

CLASS STRUGGLE

POLITICAL PAPER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF BRITAIN

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revisionists lie to protect Soviet/Vietnam aggression

CHINA'S COUNTER-ATTACK FULLY JUSTIFIED

"Socialist states should set an example in strictly adhering to the principles of respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of states".

Such sentiments are undoubtedly widely held, especially by revolutionary communists. This time, though, the words are being spoken by McLennan, the General Secretary of the so-called "Communist" Party of Great Britain ("C"PGB) as part of a speech quoted at length on the front page of the *Morning Star* rag on February 21st. It would be easy to assume that he is criticising Soviet social imperialism, perhaps in this instance for instigating Vietnam's bloody occupation of Democratic Kampuchea. No! Keeping a perfectly straight face he is talking about China's retaliation against the Vietnamese authorities' border provocations!

TWISTING THE TRUTH

Scum like McLennan have made a career for themselves out of revising Marxism-Leninism and turning truth on its head, but he and his friends in the revisionist (sham Marxist) "C"PGB are really excelling themselves at the moment.

In his speech, McLennan starts off with the lie **INTERNATIONAL WORKING WOMEN'S DAY**

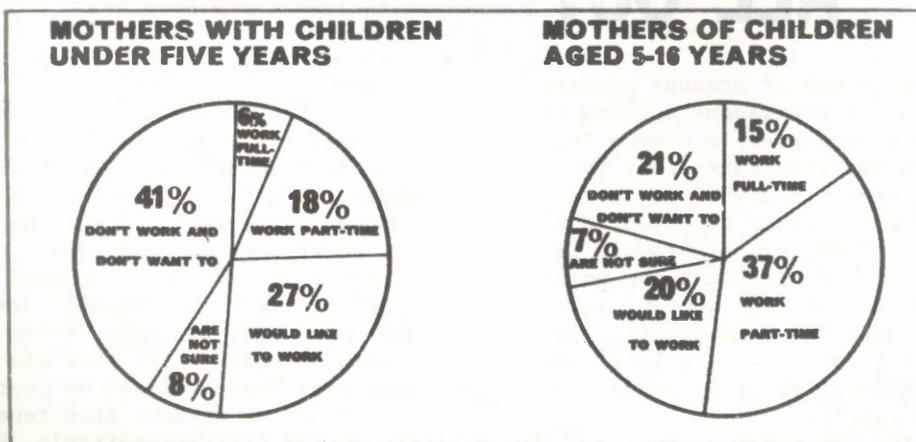
that China is "punishing" Vietnam "for what took place in Kampuchea". McLennan knows, of course, that China has never said that its punitive expedition is a direct retaliation against the Soviet and Vietnamese occupation of Kampuchea and their installation of a puppet Government there. China has stated all along that it is a retaliation against Vietnam's attacks on the Chinese border. But the truth hasn't worried McLennan, the "C"PGB or the *Morning Star* before, and they are damned if it's going to stop them now just when they are getting a pat on the back from Moscow!

REVISIONISTS SUPPORT VIETNAM'S OCCUPATION OF KAMPUCHEA

He then goes on "this is a totally unacceptable argument. Whatever views one may have on Vietnam's involvement in the overthrow of the Pol Pot regime in Kampuchea, China's military action against Vietnam is a clear violation of all accepted principles of relations between socialist states". This is really choice. If McLennan is so all-fire concerned about "accepted principles", why on earth has he said nothing against the Soviet-inspired

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WOMEN AND CHILDREN LAST



The media has been full just recently of a new Gallup poll commissioned by *Woman's Own* magazine. This firmly establishes and brings up-to-date facts about the appalling lack of child-care facilities for working mothers.

In previous articles in *Class Struggle* on "Pin money" and "Part-time work" we have made the points that the survey confirms.

Cont'd on page 3

CAPITALISM WON'T BRING EQUALITY OF SEXES

"In words bourgeois democracy promises equality and freedom, but in practice not a single bourgeois republic, even the more advanced, has granted women (half the human race) and men complete equality in the eyes of the law, or delivered women from dependence on and the oppression of the male"

Lenin wrote these words 60 years ago, and they are not outdated. In this bourgeois democracy - Britain - recent legislation has lessened the inequality of women "in the eyes of the law". But as women come nearer to equality on paper, the contrast between the promises and the reality has become more glaring.

In theory women have "equal pay". In fact average hourly earnings for women are £1.48 compared with £2.49 for men, and women manual workers' gross average earnings have actually fallen in relation to men's since the Equal Pay Act was passed!

In theory it is illegal to discriminate against women in education and in jobs. In practice women are pushed towards certain jobs - nursing, cleaning, catering, child care, light and "fiddly" factory work, clerical work - supposed to be "suitable" for them. What really makes these "suitable" for women is not the nature of the work but the availability of part-time jobs, night work, twilight shifts - and the low pay.

The oppression of women is as real today as when Lenin condemned it. It divides the working class and benefits the parasitic capitalist class. And the Equal Pay Act and Sex Discrimination Act are about as useful against the oppression of women as a sieve is to carry water to put out a blazing fire.

"TEAR THE MASK FROM THE LIARS, OPEN THE EYES OF THE BLIND"

That's how Lenin urged workers to approach the question. "Is there equality between the two sexes?" Of course there is not. The oppression of women has a very long history - it dates back to the beginning of class society. The legal inequality which still exists is only a symptom. As Lenin said, "this is the main thing - they remain in "household bondage" ...overburdened with the drudgery of the most... backbreaking and stultifying toil in the kitchen and

the family household". These words are not too strong. The family, which could be a partnership which strengthened men and women, is a sort of prison for women in capitalist society. Women's unpaid, private work of feeding, clothing and caring for the family separates them from the wider world of social production and class struggle and makes them economically dependent on men. The isolation of the home - with radio and TV for company - inevitably affects their thinking. The bourgeois media do everything possible to play off wives against husbands. Trapped in the home, women are a reserve army of labour which doesn't show in unemployment figures. They are an elastic resource, and can be made to work harder in times of economic crisis.

HALF THE REVOLUTION

Capitalism has long since developed to the point where it is technically and administratively possible to make housework a public industry on a large scale, and extend good quality child-care so that women could work on an equal basis with men. But it doesn't happen. Capitalism cannot emancipate women, because it is not profitable to do so.

Women have a double reason for fighting for socialist revolution, because they are doubly oppressed. Socialism will need and respect the work of women, both as wage workers contributing to society, and doing their share of caring for the children - tomorrow's workers. Under socialism, the conditions for women's emancipation can be met with full employment, cheap canteens, cafes and take-aways, washing and mending services and more child-care provision.

Just as capitalism has produced its own grave-digger, the working class, so it is awakening women too. Under capitalism women have been forced to work for wages to support their families. The complicated and inadequate arrangements for the care of their children which they are forced to make, the low pay and unsocial hours and bad conditions of work make women angry. When women do realise the power of united action they fight bravely and tenaciously. On International Working

ONE OUT - ALL OUT

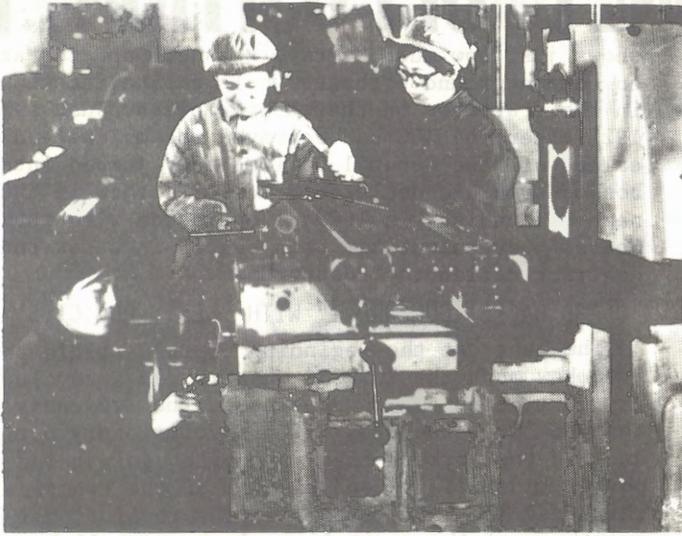
Workers in Roneo Vickers are at present putting up the kind of battle that the armament workers of the old Vickers Armstrong were used to during the last war. Since the firm has been taken over by Roneo, it has gradually been run down. In Scotswood Road in Newcastle, 20,000 were once employed, but now this number stands at 3,000. In Liverpool, it seems that Roneo are determined to smash the union as they pull out. Two years ago, the company said it must close unless there were 50% redundancies. This achieved, they now say they will close unless they can be given a 30% guaranteed return on investment. This is, of course, impossible.

When the company called for redundancies, and the unions failed to oppose this, the company got rid of all its union officials. However, good has been made out of bad and a new and stronger shop steward system has emerged. It has constantly fought with the workers' interest in mind and has become a severe worry to management. On January 24th, Ray

Long, the convenor was called into the manager's office at 4.20pm and told that he was sacked. This was because he had been involved in a dispute that didn't concern the company; he had spent too much time on union business, and he had incited the shop floor to strike! Ray had had no previous warnings and with this blatant disregard for normal procedure added to the ludicrous charges, he managed to call an immediate meeting as the shop floor clocked off. The response was immediate, and the branch has now been out on strike for four weeks.

The reference made by management to a "dispute that didn't concern the company" involved the recent lorry drivers' just struggle. Roneo Vickers were using a local scab outfit that was non-unionised. The loaders at Roneo refused to co-operate with these scabs and management threatened to sack them. A strike was of course inevitable. Ray Long, however, in hindsight, considers that Roneo would have had to have laid the men off because of the driver's strike, and that the firm had deliberately engineered the dispute.

The men at Roneo, although without strike pay, are determined to stay out until their case is won.



*What men can do - women can do also!
In China, women are encouraged to take up skilled jobs and take a full part in building a new society. Here women fitters repair a machine.*

ARTICLE: WOMEN IN NEW CHINA, p8.

Women's Day - March 8th - we celebrate the struggles of women fighting against capitalism and imperialism, from the health service workers in Britain rejecting the blackmail of the ruling class and fighting to defend their living standards to the women guerrillas of the Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army fighting for an independent Zimbabwe (Rhodesia). In the struggle for Socialism we shall gain freedom and equality for women!

WOMEN AND CHILDREN LAST

Cont'd from p1

1 in 4 of the mothers who work do so because their families would not manage without their money. If these mothers didn't work 3 times as many families would be able to get Supplementary Benefit. So working mums save the state a great deal of money. Does the state help them to work? Provide adequate child-care facilities? No!

1 in 3 working mothers of children under 5 years work nights, and 4 out of every 5 work part-time because there is no one to look after the children. These women have two full-time jobs, looking after the children all day and when the kids are in bed going straight out to work. They are doubly oppressed. The only jobs they can get are poorly paid.

Two-thirds of working mothers can only get semi- or unskilled jobs.

During school holidays 4% of working mothers leave their children, aged 5-11 years alone because there is no one to look after them. Nationally this means 100,000 5-11 year olds on their own!

9 out of every hundred working mothers with children have to let them come home to an empty house because there is no one to look after them.

This year is the Year of the Child. Successive Governments have ignored the problem of child-care - the bosses want the women's labour (because they still can get away with paying them less than men) but do nothing to help women cope with their domestic problems. *Class Struggle* has described facilities for child-care in China. We have nothing to compare, but that is the difference between a society that cares for its members and one which simply tries to extract maximum profits.

A WORKER'S NOTEBOOK

■ON FEBRUARY 19TH GERALD GROSVENOR BECAME A DUKE and the principal beneficiary of a will valued at £500 million, £1,000 million or £2,000 million, depending on which daily paper you read. And he will lose precisely none of this wealth through death duties. The new Duke of Westminster can continue to get fat on his 300 acres of London's West End, his 28,000 acres of Welsh farmland, his 100,000 acres of Scottish hills, and who knows how much more in Hawaii, Canada and Australia.

All in all he has a lot to thank the Labour Party for. The "socialist" Chancellor Healey, who once boasted he would squeeze the rich till the pips squeak, will rake in no more this year in capital transfer tax from the rich than did their more obvious friend the Tory Chancellor, in 1971, before the so-called "tough" laws were brought in.

■IF YOU'RE ON SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFIT, THOUGH, it's a different story. The government proposals for changing the Supplementary Benefit scheme will cut the living standards of claimants who even now cannot afford the basic necessities. The key concern has been to simplify the scheme and reduce discretionary additions to benefits. But the lump sums which the Government wants to use to replace the present system of discretionary clothing grants etc. are ridiculously small. The review also proposes to replace the right to benefit with a system of privileges that could be withdrawn. Another "reform" that's a kick in the teeth for the working class!

■EIGHT MEN AND FOUR WOMEN, SOME OF WHOM WORK AT the Sinn Fein information office, had charges of conspiracy and membership of the Provisional IRA withdrawn for lack of evidence in a Belfast court recently. The case had been delayed a number of times but the RUC still couldn't manage to cobble together a case against them. This is a set-back to the attempts by the state to silence all who put forward the Republican case.

■THE ECOLOGY PARTY IS TO CONTEST 50 SEATS AT the next General Election, its Chairman announced recently. The growing concern over the destruction of the environment and its consequences for human beings is a good thing. It reflects peoples' awareness that capitalism develops science and technology solely in the interest of greater profits. But the ecologists are wrong in thinking that the bosses will change their spots over conservation any more than they do over anything else. Furthermore the ecologists lack a revolutionary perspective. In fact they are usually reactionary seeing industrial progress itself as responsible for environmental pollution - not capitalism. The problems of the environment can be dealt with only when the mass of the people hold state power, through a revolutionary Communist Party. Anyone who is seriously concerned about ecology should devote his or her efforts to building the revolutionary Communist Party, not to paddling about in the swamp of parliamentary "politics". It is the people, not a new variety of "saviours from on high" who can ensure the world is not destroyed by misuse of technology and neglect.

■THE B.B.C.'S "TONIGHT" PROGRAMME RECENTLY featured a confrontation between someone from the CBI and a low paid worker. The media frequently use these "real-life" confrontations to show us what's "really going on". Or so they say.

In this case two dustmen from Harrow were originally asked to appear on the programme. But when the BBC discovered what they earned, £56 a week before tax, they decided this was a bit too "real life" for their viewers. So instead they got in a dustman from Southwark, where local bonuses has put earnings up. Now we know what's really going on!

PHONEY 'OPPOSITION' TO

*"During 1927 the trade union leaders were busily engaged in "atoning" for the General Strike, and made a nose-dive right into Mondism. Mondism took its name from Sir Alfred Mond, later Lord Melchett, head of the ICI, a sharp clever industrialist and politician. He and some of his colleagues recognised that the trade union leaders had got as much of a fright as the employers when they saw the strength and spirit of the working class and its readiness to carry the General Strike through to victory". (Communist leader William Gallagher in his book *The Rolling of the Thunder*.)*

Today's upsurge in the workers' economic struggle is the most extensive since the General Strike. Unlike the General Strike, where the TUC were forced to call out the whole trade union movement in support of the miners, the TUC has worked overtime to prevent the current strikes opening up into a united class battle against the Government. But the determination and militancy of the different sections of workers, particularly the lorry drivers, has again given the TUC "as much of a fright as the employers". In the lorry drivers' strike, Warrington drivers occupied their local union headquarters and said that they could not trust the local officials to lead the strike successfully. The TUC do not live the lives of working class people. They live in luxury and privilege like their capitalist masters. The TUC's so-called "Concordat" with the Government which attempts to put new obstacles in the way of workers striking for higher pay and seriously undermines the right of public service workers to strike,

shows just how much Murray, Bassnett and Co. are on common ground with the whole capitalist class in their attacks on the working class. Just as in 1927 after the TUC had betrayed the miners and called off the General Strike, they jumped into the bosses' arms and declared peace with them in the name of Mondism, in 1979 co-operation with the bosses' Government has been sealed in a new social contract called the "Concordat".

"C"PGB BACKS "CONCORDAT" WITH "LEFT" POLICIES

The quote at the beginning of the article shows just how much the "C"PGB, when it was a revolutionary party understood and exposed the treachery of the TUC. Then the CPGB was a revolutionary party and led the workers' class struggle against the poverty, depression and fascism of the twenties and thirties. The Party stood for the revolutionary overthrow of the capitalist class not collaboration with it and its organ of oppression, the state. As such a vanguard party of the working class the CPGB grew and won the sympathy and support of the masses.

Today the "C"PGB's line on the "Concordat" is another example of how much the revisionists (sham Marxists) have betrayed the working class.

The "C"PGB "opposes" the "Concordat" not because it attempts to rob the working class of leadership against the capitalist class and their crisis and place them alongside the bosses in the boardroom etc. deciding what is "economically viable". (That means in the best interest of capitalism.) But, because it doesn't carry the alternative strategy advanced by the Left". What is this "alternative

EX-LIVERPOOL COPPER WRITES

I am writing this letter because many people don't know what I'm writing about and it should be exposed.

Until I started work in a factory I didn't know very much. I left school at 16 and joined the police force, probably mainly because my father was in the police. In the cadets they give you a false idea of what proper police work is really like, and the things that go on. For two years there I did nothing productive, but played cops and robbers, sports and hours and hours of brainwashing on police law and the British Constitution, which I had no interest in but kept on to please everybody.

I didn't realise until I was 19 what being a policeman (a state tool) was all about. At that time I was sent to the Police Academy in Warrington. Again I didn't want to go, but went there to please everybody (still in my tunnel and wearing blinkers). This was where brainwashing really took place. They didn't mention classes of people, but it was implied i.e. we were given different interviewing techniques on how to deal with different classes of the community. We were told how to treat councillors and shop owners with respect and factory workers and the other "lower classes" with a much sterner approach. "Show them who's the boss", they would say.

After passing through the Academy - not with flying colours - I was sent on the streets in Liverpool L8 (a poor working class area with a large black community). You are on probation for your first two years and a progress report on you is sent to your Chief Superintendent every three months. This was to show him whether all the brainwashing sessions had been worth the time and the money (at that time between one and two thousand pounds). The report would

show how many arrests and summonses the officer had done in that three months. If you didn't come up to his standard, you were put on weekly progress report. So you can guess what is going on.

I was in such a panic when the three months report was due, I was arresting and summoning people for the sake of the report! This is one reason that I left after ten months. I presume it is still going on.

Recently they lowered the joining age to 18½. One reason is probably that they want people young enough not to know properly about the system we live in, so they can mould them into what they want. With more puppets of the system, the harder the struggle.

FROM A PLESSEY WORKER

Plessey plans to cut its workforce at Edge Lane, Liverpool, by 800 within 3 months. This is the result of the technological developments in the making of telephone exchange equipment. 800 jobs lost! All in the interests of profit for Plessey. Between 1971 and 1975 Plessey was already cutting jobs - by 16%. In those same four years its profits doubled - increased by 104%.

Management is feeling very cocky. Notice of the redundancies was read to the workers over the tannoy, and we all got letters through the post giving us those facts which they wanted us to know: expected loss of £7 million for the Edge Lane site by the end of the year etc. They're threatening us with the complete closure of that part of the site manufacturing out-dated Strowger equipment if there's any resistance to the redundancies - or to the 5% wage limit!

CONCORDAT FROM 'C'PGB

strategy"? It is the same old stuff they have parroted for the last thirty years as a revisionist party. Such as more so-called "public ownership" or nationalisation. It means nothing to these swindlers that wages are lowest in state industries. The "Concordat" promotes the policy that public service workers have less right to strike by emphasising negotiation and arbitration particularly in essential industries and services. This is ignored by the "C"PGB who in a *Morning Star* article "Ghost of contracts past" satisfy themselves by saying "The document contains no acceptance of the principle of "no strike" clauses for workers providing "essential services"." Is it not true that there were no "no strike" clauses in most agreements during the "Social Contract"? Yet this TUC agreement with the Labour Government kept the lid on strikes and held the line for Wilson and Callaghan's "wage norms" for two years.

The revisionists deny that Murray, Bassnett and Co. and their underlings in the TUC have more in common with capitalism than the working class and socialism. When the TUC enters into agreements with the Government it does so purely in the interests of the bosses and the capitalist state. But the "C"PGB renegades to socialism mislead the working class themselves by covering up this fact and creating illusions in the state which the TUC is now virtually a part of.

REVISIONISTS PREACH TO THE CAPITALISTS

The so-called "left" policies the "C"PGB wants in the "Concordat" include demanding an economic growth (for capitalism) of 10%. They fly into a

The unions are giving little or no leadership in fighting the bosses. At shop floor meeting we were asked to go home and think over management's letter, and then say what we thought about it at a further meeting after the weekend. Management refused to let us hold those further meetings! We were given no facts with which to give the lie to their blustering. Nor were the bosses' slurs on us, the workers, answered. For instance the bosses pointed their fingers at a high absenteeism and lateness rate - what the hell do they expect, when workers have watched the factory shrink to a third of its former size over the last twelve years and people can't even get hire-purchase agreements when the finance company finds out that they work at Plessey?

There's anger at the way we're being treated; but there's demoralisation too, at the failure to resist over a decade, and the thought of the very slim chances of finding another job. The unions aren't in any shape at present to transform the demoralisation into fighting spirit. The key to building resistance in the future is to turn the unions there into democratic organisations which really fight for the workers, instead of just seeing the bosses' logic.

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

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dream world of how this would end inflation, cut unemployment and usher in higher wages. Don't they think that if it was possible for capitalism to achieve this growth rate in Britain, the capitalists would invest? Capitalism is in a real crisis. Markets are glutted and rivalry extremely sharp. This crisis of overproduction is leading the bosses to destroy produce and means of production not fall over themselves to glut the market further. The only solution to this situation is socialism and that can only be achieved by the revolutionary overthrow of the capitalist class and the establishment of working class power. The revisionists deny this and therefore are compelled to invent pipedreams for "solving" the crisis to delude the working class.

NO ILLUSIONS IN TUC

The TUC has entered into a pact with the Government which has strengthened the capitalist state against the working class. The Stock Exchange is booming at the good news for capitalism. Banks and insurance companies are declaring staggering profits. In order to continue and further the workers' wages struggles, class conscious workers need to be clearer than ever of the role of the TUC. The TUC General Council is an organization of labour lieutenants of capital which has gone wholly over to the side of the capitalist class and is a virtual part of the bourgeois state. It is no longer possible for this organization to be used in the interests of the working class. It must be firmly exposed.

DOWN WITH THE CONCORDAT!

TURN THE UNIONS INTO FIGHTING CLASS ORGANISATIONS

CLASS STRUGGLE PAMPHLET NO.2

Available from New Era Books, price 15p (plus 7p postage)

The pamphlet is based on a series of articles carried in *Class Struggle* between December 1977 and June 1978.

The pamphlet exposes through many concrete examples, how the opportunist trade union misleaders work in the interests of capitalism and makes the call to fight against trade union bureaucrats and struggle to turn the unions into fighting class organisations. It points out that any struggle must be unified and raises five slogans, which show how to orientate our struggle effectively.

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

The pamphlet exposes the Labour Party, the Communist Party of Great Britain, and other opportunists, who sabotage or oppose both the struggle for socialism and the day-to-day economic struggle.

Read the communist view on the trade union struggle. Sell it and discuss it with your workmates.

Cont'd from p1

annexation of Kampuchea by Vietnam? On the contrary he implies that it was all right by parroting the works of the imperialist newspapers and calling it "the Pol Pot regime". This is nothing new. The *Morning Star* rag never bothered itself too much about it either. In fact it repeated several times the Soviet and Vietnamese lies that the Government of Kampuchea was overthrown by an internal uprising! Of course, that story is so farcical that even McLennan has to let the cat slip out of the bag a little now and admit to "Vietnam's involvement".

VIETNAM CAUSED "BORDER INCIDENTS"

The following day the Political Committee of the "C"PGB issued a statement repeating the same absurd arguments. But this time, they decided to admit, as a subordinate point, the existence of "frontier incidents", and solemnly proclaimed that "these should have been resolved by peaceful negotiation as the Vietnamese urged". Well, we've got some news for readers of the *Morning Star*. These "frontier incidents", have been going on for some years and are well documented. There were over 400 "incidents" in 1975; over 900 in 1976; the following year there were 752; and in 1978, the figure rose to 1,108. In the past six months alone, the Vietnamese Authorities have sent troops across the border in 162 different places on a total of over 700 occasions, when they have killed or wounded several hundred Chinese border guards and local workers and peasants. The 'incidents' are instances of Vietnamese aggression.

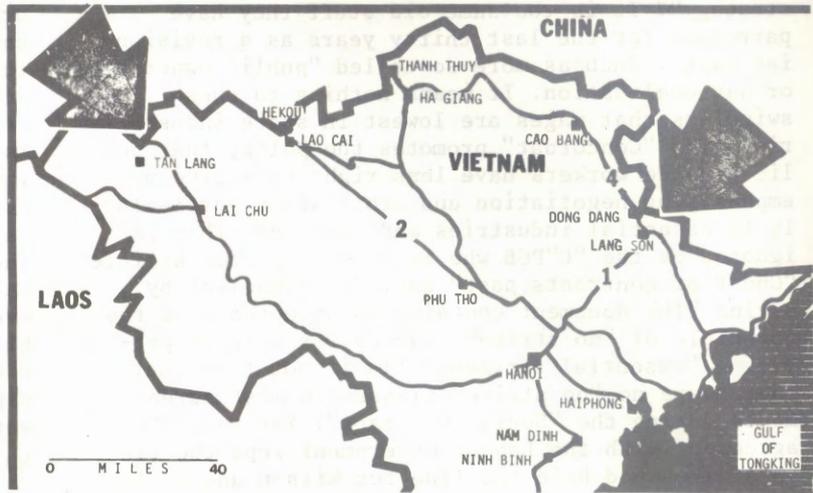
In all this time China has responded with restraint. Soldiers and local people have been told to defend themselves when necessary, but not to retaliate. China has officially complained again and again to the Vietnamese authorities and cited the specific instances of attacks and occupation of pieces of China's territory. On many occasions it has tried to discuss these "incidents" with Vietnamese officials.

What has been the response of the Hanoi leaders? They have chosen to interpret China's restraint as weakness. They have thought that China is scared of the Soviet-Vietnamese alliance. They have continued to escalate their attacks on China, and carried out a massive propaganda campaign in Vietnam calling China "the No. 1 enemy". After repeated warnings (see *Class Struggle* Vol.3 No.2) the Chinese Government and people have finally responded in the only way left open to them. They have set out to teach the Vietnamese leaders a lesson that they won't quickly forget.

That is the history leading to the present punitive expedition. The "C"PGB's talk of "peaceful negotiations as the Vietnamese urged" is nothing but pious posing designed to present China as an aggressive power. In fact, China recently supported the views of many third world countries that the two sides should hold negotiations and it was the Vietnamese Vice-Foreign Minister, Nguyen Co Thach, who on February 21st replied that Vietnam "will by no means accept the negotiations".

WHO WANTS WAR?

On February 27th, the revisionist "C"PGB called on Woodis, the head of their international department, to attack China in the *Morning Star*. In the smooth article, he attacked China's opposition generally to Soviet social imperialism, and pulled out of the hat the revisionists' last big argument. "Why should Vietnam recovering from nearly 40 years



Map showing principal areas of Chinese retaliation. Major engagements are taking place in and around Lang Son, Dong Dang, Cao Bang, Ha Giang, Lao Cai and Lao Chu.

fighting, massive destruction, devastating droughts and floods want to provoke China into military action?" he said, "If any country in the world needed and yearned for peace surely it was Vietnam". Well, certainly the Vietnamese people want peace, but it's quite obvious that the Vietnamese Authorities don't! Woodis's "reasonable" point, totally hides from the facts that Vietnam has invaded, occupied and overthrown the Government of Democratic Kampuchea! It has sent in well over 120,000 troops and has another 50,000 stationed in Laos to make sure the people there stay in line. Woodis knows these facts well. He does not misunderstand what is going on. He is covering up for Soviet social imperialism, and doing its dirty work.

IN THE POCKET OF SOVIET IMPERIALISM

The Vietnamese Party is not a Marxist-Leninist party. In 1975, it purged Marxist-Leninists including members of the Provisional Revolutionary Government and the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam. Vietnam is ruled by nationalists. At one stage they played a progressive role fighting US imperialism for independence, now they dream of an "Indo-China Federation" under their control. Their dreams fit in with the ambitions of the Soviet social imperialists who want to dominate the world. Vietnam is in hock to the Soviet social imperialists. It is a lesson for all national liberation fighters. Soviet aid has strings attached. Those strings are used to make puppets with. The Vietnamese Authorities have their own ambitions, but also they have sold out to Soviet social imperialism and are pawns in its game of world hegemony. That is why they are an aggressive power.

REVISIONISTS SEE CHINA AS A MAJOR OBSTACLE

China is standing in the forefront of world opposition to Soviet expansionism; and it has firmly opposed Vietnamese expansion. Soviet social imperialism and the Vietnamese leaders have tried to bully China to force it to moderate its opposition, and to disrupt its modernisation programme which would make China stronger. They thought China would be too scared of the Soviet Union to hit back, but they were wrong.

DIVERTING OPPOSITION TO SOVIET IMPERIALISM

The "C"PGB has not limited itself to verbal assaults on China. On February 24th, they organised

ATTACK FULLY JUSTIFIED

a demonstration with the "New Communist Party" (an even more pro-Soviet gang) and the Britain-Vietnam Association" to protest against "Chinese aggression". Their banners called China a "threat to world peace". This is not thing but a propaganda campaign aimed at diverting attention from the real warmongers in the Kremlin. The "C"PGB has seized on this opportunity to try to stop the sale of the Harrier jump jets to China.

There are fellow travellers of the "C"PGB in Parliament who are only too willing to work for the Soviet Union. The Tribune Group and the "left" Labour leaders in the Labour Party International Committee have all jumped on the bandwagon, denouncing China. These traitors have nothing in common with socialism. They have repeated the Soviet lying propaganda. They are covering up for Soviet aggression, and they are doing it by attacking the biggest obstacle in the way of Soviet social imperialism at present - Socialist China.

OCCUPATION OF KAMPUCHEA CANNOT BE EQUATED WITH CHINA'S SELF-DEFENCE

What all these apologists for Soviet social imperialism know is that there is a world of difference between on the one hand Vietnam's occupation of Kampuchea and its attempt to overthrow the legitimate socialist Government there, and on the other hand China's defence of its border areas. The difference will be even clearer for all to see when China does what it has said it will do all along, and withdraws from Vietnam after making its point. China has not tried to annex Vietnam in order to rule it. China has not tried to overthrow the Government of Vietnam. That is because China is only defending itself. Can Vietnam say the same about Kampuchea? No, it can't. That is why the revisionists need such a propaganda campaign in Britain in order to cover up these basic facts.

The RCLB and other revolutionary Communists fully support China's defensive war against Soviet-Vietnamese aggression.



The present Vietnamese leadership have allowed their country's independence (won after a 40 year struggle from western imperialism) to be trampled on, and the Vietnamese people once again enslaved by a foreign power - this time the Soviet superpower.

The Soviet Union is using Vietnam as its "Cuba in the East", to further its aims in Asia. Vietnam occupies Laos. The recent Soviet-Vietnamese invasion of Democratic Kampuchea is now thoroughly bogged down in a people's war of resistance. Vietnam has now attacked China and got its nose severely bloodied.

The Soviet Vietnamese aggressors will meet the same fate as the US imperialists before them.

WORKERS OF HEKOU BACK COUNTER-ATTACK

Many inhabitants of the Chinese border town of Hekou have been able to return to their homes since Chinese troops drove into Vietnam in retaliation to the Vietnamese Authorities' border provocations. Recently many of the people had had to live in shelters due to cross border shelling by Vietnamese artillery units which had been going on for several weeks. Directly opposite across the Red river is the Vietnamese town of Lao Cai.

Kong Qingwei, a communist leader in the Chinese County of Hekou, explained why the working people were strongly supporting the counter-attack. "Lao Cai was bombed during Vietnam's war of resistance against French aggression in 1953 and 1954 and thousands of Vietnamese inhabitants came to seek shelter in Hekou town. We put them up in our best houses. Later, in their war against U.S. aggression we gave them everything they wanted... Even when our country was in difficulties between 1959 and 1961 we tightened the belt and saved on food and clothing in order to keep up our supplies to the Vietnamese people... We cheered their victories in the war of resistance against U.S. aggression. Following that, we sent over manpower and materials to assist the

Vietnamese people in healing the wounds of war. Many projects in Lao Cai were built with our aid".

He then described the growing hostility and anti-China acts of Vietnamese Authorities, saying "they threw themselves into the arms of the Soviet revisionists". In 1976 Hekou was raided many times by Vietnamese armed forces. At the same time Vietnamese residents of Chinese descent were being thrown out of Vietnam en-masse. 40,000 of them were pushed across into Hekou town itself. (90% were workers and peasants who had lived in north Vietnam and fought in the independence wars). The Vietnamese inhabitants of Lao Cai were ordered out by the Vietnamese authorities last September and the town fortified. Hekou was subjected to artillery barrages over the border. "We can no longer tolerate such actions on the part of the Vietnamese Authorities" he said. "Since our frontier troops started the counter-attack in self defence, the cadres and masses in our country have been very active in supporting the front. We will cooperate with the frontier troops in teaching the Vietnamese Authorities a good lesson".

WOMEN IN NEW CHINA

Chinese women, once among the most oppressed in the world are now standing up. Since Liberation in 1949 they have taken great strides forward in achieving equality with men.

In the past women had a miserable life in China. They were treated merely as commodities to buy or sell and had hardly any political or social status at all. Many women were forced through poverty to become servants of the rich or child brides.

Marriages were arbitrarily arranged by parents and forced upon the children. Wife beating wasn't just common, it was condoned by society which saw women merely as the property of men. Bound and crippled feet were common. Women were not only oppressed by feudal society, and imperialism, but also oppressed by men.

As they struggled for the right to have their own independence and modern style marriages, Chinese women learnt that their oppression was inseparable from the whole system of feudalism in China. As a result many women came forward to join the struggle against imperialism and feudalism to fight against the system that held them down.

In villages liberated by the Red Army and the Communist Party, Women's Associations were formed. These united women together to stop wife beating and demand equal marriages, and mobilised women to overthrow feudal ties. A full six months before the People's Republic of China was founded in 1949 the first Congress of the All-China Democratic Women's Federation was held to direct more effectively women's campaigns, and expand the women's democratic movement. This heralded a new age for Chinese women. Only by involving the mass of women in the struggle for socialism and their emancipation could women become the equals to men.

In 1950, the People's Democratic Government adopted a new marriage law greatly improving the status of women and destroying the feudal marriage system based upon the supremacy of men over women. Now marriage would be "based on the free choice of partners, on monogamy, on equal rights for both sexes and the protection of the lawful interests of women and children."

Year after year, more and more women joined in the struggle to emancipate themselves and build a new socialist society which would protect their rights. Tsui Yu Lan used to be a housewife in Beijing (Peking). In 1958 she explains, "We women wanted to take part in the building of socialism and I and several other women in our neighbourhood set up a chemical factory". To reduce opposition from husbands unwilling to let their wives work, "The Women's Association called 'husband forums' to discuss the problem, and Trade Unions also educated their men workers in the significance of women's participation in the national economy. My husband learned how to cook and no longer regarded it as humiliating".

Children were an obstacle for women taking outside jobs, but encouraged by the Communist Party, women sought to overcome it. At first there were not enough state nurseries, so Tsui

NURSERIES AND KINDERGARTENS

The state pays the cost of construction of dining rooms, nurseries and kindergartens in factories, and pays the wages of the staff. The cost of utilities is paid out of a benefit fund and keeps the cost of meals and fees very low.

and another woman stayed home to look after all the children. Later the Women's Association set up nurseries and kindergartens subsidised out of factory funds. Housing and equipment were given by the Government so the cost to working parents was low.

Their factory was successful and later merged with others set up by former housewives into a pharmaceutical factory employing 180 workers. By being involved in production the women gained self-respect and financial independence from their husbands. Under the leadership of the Communist Party and Women's Association, women organised themselves throughout China in this manner, setting up factories, nurseries and canteens.

Women themselves changed as they learned skilled trades. It also changed family relationships and the men's attitudes. Women were no longer dependent on the men, and could now speak a common language with them. Of course, old attitudes still exist to some extent and the struggle will have to continue for a great many years to come, in order to consolidate gains and make further advances

CUT DOWN ON HOUSEHOLD CHORES

In Shanghai today, as in most other places, measures are being taken to ease the burden of household chores. Many nurseries, canteens and community service stations are

being established so that the full potential of women can be released for socialist modernisation. As an example, Chen Shih and her husband both work in Shanghai and have two daughters. They used to spend about five hours a day doing housework, which made her working very difficult. Now this has been reduced considerably after a community service centre has been opened. There is cheap laundry service and clothes repair service. Their younger daughter is at a full-time nursery and their elder one has meals at the local community canteen. Parents can take their children to the nurseries at any time, and collect

CHILDBIRTH AND CONTRACEPTION

A woman six or seven months pregnant moves to lighter and shorter working, without loss of pay. She has 56 days maternity leave and when she returns to work is allowed time to feed and nurse her baby. Most factories have their own nurseries. Contraception is widely publicised, and freely available.

them at any time. Some canteens stay open all night to accommodate shift workers.

Women in China have stood up, and playing important roles in all spheres of life. Over 20% of the delegates to the National People's Congress were women, and women are taking on more and more tasks as they raise their level and participate more in building a modern socialist China. They are getting rid of the shackles

EQUAL PAY AND OPPORTUNITIES

Women receive equal pay for equal work with men. But to make sure that this becomes really effective a great deal of effort is being made to train women to master skills formerly undertaken by men alone. Women lathe setters, crane drivers and engineers are not the rarity they are in Britain.

of the past and making great progress in the task of emancipating the whole human race from class society.

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