

CLASS STRUGGLE

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LORRY DRIVERS' VICTORY BRINGS ATTACK ON PICKETING

For three successive years workers have seen their living standards slashed by the Labour/TUC "social contract" wage cuts. But tens of thousands of workers have already crushed Labour's hope of a phase four. The most recent victory, that of the lorry drivers, is surely the most emphatic. Many won their claim of £65 for a 35 hour week in full, while most have settled for around £64-65 for a 40 hour week.

But just as the tide of class struggle against the 5% has risen over the last few months, so also has the counter-offensive by the capitalist class and state, and their politicians.

VICIOUS COUNTER-ATTACK FROM BOSSES

Every dirty trick in the book has been used to sow disunity and confusion amongst strikers, and

the working class generally. They've tried to turn women (under the name of "housewives") against men. They've picked out small groups of strikers against the strikes and magnified their numbers so they seem to be a majority. Starting with the nine-week Ford strike and the pay struggle at Vauxhalls, they have been opposing the principle of mass meetings and have been pushing secret ballots instead. Strikers' families, at Ford's Dagenham and elsewhere have been obstructed from receiving social security payments. The Government has threatened a "State of Emergency" and the use of troops to carry out "essential services". All this is designed to sabotage the workers' fightback, and make sure that the workers pay for the bosses' crisis.

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INVASION OF KAMPUCHEA CONDEMNED



Waving the flag of Democratic Kampuchea, a woman led a forty strong picket from the Vietnamese Embassy through the streets of London in a militant demonstration condemning the brutal Soviet-backed invasion of independent socialist Kampuchea. Chanting "Hands off Kampuchea", and "Vietnamese Army go home", and "Soviet troops out", the demonstrators headed for the Soviet Embassy, distributing hundreds of leaflets to bystanders, which explained the importance and relevance of the invasion to the British working people. By the time it had reached its rallying point, the number on the march had doubled.

The demonstration was jointly organised by the RCLB, Communist Workers' Movement (CWM), and Association of Indian Communists (Marxist-Leninist) (AICML).

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MK ELECTRIC—A VICTORY ON THE WAGES FRONT

MK workers have just won one of the biggest wage rises in the history of the company. The demand for 15% with no strings was won almost in full. This means a £9 rise for the workers, who are mainly women. No worker on the Edmonton (North London sites will get a basic of less than £60 for a 40 hour week.

The wage claim was due in August 1978. At this point the Chief Stewards negotiating committee were demanding a "substantial increase", and the company was offering 5%. At this time the RCLB was putting out regular bulletins calling for a united claim for 15% with no strings. When the Ford workers smashed the 5% guidelines the workers' confidence grew. The bosses' offers were rejected out of hand, and some workers began to take up the demand for a 15% claim.

The bosses were obviously shaken by the workers struggles nationally. It was also a bad time for them to risk losing production. They came back after Christmas with an offer of 6% on the basic, an "attendance allowance" of 4%, and other bits and pieces. But the demand for a 15% claim was growing, and was taken up by the negotiating committee. Workers at all sites backed the call for 15%, and agreed to ban overtime in support of the "failure

to agree" put into the company. The ban hit the company hard and the bosses caved in.

SOME DRAWBACKS

There were some drawbacks to the settlement. 3% was in the form of an "attendance allowance", but without penalty clauses. It is not on the rate so it is not paid for sickness, holidays or overtime. MK workers also agreed to give three days annual holiday for a Christmas shutdown this year. These seem small concessions, but in making a wage claim, workers should not have to "sell" anything. We are struggling to win back what the bosses and their Labour government have taken away since 1974 through inflation.

Overall this struggle ended in a victory for the workers. As one MK worker summed it up; "It's not like the bosses to give in. We must have hit them hard." The lesson now being drawn is that the bosses and their government cannot hold wages down when workers all over the country are taking action against them. And some workers are learning that the communist leaflets given out on the gate are not just "outside interference", but are acting in the workers' interest. ■

LORRY DRIVERS' VICTORY

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DEFEND OUR RIGHT TO PICKET.

The success of the lorry drivers has brought with it another broadside from the bosses and their agents, this time against picketing and in particular against so-called "secondary picketing". The most recent attack has come from Manchester police chief James Anderton. This religious fanatic who has set himself up as a kind of judge and jury in the Greater Manchester area, has made a number of demands which are aimed at removing the right to picket effectively. They are:

- * Maximum limit on the number of pickets in any one place
- * More police powers to demand smaller numbers of pickets
- * A special law of obstruction for strikers who do not follow police "advice"
- * No solidarity pickets
- * All pickets to be officially authorised and identified.

In various forms the same demands have been made by Thatcher and the CBI.

It is necessary to spend some time looking at this question because of the confusion it is causing amongst some workers.

When factory workers strike they usually picket the gates of their factory, to ensure the bosses don't bring in scab labour and so undermine their strike. Workers have a "legal" right to do this.

But what should lorry drivers do when they strike? Should they simply picket a deserted compound or a garage full of lorries? Or should they picket warehouses, depots, docks, etc., where they usually deliver goods to, and pick up goods from? It is this which is called "secondary picketing", and only by this method can they ensure that cargo they normally transport is not handled by non-strikers. Just as a factory worker seeks to keep his machine idle when he strikes, so a lorry driver must make sure his load is not moved.

The attack on "secondary picketing" by the bosses and their agents is clearly an attack on effective picketing in general. Furthermore, because the law supposedly guarantees the right to picket, what the bosses and police chiefs are now saying is; in theory you can picket, but in practice you can't.

ANTI-STRIKE LEGISLATION ON THE CARDS

Scared stiff by the growing discontent and fightback of the working class, the bosses are certain to bring in legislation to either prevent strikes or limit their effectiveness by banning picketing. This won't be the first time either. After the 1926 General Strike the "Trades Disputes and Trade Union Act" was declared. It made illegal sympathetic strikes and strikes "designed or calculated to coerce the government either directly or by inflicting hardship upon the community"; restricted the right of picketing, defining "intimidation" so loosely that any effective picketing could be declared illegal; and prevented all civil servants and public employees from affiliating to the TUC. This act was repealed in 1946. In the late 1960's Labour tried to foist Barbara Castle's "In Place of Strife" on organised workers but were defeated in the face of mass opposition. More recently Ted Heath's government introduced the "Industrial Relations Act". This act collapsed along with the government in 1974, again through direct action by the working class. Any future laws must be given a similar fate.

T&GWU MISLEADERS' SABOTAGE

Particular attention must be paid by workers to the opportunist misleaders in the unions. They can never be relied on to fight consistently in defence of our right to strike and picket. In fact, as shown by Moss Evans and Co. with the lorry drivers strike, they are only too willing to help restrain and control strong picket lines. Just look at the way they went scurrying over to Downing Street when Callaghan snapped his fingers, coming out with the "code of conduct" on picketing. This blatant attempt to sabotage the lorry drivers' strike ripped off the militant image from T&G misleader Evans, and revealed his real class collaborationist essence.

It is inevitable that as the bosses' crisis deepens, they will try all the more to shift the burden of that crisis onto the backs of the working class. While struggling against such measures, all class conscious workers must thoroughly expose and oppose the bosses' agents in the trade unions. ■

BENDIX WORKERS DOWNGRADED

Workers at Bendix Westinghouse in Bristol have recently learnt some bitter lessons about the state of the Unions today. A grading dispute in the Assembly Shop has dragged on for nearly 10 years, and been lost through Union misleadership.

Ten years ago there were two grades in the shop. A man coming into the shop started on the "02" rate, and after three years would be made up to "01". The extra was "ability money".

In 1972 about 20 men were eligible for upgrading, but management didn't fancy paying up. They re-defined the "01" and "02" grades as "skilled" and "semi-skilled", and then claimed there was no skilled work in the shop. When this was rejected out of hand, they came back with a new, divisive, "1972 agreement". According to this those who were eligible would be paid, but they would be the last. Instead of calling a shop meeting to vote on this new agreement, the Union allowed it to pass unchallenged, which merely stored up trouble for the future.

MILITANCY DESTROYED

By 1977, the variation in wages between workers on different grades doing the same jobs was considerable. Both "01" and "02" workers were united in demanding upgrading for those with 3 years service. The Union allowed this dispute to get bogged down in procedure for about 18 months! At the end of that time they came back with another classic, divisive offer from management - if the "02's" weren't happy with earning less money than the "01's", they would downgrade the "01's", and negotiate compensation for loss of earnings! So sooner or later everyone loses!

The workers rejected this insult, along with the 1972 agreement, which hadn't been accepted in the first place. They demanded implementation of the previous 1969 agreement. Instead of leading this fight, the Union tried to suppress it. They argued defeatism, such as "the company will never agree to pay". Panic remarks of "if you throw out the 1972 agreement you'll have no protection", were made. As if our strength lies in pieces of paper, rather than unity and struggle! After three meetings, and with the help of the TGWU full-time official, the 1972 agreement was pushed through.

Faced with this leadership, many workers became demoralised, and at a further stormy meeting with TGWU and AUEW full-time officials, the management's "solution" was accepted. Negotiations have now begun for downgrading the "01's"

TRANSFORM THE UNIONS

It's not surprising, after the way the Union sided with the bosses, and this is just one example, that some people are so fed up they want to jack the Union in. But this is no solution. The only protection we have got in resisting management's attacks is organisation. On our own we are powerless. What we need are unions that work in our interests, and its up to us to take unions we have got and transform them into "fighting class organisations" of the working class ■

CONTRIBUTE TO CLASS STRUGGLE

The Editor of *Class Struggle* would be pleased to hear from readers. Why not write to the paper and explain just what is happening in your factory, workplace or area? In this way we can expand the coverage of the paper and make it a better fighting weapon for the working class. Write to:
The Editor - CS, c/o New Era Books.

A WORKER'S NOTEBOOK

■ IN THE LAST 15 YEARS THE RIGHTS SURROUNDING trial by jury have been subject to attack by the state. In 1967, there was a change from juries having to reach a unanimous verdict to a 10-2 majority being sufficient. In 1977 the number of challenges the defence could make on the jury was reduced from 7 to 3, while the State's right to challenge was left unlimited. The right to trial by jury in cases involving a prison sentence was also limited. The latest attempts to cut back democratic rights includes jury vetting, which came to public view during last year's Official Secrets trial. The historian E.P. Thompson has described the Attorney General's guideline on jury vetting as "so dirty and so plainly unconstitutional that it deserves particular mention."

The major role of the courts is not to protect the people from vicious thugs, but to protect the bosses' property and interests from the people. Any restriction on democratic rights is an attack on the working class and its allies.

■ THE NATIONAL FRONT, HELD ITS ANNUAL CONFERENCE at London's Seymour Hall on January 20th, disguised as the "British Physical Chemistry Association". They again made clear what a bitter enemy of working people, and vicious bosses' tool they are. Fuhrer Tyndall, talking about picketing, said that in an NF Britain, "the moment that mobsters (his word for Trade Unionists) try to prevent British workers doing their jobs, those mobsters will find themselves in police cells so quickly they won't know what hit them."

■ REDUNDANCIES BOOST PROFIT - The closure of the Dunlop tyre plant at Speke in Liverpool will axe 2,333 jobs in an area already plagued with high unemployment. It is estimated that it will cost the company £10 million, including redundancy payments, and will knock some 18% off the company's capacity. Yet on the day the closure was announced, Dunlop's shares rose 3p on the stock market.

More jobs are to go: 500 at Fort Dunlop in Birmingham, and 250 at Inchinnan, Scotland. At the same time the company is planning a 5 year investment programme of over £75 million, and discussing with the government "the possibility of selective financial assistance for a more ambitious investment programme".

What clearer proof could there be that the bosses and their government profit from kicking people out of work, and that under capitalism technological advances bring increased unemployment?

■ OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS, DURING WHICH TIME THE Labour Government brought in the "Equal Pay Act", women manual workers' gross average earnings have actually fallen in relation to men's, i.e. from 62% in 1974 to 61% in 1978!

■ STATE COMPANY'S RACISM - Seven Bangladeshi workers have brought and won a case against the British Steel Corporation for racial discrimination. The men, who had worked without any problem for B.S.C. for between 15 and 20 years in unskilled or semi-skilled jobs went to Bangladesh for holidays in 1976. On their return they were unable to get jobs with B.S.C. because they were told they had failed the company's reading tests, brought in in 1975 to comply with the Health and Safety at Work Act.

Such tests invariably discriminate against those brought up in minority cultures, as do so-called "intelligence tests", which have been used to "prove" the inferiority of women, non-Europeans and the working class generally. Also, such abilities as the tests claim to judge are unnecessary for the kinds of jobs the workers are employed in.

Workers in Sheffield, Hartlepool and Scunthorpe have been subject to similar discrimination by B.S.C.

R.C.L. EXPELS ANTI

In January, the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain (RCL) expelled a tiny clique of 3 members for forming themselves into a faction and attempting to split the RCL. The faction consisted of N. Redfern, a former secretary of the Central Committee of the RCL, P. Dixon, and a rank-and-file member. The faction's attempts to split the RCL have failed miserably. They have received a contemptuous brush off by the vast majority of RCL members.

FACTIONALISM IS AN ATTACK ON COMMUNIST PRINCIPLES

Organising a faction, (a separate organisation within the organisation) is a total violation of the organisational principles of communism-democratic centralism. These three saboteurs met behind closed doors to plan tactics for overthrowing the line and leadership of the RCL, rather than working openly as individuals within their own units and committees. The establishment of a faction is an open declaration of an intention to split an organisation. In forming their faction N. Redfern and P. Dixon cobbled together an opportunist alliance. They agreed not to criticise each other and put forward a political "programme" in which they hid their differences. In a totally unprincipled manner, they traded off their political differences. So P. Dixon agreed to support many of N. Redfern's wild "criticisms" of the RCL (which he really opposed) and N. Redfern did the same. Thus they put together a document containing a long list of criticisms, and cemented the package together with a pack of lies and distortions about the political positions of the RCL, and the views and activities of its leading committees and individuals. By resorting to such tactics they hoped to sow as much confusion as possible in the RCL and cause a wide split. In fact they only exposed themselves further.

They were given warnings and offered a way out. But they continued. They can have no complaints. The RCL has upheld communist principles of organisation. The clique was expelled for forming a faction and for splittism, and not for their other individual views and activities. But the formation of such a faction

did not, of course, come out of thin air. It has a history. It stems from N. Redfern's arrogance, and from his systematic splittist activities in the RCL.

AN OUTLOOK OF "SPLIT, DON'T UNITE"

On the one hand, he had a totally unself-critical attitude to his own mistakes, and closed his ears to criticisms of his leadership from the rank-and-file. When criticisms of his leadership were correct, he learnt nothing from them, and retaliated. His errors inevitably became more and more serious. When incorrect criticisms were made, instead of answering them systematically and thus educating people, he took out a sledgehammer and used the opportunity to denounce them. Through such an outlook he suppressed democracy in many areas of the organisation.

Simultaneously, when he thought he would be in a minority he behaved like an anarchist. When he disagreed with others on the Central Committee, instead of struggling patiently for the sake of reaching greater clarity and unity on a higher level, he heaped abuse on those who disagreed with him. He denounced other leading comrades as "traitors" and "agents of the ruling class". He saw himself as a great Leninist and painted the majority of leading comrades as utterly black. When there was a small difference of opinion, he "upped the stakes", blew it up out of proportion, and treated it as a fundamental issue of principle. When there were important differences, he diverted the struggle to reach clarity and unity, by throwing in a thousand and one other issues simultaneously to cause confusion. Whilst refusing to struggle for unity on the Central Committee, he demanded, as soon as a difference arose, his "democratic rights" to wage a war of extermination against other leading comrades throughout the organisation. Under the hypocritical slogan of demanding "the most widespread democracy", he attempted to throw the organisation into an anarchist free-for-all, and reduce it to an irrelevant sect, permanently consuming itself in internal warfare.

At the same time, like a bureaucrat, he threatened

SOME LESSONS OF THE BAKERY WORKERS' STRUGGLE

The following summary of lessons learned from the bakery workers' struggle has been passed to *Class Struggle* by a bakery worker. It is important to sum up lessons so that failure can be made the mother of success.

The defeat of the bakery strike has many important lessons that all workers should learn. There are three general points that apply to all disputes.

Firstly, the Labour Party is a bosses' party not a workers' party. All their talk about wages restraint helping the lower paid workers is very easily exposed by the bakers. £36 take home pay (for a 40-hour week) is well below the Government's "poverty line" but Callaghan still expected bakers to accept 5%.

Secondly, the police showed very clearly they were at the beck and call of the bosses. One flying picket commented, "You always know when the scabs are going to drive the bread out because ten minutes before, about 50 coppers turn up".

Thirdly, the press never presented the bakery workers' case. This is why it is so important to have a paper like *Class Struggle*.

WEAKNESSES

However, there were specific errors and weaknesses both before and during the strike.

The FIO was first put to the bosses in June, when both nationally and locally, union officials were told it presented no problem! So, when, in the beginning of November, only 11% tied to productivity was offered, no one was prepared for a struggle. The leadership did very little propaganda before the strike.

However, the terms that the bosses offered were so bad (see *Class Struggle Vol. 2, No. 20*), that even the least militant workers felt that some action had to be taken. Even so, the decision to strike was never put to a national ballot, although a call to support the Executive was. The bosses made a big thing of this.

Once the Executive heard they had support, they called the strike before anyone was organised. They never investigated what was happening at local levels.

Bakery workers never expected management to bake bread during an official strike. This also led to more disorganisation.

Lack of organisation meant that two weeks after the strike began, unions were still being contacted nationally not to cross picket lines. Also the local pickets had not developed the contacts in other unions to make sure the instructions had been passed down to the rank-and-file.

Furthermore, stewards from one bakery did not

I-LEAGUE FACTION

that if he was in a majority, anyone who was in a minority, would be purged and thrown out of the organisation even if they themselves were prepared to carry out the views of the majority of the RCL, and fight hard for the working class. N. Redfern attacked both the democracy and the centralism of the RCL. Such an outlook is inevitably splittist. It would lead to constant splits. In September, the Central Committee, removed him from the position of Secretary, and instructed him to make a self-criticism for splitism. He refused and was later removed from other positions. Even then, he was allowed to stay on the Central Committee and take part in the debate and struggle.

AN UNPRINCIPLED ALLIANCE TO ATTACK THEORY OF THE THREE WORLDS

P. Dixon supported the initial struggle against splittism. But then he totally changed and helped form a faction and tried to split the RCL. Why? Because he simultaneously demanded that the RCL "put China at arms length" and attack it publicly, and denounced the theory of the three worlds as "opportunist". (The theory of the three worlds is the strategic line of the international communist movement on the international class struggle. An article supporting it called "World's peoples marching forward" can be read in *Class Struggle* Vol. 2 No 22). He quickly formed a faction with N. Redfern to split the RCL on this basis, because whilst N. Redfern hypocritically claims to support the theory, he in reality distorts and undermines it. The faction lies about the "suppression of democracy" within the RCL, and claims to have been formed because they were not allowed to struggle over these differences. These lies are shown up for what they are by the fact that between P. Dixon's abrupt about turn in November and the forming of the faction in December there was only one Central Committee meeting. The meeting did discuss aspects of the class struggle internationally, and the only reason these two members of the faction did not take part, was because they had walked out! At many other meetings before

December these issues were discussed and N. Redfern and P. Dixon took part. What they really objected to was being in a minority. Democracy has not been suppressed in the RCL. It has on the contrary been given a new lease of life. What has been suppressed is splitism and factionalism, which had indeed suppressed democracy - and centralism!

STRUGGLE TO UNITE MARXIST-LENINISTS GOES ON

These developments in the RCL are nothing unique. Such things are bound to occur. Lenin describes similar struggles in his book *One Step Forward, Two Steps Back*. And he describes the cause. The cause is that in the struggle to unite small groups and circles into a party, some of the individualistic outlook and other incorrect ideas which are characteristic of the small groups is carried into the party. (In our case it has been carried into the party-building organisation). Lenin describes this outlook as the "circle mentality". In Britain we are going through a similar process in uniting the Marxist-Leninist movement. We have met similar, events. But also, the vast majority of RCL comrades have learnt from history. That is why the faction is so tiny, and has won virtually no support.

In the process of uniting the movement some people will be unable to make the transition from the small group outlook to the party outlook. They will fall by the wayside. We should not be surprised by this. It does not mean that the process of unity has broken down. Quite the opposite. It is the result of the process of the struggle to unite the Marxist-Leninist movement. The RCL has learnt through this struggle. It is even stronger and more united, and it will go forward, and continue the struggle to unite the movement, as part of the struggle to rebuild the revolutionary Communist Party which will lead the working class to political power and to the construction of socialism in Britain.

Revolution, the theoretical journal of the RCL, will in coming months make deeper criticisms of faction.

WORKERS' STRIKE

know stewards from other bakeries, although this contact developed during the strike. This meant it was very difficult to get a clear picture of the strikers' strength and give accurate information. Nationally, no strike newsletter was ever produced. This allowed the bosses' propaganda to carry on without seriously being challenged.

So some members became extremely demoralised and some drifted back to work. The official union position was just to expel them. Maddox and company never tried to distinguish between bosses' lackeys and demoralised workers. All were tarred with the same brush.

SUPPORT FOR STRIKE ACTION STILL STRONG

However, the results of the return to work showed there was considerable backing for the strike. 40 branches suggested returning to work, 36 opposed it and there were 28 branches abstaining.

Well, what has Maddox learnt from the strike. This is what he has said in the January edition of the *Food Worker* (the Union magazine).

"This dispute has certainly shown our weaknesses... Some members will blame the leadership. Some will blame the Executive Council, some will look to other unions to scorn, but the faults lie solely within our own ranks.... A lot of lessons have been learned during this dispute, it's sorted the men out from the

boys". No real analysis of what happened at all.

To sum up then: don't trust the bosses' state, or their empty promises. Trust the strength of our own unity and organisation. The union rank-and-file must be trusted. Maddox and Co. have no faith in the mass of the working class. They failed to prepare the members for strike action and keep the rank-and-file informed. The demand for more openness on the part of our leaders gives the members more chance to expose misleadership.

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K.R.A. LAUNCHES FIERCE COUNTER-ATTACK

"...Vietnam tried recklessly to over-run and annex the whole of Kampuchea in one stroke. However, they cannot wipe us out now, nor can they annex Kampuchea. We fight in accordance with our people's war strategy, and will create conditions to tie them down in a protracted war. This is what the enemy fear most since their hardships will become ever more severe as a result of being bogged down," reported Radio Democratic Kampuchea on January 24th.

REVOLUTIONARY ARMY HITS BACK

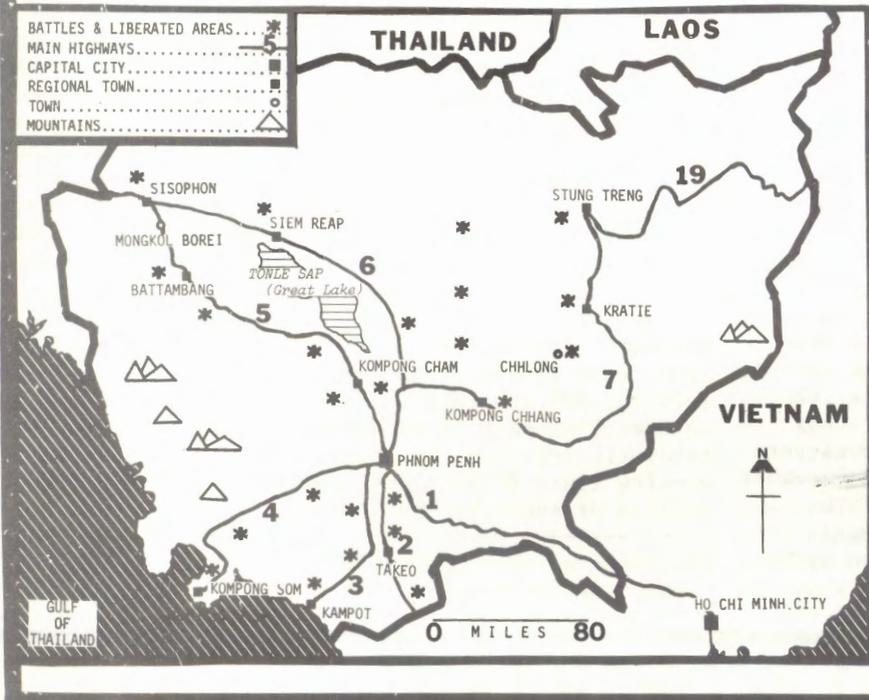
Following their *Blitzkrieg* invasion of Kampuchea on December 25th, the Soviet-backed Vietnamese authorities are experiencing what it is like to be on the receiving end of a people's war. They are facing fierce resistance in every area of the country from the Revolutionary Army of Kampuchea (KRA) - a spent force according to the capitalist press!

Already this "spent force" has inflicted 14,000 casualties on the 14 divisions of the invading Vietnamese Army, and reports also indicate a number of Russian troops killed. It has liberated most of the Northern provinces; controls Highway 19 and is besieging Stung Treng. In the South it has retaken Takeo, after a 2000 man assault using artillery and armour, and liberated the huge area surrounding Highways 2 and 3. The capital, Phnom Penh, (which has recently been the object of guerrilla attacks within the city boundaries) is isolated from its port of Kompong Som, which is in the hands of the KRA and Vietnam's reinforcements cannot move along Highway 4 because guerrillas have blown up bridges.

The Vietnamese are isolated within the major towns of Sisophon, Mongkol Borei, Battambang and Pursat with the KRA controlling Highway 5, while Siem Reap, Kampot and all neighbouring towns, Stung Treng, Kratie and Chhlong are besieged. The Vietnamese forces are road-bound and their supply routes the subject of constant day-light guerrilla actions to destroy bridges, and mine roads.

In fact, they are so vulnerable that, just like the Americans before them, they have had to airlift supplies into Phnom Penh and the rice growing areas of Siem Reap and Pursat. The Vietnamese may be able to maintain control of major cities for a long time, by concentrating superior fire power. But the people control the countryside and Vietnamese strength will continue to decline.

Radio Democratic Kampuchea said that wherever the Vietnamese invaders went they were under attack from the Kampuchean people and that their numbers were being decimated; that the deeper they penetrated into the country, the more their military lines become extended and their strength weaker, as a result of which it would be easier to divide and isolate them and eliminate them in small groups.



POWELL AND THE "C" PGB FALL INTO EACH

Enoch Powell is well-known to workers as an out-and-out racist, and a man who dreams of the resurrection of British Imperial power. It may seem strange to some then, that this vicious anti-working class fascist is now calling for an alliance between Britain and the USSR. In a speech at Doncaster on January 20th, Ex-Tory Powell, described Russia as Britain's natural historical ally, and claimed that "necessity" would restore "an understanding between the two countries." Powell forecasts an alliance between the Soviet Union, Britain and Japan to oppose China, the USA and Europe.

Powell speaks for a section of the imperialist ruling class in Britain, who see the possibility of their imperialist interests being best served through an alliance with one of the superpowers - Soviet social imperialism - which is building itself up for a war against the other superpower - US imperialism - for a redivision of the world. The British empire has been decimated by the independence struggle of the third world, but it still has large economic interests in some areas such as southern Africa and Asia. Even in these areas, though, it is losing out to the people's struggle and to its competitors, particularly from the US imperialists. It is no accident that an imperialist

spokesman like Powell, who shows his nature as a Unionist MP in Northern Ireland, lines up in international policy with "left" Labour defenders of state monopoly capitalism for an alliance with Soviet social imperialism, and opposition to European unity. The Labour "left" themselves are imperialists. The nationalised industries, they proclaim as "socialist", are imperialist concerns with interests all over the world, including Rhodesia and South Africa. Powell's racism, itself, is meant to be a "justification" for British imperialist plunder of third world countries.

MORNING STAR RAG APPROVES POWELL SPEECH

The *Morning Star* rag, the voice of the so-called "Communist" Party of Great Britain ("C" PGB) seized on the possibilities of an alliance between the social-fascists (socialism in words - fascism in deeds) like the new Tsars in the Kremlin and fascists like Powell. They warmly reported his speech, "forgetting" to mention his racism, his imperialist history, and his role as a spokesman for British imperialism in Ireland. They quoted from Powell, to remind their readers of the alliances between Russia and Britain in 1812, and 1914, as a justification for an alliance today. Here they

It was joined by the Bangladeshi Workers' Association, black workers, Eritreans, Thai students and veterans from the 1960s solidarity campaign with the Indo-Chinese people.

An Eritrean told *Class Struggle*, "In Eritrea we face the same problems as the Kampuchean people. We are not fighting Ethiopians or Cubans, but the Soviet Union. We demonstrated on December 16th against the Soviet Union. Now we have come to help the Kampuchean people."

The Thai students faced constant police harassment. Wearing balaclavas to hide their identity from the Thai authorities, the police threatened them with arrest unless they took them off.

That evening at a powerful public meeting, 70 people, many from different nationalities of all continents, came to support the Kampuchean people. The platform of the meeting was flanked by the banners of the RCLB and the CWM, with the flag of Democratic Kampuchea above, and draped with a portrait of Pol Pot - the leader of the Communist Party of Kampuchea - and the slogans "Total Support for the Kampuchean People", "Down with Soviet-Vietnamese aggression".

The meeting opened with the Chairman reading messages of solidarity from the Committee of Patriots of Democratic Kampuchea (France) and the Kampuchean Committee (Netherlands).

The first speaker, from AICML, told the meeting that Vietnam had been a vanguard fighter against imperialism for 30 years, but in the short time from the liberation of their country from US imperialism in 1975, to 1978, it had itself become a small expansionist power. While the Vietnamese people had struggled so heroically, the leadership had let Soviet social imperialism into the country and had become its puppet.

The CWM representative paid tribute to Malcolm Caldwell, the anti-imperialist intellectual who firmly supported the struggles of the Kampuchean people, and accused the Hanoi regime for murdering him whilst he was visiting Kampuchea in December. He continued by describing the strategy of the Soviet Union in South East Asia. He said the Soviet Union was in a stalemate in Europe, so was carrying

out a flanking manoeuvre to gain control of the Pacific sea routes, to be in a position to strangle Europe. It was also trying to rig up a Warsaw Pact-style "Collective Security System" in the area. The speaker pointed out most strongly that the National Liberation struggles in the area were led by well-tempered Communist Parties who had absolutely no illusions in the benevolence of the New Tsars in the Kremlin.

The RCLB speaker demolished the lies put out by the capitalist press about Democratic Kampuchea. It was the American war-machine that had committed genocide by murdering 800,000 Kampucheans in their war against Indo-China. A barrage of publicity had tried to blame the Communist Party of Kampuchea, who had to restrain the people from revenging themselves against those who had brutally exploited them for so long.

The charges of "forced labour" he said was what the bosses constantly bleat when they find out that they have to work for the first time in their lives.

He paid tribute to the far-sighted policy of the Government of Democratic Kampuchea who had saved the war refugees from starvation, built up a strong agricultural system to feed its population, and who had long-prepared for the inevitable invasion of their country by Soviet aggressors.

The Bangladeshi Workers' Association speaker explained that it was the people of the third world who were taking the brunt of Soviet aggression and it was the third world who were the main force in the struggle against it.

Contributors from the floor expressed their determined solidarity with the Kampuchean people, and a message of support was sent to them.

The singing of the *Internationale* brought the meeting to a close with a feeling of militancy, unity and optimism.

PALESTINIANS OPPOSE NEW ZIONIST SETTLEMENTS

The Israeli Government recently decided to spend a further 700 million Israeli pounds for expanding its settlements in occupied Arab territories. A Government financial committee recommended the construction of 370 houses and flats in Haris and Qarnus, 100 in Jibaan, and an unspecified number in several settlements in the Jordan River valley, the Golan Heights and the Gaza Strip.

Arabs living in the West Bank area of the river Jordan have held meetings and demonstrations in opposition to the settlements and the continued confiscation of Arab lands.

The expansion of settlements is part of the Zionist policy of colonising the occupied Arab territories, in an attempt to make the occupation permanent. The settlements are then used as an excuse to establish more military bases.

In contrast to the policy of confiscating Arab property and giving financial and military backing to settlers who move in, the Zionists have returned to their old policy of demolishing the homes of Palestinians who resist their aggression.

"CIVILIAN" OCCUPIERS BRING RESISTANCE ON THEMSELVES

The Zionists hypocritically attack the Palestinian people for attacking the settlements in order to oppose the occupation of their land. "You are attacking civilians", cry the Zionists. Well, it was the Palestinian civilians who were driven off their land. Zionist "civilians" who come to steal that land must expect resistance. No one invited them to destroy Palestine!

OTHERS ARMS

really let the cat out of the bag. The alliances between Britain and Russia in 1812 and 1914 were alliances between two empires for the purpose of defending and extending their colonial and imperialist plunder. It was an alliance against other rising empires who wanted the booty for themselves. In 1914, the communists opposed the war, as a war between empires, as a war in which both sides were enemies of the people. In Russia, Lenin and the Bolshevik Party fought to turn the war into a civil war, and led the working class to seize power from their own imperialist ruling class. In 1917, they established the world's first socialist state. It was social democrats like today's Labour Party that supported the war efforts and betrayed the working class and the people of the third world. It was such traitors who supported the war to defend the British and Russian empires.

But today the "C"PGB recalls, with Powell, that imperialist alliance in order to justify an alliance between British imperialism and Soviet social imperialism today. Their politics today are "fascist and social fascists unite!" They want the USSR, the "C"PGB, the "left" Labourites, Powell and a section of the British imperialists to jump into bed together. Indeed, they have much in common. ■

ALL OUT EFFORT FOR A MODERN CHINA!

1979 marks a major step forward for the Chinese revolution and for the Chinese people. From now, the focus of the nation's work is to be the complete and thorough modernisation of China, to make it an economically developed socialist country based on a broad working class democracy by the end of the century.

This decision was taken at the Third Plenary (full) Session of the 11th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China held last month. It is a decision that has been greeted enthusiastically by the Chinese people, and will certainly mean that the people's living standards will rise more rapidly, national defence strengthened and the dictatorship of the proletariat - the rule of the working class - consolidated.

Just over thirty years ago, China was a very poor and backward semi-feudal country, continually bullied and attacked by imperialism. Poverty was everywhere and there were constant famines leading to millions of deaths among the peasantry. After Liberation, in 1949, great steps were made to overcome these problems and establish a socialist economy. Progress banished famine from China.

During the 1950s Mao Zedong (Mao Tsetung) called for a shift in policy to greatly advance socialist modernisation. He saw that after capturing political power and suppressing counter-revolutionaries, the proletariat must begin to establish a social system superior to capitalism in all ways. The modernisation of China, a relatively poor and backward society, was a very important task. Some progress was made in this, but the growth of revisionism (sham Marxism) in the Soviet Union, leading to the wholesale restoration of state capitalism there, made it a priority for the Communist Party to prevent such a thing happening in China. As a result more emphasis was put in combating revisionism to keep the working class firmly in power. This led to the Proletarian Cultural Revolution where the struggle against revisionism reached its peak. Some elements like Lin Biao (Lin Piao) and the "Gang of four" tried to use this revolution for their own ends, and take political power off the working class. They acted as a brake on growth in agriculture and industry and sabotaged production and modernisation plans. Progress became slower and the Chinese economy was at one point brought near to the brink of collapse.

However, the people were against the "Gang" and they were not to last much longer. Under the leadership of Hua Guofeng (Hua Kuo-feng) and the Communist Party, they were overthrown as they hatched a plot for a coup. This was greeted with tremendous enthusiasm by the Chinese working class. Political power was strengthened and the main obstacle to modernisation was removed. The people are more united than ever, ready to work hard to speed up socialist modernisation.

All is set to modernise agriculture, industry, national defence and science and technology (The Four Modernisations) by the end of the century and to make China a modern, and powerful socialist society.

Unlike Britain, more technology and modernisation will not put more people out of work. On the contrary, it means more production, and a better standard of living. Because there is a socialist system in China, there is no such thing as unemployment. Modernisation serves the working class, not the exploiting capitalist class.

The task of modernisation calls for even greater democracy, not less. This means that discussion and consultations on all major issues must be increased.

Only in this way will the initiative and enthusiasm of hundreds of millions of Chinese working people be brought into full play.

Already in many sectors of the economy this enthusiasm for socialist modernisation has been concretely shown. Steel production increased dramatically last year, fulfilling the planned annual quota in early November. Almost 32 million tons of steel were produced, and it is planned to reach 60 million tons a year by 1985. New steel plants employing advanced up-to-date techniques are being built to accomplish this task.

The call for modernisation is a major political task, not just an economic task. With a developed economy, with the burden of agricultural work lightened by more productive modern methods, with higher productivity in industry, the living standards of the Chinese people will rise rapidly. By modernising national defence, China can stand up to the threats of Soviet social imperialism and other imperialists, and certainly defeat any war of aggression waged against her. By accomplishing these tasks the dictatorship of the proletariat is consolidated, serving as a source of inspiration and a powerful support to all the oppressed people of the world.

NO CUTS IN CHINA

While in Britain, community services are being cut back under the Labour Government, in China they are expanding continually. Britain is a relatively rich and developed capitalist country, yet China is still very poor. How is it possible?

In socialist China, the state serves the people, not a handful of rich capitalists. As a result great attention is being paid on looking after the people.

In Shanghai, as in many other places, measures are being carried out to ease the burden of household chores. Many nurseries, canteens and community service centres are being established to cater for peoples needs. Wang Cheng-tung and his wife Chen Shih-ying are both workers at the Shanghai Puchiang Electric Meter Plant. They have two daughters aged 11 and 4. The family used to spend some 5 hours a day doing housework, but now this has been considerably relieved, after the recent opening of a community service centre. Now clothes to be washed can go to the laundry which also sews, mends and repairs clothes. Their 4 year old daughter has entered a full-time nursery, while their 11 year old can have meals at the community run canteen when her parents are not at home. Parents can take their children to nurseries at any time, and collect them at any time. Some of the canteens stay open all night to accommodate shift workers. There are many other services such as hot meals taken to elderly people who live on their own.

While China is still poor, more and more effort is being made to extend these services. By helping workers to be released from household chores, they can make a better contribution to the modernisation of Socialist China and have more time for leisure. This can only lead to a more prosperous China, better able to serve the people.

The names of people and places are in the new standardised Chinese spelling. We will continue for the time being to include the old spellings in brackets after the new.