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COMMUNISM IN CRISIS IN BRITAIN AND ABROAD,
1931-1979

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Explore the communist movement between...

...international conflicts and domestic crises

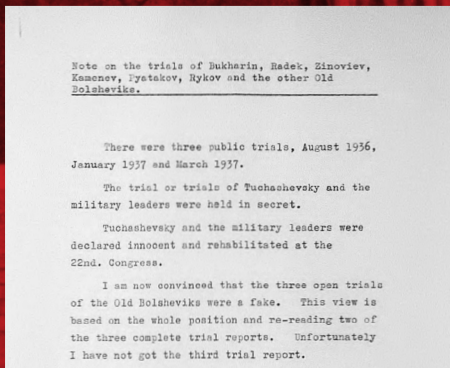
British Online Archives updated collection, **Communism in Crisis in Britain and Abroad, 1931-1979** is drawn from the personal papers of John Gollan, a communist activist who served as General Secretary of the Communist Party of Great Britain (CPGB) from 1956 to 1976.



This collection is one of many CPGB resources hosted on the British Online Archives website.

Gollan was born in 1911 to working-class parents and his political motivations began from an early age.

He joined the CPGB at the time of the General Strike of 1926 and became increasingly involved in the fractious politics of the 1930s. The material from this era shows his anti-militarism and involvement in the Young Communist League.



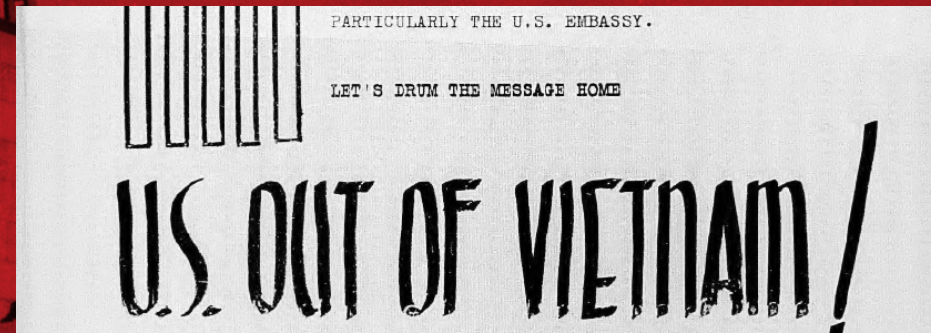
The collection contains over 8500 unique images.

Gollan's role as General Secretary is remembered as one fraught with adversity, as Soviet interventions in Hungary (1956) and Czechoslovakia (1968) caused fractures in the international communist movement and left the CPGB scrambling to justify Soviet actions.

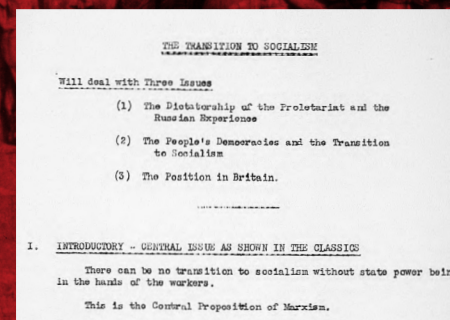
The collections wide range of reports, correspondence, and articles document the depth of crisis for the CPGB, as it's apologist attitude to the Soviet Union's authoritarianism severely damaged its reputation in Britain.

Overall, the collection offers an insight into the firefighting efforts of Gollan and his peers as the first cracks began to show in the solidity of the international communist movement.

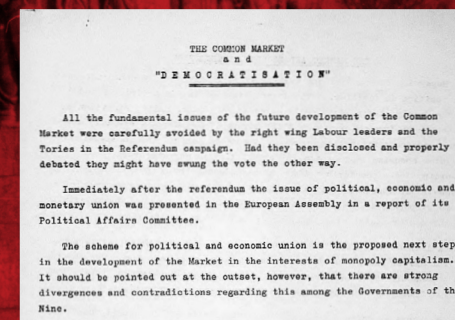
Sources include: Archive Trust of the Communist Party of Great Britain



International events in the collection are not just limited to Eastern Europe but also cover the Vietnam War and acrimonious splits between the Soviet Union, China, and Yugoslavia.



An avid writer and theoretician, the collection contains a range of Gollan's musings on Trotskyism, the transition to socialism, and ongoing domestic politics in Britain.



During his tenure, Gollan also wrestled with the issues of affiliation with the Labour Party and the Britain's entry into the European Economic Community

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