

REPORT from Jeremy Corbyn MP

Parliamentary/House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Tel: 020 7219 3545, fax 2328

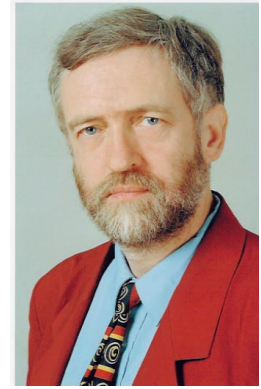
Local/213a Blackstock Rd, London, N5 2LL

Tel 020 7226 5775, fax 020 7219 3775

Email: corbynj@parliament.uk

August/September 2004: numbers 255/6

Website: www.jeremycorbyn.co.uk



This report covers the six week parliamentary recess. I spent part of it doing walkabouts in the constituency in each ward, usually with advanced leaflets which could be displayed in the window if constituents wanted me to call. I am very grateful to Carol Clinton for helping to organize this, and to Catherine West for coming on almost all of them. Local ward activists came on all the local ones.

It is possible to get a good view of the successes, failures and problems within our community. Play centres are too expensive so remain empty whilst children playing on the streets is simply mad. Estates being improved with government money are welcome, but the sell-off of council property and land is short sighted and naïve. Future generations will curse this.

Great news on the transport front, with powers transferred to Transport for London, and Ken's first decision to endorse the East London Line extension. My only concern is when it will happen, and that the option of going to Finsbury Park is not lost.

Internationally the war in Iraq goes on with now, 1000 American dead, tens of thousands of Iraqi dead and a political maelstrom that will poison the world for decades. The events in Russia are appalling and catastrophic, and Putin's response seems ominously similar to Bush's after September 11th three years ago. Unilateral action in contempt of international law will not bring world peace just more deaths.

Tony Blair's environment speech was better received than his TUC address and in part, welcome. However, nuclear power is not the way out of industrial pollution. Conservation, recycling and re-use are better. The local Council said it was replacing Agenda 21 with a local forum. I am still waiting for this as are all the other people who made efforts to ensure that Islington played its local part in the environmental crusade.

Press:

17/08: Radio Oxford on Bush troops

19/08: Press IRN

26/08: French TV on New Labour

09/09: Iranian TV – US elections

PEACE:

05/08: I addressed an Iraq Focus public meeting with Gene Bruskin of US Labor Against the War in Friends House.

15/08: Iraq Occupation Watch (outside Downing St) held a vigil outside Downing St which was well attended.

19/08: Stop the War at Downing St organised the presentation of a letter written by (14 year) old Maxine Gentle and her mother Rose. Their brother, and son, Gordon had been killed in Iraq on the day of the handover. John Prescott received a delegation including myself and it's fair to say he could offer them little consolation for their very tragic loss. Maxine's letter was subsequently printed on the front page of the Independent newspaper.

11/09 & 12/09: CND held their annual conference at City Hall and I was elected national vice Chair and look forward to playing my part in opposing a new generation of nuclear weapons in Britain and ensuring that the Non Proliferation Treaty review next year is effective.

Mr Hiroshi Taka is the Secretary General of Gensuikyo, the Japanese Council against A and H Bobs and I was able to speak with him at the conference.

EUROPEAN SOCIAL FORUM (ESF)

21/07: The ESF will be held in Alexandra Palace from 15th to 17th October. Everyone is welcome and there'll be a huge variety of events, with strong support from Mayor Ken Livingstone and Unison as well as other Unions. I am helping to host a Parliamentary session on 15th October from 10 to 1pm (venue to be decided), to debate accountability of global institutions, and the new European Constitution.

12/09: Pat Evangelou organised a New Orleans Walk Event for the youngsters on the estate, at the community centre.

12/09: I spoke at the Gillespie Festival which is a beautiful park and is now to expand slightly.

CHAGOS:

22/07: At the Royal Courts of Justice the Appeal regarding the Chagos Islander's compensation was turned down.

I also have a meeting planned with Bill Rammell, the relevant minister on 21/08.

28/07: I travelled to Geneva to attend the UN Human Rights Sub Commission where I submitted a paper on the plight of the Chagos Islanders through Liberation (copy attached).

PALESTINE

Ewa Janciewicz was wrongly imprisoned in Israel. I joined the NUJ (National Union of

Journalists) campaign for her release which was ultimately successful and she has now returned to Britain. She has been an active supporter of ISM (International Solidarity Movement) and this was used as a justification for denying her the right to visit as a Journalist.

14/08: I helped set the Peace Cycle Ride off from Hyde Park. They have now reached Greece before heading to the Middle East and finally Jerusalem.

What you can do: - joint Palestine Solidarity Campaign www.palestinecampaign.org

T: 020 7700 6192 F: 020 7609 7779;

info@palestinecampaign.org

- Check out:

http://www.palestinemonitor.org/mustafa/mustafa_articles.htm - a very informative website by Mustafa Bhargouthi.

- Jews for Justice: PO Box 37402, N3 2XG:

jfjusticefp@yahoo.co.uk

- The Tom Hurndall Foundation:

www.tomhurndall.co.uk

PARLIAMENTARY

07/09: Hands off Venezuela Campaign (Portcullis House) held a post referendum meeting in further solidarity with Venezuela.

08/09: Abdul Choudhury accompanied me to meet the former High Commissioner for Bangladesh (Portcullis House)

08/09: I lunched with Louise Arbour of UNHCR (at Lancaster House) along with Bill Rammell (FCO Minister) and Nicole Piche of the APPG on Human Rights.

13/09: The Mexican Foreign Minister, Dr Luis Ernesto Derbez came to speak to a group of MPs, and Nicolette attended in my absence and they discussed ideas to strengthen the relationship between the two countries.

LOCAL

22/07: I attended the Stephen's Ink Estate tenants' meeting with Cllr Adrian Pulham and residents, on the local anti social behavior

issues and the need for better repairs on the estate.

23/07: Catherine West accompanied me to the Factory for the Sure Start Fun Day, and we have cause to celebrate our hard work in ensuring that this government funded child centre goes ahead, no thanks to the Council.

24/07: Liberation's AGM went well with main speakers such as Gareth Pierce speaking on the injustice of the Anti terrorism laws, and Anne Feltham from CAAT (Campaign Against Arms Trade, Finsbury Park based) on the evils of the arms trade. I was re-elected as Chair.

MISC

06/08: I hosted the annual Hiroshima Day Commemoration (Tavistock Square) and was delighted to renew my acquaintance with Rose Hacker, former ILEA and GLC member for Camden who at 98 claims to be the oldest living member of the Labour Party.

Next year is the 60th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and a huge event is being planned in Hiroshima.

16/08: Carnival Del Pueblo. The carnival was massive this year, at Burgess Park, Southwark: the joy and verve of the Latin American Community being celebrated in London.

17/08: I attended part of a Bahrain Seminar (House of Lords) on democracy.

02/09: At St John's, Upper Holloway, 02/09: Reverend Karowel Dorgu and some of the congregation discussed human rights in Sri Lanka and the proposed new law banning religious conversion, which is contrary to UN Human Rights. I agreed to take up the matter with the FCO and Sri Lankan High Commission.

05/09: Burston Strike School Rally in Norfolk. I refer to this in more detail in my Morning Star article in the article section of this report.

09/09: Liz Fekete of the Institute for Race Relations (IRR) organised a reception (Portcullis House) to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their monthly publication: Race and Class. This is an excellent publication which I would recommend subscriptions to. The event was a great show of support for a serious anti-racist and anti-imperialist journal, with an inspired speech from its founder, A Sivaandan.

IRR are contactable at tel 020 7837 0041, info@irr.org.uk

SADLY:

26/07: Ethel de Keyser was cremated at the Golders Green Crematorium. Ethel was a brilliant campaigner for the end of Apartheid and local resident. Her inspiration to exiled South Africans was amazing as was her efficient determination to ensure that BDAF (British Defence and Aid Fund for Southern Africa) worked. I was once a trustee of it. Her funeral was a gathering of all the activists who spent years ensuring apartheid ended.

27/07: One day after we had Ethel's send off, Paul Foot was cremated at the Golders Green Crematorium. Paul was an amazing character. Journalist, wit socialist and campaigner. His funeral was the biggest I have been at for years and my EDM attracted some surprising support. (attached).

18/08: Nellie Cooper was cremated at Islington crematorium. Nellie was one of the three musketeers of Hillrise Ward. An indefatigable activist for Labour and the local community her life read like a history of the struggles of ordinary people in Islington. There was a good turnout from lots of friends for her.

06/09: Bay Hodgson died in August and what a character. An old Etonian, Guards Officer, and cricketer who spent the post army phase of his life supporting Highbury Roundhouse and multiple local causes. Leading the liberation forces into Copenhagen in 1945 to saving

Highbury Roundhouse from sale he always cared for people. His moto was "A risk a day".

Additional Advice Surgeries held this month were:

23/07: Muslim Welfare Centre

10/09: Muslim Welfare Centre

Regular Advice Surgeries take place, mostly on Fridays. THERE ARE NO ADVICE SURGERIES IN AUGUST. The pattern each month is as follows:

1st Fri, 4 - 6 pm (by appointment): Old Fire Station, Mayton Street, N7

2nd Thurs, 10 - 12 noon (walk in): Mildmay Library, 21-23 Mildmay Park, N1

2nd Fri, 10 - 12 noon (walk in): Mayville Community Centre, Woodville Rd, N16

3rd Fri, 4 - 6 pm (walk in): Old Fire Station, Mayton St, N7

4th Fri, 10 - 12 noon (by appointment): Caxton House, 129 St John's Way, N19