

CLASS STRUGGLE ★

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LABOUR 'LEFT' COVER CALLAGHAN



The end of the Blackpool Conference saw Labour singing the bosses' tune louder than ever.

When the Labour Party conference met, the chief concern of the majority of delegates was to revive the image of the party in the eyes of the working class. An election is in the air, and the record of Wilson, Callaghan and Co. of systematically attacking wages and living standards has opened the eyes of even more workers to the anti-working class nature of the Labour Party. So, in a desperate attempt to re-create illusions that Labour is capable of changing, the delegates jumped on the bandwagon of mass opposition to the 5% limit. The mass of workers undoubtedly rejoiced at the embarrassment this gave to Callaghan, Healey and Foot, who wriggled and squirmed to paper over the cracks in their policy. But what did this 'opposition', under the catchphrase of 'free collective bargaining', really amount to? It was certainly not inspired by socialist opposition to capitalism making the working class pay for the crisis.

FREE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING NOT A MILITANT WORKING CLASS SLOGAN

Throughout the conference debate on the Waver-tree (Liverpool) resolution which 'totally rejected' the Government's pay policy, the delegates did not once mention the interest of the working class. In failing to do this the so-called Labour 'left' accepted all the lies of the Government to justify the 5% limit. Nobody argued against the myth that inflation is caused by high wage increases. Sensing this basic support, Callaghan, Foot and Co. were able to dress themselves up as the champions of socialist planning and those who argued for 'free collective bargaining' as the wreckers. What is more, the so-called Labour 'lefties' did not even deny the assertion that Labour's management of capitalism is 'socialist planning'. All they could offer in opposition is that until there is a total

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SUPPORT FOR FORD STRIKE SPREADS TO EUROPE

The following resolution was unanimously passed at a meeting in Cologne (Köln) of the Vertrauensleute (union representatives, similar to shop stewards) of the IGM (metal workers union, to which the Ford workers belong) which was attended by more than 300:

"To the strike committee of the British Ford workers!

The Vertrauensleute assembly of the IGM Köln declares its solidarity with your struggle for a minimum £20 increase on the week, for a 35-hour week and for your other just claims, and against the 5% wage guideline of the state. We, in West Germany, also approach hard disputes on wage rises, reduction of working hours and other matters. Your strike is a big encouragement for us. In the common interest of the workers of all countries we wish you all success and the full accomplishment of your claims."

The Ford workers' strike which swept aside Callaghan's decree of a 5% limit is winning support from Ford workers on the continent. A meeting of Ford trade union leaders from all over Europe has taken place. The Chairman of the Shop Stewards Committee at the Dagenham body plant stated: "The purpose of the meeting is to liase with a view to stepping up international pressure on the company." This is excellent and it reflects the class solidarity of Ford workers throughout Europe. The arrogant Ford bosses must be really reeling under the pressure of united class action.

ATTEMPT TO BREAK STRIKE FOILED

At Hull, Southampton and Liverpool, dockers are blacking all Ford cars and parts - both import and export. The Ford bosses attempted to get round this by delivering a few hundred cars to Northern

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take-over of industry by the capitalist state, through more nationalization programmes, there should be 'free collective bargaining'. Just what kind of opposition to the 'Government's economic strategy' is it that fails to uphold the workers' class struggle against state bosses? The very policies of the Labour Government since 1974 have been systematic state intervention. And what has it brought the working class? More socialism? No! It has accelerated the rationalization of capitalist industry and the growth in factory closures and redundancies which go with it. This is certainly 'planning' of a kind for the capitalist economy. But it is not socialism. The assumption which both 'left' and right in the Labour Party make, is that planning on its own is socialism. This is nonsense. Before the working class can reorganize production according to a socialist plan, it must first hold state power which can only be won by revolutionary means. When the working class firmly holds state power, it can then plan a socialist economy which includes the planning of wages.

SUPPORT FOR FORD STRIKE

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Ireland and importing them into Britain via the Liverpool ferry. They first tried a test case of shipping six cars. When they arrived at the Liverpool docks, dockers refused to unload them. Furthermore, when the ferry returned to Northern Ireland they were blacked there too. The six cars remain stuck on the Liverpool ferry.

Fords UK is paralysed. In turn it is affecting the supply of parts to Ford production lines on the continent. A small plant of 1600 workers in Enfield London which supplies gauge clusters for cars built in Britain, Germany, Belgium and Spain has struck. The convenor has a "hot line" to trade union leaders on the continent who are co-operating to stop components coming from alternative supplies.



Meeting of Ford Halewood workers where they unanimously voted to continue their strike.

FORD BOSSES WANT 'NO STRIKE' CLAUSE

Meanwhile, Ford UK made a 'dramatic' announcement that they were not going to stick to 5% and wanted negotiations in conditions of 'free collective bargaining'. The Ford negotiators hurried to the negotiating table only to be faced with the equally insulting offer of 7.8% to 8.7%. For this promise of such a princely sum, the Ford bosses wanted an immediate return to work. The negotiators knew this would be turned down flat by the Ford workers, so the talks broke down. Determined struggle is clearly the only course for winning the Ford workers' just wage claim.

Fords have declared with honey on their lips that they "are not looking for speed-ups or cut-backs. We are just looking for help in tackling stoppages and restrictive practices." For Fords this means that they are going for a general ban on strikes to be written into an agreement. The opportunist trade union leaders have sold out the Ford workers' right to strike before. They must not be allowed to do it again.

Far from threatening the power of the capitalist class and state, the Labour Government's effective co-operation with the TUC in holding down wages has ensured massive profits for the monopoly bosses. So much so, that the 'Financial Times' looks upon the Tory opposition to Callaghan as 'rocking the boat' at the present time. The answer to these attacks on the working class is not to voice some general principle of 'free collective bargaining' but to take up the militant slogan of resistance, 'We won't pay for capitalism's crisis'.

LABOUR AN IMPERIALIST PARTY

The young Labour Party member who proposed the Wavertree motion rejecting the Government's 'pay policy', was given star billing in TV news reports. He was supposed to be the epitome of 'left' wing militancy and 'socialist vision' at the grassroots of the Party. But whatever the good intentions and genuine feelings for the working class he may have had, his membership of the present ruling party of British imperialism amounts to basic support for capitalism. The bright-eyed youth of the Labour Party along with the older labour 'lefties' reduce working class militancy to mere economic struggles around wages and other economic reforms of the system. In criticizing the Labour Government, they restrict it to wages policy. The fact that Labour, as the ruling party, is governing the whole economic and political system of British imperialism is ignored. But Labour's whole economic policy cannot be divorced from the interests of British imperialism.

SANCTION BUSTING HYPOCRISY

The recent exposure of the fraud of economic sanctions against the Rhodesian Smith regime made public in the Bingham report, produced a wave of righteous indignation from the delegates. When the same exposures were made by President Kaunda of Zambia ten years ago they said hardly a word. Then, they glossed over it in silence. Now, when it cannot be denied, the Labour Government is falling over itself trying to re-assure the black African states. A full enquiry was demanded by delegates, but the imperialist motives behind such a gesture were made clear in a contribution by a Mr. Ross who said... 'Throughout black Africa our (imperialist Britain's) reputation depends' on not sweeping the Bingham report under the carpet. Clearly Ross is as afraid as Callaghan of the anger felt by black African leaders, who may take action against the monopoly companies concerned.

EXPOSE LABOUR POSTURING

The Labour Party is making some militant noises to cover up its treachery to the working class. Its ability to do this is another reason why it is the best bosses' party. But class conscious workers must drive home exposure of the Labour Party until it really hurts. We can have no illusions: Labour and Tory are two wings of a single bird of prey - capitalism.



CALLAGHAN'S LIES UNCHALLENGED

The lie used by the bosses, that wage increases cause inflation, still has plenty of life in it yet - if we believe all that we hear at the Labour Party Conference. On the right wing of the party, Mike Thomas, MP for Newcastle-upon-Tyne East, said that no one believed any more that wages did not affect prices. "If anyone in this hall still believes that...they are not living in the real world" (applause). Indeed, it didn't appear that there was anyone who disagreed with him, despite the fact that his resolution supporting the government's pay policy was defeated. Whereas the Labour right say quite openly that wage increases cause inflation, the labour "left" seem to say "that may be, but that's not our problem". No one, from the numerous trade union leaders to the poorly-disguised trotskysts, challenged this lie.

The result of higher wages for workers is that the amount of profit taken by the capitalists will be reduced proportionally. Just as Labour's pay controls have enabled the bosses to increase their profits since 1974. The example of Fords illustrates this point. While Ford workers have had their pay increases limited each year, the Ford Bosses' profits have shot up from £8 millions in 1974, to £246 millions in 1977.

The reason that the Labour Party as a whole persists with this bourgeois lie is that Labour is a capitalist (bourgeois) party. Furthermore, it is the best bosses' party. Because only Labour and the TUC traitors were capable of fooling some workers, and sabotaging the struggles of others, to ensure that the social-contract wage cuts could succeed for three years. The advantage that the bosses have with a Labour Government rather than a Tory Government, is that Labour hide behind the mask of being a workers' party whilst cutting wages. Militant speeches from "leftwingers" at the Conference, opposing the bosses, only put fresh paint on this mask. But their failure to expose the bosses' lies shows the real class nature of their politics.

BETHNAL GREEN HOSPITAL-Campaign Sharpens

The campaign to keep the casualty department at Bethnal Green Hospital in East London (reported in CS) stepped up when on Friday October 6th, supporters blocked the main road outside the hospital during rush hour. They took this action to draw attention to their cause - now intensified when it was discovered that the DHSS plans to close the whole hospital completely in four years time. In a working class area like Bethnal Green with much old and damp housing and poverty caused by unemployment and low wages, such a plan can only mean more deaths. The local people have shown great determination to thwart the DHSS's plans - after all, it's their lives that are at stake.

The human barrier across the road was kept up for 15 minutes and many motorists were sympathetic after they read the leaflets. Except for a driver of a huge juggernaut lorry of the Metal Box Company. He raced his truck right up to the campaign supporters, braked and accelerated away with inches to spare. Such an anti-working class action should be condemned by the driver's workmates at Metal Box.

The National Front again showed their true colours by standing by and jeering and urging other drivers to break through. Previously two NF members had taken part in the campaign and given time to the 24-hour occupation of the casualty department. But their racist ideas stopped any black or Asian workers taking part. They won over some other campaign supporters who were racist and then they all withdrew from the campaign. It shows that racism runs against the interests of the working class, and that the NF is incapable of uniting with the workers' just struggles.

A WORKER'S NOTEBOOK

THE DISCOVERY OF A HIDDEN CAMERA AND MICROPHONES IN A Hartlepool pub again knocked the lid off widespread police spying in Britain. A spokesman for the National Council for Civil Liberties has said that to their knowledge around 1,300 telephones are being tapped, mail is being intercepted at 6,100 addresses and close closed circuit cameras in London streets are being used to watch people rather than traffic. A reporter who accidentally walked into a room at the TUC conference says she saw five detectives watching delegates through a two-way mirror. While the State would like us to believe that these activities fight crime, it is clear that this systematic surveillance is a feature of increased police repression of the working masses and undermining of democratic rights. The police force is not neutral. It is an arm of the British capitalist state and its activities are aimed at protecting the rule of a handful of big monopoly capitalists.

IN MARCH, THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY RECEIVED A REPORT it had commissioned from the Science Policy Study Group at Sussex University. The report forecasts that micro-electronics will put four to five million people out of work before 1990. Whatever the ins-and-outs of the report, it is clear that only in a socialist society can technical innovations serve to release the productive forces and the wealth shared. Under capitalism, however, where production for profit rules, they spell unemployment. Only through revolution and the reorganisation of production according to a socialist plan can we make science serve the people.

5,000 POLICEMEN - ABOUT A QUARTER OF THE WHOLE LONDON force - protected a march organised by the fascist National Front on Sunday October 1st. The procession was led by 30 police horses, followed by 100 policemen in spearhead formation. A black South African, visiting Britain with his family, said afterwards, "We realised that we had just witnessed the march of the National Front made secure and prestigious by the State. Back home in South Africa, for all the excesses of British colonialism, I had learnt to look on Britain as a protector and upholder of justice. I had compared the mindless behaviour of our police with all I had heard about the sympathetic efficiency of the British police. What had I seen in London on a single day? Police protecting the racist, abusive group in a ceremonious manner, and subjecting anti-Nazi demonstrators who were not even shouting slogans, to brutal bullying."

IRISH PRISONERS HELD IN GAOLS SCATTERED THROUGHOUT Britain are subject to the most repressive prison regime. They are all in Category A and that means: no education or recreation facilities; they are always accompanied by two prison officers; and all visits are closed or screened. Prisoners Aid Committee News has reported that recent figures from the Home Office show that "...out of a prisoner population of 40,000 only 85 prisoners have closed visits. Seventy-one of these are Republicans". Also these prisoners have been put into solitary confinement at the whim of prison governors who, under rule 43, can subject prisoners to indefinite periods of solitary confinement. Some prisoners have been there for over 2 years. And 4 Irish prisoners actually have died in British gaols since 1974!

This most repressive treatment of Irish prisoners should be exposed and fought. British workers must let the Government and capitalist state know that they do not support their special oppression of Irish people and prisoners.

BERYL HUFFINLEY, SECRETARY OF LEEDS TRADE COUNCIL HAS been fined £40 for organising and leading the Leeds' May Day march during a ban on political processions under the Public Order Act. This Act was brought in by the state in the nineteen thirties to try and short circuit working class opposition to Mosley's blackshirts. By putting an "impartial" ban on political demonstrations it tried to create the illusion that the state is neutral. But its first intention has always been to prohibit working class demonstrations. It is clear that there isn't one ounce of anti-fascism in blanket bans on demonstrations supposedly imposed to stop fascists marching.



THE PARTY MUST BE A VANGUARD PARTY

This is the second of a series of articles, which will deal with certain key aspects of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought concerning the party of the working class. The series will contain about a dozen articles. The first one, titled "The Vanguard Party needs the Most Advanced Theory" was printed in the previous issue.

In the article "The Vanguard Party Needs the Most Advanced Theory", published in the last issue of "Class Struggle", it was shown how Marx and Engels laid the basis of scientific socialism, and how Lenin, Stalin and Mao Tsetung summed up the historical lessons of the international communist movement. This analysis and experience has created a body of "theory" - Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought - which is a powerful weapon in the hands of the working class. This theory must be applied to the actual situation in Britain, and be used to guide our communist activity.

One of the most important lessons is that the socialist revolution has only made progress and succeeded when it has been led by a Vanguard Party.

OPPOSE THE SUPPRESSION OF TERRORISM ACT

A new law has recently been passed that strengthens the powers of the State against the working class. This is the Suppression of Terrorism Act. Needless to say it passed through Parliament without a word of opposition from MP's, Labour and Tory alike. It is part of a deal between various European States which will make it no longer possible for anyone to get political asylum to stop them being extradited; it also makes it possible for a person to be tried in one country on charges brought by another country in Europe.

Like the Prevention of Terrorism Act, the Suppression of Terrorism Act empowers the monopoly capitalist class to clamp down on any who oppose their interests. In particular it hits at the international solidarity of the working class in Europe, and must be opposed by all class conscious workers. For example, Ford workers in Belgium or Germany wishing to support Ford workers in Britain could find themselves up against this new pact. Of all the countries in the Council of Europe, so far only Malta and the Republic of Ireland have refused to sign the Convention of the Suppression of Terrorism.

ASTRID PROLL FIGHTS EXTRADITION

One person already fighting extradition who could be the first victim of the new law is Astrid Proll, the German woman who was arrested in London in September. When she was originally arrested in West Germany she suffered severe ill-treatment, and rightly fears for her life if she is sent back. She was in prison for

Lenin and the Bolsheviks in Russia established the principles of the only kind of party capable of leading the proletariat, the working class, to political power. Experience has proved that only a disciplined party composed of the most revolutionary and class conscious members of the proletariat can lead the struggle for working class state power and socialism.

Throughout history classes have won and held on to power led by groups and individuals who have seen the best way forward. Today class, and sections of classes are represented by political parties. The working class too needs its own party. A party that stands for the interests of the proletariat. That party must be a party of leaders of the working class, a party of the most far sighted class consci-

"The Communists are on the one hand, practically, the most advanced and resolute section ... that section which pushes forward all others; on the other hand, theoretically they have over the great mass of the proletariat the advantage of clearly understanding the line of march, the conditions, and the ultimate general results of the proletarian movement." from Marx and Engels in the 'Manifesto of the Communist Party'.

nearly three years without being brought to trial. During some of that time she was subjected to sensory deprivation, which is a particularly refined form of torture which leaves no marks. She was held in a white painted cell that was completely soundproofed and cut off from the rest of the prison; there was no window and the light was on 24 hours a day; she was not allowed to talk with anyone or see anyone or have any diversions to occupy her mind or hands. Within a few months she developed a disease of the blood circulation and had to be taken to a hospital to stop her dying.

HER FIGHT IS JUST

It is alleged that she was a member of the Red Army Faction, a terrorist group that has nothing to do with socialism, and whose elitist terrorism gives the West German State an excuse for strengthening its powers against the working class. All communists firmly oppose terrorism which is divorced from the masses. But opposition to terrorism cannot be allowed to justify State terror of which Astrid Proll is a victim. Opposition by all class conscious workers to her extradition is important because it hits this oppression by the German capitalist State under the cloak of anti-terrorism, and builds unity with the German working class.

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Y WITH DEEP ROOTS IN THE WORKING CLASS

ous workers, a party that grasps theory and applies it to lead the proletariat forward. Every army needs a general staff. The party is the general staff of the proletariat.

REVISIONISTS UNDERMINE LEADING ROLE OF VANGUARD PARTY

The vanguard party must be a party of leaders of the working class. This contrasts with the revisionist (sham communist) CPGB which encourages membership on a casual uncommitted basis. This is particularly the case since the adoption of the British Road to Socialism and the closure of most of its factory branches. Their organization is now aimed mainly at gaining Parliamentary success not leading the workers' class struggle in the factories and throughout society. To the extent that they voice demands of the working class, they pursue them through Parliamentary "reforms". Furthermore, the revisionists raise the workers' trade union and economic struggle above the political struggle which they leave to Labour MP's in Parliament. This is all part of robbing the working class of leadership and helping the bourgeois (capitalist) Labour Party to maintain its position. A genuine revolutionary communist party puts leadership and political education of the working class in the struggle for state power first.

COMMUNISTS MUST BE PART OF THE MASSES

It is wrong to belittle the leading role of communists. However, revolutionary communists do not separate themselves from or have interests apart from that of the working class masses. Only a minority of the workers will be organized into a vanguard communist party. So if it is to lead the mass of workers, it must be closely linked with them like fish in water. Only this way can the Party

know the views and demands of the masses and use this knowledge to unite the class in struggle and raise their political consciousness.

The capitalist class fears a revolutionary party closely united with the masses. Various methods are already used to turn the heads and foster opportunism among militant and class conscious workers. Bribes, flattery and other subtle methods are used to corrupt advanced workers and isolate them from the masses.

REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNISTS HAVE FAITH IN THE MASSES

With the adoption of the British Road to Socialism, the CPGB had ceased to be a Party of the working class and became another opportunist organization helping to prop up capitalism. By telling the working class that Parliament is capable of legislating away the bosses' state power, the revisionists turned their backs on the working class. At elections and where revisionists and Labour Party members hold positions in the trade unions, they present themselves as 'saviours from on high'. Contempt for the masses who they regard as unruly and unreasonable, is used to justify wheeler-dealing with the bosses behind closed doors.

Revolutionary communists must firmly denounce such arrogance and treachery. In the words of Mao Tsetung who led the Chinese people to liberate China from imperialist domination: "The people, and the people alone, are the motive force in the making of world history". What this means is that only a party with deep roots in the masses and which relies on the masses is capable of leading the working class to overthrow capitalism and establish socialism. The revolutionary communist party is the advanced detachment of the class itself. ■

LABOUR POLICY ON NORTHERN IRELAND EXPOSED

The gunning down at point blank range of James Taylor by SAS thugs on September 30th brings the total of 'accidental' killings by the British Army in Northern Ireland to three in the last three months. The number of intentional murders is of course higher. The soldiers involved in the earlier shootings have not been suspended from duty and the army has not even confirmed the regiment they belong to. This is another example of murder sanctioned in the name of maintaining the bosses' 'law and order' in Northern Ireland. Opposition to this oppression by British occupation troops is a political struggle for self-determination. But the Labour Government has taken away the political status of republican and civil rights prisoners and is branding them common criminals.

STRUGGLE AGAINST CRIMINALISATION SPREADS TO BRITAIN

The struggle of Irish prisoners against the State's attempt to criminalise this fight for self-determination has now spread to Britain. In September, four prisoners in Wakefield Prison went on "the Blanket" - refusing to wear prison uniform. It is a protest against the daily brutality and violence they have suffered in prison: they and other Irish prisoners have been held in the notorious 'control unit' which the Home Office claimed to have closed down after public outcry a few years ago.

In their statement the four men say: "The situation is coming to a head. We have tried everything, short of mass blanket protest, to improve

our lot and gain repatriation and political status. This is the only option open to us...The screws always attempt to turn the ordinary prisoners against us. They threaten them with bad parole reports if they mix with us. But there are a number of prisoners here who have shunned the threats from the screws, and have given us support and friendship. We are going to need all the help and support we can get. Undoubtedly they will try to isolate us, to try and break our spirits one by one. But I don't think it will be long before others join us, once they hear of our fate and decision now."

It is a Labour government which is carrying out such a brutal policy. Prisons are the responsibility of the Home Secretary - he decides or approves policy, and prison governors act under his authority. Yet the Labour Party often insists it works for the best interests of all, that it wants to create civil rights and equality for the people of Northern Ireland and uses the army only to restore law and order. It criticises Tory spokesman Airey Neave for his "shoot on sight" approach and the Tory Party as a whole for its historical links with the reactionary puppet Unionist Party. But in fact for years the two parties, Labour and Conservative, have had a bi-partisan policy, a policy of co-operation, in propping up the British imperialist state's control in Northern Ireland. And the Labour Party has shown itself fine guardians of that state and quite ready to use whatever coercion necessary to protect its territory, to protect its political power, its economic interests at whatever cost to the people. ■

CHINA SPEAKS OUT AT UNITED NATIONS

The General Assembly meeting of the United Nations (UN) opened on the 25th September. Nearly all the world's countries are represented by their foreign ministers at this meeting. The speeches raise questions which are of great importance to the people of the whole world. Huang Hua, the minister for foreign affairs of the People's Republic of China, opened his speech by illustrating that: "The struggle of the people of all countries to win and defend national independence, safeguard international peace and security and oppose imperialism, colonialism and hegemonism has developed vigorously and scored new victories. In this struggle the countries and people of the third world have played the major role." At the same time he pointed out: "the two superpowers have intensified their struggle for world hegemony (domination), with one striving to preserve its vested interests, and the other trying hard to extend its spheres of influence."

Attacking the "intensified rivalry" of the two superpowers, and "the accelerated global strategic deployment of Soviet social imperialism" comrade Huang Hua declared that "putting off a world war

and maintaining world peace has now become an important task for the people of all countries. Whilst supporting the third world as the main force in the struggle against superpower hegemonism, Huang Hua also supported the need for European unity to defend independence against superpower aggression.

Looking around the world, he reiterated China's steadfast support for the struggle of the Palestinian people, and the Arab peoples and countries against Zionist aggression, and for the armed struggles of the peoples of Zimbabwe, Azania and Namibia against colonial rule in southern Africa. He supported the struggle for a new international economic order which is a major blow at neo-colonialism, at the economic plunder of independent third world countries by imperialism, especially the two superpowers.

China's stand at the United Nations has shown again how China supports the just demands of the world's peoples and countries, and how China's foreign policy is a policy of total commitment to struggle against the enemies of the people. ■

AFRICAN COUNTRIES WANT INDEPENDENCE

"The attempts to acquire spheres of influence which we are witnessing today in the continent of Africa and in the southern accesses of the Red Sea raise the most profound concern of the Yemen Arab Republic".

With these words, the representative of the Yemen Arab Republic (YAR) was echoing the common stand repeated again and again by third world countries at the United Nations General Assembly, which opened on September 25th. "We consider foreign intervention in any form or magnitude to be the constant and major factor underlying the political problems and the military confrontation which befell the Horn of Africa early this year. The government of the YAR has emphasised its desire to disengage the region from the conflict of the major powers," he went on. The Bahrain representative attacked the rivalry of the "two great powers" which "led to foreign and political intervention in the internal affairs of African States". The speaker for Kuwait stated his country's "opposi-

GROMYKO CHOKES ON HIS OWN LIES

Gromyko couldn't help himself. There he was speaking at the United Nations General Assembly (UN), putting across the old line. The Soviet Union stands for peace and detente, he said, while it builds up its military machine at a rate faster than ever seen before in the world. We want nuclear disarmament, he declared, as the Soviet social imperialists carried out two more nuclear tests in the same week. He'd just started on the bit about guaranteeing "the rights of small nations", when he went completely pale, staggered and nearly fell off the stand. Russian aides led him away to rest before he could continue his lying harangue. Perhaps it was the thought of the rape of Czechoslovakia, or the Russian ships shelling Eritrea, or the Soviet-paid and directed Cuban troops in Africa, or the economic plunder of Eastern Europe, or the KGB-engineered coup attempts, or just the day to day work of using every means at hand to dominate the third world, that flashed across his mind. Or maybe it was the fact that actions speak louder than words, and that few of the delegates representing the world's nations at the UN believed a word of it any more. ■

tion to the policy of seeking spheres of influence by the superpowers in the developing countries." In case the two superpowers, and the other imperialists had not got the message, the minister of foreign affairs of Rwanda made a clear attack on the two superpowers for their rivalry in seeking hegemony (domination) over Africa: "Our continent must no longer be a breeding ground for power struggles encouraged by thinly-disguised neo-colonialism... we must settle our conflicts by peaceful means and without foreign interference, whose only aim is to incite Africans to blind self-destruction to serve the interests of hegemonistic forces."

The representative of Morocco summed up their attitude in 6 points. Firstly to secure Africa from the "evil effects of the struggle between the great powers and (from) their world rivalry for the gaining of strategic, political and economic advantages; secondly, the prohibition of outside intervention from whatever source and with whatever motives, in African affairs and African disputes; thirdly, the immediate withdrawal of all non-African forces from the African continent; fourthly, encouragement of the solution of all African problems by purely African means; fifthly, the promotion and development of means of economic and technical co-operation between African states; and sixthly, assistance to Africa in eliminating and liquidating the racist regimes in Rhodesia, South Africa and Namibia..." ■

MILITARY BASES OUT

"The Superpowers are actively engaged in expanding their military presence in the Indian Ocean. Their forces in the area are on the increase while the military bases, installations and facilities there are being constantly strengthened and improved. Such activities are in direct violation of the United Nations declaration on the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace and pose a serious threat to world peace and security."

This spirited attack by the foreign minister of Somalia on the war preparations of the two superpowers, the Soviet Union and the United States, at the United Nations, is representative of the strong stand of the third world on this issue. Many countries called for a conference of all the Cont'd on p8

LIBERATE SOUTHERN AFRICA

SWAPO, the liberation force opposing imperialism and South African rule in Namibia (South West Africa) was admitted on October 2 as a full member of the non-aligned movement - a movement made up of governments (and some liberation forces in countries under colonial rule) who (apart from a couple of stooges like Cuba) are not allied with either superpower. The statement announcing admission of SWAPO attacked the sham elections in Namibia which are being planned by the racist South African Government, and fully backed the liberation struggle. It went on to condemn Ian Smith's "internal settlement" in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), and stated firmly that: "a permanent solution to the problem of Zimbabwe is possible only on the basis of the total transfer of power to the people of Zimbabwe under the Patriotic Front." The declaration also condemned the repeated aggression by the racist regimes in southern Africa against the neighbouring countries including Mozambique, Zambia, and Botswana and pledged support to these African countries.

This declaration was released during the United Nations General Assembly debate. In the General Assembly itself the Tanzanian Minister of Foreign Affairs expressed his country's over-riding concern for the total liberation of the African continent. He reiterated the two conditions for the settlement of the Zimbabwean struggle. 1. Smith must go. 2. His power structure, and especially his army of oppression has to be dismantled and a new army of independent Zimbabwe built on the basis of Patriotic Front forces.

U.S. CONDEMNED FOR SMITH VISIT

Third world countries angrily condemned the US imperialists for allowing Smith to visit the USA and mount a propaganda campaign. The uproar was such that the Security Council of the United Nations adopted a resolution on October 10, attacking the US government for admitting Smith, in flagrant violation of the United Nations ban on such visits. The Chinese representative stated that: "the security council should seriously deal with the violation of the sanctions committed by the US government, and that pending the attainment of genuine independence by the Zimbabwean people, the sanctions against the Smith racist regime must only be strengthened, and not weakened in any way."

The British Labour Government showed its true blue imperialist colours by refusing to vote for the resolution, along with west Germany, Canada, and the U.S.A. itself. The resolution was passed by the other 11 members.

USA - THE LESSONS OF YESTERDAY

The former head of a Spanish spy-ring stationed in the United States, during World War 2 has revealed that the American government aided the fascist powers in their expansionist war. U.S. imperialism's participation in the war against the fascist axis powers was never motivated by a desire to protect the national independence of countries invaded or threatened with invasion. The American imperialists whilst fearing the fascist powers' expansion, also played both ends off against the middle and worked to weaken the military strength of British imperialism and topple it from the position of top dog.

The position of the "Prince of Wales", the Royal Navy's flagship in the far east was leaked through 'semi-official' channels to the Japanese. The ship was sunk in 1941 with a loss of over 300 lives. Commenting on this, the former head of the Spanish spy-ring has said:

ZIMBABWE WORKERS FORM MILITIA

The armed liberation struggle of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), led by the Patriotic Front, is continuing to spread. Certain urban areas in the east, are now almost completely surrounded. This includes Chipinga, Melsetter, Chimanimani and to a large extent Umtali. The workers in Umtali are now preparing for a large scale struggle between the liberation forces, and those of Smith's racist regime. Some are joining their friends and relatives in the villages to support the struggle there. Other workers are starting to form a people's militia inside the city itself.

The imperialists are stepping up their attempts to split the unity of the people of Zimbabwe and the front line states. On the 22nd September the "Guardian" newspaper reported that British ministers were discussing "aid" to Zambia of £22.7 million. The British ruling class has been using economic pressure on Zambia like a noose round its neck to force it to back down. On the 7th October the "Financial Times" stated that Zambia has re-opened its borders with Rhodesia, and that it is expected that Zambia will get a loan under less murderous conditions from the International Monetary Fund, which is dominated by US imperialism.

ZIMBABWE SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN

The Zimbabwe solidarity campaign launched by the RCLB has set itself three basic tasks:

1. To expose and oppose British imperialism in Zimbabwe and to develop the spirit of working class internationalism.
2. To raise money to send a landrover to the liberation fighters in Zimbabwe.
3. To force the British government to recognise only the Patriotic Front.

In Zimbabwe our class brothers and sisters are fighting our common enemy: the British ruling class. Their enemy is our enemy. Their fight is our fight.

Concretely, our target is to send a landrover, as a gift from the British working class to the liberation fighters in Zimbabwe. Show your solidarity. Give generously to the Zimbabwe fund. If you can't afford money, you can help by providing old bedding and clothes for the liberation fighters and refugees. Every penny, every blanket will go to Zimbabwe.

RCLB members and supporters will be collecteng at factory gates, or you can give donations to any member of the RCL. If you can't do either, send donations to: J. Bayley, c/o, 203 Seven Sisters Road, London N4., enclosing a note saying it is for the Zimbabwe fund.

BRITISH IMPERIALISM OUT OF ZIMBABWE!
HAND OVER POWER TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT!
DOWN WITH THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLOT!
SUPERPOWERS KEEP OUT OF ZIMBABWE!

"What the English did not realize, and have never realized, is that the war was being waged against them not only by Nazi Germany, but also by the United States."

It is not in the interests of the British working class to side with the British monopoly capitalist class in its imperialist rivalry with U.S. imperialism. But what this incident does is act as a firm lesson to those who continue to think that the American superpower stands in defense of the freedom and independence of western Europe. In their present rivalry with Soviet social-imperialism, if it is in the interests of U.S. imperialism to appease Soviet expansionism, the independence of any European nation including Britain will be sacrificed; in the event of a sudden attack, the U.S. superpower is prepared to reduce Western Europe to a nuclear wasteland.

INDIAN STATE MURDERS POLITICAL ACTIVIST

Despite the mass demand of the people of India for his release, the "Janata" Party Government executed Krishnan Chetty, a young revolutionary Communist, on July 25th. Chetty was a brave revolutionary fighter against imperialist domination of India, and against the semi-feudal landlord system. During the fascist regime of Indira Gandhi, two other of his comrades, Kista Gowd and Bhoomiah, were executed. At that time the "Janata" Party also was fighting underground against the Gandhi dictatorship. George Fernandez, of the "Janata" Party, wrote in his December 1975 underground newsheet: "All our efforts to save the lives of these two brave comrades, who struggled all their lives to protect the poor tenants and agricultural labourers from brutal exploitation by rapacious landlords finally failed. With their execution, the dictator (Gandhi) and her goons have started putting the noose around the necks of political workers...The blood of Kista, Gowd and Bhoomah cries for revenge. And rest assured, Madame Dictator, their deaths will be avenged". Yes! And so will that of their comrade Chetty - murdered by that same George Fernandez, now a cabinet minister, and his cohorts in the Janata Government! His words have proved a sham.

When "Janata" came to power they promised to release all political prisoners. They have not. Thousands still lie in jail, and now "Janata" are executing revolutionary fighters sentenced by Gandhi; and what's more are doing so behind a cover of lies and secrecy. A motion of clemency for Chetty was made in Parliament on July 28th. In August, the president of India received a Civil Liberties delegation petitioning for the repeal of Chetty's sentence. The Government remained silent, despite the fact that they had already murdered Krishnan Chetty weeks earlier on July 25th.

The Indian People's Association in North America have launched a campaign to denounce Chetty's murder, and to demand that death sentences against political activists be immediately commuted, and that all political prisoners be released, as was promised by the present rulers before they came to power.

Letters of support from individuals and organisations should be sent to:
IPANA, Box 69646, Station "K", Vancouver,
B.C., Canada V5K 4W7

MILITARY BASES OUT

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countries of the Indian Ocean, and of nearby countries, to ensure that it was established as a zone of peace. Mozambique, Madagascar, Mauritius, Pakistan, Kuwait and other countries condemned the establishment of new military bases in the Indian Ocean by the superpowers, and other imperialists, and demanded the dismantling of those in existence.

Such struggles are going on in many areas of the world. By fighting for these just demands the third world is weakening the hold that the superpowers have on them. At the same time, the more the two superpowers are forced to dismantle their military bases, the longer a world war between them, for world domination (hegemony) is held back.

ZIMBABWE SOCIAL in aid of the Landrover fund. Friday, November 3rd., Merseyside Caribbean Centre, Amberley Street, Liverpool 8. 8-11.30pm. 50p admission.

PUBLIC MEETING: The two superpowers and the threat of World War. Sat. 21st. October 7.30pm. Co-op Hall, Seven Sisters Rd, London N7 (Finsbury Park)

INTERNATIONAL NOTES



SOVIET UNION: News of rioting in Dushanbe, the capital of the Central Asian Republic of Tadjikistan, part of the USSR, has just reached the West.

The forced Russification of the national minorities by the new Tsars in the Kremlin is having an opposite effect. The national minorities are standing up to their oppressors.

On May 22nd, 13,000 Tadjiks demonstrated against Soviet social imperialist domination. Shouting "Colonialists", the demonstrators were brutally dispersed by Russian troops of the 201st Motorised Rifle Division. At least 60 Asians were hospitalised, some critically injured. Numerous arrests were reported.

ERITREA: The Eritrean war for national liberation from Ethiopia is now in its 17th year. In July, the Soviet/Cuban-backed fascist Mengistu regime launched a massive military invasion of Eritrea. Mengistu called on the 200,000 strong army to "fight to the last man", and Ethiopian radio broadcast frequent "victory" bulletins.

Now, however, the offensive has ground to a halt having been bogged down in a quagmire of people's war. Despite the fact that the Ethiopians were backed by air strikes, heavy artillery, tanks and shelling from the sea, in three months they have lost 11,000 men killed, 20,000 wounded and many captured. In addition, they have lost much of their military hardware to the Eritrean liberation forces.

The liberation fighters of the EPLF and ELF have made tactical withdrawals from all towns except Keren to preserve their 40,000 strong guerrilla forces and are now operating from the liberated countryside, harrassing Ethiopian garrisons and starving them out by preventing the road transport of supplies. The Ethiopian attempt to capture the strategic town of Keren has met ignominious failure, leaving 1500 dead, 2000 wounded and 700 Ethiopians captured. Radio Addis Ababa has remained deafeningly silent and is now concentrating its attacks on internal political resistance.

In the Ogaden, the Western Somali Liberation forces have retaken 85% of the territory.

CHINA: The Ninth National Trade Union Congress of China opened on October 11th with 2,000 delegates attending. Women account for nearly a quarter of the delegates, which shows the advances made by women in China so far. The delegates range in age from 81 to 20. Some of the veteran workers were active in the strike struggles of 1927/28. Comrade Teng Hsiao-ping, Vice-chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, opened the Congress on behalf of the Party Central Committee and the State Council. In China the working class has state power, and the benefits of production go to the masses, not to a minority class of parasites, so the opening speech paid great attention to rapidly building up socialist production.

Criticism was made of the attempt by the "gang of four" to usurp political power, and of the way they undermined production and attacked the people's rights. Reaffirming the masses' democratic rights Teng Hsiao-ping said "Workshop directors, section chiefs and group heads in every enterprise must in the future be elected by the workers in the unit. Major issues in an enterprise should be discussed by workers' congresses or general membership meetings, at which leading cadres of the enterprise must listen to the views of the workers and accept criticism and supervision by them...Trade Unions should fight for the democratic rights of the workers and oppose bureaucracy of every kind." Comrade Teng Hsiao-ping called on Chinese workers to "further strengthen our unity with the workers and revolutionary people the world over" and urged them to work together "to make China a great, modern and powerful socialist country before the end of this century."