

# Socialist Worker

## inside

- Anthrax scares — Page 2
- Worldwide anti war protests — Pages 6&7
- Saudi Arabia in Crisis — Page 6

The origins of Islamic Fundamentalism — Page 8

War in Palestine: Israel breaks its leash — Page 5

For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism

70p

Solidarity price £1

# STOP THE WAR NOW!

# THIS IS WHAT THE TARGETS LOOK LIKE

**UP TO 400 civilians had been killed by bombing raids on Afghanistan before US troops entered the country. Now many more will die as the ground war begins.**

An International Red Cross warehouse was hit by a US bomb which destroyed wheat and other humanitarian supplies.

Four UN mine clearance workers in Kabul were killed when a bomb went "astray".

Targets have also included hospitals, schools and television stations.

US bombs killed up to 100 civilians in the village of Kouram.

The bombs ripped into people's bodies and destroyed homes in a recent attack.

Forty five out of 60 houses were destroyed. Another 100 people were killed as bombs pounded the surrounding area.

The victims of their bombs were not terrorists but poor families. Journalists taken to the village of

Kouram described a scene of carnage, with a stench of rotting corpses, limbs torn from victims' bodies and people cowering in anguish.

Wayne Francis wrote in the *Daily Mirror* that one Afghan man cried in despair, "We are poor people. Don't hit us. We have nothing to do with Osama Bin Laden. We are innocent."

He described how an old man knelt by a freshly dug grave, weeping furiously. Another villager had lost 11 members of his family.

One man buried his wife bit by bit as he dug her out of the rubble.

Francis described how "everywhere there was the stench of death and detritus of war.

"A woman's foot lay in the street and the remains of an arm protruded from a pile of rubble. Houses were squashed. A blood-stained pillowcase lay near a house, as well as what appeared to be a rotting human limb."

This is the terrible and harrowing reality of the war on the people of Afghanistan.



**Aziz Ullah (age 1), Manduzai Khanzada (65), and Nagina (12). All were wounded when the US bombed the village of Kouram. Over 100 civilians died in that one attack.**

# ANTHRAX

# Don't believe the media hype

★ The Revenue Commissioners are running an advertising campaign to offer a "lifesaver" to rich tax dodgers who have not paid their DIRT tax.

The offer applies to those who used bogus non-resident accounts since 1986.

These people were so greedy that they did not even avail of a tax amnesty which would have let them off with a 15 per cent rate of tax—much lower than many workers pay.

Now the Revenue Commissioners is again letting them off without punitive fines or interest.

What a contrast with the treatment of those caught fiddling social welfare. Despite all this generosity to the rich, only £10 million has come in from an estimated £700 million that is owed.

★ It's official. The Celtic Tiger is dying. One of Ireland's leading stockbroker economists, Robbie Kellegher of Davy Stockbrokers claims that the Irish economy has now entered a recession. There is also evidence that house sales have fallen by as much as 50 per cent since last year.

But the top economists, who never urged the slightest restraint on profits during the boom, are now stepping up pressure for workers to show some "downward flexibility on wages". The ICTU claimed that the employers were our social partners.

But it is now clear they were only "partners" as long as workers accepted restraint during a boom. When the recession hits, they will try to unload the costs onto us.

## FOUR MORE YEARS TO GO

The Tribunals into political corruption have been running for four years.

And according to some journalists they are likely to run for another four.

*Irish Times* journalist Paul Cullen, who has attended most of the sessions, has explained what is causing the delays.

"You have to be present each day to appreciate properly the gobsmackingly brazen replies given by some witnesses.

"Leading business figures expect us to believe that they never kept records, never struck written agreements and never really understood what advisors were doing on their behalf. They didn't know what was going on in their own bank accounts..."

Meanwhile PAYE taxpayers will pay millions for this farce—while poor law breakers face jail sentences for mental crimes.

**THE MEDIA has gone into overdrive over anthrax. But the full-scale of the "epidemic" is that anthrax has killed one man in the US and infected three other people.**

● Most forms of anthrax are not fatal. Anthrax is usually treatable with antibiotics and perhaps a follow-up vaccine.

● Inhaling the spores, as the victim in Florida did, is extremely rare.

● A human with anthrax cannot infect someone else.

One group, Aum Shinrikyo, responsible for the release of sarin in a Tokyo subway station in 1995, dispersed aerosols of anthrax and botulism throughout Tokyo on at least eight occasions. In every case the attacks failed to produce any ill-

nesses.

The real scandal is that most of the big Western powers still keep large stocks of biological weapons.

They include Britain, the US, Japan, and the Soviet Union. Japan tested it on humans.

Britain manufactured anthrax during the second world war and planned to drop it on Germany in 1944 and later infected the Scottish island of Gruinard.

### Treaty

The US has blocked the implementation of a 1972 international treaty on biological weapons claiming that it would "put national security and confidential business information at risk".

The main opponents of the treaty were the pharmaceutical industry who said they were concerned about commercial secrets.

## Iraq is not to blame

**BUSH is attempting to use the hysteria over anthrax for two reasons.**

One is simply to divert attention from the bombing of civilians in Afghanistan. The other is to build up an excuse to attack Iraq.

### Evidence

But there is absolutely no evidence to suggest Iraq is behind the anthrax attack.

Iraq used to have anthrax because it got it from the Americans in the 1980s when the Saddam Hussein regime was a US

ally. But there are two problems with linking this to the US scares.

The anthrax which has been discovered in America was identified as a common strain called Ameres. The anthrax Iraq bought from America was Vollum—a completely different strain.

As Scott Ritter the former UN weapons inspector to Iraq points out: "Iraq's biological weapons programmes were dismantled, destroyed or rendered harmless during the course of hundreds of no-notice inspections.

"The major biological weapons production facility—al Hakum, which was



## Patent profit

**BAYER AG owns the patent on Cipro, the antibiotic of choice in treating anthrax exposure.**

Cipro costs \$350 a month but a generic version of the same drug costs only \$10 a month.

Yet the US Department of Health and Human Services has

said that "we have to be careful about patent protections."

The Canadian government by contrast has suspended the patent law to allow mass production of the generic drug.

Which begs the question: why were HIV sufferers in Africa not given similar access to cheap generic retroviral drugs for their "national emergency".

## FOOD NOT BOMBS!

BUSH WAR'S is leading to a massive humanitarian disaster in Afghanistan. More than 7.5 million people are facing severe food shortages with the onset of winter. They needed a minimum of 50,000 tonnes of food per month.

Trócaire said the decision of the US and UK governments to commence military action against Afghanistan was highly regrettable: "It seems that political pressure in the US on the Bush administration has taken precedence over the humanitarian needs of millions of Afghan refugees and displaced people.

"The head of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation said that the US bombing of Afghanistan is disrupting the planting of crops which normally provide 80 per cent of Afghanistan's annual grain harvest.

In a cynical propaganda ploy, the US has dropped food parcels. But even if they reached the areas most in need they would only make up 5 per cent of what is needed, according to aid agencies. The packets contain barley stew, rice, shortbread, strawberry jam and peanut butter!

## Assembly postpones free nursing care

**THE NORTHERN Ireland Assembly has backtracked on plans to introduce free care for old people.**

Health Minister Bairbre De Brun, announced that the provision of free care in nursing homes for the elderly, due to be introduced in April 2002, is now to be postponed.

The decision had been taken by the NI Executive, made up of UUP, SDLP, Sinn Fein and DUP ministers at the end of September.

De Brun said the Executive

"recognised these harsh financial realities".

There is already a massive crisis and shortage of nursing home beds in Northern Ireland, mainly provided by the profit-driven private sector. The Causeway Hospital Trust alone recently announced that 90 beds in the local private nursing home sector had been closed due to lack of funds.

But each of the cruise missiles currently being dropped on Afghanistan costs £500,000.

responsible for producing Iraq's anthrax—was blown up by high explosive charges and all its equipment destroyed.

"No evidence of anthrax or any other biological agent was discovered. The UN never once found evidence that Iraq had either retained biological weapons or associated production equipment, or was continuing work in the field."

## Censorship in space

**The Pentagon has spent millions of dollars to prevent Western media from seeing highly accurate civilian satellite pictures of the effects of bombing in Afghanistan.**

The images are taken from Ikonos, an advanced civilian satellite.

The Pentagon first tried to shut the satellite down but expected a long legal battle. They then bought up all its footage in order to

prevent the wider world getting access to the pictures.

### Reports

The buy-out took place soon after reports emerged of heavy civilian casualties from the overnight bombing of training camps near Darunta, north-west of Jalalabad.

The US military does not need the pictures for its own purposes because it already has imaging satellites in orbit.

It is a clear case of censorship from space.

## Why Shannon?

**WHAT difference would American bombers refuelling at Shannon make to the carnage in Afghanistan?**

By re-fuelling in Ireland a B52 bomber would

save 30 tonnes of fuel on the way to Afghanistan.

That means it could carry an additional 30 tonnes of bombs to drop on civilian targets.

## what we think

# Bush won't stop at Afghanistan

**"THE WAR will last for at least two years and there will be other theatres." These were George Bush's chilling words recently.**

The war against Afghanistan is only the start. After Afghanistan, the US is preparing to crush any other country it considers a "rogue state". This is what Bush means by "other theatres".

### Inflicted

The US delegation spelt this out recently in a letter to the UN. They wrote,

"We may find that our self defence requires further actions with respect to other organisations and states".

Top of the list is Iraq. The US has already inflicted a terrible suffering on this country.

Over half a million children have died because of the sanctions. But the scare about anthrax is now being used to target Iraq.

The US regime wants to control the country's lucrative oil resources as it is increasingly worried about the growing instability in Saudi Arabia.

### Fanatics

Bush's war is the military face of globalisation. Bush and the right wing fanatics who surround him have long boasted that the 21st century is "the American century".

Corporations that finance both US major political parties, see the whole world as their plaything, to be subjugated to their drive for profit.

They have used the World Trade Organisation to uproot

any restrictions on their multi-nationals operating anywhere around the globe. They dominate the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank and have transformed these agencies into debt collections agencies for the Western banking system.

Bush's "new war" follows a similar pattern. It is all about asserting the military might of the US to wipe out any opposition that defies its rule. In the process, Bush hopes to pull potential economic competitors in the EU into line.

But there are two huge weaknesses at the heart of this brutal ambition.

First the "global coalition against terrorism" which the US has constructed is fragile and contains serious internal conflicts.

Many of the states that have come on board have been bought with bribes or promises of co-operation in furthering their interests (see box).

Second, the US has underestimated the scale of opposition in both the industrialised and developing world.

### Conceded

Sources close to Blair have already conceded that they are losing the propaganda war to Bin Laden in most Arab countries.

The hatred of the US is so strong that even the subservient regime of Saudi Arabia will not let the US use its bases there.

The anti-war movement throughout Europe is massive and is at a far higher level than during any other conflict over the past decade.

The movement is rising against a background of anti-capitalist ideas that have radicalised millions.

Building that movement to make sure it has roots in every locality and college is now the key task for every socialist.

This offers the best hope of stopping the horrors that Bush has in store for the world.



Anti war protest in Germany For more on the anti war movement turn to page 6

## BOUGHT AND PAID FOR

**THE INTERNATIONAL Coalition against terrorism is being held together by filthy deals. Here are some:**

**RUSSIA:** The US has given Putin a free hand to crush the Chechnyans and enforce a brutal regime on Muslim countries on its southern

flank, where there is already bitter fighting over water rights.

**OMAN:** A \$1 billion arms deal is the sweetener to allow thousands of US troops to use the country as a base for attacks on Afghanistan.

**CHINA:** Bush is clearing the way for sale of spare parts for Black Hawk helicopters delivered to China

during the 1990s.

The Chinese government wants to use them to crush Muslim separatists.

### Dropping

**IRAN:** The US is dropping a \$10 billion dollar suit against Iran over hostage taking in 1979 in return for intelligence on the Taliban.

Turkey: Has been offered IMF and World Bank loans

of \$1.7 billion for co-operating in policing a post Taliban Afghanistan.

**PAKISTAN:** The EU has given trade concessions worth \$1.35 billion. Sanctions imposed because of nuclear bombs have been dropped.

The US has promised "emergency military assistance" to put down any future internal opposition.

# NATIONAL ANTI WAR PROTEST

## Saturday November 3rd

### Assemble 3pm Parnell Sq, Dublin

Contact local anti war groups through 087 6329511



# Eamonn McCann

## Why there is no moral equation

One of the best-received banners on anti-war demonstrations in Derry in recent weeks read, "We serve neither Bush nor Bin Laden".

The evocation of the old Citizen Army slogan against another imperialist war ("We Serve neither King nor Kaiser") will have given the phrase a particular resonance with some.

More importantly, it succinctly expressed the stance which many opposed to the war feel most comfortable with.

They want to proclaim horror at the spreading descent into violence, and don't want tainted by association with either the religion-driven ideology of the suicide bombers or the revenge terrorism of the US ruling class.

Many socialists, however, felt uneasy with the sentiment. It implied that the forces in confrontation were equally reprehensible and that the point of opposing the war was to oppose all recourse to violence. This might be a decent position, generally speaking, but it doesn't deal with the specifics of the conflict which confronts us.

Socialists don't stand shoulder-to-shoulder with either Bush or Bin Laden, but we take sides with the people in whose interests Bin Laden purports to act. (Bin Laden may have had nothing directly to do with the September 11th attacks, but he endorsed them.) Our opposition to such terrorism arises not only from grief at the waste of innocent lives but from the fact that such tactics, far from advancing the cause of the oppressed, make it easier for the oppressors to tighten the screw.

Long before September 11th, Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld etc. hankered after a chance to crush all resistance to their global agenda by deployment of their military might. Their pronouncements before and after the election of last November spelt that out. But neither within the US nor in the wider world did they have sufficient political backing to put this approach into practice.

September 11th freed their hands. They were able to exploit widespread horror at the human cost of the attacks to sideline anyone who stood in their way. The terrorist act may in its own terms have seemed "successful", but the success proved counter-productive.

Socialists are against terror for another, related reason, too. If oppression can be overturned by a handful of people taking out prestige targets—whether or not they die in the process themselves and irrespective of the numbers or categories of people they kill—then there's no need for active participation by the oppressed themselves.

### Liberation

The masses feature in the scenario of their own liberation in crowd scenes of grateful celebration, cheer-leaders for the resolute, self-sacrificing few. In all circumstances, and dramatically in the circumstances of September 11th, terrorism demeans the role of the people in whose name it is undertaken.

Herein lies the importance of seeing the anti-war movement as parallel with the movement against capitalism.

The trade conditions and impositions which grind down the Third World, the huge threatening presence of US forces around the globe, the West's backing of Israel in its suppression of the Palestinians, all these aspects of the current situation have to do with the determination of Western capitalism to keep control of the world's resources by any means necessary.

It's when the people deprived by this process of a life worth living reach the point of desperation and can see no way out that they turn to ideologies and organisations which promise to deliver freedom from on high.

But millions of people taking action in solidarity with the victims of world capitalism and in opposition to the war demonstrate a different way.

We cut across the division of the world's people into the West versus the rest, or more specifically in this case, the West against Islam.

This can't be done by opposing the war on the basis of making a moral equation between Bush and Bin Laden.

It requires ideas and slogans which reflect not only revulsion against violence but a commitment to struggle against the system which endlessly reproduces conditions for violence.

## DECOMMISSIONING

# SF bow to US pressure

**GERRY Adams has called on the IRA to make "a ground breaking move" on arms. Significantly, his statement came on the eve of Martin McGuinness's trip to the US.**

The republican leadership had always said that it is would not decommission in the face of Unionist or British threats.

But the shift of recent weeks reflects major pressure to keep the support of the American administration.

### Referred

In his Ard Fheis speech, shortly after the attacks on New York and Washington, Gerry Adams condemned terrorism as "ethically indefensible" and warmly welcomed the US Ambassador, Richard Egan.

Adams referred to the need to promote justice and peace through dialogue and said that "only the United Nations can give global legitimacy to the struggle to eliminate terrorism" but made no reference to US imperialism or its role in areas like the Middle East and Latin America.

### Avoid

A more candid expression of republican concerns, in the aftermath of the 11 September attacks, was the comment by Mairtin O'Muilleoir, editor of the *Andersonstown News* and former Sinn Fein councillor.

On a TV debate about the World Trade Centre attacks and the war in Afghanistan, he said that republicans had to avoid ending up "on the wrong side of history".

In recent months Sinn Fein have come under sustained pressure over the use of violence.

When three republicans were arrested in Colombia, Sinn Fein denied that it had anything to do with them.

George Bush's special envoy, Richard Haas, who visited Ireland in September publicly warned the Sinn Fein leadership that the US had "major interests in Colombia" and the US administration would be deeply concerned if republicans were involved in anything which might put "American lives at risk".

He also voiced his concern that Sinn Fein were supporting the Turkish Hunger strikers, who he described as "terrorists."



## Trimble appeases hardliners

**THE 11th September attacks have only increased this pressure and it is against this background that the moves on decommissioning are taking place.**

Sinn Fein had rightly rejected the repeated attempts at blackmail by the Unionists Party and the British government to hand in their weapons.

Trimble's resignation as First Minister and his withdrawal of the three Ulster Unionist ministers from the Executive last week, brought the peace process to the point of collapse.

Trimble has been appeasing the hardliners in his own party by playing to their agenda.

This has only encouraged them to be even more hard-line.

Jeffrey Donaldson last week responded to the rumours of a move on IRA weapons by saying "There must be total disarmament.... If the IRA think that they can buy off Unionism with one gesture, then they need to think again."

This is sheer hypocrisy.

It recently emerged that senior figures from the Ulster Unionist Party, including David Burnside and Fred Cobain, with David Trimble's support, had held formal meetings with the UDA leadership even while the UDA were involved in nightly pipe-bomb attacks on Catholic areas.

But it appears that the Sinn Fein leadership are more concerned about the US administration.

Senior figures from the Bush administration are reported to be involved in the preparations for a new announcement on IRA weapons.

### Report

Colin Powell, a close friend of General De Chastelain, is believed to be ready to endorse a report from the Decommissioning body which republicans hope will re-establish its independent credentials and make it appear that decommissioning is not being done to a Unionist or British government timetable.

Richard Haas, the special

envoy to Ireland, is also now the person in charge of devising the new government for Afghanistan after the bombing.

Sinn Fein are deeply worried about losing the support of very senior Irish businessmen and politicians.

At the Ard Fheis, Adams thanked the US administration for all the help it had given to the Irish peace process.

The moves on decommissioning will be the latest gesture to appease the Pentagon and Wall Street.

Socialists have always advocated mass struggle rather than reliance on a guerrilla army.

History has tragically shown that the transition from guerrilla leader to a conventional minister in a government is all too easy.

Whether or not the IRA hold weapons is no longer the key issue as they have effectively put them beyond use.

What is important is what the symbols tell us about the future direction of republican policy.

## ISRAEL GOES TO WAR ...

# Watchdog breaks the leash

**ISRAEL HAS invaded Palestinian territory killing eight Palestinians over a**

**weekend including a 15-year-old boy.**

19-year-old Johnny Thaljih was shot dead as he stood in Manger Square, a

few yards from the Church of the Nativity, the claimed birthplace of Jesus. There was no fighting in the area.

Rania Kharafa, aged 23, was killed by tank shrapnel that hit her in the chest as she tried to cross the road on an errand in the narrow streets of Beit Jala.

Musa Abu' Eid was killed, fetching belongings from the first floor of the house to bring to the ground floor where his family was sheltering.

Within two hours of his funeral an Israeli terrorist killed three Palestinians with a car bomb.

During Israel's invasion of Bethlehem, soldiers shot dead a man from the Aida refugee camp as battles raged near the Jewish shrine of Rachel's Tomb. Troops seized 10 homes and two hotels in the area. A Palestinian woman was shot in the chest.



## A FAKE CEASEFIRE

**THE US recently brokered a ceasefire between Israel and the Palestinians to make it easier for Arab leaders to join their "coalition against terrorism".**

It was a similar manoeuvre that Bush's father used during the Gulf War of 1991.

But the ceasefire was always a fake. It was broken by Israel almost before the ink was dry.

In the week following the truce Israeli troops killed 17 Palestinians.

The only apparent benefit to Palestinians was that Yasser Arafat was met by politicians from around

the world as a reward for his "moderation" in backing the US. Arafat—a little like Gerry Adams in Ireland—claimed that cosying up a superpower was the safest way to get a Palestinian state.

The leaders of the Western powers are terrified of the effect the intifada will have across the Middle East.

Millions of people in the Middle East identify with the struggle of the Palestinians. They are disgusted with their rulers' deals with Israel and the US.

The solution for the Palestinians is not doing deals with imperialism but instead is spreading the intifada through the Middle East.

The fact that the watchdog has broken the leash, is another reason to oppose the war and support the Palestinians.

## Assassinations

The bullet that hit him in the throat came through a closed window. The Israeli army says it shot a terrorist.

Israel is using the assassination of the ultra-nationalist Israeli tourism minister, Rehavam Zeevi as its excuse for invasion. But the aim of the Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is to try and crush the Palestinians once and for all.

Zeevi was a prominent backer of the policy of assassination of Palestinian militants that has seen 50 people killed. He called Palestinians "lice" and "cancer" and wanted all Arabs expelled from Israeli territory.

## NO JUSTICE, NO PEACE

**DURING THE new intifada—the uprising by Palestinians against Israeli domination of their lands—Israeli troops or settlers have murdered over 700 Palestinians.**

The intifada occurred because life got worse for most Palestinians during the peace process inaugurated by the Oslo accords.

This was a US-brokered deal which attempted to sanctify the seizure of Palestinian land by Israel in return for an acceptance by Israel of Palestinian control of fragmented and weakened territories.

In 1947 the United Nations drew up a partition plan for what was then Palestine. This plan gave the Zionist Jewish settlers, mainly from Europe,

more land than they already owned.

But this wasn't enough for them, and in 1948 Jewish terror groups drove 750,000 Palestinians from their land and created the state of Israel.

The official Israeli line has always been that they had come to "a land without people".

But in reality they forced the people out of Palestine by massacres and threats.

## Invaded

In 1967 Israel invaded the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, the areas where the majority of Palestinian refugees had fled to in 1948.

Israel instituted a reign of terror over these areas, now known as the Occupied Territories. Israel took water, used Arabs as a cheap labour force,

took land from Palestinians, allowed extremist right wing settlers to live throughout the area, and made illegal any kind of opposition to their rule.

The first intifada exploded in 1987 against this oppression. It continued for two years despite increased repression.

The level of the revolt forced Israel to finally negotiate with the official leadership of the Palestinian struggle, Yasser Arafat and the PLO.

This peace process was to supposedly give the Palestinians a state of their own.

But Israel extracted massive compromises from the Palestinians.

The number of Israeli settlers living in the Occupied Territories has doubled since the signing of the Oslo peace deal in 1993.

There are now around 400,000 Jewish settlers on Palestinian land.

**3 weeks, 3 protests, 26 arrests....**

# Rioting cops try to break a movement

**A CRITICAL Mass cycle ride, a Globalise Resistance protest at a conference to promote privatisation, and an anti-war demonstration have all seen the gardai use violence and the draconian Public Order Act to attack protesters.**

One disturbing side of the attacks on the protests is a deliberate targeting of people taking video footage.

On the Critical Mass protest, one Irish Indymedia cameraman was arrested. The same thing occurred outside the privatisation conference in the Burlington Hotel.

Gardai took the video camera and footage—which they refused to return.

Some 16 protesters were arrested after three waves of baton attacks that left over thirty people injured and one hospitalised.

The protest was called by Globalise Resistance against the



2nd Global Summit on Public Private Partnerships (PPP), where international corporate delegates banqueted with Ministers of Finance from a number of countries.

The leader of the Green Party, Trevor Sargent TD and the Socialist Party TD Joe Higgins addressed the rally which was also attended by a number of shop stewards from Aer Lingus and Ballymore Eustace and a delegation from Dublin Trades

Council and anti-bin tax protesters.

The arrival of a street theatre group dressed as the greedy skeletons of capitalism sparked a spontaneous attempt to enter the hotel lobby.

About a hundred demonstrators tried to get into the conference, which was charging £1,200 for a ticket for the three day event. Although highly spirited, the push into the hotel was non violent.

After a few minutes of a sit down protest, a superintendent instructed, that unless they moved within one minute, protesters would be removed.

Within seconds of this, a group of six gardai, with numbers removed, jumped forward and began beating protesters on the head with wooden batons.

A senior cop shouted "Into them hard!".

People were hit repeatedly

with walkie-talkies and batons "The gardai appeared to be completely out of control" said one protester. "People were being hit with blood-dripping from their faces".

It was the first baton charge by the cops in Dublin since they attacked Corporation workers in 1986.

Members of the Special Branch arrived in plain clothes and unmarked cars. Now strengthened, the police launched a second baton attack, this time beating demonstrators out onto the busy main road and making another nine violent arrests.

"I'll give you a lesson in the free market"—one cop shouted. A snatch squad of about ten cops ran, charging at the march from behind, with the wooden batons over their heads.

## CYCLE OF VIOLENCE

★ The same pattern of police repression occurred on a Critical Mass cycle demonstration.

On an official European Car

Free Day around 150 cyclists created their own car-free zone in Dublin's O'Connell Street.

They held a sit-down protest and a few people played football until they were attacked by gardai. One protester said, "The guards were really aggressive. They tried to drag people off the road. They were pulling at the bikes and for a minute it seemed daft, but the first person arrested was an Indy media cameraman, videoing the protest. Nine arrests were made and bicycles were impounded."

★ Two people were also arrested on an anti-war protest outside the US embassy when they tried to march to the British embassy. Garda vans drove into the crowd in highly provocative moves.

The crack down is a reflection of the new "war on internal dissent" which has been sparked off by Bush's war.

The answer to this repression is to shift from civil disobedience to social disobedience and to involve the largest numbers in mass protests.



NO TO WAR...NO TO WAR...NO TO WAR...NO TO WAR...NO TO WAR...NO TO WAR...

### Crisis in Middle East Saudi Arabia: The Weak Link

THE WAR is threatening to provoke a huge revolt in the Arab world. If Bush extends his attack to Iraq many of the regimes which have pro-US governments are likely to be overthrown.

Saudia Arabia is rapidly becoming the weak link. This Western ally, one of the world's biggest oil producers, is ruled by the royal family—and there is no democracy whatever.

The US and Britain armed Saudi Arabia, and used it as the key military base in the war against Iraq.

#### Profitable

Oil is the single most profitable commodity in the whole history of capitalism. As Dilip Hiro, "With 262 billion barrels of proven oil reserves, Saudi Arabia possesses a quarter of the global total, the highest in the world, and more than twice that of the next country down the list.

"At the present rate of oil extraction Saudi oil reserves will last more than 100 years, and those of the United States less than ten." To get its hands on the Middle East's oil wealth the West has been prepared to intervene in the most bloody fashion.

In 1991, the excuse used by George Bush's father was the defence of plucky little Kuwait.

At the time the Saudi royals promised that US forces would leave their country once Iraq was driven out of Kuwait.

Instead they have remained for over ten years.

They are there to prop up a Saudi regime increasingly threatened by internal discontent.

Most Saudis oppose the presence of US forces, and hatred of the Saudi regime itself is growing.

Average incomes are plummeting for most people. The *Financial Times* notes that annual income per head has fallen from £11,000 in the early 1980s to about £4,800 now.

"The sprawling avenues of downtown Riyadh [the capital] with the US-style malls and luxurious boutiques stand in sharp contrast to the poverty of the south of the city, where some women beg in the streets."

Many middle class

Saudis, excluded from any influence over the government, reflect the mood against the regime and its US backers in religious terms. Reports from Saudi Arabia suggest that much of the university educated middle class is sympathetic to Bin Laden's talk of confronting the US and Israel, with videotapes of him circulating widely.

One Saudi lawyer told the *Financial Times*, "No one likes US policies, and young people see Bin Laden as a hero because he is the underdog confronting the superpower."

Dilip Hiro goes so far as to write, "The current battle in Afghanistan is about the future of Saudi Arabia." The most visible forms of opposition to the existing regimes come from various Islamic political groups.

This is because they are sometimes able to use the mosques to express their views.

Members of the Saudi elite question whether Bin Laden was responsible for the attacks on the US. They point to the lack of evidence so far, and that there are Saudi groups with no link to Bin Laden which could just as easily have been responsible.

The reputable journalist Ali Laidi, writing in the French mainstream daily *Le Monde*, spelt out the same possibility.

He points out that since the early 1990s several opposition groups in Saudi Arabia have staged bombings and attacks inside the country, most recently a few weeks ago, including attacks on US forces and bases.

The majority of the hijackers on the planes used in the attacks on the US were from Saudi Arabia.

#### Opposition

Many, argues Ali Laidi, have family names indicating they are from the southern Assir region of Saudi Arabia. The region has long been a centre of opposition to the regime.

Neither the Saudi regime, nor Bush and Blair, are interested in the possibility that it was groups within Saudi Arabia with little or no connection with Bin Laden who carried out the 11 September attacks.

If they did so they would undermine their pretext for waging war on Afghanistan. And it would mean turning on the Saudi royals, who taught ultra-puritanical treatment of women and public executions to the Taliban.

# Stop this slaughter

**FOREIGN Minister Brian Cowan has said that the US is fighting a "focused" and "targeted" war in Afghanistan. He refused to call for a pause in the bombing despite the news of civilian deaths.**

The reality is that there is no such thing as a "targeted" war that does not kill civilians.

#### Forced

● US generals have already been forced to admit that a "smart" bomb had "gone astray" a mile away from its target, blasting civilian homes.

It hit a poor area in the capital, Kabul, killing four people including a six-month old baby girl.

In 1991 the Pentagon admitted that under 6 per cent of Gulf War weapons used "smart" technology—and even among these bombs, fully 20 per cent missed their mark.

#### Cluster Bombs

● The US is also using deadly cluster bombs in Afghanistan.

When cluster bombs are dropped they release hundreds of highly explosive bomblets.

These can rip into people's bodies, and can turn areas into lethal minefields for years to come.

Reuters news agency reports, "US-led forces using cluster bombs are waging the heaviest round yet of their onslaught on Afghanistan in what Kabul residents say is a terrible inferno of destruction."

● The US is also dropping fuel-air bombs on civilian areas, which incinerate people. A US official, when tackled about the civilian casualties in Kabul, said callously, "We dropped a lot of bombs. We have said this will be relentless, and it will."

The media hardly ever mention the names of the victims in Afghanistan. But here are some of those who now have to pay for the September 11th

attacks on US.

● Three old Rachman suffered multiple shrapnel wounds. Both his parents were killed.

● Newborn baby Ali Khan survived a bomb that flattened his house and slaughtered his mother while she was breastfeeding him.

● Eighteen month old Janbibi and her brother Gul, age six, lost their parents, three brothers and two sisters in the attack.

#### Ripped

● Mohammad Raza, a 45 year old farmer, somehow survived his body being ripped by shrapnel from a Tomahawk missile.

His cousin Raiz described how "metal from the rocket had ripped his throat and made a hole in his chest".

Mohammad was

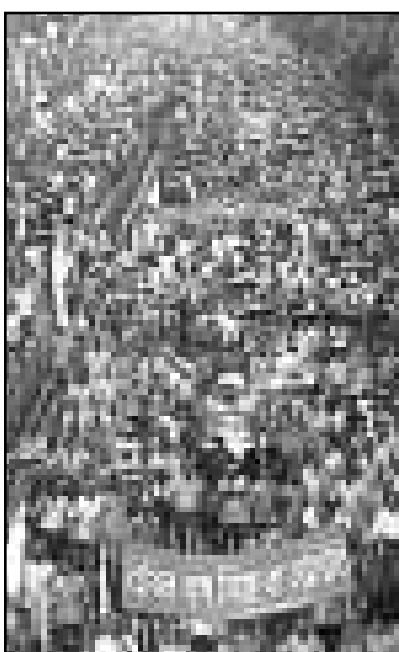


Victims of smart bombing

taken to hospital in electricity and no medicines to help him. But doctors had no "He was just a farmer. What has he done to suffer like this?" said Riaz.



## Peace movement grows



Protests have erupted around the world for instance in India (above) and London



WELL OVER half a million anti-war protestors poured onto the streets in hundreds of demonstrations in the weeks since the September 11 attacks.

Italy hosted the largest protests to date, with 250,000 people marching from Perugia to Assisi on Sunday October 14.

It followed a demonstration by up to 100,000 anti-war protestors in Rome and by up to 40,000 people in Naples.

There were similar scenes in India where about 70,000 people in Calcutta staged the biggest anti-war protest the country has seen. The protesters



marched more than 7.5 miles through the city, entertained by performers who sang anti-war folk songs.

In London, there were up to 50,000 people surpassing the expectations of the march organisers. In Glasgow, around 2,000 people gathered in George Square for an anti-war protest.

10,000 have marched in Athens, 15,000 in Barcelona and 25,000 in Berlin.

In Canada, 15,000 marchers took to the streets

of Vancouver for the third weekend in a row. The growing US anti-war movement has also sparked a flurry of vigils and anti-war marches across America.

Up to 25,000 people marched in Washington and 15,000 people in San Francisco on September 29, and a further 8,000 in New York and 5,000 in Berkeley, California.

Other protests were staged in Los Angeles and Seattle.

In Australia, there have been demonstrations in

## Northern Alliance: The new butchers

THE DECLARED aim of Bush's war is to overthrow the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. He wants to replace them with a regime dominated by the Northern Alliance.

This is why a key aim of the US attacks on Afghanistan is to intensify the civil war that has already claimed hundreds of thousands of lives.

So the forces of the "Northern Alliance" were informed of the timing of the first air strikes and began shelling areas held by the Taliban.

The Northern Alliance is composed of rival groups and their fighters are drawn mainly from ethnic minority groups in Afghanistan who have been persecuted by the Taliban. But their record is also a bloody one.

Human Rights Watch implicates the Northern Alliance in involved "indiscriminate aerial bombardment and

shelling, direct attacks on civilians, summary executions, rape, persecution on the basis of religion or ethnicity, the recruitment and use of children as soldiers, and the use of anti-personnel landmines."

The US and Britain are looking to them and their counterparts from the south of the country to overthrow the Taliban. Among the Northern Alliance leaders are:

● General Dostum. He fought alongside the pro-Russian government until 1992, when the flow of cash from Moscow dried up. He has been allied to virtually every other group in Afghanistan, including the Taliban. He is heavily implicated in the drugs trade. Like all the Northern Alliance leaders he has massacred other ethnic groups.

● Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. He was the Mujahadeen leader favoured by the West during the war against the Russian occupation. They backed him against other groups when he shelled

Kabul, killing 25,000 people, during the civil war. As a student in the 1970s, he threw acid in the faces of women who refused to wear the veil.

● General Fahim. He leads the force created by Ahmed Shah Masoud, who was recently assassinated. Those forces massacred members of the Shia religious minority. They and other Northern Alliance groups are notorious for mass rapes of women, especially from other ethnic groups.

The man who appears to be the West's favoured choice is Abdul Haq. He is a commander from the Pashtun ethnic group, the largest in Afghanistan, concentrated in the south and east of the country. He comes from a powerful landowning family.

The West and Pakistan want him to ensure that powerful figures among the Pushtuns, who are also the group the Taliban draw their support from, maintain their traditional grip on power.

### What socialists say

## Can a world court bring justice?

THE MOVEMENT to stop the war against Afghanistan is growing. People are united in opposition to war. But within the movement for peace a whole series of debates about the alternatives to war have sprung up.

People opposed to the war are quite rightly advocating a political and not a military solution. They want to see values of justice and fairness replace the current way that international relations are conducted. Some advocate the need for an international court of justice.

#### Opposed

They argue that Osama Bin Laden should be tried in an international court of law rather than bombed.

But it is the world's greatest superpower, the United States, that has opposed the establishment of an international criminal court.

The leaders of the US are not prepared to see their own foreign policy subjected to the rigours of international law.

They are not prepared to see their own politicians, like former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, tried. Nothing is said about Kissinger's role in bringing down the democratically elected government of Chile in 1973.

Instead of being treated as a war criminal, Kissinger is feted as an international statesman.

He is allowed to escape justice for his role in war crimes and mass murder in Vietnam and Cambodia.

It is not surprising that people want to have a body that does out equal justice.

They want to see war criminals like Israel's leader Ariel Sharon put on trial for his role in allowing the Phalangist militia to slaughter over 1,800 Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatilla refugee camps in Beirut in Lebanon.

They want to see an international tribunal which is free from the interests of the great powers. But the problem is that such an international court of justice would not be able to stand above the power and dominance of the US and the other powers.

Just as US rulers have used their dominance to stop an international criminal court being established, they have the power and influence to control any international body.

We only have to look at global institutions like the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organisation, all of which are

dominated by the US and the powerful G7 countries.

The IMF was set up on a shareholder basis. The largest shareholder is the US, which has 17 per cent of the vote but only 5 per cent of the world's population.

The US is easily able to dominate and influence the less affluent nations.

The US would share its dominance of any global court with other powers—such as Russia, China, Britain and Italy—which are also guilty of crimes against humanity.

It is these powers which in any international court would decide if the law had been broken, which would stand in judgement, and which would enforce the law and carry out arrests.

The US and its allies, just as they try to do today, would use any such body to legitimise their policies.

Many in the anti-war movement also look to the original ideals behind the setting up of the United Nations after the Second World War for a solution. But the UN has also been used by the US and the other powers to impose its interests and to legitimise military action.

Even as early as 1947 US rulers were able to get their way in the UN. This was at a time when the decisions were taken by the UN's General Assembly rather than the five Security Council members.

The US secured the creation of the state of Israel, which meant the dispossession of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, even though this was opposed by many of the countries represented in the UN.

#### Blackmail

Resistance to the plan, widespread amongst smaller nations in the UN, was overpowered by American bribes and blackmail. Liberia was told it would be brought to its knees by a rubber embargo if it dared to vote against the UN plan.

France was threatened with all American aid being cut off. It was under the cover of the UN that the US led the 1991 Gulf War in which over 100,000 Iraqi civilians and army conscripts were slaughtered.

And it is the UN which enforces the sanctions on Iraq which kill 7,000 children every single month.

And because Israel is a key ally of the US in the Middle East, despite many UN resolutions no court is allowed to challenge the existence of the state of Israel.

Until the stranglehold of the great powers is broken, those who will sit in judgement over any international court will be the same people who are themselves responsible for some of the greatest crimes against humanity.

NO TO WAR...NO TO WAR...NO TO WAR...NO TO WAR...NO TO WAR...NO TO WAR...

## STOP THIS WAR

National March, Saturday November 3rd  
Assemble 3pm Parnell Sq, Dublin



**NO TO WAR...NO TO WAR...NO TO WAR...**

# How does Islamic fundamentalism get its support?

**B**USH AND Blair are trying to cloak their war in Afghanistan with the claim that they opposing the threat of "Islamic fundamentalism". The hypocrisy stinks.

The US and its allies trained, armed and funded the Taliban forces in Afghanistan. The CIA worked with the Pakistani and Saudi Arabian intelligence services to recruit nearly 100,000 Islamic radicals to stoke up opposition to Russian occupation of Afghanistan in the eighties.

But others who have no brief for US foreign policy also claim Islamic fundamentalism is a form of fascism.

They point out the repressive nature of Islamic regimes in particular the implementation of the Shariah or strict Islamic law involved women being veiled.

The Taliban are certainly a terrible regime. Women are not allowed to leave their house without being fully covered. Any music that is not religious is banned.

Attendance at the mosque is mandatory for all men and they may be beaten by the religious police if they are caught not attending.

But the Taliban developed its repressive form of Islam from the Wahhabist movement in Saudi Arabia—a regime that is backed to the hilt by the Western powers.

There are different varieties of Islamic fundamentalism and instead of dismissing them as "fascist" it is necessary to understand how they draw support from poor and down trodden



people.

Islam, like any other deep religious feeling, flourishes among the oppressed in society.

Movements based on it have grown as people have looked for answers to explain their experience of oppression.

The secular left wing nationalist movements that were strong in the past have become discredited.

Across the Middle East they

have ended up making their peace with imperialism, which is the source of people's discontent. The clearest example is in Egypt.

## Secular

In the 1950s its secular president, Nasser, was regarded as a symbol of resistance to British and US imperialism in the region, and to its watchdog, Israel.

Nasser was a figurehead for

people across the Middle East during the 1956 Suez crisis. People carried his picture on demonstrations in the same way they carry Osama Bin Laden's today.

But Nasser's successors increasingly accommodated to the imperialist powers in the region.

Sadat made peace with Israel. Mubarak supported the Gulf War. Egypt is now one of many corrupt regimes in the region, where the rulers and their coterie enjoy

lives of fabulous luxury while the vast majority live in poverty.

Ordinary people feel betrayed, and Islamism (called Islamic fundamentalism in the West) appears to offer the alternative they are looking for.

It is no coincidence that Osama Bin Laden presents anti-imperialist arguments as he appeals for support.

He raises the continued suffering in Iraq and Palestine, and US support for Israel.

He criticises the Middle East leaders for being in the pocket of the Western powers, and for squandering the oil wealth in the region. His solution to all this is that there needs to be a "pure" Islamic state.

## Conflicts

But the conflict in the Middle East is not driven by religion. And a "pure" Islamic state is also one where the native rich oppress the poor.

Even radical Islamic regimes also come to a compromise with the Western powers. Iran, for example, which once branded the US as the "great Satan", is now supplying the US with intelligence material for its war on Afghanistan.

Islamism draws support from across society, but it is centred on the middle classes and makes an appeal to the urban poor.

It looks in two directions. One is to stress that a state of moral purity that rejects the Western "evils" of secularism and sexual freedom.

So there are strict moral

codes such as women being forced to wear the veil.

The other direction is to call for a fight against imperialism.

This mix varies at different times in history and across different countries.

In Pakistan and Saudi Arabia Islamism has, until now, been encouraged by regimes that work with the West rather than stirring up revolt.

Yet other groups like Hamas (in Palestine) and Hezbollah (in Lebanon) reflect more the anger of ordinary people against the Western powers and their own rulers' refusal to stand up against imperialism.

Bush and Blair have every interest in crudely painting all Islamist movements as the same, and as the enemy. They will use any excuse, including a supposed concern for women's rights, to win support for their war.

But if the Pentagon succeeds in demonising Islamist movements, multinational corporations and robbers such as the World Bank would feel free to ransack the world.

This in turn would increase the bitterness and feeling of impotence of ordinary people in the Middle East.

And that combination would lead more people to resort to terrorism as a way of expressing their anger and frustration.

Those opposed to this war have to identify the foreign policy of the US as the main problem.

The power to overturn that policy lies in the hands of the workers and impoverished masses across the globe—especially in the Middle East.

## THE ORIGINS OF ISLAM

Islam emerged in the 7th century in the city of Mecca around the teaching of Mohammed.

Because of the decay of the Persian and Byzantine empires, the region was in crisis and hardship for the mass of people was increasing. In the cities of what is now Saudi Arabia former nomads scratched a living alongside wealthy merchants.

The appeal of Islam was not simply spiritual—it proposed a political programme that could build a united "community" out of the disintegration of the old society.

Islam was able to unite former nomadic clansmen and city merchants into a powerful force that soon conquered the Middle East and beyond.

It could appeal to both rich and poor and help alleviate some of the conflicts in society.

Islam teaches that the rich must pay a proportion of their wealth to fund the welfare of the poor. But the poor must wait for this charity—to expropriate the rich is theft.

Islam demands that rulers govern justly—but that disobedience is a crime.

It insists husbands treat their wives well—but accords women an inferior position.

In this way it regulated oppression, creating a false hope that the poor would be looked after by "true" Islamic believers.

## Is Islamic fundamentalism fascism?

**WHAT ABOUT the charge by some on the left that Islamic fundamentalism is fascist?**

Fascism is a mass movement that links an enraged middle class with gangs of organised thugs. It starts by picking on refugees or immigrants but as it grows it places itself at the service of the capitalists who want to smash up all working class organisation.

As well as attacking Jews, Hitler's gangs specifically targeted trade unionists, socialists and communists.

As the crisis in Germany

deepened in the 1920s, the rich were afraid that workers might rise again in revolution as they had in 1919.

Many began to see that the Nazis could be a useful tool to break up working class organisation and began to support them.

### Control

The Nazis were never seriously pitted against the state. They did not seize control in an uprising but were lifted to power by the representatives of German big business in January 1933. They became the government of one of the top three industrial countries and a major

imperialist power.

Conservative fundamentalist regimes like that in Iran or the Taliban in Afghanistan are extremely oppressive, but are scarcely major imperialist powers.

The oppositional Islamist mass movements in countries like Algeria and Egypt and the rest of the Middle East play a much different role to that of fascism.

They are not primarily directed at working class organisations and do not offer themselves to big business to solve their problems at the workers' expense.

They have been involved in direct, armed confrontation

**NO TO WAR...NO TO WAR...NO TO WAR...**

## in my view

### V S Naipaul: Nobel or Nobleman?

**WHEN THE French writer and philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre refused the Nobel Prize for literature in 1964, he stated that for a writer to accept such a prize meant becoming associated with the institution that awards it.**

The Nobel Prize, he claimed, did not equally represent all cultures of the world, and these cultures should exchange ideas at the level of people, not of institutions.

The politics of the Nobel Institute are to be suspected — after all it awarded its Peace Prize to David Trimble, who has since devoted much of his time to wrecking the very Peace Process for which he was awarded the prize. But at least in terms of literature, it has made an effort to recognise writers from all corners of the globe.

This year, the great brains of Sweden have given their vote to the Trinidadian novelist, V.S. Naipaul. Naipaul is a very tricky writer to judge. Like many Caribbean writers, his work often concerns the damage inflicted on colonies by imperialism, damage to the country, the people and their culture. But he has a set of right wing attitudes and famously remarked that “nothing of value was ever created in Trinidad”.

It is this sort of arrogance that has made him a figure that earns both admiration and fury from the people of the Caribbean.

Naipaul left Trinidad to study in Oxford in the 1950's and witnessed the great wave of migration to Britain from the West Indies. In stories like *Tell Me Who to Kill*, he describes the isolation and depression of the immigrants who came to London full of hope, but who quickly became victims of racism and poverty, thousands of miles from home.

Naipaul's own family was the product of various waves of migration. They came from India (where they were part of the higher classes) to the Caribbean, where thousands of Indians ended up as servants and farm labourers. V.S. Naipaul has never been sure if he considers himself a Trinidadian, an Indian or an Englishman.

#### Imperialism

One of the great things about his books is the sense in which the world is viewed as being unified by imperialism. This is a difficult one for the writer to deal with because the very language he uses and is read in is a product of the history that has created the oppression of millions and destroyed the uniqueness of cultures.

In *One Out of Many*, Santos, a young Indian servant, ends up in Washington with his boss, who is a diplomat. The story is set in the late 1960's against the backdrop of the ghetto riots and the Black Panther movement. It shows the way in which capitalist society has both liberated him from the Indian caste system, but made him the subject of another class system, where he is free to do as he pleases, but remains the victim of racism and poverty in the richest country on earth.

Naipaul has consistently refused to be drawn on politics. He has always been extremely cynical about the national liberation movements of the Third World, which are portrayed in *Guerillas*, as corrupt, inefficient and brutal.

But while there is a degree of accuracy in his satirising some of the failures of nationalist movements, there is no suggestion of anything positive in the project of political liberation.

Naipaul made headlines last month when he accused Islam of being intimately linked with bloodshed, because it demands “annihilation of the self” in the name of God, which he claims makes it perfect for recruiting terrorists.

As well as being an insulting and inaccurate reading of Islam, it shows poor judgement for a writer to come out with such statements at a time when anyone with an interest in opposing imperialism should be speaking out against American aggression in Afghanistan.

by PAUL McCARTHY

## Film

# Cracking the code of war

**MICHAEL Apted's film, *Enigma* is set in Bletchley Park, the country house in England where thousands of clerks, secretaries and mathematicians—the majority of whom were women—worked on cracking the codes that Hitler's forces used to communicate by radio.**

The work was intense — long hours hunched over a desk with a morse code device bleeping in your ear, crunching numbers, filing records and setting up the gigantic calculator that turned the garbled codes into words.

Not particularly riveting work, but the scowling Dougray Scott, the dressed-down Kate Winslett and the fiendish Jeremy Northam (who plays a scheming Whitehall spy) make it seem almost glamorous.

#### Questions

Which is unfortunate, because *Enigma* raises some brilliant questions about war, to the extent that it almost becomes an anti-war film, and then abandons this course for a bizarre ending with Boy's Own type heroes jumping onto submarines and wrestling with German spies!

In reality, war has nothing to do with acts of daring-do heroism and good overcoming evil.

War is not only a brutal and ugly business, it is conducted by military planners with cold calculation.

As Susan Faludi remarked of the Vietnam War, above the “heroic” soldiers and chopper pilots, carrying out some of the most brutal carnage ever visited on a civilian population, were the strategists and bureaucrats of the Pentagon, watching the destruction from AWACS jets at twenty thousand feet.

*Enigma* mixes scenes from a picture-postcard rural England with footage from the Eastern Front—horrific images of mass graves containing Polish soldiers murdered by the Nazis and by Stalin's Red Army.

This is where the politics of *Enigma* become interesting. Essentially it is a film about betrayal: the sexual betrayal of Jericho (Scott) by his lover, Saffron Burrows; the betrayal of the traitor Pukowki who is tipping off the Germans about what is going on at Bletchley Park, and the biggest betrayal of all—



the Allies' toleration of Stalin's massacres in the East in return for Soviet aid against Hitler.

As Bush and Blair attack Afghanistan, it is worth thinking about how the ruling classes are prepared to sacrifice any principle to their own ends.

Just as Churchill ignored what Stalin did to millions of Poles and Ukrainians, Bush and Blair are assisting the

Northern Alliance, who are every bit as tyrannical as the Taliban, who in turn were just as bad as the forces they were armed to defeat.

#### Betrayal

There is one final betrayal surrounding the *Enigma* project that the film doesn't deal with, and that is the betrayal of Alan Turing, the brilliant

young mathematician whose work was central to cracking the Nazi code and on whom Jericho is loosely based.

Turing's homosexuality is conveniently ignored by the film, as it was by the establishment as long as they needed Turing for the war effort.

No sooner was the war over, than the snubbing, the smear and the persecution began as the British ruling class

closed ranks once again and got on with its usual business of divide and rule.

Alan Turing ended up committing suicide just a few years later.

That Apted, and Tom Stoppard who wrote the screenplay should make a film about Bletchley Park and fail to deal with this, does them and the otherwise enjoyable film a great disservice.

## book

# Intifada the hope for peace

**TO UNDERSTAND why thousands of Palestinians have risked their lives to challenge the might of the Israeli state in the last 12**

**months, read *The New Intifada: Resisting Israel's Apartheid*.**

It brings together many of the best writers who oppose Israel's bru-

tal repression of the Palestinian people.

Noam Chomsky, a long-standing critic of US and Israeli policy, has provided a brilliant introduction. He exposes the bloody role of the US in Israel and the Middle East. The US backs repressive regimes in the Middle East, including Israel, because of the huge supplies of oil in the region guaranteeing “profit flow and a lever of world control”.

#### Myths

Edward Said, the Palestinian writer, dissects the myths of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

This process, presented in the media as the Palestinians' only chance for a homeland, was a con from the start.

The *New Intifada* has an impressive range of contributions from different Palestinians showing the daily oppression of

their lives and their struggle against it.

There are mainly short articles and powerful photographs. Nearly half the writers are either Palestinian or from other Arab countries. This in itself is a welcome innovation for a book aimed at a Western audience.

Arab women writers also have powerful pieces in this book. There is the reproduction of Egyptian novelist Adhaf Soueif's remarkable diary of the intifada. A chilling interview with Dr Azmi Bishara, Palestinian member of the Israeli parliament, is a searing indictment of Zionism's racist treatment of Israel's one million Palestinians who are Israeli citizens.

Read this book, get angry, get the arguments, and get active in the campaign to ensure that Palestinians gain their homeland.

■ *The New Intifada* Ed:Roane Carey Verso



Mourning a victim of Israel





**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.

# Marxism 2001

ROOM 1    ROOM 2    ROOM 3    ROOM 4

## Friday

6:00 - 7:15	<b>Intifada: Can Palestine be Liberated?</b> Richard Boyd Barrett and Palestinian	<b>No Logo - Naomi Klein and the tyranny of brands</b> Anna Hudson	<b>Marxism and Terrorism</b> Colm O'Riain	
7:30 - 9:00	<b>Rally: Global Crisis, War and Global Resistance</b> Jonathan Neale, Eamonn McCann, Grace Lally			

## Saturday

10:00 - 11:15	<b>Global Recession: Marxist economics and the boom slump cycle</b> Chris Harman	<b>Colombia, FARC and the US</b> Joe Carolan	<b>Prozac nation: Why is depression so widespread</b> Dr Peadar O'Grady	<b>Why hasn't the peace process ended sectarianism?</b>
11:45 - 1:00	<b>Vietnam: How US Imperialism was beaten</b> Jonathan Neale	<b>Seattle to Qatar: The WTO and the deregulation of the world</b> Ciaran McKenna	<b>The Crusades: The last great war against Islam</b> Conor Kostick	<b>The Politics of sex</b> Mary Smith
2:00 - 3:15	<b>Green and Red: Do they mix?</b> Richard Boyd Barrett, John Gormley (Green Party)	<b>Leninism in the 21st century</b> Marnie Holborow	<b>Marx's dialectic: The algebra of revolution</b> Deirdre Cronin	<b>Peadar O'Donnell and the Republican Congress</b> Brid Smith
3:45 - 5:00	<b>The crisis of Irish politics</b> Vincent Browne, Kieran Allen	<b>Imperialism and militarism today</b> Kevin Wingfield, Andy Storey (Afri)	<b>The revolutionary ideas of Leon Trotsky</b> Donal Mac Fhearraigh	<b>Cuba: The last island of socialism?</b> Paul O'Brien
7:00 - 8:30	<b>The Revolt Last Time: Forum on the Sixties</b> Chris Harman, Eamonn McCann, Bernadette McAliskey	<b>Antonio Negri and The politics of Autonomism</b> Marnie Holborow	<b>The war of independence: why did Kevin Barry die for Ireland?</b> Willie Cumming	<b>From Joyce to Roddy Doyle: Class in Irish literature</b> Sinead Kennedy

## Sunday

10:00 - 11:15	<b>Anarchism: An alternative to Marxism?</b> Kieran Allen	<b>Islamic Fundamentalism: The new enemy?</b> Grace Lally	<b>Women and Globalisation</b> Goretti Horgan	<b>Fast Food Nation: the politics of food</b> Simon Basketter
11:45 - 1:00	<b>Republicanism</b> Eamonn McCann	<b>Africa and the Aids crisis: The Hope and the Horror</b> Luke Choto	<b>Marx's theory of history</b> Brian Manning	<b>The Zapatistas and the revolt against free trade</b> Rory Hearne
2:00 - 3:15	<b>The future socialist society</b> Jonathan Neale	<b>Fortress Ireland: Stop deportations</b> Melisa Halpin, Steve Loyle	<b>Bush, Kyoto and global warming</b> Mark Walsh	<b>Noam Chomsky</b> Paul McCarthy
3:30 - 4:45	<b>After Genoa and Washington: Direct Action and the anti capitalist movement</b> Kieran Allen	<b>The revolt of the rank and file</b> Brendan Ogle, Owen McCormack, Carolan Duggan	<b>The politics of the SWP</b>	<b>How do we stop the fascist threat?</b> Dave Lordan

## Rally: From Anti-capitalism to Revolution

Brid Smith, Chris Harman

**16, 17, 18 November Trinity College Dublin**

Tickets for Marxism 2001 cost £12 or £8 (unwaged). Return this form for full programme and tickets.

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

.....

..... Telephone:.....

Return to Marxism 2001, PO Box 1648, Dublin 8.

# Marxism 2001

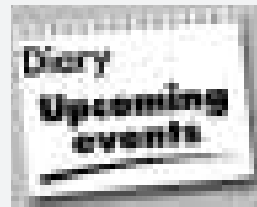
I want \_\_\_ tickets to Marxism 2001  
Tickets cost £12 or £8 unwaged

I need accommodation in Dublin for the weekend  
(accommodation will be with Dublin SWP members)

I need \_\_\_ places in the creche

**SWP activist meetings - all welcome**

- ATHLONE:** Contact 01-872 2682 for details
- BRAY:** Meets every Thursday 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. Laurences 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 CENTRAL:** Meets every Wednesday at 8.30pm in Conways Pub, Parnell St
- DUBLIN BALLYFERMOT:** Meets Tues 8:30pm in Ruby Finigans Pub
- DUBLIN CABRA:** Meets every Thursday at 8.30pm in Aughrim St Parish Hall, 13 Prussia St
- DUBLIN BALLYMUN**
- FINGLAS:** Meets every Wednesday at 7.30pm Phone Kevin on for details
- DUBLIN DUNDRUM:** 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'Connell's (Pub) Sth. Richmond Street Dublin 2.
- DUBLIN RINGSEND:** 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 for details
- SWARDS** Meets Tuesdays 8pm Senior 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.



## Other Events

30th October Hal-lowe'en fancy-dress fundraiser for Burlington 14 in Parnell Mooney, Dublin 9pm.

30th October Annual Feasta lecture David Fleming 7.30pm Walton Theatre Trinity College. 31st October same in UCC.

3rd November Campaign Against the Iraq Sanctions conference Trinity College contact 087 2225742.

5th November Protest against bin charges 6pm at City Hall, Dublin.

9th November WTO Meeting in Qatar - for details of Dublin protest contact Globalise Resistance 086 4098186.

16-19 November Marxism 2001 Trinity College contact 8722682 for tickets & programmes.

13-14th December EU Summit, Brussels contact Globalise Resistance for details of protest 086 4098186.

23rd November Buy Nothing Day.

## Anti War Events

Irish Anti War Movement

**STOP THIS WAR DEMONSTRATION**

Sat 3rd Nov 3pm Parnell Sq, Dublin

26th October 7pm Anti-War Meeting Dun Laoghaire Christian Institute.

2nd November Coalition Against the War Public Meeting with Andy Storey (Afri) and Denis Halliday Millennium Theatre, Derry contact 71264767.

3rd November Coalition Against the War protest in Derry contact 71264767.

3rd November Irish Anti-War Movement March against the war assemble 3pm Garden of Remembrance contact 087 6329511 weekly protests at GPO Saturdays at 3pm.

3rd November Stop the War protest assemble 3pm at Art College, Belfast.

Upcoming event? Tell us: 01 8722682 swp@clubi.ie





## Dublin Bus

## Privatisation threat

**DUBLIN BUS workers reacted angrily to reports that their jobs and services were under threat.**

As one bus worker told *Socialist Worker*, "We have been told nothing officially, but piecing together all the well-founded leaks we understand that Minister O'Rourke has told Dublin Bus managers that the tiny 6 per cent subvention is to be cut.

"Dublin Bus is being prevented from modifying its routes to respond to more demand by for example extending routes and changing terminuses.

## Preparing

"Instead O'Rourke is preparing to get more private operators in to plug the gaps as a prelude to full privatisation."

O'Rourke's strategy is privatisation by stealth. Already private operators like Dual Way and Alan Martin coaches have been brought in to run routes and they are being given considerable leeway in the operating of their contract terms.

As a result of the pressure from union members the NBRU leadership has declared that it will not discuss privatisation and will not participate in any talks forum where privatisation is on the agenda.

## Broadened

"This is a very important development," commented one driver.

"Bus workers need to welcome this commitment to fight privatisation and make sure it is stuck to."

SIPTU has broadened out a demonstration called over Aer Lingus to demand defence of public services and opposition to privatisation.

tion.

There has been considerable discontent from rank and file bus workers at the union leadership.

Recently a campaign was organised to get members to stop having their union dues stopped at source and to pay them at the union tables each Thursday.

## Disgraceful

This is in protest at lack of service from the unions. Members say that up to now union opposition to the growing threat of privatisation has been muted.

Also members are angry that there has been no movement on pensions which last year's pay deal was supposed to address.

● **In a disgraceful move SIPTU officials are taking legal action against six members who have protested at malpractice in the union.**

This follows a protest picket at Liberty Hall of 100

members during the summer.

They were protesting that elections to the branch were effectively rigged by arbitrarily disqualifying candidates.

A former branch chair and other branch members who nominated candidates had their nominations declared invalid.

When they protested at this they were subject to disciplinary measures.

As one bus driver told *Socialist Worker*, "It's appalling that members demanding the union conducts its affairs according to the rule-book and fair procedures should find themselves being sued and under internal disciplinary action."

Another SIPTU member commented, "The union should be spending its energy on fighting privatisation and defending our conditions rather than victimising decent members who merely want to see the union doing its job."

## TURKISH HUNGER STRIKER MARCH

**OVER 150 people marched in Belfast in October in solidarity with hunger strikers in Turkey.**

They marched to the offices of the European Commission in Bedford Street demanding justice for the 74 people who have died in the last year inside Turkish prisons.

At a rally outside the offices speakers from Sinn Fein, the IRSP and Relatives for Justice

were making the link between the hunger strikes today and that of 20 years ago.

## Destroyed

Barbara Muldoon from the SWP told the rally, "The Turkish regime has killed 35,000 Kurds, destroyed thousands of villages and left 3½ million Kurdish people without homes.

"Yet this country is one of the backers of George W Bush's war against terrorism."

## Teachers

## Teachers oppose lunchtime deal

**THE LEADERS of the primary teachers union, the INTO, are peddling a £27 per hour non-pensionable deal as the best available in the circumstances.**

There has been much talk in the media about the lack of democracy in the ASTI, with their decision not to put the deal itself to a ballot but instead to move straight to a vote for a ban on voluntary supervision and substitution duties.

But there has been little criticism of INTO leaders who acted in direct contravention of the democratically expressed wishes of their annual Congress.

There members had demanded that lunchtimes be kept free from supervisory

duties.

The reasons for rejecting the deal are clear

● It copper-fastens these duties as part of a teachers contract

● £27 per hour is derisory, a proper overtime rate should have been negotiated

● It is entirely non-pensionable.

Meanwhile Bernard Lynch, one of the prime movers of the grass roots campaign against the lunchtime deal is facing expulsion from the ASTI.

## Ridiculous

This ridiculous move has been initiated by the full time bureaucracy of the union who prefer splits and divisions to pursuing a militant campaign.

They have made absolutely no attempt to explain why 55 per cent of their members voted in a

ballot to withdraw co-operation and why this deal is so inadequate.

The battle within the ASTI is hotting up. The struggle is between the full-time officials like Lennon—who have always been less than enthusiastic about the pay campaign—and those representative bodies like the 180-strong elected CEC.

With some branches tabling motions of no-confidence in Lennon, the victimisation of Lynch is obviously a direct assault on the rank and file opposition.

Lennon was forced to admit to physically threatening and verbally assaulting Lynch last January at the height of the campaign, and now Lynch's head is being sought for the crime of trying to get the issue of pay

properly dealt with at the union's Standing Committee.

As the union conducts a school-by-school survey on all aspects of the pay campaign, the implementation of the ban has been deferred until some time after November 5.

In the meantime the INTO will be balloted with a recommendation of acceptance from the CEC, while the outcome of the TUI ballot will be announced shortly.

All teachers would do well to reject this deal and demand decent increases at all levels of our salary scale.

It will send a clear signal to the government that they sideline our right to a decent wage and pension at their peril.

## Ballymun

## Building sites shut down by safety protests

**THE HEALTH and Safety Authority has shut down the rebuilding of Ballymun until serious safety issues are addressed.**

This follows the tragic death last month of four year old Alex Cuthbert who was run over by a dumper truck while playing near his home.

## Organised

Residents immediately organised a series of protests and marches to the Ballymun Regeneration Ltd offices to demand action on safety.

This prompted the Health and Safety Authority

to send its inspectors to the massive rebuilding sites. They demanded immediate closure and the drawing up of a proper health and safety plan.

## Scandal

One of the activists involved in the demonstrations told *Socialist Worker*, "Safety has been a scandal since the rebuilding of Ballymun began. It affects both residents and their children and also workers on the sites and has to be top of the agenda.

"The protests we organised after the recent tragedy forced the HSA to act. It proves that direct action achieves a hundred times more than waiting around for the authorities to act."

## Bin Charges

**THE CAMPAIGN against bin charges is on the move across Dublin. In Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown, of the 64,000 households billed with refuse charges 38,000 have refused to pay.**

One activist in the campaign told *Socialist Worker*, "With more than 60 per cent non-payment the council has a huge headache. The campaign is gaining ground."

## Protest

The Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown Council Estimates Meeting is being held in November.

The Campaign Against Service Charges has called a protest for

then outside the Council in Dun Laoghaire. Further details: Donal 087-6838746

In Dublin city the Campaign Against the Bin Tax is building up.

## Action Groups

Local action groups across the city have been signing residents up to the campaign and building the support networks.

The campaign has called a protest outside the City Council meeting at City Hall for 6.00pm on Monday 5th November.

A big public meeting for across Ballyfermot is planned for Wednesday 7th November in the Gala Leisure Centre.

More details: Campaign Against the Bin Tax : Brid 087-9090166

## Aer Lingus crisis

## Why the airline industry is in crisis

**SINCE September 11th, over 150,000 workers in the airline industry have lost their jobs.**

In most cases the management have blamed Bin Laden as the cause of a huge change in the industry.

In reality, they are using the crisis to push through a long held strategy of weakening union organisation. Aer Lingus is falling into a pattern that has been already set elsewhere.

In the US, United Airlines and American Airlines have both cut 20,000 jobs even though they got a government bail-out of \$807 million and claimed \$1 billion in "business interruption" insurance.

The US senate unani-

mously passed a bill to give airlines extra security—but then turned down an amendment to provide for worker relief to the tune of \$1.9 billion to cover unemployment and re-training grants.

## Conflicts

The name of the game is to use the crisis to strengthen the hand of companies over workers.

To see why, you need to understand the growing conflicts within the industry that began before September 11th.

Across the world airline workers had begun to recover from the defeats inflicted on them in the eighties.

On 4 July, a big travelling day in the US, American Air-

lines cabin crews threatened to strike over pay. In the US most airlines complain that they are "incessantly at war" with their employees.

United Airlines and North West Airlines have both had long-running disputes.

It is little wonder that workers in the US have fought back.

Anti-establishment figure and broadcaster Michael Moore reports that a first year airline pilot on American Eagle, the commuter part of American Airlines, earns just \$15,000 a year.

He also revealed that a pilot with three children earned so little he was eligible for food stamps on welfare.

The companies are using the present crisis to once again "shake out" the industry and accelerate the drive

to globalisation.

The moves to globalisation first began when Reagan de-regulated the skies over the US in the early eighties.

In 1995, the US and Canada also agreed an open skies policy.

This was followed two years later in the EU when Peter Sutherland granted any EU carrier the right to land in any other EU country.

## Globalised

Up to then the airline industry was highly regulated by national aviation authorities who looked after safety and promoted the welfare of a national airline industry.

But the aim of the corporate elite was to move to

a globalised industry where a few mega multi-nationals dominated.

The first step was the formation of airline alliances. Four major airline alliances now control 46 per cent of the global airline market.

These alliances coincided with major attack on workers' conditions.

One survey found that 88 per cent of unions reported that cabin crews were forced to work longer shifts since the global alliances began. A further 42 per cent of unions had experienced a pay freeze or pay cut.

The big companies are also trying to get rid of the International Civil Aviation Organisation—which they see as too interested in safety regulation—and transfer responsibility over to the services division of the

WTO.

They want national aviation authorities to have a "dual mission" of both safety and a concern for competitiveness.

British Airways is seen by the corporate elite as the model to follow. It has adopted three main strategies for dealing with unions.

First, it de-centred its companies creating new subsidiaries such as BA Regional where workers got worse wages and conditions.

## Outsourced

Second, it detached some services from its core operations. One of its policies is to franchise out operations. In one case it even handed over an operation to Airline Management Limit-

ed—a company with no planes or staff but which leased planes from BA.

Thirdly, it outsourced services such as catering and other ground handling operations.

The Aer Lingus management is using the crisis to pursue exactly this agenda. It is setting up more subsidiary companies and is trying to hive off as much of the ground handling operations as possible.

The overall aim is to make Aer Lingus fit to be sold off to a company such as BA.

This is in line with EU policy to create a few large EU carriers that employ workers on the same type of de-regulated conditions that exist in the US.

All of this shows that union resistance is urgently required at Aer Lingus.



# Socialist Worker

(01) 8722682 <http://www.clubi.ie/swp> [swp@clubi.ie](mailto:swp@clubi.ie)

For a Workers' Republic and International Socialism

70p

## inside

- Anthrax scares — Page 2
- Worldwide anti war protests — Pages 6&7
- Saudi Arabia in Crisis — Page 6

**The origins of Islamic Fundamentalism**

— Page 8

**War in Palestine: Israel breaks its leash**

— Page 5

Solidarity price £1

# STOP THE JOB MASSACRE AT AER LINGUS

**“THE government and Aer Lingus management are trying to milk September 11th. They are using political and industrial terrorism on workers.” This is how Brendan Leech, a SIPTU steward described the company’s survival plan.**

The company wants to:

- Slash over 2,000 jobs.
- Impose a pay freeze until 2004.
- Get rid of the practice of giving shift workers with over five years service two days leave in compensation for working bank holidays.

## THE BUTCHERS

THE AER Lingus board is stacked full of business hacks and political hangers-on. They include:

- **TOM MULCAHY:** This former banker used to work for the AIB capital markets where he advised the government on the privatisation of Aer Lingus. He was also the front man for the AIB during the DIRT tax scandal.
- **DES RICHARDSON:** A personal friend of Bertie Ahern and a former fundraiser for Fianna Fail.
- **CHRIS WALL:** Another drinking mate of Bertie who got a seat on the board.

- Contract out ground handling services.

The excuse for all of this is that the airline industry is supposed to have gone into a crisis since the terrorist attacks on the US on September 11th.

Aer Lingus bosses are claiming that the airline industry is losing £2 million a day. Transport Minister Mary O’Rourke is using this figure to pressurise the unions into accepting the “survival plan”.

But the whole crisis is being exaggerated to force through changes that the government wants anyway.

Their long term aim is to break

up the company and sell it off to a global multi-national like BA.

“Aer Lingus has sold 10,000 seats since they reduced their fares. I met someone recently who could not get a flight to New York until February at the earliest.

“The company is also not tendering for contracts to supply food to companies like Finn Air. They want to step up pressure on us to prepare the ground for privatisation.” said Clare Daly, a SIPTU shop steward in catering.

“When the cabin crew were on strike and the total airline was shut down, the management said we were losing £1 million a day. So how come it has jumped to £2 million when we are receiving fares?” said Brendan Leech.

The figures do not stack up. In the Dáil, Mary O’Rourke claimed that the company would lose £70 million this year and £100 million next year.

That is a good deal less than the £730 million a year—which is the equivalent of £2 million a day.

The company also has cash reserves of £650 million but the government is not let this money be used.

Fianna Fail are pretending to be concerned about jobs and claim that their hands are tied by the EU.

But the Belgian and Swiss governments have given subsidies to their airline.

## RESIST THESE CUTS

**“Aer Lingus workers paid more in taxes throughout the nineties than the whole farming sector. But £1 billion is handed over each year to the farmers from the EU and Irish government in subsidies,” said Clare Daly.**

The airline industry is going through a temporary difficulty. There has been a fall off in flights due to panic over terrorist attacks and also due to the global economic recession.

But the industry is bound to pick up in the future. One third of all high value manufactured goods travel by air. Millions of people need to move from place to place.

The government should subsidise Aer Lingus during this period of difficulty.

How can Aer Lingus compete

O’Rourke and the Aer Lingus boss Tom Mulcahy are cynically exploiting Bush’s war to force workers to make sacrifices. But they can be stopped in their tracks if the unions fight.

against companies like Delta on trans-Atlantic flights when the US company gets a huge government subsidy and the Irish company does not?

Workers in Olympic airlines in Greece and Air France have faced down their government when they tried to cut back on funding and demanded job cuts. The workers mounted a militant struggle and forced their governments to bend EU rules.

The Aer Lingus workers can do the same. But it will take a huge campaign of political pressure and industrial action. The best way of doing this is to drop all the pretence that the bosses of Aer Lingus are our “social partners”.

If SIPTU and IMPACT called strike action and organised major public solidarity demonstrations, they would push this right wing government back.