

CLASS STRUGGLE

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LABOUR'S COLLAPSE IS NO LOSS FOR WORKING CLASS

The Labour Government has fallen! Callaghan's wheeling and dealing to hang on for a few more months by "buying" the backing of all and sundry including arch reactionary, Enoch Powell, has failed. The Labour Party is now "frightening" the working class with the prospect of a Tory Government. The revisionist "Communist" Party of Great Britain ("C"PGB) in its newspaper, the *Morning Star*, has adopted a tone of near panic, saying there is no time to lose in the election campaign to return Labour to power. Hatred for the Tories, which is usual among class conscious workers, is cynically used by these opportunists to trap the working class into supporting Labour. But the working class have nothing to lose from the fall of Callaghan just as there will be nothing gained from a Tory victory. Labour and Tory are two wings of a single bird of prey - Capitalism. Both parties serve the interests of the capitalist class as does the whole fraud of

parliamentary democracy, which only gives the working class the right to choose between one Government serving the exploiters or another.

BIG CAPITALISTS GET RICHER UNDER LABOUR

Labour came to power in 1974, at a time when the Heath Government measures to shift the burden of the crisis onto the backs of the working class were failing. Between the years, 1971 and 1974, when the Tories were in power, the top 1% of the population's "share" of the nation's wealth dropped from 30.5% to 22.5%, while the poorest half increased their "share" from 2.8% to 7.1%. This resulted from the top 1% of the population being hit by a drastic fall in share prices on the Stock Exchange. What the Tories failed to deliver to the handful of billionaires was achieved by the Labour Party. But first, they had to throw a few sops to the working class in

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AIREY NEAVE'S ASSASSINATION BRINGS DEMANDS FOR MORE STATE POWER

Only a few weeks ago, Doctor Irwin exposed the torture of Republican prisoners by the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) in Castlereagh prison. He showed in stark outline, the repressive regime which rules in Northern Ireland. This oppression is directed against the people and is aimed at maintaining British rule in Northern Ireland. Now following the assassination of Airey Neave, Tory spokesman for Northern Ireland, the capitalist press is quick to reverse the verdict on this RUC torture and vindicate it. The *Sunday People* on April 1st, carried a report that Ulster detectives discovered the assassination plans after "questioning by the RUC at Castlereagh". Such attempts to justify army and state terror in Northern Ireland behind the wave or emotional reporting of Airey Neave's assassination must be firmly resisted by class conscious workers.

DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS ATTACKED

The assassination has happened at the beginning of the General Election and the bosses' newspapers and politicians have lost no time in calling for or accepting increased repression to "counter terrorism". The *Daily Telegraph* immediately jumped in with an attack on picketing and the right to strike, in the same breath as condemning terrorism. The *Observer* attacked what it called "subtle propaganda which the terrorists" inspire. This is an open call for more censorship of the press.

Already, news from Northern Ireland is stifled behind the system of "D" notices from the Home Office which forbid the reporting of certain items. Restoration of the death penalty is being made an election issue on which the Tories have promised a referendum.

OPPRESSION IN NORTHERN IRELAND, BRINGS OPPRESSION TO BRITAIN

The RCLB does not support elitist terrorism which assists the bourgeois (capitalist) state in its clamour for increased powers. But the elitist terrorism of the IRA is not the main question. Oppression inevitably brings resistance including terrorism. The British troops were sent to Northern Ireland in 1969 on the pretext of defending the Catholic minority from unionist terror and violence. Many Catholics struggling for Civil Rights believed this and actually welcomed the troops. But it soon became clear that the army was sent to replace the hated "B" special police and crush the struggle of Catholics against their special oppression.

British domination in Northern Ireland has become more repressive and it has also brought increased repression to Britain in the Prevention of Terrorism Act. We clearly cannot oppose growing reaction in Britain without opposing oppression in Northern Ireland by British imperialism.

BRITISH TROOPS OUT OF NORTHERN IRELAND!

OPPOSE POLICE REPRESSION—DEFEND

The police chiefs seem likely to get the sweeping powers of arrest and detention they are demanding. Metropolitan Police Commissioner McNee has already pitched a high bid in his submission to the Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure. He has demanded power to:

- 1) Hold "suspects" to answer questions with courts drawing inferences from a "suspects" silence.
- 2) Oblige "suspects" to answer questions with courts drawing inferences from a "suspects" silence.
- 3) Compulsory fingerprinting of everyone in the area in which a crime has been committed.
- 4) Extended search powers to include people present in a particular area.
- 5) Setting up of road blocks to search cars at a place where a senior police officer believes will be fruitful in "crime prevention".

These powers which are fascistic in nature have not been given total backing by other representatives of the state apparatus. But on essential points they are being backed to the hilt.

MAGISTRATES BACK McNEE ON DETENTION POWERS

The Magistrates Association in their submission to the Royal Commission have called for the police being given general powers to detain for 36 hours with a provision for an extension of this period to 72 hours. They have also come out in support of

giving the police increased powers to stop, search and detain vehicles and individuals. Further, on the right of those arrested to remain silent, the Magistrates back McNee in his demand to make silence an indication of "guilt" which the courts can make inferences from. In the past bourgeois politicians and the legal profession have always praised the right of silence and the maxim that a defendant is innocent until proven guilty as an example of how Britain is the "freest country" in the world. Now, at a time when the state is becoming more repressive they have changed their tune. In justifying putting the onus of proof of innocence on the defendant, instead of making the prosecution prove the guilt, the Magistrate's Association say such criminal procedure was developed "when social conditions were wholly different". What does this mean? It means that capitalism and its state apparatus can no longer afford the bourgeois democratic rights and freedoms granted to the people. Everybody and anybody is now a possible "suspect" criminal or enemy of the state who can be detained and be required to prove their innocence.

HOME OFFICE OPPOSES RIGHT OF SILENCE

The Home Office has not pretended any "neutrality" on the enquiry being carried out by the Royal Commission. This Government Office has

LABOUR'S COLLAPSE NO LOSS

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order to increase their numbers in another election. Repeal of the Industrial Relations Act and the Housing Finance Act was trumpeted from the roof-tops. The new legislation which replaced the Housing Finance Act was praised for giving security of tenure to furnished tenants. But this "security" turned out to be a fraud as landlords began reclassifying tenancies as short term or holiday lettings. Many furnished tenants finished up with less rights.

The repeal of the Industrial Relations Act paved the way for the "social contract" which proved to be a far more powerful weapon in the hands of the bosses for holding down wages and shifting the crisis onto the backs of the working class. In the period 1974-76, the top 1% got an extra 2½% of the country's wealth. At the same time, the "share" of the poorest half dropped from 7% to about 5½%. Now Callaghan and company have the "Concordat" with the TUC traitors and they are holding this up in the current election campaign to show how they are in a stronger position to make the working class pay for the crisis. This is what Labour's boasting about a special relationship with the TUC really means.

The Equal Opportunities Commission, another Labour brain child, has also recently shown who it serves. In a recent report it recommends that women should work all the shift systems that men do, should not have to have breaks at less than 4½ hours intervals and be "allowed" to do more than 14 hours overtime! It castigates "Victorian" laws that placed these restrictions on employers. In the name of "equality" they want to give women worse conditions. The point that if women had real equal pay, and if workers generally won better wages, then people would not have to do 14 hours overtime is quietly overlooked. Labour twists the slogan of "equality" to attack women's rights.

The application of the Redundancy Payments Act, which was introduced by the Labour Government to divert opposition to closures and rationalisation, has shown just what the bosses think is "fair dismissal". 120 men lost their jobs when 2 West Mid-

REACTIONARY LEGISLATION UNDER LABOUR

During Labour's office there has been an increase in repressive legislation. The revisionist "C" PGB in its reluctant criticism of the Labour Government does not mention this. They want the working class to believe that the only thing wrong with Callaghan is that he made the "mistake" of demanding wage restraint. Only the Tories are attacked for demanding increased police powers. The Labour legislation over the last 5 years which has immensely increased the powers of the state agencies is ignored.

In 1974, the Wilson Government rushed through Parliament a draconian law called the "Prevention of Terrorism Act". This law which removed some basic democratic rights and has been used to detain and deport Irish people, was introduced as an "emergency measure" at the time of the Birmingham bombings. It has since been renewed again and again and is now being incorporated into permanent legislation.

In 1977 the Criminal Law Act was passed which increased police powers and made conviction easier. At a trial the prosecution can ask any number of jurors to stand down while defendants can question

lands firms, Foundries Ltd. and Sundaw Products Ltd. closed down. Instead of fighting, the TGWU took 61 of them to an Industrial Tribunal to claim a total of £40,000 in redundancy payments. They didn't get a penny. Why? Because the tribunal ruled that the bosses would have kept the factories open for another year if the workers had agreed to the "reasonable" condition of agreeing not to strike under any circumstances! On March 28th another industrial tribunal, in Liverpool, told 5 lorry drivers that Safeways supermarkets had every right to sack them after they had refused to cross a picket line.

And the trade union misleaders want us to vote Labour, because they supposedly looked after workers by introducing such "fine" things as industrial tribunals to "protect workers rights". The only "rights" we have are those we are prepared to fight for.

RIGHT OF SILENCE

jumped in feet first and called for the abolition of the right of silence. They say that trials are biased in favour of the defence and call for bias in favour of the prosecution instead. On confessions which at present can only be admitted as evidence for the prosecution if given voluntarily, the Home Office in a memorandum says that there should be "some relaxation of the voluntariness rule". What is this but a bare faced invitation for the police to use force in extorting confessions.

In justifying these sweeping powers Government politicians and state agencies declare that they are aimed at convicting the professional gangsters and criminals. There have always been such ruthless gangs under capitalism. The most successful among them flourish often with police protection. It is not necessary to fingerprint whole communities like McNee is demanding to uncover them. No! Greater powers for the police to arrest and detain is principally directed at increasing surveillance of political opposition to capitalism and reaction. Bourgeois democracy is being eroded to expose the class nature of the state. It is an organ of capitalist rule. But we cannot be neutral about the removal of our basic democratic rights many of which have been won through hard struggle. It must be firmly opposed by all class conscious workers. ■

only three under this legislation. It also introduces a law on Criminal trespass which can be used against factory occupations and tenants fighting eviction. In the current Royal Commission on criminal procedure the Labour Home Office has again backed increased police powers. Racist immigration laws have been vigorously enforced under Labour. The reactionary recommendations of the "Select Committee to study race relations" were enthusiastically welcomed by Thatcher, but they will be quietly implemented by Labour.

The Labour Party is a thoroughly reactionary party like the Tories. The opportunists present Labour as the lesser evil. This is a disillusion! Labour is more dangerous than the Tories in the sense that they hide behind "socialist" phrases. Their backing from the TUC misleaders makes them more able to hold down the working class and better servants of capitalism.

**BOYCOTT THE ELECTIONS -
BUILD THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY.**

The opportunist misleaders of the working class in the revisionist and Trotskyist parties along with the TUC misleaders try to keep the working class trapped into supporting Labour out of fear of the Tories. This hanging at the coat-tails of Labour does the greatest dis-service to the working class. It diverts class conscious workers from working to build its own leadership in a revolutionary communist party. By doing this it serves to keep the working class tied to the bourgeois parliament and its parties. The future of the working class does not lie in choosing which party of exploiters to represent us next. It lies in the struggle of the working class against capitalist crisis, political reaction and for revolution to overthrow capitalism and build socialism. For this struggle a vanguard party must be built to lead the working class.

**LABOUR AND TORY: TWO WINGS OF A SINGLE BIRD OF PREY
BOYCOTT THE ELECTIONS!
BUILD THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY!**

A WORKER'S NOTEBOOK

■ **THE BRITISH STEEL CORPORATION IS TO AXE ANOTHER 3,600 jobs, including 1,900 at the profit making Bilston plant, as part of its "rationalisation" of the steel industry. The Bilston workers are demanding a national steel strike in protest against the plans. This is likely to be opposed by union misleader Bill Sims. "I would always hesitate to embark on strike action," he said.**

Yes, we'd noticed that!

■ **LOW WAGE CHILDREN- THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN LIVING below the poverty line doubled between 1974 and 1978 and reached half a million. Four out of five of these children are in a families where the breadwinner is in full-time employment.**

A more accurate campaign slogan for the Government in the coming election would be -

Vote Labour and starve more children!

■ **WHILE CHILDREN GO COLD AND HUNGRY UNDER LABOUR the rich make a killing. The chairman of the Inland Revenue estimates that £11 billion of income escapes taxation each year, which amounts to 7½% of the total product of Britain. While the burden of taxation gets heavier for the masses it gets lighter for the monopoly capitalists. The chairman said he was sure that tax avoidance (which is legal and distinguished from tax evasion) had got easier over the last ten years.**

■ **ONE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S LATEST ATTACKS ON THE mass of the people, is on single parent families. Council snoopers, social workers and health visitors are to start investigating single mothers in Birmingham next month. For those who take their children to the £14 a week day nurseries while they go out to work, if the snoopers decide that the woman is living with a boyfriend, their children will be banned from the nurseries. This will allow the authorities to make a "double killing" - it will deprive these women of the right to work and enable cuts or lack of provision in nursery care to be justified on the grounds of a fall in demand.**

■ **CLASS STRUGGLE HAS REPORTED IN THE PAST ON THE busing of 1,500 Asian children in Bradford and the opposition to it from parents and teachers in the area. The National Union of Teachers carried out a postal ballot of its local membership recently and a motion calling for an end to busing was defeated 377 votes to 481 with only half the teachers responding. The NUT local president and the chairman of the local education authority welcomed the result. The NUT president said that the low poll showed that "it was not a burning issue".**

It may well be "not a burning issue" for many of of teachers in West Yorkshire, many of whom will not be affected either way. But it is certainly an issue for the 1,500 Asian children and their parents subject to racist discrimination in education because of failure to provide adequate schools close by, and for those inner-city teachers whose schools are systematically starved of funds as a result of the policy.

■ **ABOUT 80 ASIAN WOMEN WORKERS AT FUTTERS LIGHT engineering factory in North London, led a march on the factory recently. They are fighting to get recognition and negotiating rights for their union, the AUEW. Futers recently distributed a document to its 160 strong, mainly Asian workforce, which said that if a trade union were to negotiate for the workers, the firm would do less well and provide fewer jobs. What they mean is, that if they have to pay higher wages and provide better working conditions, they will make less profit.**

Asian women workers, suffering a double oppression have shown at Imperial Typewriters, Grunwick and many other sweat-shops, that oppression and exploitation inevitably breed resistance.

MILITANT RCL CONFERENCE DENOUNCES

Towards the end of March, the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain (RCL) held a conference to discuss the activities of a tiny faction that had tried to split the RCL, and had consequently been expelled in January. At the conference, members of the RCL denounced the faction, giving concrete examples of faction members' arrogance and idealism. The bad leadership of Neil Redfern, when he was Secretary and in charge of day-to-day work of the RCL was particularly criticised. Now that the faction is in opposition to the League, its documents criticise the RCL leadership for lack of faith in the rank-and-file. But while Redfern was Secretary criticism was ignored or met with calls to work harder. He applied Marxism to others and liberalism to himself. This led to a serious suppression of democracy in the RCL. The liberalism of the faction was most clearly revealed when two of its members were in a minority on the Central Committee, they refused to abide by the discipline they expected of the lower committees and rank-and-file. For themselves they demanded the "right" to wage a war of extermination throughout the organisation against the Central Committee using whatever weapons they saw fit. In their thinking bureaucracy and anarchy go hand-in-hand.

Their failure to "seek truth from facts" and to integrate theory with practice was shown in a number of contributions to be behind their ultra-left idealism in political line.

Anti-League faction shows its colours

The faction, which was expelled from the RCLB in January, for its attempts to split the RCLB has now formed an "organisation" and published an attack on the RCL. Their new "organisation" is continuing its opportunist manouvings. With great irony these two couples have named themselves "Communist Unity"! But there is a purpose behind this action. The RCLB was created after lengthy principled struggle to reach unity by two organisations - the Communist Federation of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) and the Communist Unity Association (Marxist-Leninist). The faction are trying to give the impression to the Marxist-Leninist movement and to anyone else they can interest, that the RCLB has split into these two defunct groups. This intention is made clear in their pamphlet where they attack the unity between the two organisations as "unprincipled", flatter the CUA whilst condemning the CFB (and lying about its previous transformation and correction of its worst errors), and where they refer to the RCLB as "CFB/RCLB". In fact the faction is made up of two couples. One couple was in the old CUA. Of the other couple, one was a member of the CFB, and one joined the RCL after it was founded. Their pathetic attempt to distort what they are, and present themselves as something they are not, just serves to expose their own opportunist manouevring even further.

Clearly they also hope that such an approach will split ex-CUA members from the RCL. At the recent conference of the RCL on splittism and factionalism, the answer was given, as ex-CUA members denounced such opportunism as an insult to the old CUA, and as a betrayal of the principled struggle for unity of Marxist-Leninists waged by the CUA.

The Conference itself, was a vivid expression of the militant unity of the RCL and its determination to get on with the struggle to rebuild the revolutionary Communist Party of the working class.

CWM REPRESENTATIVE ATTENDED

A representative of the fraternal British Marxist-Leninist organisation, the Communist Workers Movement attended the Conference as an observer. In a speech to the Conference, he spoke of a previous experience the CWM had had of factionalism which had some points in common with the struggle against split-tism and factionalism in the RCL. He reaffirmed the growing unity between the RCL and the CWM, and the intention of the CWM to continue the struggle for unity with the RCL.

Comrade Chris Burford, the Chairman of the RCL pointed out that now that the central bodies of the RCL were not being held back by the splittist activities of the faction, the RCL would be able to pay even more attention to struggling for unity with the CWM. This would be a major contribution to the unity of the Marxist-Leninists in Britain. The RCL itself, was in a stronger position to struggle to deepen its political line, and improve its practical work in the class struggle in Britain.

In the evening a social was held. A spirit of unity and enthusiasm pervaded the celebration. Turkish and Bangladeshi comrades, as well as members of the Communist Workers Movement and supporters of

YOU CAN NEVER CATCH AN OPPORTUNIST WITH A FORMULA

The opportunism of the splitters is shown even further, as they condemn the RCL on the basis of either outright lies, or at times on the basis of a thoroughly ultra-left outlook. They lie about the mass work of the RCL in order to set up an Aunt Sally for them to attack. Yet they are curiously silent about what mass work they stand for. They attack the analysis of the international class struggle put forward by the RCL, during which they distort or lie about the RCL's position as one means of giving their ultra-left criticism credibility. But again these opportunists avoid making any mention of whether or not they support the theory of the three worlds. Why? Why do they wish to hide the fact that Phil Dixon, whose name is given as the contact address, has attacked the theory of the three worlds as "opportunist" and "revisionist"? Why are they hiding his view that China is a "revisionist, capitalist, superpower carrying out aggression against Vietnam"? Why are they ashamed to admit that he thinks that "Mao Zedong NEVER developed Marxism-Leninism" and that China has always followed either an ultra-left or a rightist line? Why does their tiny grouplet not take any stand at all on these major questions? Could it be because the genuine communist movement will laugh in their faces?

And if they bleat out that the four of them cannot reach agreement on these things, but that such matters are "secondary" compared to their hatred for the advances made by the RCL, we can only reply that in their pamphlet, they accuse the RCL of believing in "unprincipled unity"!

Such opportunists are beneath contempt.

FACTION



Comrade Chris Burford summed up the victory over the anti-League faction as an important step in speeding the building of the future vanguard Communist Party of the working class.

the Revolutionary Communist League joined in. Two singing groups, New Era Singers and Red Flag led the singing of old and new songs of the British workers' movement, as well as communist and anti-fascist songs from other countries.

Letter to Class Struggle

I was alarmed to read the article, "Unemployment - Disease That Kills" in *Class Struggle* recently (Vol.3, No.4), but not surprised. A number of recent examples show just what pressures workers are put under, not only by unemployment itself, but also by the threat of unemployment.

The body of 29 year old Dunlop worker was found in his car last month. A vacuum cleaner hose led from the exhaust pipe into the car. 2,300 workers face the dole with Dunlop at Speke about to close. On March 8th, 5,000 workers at GEC's Stafford factory walked out after hearing that a 55 year old foreman had been found dead in his bathroom at home, with throat wounds. Not only was he about to be made redundant, but he had the job of handing out 300 redundancy notices to his work-mates. And finally, a Ford worker in the Press Shop at Halewood, after much provocation, struck a foreman. Fords announced that he would be sacked for fighting. His response was to slash his wrists in a suicide attempt.

These examples make it more urgent that we build the Communist Party as quickly as possible and fight for socialism. Only under socialism will unemployment be got rid of completely.

A Liverpool worker.

POLICE ATTACK ON ASIANS COMES TO TRIAL

Manchester police are pressing ahead with charges against an Asian shopkeeper and his son resulting from an incident on July 3rd 1978.

At 12.30am, seven plain-clothes policemen broke into the Ahmed's house on the pretext that there were drugs on the premises. They did so without informing the Ahmeds who they were and Nazir and Munir jumped to the conclusion that they were the National Front (the Asian paper *The Daily Jang* had reported the National Front using such tactics to gain access to peoples' homes). Their impressions were reinforced when, as Munir tried to phone the police, one of the intruders ripped out the wires.

It was logical for the Ahmeds to try to defend themselves and to call for help from their neighbours, getting badly beaten in the process and it was only when several neighbours came to their aid (one armed with a bottle) that the police finally admitted who they were.

As a result Nazir has been charged with wounding a policeman with intent to cause grievous bodily harm. This could mean life imprisonment. Munir has been charged with assault on two policemen which could mean prison for five years.

Coming as it did after the police protection and connivance with a National Front march through Longsight where many Asians live, and their failure to follow up an investigation into a fire bombing in the same area, few people expect the Ahmeds to get a fair trial.

Slowly but surely people are coming to recognise the police for what they are - a racist agent of a racist state.

LABOUR PARTY'S PHONEY ANTI-RACISM EXPOSED

One of the Labour Party's tactics for vote-catching is to protest loudly at Tory and NF racism while claiming to stand up for the rights of national minorities themselves. The weekly paper, *West Indian World*, carried a front page headline - **TRAITOR**. It referred to Alex Lyon's complete hypocrisy about the virginity tests used by immigration authorities to harrass Asian women. The paper (February 9th to 15th) wrote:

"The man who said that he was chucked out of Ministerial office when Jim Callaghan assumed the role of P.M...because the new P.M. thought he was doing too much for the immigrant population in the U.K. has turned out to be a two-faced traitor of the black community..."

"The former Minister who tried to win the support from the Indian and Pakistani community by planning a series of secret meetings in which he extolled the bravery of the immigrant population...did not however part with information when he resigned that was of greater importance to the "immigrant" communities that the rhetoric which he so cleverly used to manipulate his Asian following.

"Mr. Alex Lyon has not divulged in public that he knew all along that Asian women were being subjected to virginity tests..."

The paper goes on to point out that he must have known about the tests at Heathrow too, and chose to keep his mouth shut.

THREATS

Obviously, this was bid publicity just before an election and the next issue of *West Indian World* carried a letter from Alex Lyon demanding an apology. *West Indian World*, however, is sticking to its view.

IMPERIALISTS LIE TO 'JUSTIFY' INVASION

For the past three years the papers and TV have been full of attacks on the Government of Kampuchea. They have painted a picture of a bloody regime which has forced people from the cities, put them in concentration camps, and massacred anything up to three million people. These stories have been spread by out-and-out reactionary publications controlled by big capitalist corporations, such as *Reader's Digest*. These lies have also been enthusiastically taken up by some so-called "Communist" or "progressive" newspapers.

REVISIONISTS AND TROTSKYITES SING THE IMPERIALISTS' SONG

In a recent series of articles in the *Morning Star*, Jack Woddis, "international expert" of the revisionist Communist Party of Great Britain, tried to justify Vietnam's invasion of Kampuchea by repeating these lies. He claimed that the Soviet Union and Vietnam had done humankind a great service by getting rid of the "detestable Pol Pot regime". The same refrain was taken up by the "New Communist Party", Birch's "Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist)" and of course the "left" wing of the Labour Party, and the Trotskyites.

So while the people of the whole world denounce the Soviet-Vietnamese attack on Kampuchea, these self-proclaimed socialists and "friends" of the people line up solidly on the side of imperialism.

The myth of the "detestable Kampuchean regime" is based on second-hand and totally fictitious accounts spread through the good offices of the US Embassy in Thailand and the CIA. They have been avidly seized on by all those who oppose socialism throughout the world. Yet over the past year many organisations and individuals have visited Kampuchea - from North America, Europe, Australia and many third world countries, and they tell a quite different story.

In May last year, Daniel Burstein, the editor of the *Call*, the paper of the Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist) of the USA said:

"With my own eyes I saw a country, a people and a society diametrically opposed to the image that has been conveyed by one article after another appearing in the US press - all written by those who had never personally visited the new Kampuchea. I saw a country where the common people themselves have become the masters of their own society, rather than the feudal lords and foreign interests of the old days."

These views are supported by everyone who has actually been to Kampuchea - not only Communists, but also diplomats, intellectuals and journalists. They tell the story of a people in a small country rising up against oppression and building a new society. It is a story which only the imperialists and their friends cannot bear to hear.

THE EVACUATION OF PHNOM PENH

One of the favourite lies about the Kampuchean revolution is that the capital Phnom Penh was turned into a ghost town with its population forcibly deported or killed. The truth is quite different.

When Phnom Penh was liberated over three million people (nearly half the population) were crowded into the city to escape the wide-spread bombing attacks of US imperialism. Large parts of the countryside had been destroyed - 800,000 people had died under the bombs, 90% of all houses had been destroyed, along with 70% of the forests and half of all the farm animals.

It was impossible for the revolutionary Government to feed all the people in Phnom Penh or to deal with the large numbers of spies who had infiltrated the city. The solution to this problem was to move the bulk of the population to the countryside.

The evacuation was not "forced" as the imperialists claim. It was explained to the masses in the city by the Communist Party, and most of them understood and supported the decision. Many peasants left of their own accord to return to their native villages. Others were not convinced at first, but were won over in time. According to a worker, who had previously worked in a French-owned brewery in Phnom Penh:

"At first, I didn't understand why we had to leave the city. I was reluctant to go. But now I understand and agree with it. Our life in the co-operatives is much better than it ever was in Phnom Penh. We have plenty to eat, and the local peasants shared everything they had with those of us who came from the city."

The role of the Communist Party in all this was, in the words of one cadre who helped organise the evacuation - "not to point guns at anyone, but to make sure that food was distributed, that the old and the sick could ride in whatever cars were available and that the co-operatives in the countryside were as well-prepared as possible to take in the city dwellers".

THE PEOPLE'S CO-OPERATIVE SYSTEM

The evacuation of Phnom Penh was a necessary part of Kampuchea's revolution. Under the general line of "taking agriculture as the fundamental factor and industry as an important factor" the people of Kampuchea were able to rebuild their country from nothing. Within three years, Kampuchea was producing more rice than its people needed. On the basis of this, other crops and small industrial enterprises were being built up.

The basic economic and political unit in Kampuchea is the Co-operative. Through the co-operative system, the people were enabled to work together to build up agriculture and small industry, and also to provide, for the first time in Kampuchea's history, basic educational and health facilities for the ordinary people. In 1978, the schools in the co-operatives had reduced illiteracy from 75% (3/4) to 10% (1 in 10) of the population; there was a hospital or clinic for every 100 families; malaria had been 80% eliminated, and the death-rate among children had gone down from 127 deaths per 1000 births in the 1960's to 13 per 1000.

The organisation of the co-operatives has shown the people of Kampuchea in practice, the superiority of socialism. Secondly, in the words of Pol Pot, Secretary of the Communist Party - "the Co-operatives are a guarantee for the defence of our country". In late December, when the Vietnamese were preparing their attack on Kampuchea, a delegation from the Canadian Communist League visited a Co-operative at Ang Knor. The Secretary of the District welcomed them, and apologised because there were so few people there to greet them,

"They are in the fields," he said. "We are hurrying to get in the crops and to store the rice before the Vietnamese attack and try to come and steal it from us."

WHOSE GENOCIDE?

The Co-operative system has enabled the people of Kampuchea to raise their living standards. They have had to work hard for this, but they have been work-

OF KAMPUCHEA

ing for themselves - not for feudal lords or foreign imperialists. It is this which the imperialists and their friends cannot stomach. It is this which leads them to whine about "forced labour camps".

Another lie they like to spread is about "genocide". The facts are now clear. The stories of genocide are a well-orchestrated campaign of lies, originating with the CIA, and taken up with enthusiasm by both US and Soviet imperialism. It has been shown that: the source for the most commonly quoted figure of 1.2 million dead was none other than the US Embassy in Thailand. In April 1976, the *Bangkok Post* revealed that the photographs of "executions" and "massacres" in Kampuchea which were flashed across the world had been staged by a secret service officer in Thailand. As for the "first-hand accounts" of refugees, even the *New York Times* was forced to admit that they were made up by an organisation operating in Thailand under the control of In-Tam, a close associate of Lon Nol. In-Tam even paid \$50 for ever "good" story he received.

At the same time, the many positive accounts of developments in Kampuchea have been systematically ignored. By shouting about "genocide", the US imperialists hope that we will forget about the 800,000 Kampuchea killed by American bombs. They also hoped to regain control of Kampuchea, by isolating it in the international community and preparing the groundwork for CIA "destabilizing" schemes. Only last year George McGovern, so-called "dove" of the Vietnam War was calling for an internationally backed invasion of Kampuchea.

NEW IMPERIALISTS FOLLOW THE OLD

Unfortunately, for the United States superpower, it was outplayed in its dirty game. The Soviet Union and its Vietnamese side-kick was equally keen to propagate the myth of the "barbarous Kampuchean regime". Their motives are now crystal clear - they have wanted to disguise their naked aggression as "liberation".

Like Hitler before them the rulers in the Kremlin, and their friends throughout the world, are making use of the "Big Lie" to justify their murderous actions. Like Hitler, they too will learn that it is the people who make history, and not the "cleverness" of propagandists or the murderous weapons of imperialism.

NEW ERA BOOKS

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Cambodia in the Southeast Asian War. Malcolm Caldwell and Lek Tan. pp450. Monthly Review Press.

Black Papers (Excerpts) 1&2 Facts and evidences of the acts of aggression and an annexation of Vietnam against Kampuchea. Sept 1978. pp76. Red Flag pub, Canada. 50p each (+ 15p postage)

Interview of Comrade Pol Pot by Yugoslav Journalists March 1978. pp23. Red Flag, Canada. 20p (+7p postage)

Long live the 17th anniversary of the Communist Party of Kampuchea. Speech by Pol Pot. Sept 1977. pp71. Liberator Press, USA. 60p (+ 15p postage)

Kampuchea today. Eyewitness report of journalists of *The Call*. Illustrated. pp78. April 1978. CP(ML)USA. £1.10p (+15p postage)

Cambodia - Starvation and revolution. Hildebrand and Porter. 1976. pp124. Monthly Review Press. £2.00p (+22p postage).

INTERNATIONAL NOTES



MIDDLE EAST: After piling on the pressure Carter has finally got Egypt to sign a "peace treaty" with the Israeli Zionists. Not surprisingly the Palestinians have responded with angry demonstrations. Despite Sadat's oft repeated claim that he will not abandon the Palestinian struggle, the "peace treaty" does not even have the fig leaf of promises of an "independent Palestine", some time in the future. Israel has made it quite clear that it will continue to oppress the Palestinian people. The people, of course, will continue to fight for their national rights. Immediately, U.S. imperialism has benefitted greatly. It will continue to gain its superprofits through Zionist expansion, and simultaneously is stepping up its exploitation of the people of Egypt. The more dangerous superpower, Soviet social imperialism, has also grabbed the opportunity to step up its influence. Brezhnev has rushed in, with proposals for boycotting Egypt, claiming to be the "naturally" of the Arab nations. But many people have not forgotten how when Egypt, was fighting alongside the other Arab countries and facing the brunt of Zionist expansion, the Soviet Union (at that time major influence in Egypt) refused in the middle of the war to send Egypt the spare parts and other military aid that it had already agreed to supply. This was a treacherous tactic to force Egypt to accede to greater economic and political demands of the Soviet Union. Neither superpower gives a damn about the Palestinian people or Arab independence.

BELGIUM: The 3rd Congress of the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of Belgium was held on the 23rd to 25th of February 1979. This was a great congress of victory and unity. Beginning in August 1976 discussions had taken place between the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of Belgium and Lutte Communiste. In December 1978 a unified party was formed. The 3rd congress was a great victory for communist unity in Belgium.

The congress affirmed its support for the theory of the 3 worlds. They restated their opposition to the Belgian monopoly bourgeoisie, the main enemy of the Belgian people, and called for a fierce struggle against unemployment. The congress also expressed its strong desire to strengthen links between Marxist-Leninist parties and organisations throughout the world.

SPAIN: In the recent Spanish elections the Marxist-Leninist organisation ORT (Revolutionary Organisation of Workers) carried out a widespread campaign among the working people. In Madrid the ORT organised 400 meetings; at the biggest 30,000 people were gathered. Although the Marxist-Leninist won no seats they came close in Madrid, with 45,000 votes, and in Navarre with 10,000. Together with another Marxist-Leninist organisation PTE (Labour Party of Spain) they got a total of 400,000 votes.

In mid-March these two organisations published a joint statement in which they declared their intention to unite rapidly into a single Marxist-Leninist party. They stated their support for the theory of the 3 worlds, and their opposition to the Soviet Union as the most aggressive superpower. They declared their support for Spain's entry into the Common Market and their opposition to its integration in NATO.

If the struggle for unity develops well it will be a big step forward for the people of Spain.

SOCIALIST DEMOCRACY IN ACTION

On streets in towns, cities and villages all over China, there are thousands of "big character posters" put up expressing the views of the people on all types of political issues. Such posters have become a common and important feature of life in China today, and shows how a very lively political situation is emerging.

The Party and the State encourages these posters on special walls so that the views of the people can be expressed. However, the Party and State distinguish between posters which raise criticisms which strengthen socialism and those which attack it. This is correct and enables the Party to educate the people on proletarian democracy and socialist construction.

The Chinese people face the great task of socialist modernisation and to accomplish this task requires a growth in democracy and discussion of all major issues. Through discussion and raising the level of understanding of the people, the Communist Party of China is uniting more people, more closely around the urgent task facing China.

Last year, at the Fifth National People's Congress, a new Constitution was adopted which expressly stated that the People's Republic of China is a socialist state of the dictatorship of the proletariat led by the working class and based on the alliance of workers and peasants.

The dictatorship of the proletariat has two aspects: first it is democracy for the proletariat and people, and secondly, dictatorship over members of exploiting classes who resist socialism and the people's power. Members of exploiting classes will continually strive to restore capitalism and overthrow socialism and so it is important that the workers and the people keep a keen eye open and oppose their aims. To this end, the State exercises dictatorship.

But this dictatorship can only be really effective when there is widespread democracy among the people, so the socialist Constitution is strongly enforced in guaranteeing the people's rights.

The Chinese people are masters of their country and enjoy full democratic rights. These include freedom of speech, correspondence, press, assembly, association, procession, demonstration and the freedom to strike; they have the right to "speak out and freely air their views fully, hold great debates and write big character posters" as during the Cultural Revolution.

Measures have been taken to ensure that these rights are guaranteed in practice.

Firstly, the People's Congress and organisations at all levels - trade unions, the Women's Federation, the Communist Youth League and Peasants Association - are playing a more active role in representing the people and ensuring the enforcement of the Constitution.

Secondly, the people exercise direct supervision over the State organs and their staff. The constitution clearly states that staff must heed the opinions of the people and accept supervision by the masses. Bureaucrats or others who try to suppress criticism or retaliate against anyone complaining is subject to punishment by law.

Special offices have been set up by the State and the Party purely to receive people's complaints! How different from the situation in Britain.

But proletarian democracy doesn't just rest on the people having the right to speak out. It is also necessary to ensure that there are material guarantees so that the people's rights are a reality. In China today, a fundamental guarantee is the right of



people to work, and the state ensures that this right is enacted so that there is no unemployment. Such a thing is impossible under capitalism which produces chronic levels of unemployment in its blind thirst for profits. As production increases, the State guarantees increasing wages and better conditions and expanding welfare, social and medical assistance and care.

Finally, the workers take a direct part in the democratic management of factories, enterprises and communities, with a real say in the policies of each. This will be the subject of a more detailed article in a subsequent *Class Struggle*.

Since the New Constitution was approved, democracy among the people is flourishing in China uniting the people around the major task of socialist modernisation and building a strong socialist society. While the British people are given the phoney choice of Labour, Conservative or Liberal, and no real democracy, in China it is flourishing.

China today is facing tremendous tasks in building itself as a modern socialist and powerful country by the year 2000. In a period of only 30 years, it has overcome the great poverty and oppression brought by feudalism and imperialism to create a new order of society.

But the aim is not just to create a society in which people do not starve, but to build a communist classless society releasing the potential of all in the service of all. To accomplish this task, the Chinese people, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, have built a proletarian dictatorship to prevent old and new oppressors taking power. By ensuring dictatorship over oppressors and democracy among the masses, new relationships are being established between men and women. But socialist society also requires the fullest development of the productive forces.

From this year, the work of the entire nation has shifted to socialist modernisation, laying a firm basis for future advance to communism. In order to do this, the Communist Party has called on the people to demolish obstacles and backward ideas and mobilise all positive factors in the service of socialism.