

Far Left Infiltration

Article in The Guardian Newspaper July 23rd 1981

FOR YEARS EVERY strategic centre of British life has been infiltrated systematically by the far left. The purpose has been to undermine, destabilise, demoralise and, when the conditions are ripe, to take over. Those who have attempted to alert public opinion have been ridiculed and described variously as extremists or cranks.

At last, Britain is being forced, albeit reluctantly, to face some facts. It is known that the riots are being exploited by the far left to attempt to discredit the police and to create social breakdown. Even Shirley Williams and Dennis Healey now publicly admit that the Labour Party has been deeply infiltrated and is at risk of being taken-over by the totalitarian left. Large parts of local government are now in the hands of the far left and the Greater London Council is chaired by an avowed Marxist Leninist. Control over trade unions is being consolidated. Marxist Leninists have assumed the leadership or are about to do so, of a number of trade unions and a recent chairman of the Communist Party of Great Britain has been elected to the Trades Union Council. Other key institutions have been similarly infiltrated - the Civil Service, our schools, universities, and the media.

In a democratic society the electorate is free to elect communists and their allies to Parliament, to trade union leadership or indeed to government. But this is not what has happened in Britain. On the contrary when Communists, sailing under their true colours, have stood in free elections they have been resoundingly rejected.

Their takeover of power has been by stealth and by dissimulation. Indeed, they have followed Lenin's well-known advice that they should adopt the labels but not the convictions which are acceptable to the electorate. So the far left has obtained its position of power by theft.

But the far left is not to blame. A healthy body rejects a virus. It is the unhealthy body that succumbs. The success of the far left has been made possible by the astounding apathy and weakness of the majority. History teaches us that when communities fall under authoritarian or totalitarian rule they do so because of the will of extremist minorities and because of the lack of will of the moderate majority. The majority has traditionally been no more than the carcass on which the extremist minorities have supped.

Britain's leadership since the war has been unwilling to face any hard decision. It has consistently paid danegeld to buy soft solutions. The moderate leadership of the Labour Party accommodated the far left. All it asked for in return was that communists and Marxist/Leninists should change their label and call themselves British socialists. The Cabinet papers show that as far back as 1945, Attlee was aware of the penetration of his Party and of other sectors of British life by communists posing as socialists. Our leaders lacked the courage to speak up because they knew that the nation lacked the courage to listen.