

the SOCIALIST

NOVEMBER 7, 1979

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Union drive Wages

The Australian trade unions are poised for a drive aimed at substantially increasing existing wage rates.

That situation follows decisions of the Australian Arbitration Commission made on Monday November 5 increasing wage rates and other forms of payment for workers in the metal and the building industries and decisions made by a recent meeting of the Executive of the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU).

The decisions of the Arbitration Commission increase weekly wage rates for metal tradesmen by \$9.30 per week with an additional allowance of \$4.00 per week as a tool allowance and increase weekly wage rates for metal workers below the level of tradesmen by \$7.30.

The increases for building industry workers approximate \$11.00 per week for tradesmen and \$10.00 for builders labourers.

They take the form of increases in existing "allowances" with the major part of the increased amount being for "travelling allowance."

The metal workers increase follows three years of various forms of conferences between employers' and unions' representatives, a series of arbitration proceedings plus shop stewards' meetings and nation and state wide work stoppages of 24 and 48 hours duration.

BUILDING

The building industry wage increases followed similar forms of activity over a shorter period of time and were to a substantial degree the result of agreement between the main employers organisation and the building industry unions. In both instances the Arbitration Commission held that the claims for increases in the various rates fell within the area of the Commission's own wage fixing guidelines.

That fact, and the position occupied by both the awards concerned in the general award making area, provides the basis for the increases awarded to be spilled over into other awards. That state of affairs

applies in particular to the Metal Industry Award and the increases in wage and other rates now to operate under that award.

The decision to increase metal industry award rates will almost certainly have a bearing on claims for wage increases already made by workers employed in the private banks in the railways and by Telecom Australia. The "flow-on" possibilities of the metal award increases are enhanced by the fact that the increases approximate those already won by workers in several other areas.

EXTENSION

Moves for the extension of the metal award increases to other workers are not likely to be deterred by complaints from Government or employer spokesmen alleging inflation dangers arising from such extension. Nor will the metal and building increases alter union claims concerning national wage indexation.

The Arbitration Commission is scheduled to commence hearing national wage issues on Tuesday November 13. These issues include indexing all wage and salary rates in accordance with movements of the Consumer Price Index (CPI) during the six months ending last September, and the question of the continuance of the system of wage indexation.

The ACTU Executive, acting in accordance with specific decisions of the ACTU Congress held last September, will claim an "across-the-board"

Continued Page 12



Dammit gentlemen! The unions are threatening our democracy. They must be smashed!

South Africa's A bomb threatens world peace

The vague and rather tardy reports by the United States on the South African nuclear explosion were a tactical move by which US imperialism tried to create the impression that it was not involved.

The world knows, however, that the testing of the nuclear device was only made possible by the help given the racist regime by the US, Britain, France, FRG, and Israel. These countries continue to give South Africa every assistance with materials, technology and equipment.

The flow of millions of dollars and sterling to Pretoria made it possible to begin construction of uranium enrichment plants necessary to produce the atomic bomb.

As far back as 1950 the US, Britain and South Africa drew up a long term program for the use of South African uranium. In the seventies the

first nuclear reactors were built by the racists with the help of the capitalist powers. Pretoria, Koeberg and Valindaba became the sites for nuclear activity. An atomic range was constructed in the Kalahari desert region of South Africa.

Alarm has been expressed throughout the world at the revelation that South Africa now has nuclear bomb capacity. The chairman of the United Nations Council for Namibia, Paul Lusaka, has issued a statement saying that the racists' possession of nuclear weapons increases the danger of expansionist activities by Pretoria and considerably aggravates the threat to peace in the

south of the African continent. African National Congress representative Kingsley Xuma said the explosion shed new light on the cooperation between the imperialist powers and the South African racists. "The danger which the South African regime constitutes to peace is becoming increasingly serious. We call on the public of all countries, all people of good will to their utmost to put an end to the sinister collusion between imperialism and racism."

Mr Xuma pointed out that the nuclear bomb in the hands of the racists poses an enormous danger not only to Africa but to the cause of peace all over the world.

the SOCIALIST

The Three Mile Island Report

The report by the commission set up by President Carter to investigate the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant accident is an exposure of capitalism and a vindication of the Socialist Party's uranium policy.

SPA policy in part calls for the nuclear industry to be taken out of the hands of private capitalist concerns and to be operated as a completely nationalised industry working under strict safety provisions and supervised by public bodies such as trade unions and scientific organisations.

The US commission found that "the Metropolitan Edison Company, the operator of the Three Mile Island reactor, failed to acquire enough information about safety problems, failed to analyse adequately what information they did acquire or failed to act on that information."

This is typical of capitalist companies which, in the drive for profits, often take short cuts with safety coming a poor second. With the nuclear industry particularly, this approach just cannot be permitted.

The commission was also critical of the US government regulators for their loose methods. This underlines the fact that government regulations on their own, are no guarantee of safety particularly when governments are tied so closely to capitalist interests under the system of state monopoly capitalism. Even a nationalised industry could only carry out safety measures effectively if it was, as SPA policy suggests, open to democratic inspection and supervision by public organisations.

The report by the commission does suggest that the extent of the danger to people's lives through the release of radiation had been grossly exaggerated. Nevertheless, the warning that fundamental changes in approach are necessary to ensure the safety of the industry in the future must be taken very seriously.

The Socialist Party believes that the class issue of taking nuclear power out of the hands of private capitalists should be the essence of the so-called uranium debate. This is associated with the key question of using nuclear power for peaceful purposes and ending its military use. The nuclear war danger remains the main problem for mankind.

The nuclear industry is now well established throughout the world. In view of the position of other energy sources, it clearly has a future. Certainly the socialist countries see it this way, and they have set a good example by their strict approach to safety and propositions to end once and for all, through international agreement, the military use of nuclear power.

While uniting with others who have expressed concern about the safety aspects of nuclear power and its military application, the SPA cannot go along with those who oppose nuclear power as such. Such a position is unreal and, in essence, backward looking.

New books from New Era

Mao's Betrayal
Wang Ming. HC \$4.95

This is the last of the writings to come from Wang Ming, a prominent personality of the Communist Party in China and the world communist movement. This book is based on documentary evidence and the writer's own memories, and shows until the day of his death in September 1976, Mao Treason had determined against Leninism and internationalism, and against the ideological and organisational policy of the Communist Party of China.

Soviet Democracy in the Period of Developed Socialism HC \$3.95

The authors of this monograph analyse the main problems and the stage of development of the Soviet Union and the present state of the building of communism. The book shows the role played by democracy, which is the highest form of democracy, which is the highest form of democracy, which is the highest form of democracy. They also examine the basic democratic institutions of the political system of developed socialism, and an analysis of the new Soviet Constitution forms an organic part of the book.

Available from:
New Books Store and Records 118 Sussex St. Sydney. Ph: 255 6461
\$ 4.50 postage and handling.
New Era Bookshops 351 George St. Sydney. Ph: 25 6516
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the outrageous rip-off by oil companies

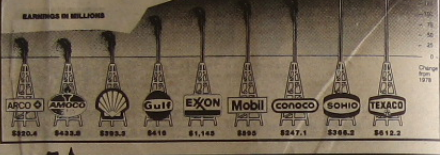
The outrageously high profits registered by the big US oil companies for the third quarter of this year are a further proof that the series of price rises for oil products experienced last year is not over. It is also a clear demonstration of the real source of the inflationary pressures which are one of the characteristics of the current capitalist crisis.

Exxon, world's second largest corporation (after General Motors) and the world's largest oil company, reported a record profit of \$1.15 billion (more than 120 per cent increase). Texaco reported a record profit of \$612 million (211 per cent increase); Standard Oil of Ohio \$362 million (191 per cent); Conoco \$247 million (134 per cent); Mobil \$395 million (101 per cent); Gulf \$61

million (98 per cent); Shell \$393.3 million (62 per cent); Amoco \$43.8 million (42 per cent). Arctic \$320.4 million (46 per cent). Using as an excuse rises in prices by OPEC countries the big oil companies have passed along the increases and hiked their profit margins as well. The effects of this rip-off are being felt practically in all

western countries, as the bulk of these profits made by the US oil companies come from outside the United States where price controls have partially constrained the size of the profits.

Australians are also victims of this profiteering, as some of these oil companies sell their products here, contributing to higher inflation. The Fraser Government is also an accomplice in this world rip-off; it uses high world prices as a pretext to increase the price of domestically produced oil as it relies heavily on the oil levy to diminish the size of its financial deficit.



Party Building the Socialist Festival is rolling

The preparations for the Socialist Festival are getting into top gear in Sydney. The Festival Committee has been meeting regularly filling in the details for what promises to be an outstanding event. See advertisement page 11 for details.

A number of branches have set up their own committees to do the work. About 20,000 leaflets are to be distributed in the Marrickville area and elsewhere advertising the Festival activities. Besides the stalls, there will be entertainment for children, a concert and some talking too, about the importance of the Socialist Party.

Mr. Y. Granger, Deputy Editor-in-Chief of *Pravda* is expected to attend together with a member Soviet group of variety artists... There are only two weeks to go now. No more time to put things off. Blow the whistle for an all-out effort and a huge roll-up on Festival Day.

Adelaide: the main function in Adelaide's Socialist Festival will be held in the Irish-Australian Club Hall, Carrington Street. It will run from 10 to 5 p.m. on Saturday, December 15. There will be stalls for the sale of goods, and at 3 p.m. a group of variety artists will come together with some speakers about the Socialist Party.

Banktown Branch: reports an another successful street sale of the Socialist Party and the Branch is offering more than 2000 copies of *Pravda* to the book sellers from other Branches who will be offering it. They say "we will take beginners' mass of female Let's show the face of the Party to those who are not in the know."

Their branch stand is at the Compass Centre shopping centre, Bankstown. Banktown Branch is also running a stall from 9.45 am, to 12 noon following publication of each issue.

The Australian statement continued: "Australia herself experienced CIA subversion in connection with the bloodless coup which toppled the Whitlam Labor Government. Unfortunately, because the Fraser Government itself was involved in the coup, it was impossible for action to be taken against the conspirators as has been taken in Czechoslovakia."

"The socialist system in Czechoslovakia produced a high quality in the concept of freedom. The working people are in complete charge of the

SPA statement

Czechoslovakia has the right to protect itself

"Czechoslovakia has every right to protect its socialist system from subversion by organised reactionaries and guided by the CIA."

This statement was made by the Socialist Party of Australia Central Committee Secretary in connection with the recent conviction of six Czech citizens on charges relating to organised attempts to subvert the Czechoslovak socialist state. It was revealed that they were financed and guided by the CIA. (See *Sunday Morning Herald* 24/10/79).

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Prague, February 1948. People jubilantly demonstrate in favour of the socialist government just installed. They are not going to allow now a handful of CIA collaborators to put back history.

country's affairs and so participate in all aspects of life, political, economic, social and cultural. There is provision for criticism and dissent. However, there is no provision for the exercise of socialism, acting as agents of imperialism, to organise to undermine the system which provides for these new freedoms.

"The Secretariat notes that some organisations, speaking in the name of socialism, have unfortunately joined the imperialist condemnation of Czech-

oslovakia over the recent trials and convictions. The Secretariat declares its internationalist solidarity with the Communist Party, Government and people of Czechoslovakia in their peaceful and constructive efforts to build a new and just society and their effort to protect it against the enemies of peace and socialism and those who would like to bring Czechoslovakia, along with the other socialist countries, once more under the system of capitalist exploitation."

Queenslanders hear

report on Vietnam

Following her return from a recent visit to Vietnam, she was the representative of the BWU in a trade union delegation to Brisbane. Janet Henderson has attended a series of meetings to report on what she observed there.

On Thursday, October 25, she addressed a meeting organised by the Queensland branch of the Union of Australian Women (UAW).

The delegation of the Socialist Party of Australia stressed that the international activities of

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The Slave Hunter



Alan Miller
The Hungarian Socialist Workers Party very well serve the nation of the world peace and social progress. Both Parties regard their internationalist duties that they should exert efforts for further strengthening the unity of views which are shared by the International Communist and Workers Movements on the basis of the principles of Marxism and Leninism and proletarian internationalism and promote the unity of progressive anti-imperialist forces of the world.

The visit by the delegation of the Australian Fraternal Party further strengthened the international cooperation existing between the two Parties.

Soviet Cultural Festival was overwhelming success

The Australia-USSR Society's Soviet Cultural Festival held recently in Sydney has been rated by some as the biggest single event in the development of better Soviet-Australia relations to take place since the war, and perhaps in all Australian history.

The festival served to put the Australia-USSR Society and the whole question of relations between Australia and the USSR on the map. Public interest in the Festival appeared in many sections of the media, as well as in schools and many other organisations.

The Festival encompassed exhibitions on the USSR, the Olympic Games, on Byelorussian Arts and Crafts, on child art, education and development and on Soviet architectural restoration programme. It also featured a performance of a Soviet puppet play by the Mariouette Theatre of Australia, as well as a seminar on trade relations, child welfare and several other topics; the most popular events were undoubtedly the entertainment provided by the visiting Krynachok Song and Dance Ensemble and the children's dancing in Martin Place.

The end of the Festival coincided with the arrival in Australia of the Red Army Choir (after some 30 years of exiling) to reach our shores. This provided a unique dramatic note to the Festival and carried forward the public interest generated by the Festival.



Children dancing in Martin Place

Talk Back!

by Ken Rowsthorne

Park Moon Jae from the South Korea city of Pusan wanted to go north to live in the socialist North Korea. He felt he would be treated better. He was arrested and now it is a little late. He was sentenced to death by a South Korean judge. Thousands of American troops and US nuclear weapons are in South Korea protecting this "democracy."

British Leyland is sponsoring Captain Mark Phillips, husband to Princess Ann, to the tune of \$124,000 over a three year period. Poor fellow has trouble keeping his polo horses. Princess Ann receives a yearly allowance from taxpayers money of "only" \$120,000. Meanwhile Leyland is sacking workers.

It is reported that the US Republican Party is sounding out the public on the ceiling his assistance in the coming US Presidential elections.

Mr Eggleston was in the shadows at the time of the Fraser-Kerr coup in 1975 which certainly involved the CIA and American big business interests and ended as Fraser's campaign strategist. We do not know what Mr Eggleston's decision will be, but would think that one good turn deserves another.

Britain's war lady, Prime Minister Thatcher has ridiculed the decision of the Soviet Union to withdraw 20,000 troops and 1,000 tanks from the territory of the German Democratic Republic. She claims it is insignificant. It is perfectly open for Mrs Thatcher to make a more significant contribution to peace in Europe or even an act to call "insignificant" ones. Her contribution however is a big upsurge for an even bigger arms build up including more nuclear weapons.

Sydney Morning Herald report:
"Overriding and getting stoned is very familiar to many of the estimated 2,500 homeless teenagers in the police courts, water drains, cars and on beaches, they are like disembodied spirits, the joyless, they have contributed to the problem for an even bigger arms build up including more nuclear weapons.

The child shall find a job. The Rights of the Child Principle 2 of the Declaration on the Rights of the Child and shall be given opportunities and facilities, by law and by other means, to enable him to develop physically, mentally, morally, spiritually and socially in a healthy and normal manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity."
This is just another example trumpeted underfoot by capitalism's at technology of NSW, Harris St city Broadway Rd \$33 (concessions 22) colium.

Refugees and racism in Australia

by Steve Mavrantzos

The dubious hue and cry of the Australian mass media about Vietnamese refugees and the over-dramatised stories in the pages of the capitalist press are directly connected with migration policies embodied in the infamous NUMAS system.

The ultimate purpose of this discriminatory migrant selection system is to bring about a gradual demographic change in our society, with all the resulting effects on human relations, by promoting large numbers of refugees from the right wing and in many cases extreme elements from Vietnam, South Africa, Rhodesia and the like.

REACTIONARY RESERVE

The intention of the Liberal-NCP Government is to build up in our country a reserve of ultra-conservative, reactionary forces whose activities could be directed in promoting racism, political discrimination and divisions among the Australian people which serve the interests of the ruling class.

Still living in our memory are the stabbing of a trade unionist outside the Sydney Trades Hall by criminal elements of the "refugee community" early this year and the Brisbane riots during the visit of a delegation of Vietnamese union leaders a few months ago.

The question of the mass influx of Vietnamese refugees into Australia and the serious dangers created by this situation for the whole of the Australian community, will deal with at the recent Central Committee meeting of the Socialist Party of Australia.

The resolution adopted at the CC meeting condemns the NUMAS system as one "designed to discriminate against



No Khatarin, a trade union organizer who was stabbed by Vietnamese fascists in Sydney earlier this year. The picture above him in hospital after the stabbing.

migrants from certain countries on the basis of their language capabilities, their wealth, or lack of it, and on personal factors that can be used for political discrimination."

The resolution also expresses concern that "in the present period of economic crisis and increasing unemployment the government is preparing to facilitate large scale migration from Southern Africa" many of whom are notorious for their racist attitudes."

SPA RESOLUTION

On the question of Vietnamese refugees the CC resolution declares that "the Australian, US, and Chinese governments have acted with great irresponsibility in deliberately increasing an influx of Vietnamese refugees and then holding the Vietnamese government responsible."

Unholy alliance of anti-Soviet provocers

The performances of the Red Army Choir which have been attended by capacity and appreciative audiences in every capital city has brought also a spate of leaflets from the political fittest and jetsam of the extreme right-wing.

The Captive Nations Committee has emerged from its historical graveyard to demand that the Red Army Choir be "immediately expelled" from Australia. In rather expensive propaganda it lists the alleged crimes of the Red Army over the years. Strange to say, (or is it, that in their chronology they just fail to mention the invasion of the young Soviet Republics by the 14 armies of Hitler's "invincible" Wehrmacht, who attempted to "strangle" the newborn socialist system in the early 1920s. Also overlooked is the Hitlerite invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941 or any mention of the fact that it was the Red Army which "tore the guts" out of the Nazi armies and saved humanity from a fascist dark age. But they do not stray because many of those who make up the Captive Nations Committee were in fact, Nazi collaborators.

There were those from the British Board of Deputies floating at the mouth with their demand to "Let them leave," ignoring the fact that

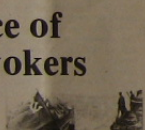
The resolution further states: "As opposed to the formation of rescue seeking organisations and the use of Australian territory for purposes of provocation or incitement against another government."

At a time when, according to the Fourth Annual Report of the Commissioner for Community Relations, there exist in our country today over 30 racist organisations of a fascist type actively propagating and promoting racism and discrimination, the government's policies designed to further aggravate the situation and strengthen the trend towards racial hatred and fascism, represent a real danger against the democratic rights of the people.

IMPORT OF FASCISM

This activation of racist forces within Australia has been arranged to reactivate elements in large numbers, it is a whole labour and democratic movement of South Africa."

It needs to be met by a strong united movement of all democratic forces, by waging a vigorous campaign at all levels. The CC resolution said, however, that the overwhelming majority of migrants and refugees will find themselves as part of the working class and as such, the labour movement must set about to win them to the struggle for social progress."



The Red Army has a proven record as a defender of peoples' freedoms. The picture above shows a celebration in Berlin in October 1945.

These political hangers-on and ordinary peevish Australians from attending and participating in the activity of the Choir. Honest people know that the Soviet Union is for propaganda efforts run similar to those of the fascist organisations these days. They are hoping like crazy that a war will break out. "We are heading for a third world war," they tell us with evident glee. Others like the Ukrainian Women's Association and the Sydney Latvian Society added their share of venom, spitting in the face of history.

It was all in vain. This unholy united front of reaction did not stop the thous-

SPA support for Women's Decade review

The recent full meeting of the Central Committee of the Socialist Party of Australia (SPA) strongly supported Australian preparations for the United Nations Decade for Women Mid-term Review Conference in Copenhagen in July 1980.

Under the auspices of the National Women's Advisory Council (NWAC) regional conferences are being held in a plan drafted by the NWAC for future decade activities. On March 6 and 7, 1980, a national conference will finalise the plan which will be presented to the UN conference in Copenhagen in preparatory conferences. The Central Committee said that the SPA desired to participate. As a special contribution, the party would publicise by a present program for women and a pamphlet on feminism currently being drafted by a Central Committee sub-committee which specialises in party work among women.

Soviet artists for Socialist Festival

A group of leading Soviet musicians will visit Australia as guests of the Socialist Festival this month. They will perform a number of pieces arranged to celebrate work and development of the new people.

The group includes a famous trio of bayan (accordion) players from the Ural mountains area, a leading baritone and a female soloist of the Moscow Philharmonic Society.

Disarmament — the only sure guarantee to a future

Direct military expenditure in the world today totals 425 thousand million dollars per year. About 25% of the world's resources and of government research and development is involved in the military sector.

These enormous expenditures take place in the form of New Guinea will be enough to meet the acute food needs of the 100 million people who about 500 million people are under-nourished and 31500 million would be enough to teach 700 million illiterate people all over the world to read and write.

There can be no stable international political relationships, no development of co-operation in science, technology, and no solution of pressing social issues, no effective measures to combat unemployment, poverty and starvation in the circumstances of the continuing arms race.

All measures which contribute to the halting and reversal of the arms race themselves serve support and encouragement, particularly the ratification

Militant Brisbane wharfie goes into active retirement

The retirement of prominent waterside worker, George Kelleway, who has worked on the Brisbane waterfront for 38 years was marked by a social feast on Saturday night 27th October at the club rooms of the Waterside Workers' Federation.

Guests from many organisations were invited, including the SPA which was represented by State Secretary Jim Henderson and executive member Jean O'Connor.

George Kelleway has been chairman for many years of the Australia-USSR Society and is active in the peace movement. Responding, George pointed out the need to at all times stand firm on principle. McLean spoke of the many sterling qualities that had impelled George to devote 37 years of his time as executive member of wharfies and many years as a leading member of the Club.

Marxist Political Economy and Australian history

by W.J. Brown

The validity of both the historical materialist and political economic theories of Marxism clearly finds confirmation in Australian political, social and economic development both past and present.

As historical evidence in the present article indicates, the Aboriginal people's age-old mode of primitive communal mode of production was thrust aside to make way for the new capitalist mode of production.

Capitalism in Australia is estimated to have had its beginnings in the 1820s. By this time, pastoral industry was gathering pace and the first manufacturing and mercantile ventures were emerging.

The first bank, the Bank of NSW was founded as early as 1817. As Governor MacQuarie forecast, banking on the Wales was to be of incalculable benefit to the mercantile and agricultural interests of the colony.

Australia was already on the path that was to lead rapidly through capitalism's developmental sequence as outlined by Marx and Lenin. The period of "free competition" was to move to the imperialist stage as early as the 1870s and to follow this up quite forcefully in a takeover of New Guinea with the defeat of Germany in the imperialist war of 1914-18. By the end of its first century of capitalism (1820 to 1920 Australia, in full conformity with the processes analysed by Marx and Lenin, decisively emerged as a capitalist and even a junior imperialist nation.

"Capital," Marx wrote, "comes into the world dripping with blood and dirt..." Capital made previously such an entrance into Australia's historical stage.

Australia's early capitalists urgently needed labor to exploit. As Marx showed a "free" labor force, that is, workers with nothing to sell

but their power to labor, had to be available for capitalist development. In early Australia no such force existed.

Capitalism in Australia developed in its formative years mainly on the basis of the slave-labor of convicts. Typical of capitalist's notorious lack of planning, Australia was seen, in Whitehall's restricted view, merely as a penal settlement. Apart from a few immigrant workers, only the inefficient labor of the disinterested, resentful convict was available.

At first, potential town and country capitalists exploited this unsatisfactory, but cheap, convict labor with ruthless use of the lash and even the gibbet as "incentives."

By mid-19th century, Australian capitalists found themselves, in their own interests, forced to support mass protests for abolition of convict transportation. New the thrust was for "free" immigrants to meet capital's crucial labor needs.

GOLD RUSH

While the gold rush of the 1850s greatly boosted capital accumulation it proved a temporary labor drain. A more enduring problem in building a permanent and adequate labor force was the lure of land ownership. In the British Isles, capital secured its labor force by brutally hounding people off the land. In Australia, with its vast spaces, the problem was to prevent people getting onto the land.

Marx, in one of his many brilliant writings on Australia, wittily indicated that Australia, wittingly or not, was the "sufficient price" of land at a level "sufficient" to prevent workers buying land.

With nothing to lose except sale of their labor power they

were forced to offer themselves as producers of surplus value for enrichment of the colony's incipient capitalists.

In Capital, Marx defined production of surplus value as the basic economic law of capitalism. In his "Three components of Marxism" Lenin rightly sets this concept as the "cornerstone" of Marxist political economy.

Surplus value is value created by the labor of a wage worker over and above the value of his labor power. This additional value created by the worker is appropriated by the capitalist without payment.

Surplus value provides the source of capital accumulation and Australian history provides basic evidence to show how Australian capitalism and overseas capital investment had enriched itself on a steady increase in the basis of extraction of surplus value from the unpaid labor of the Australian working class.

Marxist political economy further showed how capitalist techniques increasingly developed social production processes while capital privately appropriates the bulk of the wealth created by the workers' labor power. He showed that this contradiction between social production and private appropriation is the basic cause of the cyclical crises of capitalism.

Again, Australia's history provides confirmation. Quite serious cyclical crises of capitalism inherent in reactionary, imperialist content. In 1929 (followed by the "Great Depression" of the 1930s and early 1930s and, of course, the current world crisis, or depression, the "worst since the thirties").

Creatively developing Marxist political economy in the actual period of monopoly, Lenin showed that the economic law of development of the relations of production forces. This simply means that means of production are social in process, but are socially, not privately, owned. Today, monopoly has brought socialisation of production to the highest level possible under capitalism and the lack of correspondence between private ownership of the means of production and the social character of production cries out for basic change.

The onset of the scientific and technological revolution in its great expansion of the productive character of the productive forces. This new ownership of these vast forces an explosive contradiction demanding the replacement by new, socialist relations of production.

The conclusions reached by Marx in formulating this basic



A boat with convicts arriving in Australia.

omic essence of imperialism is the displacement of "free competition" by monopoly capital which moves to imperialism, the highest stage of capitalism, in the form of less than two centuries, Australian capitalism has involved Australians in some eight wars, large and small, including two world wars, all arising directly as a consequence of the socio-economic system of capitalism and its inherent, reactionary, imperialist content. In 1914-18.

Currently, Australian trends are providing most profound confirmation of the truth of both Marx's historical materialism and political economy. A fundamental opposition of both these components of Marxism is that an economic law of development of social production forces is obligatory correspondence of the relations of production forces.

The foregoing shows that Marxist political economy provides a sound, scientific basis for analysing and understanding the socio-economic past. More importantly, Marxist political economy needs to be widely understood and applied as the fundamental solution to Australia's crisis-racked present and its future.

- Footnotes:
- 1. C. Clark, British Empire of Australia 1913-1930.
- 2. R. Fitzpatrick, Britain Empire in Australia, 1933-1970.
- 3. K. Marx, Capital, 3rd edition, Vol. 3, 1884.
- 4. K. Marx, Capital, 3rd edition, Vol. 3, 1884.
- 5. J. K. Paine, op. cit. Vol. 3, p. 679.
- 6. R. B. Stammers, 'War, Peace and Revolution in China, U.S.S.R., U.S.A., W. Europe, W. Africa, W. Asia, W. Korea, Vietnam, 1945-1970.

International Year of the Child:

"A child needs peace like a flower needs sunshine"

The Declaration of the Rights of the Child was proclaimed by the General Assembly of the United Nations on November 20, 1959. It says:

Principle 2
The child shall enjoy special protection, and shall be given opportunities and facilities, by law and by other means, to enable him to develop physically and socially in a healthy and normal manner and in conditions of freedom and dignity. In the enactment of laws for this purpose, the best interests of the child shall be the paramount consideration...

Principle 7
The child is entitled to receive education, which shall be free and compulsory, at least in the elementary stages. He shall be given an education which will promote his general culture, and enable him, on a basis of equal opportunity, to develop his abilities, his individual judgement, and his sense of moral and social responsibility, and to become a useful member of society....

Governments throughout the world have been asked to support the Declaration of the Rights of the Child being made into a Convention. The Australian Government has not yet supported this appeal.

Many organisations and individuals in Australia and in other countries have worked tirelessly throughout IYC to make the principles of the Declaration a reality.

Does our society conform to the principles of the Declaration? What are our social priorities?

In Australia too, the principles are not observed, the governments ignore them.....

Not only should the Declaration of the Rights of the Child be made into a United Nations Convention but its principles should also be passed into law by the governments. You can help. Ask the Australian government to do this. Write to the Prime Minister, Parliament House, Canberra, A.C.T. 2600.

This graphic report from the Sydney Morning Herald (27/10/79):

Teenage derelicts in our streets

By GRAHAM WILLIAMS

Thursday, 10.30 pm. They lie together like two crumpled rag dolls on the shabby pavement, just around the corner from the bright, busy lights of Oxford Street, Darlinghurst.

One youth is curled in a semi-fetal position, the other is sprawled on his back. They are unconscious. Their faces seem to be white death-masks, even in the dark.

A policeman sees their pale, open eyes, their faded shirts and briefly checks their hearts.

A nearby crowded wine-bar spews out 20 restless teenagers who drift to the corner and peer briefly at the huddled youths. No one is surprised or shocked.

Overdosing and getting alone is very familiar to many of the estimated 2,500 homeless teenagers in the inner city. Father Stephen Williams, a lean, ascetic-looking Anglican priest whose only symbol of his faith is the gold cross that hangs over his grey vester, shakes his head in dismay.

"I've been working here at year now and so many kids overdose and get stoned it's frightening."

"A lot end up in the morgue. I know six kids who have died from overdoses in the past year."

"They are like disembodied spirits. You walk up to greet them and you seem to greet through them. They just seem like wraiths sliding periodically."

"That's why it's so hard to come in touch with them. They seem so lost, so hopeless, so hopeless, even if they have a veneer."

The jobs queue has contributed to a big upsurge in homelessness which has thrown out of home by their parents, because they can't find a job.

"There's no doubt most of them have jobs. They are just very depressed and disillusioned. They're up and living in shock-like conditions."

At its annual meeting earlier this year the UNICEF Board allocated US\$27.5 million for projects in 102 countries and territories. This sum is equivalent of the amounts spent by the world on armaments in approximately 5 hours.

Vitamin A Deficiency Blindness (Xerophthalmia), is preventable yet 11 million children throughout the world are at risk from it. It can be cured with Vitamin A capsules which cost about 1c to manufacture. Money for this cause is being raised by charities.

There are estimated to be 750 million operable military rifles and pistols exist in the world — one for every adult male on earth.

"Once I had a patient, a little epileptic girl. All she needed to live normally was one pill a day. They are 15c a hundred. I told her Mother, underlining how cheap the remedy for her daughter was. She answered, 'That's

easy to say, doctor, because you don't know that my shoes are borrowed.'"
Dr. Zakl Hasan, chairman of the UN Children's Fund.

The world's resources are being used up in the arms race. The US Air Force is the biggest consumer of petrol. About half of the world's scientists are working directly on the invention and manufacture of weapons.

Children are the poorest age group in America. One child in six is poor in any one year. Almost 42 per cent of black children under 18 years live in families with incomes below the poverty line in 1977, compared to only 11.4 per cent of white children.

In the Australian Senate, Senator Chaney reported (13/9/79), "Aboriginal infant mortality rate in 1978 was 48.1 deaths per 1000 live births....In the Northern Territory the figure for non-Aboriginal infants, 9.7 per 1000, is lower than anywhere else in Australia."

Racial discrimination is specifically banned in the Declaration of the Rights of the Child.

"I have never been stopped in the street by people collecting funds for nuclear weapons, because this has been taken well care of by governments. But I have seen many collections for children, for those who should be the real concern of governments, well, of all people."

Peter Ustinov



Culture and life

A Monthly Commentary by Judah and Hyreil Waten

The recently published novel *Long Live Sandwara* by the Aboriginal novelist Colin Johnson is a further manifestation of the considerable literary activity taking place among the Aboriginal people. Since 1967 when Aboriginals were officially recognised as a people, to be counted in the census and to be eligible for the vote and for social service benefits, a school of Aboriginal writers has made its appearance, for the first time in Australia's history.

Truly the poem written by the Black American poet Toibon, with the words Jack Jackson substituted for the words Crowlin, sums up the situation:

"Out of the dead end of poverty, Then wilderness of superstition, Across barricades of Jacky Jackson, We advance."

Perhaps the best known of the Aboriginal writers are Faith Bandler, Kevin Gilbert, Dick Roughsey, Colin Johnson, Jack Davis and Kath Walker. Both Jack Davis and Kath Walker are distinguished poets and

Dick Roughsey is a brilliant illustrator and artist as well as a writer of books for children and an autobiography.

However it must not be thought that life for the Aboriginal writer is an easy one. They have more than the ordinary share of difficulties that beset the Australian writer, including the matter of publication. A few weeks ago Kath Walker announced that in future she would publish her work abroad, partly because of the negligence of Australian publishers.

CULTURAL ADVANCE IN THE GDR

The announcement that the ballet company of the Comic Opera in Berlin, the capital of the GDR, would be performing at the Adelsde Festival of Arts in 1980 once again highlights the remarkable achievements of the GDR in its 30 years of existence. Once again a GDR cultural ensemble is in demand everywhere.

We saw this ballet company in 1977 and we thought it was one of the most original and modern dance ensembles we had seen in the last few



Arts flourish in the GDR

decades. It performed a revue of 27 scenes dealing with many of the important happenings since 1917, the defeated revolution in Germany, the Spanish civil war, the defeat of Hitler and the establishment of the GDR and the victory of Castro in Cuba.

TWO MEMORIALS

Dr. H.V. Ewart who died in 1965 was a distinguished historian but he will also be remembered in Australian history since 1917, the defeated revolution in Germany, the Spanish civil war, the defeat of Hitler and the establishment of the GDR and the victory of Castro in Cuba.

One of the most interesting films we have seen this year is "The Private Files of J. Edgar Hoover" by Melbourne release had been delayed for 2 years and our knowledge it hasn't been shown anywhere else yet.

This American film spans 50 years — from the days when Hoover conducted the anti-Red raids of the 1920's and which first appointed head of the FBI until his death during Nixon's term of office as President. The Top Cop, the Great G-Man, is revealed as a consummate frame-up artist, black-magic, extreme right-winger and persecutor of progressives.

The film also reveals the double standards of Hoover who crusaded against poor whites but put up books one kind — from tapes to pornographic shots — to silence his political opponents.

The brilliant director Larry Cohen uses vivid montage of reality and fiction, twisted and re-entangled, interspersed with bitter character canons. It is not a film to be made to persuade at least a small theatre to show it every day.

ANTISHOVIT BOOKS

Every so often a rabidly anti-Soviet book is published in Britain where it is duly hailed as a masterpiece. Most of these books are written by "owners," that is one book author without much talent. Newsweek complains that the dissident writers have written no major works in exile, what they had written was poor. Of the current two bubbly titled anti-Soviet books one is a rather dully schoolboy type of satire and the other is supposed scientific work by Zhores Medvedev which was refused to be published by the Soviet Union as well as the donations announced as "rubbish" by Sir John Hill, the Chairman of British Atomic Energy Authority.

New Vietnam pamphlet sets out the facts

Sam Goldblum's pamphlet, *Viet Nam — The Punishment of the Innocent* reviewed by W.J. Brown

Viet Nam — The Punishment of the Innocent by Sam Goldblum \$0.50 at any left bookshop.

Reviewed by W.J. Brown

It shows that, in importing and adapting the great mistake of Mao's cultural revolution in Kampuchea, the Pol Pot regime perpetrated "a systemic massacre which led to the murder and starvation of three

million people between 1975 and 1978" with one of the professional and educated people.

The pamphlet gives data revealing that by 1978, 19 of 23 divisions of the Pol Pot army were on the Vietnamese border and that "his army had been conducting for three years a proxy war against Vietnam on behalf of Peking."

At the already mentioned seminar earlier this year, Chris Ray, a young journalist who had served in Hanoi as *Tribune* correspondent, stated that "his own observation, that from his own observation Kampuchean forces under

Pol Pot had repeatedly violated Viet Nam's borders and, finally, Viet Nam had struck back and made common cause with Kampuchean patriots fighting Pol Pot.

Chris, in his review of Sam's book in *Tribune* makes an interesting point when he raises the query: "In regard to Viet Nam and Kampuchea, could it be that some on the left, having abandoned the principle of blind obedience to a 'revolutionary authority,' now regard as sacred a principle of 'non-intervention' that ignores real

politic situations and class solidarity?"

For a well-informed survey of the whole issue of Vietnam and Kampuchea, with all the every dollar raised with all the money to perpetuate Menzies' ideas to which Fraser adheres.

The Herbert Vere Ewart Memorial which was given by \$100,000 from the NSW Labor Government has now been refused a donation from a modern day Fraser Government but it has also been refused to make the donations announced as "rubbish" by Sir John Hill, the Chairman of British Atomic Energy Authority.

Sam traces the long standing degeneration of the Pol Pot regime and makes a case for peace from Peking. His facts confirm Fraser's own conveniently forgotten description of the Pol Pot regime as one of the "most horrific in history."

BLUNNESS

Fido Castro, with characteristic bluntness, disposed of this matter in his September 3 speech to the six-nation group conference in Havana. After deducing China's recognition of the People's Revolutionary Council as the real, legitimate government of Kampuchea, Fido said: "People keep saying that Vietnam sent fighters to support the Kampuchean revolutionaries. Why don't they say that the bloody clique that had seized control of the country, in conjunction with China and imperialism, provoked and attacked Vietnam first and that there is no possible documentary proof of mass murders perpetrated against Vietnamese men, women, old people and children?"

In his pamphlet, Sam Goldblum specifically deals with the "invasion" issue on the basis of facts ascertained in a visit to Viet Nam accompanied by James Clarke, of Sydney in the August 1979.

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Children — acting to shape the future

On the eve of Universal Children's Day, October 24, the children of Tennerfield (NSW), marked IYC by donating 300 paintings they had painted to the Rotary Club of Tennerfield's biennial Art Exhibition and sale. It was the decision of the children themselves to make the contribution to the IYC in this way.

An appeal by the World Peace Council in connection with the International Year of Child says:

"This year cannot pass away without stressing the dramatic and heroic role played by thousands and thousands of children who are victims and heroes in a just struggle against imperialism. The Soviet children's crusade against apartheid stands for children's heroic anti-history today."

"Side by side with adults they are playing an ever more important role in the fight against the cruel remnants of history. By doing this, they become the heroes of our times, fighting, protesting and shaping out their needs and wishes."

The Central Committee of the SPA has released the following document:

Resolution on Centralism

The Political Resolution adopted by the Party's Third Congress devoted a section to the task of building a strong Socialist Party and pointed to the participation and leadership of a Marxist-Leninist Party in the struggles of the workers as being decisive for success, raising the whole movement "to new levels with more far-reaching objectives."

The Political Resolution set a number of targets for the Party including improvement of the quality of the Party. This need concerns the level of ideological development, the level of understanding of Marxist-Leninist theory, the level of political consciousness and the level of Leninist revolutionary organisations.

Proper and full application of these principles will ensure a single line for the party on all issues, a central and not a fragmented lead and will significantly increase the unity of Party members and improve the effectiveness of our work.

The Central Committee draws particular attention to the following principles:

1. The principle of making decisions collectively while establishing individual responsibility for carrying out decisions.

Main principles of democratic centralism are set out in the Party's constitution as follows:

- a. The election of the Central, State and District Committees and Branch Executives by secret ballot.
- b. All Party organisations must set out to study and learn from the experiences and views of other party organisations to practice criticism and self-criticism.
- c. Leading party organisations must submit reports at regular intervals to the party organisations which elect them. Lower party organisations must report to the higher party organisations and be preferred guidance and assistance on problems arising from their work.
- d. Collective leadership in the party. All important questions are decided collectively while individual responsibility is fixed for carrying out decisions.
- e. Party decisions, properly made in accordance with this constitution, must be carried out. Lower party organisations must carry out decisions of the higher organisations, decisions of the Party Congress and the Central Committee are binding upon the whole Party.
- f. Party organisations shall carry out a regular and efficient check on decisions.

While these are main principles of democratic centralism, there are other relevant issues in the constitution, e.g., the rights and duties of party members, which also elaborate centralism aspects.

Democratic centralism is not to be mistaken and especially so in contradictory processes. It is a single integrated whole and the proper observance of the party's democratic practices will and is intended to strengthen central leadership.

What is democratic centralism?

It is the name given to the organisational principle which the Socialist Party of Australia and other parties of the international workers' movement are built. It enables the party to conduct the struggle for democratic centralism and the building of the new socialist Party on a democratic basis. It ensures both inner party democracy and singleness of voice and unity of action.

The principles of democratic centralism are always under attack by the working class and its political leadership. In this resolution, the Central Committee of the Socialist Party has restated the main principles. They are important to know and follow.

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1. The principle of making decisions collectively while establishing individual responsibility for carrying out decisions.

The Socialist Party of Australia set a letter of greetings to the Party's workshop activities and Palestine held in Lisbon, Portugal in November 2-6. The letter says in part:

As part of the world-wide struggle for national independence and liberation, the progressive Arab people are waging an heroic struggle against imperialist oppression and the Camp David betrayal.

We salute the Palestinian people who, despite their great trials and sacrifice, remain steadfast in their just demands and continue to fight militant political and military struggle against the imperialists and their lackeys.

The Socialist Party of Australia protests at the continued suppression of the Palestinian people and the seizure of Arab lands and against the Israeli aggression in southern Lebanon which aims to seize new territory for Zionist occupation.

We support the demands of the Arab people for the right of their own independent state, the withdrawal of ANZUS to a peaceful life in a united and democratic Lebanon.

We demand the withdrawal of Israeli forces behind the 1967 lines and the return to the right of the lands seized by the Zionist expansionists.

We are confident that the Lisbon Conference will help to strengthen the unity of the Arab forces who oppose the plans of the imperialists and Zionists and that this unity, together with the solidarity of the world's progressive forces, will bring about the utter defeat of imperialism and Zionism and bring national liberation, social progress and peace to the Arab people.

The Central Committee member Harry Black was part of the three-member Australian delegation which took part in the conference.



All important questions are decided collectively, while individual responsibility is fixed for carrying out decisions.

The Party will then provide effective leadership to the working class and will succeed in co-ordinating the many struggles of the masses of the people to win peace, democracy, national independence, higher living standards and socialism.

SPA greets World Conference in Solidarity with Arab people

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SPA changes party in South Korea

Director Park Chung Hee of South Korea had become too odious a figure even for Washington so he was removed by South Korean secret police agents under the guidance of the CIA.

Recent popular unrest had assumed broad character. Political demonstrations had flared up in Pusan and Masan and had attracted thousands of people and a curfew had been imposed. A mass resignation of 69 opposition members in parliament took place after the arrest of Kim Sam, their leader.

In Pyongyang the newspaper *Pyongyang Shin* writes that the "Killing of Park Chung Hee by his own subordinates could be a preventive action exceeding the many struggles of the masses to save the fascist regime from a popular uprising;

but political problems and social unrest cannot be thus solved says the newspaper. The struggle of the people will undoubtedly intensify and the differences will grow among the chiefs of the puppet clique in power.

In the meantime the USA has rubbed the 7th Fleet (Flagship Blue Ridge and aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk) to Pusan. The 3,000 American troops stationed in the south of the Korean peninsula have been put on the alert.

SPA's growing influence among NZ working class

The 5th Conference of the Socialist Unity Party (SUP) of New Zealand took place in Auckland, October 19-21, in an atmosphere of unity and a spirit of enthusiasm about the growth of the party and the growing unity of the class against the Muldoon Government.

The SUP's growing grass roots influence as a result of its ingate and workshop activities, was reflected in the significant increase in new members, party finance and the size of the party newspaper, *Tribune*, and other Marxist publications.

Following a period of 2 months of discussion between the branches, the conference unanimously adopted by the Federation of Labour (FOL) which received overwhelming support by the workers, demonstrates that

The document in its analysis of global developments, welcomed the progress in the northern hemisphere, particularly Europe, towards making detente the guiding principle in the policy of various states. In particular, the priorities in relationships based on peaceful co-existence that has developed between the USSR and the USA, which is also developing with the ERG leading to increased dialogue, trade and cultural exchanges.

DANGER ZONE
The SUP pointed out that current trends show that our area of the world is becoming the main danger zone.

It pointed out that the US policy is to expand the political agreement with ANZUS, the military alliance, to include Japan, China and some island nations.

It denounced the build up of US Naval bases in the Indian and Pacific Oceans, as well as in Australia.

It called on its members to intensify their work around a peace policy which included recognising the Pacific Ocean as a zone of peace.

The strong internationalist standing of the SUP was expressed in the mass message of greetings from various Communist Parties, including the USA, USSR, Canada, GDR, and Italy.

World conference of working women ended

The Fourth World Trade Union Conference on Problems of Working Women was held in Nicosia, capital of Cyprus. It was attended by delegates from 85 countries and 21 regional and international organisations.

During the discussion and the work of the committee, representatives of working women of all the continents discussed women's situation in capitalist, socialist and developing countries, women's role and place in society, in employment and in trade union movement. Special attention was paid to the tasks of the trade union movement and women's international movement in the struggle for peace, detente and disarmament.

The participants of the conference urged all women and working people of the world to press for the banning of nuclear weapons and for complete disarmament.

The participants in the Nicosia conference expressed solidarity with the struggle of the Cyprus people to uphold independence and integrity of their motherland. They also urged strong support for the heroic people of Vietnam and Kampuchea, for the fighters of the national resistance movement and for the oppressed people of Southern Africa and Latin America.

Brazilian communist leader back from years of exile

Thousands of working people, representatives of public organisations and youth from many states of Brazil welcomed General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Brazilian Communist Party Luis Carlos Prestes, who returned home from the Soviet Union after long years of exile.

His return was made possible because of the success of a long campaign by the Brazilian people which forced the government to proclaim a political amnesty.

At his arrival a public meeting was held at the international airport of Rio de Janeiro. It was addressed by Luis Carlos Prestes.

"I returned home as a communist," he said. The democratic forces of Brazil won an important victory which will inspire many patriots to return home; but the road to this victory was not an easy one. Many people lost their lives in the years of the struggle.

"The struggle for genuine

SPA exposes Peacock on attitude towards Kampuchea

The General Secretary of the Socialist Party of Australia, Peter Symon, recently wrote to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Andrew Peacock, pointing out the SPA's position with regard to the question of Kampuchea and asking the Federal Government to recognise the legitimate Heng Samrin Government.

Referring to the Government's continued recognition of the former Pol Pot regime in Kampuchea and its statements made by Mr Peacock calling the Pol Pot clique "representatives of the Cambodian people," The letter says: "This is a strange characterisation indeed, as you must be well aware of the unparalleled slaughter and destruction brought upon the Kampuchean people by the Pol Pot Government. Your own Prime Minister in January referred to the Pol Pot regime as 'brutic'."

"It is well-known that the longhandedness of your Government's policy in the Pol Pot regime is the Government of the People's Republic of China and its invasion in Peking to restore deviant Kampuchea."

The letter ends calling the Federal Government to adopt a more realistic foreign policy towards Australia's long-term interests.

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Tanks in the streets of Seoul after Park's killing. South Korea's ruling class and US imperialism got rid of Park in an attempt to stop popular unrest.

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The SUP pointed out that current trends show that our area of the world is becoming the main danger zone.

It pointed out that the US policy is to expand the political agreement with ANZUS, the military alliance, to include Japan, China and some island nations.

It denounced the build up of US Naval bases in the Indian and Pacific Oceans, as well as in Australia.

It called on its members to intensify their work around a peace policy which included recognising the Pacific Ocean as a zone of peace.

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George Jackson, General Secretary of the SUP of New Zealand addresses those who are prepared to oppose the policy of the Muldoon Government.

SPA GREETINGS

The SPA sends its congratulations to the SUP on the 5th anniversary of the revolution.

The Socialist Party of Australia extends to the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and all Soviet people warm congratulations on the 62nd anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution.

Ben in the struggle for peace between the imperialists and the people of the People's Republic of China and its invasion in Peking to restore deviant Kampuchea."

Dialogue on disarmament

In what may well prove to be an historic development for peace and disarmament a meeting has taken place in Moscow between leading representatives of the Socialist International and of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU).

Representatives of the Socialist International were Kalevi Sorsa, Chairman of the Social Democratic Party of Finland and Chairman of the International's study group on disarmament; Berni Carillon, General Secretary of the Socialist International; Walter Hacker, Socialist Party of Austria; Daniel Linton, French Socialist Party; Alfons Pawelczyk, Chairman of the Sub-committee of the FRG Bundestag on questions of disarmament and control over armaments; M. Van der Stoep, Netherlands' Party of Labour; Habbib Tiam, Socialist Party of Senegal; Jose Miguel Bueno, Spanish Socialist Workers Party; Enrique Tejada Paris, Democratic Action Party of Venezuela.

The delegation held discussions with L. Brezhnev, General Secretary of the CPSU and other leading members of the CPSU.

Mr Brezhnev said that in the societies it proved possible to achieve a visible relaxation of tensions and to push back the devotes of the cold war. The Final Act signed in Helsinki is a code of rules for peaceful coexistence, whose relevance transcends the European framework. The ground was paved for a series of important steps limiting the arms race, above all, to SALT I and SALT II. The first agreement was provisional and limited. The SALT II Treaty goes a longer way. This treaty not only sets quantitative and qualitative ceilings for strategic armaments, but opens up prospects for further progress in the same direction, said Mr Brezhnev.

However, the enemies of peace and disarmament had not laid down their arms. If they are not rebuffed, they may nullify the good things achieved so far.

Everything must be done for the rising generations to know the road of peace, its operation and mutual understanding, said he. The weapons of mass destruction are being made more sophisticated each day. It will be a disaster for humankind if anyone puts them to use. It is essential for the peoples to understand that awesome danger, and it is the duty of Communists and Social Democrats, the duty of the working-class movement all over the world to help them understand it.

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SMOKESCREEN

Speaking on the imperialist propaganda proclamations of the so-called "Soviet menace," Mr Brezhnev said that there is needed as a smokescreen by the initiators of the arms race, including those who are now pushing plans for turning Western Europe into a launch-pad for American weapons targeted on the USSR. These forces are playing a dangerous game with fire, he said.

From the early days of the socialist revolution mil-

wards universal and complete disarmament under effective international control, said Mr Sorsa.

He welcomed the signing of SALT II as a satisfying historic step in the process of establishing control over strategic armaments, which will begin with delay on new quantitative and especially qualitative limitations of strategic armaments.

Mr Sorsa said that during meetings with the President of the United States, with the UN Secretary General and representatives of the non-aligned countries the Socialist International had received a resolute appeal for détente and disarmament. "We make a similar appeal to all Peoples. Knowing your long-standing commitment to the policy of peace we are convinced that we shall get the most positive response from you."



The Socialist International founded its study group on disarmament in 1978. Social-democratic parties are showing increasing concern with the arms race. The picture shows a meeting of the Congress of the Socialist International held in Yarkovover in 1978.

The Socialist International study group had sought a meeting with representatives of the Peoples Republic of China but received a reply in which the Chinese side stated that it has no opportunity now for holding such a meeting.

The Secretary General of the Socialist International, Mr B.

Carlsson said that the visit should be considered as a kind of a dialogue between socialists and communists on the problem of disarmament which is our common concern. The Socialist International intends to continue to expand its activity in the field of control over armaments and of disarmament.

Sixty-two years of the October Revolution

by Y. Orlova

...rout by the Soviet Union in the Second World War. The still-remaining colonies and dependencies account for a mere three per cent of the world's area and less than 0.5 per cent of its population.

As we can see, the capitalist world is losing ground. It now takes up about 25 per cent of the world area and 20 per cent of the population.

It is becoming increasingly obvious that capitalism is falling back in the historical competition with socialism. In 1917 Russia produced only three per cent of the world industrial output. Nowadays the Soviet Union produces over 20 per cent, and, together with the other socialist countries, members of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, 33 per cent. In another ten years socialist states will be manufacturing almost half the world industrial production.

Nothing can stem the process of the revolutionary renovation of the world, a process that got under way, in October 1917.

Thanks to Lenin and the October Revolution, socialism has become a concrete alternative to capitalism; it is becoming an integral part of the life of all peoples, and in another ten years socialist states will be manufacturing almost half the world industrial production.

Nothing can stem the process of the revolutionary renovation of the world, a process that got under way, in October 1917.

Letters to the Editor

Food for thought

In this climate of anti-socialism, it must come as a shock to some of the "refugees" from socialist countries to find their conditions here in their countries of refuge.

A Polish man, deceived by capitalist propaganda sought "salvation" in Ireland where the press, churches and the state consistently publish heroic stories on the fate of Christians under socialism, depicting governments in socialist countries as modern day Nazis.

To his utter shock things were quite different from what he expected and in his struggle to get sent back home he made the following statement: "Coming from a socialist country I have been shocked, for a start, with the image people here have of the socialist countries, terrible poverty, people queuing for necessities of life, lack of religious rights and many other propagandistic lies."

"I was received with great sympathy and attention by the refugee organisation, but I must say what a shock I had to see the beggars in Gardiner Street (Dublin). It was terrible for me, here I was, having everything handed to me and they were starving, whole families sleeping on the streets, children kicked along by the police. At home, nobody starves, nobody cries with hunger or in terror caused by drugs withdrawal. In my country we may not have all the luxuries but we have economic and

social dignity, we have confidence in the future, we are human beings.

"The Irish people I have met are nice people but they are being deceived. I was deceived."

This, of course, was not what the Irish press wanted and the Polish man was sent for psychiatric assessment because of his demand to return home.

Food for thought, eh?

Cancelled performance

I would like to preface my letter with some quotes.

Churchill — "They, the Red Army, tore the guts out of Hitler's armies."

Roy Alexander Medvedev "It is a historical fact that if the Russian armies (Red Army) had not entered the war against Hitler's armies there would be no peace in Europe today."

On October 25 I went to Martin Place to watch an open-air performance of the Red Army Choir. Unfortunately, to the disappointment of the large crowd gathered to see it, the show was cancelled because of the presence of a group of anti-Soviet demonstrators who, the organisers explained, posed a threat to the safety of both performers and the public.

There were few policemen in attendance, noticeable difference with demonstrations organised by workers.

More unemployed

Recently a comrade of mine together with three other mates, lost their jobs due to the closing down of the warehouse where they worked.

The four of them were thrown into unemployment because, their boss told them, he could not compete with his larger overseas rivals.

Thus, four more workers, plus their families, are victims of the crisis hitting capitalism. If any example is needed, for the urgency of introducing socialist organisation and control, this is it.

Acknowledgments: D. Humphries, A. Duffy, R. Barr, M. Kelly, J. Stuart.



Diary Dates

Celebration of peace
A "Special" Celebration of "Peace" will be held at the Balmuir Uniting Church Mission, 31 Montrose Street on Sunday November 11, 7.15 p.m. Speakers will be Mrs Dorothy McFarlane (Australian Council of Churches) and Mr Ernie Boatman, National Secretary, Australian Peace Councils. Guest guitarist: Mr Bruce Ham. Coffee to follow. All welcome.

62 YEARS OF THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION
The Victorian branch of the SPA invites you to celebrate this 62nd anniversary of the first successful socialist revolution at a function to be held on Sunday November 11, 2.30 pm at Nicholas Hall, Lonsdale Street, City.
The Greek Youth Choir and Turkish folk singer Yasar will perform.
A speakers' forum on the USSR will be shown.
Donations: Con Zagias, organiser of the Vehicle Builders' Union (VBU) and Steve Gibson, Victoria State Secretary of the Anarcho-Communists.
There will be a collection.

Australian Cultural Night
Music, dancing and lots of fun
Saturday November 17, 7 p.m. at Atlas Club
256 Crown Street, Darlinghurst
Tickets \$2.00 (Concessions \$1.00)

The Building Industry Branch of the SPA invites you and your friends to join us for a night of fun and games.
It is only two months to go to Christmas and we must make an all out effort to raise the balance of our fund so come along — and don't forget to bring your money!
There will be music, dance games lined up which might help to raise the funds we need.

Saturday November 10, 6.30 pm, at 602 King George's Road, Penrith (phone 74 960) Drinks and supper provided.

YSL Bush Dance
The Young Socialist League invites you to an "Australian Night" at the YSL Club, 256 Crown Street, Darlinghurst.
There will be music, dance and lots of fun.
Tickets \$2.00 (concessions \$1.00).

The Socialist Festival is on...
Saturday November 24 from 12 noon to 6.30 p.m. at the Addison Road Community Centre, 142 Addison Road, Marrickville.

Program
Stalls:
★ Books ★ Toys ★ Pot Plants
★ Records ★ Handicrafts ★ Clothes
★ Posters ★ T-Shirts ★ Souvenirs

Speakers include
Pat Killey, President of the Socialist Party
Alan Miller, editor of the Socialist
Don McDonald, ac-seller of the Socialist
A representative of Pravda

A concert
★ A six-member Soviet song and dance variety group
★ "New Generation" — a progressive Greek folk group
★ Sylvia and Tom Salisbury — Australian male singers.

Public meeting on NSW Aborigines
The NSW Select Committee on Aborigines invites you to a public meeting on Monday November 12, 8.30 pm, at Room 64, Sydney Trades Hall, corner of Goulburn and Dixon streets.
Speakers will be M.L.A. Maurice Keane, Chairman of the Select Committee and Pat O'Shaughnessy, Director of the Aboriginal Task Force.
Attendance by all organisations and individuals committed to land rights and our own people. Aborigines will be welcome.

Dear reader: Help is the time to start collecting goods for the "Aussie Christmas" drive. Goods can be left at the office, 392 Sussex Street, Sydney or with your party branch mates.

The Socialist

EDITORIAL ADDRESS
392 Sussex Street, Sydney NSW, 2000
Phone 233 1725

SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIANS
MEMBERSHIP CONTACT
CENTRAL COMMITTEE
202 Sussex Street, Sydney, 2000
Phone 233 1725
AUSTRALIAN BRANCH OFFICERS
EDITORIAL COMMITTEE
392 SUSSEX STREET, SYDNEY 2000
Phone 233 1725
MEMBERSHIP BRANCH OFFICERS
111 RIVERVIEW, SYDNEY 2000
Phone 233 1725
WESTERN AUSTRALIA, Mr. J. Haggis, 77 Westmoreland Street, Perth, Western Australia.

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392 Sussex St. Sydney 2000

Twelve issues for which I enclose \$4.00
 Twenty four issues for which I enclose \$7.50

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November 12

International union meeting begins in Sydney

Union representatives from countries with a total population of 1,200 million people will meet in Sydney on November 12, 13 and 14. "This is a most significant international union gathering which will strengthen the unity and solidarity of unionism in the Asian and South Pacific region," said Pat Clancy, national convenor of the committee which organised the conference.

An important feature of the three day union conference is that it will draw together union representatives from organisations affiliated to each of the three international trade union organisations, cutting across the restrictions of national affiliations and discussing very important issues.

Delegates will be present from India, Bangla Deih, Sri Lanka, Philippines, New Caledonia, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Japan, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, USSR, New Zealand and Australia.

Trade Union Unity and Solidarity in our Region."

than 50 delegates from Australian unions having been elected.

The conference theme of "The Role of Multinationals in the South Pacific and Asian Region" will be introduced by Professor Ted Wheelright, prominent economist and Head of the Faculty of Economics at the Sydney University.

A representative from the All India Trade Union Congress will introduce the theme of "The Struggle for Trade Union Rights in the Region."

A report on the conclusions of Working Women held at Nicosia last month will be given by Doreen Burrows, leader of the Australian delegation to that Conference. ■

Pat Clancy

Australian unions have responded well to the call for discussions with their trade union brothers in other countries in the region and every state will be represented, more

South Coast Labor Council battles anti-union bills

A special meeting of the South Coast Labor Council held on October 29 discussed the continuing attacks on workers' living standards by the Liberal Federal Government. The meeting analysed the series of anti-union legislation which culminated recently with various amendments to the Conciliation and Arbitration Act.

The main report to the meeting was delivered by Stewart West, MHR for Cunningham and former president of the Port Kembla Branch of the Waterside Workers' Federation.

Mr Stewart denounced in his report the legislation as an attempt by the Federal Government to strangle the labor movement. He contrasted its actions against the unions with its lenient attitude to the rip-off tactics of the big oil companies and the Fraser Government's own decision to put oil prices on "world parity." These policies clearly affect workers' ability to maintain their living standards and meet the ever increasing costs of essential goods and services.

The report noted the opposition to the amendments to the Conciliation Act has had among the arbitration commissioners themselves and the parliamentary wing of the ALP, pointing out that the trade union movement is lagging behind in putting up an organised opposition to these bills.

The report and the ensuing discussion made clear that the

main thrust of the Fraser Government's policy is to make the working class bear the full brunt of the government's economic mismanagement. It seeks to achieve this aim by shackling trade unions through the implementation of anti-worker legislation.

The SPAG is seeking to mobilise the biggest possible number of workers to defend the right to strike which is being threatened right now by the infamous Essential Services Act concocted by the Bjelke Petersen Government.

The SPAG is trying to put pressure on the SPU to take a more militant stand in defence of its members and on issues such as civil liberties and anti-union legislation. ■

Fraser Workers are coming out strongly against his policies.

The South Coast Labor Council meeting resolved to ask the ACTU to call a conference of federal unions to organise opposition to the legislation, to publicise the issue through leaflets and public meetings and to seek a method of finding a closer liaison with federal ALP parliamentarians. ■

Continued from Page 1

increase in all wages and salaries of 5.1 per cent. That claim is based on a compounded calculation of increases in the CPI of 2.7 per cent in the quarter ending last June and of 2.3 per cent in the quarter ending September.

The recent metal and building industry wage increases will be used by both the employers and the Fraser Government to further strengthen their standing opposition to union claims for full indexation of

wages in accordance with CPI movements.

The position of the trade unions on this matter was made clear by decisions of the recent ACTU Congress. That body's "Wages Policy" decision stated:

"The principle of wage justice demands that living standards of wage and salary earners are maintained, and that they receive an equitable share of national income. Congress condemns the Australian Conciliation and Arbitration Com-

SPAG wants stronger stand against Qld's dictatorship

A Storemen and Packers Action Group (SPAG) was recently formed in Brisbane. It is made up of rank and file members of the Storemen and Packers Union (SPU) working in various industries throughout Brisbane. SPAG believes that there is a need for workers on the job to take action to defend their living standards and organisation.

The SPAG is seeking to mobilise the biggest possible number of workers to defend the right to strike which is being threatened right now by the infamous Essential Services Act concocted by the Bjelke Petersen Government.

The SPAG is trying to put pressure on the SPU to take a more militant stand in defence of its members and on issues such as civil liberties and anti-union legislation. ■

Townsville readers:

The Socialist is now available at Anderson's Newsagency in Flinders Street and at Willmetts's Newsagency also in Flinders Street.

Waterfront unions end dispute successfully

The 16 unions which have members participating in shipbuilding and repair industries and work under the "Sydney Waterfront Agreement" achieved success in their dispute with employers over improved conditions and the re-employment of 23 unionists who had been sacked as a result of earlier industrial action on the same claim.

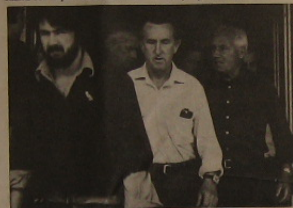
THE CONFLICT

A mass meeting held at Balmain, Sydney on September 11 had agreed to leave aside a wages claim because of a pending work-value case which was before the Full Bench of the Arbitration Commission but it decided to go on strike until September 17 because of the employers' refusal to negotiate the workers' claims for improved conditions.

October 3 saw the start of rolling strikes by different union groups at all yards after hearing a report on the withdrawal by the employers of offers they had previously made at a conference attended by Commissioner Heffernan on September 24.

On October 18 the parties were again before the Arbitration Commissioner and after a report on the discussions to a mass meeting held the next day the workers decided on a "no resumption of work" until the 23 men were re-instated by Howard Smith Industries, the 15 firms previously offered and withdrawn were "re-offered," and the issues of extra sick and debarment leave negotiated before arbitration.

Work resumed on October 26 after the employers accepted these proposals. ■



Waterside workers coming out after one of the meetings held to discuss the employers' proposals.

NSW needs state-owned coalmines

The NSW Government recently announced that it will spend \$50 million in the next ten years to assess the extent of NSW's coal resources.

This exploration program is part of the government's long awaited energy package in which the Premier, Mr Wran, made it clear that the state's coal resources must provide the alternative to the present dependence on oil.

While NSW is known to be rich in coal, detailed knowledge of its quality and quantity is poor. Recent estimates indicate that coal resources of more than 500,000 million tonnes have been identified.

While the decision to assess the extent of NSW coal resources will be welcomed by all within the coalmining industry, it should be remembered that the \$50 million expenditure will be financed by the taxpayers of NSW.

It would not be unreasonable, then, to expect the NSW Government to invest, on behalf of the people, in profitable coalmining projects discovered as a result of its exploration.

The taxpayers would then receive, through government's profits on state-owned mines, a return on their investment. If, however, the fruits of the exploration are handed completely over to private business interests, the cream of the take will go to them, while the government and the taxpayers get the crumbs through mining royalties.

Since it came to office, the Wran Government has shown some foresight and initiative in men dealing with the coalmining industry. The granting of a replacement lease in the rich Hunter Valley area to the Miners' Federation is a good example of this. Miners will benefit from the profits of their mine when it comes into operation.

There is no reason why this cannot be extended for the whole community to benefit from what is, and will become even more so, a very profitable industry.

But this can only be achieved through state-owned coalmines. ■

