

Socialist Worker

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THE ANTI WAR PAPER—EVERY WEEK €1.00 / £0.70p

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Thousands die as US/UK grab Iraq



THE US and Britain's brutal army of occupation of Iraq has exposed the lies of Bush and Blair.

They claimed that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction which threatened the US and Britain.

Yet even in the desperate hours as Saddam's regime faced defeat no weapons were used and none have been found.

As John Pilger reported, the only time US/UK troops have used chemical protection suits was when they were picking over the debris caused by their own uranium tipped bombs.

Bush and Blair claimed that Saddam was planning terrorist outrages with Al Qaeda. No evidence has ever been produced in support of this lie.

And when these claims fell apart, Bush and Blair came out with the biggest lie of all. They claimed the war was to "liberate" the people of Iraq.

But the truth is easy to see. Thousands of civilians have been killed in massive explosive attacks on homes, and on fleeing men, women in children in cars or on foot.

Toddlers with torn limbs lie in makeshift morgues and crude coffins are filled with the bodies of family members whose lives were snuffed out for Bush and Blair's greed for oil and power.

The arrogant cruelty of the campaign was typified by a chance remark of a US sergeant who killed a civilian woman near an Iraqi soldier. "I'm sorry," the sergeant said. "But the chick was in the way."

Now an army of occupation presides over chaos as hospitals are completely unable to cope with the injured and dying. Simple procedures like Caesarean sections are impossible because of the lack of oxygen, so expectant mothers die.

But the big business interests behind Bush and Blair have no need to worry. As Seumus Milne reported in the *London Guardian* "Any day now, the pro-Israeli retired US general Jay Garner is due to take over the running of Iraq, with plans to replace the Iraqi dinar with the dollar, parcel out contracts to US companies and set the free market parameters for the future 'interim Iraqi administration'."

The massive anti war movement in Ireland and around the world was perfectly right to organise against this inhuman war. And it must continue to organise.

The Bush gang have every intention of taking this colonial war on to other states that have upset them. Already Syria is receiving threats.

We need to mobilise an even bigger movement of people to stop the blood lust of these liars and murderers.

CALL THIS LIBERATION?

Iraq's new private police

A US military contractor which sacked an employee for blowing the whistle on a prostitution ring has been given a multi-million contract to police post-Saddam Iraq.

DynCorp began recruiting a private police force in Iraq on behalf of the US State Department last week.

It previously had a contract with the UN in Bosnia. However, some of its personnel were implicated in a prostitution ring which included girls as young as 12. Some of them were also accused of videotaping the rape of one woman.

When Kathy Boikavac blew the whistle on this, she was sacked.

DynCorp is also being sued by Ecuadorian peasants for spraying herbicide in Colombia during the so-called war against drugs. The herbicides came across the border, killing legitimate crops and causing illness and death among children.

DynCorp are offering jobs in Iraq only to US citizens at a salary of \$80,000 a year. They do not have to speak Arabic.

Looting for free market

US antique dealers are determined to get their hands on Iraq's unique cultural treasure.

Antique dealers and arts lawyers involved with the American Council for Cultural Policy held meetings with the US Defence department to press for a free market in Iraq's arts treasures.

The secretary of the ACLU criticised Iraq's policy as too 'retentionist'.

After the last Gulf War, these culture vultures grabbed many artifacts, which are still circulating on the black market.

Dr Colton from the British Museum said that the policy of the ACLU 'is just the sort of thing which will encourage looting'.

His statement was made before the sacking of the Baghdad museum.

Sticky Advisor

SUNDAY Independent columnist, Eoghan Harris, claims he is teaching television techniques to Ahmed Chalabi, the US favourite for ruler of Iraq.

Harris took up a seat as an armchair general during the war—advising the US marines to 'take Baghdad before Baath'.

He was formerly intellectual guru of the Workers Party.

However, after the collapse of the Berlin Wall, he traded in his Socialist zeal in for free market fundamentalism.

But Chalabi should take note—Harris was also the media advisor to John Bruton, the former and now forgotten leader of Fine Gael.

UDC opposes Shannon use

TRALEE Urban District Council has passed a resolution opposing US military use of Shannon.

One Fianna Fail councillor broke ranks to vote for the resolution.

Free the Colombia 3



THE TRIAL of the Colombia 3 has resumed in Bogotá. The case against the three Irishmen who have been held in jails since August 2001 is starting to fall apart.

If there were any justice, they would be flown home immediately.

However, Niall Connolly, Martin McCauley and Jim Monaghan are pawns in a deadly game being played by right wing forces in Colombia who want to gain more financial assistance from the US.

It suits their interests to present a conspiracy between the 'global forces of terrorism' and to show links between the IRA and FARC.

However, the evidence does not add up.

Swears

Jim Monaghan was supposed to have given instructions to FARC guerrillas. However, video footage showed him giving an educational course on the date in question in Ireland.

The main state witness, John Cavides, says he met Niall Connolly

between December 23rd and January 5th in Colombia.

However, a relief worker Ross O Sullivan supplied photographic evidence to show Niall Connolly was in Cuba on those dates.

Sile Maguire, the first Secretary at the Irish Embassy in Mexico—which has responsibility for Cuba—also swears he was in Cuba on those dates.

Keith Borer, a forensic expert with over 40 years experience, has given evidence challenging the claim that the explosives used by FARC guerrilla matched those of the IRA

The corporate vultures

AFTER the 'liberation' of Iraq, private American companies are set to grab the country's wealth.

Exiled Iraqi oil experts with the US State Department said last weekend that the country should be opened to international companies as quickly as possible.

This means Exxon Mobil and Texaco could be in line for a windfall.

Contracts to run Iraq's airport administration, public health, education system, local government and to reconstruct the infrastructure were all up for bids on USAID's (the US agency) website on Friday of last week.

All eight contracts must go to US companies by law.

Scores of US and British corporate scouts have already descended on Iraq like vultures.

Records

"These are usually reserve officers who accompany and assist combat forces and identify the business opportunities for civilian contractors," says the *International Herald Tribune*.

Bechtel has already won one contract even though it has a long record of squandering US public money.

In 1985, it was awarded a major con-

Scores of US and British corporate scouts have already descended on Iraq

struction contract in Boston worth \$3.4 billion. However, it will not complete the contract until 2004—at a price of \$23 billion. Bechtel, is a big donor to the Republican Party.

So too is Kellogg, Brown and Root, a subsidiary of Halliburton which has the contract to supply US military bases around the world.

Dick Cheney, the US Vice-President, was the former boss of its parent company.

Since it got the contract in 2001, it has already made \$830 million in profits. It expects to get even more from the new army bases in Iraq.



Watch out for these tax exiles

IRELAND's wealthy elite do not like to pay tax. So many of them have designated themselves as tax exiles.

The trick is to spend fewer than 183 days in one year in Ireland—or 280 days over two consecutive years.

However, the only days that are counted are those, which you stay past midnight.

And while social welfare claimants are carefully monitored, the claims to non-residency are self-assessed.

You can just show a few airline tickets or hotel bills to 'prove' you were not in Ireland.

Socialist Worker is encouraging our readers to engage in tax-exile spotting to ensure our non-residents are complying with the law.

Here are some of the top tax exiles—which oddly enough are names familiar from recent tribunals.

Despite not being residents, they give generous donations to right wing parties.

★ **J.P. McManus:** Has a fortune of €500 million and owns some of the world's fastest racehorses.

He is an associate of Bertie Ahern but prefers to officially reside in Geneva—for tax purposes.

★ **Michael Smurfit:** Contrary to impressions he does not reside in Ireland but in the tax haven of Monte Carlo.

He owns the posh K Club and is the best-paid director of an Irish firm. In 2000, he 'earned' €6.6 million.

Smurfit is worth over €300 million but is not interested in paying Irish tax rates.

★ **Dermot Desmond:** This friend of the Haughey family is officially resident in Gibraltar—when he is not attending tribunals on corruption.

He is the state's richest business man, reputed to be worth over €1 billion.

★ **Tony O'Reilly:** owns most Irish newspapers but is officially living in the Bahamas.

He is one of the 500 richest people in the world. Strangely the Independent Group of newspapers has never properly investigated properly the scandal of tax exiles.

AHERN MAKE-UP BILL GROWS

BERTIE Ahern has spent nearly €100,000 on make-up to look good for television cameras.

Fianna Fail spin-doctors are justifying this extravagance by saying that Ahern has to appear regularly in the Dail to answer questions and has to look his best.

Meanwhile the Merchant Quay project have revealed damning figures which show how the money could be better spent.

Ireland now has 15,000 heroin users and the one of the highest rates of death from drug related diseases.

In 1990, seven people died from such illness but in 1999, it shot up to 90 people.

Despite this, there is only one full time needle exchange project.

In addition, for those who want to de-tox, there are only 200 residential beds.

Maybe Ahern's make-up bills might be used to sponsor an extra de-tox bed or two.



It's permanent war

THERE is no liberation in Iraq—only colonial occupation.

The victory of Anglo-American imperialism has brought chaos and devastation. Everywhere they went, US marines first secured the oil fields—but they turned a blind eye when hospitals were looted.

The Baghdad museum which housed items from the earliest human forms of civilisation was wrecked—but the US army did nothing. Their only interest lies in grabbing the wealth of the country.

Not surprisingly they are now turning to the officials of the old Ba'ath regime and 'tribal elders' to solve the chaos they created.

When the British empire ran India in the nineteenth century, they set up councils of tribal elders to sanction their rule.

They are doing exactly the same in the twenty first century in the city of Basra.

Already hundreds of protesters have braved the guns of the British army to demand democracy rather than feudal rule.

Like all colonisers, Britain and American will stir up ethnic tensions to consolidate their rule.

US special forces worked closely with the Kurdish Peshmerga guerrillas when they entered Kirkuk and Mosul. But journalists report that the violence in Kirkuk had a strong ethnic dimension as 'Arabs who lived in Kirkuk for decades are being seen as party to

'ethnic cleansing' previously carried out against Kurds

The anti-war movement was right all along to oppose this bloody war. It must now prepare for two central tasks:

■ We have to resist propaganda to justify the bloody war.

Bush, Blair and their supporters in the Irish government were terrified of the scale of the anti-war movement. They are using the full blast of media outlets like Sky News and other stations to fight a battle for 'hearts and minds'.

We must counteract this by organising meetings in every area on 'Iraq: Liberation or Occupation?' to go through the facts the mainstream media try to hide.

Refuse

Most of those who marched on February 15th are with us.

They hate Bush and refuse to fall for the lie that the US President is 'the leader of the free world'. But we need to shore up our support by countering the lies.

■ We also have to connect the fight against war with the general grievance of workers with this system. That starts by pushing for huge anti-war contingents on the May Day demonstrations—international labour day.

In all the major cities, anti-war activists should link up with their local trades councils and build the protests. Where the May Day rally has fallen off in smaller towns, we should try to revive it.

Our aim is to bring thousands back onto the streets against permanent war and attacks on workers at home.

The next targets

THE anti-war movement needs to hold together because the hawks in the Pentagon are already planning the next phase of their war.

The key figure in the Project for a New American Century, William Kristol, has said that 'The mission begins in Baghdad but it does not end there. We stand on the cusp of a new historical era. It is so clearly about more than Iraq.'

'It is about even more than the future of the Middle East. It is about the sort of role of the United States in the twenty first century' The PNAC is the main driving force in Bush's cabinet and was calling for war against Iraq as early as 1997.

Another of its top figures, Michael Ledeen, has said 'I think we're going to be obliged to fight a regional war, whether we want to or not'.

Top of the current list for this regional war is Syria.

Over the past week, US spokespersons have been accusing Syria of colluding with the Iraqi regime.

'The Syrians have been shipping killers into Iraq to

try and kill Americans' said Paul Wolfowitz, the Deputy Defence Secretary.

The Pentagon plans to cut the Iraqi pipe line to Syria and to pressurise the regime to break its link with the Lebanese guerrilla group Hizbollah.

The Hizbollah was the only group ever to inflict a defeat on Israel, managing to drive them out of South Lebanon three years ago.

According to Ed Vulliamy in the Observer, briefings at the Pentagon 'now mention Hamas and Shia Hizbollah militia far more than they do Al Qaeda'

Links

There are close links between the hawks of the Bush regime and the Sharon government in Israel.

Some of its leading hawks such as Douglas Feith wrote a position paper for the Likud party arguing that the key to Israel's security was taking control of Iraq.

They want an attack on Syria to break down all resistance to the Israeli regime and to assert complete control over the Middle East.

We have to stay organised, therefore, to stop the plans of US imperialism for endless warfare.



On the march

THE Irish Anti-War Movement continues to show its ability to mobilise.

On Monday 7th April, 3,000 protesters descended on Hillsborough after the surprise announcement of a visit by George Bush.

The picture on the left shows some of the crowd.

The main body of the march swept past the original platform set up by ICTU leader because it was too far away from police lines.

Afterwards it returned and greeted Sinn Fein representative Mitchell McLoughlin with loud heckles, calling on him not to meet Bush. SWP's Eamonn McCann also received loud cheers for calling for a boycott of Bush.

Tuesday 8th April: Protesters who blocked a streets in Belfast's city centre were attacked by the RUC riot police. Snatch squads grabbed one protester, Caoimhe Butterly, by the hair. One sixteen year old sustained injuries to his wrist is lodging a complaint.

Saturday 12th: 800 protesters descended on Shannon airport from all parts of the country, despite talk of the war being over. Hundreds of police with dogs and some in riot gear lined the way. 250 people also marched in Belfast.

Pro-Consuls of the Empire

A SMALL number of fanatical right wingers will run Iraq as an American colony.

General Jay Garner: Garner is head of the Iraq Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance (ORHA).

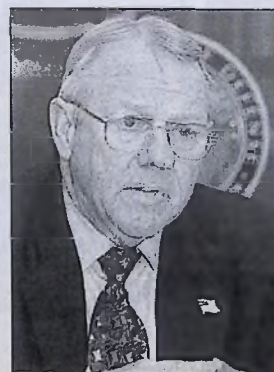
He is "on leave" from the L3 Communication firm which recently won a \$1.3 billion contract to provide "logistical projects" to US special forces.

Garner was the president of SY Technology which makes systems for missiles. It sold Patriot missiles to Israel. His team will take over all 23 of Iraq's government ministries. They are deciding how best to scrap the Iraqi currency and replace it, at least temporarily, with the US dollar.

James Woolsey: Bush wants to hand the former CIA director a senior role. Woolsey wanted a war on Iraq much sooner.

He is on the advisory board of the pro-Israel Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs. Its mandate is to support "the important role that Israel can and does play in bolstering democratic interests in the Middle East".

Woolsey described war on Iraq



■ General Jay Garner

as the beginning of the "Fourth World War".

"This will last considerably longer than either World Wars One or Two did for us," he said.

"As we move towards a new Middle East we will make a lot of people very nervous. Our response should be, 'Good! We want you nervous. We want you to realise now, for the fourth time in 100 years, this country and its allies are on the march!'"

Michael Mobbs: Mobbs will take charge of 11 of the Iraqi ministries.

He is a Pentagon lawyer best known for wanting to have US citizens imprisoned indefinitely without charge as part of the "war on terror".

Mobbs was an arms negotiator during Ronald Reagan's government in the 1980s.

He became known for his hawkish views against the Soviet Union. He was close to Richard Perle, one of the key architects behind the war.

Zalmay Khalilzad: Khalilzad is the "governor in waiting's" special envoy to the Iraqi opposition. He is a founding member of the Project for the New American Century.

Khalilzad is a former adviser to the US oil company Unocal. Bush appointed him to the special envoy to Afghanistan after the US war in 2001.

General Buck Walters: About three dozen retired officers, bureaucrats and technical experts headed by Buck Walters set up the first Iraqi field office of the Pentagon's Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance (ORHA) in Umm Qasr, which will fund the "reconstruction".



■ General Buck Walters

Gen. Walters, who retired from the Army in 1994 after 32 years, likes to compare ORHA's senior leadership to the geriatric heroes from a 2000 comedy film starring Clint Eastwood, Tommy Lee Jones, James Garner and Donald Sutherland "We're the Defence Department's version of 'Space Cowboys,'" he told the Washington Post.

One thing that we can agree on: Walters and his cronies are cowboys.

The Eamonn McCann column

Are the guns to be really banjaxed?

RICHARD Haass left no doubt where he stood. It was the IRA which had stalled the peace process.

Unless they moved quickly to give up their guns, Republicans would shoulder the blame for any breakdown.

This represented a departure from the usual US line, which has been careful to distribute blame evenly between Republicans and Unionists—or even indicate that it's the obduracy of Trimble which presents the main problem.

It isn't only Haass who's changed tack. The SDLP has been more pointed than previously in saying that it's Republicans who are, in Alex Atwood's words, "in default of their responsibilities."

And while Bertie Ahern may not have bashed Gerry Adams with the gusto pro-Unionist commentators would have liked, he has been shoulder-to-shoulder with Tony Blair in insisting that the IRA must deliver "certainty and clarity" about its intention to go out of business. Otherwise, no deal.

Irony

The irony is that Republican leaders are perfectly willing to deliver what's being asked of them.

Only sectarian conspiracy theorists within Unionism and ideologues at the outer edge of rationality—Cruise O'Brien, Eoghan Harris etc.—believe that Adams, Martin McGuinness etc. have been engaged in a decade-long strategy of planning for war while pretending peacefully to be seeking a settlement.

Republican leaders have long known they would arrive at this juncture.

You cannot be in government and retain an army based on a refusal to acknowledge the legitimacy of the same government. Albert Reynolds was saying the same thing when he quoted Martin McGuinness from way back in 1993: "We know the guns will have to be banjaxed."

But if Republican leaders knew the evil day would dawn, they didn't spell it out clearly to their supporters.

Mitchel McLaughlin has talked of "negotiating with our base." Other SF leaders have referred to "managing our base."

These formulations acknowledge that the SF leadership sees its role as not so much leading their movement towards commonly understood goals as arranging a splitting of the difference between these goals and what's achievable in negotiation.

But the acknowledgement has always been implicit.

The contradiction has never been unambiguously set out.

Thus, since the ceasefire in August 1994, rank and file Republicans have rejected suggestions that the IRA was on the road to disbandment, hinting instead that, "There's things happening we can't mention..."

The unspoken suggestion has been that Republicans hadn't given anything away at all but had rather pulled the wool over the eyes of the Yanks, the Brits and the Dublin Government.

It's hard to know to what extent grass-roots members of SF and the IRA have genuinely believed this.

What's clear now is that the fudging

which facilitated the double-think is finished.

The governments have decided it's time's to put up or shut up.

Whether the Provos can manoeuvre their way out of this impasse remains to be seen.

The important point is that there's been another approach available all along.

This would involve public rejection of the hypocrisy of Blair, Haass etc. demanding IRA disbandment even as they visit massive violence on Iraq and threaten the same on anyone else who steps out of line.

The "guns and government" issue could be resolved by staying out of coalition with right-wing parties like the Ulster Unionists and instead building opposition inside and outside the Assembly to cut-backs, privatisation schemes, failure to provide abortion facilities etc.

A stance of no coalition with Fianna Fail would follow logically.

Strategy

This is to say that the alternative is mobilisation along class lines North and South—a strategy which logically would also involve commitment to helping working class communities defend themselves if necessary against sectarian or State assault.

The SF leadership is trying to manage a difficult and, as it turns out, poorly-prepared transition from

unconstitutional to constitutional Nationalism, whereas the real alternative is the socialist road mapped out over the years in the pages of this paper.

The media is mounting a propaganda barrage to justify the war. But here Socialist Worker tackles the questions which anti-war activists have been asked.

The Iraqi people were jubilant about the overthrow of Saddam Hussein. They pulled his statue just like the people of Eastern Europe did in 1989. Wasn't the US right after all?

Few people will shed any tears for Saddam Hussein. He was a brutal tyrant who was backed by the US for most of his rule.

His contacts with the CIA date from 1959 when he was involved in a coup against the nationalist leader, Karim Qasim.

After the coup, the CIA handed over the names of up to 4,000 communists who were butchered by gangs presided over by Saddam Hussein.

The US also encouraged Hussein to attack Iran in 1979 and backed him up with weapons and loans.

At that time, the great enemy of Western civilisation was supposed to be the new Islamic fundamentalist government of Ayatollah Khomeini.

Saddam Hussein's government collapsed because it was rotten to the core. His main base was the new rich of Iraq who gained from smuggling and the patronage of the Ba'ath party.

This class was not capable of continuing resistance to US imperialism.

The scenes in Baghdad were carefully crafted by the propaganda division of the US army.

The numbers involved were relatively small—and the comparisons with 1989 were deliberately cultivated.

But the people of Eastern Europe were not bombed by US warplanes before their 'liberation'.

And they did not engage in mass looting because they had some hope that they could control their own future.

Many of the Iraqi people hate Saddam—but they have little time for the US army.

Even Bert Herman, the pro-war correspondent of Associated Press, for example headlined his article 'Iraqis happy to see Saddam go, now waiting for Americans to leave'.

It is not unusual for desperate people to initially welcome colonial armies—and then turn on them shortly afterwards.

In Derry in 1969 women offered cups of tea to British soldiers but months later they gave mass support to the Provisional IRA.

In 1982, Shi'ite Muslims showered the Israeli army with rice when they entered Lebanon—eighteen years later they drove them out. Any honeymoon with the US army will be very brief.

The US army is imbued with a racist sentiment towards the Arab population. They regard everyone as a potential 'suicide' bomber.

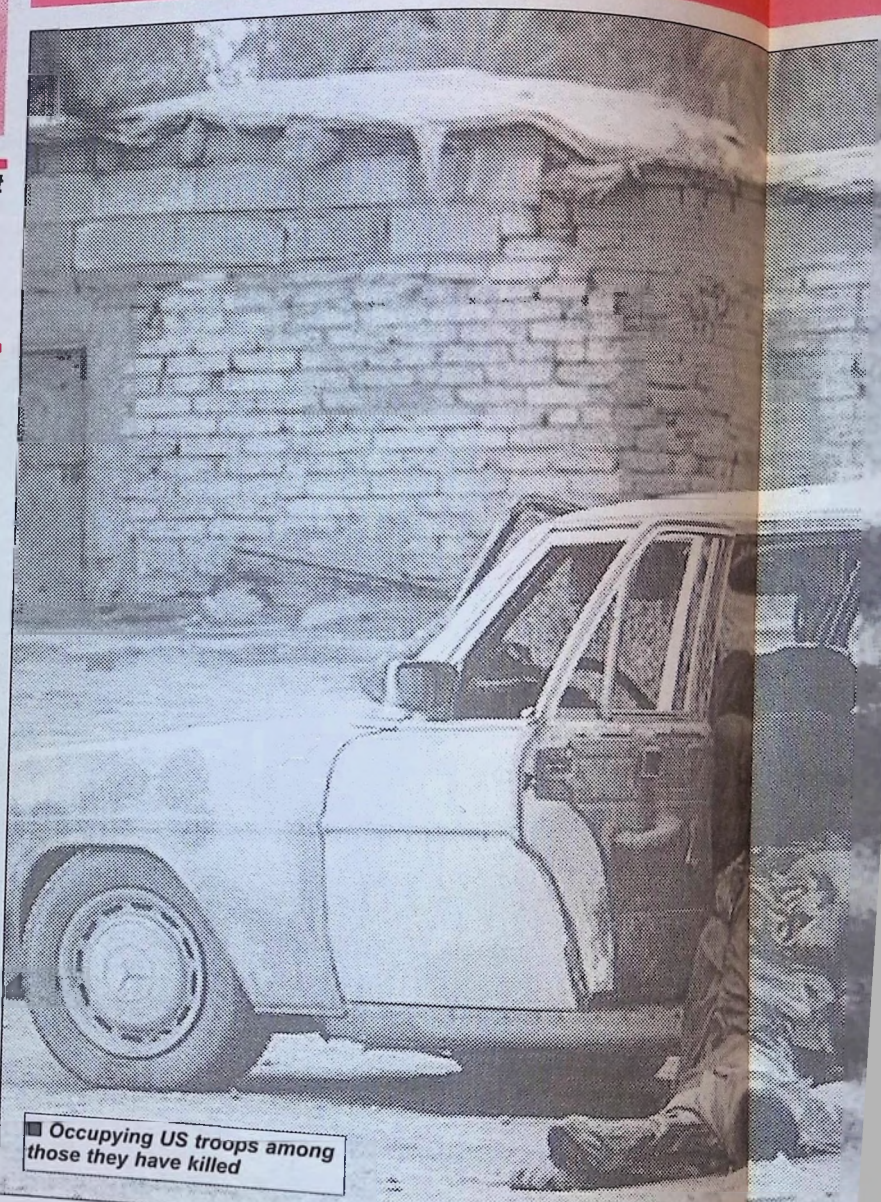
The rank and file soldiers sense that their generals are only there to supervise the robbery of the oil.

But at least the US got rid of a tyrant. Doesn't that justify the war?

Remember when the initial justification for this war was to force Iraq to give up its Weapons of Mass Destruction.

Documents were supposed to have

US/UK TROOPS IN IRAQ OCCUPY NOT LIB



Occupying US troops among those they have killed

been discovered which 'proved' that Iraq was building nuclear weapons. They later turned out to be a forgery.

In the three weeks of war, no chemical or biological weapon was fired at US troops. If Saddam had these weapons why didn't he fire them when he was desperate? It is obvious now that it was all a propaganda hoax.

If the justification for killing thousands of the US continue to support tyrants like Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan whose regime imprisons and tortures its opponents.

The Iraqi people are not getting 'freedom' but military occupation and corporate dictatorship.

Their country is now being run by General Tommy Franks and a former US general, Jay Garner.

Garner ran a firm, SY Technologies which made a fortune from the Stars War programme.

He has said that 'A strong Israel is an asset that American military planners and political leaders can rely on'.

If Iraq has just tasted freedom, then why is an Arab country being run by the former general who boasts openly of his support for Israel?

The situation is even worse than under

Saddam Hussein. The new US rulers care little for Iraq or its people.

They have created chaos on a grand scale. They turn a blind eye mass looting of hospitals and public buildings.

Their soldiers operate a shoot to kill policy against any civilian who comes too close to their tanks. They justify this by openly proclaiming that American lives are more important and so they cannot take any risks.

Instead of freedom, the country has been re-colonised.

But these are just interim measures. The neo-conservatives in the US administration are promising a bold move towards democracy. They say that Iraq will be turned into the only democratic country in the Arab world.

The reason for the lack of democracy in the Arab world is that pro-US regimes are in charge.

Anti-war demonstrations were banned in Egypt and Jordan.

The Jordanian regime, for example,

allowed US even a girl have laste Dictato when a co The US at some Pinochet's soon hanc tatives. He The US desire to how to do Some (run' appr direct role on the ne Others use Iraq e Middle E democrat Wolfov Party in Is cy' the sa to draw e bouring An But pr are not a and the democrat in a s the US

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allowed US troops to use its soil. If there was even a glimmer of democracy, it would not have lasted in office.
Dictators and monarchs are necessary when a country is run as a neo-colony.
The US has often promised democracy—at some time in the future. It backed Pinochet's coup in Chile, claiming he would soon hand power over to elected representatives. He hung on for over two decades.
The US administration are united in their desire to dominate Iraq—but divided over how to do it.
Some of the 'hawk's argue for a 'hit and run' approach where the US has less of a direct role in running the country and moves on the next target of its 'permanent war'.
Others around Paul Wolfowitz want to use Iraq as an experiment to re-shape the Middle East. This faction talks about 'democracy' the loudest.
Wolfowitz has close links with the Likud Party in Israel. He uses the word 'democracy' the same way the Israeli regime uses it to draw a supposed contrast with neighbouring Arab regimes.
But parties which support the intifada are not allowed stand for Israeli elections and the Palestinian people are denied democratic rights.
In a similar fashion, there is no way that the US will grant democratic rights to

Islamic groups—or parties that want to keep the oil industry nationalised or throw out US soldiers.
You say that the US is a colonial power. But what are its aims in Iraq? And won't they lose more money running Iraq than they will make out of it?
US imperialism wants to extract many direct gains from Iraq. US multi-nationals want to control the oil after it has been privatised.
This is why US spokespeople often couple references to 'free elections' with 'free market forces' and an end to 'oil nationalism'.
They want to increase the flow Iraqi oil to the world market to help reduce oil prices and break the power of OPEC. The US is more dependent on imported oil than any other industrialised country, apart from Japan.
They want to install a pro-Israeli government to isolate and demoralise the Palestinian people.
And they want to use Iraq as a pawn in their new economic war with the rival impe-

rialist powers of 'old Europe'.
So France and Germany—and Russia if it does not come onside—will be cut out of the re-construction contracts. More crucially, discussions about changing the currency that oil is denominated in from dollars to euros will come to an abrupt end.
The Iraqi people will be forced to pay the cost of the occupation. Blair says that the benefits of the oil industry will flow back to the people of Iraq—but only after British and US companies have taken the lions share of the profits.
Where does the war on terrorism go from here?
The war of against terrorism, of course, never ends.
Even as the Iraq war was in progress, over 1,000 US troops were waging war in Afghanistan, slaughtering scores of civilians.
The next target could be Syria. Already Rumsfeld and Wolfowitz have accused it of 'hostile acts' against the US. After that it could be Iran, North Korea, Libya or Cuba.
The only thing that can stop them now is that other main superpower—the global movement of people power.

AHMED CHALABI

Texaco's man in Baghdad

AHMED CHALABI, the leader of the Iraqi National Congress (INC), is set to be the most prominent Iraqi in the post war set up.

The gang around Rumsfeld and the Pentagon are keen to proceed with a plan to set up a government headed by the US military with pliable Iraqi "consultants" in ministries.
Colin Powell, the so called 'dove' of the Bush administration has already said that the US and Britain 'are going to have a leading role for some time as we shape this process'.

He added that the suggestion that the US should 'step aside and the UN Security Council is going to become responsible for everything is incorrect'.

Chalabi is being groomed for the top job. US deputy secretary of defence, Paul Wolfowitz, one of Mr Chalabi's staunchest supporters has already insisted he be offered a front line post in the finance ministry.
The US has brought Chalabi into Nasiriyah and helped him recruit a few hundred guards for his new militia.

Born in 1945, Chalabi comes from a fabulously wealthy family with close ties to the Hashemite monarchy that was installed in Iraq after World War I by the British.

Chalabi's grandfather served in nine various Iraqi cabinet positions, his father was a cabinet officer and president of the figurehead Iraqi senate, and his mother ran political salons that catered to Iraq's elite.

When King Faisal II was overthrown in 1958 by a nationalist revolution, the Chalabi family beat a hasty retreat and left Iraq.

Ahmed Chalabi was then a teenager.
Until his return last week he had not lived in the country.

Unknown

He and his INC is practically unknown to ordinary Iraqis have no basis of support in the country.

US insiders have described the INC as corrupt "rolex revolutionaries". Scandal surrounds the business dealings of the INC leaders.

Chalabi headed the Petra Bank in Jordan. Huge sums of money were siphoned out of the bank and in 1989 it collapsed.

Chalabi escaped in the boot of a car and a Jordanian court convicted him in his absence of embezzlement and sentenced him to 22 years in prison.

He still is subject to arrest in Jordan.

The CIA, through the PR company Rendon Group, created the Iraqi National Congress.

It gave it at least \$23 million between 1992 and 1995 in a failed attempt to overthrow Saddam Hussein.

Later the CIA became disenchanted with corruption of the INC.
Nonetheless, the U.S. Congress



■ Chalabi "American companies will have a big shot at Iraqi oil."

voted to pledge \$97 million through the "Iraq Liberation Act" to back the INC after Chalabi's attracted backers in the Bush administration, notably at the Pentagon, and powerful U.S. oil lobby.

Powerful backers of the INC include Paul Wolfowitz, James Woolsey, who was the director of the CIA part of the time it was created the INC and is now a key figure in the Bush government.

Another supporter is General Wayne Downing, who served on the Bush administration National Security Council.

Last October, Chalabi had a series of meetings with three major U.S. oil firms in Washington.

Stake

"We don't have a stake in Iraq now," one oil industry executive complained.

"The Russians, the French and the Chinese already have existing relations with Iraq. And the question is: How much of that will be sacrificed by the people who succeed Saddam?"

Chalabi told *The Washington Post* that the INC intends to reward American friends. "American companies will have a big shot at Iraqi oil," he proclaimed.

Last year *American Prospect* magazine commented: "Chalabi is the front man for the latest incarnation of a long time neo-conservative strategy to redraw the map of the rich Middle East, put American troops — and American oil companies — in full control of the Persian Gulf's reserves and use the Gulf as a fulcrum for enhancing America's global strategic hegemony."

Chalabi and his US backers have talked about dismantling Saudi Arabia, seizing its oil and destroying the OPEC coalition of oil producing countries.

He also has close links with powerful pro-Israeli groups in the US.

A central concern of the Bush gang is that any new government in Iraq would move to recognise Israel and further isolate the Palestinians.

—KEVIN WINGFIELD

ROSA LUXEMBURG:

Answering war with revolution



By **Conor Kostick**

One of the greatest ever opponents of militarism and war was the German revolutionary socialist Rosa Luxemburg.

Rosa Luxemburg was born in 1871 in the small Polish town of Zamosc. At the age of 16 she joined *Proletariat*, a revolutionary socialist party. Police pressure eventually led Luxemburg to travel through Europe, in order to help her party from abroad.

She very quickly became known throughout the socialist movement for her fervent writings and speeches and for the revolutionary spirit of the newspapers she edited.

Rosa Luxemburg was particularly prominent in campaigning for women's equality and against militarism.

The German Social Democratic Party was the largest in Europe and was seen as the beacon for socialists at the turn of the century.

However Luxemburg was disillusioned to find a conservative and bureaucratic mentality amongst its senior members.

Her pamphlet "Reform or Revolution" took up the argument against those willing to settle simply for parliamentary representation for Labour. It is very fresh reading today and the old men of the SPD hated her for it.

In 1905 a revolution accompanied by enormous strikes broke out in Russia and Poland.

Rosa Luxemburg raced to join events and produce a paper that could give voice to the risen working class.

The only way she could get into Poland was to smuggle herself into a train bringing counter-revolutionary troops to the country.

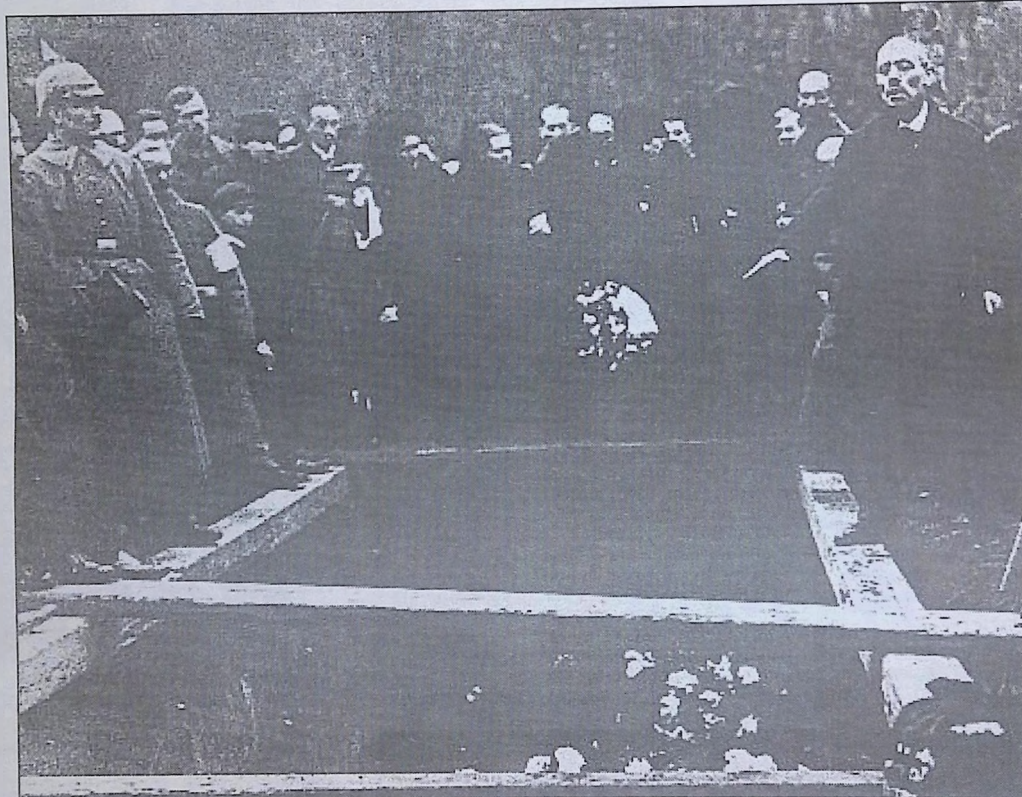
On her return after the defeat of the revolution she produced another pamphlet that makes for wonderful reading "The Mass Strike".

She then went on a speaking tour to draw the lessons for future revolutions, this tour made her famous among working class organisations, and hated by the German authorities.

Shortly before the Great War Rosa Luxemburg was arrested for saying to German soldiers: "If they expect us to murder our French or other foreign brothers, then let us tell them 'No. Under no circumstances'".

From jail she was shocked when the SPD, with the exception of Karl Liebknecht, supported the War, and it was around her clandestine writings that the anti-war socialists began to rally.

In this moment of great despair, Rosa Luxemburg also showed depth of



■ Karl Liebknecht gives the funeral oration at the the grave of fallen Spartacists, a few days later both Luxemburg and Liebknecht were murdered

her political commitment.

The wartime national fervour was enormous in every country, and it shattered the international socialist movement.

Up until 1914 the Second International had seemed an ideal body through which the socialists of the world could express solidarity with one another.

Supporters of the Second International included revolutionaries deeply committed to protest against war, people like James Connolly in Ireland and Vladimir Lenin in Russia.

They accepted at face value the pre-war resolutions that committed the organisation to anti-war strikes should hostilities break out. But the revolutionaries were taken by surprise to find that socialists of a different outlook had gradually come to dominate the Second International.

The reformist tradition in the labour movement was based on powerful trade union bureaucracies that had grown up since the turn of the century. These union leaders and their political representatives did not want to risk their assets in a revolutionary

struggle against war.

Moreover they succumbed to the massive pressure of public opinion. With the start of war the Second International shattered as the British Labour Party supported Britain in the war, the German SPD supported Germany, and so forth, barring a small number of individuals and organisations.

Rosa Luxemburg quickly recovered from her demoralisation at the enormous betrayal of the socialist leaders. She wrote, under the name of Junius, the key anti-war pamphlet that began to rally German opposition to the war.

It was smuggled out of prison and published in Switzerland in 1916, from where it was secretly distributed in Germany. When the anti-war socialists eventually organised themselves into the Spartacus League they adopted the pamphlet as their statement of policy.

The pamphlet struck out powerfully against big business for precipitating the slaughter, and for the immense profits they made while millions went hungry. It also exposed the deep hypocrisy of the language with which the SPD justified their betrayal of internationalism.

Just as today Blair talks of human

rights and weapons of mass destruction to excuse his imperialist role, so then the SPD leaders claimed to be defending the people's right to existence against Russian despotism.

Rosa Luxemburg had earlier in her career written an important book on imperialism.

She now drew on this analysis to show the real cause of the Great War had economic roots in the rivalry of the great powers for markets and resources in the rest of the world.

The crucial argument at the time was a fear of invasion by foreign forces. Many opponents of war in general nevertheless felt war was justified to protect the nation under threat.

Rosa Luxemburg grasped the nettle in a remarkably bold way. She pointed out that the ruling classes were being hypocritical in making this argument.

They had previously invited foreign powers, especially Russia, to enter Germany to help resist revolutionary movements.

Equally, the best defence against foreign rule was to increase the class struggle to make the country

ungovernable by a foreign power, the classic example being the great French Revolution of 1793 which repeatedly rose up to oust coalitions of invading armies.

Her conclusion was that it was necessary to support the exploited in their struggles, even if this was to lead to a military defeat for Germany.

This brave stand against the tide of nationalism was completely justified by events. At the start of the war, Rosa Luxemburg was isolated due to the strength of chauvinism. But this soon changed. In 1916, revolutionary socialists organised a demonstration of several thousand in Berlin. When Karl Liebknecht was arrested, 55,000 workers struck in solidarity.

Eventually on November 5th 1918 sailors from Kiel mutinied rather than be sent on a do or die attack against the British navy. To survive execution by court martial they had to spread the mutiny and found a ready response in the German working class.

It was this revolution which ended the Great War. The day the Kaiser fell thousands of workers in Berlin called for Rosa's comrade, Karl Liebknecht who climbed up to the balcony from which the monarch had previously addressed patriotic crowds to shout:

"The day of Liberty has dawned. I proclaim the free socialist republic of all Germans. We extend our hand to them and ask them to complete the world revolution. Those of you who want the world revolution raise your hands."

Thousands of hands rose up. Tragically for Luxemburg and Liebknecht, and indeed the fate of socialism across the world, it was one thing to call for a socialist republic, but another to achieve it.

The leaders of the SPD veered sharply to the left to keep in touch with the radicalism of the population, but at the same time they devoted their vast resources to attempting to halt the revolution.

They declared a 'revolutionary government' but in fact staffed it with conservative members of the SPD. Karl Liebknecht was offered a place in the government but refused.

The new government feared that revolutionaries would manage to rally the workers to a complete take-over of society. So secretly the SPD formed an alliance with the military to decapitate the revolutionary left before they gained too great an influence.

On 9th November the 'revolutionary government' provoked a mass protest by sacking a radical, Eichorn, from his newly gained position of Berlin police chief. 200,000 workers responded to this attack but were dispersed as lack of organisation introduced confusion as to whether they were trying to overthrow the government or not.

Rosa Luxemburg believed that the moment was premature for workers to conduct a Bolshevik style revolution. But her revolutionary organisation was still too small to shape such massive events.

Luxemburg and Liebknecht were accused of having attempted a coup, and the semi-fascist volunteers held in readiness near Berlin were unleashed upon the city.

During their vicious pogrom against the left these squads found the two great revolutionaries—who had refused to go into hiding—and murdered them without trial.

The SPD had managed to achieve a deed that the Prussian State never could. They silenced Europe's greatest anti-war voice.

On 15 January 1919, "the finest brain amongst the scientific successors to Marx and Engels" was smashed to pieces with the butt of a soldier's rifle.

The House of Bernarda Alba

THE House of Bernarda Alba by Federico Garcia Lorca has just opened at the Abbey.

It is a new translation by Sebastian Barry and although the set and costumes are Spanish and the characters complain of the heat, they all speak with Irish accents.

The play is about the lives of women and the similarities with the oppression which was so vividly depicted in the recent film 'The Magdalene Sisters' are marked.

Lorca is famous for being a poet, being assassinated by Fascists in Granada for being gay.

He was born in 1898 in a strongly Republican family and was deeply committed to the new democracy in Spain.

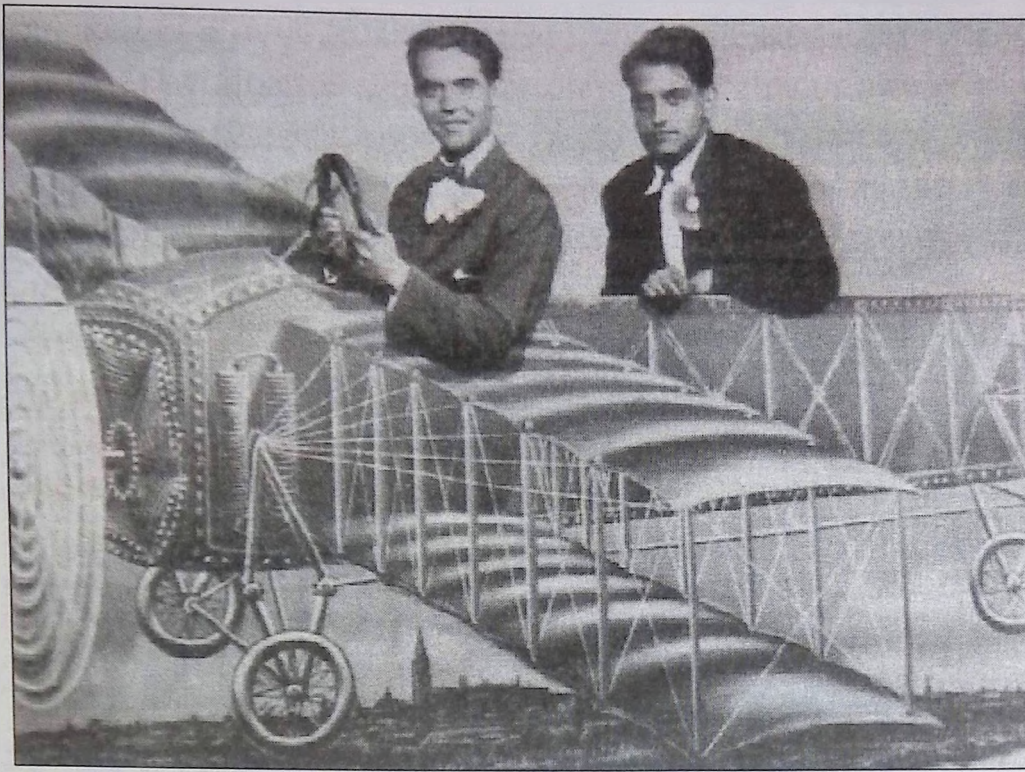
One character in this play longs for the doors of the house to be flung open to the world.

The work describes unbearable and deforming oppression from the rigid Catholic society.

Although chilling, the message is clear; no compromise is possible.

The society must be destroyed or it will destroy

The play was finished in the same year he was murdered.



■ Lorca and his good friend, film director Luis Buñuel

Che Club: World music every Friday

THE Che Club, world music club, is now running every Friday (except bank holidays) in the Liberty Hall Centre from 10pm-1am. The club has been set up by Globalise Resistance

In conjunction with City Bridges and SIPTU's Equality Unit with a view to promoting inter-cultural understanding and appreciation, and generally answering corporate glob-

alisation with cultural globalisation. The Liberty Hall Centre has traditionally been a people's centre since Jim Larkin's time, and, since its refurbishment last

October, is an ideal spot for a music club. The 25th April will be anti-war night—Buskers Against Bush, various artists, proceeds to the Anti-War movement.

comment

Cashing in on protest

CANNY corporations see the anti-war and anti-capitalist movements as new marketing tools to get to young people.

How they connect into these movements takes many different forms.

Corporations like Nike with its "Just do it" theme or FCUK with its anti-establishment stance are playing on relatively safe ground.

Meanwhile Mecca Cola ("Don't drink stupid. Drink with conviction!") is trying to take a small bite out of Coca-Cola and Pepsi's markets by plugging itself as an ethical alternative to these global giants.

Other companies are trying to tap into the anti-war market. Levi's Europe has just produced a T-shirt with the word "Peace" emblazoned on it.

A French shoe company is promoting an Arabic-style shoe decorated with the Stars and Stripes alongside the word "Peace". A Spanish trainer company is using peace symbols to advertise its shoes.

Advertising agencies are identifying a so called new trend among young people called "inner directedness".

This gobbledegook means that a growing number of people are rejecting the latest fashions and gadgets in favour of products with "ethical" and "moral" themes.

One sign of the trend is the decline in profits at McDonalds for the first time in its history.

The system always tries to re-cuperate every protest movement, it co-opts some its leaders and turn its symbols into commodities.

Opposition is supposed to be 'a lifestyle choice'—a matter to choosing different commodities or voting for different brands of conventional politics.

Boycott campaigns against companies like Esso or McDonalds are positive.

They help to spread the ideas of the movement and hit a few capitalists where it hurts.

But let's also remember we are not just consumers. And behind many an 'ethical' capitalist are workers on sweatshop wages and management harassment.

And the best way to organise is as workers and fighters.

—MARTIN SMITH

Marxist Forums

Ideas discussed in informal settings



Work:

Martin Luther King and the politics of civil disobedience
Thurs 24 April Loughlin-Community Centre

ermot:

Freedom for Kurdistan 8pm
24 April Ruby Finnegins

Winn:

and the Russian Revolution
30pm Thursday April 24th
Centre

South:

07900353816 for more
on SWP activities in the
South area.

Ormeau Rd:

07719632264 for more
on SWP activities in the
Ormeau area.

West:

0797 463 2485 for more
on SWP activities in the
West area.

without war and

the future socialist
8pm Thurs 24 April The
Viel Bray

Winn:

without war and pover-
tury socialist society
8.28 April The Oakfield
ote:

Cork:

From Saigon to Baghdad: Impe-
rialism and War Saturday 26th
April 3pm An Spailpin Fanach

Crumlin:

Can Kurdistan be free? 8pm Wed
23 April phone 0876988540

Derry Central:

Contact 0777 1963 2264 for more
details on SWP activities in the
Derry area.

Drogheda:

Contact 087-9827413 for more
details on SWP activities in the
Drogheda area

Dublin North City:

Iraq—From Invasion to Occupa-
tion Wednesday 23rd April 8pm
The Snug, Dorset Street Speak-
er: Seamus Sweeney

Dublin South City:

A world without war and
hunger—the future socialist
society 7pm Wed 30 April The
Beanery Cafe, Burgh Quay.

Dundalk:

4pm every Saturday Spirit Store.

Dundrum:

A world without war and
hunger—the future socialist
society 8pm Mon 28 April Dun-
drum Family Recreation Centre

Dun Laoghaire:

A world without war or hunger—

the future socialist society 8pm
Wed 23 April Farrells Pub,
Marne Rd

Fairview-Artane:

The Media, Propaganda and War
Tuesday 22nd April 8pm Smyths
Pub, Fairview Speaker: Joe Car-
olan

Galway:

Martin Luther King and the Pol-
itics of Civil Disobedience
Wednesday 23rd April 8pm Javass
Coffee House, Abbeygate St

Harolds X:

A world without war and
hunger—the future socialist
society 8pm Tue 22 April Rosie
O'Grady's Pub

Liberties:

A world without war and
hunger—the future socialist
society 8pm Wed 23 April
phone 0879584221

Rathmines:

A world without war and
hunger—the future socialist

society 8pm Wed 23 April
Grace's Pub, Rathmines

Rialto:

Freedom for Kurdistan 8.30pm
Wed 23 April St Andrews
resource centre

Stoneybatter/Cabra:

A World without Hunger and
War, Thursday 17th April 8pm
Aughrim Street Parish Centre,

Manor Street Speaker: Vivienne
Thomet

Tallaght:

Freedom for Kurdistan 8pm Wed
23 April Tallaght Welfare Society

Tralee:

A World Without Hunger and
War - A Future Socialist Society
Tuesday 22nd April 8pm Cumann
Iosaif Community Centre

Waterford:

How we win better cancer care
and a decent health service
Thurs 24th April, 8pm Olde

Rogue, Michael Street

■ For details of other Marxist
Forums contact (01) 872 2682

Iraq—Liberation or US occupation

PUBLIC TALK

Speakers: Michael Birmingham—Eye witness
from Iraq & Campaign to End Iraq Sanctions
Richard Boyd Barrett—Chair: Irish Anti War
Movement

Wednesday 23rd April 8pm Rosie O'Grady's,
Harold's Cross Road
For info contact Aoife on 087 7955013

SWP PUBLIC MEETING:

Iraq: Occupation not Liberation

Olde Rogue, Michael Street, Waterford
Thursday 17th April, 8.00p.m.
Speaker: Richard Boyd Barrett (SWP & National Chair
Irish Anti-War Movement)



Capitalism is wrecking the lives
of millions and endangering the
planet. A new society can only
be constructed when the work-
ers take control of the wealth and
plan its production and distri-
bution for human need and not
profit.

REVOLUTION

The present system cannot be
patched up or reformed. The
courts, the army and police
exist to defend the interests of
the wealthy. To destroy capital-
ism, we need to remove the pre-
sent state structures and create
a workers' state based much
greater political and economic
democracy.

**AGAINST IMPERIALISM AND
WAR**

War is a constant feature of
capitalism today as the imperia-
list powers try to dominate the
earth. Bush's "War on Terror-
ism" is a crude device to attack

any country which threatens US
military, strategic or economic
dominance.
**END RACISM AND OPPRES-
SION**

We oppose all forms of oppres-
sion and racism. This divides
and weakens the working class.
We are for full social, economic
and political equality for
women. We oppose immigration
controls which are always
racist.

**FOR WORKERS' UNITY IN THE
NORTH**

We stand for workers unity
against the Assembly politi-
cians and Blair government.
Like great socialist James Con-
nolly, we believe that partition
has brought about a 'carnival of
reaction' We want to see an
Irish workers republic where all
workers gain. Our flag is neither
green nor orange but red!

**FOR A REVOLUTIONARY
PARTY**

To win socialism socialists need
to organise in a revolutionary
party. This party needs to argue
against right-wing ideas and for
overthrowing the system. We
call for co-operation between
left-wing parties and the forma-
tion of a strong socialist bloc.
We stand for fighting trade
unions and for independent
rank and file action.

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Stop Brennan's Privatisation plans

DUBLIN BUS

LAST November Transport Minister Seamus Brennan announced plans for the rolling privatisation of Dublin Bus.

On November 7 he stated, "I want to move as quickly as possible to introduce controlled competition in the form of franchising as the primary means of regulating bus services in the greater Dublin area. Beginning with new services and extending on a phased basis to the existing service network"

CIE workers gave an overwhelming mandate for strike action at that time and there was a three hour stoppage in protest at the plans.

In consultation talks with union officials it has

AER RIANTA

BRENNAN is moving to break up Aer Rianta and hand over a new terminal in Dublin airport to a private operator, probably the union busting Ryanair.

When Brennan met with union representatives from Dublin Airport last year he promised that his mind was not made up and he was keen for consultations with the unions.

However, two weeks ago he announced to the press

emerged that Brennan was determined to franchise out a quarter of Dublin bus routes by January next year. He is

plans for the break up of Aer Rianta.

David Beggs of the ICTU reacted angrily, claiming that his announcement made "consultation" meaningless and the unions might pull out of partnership if he went ahead.

Workers in Aer Rianta are angry too.

One SIPTU member told *Socialist Worker*, "The plan for the break up of Aer Rianta and the handing out of a new terminal to a pri-

vate company will mean worse conditions for workers and higher charges and fares for travellers."

Union representatives from SIPTU are organising information briefings for all sections throughout the airport and plan to hold a general meeting of the workforce at the end of the month.

This would be effectively a work stoppage as workers would leave their posts to attend the meeting.

Dublin's buses will be transferred to a government appointed Transport Regulator who will oversee the ten-

dering out of routes.

The NBRU is holding a fresh ballot this week and next throughout CIE, including Bus Eireann and the railway for strike action against any privatisation moves.

A bus driver in Dublin told *Socialist Worker*, "There is overwhelming support for strike action in the work force."

"And SIPTU Transport Branch are meeting and are likely to also support action."

Another bus driver commented, "This is all about making us work harder and longer for less money and more 'flexible' conditions. Workers and the travelling public will be the losers if Brennan gets away with this."

Bin Charges Campaign takes on Cullen's Law

ACTIVISTS of the Dublin Campaign against the Bin Tax recently held their AGM and discussed how to beat Cullen's new legislation on waste disposal.

The Environment Minister is planning to change the 1996 Waste Management Act to take decisions making on incinerators and waste collection out of the hands of elected city councils and give unelected managers the responsibility.

Local councillors will be under huge pressure in the run up to next year's local elections—and Cullen's response is to cut

back on democracy.

He is also changing the law to overturn a Supreme Court decision that the refuse of non-payers has to be collected.

The campaign heard reports of discussions with local authority unions to resist this.

A speaker from Drogheda told how direct action could force council trucks to collect from non-payers.

In a significant move, the Association of Combined Residents Associations which represents 300,000 household has joined the campaign's steering committee and will highlight its activities in their publications.

Pressure grows in Waterford for cancer services

THE Waterford Council of Trade Unions have called another protest to secure a radiotherapy unit for the south-east.

The protest will take place on Saturday 26th April at 2.00p.m. in the Glen, Waterford city

Following the success of a work stoppage and march on this issue, the Trades Council, supported by the South-East Cancer Foundation, are planning to maintain the pressure on Michael Martin and the government by mobilising people onto the streets once again.

On Wednesday 2nd April, over 2,000 people marched for cancer care in Waterford, many of whom were workers who downed tools for two hours to take part in the protest.

Workers from Waterford's biggest factories, including Waterford Stanley, Bausch & Lomb, Ivax, Honeywell and Waterford Crystal headed the call to stop work and participate, despite the pressure put on them by management, emboldened by IBEC's opposition to the stoppage.

President of the WCTU, Dick Roche said after the march: "We called a work stoppage because we believed that using the collective strength of industrial workers taking to the streets would put real pressure on the government."

"Fianna Fail's near hysterical reaction proved us right on that. Despite their best efforts to sabotage the march, it was a huge success."

"Now we want to facilitate those who couldn't attend the last march, by holding a protest on a Saturday. It is crucial we maintain the pressure on the government."

"People are dying because of their decision not to locate this unit in the south-east, a decision taken on solely financial criteria."

"If we don't challenge them, if we don't fight them, we will be letting them get away with murder."

Anti Nazi protest at fascist Jörg Haider

A CROWD of about 100 people protested at Trinity College last week at the presence of well-known Austrian fascist Jörg Haider

At least another 100 people gathered outside the main gate after they had been prevented from entering the college by the heavy police presence.

Haider and his far right Freedom Party became the focus of media attention in 1999, when his party received an unprecedented 27 per cent of the vote.

In February 2000 the Conservative People's party broke a pre-election promise and formed a coalition with Haider's FPO. The Europe Union introduced sanctions in response.

Haider's father was a leading member of the Austrian Nazi Party and Haider himself had to resign as governor of the province of Carinthia

after a speech in which he praised Adolf Hitler's policy of full employment.

He has referred to the Nazi concentration camps as "punishment camps", implying that those interned in them were somehow criminals.

At the end of last year the party came in for the most intense scrutiny, when policemen revealed Haider had paid them to provide him with secret files on his opponents.

Shouts of 'shame' greeted the former Labour Party leader, Ruairi Quinn, as he went past the protesters to take his place in the debate with Haider.

The debate had been billed as a public event, but the authorities in Trinity had no intention of granting the public access and several people were ejected from the proceedings.

Ronit Lentini, lecturer



Protesters outside Trinity gates

in sociology, said "it is particularly dangerous to have invited Haider to Ireland today in a climate where far right opinions

are becoming much more acceptable, against immigrants, against refugees and against foreigners."

No to water charges

WATER charges are to be introduced into Northern Ireland.

Despite widespread opposition to the plan and evidence from Scotland that water charges hit the poorest hardest, the politicians are determined to go ahead.

Since they have to 'consult' on all changes in policy, the Water Service is holding meetings to 'discuss' the introduction of water charges.

They will expect these to be attended by no more than two or three people whose jobs force them to go.

Given the fact that even the poorest person is likely to be charged over £250 a year, *Socialist Worker* suggests that everyone who can should get to these meetings.

Let's let them know very clearly that we will not pay for water.

That we can't pay and we won't pay. And that we are getting together a campaign of mass refusal to pay any water charges.

- Starting at 7.30pm sharp, the meetings are:
- Leisure Centre, Omagh Wed 16 April 2003
 - Tower Hotel, Londonderry, Tues 29 April 2003
 - Town Hall, Ballymena Wed 7 May 2003
 - Grosvenor House, Glengall St. Belfast Tues 13 May 2003
 - Civic Centre, Craigavon Wed 14 May 2003

Workers occupy to fight lay-offs

WORKERS at a tannery in Clonmel have occupied their plant after being told that they were being laid off work due the war in Iraq.

The workers at Ronan and Sons who are members of the ATGWU have been sitting in for over two weeks. They are demanding that their jobs be guaranteed and that their conditions of employment are kept as they are now.

Over 100 workers are involved in the present lay-offs. They are suspicious that the company could have a wider agenda.

The company itself has admitted that only 10 percent of its markets are affected by the war in Iraq.

Many workers have been with the company for over 20 years.

The sit-in is going on around the clock with teams of 20 involved. Spirits are high and the workers are determined to fight for their jobs.

Join the Socialists!

To join the Socialist Workers Party or for more information:

Fill in the form and **Send to:**
ROI: SWP PO Box 1648, Dublin 8, Phone (01) 872 2682

NI: SWP PO Box 143, Mallusk Road, Mallusk, Phone 0774 2531617

Email swp@clubi.ie **Web:** www.swp.ie

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Union/College.....