

FOR A SCOTTISH  
WORKERS' REPUBLIC

# socialist scotland

ALBA SOISIALACH SUAS COMHFHLAITHEACHD  
LUCHD-OBHRACH ALBANNACH

number three 35p



After the Referendum  
\* Wales after the  
Referendum \* Land  
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Professor Wilkinson \*  
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# SCOTLAND SAID YES

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Whither Scotland?  
\* Clydeside and  
Cinema Action \*

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Socialist Scotland, c/o 45 Niddry St., Edinburgh, Scotland.

# EDITORIAL

The situation in Scottish and in world politics is in turmoil. In Scotland, industrial unrest, part of the unrest of the British labour movement as a whole, provides a shaky future for any government to have wage controls. As regards the national question, the basic fact of the referendum is that a majority of Scots support an assembly and the English government, whatever party takes office, cannot and will not give us it. The two questions are not separate. The independence struggle requires, demands, the support of the Scottish and English labour movements. Independence will not divide the working class, but enhance its fighting power. On a new basis of equality, the Scottish labour movement could unite internationally not only with the English movement but with other countries to support working class demands. Indeed because of the artificial and subordinate links we have now, the Scottish miners' union have had to accept a decision to accept a lower wage rise because a majority of English miners voted for it, when Scottish miners voted 2-1 against it.

Yet, there is so much potential wasted by the inactivity and class collaboration of our leaders. The organisation for employers in the engineering industry met recently to discuss proposals on how to combat the working class and its interests, how to break strikes, what action to take about go-slows etc. An act of class war, for there is a class war, and they are merely acting in their class interests. But what do the people on our side say, our 'leaders'? - "We must get inflation under control, tighten our belts..." Fools and traitors. Inflation is caused by capitalism not increased wages. Prices go up whether wages increase or not. There is no common class interest, the point is to maintain our living standards. Workers and their leaders must fight the bourgeoisie's and factory owners' class interest, which is to exploit the working class. You support one side or the other.

Internationally we have in Cambodia the end of a barbarous regime which was giving socialism a bad name and endangering workers' and peasants' rule in Vietnam. In Uganda the nature of the regime which will replace the terror of Amin rule will, if nothing else, at least not be based on mass murder. Then of course the tumultuous events in Iran whose most basic lesson is that an organised working class can deal with even the most highly trained and well equipped armies. The Khomeini/Bazargan regime will of course betray the struggle of the people, the workers, the women, the national minorities, but the overthrow of the Shah has unleashed unrest in these sectors which makes their rule far from secure. When a national question crosses capitalist state boundaries as it does those of Iran not only in Baluchistan and Kurdistan, but also in Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan, the self-activity of the masses has tremendous implications for the neighbours. In Afghanistan the new regime is a threat to imperialism's hold in the area. In Pakistan, unrest will grow against the repressive Zia regime which will incidentally mean the end of the last major neighbouring country to China whose national bourgeoisie has been cultivated by the Maoist and post-Maoist bureaucracies, one in the eye for their reactionary diplomacy politics. Of course, their new alliance with the U.S. represents a major threat to the world proletariat, but are the Chinese workers and peasants as quiescent as to put up with that for long?

Elsewhere there is hope, in Southern Africa, in Ireland, and now in the Caribbean again, with workers' unrest in Jamaica and the new regime in Grenada.

"I appeal to all old comrades to be up and doing. Those of you who have lapsed, return; those who have lost heart, cheer up; those who have heart, pull in the indifferent and stimulate dormant and defunct branches. The times we live in are so stirring and full of change, that it is not impossible to believe that we are in the rapids of revolution." (John MacLean)

Of course there is no energy crisis. It is only a crisis within our capitalist and centralist market economy. The Sun provides more energy in a year than humanity can ever



hope to use - it emits  $3.9 \times 10^{26}$  Joules per second, and the Earth receives some  $1.5 \times 10^{21}$  Kw/hours per year. The problem arises, not from a lack of energy in any absolute sense, but a lack of energy in forms acceptable in the current social and economic setting. Soft energy renewable resources are almost impossible to exhaust and are available almost anywhere. Perhaps their lack of appeal to capitalists and state centralists alike (China has probably come closest to fulfilling the soft energy, decentralised ideal) is that it is not easy to corner the market in sunshine or centralise wind!

At £1.80 the paperback is fairly reasonably priced. There is also a hardcover edition available (approx. £3.50) which I recommend to those wishing a lasting copy for their bookshelves. My only complaint about the book is that the binding of my paperback review copy parted company on only one reading, but that is only a minor irritation. All in all a very interesting and thought-provoking book in a pleasing format. Highly recommended.

#### RADIO VOICE OF SCOTLAND

Republican Socialist radio, on 225 metres on the medium wave band has been operating in the West of Scotland for almost 9 months now on Mondays 10-10.30 pm. So far the team have been undetected by the P.O. who are tearing their hair out trying to track the unit down. The ½ hour broadcast includes music, news and comment on the political situation in Scotland. It also advises the general public on who is ripping them off in their community. Correspondence has been favourable and requests of music and dedications are included. Look out Radio Clyde! (Details from supplied statement.)



# 1820

Scottish Martyrs Committee  
REMEMBER 1820 MARTYRS  
Strathaven March  
Saturday 12 May 1979  
Assemble Strathaven  
Public Park 11.30am.

# Saorsa

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social justice, decency and a vision of 'something better'. If the picture palaces that arose from the money-making desires of entrepreneurs before the first world war contributed - however negatively and indirectly - to working class militancy and socialist aspirations, it is clear that Cinema Action is destined to play a major role in the struggle for socialism in Scotland and the world beyond. For what "Film from the Clyde" succeeds in doing is to tell the story of how working people in action re-discovered their own power, abilities and confidence.

Far from consisting of propaganda or mere politics, "Film from the Clyde" is simply the cinema in action inside the shipyards, on the streets, inside workers' meetings and at the special conference of the Scottish Trades Union Congress. It is indeed the story of how the Clydeside shipyard workers rejected the Tory government's 'lame duck' philosophy, with massive unemployment and the destruction of the Clydebank community that the passive acceptance of John Davies's policy would have meant.

The role of the UCS Shop Stewards committee was decisive. By giving fighting leadership soon after a right-wing Tory government came to office, they initiated a mass protest movement: a movement which took the struggle out of the so-called corridors of power into the shipyards, factories and wider community outside. In so far as only some of the original aims of the UCS shop stewards were won, the struggle was only partially successful; but what cinema in action portrays is how the workers' struggle transcended mere bread-and-butter consciousness. The really permanent gain of the struggle was the men and women's vision of a better world to come, a new society in the making, that is, within themselves.

The strength of "Film from the Clyde" resides in the film-makers' ability to let the workers talk for themselves. In a very profound sense 'something better' is the key to the story of the UCS work-in of 1971. For when a rank-and-file worker articulates the thoughts of many other workers, when he expresses the view that there must be 'something better' in life than collecting a few pounds in wages at the end of the week, he is voicing the awareness of workers who have gained new insights from their struggle.

But "Film from the Clyde" is not just about shipyard workers and their families. It is about the shopkeepers and the middle class who supported the UCS workers materially and morally; it is about the humanity, compassion and creativity of the Clydeside workers; and it is about the impact of their struggle on the bigger world outside Scotland. 'Educated' in a society that deprives people of their self-confidence, the UCS work-in strengthened the already strong sense of community on Clydeside and brought people together in a common endeavour. And in that common endeavour, and in their collective activities, working men and women - with the support of men and women in and out of factories and workshops on the Clydeside rediscovered their own enormous talents, creativity and confidence. That is why you should get everyone to see, discuss and judge "Film from the Clyde".

A record entitled Dark is the Valley of the Lagan has just been issued by Linden Records. The 45rpm single is about the Blanket Men in the H-blocks and all proceeds will go towards publicising the political status campaign.

Copies can be got from the Craft Shop, 85b Falls Road, Belfast, Ireland at a cost of 85 pence, postage extra.

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EASTER

COMMEMORATION MARCH  
GLASGOW  
Saturday April 21st

March starts 10am from  
Queens Park Gates to a  
rally in the City Hall

Organised by SINN FEIN  
and U.T.O.M.



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COMMUNIST NATIONALIST MARCH

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NO. 7 OUT NOW!

SATURDAY JUNE 2ND

C.N.D.

Mass demonstration from Helensburgh to Polaris submarine base at Faslane. This is the culmination of a long march starting at Easter from Aldermaston, taking in many of the civilian and military installations on the way.

Further details from:

SCOTTISH C.N.D., 420 SAUCHIEHALL STREET, GLASGOW G2.



## RIGHT TO WORK

In April the Scottish Trades Union Congress will be meeting in Inverness. The usual speeches condemning unemployment will be made, but as it's election year, nothing much is likely to happen. The STUC will be more interested in keeping Labour in power than in demanding militant policies to cut the dole queues.

The Right to Work Campaign will be in Inverness for the Congress (April 23-27). We aim to show the government and their trade union lackeys that we're angry, and we're fighting back.

More information from: RTWC, 39 Newtoft St., Gilmerton, Edinburgh.

Air fhoillseachadh agus clo-bhuailte

le Alba Soisialach, 45 Sraid Nidry,

Dun Eideann.