

Socialist Worker

inside

**The battle of
Gothenburg**



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French anti-capitalist
José Bové interviewed

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NICE TREATY:

They want us to vote till we give the right answer but...

NO MEANS NO

THE political establishment has been hammered over the Nice referendum. It represents a turning point in Irish politics.

All the main parties linked up with leaders of the unions, big business and farmers to call for a Yes vote. But they were beaten.

Our rulers may see the EU as the home of progress and civilisation. But the population does not. They see it as a growing military power — one that could quickly use its Rapid Reaction Force to fight “resource wars”.

EU pressure is the excuse used by Irish politicians to sell off Aer Lingus and the ESB.

And it is increasingly run by the most undemocratic means with power concentrated in elite politicians from the bigger states.

The establishment lost because they were afraid to enter into a real debate. Supporters of the main right wing parties virtually disappeared.

They thought they could sneak a result through a on a low poll.

The vote also reflected the new gap that is opening between our rulers and the majority of the population.

Five years of corruption scandals have exposed their greed and cynicism.

The vote against Nice was a sign that a rebellion is brewing.

6,000 die early from of poverty

Each year 6,000 people die early in Ireland because of poverty.

This is the devastating conclusion of a recent report from the Institute of Public Health.

It is the first time that an official body has baldly stated that social inequality is killing people.

The Institute of Public Health was set up after the Belfast Agreement to co-ordinate research on both parts of the island.

Its latest report shows that the poorest groups in Ireland are:

⊗ 110 percent more likely to die of cancer.

⊗ 120 percent likely to suffer strokes and heart attacks

⊗ 200 percent more likely to get lung disease or other respiratory complaints.

Bishop in the Dock

A BELGIAN Bishop, Pierre Pacan, has appeared in the dock for covering up the activities of paedophile priests

One of those priests, a Father Rene Bissey had been sexually abusing boys from 1970 to 1996.

Bissey admitted his activities in confession but simply carried on, believing that he was pardoned.

"I told them what was happening in detail. They always absolved me, told me things would work out. During Lent, I did not commit these acts," Bissey said.

Like in Irish cases, Bissey was moved several times but was never reported to the civil authorities.

But there are as yet no reports that an Irish bishop will be put on trial for similar cover-ups.

Special Branch in control

A leaked report from British M15 has claimed that the RUC's Special Branch was given control of policing and protect its informants from the paramilitaries.

The leak follows reports that crime could routinely come second place to the needs of Britain's intelligence operations.

The leaked document stated that

"All proposals to effect planned arrests must be cleared with regional Special Branch to ensure that no agents of either the RUC or army are involved."

HOW O'BRIEN RIPPED US OFF

THE TANGLED web of Denis O'Brien and Michael Lowry is unravelling.

O'Brien once told a friend that he had given £100,000 to Mr Michael Lowry.

Then he said the payment had never been made but had become "stuck" with an "intermediary". He now says all this was a "joke".

Further nobody wants to claim the £50,000 given to Fine Gael by Esat.

Fine Gael fundraiser David Austin lodged it in 1997 into an offshore account in Jersey.

In 1995, Denis O'Brien's company, Esat Digifone, was awarded a lucrative mobile-phone licence by Michael Lowry, then Minister for Transport, Energy and Communications, and the Fine Gael government.

O'Brien paid only £15 million and made a £221 million fortune when he sold Esat Digifone to British Telecom years later.

A month after Esat won the licence, David Austin, a

wealthy Fine Gael supporter, asked O'Brien to take two tables at a New York function to raise funds for the party.

Appointed

David Austin was a friend of Michael Lowry and was appointed to the board of Aer Lingus by Lowry.

Lowry says he knew nothing of the donation.

But Michael Lowry, who probably got close to million pounds from O'Brien, had nineteen

bank accounts so it is no wonder he could never keep track of all those mysterious payments.

For instance, in 1991 Lowry obtained a sterling draft from AIB in O'Connell Street, Dublin and lodged it in a Channel Islands bank account.

It seems Lowry was allowed to open an offshore account without being given the necessary exchange control clearance.

This happened to be against the law.

But no one has yet been sent to jail.

Forced to work with asbestos in Leinster House

STEPHEN Flethcher a 54 year old worker from Tallaght in Dublin was recently awarded £48,760 in damages for being forced to work with asbestos in the basement of Leinster House.

Asbestos dust has long been associated with lung cancer.

But even though the Commissioners of Public Works knew about these dangers, they did nothing

about them.

Stephen Flethcher had been working from 1985 to 1988, removing dangerous asbestos in the parliament buildings.

A tender for the contract stipulated that workers should wear protective clothing and masks. But Stephen Flethcher was not given any.

He was not told about the dangers of asbestos and only found out about it later from the newspapers articles.

Let Esther stay!

ESTHER OSINUGA is a 53-yr old Nigerian woman living in Tallaght with her 16-year old daughter Tamie. In May they received a deportation order from the Department of Justice. If they are returned to Nigeria their lives will be in serious danger.

In Nigeria, Esther's life has been threatened and several family members have been killed.

If Esther and Tamie go back, Esther believes she will be killed.

She has no home, no family and no means of support.

Amnesty International has stated that women who report rape in Nigeria may be faced with corporal punishment.

The Nigerian government has also deployed a para military police force, which has shot at villagers who protested about the activities of multi-national oil companies.

Tamie suffers from a degenerative bone disease and needs a hip-replacement. The doctors in Tallaght Hospital believe

they can greatly improve Tamie's life with surgery, but need time for several procedures before the final operation.

Esther works with a city-centre store where she is a member of the MANDATE union.

Esther has volunteered with the local Vincent de Paul and been involved in a local parents group in Tallaght.

Forced

In Nigeria, she worked as a Maths teacher and then worked in the education sector of the West African Government.

She was forced to leave this position due to the intervention of her husband.

Both Esther and Tamie are valuable members of their community in Tallaght.

Mary Harney has repeatedly said that we need an extra 200,000 workers over the next 5 years.

Esther, who lives in Mary Harney's constituency, enjoys her work and wants to continue living and working in Ireland.

The Tallaght Stop Deportations Campaign have taken up Esther's case. If you want to get involved in building support, ring: 01-872-2682



SOME 600 people marching against deportations in Dublin

Judicial Review of abortion law

IN A landmark case, the Family Planning Association has won the right to the first judicial review of the medical practices relating to abortions in Northern Ireland.

Confusion

The legal challenge comes after much confusion over the interpretation of a law drafted in 1862.

As many as two-thirds of Gynaecologists are uncertain over the meaning and practice of the law.

Although just over 70 abortions were carried out in Northern Ireland in 1999, at least 1500 women travelled to England, and paid between £450 and £900 for travel and medical expenses.

Low fat corporate scam

Many people have switched to low fat margarines to avoid heart disease.

But a new report from the British Consumers Association shows that it is

Price of silence

BEEF BARON Larry Goodman allegedly offered a former partner £4.4 million not to give evidence against him in a complex Dublin trial in which he is being sued by his one-time business competitor Pascal Phelan for £15 million.

At top secret meet-

ings in Geneva, Switzerland, on the 27th and 28th of April this year Goodman, accompanied by his "friend and associate", businessman Noel Smyth, had a series of discussions with Zakaria El Taher and his son Nassar, to try to reach "settlement" terms before the action began.

Offered

"This simple fact is that Mr Goodman offered £4.4 million and sought that I should not give evidence in the Irish court against him," says Taher in an affidavit lodged in a Dublin court.

40 more years

BEVERLEY Cooper-Flynn says she intends to pay her legal costs from her failed libel action from her TD's salary.

This means that even if she hands over every penny of her £45,473 salary to the lawyers who represented her and RTE, her Mayo

constituents will have to return her at every election for the next 40 years before her £2m liability is discharged.

The one-time high-flying investment advisor with National Irish Bank was found by the courts to have advised customers to evade tax in offshore accounts.

She could of course declare herself bankrupt but then she would lose her cushy job in the Dail.

★ THE SEATTLE rich are incensed about a decision to restrict their grandiose home building plans. The mayor of Medina, a suburb of Seattle, has limited new buildings to "only" 13,500 square feet.

This has frustrated one boss's wish to build a replica of the Taj Mahal. Bill Gates will not be allowed to extend the man-made salmon

stream at his £80 million home. The obscenely wealthy are draining the area's water resources. Gates uses 4.7 million gallons of water a year.

One home has a tram system to takes people from the main house to the one on the shore. Jon Shirley, former Microsoft president, has a house with three art galleries and more lavatories than the average airport.

what we think

NICE VOTE VICTORY: If they don't want democracy – let's give them direct action

Barely had the ballots the Nice Referendum been counted than the Irish political establishment were demanding a new referendum.

The citizens, like children, had embarrassed them in front of the Big Boys and Girls in Europe.

The EU elite added to the message: There was no possibility that the Nice Treaty could be changed or scrapped. It was completely unrealistic. The Irish people would simply have to vote again—until they got the right answer!

This open contempt shows just how little democracy there is under capitalism.

We get a vote every few years — but only to choose which team the bosses put up for a government.

Once elected a government can tear up their election promises — and we have no right to re-call them.

Conventional politicians are front men for big business. Crooks like Lowry and Haughey openly take bribes to do special favours for particular companies such as Denis O'Brien's empire.

But all the main political parties get "donations" and agree to follow an agenda laid down in business circles.

No wonder mass direct action is growing in popularity.

SCRAP THIS TREATY NOW

"The government will need a pretext to hold a second referendum." This is what the learned Professor Brigid Laffan said.

The pretext will probably be a woolly protocol that mentions Irish neutrality. But this little gesture will not be good enough.

The Irish referendum was the only mass plebiscite on Nice. It was a vote not just about Ireland—but about the future of the EU itself.

Even if Irish neutrality is mentioned in an extra protocol, it will not change the fact that a Rapid Reaction Force has been set up.

The government can be defeated if they try a second referendum.

A poll of viewers on *Questions and Answers* showed that 72 percent would vote No if the Nice Treaty was put to a referendum again.

That message should go out clearly: *Scrap the Nice Treaty now!*

★ Our rulers are busy spinning lies to explain away the No vote on the Nice Treaty.

Lie NO 1:

The people were confused and voted No.

This is the line of Fianna Fail TD, Noel Ahern — brother of the Taoiseach. "The advertisements of the Referendum commission just confused the people," he said.

But opinion polls show that the Yes vote was in a majority when knowledge of the Nice Treaty was low. One early poll shows that only 10 percent of the population understood the treaty well—but at that point over 60 percent were going to vote Yes.

As knowledge on the Treaty grew, the NO vote grew.

Lie NO 2:

Right wing anti-abortionists got out the NO vote

The NO campaign was led by the Greens, Sinn Fein and socialists. The anti-abortionists who have a lot of money produced the big red and black posters.

But their literature did not mention abortion. And they were barely visible on the ground when it came to campaigning.

Warnings by bigots like Rory O'Hanlon that Nice would mean more immigration were barely heard during the campaign. The main arguments were about militarisation, lack of democracy and power for big business.

Lie NO 2:

We secretly welcomed the NO Vote.

Fianna Fail Junior Minister Eamonn O Cuiiv spoke at public meetings to call for a Yes vote. But the day after the ballot, he claims he actually voted No. Finance Minister McCreavy even called the No vote "a healthy development".

But this only shows the depth of their cynicism. O Cuiiv and McCreavy are two-faced liars who would do anything to get votes in elections.

McCreavy is only interested in keeping the scandalously low 12.5 percent tax rate on profits which is the lowest in Europe.

He wants to use the NO vote as a bargaining chip with the other EU governments. He has no problems sending Irish soldiers to fight in the Rapid Reaction Force.

Protests follow Toxic Texan



WHEREVER George Bush went in Europe he was met by protests. Thousands of people marched through the Spanish capital, Madrid, to protest against US president George W Bush. "Bush go home!" chanted protesters, and, "No to neo-liberal globalisation. No to the destruction of the climate". Thousands again took to the streets of Gotheburg to greet him (left). There were protests in Poland, and a number of people were arrested at anti Bush protests in Slovenia when he arrived to meet Russian leader Putin.

STOP

ACT UP!
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news of the world

The battle of Gothenburg

LIVE BULLETS were fired at anti-capitalists and three protestors ended up wounded as thousands demonstrated against the EU in Gothenburg.

Nearly 600 people were arrested and hundreds injured as the police repeatedly attacked protestors.

The three days of protests had begun in a carnival mood with protestors following a huge model of George Bush who was meeting the EU leaders.

Over the next two days police herded and attacked the protests. Some 61 people were expelled from the country and hundreds mostly from Denmark weren't allowed into Sweden at all.

Corporate media lies

THE MEDIA attempted to say the violence was all the result of a small number of anarchists.

The BBC spoke of "anarchists are mingling with the good-natured campaigners, threatening violence."

The provocation for one police attack according to the *Financial Times* was; "Two naked women cavorted at the front of the line of protestors to provoke police while hundreds of others formed a conga line, dancing to drums"

"Thugs" was the description approved of by the *Guardian* and the *Irish Times*.

But there was no mention of the thugs in uniform who fired live ammunition at protestors.

This is what EU democracy looks like

A SWEDISH anti-capitalist protestor is in a critical condition, after emergency surgery for chest and stomach wounds after been shot in the stomach by police.

The incident occurred after a Reclaim the City street party around eight o'clock in the evening when most of the day's protests were over.

The mood was festive as people listened to music and danced.

Legal

But it is not legal to dance in the streets and the police chose to go in with riot gear and dogs.

A group of police started throwing stones at the crowd the crowd responded

Demonstrators tried repeatedly to get close to the conference hall where the 15 EU leaders were meeting.

Charlie McCreevey missed his appointment where he was going to apologise to the rest of the EU Fat Cats for Ireland's vote against the Nice Treaty. He was barricaded into his hotel room.

He later moved behind the barbed wire of the Conference centre, along with a number of EU delegations.

In one instance more than 100 people were arrested on a bridge near the conference centre and deported after being hemmed in by riot cops.

In other parts of the city public transport workers helped people escape the police by blocking them with their buses. Demonstrators forced the riot cops on horseback to retreat.

According to an *Indymedia* activist, "The police began picking up rocks and actually throwing

them back at the demonstrators. We at indymedia are seeing the police as very offensive. They are attacking activists with horses and dogs.

"They are blocking off the streets with freight containers. Yesterday a colleague was hit in the head with a whip by a riding police while taking pictures and screaming press."

According to one protestor, Tomas Engstr, "I was in an demonstration where police boxed in several activists all day.

"We were assaulted with dogs and a photographer was severely bitten in his inner thigh, he got a wound as big as your hand!"

Violence

An activist from *Ya Basta* reports, "The police attacked us with open violence. They rode horses at full speed into our crowd and beat people up with batons.

"They even used dogs, and one person was bitten on his face. We cannot judge people who threw stones at the police, because they were defending their own lives."

After standing up to the police, over 25,000 people marched through driving rain to take part in Saturday's march. Protesters carried anti-EU and anti-globalisation banners and chanting slogans such as "Tax the rich not the poor".

Slogans such as "Smash Global Capitalism", "Smash Fortress Europe", "Stop the World Trade Organisation" rang out across the streets.

Environmentalists, gay rights activists marched together with trade unionists and socialists.

Chanting demonstrators advanced to the sound of a brass band playing "The Internationale".

"The EU is a bogus construct designed by a few greedy people who want to get rich on the backs of the rest of us," said Kathleen from Dublin.

"I believe the decisions being made at the meeting in this city are against the interests of myself and my family," said Olaf Bengsson, a doctor from the Swedish city of Malmoe.

Banners on the demonstrations read "Smash Capitalism," "Nature Not Profit, End Neo-liberalism," "Our World Is Not For Sale," "Shut Down Fortress Europe" and "US-EU Peace Policy Equals Support For Israeli Aggression."



Over 600 were arrested and many more injured

Indonesia

Police attack anti-capitalists

INDONESIAN POLICE brutally smashed up a conference on globalisation earlier this month.

The conference in Jakarta was aimed at building resistance to neo-liberalism.

Over 80 million people in Indonesia still live on less than \$1 a day, three years after the economic collapse and revolt which toppled the dictator Suharto.

Police with rifles smashed their way into the conference and arrested dozens of delegates at gunpoint. Among those arrested was Paul Kellogg, editor of *Socialist Worker's* Canadian sister paper.

He sent this message from Jakarta: "Ninety conference participants, including more than 30 foreign nationals (one of who was a four year old girl), were surrounded for two hours by an unknown number of police.

"The foreign nationals, myself included, were ushered at gunpoint into waiting police vehicles.

"We foreign nationals

have many connections, embassies, access to the media, solidarity organisations abroad.

"Our Indonesian hosts have none of that. They are carrying on the fight against globalisation in extremely difficult circumstances.

"I talked to Dita Sari, a well known trade union militant in Indonesia who was at the conference, about the attack,

"She told me, 'Two hours after you left 30 to 50 men who called themselves the Alliance of the Islamic Youth attacked us. "They had knives and swords, and they came into our conference room just like the police had done, but this time they hit us with knives and with sticks.

"Some people were bleeding and some were hurt. One had an artery in the neck nearly severed.

"Fundamentally nothing has changed since Suharto went down. The method may be different, but the essence, this violent repression, is still there. Even though it is carried out in a different way the repression against those who are

considered a political enemy is continuing.

This is part of the political challenge that we face."

If the current rulers and the various right wing militias have their way this country could descend into a hell far worse than we saw in the 1990s in the former Yugoslavia.

But the courageous

activists who are challenging the market, the political repression, the right wing and the police with whom they work hand in glove, opens up another possibility-an Indonesia where solidarity cuts across the current divisions and unites the poor and oppressed against those living off their misery."

Colombia

Massive protests swept Colombia against savage cuts demanded by the IMF. Tens of thousands of workers and students marched through the streets of most major towns against a cuts package agreed between the IMF and the government.

In the capital, Bogota, protesters attacked some plush business headquarters as military helicopters buzzed over the city. The government is imposing a \$4 billion austerity package which will slash jobs and public services.

The austerity mea-

sures come at the same time as the US-backed Plan Colombia moves into operation in the country. Plan Colombia is about helping the Colombian regime smash left wing guerrilla movements that have won effective control of significant parts of the country.

Despite the repression workers continue to fight back. The latest austerity measures have already sparked major strikes, with some 300,000 teachers and 125,000 health workers on strike or on work to rule over the last month.

Eamonn

McCann

Looking both ways

"GEORGE W.B USH, when he came in, in his public utterances, was very positive and constructive. He didn't put a foot wrong in terms of what was required".

So Gerry Adams told the *Irish News* on June 16th. At the time, European political leaders gathered in Gotenburg were still fuming at the arrogant insularity of the US president who had refused to budge on the Kyoto Treaty or to hold off on implementation of his crack-pot plan for a zillion-dollar "missile defence shield".

The visit of Bush to Gotenburg had also been a factor in fuelling the rage of anti-capitalist demonstrators who'd besieged the EU bosses in the conference centre.

Heaped

Adams was likely the only party leader on the entire continent who, on that particular weekend, would have heaped high praise on Bush for not putting a foot wrong.

Then again, Sinn Fein activists might argue, it wasn't global warming or the new arms race which Adams had had in mind; the SF leader had been referring specifically and solely to what he saw as the Bush administration's sure-footed approach to the North.

A couple of things can be deduced immediately from this. That Sinn Fein sees no connection between the interests of the people it represents in the North and the interests of people fighting against capitalism world-wide; the old notion of "one world, one struggle" is dead as far as Sinn Fein is concerned.

The second, related deduction we can make is that Sinn Fein isn't seeking anything in the North which George W. Bush would disapprove of.

This is a remarkable position for a party which still sometimes defines itself as "socialist" to find itself in. But it makes sense against the background of Sinn Fein's successful election campaign.

The party didn't fight the election on the basis of "Brits Out". The border wasn't mentioned in the manifesto. The key slogans had to do with "equality" and "cultural rights".

The party presented itself as a more vigorous and dependable advocate than the SDLP of the interests of the Catholic community vis-a-vis those of the Protestant community. And in a contest characterised by the competitive mobilisation of "the two communities", that proved a winner.

This winning formula excluded any consideration of class. To have focused during the campaign on the privatisation of health care, for example, or on the under-funding of services for disabled children, or on the complicity of Stormont agencies in bringing US arms manufacturers into the North, or on Any of another dozen issues of vital concern to any serious socialist or anti-imperialist, to have focused on issues of that kind would have risked alienating voters who were hostile to such concerns but sound on the question of pushing the Catholic community forward within the North.

Exultant

The future which this strategy holds out for the North, and for the Catholic community within it, was clearly indicated in an exultant article in the *Andersonstown News* the weekend of the elections results.

West Belfast is a "world-class community", declared Mairtin O Muilleoir, and "world-class companies locate in world-class communities".

As for the defeated SDLP candidates—"Perhaps we should send them on a junket to visit the great Comeback Cities of the world: Boston, Chicago, Pittsburgh, Barcelona and even Dublin so that they can see for themselves how regeneration is based on putting people first".

Anyone, particularly in Dublin, who still isn't clear about the direction in which Sinn Fein is headed, might usefully memorise that sentence.

If George W. Bush were asked to comment, he might well say that O Muilleoir, and Sinn Fein, hadn't put a foot wrong in terms of what US interests require.

Democratic Unionist Party gain in elections

Sectarians in suits

THE LARGE vote for Paisley's DUP in recent elections has been greeted with concern.

A postal worker from Mallusk sorting office told *Socialist Worker*, "It's an increased vote for sectarianism. Look at Nigel Dodds, the new DUP MP for North Belfast — in his speech on the night of the election he announced 'we will march in Portadown'".

Holding

The media claimed that the drop in support for the Ulster Unionists was a crisis for 'moderate unionism'. But the UUP have used issues like IRA decommissioning as a means of holding on to their communal support.

As an east Belfast resident explained "Trimble wound people up over decommissioning and the police. But if you are concerned about these issues you will vote DUP as the more hard-line party."

The DUP also positioned themselves to take this vote by dropping their slogan about smashing the agreement.

Instead they now want to re-open negotiations about the agreement—even though none of the nationalist parties are interested.

Deserved

The UUP have the deserved reputation of being the 'fur coat brigade', representing rich Protestants. The DUP have managed to present themselves as more in touch with poorer Protestants even though DUP leaders like Ian Paisley and Peter Robinson are notorious for



IAN PAISLEY- All smiles for the camera!

living in leafy suburbs and having massive share portfolios.

The DUP's main message is plain sectarianism.

This is why the DUP has always had a murky relationship with loyalist paramilitaries throughout the Troubles.

As recently as 1998, the Reverend Willie McCrea appeared at a rally to defend notorious loyalist killer Billy Wright in Portadown.

How do we defeat the DUP?

THE DUP seem to be on the crest of a wave, but beneath the surface they have problems.

ates a window of opportunity to expose the reactionary core of the DUP.

As the Mallusk postal worker put it.

"I know some great trade unionists who are DUP supporters.

Unite

"But they don't yet see how DUP policies are in contradiction to organisation in the workplace.

"My main argument with them is that we have to unite in the face of the threat of privatisation.

"This time of year Catholic and Protestant workers in here hardly talk to each other.

"The DUP's support for sectarian marches encourages that split.

"The need to defend ourselves against privatisation can help give these workers a wider view.

"It's like challenging racism or sexism in any workplace."

Although, as the teacher from East Belfast puts it, "they don't condemn sectarian attacks, and it would suit them quite nicely to go back to war," the vote for the DUP was not a vote for a return to military conflict.

In fact one poll showed 45% of DUP voters were for the continuation of the Assembly, while 40% were against.

The DUP are still short of their electoral support of 1985 and miles away from their ability to mobilise tens of thousands onto the streets against the Anglo-Irish agreement.

The desire, especially among workers, for peace to continue, cre-

FEEDING OFF BIGOTRY

THE POWER-SHARING between nationalist and unionist parties in the Assembly is an affront to loyalism. It implies that Catholics should be treated equally. That is fundamental reason why the DUP has always been against the Agreement.

But the results in the Westminster election shows that the structures of the Assembly itself lead to a hardening of sectarian division. "The Assembly is all about competition between the communities," explained the postal worker. "So you vote for those who seem most determined to defend your community as against the other side."

In recent years the policies of the DUP have moved away from their Free

Presbyterian, mainly rural roots. Paisley's bizarre attack on line dancing sounded like a throw back to a different era.

Now, like all parties in the wake of the creation of the assembly, the DUP try to take up issues that give them a progressive gloss.

But the DUP are in reality the party of unionist farmers and small businesses.

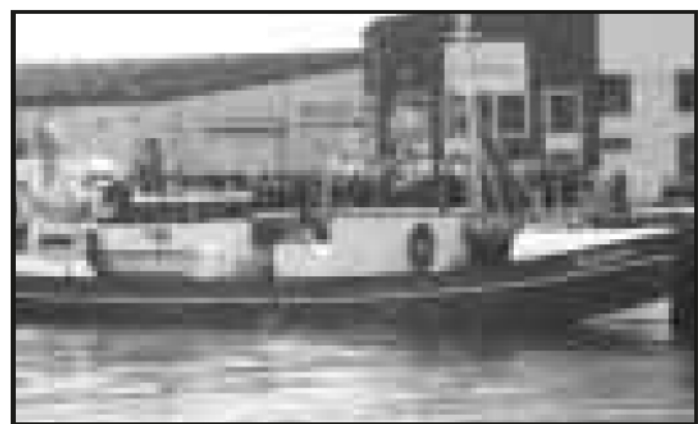
Nearly all their candidates have Orange lodge, RUC or in the case of their older members, 'B-special' connections.

Dangers

In a 1998 speech to the Chamber of Commerce, Paisley said "I am not an advocate of the minimum wage, I see dangers in it for struggling business." The DUP want a return of capital punishment.

In education they advocate selection at the end of the primary school years. No wonder DUP Westminster MPs consistently supported the Tory government

Women on the Waves



'WOMEN ON the Waves' ship at dock

Abortion rights now

ABORTION rights for women here were put back on the political agenda by the arrival of Women on the Waves' abortion ship and the Family Planning Association's (FPA) legal challenge in the Belfast High Court.

by GORETTI HORGAN

The desperation of women who find themselves with an unwanted pregnancy and difficulties raising the money to get to England was shown by the 120 women who wanted to get an abortion on the ship in the first week of its stay. Pregnancy counselling services reported women cancelling appointments with them in the hope of being able to get the abortion pill RU486 on the ship.

Every five minutes, a woman dies somewhere in the world as a result of an illegal abortion. Every one of those women is poor.

In Ireland today, a woman who has little problem getting £600 together and has access to information about clinics in England, needn't be too worried that abortion isn't available at home.

But the law in the North is so unclear that the Standing Advisory Committee on Human Rights said in 1993 that it wouldn't stand up in any court of human rights.

So, whatever your personal position on abortion, anyone who supports workers' rights has to support legal abortion on the health service.

Yet, women who certainly fit this description are refused abortions on the NHS and have to go to England.

Many of those most likely to be left wrecked cannot get the money together and are forced to continue intolerable pregnancies.

The cowardice of politicians of all the major parties North and South allows the hypocrisy in relation to abortion to continue.

Worse it puts the health, and sometimes even the lives, of the poorest women at risk since they have no hope of raising the money for an abortion — however badly they need one.

INTERVIEW WITH FRENCH ANTI-CAPITALIST JOSÉ BOVÉ

'Globalise hope for a future'

JOSÉ BOVÉ is one of the best known figures of the anti-globalisation movement which has spread across the globe since the great protest against the World Trade Organisation in Seattle in November 1999.

He has recently undertaken a tour along with François Dufour, a fellow

leader of the radical French small farmers' organisation. They are speaking at meetings to push a message of resistance to the corporations and governments which do their bidding: The world is not for sale! That is also the title of their book, which appears in English this month.

WHAT IS your book about?

THE BOOK is about the experience we had in France with the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and agriculture.

It begins with the story of how we dismantled the McDonald's fast food outlet in the town of Millau in France in 1999.

This action was in protest at the decision of the WTO to impose sanctions against Europe, because Europe refused to allow the import of US hormone-treated beef.

That was a very important movement in France because people understood that these sanctions signalled that the WTO was going to go into every area of life.

The book goes on to explain that this battle takes place inside of a bigger battle for another kind of farming, another kind of agriculture. Then we try to show that our fight as small farmers is the same as the other social movements.

IN THE book you talk of the Seattle demonstration as a "turning point in history". Why?

WHAT HAPPENED in Seattle was an important victory—a symbolic victory, but a victory.

It was the first time we had movements coming from all over the earth coming together in that way. It was farmers, workers, environmentalists, but also consumers, people from countries in the North and South.

The coming together of all those people, and also the governments from

the South, in Seattle meant that the WTO could not agree a new round of trade rules.

It was the beginning of a new kind of resistance against neo-liberalism all over the earth.

YOU WERE in Seattle. Since then you have been at the protests in Millau last summer, Porto Alegre in Brazil, and more recently in Quebec City, Canada. How have you seen the movement develop?

Now none of the major international institutions are able to have their meetings anywhere without there being protestors.

What is especially new since the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre earlier this year is that the movement is now trying to find answers to globalisation, to work out what our alternative is.

This for me is very interesting because it is a new kind of democracy, one where people want to decide about their lives, and what is happening to the world and to them.

HOW IMPORTANT do you think the demonstration at the G8 richest countries summit planned in Genoa next month is?

THIS IS going to be a very important demonstration. It will see huge numbers of people coming together from many countries.

They will unite to say to the rulers of the richest countries that they do not agree with their project of imposing their kind of govern-

ment, their rule all over the world. It is also a chance for workers from all over the world to come together.

We have to make it a gigantic demonstration. It is important that people come to Genoa.

IN MILLAU last year, and in your speeches since, you emphasised two points. One was that there was no such thing as a "more or less important struggle. All struggles are vital." The second was to stress the links between your fight, and those of workers and of people like the sans papiers "illegal" immigrants. Why do you stress these points?

ALL FIGHTS, whether big fights or little fights, are important. You can't have the big fights without the little fights.

If you don't have the little fights you won't have the big fights. Also, you get all these people pushed into struggles, whether as workers, farmers or people who have had to leave their countries to



JOSÉ BOVÉ (inset) and anticapitalist protests in Prague last year

make a life in the Northern countries, and then find they have no rights.

All these fights are linked. Together they mean a fight to say that the economy should be for people, not reducing people to slaves for the economy.

So I think that we have to link all those struggles, and say we have to work and fight together, not just as farmers, workers or immigrants, but to make the connections between the issues.

SOME PEOPLE say that to oppose neo-liberalism and globalisation is to retreat to a kind of nationalism or protectionism. What do you say to

that? WE ARE fighting for new rights for people all over the world, not only in one country. Retreating within national frontiers or looking to nationalism is not the issue or the answer. We need more rights—economic, social and cultural rights. These rights should come first and not be subordinated to the market. We want trade to be subject to these kinds of rules and rights. We need to have international rules first and say to the big corporations that you are not able to ignore these rules if you want to operate. This means we oppose all kinds of "dumping"—social dumping, economic dumping, environmental dumping. The big transnational firms don't care about what's going to happen to the people or to the world in the years ahead.

YOU HAVE repeatedly defied the law and courts in your own struggles. Why? WHEN LAWS are against the interests of people you have to put those interests first and act accordingly regardless of the law. Laws are made by people. They can be changed if people fight.

NEPAL

Revolt behind the palace massacre

NEPAL IS in crisis, perhaps on the edge of revolution.

Recently somebody shot dead King Birendra, his queen and eight other members of the royal family.

The new king, Gyanendra, is the old king's uncle, who survived the massacre.

The official story is that King Birendra's son, was angry at his parents for blocking his marriage to the woman he loved. So he went to his room, got his automatic, sprayed his family and then mortally wounded himself.

It is possible that this is roughly what happened. Many Nepalis do not believe it.

Large crowds have been rioting in many parts of the country, blaming the new king for the murders and demanding an end to the monarchy.

The new king has not allowed police inquiries, and the survivors have not been publicly interviewed.

All of this happened the day after a general strike.

We are told the Nepalis regard the king as a god. In fact, from 1951 to 1990, Birendra and his father were brutal dictators, widely hated and feared.

In 1990 the Nepali people rose up against them.

The activists of the two main parties, Congress and the Communist UML, had been underground, and in and out of prison, for 30 years.

In 1990 they launched a joint campaign of strikes and demonstrations against the government that lasted months. The police killed many, probably hundreds, of demonstrators.

Finally the people of Patan, one of the three cities of the Kathmandu

valley, surrounded the police station, disarmed the police and sent them naked up the road to Kathmandu.

The dictatorship was broken. People were ecstatic.

But Congress and the Communists immediately did a deal with King Birendra. He would become the constitutional monarch of a parliamentary system. He would keep all his wealth, and nobody would be punished for the killings or torture.

A parliament was elected but its ministers stole and took bribes flagrantly. The Communists replaced it in new elections and did the same thing.

Yet Nepal remained throughout the 1990s a deeply politicised country, with many strikes and mass demonstrations. The popular movement had been betrayed but not broken.

From 1951 to 1990, Birendra and his father were brutal dictators, widely hated and feared.

Five years ago a small Maoist organisation launched a guerrilla war in the hills of western Nepal.

Most Nepalis don't live in the hills. But the guerrillas gained strength because many people in the plains and cities felt respect for them—at least somebody is doing something, they said.

The Maoist activists are often schoolteachers, educated but paid 60p a day.

Many of their military experts are former Gurkhas in the British, Indian or Nepali army. They build by driving the

palace and landlords out of the villages. The Maoists now control large stretches of the hill country, although they do not yet get a large share of the vote nationally, and their areas contain less than 10 percent of the population.

But this has been a growing crisis for the ruling class.

The Communists, currently the parliamentary opposition, are very worried their support will bleed away to the left and have been pushing hard for peace talks with the Maoists.

Last month an official inquiry indirectly alleged that the prime minister Koroila had taken bribes for arranging contracts at the state airline.

The Communist opposition called for his resignation and called three days of very successful general strikes.

There was an equally solid one-day general strike in Kathmandu called by the Maoists. This represented a major escalation of their strength in the urban working class.

The next day somebody's gun went off in the palace.

The new king Gyanendra has a reputation as a hard right winger who hankers after the old dictatorship and wants to smash the Maoists.

Furious demonstrators tried to fight their way into the palace grounds, publicly shouting against Gyanendra and demanding a proper investigation.

The new king promised a high level inquiry into the palace killings, but the Communists have refused to be part of what many regard as a whitewash.

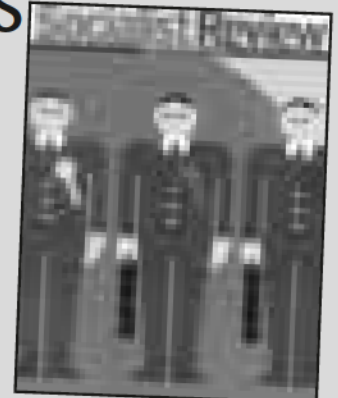
It is hard to see how the monarchy can survive, and impossible to see why it should.

by ALICE BLAKE

Socialist Review

IS THIS WHAT DEMOCRACY LOOKS LIKE?

Paul Foot on Labour and the Election @ On the Campaign trail with Socialist Alliance @ Anti-capitalism: All roads lead to Genoa



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Algeria

by **SIMON
BASKETTER**

In recent months there has been a series of revelations in France over the actions of the French military in the 1950s and 60s. They all stem from the independence struggle of Algeria.

The war for independence had a massive impact on France. It brought down six prime ministers. It caused the collapse of the Fourth Republic and twice plunged France into near civil war.

The Algerian people won their war for independence from France. But it was one of the most hard fought national liberation struggles, with one million Algerians killed out of a population of nine million.

The 1950's and 1960's signalled the beginning of a new era for most of Africa as one after the other European colonial powers realised that the forced occupation of Africa could no longer be sustained.

France was determined to hold on to their power base in Africa.

France's initial colonisation of Algeria came in 1830, when the French army marched into Algiers under the pretence of eradicating piracy in the Mediterranean.

French colonialism had an extra edge, "Assimilation".

In theory this policy dictated that all the colonial people were subjects of the France, albeit with limited rights, and were given a measure of representation in the National Assembly in Paris.

What it also meant was that the colonies became extensions of France and French people were encouraged to own land and resources within the colonies as they would within mainland France.

Formed

The French settlers quickly formed into a settler aristocracy. Hundreds of thousands of French Settlers ('Colons') moved to Algeria during the colonial period and at their height accounted for 10% of Algeria's population.

The Colons became increasingly economically powerful, and dictated French policy in Algeria, which became focused on maintaining their dominance.

The blatant discrimination against the indigenous population coupled with the brutal suppression of dissent by France sowed the seeds for a growing independence movement.

In March 1954 Ahmed Ben Bella, an ex-sergeant in the French army, joined eight other Algerian exiles in Egypt to form a revolutionary committee that later became known as the National Liberation Front (Front de Libération Nationale, FLN).

A few months later on November 1, the FLN launched its bid for Algerian independence by coordinated attacks on public buildings, military and police posts, and communications installations.

The response of the French state was brutal.

The uprising was ruthlessly put down. Collective punishment was meted out to whole villages suspected of aiding guerrillas.

The war for independence raged all over Algeria. In 1957, the rebels attempted to paralyse the administration.

In the city of Algiers the Muslim quarter known as the Casbah was home to over 100,000 Muslims despite being only 1 square kilometre.



Algerians celebrate independence in 1962

From national liberation to tyranny and corruption

The FLN turned it into a 'no go area' for the French.

Many of its buildings were hiding places and bomb factories, from which was launched the bombing campaign of the French zone.

To deal with the FLN's bombing campaign the French government brought in the paratroopers.

By murdering and imprisoning the FLN the French beheaded the Algiers movement.

For two years afterwards the city of Algiers played no major role in the war. But then in 1959 mass uprisings broke out across the city.

In response France turned Algeria into a huge concentration camp with miles of barbed wire cutting off the borders Algeria shared with Morocco and Tunisia.

Mass arrests and torture were used in an attempt to break the backbone of the liberation movements.

In February 1958, the French air force bombed the Tunisian frontier village of Saqiyat Sidi Yusuf, killing a number of civilians, including children from the local school.

Jacques Massu, who in 1957 was in charge of the notorious "Paras" (10th Parachute Division), has since admitted that over 3,000 prisoners considered to have "disappeared" at

that time had in reality been executed. The daily practice of the French reprisals included submerging victims in freezing water or excrement, and repeated use of electric shocks.

It was the social-democratic government of Guy Mollet that had given a free hand to the occupying forces in Algeria to carry out torture.

In June 1956, shortly before the battle for Algiers, the National Assembly accepted Mollet's proposal to set aside individual freedoms in Algeria and permit the police and soldiers stationed there to use "extended questioning," "coercive measures" or "special treatment".

The social democratic Interior Minister François Mitterrand, who later became president, said in parliament on November 5, 1954:

"The Algerian rebellion can lead to only one conclusion, that is, war."

He declared that Algeria was part of France: "The Mediterranean separates Algeria from France just as the river Seine separates the two halves of Paris".

Supported

The French Communist Party under the leadership of Jacques Duclos supported the state budget in 1954 and in 1956 voted for the special measures proposed by the government.

This at a time when there were

already demonstrations taking place in Paris against the Algerian war.

But there was also opposition to the war in France.

In 1958, the book "La Question" (The Question) by Henri Alleg was published, in which he exposed his own torture at the hands of the French.

In 1960, a group of intellectuals around Jean-Paul Sartre, including Simone de Beauvoir, André Breton, Simone Signoret and many others protested against the war with a "Manifesto of the 121".

A loose coalition of army generals, Colons and French right-wing organisations desperate for a comprehensive victory in Algeria, staged a coup in 1958 that brought back into power, the French war hero Charles De Gaulle.

It was widely expected he would step up the military campaign, but instead in 1959 he laid down the first steps for French withdrawal.

This alienated the Colons and sections of the French military in Algeria, who first attempted to seize power but when that failed, set up the underground terrorist group Secret Army Organisation (OAS).

The OAS was dedicated to maintaining French supremacy in Algeria and attempted to increase this through ter-

rorism in France and Algeria.

But France could not crush an entire people.

In 1962 the French were forced to hold a referendum on Independence, and only 16,000 people voted against liberation.

The FLN was in power and it immediately faced its own struggle to contain a mass movement which greeted independence by establishing local committees and communes, especially on land vacated by colons who had fled to France.

The movement from below was only pushed back in 1965 Houari Boumédiène led a coup and set about organising a highly authoritarian regime.

Algeria became a state capitalist society in which the FLN was the core of a new ruling class of army officers, bureaucrats and managers.

With the army dominant, independent political parties were banned, trade unions were incorporated and strikes declared illegal.

Revenue from rising oil production helped to consolidate the regime internally, although it faced rising opposition from below, for instance during mass strikes in 1977.

These were crushed by police and army intervention but working class resistance continued.

Opposition to the regime was widespread but had no obvious political focus. The Algerian Communist Party (PCA) had been dissolved in 1954, liquidating into the FLN in recognition of the primacy of 'national' concerns.

One result was that Islamism, which had never had mass appeal in Algeria, began to increase its influence.

In the early 1980s the FLN turned to 'liberalisation'.

Following the usual prescriptions of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, market reforms were implemented and the whole society rapidly polarised.

Privileged sections of the bureaucracy and the army used their positions to secure access to wealth in the new 'open' market.

The speed and scale of this process was the key factor precipitating an uprising in 1988 — an explosion of demonstrations and mass strikes.

The army again responded brutally, intensifying the process of radicalisation among the young and further opening the field to the Islamists in the FIS. The FIS made rapid progress.

At its core were Muslim activists who had long operated on the margins of the FLN regime.

Excluded

They drew in many regime's middle class opponents who felt themselves excluded from the benefits of the market, together with large numbers of urban poor and others who had suffered from the reforms.

The regime unable to rid itself of the religious opposition and has turned to increasingly violent tactics.

Many socialists look at Algeria and see only the despair of workers who are abused by the state and treated with contempt by the Islamists.

But modern Algeria is a history of mass struggle that was capable of defeating a major imperial power.

The tragedy was that those struggles were betrayed by a national liberation movement that talked left when in opposition set out to build up capitalism when they won freedom.

in my view

Greek Tragedy

THE RECENT film of the novel *Captain Corelli's Mandolin* has pushed its author, Louis de Bernières, into the limelight again. Now *Captain Corelli* is a £45 million Hollywood movie starring Nicolas Cage, Penelope Cruz and John Hurt, and was shot on Cephalonia, the idyllic Greek island the story takes place on.

In typical Hollywood fashion the bravery of the mostly Communist Partisan resistance (ELAS) has been airbrushed out of the story, and no one is more angry about this than Captain Corelli himself, 90 year old Amos Pampaloni. He said "Judging by what he has written, Louis de Bernières seems to regard the Italians and the Greeks as inferior races, as many British people did during the time of the empire."

There has been a massive influx of tourists onto the island following the hype of the film and book. But Dionisis Georgatos, the governor of Cephalonia has dismissed de Bernières's book as "reactionary and wrong". Nobody, he says, wants to benefit from the film "if it distorts our history - we had many deaths, houses were burned, people hanged in the streets. It is very sensitive. De Bernières clearly used British sources from that time and, of course, they had the role of invaders."

Liberated

Greece was the only country liberated from the Nazis where British forces fought the resistance after the German withdrawal. De Bernières claims in the novel that the left wing resistance movement ELAS and its million-strong political umbrella group, EAM, had no legitimacy and were brutal oppressors of the population. But EAM had two million members out of a total population of seven million.

De Bernières is silent about the terror that followed the British occupation. They launched a civil war to crush the resistance fighters and hand over power to a monarchy.

De Bernières says nothing about the incorporation of the Nazis' detested Greek collaborators into the post war political system or the criminalisation of ELAS while collaborators received pensions. He simply ignores the mass internment, exile and killing of tens of thousands of left-wing activists.

And nowhere is there any reflection of the genuine democracy of self-government in the areas liberated by the resistance, of the fact that women were given the vote for the first time in Greek history.

De Bernières also ignores the part played by ELAS in rescuing Greek Jews from transportation to the Nazi death camps.

But what truly wounds the Greeks is the implication that they did nothing to try and help the captured Italian soldiers, and the hanging of a local woman in the film by the resistance is a falsehood.

Corelli befriends a "good Nazi" from the German garrison. We are supposed to think he is a decent sort, but then he starts talking about the "scientific" supremacy of the Aryan race, we are reminded of what Nazism is all about.

Refused

After Mussolini declared an armistice with the allies, Italian troops on the island refused to surrender themselves or their arms to the Germans and attacked them when they landed on September 13, 1943, fighting bitterly for 10 days.

Overwhelmed, more than 9,000 Italian soldiers on Cephalonia were either massacred on Hitler's personal orders or drowned as they were deported by ship. Pampaloni himself was shot in the neck. This mutiny against the Fascists and Nazis was no small act.

But Italian troops are portrayed in the film as harmless buffoons more interested in wine, women and lots of song than the fascist invading army that they were. The Italians butchered a third population of Libya during the war. Why is Hollywood dressing up Fascism in a sanitised way?

This is a beautiful film to look at, Cruz and Hurt are superb, and should be in the running come Oscars time.

But the breathtaking historical revisionism and cheap racial stereotyping of the novel and film has offended many Greeks socialists. For that reason it should offend us too.

by

Album

Staying human



MICHAEL FRANTI

TEN YEARS ago The Disposable Heroes of Hiphoprisy recorded one of the greatest political hip-hop tracks of all time *TV, drug of a nation*. This was a powerful, funny and intelligently observed attack on the way television can be used as an instrument of social control.

It seemed like something of a retreat then, when songwriter and vocalist Michael Franti joined Spearhead to produce a more introspective and personal album, *Home*, in 1994.

Attacks

However, with his new album, *Stay Human*, Michael Franti has renewed his attacks on the hypocrisy and racism of the US authorities.

Stay Human is all about opposition to the death penalty.

The songs are structured around an imaginary case of the impending execution of Sister Fatima, a community activist and revolutionary.

The songs are interspersed with fictitious interviews conducted by 'Radio Stay Human'.

Franti clearly sees this album as a contribution to the growing anti-capitalist movement in the States.

Protest

Lyrics are printed over pictures from the Seattle protest against the WTO.

Franti contacted about 45 musicians for their opinions on the death penalty - many of which find their way onto the sleeve notes.

Tom Morello from Rage Against the Machine, for example, says "it doesn't matter what you think of the death penalty in the abstract; in the real world, race and class determine who lives and dies in death penalty cases."

"So until racism and economic inequality are gotten rid of in America, they should get rid of the racist death penalty which targets minorities and the poor."

Foisted

The US is the home of the major multi-nationals, including those who produce most of the music that is foisted onto the global market.

But at the same time rebellion and resistance are themes of a growing number of bands there.

Musically *Stay Human* is more soul than hip-hop and there is a strange contrast between its mellow beat and the fact that the rhythm carries such an angry political message.

But it is a good album that is well worth hearing.

— CONOR
KOSTICK

book

Reasons to be cheerful

MARK STEEL'S new book *Reasons to be Cheerful* is a brilliant personal account of the events that moulded himself and Britain over the last thirty years.

Steel documents his life so far and how it has been permeated by the lives of ordinary people constantly standing up against oppression and exploitation, not just on a mass scale such as the miners strikes or the Poll Tax protests but also on small council estates opposing privatisation or a protest at a National Front stall in a small town.

Hilarious anecdotes fill the book such as the putting forward of a fake candidate in class council elections or picking up a pair of unattended shoes at the Brixton riots for which he later gets arrest-

ed.

Although funny, each story outlines a clear argument from a revolutionary standpoint about a particular aspect of capitalism.

Whether it's a description of life on the dole as a situation that "impregnates you with an infectious sense of worthlessness" or how the boredom and destitution in England was given life and inspiration by international events.

Running through the book is an analysis of successive governments in Britain.

From "Maggie-Out Out", to the Labour Party's refusal to support political status for republican prisoners, their support for Falklands war, Kinnock's refusal to support the miners to New Labour and Blair's rise (Blair, he notes, was embarrassed by unions-even right wing ones!).

Steel points the poorer areas showed the greater

swing to Labour in the election, which ended more than a decade of Tory rule.

The wealthy stayed loyal to the Tories and so most of New Labour's victory was gained in spite of Blair's compromises rather than because of them.

Towards the end of the book the reasons to be cheerful are clear-the success of the Socialist Alliance which represents a move from socialists "standing stoically alone" to Labour in the London mayoral election becoming the minority.

For me Steel's message was clear: change can and will happen if you take a stand. And of course, the importance of small victories.

So he recounts "the celebrated tale of the Tilbury Dockers who, as Franco lay on his death bed won a vote to send him a telegram that said, die you bastard die!"

— RORY HEARNE



**where
we
stand**

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

FOR REVOLUTION, NOT REFORM

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

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

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

FOR REAL SOCIALISM, EAST AND WEST

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

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

FOR AN END TO ALL OPPRESSION

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

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

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

FOR WORKERS' UNITY IN THE NORTH

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

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

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

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

FOR A FIGHTING TRADE UNION MOVEMENT

Trade unions exist to defend workers' interests. But the union leaders' role is to negotiate with capitalism—not to end it. We support the leaders when they fight but oppose them when they betray workers. We stand for independent rank and file action.

FOR A REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

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

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PHONE REPORTS ABOUT STRIKES/LOCAL CAMPAIGNS/PROTESTS

Refuse charges

Corporation admits...

97% didn't pay Dublin's bin tax

OFFICIALS IN Dublin Corporation have acknowledged that there is an extremely low rate of payment of the bin charges in the Dublin area.

At the last council meeting the city manager said that of the 80,000 bills sent out to households in the Dublin Corporation area, less than 1,800 have been paid.

That leaves a non-payment rate of over 97%.

Bureaucrats

But the bureaucrats in the Corporation were expecting that by now at least 25% of the bills would have been paid.

The first installment is due by 30th June. And already the signs are that there is massive rejection of

this double tax.

Over 4,500 people have formally written to the Corpo saying they won't pay and they can't pay an "unjust double tax".

By now the corporation are spending more on sending out the bills than they are getting back.

They are facing a administrative nightmare and a political failure on this issue.

There is a huge level of anger on this issue. Most people know that once they are told they have to pay for a service like refuse, it won't be long before they are being told the service has to be privatised. And recent reports in the media show that already Dublin Corporation officials are talking about increasing the charges from £95 to £150 next year.

The Campaign Against the Bin Tax in Dublin has organised very successful meetings all over the city.

In the last two weeks meetings have taken place in Ranelagh, Harolds Cross, Glasnevin, Ballymun, Kilmore and Crumlin.

In Crumlin over 120 people attended the meeting and voted unanimously for a mass non-payment campaign.

Activity

A local action group has been set up to coordinate activity around the area. There is now a wide network of activists in the Crumlin area to sign up members to the campaign and distribute leaflets and posters and petitions.

The campaign is asking households to pay a subscription of £5 or £3 for low income families.

This money will form the basis for a defence fund for anybody who is

threatened by the corpo with legal action for non-payment of the charges.

Any attempt by the corpo to go after us for non-payment is likely to be further down the road. But it is vital to get organised now.

The campaign is also organising a series of

meetings and protests. The group in Ballyfermot, for example is planning another major meeting in the area.

At the last Council meeting a picket of around 70 campaigners met the councillors attending the meeting and heard pledges from a

number of councillors opposed to the tax to continue to support the campaign.

The next protest is planned for the night of the inauguration of the Lord Mayor. It will take place on Monday July 2nd at 6.30pm outside City Hall.

What You Can Do

When the bills arrive in your area

- ★ organise a public meeting. The Dublin Campaign Against the Bin Tax will help organise meetings and are willing to provide leaflets, posters and speakers.
- ★ Get leaflets around every household explaining the case against paying the bin tax and arguing for a mass non-payment campaign.
- ★ Sign up to the campaign by paying the subscription of £5/£3 (depending on your income) and help build up a legal defence fund.
- ★ The Dublin Campaign Against the Bin Tax can be contacted by phoning 01- or 087-

Socialist Worker

All change after Nice

with the right wing parties.

John Gormley of the Greens has openly canvassed for a Rainbow-style coalition with Fine Gael after the next election while Sinn Fein's Martin McGuinness has argued that coalition will become an option when Sinn Fein get more seats.

If this occurred, it would be a terrible betrayal of the rising anger and militancy that is now developing.

This is all the more reason why a strong socialist organisation has to be built quickly.

The rise of the anti-capitalist movement, Globalise Resistance, and the huge support for local opposition to

bin charges in the Dublin area makes this possible.

To meet the new situation, the Socialist Workers Party is re-organising to expand its organisation on the basis of an activist network.

★ At local level, activists groups will meet to discuss struggles they are involved in and discuss current political developments.

★ SWP networks are also being established in workplaces such as Dublin Bus and in unions such as IMPACT.

★ At district level the party shall be organising a series of Marxist educational for anti-capitalists.

★ Each month a well-organised public meeting needs to be held in most major cities.

The key to the shift in the SWP will be building a distribution network around *Socialist Worker*.

The paper distribution organiser, Donal McCarry, says "*Socialist Worker* is a vital weapon in the coming struggles.

"It carries news on how campaign are organising at local level that you will not find anywhere else.

"It has the most up to date and comprehensive coverage of the anti-capitalist movement.

"In every area, we need a centralised dis-



THE DEFEAT of the political establishment over the Nice Treaty has opened major opportunities for socialists.

The media have focussed on the Greens and Sinn Fein as the major beneficiaries of the No vote but both these parties have not ruled out a coalition



tribution night where members come together to get the paper to the network of people in their area.

"The SWP activist meetings should ideally occur on the same night that the paper arrives.

"We have a huge opportunity here and we aim to take it by doubling the regular buyers for our paper."

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PHONE REPORTS ABOUT STRIKES/LOCAL CAMPAIGNS/PROTESTS

ISPAT

Steel workers face redundancy

WORKERS AT Irish Steel are angry at the way the Indian multinational, ISPAT, wants to get rid of them.

They demanded cost savings from the unions but all along they were getting ready to close.

On the week before the formal announcement was made, the company turned away a consignment of magnesium for the plant.

Asset

ISPAT has a reputation for being asset strippers and they have been helped along by successive governments who are pushing privatisation.

Irish Steel was originally a state owned plant but was sold to ISPAT for a mere £1.

They were also given a £20 million sweetener to take the company off government hands

The company are now sitting on top of a valuable land bank in Cork Harbour and Haulbowline.

They have already sold a 30 acre site to the

Belgian waste incinerator company, Indaver, for a reputed £7 million.

There have also been huge problems in the plant over health and

safety, with one worker dying there recently.

Irish Steel workers should not let this multinational walk away from the plant. They should

take militant action and mount a political campaign to demand that the Irish state find them jobs to replace those that they threw away.

Job cuts on the rise

THE reliance of the Celtic Tiger on US investment is leading to a rising toll of redundancies.

More than 400 jobs are threatened in Dundalk after Xerox suddenly announced that they were scrapping their inkjet printing facility. During Clinton's visit, Dundalk was held up as a show-piece for how US multi-

nationals could 'help' Ireland.

Jobs cuts are also possible in Nortel, the Canadian telecom giant after it announced that 10,000 of its workers were to be sacked on a global basis.

In Dungarvan, the giant drug company GlaxoSmith-Kline have sacked 104 workers

In Wexford, 120 people have been

let go in Wexford Weaving.

Meanwhile the building bosses, the Construction Industry Federation have dramatically revised downwards their growth predictions from 7 percent to 2 percent, as the Celtic Tiger looks shaky.

In every redundancy situation workers are told to meekly accept their lot, lest they scare off investment. But the scale of the recession that is now looming in the US makes nonsense of this approach.

The unions should encourage workers to take militant action so that multi-nationals are not allowed to withdraw easily after benefiting from low wages and tax cuts that have helped run down our public services.

Each of these companies has important assets. Workers should consider sit-ins at these plants.

The experience of this tactic in Clondalkin Paper Mills in the past is that it can provide a basis for mounting a political campaign to force a government to provide jobs.

After all if they have spent the past decade subsidising capital, they should now be told to look after the workers.

★ **The Old Head of Kinsale enjoyed for generations by walkers, people fishing, rock climbers and birdwatchers, is now closed to the public by the owners of the new exclusive golf course.**

However some people refuse to take this lying down. On Sunday July 1st between 2 and 6 pm there will be a people's picnic on the Old Head of Kinsale. Hundreds of people will simply walk there and picnic there. It will be a demonstration of people power against the narrow-mindedness of the Old Head's new owners.

Bring good will a picnic basket, some friends and family, musical instruments if you have them. Be there for the first of many. Details: 086-3039945

ESB

PACT would mean contracted out work

NETWORK technicians in the ESB are due to be balloted on a new PACT agreement that results directly from the threat of privatisation.

Just as in the Nice referendum, the workers are being told but that they have no choice but to accept the de-regulation of the electricity industry and so must change their work practices so that they are "competitive".

After their defeat in the last ballot, management are now carefully preparing to win a Yes vote.

Managers have been told to informally brief their staff even before the issue is discussed at union levels.

They are also organised to get "daily feedbacks on the likelihood

of the ballot being successful".

The top level of the unions and the managers are working closely to push through this deal.

But if it goes through the Network Technicians will suffer on a number of fronts

■ The deal gives the management a free hand to bring in contract labour. This will help run down permanent jobs and create new divisions in the workforce.

■ Workers will be forced into types of team working where there is a tendency to put huge pressure on each other to meet productivity targets.

■ They will have to meet performance targets and face more monitoring by management.

A resounding No vote on the PACT would be a

good follow on from the Nice referendum.

Socialist Environmental Alliance

The newly-formed Socialist Environmental Alliance polled well in council elections in Derry and Belfast.

The results in Derry were 228 (3.5%) for Shauna Deery in Cityside ward, 274 (2.5%) for Colm Bryce in Northland, and 63 for Bill Webster in Water-side. In Belfast, Barbara Muldoon got 128 (1.2%) in Laganbank.

These results were a solid achievement for a group that had only been established for around six weeks.

The local elections on 7

June coincided with Westminster elections and renewed instability in the peace process, which meant intensified competition between the four main parties and therefore less of an opening for parties standing outside the two traditions.

The results compare favourably with recent votes for other parties.

Radical

The votes in Derry for Shauna Deery and Colm Bryce were the same as for the Women's Coalition in the 1997 local elections, on a much more radical platform and without the much higher public profile.

Tesco

93% vote for strike

by a Tesco worker

TESCO staff have balloted 93 percent in favour of pursuing strike action against their company.

They are striking for better pay and shift premiums, as well as other issues such as the inadequacy of the pension scheme, and increasing demands for productivity from workers by management.

Worker's at Tesco's have to face the lowest wages in the retail sector in Ireland, with an entry level wage of £4.86.

This is a company that made over £1 billion profit last year.

As well many workers have seen their hours restructured in a manner which makes them work longer and harder for their money.

Company

If people leave the company they are often not replaced and the remaining workers have to bear the extra load.

Each department is having its labour hours cut. It means there is a greater squeeze put on their staff" one worker explained.

The union, MAN-DATE, has adopted a

strategy of escalating strikes.

These will begin of the June 29th with a one day strike, followed by another one day strike the following week.

After this the strike will be escalated further if management has not given an acceptable offer.

We will need to escalate quickly because management have a pretty smug attitude at the moment. The y will probably shut the shop down on Friday but then hope to recover business next day.

We need to hit them hard from an early stage.

Rejected

The executive of the union have already rejected an offer from Tesco's which raised the entry level wages to just below Dunnes.

The offer did nothing for the higher grades unless there was major concessions in productivity.

The implications of this strike extend beyond Tesco's. Mandate hopes to use this strike to bring home the reality of shop work being one of the most miserably paid sectors in this country.

And it will help to rid the shops of the scourge of low pay.

SWP activist meetings — all welcome

□ **ATHLONE:** Contact 01-872 2682 for details

□ **BRAY:** Meets every Wednesday at the Mayfair Hotel at 8.30pm

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

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

□ **BELFAST WEST** ring for details

□ **BELFAST QUEENS UNIVERSITY** Wednesdays 1pm, Peter Froggatt Centre

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

□ **DERRY:** Meets every Wednesday at 8.15pm in Badgers Bar upstairs, Orchard St.

□ **DROGHEDA:** Meets Wednesdays 8.30pm in McHugh's Pub St, Lawrences Gate

□ **DUNDALK** Meets Wednesdays 8pm phone 01-8722682 for details

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

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

□ **DUBLIN NORTH CENTRAL:** Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm in Conways Pub, Parnell St

□ **DUBLIN BALLYFERMOTT:** Meets Tues 8.30pm in Ruby Finigans Pub

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

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

Phone Kevin on

for details

□ **DUBLIN DUNDURM:** Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm in Dundrum Family Recreation Centre

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

□ **DUBLIN RATHMINES:** Meets every Thursday at 8.30pm downstairs J O'Connells (Pub) Sth. Richmond Street Dublin 2.

□ **DUBLIN SOUTH CENTRAL:** Meets at 8.30pm every Tuesday upstairs Bowes (pub) Fleet Street Dublin 2

□ **DUBLIN TALLAGHT:** Meets every Tuesday at 8pm in Jobstown Community Centre

□ **ENNISKILLEN:** Phone 01-872 2682 for details

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

□ **LIMERICK:** Phone 01-872 2682 for details

□ **MAYNOOTH** meets Thursday lunchtime ring (01)8722682 for details

□ **SLIGO** Phone 087 6329511 for details

□ **SWORDS** Meets Tuesdays 8pm Semior Citizens Hall

□ **TRALEE:** Phone for details

□ **TRINITY COLLEGE:** Meets Thursdays 7pm see posters for details

□ **UCD** meets Wednesdays 1pm see posters for details

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

Socialist Worker

inside

The battle of Gothenburg



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French anti-capitalist José Bové interviewed

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Contact SWP: (01) 8722682 <http://www.clubi.ie/swp> e-mail: swp@clubi.ie

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Get organised to

PEOPLE ACROSS Europe are preparing for what looks likely to be the biggest demonstration Europe has ever seen against the bankers and politicians who suck the Third World dry.

The leaders of the eight richest countries in the world will meet in Genoa, Italy, from 20 to 22 July at the G8 summit. They are going to stay in luxury yachts in the harbour to try and keep away from protestors.

Cancelled

After Seattle, Prague, Nice and Gothenburg our rulers are running scared. They cancelled a World Bank meeting in Spain on the threat of protest.

They are right to be worried. They will face a wave of protest from debt campaigners, environmentalists, anti-capitalists, trade unions and others.

At the G8 summits, the global rulers decide the directives to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, the organisations that impose the "structural adjustment programmes" which increase poverty in the developing world.

The leaders of the richest nations have the power to tell the IMF and World Bank to write off third world debt. But they refuse because they want to retain power over the poor countries' economies.

Chained in Poverty

THE G8 leaders preside over a world where millions are chained in poverty.

Over 1.2 billion people in the world are in extreme poverty, living on less than \$1 a day.

In sub-Saharan Africa over half the population struggle to survive below the poverty line.

At the same time, the very world leaders who talk of "poverty reduction" are refusing to offer aid and financial assistance to developing countries.

A World Bank report, shows aid from rich Western countries to the poorest region of the world, sub-Saharan Africa, fell dramatically during the 1990s.

Aid fell from £22 per person in 1990 to £13 per person in 1998.

SHUT



DOWN

Voices of resistance



Jo Mangan
—Fishamble
Theatre
Company

We are inundated with messages from businesses overt and subliminal, all day and every day. I am sick of the world being dominated by

intrusive logos. More positively, the 'no' vote against Nice has really made me feel that I am not ranting in a vacuum. Now I feel it's the time to engage more, to exchange information, to learn more and try to do something about the state of the world.



Eamonn
Crudden —
Video maker.

I went to Prague last year at really short notice and ended up filming a long documentary. Sometimes I feel people are going to Genoa for the crack,

but from my experience going to an event like Prague was like attending University. It was a mind-bending learning experience.



Fiona níc
Eochaidh—
Gluaiseacht

I was arrested in Scotland for protesting against nuclear submarines, coming from that we found that 18 companies in the South made

military components. I want to raise awareness of these kinds of issues and be part of a debate about solutions and how to put them into action.

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