Hear...

Ernest Mandel

Lecture tour by renowned Marxist economist

Ernest Mandel, the internationally-known Marxist economist and member of the Fourth International will tour Australia from September 11 through to September 29. He will address public meetings in Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide and Melbourne on the topic Can Capitalism Survive? The Contradictions of Post-War Capitalism and the Prospects for the Capitalist System Today. As well he will address university meetings on the topics What is the Soviet Union and Where is it Going? and The New Rise of Worker Struggles in Europe.

Mandel's tour is co-sponsored by the Communist League and the Socialist Workers League and the Socialist Youth Alliance, Australian sympathetic organisations of the Fourth International.

The tour will break the ban placed on Mandel by the Gnom Government in May 1970. That ban was imposed after Mandel applied for a visa to allow him to attend the Socialist Scholars Conference scheduled for that month. While no official statement was made giving the reasons for the ban, Philip Lynch, the Minister for Immigration, replied to a question in Parliament, implied that Mandel would threaten the "national security" and that he should therefore be excluded. It was noted that the Government had acted on advice received from AIDC.

Mandel is recognised by friend and foe alike as the foremost Marxist economist of our time. His most important work, the two volume Marxist Economic Theory (1962) has received widespread acclaim. This work appeared as the only attempt in the post-war period to bring up to date using the latest empirical data the theory Marx elaborated a century ago.

Mandel is the editor of the weekly newspaper of the Belgian section of the Fourth International, La Vague, and a leading delegate of the Fourth International. During World War II as a young underground revolutionary active in Belgium, he was arrested several times by the Nazis for his activities. He was condemned to hard labor and deported to Germany in 1945.

During the May 1968 revolt in France, Mandel spoke on the barricades in Paris to 5000 assembly millhands. His address was the high point of his gathering and was reported widely in the press. He was also one of the most strongly critical of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia and became well-known for his articles analyzing this event.

Among Mandel's other works are: The Formation of the Economic Thought of Karl Marx; Europe versus America: An Introduction to Marxist Economic Theory; The Leninist Theory of Organization; and The Decline of the Dollar.

Mandel's visit will take place in a context of deepening economic crises in the world and in Australia. In this sense the time is timely. Mandel has demonstrated his ability to analyze and predict the important developments in the world economy in a way which has been unplanned. His lectures set a mark for anyone attempting to come grips with the realities of the capitalist system today.

(Tour sponsored by: Communist League, PO Box 16, Westgate, 2048.
Socialist Workers League & Socialist Youth Alliance, PO Box 160, Glebe, 2037.)