

*Spiegel:* According to the Bundeskriminalamt this is the group around the former lawyer Siegfried Haag.

*Preuss:* ...are not leftists. There is absolutely nothing political about them; they're desperados...

*Spiegel:* You'll have to watch out that you don't make "Mescalero" look like another Martin Luther King.

*Preuss:* Unless you have bad intentions, you can't conclude from the fact that he says that socialists are not holy men, that he is therefore declaring justified murders to be his program.

But just so that you don't misunderstand me: It is realistic to say that during social revolutions, both technical and political, things happen exactly like they do in street traffic.

*Gerstenberger:* No, Ulrich, don't say that.

*Preuss:* Why not, if it's true? Every revolution brings risks and claims victims, but the difference is whether you can't prevent it, or whether you declare it to be a means which is justified by the ends. And the latter is what "Mescalero" rejects.

## Racial Violence Erupts In Britain

Bloody clashes which erupted last weekend between rival extremist groups and police in the south London slum of Lewisham — largely populated by West Indian immigrants — have set off a wave of self-feeding racial violence in Britain the main target of which is the Callaghan government. The direct initiators of the violence are on the "left" the Socialist Workers Party, the British affiliate of the Fourth International "International Socialist" group of long-time NATO agent Ernest Mandel, and on the "right" the National Front, whose origins are in the British Union of Fascists of the 1930s.

### BRITAIN

The Socialist Workers Party, professing to act under the banner of "ant-fascism" recruited up to 3,000 supporters, including street thugs armed with home-made weapons for a pitched battle against police who were trying to protect a 500-strong National Front march on Aug. 13. A total of 113 police officers were injured in the Lewisham riot, and a few days later another broke out in a depressed working-class area of Birmingham. Scores of civilians were hurt and dozens of rioters arrested. Authorities fear that another violent outbreak will take place next week at the annual Notting Hill carnival — a community cultural event which was the site of race riots last year.

The Socialist Workers Party is also planning to challenge a march by the National Front scheduled for early fall, promising that they will not allow "nazis" to walk the streets of Britain, while the Front has vowed to "defend British free speech from red terrorism."

The race riot scenario has so far conformed to a script outlined in the summer 1976 issue of *Race and Class*, the

official journal of the Transnational Institute, European sister organization of the Washington-based Institute for Policy Studies. The publication editorially "predicted" outbreaks of explicit racialism in Britain, equating this with "creeping fascism."

Pressures for more energetic action against the deliberately provoked violence have been mounting, especially from Conservative circles, but the Government has been reluctant to ban "political" marches for fear of being accused of repressing free speech and possibly alienating Labour Party supporters in the trade unions, where so-called left-wing groups have high credibility.

Labour Cabinet Minister Roy Hattersley, in a television interview following a Parliamentary by-election this week in which the National Front increased its percentage of the vote from 2.9 to 3.0 percent, said that the Front's gains represented a "great horror" and that it was time to stop ignoring the group and start exposing it. However, no action has been announced against the activities of the Institute for Policy Studies-controlled left.

Meanwhile, the press is feeding the violence-ridden atmosphere with analyses of the psychology of extremism and its attraction for "struggling working-class people" who are fed up with economic collapse and joblessness. Setting the stage for future confrontations, the *Sunday Telegraph* noted: "Liverpool and Leicester, Bradford and Birmingham (all large factory towns — ed.) are cities all equally vulnerable." The U.S.'s *Journal of Commerce* reported that the fascist National Front is the "fastest growing political party in Britain," and CIA conduit Bernard Nossiter in the *Washington Post* gave increased credibility to the Socialist Workers Party who he claimed are "bent on revolutionary change."