CAMDEN LABOUR BRIEFING

THE EUROPEAN ELECTIONS :

SUPPORT THE FIGHT AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT & THE MISSILES ACROSS EUROPE

The european elections come at a time when a new mood is sweeping through Europe : the biggest wave of struggles for ten years is now taking place.

As the miners are conducting their bitter struggle against the Tories, a general strike took place in Lorraine against the plans of the Mitterand government to close down the steel mills. In Italy, a million people marched in Rome against the Craxi government attempts to limit the sliding scale of wages.In Germany, a campaign has been launched by IG-Metall, the 2.7 million strong engineering union, for a 35 hour week with no loss of pay. The IG-Metall campaign has meant one day stikes and they are now moving towards longer actions. A similar wave of militancy is taking place in Spain, Belgium and the Netherlands.

A fightback is also taking place across Europe against the militarisation offensive which has led to the siting of Cruise and Trident. This fightback has produced the biggest mass movement since the war, mobilising millions against the nuclear plans of NATO.

For socialists, the fight against the missiles and the worst effects of austerity - unemployment - should be at the centre of any programme for Europe. That is the fight for the 35 hour week with no loss of pay, and the demand for nuclear weapons and American bases to get out of Europe. Leaks of the manifesto which the Labour Party is about to sign with the European Socialist Parties indicate that it does not mention opposition to the missiles, or measures to solve unemployment.

European workers have taken austerity and unemployment for more than ten years and are now fighting back. Socialists should support these struggles and be against the governments, including those of the 'left', who carry out right-wing policies.

In Britain we must turn the forthcoming election into a referendum against the Tories. But austerity and the missiles are issues in the election. We should therefore say that we want a socialist Europe, and that means being against the missiles and NATO, against austerity and the Common Market.

Fred Leplat (Somers Town).

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CAMDEN LABOUR BRIEFING MEETING :

TUESDAY 15th MAY, 8pm
The Cock Tavern, Chalton Street, NW 1

"Socialists and the Common Market"

A discussion introduced by John Harrison, member of the Conference of Socialist Economists, and co-author of the 'British economic disaster'.

There will also be a buisness item on the agenda on the miners strike, the organisation of Camden Labor Briefing, and reports from the London Editorial.