

NOTES

ART IN ACTION AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT

Kate Sullivan writes: 'Art in action against unemployment' is the title of a national political poster competition presented by the Communist Party. Art in the service of the labour and democratic movement is a sadly neglected area. The purpose of the competition is to encourage artists and designers who want to work for the movement; to bring them into contact with the many campaigns and causes that need their help; and to bring progressive political art to a wider public.

Entries will be judged by a panel including Ken Sprague (artist); Christine Roche (cartoonist); John Gorman (author/Fine Art printer); Fred Lambert (London College of Printing); Sarah Kent (art critic and broadcaster); and Richard Scott (of Leeds Postcards). John Berger has agreed to sponsor the competition. The winning entry will receive a holiday for two in Bologna, Italy and there will be cash prizes for the runners-up. All entries will be exhibited at a central London venue and subsequently around the country. Winning entries will be made available, with the artist's consent, to labour and democratic movement organisations for use in their current campaigns.

Entry forms from Kate Sullivan, CPGB, 16 St John St, London EC1. To be returned not later than 19 November 1982. The competition closes on 1 December 1982.

RUTH FIRST

Laurence Harris writes: Ruth First was killed by a letter bomb, undoubtedly of South African origin, on 17 August. She died at the Centre for African Studies, Edouardo Mondlane University, Mozambique where she was Research Director.

The Centre is a uniquely successful institution combining theory and practice in its teaching and research. The research and reports Ruth and her colleagues at the Centre have produced are major Marxist contributions to Mozambique's development strategy. Recently they have become central to the attempts of the southern African states (in SADCC) to free themselves from economic links with South Africa. The bomb was aimed against this work in which Ruth's leadership was outstanding. It was part of the general offensive the South Africans and their Western allies are mounting to destabilize socialist countries throughout the region.

The attack was also against Ruth as a South African who since her student days had a lifetime of struggle against apartheid and imperialism. A member of the Com-

munist Party and of the African National Congress she had fought as an activist, as the editor of the radical *Guardian* (and, when banned, its successors) and of *Fighting Talk*. Throughout the 1950s her uncompromising journalism exposed apartheid's crimes experienced daily by black South Africans. With Walter Sisulu, Nelson Mandela, her husband Joe Slovo and many other activists she was a defendant in the 1956 Treason Trial in which all were acquitted. In 1963, without trial, she was jailed in solitary confinement for 117 days and then exiled.

Ruth First and her family settled in north London where her work on Africa and for liberation continued through the 1960s and 1970s. There she wrote several books including *Barrel of a Gun*, *Libya*, and *The South African Connection* and co-authored a major biography of Olive Schreiner, an outstanding South African woman of an earlier period. Her latest book, *Black Gold*, about to be published by Harvester Press is the outcome of one of the earliest projects of the Centre for African Studies.

Ruth First is the latest loss as a result of the increasing terrorism of South Africa's racists. The tributes British Marxists can pay to this intensely committed intellectual and activist are increased solidarity with the African National Congress and against the destabilisation of Mozambique, Angola and Zimbabwe.

MARXISM TODAY DESIGN

As our designers will be leaving in the near future we invite applications from people with suitable experience for the job of designing and pasting up Marxism Today each month. The work also involves picture research and needs good organisational ability. This is not a staff job and is undertaken on a freelance basis. Some commitment to the magazine would be expected.

Write to Peter Hammarling at the editorial office for more information.

JAMES KLUGMANN PICTORIALS

Alan Fox writes: Some of the treasures from the unique archive of James Klugmann, former editor of *Marxism Today* and collector extraordinary, are being reproduced for a wider audience. Two series of postcards — Women's Suffrage and Chartism — are already in the shops. This month sees the republication of *Communist Cartoons*, cartoons from *The Communist* 1921-22, by Espoir and others, with a new introduction by Eric Hobsbawm, available from bookshops at £4.95.

CINEMA OF WOMEN

Jane Root writes: A new catalogue of feminist films is available from Cinema of Women, Britain's feminist film distributor. It contains details of 35 films which are for hire and sale on subjects like work hazards, violence against women, abortion and pornography. Cinema of Women also distributes feature length films such as the classic *Maidens In Uniform* which is now available for hire to film clubs and women's groups.

The catalogue is free with a SAE from Cinema of Women, 27 Clerkenwell Close, London EC1 tel 01 251 4978.

FURTHER MARX MEMORABILIA

Nidge Tovey writes: to add to your collection of Marx mementos, we have produced a very high quality enamel badge, for the Marx centenary. The badge is in red, and shows Marx's head. They've been produced by Covent Garden Communist Party branch, and cost £1 each. There are discounts for bulk orders. Orders to and further information from Nidge Tovey, 16 St John Street, London EC1 tel 251 4406.

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

Paul Flather is a journalist at *The Times Higher Education Supplement*.

Mike Morrissey is a lecturer in the Dept of Applied Social Studies at Ulster Polytechnic.

Peter Fowler is a journalist.

Eric Hobsbawm is the author of *The Age of Capital* and, with others, *The Forward March of Labour Halted?*

The Revd Kenneth Leech is Race Relations Field Officer of the General Synod Board for Social Responsibility. The article is a personal view and must not be taken to represent the view of the board.

Andre Gunder Frank is a professor at the Universities of Amsterdam and East Anglia and is the author of *Crisis in the World Economy*.

Steve Iliffe is a GP and an editor of *Medicine in Society*.

Peter Hain is prospective Labour parliamentary candidate for Putney.

Hugh Jenkins was Arts Minister in the 1974 Wilson government.

Jonathan Chadwick is a director at the Crucible Theatre, Sheffield.

Nick Rowling works at the Architectural Association and the Open University.

Ray Lowry is a freelance cartoonist.

Bill Schwarz teaches at North East London Polytechnic.

Gregor McLennan teaches at the Open University.