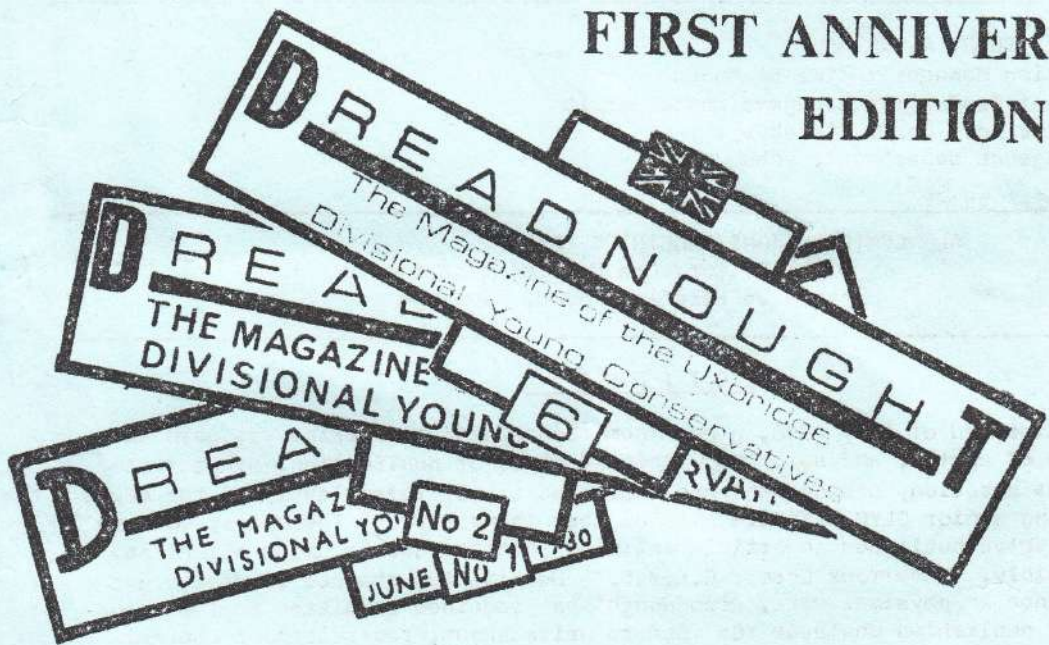



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Know Your Enemy



The Workers' Revolutionary Party

by MARK TAHA
EALING SOUTH YC

THIS organisation might well be better known than the Socialist Workers' Party; all most people could say about it however, is that its membership includes Vanessa and Corin Redgrave, Frances de la Tour and Helen Mirren! There is, however, more to it than that. Basically, the WRP is similar to the fundamentalist religious sects in that, where they await the Second Coming of Christ, the WRP await the Glorious Workers Revolution. Both seem to be equally on the cards! The WRP's history is dominated by one man; Gerry Healy. In his late sixties and a Communist since he was thirteen, Healy was involved in various Trotskyist organisations from 1938 to 1947, when he, Ted Grant, and Tony Cliff formed the Revolutionary Communist party. This was soon to attempt to infiltrate the Labour Party under the name of the 'Group' or 'Club'. Following Cliff's expulsion in 1951, Healy and Grant split in 1953, Grant founding the Revolutionary Socialist League, now known to us as 'Militant'. Healy continued with his small band of followers - which was rapidly to expand with the defection of a large number of Communists following Hungary - and founded the Socialist Labour League in 1959. Although the SLL was soon proscribed by the Labour Party, Healy's supporters nevertheless took control of the Young Socialists until the organisation was purged in 1964, obliging the SLL to organise its own Young Socialists group. The SLL was to become the Workers' Revolutionary Party in 1973 and contested 60 seats in 1970, losing all 60 deposits ignominiously; its principal contribution was probably to give us Paddington North, (Tory majority 106, WRP vote 113).

The WRP is a Trotskyist organisation whose membership does not exceed 2000 at most, with not more than 5000 in its satellite the Young Socialists - both of these have a very rapid membership turnover due to the excessive demands made on the time and money of

members. It is also paranoid, holding the view that the government plans a brutal dictatorship on the lines of Chile or Argentina and preaching long and hard about various conspiracies; Vanessa Redgrave has called Parliament "A facade to hide the conspiracies taking place outside". Apparently, Major-General Frank Kitson will be the man to head a military junta.

The WRP internally is totalitarian, with its members indoctrinated in various 'schools'; it is 'democratic centralist' i.e., the membership follows orders. It recruits young people by offering them discos, sport, etc (There's an idea for us to copy) and then indoctrinating them politically. Its trade union strength is confined mainly to EQUITY (The actors union), and it is known to be extremely sectarian, actually putting up candidates against other left-wing Socialists like Socialist Unity. The WRP publishes a daily called Newsline, cheap at 12p, 16 pages long and professionally produced; circulation unknown. The WRP is an extremely wealthy organisation, the source of whose wealth will be gone into soon; it is also highly prone to splits. In 1974, Alan Thornett led some 200 members out to form the Workers' Socialist League, (now itself split, with the breakaway faction known as the Spartacist League), and in 1979 the Workers' Party was founded by Royston Bull, (This miniscule organisation has since split itself with the Workers' News group breaking away). In all, the WRP is just like any other typical Trotskyist grouping - with one exception; its unbelievable stand on international affairs. The WRP's view is that the Polish strikes are a CIA plot, and its favourite regimes and people are as follow: Colonel Gaddafi of Libya, known as the backer of almost every terrorist group alive and a religious maniac; it is the view of many people that he funds the WRP. They have supported his sending Libyan troops to help Idi Amin in 1979, and, when Christopher Hitchens of the

News Statesman asked for their view regarding Gadaffi's praise of Adolf Hitler earlier this year, their reply was to abuse Hitchens at length! They also support the Iraqi Ba'ath regime, whose president's hero is Josef Stalin (Interesting people for Trotskyists to support) and in defence of which they have denounced Amnesty International and the Communist front organisation 'Liberation' as 'tools of Imperialism'; the Ayatollah Khomeini, who probably requires no introduction; and the PLO leader Yassir Arafat, to whom they extend total support. The WRPs anti-

Zionist stand borders on anti-Semitism, they believe that supporters of Israel have no right to freedom of speech and Vanessa Redgrave proposed at the 1980 Equity AGM a resolution which, if passed (It was beaten by four votes) would have forbidden equity members from working in Israel.

In conclusion, the Workers' Revolutionary Party should be watched, but no more. They are, quite frankly, a group of self-obsessed paranoids with little hope of success unless a miracle happens.