

CLASS STRUGGLE

POLITICAL PAPER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF BRITAIN

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POLICE USE RACIST VIOLENCE AGAINST BAKERY WORKERS' PICKET

In a completely unprovoked attack, police arrested 13 pickets outside the Associated British Foods Factory in Walthamstow, London. While pickets were talking to a lorry driver in an attempt to persuade him not to take out any bread, a police van arrived and laid into the pickets. It was a surprise attack in which the police kicked and punched bakery workers. Within minutes 80 police had arrived. Many pickets suffered cuts and bruises and four needed hospital treatment. Charges of assaulting the police were brought against 8 of those arrested.

ATTACK WAS RACIST AND ANTI-WORKING CLASS

The viciousness of this particular police attack on a picket line was an example of state racism. Nearly nine out of every ten workers at this factory are Asian. 12 of the 13 arrested were Asian. The police rely on racism to deny the rights won by the struggle of the working class to national minorities. But it does not mean that they can get sup-

port for such racist thuggery, even from racist workers. The driver, who the pickets were talking to, had a racist attitude toward them. But he was so disgusted by the police violence against the pickets, he readily agreed not to take out bread from the factory. Inside the factory, electricians, engineers and drivers who are mainly white were appalled by the police. One electrician felt so strongly he donated £20 from his tax rebate to the bakery workers' struggle.

RACISM A CLASS QUESTION

In supporting the bakery workers at this factory and forgetting their racism after the police attack, the drivers, engineers, etc. were recognizing that such racist violence is a class question. By trying unprovoked terror to smash the picket line of mainly Asian workers, the police were hitting hard at the whole struggle for a decent wage. Racism serves the bosses. That is why it is so important for workers to dump it. ■

GERMAN WORKERS BACK FORD STRIKE

Companies like the US imperialist giant, Fords, are past masters at using divisions, or apparent divisions, between workers of different countries for their own ends. Henry Ford has not hesitated in the past to say to British workers, "If you don't knuckle under, we'll switch production to Germany". Threats of this kind are looking pretty hollow now. In the last issue of "Class Struggle" (Vol.2 No.18) we printed the message of support from the Cologne Metal Workers Union Shop Stewards meeting, which pledged support for British Ford workers, and pointed out that German workers are approaching similar struggles. We also reported on a meeting of Ford Trade Union leaders from all over Europe. On October 30th, "Class Struggle" received further information. 30,000 German workers demonstrated in Dortmund on October 14th against unemployment. Solidarity among European Ford workers was also on many of the marchers' minds. On just one bus going to the demonstration, £60 was collected for the British Ford's strike fund. On the march itself Ford workers from Cologne carried banners saying: "German and British Ford workers in solidarity!" and "German Ford workers support the strike in Britain - Down with the extra shifts!". Three days earlier in the Cologne Niehl Ford plant itself the chairman of the works-councillors, Schwarzenberg, was removed from office for agreeing to eight further extra shifts during September and October without consulting the other works-councillors. The workers showed their rejection of extra shifts by kicking him out. His successor, Allrup, then talked to the press about the British strike. "More wages and salaries. more holiday,

a shorter working week. These are our claims, too" he said. (Apart from shop stewards, German workers and other employees also elect "works-councillors". This must be done by law. The law puts many restrictions on them i.e. they have to act in the interests of both the bosses and the workers - as if that were possible! Agreements by works-councillors are binding. So when extra shifts - one form of overtime - is agreed, all workers have to do them!)

Because of the strike in Britain, Ford are attempting to force many workers to do overtime, whilst at the same time are trying to put other workers on a shorter working week or lay them off, because the car parks are filling up with cars that cannot be completed - like Granadas which are missing radiators and servo-brake components that normally come from Britain. The Cologne workers have refused to do strike breaking work. Production of the Capri has nearly ceased. At the Saarlouis plant, three quarters of the 8000 workers are on short time, due to the lack of engines for the Escort and Fiesta 1300. Over 12,000 workers are laid off at the Gent plant in Belgium. In the Cologne plant 8000 workers started short-time on November 13th, others have been notified that they will be on short-time in December.

At the same time a number of workers in other departments are being forced to do extra shifts. A Turkish worker has already been sacked for not turning up to three! Doctor's are being sent to the homes of workers who report sick. Simultaneously Ford is trying to force a speed up. In the body weld-

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FORD WORKERS KICK OUT PENALTY CLAUSES

Oppose The Bosses' Attempts To Introduce Secret Ballots

Ford workers met at a series of mass meetings up and down the country between 2nd and 5th November, and overwhelmingly rejected Ford's "final offer" of a total of £10 per week for most production workers.

The main reason for this rejection was that £3.48 of that sum had attached to it a number of penalty clauses. Under these clauses a worker would lose the £3.48 if he is one minute late on two occasions, or five minutes late once; if he is involved in any official or unofficial stoppage of work, even for a few minutes, or laid-off by the company; if absent with or without permission for any reason, for example a visit to the doctor.

PENALTY CLAUSES TO INCREASE OPPRESSION OF WORKERS

These clauses would give the Ford bosses a free hand to run riot on the shop floor. Most Ford workers know from their own experience that when there is a dispute of any kind on the shop floor, the bosses will only listen to the workers' point of view when challenged by direct action. Not only is this an attempt to split the workers involved in such disputes (and dozens occur every day) but by threatening to immediately lay-off a whole plant if a small group of workers stop work, the bosses will attempt to turn tens of thousands of workers against 20 or 30.

Of course, there is nothing new in these tricks of Ford's to increase the oppression of the workers in the factories. Similar penalty clauses have been used before and fought against by the workers. In 1969 Ford workers struck for four weeks to have them removed.

FORD EMPIRE BUILT ON RUTHLESS EXPLOITATION OF

Capitalist propaganda depicting the working class as irresponsible for daring to take strike action to secure just wage claims, is in full volume in the current struggle against the 5%. The ditty which goes "It is the rich what gets the pleasures and the poor what gets the blame" has never been more true than at the present time. The Ford workers are at the head. Their swift strike action swept aside the 5% and they are continuing the struggle determined not to be shackled by oppressive penalty clauses. The response of the mouthpieces of the capitalist class, the press, radio and TV, has been to bleat for billionaire Henry Ford II and blame the workers for £300 million in lost production. Whilst blaming the Ford workers for lost production, they are not so keen to credit them with having produced £246.1 million profit for the Ford bosses in 1977. The source of this profit is obscured and made to look as though it springs from just selling cars.

WORKERS PRODUCE MORE THAN THE VALUE OF THEIR WAGES

When Ford pay their production workers' wages at the end of the week, they are paying what they consider the market value of his Labour Power. This is based on how much it costs to feed, clothe and house a worker and his family. It is such things as inflation or wage cuts below this level which compels workers to strike and maintain wage levels. After putting their workers to labour for them, Ford, and all capitalists, set about making the workers produce the maximum amount of value. This means that a Ford worker would produce the value of his wages in, say, the first six hours of his working day and in the other two hours produce

Other important factors in the decision to reject were that most of the points in the claim, like the 35-hour week, full pay when sick, longer holidays, etc. were ignored by the company.

The vote nationally to reject was overwhelming, with 18 plants rejecting (totalling over 52,000 workers) and only 5 plants (4,370 workers) accepting. At Halewood, at a meeting of around 7,500 workers from the Body and Assembly plants, only a handful voted to end the strike.

BOSSSES PUSH SECRET BALLOTS TO SABOTAGE WORKERS' STRUGGLES

Yet despite all this, the bosses' newspapers and t.v. made great play of the meeting at Dagenham. Estimates of the majority to continue the strike varied from paper to paper. Some said 2-1, others said 5-1. But they all used the occasion to keep up their pressure against the traditional practise of holding mass meetings and voting with a show of hands, stating instead that a secret ballot is "more democratic". This is an issue which is clearly confusing many workers.

One thing is certain about the Ford strike, and that is that its success has scared the pants off the bosses. Many other groups of workers, from miners to teachers, have threatened to follow the example of Ford workers in fighting for pay claims well outside of Labour's 5%. Therefore the bosses are desperately trying to sabotage the growing struggle of the workers.

The argument goes that at mass meetings, workers in favour of striking can influence their work-

solely for the Ford capitalists. This two hours

labour produces surplus value for Henry Ford which is the source of his profit. The capitalists are constantly working to increase the time workers spend in producing this surplus value for them.

In 1976, Ford's yearly accounts declared £555.5 million added value to materials and services bought to build cars. Of this £371.7 million was paid in wages and salaries. The amount paid to productive workers would be less than this total because this figure includes managers' and clerks' salaries who do not produce any profit. This means that in 1976 Ford workers produced £183.8 million, at least, in surplus value which is approx. two and a half hours every day spent working for Ford's profits. In 1977 the amount of surplus value was £313.4 million. This means the time spent producing surplus value had increased to approx. three and a quarter hours per day. Ford profits go up with an increase in the rate of exploitation of the workers.

INVESTMENT OF PROFITS EXPLOITATION TOO

The amassing of huge profits as wealth accumulated from the exploitation of the working class is regarded as being in the interests of all concerned by trade union opportunists providing it is re-invested. A Ford announcement of a £1,000 million investment programme was enthusiastically welcomed by Ford shop-stewards as a 'triumph' for their public campaigning. Investment of profits is depicted as no longer representing the interests of the capitalist class because of the prospect of more employment or greater competitiveness in relation to other capitalists. But this only gives the chance to a few hundred more workers for the opportunity

mates. This is perfectly true, and it is a good thing! The alternative, says the capitalist, is for workers to make their own minds up, supposedly uninfluenced by anybody. What nonsense! How on earth can Ford workers make up their own minds 'uninfluenced', with the massive amount of attention that their dispute attracts in all the bosses' newspapers, television and radio, all pouring out the bosses' lies and telling them that an offer is "generous" and should be accepted?

Workers learn about the nature of class society, collectively, on the shop floor. It is through their collective experience that they begin to realise that they are exploited and oppressed. It is at mass meetings that they meet their workmates and discuss collectively the pros and cons of a decision. It is collectively they should cast their vote, not sitting alone at home, isolated from any other opinion but that of the bosses' media.

Furthermore, by proposing a secret ballot before strike action begins, the bosses are trying to introduce a "cooling off" period, something which they failed to do on two previous occasions with legislation through parliament ('In Place Of Strife' and the Industrial Relations Act).

Mass meetings don't guarantee strike decisions, of course, the meetings of Vauxhall workers at Luton and Dunstable are a testimony to that. Rather they just give workers a chance to meet and decide collectively. But the pressure from the bosses' media for secret ballots, and the encouragement they give to workers who echo their call - especially when they are in a minority, should be vigorously opposed. Their crocodile tears for democracy are nothing but an attempt to take away the power of the workers on the shop floor and hand it on a plate to the capitalist media, and should be exposed as such by all class conscious workers.

THE WORKING CLASS

of being ruthlessly exploited by the Ford bosses. When capitalists re-invest, they don't do it out of warm regard for the working class or to reduce unemployment. It is done to accumulate bigger profits. Henry Ford II likes investing in areas of high unemployment because it means lower wage costs.

SOCIALISM REPLACES CAPITALIST WAGE SLAVERY

The current struggle for just wage increases to maintain living standards is an important economic and political struggle to defend the working class against the ravages of capitalist crisis. It is part of the workers' class struggle to make capitalism pay for its crisis. But the long-term interests of the working class lie in ending the system of capitalist wage slavery. This is the system in which the workers are only free to sell their labour power to the highest bidder and suffer unemployment in times of capitalist crisis. The capitalist class own and control the means of production in the factories and mines. If it is not profitable enough for them to work them they are left to go to ruin.

To end capitalist crisis and organize production according to a socialist plan, the working class must first become the masters of production. The monopoly capitalist class must be overthrown and their state machine destroyed so that the working class can take power and make the factories, mines, land etc. common property and not the means of enrichment of a few financial billionaires. For this revolutionary political struggle a revolutionary communist party is needed. With such a party the working class will not only win victory in economic struggles but state political power.

A WORKER'S NOTEBOOK

■ Staff at the Homeopathic Hospital in Cotham were pleased when Avon Area Health Authority told them a few months ago that the hospital was to be upgraded. They welcomed a scheme where, as part of the upgrading, nursing staff were transferred to the Bristol Royal Infirmary to learn new skills. However, the "temporary" transfers seem to be becoming permanent, and no work has started on the improvement of the Homeopathic hospital. The truth of the matter is that the Health Authority has realised that it can't openly make massive cuts in health provisions without meeting opposition from workers and patients. So small cuts are made at different hospitals, and workers shuffled around, in order to divide and confuse opposition. Avon hope that they will then be able to get away with closing the Homeopathic hospital which by then will be both understaffed and falling down.

■ The Church Commissioners in their annual report say that capitalism has become "kinder and more ethical" since 1945. They don't offer any evidence for this absurd notion, but we can see why they want people to believe it. The Church of England holds £300 million worth of shares, is one of Britain's largest landlords, and made £46 million on its investments last year, a rise of £3,700,000 on the year before. Saving souls is evidently a lucrative business.

■ Proposed cuts in supplementary benefits are disguised as mere administrative changes, in a Green Paper submitted by a Government "policy review team". This document is being kept to a very limited edition and given little publicity in the hope of sliding the changes through - no legislation is necessary.

Supplementary benefits are so low that most people need "exceptional needs" payments for heating and clothing and big bills like that. The proposals are to abolish exceptional needs payments on the grounds that "too many people" claimed them! Instead a 6 monthly grant will be automatic. The figure mentioned in a Bristol meeting was £6.50. In the first 8 weeks of claiming there will be no discretionary payments at all, and "genuine emergencies" can be met by borrowing from the first "grant". The new short term rates seem higher: £15.55 for a single person and £25.25 for a couple, as compared with £13 and £22. But the abolition of "exceptional needs" payments and the fixing of a maximum rent payment of £6.50 makes this a hefty cut.

■ The bosses not only ignore safety regulations - they don't even bother to find out what they are. Part of a recent advertising campaign for ICI, consisting of "on-the-spot" photographs of workers exploited by the firm, shows a welder at work high up on a construction site. He is not wearing the proper protective gloves, and there is no guard rail or protective harness. Sometimes, even advertisements tell the truth.

■ Most recent figures from the Department of Employment show the continuing gap between the pay of men and women workers. Male workers earn on average £86.90, women workers £55.40. Less than one in fifty working men earn under £40 a week, compared to one in five women workers.

■ Free speech in Hackney? Hackney community relations council in London's East End was planning a one day conference on law and race on November 4th. But at the last minute the booking for the hall was cancelled by the local Health Committee, its trustees. The reason they gave was that they could not allow Government property to be used for an event where the police, an arm of the state, might be criticised.



THE VANGUARD PARTY IS BUILT ON

Capitalism has brought together hundreds of thousands of men and women to work in factories and plants. As individuals, workers have little power. When workers are not organised the boss is confident that he can replace any man or woman who rebels against him or makes insufficient profit, particularly at times of high unemployment.

Spontaneously, workers saw the need to combine together and face the boss as a united body in trade unions. Workers through their own conditions of life and work discovered that without unity and organization they are powerless. It is necessary for the working class to be organized in trade unions and have some discipline in their ranks to defend themselves from the ravages of capitalist exploitation. How much more important is it then for a vanguard revolutionary party of the proletariat (working class) to have the strictest voluntary discipline in order to succeed in leading the working class to overthrow capitalism and build socialism.

DEMOCRATIC CENTRALISM - THE ORGANIZATIONAL PRINCIPLE OF THE PARTY

The revolutionary party of the proletariat is a disciplined and united Party because it combines two things essential for leading the workers' struggle. These are centralized leadership and democracy at all levels. The two things are both contradictory and in unity. They must exist together to ensure that

there is vigorous freedom to discuss and struggle over problems of ideology and politics, and centralized discipline to ensure the Party carries out its tasks. Without a lively proletarian democracy, it is impossible for the Party membership to have a grasp of the Party's line which needs to be transformed into actions. Further, it will be impossible for the leading bodies to absorb the correct ideas and criticisms of the Party membership. Such ideas and

"Democracy is meant to strengthen discipline and increase combat effectiveness, not to weaken them." Mao Tsetung

criticisms are part of the life and experience of the organization and enrich the Party's leadership of the working class. Without them, inner-party life would stagnate, leaving the way open to bourgeois (capitalist) degeneration and decay.

Democracy without centralized leadership would mean that the organization has no purpose and is no more than a "talking shop" indulging in idle chatter. To prevent this the Party educates its membership in the strict observance of discipline in the carrying out of decisions and the directives of leading bodies. Mao Tsetung summed up the discipline of the Party as follows:

- 1) The individual is subordinate to the organization;
- 2) the minority is subordinate to the majority;
- 3) the lower level is subordinate to the higher

ABC TRIAL—SPY CHARGES DROPPED

A sudden turn has taken place in the trail of Crispin Aubrey, a journalist, John Berry, a former Intelligence corporal and Duncan Campbell, a freelance writer, all charged under Sections 1 and 2 of the Official Secrets Act. After going to great lengths to get convictions on charges arising from Section 1 of the Act which are usually brought for spying, the charges were suddenly dropped on Oct. 23rd. Judge Mars-Jones told the jury "The charges under Section 1 of the Official Secrets Act are no longer of concern to you".

PROSECUTION'S CASE RIDICULOUS

Campbell was charged with collecting vast amounts of documents concerning defence communications "which might be useful to an enemy". Both Campbell and Aubrey taped a two-hour interview about his work in the Army Signals Intelligence Unit (SIGINT). Speaking on this, army witnesses during the trial regarded the whole matter as ex-

tremely sinister. But the army itself had declared that Berry's knowledge of SIGINT was out of date two years after he left it in 1970. Prosecution demands for strict secrecy in the trial barred defence and witnesses mentioning by name the so-called 'secret' army intelligence bases. More than one name was not allowed to be linked. The prosecution were clutching at straws because the names and location of intelligence bases are publically obtainable from army magazines found in libraries and universities. So what is going on in the ABC trial? Why have the prosecution gone to such lengths to try and get maximum jail sentences which included putting an SAS man on the first jury?

BRITISH STATE STRENGTHENING ITS POWERS

The state deliberately chose charges under the Official Secrets Act to make the trial look extremely serious. The main purpose of the trial is not to prevent information getting to a future invader of Britain like Soviet social imperialism.

HILLINGDON HOUSING CHIEF HOUNDS KENYANS

In a vicious act of racist intimidation Hillingdon Council refused to house an Asian family on the grounds that they had recently immigrated. Hillingdon Council housing chief, Councillor Dicks, took the family to the Foreign Office and arrogantly left them there. Dicks refused to house the family, who were homeless, despite the responsibility of councils to supply accommodation to people homeless. Getting on his high horse and reserving the biggest stick for a black family, Dicks declared that the family had voluntarily made themselves homeless by leaving Kenya. He was not prepared to listen to the fact that the family had to leave Kenya before the end of the year. In a spectacular style, Dicks was only concerned with giving vent to his vicious racism by dumping the family at the Foreign Office. What is more, the press and tele-

vision were informed so they could go to town again in making this Asian family, and national minorities generally, the whipping boy for homelessness and bad housing.

COUNCIL HOUSING - BILLION POUND BUSINESS

In making a scapegoat of an Asian family, Hillingdon councillor Dicks puts his hand on his heart to show how it bleeds for tenants and families already on the housing list. But the whole performance is a fraud. Council housing is big business. No longer is council housing considered to be housing at rents working class people can afford. In selecting their tenants, Councils want to know if a person or family can afford the sky-high rents now and the approximate pound a year increases in the future. A two-bedroom flat in a

ON DEMOCRATIC CENTRALIST PRINCIPLES

level;

- 4) the entire membership is subordinate to the central committee.

It is elementary to most workers that an individual member of an organization is not more important or equal to the whole organization. The Party would be incapable of taking even the most elementary action, if it was unable to rely on the members' participation. Similarly with the principle of the minority submitting to the majority. The Party would disintegrate if a minority refused to carry out majority decisions. These points are elementary.

But why is the lower level subordinate to the higher level and the entire membership subordinate to the central committee? Like all parties, a revolutionary communist party elects its most capable members to positions of leadership and these members make up leading committees. The central committee is elected by the Party congress and is therefore the highest authority in the organization between congresses. If the central committee failed to shoulder fully their leadership responsibilities, it would not be respecting the greater authority of a full party congress but sabotaging it. Likewise with district and regional committees of the Party.

REVISIONISM VIOLATES DEMOCRATIC CENTRALISM

Since adopting the bourgeois programme "The British Road to Socialism", the CPGB has been rent by internal contradictions and is incapable of acting

in a unified way. At the CPGB's 1977 party congress which adopted the new draft of the "British Road to Socialism", the unprincipled nature of this document was incapable of uniting the party. The chief concern of the praesidium was to avoid contentious issues because of the fear of a split or defeat. The congress was a scene of ultra-democracy and anarchy on the one hand and bureaucratic manoeuvring by the leadership, on the other. This shows that democratic centralism can only be built on the correct principles of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought and not on bourgeois distortion of these principles.

For the Party to act as vanguard fighter for the proletariat it must be like the human organism. Just as the human body needs a head on its shoulders and veins to carry oxygen to the brain and muscles, the revolutionary Party needs centralized leadership and democracy to invigorate it.

MANIFESTO

The Manifesto of the RCLB puts forward the stand of Marxism-Leninism on the major questions facing the working class, both internationally and nationally. It points out that our central task today is to rebuild the revolutionary Communist Party of the working class. The Manifesto is the founding document of the RCLB. The publication of the Manifesto marked an important step forward towards the drafting of the Party programme. The Manifesto is available from New Era Books. Price 37p (inc p&p)

The RCLB has London Grimsby Manchester
members in: Birmingham Leeds Newcastle
Bristol Liverpool Yeovil

To contact the RCLB, write to: The RCLB, c/o New Era Books.

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They came down heavy on Berry and the others in order to intimidate and frighten others who may come forward to expose the British army in N. Ireland, Aden or its surveillance activities against the working class in Britain. Such knowledge helps the working class sharpen its vigilance.

The state went to new lengths in trampling on legal and democratic rights in the name of official secrecy. So, what the state has been doing in the ABC trial is testing the water to see how far it can go with its existing powers. Unlike Northern Ireland where trials by jury, open courts, and non-secret witnesses can be dispensed with, the British imperialist state does not yet have such sweeping fascist powers in Britain. The ABC trial is not aimed at strengthening Britain against the threat of invasion but is aimed at further undermining democratic rights and strengthening the British imperialist state against the working class. Public opinion and exposure compelled the state to backtrack in its attempt.

AN FAMILY

run-down block in Liverpool costs £14. Such amounts are increasingly out of the reach of low-paid workers. But they can be paid by more wealthy tenants from the various professions. That's where council preferences for tenants are these days.

Council housing is built by loans from the City of London banks and finance houses. Ninety pence in every pound paid in rent goes back to the City of London in interests. The housing debt to the City is a towering figure. It is this which is the huge millstone around the necks of the working class. It is this profit interest of finance capital which dictates that housing be kept in short supply in order to keep demand and therefore rents high. This is the enemy of the working class not families fleeing from imperialist oppression or unemployment in the third world.

Letter From A Bakery Worker

I would like to give some facts on the present bakery strike.

The take-home pay for a bakery operative working for Rank Hovis McDougall or Associated British Foods at the moment is roughly £37 for a 40-hour week (confectionary packers only take home about £30). So they have to work 60 hours a week, including Sundays, to get a decent living wage.

We have asked for a £10 rise, but the RHM and ABF said we could only have 5% plus 6% more (over 60 hours) if "excessive meal breaks and rest breaks are eliminated"; no restriction on mobility of labour is accepted, and permanent night work is introduced.

These conditions were fully explained to workers at my plant before the strike and they offered backing to any action necessary to get a decent rise, with no conditions attached.

If it is true that workers in other bakeries were not given a chance to put forward their positions this is bad. It means leaders of our union are just commanding workers, who may not be convinced of our struggle. This will only cause demoralisation and weaken our action.

The bosses' press is making a big fuss about some plants producing bread. They do this to spread demoralisation. Although a few plants are working, no bread is being produced in Merseyside. In Chester, managers were baking but after pickets turned up in force the bread has stopped being distributed. Bakers in southern Ireland have backed us completely and dockers have blacked ships carrying bread.

I wrote to "Class Struggle" as I was sure you would print the truth as your paper supports all workers' struggles.

Shop steward, Bakers and Allied Food Workers Union.

POPULAR STRUGGLE IN IRAN RISES

Old and new

President Carter has made no bones about his solid support for US imperialism's agent, the Shah of Iran. According to Carter the Shah's fascist dictatorship is a wonderful "progressive administration". What Carter is referring to, of course, is that the Shah represents US interests in Iran. The United States imperialist monopoly combines have grown fat on the exploitation of the Iranian people. It is this that the US bosses are really concerned about.

Dr. Owen, the British foreign secretary, makes no bones about it either. While making occasional noises about how "socialist" he is, like the rest of his Labour Party friends, he has not been slow to make clear that the Shah is a "friend of the west". Dr. Owen also is talking about the investments of British companies in Iran. While the USA replaced British imperialism in the early 1950's as the main overlord in Iran, (by "supporting" the independence movement and then taking control itself,) the British imperialists still have considerable interests in Iran.

The USA and British imperialists have lined up together on the question of Iran, because these two vultures have a common interest in this situation. Not only do they have a common interest in ripping off the Iranian people. They are also well aware that the Iranian dictatorship has played a major part in keeping down the oil prices of all the Arab countries. But the importance of Iran goes further than that. South Africa imports nine-tenths of its oil from Iran, and Israel nearly two-thirds. Iran is a vital link in the imperialist chain.

THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTIONARY STRUGGLE

The people of Iran know who their enemies are.

They know the fascist rule of the Shah is a rule on behalf of the imperialists. And the people are fighting in the streets - against the Shah and against the rule of imperialism. The cries of "hang the Shah" go hand-in-hand with the demand "USA out!" The oil workers have struck and occupied their work places. Facing the bullets and torture of the Iranian police, they are demanding the expulsion of the US bureaucrats and advisors. In Teheran a popular demonstration attacked and burnt the British Embassy, burning down the door with flame-throwers. What unites the mass of the people of Iran is the struggle against imperialist domination and against the brutal terror of the regime which protects the imperialists and their agents. This is a



The Iranian army patrolling Teheran: it has used extreme violence in dispersing the widespread demonstrations against the Shah and his imperialist backers.

BRITISH ARMS AND SOLDIERS IN ZAMBIA

An attack on

Zambia asked Britain for weapons to use against Rhodesian attacks in September. Deliveries didn't begin till six weeks later. As Smith's bombers flew over Zambia in October Zambia's anti-aircraft forces could not stop them. This was not because the British Rapier missile system was too complex for the Zambians, as the British press claimed, but because Britain had not supplied necessary parts and missiles. The delay with the spares and with the delivery of new weapons was a direct support from the British government for the Rhodesian air attack on Zambia. This is why several hundred students demonstrated in Lusaka on 30th October against the British and US support for the attack.

THIS KIND OF "HELP" HAS A HISTORY

When Zambia won independence in 1964 Britain was

successful in making sure that the old colonial army was kept intact. In 1971, President Kaunda sacked the British commander of the army and other army and airforce officers. To help Zambia against the imperialists' settler government in southern Africa the People's Republic of China helped build the modern airforce bases in Mombwa. As Zambia is regularly attacked by the settler governments of both South Africa and Rhodesia who both have more military planes than itself it asked Callaghan for planes as well as other weapons. Britain refused and is only supplying anti-aircraft weapons under the condition that most of them are around Lusaka, i.e. a long way from the border, which gives the Rhodesian bombers a good piece of undefended air space for attacking the Zimbabwean camps. Besides which 35 "advisors", half of them soldiers, are

BRITISH IMPERIALISM OUT OF ZIMBABWE! Celebrate sending the landrover to Zimbabwe

Speakers from Central Committees of ZANU and RCLB
On the Struggle in Zimbabwe

PLACE: Conway Hall (Large Hall), Red Lion Square

DATE: Saturday, 9th December.

TIME: 2.30-5 p.m.

THE THIRD WORLD: THE MAIN FORCE OPPOSING THE TWO SUPERPOWERS

PUBLIC MEETING: Second of a series of three meetings
on the Theory of the Three Worlds - the strategic
line of the international communist movement.

Saturday, December 2nd. 7pm.

Co-op Hall, 129 Seven Sisters Road, London N7,
Tube - Finsbury Park

Speakers from the RCLB, and fraternal organisations
including the Communist Workers Movement.

Organised by the London District of the RCLB.

imperialists want control

great revolutionary struggle which is dealing a major blow against the imperialist system. Whilst such struggles shake the world capitalist system, and are therefore an important blow for socialism against capitalism internationally, the struggle with Iran is not (as the trotskyites like to believe) a struggle for socialism - yet. It is a mass national democratic struggle. It is a necessary stage of struggle, and victory at this national democratic stage is essential to lay the basis for the struggle for socialism.

THE SOVIET VULTURE WAITING IN THE WINGS

The Soviet social imperialists, like the USA, Britain, and others has not missed the importance of the struggle in Iran. It has its agents there in the Tudeh party, who are fighting the Shah. They are striking a very revolutionary pose now, supporting the mass struggle in Iran. But Soviet support is like a stab in the back. Just as the USA pulled the trick of "supporting the independence movement" only because it intended to replace Britain as the overlord, so today the Soviet social imperialist tiger is waiting to come in the back door, while the US wolf is being kicked out the front. If the Soviet imperialists get their hands on Iran, it will greatly increase their economic, political and military strength.

The stand of workers in Britain must take into account both the struggle of the masses, and the struggle between the two superpowers.

*SUPPORT THE IRANIAN NATIONAL
DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT!*

USA OUT! SOVIET UNION STAY OUT!

Zambia's independence

accompanying the weapons. This is proof that such "help" is infiltration and an attack on Zambia's independence. Nigeria, though, is offering troops, planes and pilots with no strings attached.

MORE THREATS AGAINST ZAMBIA

First the imperialists tightened the credit noose round Zambia's neck. Then they tried to bomb Kaunda and Nkomo to the conference table. Now Britain is lending a "helpful hand". The Guardian leader of 8.11. is more explicit: "Ought Dr. Kaunda now to say a few plain words?...The Rhodesian war is acquiring a larger Zambian dimension, which would be bad for central Africa and bad for relations between Zambia and Britain." I.e. the imperialists want Kaunda to exert pressure on Nkomo - or else!

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INTERNATIONAL NOTES



KOREA: The United States and its puppet government in occupied South Korea have formed a joint military command there, which will place all Korean military forces under direct US control. Clearly these forces are not the forces of an "independent country", but forces acting in the interests of US imperialism. The USA has also deployed a new air squadron in South Korea. The US imperialists describe these events as acts to strengthen "peace" and "security". Such hypocritical double talk cannot hide the reality of US aggression against Korea, and the expansion of its war preparations. ■

AFGHANISTAN: Since the coup in Afghanistan a few months ago, the Soviet Union has been pouring "advisors", "experts" and arms into the country. The economy is run by Russians, the military is run by Russians, Russians hold most of the key positions in security and civil administration. This is what the Soviet Union describes as "a country winning independence", and "building socialism". Recently a National Liberation Front has been organised by many different opposition forces. At its founding meeting inside Afghanistan the 200 delegates unanimously attacked the economic exploitation of Afghanistan by the Soviet Union, and the Soviet aim of turning their country into a Soviet satellite state. They declared that they would not recognise the validity of any agreement made by the present puppet government with the Soviet Union, and demanded the withdrawal of all Russian personnel by the end of November. ■

CHINA: An American newspaper publisher, Mr. Block, reports a "fantastic" experience on a recent visit to China. While staying at a Peking hotel he was disturbed by the noise at night by drivers blowing their horns. He wrote a letter to the "People's Daily" newspaper suggesting that at night drivers flashed their lights instead of blowing horns so that residents would not have their sleep disturbed. The letter was published and the idea was spread by Peking-Radio. "From then on it was just fantastic" Mr. Block said. Drivers responded quickly and the noise level dropped right down. Such a response could only occur in a socialist country. ■

SOVIET UNION: Mr Kiselyov is a Moscow designer who lost both legs at the age of 17. He and Mr Fetelov, who is paralysed, founded a group to campaign for the rights of invalids and handicapped people in the Soviet Union. At a recent press conference they made public that they have been threatened by Soviet police and told to halt their campaign. Kiselyov talked of the wide support they had from people across the country. He described Soviet invalids, apart from war veterans, as "hemmed in by poverty". ■

SOVIET UNION: About 25 fish factory ships and freezer ships from the Soviet Union and eastern Europe have for the first time been allowed to operate in British territorial waters up the lochs in northwest Scotland. Within these waters the Navy has an underwater test centre, carries out many research projects, and has a number of oil depots and emergency moorings for use in wartime. The use of fishing vessels for spying by the USSR is well known. The Soviet ships are charting the waters, and learning the conditions of the area, gathering information that will be invaluable for mine laying activities. Soviet social imperialists are rapidly building up their military machine and pose a real threat to the independence of western European countries; but as with Hitler in 1938, the appeasers back down before aggressors and do as little as possible to upset them. Such acts only help Soviet war preparations and will lead to war that much sooner. ■

VIETNAM'S AGGRESSION SINKS TO NEW DEPTHS

"The use of toxic gases by the US imperialists who are thus going further along a criminal path in the aggressive war in South Vietnam has once again unmasked them as extremely cruel colonialist warmongers, and exposed the hypocrisy of their paying lip service to peace". This statement was made on March 26th, 1965, by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, during the just struggle of the Vietnamese people to expel United States imperialism from Vietnam. Why, today, then are the Vietnamese authorities resorting to the same tactics? Between October 28th and November 2nd, this year, the Vietnamese fired 105mm shells containing poisonous gas during an attack on O Yadao, in Ratanikiri province of Democratic Kampuchea. The Vietnamese authorities are resorting to such criminal actions for the same reason that the Americans did previously. They are waging a war of aggression against Democratic Kampuchea in an attempt to establish their domination in the region. Like the Americans did previously in Vietnam and Kampuchea, today the Vietnamese are meeting tough resistance. First they attacked on the ground, and got beaten back, then they attacked in the air, which has not proved very effective, and what's more the Kampuchean Revolutionary Army has shot many of them down. Now they are using chemical warfare.

The Vietnamese people have no interest in attacking Kampuchea. On the contrary, the Vietnamese people are suffering greatly from widespread flooding and the failure of the rice crop, which has brought disease, starvation and suffering to millions. But the Soviet Union dreams of world hegemony (domination), and the Vietnamese authorities of regional hegemony. So the Soviet social imperialists and their agents in Vietnam, rather than concentrating on improving the welfare of the people, militarise the economy, and commit aggression against Democratic Kampuchea and provocations against China, two countries playing a leading part in the struggle against Soviet expansion in the area.

SOVIET CONTROL OF VIETNAM INCREASES

At the same time, the Vietnamese authorities are getting deeper and deeper into hock to the Soviet Union. The Soviet social imperialists are flying out more and more weapons and "advisers", as Vietnam prepares for yet another major offensive against Kampuchea. And all the time the debt to the Soviet Union gets bigger, and Vietnam becomes ever more under the control of the Soviet Union. So Vietnam has joined COMECON, and signed a "treaty of friendship and co-operation" with the Soviet Union, which is nothing more than a military alliance. The Soviet social imperialists have long had a Cuba in the west to do its bidding. Now it has a Cuba in the



Over 4 millions Vietnamese people have had their lives devastated by typhoon and flooding, Vietnamese authorities persist in their attempts to annex Kampuchea, committing 10 army divisions which could otherwise be used manning flood relief schemes instead Vietnam begs for more aid from international relief agencies.

east, like the British imperialists of old, the Soviet social imperialists use the people of other countries as cannon fodder in their wars of aggression; whether it be Cubans in Angola, Ethiopia and Eritrea, or Vietnamese in Kampuchea.

Like all aggressors, the Soviet social imperialists and the Vietnamese authorities like to dress up in clothes of peace and pose as doves. Vietnam says it wants peace and offers to discuss the "border dispute" with Kampuchea. When Kampuchea says it will not talk until Vietnam withdraws its troops from Kampuchea and stops committing aggression, the Vietnamese call black "white" and label the Kampucheans as warmongers! Such blatant lies cannot hide the fact that it is Vietnam that has fabricated a "border dispute", that it is Vietnam that has torn up border agreements it has already signed, and that it is Vietnamese troops who are fighting in Kampuchea and trying to destroy the popular socialist government there. ■

GERMAN WORKERS BACK FORD STRIKE Cont'd from pl

ing shop the workers fought back and prevented an attempt to increase the rate by 20 bodies per shift.

German Ford workers, like the workers in Britain, are fighting speed-up. Already Ford has managed to increase production from 15.87 cars per worker in 1975 to 18.36 in 1977. At the same time they are fighting the compulsory extra shift system. The extra shifts are not only an attack on German workers, this strike shows it is also used to try to play down some of the effects of the strike in Britain. German car workers are giving support to British workers, and in their battles they will need support from us. That sort of international unity is what really worries Henry Ford and his friends.

* Shop stewards of the Metal Workers Union in Cologne have collected over £2,500 for the British Ford workers' strike fund.

* At a plant meeting of Opel (General Motors) workers in Russelsheim, two speakers reported on the strikes of British and American car workers. A youth representative received thunderous applause as he demanded measures of support for the striking workers from the Opel works-councillors. ■

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