

CLASS STRUGGLE

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TORY LEGISLATION MUST BE FOUGHT THROUGH MILITANT CLASS STRUGGLE

The Tories have lost no time in drawing up their programme of attacks on the working class. The Price Commission facade which was erected in the days of the Heath Tory government in order to neutralise opposition to Phase I of the wage freeze and extended by Labour to get acceptance of the Social Contract has now been abolished. There is to be no pretence by the Thatcher and Joseph monetarists that the Government can or will intervene to control prices. Just as Callaghan threatened that if the working class did not knuckle down and accept the 5% decree, he would be "forced" to use monetary and fiscal policies (ie step up inflation); Thatcher's Government will give priority to the pursuit of monetary and fiscal policy. The aim of this is said to be to control inflation. But this is always the lie behind which Labour and Tory Governments hide the measures taken for shifting the burden of the crisis on to the backs of the working class.

PICKETING ATTACKED

The right to picket is a hard won democratic right of the working class. Mass pickets like the miners picket at Saltley and the lorry drivers picketing of goods depots were decisive in ensuring the victory of these struggles. Now that the code of conduct for strikes, hatched up between Callaghan and the TUC, has made respectable the condemnation of "secondary" picketing and mass picketing, the Tories are not hesitating with their intention to restrict picketing rights through legislation. Callaghan's only complaint on this matter is that a Labour Government would have got the co-operation of the TU bosses in restricting picketing.

CALLAGHAN ATTACKS OPPOSITION TO TORIES

The Tories intend to promote further private practice in medicine, and make more NHS facilities available for private health care. Health service workers have strongly condemned this and declared their intention to black pay beds if their numbers are increased. On this Thatcher has not had to say a word because Callaghan has jumped to the aid of the Tories. Speaking to Labour's National Executive with 7 TUC bosses present, Callaghan denounced the

militant health workers as politically motivated. He said Labour could not support action aimed at resisting the Tories' attack.

REVISIONISTS BANKRUPT OPPOSITION TO TORIES

To the revisionists (capitalist dressed as Marxist) "Communist" Party of Great Britain, only the Tories represent and serve the capitalist class. Labour is only "mistaken" in its policies while in Government. For the revisionists, we must now forget how Labour more effectively than the Heath Tory Government boosted the wealth of the top 1% of the population and forced down the real income of the bottom 50% of the population. Profits boomed under Labour. But they are not concerned with this. For the CPGB the main thing facing what they euphemistically call the "Labour Movement" is to give Labour a new "left" image to win the next General Election. Wedgwood Benn is their new darling and

champion. The myth surrounding the fake Benn will soon be dispelled now that he is on the back benches. When he was in the last Labour Government not a word leaked out of any opposition by him to Callaghan's attacks on the working class. Except for his opposition to the EEC which is made a scapegoat for Britain's capitalist crisis not a word against the murder of anti-fascist Blair Peach in Southall, growing police repression or rocketing unemployment came from this man. His service to the capitalist class will become even clearer now he cannot claim leadership restrictions on "speaking out".

MAKE THE TRADE UNION LEADERS FIGHT

The Tories' measures to hold down the struggle of the working class, while political reaction and economic repression are further increased, can only be fought by organised and militant struggle by the

Cont'd on p3

KEY AIMS OF THE TORIES

- * INCREASED CONTRIBUTION TO NATO
- * SPLIT THIRD WORLD BACKING FOR PATRIOTIC FRONT TO PAVE WAY FOR RECOGNISING RHODESIA'S PUPPET BLACK "GOVERNMENT".
- * ATTACK RIGHTS OF PICKETING, ENCOURAGE SCAB LABOUR AND GIVE FINANCIAL BACKING TO IMPOSE POSTAL BALLOTS IN DISPUTES.
- * TAKE AWAY SOCIAL SECURITY RIGHTS FOR WIVES OF MEN ON STRIKE.
- * STRENGTHEN POWERS OF COURTS TO IMPOSE HARSHER SENTENCES ON YOUTHS AND JUVENILES.
- * PROMOTE PRIVATE EDUCATION.
- * PROMOTE NHS CUTS AND LEGISLATE FOR THE PROTECTION AND EXTENSION OF PRIVATE PRACTICE
- * TAKE AWAY CITIZENSHIP OF NATIONAL MINORITIES THROUGH A NEW LAW ON NATIONALITY.
- * HARSHER RACIST IMMIGRATION LAWS.

CONFUSION SURROUNDS DUNLOP

Just after the closure of the Dunlop tyre plant at Speke, Liverpool, 140 workers marched back to work on May 21st. The "settlement" which brought about the resumption of work is being hailed as a victory by the workers' leaders. But among the many workers and union branches throughout Merseyside who had pledged their support to the struggle to stop the closure there is only confusion.

The "settlement" came when the picketing of the plants at Speke and at Fort Dunlop was really hitting the company. At Speke, it was estimated that there were around £2 million worth of tyres ready for transit - while at Fort Dunlop layoffs were imminent because no supplies were getting in or out of the plant. More international strikes were planned. But the unity among the Speke workers themselves began to disintegrate after the actual closure of the Speke plant. At first, only a hundred or so accepted redundancy. But the numbers keeping up the struggle dropped drastically to only 140 out of the original 2,400.

"SETTLEMENT" BENEFITS DUNLOPS

A close look at this "settlement" reveals that it was no real victory. Firstly, the work for the 140 is only temporary - for six months at the most. It entails the removal of the tyre stocks and the clearing of the site. Secondly, a joint working party of union and company representatives has been set up and will spend three months looking into the possibilities of alternative production.

Given the success of the picketing, it can be

seen that Dunlops have succeeded in buying off the picketing for the relatively cheap price of a few months wages for 140 men. While as for the working party, there is no obligation on the part of the company to act on, or implement any proposals or suggestions that it may come up with. In other words, there is no guarantee of jobs for the men, only pie in the sky!

OPPORTUNISTS SOW ILLUSIONS

What accelerated the disillusionment? In any struggle workers can only win if they rely primarily on their collective mass strength and the unity of the working class. When fighting to defend jobs in a capitalist society, it must be clearly understood especially by the leadership, that it is a very difficult type of struggle and in general there are few victories. This is because it is the capitalist system itself which causes unemployment, and the only long-term solution for the working class is the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism and the construction of a planned, socialist economy. These crucial points were never grasped by the leaders of this struggle.

They placed their faith not in the collective strength of the workers but in the capitalist system and the "common sense" attitude of the bosses. They fostered the illusion that capitalism can provide full employment, providing that the bosses and the workers get together and through discussion discover new ways of making profits.

The Speke workers knew that Dunlops can make

WESTLAND'S STRIKE ESCALATED

The 930 clerical workers at the Yeovil factory of Westland Helicopters Ltd., have extended their picketing to all gates, seven days a week and around the clock. This follows measures taken by the bosses to get supplies of materials into the factory, through the use of non-union transport companies. To beat the confident and militant picketing of the clerical workers, the Westland bosses are using certain managerial scabs to ferry materials delivered from their homes in their own cars. As a further sign of their confidence and determination, the workers have pushed up their claim since they have been on strike. The clerical workers are now demanding a 17% wage increase, instead of 14%; plus a 35 hour week; improved holiday pay and conditions, and a 12 month agreement without strings. Westland bosses have offered only 13% for a 15 month agreement with strings.

UNITY IN STRUGGLE

Among the clerical workers themselves, there is a tremendous unity of purpose. Perhaps for the first time, many realise the immense strength that they have, and are confident in their ability to win victory. The conviction and spirit of the women workers throughout the struggle has been very high and has built up considerable respect from the men. In fact the women have been especially militant, both at mass meetings and on the picket line. The unity of men and women in this strike is one of its greatest strengths. One worker, whose wife is an invalid, was asked what his wife had said after he spent many hours every day and night (up to 1.30 am

and again from 5.00am) on the picket line. He replied, "my wife said even if I only stopped one lorry during the night, it would be worthwhile to help win the strike."

From lorry drivers there has been 95% support, even from a number of non-union drivers. One said, "I am not in a union, but I don't cross any picket lines anywhere."

WESTLANDS FEELING THE PINCH

The effects of the strike are now biting hard. As far back as May 2nd, the bosses own mouthpiece, the *Financial Times* admitted that the strike "has resulted in some dislocation to the supply of materials". It is reaching crisis point for the Westland bosses now, with production disrupted everywhere and some areas closing down.

In the face of the determination of the strikers the opportunists have had little room to manoeuvre. Defeatist talk at mass meetings by them has been pushed aside. But some are still acting in a negative manner and whispering defeatism. This proves that they are incapable of leadership. The opportunists have no faith in the mass of the workers. While the opportunists have wavered and stood in the way of the strike, the workers have stood firm and totally outstripped them in their enthusiasm for the struggle. To sustain such enthusiasm, leadership which marches at the head of the struggle is needed. Such leaders are coming forward and being thrown up in the course of this militant struggle at Westlands. ■

'SETTLEMENT'

tyres more profitably elsewhere; that the Speke plant had not had any major capital investment for the last 10 years, a clear indication that the closure was part of this transnational company's long-term planning. Is it any wonder then that once they saw the leadership's growing reliance on the "reasonableness" of the bosses, they drifted away in their thousands?

The initial unity and determination shown by the Dunlop workers acts as an inspiration to the whole of the working class, especially so on Merseyside where closure after closure has pushed unemployment up to twice the national average. They gave the lie to the claim that workers aren't prepared to fight back when being made to pay for the capitalist crisis. Given better leadership a genuine victory could have been won, and the inspiration would have been all the greater. ■

'RELEASE VIRKS' COURT DEMONSTRATION

In April 1977 four Asians, the Virk brothers were repairing their car outside their own front door. Five or six white youths, some of them drunk, first abused them with racial insults and then attacked them. The brothers defended themselves.

When the police arrived, they arrested the four Virk brothers, not one of the white youths. They were treated as confirmed criminals and were required to sign at the police station every day until the case came to court 15 months later.

The trial judge excluded all evidence which showed that some of the white youths were members of racist organisations or that their attack was racist. He then pronounced savage sentences of seven, three and two years on three of the brothers.

Their appeal is being heard on Thursday June 7th at 10 o'clock at the Royal Courts of Justice the Strand, Aldwych, London WC 2. The Steering Committee of Asian Organisations has called a demonstration outside the Court to begin at 10 o'clock on June 7th, to:

Demand the Virk brothers release.
Condemn police harassment of black people
Protest against the courts' racism.

Letters of support to the :-
Steering Committee of Asian Organisation
100, North Street, Barking, Essex.

TORY LEGISLATION MUST BE FOUGHT Cont'd from p1

working class. Callaghan and the Labour leaders dictate that fighting the Tories must be restricted to the activities of MPs in Parliament. This argument is always attractive to the TU misleaders who answer workers demands for opposing anti-working class laws with Vote Labour. This is tantamount to shackling the working class indefinitely, because nothing is won without a fight. Like the struggle against the Industrial Relation Act, the trade unions must begin to campaign for resistance to the Tory's measures now. It should involve the rank and file and not be restricted to the empty words of Murray, Bassnett and Co. ■

A WORKER'S NOTEBOOK

■ FOLLOWING THE NEWS THAT A CAPTAIN FROM THE Ordinance Corps has recently won a discharge from the army on "political grounds", army chiefs must be a bit worried that many more will follow. Commenting on his periods of duty in Northern Ireland ex-captain Michael Biggs said that he was "extremely worried by his own involvement in a presence I now abhor." Growing objections to the military presence and methods used by the British army in Ireland led him to use a little known (he stumbled on it by accident) method of getting out the army - the advisory committee of conscientious objectors.

■ AN EX-ARMY MAN WAS IN THE NEWS RECENTLY WHEN HE appeared on the David Frost TV programme entitled "David Frost's Global Village". This young man vehemently attacked the presence of the British army in Northern Ireland and expressed the view that violence and terrorism will continue for as long as the British army is in Ireland. Elitist terrorism however, will not free Northern Ireland from the British occupation troops and only plays into the hands of the British ruling class. The programme was noticable for the (almost) non-appearance of Sinn Fein spokesman Rory O'Brady and several MPs among them John Biggs Davidson. These MPs walked out of the programme in protest at the presence of O'Brady and because as Biggs Davidson explained, "He had not been warned that he was going to have a discussion with people concerned with violence." Apparently, Biggs Davidson's objections were directed exclusively in the direction of Rory O'Brady even though several prominent members of the paramilitary Ulster Defence Association were sitting in the audience. Naturally, when representatives of the British state talk about "violence", they do not refer to the violence perpetuated by the British army in Northern Ireland and their backers, nor to the activities of the SAS, which along with Ian Smith's notorious "Selous Scouts" must rank as one of the most brutal and vicious semi-secret counter-insurgency units operating in the world.



Reg Birch, Chairman of the "Communist" Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) flanked by Ron Todd, Treasurer of the London District Labour Party (left) and Paul Roots (right).

This photograph was carried in the paper *Ford News*. Ron Todd is the chief trade union negotiator at Fords. He is well known for his opposition to militant action. Paul Roots is the Director of Employee Relations for Fords. At the presentation on his retirement, Roots praised Birch for having "the courage to tell the unpalatable truth" to employees or union members.

What kind of unpalatable truth is he talking about. Refusing to give leadership in the Ford strike or opposing the strike of the Heathrow Airport engineers and demanding they go back to work.



THE STATE IS AN ORGAN OF C

This article is the first of three on the nature of the state and the tasks of the working class in overthrowing the state rule of the ruling class as the precondition for advancing to socialism.

These articles continue the series which started on October 6th, 1978 and ended on November 17th. This series explained some fundamental principles of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought that are essential standpoints of a genuine party of the working class.

Many readers will find it difficult to study these articles on their own. They are mainly intended for collective discussion. If you would like to meet with other activists who read Class Struggle and discuss these and other articles in the paper, give your name to your Class Struggle seller, or write to: RCL, c/o New Era Books. They will put you in contact with someone in your locality.

The nature of the state throughout the history of class society has been hidden behind theories aimed at deceiving the masses. In modern capitalist and imperialist society, the state is presented as a neutral body unconnected with any "sectional interest" and the protector of the "national interest". In the dark ages of feudalism, the establishment of the church as part of the state was used to present state authority as the will of god on earth. What is the purpose of such theories and ideas, and who do they serve?

THE ORIGIN OF THE STATE

There has not always been a state. In primitive society before the emergence and division of society into classes, customs of the tribe governed the code of behaviour, and respect and authority was given to the elders of the tribe, who were not always men but women too. It is only with the emergence of classes the the state first appeared. The emergence of classes which began with slavery was an inevitable development of human society. But it was only inevitable once man's progress in

developing production had reached the stage where it was possible to produce a surplus above the immediate requirements of the tribe. The forcing of members of conquered tribes into slavery was then

"The state, therefore, has not existed from all eternity. There have been societies which managed without it, which had no conception of the state and state power. At a certain stage of economic development, which was necessarily bound up with the cleavage of society into classes, the state became a necessity owing to this cleavage. We are now rapidly approaching a state in the development of production at which the existence of these classes has not only ceased to be a necessity, but is becoming a positive hindrance to production".

(Engels)

not just a question of another mouth to feed, but a way to increased riches. First this was riches for the conquering tribe and later, as private property in slaves developed, for individual slaveowners. It is impossible for such a privileged minority of society, a ruling class, to set itself up and live in riches by expropriating the labour and produce of the slaves, serfs and peasants, or workers without coming into conflict with them. It was therefore necessary for the ruling class to prevent society consuming itself in conflict. Organs of coercion had to be established. These organs such as a standing army, police and prisons, whilst acting to moderate the conflict, are instruments for the exploitation of the oppressed class by the ruling class.

The laws enacted and decreed in the different class societies legitimize the existing social order and protect the propertied interests of the ruling class. These laws have been different in the different class societies - slavery, feudalism and capitalism. Under slavery, the slaveowner totally owned his slave and the law protected his right to use or even kill the slave as he wished. Feudal law protected the propertied rights of the feudal lords

RAMPTON EXPOSURES doctor and ex-nurse write

Dear Editor,

After watching the horrific programme about Rampton Special Hospital last week on TV, I want to support the stand those ex-nurses and ex-patients were taking against brutality.

I was a Psychiatric Nurse for 8 years and during that time, I came across many people who had either worked in or been "treated" in Special Hospitals. Their experiences were just like those on the TV.

The whole idea of a Special Hospital is a con. Whoever heard of a hospital run direct by the Home Office instead of through the Area Health Authorities; whoever heard of nurses who are organised by the Prison Officers Association, instead of by the Health Service unions? Why did the ex-patients in the programme refer to the staff as "screws"?

But perhaps things will get better now that all this has been exposed on TV? Like hell they will. In my opinion, the programme was screened because the amount of public evidence of atrocities has grown to such a level that it can't be ignored any more. It is

difficult and dangerous for ex-nurses and patients to expose what they have seen, but this is happening more and more and we must support them fully in this.

This means that the Home Office has to pretend to be shocked at all this, and act as if it is taking the question seriously. But nothing in that programme was new to them. One of the ex-patients pointed out that she had written to David Ennals - Labour's Health Minister until the General Election - over 2 years ago complaining about the "wet towel treatment" and received no reply. There have been several unpublicised police enquires into complaints, which (surprise, surprise) found nothing.

So what are they promising now? - another police enquiry. That will be a farce. It may find one or two nurses who they can use as a scape-goat, and smooth everything over again.

But the real cause of these atrocities - the state itself - will go uncriticised and unpunished. This is where we should concentrate our hatred, not against individual nurses who get fouled up working in a lousy institution and act in a brutal way. They are very wrong, sure. But they are not the cause of the violence. The whole system that treats patients like animals and nurses like jailors, that encourages ideas that such patients are sub-human, contemptible, useless, untreatable - this is what we should attack. ■

CLASS RULE

and barons based on land ownership and compelled serfs to work part of their time directly for the lord. With the abolition of serfdom, the peasantry had greater freedom to work their own plot, but had to pay rent to the lord. Today, under capitalist rule, the bourgeoisie (capitalist class) does not own the working class, nor does the law state that a particular worker must toil in this or that factory. But the working class is tied to the capitalist class because it is compelled to sell its labour power to the capitalist class who own the factories and mines in order to live.

Workers, therefore, are not slaves or tied to the land of a feudal lord. Instead, they are wage slaves. The slaveowner took the produce and the fruits of the slaves' work and undertook only to feed and clothe him. The feudal lord gave the serf and peasant a plot of land but made them work for him for nothing for part of the year or pay taxes and rent to the lord. The worker is paid a wage in the factory or mine, but he or she produces much more than the value of the wage. In each of these systems, the exploiting class lives off the backs of the people. In order to maintain this position of privilege, a public power standing above society is required. This public power is the state.

WORKING CLASS POWER PAVES THE WAY TO THE STATE WITHERING AWAY

The state arose with the division of society into classes. When classes no longer exist, there will be no need for a state to hold down part (ie, the oppressed and exploited part) of society. The cleavage of society into classes and therefore the emergence of the state was an inevitable and necessary development in the history of human society. It was an inevitable development in man's progress in developing the means of production. The emergence of slavery, feudalism and capitalism are not big "mistakes" in history. Each represented progress for as long as it furthered the development of the means of production. When they cease to

"The second distinguishing feature (of the state) is the establishment of a public power which no longer directly coincided with the population organising itself as an armed force. This special public power is necessary, because a self-acting armed organisation of the population has become impossible." (Engels quoted in Lenin's *State and Revolution*, p10)

"In possession of the public power and the right to levy taxes, the officials, as organs of society now stand above society. The free voluntary respect that was accorded to the organs of the gentile (clan) constitution does not satisfy them, even if they could gain it..." (Engels as above, p13).

"Special laws are enacted proclaiming the sanctity and immunity of the officials. "The shabbiest police servant" has more "authority" than the representatives of the clan..." (*State and Revolution*, p13).

do this, they are reactionary and have to be overthrown before further progress can begin. Capitalism has outlived its time on the stage of history. So, it must be overthrown by the proletariat (working class) to make way for a new system which will further the development of the productive forces. That system is socialism and the power of the working class.

All previous revolutions which have changed one form of exploitation for another have perfected the state apparatus and not destroyed it. The working class has no need for such an instrument of exploitation and indeed, in order to take power, must smash the state apparatus. The proletariat in power does need a state, however. But this is not a state in the same sense, in the sense that the state arose as an organ to protect the rule of an exploiting class. The proletarian state is called the dictatorship of the proletariat and exists in order to hold down the exploiting class, while the masses of the people take real power for themselves - for the first time - and get on with the job of building socialism. Over a long period of time, the need for this state will wither away as the workers and oppressed people win victory over the exploiting classes in more and more countries throughout the world, and as economic and social development in the new socialist societies make it impossible for an exploiting class to re-emerge.

This process will end in the victory of communism, and establish a new era in the development of human society.

In these articles on the state we will frequently quote from Lenin's excellent work *State and Revolution*. There can be no substitute for studying such original works themselves.

State and Revolution is available by post from New Era Books. Price 40p plus 15p postage and packing. Postal orders payable to: New Era Books

Dear Editor,

I am a junior hospital doctor working in a busy casualty department in an NHS hospital.

Last week a middle age woman came to casualty. She was extremely agitated and when I interviewed her would only answer my questions with unhelpful nonspecific replies about being ill for 2 weeks. After a little while I asked her what the trouble really was. She immediately broke down, began to cry and accused me of wanting to send her to Rampton mental hospital.

After a very long talk I found out that she had been there for 22 years. After finally being let out she had worked happily and diligently until made redundant. She was now living in a sheltered accomodation.

Someone had said to her (I don't know why) that if she carried on in the way she was going on (ie being depressed) she would end up in Rampton. The very thought of the possibility of going back had caused her to completely crack up.

22 years of "treatment" in Rampton had created a person frightened of her own shadow, too weak to fight, and a memory of an institution which caused real terror, panic, fright, you name it. Why was she in Rampton in the first place? - for being illegitimate!

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THIRD WORLD STRESSES UNITY IN FOR NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC

"We should develop trade and economic links among the developing countries. For only by increasing our collective weight in the system, only by building collective bargaining power, only by becoming collectively self-reliant, can the developing countries hope to change their unequal position in the existing order". These words of Bangladesh commerce minister Mohammad Saifur Rahman were spoken at the recent United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), which has been taking place in the Philippines, with over 150 countries taking part.

At conferences like UNCTAD there is always a struggle between countries, as the third world - the developing countries - continue their struggle against oppression and exploitation by the imperialists. The two superpowers are usually at the forefront of opposing the just demands of the third world, and this 5th session of UNCTAD is no exception.

The main struggle of the third world has been based on the *Arusha Programme* which was agreed as their basic platform by over 100 third world countries when they prepared for the UNCTAD conference. The *Arusha Programme* identifies important areas of international finance and trade, where the third world countries have to struggle, if they are to make progress in the struggle for a "New International Economic Order" which is their main aim. The important areas are:

1. Co-operation in Trade, industrial development, finance and technology among the third world countries in order to advance their collective economic development. This will strengthen the power of the third world, overcome in past the deliberate imperialist aim of keeping the third world underdeveloped and therefore prey for the imperialist robbers, and increase the unity and strength of the third world and advance their common struggle.

2. To establish a "common fund" financed mainly by the imperialists which will be used to stabilise and maintain the prices of industrial and agricultural raw materials produced by the third world.

3. Opposition to trade protectionism which is being increased by the imperialists, who are protecting their interests by passing the burden of the crisis onto the third world (as well as onto the backs of workers within the imperialist countries).

4. Immediate measures are demanded to reduce the debts of the third world to the imperialists by cancellation of many debts, and by changing the terms of repayment and making them easier.

WHAT LIES BEHIND THESE DEMANDS?

The imperialists everywhere - including in Britain - are fond of blaming inflation and higher prices on "rising costs" - especially on increases in the price of raw materials produced by third world countries. In fact the opposite is the case.

As the Bangladesh Minister of Commerce pointed out: "it now takes twice as much jute to buy the same unit of machinery as it did 10 years ago". This is one example, but it is what is happening all the time. Prices of raw materials produced in third world have gone up in the main, but the machinery the third world has to buy from the imperialists is going up in price much faster. The Bangladesh Minister summed it up "The rich countries have become richer and the poor poorer". can repay each year. So every year the debts get bigger. The interest gets bigger. The countries pay

Just as the imperialists pass the burden of the crisis of their system onto the backs of the working class within "their" countries, so they are passing it onto the backs of the poorest people in the world - the peoples of the third world. That is the basis of the real common interest that lies between the working class in the imperialist countries and the oppressed peoples and nations of the third world. We have a common enemy - the parasitic imperialists that thrive on the poverty of the vast majority of the people of the world.

THIRD WORLD DEMANDS EXPOSE OPPORTUNISTS

But when we get onto the next major demand of the third world, we find yet again that the opportunists in the Labour Party and "Communist" Party (CPGB) have turned reality on its head, attacking the people of the world and allying themselves with the imperialists. The third world demands an end to trade protectionism. In 1977 alone the third world lost an estimated £20,000 million because of import controls imposed by the imperialists. In total opposition to their just demand the opportunists in Britain demand instead more import controls. Wedgewood Benn, the *Morning Star* rag, the Tribune group all demand import controls. They blame the loss of jobs in industry, not on the decay of the imperialist system, but on imports from the third world. But again the reality is quite different:- "The balance of trade in manufactures between the industrialised countries and the developing countries remains overwhelmingly in favour of the industrialised countries. The surplus of the industrialised countries in this trade increased from £8,000 million in 1963 to £50,000 million in 1977 and is continuing to increase." With these words the Pakistan Minister of Finance, Ghulam Ishaq Khan, nailed the lies of the opportunists. What Benn and the 'C'PGB are really saying is that jobs in Britain must be saved by increasing the vicious plunder of the third world by the imperialists. The only way to solve the problem of unemployment is to destroy capitalism and imperialism. Only in socialist countries like China is there full employment, and their trade policy is a socialist policy of mutual benefit to both countries in any trade deal - not a policy of ripping off the third world. Imperialists will only be defeated by socialism through the unity of the workers in the imperialist countries and the oppressed peoples and nations. But Benn and the revisionists (fake communists) instead want to plunder the third world! They promise British workers that if we sacrifice our struggle for socialism and join hands with the imperialists some jobs will be saved. But even this is an illusion. The third world will rightly retaliate against more import controls and even more jobs would be lost.

The two-pronged attack of the imperialists in trade against the third world - by selling dear and buying cheap and by cutting imports whilst demanding the "right" to export - has added to the already large debts of the third world countries,

By the end of 1978, the third world was in debt to a tune of £150,000 million. In 1974, it was £57,000 million. In 1977, third world countries repaid £37,000 million, but about £15,000 million of that was just paying off interest. For many countries the interest payments are higher than they

STRUGGLE ORDER

more to the imperialists, but they are worse off. The imperialists have a never ending income of thousands of millions of pounds. And this comes from debts which were caused by the imperialists' plunder of the third world in the first place. That is why the third world justly demands the cancellation and rescheduling of its debts.

THE REACTION OF THE SUPERPOWERS

The reaction of the two superpowers to these just demands was as expected. The US superpower made a low-key speech. The US representative managed to avoid making any statement whatsoever about the "Common Fund", and ignored the other main demands. Most of his speech was a promise to give more "aid" to scientific and technical institutes in the third world - but only institutes set up and controlled by the US itself! In other words the US opposed the demands and would only aid projects which were aimed at maintaining US influence in the third world.

The Soviet social imperialists were even more openly opposed to the demands of the third world. Firstly, they expressed hollow support for the *Arusha Programme*. Then they attacked it saying it wasn't militant enough, in an attempt to split the third world. Then they showed their real intentions by attacking the programme for "not distinguishing between capitalist and socialist systems" (by which they mean themselves). Under this cover they said that the Soviet Union should not have to accept the same demands that are put on the other imperialists! The Soviet Union demanded its right to "bilateral" trade, ie trade with individual countries. The social imperialists wanted to continue to bypass the collective bodies set up by third world countries which increase their bargaining power. This is a means of the social imperialists getting goods off the poor of the third world even more cheaply. The social imperialists defended their system of buying goods off third world countries in non-convertible currency. Through this system the money can only be used to buy Soviet goods. This practice was condemned in an article in the Indian paper *Economic Times*, which pointed out that the Soviet goods offered are out-dated and overpriced. India pays a third more than West Germany for Soviet oil, for example. The Indian Student Organisation's paper said, "Buying cheap and selling dear is an normal practice of imperialists which has been adopted by the USSR". Last November, the Soviet Union unilaterally increased the exchange rate between the rouble and the Indian rupee, substantially increasing India's debt. The social imperialists will not cancel debts. On the contrary they are doing the opposite! The Indian article also condemned Soviet "aid". These loans, they said, were even more costly than Western "aid", with a higher interest rate and many strings.

The Soviet delegate at UNCTAD showed that the social imperialists would continue this plunder. Finally, like the US, he too totally ignored the question of the "Commodity Fund" and failed to commit any Soviet money to the fund (unlike a number of the smaller second-rate imperialist powers). One African delegate said, "We were very upset there was no reference to the Common Fund."

Another Asian delegate summed up the general reaction to the Soviet Union: "We did not expect anything else. It is the same old litany."

INTERNATIONAL NOTES



CZECHOSLOVAKIA: "We demand the withdrawal of Soviet troops from our territory and the cancellation of the "Soviet-Czechoslovak treaty on terms of temporary stationing of Soviet troops in Czechoslovakia" which was signed under pressure in August 1968 following the illegal invasion of our territory". This quote is taken from a leaflet distributed in Czechoslovakia recently by the "Underground Committee of the Prague University Students Union". The leaflet also condemned the economic exploitation of Czechoslovakia. ■

WEST INDIES: Six islands in the eastern Caribbean recently demanded that Britain give complete independence to St. Vincent, St. Kitts-Nevis and Antigua before the end of the year. The other three - Grenada, Dominica and St. Lucia - already have formal independence. The six states have decided to form themselves into the "Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States" and to fully co-ordinate their foreign policy. Even after formal independence, there will still be a major struggle against economic plunder by Britain and the US superpower. ■

UNCTAD: Soviet bloc representatives tried to prevent the representative of Democratic Kampuchea from speaking at the UNCTAD conference. The Bulgarian delegate elbowed her out the way, while other Soviet bloc delegates called on the United Nations to recognise the puppets they have installed in Kampuchea. When the Chairman ruled them out of order and called on Mrs Ieng Thirith to speak for Democratic Kampuchea, there was widespread applause. The Soviet and Vietnamese delegates left the hall. ■

KOREA: Samdech Norodom Sihanouk who was sent by the Government of Democratic Kampuchea to the United Nations in January to expose the Soviet-Vietnamese invasion of Kampuchea recently paid a visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (north Korea). At a meal to welcome him, Comrade Kim Il Sung, President of the DPRK stressed: "We treasure our friendship with you and will always exert our utmost to support and uphold your just cause. Today when a fierce struggle is being fought between the forces of independence and the forces of domination on a global scale, we regard it as our sacred binding obligation and duty to assist all the oppressed people's in the world who uphold independence." ■

ZIMBABWE: The Rhodesian regime of Ian Smith and his black traitor friends has claimed that 200 "terrorists" were killed within one week shortly after the fake elections - the highest weekly total ever. The reason was exposed in a letter to the *Guardian* by Reverend Rex Williamson. He pointed out that every person who voted in the election had their hands dyed. "Those who did not vote were thus easily identified...and were deemed by the security forces to be ZANU or ZAPU supporters and on this kind of evidence many young men were summarily executed as terrorists". ■

SOVIET UNION: The United Nations Sanctions Committee has compiled a report on the secret trade that Moscow has been conducting with the racist Smith regime. For eight years, the social imperialists have been buying chrome and tobacco worth millions of pounds. The chrome is then re-sold to the USA at a vast profit. The captain of a Soviet cargo ship commented, "Russia is only interested in doing business."

Propping up Smith with trade deals and trying to split the liberation forces shows just what a bunch of hypocrites the Soviet imperialists are, since they always pretend to be the "natural allies" of the oppressed peoples and nations of the world. ■

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT - A GOOD THING?

On June 7th, elections will be taking place throughout Europe for the "European Parliament". The main significance of the European Parliament is that it is the reflection of a growing trend of European unity. It will also be an encouragement to further unity.

IS EUROPEAN UNITY A GOOD THING?

Many "left" wingers are fond of talking about the threat to the independence of Britain. Wedgwood Benn, the "Communist" Party of Great Britain, the various Trotskyite groups and the "Communist" Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) are prepared to rabbit on for hours on end about the "loss of sovereignty" and how Britain has been "sold to Europe". There is indeed a major issue of defending Britain's independence, but as usual these opportunists have got everything upside down. Who is posing the main threat to the independence not only of Britain, but also the rest of Europe? Who is rampaging round the world and engaged on a massive campaign of expansion in Kampuchea, Afghanistan, the two Yemens, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Zaire? Which power is rapidly building up its military machine all along the European frontiers? Which power has carried out military occupation of part of Norway? Which power has already got half of Europe under its thumb? Is it France, Belgium, Italy or West Germany? No! It is the Soviet social imperialists. Forget about the honeyed words of "detente" and "disarmament" and look at the actions of the Soviet Union. Ask the question: "Which power in the world most opposed the trend of European unity, and still refuses to recognise the EEC? That is where the main threat to the independence of Europe is coming from.

Ask another question: "Can any European country individually stand up to Soviet military expansion?" not even the whole of Europe and Japan combined has such a big war machine. It is only through unity that the European countries can protect their independence. On another scale, leaving aside a direct invasion and annexation by Soviet social imperialism, only unity can give Europe the strength to stand up to political demands and pressure by the Soviet imperialists.

There is indeed a threat to independence - but that threat comes mainly from the Soviet social imperialists. The revisionists of the 'C'PGB and other opportunists have turned things upside down and are aiding Soviet expansionism.

From the opposite direction there is another issue of independence. Independence from the US superpower. If the European countries are not strong enough to stand up to Soviet social imperialists, the capitalists will turn to US imperialism, as they have in the past. The US imperialists use that situation to their own advantage. They also put political, military and economic pressure on Europe.

The US imperialists have vast economic interests in Europe. Look at the car monopolies. They are just one example. The Soviet social imperialists look at the highly industrialised countries of Europe, the skilled workforce, the strategic position it occupies in the world. Both superpowers want Europe within their "sphere of influence". It has become the focus of the struggle between them. Only European unity can help maintain independence from both superpowers.

That is why we must support unity.

THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT HAS NO DIRECT POWERS

The European parliament is even more important than

the British Parliament. That is not surprising. The European monopoly capitalists are like a lot of cut-throats, trying to form themselves into one group. All the big ones want to be top dog. They will fight among themselves. All the big ones want to rip off the smaller ones if they can. They know they've got to get together but it is built into the capitalist system that they will keep falling out with each other and squabble over this and that. Nevertheless they are forced into unity by the threat from superpower contention, especially the threat from Soviet expansion. That is a good thing.

WHY SHOULD THE WORKING CLASS BOTHER ABOUT INDEPENDENCE?

The working class can only solve its situation by overthrowing capitalism and building socialism. That is a long and hard task. But it is doubly difficult to fight when we are simultaneously occupied by a superpower. The loss of independence would set back the struggle for socialism even further. That is why we defend independence - because it is a necessary part of the struggle for socialism. It does not and cannot replace the struggle for socialism. It is a component part of the struggle. Independence is also in the interests of the capitalists. They want to maintain their own rule. It is good when they stand up for independence. But we cannot forget that they do it for their interests and we for ours.

ONLY WORKING CLASS CAN BE RELIED ON

Not only do the European capitalists keep falling out, but they are afraid to arm the people. They are afraid of the Soviet social imperialists too. That is why there are not only some agents of the Soviet Union who damage the struggle for independence, but also a section of the capitalists who appease Soviet expansion. They back down before threats hoping that Soviet social imperialism won't demand more, just as they backed down before Hitler. That is why the only reliable force for independence is the working class. Whilst the unity of the European countries is a good thing, the main thing we must build is the unity of the working class and people throughout Europe. Obviously that will advance the general struggle for socialism throughout Europe as well. Clearly too, the European capitalists will try to use their unity to push down the working class. They have always done that. Our job is to fight back. But we must totally reject the agents of Soviet social imperialism who are blaming the Common Market for the conditions of the working class.

These people are not only trying to stop European unity. They are also trying to claim that the problems are caused by the Common Market, not by capitalism. They are not socialists at all.

WHAT ABOUT THE ELECTIONS?

Setting up a European Parliament is mainly a good thing as it represents advance in Europe. But it is still a bosses' talking shop. As far as this election is concerned, there is no choice for the working class. Labour and Tory are still two wings of a single bird of prey! That is why we should boycott the election.

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