

CLASS STRUGGLE ★

POLITICAL PAPER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF BRITAIN

Vol.3 No.12 June 14 to 27th 1979

fortnightly 7p

GEORGE LINDO: RACIST COURT VERDICT OVERTURNED VIRK BROTHERS STILL IN GAOL

George Lindo, the 27 year old textile worker who was framed on a charge he could not have committed, had his conviction quashed by the Appeal Court on June 8th. But this was no victory for the wheels of justice. George had already served one year of a two year sentence in prison. He was due for release on parole within 11 days. At the trial where an all white jury convicted him, not a shred of evidence was produced by the police linking George to an alleged armed robbery. Their entire case rested on a so-called "confession" which was extracted while in custody in the main Bradford police station. Less than an hour after the racist verdict which convicted George Lindo the police were round at his father's home harassing the family further.

HARASSMENT CONTINUES DESPITE DISCLOSURE

George Lindo's release pending appeal followed a confession by detective constable Brierley of the Bradford police that he had concocted evidence. But clearly revealing that the vicious racism of the Bradford police is not just a question of one policeman's "malpractices", the police continued to harass the Lindo family. They swore it was their intention to get George "back inside within six months". Well they have failed! The Free George Lindo Campaign has won a victory. Without their exposure of the Bradford racist police, the courts would never have been compelled to investigate

Lindo's case and release him.

At the appeal, Justice Eastham said timidly, "We find this case most disturbing". Well, he might! But it is left to class conscious workers and the specially oppressed national minorities to draw the conclusion that George Lindo is only one West Indian worker whose injustice in the hands of the racist police has been overturned. Confessions are now totally discredited. The onus must be on the prosecution to prove its case.

VIRK BROTHERS SENTENCES CUT

The day before the Lindo appeal, the Appeal court in the Strand, London, cut the sentences of the Virk brothers, imprisoned for defending themselves against racist thugs, by half. Unlike Justice Eastham, the judges in this case were not "disturbed" sufficiently to follow their recognition that the Virk brothers were victims of attack, to its conclusion and quash the sentences completely. This is because the courts and the state want to discourage national minorities organising self-defence against racist attack. Contrast this with the sentence of a paltry 5 years to the killer of West Indian youth Michael Ferreira in Dalston on December 10th last year. Over 200 people demonstrated outside the courts in the Strand loudly proclaiming the right to self-defence. Nothing can make this struggle lie down.

IN MEMORY OF COMRADE JAGMOHAN JOSHI

General Secretary of the Indian Workers Association (Great Britain)

an appreciation of his contribution to the revolutionary movement, the struggle against imperialism, and the struggle against racism and fascism....p4
interview...p5



MEMORIAL MEETING

Sunday 17th June, 2pm
BIRMINGHAM TOWN HALL,
VICTORIA STREET,
BIRMINGHAM 2
(near New Street Station)

POLICE CHIEF WANTS NATIONAL FORCE

In order to establish a more centralised, military-style police force, a top cop has called for setting up a national police force. Lancashire chief constable Albert Laugharne, speaking at the annual conference of the Association of Chief Police Officers described such a national force as necessary to "combat terrorism and the modern high-speed criminal". These are the usual catch-phrases of the police chiefs when they are arguing for increased powers. But Laugharne let the cat out of the bag as he argued for this new force of super-cops. He complained that the police are restricted by present decision-making procedure on how to use police strength in emergencies. In a clear statement which hinted that not all police divisions could be trusted to carry out the kind of actions needed in such an emergency, Laugharne said that "No chief constable could control the actions of another." To solve this problem for the bourgeois (capitalist) state of mobilising the police force nationally at any time, he called for a new crack force which will submit itself to the instructions of a police supremo.

SPG COULD BECOME CORE OF NEW FORCE

The Special Patrol Group whose most recent atrocity is the murder of anti-fascist Blair Peach on April

23rd in Southall, now has officers attached to local police stations throughout London. The SPG is a military style force trained in the use of arms and which is gradually extending its operations. It is a state terror squad numbering approximately 204 officers and still rising. The exposure that Blair Peach was not hit by an ordinary truncheon but by a lead-weighted cosh shows that in their brutal suppression of the Southall demonstration, the SPG were out to make an example of someone. Many witnesses have already testified that Blair Peach was hit by the police. Truncheons are not given extra weight by accident. Now we know what the police chiefs mean when they say that the SPG is not for the squeamish.

The SPG has been training and gaining experience from its activities in London boroughs, harrassing and terrorising black youths. They are now being built up as a crack force within the existing police force for operations throughout Britain. Its command is extremely centralised and will certainly satisfy the demands of police chief Laugharne for enforcing nationwide suppression of the working class "in an emergency". Class conscious workers must have no illusions about the bourgeois state. It is a vicious enemy of the masses and must be overthrown before socialism can be built.

PRIVATE PRACTICE GROWING FAT AT WORKERS' EXPENSE

Private medicine is booming and the Tories intend it to stay that way. In the Queen's speech they stated "A Bill will be introduced to facilitate the wider use of private medical care." In other words "We're rich and we're all right Jack - who cares about the NHS". Who cares? We care! It's our health service and health workers and action groups are fighting fiercely to save it.

THE STRUGGLE UNDER LABOUR

What a battle has been needed with the Labour Government in power! Health cuts have forced many to use private medicine; people who can't afford it and don't believe in it. But, when waiting times run to six months for an outpatient appointment and another year on the operating list and you are sick, in pain, and unable to work, the profiteers have you. NHS cuts directly encourage private practice. Labour has closed hospitals, cut funds to specialised units, built few health centres and delayed promised facilities. It has understaffed those it has left and under-paid the remaining staff. We can all think of local examples of such cuts besides the more publicised ones. For example, in Liverpool two maternity units were closed last year and the district midwives are so understaffed that when they work a statutory holiday they cannot take time off in lieu. Mass struggles against such cuts have won several successes. A local campaign in Hemel Hempstead for a promised new hospital has been won and after a protracted fight, the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson Hospital is to be kept open.

THE 1976 HEALTH SERVICES ACT EXPOSED

A recent report by BUPA - a private health insurance scheme - was so pleased with the Labour Party's policies on private practice, it hoped that they would win the election. The report exposes the 1976 Health Services Act - the one purporting to attack private practice by closing NHS pay beds - as another con-trick. After two years, 2,819 pay beds remain in the NHS out of an original 4,444 and outpatient facilities have hardly been touched. The new private hospitals which have been built more than compensate for the loss of beds and effectively institutionalise and stabilise private practice. The report concludes that "the 1976 Health Services Act has been the biggest boon to the private sector since they built Harley Street."

TORIES RE-INTRODUCE PAY BEDS

But the Tories will try to do more even than this for private practice. The health service unions have already opposed the re-introduction of pay beds and we must support their struggles. We reject the bourgeois arguments which will blare at us from the media. "Freedom of Choice" is a favourite one - freedom only for those with the money and a cover-up for double standards. "Private practice subsidises the NHS" is another. Facts contradict this. In 1974, the revenue from the 4,000 pay beds was £14.3 million and the calculated running costs £21.5 million - a shortfall of £7 million.

ATTACK PRIVATE PRACTICE; DEFEND THE NHS

Private practice exists to make money out of sick people - money for the subsidiary organisations of BUPA and the like; for the notorious "cash-in hospital" schemes; and for the consultants. It is like a predator feeding on NHS facilities and staff and benefiting each time the NHS budget is slashed by the capitalist state. If private medicine is allowed to increase it will destroy our health service. Both wings of the bird of prey (Labour and Tory Parties) help gobble up hospitals, health centres, abortion facilities etc and both in their different ways encourage private medicine. Both

What a web they weave

When visiting such tourist attractions as Madame Tussaud's or spending a day out at Chessington Zoo near London, we do not imagine that these places are part of a huge financial web. But they are. These two are just a small corner of the Pearson group of companies whose profit for the year ending December 1978 reached £51.43 million.

The Pearson group of companies also has a firm hold in creating public opinion. They own Penguin and Ladybird books which are widely read by children. Added to this they have a string of local newspapers in their control through their ownership of Westminster Press. The freedom of the press which on the surface seems very diverse becomes an empty phrase when it is seen how few capitalist millionaires own and control it. Pearson's own 86 local papers, from the *Tyneside Times*, *Watford Observer* to *Billericay Recorder*. But on top of this, they own the most influential business newspaper of them all - the *Financial Times*. The class position of this paper is unmistakeable as it is embodied in the maxim of "to omit nothing which could be of interest to the businessman".

THE MERGING OF BANKING AND INDUSTRIAL CAPITAL

At one time before capitalism developed from the stage of competitive capitalism to monopoly capitalism (imperialism), the banks played the role of middleman. Capitalists deposited money with the banks and borrowed to buy new equipment etc without any interference from the banks. But as the power of the banks grew they began to demand a say in how money was invested and industries run. This new power of the banks coincided with the development of capitalism into its highest stage - monopoly capitalism and finance capital. Finance capital is the merging of banking and industrial capital.

The Pearson group of companies is a clear example of this. Pearson's own Doulton Glass Industries and Doulton Engineering. The latter consists of nine companies, most of which are specialist manufacturers, while the others handle electrical and mechanical contract work. Industrial interests abroad include those of the Midhurst Corporation in North America. These are involved in oil refining and marketing.

Such industrial operations of the Pearson group are merged with banking capital through the groups controlling interest in Lazard Brothers, the merchant bank. Whilst securing the financial backing for Pearson's industrial operations, Lazard Brothers Bank also has its fingers in other pies. It helped secure a £180 million and \$468 million loan for British Petroleum's development in the North Sea, and \$1,500 million for the Electricity Council.

Such is the complex intertwining of monopoly capitalism. Through mergers, takeovers and bankruptcies this web of financial power becomes concentrated into fewer hands. The freedom of the West or the "free world" heralded so much by the apologists of bourgeois rule, in reality amounts to the freedom of a handful of fat-cats to grab more and more economic power, while the mass of the working class and oppressed peoples suffer greater exploitation and impoverishment.

parties represent the capitalist class and will automatically attack the NHS. It is in the interests of the whole working class to struggle resolutely against pay bed legislation and the cuts which make private practice flourish.

A WORKER'S NOTEBOOK

■ IT WAS REVEALED RECENTLY THAT BIG BANKS AND wealthy national chain stores are to have their properties improved free of charge at the expense of West Midland rate payers and tax payers. The £290,000 handout which has been agreed by West Midland policy chiefs is to be allocated to a small section of the Handsworth shopping area. Businesses which will receive this generous sum include: The Midland, National Westminster and Trustee Savings Banks; Woolworth's; British Gas which is heading for a £300 million profit; Liptons; M&B Ansell and West Bromwich Building Society. Further these massive sums of tax payers money are being doled out to businesses in a largely black and Asian working class area which has one of the highest rates of unemployment in the West Midlands. Handsworth is an area which succeeding councils have all allowed to delapidate and fall into ruin. The poor state of the neighbourhood is then blamed on the black community. Such an accusation is revealed for what it is-a blatant racist lie!

■ ANYONE RIDING ABOUT IN A CAR OR ON A BUS RECENTLY could not have helped noticing the giant hoardings advertising the *Observer* colour magazine's serialisation of a new book on Stalin. Next to Stalin's portrait reads the line "A life more terrible than Ivan's!" We should not be surprised that a bourgeois newspaper should hate a great leader of the international working class more than a feudal despot. This "new book" on Stalin which is so lavishly serialised in a capitalist newspaper says that it was a theory peculiar only to Stalin that socialism can be successfully built in one country. The author of this "new" attack on Stalin apparently wants reader to back the renegade Trotsky who from opposition to building socialism in the USSR went on to organise counter-revolutionary and terrorist attacks on socialist construction and the Bolshevik Government. Such Nazi-financed Trotskyites were correctly kicked out of the Party and punished. Stalin was a great Communist leader and the combined hysterical attacks of the reactionaries and Trotskyites fall on stony ground when confronted by the concrete facts of Stalin's accomplishments as leader of the Russian people.

■ TO CELEBRATE THE YEAR OF THE CHILD, A LARGE party was held in London's Hyde Park on May 31st. Television news reports went to town in covering this item. The star was none other than the Queen, apparently rapturous with joy. The television news theme was one of perfect peace and harmony. But as the *Daily Mirror* reported, this is not how it was in real life. "Many left hungry and in tears after getting lost or waiting for hours in queues". A teacher who took 10 children from an East London nursery said: "it's diabolical. We can't see anything and the toilet facilities are terrible". So much for the Government's "contribution" to the Year of the Child.

■ WEDGEWOOD BENN WHO HAS GONE TO THE BACK BENCHES so that he can "speak out" did just that in Parliament at the end of May. In a debate on the economy, Benn, the new darling of the Left, jumped in and said that the Government was proposing to reverse the Labour Government's policies of 1974-79. Benn is trying to become a new populist leader of the Labour Party and is using "left" demagogic to mislead class conscious workers. But his clear association with the Wilson/Callaghan Labour Government and its years of wage control and repression is unmistakeable. Workers are going to have a hard struggle against the Thatcher Government. But the hardest fight of all remains the struggle against those who claim to be our champions and through lies, treachery and manouvering sabotage the workers' anti-capitalist struggle.

IN MEMORY OF COMRADE JAGMOHAN JOSHI

General Secretary of the Indian Workers Association (Great Britain)

Comrade Jagmohan Joshi, a well known and respected communist fighter in Britain, died on Sunday, 3rd June. He died in action, leading a 4,000 strong demonstration in London against racist state brutality. He suffered a heart attack and was rushed to hospital, where he died at 2.30pm. He was 43 years old, and defied ill health to remain active.

Comrade Joshi was the General Secretary of the Indian Workers Association of Great Britain (IWA GB), the strongest and most politically conscious of all black and national minority organisations in Britain, with 17 branches up and down the country, and at least 25,000 supporters. Comrade Bhagat Singh, a member of the IWA GB told *Class Struggle*, "Comrade Joshi was a man who lived for the people and died for the people. He never sold out to any revisionist (fake communist) cause. He grasped firmly the principles of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong thought, and carried them out throughout his life".

Class Struggle pays tribute to this fine working class fighter, and offers its deepest sympathy to the IWA GB and to his widow, Shirley and three young children.

Comrade Joshi was born in Hoshiarpur in Punjab when India was still in the grip of direct colonialist domination by the British ruling class. At the age of 15 he became politically active with the Indian Communist Party (CPI), which was then revolutionary, and was a regular contributor to its paper. At the age of 21 he came to Britain to find a livelihood in 1958, and became a founder member of the IWA GB, Birmingham Branch. He played a major part in reorganising and consolidating the IWA GB and in 1964 became its General Secretary. He led the organisation to become a leading force in the struggle against racism and fascism. He ensured that the IWA GB upheld Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong's Thought, fought against revisionism, and upheld Mao Zedong's correct strategy of the theory of the three worlds.

Comrade Joshi played an advanced role in the struggle against racism and fascism. He helped bring all progressive organisations in Britain together in the Co-ordinating Committee Against Racial Discrimination in the early 1960s. In 1968 he led the Black Peoples Alliance, formed of 56 black organisations, and organised marches of up to 15,000 people. In innumerable struggles against racism, he and the IWA GB played a leading part. He stood for building alliances of all people opposed to racism. But he never conciliated with the sell-out camp who gave up militant struggle for cosy dependence on the bosses' state and its race relations industry. He fought the fascist National Front, and was attacked by them physically many times, but he never accepted that the struggle was only against open fascism and not against the bosses' system and their parties which breed and promote racism. It is fitting that his last action should have been a demonstration against state racism, discrimination, police brutality and immigration controls. He saw clearly that imperialism and the exploitation of the people of the third world is the root of racism and that the struggle against racism must be carried on hand in hand with the struggle against the two superpowers, the Soviet Union and the United States, and imperialism and colonialism everywhere. He promoted the unity of the struggle of the whole working class with the struggle of the oppressed black and national minority population.

In the struggle against imperialism, he naturally placed great emphasis on the Indian people's struggle

against the puppets of imperialism and the superpowers, and for people's democracy. He supported the great popular upsurge in India in 1967, led by Marxist-Leninists. When the Indian ruling class were holding over 30,000 Communist prisoners, they were shocked by demonstrations of tens of thousands led by the IWA GB in London for their release.

In 1975, Indira Gandhi, backed by the Soviet Union, put India under the fascist State of Emergency. The Alliance against Fascist Dictatorship in India was formed, in which Comrade Joshi and the IWA GB played a leading role. The Alliance clearly showed that it was the Soviet Social imperialists who were dominating India and using Mrs Gandhi and her fascist regime. Comrade Joshi continued to campaign for the release of the 100,000 political prisoners still held by the new Indian Government after Mrs Gandhi's downfall. He led the movement when Gandhi visited Britain in 1978, which prevented her speaking in Southall and Birmingham.

He has been deeply involved in campaigns to stop atrocities on India's poorest people, the Dalits or so-called "Untouchables".

In the struggle against imperialism, Comrade Joshi led the IWA GB on the path of international solidarity leading, for example, demonstrations in solidarity with the Kampuchean (Cambodian) people against invasion by the Vietnamese, backed by the Soviet social imperialists.

Comrade Joshi fought for Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong thought against revisionist and Trotskyite distortions of marxism. He upheld the People's Republic of China as a great beacon of socialism and supported the three worlds theory.

But he always worked on the basis of uniting all who could be united. He had the mass touch, and could talk to all kinds of people in a down to earth way. For him, applying the mass line had become second nature.

This was proved at his funeral, attended by nearly 1,000 people, from all races and nationalities, young and old, workers, students and intellectuals. At the simple ceremony, IWA GB comrades pledged themselves to continue with Comrade Joshi's life's work and continue the class struggle. They quoted from Mao Zedong's article Serve the People: "All men must die, but death can vary in its significance. To die for the people is weightier than Mount Tai".

Comrade Joshi was also a brilliant Urdu poet whose poems were loved by the masses of North India and Pakistan in which he carried forward its great revolutionary tradition. His own words make a fitting epitaph:

"We are fighting for the light, and if I am sacrificed, it doesn't matter;
For there will be others who will see the dawn"

لیاڑ ہے جو نری چاہت میں ہم کوئی شبِ غم کا جائے
کیم لوگ تو ایسے بھی ہوں گے جو مبعِ درختان ریلیں گے

Revolutionary Communists must turn grief into strength and learn from Comrade Joshi's life of dedication and struggle. Our best tribute to his memory will be to carry forward the struggle of the working class against exploitation, imperialism and racism and help to rebuild the genuine Communist Party of the working class, that he would have wished to live to see.

FAREWELL COMRADE JOSHI, YOU SHALL ALWAYS LIVE IN OUR HEARTS

INTERVIEW WITH COMRADE JOSHI

from the April issue of the anti-racist journal SEARCHLIGHT

● There is a great deal of concern at the moment about the extent of racism in our society which has reflected itself in physical attacks on blacks and Asians. Brick Lane was an example of the extent to which the racialists were prepared to go. In 1964 you wrote a pamphlet on the situation in Smethwick. What made you think it was so necessary to write it?

The reason that the pamphlet came into being was because of the growing and consistent use of racism as a political weapon, and it was in 1964 that we saw for the first time in this society a Parliamentary seat being won purely on the ticket of racism.

That election victory was the outcome of a carefully calculated and planned campaign that was carried out by Rightist forces, ranging from sections of the Conservative Party to the Immigration Control Committee and various fascist groups. Their job was to sustain a campaign based on the Goebbels technique of the big lie, and as a consequence fan the flames of racial prejudice that existed amongst large sections of the population. It did not prove too difficult a task for them as things turned out, particularly in view of the way the Labour Party and trade unions went on the defensive. That point is probably one of the big lessons we have learned from Smethwick: we can never be on the defensive against racists.

In 1961 we sent some 500 copies of a memorandum, *Shall We control Immigration?* to members of Parliament in which we brought out the facts that unemployment, housing shortages, problems of social services have been evident in this society for some time, and are not caused by the presence of immigrant workers. That if immigration controls that discriminate against people with black skins are brought into existence, then it will strengthen the hands of those racist forces who wish to employ it as a useful political weapon.

At that time I distinctly remember lobbying members of Parliament. As a result of our lobbying one Tory MP, John Hollingworth, who was the member for All Saints, withdrew his support from the Immigration Control Bill because he thought it was going to discriminate and would make it more difficult for people of different cultures and historical backgrounds to live peacefully in this country.

He was proven to be right and so were we, because we found that after 1961 the emergence of the Immigration Control Committees, the distribution of leaflets, racialist propaganda meetings that were held in different areas of Birmingham, strengthened the hands of racist hooligans who wished to stir up trouble. As a result we saw beatings up in Smethwick, windows being smashed, threatening letters and similar incidents in the 1961-64 period when Peter Griffiths was eventually elected to Parliament.

It was Griffiths who first called for the deportation of unemployed immigrant workers, long before Enoch Powell started to make similar demands after 1969. So we can say that the repatriation mania was first started by Griffiths. We should at least give him that "credit" since he was the initiator for the campaign that deservedly won him the title of "Parliamentary Leper".

But above all there was discrimination against black people at all levels in Smethwick at that time. When the *Wall Street Journal* correspondent went round the pubs of Smethwick with me one night he said that after visiting about eight of them he was feeling quite drunk, whilst I was still trying to find a glass of water to quench my thirst.

● You mention the Immigration Control Committees. What was their significance?

As a matter of fact these committees laid the foundations for the emergence of more openly racist forces in this society. Not that this wasn't a racialist society prior to their formation, but they strengthened the hands of racist politicians, some of whom we still see around today. They also had another function that was important to the extreme-right. As umbrella organisations they enabled racists in the Conservative Party to work with fascists, and for others not yet ready to openly declare

themselves politically they were convenient centres to work from.

● How do you see the situation since you wrote that pamphlet on Smethwick 15 years ago?

One can only say that despite all the experiences this country has had since the events in Smethwick, the situation is now worse. It is true that the colour bar in pubs is rare and that discrimination in jobs and housing is not as bad as in 1964, but there are other forms of racial discrimination that have become much more intense. Many of them are now within the state institutions.

No political party, in my opinion, has been able to stand up against racism in the way they should or as we would like to see it. Take the Labour Party for instance. They say that people of all creeds and faiths are brothers, or at least they give the impression that they believe in working class solidarity irrespective of a person's colour, but in practice what has happened is that the 1964 elections created a situation whereby they forgot those principles and abdicated to racism.

You must understand that we are not impressed with speeches, TV interviews or press statements, but only in what is actually done.

We saw the 1965 White Paper on Immigration. Who brought it out? It was a Labour Government who, when in opposition, had said that when they were elected to power they would repeal the discriminatory Immigration Control Act. Nevertheless they went back on their word and indeed took that Act even further.

Then in 1968 there was the Kenya Asian Act. In 1969, under the present Prime Minister Jim Callaghan, who was then Home Secretary, there was the restriction on the entry of male fiancees (in other words discrimination became a sex discrimination process also). Up to the present time we have seen that both major parties have used our presence as a political football for electoral gain.

All the various hotch-potch attempts by the state to establish this or that committee is all humbug when the state has itself enacted legislation that discriminates against us. How then on the other hand can they draft legislation that is going to effectively oppose the discrimination they themselves have helped to introduce? In my opinion such a position is intellectually vulgar.

Let me give you a classic example of the hypocrisy and double standards employed by the administration. When the Race Relations Board was formed, they chose a Birmingham businessman called Oscar Hahn as the Chairman of the West Midlands Conciliation Board. On the very day the government announced his appointment, it was also announced that, as the chairman of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, he was to lead a deputation to Johannesburg, South Africa, in order to extend trade links.

Following strong protests by some 26 organisations it was decided to boycott the West Midlands Board as long as Hahn was at its head.

Black people face an uncertain future in this country because of the economic crisis. Some time ago we warned that the increased and uncontrolled powers that the immigration authorities have to hunt for illegal immigrants would create a "pass law" situation. In principle any black person can be challenged and asked to "prove" their right to be in this country, and if they are not carrying the documents to prove they are, then they could be held indefinitely.

● What other factors play a role in present day racism in Britain?

I think that an important issue is the ideological one of how the image of black people is projected. There are a number of scientists who try to make racist ideas acceptable and respec-

cont'd on p8

SALT II TREATY WON'T STOP ARMS

In Vienna, during the third week of June, Brezhnev and Carter, the leaders of the two superpowers will meet for a "Summit" Conference. At some time during this conference, they will sign the "Strategic Arms Limitation Treaty" (SALT II). They will claim that this treaty will be a big step towards lessening the danger of war, and a guarantee that the arms race will be slowed down. In fact it will be nothing of the sort.

Hundreds of disarmament meetings have been held since the end of World War II, but the arms race has got more heated, and the danger of war has intensified. In 1961, the USSR and the USA issued a joint statement listing eight principles as a basis for disarmament negotiations, but after eighteen years not one of these principles has been put into practice. In fact, during this time, both superpowers, and particularly the Soviet Union, have spent more and more on armaments each year. Since 1961, the USSR has increased its military spending from \$20 billion a year to approximately \$150 billion in 1978 - outstripping even that of the USA. It has multiplied its stock of strategic missiles more than fifteen times, doubled its naval tonnage, and strengthened its military force by nearly 10,000 tanks, several thousand military aircraft and more than a million men.

SALT I DID NOT END MILITARY BUILD UP

The immediate predecessor of SALT II - SALT I - was signed in 1972 and claimed by both superpowers to be a "major step towards peace and disarmament". In fact although the treaty banned the building of certain types of missiles, both powers already had huge stocks of these weapons, mainly intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBM). The treaty ignored the development of nuclear bombers and weapon modernisation. What the superpowers have done is to take huge steps in the field of modernisation

with the development of weapons like multiple warheads (MIRV) that allow one missile to carry several nuclear weapons, each of which is released to hit a different target. So, limiting the number of missiles has not meant limiting the number of effective nuclear rockets.

All of these previous treaties have been basically propaganda exercises, which the superpowers have used to try and win friends for themselves, at the same time as pressurising other countries to reduce military spending. SALT II will be no different, but while it will allow both the USSR and the USA to develop their arsenals, it does represent a victory for the USSR, as it will allow the Soviet Union to keep the lead it has built up in certain areas, and doesn't cover either conventional forces or the development of the Soviet "Backfire" bomber, or the SS-20 missile.

SALT II will run until the end of 1985. It uses weapon launchers, or missiles as a basis for measuring the strategic arsenals of each superpower and far from bringing any actual disarmament, allows both superpowers to increase their stocks of nuclear weapons. In particular, the USSR will be allowed to catch up with the USA on the number of MIRVs it has in stock, while keeping its lead in modern heavy weapons like the SS-18. (see table).

MORE AND BIGGER BOMBS ON EACH MISSILE

The Soviet SS-18 is an example of how far the Soviet Union has overtaken the USA in building massive nuclear weapons. The United States's largest and most deadly weapon is the Minuteman III, which is an ICBM armed with three MIRVs, each of which carries 335 kiloton bomb (more than 16 times as powerful as the bomb dropped on Hiroshima). Even the Minuteman III pales almost into insignificance though when compared with the Soviet SS-18, which is armed with 10 MIRVs, each one carrying a 1,000 kiloton bomb.

SALT II IGNORES CONVENTIONAL FORCES

Current conventional forces	U.S.S.R.	U.S.A.
Cruisers, frigates, destroyers	284	161
Field artillery	20,000	5,500
Tanks	50,000	12,100
Tactical aircraft	8,000	5,364
Uniformed personnel	4,400,000	2,026,345
Submarines	195	81
Aircraft carriers	2	13

STRATEGIC WEAPONRY ALLOWED

Current strategic armoury	U.S.S.R.	U.S.A.
ALL STRATEGIC NUCLEAR DELIVERY SYSTEMS 2,250 max	2,570	2,060
ALL TYPES OF MIRVs 1,320 max	795	1,046
MIRVed SLBMs AND ICBMs 1,200 max	725	1,046
MIRVed ICBMs 820 max	600	550
MODERN HEAVY MIRVed ICBMs (such as SS-18) Frozen at present levels	308	0

BUILD UP

SALT II does not allow the USA to build any weapon as powerful as this, but lets the Soviet Union keep the 308 it already has deployed.

NO LIMIT TO SOVIET NUCLEAR THREAT TO EUROPE

The biggest concession that the USSR has won in negotiating the treaty though, is that there will be no limitation of the production and deployment of the Soviet "Backfire" bomber or the SS-20 missile. Though the "Backfire" is extremely fast and accurate it does not threaten the USA, but other parts of the world, particularly China and Europe. SS-20 missiles are being rapidly deployed by the Soviet social imperialists (see *Class Struggle* Vol.3 No.8). These missiles have a range of "only" 2000 miles and are exclusively aimed at destroying Europe and China. Therefore the superpowers do not consider them as "strategic" missiles because they cannot reach the USA! Carter merely hopes that the European countries will be able to negotiate their own deals with the Soviet Union.

In the struggle for world domination (hegemony) between the two superpowers, Europe, with its technically advanced industry, its skilled workforce and strategic position in the world is the main prize. With more "backfire" bombers and SS-20s being built to back up its huge conventional forces the Soviet threat to western Europe is intensifying each year.

A TOTAL FRAUD

In total, SALT II, has little practical effect on the arms race between the two superpowers. Even more important it does not even deal with nuclear weapons aimed at Europe. The Soviet imperialists will wave their bit of paper which they claim "proves" they stand for "peace" and "detente", but their arms build up is going on ever faster.

RIVAL MISSILES U.S.A. U.S.S.R. Minuteman III SS-18

Minuteman III: most advanced US ICBM. Each MIRV 16 times more powerful than A-bomb dropped on Hiroshima.

SS-18: Ten MIRVs each 50 times more powerful than Hiroshima A bomb.



drawn to scale

INTERNATIONAL NOTES



NORTH KOREA: A recent *Daily Telegraph* article claimed that the port of Rafin in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) is now being used as a Soviet naval base. The article was based on a report from Seoul, the headquarters of the south Korean regime of US puppets. The report has been angrily denied by the DPRK Government. An article in the *Pyongyang Times* pointed out, "There is not a single foreign soldier in the DPRK, a dignified independent socialist state; nor have we ever offered even a single port to a foreign country as its base." The article said that the lie was invented mainly to "justify" the continued occupation of south Korea by US troops. Secondly it was an attempt to disrupt relations between the DPRK and "fraternal countries" - a clear reference to China.

NICARAGUA: The mass struggle of the Nicaraguan people has made massive gains recently. 25 cities and villages have now been liberated, and the dictator Somoza - another product of US imperialism - is on the defensive. The second largest city, Leon, with a population of over 200,000 and only 55 miles from the capital, Managua, is in the hands of the people. Whilst the guerrilla forces are advancing, the whole country is paralysed by a General Strike. Somoza has proclaimed martial law and an 8pm to 4am curfew. The curfew has had little effect, even in Managua, and foreign journalists have reported seeing groups of armed revolutionaries on the streets in the middle of the night.

SOUTH EAST ASIA: Vietnam's latest propaganda ploy has been unanimously rejected by the ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) countries. Vietnam, posing as the top defenders of peace has been asking each of them to sign a non-aggression treaty but the ASEAN countries have pointed out that Vietnam backed by Soviet imperialism is occupying Kampuchea and fighting a bitter war against the people, and has consolidated its control over Laos. Vietnam itself has no borders with any ASEAN countries. It is only because Vietnam has occupied other countries that Vietnamese troops have been brought to the borders of an ASEAN country.

The ASEAN countries have refused to sign such a treaty which would give credibility to Vietnam's claim to be a peace-loving country. They have suggested that if Vietnam really is against military aggression, then it should just go ahead and withdraw its own troops.

DOMINICA: On May 29th, the Dominican Government passed laws outlawing strikes by Government employees and imposing censorship of the press. A mass demonstration was viciously attacked by the police, who shot into the crowd. An immediate General Strike was called, which the unions say will continue until the Government resigns. Unions in Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, St Vincent and Jamaica have taken solidarity action.

AFGHANISTAN: Following a coup in April 1978, army chiefs installed a pro-Soviet Government which lost no time in demonstrating its subservience to Moscow who responded by despatching thousands of military "advisors" and the latest tanks to this economically backward country. The new Government hastily cobbled together from members of revisionist "Communist" organisations has become a mouthpiece of Soviet foreign policy in the Non-Aligned movement.

Events haven't passed entirely to the Soviet Union's advantage however. The two wings of the Government have fallen out and is facing a rapidly growing massive nationwide resistance from Moslem tribesmen. When the Government sent a crack troops to "pacify" an area, the entire regiment deserted.

INTERVIEW WITH COMRADE JOSHI Cont'd from p5

table. They try to show that our IQ, whatever that may be apart from their pet tests, is naturally inferior to that of most white people because of hereditary factors. It is no accident that at this time when racist activists stalk our streets there are "scientists" who provide them with their theory.

In some respects black people are still depicted as in Kipling's days. Our children going to school read the same books in which the Indian War of Independence is described as the Indian Mutiny. So at the present time it would be true to say that we have to fight what exists – and that is racism on the increase.

● There are over 100 committees against racialism in different towns. How do you explain that, despite their existence, racialism seems to be on the increase?

That is a big question but I think that it is not just a matter of how many committees exist here or there, but whether those committees work in the correct way and how broad based they are. We support the concept of uniting with all those who could be unified. If a clergyman gets up in a church and tells his congregation that racialism should be condemned, then that is a good and useful thing.

To our way of thinking it is very important to unite people with different beliefs and differing political leanings. As my organisation has put it many times, "*a racist Labourite is worse than an anti-racist Tory*". Some people do not agree with us but it is our concept of a correct struggle against racialism. In order to defeat the common enemy at this stage, and that enemy is the divisive force of racialism, such a strategy is necessary.

Organisations like the Co-ordinating Committee Against Racial Discrimination had the right idea; it was incidentally probably the first in the country to evolve a broad based style of work and it undertook an amazing work load. Although based in the Birmingham area, it in fact achieved a national and international reputation.

Its activities ranged from taking up individual cases to organising mass lobbies of Parliament, demonstrations, cultural activities, anti-fascist work of a high level, conferences, leafletting and working with the trade unions. In fact they organised the first conference for trade unions in 1961 with the co-operation of the TGWU and the meeting was chaired by the late Victor Yates MP. It was this conference that highlighted the exploitation of immigrants by small industries, and how in some cases union officials were signing agreements which included quotas for immigrants in the factory concerned.

● How would you sum up the situation?

Can I make an important point before doing so? In 1968 following Powell's "rivers of blood" speech, some 56 black organisations came together to form the Black Peoples Alliance. That was the first time the various organisations had been won to the idea of fighting for themselves in a united way. It marked the growth of a consciousness that was to change the response and attitudes of many black organisations, and for the first time in Britain black people organised a mass demonstration in which some 15,000 took part. That was a turning point.

Today we have a situation when in Britain our people are the victims of terror tactics by organised fascist gangs. Instead of being honest and recognising the fact and doing something to deal with the situation, we are only too often told by the police that "the attack has no racial motive". Well, they may want to fool themselves but they don't fool us. But it does indicate the dirty game that is being played.

Alongside this situation, we once more see the Tory Party under Mrs Thatcher making immigration one of their key election issues. How interesting the two go together. Then of course there is the growing problem of institutionalised racism.

But alongside that, we are aware of the growing determination of black people to stand up and fight back against these intolerable conditions, in alliance with the anti-racist movement.

I would like to conclude by repeating what the Indian Workers Association told the Smethwick Conservatives in 1964: "*If the law of the land does not afford us adequate protection against racialists, we reserve the right to protect ourselves, in co-operation with all others who are opposed to the spread of racial hatred.*"

That is our right in International Law whether the racists like it or not. We did it in Brick Lane and if necessary we shall do it again. Let those who talk of "freedom of expression" for racists understand that we too want freedom to live our lives unmolested.

Petrol price rises—Who gains?

"Our results for the first three months of 1979 were excellent and easily a record for the group... there is a trend in Canada of rising prices for gasolines, heating oils and heavy fuel oils, and this has helped profit margins of our Canadian marketing companies."

(Campbell Nelson, Chairman of the British-owned Ultramar company.)

"British Petroleum's net profits jumped by almost £200 million in the first three months of the year, largely as a result of the steep increases in oil prices. After-tax profits in the first three months of 1979 were £282 million compared with £85 million in the same period a year ago".

(*The Daily Telegraph*, June 8th.)

The 1978-79 BP company report puts the company on the back for building up "stocks in anticipation of an increase in OPEC prices from January 1 1979". The result, to quote the *Daily Telegraph*, was "a substantial windfall profit from the increase in value of stocks held."

The above quotes from the Oil Companies themselves, and their spokesmen, show exactly where the vast profits from oil and petrol price rises are really going.

Whilst the bosses' press fans up tales of "greedy Arabs" the giant imperialist companies are quietly raking in their profits.

The Arab countries certainly are acting to reduce the exploitation of their resources by the imperialists countries. They will not allow the imperialists to increase the production of oil as much as they like, because it will then run out quickly before they can build up a more diverse economy. They are also fighting back against the imperialists who have jacked up the price of machinery and finished goods that third world countries have to import. Alongside this most oil is priced in dollars. So as the dollar falls in value which it has done substantially the Arab countries get less in real terms than they did previously. That is why they have put up oil prices.

But as the oil companies themselves admit, the price rises we have to pay for our petrol go overwhelmingly to boost the already vast profits of the monopoly combines like British Petroleum (BP).

CORRECTIONS

Class Struggle Vol.3 No.11

Article: European Parliament... p8

Last line of column one should read "The European Parliament is even more impotent than the British Parliament".

Article: Third World stresses unity... p6

The last two lines of column one should appear at the end of column two.

The *Class Struggle* Editorial Committee apologizes to readers. We are learning from our mistakes and struggling to eliminate this kind of error.

NEW ERA BOOKS

NEW ERA BOOKS, 203 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.
Telephone 01-272-5894. Nearest Tube - Finsbury Park
Opening hours - 10am - 6pm, Monday to Saturday.
Late night opening, Thursday till 7.30pm.

"WITHOUT REVOLUTIONARY THEORY THERE
CAN BE NO REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT" (Lenin)