

Up Date

NEWS

Socialism in London The Socialist Society is organising a series of meetings for the autumn on the lessons of the GLC and the Labour London Boroughs, starting on October 3rd. Anyone interested in helping to organise the series from whatever background in the Socialist movement should contact Nick Lewis 01-671 8702 or Theo Dennison 01-692 4998.

Tamil Information Centre Set up to monitor and provide information on atrocities and human rights violations on Tamils in Sri Lanka. Attacks on Tamils in the Sinhala area last summer were a prelude to the 'Biafran' style operation by the regular army against the Tamils in their traditional homelands since. A bulletin and further information is available from 1 Beulah Rd, Thornton Heath, Surrey, CR4 8JH (01-6530506).

CAMPAIGNS

Family Policy Last year's leaks from the family policy group and reassertion of Victorian values has led to a demand for positive ideas on the shape of an alternative family policy. Nine unions have combined with the Child Poverty Action Group to campaign on this issue and have produced a leaflet to promote discussion of men and women's differently perceived responsibilities and their impact on their lives as both workers and trade union members. The leaflet (price 25p or £2.00 for 20) and further information can be obtained from CPAG, 1 Macklin St, London WC2 (01-242 3225/9149).

MEETINGS

Creeping Socialism? 14 August (Tues) Discussion on the relevance of Workers Investment Funds in the pursuit of a socialist economy, organised by the Socialist Society Strategy for Socialism Working Group. All are welcome. 7.30pm, County Hall, London. Further details - Theo Dennison 01-692 4998 or 734 850.

EVENTS

The Roots of Peace Festival 13-18 August. Organised by Peace Pledge Union (Britain's secular pacifist organisation). It will include an exhibition of their work, discussions and workshops on issues of current concern. Also, co-operative games sessions plus films, stalls, food and creche. St Martin in the Fields, Trafalgar Sq London. 11.30am to 9.00pm. Wheelchair access.



Further details from PPU 01-387 5501.

Africa Centre 20th Anniversary Weekend 17-18 August. This will include three main events: on Friday two live bands, African Dawn and Dade Krama, on Saturday "The Lost Years" - a debate on Africa (12-3pm) to be followed by a party from 9pm, at 38 King St, Covent Garden, London WC2. £3.00 for music and party. Further details from 01-836 1973.

Kwame Nkrumah & Pan Africanism 1 September. A symposium to assess the Ghanaian leader's role in Africa and his concept of African history. Fee £10 (£3.00 unwaged) at the Jehanger Room, Commonwealth Institute, London 01-603 4535 ext 230.

Peace Rally at Chapelcross Nuclear Power Station 4 August. Assemble in Annan at 11.00 to march to Chapelcross. Speakers include Margaret Morton, Scottish CND Sec, Billy Rolfe, Scottish National Party, Bob Winter, Labour Party and NUM representative. Entertainment and concert featuring Wild Cat Theatre Company 1.00-5.00 in Annan.

Peace Gathering Creys-Malville France. 4-5 Aug. Those holidaying in France may like to join in this protest on the site of the French fast breeder nuclear plant. Information from Jeremy, Scram Nonviolent Action Group, 11 Forth St, Edinburgh.

African Music Village 14 Aug. To* introduce British audiences to African music in a way which is

impossible in conventional concert hall settings. Organised jointly by the Commonwealth Institute, the GLC and Capital Radio. Traditional African musicians performing alongside black British musicians including Diidu Pukwana and Orchestre Jazira. At Holland Park. Tickets £2.00 (50p unwaged and disabled). Further details 01-603 4535.

Miner Poets 1 Aug. Special poetry event in aid of the NUM. Readings by Dannie Abse, African Dawn, Lynton Kwesi Johnson and others. Financed partly by the GLC. At the Purcell Room, South Bank, SE1. Admission £2.00 (concessions for group bookings). Contact 01-928 3641.

FILMS, VIDEO

What they telling us it's illegal for? To coincide with the Parliamentary debate on copyright laws and the proposed introduction of a levy on blank tape, Birmingham Film & Video Workshop have produced a programme which presents the issue from the perspective of young people searching out and gaining access to information and decision making on an area which directly affects them. 40 mins long and available from BFVW, Holt St, Birmingham B7 4BA 021-359 5545/4192.

Council Matters is an animated film which looks at rates and services through the eyes of Freda (a cleaner) who wittily presents insights as to what a local council does or could do. It also presents the 'nightmare' of a privatised service. Ten minutes long, it is available for

hire on video, VHS, and 16mm. £5.00. From the Local Campaign Unit, 57 Tavistock Place, London WC1H0R01-3879893.

The Monkey and the Dragon is a British group who distribute radical American radio tapes which promote discussion about feminism, environmental and nuclear issues amongst others. Titles include: The Politics of Jazz, Sex in the Bathub, An interview with Marge Piercy. More information from The Monkey & the Dragon, Tweed ST, High Bentham, Lancaster LA2 7HW.

PUBLICATIONS

Defending the NHS The most comprehensive union publication yet on the state of the Health Service. Produced by the Labour Research Dept it includes detailed studies of successful local campaigns linking trade unions with community groups in Scotland, Brent, Oxford and Sheffield. Available from LRD, 78 Blackfriars Rd, London SE1 8HF. Price £1.00 incp&p.

New Ground Third issue, produced by the Socialist Environment & Resources Association, focusing on the environmental Left in France. Available from SERA, 9 Poland St, London W1. Price 50p. Annual subscription £2 for 4 issues.

Occupational Pensions Carl Jones argues that the portable pensions the Government may introduce will not remedy the insecurity and inequity of occupational schemes and considers the possible alternative way of ensuring, through improvements in public provision, adequate and secure pensions for all. Published by the Fabian Society, 11 Dartmouth St, London SW1H9BN. Price £1.50.

Haldane Society's Employment Law Bulletin. Summer edition contains a strong attack on the unsatisfactory state of the law regarding health and safety in the NHS, analyses the extension of the government's anti union laws in the Dimbleby-NUJ case and examines the likely effects of the new and inadequate equal pay for work of equal value regulations. Available from 177 Holland Rd, London NW1. Price £4.00 per year.

Entries for the September Update should be sent as soon as possible (latest date Friday 3 August) to Maria Loftus, Marxism Today 16 St John Street London EC1 or tel 01-251 4406 or 01-607 3344 (evenings).