

NOTES

ARTS AND THE COMMUNITY

Kate Sullivan writes: *Two-Way Street: Arts and the Community* is the title of a new Communist Party pamphlet. It began as a series of discussions organised by the Party's Arts and Leisure Committee, and reflects a debate that is taking place on the Left about the relationship between politics and culture in the 1980s. The range is broad, and those who were asked to contribute are practitioners in their own field, and not necessarily members of any political party. Common themes emerge however; in particular, the need to bring together the arts world and the wider community — whether organised labour or other interest groups — to fight against cuts in arts provision, to fight for decentralisation of that provision, and to fight for greater democracy within its agencies. The pamphlet includes papers on cinema, theatre, television, libraries and publishing. It argues for common ownership of the arts, reflecting the thoughts, emotions and aspirations of all, and not simply of a 'cultivated' minority. Available, price 50p, from Central Books, 14 The Leathermarket, London SE1.

LOCAL COUNCILS AND ECONOMIC PLANNING

Judy Sadler writes: In response to high unemployment many councils are intervening in the local economy; this intervention is being increasingly accepted as a normal function of a local authority. This development is described in the latest SERA (Socialist Environment and Resources Association) pamphlet *Council Action for a Socialist Economy*. SERA identify a lack of direction in these developments, which they are trying to remedy. The pamphlet argues for a legal structure which would give councils the freedom to innovate without endangering basic services. The pamphlet (price £1.20) is available from SERA, 9 Poland Street, London W1.

OCCUPIED PALESTINE

Maria Loftus writes: *The Morning Star* have published a pamphlet by David Whitfield on the struggle of the Palestinian people. The author has recently spent some time in Israel as a *Morning Star* journalist.

The pamphlet deals mainly with the Palestinians living on the West Bank — the focus of struggle in the Middle East. It gives the history and background information on the struggle of the Palestinians and has a wealth of material on the daily lives of people living in the West Bank. Well illustrated, and with useful maps, *A Land with People* is a very useful introduction for those trying to understand the Middle East.

A Land with People is available from the *Morning Star* and most left bookshops, price £1.50.

MARX AND AFRICA

Tony Humphries writes: We have just had news from West Africa of a conference next year on Marx and Africa, organised at Ahmadu Bello University, Nigeria. This is an important development in the year of Marx's centenary. The Africa Centre can provide further information on the conference. The Africa Centre will also be organising a series of meetings on socialism in Africa next year. More information from Tony Humphries, The Africa Centre, 38 King Street, London WC2.

ACTION DEFEATS THE BILL

George Wake writes: The Liaison Committee for the Defence of Trade Unions have recently published a pamphlet '*Action Defeats the Bill*'. The pamphlet tells the story of the defeat of the Industrial Relations Act — important reading for those who are planning to defeat Tebbit's anti-trade union legislation. This pamphlet is particularly aimed at shop stewards and trade union organisations. If you would like copies, write, with a donation if possible, to George Wake, LCDTU, 148 Glenny Road, Barking, Essex IG11 8QQ.

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

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