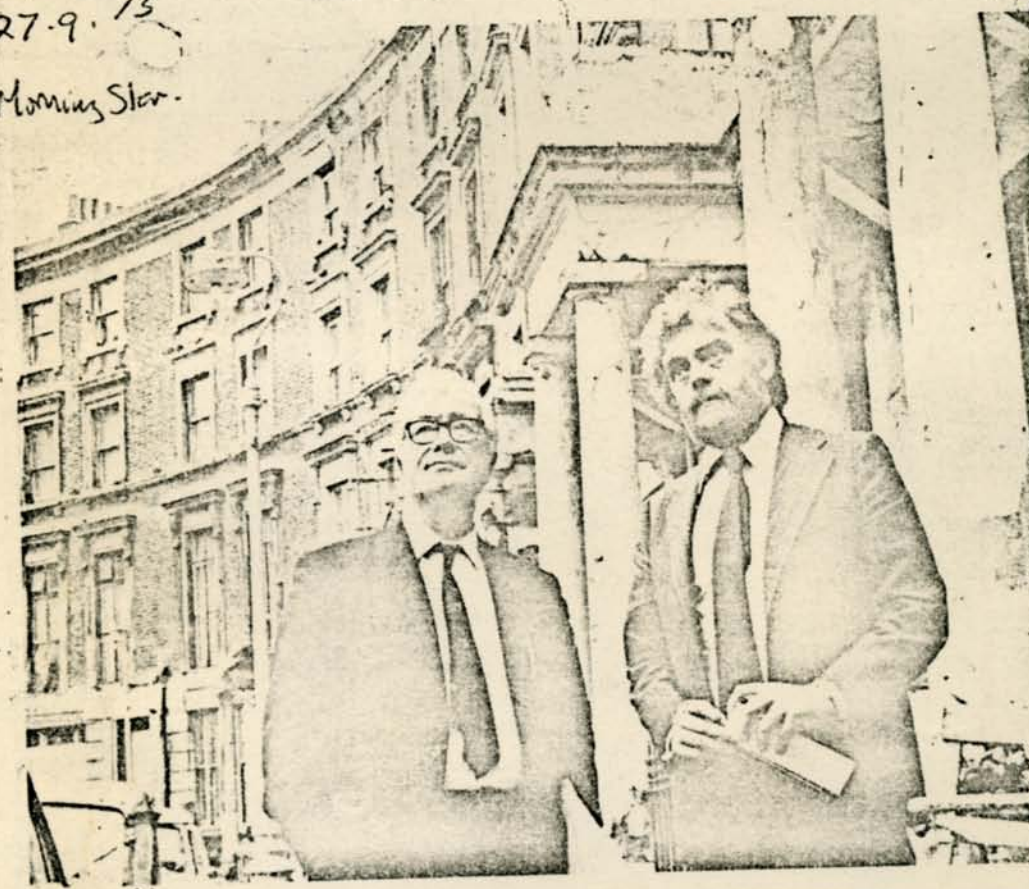


Tenants fight council's £20m deal with site developer

Morning Star Reporter

CAMDEN (LONDON) COUNCIL'S planning committee has agreed a deal worth £20 million to property developer Mr. Joe Levy of the Stock Conversion and Investment Trust.

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Camden councillor Mr. Paddy O'Connor (left) and Mr. Illyd Harrington, deputy leader of Greater London Council, on the threatened site yesterday.

And the furious residents of the Tolmers Square area, who face the loss of their homes under the deal, are demanding that it be stopped.

With the support of MPs, a Greater London Council member and trade union leaders, their protests have resulted in a decision by some Labour members of the council to move that the decision be referred back to the committee by the full council.

And the Hampstead and St Pancras North Labour Party has delivered a sharp rebuke to the council's Labour majority.

The council's legal officers are checking whether the council meeting—on October 10—must have to consider the whole issue in private session because of a writ served on the council by journalist Nicholas Tomalin.

'Against interests'

Mr. Tomalin seeks a High Court declaration that to go ahead with the Levy deal would be against the interests of the ratepayers.

If the writ is withdrawn the council debate can go on in public.

Another redevelopment scheme exactly the same as the Levy deal in content but which would have given all the profits to Camden has been rejected by the council.

Among those opposing the Levy deal are Mr. Reg Freeson, opposition spokesman in Parliament on housing and construction, and Mr. Illyd Harrington, deputy leader of the Greater London Council.

Others who have signified support for the Stop the Levy Deal Committee include rail union general secretaries Sir Sydney Greene (NUR) and Mr. Ray Buckton (ASLEF), and white-collar workers' union leader Mr. Clive Jenkins.