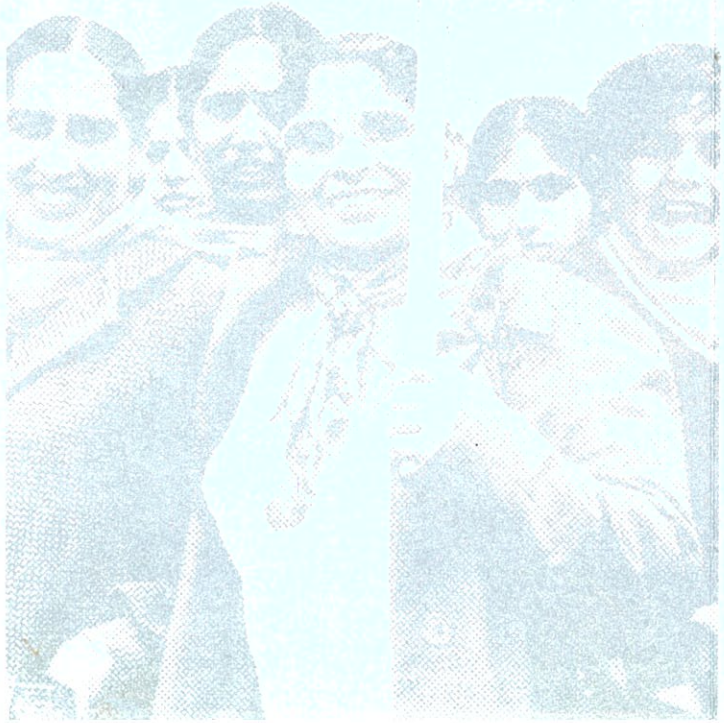
the READ next step

review of the Revolutionary Communist Party

I CHOSE
OUR MEMBERS
WILL NOT
BE
THREATENED



CUT OFF

I WANT TO REGISTER FOR 'PREPARING FOR POWER'

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

Tel.....COUNTRY.....

CRECHE? .....ACCOMODATION NEEDED?.....

£ Enclosed.....

Registration fee:Full conference £12 (£8 unwaged)
Women's course only £5 (£3 unwaged)
Full conference — weekend only £5 (£3 unwaged)
Creche provided free of charge (book in advance).

To register in advance contact:Ann Burton
BM RCP
London
WC1N 3XX
or phone 01 274 3951

WOMEN IN STRUGGLE

PREPARING FOR POWER

SUMMER SCHOOL 13-20 JULY

(1984)

A GUIDE TO SESSIONS ON WOMEN

REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY

INTRODUCTION

It is a hundred years since Engels wrote *The Origin of the Family, Private property and the State.* A century later the debate on the nature of the oppression of women still rages. This discussion is not one of mere academic relevance. The eighties promise to be a decade in which women will face new attacks from the state, the employers and from the establishment's cultural and ideological apparatus. If the seventies was a decade of token reforms the eighties may turn out to be a decade of reaction.

We aim to make sure they don't get it all their own way. To make our resistance effective we need to know what we are up against and to decide what is the best way to fight back.

COMMUNISM, FEMINISM AND WOMEN'S LIBERATION

Communism, Feminism and Women' Liberation is a course organised b Revolutionary Communist women to confront issues that are often trivialised or ignored. The course will focus on questions such as — will women still be oppressed after the revolution? and problems such as — the role of men in the fight for women's liberation. We will also be talking about practical issues — the role of women's groups in the miners' strike and the struggle for the extension of women's rights. This course will run as part of the Revolutionary Communist Party's annual *Preparing for Power* conference — a week long series of discussions and debates around different aspects of working class politics.

Communism, Feminism and Women's Liberation includes the following workshops:

1 **Why are women oppressed?**
Engels linked the oppression of women with the emergence of private property. His analysis continues to provoke controversy — many feminists argue that Engels only skimmed the surface of male domination. *Ann Burton* asks whether the old man got it wrong.

2 **When the working day is done**
What do women do during their leisure time? *Cathy Barrett* explores how women's oppression is reflected in every sphere of social life, 24 hours a day.

3 **Family life and Sexual oppression**
Should communists be anti—family? Should we demand wages for housework? Do we want men to do the washing—up? Women's subjection is most intense in the home. *Ann Burton* explains why.

4 **The roots of sexism**
Where does sexism come from? What gives it substance? *Carol Taggart* asks whether it is just a matter of changing ideas, or is there something more....

5 **The Women's Liberation Movement — has it a future?**
It's nearly 15 years since 1000 women turned up to Britain's first National Women's Liberation Movement Conference in Oxford. Today women's position has changed little but the women's movement no longer holds conferences. Why aren't women fighting — or are they?

Preparing for Power runs from 13 — 20 July every day from 10am to 10pm. The **Communism, Feminism and Women's Liberation** course is scheduled from 2pm — 4pm each weekday, but there are lots of other workshops on women at the weekend and in the evenings too.

Other workshops include:
Women in the labour market
Women's committees in the miners' strike
Women and fascism
Racism and women
Alexandra Kollontai and the Bolshevik Revolution
Sylvia Pankhurst
Eleanor Marx
Women in the Soviet Union
Bourgeois morality and sexual freedom
Censorship and pornography

and you can go to specialist courses on Imperialism, Problems of Everyday Life, Ireland, Marxist Economics and Problems of the British Revolution.