

# Socialist Worker

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FOR CORPORATE  
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**\* 250 hospital public beds to close**

**\* 14,000 operations cancelled**

**\* Cuts in drugs, equipment, and staffing**

**\* Longer waits for cancer and heart patients**

**MICHEAL**

**MARTIN**

**TAKES**

**AXE TO**

**HEALTH**

**SERVICE**

**As the Health  
Minister hits out  
at the sick,  
Dublin hospitals  
say 'These cuts  
will undermine  
the fabric of our  
services'**

**-Dublin Hospitals statement:**



# Stop these health cuts!

**DURING** the election in May 2002 Health Minister Michael Martin promised to end the queues for hospital treatment within two years.

It was a blatant lie. A recent statement by five Dublin hospitals drew attention to the fact that health care is suffering enormously from government cuts.

The government created a Treatment Purchase Fund to cut waiting lists, to pay for hip replacements, cataract operations and other such 'elective surgery'.

But this fund fuels the private medical sector.

At the same time, resources are being cut from the public side.

The statement from Tallaght, Beaumont, Mater, St. James's and St. Vincent's hospitals said that they would be treating 14,000 fewer patients this year than last.

Some 600 beds are being lost, 250 being cut, 350 being blocked by use by long-term patients who have been provided no other alternative.

The crisis with hospital beds showed up graphically

ly in February when Owen Power spent five days on a trolley in Dublin's Beaumont hospital.

## Checked

Surrounded by the disturbing bustle of a busy hospital he decided it would be better for his health to leave and checked himself out after spending over a hundred hours on the trolley.

During the last year's election, Martin also promised 200,000 people on low income that they would become eligible for a medical card.

That promise has also been broken.



■ Michael Martin's cuts means a 20 percent cut in beds in Dublin's hospitals

## Health cuts kill

**HEALTH** cuts have already cost lives and are set to cause more tragedy.

In August 2002 Christina Knox died in an ambulance after being turned

back from Monaghan General Hospital for lack of beds.

Again in December, the closure of Monaghan's maternity hospital meant suffering the death of the baby girl born to a heavily pregnant mother who

was unable to get treatment when she came to the hospital.

### Resources

In January 2003 Mary Gorman (81) was treated in the back of an ambulance near the A+E department at the

Mater, she could not be taken inside because of the lack of resources for the department.

She died a week later and although it was of causes unconnected to the incident, the stress of that situation may well have contributed.

## Gulf War syndrome returns

A Gulf War II veteran has already fallen ill, possibly because of being given multiple vaccinations simultaneously.

This contradicts British Defence Secretary Hon's statement in January that: "A key lesson learned about inoculations is that it is not sensible to inflict on our forces a large number simultaneously."

### Refused

Hon himself refused to take the controversial Anthrax vaccine when challenged to do so recently.

The effects of vaccinations will probably be the tip of the iceberg, as the effects of exposure to Depleted Uranium (used in some weapons) sets in. DU has been linked to cancers and kidney disease, and can be harmful for up to 4.5 billion years.

So much for the short war.

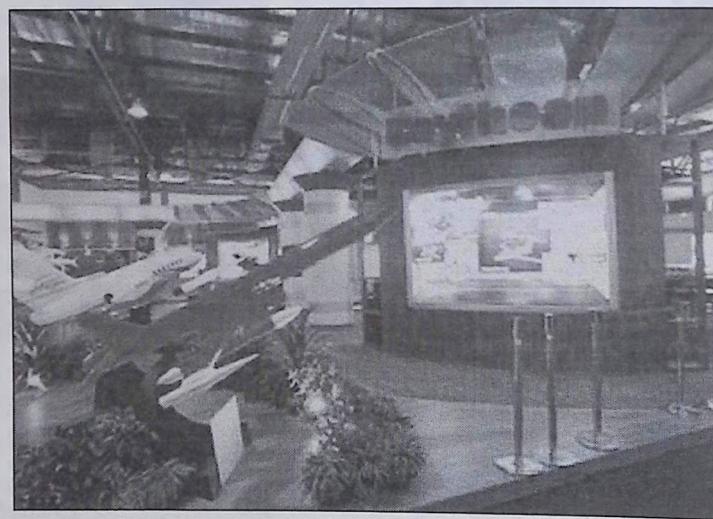
## From Derry to Fallujah

**CAMPAIGNERS** against the arms trade in Derry organised a march on May 10th in solidarity with the 13 innocent protesters in the Iraqi town of Fallujah who were killed by American soldiers.

They were joined on the march from the Bloody Sunday monument to Derry's Raytheon plant by Tony Doherty, whose father Patrick was killed on Bloody Sunday.

The Iraqi massacre, which took place on Monday April 28th outside the school that the 82nd Airborne Division (the "Parachuters") were occupying, was later justified by an official US military cover story.

The story claimed that



■ Raytheon display their Weapons of Mass Destruction in Singapore

soldiers had come under fire, and that they had only fired aimed shots at gunmen.

"I think the people of Derry know only too well what this sounds like and I am taking part in this walk

as a gesture of solidarity with the families of those thirteen innocent civilians", said Tony Doherty.

## US: We control the airwaves

THE US army has stopped Iraqi television broadcasting again.

Television workers recently elected one of their colleagues of 30 years standing to be the new director. But the nomination was turned down by the US authorities who want to install an Iraqi-American exile.

When the workers sought permission to start broadcasting again, the US supreme Jay Gardiner only agreed to allow them use one site.

The workers moved their equipment there only to find the building was unprotected. The next day it was looted—destroying all possibility of an independent broadcast network.

## FLOOD TRIBUNAL TO LAST 15 YEARS

An internal review of the Flood Tribunal has concluded that it will last 15 years. The tribunal has already cost £ 25 million.

One politician, Ray Burke, has already been deemed to have received corrupt payments.

Builder Joe Murphy Jnr and Michael Bailey who control huge land banks around Dublin made crooked payments.

However, none of these crooks has been sent to jail. Meanwhile, young working class people are still going to prison for minor forms of theft.

## Why they make a mess of health

**THIS** government cannot address people's health needs because it is committed to the agenda promoted by the World Trade Organisation—that of private companies breaking into the public health systems of Europe.

Already fifty percent of the Irish population have taken out private health insurance because they do not believe that the public system work.

Neglecting the public health service has led to a system where rich people can get treatment that they need when they want while low income families suffer needlessly.

### Disastrous

The US health system, where the uninsured die for lack of cover, shows how disastrous this crisis could become.

The other reason for the crisis is that Ireland has the lowest tax take in all of the EU and this is disproportionately carried by PAYE workers.

The Irish population subsidised the low tax regime for big business by putting up with poor health care.

The Irish Nurses Organisation has promised to lead a campaign against the healthy cut-backs. They are going to decide in early June whether they will call a national protest on the issue.

## Back to Education scheme cut

**MARY COGHAN**, the Minister for Social and Family Affairs has announced that the Back To Education Allowance (BTEA) is to be cut.

This is a scheme that allows mature people who were claiming benefits, blind people or lone parents to go to college and retain their benefits.

Cutting the scheme makes a bitter mockery of the government's claims that it is increasing educational opportunity.

No postgraduate courses (other than HDips since the government is desperate for teachers) will be eligible for BTEA.

The BTEA holder also has to look for work during the summer.

This means that students will lose their rent allowance throwing their accommodation arrangements into jeopardy.

Galway and Dublin BTEA claimants have started to organise against this proposal. People affected this cut should email [maturesocial@eircom.net](mailto:maturesocial@eircom.net) to get involved in the campaign.

## Cuba trip stopped

A FACT finding delegation of Irish TDs to Cuba has been banned.

'The US embassy objected and the EU Commission told us it should not go ahead.' Green Party T.D. told the recent Irish Anti-War Assembly.

## BISHOP KEEP SCOUTS APART

Plans by the Catholic Boy Scouts and the Scouting Association of Ireland to merge are being scuppered by the Catholic Bishops.

They are worried about the religious ethos being lost. Or, put more simply, their chance to indoctrinate young scouts who join for rope knotting techniques.

The bishops got away with exempting schools from any laws about religious discrimination.

So they reckon they can get away with keeping ten year old scouts apart.



# Can Labour be an alternative?



■ Labour leader Pat Rabbitte

**'The electorate think Labour but don't vote Labour' Pat Rabbitte told his party conference in Killarney.**

He is right. Contrary to traditional image, the Irish electorate is not wedded to right wing politics.

The majority of the Irish people back unions, support decent public services and want a fairer and more just society.

They don't vote Labour out of fear that it is too left wing.

Rather it is because has not been seen to stand up properly for workers rights.

Way back in 1930, the Fianna Fail leader Sean Lemmas got it right when he said, 'The outstanding characteristic of the Labour Party is that it is the most respectable party in the state.'

'So long as they cannot be accused of being even pale pink in politics they seem to think they have fulfilled their mission towards the Irish people.'

Pat Rabbit is determined to change that.

Like Dick Spring in the early nineties, he is doing a good job attacking the right wing Fianna Fail-PD government.

He also says Labour will be a campaigning party and not just a vote getting machine.

The result is that Labour claims to have increased its membership by 1,000 recently.

However, the problem with Rabbitte is that his rhetoric is always double edged.

Behind the radical language, a small print indicates a more worrying direction.

He dismisses the ideas of

nationalisation and public ownership saying that 'modern citizens are more often conscious of themselves as consumers and customers than they are preoccupied with ownership structure of any given enterprise'.

But the issue of whether Dublin Bus or Aer Rianta stays in public ownership is vital for

## Labour

the well being of both working class consumers and the workers involved.

When it comes to the

health cuts, Rabbitte says the main solution is to shift towards borrowing and accuses Mary Harney of stealing his ideas.

But he does not call for increased taxes on profits, saying that he wants to encourage entrepreneurship.

Instead of fully defending the idea of public health sys-

tem that is free for all, he says 'most people are interested in an affordable quality health insurance scheme that doesn't cherry pick or discriminate...'

### Insurance

But why should PAYE workers have to take out an extra health insurance policy to get a health care that

should be their's of right?

Labour's aim is to enter coalition with Fine Gael in the next election.

But as the experience on Britain and Germany ( see page 5) shows, Labour often garners support by tacking left before elections—and then turns on its own supporters when in government.

## A lesson from Scotland

**RECENT elections in Britain showed that Blair got no 'Baghdad bounce'.**

Anger against the war and his attacks on workers at home translated into a big drop in votes.

In Scotland, one of the main beneficiaries was the Scottish Socialist Party while in England the Socialist Alternative did modestly well.

The SSP has brought together the main organisations of the far left, with the politics of this paper being represented by our equivalents in the Socialist Worker Platform.

The SSP campaigned against Labour's support for the war and argued for a war on poverty instead.

They showed that once the far left got its act together, it could pose a serious alternative.

The lessons for Ireland is obvious. Two organisations, the Socialist Workers Party and the Socialist Party played central role in building support for the Irish

Anti-War Movement.

They are also deeply rooted in the campaign against the bin charges. In addition, they provide the bulk of the opposition to the sell out policies of the union bureaucracy.

Our two organisations need to work more closely together, forming a socialist block that can operate as pole of attraction for other socialist organisations and individuals.

### Desperate

The next main election in Ireland will probably be the Northern Assembly election where there is a desperate need for a united socialist platform to challenge the communal policies, which dominate now.

On behalf of the SWP, Eamonn McCann has written to all organisations on the left in the North seeking a joint socialist block.

In the spirit of unity displayed in the anti-war and anti-capitalist movements, we are hoping for a good response.

## Afghanistan in turmoil



■ After the Afghan war over a year ago the country was left in chaos. Last week students in Kabul protested at the US devastation of their country.

### ANTI IMPERIALISM

a guide for the movement edited by Farah Reza, with an introduction by Tariq Ali.

The issues, the regions and the players explored in words and images by activists and writers including Tony Benn on the new imperialism, Louise Christian on civil liberties and war, George Galloway on Palestine, George Monbiot on the World Bank and the IMF and Jonathan Neale on Afghanistan. €15 plus €2 p&p from SW Books, PO Box 1648 Dublin 8

## Time the Left co-operated

**IT IS** an affront to democracy that Tony Blair called off the Northern elections. Had this happened in a developing country, there would have been international outcry about it.

Of course, Blair was operating in a long tradition of those who talk about democracy but are only interested in it as long as it gives them the result they want.

In the South, voters were told to vote again on the Nice referendum until they got the

right answer.

Yet it was not quite as surprising in the North which has seen some truly ridiculous carry-on in the guise of 'democracy'—like the farce of Alliance Party and Women's Coalition members 're-designating' themselves as Unionists in order to save David Trimble.

That there haven't been masses of people on the streets protesting against this scrapping of democracy is probably due to the widespread expectation is that if the election had gone ahead it would have been no more

than the usual sectarian headcount.

There would have been, in effect, two elections. One, for the nationalist vote, between the SDLP and Sinn Fein and another, for the unionist vote, between the UUP and DUP.

### Class issues

There was absolutely no chance that the election might be fought on social and economic issues—like whether or not water rates should be imposed.

There is a growing view across the North that whenever

the elections take place, it is vital to assert the relevance of class politics by presenting a socialist alternative.

The development of the anti-capitalist movement and, in particular, the anti-war movement has re-drawn the political terrain in which socialists operate.

There are opportunities open to the left which weren't there a couple of years back. Socialist Worker thinks a real effort should be made to realise these opportunities.

But if the only candidates going forward are from the usual communal parties and

liberal alternatives, a significant minority will have no candidates of their choice.

The existence of this minority and the fact that, in our view, it is growing will not be recorded.

The left minority will not have been mobilised or consolidated.

The need for a socialist bloc in the elections arises in practical terms from the fact that PFI, water privatisation and public sector cuts are all that's on offer to workers from the sectarian deal which delivers communal politicians their places on the gravy train.



## The Eamonn McCann column

# Questions that can't be asked

THE REVELATION of the identity of Stakeknife, the British agent at the heart of the Provisional IRA for two decades, has parked another splurge of comment on the morality of "fighting terror with terror".

Should Stakeknife or his handlers in the British Intelligence services be charged for the murders they were involved in—or which they at least allowed to happen? Should there be a public inquiry?

These are interesting suggestions. But they don't go to the heart of the matter.

Deeper down, what the affair illustrates is the truth of the old Marxist dictum that the machinery of the State is not a neutral apparatus operating in accordance with the law to implement the policies of the government. The State machine—the police, army, judiciary, civil service—is, in the end, the means by which capitalism maintains its rule.

If democracy conflicts with the interests of capitalism, democracy goes by the board. An obvious illustration was the overthrow of Allende in Chile in 1973. Nobody questioned that Allende had been democratically elected. But the programme on which he'd been chosen was seen by Chilean capitalism and its US sponsors as inimical to their interests. So the police, the army, the judges, the top civil servants etc., backed a bloody coup to get rid of him and install a dictatorship.

A similar scenario was unfolding in Venezuela last year until millions of working-class people poured onto the streets and saved the Chavez administration.

The pattern and pace of politics in Britain and Ireland may be different. But the underlying truth is the same. It's a truth which is always most stark in relation to the secret state. Invariably, police and military intelligence services are the most politicised elements of the apparatus—and, by definition, the least open to scrutiny.

We know from the revelations of Peter Wright, Collin Wallace and others that MI5 in the 1970s plotted to bring the mildly-reformist government of Harold Wilson.

They are still at it. And nobody in government and hardly anybody in the media dares protest.

Take the calls for a police investigation and/or public inquiry into the Nelson/Steakknife/Finnucane allegations. As details pour out in bewildering profusion, the one thing we can confidently predict with is that no investigation carried out by the State is going to get at the truth. Because that's not what the machinery of the State is for.

This is not an abstract argument but an observable fact. Consider current, bizarre events at the Bloody Sunday Inquiry, where, in relation to

intelligence matters, MI5 has been allowed by the Tribunal under Lord Saville to decide what witnesses will be called and what questions will be put to them.

Earlier this month, the inquiry heard that the witness statement of a key, retired MI5 agent-runner called "Julian" had been drafted for him by serving members of MI5 after they'd consulted documents in the MI5 archive. What documents? Nobody knows. Nobody was permitted to ask.

Or consider this passage from the proceedings. A lawyer for the Bloody Sunday families, Barry McDonald, wanted to know about a device or procedure called Alvis, used for communicating intelligence information. "What is Alvis," he asked.

Tribunal QC Alan Roxburgh leapt to his feet to say that as far as he knew, MI5 didn't want that question answered. Saville then asked MI5's barrister, Phillip Sales, if this was so. Sales said indeed it was. Saville concluded: "I think you will have to leave that there, Mr. McDonald. I am sorry."

What this shows is that when it comes to the crunch there is no legal means of making the State accountable to the people. Because the State isn't accountable to the people. This is as true in Britain as it is in Chile or Venezuela. And it is as true in southern Ireland as in Britain.

What was that slogan which became associated with the SWP on anti-war marches?

One solution—revolution!

## N.I. SCHOOLS:

# Labour plan to keep 11 plus

JANE Kennedy, the direct-rule minister of education at Stormont sneaked out an announcement at the end of April that has to worry anyone hoping the Eleven Plus will soon be a thing of the past.

She's establishing a "small working group" under Steven Costello MBE to report back to her by October with "advice and recommendations on options for future arrangements for post-primary education."

The announcement almost certainly means the Dept. of Education wants to pull back from any even half-radical proposal for educational reform.

The best clue to this is in the Costello Group's composition.

It will be made up of the Education and Library Boards, the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools, the integrated schools, the main Protestant Churches, the Curriculum Council, the Governing Bodies' Association of the Grammars and the Catholic



Will these pupils be forced to sit Eleven Plus exam?

Voluntaries.

Notice—not a single representative of a teachers' union, a children's rights group, the Campaign Against Selection, Reform 21, not even a community organisation!

As his last act before the suspension of the Executive, Education Minister Martin McGuinness finally announced last October what

he had been urged to do from the day he came into office.

### Scrapped

He said that the 11-plus examination would be scrapped in two years time: "I am announcing that the last Transfer Tests will be held in November 2004."

Now, Kennedy has made it clear that this may not be

so.

Children now in P4 may yet have to undergo the unjust and terrifying test.

This is despite the fact that everyone—parents, teachers, children—are agreed the 11-plus should go as soon as possible.

The fear is that some way is being sought to allow the 11-plus to go but academic selection to remain.

A clue to this lies buried in Kennedy's announcement that the Costello group will provide advice and recommendations on, "the development of local arrangements that meet local needs, wishes and circumstances."

No over-arching new system, then.

And "local needs, wishes and circumstances" is almost certainly code for closing schools as pupil numbers drop due to the falling birth rate.

There was real potential for politicians and educationists to give the North a decent secondary education system built on equal opportunity for all children and young people.

Falling pupil numbers could have led to lower class sizes instead of closed schools.

Smaller class sizes would have allowed children of all abilities, including disabled children, to have real equality of educational opportunity.

Instead, it looks as if the grammar schools are on the way to winning their campaign to stop such a development.

The fight against selection and for a fully-funded comprehensive system of education is back on!

## WATER CHARGES:

# We won't pay!

THE WATER rates "consultation" meeting in Derry at the end of April was disrupted by water service workers and local campaigners determined not to take part in a rubber-stamping exercise of proposals to rob the poor.

The "consultation" was to have seen SEVEN different speakers tell us why this regressive tax "has to be" introduced.

It was to be all lights and flashy Powerpoint presentations.

The first speaker, a civil servant, put up his first slide with the questions the consultation wanted us to answer.

First question? "On what basis should domestic water and sewerage charges be set?"

He never got to make his presentation. The audience of about 100 people erupted:

"You're asking us to decide if we want to be executed by hanging or electric chair!" shouted one man.

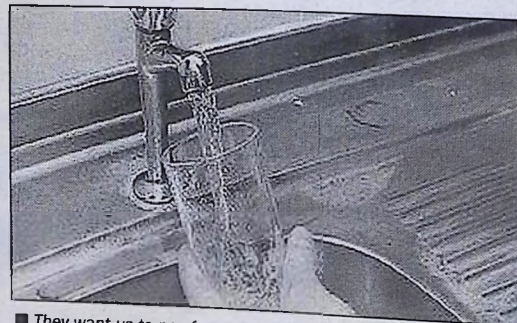
"You're fleecing us and asking how do we want it done!" shouted a woman.

## Plans include axing of at least 600 jobs in the Water Service

Eventually, the chair had no choice but to allow a full discussion of why there should be no water charges and no job losses in the water service.

Part of the "consultation" includes the axing of at least 600 jobs in the Water Service—at a time we are being told £3 billion must be invested in upgrading it.

Asked who would do the



They want us to pay for our water

work if these jobs were cut, the director of the Water Service replied "private contractors".

After the uproar in Scotland when water privatisation was threatened, the politicians and civil servants are going for a "not-for-profit model" like the Welsh and Scottish Water Authorities. However, this is just smoke and mirrors.

The overall authority may be not-for-profit but the work will be carried out by private contractors all of whom will be very deter-

mined to cream off as much profit as they can get away with.

From 7.30 to 9.00, the audience did the talking and the panel of "the great and the good" had to listen.

### Explain

It was pointed out that we already pay for water and sewerage through our rates.

The panel tried to "explain"—talking very S-L-O-W-L-Y since clearly these riff-raff must be stupid—that we pay a lot less

than people in England, Scotland and Wales.

In response, they were given facts and figures about the higher levels of poverty and lower wage levels in Northern Ireland, the fact that fuel and food cost considerably more here than in Britain.

The panel were left grasping at straws to reply with one academic telling us it would be worth the poor having to pay for their water in order to stop the wealthy from getting away with not paying!

The audience simply reminded her about a thing called income tax through which the rich can be taxed without the poor suffering.

Over 70 people walked out when some people started to engage in the "how do we charge for water and cut jobs" discussion.

A campaign against the water charges has now been set up in Derry. Its first public meeting is in the Millennium Forum on Tuesday 17th June.



# Argentina: Peronists stage a comeback

**ARGENTINEANS** are set to go to the polls again on May 18th to select their president in the second round of elections.

The main candidates in the field are two right wing leaders of the Peronist party.

No matter who wins the country's political establishment and ruling class has won a certain victory.

Sixteen months ago, a spontaneous uprising led to the resignation of the country's president De La Rue.

People were protesting against savage attacks on living standards and jobs in the midst of an unprecedented economic crisis. Crowds swarmed through the centre of Buenos Aires chanting 'Throw the lot out' and there were three more presidents in fewer weeks before anything like a stable government was formed.

In the first round elections, 80 percent of people took part in an election in which all main candidates came from parties responsible for the neo-liberal economic policies that produced that outpouring of anger.

A quarter of those voting opted for the architect of those policies, former president Carlos Menem. He is unrepentant, still stands for the replacement of the Argentinean currency by the US dollar and calls for harsh repression against the unemployed 'piqueteros' movements and the factory occupations.

Another 15 percent voted for another neo-liberal figure, Lopez Murphy—driven from his position of economics minister by strikes just two years ago.

## Machine

Menem is likely to lose the run-off to Sunday's other front runner, Kirchner, who got 22 percent of the votes against Menem's 24 percent.

However, Kirchner barely differs from Menem. He comes from the same Peronist party, and his vote depended on the political machine of the current president, Duhalde, one time vice-president to Menem.

The movement that exploded on the streets 16 months ago has not disappeared.

The unemployed piqueteros movement is still over 100,000 strong. There are 150 'assemblies'—groups of neighbourhood activist—in Buenos Aires.

Some 15,000 people mobilised at short notice after police attacked a demonstration against the eviction of workers who had been running the occupied Bruckman's clothing factory. There are some 200 other workers co-operatives or occupied factories in the country.

Most importantly, there are growing signs that workers who still have jobs share the same bitterness as more than 20 percent who are unemployed.

However, the election showed that the movement has failed in one important respect. It has not presented to millions who turned against all the old politicians 16 months ago the sense that the movement itself offers a way out of poverty and economic crisis.

This has enabled these old politicians to raise their heads

The two biggest revolutionary organisations in the country have reacted in a sectarian way.

crisis that he is the answer.

And the media have been able to make it seem to the great majority of people that the only choice you can have is between one or other of a bad bunch.

Part of the responsibility for this state of affairs lies with the established left. The two biggest revolutionary organisations in the country, the PO and the MST, have reacted to the whole movement and each other in a sectarian way.

Instead of using their experience to develop the wider movement, they have each built themselves apart from it—and ended up standing rival candidates for the presidency. One got 1.76 percent of the vote, the other 0.74 percent.

Other sections of the left have turned away from politics altogether. They put forward 'autonomist' views that hold that the unemployed can somehow improve their situation simply through their own organisation, without challenging the state and trying to change society as a whole.



■ Crowds demonstrating recently in Argentina

The election shows how wrong both approaches are.

Between them, they have allowed the old political establishment to make a comeback and to make things safer for the Argentinian rich and their foreign backers.

## Bitterness

The immense bitterness at the base of Argentinian society can

still explode again.

Those who voted for the old politicians in the first round of elections can still take to the streets and go on strike as they put their policies into effect.

But it would be all much easier if the left would learn that it is possible to try to give political direction to struggles without falling into sectarianism.

## GERMANY:

# Tax the millionaires, not the millions

**GERHARD Schröder was returned as leader of Germany because he adopted a forthright anti-war stance during the elections.**

In January 2003 he defended his popular anti-war stance saying, 'Precisely because of our German history, we must insist on war as being a last resort. Our stance is right.'

But Schröder is not known for his consistency. Two years before that he announced that German troops would be helping the Americans, who were bombing Afghanistan, despite criticism from inside his own government.

Germany therefore is not surprised by his Agenda 2010, his new programme for 'reform' of the social welfare system. It is all about undermining the social rights of

German workers.

And yet, in September 2002, at the same time as he remembered Germany's history which also coincidentally was just before an election, he attacked conservative plans to make the labour market more flexible, saying that undermining workers' rights would hurt the economy.

Perhaps he has amnesia. In any case the head of the German Union Federation (DGB), Michael Sommer accused him of destroying the social welfare system, not reforming it. Many others share this analysis, and many of them are in the SPD. Three quarters of the SPD parliamentarians are union members.

Agenda 2010 essentially is exactly what he said would hurt the economy, that is an undermining of workers' rights. Unemployment benefits will be cut, rights for workers in small and medium size businesses will

be taken away, the state health and pension insurance systems will be hit.

The unions have made their opposition well known. At this year's May Day rally near Frankfurt he was drowned down by jeers and whistles from 3,000 angry workers.

## Alienating

So why is he alienating his own supporters in this way? The German economy is in difficulties. Germany is likely, for the second time this year, to breach the budget deficit rule established by Brussels to protect the Euro.

Unemployment is the highest since unification at 4.46 million. 38,000 German businesses went bust last year and this year the figure is expected to be 42,000.

But as others in his own party have pointed out, the proposals in Agenda 2010 go

against last September's election promises and against basic Social Democratic principles. One left-winger argued 'It's millionaires who should have to pay taxes, not the millions.'

But Social Democratic principles are just like Labour party principles: very useful before elections but best forgotten afterwards.

However elections have an irritating habit of coming round regularly and Schröder faces another soon. On 25 May voters in Bremen go to the polls for a new regional parliament. Bremen has been held by the SPD since the end of World War 2.

And on 1 June (the same weekend as Evian) Schröder has to face his own party for a special party conference on the new proposals.

The SPD leadership has invested in a poster campaign around Berlin with the slogan 'More jobs through a less social

state'. This is hardly a caption to win the hearts and minds of his own party workers who used to think they were campaigning for a party for social justice.

The situation is a little more complicated than in Britain however since Schröder has won vast popularity since last September by tuning in to the huge anti-war feeling in Germany.

He has also managed to get rid of potential rivals for the leadership of the party and then periodically gives hints that he will resign if his proposals are not approved by the party.

But his reception at the May Day rally shows that the left in Germany have better memories than him. And one million took to the streets of Germany on May Day to protest against the reforms. The electorate are not as stupid as politicians sometimes think, as the results in Scotland have shown.



# HOW TO GET TO EVIAN



The protests and alternative summits at the G8 summit in Genoa, at the European Social Forum in Florence and the World Social Forums were fantastically exciting for the hundreds of thousands that got involved. Trade unionists, anti-capitalists, human rights organisations, revolutionary parties joined together in the inspiring demonstrations on the streets that made the idea that another world is possible seem a real possibility.

Evian will be even better. Activists from all over Europe have gathered over the past six months to plan a week-long series of actions against the G8. There will be mass demonstrations, protest bonfires, debates, forums, exhibitions and camps.

The G8 Summit itself takes place in Evian but the entire town will effectively be a red zone (residents only). The two main centres of action will be in Geneva (also a red zone, with many delegates to the g8 Summit staying there) and Annemasse, a town just inside France around 7 km from Geneva.

The summit itself begins on the 1st June but running up to the opening day there are a series of alternative summits leading up to the demonstration and blockades of roads and routes to Evian on the Sunday, June 1st.

Starting on Thursday 29 May several alternative villages will settle in Annemasse, near the airport. These are the "village against capitalism, authoritarianism and war" and the "intergalactic village" and the "summit for another world" which is organised by French Non-Governmental Organisations.

Accommodation is going to be at these two "global village" campsites (€10 charge). The camps will be at the aerodrome just east of the centre of town.

Globalise Resistance has camp space reserved in the intergalactic village. This village will be divided into 'barrios' with pink, green and so on reflecting the different movements within the movement. Globalise Resistance is creating an orange barrio which is open to everyone.

A convergence centre will be built at Annemasse airport close to the alternative villages; the press centre and the administrative centre will be held in the Martin Luther King room, near the station. In Geneva the "maison des associations" will hold the administrative centre and the press centre.

On Friday 30th May ATTAC groups of Europe will meet in Geneva. On Saturday 31st there will be four counter-summits in Geneva: against third world debt, the World Trade Organisation, pension privatisation, and war and the occupation of Iraq.

These summits will be followed by a mass assembly of the social movements in the evening. Meanwhile fires will be started all along Lake Geneva as a signal of emergency in the area.

Then on Sunday 1st June two mass demonstrations will take place - one starting in Geneva, one in Annemasse - they will converge near the border, creating a gathering organisers hope will be big enough to blockade the whole area.

This is going to be an event of huge importance for all those who want to oppose this rotten system. It will be the coming together of the anti-war and anti-capitalist movement to challenge the world leaders.

You can get there by going on the Globalise Resistance buses or try flying to Geneva (from Dublin, London, Liverpool) or to Paris (then get train to Geneva).

The GR buses will be a great way to get there to meet new people are debate ideas.

There are two buses leaving, one on Wednesday 28th May at 10 am from Dun Laoghaire (ferry to Holyhead then drive to Dover and ferry to Calais, then on to Annemasse). This bus will get there for Thursday morning. It costs €210.

The short bus (cost €165) leaves Friday morning 11 am Dun Laoghaire following the same route as the first. Both buses leave Annemasse at 1 pm on Monday 2nd June to arrive in Dublin on Tuesday morning.

For more info contact 086 1523542 or check out the GR website at [www.freewebs.com/globalise](http://www.freewebs.com/globalise).

—RORY HEARNE

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by AOIFE NÍ FHEARGHAIL

**TWO YEARS after Carlo Giuliani was shot dead by the Italian Carabinieri, the G8 returns to Europe for its annual Summit.**

This time they will meet fresh from Bush and Blair's bloody war on the people of Iraq to discuss "security, solidarity and responsibility in governance".

But the world social movement is not fooled by this spin and tens of thousands of activists will gather in Evian to protest against the policies of the G8 and to discuss how to reclaim our world.

Functioning as an unelected world executive, the G8 is made up of the wealthiest nations (US, UK, Germany, Japan, France, Italy and Canada) plus Russia.

The combined populations of the G8 nations make up less than 14 percent of total world population. Nonetheless, they control 68 percent of the world's economy.

The annual gathering of the world's most powerful men is shrouded in secrecy. There is no public participation in meetings and no accountability.

A vaguely worded 'Communique' is the only document released to the media.

The G8 derives from earlier groupings formed to coordinate and promote the economic and strategic interests of the main powers during the Cold War. It is only since 1998 that Russia has been included to make up the

G8. However Russia is effectively marginalised, as the G7 continues to meet in the 'ministerials' which set the agenda for the G8.

The G8's project is the furtherance of neo-liberalism.

This means promoting and enforcing privatisation, deregulation, capital mobility and the erosion of sovereign control over domestic economies.

### Policies

When there are perceived or anticipated setbacks in the advance of the neo-liberal agenda, the G8 functions as an ad hoc executive committee to formulate corrective policies.

So, for example, the G8 has agreed a whole political framework based the 'war on terror' and increased international measures to break the growing power of the social movements.

The Evian Summit will cost French and Swiss taxpayer billions.

The 2001 Genoa Summit cost \$270 million (excluding security). While they scoffed their way through 60 kilograms of peaches and apricots and knocked back 7,000 bottles of champagne, they discussed a world "Beyond Debt".

The \$270m spent is more than the entire health budget for Tanzania - one of the nations the G8 supposedly hopes to benefit with its useless Global AIDS and Health Fund. Last year's Canadian Summit cost a staggering \$16m an hour.

## How do the G7 and G8 operate?

**ALTHOUGH** it has no legal powers of its own, the G8 can easily pursue its agenda through its control of institutions like the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, UN Security Council and World Trade Organisation.

For instance, the G7 hold nearly 50 percent of the votes at the World Bank and IMF. Major changes to the IMF can only be made with 85 percent of the vote.

Thus, the US has an effective veto with its 17 percent

The G7's single most significant initiative to date was the creation of the World Trade Organisation.

At the WTO, the G7 Trade Ministers nicknamed "the Quad" (Japan, Canada, the US and the EU), not only shape the agenda but use their economic

dominance to force developing countries to accept rules that serve the interests of Northern multinationals.

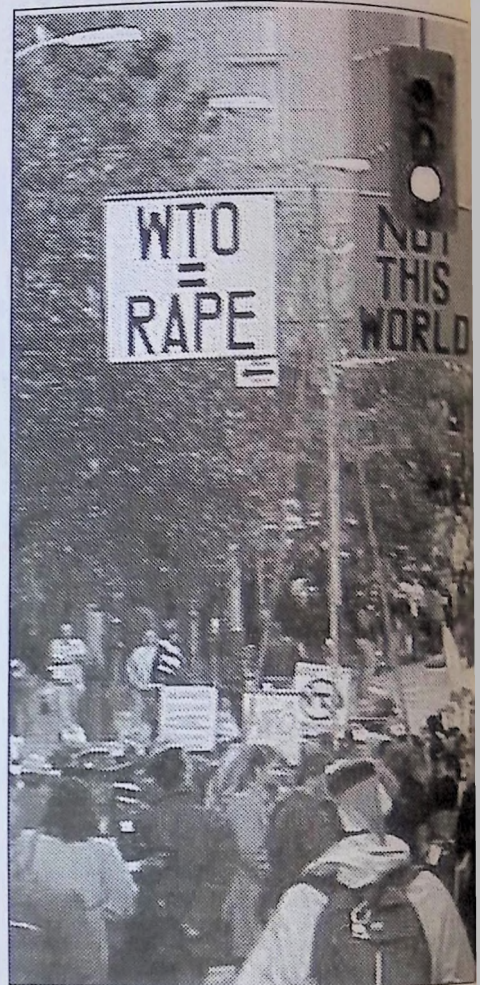
The WTO has the same 'legal personality' as a nation-state or the United Nations, yet it is a totally unrepresentative body.

### Imposed

Its judicial branch enforces the seventeen WTO Agreements through harsh penalties imposed on countries imposing 'barriers' to free trade (such as labour and environmental protection laws).

The G8 is ultimately responsible for WTO Agreements such as TRIPS which enforces huge payments to pharmaceutical companies for the production of drugs or GATS which, if unchallenged, will enforce the self-off of our water, transport, health systems and schools.

# G8: The a corpo



■ Anti capitalists, like these at the WTO, will be gathering

## What about on debt

**THE RECORD** of both G7 and G8 has been to make promises in response to huge popular demand, such as the Jubilee debt campaign but to tie these promises to increased requirements to liberalise and privatise, and then fail to live up to their own commitments.

### \* On debt:

In 1995 in Halifax, G7 leaders promised reform of the IMF and World Bank, but there has been absolutely no change since in the decision-making processes of these two highly powerful institutions.

At the 1999 Cologne Summit, the G8 promised \$100 billion in debt relief, but only \$3b has been delivered to just 5 countries.

As a result in Zambia, life

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# G8: The master a corporate Euro

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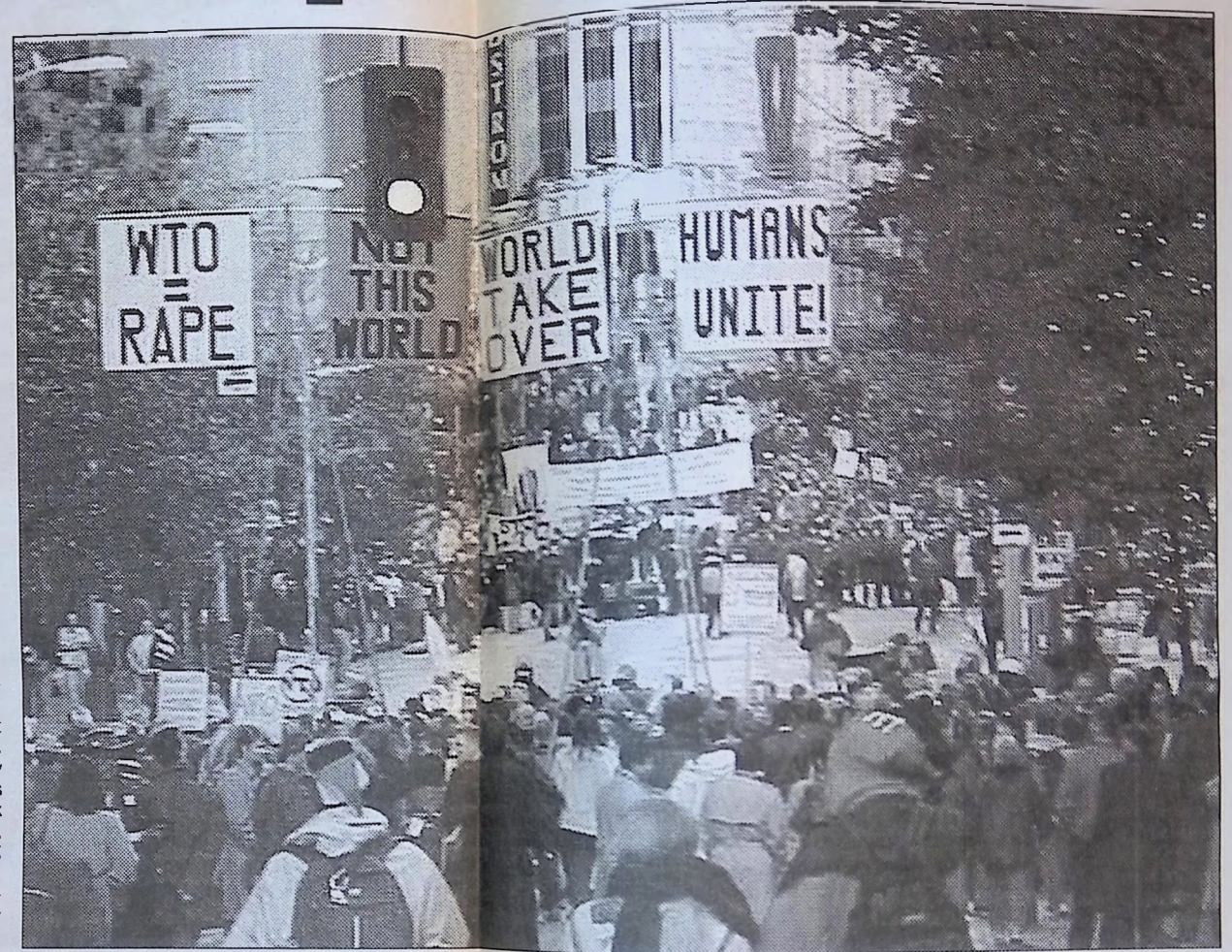
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AIDS, which cannot be seriously addressed without tackling debt, now affects 23 million people, the majority in the developing world.

However, the G8 promised just \$1.5 billion for its completely vague Global Health Fund.

It is almost certain that this money will end up in the pockets of multinational pharmaceutical companies.

African countries alone spend \$15 billion each year repaying debts, most of which is owed to the G7, the IMF and World Bank.

Sub-Saharan Africa spends 40 million each week in debt repayments while every day, 19,000 children die as a direct result of Third World Debt.

Any relief which has been

delivered has been increasingly linked to the promotion of 'free market democracies'.

This requires commitments to the privatisation and deregulation of public services and industries, wage freezes and the lifting of price controls in every day essentials.

### \* On the environment:

The G8 countries are among the world's worst polluters and the greatest culprits of climate change, producing 50 percent of the planet's CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Minimalist as it is, the US and Canada still have not ratified the Kyoto Protocol.

### \* On Africa:

The New Partnership for Africa's Development) took centre stage at last year's Summit in Canada

and will be a continuing focus at Evian.

NEPAD was formulated with no consultation with African parliaments, democratic bodies or civil society groups.

First put forward at the 2000 World Economic Forum by Thabo Mbeki (known throughout Africa as one of neo-liberalism's most eager devotees), NEPAD calls for Africa to be more integrated into the global economic system.

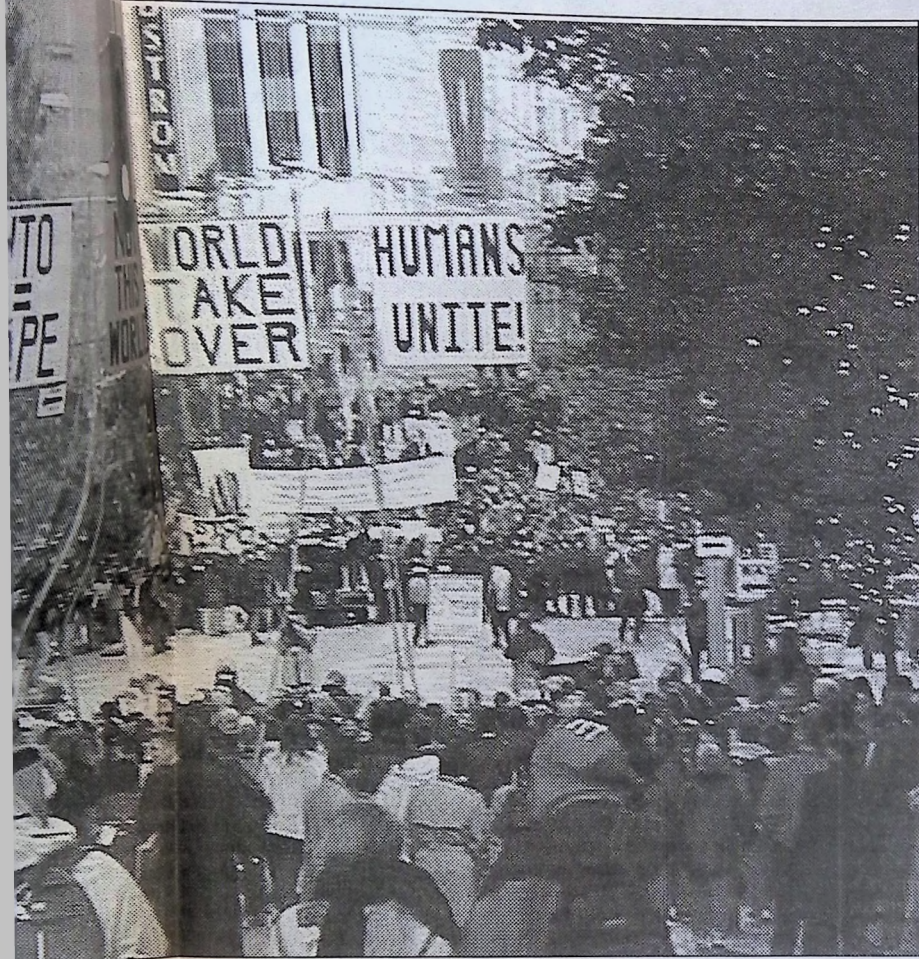
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And it omits any commitment to ending the subsidies that European and American farmers



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### \* On war:

DESPITE their commitment to the elimination of 'weapons of mass destruction', the G8 countries continue to control 80 percent of the world arms trade.

Bush and Blair's 'Operation Iraqi Freedom' killed and maimed countless thousands of innocents while each day occupation forces shot and kill Iraqis calling for the right to elect their own government.

Despite their much voiced opposition to this war on Iraq, Putin and Chrac are responsible for the ongoing slaughters in Chechnya and the Congo.

Their meeting at Evian will decide the next target in the permanent global 'war on terror'.

One of the slogan at Genoa was "They are G8, We are 6,000,000".

Ours is, in numerical terms, the biggest protest movement in history.

February 15th showed that, more than at any time in the past, we have the potential to reclaim our world from the warmongers.

According to Arundhati Roy, "Another world is not only possible, it is on its way. On a quiet day I can hear her breathing".

# Where are the autonomous zones?

by KIERAN ALLEN

**'The SWP is always looking to workers but they are too much into a consumerist culture. We have to start by creating alternative spaces first.'**

'We need our own trading system, which relies on barter rather than money. Local communes can be non-hierarchical and autonomous'.

This is the gist of an argument that came up at a Marxist Forum in Galway recently.

Writers such as Colin Hines have also been advocating a form of localisation as an alternative to globalisation.

Instead of using bananas, for example, which rely on the pollution of air travel and supply lines created by multi-nationals, local economies can be created rather indigenous, organic food.

For some, these local economies can be organised on socialist or anarchist principles.

It is an argument that goes right back to the early utopian socialism movement when figures such as Robert Owen formed a commune in New Lanark in Scotland.

New Lanark had the first Infant School, a crèche for working mothers, free medical care, and comprehensive education, including evening classes.

The fame of New Lanark spread throughout the world, and in the early decades of the 1800s, it had 2,000 visitors a year on average.

A similar model was set up in Rahaline in Co Limerick in the 1830s.

### Positive

On a positive level, these communes showed that human being could be 'naturally' co-operative.

But as Owen himself pointed out, the communes were dependent on his philanthropy.

He was a wealthy industrialist who had given over his fortune to setting up the commune.

Therefore, ironically, although people tried to run their own lives, they were dependent on his generosity.

This problem has not gone away.

One of the great buzz-words of modern society is 'empowerment'. It can be used from everything such as running your own co-op to being press-ganged into 'team-working' by a giant company.

However, 'empowerment' means little until you actually control the material resources necessary for freedom.

Freedom is not gained just by changing your attitude or 'freeing

your mind'. You need the resources necessary to sustain the type of a life that you think is yours as of right.

Under capitalism, these resources are controlled by a tinier and tinier minority. Local autonomous zone, which want to sustain themselves for any length of time, therefore have a problem.

They can either organise work, without the benefit of expensive modern technology, in which case its members will need to spend hours on backbreaking drudgery.

Alternatively, they can try to gain access to wider markets and capital equipment, in which case they will have to compete with capitalist run enterprises.

The only way to compete is through driving down 'unit costs' and being more 'productive'. In brief, increasing the rate of exploitation.

### Pressures

These pressures leads to the creation of new hierarchies - which is why most co-operatives end up replicating the managerial structures of capitalist firms.

Hierarchies do not result from any 'original sin' in human nature but from the structures imposed by a wider class society.

It follows that you do not remove hierarchies simply by drawing up new forms of structures. You can have an apparently 'leaderless' commune, but the lack of organised hierarchies just means there are informal hierarchies.

The vast majority of working class people cannot leave their jobs, their houses and families to move to alternative communes.

Nor will they easily accept that they should only rely on local food supplies, dependent on the vicissitudes of nature and restricted in its variety.

Advocates of autonomous zones can therefore easily shift to seeing change coming from enlightened minority with better lifestyles.

So, what started as a desire for freedom can therefore end up as an embittered elitism.

Autonomous zones are also regularly tripped up by the insanity of the overall system.

During the Chernobyl crisis, many German autonomists had to rush away from their organic farms to get tin food - out of fear of radiation!

It was a cruel image for why escape is not possible. You can try to create your own island of peace and harmony, but for how long in a planet, dominated by war and environmental destruction.

Unless the local is connected to the global, there is no hope of liberation.



## SIXTY YEARS AFTER THE WARSAW RISING

by CONOR KOSTICK

# When the Ghetto fought back against the Nazis

**O**n 19th April 1943 General Stroop ordered his SS troops into the Jewish Ghetto in Warsaw.

By now, knowing their fate, some 60,000 Jewish people had refused to obey the order to leave and were resisting forcible deportation.

Confident of minimal resistance from an unarmed and starving people, the SS began their high stepping triumphant march.

They were ambushed at the corner of Mila and Zamenhofa Street.

Home made petrol bombs and hand grenades rained down upon them from battle groups carefully organised and barricaded at the four corners of the street. Careful, accurate, pistol shots found their targets—ammunition was precious.

Unexpectedly and heroically, the Ghetto was fighting back.

The Germans tried to pull back, only to find their movements had been closely monitored and the escape routes cut off. Shameful though it was for the SS, they called on the aid of the tanks.

Only then did they appreciate the organisation behind the rising.

The first tank in the convoy was hit by incendiary devices and burnt out, the others halted.

The fate of the SS was sealed. Panicked they hid in doorways and were hunted down. Jewish civilians had annihilated the 'glorious' SS.

That day all over the Ghetto fierce resistance prevented the German army from deporting the people.

A second tank was burnt out and two machine guns were captured.

Long lines of German wounded formed for treatment at the military hospital. By 2pm they withdrew from the Ghetto entirely, defeated.

It took the Germans a month to capture the Jewish Ghetto in Warsaw, and they only succeeded by utterly destroying it, burning the entire area and bombarding it with artillery.

There were very few Jewish survivors—who had escaped the Ghetto through sewers or had somehow lived on in cellars through the war.

But their stand transformed the political situation. The German occupiers no longer seemed invincible.

The Ghetto rising inspired further armed resistance by Jewish communities faced with annihilation, three months later at Treblinka, and soon after at Sobibor, uprisings which suc-



■ Jews lining up to be deported to the death camps from the Warsaw Ghetto in 1943

ceeded in overcoming the guards and hundreds of people escaping.

**THE RISING** also electrified the wider Polish population, removing the aura of invincibility from the German authorities.

A period of strikes and partisan warfare began to undermine their rule. It also demolished the myth that Jewish people passively accepted their extermination.

The organisation behind the rising was the Jewish Resistance Organisation (ZOB), a united front between the main Zionist organisations, the Communist Party and the Bund—a radical socialist party.

It had taken a long political struggle to create an organisation capable of mounting last-ditch resistance to the fascists.

The German occupation of Poland had led to the rounding up of the Jewish population from all over the local area and their confinement to the Ghetto. Movement in and out was restricted to essential workers—who were severely exploited—and all Jewish people were required to wear armbands with the Star of David.

**THREE HUNDRED** thousand people were living in the Ghetto, rich and poor.

Lively cafe life took place in streets filled with paupers.

But slowly the impoverishment of the whole community began.

Insufficient food was allowed into the Ghetto to feed the population; only those with black market resources could avoid hunger.

Arbitrary shootings cowed the population and an unwritten law of 'common responsibility' meant that where there was resistance to German rule, it was deeply unpopular.

Fifty three male inhabitants of one street were summarily shot for the beating up of a policeman and the mood of the Ghetto was one of trying not to antagonise the authorities.

But then the death camps began. The police had a quota of 6,000 Jewish people to be sent to Treblinka a day.

At first they were overwhelmed with volunteers. The offer of bread and marmalade, in order to relocate people to factories in the east lured tens of thousands to their unsuspecting deaths.

After all, what sense did it make for the German occupiers to want to kill everyone because of certain imagined physical differences?

Worse still, Jewish representatives themselves were implementing the fascist policy.

The Jewish Council signed the poster that was placed all around the Ghetto explaining

the relocations.

Jewish police were put in charge of rounding people up.

The Bund, being more aware of the nature of fascism, were quick to urge resistance.

On their secret printing press they rushed out posters and leaflets urging people to resist, 'with their bare hands' if necessary. They also attempted to get arms through the Polish underground, but those organisations were only beginning to equip themselves and guns proved almost impossible to obtain.

The Bund smuggled Zalmen Frydrych out of the Ghetto and onto a train driven by a sympathetic worker.

He was shown the track to Treblinka, from which no one returned.

He met two escapees from the camp. The Bund rushed out a leaflet with this eyewitness testimony.

But still the majority turned a blind eye, they did not want to believe it.

**BY MID** September 1942 only 120,000 people remained in the Ghetto, the Bund had seen its carefully built underground organisation collapse as a result.

Everything had to be started again, and still the majority did not understand what was happening to them.

A massive round up assigned papers to some 20,000 essential workers, the rest were scheduled for deportation and if they hid, it was the Jewish police who hunted them down and shot them.

Because Zionism argues that Jewish people should separate themselves from gentile society, some of their prominent leaders had accommodated themselves to the rise of fascism.

They thought they could utilise the anti-Semitism of the fascists to promote the idea of the need for a Jewish state.

Only at the very last did the Zionist organisations that remained in the Ghetto gave up hope of working with the authorities and together with the Communist Party and the Bund form an organisation for bitter resistance.

ZOB gained instant popularity with the population for executing brutal factory foremen and leaders of the Jewish police.

Suddenly there was a new mood in the Ghetto. The resistance had begun, and those who remained shed the feeling of helplessness that had dominated their lives.

**AS GUNS** began to be smuggled in, battles were staged to prevent deportations. The early battles were very costly in personnel for

ZOB who lost more than half of their fighters.

But now the population were behind them and they were effectively the government of the area.

The authorities could no longer fill their quotas and deportations slowed up dramatically.

Desperate Jewish Police were given personal goals of 7 arrests a day but could only succeed in getting hold of the infirm.

Even then ZOB actions could sometimes free prisoners before they left the Ghetto area.

Stories of Jewish resistance started to spread in Warsaw and beyond, creating great excitement among anti-fascists, more arms found their way into the Ghetto including 50 pistols and 55 hand grenades.

In this way, under constant threat of execution from the soldiers and police raids, ZOB prepared itself for what it knew was coming, a final onslaught by the German army.

When the rising did come, it was one of the most extraordinarily brave acts of a doomed people, yet a people who were determined to fight for whatever revenge they could and a people who had their eyes on the future that their action would help create.

**IN THE** middle of the fighting ZOB smuggled the following manifesto out of the Ghetto to the Polish people.

*'Poles, citizens, soldiers of Freedom! ... through the smoke of the Ghetto, that was set on fire, and the blood of its mercilessly killed defenders, we, the slaves of the Ghetto, convey heartfelt greetings to you.*

*We are well aware that you have been witnessing breathlessly, with broken hearts, with tears of compassion, with horror and enthusiasm, the war that we have been waging against the brutal occupation these past few days.*

*'Every doorstep in the Ghetto has become a stronghold and shall remain a fortress until the end!*

*All of us will probably perish in the fight, be we shall never surrender! We, as well as you, are burning with desire to punish the enemy for all his crimes, with a desire for vengeance.*

*It is a fight for our freedom, as well as yours; for our human dignity and national honour as well as yours! We shall avenge the gory deeds of Oswiecim, Treblinka, Belzec and Majdanek!*

*—Jewish Armed Resistance Organisation*



## book

# A manifesto for our times

by  
**JAMES  
O'TOOLE**

**A SPECTRE is haunting the world's boardrooms (and giving our neo-liberal overlords some sleepless nights)...the spectre of anti-capitalism!**

An *Anti-capitalist Manifesto* by Alex Callinicos is a vital addition to the ongoing debates as to the direction that the movement should take.

Post September 11th, establishment commentators declared that; 'one of the consequences of the U.S. terror attacks has been to halt in its tracks the movement against globalisation'.

Yet, in his introduction, Callinicos points out that far from retreating the movement has actually grown massively.

It's centre of gravity has shifted from North America to Europe—forcing even the *Financial Times*, after the massive protest in Barcelona in March 2002, to admit that this movement was far from broken.

Callinicos argues that the movement has had to grow up as it faced the 'War on Terror'.

He argues that this represents a new period of armed globalisation. Capitalism is busy devouring our world and we are on the verge of environmental catastrophe.

This is the stage upon

**OUT NOW!**  
**An Anti Capitalist Manifesto**  
by Alex Callinicos

AN ANTI-CAPITALIST  
MANIFESTO

STG£13.95/€19.95 plus  
25% postage from SW  
Books, PO Box 1648,  
Dublin 8



■ Enormous diversity in the anti capitalist movement

which the era of Neo-liberal Permanent Warfare is to play itself out.

The system is like 'the famous bicycle that must

always go forward or fall over'.

Callinicos reminds us clearly that all these 21st Century horrors (perma-

nent warfare and environmental collapse etc) can be understood as the outcome of the process of competitive accumula-

tion—this system based on the exploitation of wage labour and competition which was analysed by Karl Marx.

So how do we prevent the 'Lords of Capital' from taking the whole planet down with their sinking ship?

## Justice

This Manifesto points that there is an alternative: Socialist Anti-capitalism—a democratically planned economy offers the best hope of realising the movement's values of Justice, Efficiency, Democracy and Sustainability.

Callinicos suggests a list of transitional demands which would, more than likely, evoke such resistance from Capital as to confront our movement with a choice between abandoning its existing achievements or prosecuting a revolutionary challenge to the entire capitalist system.

Buy yourself a copy of *An Anti Capitalist Manifesto*, then book yourself a seat on the bus to the Evian G8 protest! What are you waiting for? We have a whole world to win!

## theatre

# PLAY WRITTEN IN ANGER

by **PETER REID**

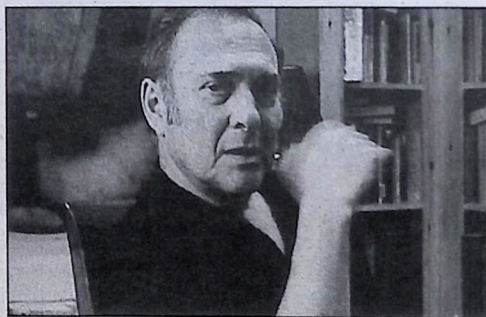
**HAROLD Pinter's short play *One For The Road* is on in Dublin from Monday 19th to Saturday 31st May.**

Pinter wrote this piece after meeting two Turkish women at a party. He was aware of the Turkish state's sys-

tematic use of torture.

When he asked their opinion on a recent trial that had taken place, their response was "Oh, well It was probably deserved, they were probably communists, we have to protect ourselves against communism".

They had no evidence that the victim was a communist and were com-



■ Pinter: Chance meeting at a party

pletely unaware about torture in their own country. They said Pinter was "a man of such imagination".

Whereupon he came home and "in a rage" started to write *One For The Road*.

The play consists of four scenes, with Nicolas a high-ranking government official of an unnamed totalitarian state.

He torments in turn a tortured prisoner, his wife and child.

Nicolas tears asunder this family out of a righteous belief in state and religion.

Although he wields all the power and has the authority of the state behind him Nicolas reveals himself to be a man who craves validation, acceptance and even love from his victims.

■ *Demon Theatre Company* are presenting the play, upstairs at 7pm, *The International Bar, Wicklow Street*.

## film

# Culture shock in Europe

You might be tempted to give this film a miss for at least two reasons.

First, a group of students from different nationalities who share a house in Barcelona resulting in a mini Europe with all the tensions of culture clashes.

Thirdly, not one of them has their head blown away, or a limb hacked off, or indeed suf-

fers any injury to their person.

But it would be a mistake to dismiss it in this way. On a comic level it works perfectly even if you are not a student and have never been to Spain.

While keeping its focus on making the audience laugh, the film also looks at what it is to live in a new place, with strange people, and the ways we learn to communicate, and to seduce oth-

ers. It is also about how painful it is to move on, to leave our comfortable family and friends and how we can never go back to the same place once we have left because we have changed.

Watch for William, the brother of Wendy, who gives a star performance with his national stereotyping, making us cringe and laugh with recognition at the same time.

## ALCOHOLISM:

# Guinness is bad for you

by **DEIRDRE CRONIN**

**THE shocking statistics on alcoholism are a grim indictment of Irish society.**

■ In the last six years, alcohol consumption has increased by 41%

■ Ireland almost tops the European league of underage drinkers

■ 50% of A&E attendances in the Mater hospital are alcohol related

■ 30% of fatal head injuries in Beaumont hospital are alcohol related

Alcohol abuse in Ireland is a growing concern. Alcoholics Anonymous has 706 groups around Ireland. A total of 78,000 meetings are held every year.

Alcohol, however, is presented as an acceptable recreational drug.

While marijuana, which is beneficial in many medical situations, is illegal, the drinks industry is free to sponsor high profile national sporting events like the All Ireland Hurling championship.

50 euro million per year is spent by the drinks industry on sponsorship, often of sporting events, and promotion

The increase in alcohol consumption reveals a deeper malaise in society. In Russia, for example, the huge rates of alcoholism were a sign of the withdrawal from the official controlled former Communist society.

In Ireland, the huge increase in alcoholism reflects a growing despair with the quality of life on offer.

Today people face huge mortgage repayments, long journeys to work through traffic choked streets, irregular working hours and longer shifts.

And they are the lucky ones. Hundreds of thousands of people languish on local authority housing lists or live in decaying areas that have been denied resources and investment for many years.

## Alcohol offers an escape

Young people face huge pressures to perform in exams in an education system that bores rather than inspires. With so few facilities, pubs and drinking become the only source of entertainment.

Alcoholism has its roots in the social conditions in which people live.

Tackling drink related problems by using a law and order agenda will never work.

Justice Minister, Michael McDowell is only interested in using the cover of alcohol induced violence to get more an even more repressive Public Order Act.

The real solution lies in tackling the power of the drinks industry which has gotten such a hold over Irish culture.

Guinness, with the O'Neill harp as its trademark, has successfully promoted its brand to the point where it is seen as an integral part of Irish identity.

It's advertising regularly uses evocative "Irish" images. A recent ad in the "Believe" series used the Irish explorer Tom Crean's story to present their product as a source of power. The Guinness sponsorship deals with the GAA was also a major coup.

Sean Dunne, a research student, from TCD has done a lot of work on the Guinness phenomenon. His work dismantles many of the myths about the 'Irish' imagery of the company. It is a corporation with a nasty history.

Arthur Guinness, the founder of the brewery in the 1750s, was a member of the wealthy Anglo-Irish minority in Ireland

The Guinness family were fierce opponents of Irish independence. Members of the family spoke in the House of Commons to recommend the execution of the leaders of the 1916 rising

The Guinness workforce was segregated from the beginning. Catholic workers were barred from holding a management position. It was the 1960s before a Catholic worker first entered management.

Today the company engages in all the vile practices associated with modern capitalism.

In 1987, for example, its Chief Executive Officer Ernest Saunders was arrested in for insider trading and sent to prison. He got early release, however, when it was claimed he has Alzheimer's disease.

He later claimed to have recovered—virtually the only man in medical history to do so!

Guinness and Grand Metropolitan merged in 1997 to form Diageo corporation. Soon afterwards Diageo closed the Guinness plant in Dundalk with the loss of over 300 jobs

Rationalisation has left just 500 workers at the James Gate Brewery in Dublin, which once employed 12,000 men.

A government that was serious about tackling alcoholism would ban all advertising for this lethal drug.

It would also wage a campaign to break the assumed link between Guinness and being Irish, by highlighting the horrible history of the company.

But that would be expecting a lot from politicians who are in the pockets of big business.



# IRISH ANTI-WAR ASSEMBLY BRINGS ACTIVISTS TOGETHER

OVER two hundred and fifty delegates from around Ireland attended the national assembly of the Irish Anti-War movement in Liberty hall to debate the way forward for antiwar activists in the aftermath of Gulf War 2.

In the rally which opened the conference Nur a Mustafa, an Iraqi exile active in the Galway alliance against war made an inspiring speech calling for activists to continue the fight against militarism and to aid the Iraqi peoples struggle against the US occupation of their country.

Green Party TD, John Gormley, said that activists should not follow for the line that we needed a stronger EU to become a rival superpower to US.

Eamonn McCann of the SWP and Kevin McLaughlin of the Socialist Party argued that people should campaign on issues such as privatisation and cuts in the public services in order to link the struggles against war and capitalism.

The mood of speakers from the floor was very

positive, with many emphasising the huge achievement of the February the fifteenth mass demonstrations in Dublin and Belfast.

## Stressed

Others stressed the need to continue broadening the base of the move-

ment by working to ensure more participation of the Trade Unions

The assembly then divided into workshops discussing Globalisation and War, Ireland and Neutrality, and the media.

A whole range of debates opened up in the workshop sessions on topics such as Islamic

fundamentalism, direct action and civil disobedience, and war in the third world

In the final session activists were invited to make proposals on initiatives to be taken up by the anti-war movement. Over fifty motions were debated.

The meeting agreed to

send an IAWM delegation to the Evian protests against the G8 at the start of June.

## Organise

Up to two million people are expected to demonstrate against Bush at Evian.

It was also agreed to

organise a carnival of resistance in the Phoenix park on July 4th, American independence day.

It was agreed to organise support for direct action activists facing court appearances for actions at Shannon airport.

The movement is also

to organise a boycott of the Tedcastle oil company which is supplying petrol to US warplanes in Shannon.

In August there are to be simultaneous protests at Shannon, Baldonell and Casement airports to highlight the continued use of these facilities by the American military.

# Protest at Israeli Embassy

AT LEAST 100 people gathered outside Dublin's Shelbourne Hotel to protest at the Israeli Embassy Independence Day Celebrations, carrying placards saying "Justice for Palestine" and "End the Occupation".

Fifty five years ago the State of Israel was set up amidst a campaign of terror which killed untold numbers and forced more than 750,000 Palestinians to flee to the deserts of Jordan and refugee camps of the Lebanon. Palestinians describe this event as the Nakba (catastrophe).

As a result of last year's major demonstration at the height of the Jenin massacres, there was a

high Israeli and gardai security presence.

Raymond Deane, Chair of the Ireland-Palestine

Solidarity Campaign said, "The diplomatic community should not be celebrating with the world's lead-

ing rogue state".

Describing the international 'road map' as an absurdity, he called for a

boycott of the Apartheid State.

The campaign can be contacted at www.support-

palestine.org  
—SALAH AFIFI, Ireland  
Palestine Solidarity  
Campaign

# TRAMORE PROTEST OVER DUMP

Over 300 people from Tramore Co. Waterford marched through the town last Sunday demanding that the local dump be shut down immediately.

The dump is located right next to the 3km long-beach and in a wetlands area in the back strand.

Waterford council are planning to massively increase the

intake of the dump because the City dump has to close down.

They have got planning permission for the location of a super dump in the west of the county but that will not be constructed for three or more years.

## Enraged

Thus Tramore will be used in the interim.

Residents and environmentalists enraged by the proposals got

together and are now planning an ongoing campaign of action to try and shut down the dump.

Contrary to the portrayal of anti-dump protests as NIMBY-types the marchers were clear that they don't just want the dump shut down but want proper waste management with decent recycling facilities provided.

The march was angry and exciting involving the local school students recycling society and their teacher, families with

kids and many people angry at the lack of democracy and the destruction of the environment.

Speakers condemned the non-action of politicians with Norman Graham a local driving instructor saying that "public representatives should do that-represent the public".

The loudest cheers went up for the call to continue the protests with pickets of Minister for the Environment Martin Cullen's Clinic.

## Marxist Forums

Big ideas discussed in informal settings



**Artane-Coolock**  
The Anti Capitalist Manifesto Artane/ Beaumont Leisure Centre- 8pm Wed 23rd May

**Ballyfermot:**  
The anti capitalist manifesto 8pm Thurs 22 May, Ruby Finnigan's Pub, Ballyfermot

**Ballymun:**  
Berlin or Boston? Is the EU more progressive? 7.30pm Thursday May 22nd Axis Centre

**Belfast South:**  
Anti Capitalist Manifesto, Thursday 22nd May, 7.30 pm, Venue: Phone 077 196 32264 for details

**Belfast Ormeau Rd:**  
Is a world without war and poverty possible? Wednesday 21st May, 7.30 pm, Queens University Belfast, Peter Froggatt Centre

**Belfast West:**  
Is a world without war and poverty possible? Wednesday 21st May, 7.30 pm, An Culturlann, Falls Rd

**Bray:**  
Islam and Imperialism Sat 17 May, 2pm Lenahan's Pub, Main St, Bray

**Clondalkin:**  
EU or US: Which is more progressive? 8pm Mon 24 May The Oak field Lodge Hotel

**Cork:**  
Which Way for Anti-Capitalist Movement? Wednesday 28 May 8pm An Spailpin Fanach

**Crumlin:**  
The anti-capitalist manifesto, 8pm Wed 21st May, Cashel Hall Crumlin

**Drogheda:**  
Does the Media Control our ideas? Thursday 22 May 8pm McHugh's Bar

**Dublin North City-Drumcondra**  
The Anti Capitalist Manifesto The Snug, Dorset Street- 8pm Wed 23rd May

**Dublin South City:**  
Islam and Imperialism, 7pm Wed 21 May, The Beaney

Cafe, Burgh Quay.

**Dundalk:**  
4pm every Saturday Spirit Store.

**Dundrum:**  
Marx: The first anti-capitalist, 8pm Mon 26th May, Dundrum Family Recreation Centre

**Dun Laoghaire:**  
Islam and Imperialism, 8pm Wed 21 May Farrell's Pub, Marine Road, Dun Laoghaire

**Fairview**  
Berlin or Boston? Is the EU more progressive? Smyth's Pub- 8pm Wed 14th May

**Galway:**  
Can Kurdistan be Free? Wednesday 28th May 8pm Javas Coffee House, Abbeygate St

**Liberties:**  
Islam and Imperialism 8pm Wed 21 May, Viking Lodge, Francis St. phone 0879584221

**Rathmines:**  
Islam and Imperialism 8pm Wed 21 May, Grace's Pub, Rathmines.

**Rialto:**  
Islam and Imperialism 8pm Wed 21 May, St Andrews Resource Centre, SCR.

**Ringsend:**

A world without war and hunger: The future socialist society, 8pm Wed 21 May The Committee Room, Charlotte Quay, Ringsend Rd [below the Ocean bar]

**Stoneybatter-Cabra**  
The Anti Capitalist Manifesto Aughrim St. Parish Centre, Manor Street- 8pm Tues 22nd May

**Tallaght:**  
Islam and Imperialism 8pm Wed 21 May, Tallaght Wel-

fare Society, Tallaght Village

**Tralee:**  
Berlin or Washington—is the EU more progressive? Tues 20 May 8pm Cumann Iosaif Community Centre

**Waterford:**  
Which Way for Anti-Capitalist Movement? Thursday 29th May 8pm Old Rogue Michael St.

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

## OTHER EVENTS

**TRADE JUSTICE CAMPAIGN**  
Public Lobby of the Day  
Wednesday 14th May  
www.tradejusticeireland.org

**WATERFORD GLOBALISE RESISTANCE**  
GIG FOR EVIAN  
Thursday 22nd May  
King's Bar, Lombard St

**MATER HOSPITAL ACTION GROUP**  
Public Meeting  
"HOW CAN WE FIGHT THE HEALTH CUTS?"  
St. Peter's Natinal School Hall, St. Peter's Road  
8pm Thursday 24th May  
Speakers- Joe Costello: Labour TD, Jo Tully: INO Shop  
Steward, Joe Carolan: SWP



Capitalism is wrecking the lives of millions and endangering the planet. A new society can only be constructed when the workers take control of the wealth and plan its production and distribution 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 capitalism, we need to remove the present 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 imperialist powers try to dominate the earth. Bush's "War on Terrorism" 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 oppression 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 politicians and Blair government. Like great socialist James Connolly, 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 formation of a strong socialist bloc. We stand for fighting trade unions and for independent rank and file action.

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## How privatisation will crucify Dublin Bus

THE NRBU has voted by over 90 percent to strike over transport minister Seamus Brennan's plans to privatise Dublin's buses. And SIPTU are balloting all their members in the CIE group on the question.

As the showdown draws near it is worth looking at the experience of privatisation of buses in Britain. Brennan plans to contract out 25 percent of Dublin Bus services next year and a further 25 percent each year until all routes are tendered out.

But the effects on bus workers and passengers alike will be serious if he is allowed get away with it.

\* **Rises in fares in Britain:** In the twelve years after the introduction of privatisation in London fares rose by 30 percent in real terms and by an average of 62 percent in other major British cities.

But outside of London use of buses has declined—by as much as 40 percent in major cities..

Car ownership increased by a third over the same period as expensive unreliable services forced people to switch to car use, with an enormous increase in traffic congestion.

\* **Clapped out buses:** In Britain the introduction of privatisation meant a collapse of the bus building industry as operators hung on to clapped out buses for longer rather than invest in new vehicles.

The average double deck bus was 45 percent older in 1996 than 12 years earlier. Where operators invested in new buses, they typically withdrew double deckers in favour of smaller buses where passengers were more crowded and they could pay drivers less.

The bus companies also cashed in on the land boom by selling off the sites of former bus garages.

In Ireland the sharks are already eyeing up CIE property that will come on the market when privatisation kicks in.

\* **Competition:** The large number of private operators very quickly gave way to three big operators dominating the scene.

Firstbus, Stagecoach and Arriva—all multinational combines with interests in many countries—own 24,000 buses and have a stranglehold over public transport in Britain.

\* **Impact on workers:** Maintenance of buses has seen a rapid decline as private operators cut corners in pursuit of profit.

Over the period from the mid 1980s till the end of the nineties maintenance staff were halved in the bus industry.

\* **Wages:** Bus drivers in Britain saw their union organisation broken up as their jobs were privatised and fragmented across different employers.

From 1985 to 1998 real wages for other occupations rose by 13 per cent according to official statistics.

But bus drivers suffered an 11 percent fall in incomes. Their wages have fallen from roughly the national average in 1965 to less than 60 percent of average.

But this is not all. In order to make a living wage drivers are forced to work longer hours. Drivers' working week now averages a staggering 48.5 hours, more than eight hours longer than the average for all workers.

And the intensity of work has dramatically increased with a 50 percent increase in bus miles per employee.

Although passengers and workers have seen their conditions get worse, the bus giants have managed to squeeze the profit levels up.

One recent report estimated return on capital in the bus transport industry in Britain at 35 percent.

"One bus company was able, after failing to acquire a municipal company that was up for sale, to engage in a pricing, service and recruitment strategy which led to the municipal operator becoming bankrupt."

## STAGECOACH: A ROBBER BARON

One of the key players expected to bid for Dublin bus routes is Stagecoach.

Headed by multi-millionaire Brian Souter Stagecoach drove other rival bus firms off the road to gain a dominant position in the bus industry.

According to the British Monopolies and Mergers Commission described the company's behaviour as "predatory, deplorable and against the public interest".

The TV programme World in Action reported, "His regime on the buses has cut drivers' wages, forcing them to work longer hours. Souter's own wealth has shot up.

His personal fortune is a staggering £250 million."

Souter commented, "Ethics are not irrelevant, but some are incompatible with what we have to do, because capitalism is based on greed."

While drivers work harder for less and passengers wait longer for overcrowded buses Arriva's head bosses are scooping in the profits:

One director, Robert Davies, recently received £307,500 salary plus a bonus of £198,000, plus other benefits of £21,059.

—KEVIN WINGFIELD

# Public health doctors continue their fight

PUBLIC health doctors are in their fourth week of a strike against health cuts and underspending.

Over 80% of public health doctors are women.

They have been working overtime for the past fifteen years without pay.

Public health emergencies like the SARS epidemic, meningitis outbreaks and food poisoning outbreaks need to be managed over weekends and holidays, but the Minister for Health refuses to pay the doctors.

Doctors have been picketing the headquarters of the health boards for four weeks, and the department still refuses to negotiate.

One doctor on the picket line of the Eastern Health Board told *Socialist Worker* "Our spirits are very good. If anything, we are getting more and

by  
**Dr JULIET  
BRESSON**

more angry".

Micheal Martin has been personally intimidating some of the doctors on strike, and threatened them with being responsible for putting peoples lives at risk.

But the doctors lashed right back, and have now organised to ballot for an all-out strike.

Minister Martin went to the AGM of the Irish Medical Organisation (the

doctors trade union) to try to give the doctors a slap on the wrist—but as one doctor put it, "we gave him a bloody nose".

Last week's revelations that the minister is now responsible for 250 beds in Dublin hospitals being closed lead to the doctors putting pickets on the hospitals.

Micheal Martin 's one liner is that the health service receives huge amounts of money, and that individual workers are to blame.

But IMO President Dr Joe Barry blames the Minister and Department of Health fair and square for running down the health service and deliberately destroying people's lives.

"When they mismanaged infectious diseases

and haemophilia in the past, they made people sick and die.

"They had to use their funds to pay out compensation. We no longer want to be a party to mismanagement"

The current cuts in health are far worse than the famous Rory O Hanlon cuts of the 1980's.

### Ignored

The Fianna Fail government has deliberately ignored the population growth, and has refused to increase services in line with need.

Following several years of economic success, we should have a state of the art health service.

Instead, public patients wait on trolleys for days,

and patients die from treatable disease.

Ireland has the fastest growing economy in Europe—and the most under-funded health service.

The IMO is now calling on other unions to back an all-out health strike.

This is the right way to go.

The public health doctors are the first public sector union in years to go for all-out, to escalate quickly and bring out other workers.

Every health worker should support the call for an all out strike.

As Nurses Spokesman David Hughes said " This is a matter for everybody because the health service affects everybody".

## St Brigid's School battles against cutbacks

AFTER A public meeting of over 200 people, teachers and parents at St Brigid's National School in The Coombe have launched a campaign against the sell-off of land designated for use as a new school building.

The campaign is planning a major demonstration to the Department of Education and Science on Wednesday May 21st to demand the immediate release of funds for the building project.

A new school promised to St Brigid's years ago was delayed pending road construction in the area.

Now that the road is finished plans are on hold again, this time due to government cutbacks.

Despite the substandard condition of many Irish primary schools, in its budget the government slashed spending on school

buildings by 4%.

The Department gave the go-ahead for building in 1999 but cutbacks have meant the project is frozen at the architectural planning stage.

Parents were horrified to see recently that Dublin City Council have placed a For Sale sign on the land adjacent to St Brigid's where part of the school was to be built.

### Guarantee

The Council claims that it cannot hold the land idle unless a guarantee can be obtained from the Department to build within the next 2 years.

There is no alternative site in the area where the school can be built.

The Department itself has acknowledged that the 113 year old building is unsuitable for young children.

Parents, teachers and people in the Coombe area are outraged by the prospect of losing their new school.

According to Sandra Fitzgerald, whose children attend the school, "We

have had 13 years of broken promises.

"Now we've had enough. We will not allow the council and the government to deny our children their right to a decent school building.

"We are determined to win".

Geraldine Gough, who has taught in the school for 30 years said, "We're not asking for much, just what the children deserve and

are entitled to.

"We are calling on Minister Dempsey to release the funding now".

Deirdre Cronin, a teacher in the school and spokesperson for the campaign said, "If the sale of this site goes ahead it will be in direct opposition to the wishes of the local people.

"This campaign is part of a wider struggle by local communities against the

government's cutbacks.

"Why should private developers make profits from Council lands while our children are forced to endure substandard school buildings?"

"The regeneration of the South Inner City must prioritise the needs of young people otherwise it is meaningless".

■ For further information contact Deirdre Cronin on 087 6650442.

## MASS TRESPASS IN KINSALE

A mass trespass will take place at the Old Head of Kinsale on Sunday 18th to protest over the exclusive Old Head Golf Links

The Old Head of Kinsale, widely regarded as one of the most beautiful and scenic areas in Ireland, was open to the public for centuries until it was sold to multi-millionaire businessman, John O'Connor.

O'Connor went on to construct the most exclusive golf course in the country and deny access to anyone unable to afford the exorbitant green fees of several hundred Euro.

Original planning permission for the course was only granted on the proviso that the land remained open to the public and an ancient right of way be observed.

Once the golf course had been completed, this condition was ignored and the entire head was fenced off with barbed wire and patrolled by security guards.

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inside:

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FOR CORPORATE  
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**HOW TO GET TO  
EVIAN —PAGE 4**



**US troops kill unarmed Iraqis  
Cholera epidemic threatens  
But US firms grab huge contracts**

# The bloody price of US occupation

by DAVID LYNCH

**AFTER THE murder of 14 civilians in Fallujah by US marines, the talk of 'liberation' and 'bringing democracy to the people of Iraq' is already sounding hollow.**

The troops had occupied a local school and when people staged a peaceful protest they were gunned down.

After the Bloody Sunday style massacre, banners appeared in the town saying 'Go from our country' and 'You are here for petrol not for freedom'.

The last got to the heart of matters.

A former US Commerce Department official said last week, "How often do countries change regimes—especially ones that have the world's second largest oil reserves?"

This sense of excitement among corporate America is increasing and the race to the contracts in Baghdad is now on.

The US awarded Bechtel a \$680 million contract for Iraqi reconstruction two weeks ago.

The US firm has close links to Bush's Republican Party. What is less well known are some of the firm's other dealings.

Bechtel had no objections to trying to cut deals with Saddam. In the early 1980s Bechtel vied for a contract from Saddam Hussein to build an oil pipeline from Iraq to Jordan.

The Institute for Policy Studies has discovered that key figures in Bush's gang, in particular defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld, pressed Saddam to approve the pipeline.

This is despite the fact that they were well aware of Saddam Hussein's use of chemical weapons in the war with Iran. They failed to get the pipeline, but Bechtel continued to do business in Iraq.

The firm signed a contract with the Iraqi government in 1988, just after the gassing of Kurdish people in Halabja. The contract was to build a huge petrochemical complex called PC-2.

Meanwhile it has also been revealed



■ *Iraqis protest after US troops fired on and killed unarmed civilian protestors in Fallujah*

that a subsidiary of Dick Cheney's former company Halliburton will virtually be running Iraq's oil industry. Originally many thought that Kellogg, Brown and Root simply had a contract to put out oil fires but now it appears that it will be pumping oil out from the north and south of the country. The contract is worth an estimated \$600 million over the coming years.

The US is going to spend an estimated \$4 billion in the next three years in restoring oil production in Iraq. Retired Shell oil executive Phillip Carroll is chair of a board overseeing Iraq's oil industry. Shell

is one of the companies seeking to get lucrative rebuilding contracts.

A retired American oilman, an Iraqi expatriate and a Baghdad insider have been named as the men who will now control the oil industry.

The former Shell chief executive Phillip Carroll and former Iraqi oil marketing chief Fadhil Othman become chairman and vice-chairman respectively of an advisory board to oversee Iraq's oil industry until a new government is in place.

Thamir Ghadban, who was director of planning at Iraq's oil ministry under Saddam, will serve as chief executive

officer of an interim oil industry management team.

The proposed replacement of the Iraqi currency by the American Dollar is just a further physical expression of American capital getting its grubby hands on the natural resources of Iraq.

Opposition grows to Occupation The protests on the streets against the American occupation of Iraq continues in Baghdad and beyond.

The US are already trying to sideline these opposition forces.

Organisations with wide support but disliked by the US regime have been

carved out. Al Dawa, an Islamic party suppressed by Saddam Hussein, warned, "The coming government will fall because it doesn't have the support of Iraqis."

One group of people, however, is guaranteed positions of power. They are the 120 or so Iraqi exiles personally chosen by Paul Wolfowitz, US deputy defence secretary, to run government departments.

In a further sign of things to come a row has broken out over elections in the city of Mosul. More than 200 delegates appointed by the US are set to elect a council. But that council will include officials who served under Saddam.

Some delegates walked out in protest at being divided along ethnic lines.

Iraqis continue to suffer

The British Army have been occupying Basra for well over a month and the city now faces an outbreak of cholera according to the World Health Organisation.

A severe shortage of clean drinking water has led to 17 cases of cholera. WHO experts believe that there are already at least 10 times that number of victims.

Citizens of Basra are unable to access clean water have been drinking filthy supplies contaminated with the bug.

Despite all the talk of 'aid' being delivered by the British there is still a shortage of vital drugs and intravenous fluids to treat victims.

Iraq Body Count is challenging the Pentagon's ridiculous claim that only one civilian was killed by a cluster bomb during the war.

The group said this week that at least 200 civilians had been killed by this type of weapon and attacked last month's Pentagon statement as prompting "widespread incredulity".

Cluster bombs which scatter small "bomblets" are a constant danger to civilians because many of them remain unexploded.

Even the US military admit that there was widespread use of the weapon during the war. Last month the US military's chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, General Richard Myers, said that almost 1,500 cluster bombs that were dropped from the air on Iraq.