



## 'Socialist Appeal' Tenth Anniversary Special £5,000 Appeal

The editorial board of 'Socialist Appeal' is very proud to announce that this April will be our tenth anniversary and the 100th issue of the 'Appeal'. This marks an important milestone in the development of the Marxist tendency in Britain. Over the past decade, beginning with no resources, we have managed not only to sustain a quality monthly magazine, but have established ourselves as a tendency within the labour movement, and also extended our links internationally.

We have accomplished this important task - despite the ridicule from our opponents - against all the odds and difficulties over the past decade. This has been due fundamentally to the strength and clarity of our ideas, but also to the dedication and sacrifice of our supporters.

The last ten years have been difficult. The collapse of the Soviet Union, the sharp turn to the right of the mass organisations, the low level of class struggle, as well as the ideological offensive by the ruling class, caused widespread disappointment and disorientation amongst the activists. However, the piling up of contradictions nationally and internationally are preparing a massive shift to the left in the next period. We have entered the most disturbed period in history, characterised by wars, revolutions and counter-revolutions. The bombing of former Yugoslavia and Afghanistan are only the beginning as the imperialists, particularly US imperialism, attempts to crush all opposition in the ex-colonial world. We are on the verge of the deepest slump since the war, which will have wide-reaching consequences. The revolutionary crisis gripping Argentina and Indonesia are indications of what is to come elsewhere. Globalisation means mean global crisis and global instability.

The shift to the right in Britain is also reaching its limits with the trade union leaders, under pressure from below, being pushed into opposition to Blairism. The rise in strikes and the opposition over privatisation of the public services reflect the deep-seated discontent in the working class. The election of a series of left-leaning trade union leaders over the past period is also an indication of the radicalisation of the rank and file. The scene is being prepared for a showdown and a profound crisis within the labour movement.

The need for a fighting socialist programme and the development of the Marxist tendency has never been greater. The 'Socialist Appeal' has a vital role to play in the coming period. We therefore need to develop our resources to allow us to intervene more effectively. We have been predicting this new turn in the objective situation for a number of years. The tempo of events has been rather slow, but is now catching up.

Under the circumstances we are making an urgent appeal for £5,000. This will be used to buy important finishing equipment for our print shop and upgrading our computer system. This will allow us to produce more SA supplements, and intervene more effectively in the struggles that are opening up.

As part of the celebration of our tenth anniversary and our 100th issue of 'Socialist Appeal', we are asking our supporters and friends to dig deep and make a contribution towards this special financial appeal. We need your help! Please give generously.

Forward to the future!  
Comradely,

Alan Woods and Ted Grant  
On behalf of the editorial board.

**I would like to give a financial contribution to the special appeal.  
Enclosed is (please tick)**

£10     £20     £50     £100     Other .....

**Make cheques payable to 'Socialist Appeal' and send to Socialist Appeal,  
PO Box 2626, London N1 7SQ.**



New publication!

# History of British Trotskyism

Wellred Publications is proud to announce the publication of a new book by Ted Grant on the history of British Trotskyism. The book will be launched in April. This will coincide with the tenth anniversary of 'Socialist Appeal', as well as Ted Grant's 70 years in the Trotskyist movement. The book is a fascinating account of Ted's experiences in the Trotskyist movement, all the disputes, victories and difficulties. Rob Sewell takes a look at the contents.

There are individuals that make their mark on history. Without doubt, in the field of Marxism, Ted Grant is one of them. Over the last 70 years, particularly in terms of its ideas and their application, he has made a lasting contribution to the Trotskyist movement. Today, he is regarded by many as the foremost Marxist theoretician alive. Since his youth, he has constantly worked, usually under the most difficult circumstances, to develop and build a revolutionary Marxist tendency. Today, Ted remains an active and leading figure within the 'Socialist Appeal' tendency in Britain and the international Marxist current associated with the successful 'In Defence of Marxism' web site, which has attracted growing support internationally.

Ted Grant was born in South Africa, just before the First World War in a place called Germiston, then a suburb of Johannesburg. He was won to Marxism in the late 1920s by a close friend of the family, Ralph (Raff) Lee, six years his senior. Lee had been a member of the South African Communist Party since 1922, but was expelled for 'Trotskyism'. Lee, with others including Ted Grant, had made contact with the international Trotskyist movement in 1929 via the American 'Militant' which had been dispatched to South Africa by the American Trotskyists. "It changed our lives completely", says Ted, "and I started on a political road that spans more than seventy years."

Lee organised a group composed of a handful of people, including Ted Grant, Purdy, Millie Khan, who later became Lee's wife, Raymond Lake, J. Saperstein, Max Basch, as well as Ted's sister Zena. In April 1934, they constituted themselves as the Bolshevik-Leninist League of South Africa.

## Leon Sedov

In September Ted left for Britain with Max Basch. On their journey to Britain, they went to Paris to meet with the French Trotskyists, who had just had entered the French Socialist Party. They met among others, Trotsky's son, Leon Sedov, who was a member of the International Secretariat and coordinator of the work of the International. Sedov discussed a number of things with these enthusiastic young visitors, including the 'French turn' and the situation in France and Britain.

Ever since Ted Grant entered political activity he has actively participated in the Trotskyist movement. On his arrival in Britain in October 1934, he joined the Marxist Group inside the ILP. Within a few years, given the decline of the ILP, he joined the Labour Party. During the war, Ted became the chief theoretician of the Workers International League and then the Revolutionary Communist Party. These early years are fully covered in the book.

With the break up of the

RCP in 1949, Ted once again joined the Labour Party and launched a magazine called 'International Socialist'. The 1950s were extremely difficult years for the Marxist tendency. In 1958, Ted established the 'Socialist Fight', which was the forerunner to the 'Militant', set up in 1964. The patient work of the tendency resulted in the building of the strongest Trotskyist tendency since the Russian Left Opposition.

Unfortunately, the boom of the 1980s and the emptying of the mass organisations adversely affected the leaders of the Militant tendency, who abandoned their past approach and ended up as a sect on the fringes of the movement. It was left up to Ted and a small number of comrades to preserve the real traditions of the past, culminating in the establishment of 'Socialist Appeal'. Ted Grant's contribution has served to preserve the unbroken thread of genuine Trotskyism. This book tells of the life of a Trotskyist pioneer, and will be an inspiration to all.



## Details:

**History of British Trotskyism**  
By Ted Grant  
Approx. 280 pages  
Illustrated

Wellred Publications  
Retail price:  
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