic habitation site dating from 300-600 BC, a past bronze age settlement and the remains of DeCourcy's Castle, (a Ducas site) are all part of the historical past of the Old Head of Kinsale.

Old Head Golf Links, have even stated in their

own web-site... "It is a place of outstanding historical, archaeological and scientific interest. Scenically awesome and rugged, it is the only definite place directly connected by historians and academics with the Eireann Celtic tribe."

#### Moneyspinner

It seems this headland, teeming with wildlife and natural beauty with such a rich history has now become a corporate moneyspinner.

The exclusive golf course, Old Head Golf Links was opened in June 1997 by Ashbourne Holdings.

The membership fee is £50,000 with green fees of £195.00 per day. Barbed wire rests atop the old walls with "private property—keep out" signs on clear view. Members of the public are now not allowed past the guarded gates.

Ashbourne Holdings in a bid to overturn the public right of way to the Old Head took the case to the High Court after An Bord Pheanala denied their request to have public access banned.

#### Sacrificed

The High Court in March ruled in favour of Ashbourne Holdings, on the basis that golfing and walking were not compatible. The opportunity for everyone to enjoy the beau-



SOME OF the 500 people on the mass trespass on Kinsale head

ty of the Old Head, sacrificed in favour of a game of golf for a privileged few.

There is presently a Supreme Court case in progress regarding the issue.

However, hundreds of people have now decided enough is enough and are themselves asserting their ancient right of way on the Old Head.

## A mass trespass

**ACCORDING TO Ted Tynan, the first picnic on the 1st of July had about two hundred people who scaled the barbed wire covered walls and protested peacefully inside the course with a picnic.**

A few of the young, agile supporters climbed up the walls with ropes, flattened down the barbed wire and helped the hundreds of others, including children up and over the walls.

"The atmosphere was light hearted; there were colours all over the place made up of Che/Guevara banners, Scottish, Welsh, Irish, Cuban and Basque flags, among others."

The second protest picnic on the 29th of July had approximately four hundred people and on the third organised protest, on the 26th of August, it was estimated between eight hundred and a thousand people attended during the day.

In response to the second protest picnic, John O'Connor, (Club President of Golf Links),

labelled the protestors involved, 'tree-huggers'. Tynan responds: "In that case I think there are not enough tree-huggers in the country, with destruction of forestry all over the place, in the name of capitalism".

#### Adopted

In a further example of exploitation, Golf Links have adopted the ancient "Stone of Accord," as their club logo.

In times past, deals were struck by the shaking of hands through the small hole cut out in the top of this limestone monument.

*Question: Why are the public not allowed to be involved with dealings on this occasion and how can a company be permitted to trivialise a Celtic monument by rendering its' new identity as a company "logo"?*

#### Exploitation

This issue has far reaching consequences for us all.

The future of other historical sites and public services rests

on people's response to this obvious exploitation of a national treasure for the monetary benefit of a private company, with blatant disregard for the needs of the community.

It is a clear example how under capitalism corporate agendas and money take precedence over history, nature and the rights of the public.

We must utilise this opportunity to actively support the hundreds of men, women and children who have bravely raised the exposure of this issue to a national level and indeed, across the waters.

Let's ensure the next protest picnic at the Old Head of Kinsale golf course on the 30th of September, will be the largest yet.

In the words of John O'Connor on the Golf Links web-site, "It is envisaged that the golf course will provide a new challenge to the future generation of visitors to the Old Head".

We accept your challenge John.

#### WEBSITES:

<http://freetheoldhead.tripod.com>

<http://oldheadgolflinks.com/home.htm>



● PROTEST AT EUROPEAN BLOODSPORTS CONVENTION Friday 14 Sept 7pm Mansion House

● WASHINGTON SOLIDARITY ACTION - Dublin wide Globalise Resistance planning meeting. Sat 15 Sept 1:30pm, Vietnamese Centre, D1

● DUBLIN CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE BIN TAX ACTIVISTS MEETING Monday 17 Sept 7:30 Teachers Club, Parnell Sq

● STOP THE PPP/PFI GLOBAL SUMMIT planning meeting Sat 22 Sept 12:00 Vietnamese Centre



#### Globalise Resistance

**Stop the PPP/PFI Global Summit DEMONSTRATION**

Wed 10th Sept 5:30pm Burlington Hotel

● DUN LAOGHAIRE CAMPAIGN AGAINST REFUSE CHARGES CONFERENCE Sun 23 Sept 3pm - 6pm St Laurences community centre Stillorgan

● GLOBALISE RESISTANCE PUBLIC MEETING: SAVE THE BATHS - STOP THE PRIVATISATION Thurs 27 Sept 8pm Christian Inst Dun Laoghaire

● IMF/WB SOLIDARITY NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION AGAINST FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS Sat 29th Sept

● THE BIG BLOCADER: FASLANE NUCLEAR BASE, SCOTLAND 22 October

● GLOBAL DAY OF ACTION AGAINST THE WTO Nov 9th

● MARXISM 2001 CONFERENCE: FROM ANTI CAPITALISM TO REVOLUTION Nov 16, 17 & 18, Trinity College Dublin

Upcoming event?  
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PHONE REPORTS ABOUT STRIKES/LOCAL CAMPAIGNS/PROTESTS

**Aer Lingus**

# Turmoil in SIPTU in Aer Lingus

**SIPTU IN Aer Lingus is in turmoil as discontent with the union hierarchy grows.**

Two trustees of the branch, Clare Daly and Brendan Leech have been suspended in a row that is unearthing some unusual practices in the union.

Trustees, according to the union rule book, are supposed to look over a branch's accounts and ensure that everything is in order.

Their signatures are also required on cheques for expenses.

**Elected**

Clare Daly and Brendan Leech were elected at a recent annual general meeting of the SIPTU branch and hoped to do their job diligently.

However they were asked to sign blank cheques for these expenses.

They objected to this practice and asked for adequate explanations before signing cheques.

It later transpired that a high proportion of the expenses were going to the cabin crew representatives.

**Defected**

These were SIPTU loyalists who had remained with the union when the vast majority of their membership went over to IMPACT.

Representatives of this group were receiving 80 percent of expenses even though they had only a small proportion of the membership.

By contrast the much larger operative and clerical sections were only receiving 10 percent each.

Moreover the total expenses for travel subsistence amounted to a total of €36,311 last year.

Union expenses come as tax free income for its recipients and it has long been felt by rank and file activists within the union that they are used as a sort of patronage system by the union leadership to build up a powerful machine.

Leech and Daly called for an internal audit of the branch and end to the practice of signing blank cheques.

However, astoundingly, they have been suspended as trustees for simply demanding this form of transparency.

It seems that they attacked a key part of the bureaucracy's power base—and have been unceremoniously removed.

**Scrutiny**

Meanwhile trouble is also brewing in the other SIPTU branch in the airport—the Civil Aviation branch.

An election for the key position of union president is under scrutiny after an opposition candidate found ballot papers lying about the place.

He successfully took out a High Court injunction against the union to prevent the counting of the ballots

**Loctite**

# Loctite workers strike for pension rights

**WORKERS AT Loctite in Ballyfermot, Dublin who are members of SIPTU and MSF have taken industrial action over disgraceful management behaviour connected with their pension scheme.**

In 1995 they asked their company for an improved pension and a share option scheme.

**Allocation**

A year later the company was taken over by Henkel and there was an allocation of a million shares for free distribution to employees who were not union mem-

bers—in other words to the management!

In February 1999 a delayed annual pension report finally revealed a secret transfer of £4 million from the main pension scheme to a special pension scheme for management.

**Discovered**

The trustees of the scheme approved the transfer—but they subsequently became members of the special scheme.

Anger among the staff grew when it was discovered that a substantial surplus from their pension scheme was used to benefit 15 top managers.

To date the workers have been given no information on who exactly these people are or by how much they

benefit.

We are supposed to live in a free society but key items of information are routinely withheld from the majority of the population. Loctite workers too have suffered from this practice.

Last year they voted to take strike action over the issue but management came up with a compromise offer.

They would set up a Pension Review Group with an independent chair, which would report in three months.

The workers agreed to the suggestion.

**Refused**

But when the Review Group finally reported—eight months late—management refused to accept its proposals.

Workers are now looking for open, transparent information on their pension fund. They want union trustees who will report back to them.

And they have to take strike action to win this elementary demand.

**CORK ANTI RACIST GROUP**

**A NEW anti-racist campaign has been launched in Cork.**

Called "Cairde"—Irish for friend—its aims are to win the right to work for asylum seekers, an end to racist harassment by Gardaí; no to deportations and amnesty for all.

A number of asylum seekers are supporting the groups and it has also received support from left wing organisations in the city.

For more information contact William on 087 9386088.

**Globalise Resistance**

**Stop the PPP/PFI Global Summit Planning Meeting**

Sat 22nd Sept 12pm Vietnamese Centre, D1

**Dun Laoghaire Baths**

**NEARLY SIX hundred people joined a march and carnival at the People's Park in Dun Laoghaire, Dublin to re-open local sea baths to the public.**

The event was organised by the local anti-capitalist Globalise Resistance group with some help from the Dun Laoghaire Heritage Renewal Campaign.

On a lively march through Dun Laoghaire protesters enthusiastically took up slogans like "Whose Baths—Our Baths, Whose world—Our world", linking the local issue to the wider struggle against the multinationals.

Music, poetry, street theatre, face-painting and a bar-becue kept everybody fed and entertained all after-

noon. Speakers from Globalise Resistance, Labour, the Greens and the SWP all expressed their support for the campaign.

Fianna Fail Councillor Barry Andrews along with multi-millionaire developers Treasury Holdings are spearheading the local authorities attempt to privatise the baths.

**Vowed**

There are also plans to sell off the Carlisle pier to build a luxury 250 room hotel and 250 luxury apartments. Speakers vowed to oppose any such plans to further privatise the harbour.

At the carnival people put forward many ideas, ranging from a seal sanctuary to a free water fun park, as a way the baths could be used in the public interest.

For more information or to get involved in the campaign to save the baths ring Donal on 087

**SWP activist meetings - all welcome**

ATHLONE: Contact 01-872 2682 for details

BRAY: Meets every Thursday at the Mayfair Hotel at 8.30pm

BELFAST CENTRAL: Meets every Tuesday at 8.30pm in Kitchen Bar, 16 Victoria Square, near Cornmarket

BELFAST SOUTH: Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm in Queens Students Union

BELFAST QUEENS UNIVERSITY: Meets every Wednesday 1pm, Peter Froggatt Centre

CORK: Meets every Wednesday at 8.00pm in O'Donoghue's, Drawbridge St

DERRY: Meets every Wednesday at 8.00pm in Foyle Community Centre

DROGHEDA: Meets Wednesdays 8.30pm in McHugh's Pub St. Lawrences Gate

DUNDALK: Meets Wednesdays 8pm phone 01-8722682 for details

DUN LAOGHAIRE: Meets every Thursday at 8.30pm in the Christian Institute

DUBLIN ARTANE / COOLOCK: Meets every Tuesday at 8.30pm in Artane / Beaumont Recreational Centre (opp. Artane Castle)

DUBLIN BALLYFERMOTT: Meets Tues 8.30pm in Ruby Finigans Pub

DUBLIN BALLYMUN: Meets every Wednesday at 6.30pm in Balcurris Road

Phone Kevin on for details

DUBLIN BLANCHARDTOWN: Meets every Tuesday at 8.30pm in Castleknock Community Centre

DUBLIN CABRA: Meets every Thursday at 8.30pm in Aughrim St Parish Hall, 13 Prussia St

DUBLIN CENTRAL: Meets at 8.30pm every Wednesday upstairs Conways Pub Parnell Street

DUBLIN DUNDRUM: Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm in Dundrum Family Recreation Centre

DUBLIN RIALTO: Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm St. Andrews Community Centre, SCR

DUBLIN RATHMINES: Meets every Thursday at 8.30pm downstairs J O'Connell's (Pub) St. Richmond Street Dublin 2.

DUBLIN RINGSEND: Meets at 8.00pm every Tuesday in Ringsend Community Centre

DUBLIN TALLAGHT: Meets every Wednesday at 8pm in Jobstown Community Centre

ENNISKILLEN: Phone 01-872 2682 for details

GALWAY: Meets every Wednesday in Currans Hotel, Eyre Square (beside Cuba) 8.30pm

LIMERICK: Phone 01-872 2682 for details

MAYNOOTH: Meets Thursday lunchtime ring (01)8722682 for details

SLIGO: Phone 087 for details

SWARDS: Meets Tuesdays 8pm Senior Citizens Hall

TRALEE: Phone for details

TRINITY COLLEGE: Meets Thursdays 7pm see posters for details

UCD: Meets Wednesdays 1pm see posters for details

WATERFORD: Meets every Thursday at 8pm in the ATGWU Hall, Keizer St.

**Peerless Rugs**

**"WE SHOULD not have to do this. We have been sitting in here since 4th July and we have gone out of the limelight.**

"We only want a decent redundancy settlement. We are pretty vexed with Martin Buckley, the boss of Peerless Rugs," said Esther, from the Peerless Rugs occupation.

Martin Buckley took over Peerless Rugs in 1997. Four years later the company was out of business.

"We had built up a lot

of customers. Ninety Dunnes Stores, Roches, Arnott's were all taking our products. We should be back here serving those customers," said Esther.

**Transferred**

Instead production was transferred to Refond in Cork.

"We saw our own produce being made in this factory but there was no need for it," one of the workers explained.

Yet instead of negotiating with their staff the bosses of Peerless Rugs

have tried on jackboot tactics.

The electricity for the factory has been cut and so too have the phones.

The workers are only being offered the bare statutory redundancy terms. They have not even been given access to their own savings scheme that was collected in the factory.

The situation is so outrageous, that even the normally pro-employer Labour Court recommended that the workers receive three weeks pay for every year of their service.

**Building industry**

# Ballymun parents say 'No more tragedies!'

**RESIDENTS IN Dublin's Ballymun took action following the tragic death of a child last month.**

Four year old Alex Cuthbert was crushed while playing outside his home by a truck associated with the massive rebuilding works on the estate.

Press reports that he was on a building site were wrong.

He was a few yards from his home on an area that was until a few months ago a playground and is entirely unfenced-off.

His parents and their neighbours in Ceannnt and Connolly Towers organised a series of protests around Ballymun and marched to Ballymun Regeneration Ltd, the company set up by Dublin Corporation to oversee the rebuilding of Bally-

mun. There they demanded an immediate implementation of safety measures including proper fencing around all the works, a start on playgrounds in the area and the resignation of BRL's chief health and safety officer.

A local papers on the protest told *Socialist Worker*, "Safety is a scandal."

"We have been calling for months for something to be done with bad lighting, badly fenced off sites and the danger posed by construction traffic. And it takes this tragic death for the anyone to take notice!"

At a Campaign Against the Bins Tax public meeting in Ballymun a few days later, a spokesperson for the protesting residents was invited to address the meeting.

Michelle, a Ceannnt Tower resident and key activist in the safety protests said, "We pay our rent but the Corporation does not



live up to its responsibilities. Massive building firms like Carey's Construction can make millions in profits but skimp on safety."

Tony, a local building worker, commented, "I work in the industry and I can tell you that the fences around the sites across Ballymun are a scandal. I've seen kids playing on 60 foot manholes on the sites and there is no adequate security to keep them off."

As a result of the protests contractors around Ballymun were hastily upgrading their fences in the days that followed and BRL promised to make an immediate start on a playground for the Ceannnt and Connolly Towers.

Michelle commented, "Despite the promises on the playground so far no start has been made so we will need to keep up the pressure. This is an issue for all Ballymun not just us. I hope this will be taken up across Ballymun."

# Socialist Worker

(01) 8722682 <http://www.clubi.ie/swp> swp@clubi.ie

For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism

50p

*Anti capitalism*

## Thousands protest to shut down the IMF and World Bank

**MASSIVE anti-capitalist demonstrations are planned for Washington DC when the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank hold their Annual Meetings there at the end of this month.**

Police expect over 100,000 demonstrators to assemble in the city.

In an attempt to prevent students and other demonstrators from using the local university as a base, police have ordered George Washington University to shut down and send home over 5,000 students during a five-day period surrounding the anti-globalisation protests.

Finance ministers and central bankers from 25 countries, as well as ministers from the IMF and World Bank, and World Trade Organisation (WTO) — the Board of Directors of the global economy — are coming to the city.

These institutions "bail out" governments with debt and credit problems, but they only provide money to governments that agree to allow corporations free access to their countries' resources and workers.

They demand deep cuts

in health and education.

In the case of South Korea, for example, most of the money went to foreign investors to restore their "confidence."

The world's poorest countries have suffered under IMF/World Bank programmes for two decades.

skyrocketed, poverty increased and their environments have been devastated.

Forced under the terms of loans to increase exports, developing countries focus on cash crops like coffee instead of food for their own people, and allow foreign investors to build sweatshops.

### Challenge

As leading anti-capitalist organiser Kevin Danaher of Global Exchange points out: "There

are two basic world views: Their

world view is that you subordinate society and nature to the economy. And we say, subordinate the economy to society and nature.

It's understandable that bankers would have trouble with this concept."

Around the world demonstrations and protests in sympathy with those Washington DC are planned.

In Ireland Globalise Resistance has called for solidarity with the Washington protests.

Organise now to build the biggest possible movement of opposition to Global Capitalism.



The projects for which the World Bank provides these crippling loans are usually irrelevant to the needs of the mass of people. As Indian activist Arundhati Roy commented: "For over half a century we've believed that big dams would deliver the people of India from hunger and poverty. The opposite has happened."

Now their debt levels have risen, unemployment

*It's the real thing*