FIGHT FOR SAFETY
STOP THE JOBS MASSACRE

A FIGHTING PROGRAMME FOR UNITE THE UNION >>> p6

‘NO GOING BACK’ SERIES: A SOCIALIST PROGRAMME FOR SCHOOLS >>> p8-9

LOCKDOWN LEICESTER: TRADE UNIONISTS FIGHT BACK >>> p5
Workers and young people need planning for jobs, not handouts for bosses.

The debate is about ideas to change the world to make progress easier, to stop the cuts, to face the economic crisis, to defend workers and the people we organise. If this is a major public service event to defend public life, then a thousand people normally attend the workshops and cafes. We cannot allow the current Tory restrictions to stop that happening. So we have gone online.

The Black Lives Matter protests were a once in a lifetime moment in British politics. The police used the law to crack us, but this time the public rose up to replace them with superior organising experience. The trade unions must prepare to fight. There should be no further police brutality, no more mass arrests, no further attacks. The law is coming for us. The trade unions need to organise to meet the challenge.

The idea is to go on a 24/7 basis to organise in workplaces, to fight in our day-to-day struggles, to build mass movements, to meet the real challenges of the crisis so we can all come together.

Socialism 2020 – ideas to change the world.

20-22 November

Join the organisers, workshops and debates as part of the Socialist Party’s socialistworld.net campaign.

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WHAT WE STAND FOR

Socialist Party for a socialist society, a democratic society, a world without exploitation and剥削.

Marxism is the only explanation of society which allows us to see the way the system works and how it could be changed.

Socialism is the socialist solution for our society and world. Socialism is a world where everyone is free, equal and working together for the common good.

Socialism is the solution to the problems we face today.

Socialism is the solution to the problems we face tomorrow.

Socialism is the solution to the problems we face forever.

Socialism is the solution to the problems we face in the past.

Socialism is the solution to the problems we face in the present.

Socialism is the solution to the problems we face in the future.

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Sextist dismissal of women’s health: NHS NEEDS DEMOCRATIC CONTROL

BROKEN MINISTERS
LINDSEY SADDLER

The Hillingdon Commission Public Accounts Committee has expressed concerns that some of the £5.5 billion it has had to spend on water has been wasted or misused. The commission has also expressed concern about the way the water companies are handling the increasing cost of payments for over-75s.

Water shortage warning: nationalise now!

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A FIGHTING PROGRAMME FOR UNITE

PHOTO Paul Mattsson

West Midlands regional secretary, Howard Beckett, went to the Trade Union Congress and Labour Party conferences to denounce cutting Labour councillors as being the same as Tories.

The need to fight back will be even more sharply posed in the next period, with council unions already forecasting a £10 billion funding shortfall.

Sharon Graham has also said, “We cannot willingly allow Labour politicians to heap austerity upon austerity. We should not turn a blind eye to Labour cuts. The excuse of a Labour cut being ‘better’ is just nonsense. We must do everything in our power to defend both our members and the services they provide. If this means taking on Labour Councillors then so be it.”

Grangemouth

Similarly, at Grangemouth in 2013, Unite was unprepared for the scale of action needed in the face of the brutal management of Ineos under the billionaire Jim Ratcliffe, one of Britain’s richest men.

Five years before, the union had defeated Ineos’s attempt to end the final salary pension scheme. When the company went back on the attack, Unite called strikes, which they backed with a leverage campaign. But Ratcliffe went nuclear by threatening a “cold shutdown”, which would have put the plant’s future on the line.

Faced with this deadly threat, without a clear answer from Unite’s leadership, there wasn’t the confidence to continue the action. This setback was seized upon by Ratcliffe to go after the union and its two leading conveners.

There are no guarantees in any struggle. But it would have been necessary to escalate the action by occupying at least part of the site, and then appealing for support to the union movement in Scotland and throughout the UK to put pressure on the Scottish government to nationalise the plant.

Such a militant industrial approach, combined with the demand that companies be taken into public ownership to defend jobs and communities, will be necessary in the economic crisis we are entering.

This Tory government has been forced against its will to intervene on an historic scale during the pandemic. But it will need militant action to force it to act when closures are posed. Such industrial action is the most effective leverage for workers.

The Grangemouth experience showed that the union needs to combine a militant industrial and political strategy. Under Len McCluskey, Unite has vastly increased its fighting capacity industrially, with no unofficial action ever repudiated by the leadership.

As part of preparing the union for the battles to come, it is necessary to strengthen the lay democracy in the union. This should include extending the election of officers beyond just that of the general secretary, alongside moving to an annual policy conference.

The union under McCluskey also played a key role in supporting Jeremy Corbyn’s leadership of the Labour Party. Actually, the Blairites saw winning the previous union general secretary election in 2017 as a key part of their plan to seize back control of Labour, backing the candidacy of Gerard Coyne.

The Socialist Party gave critical support to Len McCluskey as his election victory, by a narrow margin, pushed back the right-wing in Labour out of the party. In the aftermath of this victory, it is entirely possible that the Blairites will again stand a candidate for Unite general secretary to seek to control their positions within the union, which should be a consideration for prospective left candidates on a fighting programme.

But the four and a half years of Corbyn’s leadership were ultimately a missed opportunity to transform Labour into a party that could be a political vehicle for working-class people. We would have needed the reversal of the undemocratic Blairite reselection of MPs - due to a motion moved by a Socialist Party member at the union’s 2016 policy conference - it wasn’t implemented in the party. The Blairites kept their grip on the Parliamentary Labour Party, and used it to sabotage Corbyn’s leadership.

These mistakes helped lead to the election of Starmer, which was a defeat for the Labour left, and for Terry for the capitalist establishment in their project to restore Labour as a reliable vehicle for them. The pandemic has shown all too clearly that this is vital for the capitalists, as Johnson’s government lurched from one crisis to another.

Debate

This opens up a debate within the Labour Party, especially among those who believe that the fight cannot go beyond the confines of the Labour Party.

But what must unite the left within and outside Labour is an industrial and political challenge to pro-capitalist, pro-austerity forces and the working-class rebellion in Labour’s colours. This starts with refusing to cover for the likes of Long-term Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer’s Labour councils which take on their workforces by implementing Tory cuts.

A key period of brutal class conflict is opening up in front of our eyes as an economic crisis unfolds that could be deeper than anything seen since the 2008 financial crisis. This is a tumultuous time, when the fundamental ability and capacity of the working class to defend workers was on the line.

To be able to face up to this harsh reality, and draw the conclusions for the battles to come, is a necessity for its reps, members and officers for the battles now, and those to come.
At its meeting on 8 July, the controlling majority of the Public and Commercial Services union (PCS) National Executive Committee rejected moves to resume this year’s union elections. The proposal from the Broad Left Network - the left group in PCS supported by Socialist Party members - would have restarted the elections in August.

PCS holds elections annually for president, vice-presidents and national executive committee. But arrangements for the 2020 elections were suspended part-way through March this year.

The elections, which are by postal ballot, could have gone ahead at that time. Socialist Party members argued in favour of this and suggested extending the ballot period by a month to allow for postal delays during the pandemic.

The decision to suspend the elections was taken by the Left Unity (Socialist View/SWP) majority bloc on the executive, which argued it was impractical to hold ballots during the pandemic, but said it would keep the situation ‘under review’.

Astonishingly, Left Unity’s justification for now entirely cancelling the elections ranged from ‘there are many different ways of engaging with members other than elections’ to ‘members are not knocking at our door demanding elections’.

The executive’s decision to keep itself in office without elections is as shameful as it is unsurprising. Its failure on the 2020 pay campaign, the refusal to lead a collective response to the health and safety threats faced by members during the Covid pandemic, and the continued drop in union membership, is a record not easy to defend. Why would it want elections?

At the same executive meeting, the Left Unity majority rejected a Broad Left Network amendment to a Trade Union Congress motion: “To defend jobs and communities by taking into public ownership companies that threaten mass redundancies and closures.” Rejecting such a basic workers’ demand exposes the hollowness of any claim they make to ‘members are not knocking at our door demanding elections’.

“Hands off our pensions!” demand angry Nissan workers

Around 500 Nissan workers joined a march and rally (pictured above) in opposition to plans to close their Sunderland plant who had once regarded Nissan as ‘heroes’ and who had promised they would be re-employed on inferior terms and conditions.

The strike action themselves against non-payment of wages on workers’ pensions, it will undoubtedly lead to more militant action. It was good to see a banner at the protest “Stay Strong Barcelona”, in reference to Spanish Nissan workers who had once regarded Nissan as a company that looked after its workforce.

International workers’ solidarity is key. “Key workers” to the Sunderland pension scheme is one part of Nissan’s £2.3 billion cuts worldwide. Nissan, in alliance with Renault, is using the Covid crisis as cover to cut jobs, intensify work, reduce capacity and pit workers against each other in the name of ‘efficiency’.

“Hands off our pensions!” demand angry Nissan workers

The rally took in opposition to plans to close their Sunderland pension scheme. The rally took place at the main gate of Nissan’s Sunderland plant.

Nissan is closing the existing defined benefit (or ‘final salary’) pension scheme, replacing it with an inferior defined contribution scheme, impacting 20,000 workers.

This is the first time in the plant’s 33-year history that any form of protest has happened, and speaking to workers it is clear that if Nissan doesn’t back down with this attack on workers’ pensions, it will undoubtedly lead to more militant trade union action.

Steve Bush, Unite national officer, told us that Nissan management had taken an “arrogant stance” which was unacceptable. He went on to say he was really pleased with the turnout of the protest, which would put the union in a good position to negotiate with Nissan management.

Workers told us that Nissan had recently put out a DVD explaining the strength of Nissan in Sunderland was its workforce and team spirit - yet this is how Nissan wants to repel their workforce!

Another said how the company used to listen to their workers. They used to have on-site meetings, where employees could put questions to their bosses. Now they have televised statements or emails sent out to them - Nissan are no longer interested in having a dialogue.

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Nissan workers on the protest were hopeful that this protest would be a wake-up call for Nissan, but are clearly prepared to step up the action if protesting is not enough.

Instead, Biggs plans to make £2 million savings each year from the new employment contracts. The strikers are incensed that during the Covid-19 pandemic the council has referred to them as ‘heroes’ and has promised they would be re-employed on inferior terms and conditions.

Messages of support to john.mcloughlin@towerhamlets.gov.uk.

Hugo Pierre

Union national executive council (personal capacity)

Striking Union members PHOTO: HUGO PIERRE

Ratcliffe rats on Bridgend workers

Mega-corporation Ineos, owned by anti-union, multi-billionaire James Ratcliffe, has reneged on its agreed investment in a 500-job 4x4 car plant in Bridgend, south Wales. The planned site was next to the doomed Ford Bridgend engine plant, soon to close with the loss of 1,700 jobs.

It seems that Ineos has switched investment instead to a former Mercedes-Benz plant in France. Last September, to much fanfare, Ineos said: “The decision to build in the UK is a significant expression of confidence in British manufacturing, which has always been at the heart of what Ineos stands for.”

Having praised Ineos and sunk a considerable sum into the venture, the Welsh government is now left with an enormous omelette on its face.

The clear lesson is, ‘you can’t plan what you don’t control, and you can’t control what you don’t own.’ The trade unions must campaign to nationalise Ineos, under democratic workers’ control and management.
The Covid-19 crisis has shown apingglish on the crisis in our educationsystem, especially the early years andprimary sector.

Children in the UK start morefamilies have moved further from otherdeveloped countries. Their class sizes are larger, and theirclassrooms are smaller. Huge funding cuts and staffing cuts add to the problems.

Since the development of our moderneducating situation, governments (including labour) have completely changed what it means tobe taught by Tory austerity. The numberof children in the UK has increased or remained steady.

Instead of the leaders of the labormodeling school, governments (including labour) have completely changed what it means tobe taught by Tory austerity. The numberof children in the UK has increased or remained steady.

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Instead of the leaders of the labormodeling school, governm...
PART 1: THE SIGNIFICANCE OF BLACK HUMANITY IN MODERN SOCIETY

The rise of black-power movements in the 20th century was a significant moment in the fight against racial oppression. These movements, including the Black Panthers and the Black Liberation Army, sought to challenge the status quo and fight against systemic racism.

In the 1960s, the Black Panthers became a powerful force in America, advocating for civil rights and social justice. Their philosophy was rooted in the idea of black power, which emphasized the need for black people to take control of their own lives and destinies.

The Black Panthers were known for their militant approach, including their armed patrols and their refusal to be intimidated by police violence. They were also involved in a number of community service programs, such as providing free breakfasts to children and offering medical care to the sick and elderly.

Despite their protests and direct action, the Black Panthers faced significant backlash and violence from the police and other government agencies. Many of their leaders, including Huey Newton and Bobby Seale, were arrested and charged with crimes.

In 1968, the Black Panthers were involved in a violent confrontation with the Chicago Police Department, leading to the deaths of six people. This event, known as the Chicago Seven trial, became a symbol of the struggle for black power and highlighted the need for a radical approach to social change.

The legacy of the Black Panthers continues to be felt today, as activists and organizations continue to fight against systemic racism and work towards a more just and equitable society.

Michael Montana

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PART 2: THE BLACK POWER MOVEMENT AND ITS LEGACY

The Black Power movement, which emerged in the 1960s, was a response to the continued oppression and discrimination faced by black Americans in the United States. The movement sought to empower black communities and challenge the dominant white power structure.

The Black Panthers were a key part of the Black Power movement, and their armed patrols and confrontations with the police were a symbol of their commitment to black power. The Black Panthers were also involved in a number of community service programs, such as providing free breakfasts to children and offering medical care to the sick and elderly.

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PART 3: THE BLACK BADGE OF HONOR

The Black Power movement was marked by a number of controversies, including the Black Badger (BB) movement. The BBs were a group of black activists who fought against police brutality and racial injustice.

The BBs were often involved in armed confrontations with the police, and their presence was a stark reminder of the continued violence and oppression faced by black Americans. Despite their often violent tactics, the BBs were also involved in a number of community service programs, such as providing meals and medical care to the sick and elderly.

The legacy of the Black Badgers continues to be felt today, as activists and organizations continue to fight against systemic racism and work towards a more just and equitable society.

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The Black Panthers were a key part of the Black Power movement, and their armed patrols and confrontations with the police were a symbol of their commitment to black power. The Black Panthers were also involved in a number of community service programs, such as providing free breakfasts to children and offering medical care to the sick and elderly.

The legacy of the Black Panthers continues to be felt today, as activists and organizations continue to fight against systemic racism and work towards a more just and equitable society.

Michael Montana

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The Mother, around the actual events of which it is said to be a authentic, is a novel by Maxim Gorky, which means 'bitter' in Russian. It was published in 1906 and is considered a seminal work of Russian literature.

Gorky bases his powerful novel, The Mother, on his own experiences as a young socialist activist. He was 24 and his first story was published in newspapers. The novel is set in the early 1900s to organise and build a party of the working class, to describe the significant part that the poor, the dispossessed and the intellectuals played in the movement. The Mother, which means 'bitter' in Russian, was not the writer's real name. He was born Alexander Maximovich Peshkov in 1868, but chose the pseudonym when he was 25 and his first story was published. He used the pen name to distance himself from his past as a journalist and writer.

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Srebrenica massacre - 25 years on

HOW CAPITALIST RESTORATION LED TO WAR AND ‘ETHNIC CLEANSING’ IN THE BALKANS

JUDY BEISHON
SOCIALIST PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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to contain

venty-five years ago, in July 1995, 8,000 Bosnian Muslim refugees were slaughtered in and around the Bosnian town of Srebrenica - one of the final atrocities in the 1992-95 Bosnian war. The designation of Srebrenica as a ‘safe haven’ by the United Nations (UN) was a cruel travesty for those victims and the tens of thousands of others who were driven out of the town.

During the war, the Bosnian Muslims suffered the worst of the atrocities, including an untold number killed on the bridge at Vršac. There were also many victims in the Serb and Croat populations - the largest single act of ‘ethnic cleansing’ in those years was the Croatian army brutally expelling 200,000 Croatian Serbs from the Krajina area of Croatia. Overall, 100,000 people died during the war and over two million were displaced.

The right-wing nationalist Serb and Croat leaders in Bosnia, aiming to consolidate territory they could link with adjoining Croatia and Serbia, were mainly responsible for the bloodshed. That didn’t mean, however, that socialists could give any support to the military aggression of the Bosnian Muslim warlords. Like their Serb and Croat counterparts, they were acting in their own interests and not those of the section of the population they were claiming to protect.

The descent into war had come out of the collapse of the Yugoslavia federation - a stagnating, bureaucratically run, Stalinist regime. The break-up began when Slovenia declared independence. In the countries which then became immersed in war, nationalist leaders had moved to turn to their own advantage the fears of insecurity and discrimination in the Serb, Croat and Muslim populations.

The war ended with the Dayton agreement, imposed in 1995 by the imperialist powers. By then, the opposing military leaders had largely exhausted being able to further their interests through continuing the war, Bosnia was declared to be a single entity, but in reality the deal reinforced a division between a Bosnian Serb entity and a Croat-Muslim federation. Essentially, it ratified the ethnic cleansing that had taken place, imposing a patchwork of ten cantons, and a government structure based on ethnic quotas.

Convictions

Since the war, many of the families of Srebrenica, and other victims, have welcomed the conviction of over 90 people for war crimes by the UN’s International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). Those given long prison sentences included Bosnian Serb ex-general Ratko Mladić and Radovan Karadžić, the former Bosnian Serb president.

The ICTY was eventually closed down with 3,000 outstanding cases being shunted off to national courts. It was always incapable of delivering real and full justice to the victims in Bosnia, not least because it was inevitably acting in the interests of the UN’s paymasters, the world’s leading capitalist powers.

Western governments are not, of course, willing to be tried for their own interventions in the Balkans, such as the brutal Nato air assaults on Bosnian Serb areas during the Bosnian war, or the vicious 1998 Nato ‘humanitarian’ bombing of Serbia to force Serbian troops out of Kosovo.

Today, such are the increasing antagonisms and conflicting foreign policy interests between the world powers, it’s not difficult to see why international tribunals have not emerged regarding war crimes in warzones like Syria and Yemen.

Following a recent decision by the International Criminal Court (ICC) to investigate the Afghan war - with its many civilian deaths at US hands - and also a preceding decision to look into Israel-Palestine, Trump’s US administration has reverted to accusing the ICC of corruption and even threatened sanctions against ICC officials.

Echoing the reality of capitalist ‘international justice’, US attorney general William Barr called the ICC, “little more than a political tool employed by unaccountable international elites.”

Workers’ organisation

Only through working-class people building their own organisations will it be possible to conduct genuinely independent, democratically run investigations into past atrocities. And in the Balkans, workers’ political representation needs to be built to challenge the whole agenda of ethnic and religious division promoted by the ruling classes - which is ongoing today, along with their massive enrichment.

The descent into war had come out of the collapse of the Yugoslavia federation - a stagnating, bureaucratically run, Stalinist regime.

A year ago, a wave of protest swept the region, with an article in the New York Times reporting: “From Bosnia to Serbia, and even in Albania, citizens have taken to the streets by the hundreds of thousands for months in an epidemic of discontent. Specific grievances vary, but all are animated by the sense that their governments are increasingly ruled by kleptocrats with authoritarian tendencies who have taken advantage of young democracies with weak checks on executive power.”

Now, a year later, protests have again broken out, with repeated demonstrations in Serbia in recent days - including an attempt to storm the parliament against president Aleksandar Vučić’s handling of the coronavirus crisis and his government’s autocratic rule.

At the same time, on 8 July, 3,000 frontline medical workers in Bosnia’s capital Sarajevo began strike action to demand pay supplements to cover their extra work due to the coronavirus. Last autumn, a 36-day teachers’ strike took place in Croatia.

Working people across the Balkans of all nationalities, ethnicities and regions are having to move into struggle against their capitalist bosses and governments, which will raise awareness of the opposing class interests involved, and the need to fight against division among ordinary people from different backgrounds.

The Srebrenica massacre 25 years ago arose from a drive by right-wing leaders to whip up division in order to carve out spheres of influence for themselves and their wealthy allies.

Today, the task of building grass-roots unity against poisonous sectarianism and a future round of bloodshed is more than ever linked to the fight against inequality, and for decent living standards.

Serbia’s working class showed its potential strength when, 20 years ago, it moved into mass action, including a general strike, forcing president Slobodan Milošević out of office.

The need now is to study all the lessons from the past: the failure of the Yugoslav planned economy due to the lack of workers’ democracy; the subsequent descent into ethnic and nationalist bloody conflict due to the weakness of the workers’ movements at that stage; and the ways in which rabid nationalism has been used by the elites to play ‘divide and rule’.

The conclusion will be that the working class must collectively develop a programme and organisations for a socialist alternative - the only way of placing capitalist wars in the dustbin of history for good.
1975 Australia coup: correspondence with queen released

Palace letters show the monarchy is a weapon for capitalism

In November 1975, the Queen’s representative in Australia, Governor-General Sir John Kerr, dismissed the elected Labor prime minister. He replaced Gough Whitlam with the leader of the right-wing Liberal Party, Malcolm Fraser. Documents just released from the National Archives of Australia reveal how closely the monarchy was involved in the discussions leading up to this coup.

It took a four-year campaign by historian Jenny Hocking and a decision by the Australian High Court, to get the documents released. And their contents are a warning to all who think of the monarchy just as a useful tourist attraction or a national soap opera.

Gough Whitlam was Australian prime minister from December 1972 to November 1975. He was originally on the right of the Labor Party, but was pushed to the left by the tumultuous events of the 1960s.

In Australia and throughout the world, workers went into struggle and won reforms, on the basis of the favourable economic conditions of capitalism’s post-war boom. Against this background, the Australian Labor Party was swept to power in 1972 after 23 years of Liberal Party rule.

Reforms

Whitlam’s initial aims were to rationalise some aspects of the economy and improve the welfare state. At that stage, these aims were not seen as a threat to the established capitalist order. Right-wing media mogul Rupert Murdoch even supported Labor in the election.

Whitlam set about making significant reforms, under pressure from the working class and associated social movements. Free higher education was introduced, with a massive increase in university students. Healthcare spending was increased to provide a universal system. Legislation was passed introducing equal pay rights for women, and the first Aboriginal land rights were granted. Australian troops were withdrawn from Vietnam, and a swathe of social reforms introduced.

But as the post-war boom petered out, crisis loomed. The international oil crisis plunged the global economy into a downward spiral. World commodity prices fell - a particular problem for Australia, whose economy relies on raw material exports. Profit fell, and inflation and unemployment rose.

Big business was desperately trying to protect its interests. Bosses were worried that the strike wave that erupted throughout 1974 could continue to grow.

They demanded public spending cuts from the Labor government, and got them. But that was not enough. On the pretext of a failed attempt to borrow from the Middle East, the Liberals blocked the budget in the Senate - the upper house in the Australian parliament - causing a constitutional crisis. That was when the governor-general intervened and removed Whitlam.

Workers walked out on strike in protest. 400,000 took to the streets in Melbourne and held a huge rally.

The capitalist class was worried that the situation would get even more out of control. Fortunately for them, they could rely on the Labor and trade union leaders, who refused to do anything to organise this mass movement against the coup.

As a result, the movement receded. Over the following decades, a lot of the Whitlam reforms were undermined or rolled back to suit the demands of big business in the face of a crisis-ridden world economy.

There are important lessons to learn from the Whitlam government and these events. One is that reforms are only won through working-class struggle - and they must be backed up.

The struggle must be continued around a programme of defending those reforms by taking control of the major levers of the economy and running them under democratic working-class control. Any government anywhere in the world which seeks to put workers’ interests first must understand this.

The Socialist Party warned Jeremy Corbyn of this. In the event, the right wing of Britain’s Labour Party intervened to protect big business before there was even a chance of forming a pro-reform Labour government.

State machine

The other major lesson is about the role of the monarchy. It is a component of the state machine, holding special constitutional powers in reserve, which the capitalist establishment can use to supersede even the limited democracy of parliamentary elections.

The letters reveal a careful discussion with the queen - about the constitutional powers of the governor-general to carry out this right-wing coup, and the fear of how far Whitlam would go, even worrying that he would sack the governor-general!

The Queen is a weapon of the ruling class which is usually kept relatively sheathed. But she gives royal assent to all legislation. MPs and the media forces do not swear allegiance to parliament; they swear it to the queen. Tory prime ministers have recently used the ‘royal prerogative’ to act without parliament’s approval, and even suspended a dissenting parliament using the queen’s power of ‘prorogation’.

The monarchy is a powerful ideological and legal tool for capitalism. It can be used quickly, as these events show, to prop up the profit system against workers’ struggle. As such, abolition of the monarchy must form part of a broader programme for socialist change.

Merely a year on from the suspension of arms sales to Saudi Arabia, the greed of British capitalism has lifted it.

The suspension occurred due to pressure from campaigners against the regime’s assaults on Yemen and its appalling human rights record at home. The Tory government even followed up on 6 July with further sanctions.

However, Defence Secretary Ben Wallace reportedly arranged a phone call with the totalitarian Saudi monarchy and told them not to worry about said sanctions! British arms companies engaged in sales the very next day.

Over the past five years, Saudi-backed coalition forces have killed approximately 12,000 civilians in Yemen, and campaigners fear the weapons being sold will be used in this conflict as well.

Yet still the Tories are completely fine with continuing weapons’ sales. The profit and international prestige are worth much more to them than innocent life falling at the hands of a bloodthirsty regime.

The hypocrisy of British capitalism shines bright. It will happily sell weapons to a regime which only the day before it condemned as dripping with human rights violations.

The British government is complicit in these murders. The Socialist Party completely opposes the sale of weapons to capitalist warmongers and human rights abusers. Absolutely.

Josh Bavin
West London Socialist Party

Stop hypocritical arms sales to murderous Saudi regime
The Black Lives Matter protests have lifted the lid on the enormous level of built-up class anger amongst young people in Britain today. Sparked by the racist murder of George Floyd, a new generation of young people is on the move, determined to fight for a future free not only of racism, but also poverty, inequality and all forms of exploitation and oppression.

The present system we live under today, capitalism, was built through colonial slavery and murder, alongside the brutal exploitation of working-class people in Britain. Searching for real gains many of the protests have demanded the removal of statues and monuments to prolific slave traders throughout Britain’s history.

Having ignored the calls of the local community over the years, the establishment politicians have been forced to remove some of these statues to try and satisfy the new movement. Young Socialists considers the removal of these statues as a victory for our movement. But this significant symbolic victory has to be built upon if racism is to be truly defeated.

There is no way this generation will be satisfied with the tokenistic efforts of politicians, keen to be seen as fighting racism but taking little to no action over its concrete manifestations - police brutality, slum housing, poverty pay, and no access to a decent education system.

As a new tidal wave of economic crisis hits this generation, bringing with it a new round of attacks by the rich, and the politicians who represent them, young people of all ethnicities will have no choice but to launch a common struggle to fight for all of our futures.

Young Socialists has produced a socialist youth charter as a campaigning programme, demanding that young people are not be made to pay for this new round of capitalist crisis - not with our jobs, not with our education, not with our futures.

We demand a future worth living for all young people, with access to a decent, well-paid job for all, access to a place to live, access to good quality and free education, to well-funded public services, and a future cleansed of all forms of prejudice and oppression, including racism - a socialist future.

We will be out campaigning all across the country with our charter this weekend - join us in our fight to ensure our future is not sacrificed to capitalist crisis.