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More robbery as

Bosses reap millions but clamp on wages

Calls for further reductions in real wages, manoeuvres by large Australian corporations to become even larger by means of "take-overs" (with million dollar profits as a "spin-off" benefit for some involved in the manoeuvres), and a huge hoost in profit and profit-making opportunities for Australia's largest public company, the BHP, are main features of recent events in the national economy.

The call for further reductions in real wages was made by the Federal and Victorian State Governments and by the private employers during the national wage case now before the Australian Arbitration Commission.

The take-overs involve Ansett Transport Industries, *Herald* and *Weekly Times*, Thiess Holdings and Broken Hill South. These big companies are involved in transport, the media and several areas of mining.

NATIONAL WAGE CASE IMPLICATIONS

In the national wage case, the first for six months, the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) supported by another national union centre, the Council of Australian Government Employees' Organisations (CAGEO) is seeking an across-the-board increase of 5.1 per cent in all wage and salary rates for workers.

The claim is based on a compounding of the increases in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the two quarters ending last June and September which together showed a 5 per cent increase in prices.

The Unions' claim seeks to maintain the current purchasing power of award wages by having them indexed fully in accordance with the increases in prices as measured by the official CPI. They are also claiming a further increase to restore purchasing power lost as a result of a series of partial indexation judgements.

The claims are in accord with decisions of the ACTU Congress held last September.

The private employers, the Federal and Victorian Governments have called on the Commission to reject each of the unions' claims. They have called for no wage increase at all and together with the Federal Government have proposed a continuation of only partial indexation at differing rates.

Of even more significance are proposals of the Fraser Government which has called for a tightening of the wage restricting "guidelines" to limit the possibility of wage gains other than six monthly partial indexation increases. To ensure this the government proposes that the CPI increase be decreased by any price rises due to government action, e.g. petroleum products price rises, sales tax, etc. To enforce this wage reducing plan it also proposes penalties if the unions act to gain wage increases outside this formula.

In the current case, the government is urging the Commission to limit any increase in wages it may feel tempted to grant, to only 3 per cent of current rates.

The Victorian Government supports much of the Federal Government's proposals but calls for the limitation of any increase of not more than 3.7 per cent if any increase is granted at all.

The employers' main calls were for:

- No increase in the present case.
- Annual instead of six monthly hearings.
- Stringent application of heavily restricted grounds on which "work value" can be claimed.

Continued page 12



The picture shows the public attending one of the Sydney Socialist Festival functions held on November 24 at the Addison Road Community Centre. Despite unsettled weather the Festival was very successful and hundreds of people and children enjoyed a day of fun and activity. (For more pictures see page 12)

Free universal cover only answer to health fund chaos

The Fraser Government is considering ways to force everyone to take some kind of health insurance. This measure is an attempt to save the health funds from collapse as many people, who cannot afford the increasingly high cost of health insurance, are opting out of the system and going without any protection against illness or accident.

To force its policy on the people the government is considering with-holding present government benefits from those who do not join an insurance fund.

The situation in the area of health has reached rock bottom in the four years of Liberal-National Country Party Government as successive government budgets have cut to the bone expenditure in health, while health fund rates and doctors' fees have shot out of reach of most working families.

Doctors' fees, for example, were increased in November 1 when the AMA (Australian Medical Association) put up scheduled fees by 19.9 per cent.

The announcement last week by Opposition Leader Mr Hayden, of the new ALP family health care plan comes then, at a moment when confusion is reaching a peak

because of the chaos created by the Fraser Government in the area of health. Unfortunately Mr Hayden's proposal does not fill the needs of the Australian population.

The new ALP health plan shows the great pains that the party leadership is taking to appear "economically responsible" to the ruling class. The scheme, which aims to cover children under 16 years of age, dependent students and expectant mothers, would have a cost of \$130 million. The plan would be implemented in the June 1981 Budget and examined after a year of operation to see whether it should be extended, although it appears unlikely, in the light of Mr Hayden's general plans, that he would go any further over health care.

As it stands, the new ALP family health care plan would cover just over six million people.

For more than eight million people health would continue to be the problem it is under the Fraser Government's health chaos.

In its efforts to satisfy both camps, the bosses and their working class supporters, the ALP leadership leaves everyone dissatisfied, for the ruling class, the health funds, and the capitalist media, even this timid step is too much and they are already working against it, for the average wage or salary earner it is too little, as the plan does not help the needs of the adult, active working population.

Only the complete restoration of Medibank, or the creation of a similar free universal health scheme, can solve the health needs of Australians and end the hardship faced by thousands of families for whom illness or accident is synonymous with financial tragedy. ■

the SOCIALIST: stable growth A dangerous charade

The film documentary by John Pilger on Kampuchea should not be missed if you get the chance to see it on TV.

It is a damning indictment of imperialism and Maoism and tears the hypocritical mask from the Western governments and some so-called aid agencies who are belatedly attempting to prove their humanitarianism.

The film shoves home the responsibility for the unparalleled tragedy heaped on the gentle Kampuchean people. Firstly by the secret and illegal bombing unleashed by Nixon and Kissinger (who received a Nobel peace prize), then by Pol Pot, the madman butcher who was promoted and sustained by the Chinese leaders. At present the same aims are pursued by the unholy alliance of the Western governments (including Australia) and the Maoists who would continue the butchery except for the rising of the Kampuchean people who put an end to Pol Pot with the assistance of the Vietnamese.

John Pilger exposes the arrogant hypocrisy of the western aid being used mainly, if not solely, to bolster the Pol Pot remnants and the cut-throat right-wing forces.

The film sharply raises the question of the continued recognition of the non-existent Pol Pot "government" by Australia and other Western states.

Why continue this disgraceful charade? No-one can deny that the Pol Pot-engendered Sary clique was probably the most barbaric of any age. What evil and savage aims must be in the minds of those who continue to support such a butcher? Is the butcher's accomplice any less reprehensible than the butcher?

The Australian government and the daily papers (e.g., Sydney Morning, 29/11/79), justify their stand by making the issue the presence of Vietnamese troops helping the patriotic Kampuchians in their momentous task of restoring their economy and the gentle human society almost totally destroyed by the Maoists.

The Western governments make little protest and do not stand on any principle over the Indonesian invasion and annexation of East Timor, the Tanzanian invasion of Uganda which overthrew Idi Amin or the French invasion of Central Africa to overthrow Bokassa and the installation there of another imperialist puppet. Not that there is any real comparison between these and events in Kampuchea.

In the case of Kampuchea they are blinded by their hatred of Vietnam and of the new government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea and by their capitulation to the demands of the Chinese leaders — the new-found ally of the imperialists.

The Australian Government, now, not only grows before the American imperialists but also before the Chinese leaders.

However, the government of People's Kampuchea has come to stay and Fraser and Peacock by refusing to recognise the new reality, are leading Australia up yet another blind alley. It is a course fraught with dangerous consequences for Australia and those other countries in the area whose paranoid anti-communism and anti-Sovietism does not allow them to see the real threat of Chinese expansionism being assiduously pushed in a number of ways by the Chinese leaders. The Chinese invasion of Vietnam was the loudest warning yet and we ignore it at our peril.

In our previous issue we published on this page an article analysing the grim perspective of America's economy. We now publish the first of two parts of an analysis of the Soviet economy by G. P. Gregory which looks at the living standards of average Soviet families.

The study and dynamic growth of the people's well-being is doubtless the major achievement of the Soviet economy.

No reduction of the real incomes has been registered in the USSR during the last century that has passed since the beginning of the implementation of the five-year plan, save the years of the war against German nazism. This is a result of the fact that the Soviet economy always made and continues to make heavily developing stably and without crises and slumps.

In 1979, the real per capita incomes in the USSR were up 90 per cent compared with 1965. The increase is expected to reach approximately 100 per cent in 1980, the concluding year of the tenth five-year plan period (1976-1980).

FIGURES AND FACTS

The evening-out of the incomes in town and countryside is a result of the implementation of the fifteen-year period which is ending now (1966-1980). The average real incomes of collective farmers constituted 75 per cent of the incomes of factory and office workers, this figure stands at about 90 per cent in 1979.

For many years the incomes of farm workers have been growing at a higher rate than those of the other categories of workers. In November 1, 1979, the figure reached nearly 80 per cent. Substantial changes have also taken place in the structure of the people's diet. Annual per capita meat consumption has increased by more than 15 kg and reached about 60 kg. It should be taken into account, however, that in the



While capitalist economy sinks deeper in crisis the USSR looks ahead with confidence. The picture shows workers at a factory in Moscow.

between town and country.

The current fifteen-year period sees an appreciation in the grants and benefits to the people from the public consumption funds. These funds are a sizeable portion of the state budget, which is spent on the development of education and public health services, on the improvement of the pension scheme, on numerous subsidies to child care and medical institutions, and so on.

While the average annual per capita spending from the public consumption funds was 182 rubles in 1965 (a ruble is equal to about 1.6 US dollars according to the official exchange rate of November 1, 1979), the figure reached nearly 280 rubles this year, an increase by 50 per cent.

The second and final part of this article will be published in our next issue.

South Australia

Mass rally rejects secondment plan

On Monday November 26, between 10,000 and 15,000 South Australian government workers filed Victoria Square, Adelaide, to protest at the Tonkin Liberal Government's secondment plan.

The secondment plan means that weekly paid government workers can be sent to work for private employers. In the event of wages falling below government standards the government would subsidise the employers to make up the wages. In addition, workers' compensation will be covered by the government and employers will not be liable for payroll tax.

The Victoria Square meeting was part of a 24 hour stopwork of government workers called by the SA Trades and Labour Council (TLC).

Main speakers were Bob Gregory, TLC Secretary and Bob Morley of the Australian Government Workers' Association.

The Socialist Party of Australia distributed a party leaflet condemning the Liberal Government for its blatant hand-out to the private capitalist class. The leaflet was well received.

The meeting unanimously called for the abolition of the secondment plan.

The meeting condemned the

"Greek conspiracy" backfires

The alleged Social Security fraud, by members of the Sydney Greek Community and others, which became known as the "Greek Conspiracy case" has now turned into "a political powder-keg" as described by *The Morning Times*.

The case has started to backfire against those who had originally designed the whole operation as a mass campaign against Australia's ethnic communities and the Greek Community in particular.

Evidence presented in Court so far has revealed a possible case against the Sydney Greek Police during the mass arrests of people on March 31. It also revealed that evidence Commonwealth Police recorded telephone conversations contrary to the Telephonic Communications (Interception) Act 1960-66.

The case revealed that the Director General of the Department of Social Security, Sir Ian Gifford, was in the operations room of the Commonwealth Police at the time of the mass arrests, despite two officer assurances of the Minister for Social Security, Senator Gifford, and his resignation were demanded mainly because they presented incorrect information in Parliament based on the advice of the most senior officers of their departments.

Not only was Mr Langan involved in the mass arrests but about 1,000 social security files that contained names of medical practitioners were handed to the police to facilitate their investigations.

The most astonishing revelation is the fact that for the first time in Australian legal history a police informer, Mr



A scene from the state government workers' rally against the secondment plan in Adelaide.

deliberate wind-down of State Government construction, manufacturing and maintenance work performed by weekly paid employees and the transfer of this work to private enterprise.

Workers protested at the work transfer which will create over utilisation of State Government-owned plant and equipment.

The meeting declared that if any worker is transferred under the secondment plan, he or she will be set up.

Nakis, was given a pardon and a large sum of money, \$200,000, to collect and present evidence in Court without revealing his status as a police informer.

Hated because in Parliament on this case has shown that three cabinet ministers, Social Security Minister, Margaret



Gulivier, Administrative Services Minister, John McEay and Attorney General, Peter Durack came under close questioning and even their resignations were demanded mainly because they presented incorrect information in Parliament based on the advice of the most senior officers of their departments.

COSTLY AFFAIR

The fact that the Government has already spent over 2 million dollars, from taxpayers money for the prosecution of 148 people who are spending \$20,000 every day

the Court is in session, indicates that the "conspiracy" has become a very costly affair.

The political costs are even more damaging for the government, which seems to be sinking deeper and deeper into a quagmire of its own making.

One thing has become clear: the contention of the demagogues that the Greek Community during their strong protests, at the time of the mass arrests, was a well orchestrated campaign by Government and Police forces and the media to stir up a sensational anti-Greek campaign, has proven correct.

Not only the Greek Community and the Opposition in Parliament but public opinion at large will demand to know the real reasons as to why Government sources gave the green light for the mass arrests and whipping up of an anti-Greek campaign of such a magnitude, which goes far beyond the alleged fraud.

Why for instance the number of people charged with conspiracy now stands at 148 while the Police report with which it sought ministerial approval for the use of listening devices says "the inquiry has progressed to the stage where over 1200 persons become established as possible receiving beneficiaries or pensions as recipients of the conspiracy" and it is estimated that a further 500 such beneficiaries in receipt of invalid pensions will be involved. ■

Workers seek campaign for May Day holiday

The South Australia May Day Committee has approached similar committees in all other states with a view to organising a national campaign for a May Day national holiday.

The SA May Day Committee have already had discussions with South Australian unions about the possibility of having their support for such a campaign.

The Committee has made it clear that the aim is to have a national May Day holiday at a substitute for Labour Day in Victoria and NSW which they have them.

According to SA May Day Committee organisers Labour Day is important for the ventilation of state and national protests against attacks upon working class interests; May Day, on the other hand,

IYC Festival big success

The 10 day Festival for the International Year of the Child organised by the Greek Community of NSW and the Greek Communities Council of Sydney was an outstanding success.

Over 2,000 people participated in the final function of the Festival held at the Addison Park Community Centre, Macquarie Park, on Sunday December 2.

The program included speeches by representatives of the Greek Community and a representative of the NSW Premier, Mr N. Ryan, on the significance of the IYC.

An exhibition of paintings by Greek kids attending Greek Community schools, poetry competition, musical traditional dances by groups of school children and by some professional Greek groups, as well as traditional Greek dances by the Yugoslav group "Yugo — Ethnic"

and some of the highlights of the day. It also included puppet shows, theatrical displays and many other activities.

Talk Back! By Ken Rowsthorne

Who is taking over who in the take-over game changes each year with millions of dollars appearing as to nowhere. Asset, Murdoch, Holmes & Court, News, CSR, Ampol and others jostle each other for positions and power.

It is part of the process of the big getting bigger and there is little or nothing in it for the working people. Each of these parasites has made his millions by exploitation. One day, however, the workers will be the real power in the power game.

Mr Mason, leader of the state Liberal Party opposition in NSW, is apparently at opposite ends of the political spectrum to a friend of his own who maintained in a recent report that socialism, with its collective approach, is the answer. Mr Mason junior, is unemployed. Sometimes from soaps games comes mellow wine.

Some time ago the papers gave banner headlines to the defection to "freedom" in the US to Soviet ballet companies were being invited to dance in the city but compartments as a protection against drivers being mugged, an event becoming more and more prevalent.

Frank Sinatra and the Catholic Church are once again holding hands. The Church has at last sanctioned Frank's marriage to his first wife, Nancy, after 30 years, two children and two other marriages.

The usual headline of the song on such matters was softened not by Frank singing a chorus but he did strike the right note — dough!

Building Party Building Party Building Party Building Socialist Festival boosts Press Fund

Sydney's Socialist Festival was a good success despite some unfavorable weather which forced amounts have been paid in.

The Soviet Council group and the New Generation Band received a warm and enthusiastic reception from the 400 people at the concert. Warm greetings to the Socialist Festival were delivered by Mr Grigorov, Deputy Editor-in-Chief of *Pravda*.

Socialist Festivals are also being held in Adelaide, Melbourne and Brisbane.

QUEENSLAND

Two members of the Queensland State Executive, Mr Jim Henderson and Tony Simmons, visited Rockhampton recently. They received good media coverage on Channel 7 and Channel 2. The Rockhampton Morning Bulletin gave a lengthy interview including such questions as the purpose of the festival, and we are contemplating standing candidates in the next State

and Federal elections, our views on Bob Hawke's proposals for the abolition of the Referendums, and the Kampuchean situation.

The two visitors attended the local Branch meeting and a barbecue where the question of party building was discussed. A feature of the Rockhampton Branch's work has been regular study classes and these are continuing.

STAN IS BACK AT THE DOMAİN

Stan Moran, famous communist speaker, syndicalist orator and author of the book, *Reminiscences of a Rebel*, is back in Sydney. He will be in the Domains of the Socialist Party next in the Domains on Sunday, December 9th at 2 p.m.

Stan Moran ranks with Donald Grant as two of the greatest speakers ever to grace the Sydney Domain. The regulars who frequent the Domains each Sunday afternoon are looking forward to Stan's return. So don't miss this chance to hear Stan again

SELLERS

Sydney branch members are now manning two regular street stands — one in Manly and the other in the Grosvenor Arcade in the city. What are other Branches doing about this? Send your reports in for this column.

PRESS FUND

I. Crane \$5, S.C.T. \$100, T. Lovett \$30, Chappay Tracy \$5, J.C. \$6, Anonymous \$28, Merriville Branch \$19.22, Socialist Festival \$113.20, BHP \$20, Sydney T.U. Club Concert \$125, Sydney Branch \$240, St. John's Branch \$243, Valley Branch \$125, Sydney Branch \$100, memory of Norm Jeffrey \$1, Brisbane Maritime Branch \$60, Sydney T.U. Club Concert \$325, Sydney Branch \$240. Total: \$1,564.32. Progressive total: \$6,869.80.

The Socialist takes part in during the Socialist Festival period. Let's keep it up!

Al Grassy at MAFAR meeting;

Unemployment helps growth of racism

A rash of racism has affected Australian society, and one of the main reasons being unemployment, said the Commissioner for Community Relations Al Grassy at a meeting held last week in the Sydney Trades Hall.

The meeting, convened by the Movement against Fascism and Racism (MAFAR), discussed the growing activity of racist organisations in Australia and sought ways to neutralise the negative influence.

Mr Grassy, the main speaker at the meeting, pointed out that Australia today, has perhaps the most ethnically diversified population in the world: people from 140 different ethnic backgrounds, with 10 different languages and 40 different religions make up Australian society in 1979. Only mutual respect and solidarity will help to solve the problems which arise because of these differences, he said.

In 1979 a rash of racism has affected Australia, and one of the main reasons, said Mr Grassy, is unemployment, which gives the greatest opportunity to fascist and racist groups to sow confusion and

utilise the desperation and lack of direction of people affected by the effects of unemployment.

The upsurge of these racist groups in Australia is nothing new, Mr Grassy noted, they have been active, in one way or another, for many years. But he said the initiative of creating MAFAR as a good step towards eliminating racism, fascism, and all forms of violence associated with them.

Other speakers remarked the need to develop unity among the different progressive organisations which oppose the

Al Grassy speaking at the MAFAR meeting.

growth of fascism and racism in Australia.

Two provokers, one from the fascist National Alliance and one from the Maoist Australian Independence Movement, tried to disrupt the meeting but were effectively jeered out of the hall by more than 150 people present.

The meeting was regarded as a very positive step by representatives of many progressive organisations who were present. Several people applied to join MAFAR after the meeting. ■

Miners remember Rothbury tragedy

On December 16, the Australian labour movement will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the killing of miner Norman Brown and the wounding of several others in Rothbury when the Police violently attacked a demonstration of thousands of miners protesting against the use of scab labour.

The tragic event took place outside the 1929-30 Northern colliery. The Government and the employers had decided to use scab labour to force the locked-out miners to submit.

In the morning of December 16, 1929, nine thousand miners gathered at Rothbury to demonstrate and wounding several of his comrades.

The Rothbury tragedy has not been forgotten by Australian workers and the Miners Federation will hold a commemorative ceremony at the diggers' demand for the Freeman's Waterhole Miners Memorial on Sunday, December 16.



An artist's impression of the Rothbury shooting.

strategic against the introduction of scab labour by the government. The police tried to intimidate and disperse the anti-scab demonstrators ruthlessly using their batons, but after a couple of rushes seeing that the workers would not submit, the police began shooting the unarmed miners, killing Norman

Judah and Hyrell Waten are now on holidays. Their column *Culture and Life* will resume in the New Year.

Peace actions in Sydney



An Australian Peace Committee member giving out leaflets during the APC demonstration held in Martin Place, Sydney against NATO plans to 'keep up the arms race.'

On November 27, the Australian Peace Committee (APC) responded to the World Peace Council's call for world-wide protests against the Gtreats to peace.

In Sydney, the APC organised a demonstration in Martin Place during the day and at night held a public meeting.

The two dangers to peace highlighted were:

- US Pentagon plans to step up the arms race by developing new Pershing II nuclear missiles in Europe.
- The large Chinese troop build up at the border region, representing a new invasion threat to Vietnam.

At the public meeting, World Peace Counciler Bill Brown referred to the constant efforts on behalf of peace made by the Soviet Government ever since its establishment. The

The significance of the Eureka Stockade

The events of the Eureka Stockade of December 3, 1854, hold deep and enduring significance for the Australian labour movement and Australian people in general.

Among a number of significant aspects, a basically important one, ignored by bourgeois historians, is that the brutal suppression of the diggers' demand for social reform provided the Australian people with their first major lesson in the oppressive character of the bourgeois state apparatus.

The real nature of the state apparatus, (common to all countries) based on a system of exploitation of man by man) was simply but 'fundamentally explained' by Lenin in his famous lecture to the Sverdlov University in Moscow, in 1919.

Lenin defined the state as a "machine for keeping the rule of one class over another." He pointed to the classless nature of primitive communist societies and showed that where there was "no exploited or exploiters" no state apparatus existed. Here, Lenin could have been detailing the basic principles which governed the appearance of a state apparatus in Australia.

With the arrival of Governor Phillip's first fleet, the state apparatus of British capitalism supplanted the stateless society of the Aboriginal people's primitive communism. From that moment right up till today, an oppressive state apparatus of capitalist class society has ruled, by violence when felt necessary, the lives of the Aboriginals and Australia's general population alike.

The Eureka Stockade in which thirty defending diggers and four soldiers and a captain died, was the only major rebellion against British Imperial rule in the history of the colony. (Another incident was the courageous, but short-lived mutiny by Irish convicts at Castle Hill, Parramatta, in NSW in 1804.)

In 1854, the diggers on the Victorian gold fields rebelled against imposition of a 30/- a month licence for what it was — an attempt to limit and regulate the goldfields and back to them and, in the final analysis, to try to drive them off the goldfields and back to having no choice but to offer



Miners defending the Eureka Stockade

of the 1890 strikes, the frame-ups of IWW militants during World War I, the massive police force given to the scabs and strike-breakers in the 1917 general strike, the repressive measures and arrests in the

So the Australian people were given a brutal lesson in the class character of the capitalist state.

Australia's history of capital-labor conflict confirms Marxist theory on role of the state...

timber workers' strike of 1929, the shooting of gold miners with the death of Norman Brown at Rothbury, NSW in 1929, the police beatings and evictions of the depression years, the state tolerance shown towards the appearance of fascist beater gangs organised by the New Guard in the 1930's, right up to use of force against the diggers by a Labor Government to break the coal strike of 1949, followed by countless incidents of police violence at various mass demonstrations up to and through the Viet Nam war years, provide but a small part of the historical record of violent repression by the state forces of the capitalist class in Australia.

Many bourgeois historians try to belittle the significance of Eureka. A.G.L. Shaw in the Story of Australia, for example, writes at it as "the notorious Eureka affair, often pointed as a great fight for Australian liberty and the rights of the working man, but it was not that." (p. 126).

Shaw attempts to disparage or downgrade the significance of Eureka by ignoring the fact that Eureka was not a strike but a battle for the rights of the working man, but it was not that." (p. 126).

Summarised, Fitzpatrick's four reasons are:

1. "The 'barbaric repression' expressed in relation against."
2. Most support expressed in large public meetings and in the "rang" of Melbourne workers which "rang" the owners."
3. "where moderate representations

had failed, it was a concerted breach of the law in 1854 that brought the ruling group in the colony round to conceding at least some of the miners' demands. The Eureka agitation helped to open the door to a new era — the state — state."

Writing in 1855 from far off Europe, Karl Marx was able to see the significance of Eureka that was subsequently to be so conveniently missed or temporarily denied by certain local historians.1

Marx pointed out that the prospectors, in demanding abolition of a direct tax on labor and abolition of the property qualification for members of parliament so that they would themselves receive the right to control taxes and legislation, were in rebellion for the same reasons which led to the declaration of independence of the United States of America.

But, Marx added, "with this difference, that in Australia the opposition against the aristocracy and the local bureaucrats, arises from the workers."

Some historians, including some students of Marx, have argued that the diggers or gold prospectors were not strictly workers. It is true that the small gold prospectors were men seeking individual fortune and setting themselves the individual goal of "being their own boss," but the immediate and substantive background of most of them was basic working class.

A digger did not have to have capital. A pick, shovel, and a licence were all that was needed to start a business. The digger them, in organising in trade unions and developing their own political party for their own class objectives for reclaiming capital class rule with their own class power. The later was still a considerable distance into the future. But Eureka class struggle was an organisation into trade union action on the immediate agenda of Australia's working class. ■

many new immigrants who were not only workers but workers with a high level of revolutionary class consciousness against their respective homelands.

Labour movement historian E.W. Campbell notes that "Amongst the hundreds of thousands of immigrants attracted to the gold fields were many French socialists, German republicans, Irish rebels and English Chartists. It is suggested that the entire gold fields population was composed of such radical elements but there were enough of them to exert a profound influence on events and to help reformulate in Australia in '54 the revolutionary ideas which had been quoted in Europe in '48."

The conscious rebellious objectives of the diggers were for all power to be elected by the people and an end to the unelected power of royalty or vicereignty.

The diggers of Eureka did not yet constitute a class. But the traditions they set played a valuable role in helping to mould Australian workers into a class and formulating the need to act in their class interests against class oppression.

Finally, a significance of Eureka that must be noted is that it held a basic lesson for economic security, by showing the importance of collective action over individualism; the need to get organised.

But the stand at Eureka, courageous and united as it was, still was marked by the strong element of spontaneity. Real working class strength lay in organising in trade unions and developing their own political party for their own class objectives for reclaiming capital class rule with their own class power. The later was still a considerable distance into the future. But Eureka class struggle was an organisation into trade union action on the immediate agenda of Australia's working class. ■

Unity defeats reactionary forces at women's conference

Marie Lean reports on the Women's regional conference held at Christies Beach, SA, last month.

A broad alliance of women's groups, was brought together in opposition to the outrageously reactionary attitude of the extreme right-wing. Consequently the Christies Beach Women's conference was salvaged from becoming a tool of repressive organisations which would like to take Australia back to the 19th century.

The Christies Beach event was one of several regional conferences convened in South Australia to discuss the Australian Draft Plan of Action for Women in the UN Decade for Women.

The number of women attending these conferences swelled from around 70 at the Adelaide and Elizabeth conferences to over 400 at Christies Beach.

CONCERNED CAMPAIGN

Long time activists in the women's movement were alerted out of their complacency by the activities of reactionary women's groups who appear to have mounted a concerted national campaign to secure representation at the Canberra conference to take place in March 1980.

At the northern suburbs meeting at Elizabeth on 23th October the Festival of Light and Assembly of God nominated two candidates to represent women from all over Adelaide to secure their election.

Some of the proposals put forward by their supporters included removing positions from supporting mothers on the grounds that they promote aged promiscuity and the re-introduction of "misconduct" into divorce proceedings, ap-

parently in order that discrete women could seek "vengeance."

ALIEN VIEWS

At Christies Beach, in the southern suburbs, many also called themselves Christian. A serious omission from the Australian Draft Plan of Action is a section dealing with Peace, despite the fact that the theme of the Decade is still Equality, and hence of the Christies Beach SA Conference women from the Union of Australian Women and non-sect education in schools abandoned. Most of those present were shocked that some women would want to turn back the clock on so many women's rights. Some of the delegates at Christies Beach were heard to say they did not know what non-sect education was, but proceeded to vote against it just the same.

CONCERNED CAMPAIGN Long time activists in the women's movement were alerted out of their complacency by the activities of reactionary women's groups who appear to have mounted a concerted national campaign to secure representation at the Canberra conference to take place in March 1980.

RACISM

Most alarming were ideas expressed in the Peace Workshop. The mere mention of peace and disarmament brought howls of derision, the United Nations Organisation was called a "communist" organisation. Our "Australian heritage" which we were asked to promote, was described as "white, Anglo-Saxon and Christian," and extremely racist ideas were expressed about "Asian hordes" being allowed into our country.

Long-time women's activists moved that all that was were so appalled at what was being expressed at Christies Beach they wanted to vote for two candidates who they knew would endeavour to take women's interests forward and not backwards. This unity which defeated the ultra-conservative groups, embraced an extremely broad cross section of women from the Liberal Party, ALP, WEL, Women's Liberation, women's shelters, WILPF, the IAW and others.

Hopefully, the women's movement will continue to show such unity in the future. ■

1 Available in pamphlet form at all New Era Bookshops.

2 Fitzpatrick, The Australian People, p. 130-7.

3 K. Marx — article dated 3 March 1855, for the New York Zeitung.

Getting nuclear energy in perspective

The discovery by man of how to release nuclear energy is often, and quite correctly, compared with the discovery of fire by early man. Both discoveries are of comparable importance. Both can be terribly destructive if abused. Both can be harnessed, controlled and be of immense benefit to mankind.

The extreme example of the destructiveness of fire was shown in the fire-bomb raids on Hamburg and Tokyo in World War II. They produced the previously unknown phenomenon of the "firestorm," which engulfed whole cities, killing and injuring many hundreds of thousands of people.

The atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki produced similar levels of destructiveness and similar numbers of casualties. The difference, of course, is that these were produced by small atomic bombs. With the size, sophistication and numbers of atomic bombs now available in national arsenals, the grim possibility exists that the human race itself could not survive another full scale war fought with nuclear weapons. That is why, unquestionably, the abolition of nuclear weapons and steps toward real disarmament should be in the very forefront of the policies of any political party that has the interests of the people at heart.

In every home, factory or farm, fire is used every hour of the day, quite safely and under effective control. Indeed without it we should still be living as savages. Nuclear energy is quite capable of being controlled as effectively as fire, and in the form of nuclear power can become a great boon to mankind.

MAN CAN BE MASTER
This was so much haste to produce nuclear bombs that little effort was put into the study of effective means of disposal of the radioactive fission products which are inevitably produced in the operation of nuclear reactors. It has been demonstrated that these can be safely disposed of by converting them into solid, glass-like materials, and burying them many thousands of feet underground, or under the bottom of the sea in areas where the likelihood of earth tremors is minimal and there is no possibility of their coming into contact with underground water. Geological studies are revealing suitably safe locations.

COST OF POLLUTION
It is indeed, a major scandal that nuclear reactors were even commissioned before the problem of safe disposal of these radioactive materials had been provided for. It should be an absolute requirement that no further reactors should be commissioned until this has been done. As with all other potentially environmental polluting industrial processes, the pollution protection should be the responsibility of the polluter, and the cost of the necessary protection of the pollution should be borne by the industry concerned and not by the community as a whole.

As a result of often ignorant and uninformed reporting, irrational fears of the dangers of nuclear power have been built up in the minds of the public. No accident that could happen to a nuclear power station could be in any way comparable in hazard with the radioactive fallout resulting from atmospheric tests of nuclear weapons; and yet, China continues to test nuclear weapons in the atmosphere without much public outcry. An accident to a nuclear power station could not produce a conventional type explosion, not a nuclear explosion. If the explosion took place in the middle of a big



The atom can help humankind. The picture shows a staff of nuclear research in Ukraine, USSR.

into the private enterprise sector of the economy, whereas, by its very nature, it is an activity that must be maintained strictly under public control with public accountability.

Much of the ill-thought out technology has its origin in the history of the development of atomic reactors, primarily as devices for producing plutonium for making bombs. This early development was carried out in the greatest secrecy. The engineers and physicists responsible did not have the advantage of critical assessment of the technologies they were developing by the vast majority of their colleagues who had not obtained the necessary security clearance.

By Professor Eric Burhop, Professor Emeritus of Physics at the University of London, President of the World Federation of Scientific Workers

releasing materials got into the water supply. But it would be the blindest criminal folly to locate a nuclear power station near a built-up area. If the worst possible accident occurred at a nuclear power station in a remote area the danger could almost certainly be contained locally. One could imagine freak conditions of gale force winds at the same time which might carry the radioactivity further, but proper technology, the chance of an accident, in the first place, is exceedingly remote.



The Sydney Socialist Festival offered all sorts of activities for grown up and children alike. There were many stalls such as the one we see above...



A magnificent group of Soviet performers thrilled the audience with popular and revolutionary songs from the USSR.



Face painting was very popular with kids and some grown ups. There were lessons in extinguishing fire those had hit by food price rises.

To go back to our comparison with the fire danger; perhaps the most devastating civil accident involving fire would be the fully laden jumbo jet should crash on a football stadium during a cup final. With proper and available nuclear technology the probability of these two happenings seem comparable. If we accept the latter, it is irrational to regard nuclear power generation, operated with the safeguards described above, as an unacceptable hazard.

The truth is that the world will need nuclear power to tide us over the next half century. It should be able to use solar power on a large scale, with consequently much less danger of environmental pollution than with coal, oil or other fossil fuels. Also, the prospects for the development of nuclear fusion power which uses a form of water as basis fuel and produces comparatively little radioactive contamination, appear promising. But most authorities assess the really large scale application of these technologies as forty or fifty years away.



Purchased Judy shows for the kids.



Many people who support our paper and some who were just getting disappointed with it turned up.



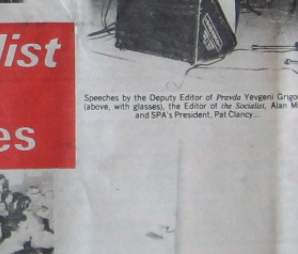
And brought along their children, who had a very good time. Circus performers who delighted everyone.

The despensing of the energy which may indeed constitute the greatest real threat of the outbreak of a third-world war. Nuclear power, with the full safeguards outlined above, is the only feasible new source of energy that could contribute significantly to the amelioration of the situation in the next few decades.

Let us therefore step up the campaign for general and complete disarmament, the stopping of nuclear tests and the complete abolition of nuclear weapons. But do not confuse the undoubtedly grave dangers of nuclear weapons with the adequate development of the safe use of nuclear power. Don't throw out the baby with the bath water! It may be that in certain countries, such as Australia and New Zealand, it will be possible to meet energy requirements without nuclear power. In that case the problem need not arise locally. But in my view the worldwide energy crisis will not be solved, in the short term without its use. The demand then, on a world-wide scale, must surely be for the development of safe nuclear power, not for its prohibition.



Speeches by the Deputy Editor of Pravda Yevgeni Gruzdev (above), the Editor of the Socialist, Alan Miller and SPA's President, Pat Canby.



Each page has a poem by Henry Lawson and a painting beautifully done by Ninon Phillips. This would make an excellent gift anytime.



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Book review

A look at the history of workers' internationalism

by Ray Clarke

The Theory and Practice of Proletarian Internationalism

Prepared by the USSR Academy of Sciences Institute of Philosophy Progress Publishers, Moscow, 1978.

When the slogan of the early Communist League, "All men are brothers" was changed to the new battle cry proclaimed in the Communist Manifesto, "Working men of all countries, Unite!" the concept of proletarian internationalism found its first clear class expression.

As the General Rules of the International Working Men's Association, drawn up by Marx, noted "the emancipation of labor is neither a local or a national, but a social problem, embracing all countries in which modern society exists." Experience in the working class movement since has confirmed the validity of this idea. The first successful socialist revolution in Russia inspired a massive wave of proletarian solidarity and today Soviet workers generally contribute moral, political, financial and military support to working class brothers in many countries still struggling for their emancipation. This book traces the history of the theory and practice of proletarian internationalism from its early beginning to the present time.

Proletarian internationalism reached new levels in working class history during the Spanish civil war, when 54 countries were represented in the International Brigades defending the Republic, and during World War II. The new situation which arose after the second world war, the defeat of fascism, the rapid growth of the world socialist system, the disintegration of the colonial empire, the changing relation of forces on a world scale to the point where the imperialist powers were no longer able to provide new problems for the international communist movement.

Faced with such a decline in their position of power, the imperialists, firm as ever in defence of their class position, were forced to rearm, modernize, re-organize, update and sophisticate the forms of their counter-attacks, looked for allies not only in the international labor movement where they had found some faithful friends in the past, but sought and found new allies, not only in the left movements, but within some of the communist parties which comprised the international communist movement in the post-war years. The first half of this book discusses the many aspects of these problems and the chapter on "The correlation between the international and national interests of the working class" deals with problems very close to our situation. The new Available from New Era Books 118 Sussex St., Sydney \$2.95 plus postage.

New books from New Era make fine Christmas gifts

The Little Clay Hut Russian Folk Tales About Animals. HC \$2.95

Collected in this book are Russian folk tales about animals. They are quaint and intriguing, and, though meant for tiny ones, will entertain themselves to all. The birds and animals in them speak like human beings and they think and act like human beings. Some of them are good and others bad, some are brave and others cowardly, some are foolish and others clever. This book is illustrated in colour.

The Poems of Henry Lawson HC \$7.95

The Poems of Henry Lawson (Illustrated by Ninon Phillips)

Each page has a poem by Henry Lawson and a painting beautifully done by Ninon Phillips. This would make an excellent gift anytime. The poems include 'The Shearers Dream', 'Reddy River', 'Andys gone with the Cattle', 'Ballad of the Drovers', 'Song of Old Joe Swallow'. There are twenty poems in all. Available from: New Era Books & Records, 118 Sussex St., Sydney, 2000. Tel: 26 6443. \$2.95 postage. New Era Bookshops: 531 George St., Sydney, 2000. Tel: 26 6443. Melbourne: 95, 100, 105 Sturt St., Adelaide, S.A. 5000. 35 Waverley St., Pt. Melbourne.

The danger is in nuclear weapons.

Broadest movement of our times...

Thirty vigorous years in the fight for peace

By Jim Mitchell
Our Moscow correspondent

The Australian Peace Committee can be proud of John Benson, one of its senior officials who was seconded to Finland earlier this year to become the Council's Executive Secretary.

The World Peace Council headquarters in Helsinki is a handsome, centrally located building, efficiently run and equipped and enjoying the support of millions of people throughout the world.

Before arriving in Finland he knew that WPC Vice-President Freda Brown and Senator George Brown were well known and respected Australian workers for peace together with Ernie Boatwin and Sam Goldblum, members of the Council. John Benson is

adding further lustre to the Australian effort and his training under that hard taskmaster E.V. Elliott has come in handy for the chief administrative job at the WPC headquarters.

To visit the WPC in its thirtieth anniversary year is an exhilarating experience — its representatives were moving around the world, tele-

were flowing in from national peace organizations and from representatives in various countries. Decisions were being made about activity in this or that country, in world hot spots or in conjunction with international bodies.

Secretariat members share up responsibility for attention to six regions: Europe, Africa, Latin America, Asia and Oceania, North America and the Middle East.

Likewise they take responsibility for sixteen departments at the headquarters: Disarmament, Development, Non-Alignment, Human Rights, Racism, International Solidarity, Culture Science and Education, Environment, European Security and Disarmament, Parliamentarianism, Trade Union, Religious matters, Youth and Students, Women Trans-nationals.

WORLD MEETINGS
The World Peace Council has come a long way since the idea of a world peace movement became a reality following the World Congress of Intellectuals in the Defence of Peace which met in Wrocław, Poland in 1948.

In 1949 the first World Congress of Defenders of Peace met in Paris and Prague simultaneously and drew together 2,000 delegates from 72 countries. Many of the delegates were refused entry visas by the French government hence the Congress's meeting in two cities.

The Second World Peace Congress held in Warsaw in 1950 finally established the World Peace Council which has become a mighty force working for peace, international security, national independence and social progress. It has become the broadest movement of our times with affiliations in more than 130 countries and organizing policies which are supported by millions of people in all continents.

Some of the outstanding activities of the WPC over the years have been the 1950 historic Stockholm Peace Appeal supported by 500 million signatures calling for an absolute ban on atomic weapons

and weapons capable of mass extermination, the Second Stockholm Appeal in 1975 calling for an end to the arms race and the convening of the United Nations World Disarmament Conference, the big campaign against the neutron bomb, the effective work in solidarity with the people of Vietnam, African countries and Chile and for a just settlement of the Middle East problem.

The WPC frequently sponsors international conferences or seminars on matters related to peace and international security, on development questions and other subjects of national independence and democratic growth.

Another aspect of the Council's responsibility is its work in the United Nations and its agencies.

The WPC holds important Non-governmental Organizational (NGO) status with the United Nations and is consulted by UNESCO, UNCTAD and UNIDO on matters of common concern.

PUBLICATIONS
The Helsinki headquarters has its own publication department and circulates two main publications: "New Perspectives" a bi-monthly journal, lively and liberally illustrated, in the hands of all peace activists and "Peace Courier" the monthly newspaper reporting the busy work of the peace Bureau and Secretariat.

The Bureau implements the decisions of the Presidential Committee and meets three or four times a year. The Secretariat is the executive body of the Presidential Committee and is responsible for carrying out the decisions of the Council, the Presidential Committee and the Bureau.

The Secretariat is presided over by Romesh Chandra, WPC President who maintains liaison between all the functioning bodies.

The Secretariat of 20 contains representatives from every continent, giving the best possible geographical and political representation.

And that's where Australian John Benson comes in. He carries major responsibility for the Secretariat and works very closely with Romesh Chandra in the company of leaders of one of the greatest movements of our times — the World Peace Council. ■

Romesh Chandra

movements in many countries. Up to 15 special booklets or brochures are published annually on topical matters or dealing in depth with certain parts of the world.

STRUCTURE
The finances of the World Peace Council come from contributions from national peace committees, donation and collections made for special activities. Every national organization, movement or group collects funds for its own activity and, in addition, makes an annual financial contribution to the international work of the Council.

Perhaps a final thumbnail sketch of the WPC structure will indicate its capacity and responsibility.

The Council, the highest body composed of representatives of national peace committees, international organizations and prominent figures. The Council meets every three years and elects a Presidential Committee which leads the movement between sessions of the Council. It meets once a year and in cases of emergency. It elects a Bureau and Secretariat. The Bureau implements the decisions of the Presidential Committee and meets three or four times a year. The Secretariat is the executive body of the Presidential Committee and is responsible for carrying out the decisions of the Council, the Presidential Committee and the Bureau.

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Shah must answer for crimes

The Iranian religious leader Ayatollah Khomeini in an interview with American TV news channels said there were two main reasons why the people overthrew Shah extracted from America.

The first reason was that Iran being economically poor, suffered even more because of an important part of the wealth of the people was being plundered by the Shah and his family, who have taken enormous amounts of money out of the country and placed it in American and European banks. The Shah must be returned to ravel where the money is deposited he said.

Secondly the Shah must be estranged so as to be able to find out the scale of crimes committed by him during his 37 years rule. "We must know the scale of the Shah's treachery to our country and identify the true causes of this

treachery," the Ayatollah said. "I previously was not aware of the fact that the US Embassy in Teheran was an espionage centre. We in our own country found proof of this," he said. It has since been revealed that part of the Embassy's "work" was the circulation of counterfeit new Iranian banknotes designed to undermine the economy.

A State Department spokesman referring to the Ayatollah's statement that the US Embassy in Teheran had turned into a "nest of espionage," said that all classified documents of the Embassy were destroyed before it was seized, and for this reason the Iranian authorities had no evidence to prove that the US Embassy had engaged in espionage — a quaint statement indeed, fit only for very naive people to believe, if not actually admitting to a degree that possible evidence existed before it was destroyed. In



Ayatollah Khomeini

any case not everything was destroyed and the students have produced much incriminating material. ■

Life in Kampuchea is returning to normal

"The life of my people of the Red Cross Society of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, head in an interview with the Daily World in New York.

Noting that the Kampuchean people was liquidating step-by-step the consequences of the bloody rule of the Pol Pot clique, Keo Prasath said that in the years of rule by the anti-political clique, Myanmar was turned into a huge concentration camp on Peking's instructions, and the people of Kampuchea cannot forget the atrocities committed by the Pol Pot gang and its masters because it is impossible to delete from memory the period of the Pol Pot genocide.

Keo Prasath resolutely rejected the rude attacks by Western propaganda, including American propaganda, on the unselfish fraternal assistance given to Kampuchea by the USSR, Vietnam and other socialist countries. He said any assistance can be sent through the Phnom Penh airport and through the country's

sea gate — the port of Kampong Speu. In addition to this, Vietnam has granted permission to use, for the carriage of assistance, the river Mekong whose lower reaches are in the territory of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Kampuchea is an independent sovereign state and its people's revolutionary council controls the entire territory of the country. For this reason it alone has the right to decide who is allowed to come into the country and by what route, Keo Prasath said in conclusion. ■

A number of newspapers have been commenting on the growing trade between China and South Africa, despite the international condemnation of the apartheid policies of the South African racists.

According to the Italian magazine, *Regione*, trade between the two countries amounted to \$10 million last year, an increase of 25 per cent over the previous year.

This is only the visible part of the iceberg. The greater part of the trade is carried on through dummy trading firms in Hong Kong. It is through these firms, according to *Regione*, that South Africa receives Chinese-made arms, large supplies of fabrics especially the army and police uniforms. Other items include handkerchiefs and socks for the paratrooper detachments of the racist government.

The South African paper, the *Rand Daily Mail*, reports that

any case not everything was destroyed and the students have produced much incriminating material. ■

is returning to normal." Keo Prasath, head of a delegation of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, said in an interview with the Daily World in New York.

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Zambia mobilised to defend against racists' attacks

LUSAKA: The recent Rhodesian military raid on the territory of independent Zambia resulted in the destruction of several bridges and loss of life. Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda said that the Rhodesian raids were designed not only to make the "frontline states" withdraw their support for the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front, but to bar it from participation in the setting of the Rhodesian problem.

This was also made clear, the Zambian President said, by the statement of the Zambian Prime Minister Muzorewa, who in an interview with South African television said he would welcome South Africa's military intervention in Rhodesia if the latter finds itself in "chaos," by which he meant the situation arising should the Patriotic Front come to power as a result of the elections.

Universal mobilisation has been announced in Zambia to defend the country against the repeated Rhodesian attacks. The flow of refugees from Zimbabwe is increasing. Refugee camps have been set up on the territory of Zambia and Botswana by the African People's Union (ZAPU) of the Patriotic Front.

Five of these camps in Zambia have been bombed by the Rhodesian racists. Over 1,600 people have been killed in these attacks over the past year. South African forces to intervene in the situation with armed force is also planned by the fact that Pretoria has capital investments in Rhodesia which now exceed 400 million pounds. ■

Mother-Child centre opens in Hanoi at WIDF initiative

HANOI: A Mother and Child Centre has been opened in the Vietnamese capital. It was built on the initiative of the Women's International Democratic Federation (WIDF) who raised the money and had the technical assistance of the Soviet Union.

The building complex sprang up in one of Hanoi's picturesque new districts, the new housing development of Danang. Speaking at the opening ceremony the President of Vietnam's Federation of Women, Ha Thi Khe thanked the WIDF and its national organisations on behalf of the Vietnamese people for their gift. "She also noted the assistance given by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV) by the Soviet Women's Committee and the USSR in building this modern complex fitted out with the most advanced medical equipment.

The President of the WIDF, Freda Brown said, at the handing over ceremony, that the centre has become a symbol of unbreakable solidarity of women throughout the world with heroic Vietnam. "The WIDF and its national organisations will continue to give development of Danang. Speaking at the opening ceremony the President of Vietnam's Federation of Women, Ha Thi Khe thanked the WIDF and its national organisations on behalf of the Vietnamese people for their gift. "She also noted the assistance given by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV) by the Soviet Women's Committee and the USSR in building this modern complex fitted out with the most advanced medical equipment.

The Mother and Child Centre, which includes maternity and gynaecological departments, a section for newly born babies and a women's consultation clinic will shortly receive its first patients. ■

Close ties between Maoists and racists are exposed

ways. According to the South African *Digest*, China has been buying from South Africa, for strange raw materials as chrome, tin, nickel, gold and copper, unlike Peking, the South African authorities make no effort to conceal the trade ties between the two countries. The Johannesburg newspaper, *Financial Mail*, says that regular trading contacts have been established.

The expansion of economic ties between the PRC and the reactionary racist regime puts China in the same camp with imperialist circles of the West which support the government of apartheid.

By strengthening the Pretoria regime economically, Peking acts as a political ally of imperialist powers which are interested in preserving the basion of power of the Chinese imperialist state in the south of Africa. ■

Deng Xiaoping, one of the members of the Chinese Politburo with major responsibility in the aggressive, pro-imperialist state of the Chinese government.

The World Peace Council develops world wide campaigns against the escalation of the arms race, against war, and for peace. The picture shows a demonstration in Holland against the neutron bomb.

Liberation struggle our door-step

Dewey Gorodoy is a representative of the Kanak Liberation Party (Palika) of New Caledonia and she was one of a delegation of the New Caledonian independence movement Front which recently visited the United Nations to lobby for support.

New Caledonia is one of Australia's near island neighbours and its people are in struggle against French colonialism. The Socialist interviewed Dewey Gorodoy for our readers.

Q. Would you please tell us something of the political and economic situation in New Caledonia?

A. New Caledonia is completely dominated on the political level by French colonialism and imperialism. We have a Territorial Assembly which is locally elected but can only discuss things and not decide anything. Everything is imposed from Paris.

When we talk about independence and liberation we put in jail they send the police and armed forces against demonstrations. With the rise of the independence movement there has been an increase in the activity of fascist groups.

New Caledonia has a population of 150,000 but there are 7,000 armed forces who protect the economic interests of French colonialism in the

Pacific — not only in New Caledonia.

Our island is the world's third biggest producer of nickel and is dominated by the Société Nickel. This company controls the economy of the country. Nickel comprises over 96 per cent of our total exports.

French imperialist interests have been stimulated by the extension of the sea zone to 200 miles where there is fish and minerals.

The colonialists dominate the education system and use the churches. Use of the Kanak language is forbidden in school.

Recently a teacher was sacked when he used the Kanak language in his school. There is no university in New Caledonia.

In his words there are the imperialists try to destroy our remaining culture or debase it purely for use in the tourist industry.

Q. What is the Independence Front?

A. The Front is made up of five political organisations and claims the right to run our own affairs. We are demanding back our land which was stolen from us and are for nationalisation and socialism.

Land is our big claim. Ninety per cent of the land was stolen by the colonialists without any compensation. There are Kanak representatives on the remaining 10 per cent which is the poorer land.

Q. What were the results of the elections held recently in New Caledonia?

A. Sixty-four per cent voted against the Independence Front and 36 per cent for it. However, 82.5 per cent of the Kanak people voted for independence.

The government is encouraging migration to New Caledonia to swamp the Kanak people. Between 1969-1976, 25,000 new migrants came. There are

20,000 French who are only there for a few years as soldiers, police or civil servants. Any French citizens can vote, even if they have been in New Caledonia only a few weeks.

Q. You have just been to the UNO to get support. What were the results?

A. We saw the Embassies of 20 countries and received their support. Our aim is to get the question of New Caledonia put on the agenda of the Decolonisation Committee of the UNO. Bulgaria, Libya, Guinea, Madagascar and other countries supported us.

The Australian government said that it respects the Charter of the UNO. At the South Pacific Forum held in New Caledonia the Australian representatives agreed to self-determination and independence for New Caledonia. New Hebrides and Polynesia but when Papua New Guinea raised the question the Australian government disagreed.

Q. What can progressive Australians do to assist your struggle?

A. Firstly to spread information about New Caledonia and our struggle. Secondly, to find ways to demonstrate their support.

The government is encouraging migration to New Caledonia to swamp the Kanak people. Between 1969-1976, 25,000 new migrants came. There are

Brezhnev explains practical steps towards disarmament

Talking to Pravda journalists about his recent proposals to reduce current levels of armaments in Europe, CPSU General Secretary, Leonid Brezhnev explained last month "what would be a practical solution to the problem of reducing the quantity of medium-range nuclear weapons by both NATO and Warsaw Pact forces."

Mr Brezhnev said: "Our proposals put forward in the speech in Berlin, aims at making headway in facilitating the whole complex of problems of military detente and the limitation of armaments on the European continent. First request that it has these actions to this proposal indicate that it is being understood by all those who hold dear the peace and security of Europe. All the same time the proposal was of course, not to the liking of those who would like to see a further whipping up of the arms race on the European continent, especially in the field of medium-range nuclear weapons."

As regards a practical solution of the problem of these weapons, there is only one way to follow — by embarking on negotiations. The Soviet Union is of the view that negotiations against those embarking on without delay. We are prepared to do this. Now it is up to the Western powers. It is important, however, that no nasty actions be taken which might complicate the situation or obstruct the attainment of positive results.

There will be a greater chance of obtaining such results if no decisions are taken on the production and deployment in Western Europe of the abovementioned weapons pending the outcome of the negotiations. And, conversely, the chance will be undermined if such decisions are taken within the framework of NATO.

"One must also mention the following: "The Soviet Union and other members of the Warsaw Treaty have proposed to all the states which participated in the European Conference that they should all renounce the first use of both nuclear and non-nuclear weapons against

each other. So far, we have not yet received an answer to this proposal. But I should like to reiterate again that the most responsible way I can see the whole complex of problems which the Soviet Union still holds to the position that it will not resort to the use of nuclear weapons against those states which renounce such weapons and acquisition of such weapons on their territories. We are prepared to formalise appropriate understandings to this effect with any state to which this applies."

More than a quarter of the Israeli budget is allocated to foreign debts which are expected to exceed \$14,000 million in the current fiscal year.

Following the opening session the conference then formed into four commissions. There were also forums of parliamentarians, nurses, trade unionists and students and youth.

The writer, representing the Socialist Party of Australia, was able to take the position of the SPA in relation to the Middle East and its support for the cause of the Palestinian people.

At the final session of the conference the President of the World Peace Council, Roshni Mandra, defined the essence of the conference when he said that "there cannot be freedom and peace in the Middle East without the full participation of the Palestinian people and their leaders — the Peoples Liberation Organisation."

Letters to the Editor

Critical of right-wing labor

In the light of Bob Hawke's assurances and public statements made by the Leader of the Opposition, Bill Hayden, it appears a definite swing to the right is taking place through-out the leadership of the ALP. This is also becoming apparent in the State Branches.

The SPA as the only true Marxist-Leninist Party in Australia needs to determine on which way the ALP is taking our country.

It is all very well to call for the defeat of the Liberal-Country Party government but a right-wing Labor Government can get away with what a Liberal-Country Party government cannot do.

We witnessed the shallow hypocrisy of Labor Senator John Wheeldon heading an inquiry into lack of human rights in the Soviet Union. John shadow Minister Lionel Bowen the same week, to his credit, draws attention to the deplorable living conditions of North Queensland Aborigines.

Why doesn't an inquiry into Aboriginal conditions get the same publicity?

The Liberal-Country Party sees the interests of their class, they are not the Labor Party to hold the fort while they are in retreat. This right-wing are doing very effectively.

Of course there are many ALP parliamentarians and officials who deserve the highest praise.

In this regard we must bear in mind that parliamentarians have had over eighty years to prove that rightwing ALP governments cannot solve these problems.

The working class and its vanguard have suffered too hard and too long to let right wing labor continue to demagogue us, penalise us, and sabotage us for no other purpose than to perpetuate capitalism.

History shows that the working class and its vanguard, in the case of the SPA are those ones who will suffer the brunt of the rightwing elements of the hard way we know or will be the ultimate victims.

It is not given to us the way that it will take the hard way we know or will be the ultimate victims.

Jack Booth
Ozette

Editor's note:
In calling for the defeat of the Liberal-NCJ government the SPA recognises that the immediate electoral alternative is an ALP government. However, the SPA does not merely call for the election of an ALP government but gives great emphasis to the defeat of the Liberal Party and the development of the Socialist Party of Australia. The main report to the SPA's last Congress was on the importance that is committed to the development of the Socialist Party as the useful people of our country. It would be a government prepared to carry out such measures would be some thing that we might be called a traditional Labor Party and remained steadfast during the period of its coming to power. It would also be able to bring into being a more democratic and socialist society.

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Obituary

Ted Gearman

One of the stalwarts of the working class movement in Tasmania, (Ted) Roydon Alf Gearman died last month in Hobart.

His whole life was dedicated to the principles and ideals of socialism.

At the age of fifteen he became a member of the CPA (then under the leadership of Lance Sharkey), and later was an active Trade Unionist and member of the Peace Movement.

He was wary of anti-Sovietism and all its hideous dogmas and remained steadfast during the Hungarian and Czechoslovakian crises, giving his full support for the Soviet policies and revealing the clarity of a true Marxist-Leninist.

In later years, due to ill health, he was unable to be as active in the movement as he would have wished, but continued giving financial support to the party until the day of his death. Vale Comrade!

Diary dates

YSL's "End of the Year" Party

The Young Socialist League of Australia invites you to its "End of the Year Party" on Friday December 21, 7.00 p.m. at the Atlas Club, 255 Crown Street, Darlinghurst.

Come and have a lot of fun dancing and singing with our musical groups.

Entrance is free. Food and drinks available.

Chilean dance

The Committee for Solidarity with the Chilean People will hold an "End of the Year" Party on Saturday December 15, 7.40 p.m. at the Leachbar Town Hall. Come and enjoy international food and music.

Qld "Breakup" barbecue

The Queensland Peace Committee in Brisbane will have an "End of the Year Breakup Barbecue" on Sunday December 9 at 3.00 p.m. at 17 Hector Street, Holland Park.

The Socialist Festival Farewell concert

Don't miss this last concert of the Soviet musical group which participated in the Socialist Festival celebrations. The Boyan Players and singers Tatiana Vinogradova and Leonid Hartonov will play and sing folk songs, many of which are old favourites of Australians involved in the labour movement.



Monday December 10 at 8.00 p.m. Sydney Trade Union Club, 111 Foveaux Street, Sydney. Tickets \$4.00 adults. Pensioner, students and unemployed concessions \$2.00. No bookings. Pay at the door.

World conference

where cannot be peace in Middle East without participation of Palestinian people

Seven hundred delegates from Africa, Asia, Europe, Australia and North and South America participated in the World Conference in Solidarity with the Arab People held in Lubbock last month.

Messages of support and solidarity were received from 18 heads of state, prime ministers, women and youth organisations, peace committees, trade unionists and political parties from around the world.

In his opening address to the conference the PLO Chairman, Yasser Arafat, noted with pleasure the presence of delegates from Iran and Nicaragua — recent examples of the people's ability to defy and ultimately bring about the downfall of regimes which are no more than imperialist protectorates. He welcomed delegations from Vietnam, Laos, Kampuchea and

of the Arab Summit meeting and of the conference of non-aligned states, the principled and firm stand of the socialist countries headed by the Soviet Union.

He concluded his speech by stating "We stand for social progress, prosperity, stability and peace based on justice for all peoples of the world and for the freedom and independence of all its peoples. Unity and solidarity are our people's weapons in their course towards victory and the realisation of peace in the land of their birth."

Following the opening session the conference then formed into four commissions. There were also forums of parliamentarians, nurses, trade unionists and students and youth.

The writer, representing the Socialist Party of Australia, was able to take the position of the SPA in relation to the Middle East and its support for the cause of the Palestinian people.

At the final session of the conference the President of the World Peace Council, Roshni Mandra, defined the essence of the conference when he said that "there cannot be freedom and peace in the Middle East without the full participation of the Palestinian people and their leaders — the Peoples Liberation Organisation."

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A scene from the conference

The Socialist

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Obituary

Len Hale

Len Hale, lifelong trade union activist and socialist died recently in Western Australia.

A steadfast worker for world peace, writer and supporter of the Soviet Union is greeted by all his friends and comrades in the labour movement.

Len was an active trade unionist who during and after the war was instrumental in developing the progressive movement in the Transport Workers Union, later on to become a transport driver and then mail officer at the PMCO, where he became an organiser of the Postal Workers Union, winning the position of secretary when he retired for medical reasons three years ago. He also played an important role in the setting up of the West Australian Trades and Labour Council, which meant a valuable step forward for the WA workers.

Len joined the Communist Party in 1935 and remained a trade unionist in the dark days of illegality, during the period of vicious attacks of the NSW and Communist Party of Australia, and when induction and opportunism confined many workers to the sidelines.

Len saw the issues clearly. He always defended the cause of the Soviet Union as the leading force in the preservation of world peace and socialism.

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Shorter week campaign

Old power workers keep pressure on

Over 8,000 Queensland power workers went on a 48-hour strike at the beginning of this week in support of their union claim for a 35-hour working week.

The power workers held a similar stoppage on October 22-23 to back their demands for a shorter working week despite threats and bullying from the Bjelke Petersen Government.

The shorter week campaign has found wide support among the working people of Queensland despite a barrage of attacks by the State Government, the employers and the capitalist media, all of whom have been trying to discredit the power workers by presenting a false picture of chaos and hardship allegedly caused by their campaign.

Power workers were forced into this second stoppage by the state's electricity authorities who resisted last week their stand saying that the shorter working week is not negotiable, that is, that they do not want



to consider.

Power workers representatives, on the other hand, have denounced that figures on the cost of the shorter week supplied by the State Electricity Commission on November 12 to the Industrial Commission are dishonest.

Trade union representatives acting on behalf of the workers have requested a clarification of those figures. They have asked for a detailed breakdown of expenditures and other costs included in the \$27 million figure claimed by the employers as the cost, in the first year, of bringing the 35-hour week into existence.

The unionists have said that information supplied until now is insufficient and only a fraction of what is needed for proper negotiations. They also said that the way to avoid further disputes was for the Industrial Commission to order further negotiations with full information available to all parties.

The power workers have repeatedly stated their good disposition to negotiate and avoid conflict, but the Bjelke Petersen Government and the employers are set in a path of confrontation aimed at denying the high profit making that capitalists enjoy in the state and at justifying the repressive legislation and actions of the State Government against the working people of Queensland.

STOP PRESS

The dispute took a dramatic turn on Tuesday (as we go to press) with the state cabinet refusing to invoke the Essential Services Act against the strikers. This represents a serious reverse for the Premier and a further indication of widespread rejection of his confrontationalist methods.

The Qld. Labor Council has threatened to call a state-wide general strike if the Act is used and is certain to get nationwide support for such a stand.

NSW Labor Council call to help Kampuchea

The NSW Labor Council decided unanimously to ask for a re-resending of a documentary on the plight of the Kampuchean people under Pol Pot which was shown on the Sydney Channel 9 on Wednesday November 28.

The Council also agreed to urge support for the Kampuchean Relief operation being carried out by the Community Aid Abroad organisation.

The NSW Labor Council decision was taken after a proposal by BWIU organisers was discussed at the council's meeting on Thursday 29.

The documentary film, made by an Australian journalist, shows the extent of the genocide and destruction brought about by the Pol Pot regime, thanks to the complicity of the Chinese Government and the capitalist powers led by the US.

The meeting of the NSW Labor Council issued a call to all affiliated unions and their members to give advice as to the best way in which union donations and assistance could be organised.

NSW Public Transport workers make gains

After a struggle lasting over sixteen months Public Transport Commission tradesmen have made two major gains in their fight for a wage increase and reasonable parity with non-skilled workers.

At a recent mass meeting, tradesmen members of four major unions accepted an increase of \$7.80 per week and urged the steering committee to proceed with a further demand for \$9.30 per week which would bring their wages into line with metal tradesmen in private industry.

While the sum accepted is not large in monetary terms, it represents a major breakthrough for PTC tradesmen, as the NSW government had up until now refused to grant them any increase because of fears that such an increase would set off demands for an automatic flow-on from a host of other PTC employees' organisations, including bus-drivers and salaried personnel.

What makes this wage increase a major break-through is the fact that the \$7.80 was granted under the new headings of \$4.30 tool allowance and \$3.50 experienced tradesman allowance, thereby opening two avenues through which PTC tradesmen can make demands for wage increases without having to suffer the government's constant cry of "The flow on, the flow on!"

The prolonged struggle to gain the pay rise will be long remembered by the workers involved for the utter-incompetence of an arbitration system which after 12 months of debate, postponement, numerous adjournments, and deliberate delay, handed down a decision which said that it "could not come to a decision."

Tradesmen club launched in Western Sydney area

A meeting of 235 people packed the Lithbridge Park Community Hall on Wednesday 28th November for the launching of the Mt. Druitt Building Tradesmen's Club.

The attendance far exceeded the expectations of the organisers, a group of building tradesmen's unions. Their spokesman, Mr Andy Manson, commenting on the meeting said that it indicates there is widespread public support within the Mt. Druitt area for the establishment of the Building Tradesmen's Club.

The club will be open to membership to all building tradesmen members of the seven tradesmen's unions who are giving financial and other support to its establishment.

It is proposed to have 1,000 tradesmen members, plus 700 associate members. The

associate membership would be made up of the wives of the tradesmen plus trade unionists who live within a 10 kilometre radius of the Mt. Druitt club, and their wives.

Mr Manson indicated that as yet no real effort had been made to recruit members to the club among building workers other than those in the immediate Mt. Druitt area.

He anticipated that there would be an enthusiastic response from building tradesmen, particularly in the Western Sydney Metropolitan area, where there would be over 10,000 building tradesmen.

Continued from page 1

wage increases are to be considered.

- ★ National "Economic capacity to pay" and not price increases to be the prime factor in deciding annual national wage claims.
- ★ Rejection of national wage claims in circumstances where the unions have not substantially complied with the employers restricted wage fixation package of proposals.

NO PROFIT RESTRICTIONS

But the need for restrictions do not apply to profit levels. In a week of sensational activity, unprecedented in Australian corporate history, several groupings moved to oust others for the purpose of improving their own profit-making revealing the "dog-eat-dog" character of the competition and the relations between big corporations.

Aimed solely at making bigger profits at the expense of others, the take-overs were marked by ruthlessness, secrecy and some apparent double-dealing. The takeover will not add one iota to existing productive capacities or to strengthening the nation's economy. The take-overs will change nothing except the

ownership of certain companies but in the course of these manoeuvres News Ltd., is reported to have made a profit of \$4 million and the Bell Group a profit of \$11 million, without producing one commodity or providing a single service.

BHP'S BONANZA

In just one week BHP boosted its profit making capacities by a 5.23 per cent increase in the prices of its steel products, thus lifting steel prices by a total of 14.6 per cent this year — none of which required Prices Justification Tribunal approval. It also shared in a \$3.5 billion profit windfall as a result of having "new" oil declared not subject to the Government oil levy and the company moved into a substantial share of a \$1,500 million aluminium project.

The creaming-off of millions of dollars of profit as a result of share dealings and the boosting of the profits of Australia's biggest profit earner are not considered to be in anyway detrimental to the nation's economy or a cause of inflation, but the struggle for the maintenance and improvement of workers' living standards is regarded as a form of near criminal activity.

ALP rally against uranium in Sydney

Around 2,000 people attended an anti-uranium rally held at the Sydney Town Hall Square on Monday December 3. The meeting, which was organised by the NSW Labor Party organisation and chaired by Tom Yen, was addressed by the ALP's Parliamentary leader Bill Hayden, NSW Premier Neville Wran, spokesman for Mineral Resources Paul Keating, Aboriginal rights activist Pat O'Shane, and ACTU's Senior Vice-President Cliff Dolan.

All speakers reiterated their opposition to uranium mining, pointing out that uranium, far from being a solution to mankind's energy problem is an environmental danger which would imperil the lives of this and following generations.

The nuclear power industry, Paul Keating said, is a direct

world will soon be facing an over supply of uranium, with the Western world will have a 30,000 tonnes over supply, 5,000 of which will be from Australian mines.

Mrs O'Shane said that the Aboriginal people, in whose lands all uranium mines are sited, do not want uranium



Part of the crowd who attended the ALP rally against uranium.

boost to the nuclear weapons race, although that was not the only problem it originated, nuclear industry spokesmen base their case in a supposedly unblemished record with regard to serious nuclear accidents, but any grave accident in a nuclear power plant near a city or town, in any Western country, would spell disaster for thousands of people and mean the virtual death of the already decaying nuclear industry in the Western world.

According to Mr Keating the