

manipulated into that position by a government hell bent on confrontation with the trade unions, underestimating the degree of fight-back that would be engendered. It must be said at this time that the struggle would not have gone on for as long as it has without the tremendous support we have received from the working class movement as a whole. But also, it must be said that it need not have gone on as long as it has if certain sections of the trade union movement led by bad reactionary leadership had not been dragging their feet or refusing to recognise the importance of ensuring victory for the miners. Much of this attitude stems from notions of self-preservation and interest. Those people must be won.

The trade union and labour movement have suffered many setbacks in the last few years. Apathy has prevailed, but the miners have started to change all that. Many trade union activists and

leaders have been born out of this strike, quelling the doubts many of us had about the commitment and determination, particularly of our young men. These doubts have been proved without foundation by the performance they have put up, equal to any struggles of the past. We have seen many other organisations such as C.N.D., Anti-Apartheid, ethnic minorities, old age pensioners, being able to relate their problems to that of the miners. The miners hold out the hand of solidarity to other sections of workers in dispute, such as the Barking Hospital cleaners who have been on strike longer than the miners themselves. We are all being beaten with the same stick. We must all recognise the significance of the involvement of the miners' wives and women in support groups the length and breadth of the country. Without them, also, the miners would have crumbled.

A victory to the miners will in the very least be an inspiration to the working class as a whole and will cause the Tories to think again of pursuing further attacks on the trade unions and our democratic systems in the shape of the abolition of metropolitan councils, the political levy, the election deposit, privatisation, the assault on the Health Service and welfare state, the social wage, job losses, etc.; the list is endless.

A 50p per week levy paid by every trade unionist would remove the possibility of the Tories starving us back. More commitment by the working class is what is needed to ensure victory. A great man once said about the progress to a socialist society, as, «two steps forward and one step back». Let us ensure that the miners strike of 1984 will be three steps forward to a higher and better society; let us hammer a nail into the coffin of reaction and despair. ●

## IOJ Call for Peace

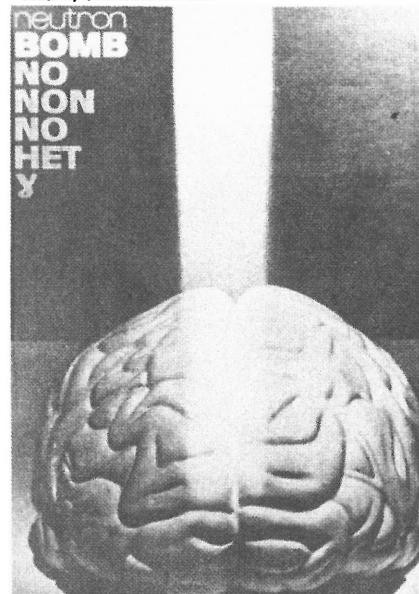
*The 20th session of the Executive Committee of the International Organization of Journalists (IOJ) was held in New Delhi, September 20-23rd. Among those attending was Comrade Bassam Abu Sharif, member of the PFLP's Politbureau, Vice-president in charge of international relations for the Palestinian Writers and Journalists Union, and IOJ Vice-president.*

The main focus of the IOJ Executive Committee session was the struggle for peace. As stated in the main declaration adopted at the session: «...because of the adventurous, militaristic policies of world imperialism, led by the Reagan Administration, a real threat of thermonuclear war now hangs over the world...Imperialism attempts to involve all the new countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America in the arms race, in aggressive blocs. Along with its militaristic policies, imperialism is pursuing a punitive monetarist policy which is responsible for the unprecedented debt crisis in many developing countries, a crisis which has increased the social and economic hardship of hundreds of millions of people around the world. Enormous means and resources that could help solve global problems related to starvation, disease and illiteracy are being senselessly wasted on the arms race instigated by imperialism.

«A substantial element of the present crusade by imperialism is the ever

more reckless use of psychological warfare for which the mass media are being increasingly misused. The press, radio, television and news agencies of West-

- Mišek, Czechoslovakia



ern countries interfere in the internal affairs of sovereign states, causing hostility and mistrust among nations. Their aim is to mask the attempts by the United States government to achieve hegemony, to give the impression that the insane arms race is something normal, that military strength is the only form of policy-making, and that chauvinism and racism are legal in international relations.»

While condemning these imperialist policies, the IOJ expressed support to the peace proposals made by the socialist and developing countries. In particular, it advocated the idea of transforming the Indian Ocean into a region of peace. The declaration stressed the task of democratic and progressive journalists to play an important role in the struggle for peace.

### Call off IFJ meeting in Jerusalem!

At the session, attention was called to the fact that the Brussels-based International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), together with its member organization in 'Israel', is planning to hold a regular meeting of the IFJ Bureau in Jerusalem in November 1984. The IOJ Executive Committee judged that such a meeting would violate the norms and resolutions of the United Nations, and branded the decision as a provocation. In a special resolution, it protested against the flaunting of UN decisions and called on the IFJ not to hold its Bureau meeting in Jerusalem. ●