

CLASS STRUGGLE

POLITICAL PAPER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF BRITAIN

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CATERING WORKERS FIGHT FOR UNION RECOGNITION — AGAINST RACISM

In London's catering industry there are constant sharp struggles against low wages, long hours, and bad conditions. In what is a labour intensive industry, the catering bosses demand such super-exploitation in the scramble for maximum profits. It is clearly seen that in an industry where machines cannot be used to intensify the rate of exploitation, the capitalist forces wages below the rate of subsistence and extends working hours.

STEAK HOUSE WORKERS STRIKE

On the 26th January catering workers at the Garners steak house chain struck and demonstrated outside the company head office for union recognition. More than 4 out of every 5 of the staff are union members. Garners responded by arrogantly dismissing the striking workers even though some had worked at the company for 11 years or more. Their industrial action followed nearly a year of fruitless negotiation with the company for recognition of the TGWU.

Garners catering workers are mainly black and immigrant workers from Asia, Turkey, Egypt and the Phillipines. The boss relies on racism and lack of rights to keep wages down and hours long. A waiter receives a weekly take-home pay of £28.00 for a compulsory 55 hour week. A 70 hour week is quite common. While cooking and serving steak for the customer, the boss allows the staff only pie and chips or hamburger and chips. At one time a manager was dismissed for eating a potato in its jacket instead of chips.

WORK PERMIT SYSTEM SERVES BOSSES

When the writer talked to members of the picket line most of Garners chain had been closed by the strike. Those still operating were running on a handful of staff. Many of the workers are reliant on the Garners boss applying for or renewing their work permits which are only valid for one year. Responsibility for renewing or obtaining work permits lies with the boss. He can withhold application and threaten to denounce the workers to the police as illegal immigrants. When the police make such arrests, the London press carries racist headlines about police swoops on illegal immigrants. In fact they are striving to keep the workers unorganized. Alongside these racist attacks by the state, the striking workers have had



to defend their picket lines from violent assaults by fascists.

OPPORTUNISTS FEAR CATERING WORKERS STRUGGLE
The catering workers' struggle is a sharp one aimed at racist super-exploitation, repressive immigration laws and desperate anti-trade unionism. Garners boss declared he would not recognise the union if 99% joined. The opportunist union misleaders are intimidated. Furthermore they refuse to expose the results of repressive legislation in catering. They prefer to restrict the argument to the fact that a majority are union members.

Catering workers are not intimidated and are struggling against their super-exploitation despite the bosses threats. As workers struggling for the right to be organised they must be given unconditional backing. Further we must demand an end to the repressive work permit system which takes away the rights of immigrant workers.

DONATIONS AND MESSAGES OF SUPPORT TO
GARNERS STRIKE COMMITTEE
c/o TGWU. Room 84,
12/13 Henrietta St., London WC2

Racism: Bosses' weapon to intensify exploitation of working class

As the crisis of capitalism deepens, racism is being promoted more and more to split and demoralize the working class. The burden of the crisis is being shifted onto the backs of the working class, through wage restraint, redundancies, speed-up and factory closures. This attack is particularly vicious against black workers. In the 18 month period up to May 1975, for example, unemployment rose 65% for the general population. For minorities it rose 156%.

Immigration is deliberately being made the central issue in the lead up to the next election. Both Labour and Tory want to increase repressive immigration legislation. Already dependants of immigrant workers in Britain from Bangla Desh and Pakistan have to produce some 15-20 documents to enter Britain. Immigration authorities submit such dependants to outrageous and humiliating tests. Bone X-rays are used to determine age. Internal examinations of women and girls to check virginity are made.

Anti-immigration propaganda is directed against black workers in particular. It is also a racist attack on the unity and struggle of the whole working class. It diverts attention from capitalism as a crisis-ridden system and weakens the workers' class struggle against it.

RACISM IS A PRODUCT OF IMPERIALISM

The bourgeoisie (capitalist class) began to devise racist theories against black people at the time of the slave trade. Writers like Anthony Trollop and Kipling wrote books glorifying British colonialism and looking down on the colonial peoples in the 19th century. British colonialism amassed tremendous wealth from its colonial super-exploitation. Today, Britain's imperialist bosses still reap huge profits from the third world. British imperialism has got the biggest stake in South Africa and Vorster's racist rule with over £1.3 billion invested. Racism is used to "justify" plunder and super-exploitation of third world peoples, by monopoly capitalism.

In Britain, there is a wage differential of some 8% against black workers, even though

more black workers work shifts and get a shift differential. The main beneficiaries of the super-profits this brings are the big companies. 43% of black workers work in plants of 500 or more workers.

LABOUR RACISM MORE DANGEROUS

Both Labour and Tory are imperialist parties. They promote and protect the interests of monopoly capitalism at home and abroad. Both are racist parties. Whilst Tory racism is more open, Labour racism is more pernicious. While adopting a pose of "opposition to racism" and "against the National Front fascists", the Labour Government boasts of its record in enforcing the particularly reactionary 1971 Immigration Act. The Labour Government in 1968 took away the right of entry to Britain for black British passport holders. Through its attacks on immigrants the Labour Government has promoted the lie that immigration is the cause of the crisis - not capitalism. This delighted the National Front and made their vicious racism "respectable". It is particularly in areas where the Labour Party is secure and keeps the lid on working class struggle that the NF collects most votes. Labour is aiding fascism.

The revisionist "Communist" Party of Great Britain backs the immigration laws and only quibbles over some of the worst measures in these laws.

BLACK WORKERS HAVE AN HONOURABLE ROLE IN THE REVOLUTION

The struggle for workers' power in Britain must be united with the struggle of the oppressed peoples and nations against imperialism and particularly against the two superpowers' aims of world domination. Black workers in Britain come from areas of the third world and suffer special oppression in Britain. White workers must firmly oppose racism to build a united workers' struggle - alone this unity can bring socialism. Black workers have an honourable place in the British revolution.

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED OF ALL COUNTRIES, UNITE!

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A WORKER'S NOTEBOOK

SIR DEREK EZRA, CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE owned National Coal Board, has been asked to give an assurance about the safety of disused mines in the Kingswood and Speedwell districts of Bristol after a 134 feet deep ventilation shaft appeared in the garden of an elderly couple living in Speedwell. Although admitting that Bristol's honeycomb of mine shafts could open up at any time beneath the homes of unsuspecting householders, the NCB seem to have no intention of doing anything about it. In the past they have been reluctant to part with any money, as we know from their response to the Aberfan disaster.

As usual profits come first and the residents of Speedwell and Kingswood will just have to live with the fact that their homes could disappear at anytime.

THE POLICE HAVE BEEN FORCED TO ADMIT THAT Special Branch officers are trying to recruit students to spy on political activities in Colleges. The admission came after a complaint by Robert McNeil, a student at Paisley College of Technology, Strathclyde, who said that he was asked to a college room by a man, who showed him a police card and offered "tax-free financial incentives" to act as a political informer: "He said he wanted to know about political activity in the college," Mr McNeil said.

Of course, these activities by Britain's political police can only occur with the support of the Labour Government, whose "socialist" words are once more shown to be a cover for their defence of capitalism "by any means".

THE QUEEN, WHO PAYS NO TAXES ISN'T worried or affected by any of the cuts. While her "loyal subjects" struggle against increasing exploitation and oppression she can easily afford the £750,000 needed for more than 6000 acres of grouse shooting moor.

WHILE STATE FUNDS CONTRIBUTE TO THE profits of property speculators, the people who make the wealth, the working people of Britain are dying because of cut-backs in hospital expenditure. One Northampton surgeon reckons that three quarters of his patients singled out for "urgent treatment" have been waiting more than a month for a hospital bed to become available. While in Oxford, despite the fact that the region's population has increased by 1.5 percent, more than 10 percent of available beds have been lost as a direct result of government spending cuts.

WORKERS AT LEYLAND'S LONGBRIDGE PLANT IN Birmingham are taking a militant stand against the fascist National Front. Recently 200 downed tools and threatened to strike unless a worker who supports the fascist Front and who brings their filthy politics into the workplace was removed.

In Bradford, the trades council refused to recognise a delegate who is a member of the NF and banned him from the meeting.

Many workers see that fascism is divisive and anti-working class. By their militant and united stand the workers at Longbridge and Bradford have given a lead to the rest of us.

THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT'S 10% LIMIT ON PAY is intended to pass the burden of the capitalist crisis on to the backs of working people. Needless to say the bosses are finding ways to avoid the hardship. Three leading British companies ICI, Shell, T&T and the largely state-owned BP have set up trust funds to give scholarships to the children of their employees. The money however, only goes to those children who don't qualify for a government grant because their parents earn too much. (i.e. The children of the rich.)

An "employee" on £10,000 a year gets an effective pay increase of over 17% under this scholarship fiddle, while those on £22,000 or more will get the equivalent of a 24% pay rise.

The 10% is a limit for the working class not the already highly paid servants of capitalism.

DESPITE THE FACT THAT MANY URBAN AREAS suffer from an acute shortage of homes the government believes that the problem no longer exists. The Department of the Environment has recently issued a Green Paper which puts forward the view that the housing shortage is over. At the same time the National Consumer Council, in its own report, states clearly that Britain still has a big problem and that in London the situation is desperate. The working class knows which report tells the truth - this is yet another example of the "bosses" party trying to mislead us by blatantly dishonest propaganda.

IF YOU HAVE FACTS, FIGURES OR AN ARTICLE which you think is suitable for inclusion in 'Worker's Notebook', please send them to THE EDITOR, CLASS STRUGGLE, c/o NEW ERA BOOKS; 203 Seven Sisters Rd., London N4.

TURN THE UNIONS



INTO FIGHTING CLASS ORGANISATIONS

In the December issue of 'Class Struggle' the RCLB put forward these five basic slogans in the struggle to "Turn the Unions into Fighting Class Organisations".

1. No collaboration with the bosses!
2. Fight for democratic unions!
3. We won't pay for the bosses' crisis!
4. Stop paying Labour to attack workers!
5. Oppose oppression and discrimination of Black and Women workers at the place of work!

This article deals further with the third slogan:

WE WON'T PAY FOR THE BOSSES' CRISIS!

In the past few years real wages have been cut; unemployment has shot up to 1½ million; housing, education and social services cut. The list goes on. There is without doubt a massive attack on the living standards of the working people of Britain. Why? We must be absolutely clear that there really is an economic crisis - a crisis of capitalism. There are many who call themselves "left-wing", who claim that there is no real crisis. They claim that if more is spent on services and there are higher wages, capitalism will magically come out of its crisis, everyone will gain a big improvement in their living standards and unemployment will end. This view is frequently put forward by the so-called "Communist" Party of Great Britain and "left" Labour. It is rubbish! It ignores the fact that there really is a crisis, it hides the fact that capitalism cannot advance smoothly in the interests of the working people. It covers up history, which shows quite clearly that capitalism is a crisis-ridden system, a degenerate system of regular booms and bigger slumps that time and again destroys whole industries, and throws masses of workers on the dole. Whilst appearing "left" and attacking "bad bosses", it white-washes the degenerate system itself.

Other Labour politicians take a different line. They admit the existence of a crisis, side openly with the capitalists and work to ensure that the capitalist system emerges intact by redoubling their efforts to shift the burden of the crisis onto the backs of the working class, promising again and again that "we are nearly round the corner - just swallow one more bitter pill".

Obviously the interests of the capitalists and the working class are entirely opposed to each other. The capitalists will use any means to maintain their system, and boost profits. The working class can only resist, and defend their interests. We must oppose the Labour government which is attacking us on behalf of the bosses. At the same time, when we fight back, we must expose the opportunists of the so-called "left", the revisionist "Communist" Party and the "left" Labours, whose reformist rubbish only ties our hands. The condition of the working class can only be fundamentally changed through the seizure of state power by the working class, the destruction of the capitalist system and the building

of socialism.

Within the Trade Union misleadership we will find both outright supporters of the present attack on the working class, and those who oppose the present 'policies' but who protect the system which has led to the attack. Both these groups talk of socialism, but are defending capitalism. They are all opportunists who do not really serve the working class. In the final analysis they all sell-out the struggles that they claim to be leading. They never rely on the working class. Instead of calling for united class action on the militant basis of "We won't pay for the bosses' crisis", they can only call for lobbies to beg for a change of view from the government, as many union leaders are doing over the closure of one of Leyland's Speke plants.

Through putting forward the slogan "We won't pay for the bosses' crisis" in our struggles, in our Trade Union branches we will be taking a militant stand in defence of our interests, and at the same time exposing the opportunists and building our unions stronger as fighting organisations of our class.

A YEAR OF STRUGGLE AT WESTLANDS

1,800 shop-floor workers at Westland Helicopters, Yeovil, have been waging a running battle with the bosses, for the past year, over the implementation of an "agreed" pay-deal, which would have "established full staff status and conditions, got rid of differentials, and scrapped piece-work". The deal was due to be signed by the bosses on April 7th 1977; a deal which they proposed, and which had been signed, and agreed to, by all the shop-floor unions. Through this deal Westland Helicopters planned to "end wage drift". (See "Class Struggle" nos. 13 & 14, of June and July 1977, for details.)

On April 7th, creating a massive diversion, the bosses announced 880 redundancies, the scrapping of their own pay-deal, and stated that there would be no wage increases for at least two years!

The deal was abandoned, due to external pressure, from the Labour Government, C.B.I. and the Engineering Employers Federation, being brought to bear upon Westland Aircraft, the parent company, controlling Westland Helicopters, who feared the prospect of parity struggles, from other workers, doing similar work, in other parts of the country. A shop steward said: "The bosses admitted this".

FIGHTING FOR UNION DEMOCRACY

A letter to the editor from a shop steward contains a vivid illustration of the anti-democratic activities of opportunists in the unions, which the article "Turn the Unions into Fighting Class Organisations" talked about in last month's issue of 'Class Struggle'.

The steward from Harrison and Jones in Liverpool went to her union branch - Branch 263 of the Furniture, Timber and Allied Trades (FTAT) - to try and find out what was happening with their payclaim. She couldn't get any information. While she was there though: "I saw the Chairman and Secretary forging votes from our branch in the ballot for FTAT delegates to the TUC and Labour Party Conference! They were putting crosses by their boys on the ballot papers, and signing other worker's names on the list of voters. They asked me to "Put down a few of your mates' names" so they could send in more ballot papers. I didn't, of course, and when I went to work the following day I told the others what was being done in their name."

The letter went on: "About the payclaim, we never got any information. We eventually had it explained to us when it arrived in our pay packets- by the foreman!"

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The bosses' "redundancy diversion" did not work. Between April and June, struggles to force the bosses to ratify their agreement gathered momentum, culminating, in June, with the call for one-day strikes, "all 'procedure' having been exhausted". After the first one-day strike, the bosses "climbed down", or so it seemed. Agreement was reached, in July, to pay 5% immediately, and the "basis was reached", for agreement, in principle that the April 1977 deal would be implemented, in its entirety, from April 1978.

Between July and now, the bosses have again manoeuvred their position, whilst, simultaneously "denying" that they have. In October they issued an ultimatum, insisting that some element of "company - or work - performance", must form part of the agreement, and that acceptance of this ultimatum forms a prerequisite to any further discussion, on the implementation of this deal. In October, they issued an ultimatum, insisting that some element of "company - or work - performance", must form part of the agreement, and that acceptance of this ultimatum, forms a prerequisite to any further discussions, on the implementation of this deal.

The bosses proposed to abolish one form of productivity deal: - piece-work, and replace it by another which they even refused to define!

The workers, and the works committee, refused to give in to this blackmail. Talks deadlocked. The workers imposed a total overtime ban, as from December 16th, and served notice of total strike, as from January 28th.

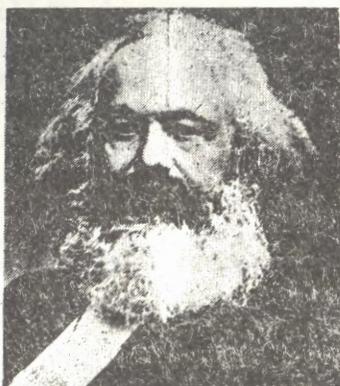
BOSSSES' PLEA TO OPPORTUNIST MISLEADERS

The bosses refused to negotiate with the works committee, thereafter, and went "over their heads", to seek a "settlement" with national misleaders of the works unions.

Ultimately, because of the workers' struggle, the bosses again backed down, and withdrew their condition. The strike was then postponed. The workers' militant stand had won another round.

TASS workers throughout the Westland Aircraft group, have also been waging a protracted struggle, for a substantial "interim pay-rise", seeking parity with shop-floor workers. They have staged many forms of industrial action, including lightning strikes and sit-ins, etc.. Their struggle is one of militant unity, group-wide. They resoundingly defeated the bosses' attempts to "settle with them" site by site or factory by factory. Their struggle is continuing.

LEARN FROM THE LIFE OF KARL MARX THE FOUNDER OF MARXISM



March 14th marks 95 years since the death of Karl Marx. Karl Marx in collaboration with Frederick Engels devoted most of his life to developing the great theory which would arm the proletariat in its revolutionary struggle to overthrow capitalism. He fought throughout his life, much of it spent in dire poverty living in London, to develop a strictly scientific approach to social history, political economy and socialism. In his practical activity Marx with Engels worked to assist the formation of independent working class parties throughout Europe.

Refuting ideas of history above classes, he showed that all history since the breakdown of primitive communism is history of class struggle - slave against slave-owner, peasant against feudal lord and the proletariat against the bourgeoisie. In his great work 'Capital' he exposed capitalist crisis to be not some "act of god" but the inevitable constantly recurring result of the capitalist relations of production. Only by the working class becoming the ruling class and reorganising production on a socialist basis can economic progress be continued and the way paved for abolishing classes, i.e. communism.

KARL MARX CONSISTENTLY FOUGHT IDEALISM

Idealism regards the real world as the result of man's ideas. It inevitably leads to religious conclusions of some "great creator". Developing the materialist views of German philosopher Feuerbach, he showed that man's ideas can only be a reflection of things and processes which exist independently in the real world. The working class needs this outlook, in order to recognise the class interests behind the views of the capitalist class. It helps the proletariat to be conscious of its class interests and by seeking truth from facts, see through the unscientific ideas, religious humbug and mysticism of the bourgeoisie.

KARL MARX REVEALED THE SOURCE OF CAPITALIST WEALTH AND MASS POVERTY

On the surface, the money invested by the capitalist appears to be the source of new wealth. Karl Marx showed that only the workers' Labour Power (their ability to work) bought by wages is a source of new capital for the capitalist. The capitalist pays the worker a wage of enough to keep himself and his family. but while working for the capitalist he produces much more than this value. This is called surplus value. It is the striving to increase the proportion of surplus value which leads the capitalist to increase work hours, speed up the production line or rationalize production. It is out of this striving to maintain and increase surplus value produced by the working class and oppressed peoples that capitalist and imperialist wealth grows while mass poverty increases.

CLASS STRUGGLE LEADS TO THE DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT

Marxism developed in the course of struggle against many petty-bourgeois (middle class) utopian ideas of socialism. These theories dreamed of ending the mass poverty caused by capitalist and ruling class exploitation by appealing for "justice" or "fairness". There is no such thing as "justice" or "fairness" separate from the existence of classes and the inevitable struggle between classes.

Marxism bases itself firmly on the side of the proletariat, the working class. Rather than seeking reconciliation between classes Marx called upon the proletariat to pursue its class struggle to overthrow the bourgeoisie. After studying the Paris Commune in 1871 and its failure, where the working class took power for the first time but failed to smash the capitalist state apparatus, Marx concluded that this was its fatal weakness. The working class must crush the resistance of the bourgeoisie by organising itself as the ruling class and enforcing the dictatorship of the proletariat - that is real democracy for the masses, but dictatorship over the handful of capitalists and their lackeys, who want to return to capitalist rule.

REVISIONISM - CAPITALISM DRESSED UP AS MARXISM

In the period after 1872 and after Marx's death in 1883, Marxism gained complete theoretical victory. It greatly assisted the development of independent working



INTERNATIONAL NOTES

had "decimated systematically" the local industries. The local companies were then left to go bankrupt or taken over, enabling the multi-nationals to extend their share of the electrical machinery market to rise from 61% in 1966 to 78% in 1972.

Recent measures by the Brazilian government to curtail electrical imports had enabled local industries to manufacture items normally imported. The report concluded "these measures may provide temporary relief in Brazil. What is required is co-ordinated national and international action to curb the activities of international cartels," and warned "until such times as co-ordinated action, cartel members will continue to control the progress of industrialisation in Brazil and in other developing countries".

AUSTRIA

The First National Congress of the Communist League of Austria held in January issued a communique. It stated "The principal task of our organisation is to build a new Marxist-Leninist party of the vanguard of the working class".

Austrian Communists "should struggle against the attempt of the two superpowers to place Austria under their economic, political or military control. The Austrian Communists struggle for national independence and regard this struggle as an inseparable part of that for the Austrian socialist revolution."

The report also said that Mao Tsetung's theory of the differentiation of the three worlds "is an essential strategic assessment" of international class struggle which has illuminated the way for the world proletariat and the people of all countries to wage an effective struggle against the two superpowers, their main international enemies, to get united in this struggle, and to form the broadest possible united front against the main enemies."

SPAIN

The Spanish government has refused a request - made 16 months ago - by the Soviet Union for a major port facility in Algeciras Bay, opposite Gibraltar, to service 1500 merchant ships a year.

Gibraltar is of great strategic military significance, guarding the exit of the Mediterranean into the Atlantic Ocean. The refusal by Spain is a blow to the aims of the Soviet social imperialists to encircle Europe and control vital communications routes.

NORWAY

The Russian trawler, Perekat, was arrested on February 8th for violating the territorial integrity of Norway. It was fishing within Norway's territorial waters and using illegal narrow mesh "double trawls". The captain was fined \$4,900 and the catch worth \$13,000 confiscated.

The actions of the Norwegians are just measures to counter the plundering of their natural resources by the social imperialists.

BRAZIL

A document produced by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has charged American, West European and Japanese multi-national companies of forming cartels to carve up the Brazilian market for heavy electrical equipment. By buying up raw materials or refusing to sell components to Brazilian companies, the foreign imperialist firms

LEARN FROM THE LIFE OF KARL MARX THE FOUNDER OF MARXISM. *cont'd from p6*

class parties throughout Europe. Enemies of Marxism were isolated and bourgeois liberalism increasingly discredited. Opponents of Marxism adopted new tactics - formal acceptance of Marxism while denying or distorting its revolutionary spirit. Revisionist decay in most of the parties of the 2nd international (the social democrats) transformed them into bourgeois parties and supporters of their 'own' bourgeoisie in the imperialist war of 1914-18. In the same way many Communist Parties became revisionist after the 2nd World War, such as the "Communist" Party of Great Britain.

MARXISM IS NOT A DOGMA BUT A GUIDE TO ACTION

Marx's great contribution to the revolutionary proletariat is to make it conscious of its role as creator and builder of socialism.

Lenin defended and developed Marxism in the new conditions of the imperialist war and the growth of revisionism. Mao Tsetung has developed Marxism-Leninism further in the era when imperialism is heading for total collapse. In building the Party and making revolution in Britain, we must grasp Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought and integrate it with the concrete conditions of Britain. This is the only road to socialism.

"INTERNAL SETTLEMENT" WILL NOT STOP PEOPLE'S WAR

During the last year the armed struggle of the people of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) has reached new heights. The Rhodesian economy is collapsing, white settlers are fleeing the country, and the liberation fighters of the Patriotic Front are daily gaining new successes. It has been obvious for some time that the racist colonial regime of Ian Smith could not survive as it was.

For decades the British ruling class has mercilessly exploited the people of Zimbabwe. The super-profits of British imperialism and US imperialism have been guarded by Rhodesia's racist colonial regime. But in the past ten years new problems have arisen, and British and US imperialism have had to look for new ways to maintain their imperialist domination and exploitation of the people of Zimbabwe. The great successes of the revolutionary independence struggle throughout the African continent, coupled with the growing struggles of the people of Zimbabwe themselves, led the imperialists into thinking that the only way to maintain their exploitation in Zimbabwe was to act through black African stooges rather than through the more open colonial regime of Ian Smith. This has led to the contradictions between Smith and the British and US governments. It has never been the case that Britain or US imperialism has been truly concerned about the Zimbabwe people; their disagreement with Smith has always been a tactical one. The imperialists have always intended to keep the basic nature of the Rhodesian regime intact, and have at every opportunity attempted to divert and sabotage the armed struggle of the Zimbabwe people led by the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) and the Patriotic Front (a united front of ZANU and ZAPU).

IMPERIALIST "SETTLEMENTS"

The "Anglo-US settlement" proposals made a few months ago were designed to do just this, which is why they were totally rejected by ZANU and the Patriotic Front. Smith then came up with his own "internal settlement", the "principles" of which have now been agreed by a handful of African stooges, and traitors to the struggle, who are falling over each other in their scramble to serve imperialism. What are the "principles" of the "internal settlement"? The most basic "principle" is that the property and land of the giant British and US monopolies and the white settler population will not be nationalised or confiscated. The bosses' AP News Agency admitted "the majority of points were clearly intended to safeguard the economic privileges of the whites".

It safeguards the huge landowners who stole the land from the people of Zimbabwe, it safeguards the capital of the monopolies which was created by the exploited labour of the people of Zimbabwe.

In the new 100 seat "parliament", 28 seats will be reserved for whites who are less than 5% of the population. Of these 20 seats will be elected by only white voters. Whites will be able to vote in the other seats. Thus the settler population will hold a "veto" position in the parliament. The army, police and courts will remain basically unchanged, the details of this are not yet settled. Clearly the "settlement" is a sham.

British and US imperialism, of course, call it "hopeful" and "a step in the right direction". They would like to support it openly, but are vacillating because of the strength of the Zimbabwe peoples' struggle. Leaders of the Patriotic Front have militantly denounced it as the sham it is. "That these black men can be parties to such an agreement, must rank the greatest sell-out in the history of Africa", one said.

THE STRUGGLE WILL CONTINUE AND GROW STRONGER

The fact that imperialism has found a handful of stooges to support its rule, cannot hide the more important fact that the Zimbabwe people want complete liberation, the overthrow of the colonial regime and the complete destruction of imperialism. The people led by ZANU and the Patriotic Front will go on fighting until victory is won.

Pickets support Patriotic Front

On Monday February 20th, RCLB members mounted a picket of the foreign office in London. Sithole, one of the African stooges of British imperialism in Zimbabwe who signed the "internal settlement" had come for talks with Owen, the British foreign secretary, and the picket was intended to warn the British working class and people that Sithole's visit was intended to work out with Owen how best to preserve the interests of the British monopolies in Zimbabwe. "British imperialism out of Zimbabwe", and "Power to the Patriotic Front" were the slogans, and many passers-by showed their support for this stand.

The picket was only a small start to the vigorous campaign that will have to be carried out in solidarity with ZANU and the Patriotic Front to expose British and US imperialism's attempts to maintain the plunder of Zimbabwe.

LORD CALDECOTE WORRIED FOR HIS PROFITS

One of the biggest British capitalists concerned with copper, Lord Caldecote, Chairman of Delta Metals Ltd., wrote a letter to 'The Times', which was printed on February 21st. The letter was about Zimbabwe (his class calls it Rhodesia). He claimed to be concerned about a "settlement" there and referred to "outside interference" from the Patriotic Front.

Now we have some experience with men in Caldecote's position. He has a work force in the UK of 22,000 people under him. They work, work shifts, nights, overtime, do piecework, dirty work, dangerous work - all this for the profits of Lord Caldecote and consorts. In fact the profits that have been squeezed out of these workers are so immense that Delta had enough money to build and buy lots of factories overseas in order to exploit yet more workers and make more profit.

Now in his letter to 'The Times' he has the cheek to ask: "If this opportunity is lost (he refers to the so-called "internal settlement"), what else can the Rhodesian people look forward to but blood, sweat and tears, without any chance of the ultimate reward in freedom and prosperity?" This question is particularly hypocritical when we consider that his company owns at least the following 5 subsidiaries in Zimbabwe:

Rhodesia Enfield Holdings Ltd, Amalgamated Electrical Services Ltd., Curling and Co. (Private) Ltd., Enfield Cables (Private) Ltd., Bruce Webb (Private) Ltd.

It is Caldecote and his class who are bringing blood sweat and tears out of the people of Zimbabwe. He exploits the black workers there even more strongly than their white class brothers in Britain, in order to get super profits. In his company report he admits that more than half the company's profits come from abroad although only 1/4 of the work force is abroad. In the same

CHAIRMAN MAO'S THEORY OF THE DIFFERENTIATION OF THE THREE WORLDS IS A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO MARXISM-Leninism

This excellent pamphlet from China is a detailed analysis of the present situation in the world. It shows how Mao Tsetung applied the principles of Marxism-Leninism to the actual world situation, analysed the class forces at work in the international arena, and developed the strategy of isolating the two superpowers. It is a very important pamphlet for British workers to study.

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report he boasts that none of his African employees is paid below the "Supplementary Living Level", which is extremely low.

The imperialists are not only driven to Africa in the search for cheap labour. They're after raw materials, as much as possible, as fast and as cheap as possible, and at the exclusion of other imperialists if possible. In the case of Zimbabwe they want copper, chrome, nickel, lithium, gold.

No wonder Lord Caldecote feels the urge to write to 'The Times'. He gets profit in Britain to a great extent by paying British workers just enough to live and by forcing them in return to apply their skills to copper and transform it to wire, rods, sheets etc. His thoughts are simple "Copper in danger, profit in danger". And the profits of him and his class really are in danger because the people of Zimbabwe are standing up to fight for what is rightfully theirs and they are not being fooled by stooges and offers of sham democracy. ■

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SOVIET FASCISTS MASSIVE WAR EXERCISE

It has recently been revealed that the Soviet Union has used the war in the Horn of Africa to stage the biggest exercise in offensive war for years. Apart from using the exercise to pour huge amounts of arms and ammunition into the Horn of Africa to be used against the Eritrean and Somali people, the Soviet fascists have tested their ability to carry out general offensive military operations on a large scale thousands of miles away from Russia. Western European military leaders were flabbergasted when they saw how quickly the Russians could stage an all out attack on western Europe if they decided to.



run to check on the effect of the large-scale use of trains for troop movements in the event of war, and prove that the operation was not just carried out to shift huge quantities of arms to Africa, but was also a massive exercise in preparation for an offensive war.

MASSIVE AIRLIFT

The exercise lasted for three weeks during November and December last year and was massive. At the end of November the Soviet Union suddenly dispatched 225 transport aircraft (about one sixth of its total air transport capacity) along seven different routes to Africa. Many of the aircraft were empty - proving that they were there only for the purpose of exercising their potential for aggression. These aircraft, which took off from all over the Soviet Union and from Soviet foreign bases, flew over many countries' airspace illegally. The Soviet imperialists do not ask anybody's permission to carry out acts of aggression and prepare for war!

CO-ORDINATION SATELLITE LAUNCHED

At the start of the exercise, the Russians launched a new Cosmos military spy satellite. It was used not only for reconnaissance, but also to give tight control of the operation to the fascist leaders in the Soviet Union. The use of satellites like the Cosmos, means that the leaders who direct huge military operations, don't have to do so "in the field", but can do so in comfort and safety without having to leave Russia.

NAVY REGROUPED

The operation was not limited to the Soviet air force. Large numbers of Soviet ships landed tanks, armoured cars and other military equipment in Assab in Eritrea, and Soviet naval units in the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean were regrouped to "protect" the transport aircraft and ships. The Supreme Soviet naval commander Admiral Sergei Gorshkov has publicly argued many times that the Soviet navy should be able to carry out "big landing operations anywhere in the world". This exercise has proved that the Soviet fascists are not only able but very keen to do just that!

At the same time as it is bringing large-scale death and destruction to Africa, and blatantly preparing for war elsewhere, the Soviet Union talks of "solidarity", "peace" and "detente". This operation has proved that these are nothing more than poisonous words of deception, and that we should intensify our efforts not only to show solidarity with the courageous people of Eritrea and Somalia, but also to prepare ourselves for our coming struggle against Soviet fascist aggression. ■

TRANSPORT EXERCISE WITHIN USSR

During the course of the operation, civilians were banned from using many trains in the Soviet Union. Some of the trains were used to transport large quantities of arms and ammunition to ports and airfields, while others ran empty! These empty trains were

SOVIET SPIES

The Canadian government recently expelled 13 Russian "diplomats" for their involvement in a "classic spying operation". And in France four members of a Soviet spy ring were imprisoned for passing on secret military information. In Iran two spies were sentenced to be shot for passing on military intelligence to the Soviet Union.

Such KGB networks exist everywhere. Their activities are identical to the dirty tricks practiced by the US superpower's espionage organisation the CIA. ■

The end of February marked the end of the campaign launched by the RCLB to raise money to "Build up the working class press". This campaign was very successful and the fighting fund target of £1,500 was achieved. We will give full details next month.

RUSSIA'S VIETNAM

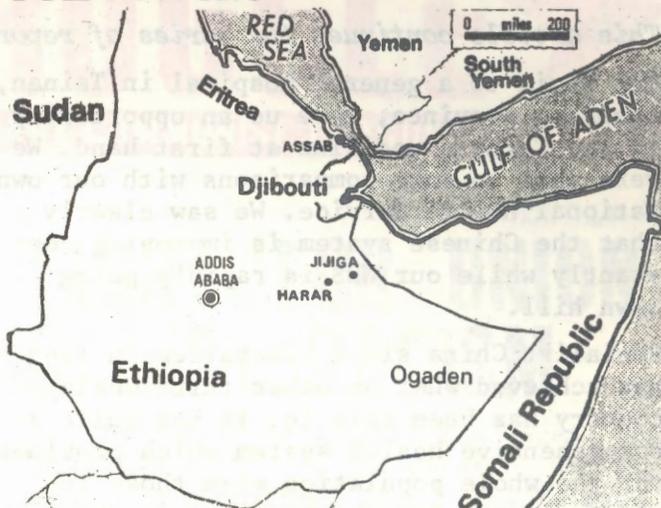
Since last May, the Soviet Union has been pouring huge amounts of arms and ammunition into Ethiopia in an attempt to crush the Eritrean and the Western Somali Liberation movements, and the internal revolutionary struggles, led by the Ethiopian Peoples' Revolutionary Party. During this time, over 600 armoured vehicles, 80 MiG fighter aircraft and 400 artillery weapons have been hurled into battle by the Soviet Union.

In addition to all of these weapons, at least 10,000 Cuban mercenaries, and an unknown number of Russian "advisers" are actually leading the fighting. A couple of months ago the Soviet Union and Cuban fascists were confident of victory. The Soviet Navy was bombarding the Eritrean Peoples' Liberation Front (EPLF) and the Cubans were mounting an offensive against the Western Somali Liberation Front (WSLF) in the Ogaden. Boris Borisenkov, who used to be the Russian press attache in Somalia contemptuously said that "little boys who threw stones at their teachers would get beaten". The "little boys" of Eritrea and Somalia are refusing to be beaten though, and the Russian and Cuban led forces are being held.

The Cubans used to deny that they had any troops fighting in the Ogaden, but have dropped this pretence now that Cuban soldiers have been captured by the Somalis. Now they claim that their army is "contributing to third world solidarity". The Cuban-led offensive, aimed at capturing the town of Jijiga, is now bogged down. The Cuban-led forces have all the heavy weaponry on their side, but the WSLF are waging a heroic guerilla struggle and are inflicting heavy defeats on the Cubans in the Mountains between Harar and Jijiga.

The Eritrean liberation forces have now liberated the whole of Eritrea. It was because the Eritreans were on the verge of final victory that the Russians became openly involved in military fighting for the first time since 1968 in Czechoslovakia. The Russians have not been able to advance an inch yet though. The Eritreans have captured large numbers of Soviet tanks and armoured cars, and are turning them back against the aggressors, and many Ethiopian soldiers are rebelling against their rulers and are coming over to fight for the EPLF.

The struggle will continue to be hard though. The Russians are still sending more arms and the Russians and Cubans pouring in more troops. But despite the intensification of their attacks, the "Russian masters" have not canded the "little boys" of Eritrea and Somalia into submission. Instead they are finding, like the United



States imperialists did in Indo-China, that it is people not weapons, that are decisive. The EPLF and the WSLF are fighting just peoples' wars and like the peoples of Indo-China, they will defeat the aggressors. Cuba now has so many troops fighting in African countries that it is now reported that it is having to call up 5,000 reservists to release regular army men for their colonial wars in Africa. At the same time, Cuban pilots are flying for Ethiopia, bombing civilian villages in the liberated areas with napalm and cluster bombs, some of which are supplied by Israel. The number of Cuban pilots in Ethiopia is so high, that Russian pilots are having to take over their normal duties in Cuba. ■

RUSSIAN WORKERS STRUGGLE AGAINST FASCISM

In the January issue of 'Class Struggle', there was a report on how a Russian, Vladimir Klebanov, had spent some time in a psychiatric hospital, for refusing to demand compulsory overtime of miners, or to send men down the pit when safety equipment was missing or broken. In January he and a group of other workers held a press conference in Moscow announcing the formation of a "Trade Union for the Defence of Workers", which already has hundreds of members. By February, one of his co-leaders, Varvara Kucherenko, had been committed to a psychiatric clinic and 5 others arrested, but the Union continues.

Vladimir Klebanov drew a clear distinction between himself and the intellectual dissidents so often quoted in the press, whom he described as "not interested in workers' problems".

The "Trade Union for the Defence of Workers" has applied to the International Labour Organisation for recognition, but there's no chance that the opportunists, the Gormleys, Scanlons, and the Jack Jones's will give any support. ■

SOVIET VISIT TO A CHINESE HOSPITAL

This article continues the series of reports from the recent RCLB delegation to China

Our visit to a general hospital in Tsinan, Shantung province, gave us an opportunity to see Chinese medicine at first hand. We were able to make comparisons with our own National Health Service. We saw clearly that the Chinese system is improving constantly while our NHS is rapidly going down hill.

Socialist China since Liberation in 1949 has achieved what no other third world country has been able to. It has built a comprehensive health system which provides for the whole population even those in remote areas. For the peasants in the countryside there is the Co-operative Medical Fund. The factories and cities have their health care paid for and organised by the factories and the state.

DOCTORS AND NURSES IN TSINAN

Tsinan general hospital is a fine new hospital built since Liberation. It has 450 beds with a medical staff of 150 doctors and nurses. The normal ward size is 8 beds. There is not much difference in pay between the doctors and the nurses whose monthly pay is between £18-20. This may seem low to us but the basic necessities of life are cheap in China. For example, a worker's flat rent is less than £2 a month. As we walked around the hospital we noticed that the relationship between doctors and nurses was quite different to the NHS in Britain. Not only did they wear the same white coats but when they talked to us about cases, they treated each other as equals.

The hospital takes patients from Tsinan and the districts around. The state pays the expenses of Government and public service workers; other workers' expenses are paid by the factory he or she works in (this includes retired workers). Patients from the countryside have their expenses paid by the Co-operative Medical Fund. Small deductions are made from the pay of workers and peasants to help sustain these funds.

TREATMENT METHODS

The workers at the hospital were quite self-critical about the simplicity of the medical equipment there. The struggle to improve techniques of treatment in Chinese hospitals is taken very seriously. We can say that some of the techniques were advanced even by Western standards.

The comrades there remarked that everything was done to serve the patient. And so it was.

The patient, his family, and his work unit were all consulted about the course of treatment to be used. Chinese traditional methods including herbal treatment and acupuncture are used in combination with Western style drugs. Chinese doctors have no fad for either traditional Chinese or Western methods. They take the best of both and combine the two together to get the patient fit. The choice of methods is one of the things that the patient discusses with the doctor. So patients can choose, for instance whether he is operated on under acupuncture anaesthesia or a general anaesthetic.

THREE OPERATIONS

We witnessed three operations performed under acupuncture anaesthesia. The most remarkable was an operation on a middle aged woman for removal of a tumour of the ovary. The theatre was sterilised in advance with an ultra-violet light. This technique is effective, quick and simple but very uncommon in British hospitals. We exchanged a friendly smile with the fully conscious patient. The smallest necessary cut was made in the patient's abdomen and the tumour (the size of a large grapefruit) was extracted with a suction device which is not used in British hospitals. The aim in surgery is to be effective with the smallest possible incision in order to achieve minimal discomfort and speediest recovery. It is also policy in Chinese hospitals to avoid surgery where possible if a less drastic cure can be devised. Everything is done for the good of the patient.

Although Chinese hospitals have far to go in advanced techniques the style of care is much advanced. Technological backwardness will be cured as China develops. But as for health care in Britain, progress is at a standstill. The NHS is one of the sickest patients in Britain. Why is it going downhill when socialist China advances on the health front? Our visit convinced us that socialism releases the initiative of health care workers because it puts the people first. Our NHS is based in a profit-orientated system, so we are faced with hospital cuts and declining standards. Hospitals make little profit and so they have little prestige in capitalist society. We must defend the NHS and fight for socialism - the workers' dictatorship which makes peoples' health care thrive. ■

Suggestions and criticisms help strengthen the paper.
Contact the RCLB, c/o NEW ERA BOOKS, 203, Seven Sisters Rd., London N4.