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DEMOCRATIC CENTRALISM DURING THE  
COLD WAR, 1943-1991

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## Study British communism from party discipline...

## ...to loyalty to the Soviet Union during the Cold War

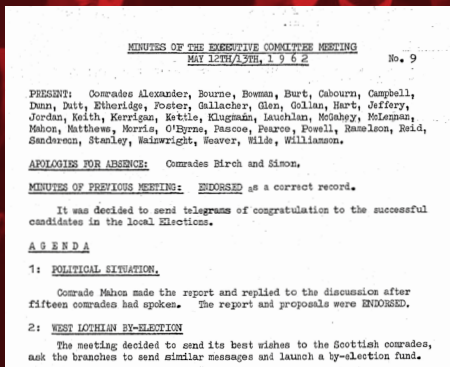
British Online Archives updated collection, *Democratic Centralism during the Cold War, 1943-1991* is drawn from the papers of the Communist Party of Great Britain's (CPGB)'s ruling Executive Committee (EC).

The Executive Committee met on a bi-monthly basis to carry out decisions made at the annual National Congress.



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

Although formally subordinate to Congress according to the CPGB constitution, the Executive Committee, through its appointment of committee members and enforcement of democratic centralism, operated the internal apparatus of the party machine and dealt with dissenting members in no uncertain terms.



The collection contains over 28,000 unique images.

Content from meetings of the Executive Committee largely include official minutes and agendas, handwritten personal notes by attending individuals, and reports delivered to the EC on various important topics.

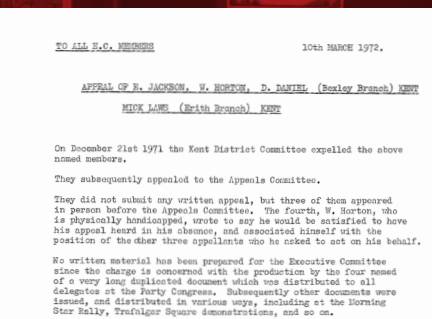
As such, the collection offers insights into everything from Cold War tensions and decolonisation, to internal power struggles and the expulsion of CPGB members.

EC September 10/11 1983

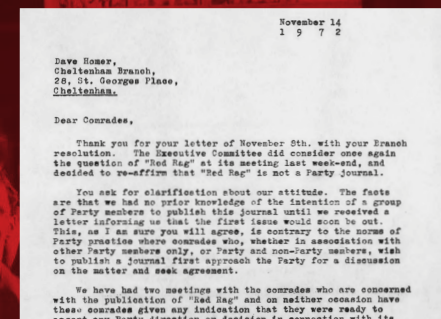
### CAMPAIGN AGAINST CRUISE

In the next few weeks and months a great mobilisation of millions of people against the siting of Cruise missiles needs to take place. A high point of this mobilisation will be the October 22nd demonstration in London, organised by the CND. The Communist Party will make every effort to ensure that this event is the biggest demonstration against Cruise, for peace and disarmament. Those taking part will not only be showing the opposition to the siting of Cruise missiles in this country. They will be part of a great international movement that includes the other countries in which the US controlled Cruise and Pershing II are to be sited - Holland, Italy, West Germany and Belgium.

The collection is set against the backdrop of the Cold War and featured material shows the stances and political maneuvering the Executive Committee made in light of ongoing developments between the Soviet Union and the West.



As one of the highest organs of the CPGB, the Executive Committee was the site of ongoing battles between various factions within the party.



A range of correspondence shows passionate and fraught disputes over the direction of the party and its stance on various issues.

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'According to the party rules adopted in 1943... the Executive Committee (EC) ...exercised "full responsibility for the direction and control of the Party's work" including control of the party press, publications and other enterprises.'

— Professor Kevin Morgan

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