

Dear Socialist Worker,

Next time you send me somewhere please send me somewhere a little further away. Tristan da Cunha is my preference. I wouldn't feel so bad if you missed out the latest reports on the islands potato harvest.

Also I wouldn't stay up till 3.30 on Monday morning and get up a few hours later to get Telex messages through which aren't even scheduled to arrive that week. The last three telexes cost me about £14.

On Tristan da Cunha I could gladly put my reports in bottles and not worry. The tides, winds and currents are beyond my control. And on Tristan da Cunha I wouldn't hear rumours that RED WEEKLY is interested in having reports from Lisbon. And I wouldn't be apologising to the PRP saying that we are still serious about Portugal.

If people in Britain are no longer interested in Portugal it does not mean we can drop the subject. We are not just reporters but organisers. We have to maintain a crusade, that which we started some time ago, so that people, even if it is only a few, will buy the paper because of its inside coverage on Portugal.

We have to tie the news in with organising support. That means we want a section in every week which reports one specific struggle and appeals to one group to take up links. And we need to be honest in the paper about the humble difficulties in building links.

If necessary, the reports from Lisbon have to be gone over carefully and restyled and rewritten. And let me know how you want me to rewrite them. This takes time and thought, and not last minute rush.

By next week there will only be seven weeks to the next rank and file trip here. Seven weeks public notice is not enough notice for people even if they were thinking about coming over. So the paper is going to have to carry some major reporting and coming right up to MAYDAY, and also adjust to the fact that we are excluding people with any degree of commitments.