

CLASS STRUGGLE



POLITICAL PAPER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF BRITAIN

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MONTHLY 5p

WORKERS WIN VICTORY AT MK



NEARLY 3000 shopfloor workers at MK Electronics in London went on strike on September 29th. The bosses at MK had refused to negotiate a disputed job of the multi-slide setters at one of the company's sites. Instead, they suspended and threatened to sack the multi-slide setters. In the face of such threats by the bosses, the workforce united and stood firm and took direct action to support their fellow workers.

Within 8 days, they had achieved the basic aim of the strike - the bosses backed down, reinstated the suspended workers and agreed to negotiate the disputed job. This victory was won because of the unity and solidarity of the workers at MK. The bosses were caught out by this united and firm stand. They had counted on a tough hard-line stand to break the workers' determination. And they lost. This is an important lesson for all workers who face similar threats from their bosses. (cont'd on p2)

GERMAN RULING CLASS ATTACKS GERMAN WORKERS' ORGANISATIONS



20,000 workers, students and other working people militantly demonstrated against the proposed banning of Marxist-Leninist organizations. The slogan on the banner reads "Down with the proposed ban against the KBW, KPD, KPD(ML)! Marxism-Leninism will not be banned!" (See article on pp. 6&7)

The Press has been full of news about the kidnappings and hijackings by German and other terrorists but has reported absolutely nothing at all about the increasing attacks by the German ruling class on the working class and their organizations. On the 26th September the Christian Democrat Party (similar to the British Conservative Party) passed a resolution that their representatives in Parliament should propose that the Federal Constitutional Court ban the three main Marxist-Leninist organizations; the KPD (Communist Party of Germany), the KBW (Communist League of West Germany), and the KPD(ML) (Communist Party of Germany (Marxist-Leninist)).

Like all other Western European countries, West Germany is in a deep economic crisis and has serious political problems. The German worker's movement is growing in size and (cont'd on p6)

(cont'd from p1) In the course of the strike at MK a shop steward who had dragged his feet, and refused to unite with and give leadership to the workers during the struggle was made to resign by the workers, thus strengthening their organisation and leadership.

Again at MK a union official refused to give the pickets at the gate any information about their negotiations with the bosses. He marched through their ranks

OPPORTUNISTS BACK WESTLAND'S BLOOD MONEY PRODUCTIVITY DEAL

Westland Helicopters' bosses in Yeovil have recently pushed through a self-financing productivity deal helped by the opportunist line of the negotiating committee representing around 800 clerical workers at the Yeovil site.

The negotiating committee put together a claim for a £30 a week pay rise behind closed doors. Few workers knew what was going on. Super militancy changed into mouse-like docility when faced with WHL's ultimatum: "Yes, if you agree to 150 more redundancies". Instead of resisting the bosses' threats and mobilising the workers for a realistic 'no strings' pay rise combined with a determined defence of all jobs, the negotiating committee settled for a £5.94 rise payed for by 'natural wastage' and 'voluntary redundancies'.

The whole deal was shrouded in a veil of secrecy from the workers before it was sprung on them at a mass meeting and in a secret ballot. 203 workers militantly opposed the deal. Many others destroyed their ballot papers in disgust. The opportunists on the negotiating committee manipulated a majority through letting out figures of possible £12 per week rises and playing down the cost in lost jobs and

saying "No comment"! Such opportunists within the union have no faith in the workers. Instead, they show contempt for the majority of workers and act as "saviours from on high".

The workers at MK will strengthen and develop their unity, by fighting these opportunist leaders and turning their union into a fighting class organisation with deep democracy and good leadership ■

speed up. One steward blandly said that if any worker dies during the period of the agreement, surviving workers "will receive a premium per head". "Blood money" as one worker loudly stated. The deal is to be run with the active collaboration of the union misleaders, who plan to phase out and destroy working class jobs.

While 471 workers voted for the deal, the opposition was loud and clear. The opportunists won the day through abuse and red-herrings. At the mass meeting they twice ignored mass backed motions demanding a total overtime ban till the end of February, which workers demanded after realising overtime would be paid for out of their productivity fund, not by the bosses. Growing numbers of workers are seeing through the bosses' line pushed by the opportunists on the negotiating committee. Scenes at the mass meeting showed they are skating on thin ice and they know it. The clerical workers' struggle against job cuts and speed up will go through twists and turns to build the trade unions and the negotiating committee into fighting working class unions. The bosses' line inside the unions will be defeated whether it's dressed in militant 'left' words or openly threatening language. ■

BOC STRIKE SUCCESS WILL BENEFIT ALL WORKERS

Workers at British Oxygen (BOC) are on strike after rejecting an offer based on government guidelines, which would mean a wage rise smaller than price rises for the third time in 3 years. The BOC company are, like other capitalists, hiding behind the shield the Labour government is holding for them saying "we're not allowed to pay any more".

The militant struggle of BOC workers in defence of their living standards is inevitably leading to big layoffs in other industries, particularly in shipbuilding.

The capitalist press is trying to use this as a lever against the strike, but many laid off workers have quite a different

view.

The Laportes factory at Ilford is running short of Nitrogen which they use in production. They normally get this from BOC. Nitrogen is also produced at another Laportes factory near Grimsby, so the bosses tried to move some to Ilford. After talking to BOC strikers at Goole, the TGWU stewards at the site by Grimsby refused to allow it off the site, even though it would lead to layoffs. The Laportes stewards are committed to supporting the BOC strike: "the more that punch holes in the 10% limit the better", one steward commented. All workers will gain by smashing Labour's wage cut policy ■

OPPORTUNISTS AVERT WAGES STRUGGLE AT FORDS

The Ford's bosses aided by the opportunist trade union misleaders have managed to avert a struggle by Ford workers to defend their living standards this winter. It is important to sum up the lessons of this defeat so that we learn from it and strengthen future struggles.

The claim was for 15% plus fringe benefits - including a shorter working week. After making some opening offers Fords, who made over £200 million profit last year eventually offered 12% to track workers and 14½% to skilled workers in order to split the workers. The offer virtually ignored the demands on fringe benefits. The negotiating committee of the unions helped Ford's by refusing to expose the offer. Trying hard to look democratic they decided to put it to the workers' vote, but gave no leadership and did not call for a rejection of the offer.

The TGWU workers were asked to vote plant by plant. The decision to be made on the basis of the number of plants for, and the number against. This method is totally undemocratic, giving the same weight to a research centre with 250 personnel, and a big mass production plant of several thousand. The voting system is designed to favour the bosses.

Also the voting order was such that the smallest plants with more skilled workers voted first, and the big plants where the production tracks roll and the oppression is greatest voted last. Again the system favours the bosses, designed to get votes to accept the deal mounting up early on. The voting lasted a week and the bosses' press helped Fords and the union misleaders by making a big splash of the early "Yes" votes to get a bandwagon rolling and to

demoralise workers in the big plants.

Without a doubt the union misleaders served the bosses well, but this is not the end of the matter. The key point is that the leadership at the plant level failed to expose the bosses' offer and the opportunist antics of the national union leadership.

THE STRUGGLE TO TURN UNIONS INTO FIGHTING CLASS ORGANISATIONS MUST START AT THE BASE

At the beginning the claim was drafted by a union research centre, not on the basis of consultation with the workers. While the negotiating committee was meeting the bosses, and after Ford's made their final offer, few stewards had sectional meetings to inform the workers of the situation and listen to their views. After Ford's made their "final offer", although some stewards committees recommended rejection and at Halewood even put out a leaflet, they did not expose the opportunist tactics of the national 'leaders' nor hold meetings to arm the workers against the press campaign.

The whole attitude of social democratic and the so-called 'Communist' Party shop stewards is to act as "saviours from on high" which undermines and weakens the unity of the class. With this behaviour, although they appear more militant they serve the bosses as well as the more blatant betrayals of the national 'leaders'.

The events at Fords, as well as at Westlands and MK show that it is essential to fight such opportunism in the plant leadership and the local trade union branches to build a strong base for the struggle to turn the trade unions into fighting class organisations.

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GRUNWICK WORKERS FIGHT ON WITH MASS SUPPORT

Thousands of workers from all over the country have supported the resumed Monday mass pickets at Grunwicks. We must increase the numbers, to keep up the pressure. Don't let the scabby Grunwicks' bosses off the hook!

The struggle is deeply important for the British working class. There are thousands of small firms which, like Grunwicks, squeeze superprofits out of their workers by paying them particularly low wages. (Grunwicks is not "a unique case", as the revisionist Ken Gill said on Weekend World). Many employ black and women workers. They can rob these workers more because it is very difficult for them to find work at average wages. The small bosses act like vicious little Hitlers, treating workers like slaves.

Opportunists like the 'Socialist' Workers Party try to frighten workers into supporting the Grunwicks' strikers. It is nonsense to say that we all might as well tear up our union cards if the strike is lost; but support of the whole working class is essential because the victory at Grunwicks will raise the confidence of all workers in small firms and their ability to organise against the misery of

Cont'd on p5

HELP BUILD UP THE WORKING CLASS PRESS

Last month, the article in 'Class Struggle', entitled "Support the RCL Fighting Fund" called on supporters of the RCL and readers of the paper to support the paper in another way by contributing to a Fighting Fund. The purpose of this campaign is to raise money to make improvements to the equipment and to develop publishing resources, so that we can make an even better contribution to the class struggle.

As every month, the activities of the bosses' press this month, contain many examples that show the need for a paper that speaks out from the viewpoint of the working class. Every bosses' paper, from the 'Sun' to the 'Financial Times', works in its own way for the ruling class. The article on the Ford claim in this issue of 'Class Struggle' shows how the bourgeois press campaigns for the bosses. Again, not a single bosses' paper has reported on the mass struggle against the attempt to ban Marxist-Leninists in Germany. There is a conspiracy of silence.

At the same time the press prints lies about Kampuchea (Cambodia) and puts the views of 'refugees' - former army officers and bureaucrats working for US imperialism - who were faced with the 'terrifying' prospects of living the same life as the workers and peasants they were previously oppressing.

The working class needs to develop its own press, that fights for the working class, and stands up for the truth. One way you can help is to contribute money to build up our publications.

How to pass on the money - If possible, give it to the person you buy 'Class Struggle' from - or you can send a cheque or postal order to J. Bayley, c/o 203 Seven Sisters Road, London N4, with an accompanying note to show the money is for the Fighting Fund. We will not publish names and addresses.

BUILD UP THE WORKING CLASS PRESS! SUPPORT THE RCL FIGHTING FUND!

A WORKERS' NOTEBOOK

AN INTENSIVE CARE UNIT FOR SERIOUSLY-ILL patients at the Stoke Mandeville Hospital has remained unused since it was completed more than a year ago. The local health authorities admitted that this was caused by the cuts in public spending in the health service in the area, despite its rising population. Intensive care units have special electronic monitoring and other equipment, and full time nursing is provided for the patients. The health cuts have prevented the authority from finding the money needed to staff the unit. Seriously ill patients are being treated in general wards.

THE only casualty treatment centre in Hartlepool is at the St.Hilda's Hospital, closed for 2 weeks in October because there were no doctors to run the 24-hour service. Casualties were taken to Stockton-on-Tees, 12 miles away.

TWENTY-ONE elderly patients were moved from the Hounslow Hospital in London, in a late-night swoop by health service officials. This happened without the patient's relatives, or the staff, being informed - and followed threats that the hospital would close to save money. The union shop stewards called for an all-out strike at 12 London hospitals.

THE cuts in health spending are another method used by the state monopoly capitalist class to make the working people pay for their economic crisis. All cuts in the health service should be vigorously opposed.

AN ELECTRICIAN WHO WORKED FOR 18 YEARS ON the Cleethorpes Pier, which is run by the council was sacked after kissing the daughter of his boss. Even though he won his case at an industrial tribunal, he only got £400 compensation, and did not get his job back. £400 won't go far on the dole! Such tribunals don't work in the worker's interests they are only window dressing.

IN SEPTEMBER, COAL MINERS IN SOUTH-WEST Poland went on strike because of the lack of meat in the shops. This was the second

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their superexploitation, and it will be a blow for the unity of our class against racism.

Traitors like Jack Jones and the 'Daily Mirror' weep endless crocodile tears for the low paid workers. But they give them only lies that the capitalist state and laws will help them. Victory at Grunwicks will be a real breakthrough.

time the miners had taken strike action in 2 months, and it was reported that police patrols were reinforced.

Poland exports large quantities of meat to the USSR and also to the west to gain western currency. Last year meat and other food prices were pushed up to cover up for the shortages. After strikes and demonstrations by workers in several towns, the Soviet-controlled government were forced to hold off the price increases. Workers in Poland are once again taking militant action to defend their living standards.

ABOUT ONE HUNDRED YOUNG PEOPLE WERE arrested in East Berlin recently after a spontaneous demonstration involving more than 1,000 people. Police used truncheons, tear-gas and watercannon to control the demonstrators who were shouting "Russians out!"

The British Communist Party's paper 'The Morning Star' reported the incident as an outbreak of hooliganism. "The police", it said, "arrested some of the noisiest participants".

Resentment amongst the peoples of Eastern Europe is growing under the repression from their state-capitalist bosses and Soviet social imperialist exploiters.

FOLLOWING THE REPORT IN THE LAST ISSUE OF 'Class Struggle' of Soviet trawlers being arrested for illegally fishing within the limits of Argentina, come reports of further incidents. This time Argentine warships fired on Russian trawlers who disobeyed orders to stop fishing in Argentina's territorial waters. Two trawlers were hit, a third was fired at but not hit and a fourth stopped fishing. All four trawlers were later boarded and escorted to an Argentine port. This made a total of nine Russian trawlers arrested in 10 days. There is growing resistance by nations throughout the world to the Soviet social imperialists' plunder of their fishing resources.

DESPITE SUFFERING FROM A SHORTAGE OF FOOD, the Soviet Union has just placed an order with a British shoe manufacturing firm for £3 millions worth of shoes in the latest styles. The sales director of Norvic Shoe Co. said, "The Russians are going for elegant toe shapes, straps and patent leathers". However, there isn't much chance that the hungry Russian workers can fill their stomachs with shoe leather, as the retail price of a pair in Moscow will be equal to 3 months pay for the average worker.

(cont'd from p1)

scope and in particular the German Communists are having increasing success in leading the struggle of the working class and people; recently Marxist-Leninists led a rally of 50,000 people. The German ruling class are very worried by all this and are looking for ways to attack and dampen down the working class movement.

First and foremost they want to attack the leadership of the working class movement, the Marxist-Leninists. This is because if they can succeed in their aim it will be much easier to attack the working class as a whole. Without their Party, the working class is like an army without a General Staff - it won't know when and how best to attack the bourgeoisie, the ruling class.

BOSSES RESORT TO BANNING - BUT REVISIONISTS STAY LEGAL

The ruling class at first tried to say that the KPD, KBW and KPD(ML) supported the terrorists. This didn't work because the German working class know that Communists despise and condemn terrorism as something which looks down on the working class and which plays right into the hands of the ruling class. Now that this trick hasn't worked they have resorted to outright banning.

Both major ruling class parties, the SPD (equivalent to the Labour Party in Britain) and the CDU, agree that although they want to ban the genuine Communists, the KPD, KBW and KPD(ML) they want the phoney and revisionist DKP (German 'Communist' Party) to remain legal. This is because they want to use the DKP to try to mislead the German working class into reformism instead of revolution, and also because the ruling class is appeasing the Soviet Union, which supports the DKP as its agent in Western Germany.

OTHER LAWS USED AGAINST COMMUNISTS

The situation in Germany has many similarities with the growth of fascism in the 1930s. The Marxist-Leninists point to the increasing repression - the law which forbids Communists to be state employees, the recent law forbidding political prisoners to have any contact with the outside world and so on - and also to the fact that now, as then, the ruling class have first of all **attacked** the genuine Communists. The threat of fascism in Germany is real! What also stands out now, as in the 1930s, is that it is the so-called 'socialist' Party, the SPD, which is carrying out the repression. In Germany, just as in Britain, the social democrats are the 'best bosses' Party! (cont'd on p5)

MASS DEMONSTRATION OPPOSES BAN OF KPD, KBW, KPD(ML)

On October 8th, 20,000 workers, students and other working people held a militant mass demonstration against the ruling class attempt to ban the KPD, KBW and KPD(ML).

The German police tried to harrass demonstrators and disrupt the rally. Many demonstrators came to Bonn in car convoys from rallying points in other towns. The cars carried slogans opposing the ban. As the convoys went through other towns, they held public meetings and distributed leaflets. The convoy from West Berlin was stopped at the frontier. The participants quickly organised a demonstration with bands. After 3 hours delay they were allowed through. Similarly, two-thirds of a car convoy was trapped by police in the tunnel under the river Elbe in Hamburg. The rest of this convoy held a rally and painted slogans exposing the police activities and the proposed ban. The police could not interfere because of the support of building workers on a site just by. After an hour the police had to let the convoy continue.

The mass rally in Bonn unanimously



Slogans at the mass demonstration read "Forward in the struggle for the rights of the working class and the people!" "Down with the proposed Ban! Long live the Party of the Proletariat!" "Forward in the struggle for the victory of socialism!"

passed a resolution condemning the proposed ban and calling for a congress open to all organisations, unions and parties to discuss and plan further measures to be taken against these attacks on the democratic rights of the people and the freedom of organisation.

(Cont'd from p6)

It's not yet clear whether the ban will go through - even if it doesn't the CDU will try again. Even without the ban the ruling class are viciously attacking the workers' movement. Recently a worker selling 'Red Flag', the paper of the KPD, was jailed for forty days merely for selling it. It is also now proposed to put into prison for 'preventative detention' anybody whom the police 'suspect' of being ready to use violence on a demonstration.

In the long-run, no matter what the German bourgeoisie do, they will be overthrown by the people. But now their attacks on the working class must be taken seriously. A mighty mass movement of all who are opposed to the attacks on basic democratic rights is being built up. Recently a joint demonstration of the KPD, KBW and KPD(ML) in Bonn mobilised 20,000 people. Many courageous individuals are speaking out and supporting the mass movement. The German working class and people will not be cowed by the frightened ruling class!

GERMAN WORKERS' STRUGGLE IS OUR STRUGGLE

We in Britain must learn the lessons of the events in Germany. As the crisis in Britain deepens so the British ruling class will attack the working class movement. Already they use the 'Prevention of Terrorism' Act as an

STOP SOVIET PIRATES PLUNDER OF EUROPEAN WATERS

In a deliberate act of superpower bullying the Soviet revisionists (capitalists dressed up as Marxists) expelled British and French trawlers from the Barents Sea on September 24th. A note from Moscow to the Belgian Embassy demanded that the EEC catch in the Barents Sea be limited to 1840 tons in a two month period. This came only a few days before an EEC demand that the number of Soviet trawlers in EEC waters be cut from 15 to 13 and that the Soviet catch be restricted to 20,000 tons. Clearly Brezhnev's pre-emptive move was aimed at frightening the EEC negotiators and causing splits in the EEC. But it failed. Soviet trawlers were compelled to leave the EEC 200 mile fishing zone before negotiations would be resumed.

Soviet social imperialism is desperate to breach the EEC's unified stand on the fishing question. European unity has succeeded in cutting Soviet plunder of EEC waters from 600,000 to 200,000 tons. The Brezhnev gangsters will not reconcile themselves to this trimming of their claws. To breach European unity on the fishing

excuse to harrass and arrest many innocent people. These attacks are attacks on the whole class! The British ruling class will stop at nothing to try to preserve its rotten system and if necessary will try to impose outright fascism - the open terroristic dictatorship of the monopoly capitalists. The struggle of the German working class is our struggle. Recognising this the RCLB recently sent a message of solidarity to the KPD, KBW and KPD(ML). The German workers are our brothers and sisters in the world-wide struggle against imperialism.

WORKERS OF ALL COUNTRIES, UNITE!

RIOT IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

In September, hundreds of young Czechs fought a running battle with police. A concert was cancelled at the last minute. They were refused their money back and police used tear gas, truncheons and dogs to break up the angry crowd. The youth fought back, chanting "Gestapo! Gestapo!" Also in October the Czech Minister of Trade Goga was forced to admit to wide-spread fuel and consumer goods shortages. Queues 500 yards long for fuel are reported. Such shortages are the result of Soviet plunder. In the period 1976-80, 65% of Czech exports of consumer goods will go to the Soviet Union. The Kremlin also controls their oil supply. This is the reality of the Soviet Union's so-called 'international division of labour'

question, the USSR is relying on putting pressure on the British crisis ridden fishing industry. The British catch in the Barents Sea has been 30,000 tons, a quarter of the total British whitefish catch. But this is clearly dwarfed by the 200,000 tonnage of fish still plundered from EEC waters by Soviet trawlers.

Many modern Soviet trawlers are no ordinary fishing boats. Besides the countless electronic spying activities they are involved in, Soviet vacuum suction methods of trawling extract every living organism from the sea. In its quest for super-profits from fishing, the Kremlin is clearly prepared to plunder the seas to the point of exhaustion of fish stocks.

This will never be tolerated by the people of Europe. Some British fishing and trawling capitalists may want to break ranks with the EEC and appease the Soviet plunderers. But it is in the interests of the working class and people of Britain and all Europe to strengthen European unity to KICK SOVIET PIRATES OUT OF EUROPEAN WATERS

Suggestions and criticisms help strengthen the paper.
Contact the RCLB c/o New Era Books, 203 Seven Sisters Rd., London N4.

SUPERPOWERS PREPARE FOR WAR

The two imperialist superpowers, the Soviet Union and the United States, claim that the reducing of international tensions and the danger of war, are the main trends in the world today. At the present time, both superpowers claim to be making huge efforts to reach agreement, and 'further the cause of peace', at the Belgrade Review Conference on European Security, and at the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT). All this talk is mere hypocrisy. While Brezhnev and Carter make grand declarations about "tirelessly working for peace", they are in fact arming themselves to the teeth and preparing for war.

The Belgrade Conference has been called to review the Helsinki Agreement signed in 1975. The Helsinki Agreement did nothing to ease superpower struggle over control of Europe, and neither will the Belgrade Conference.

"PEACE LOVING" USSR CONTINUES FRANTIC ARMS BUILD-UP

Yuli Vorontsov, the leader of the Soviet delegation has spent all his time attacking "war-like elements in the West", while making hypocritical calls to "reduce military confrontation". During the last two years the Soviet Union has built the largest naval base in the world in the Kola Peninsula near Finland's border. Its biggest fleets, the North Fleet and the Baltic Fleet, prowl the seas of northern Europe, and in the last year it moved six submarines with nuclear guided missiles into the Baltic Sea. At the same time Soviet naval strength in the Mediterranean has increased dramatically, with new aircraft carriers and battleships. In central Europe, Soviet Army forces outnumber NATO troops by over 2 to 1. The Soviet threat to western Europe intensifies daily, while Vorontsov and his masters in the Kremlin make empty speeches about the "peace loving" USSR and the "war like elements in the West".

US SMOKESCREEN

In the meantime, Arthur Goldberg, leading the US delegation, has noisily attacked the Soviet Union and other east European countries for their violations of Human Rights. It is a fact that the Soviet Union is a fascist dictatorship, where Brezhnev and his supporters have trampled on the working class and national minorities, who are denied the most basic democratic rights. But since when have the US imperialists been truly

concerned with any freedom, except for the freedom to exploit and oppress? This attack by US imperialism is nothing but a smokescreen to disguise its exploitation of the working classes of western Europe, and its continued meddling in the internal affairs of European countries.

NUCLEAR STOCKPILING GROWS

The interim SALT Agreement between the Soviet Union and the United States, signed in 1972 expired on October 3rd, with no new agreement. During the last five years both superpowers have added many new weapons to their already huge nuclear stockpiles. The Soviet Union has produced four new types of missiles and a new type of nuclear submarine with long range missiles, and is developing a new 'Backfire' bomber to be used as an important part of its strategic attack force. In response, the USA is developing new weapons, including the Neutron bomb: a nuclear device which kills people, but leaves buildings intact ready for armed occupation. At the moment, it is concentrating on the production of cruise missiles, its most advanced operative nuclear weapon.

The present SALT talks have broken down because the Soviet Union does not want production of its 'Backfire' bombers to be limited by any agreement, while the USA is determined to produce as many cruise missiles as it can. Both sides blame the other for the failure to reach agreement, both claim to be "showing restraint" and both keep frantically producing new weapons.

PEOPLE ARE DECISIVE

Genuine Communists struggle for peace, but are not afraid of war. Despite the superpowers' fine words, the contradictions between them are sharpening, and their war preparations are intensifying. The First World War helped give rise to the Russian Revolution, and the Second World War to the Chinese and Albanian Revolutions. Any war between the superpowers will open the way for peoples' wars of revolution throughout the world. We should not be fooled by the superpowers' flowery words, or frightened by their threats. The peoples of Indo-China have shown that it is people, not weapons, that are decisive in war. If the superpowers insist on launching a Third World War, they will do so at their own cost.

DESPITE FASCIST REPRESSION AZANIAN PEOPLE FIGHT ON

On October 19th, the white racist Vorster regime in Azania (South Africa) made illegal 18 more black political organisations including the Black Peoples Convention (BPC), South African Students Organisation (SASO), and the Soweto Students Representative Council.

This was the latest desperate act of the white fascist regime to attempt to suppress the daily growing struggle of the black people of Azania against their oppressors.

The Soweto Uprising of June 16th, 1976 marked a new massive upsurge in the struggle against apartheid and for national liberation. The people of Azania are actively fighting for liberation and no longer will be intimidated by the harassment of Vorster's police.

Over the past year Vorster has arrested hundreds of black activists but still the people are rising up.

Black peoples' leaders have been arrested, tortured and killed while in detention. Steve Biko was one of the founders of the Black Peoples Convention. So hated was he by Vorster that he was continually harrassed, prosecuted five times for his politics, imprisoned several years under the emergency laws but not tried, and banned from addressing meetings or travelling in Azania. Finally he was beaten to death in a Pretoria prison cell. This was the Vorster regime's attempt to intimidate and suppress the people's struggle but it had the opposite effect. Thousands of black people defiantly joined in the funeral services all over Azania to reaffirm their determination to fight against racism and colonialism and to free their homeland.

The latest banning of the black political organisations will not stop the struggle but will accelerate it. ■

THAI PEOPLE'S LIBERATION ARMY ADVANCES

12 months ago a coup in Thailand led to a bloodbath with many progressive people murdered. In the year since, the Thai People's Liberation Army (PLA) has made big gains and has stable liberated areas. On October 18th its radio station "Voice of the people of Thailand" pointed out that in response to the call of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Thailand the PLA has turned grief into strength and dealt heavier blows to the enemy.

In the past year, the broadcast pointed out, the PLA had had 717 battles (267

more than the past year) wiping out 3,455 enemy troops. 3 helicopters were brought down and 25 damaged. 2 aircraft were shot down and 130 armoured cars and military vehicles destroyed. 50 enemy strongholds were smashed and large quantities of weapons captured. ■

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17th ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF KAMPUCHEA

September 27th, was the 17th anniversary of the founding of the Communist Party of Kampuchea (Cambodia). This was also the first time that the existence of this great Party was made public.

The Party was born in the flames of revolutionary struggle. It successfully grasped the lessons handed down by Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and Mao Tsetung, and integrated those lessons with the revolutionary struggle in Kampuchea. In particular the Communist Party led the Kampuchean people in a difficult and fierce liberation war against United

States imperialism. Since the complete liberation of the country in April 1975, the Communist Party of Kampuchea (CPK) has continued to lead the people in transforming the country from a backward outpost of colonialism into a strong and self-reliant bastion of socialism. Already great advances have been made - in agriculture, industry and education.

For the first time in their history, the Kampuchean people have become masters of their country and their own destiny. In a speech at a rally in Phnom Penh to mark the anniversary, Comrade Pol Pot,

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KAMPUCHEAN PARTY & GOVERNMENT DELEGATION VISITS CHINA

A delegation of the Kampuchean (Cambodian) Party and government recently visited the People's Republic of China. On September 28th a banquet was given by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and the state council to welcome the delegation. At the banquet Comrade Hua Kuo-feng, Chairman of the CPC, made a speech pointing out that the visit "was a major event in the relations between the two Parties and countries". He acclaimed the Communist Party of Kampuchea (CPK) as "a staunch Marxist-Leninist Party with a correct line". Drawing lessons from the struggle of the 8 million Kampuchean people led by their Party he said that it "eloquently proves that any country, whether big or small, can defeat big-power aggression, win liberation and so a good job of national reconstruction step by step if only it relies on the masses, upholds the principles of independence and self-reliance, persists in armed struggle and makes constant progress while summing up its experience". Comrade Hua Kuo-feng stressed that the revolutionary friendship and militant unity of the Parties, countries and peoples of China and Kampuchea "are based on Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism".

In his reply, Comrade Pol Pot, secretary of the Central Committee of the CPK, and Prime Minister of Democratic Kampuchea, stated that "In the concrete revolutionary struggle of our country, we have creatively and successfully applied Mao Tsetung Thought - from the time we had only empty hands down to April 17th, 1975, when we thoroughly defeated US imperialism and its lackeys and totally liberated our country and people of Kampuchea, and when the workers

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Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kampuchea, and Prime Minister of the country said: "The revolution is being waged by the masses. Only with a great united revolutionary mass movement can the revolution win victory: without a revolutionary mass movement the revolution will fail".

The victories of the Kampuchean people under the leadership of the Communist Party are an inspiration to the revolutionary people throughout the world.



Chairman Hua Kuo-feng greets Kampuchean Communist Party leader Pol Pot at Peking airport.

and peasants took over political power in our whole country... We are working hard to carry out the revolution of our country well, to defend and build our country well, to improve rapidly the living standards of our people by upholding the principles of independence, sovereignty and self-reliance and of taking our destiny into our own hands and by surmounting all obstacles to make our modest contribution to the movement of the revolutionary struggle, to the movement of the struggle for people's national liberation, to the movement of the struggle to defend independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of all the peoples in the world, particularly the people of the non-aligned and third world countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America".

Of relations between China and Kampuchea he stated firmly that: "Our two Parties, two governments and two peoples have maintained a fundamentally identical, correct Marxist-Leninist stand." "We are determined to work hard to protect, consolidate and develop this great militant unity and this fraternal revolutionary friendship so that they may last for ever", he added.

The Standing Committee of the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain has sent a letter to the Central Committee of the CPK on its 17th anniversary warmly congratulating the CPK on its brilliant victory against US imperialism and on its successes in socialist revolution and construction. The letter points out that "these victories are a major contribution to the struggle of the international working class, and the oppressed peoples and nations against imperialism and social imperialism."