

NORWAY COMMUNISTS CELEBRATE TENTH ANNIVERSARY

INTERNATIONALIST RALLY IN OSLO.

In February 1973 the Workers Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist) of Norway (AKP(ML)) was founded. In the ten years since then the party has grown and prospered. Through its daily newspaper, Klassekampen (Class Struggle) the AKP has become known throughout Norway as a militant fighter for independence and socialism. In the world as a whole the AKP is looked upon as one of the strongest European parties in the new Communist movement which grew out of the struggle against modern revisionism and the imperialism of the Soviet Union in the late 60s.

It is to this tradition that the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain is proud to belong, and we were therefore delighted to be able to send a representative of our Central Committee to the AKP's birthday celebrations. The highpoint of these celebrations was a concert in Oslo on February 18th. Over 1700 members and supporters of the Norwegian Party packed into the Oslo Concert Hall for an evening of progressive music and song. After a video showing ten years' work of the AKP the first of many acts was introduced. These included folk groups, rock bands (such as the 'Bygg Band'), a comedian and theatre groups. They came from all over Norway, and this and the enthusiasm of the audience attested to the widespread support for the AKP and its work.

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

Our movement is an international movement, and it was a reflection of this that parties and organisations from many countries were present at the rally. As well as the RCLB there were

representatives from the Party of Labour of Belgium, the Communist Workers' Party of Denmark, the Independent and Revolutionary Workers' Movement of Columbia, the Communist Party of Bolivia (Marxist-Leninist), the ELF and EPLF from Eritrea, the Communist League of Iceland, the Communist Party of China, Sinn Fein, Communists from Turkey and the Afghan Mujahid Freedom Fighters' Front.



It was the Afghan comrade who spoke, on behalf of all the foreign delegations in thanks and tribute to the AKP. He also spoke of the situation in his country faced with a Soviet oppressor, and in response to this the meeting collected over £3,000 for the Afghan resistance - enough as the meeting heard to buy two Kaloshnikov rifles!

'RISEN FROM THE GRAVE!'

In his keynote speech at the meeting, Comrade Paal Steigan, chairman of the AKP, summed up the party's ten year history. He pointed out how Norway had been affected by the work of the party - in its struggles

among the workers for social justice, its support - at times dangerous - for Norway's national independence, and its support for the national rights of the Sami ('Lapp') people of the North. He referred too, to the AKP's record in international solidarity, with Afghanistan, Poland, Palestine and other anti-imperialist struggles.

In common with many other Marxist-Leninist parties and organisations, the AKP has had its difficulties in recent years. In trying to overcome an ever dogmatic and rigid form of organisation some of its comrades have become despondent, or wished to submerge the party in the mass movement. According to Comrade Steigan the bourgeoisie has pronounced them dead on several occasions.

Yet they are still there - with their daily paper, working in the factories and mass movements, contesting (this year) over 60 seats in the local elections. Through struggle they have overcome the problems to which a number of other parties have succumbed. Quite a record for a corpse!

On February 18th in Oslo nobody could doubt that the AKP(ML) along with the other parties and organisations of the revolutionary communist movement, was the voice of the future - the voice of the people of the world striving for independence and social justice. We salute the Communists of Norway, and join with them in the world-wide struggle against imperialism and oppression!

Til rydning for vart samfunnshjem
Vi intet har, men alt vi evner.

(The earth shall rise on new foundations,
We have been naught. We shall be all.)