

CLASS STRUGGLE

POLITICAL PAPER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF BRITAIN

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PEACH INQUEST PICKAXE HANDLES FOR POLICE?

'Quite common', says death charge policeman

What would be said of a play on TV if it included a policeman who admitted that East End coppers quite commonly carry a pickaxe handle when lying in wait for burglars? There would be an outcry in the press, a witchhunt against left-wingers in the BBC - Mrs Thatcher would say we ought to be 'proud to be British'...

And yet this is precisely what was said under oath at the Blair Peach inquest by Inspector Hopkins of the No.3 Unit of the SPG - the man who directed the police charge into Beachcroft Avenue last year when Blair Peach was killed.

This man Hopkins used to keep a two-foot-long, club-like truncheon in his locker, a weapon which had belonged to his grandfather. As a former head of the East End's crime squad, he had carried it with him on two or three occasions when on duty.

"The police truncheon is quite a flimsy thing", his statement continued, "and it was quite common for officers to take things such as pickaxe handles. As a

result of this case," commented Hopkins ruefully, "they probably will not be in the future".

So there's evidently going to have to be a spell in deep storage for the pickaxe handles, and for the sledgehammers and 'jemmies', which, though also 'not regulation issue', used to be used when executing search warrants, to say nothing of all the other mementoes and family heirlooms found in the SPG lockers, like the rhino whip, the American 'beat' truncheon, the four crowbars, the long brass boat-handle...

PEACH MURDER

As TV drama, all this would appear to most people as being overstatement. It is unlikely that many would regard it as realistic that there are policemen who treasure and even use such perverted instruments of sadism and thuggery. As it is true, however, it can only subject the hypocritical upholders of 'law and order' to ridicule.

One's tears of laughter nevertheless soon change into rage and contempt as one remembers the fatal head-injury that was in-

flicted by one such item of bric-a-brac - the injury which led rapidly to the death of Blair Peach.

His death has emblazoned on the minds of a generation of anti-fascist fighters in this country a determination to get state-racist organisations like the SPG completely disbanded. The inquest and the continuing campaign over the SPG have ensured that the struggle of the brave people of Southall that day lives on. The struggles, and above all Blair Peach's death, have helped to mature and deepen the anti-fascist movement from its initial focus on the openly nazi groups (NF, etc.) to the real enemy itself - the racist state which parades them through the streets.

Perhaps that was indeed a day when one could be 'proud to be British', if to be British meant to be standing by the side of the oppressed nationalities of Southall and their friends from Britain and from around the world in the great internationalist struggle against the racist British state - a cause in which Blair Peach died, and not in vain.

Marchers demand... DISBAND THE SPG!

By a Class Struggle correspondent

On the 27th April marchers took to the streets in London to demonstrate that they were not going to let the British racist state get away with any cover-up of the events in Southall last year.

Called by the Friends of Blair Peach Committee, the march, about 4,000 strong, passed the Houses of Parliament and New Scotland Yard. As they went by, many protesters shouted, "Labour, Tory, both the same - both play

the racist game," and "Who killed Blair Peach? SPG!"

Many political and trade union groups participated. The Revolutionary Communist League of Britain (RCLB) organised a joint contingent with other communist and national minority forces.

While waiting to move off in Hyde Park, police interfered with our distribution of leaflets and selling of Class Struggle, and ordered us not to display our banner. It was clear that they were out to pick us up on every small regulation to try to obstruct the demonstration.

The mood of the march was militant throughout, however.



SOUTHALL, April 23rd 1979. The British state shows its determination to provide Nazis with the freedom to organise.

EDITORIAL

The families of Jimmy Kelly and Blair Peach were shown recently what "rule of the law" means. Jimmy and Blair are both dead. The verdict at the inquest on Jimmy Kelly exonerating the police has shocked many people. It is probable that Blair's inquest will shock more. The issues that are raised not only include the role of the police, but just as important the role of the courts and the law.

WHOSE LAW AND WHOSE COURTS?

Recent court decisions make it quite clear that in "impartially" upholding the rule of law, the courts are upholding the rule of capitalism. Four print unions were recently told that it was "unlawful" for them to call members out on strike on May 14, because it is not in furtherance of a trade dispute. This decision was based on a law passed by the last Labour government - the 1974 Trade Union and Labour Relations Act - which was supposedly introduced to repeal anti-union sections of the Industrial Relations Act. The court can make an injunction against "unlawful" acts, and if you don't knuckle under you can be charged with contempt of court. Also the employers can now sue the unions for damages caused by loss of profits if it affects their contracts. The Tory Employment Bill pre-

sently being brought in makes even more union action unlawful. What's more it will give even more power to the courts to interpret the law as they see fit.

Another case that came up recently was the decision by the courts to waive Granada Television reporters' right not to reveal sources of information. Journalists on the World in Action programme have been ordered to tell the British Steel Corporation who leaked documents of the BSC to them during the steel strike. The documents showed that the strike was deliberately created by the government and the BSC acting together. The court decided that the "national interest" overruled laws protecting journalists from revealing their sources. The court's view of the "national interest" is the great interest the capitalists have in knifing this mole in the BSC.

The courts and the law do not serve us. We live in a class society. The state exists to protect that society. It exists to protect the ruling class. Sometimes it uses open repression; sometimes it appears more "impartial" in order to diffuse our struggle. Either way it is a power to defend imperialism.

We will never have socialism in Britain so long as that state exists. The struggle against capitalism is a matter of power - power is in the hands of the ruling class. The working class will only win socialism when it takes power into its own hands.

From our postbag

Write to the Editor-CS, c/o New Era Books, 203 Seven Sisters Rd, London N4.

LABOUR 'CARES'

Dear Comrades,

Southwark Council recently decided to house tenants who "create nuisance for their neighbours" in certain chosen estates. One cannot but think that children in these estates will be given even less facilities for play than they had before and what they do have will be more open to vandalism. Families are likely to be branded as soon as they become tenants in such blocks.

Of course councils are known to have made such moves before, but never so openly.

The "Working Party" which put this plan forward refer to the idea as a "framework for caring". A Labour councillor supporting the idea explained in a nutshell what this "caring" involves. He said the idea should be to "put them in, change them and pump them out".

From,
A South London reader.

LABOUR COUNCILLOR DENOUNCED

Dear Comrades,

At a recent meeting of tenants and others in the London Borough of Camden, a woman stood up and said to the Labour councillor chairing the meeting, "I have been on Camden Council's waiting list for eight years and four months, during which time I have been lodging with my parents. I am not one of those who complain that the council is housing other people before me, whether those people are from Wales, or

the North of England, or Trinidad or anywhere else - because I have counted forty-nine houses empty on my estate".

The Labour councillor replied that the Council needed a subsidy to repair these empty flats, but I stood up and said that the Council should not have to go to the government cap-in-hand for a subsidy when it is paying million upon million to the City for interest on loans. If people are going without housing then that should get first priority, not filling the purses of the rich.

I pointed out that the real reason the Labour Council likes to keep lodgers waiting is that this saves them the money for bed-and-breakfast. In addition, it means the tenant has to pay maximum rent, so that once again the Council is saved money for a rebate.

As for repairs, I pointed out to the Labour councillor that Princess Anne had recently been given £10,000 for roof repairs to put a horse in bed. "The fact is that the bureaucrats in the Town Hall run this Council", I told him. "Your talk about serving the working class of this Borough is a lie. All you do is fetch and carry for the bosses. You are nobody".

You should have heard how the tenants clapped and stamped their feet. As for the Labour councillor, he was not so happy. Those kind of people don't like tenants being intelligent.

From,
The Secretary,
United Tenants' Association
(Camden)

UNEMPLOYMENT

Dear Comrades,

In case anyone thinks that if you keep trying you'll eventually get a job, British Leyland has a trick up its sleeve. BL advertises in Birmingham Job Centre state that anyone who has been out of work more than twelve months need not apply!

From,
A Birmingham reader

STATE CONDONES RACISM

Dear Comrades,

I recently had a look at a thing called "Frontline News", a nasty little paper put out by one of the splinter groups from the faction-torn National Front.

A front page article headed "A Red Rhodesia" is by a certain N.A. Hunt, described as "a former official of the Rhodesian government". Hunt says of the 6 million Zimbabwean Africans, "Six million zeros add to zero". (Oh yeah? Who defeated his previous employer, then?)

The rest of the paper is in the same vein: Commissioner Mc-Nee is described as a "curry cop" - there is talk of the "bestial savagery of the Negroid", and so on.

One feature of the paper of which genuine communists may perhaps be proud is that communism draws almost as much fire from these verminous racists as black people do. It is quite understandable that they should be

A WORKER'S NOTEBOOK

enraged at the attitude of progressive people, both white and black, to a greater extent than they are at anyone else.

What, after all, has been done to suppress such clearly illegal rubbish by the Commission for Racial Equality, which is supposed to be in business precisely to counter the propagation of racialism? NF racists can rest assured that the CRE, an institution of the British imperialist state, will in the last analysis continue to "put Britain first" and avoid a showdown with British imperialism's most enthusiastic supporters.

Only the might of the oppressed black people themselves, backed with the full support and solidarity of the exploited working class, can put an end to racism.

From,
A London reader.

SAS

Dear comrades,

The most nauseating display of British chauvinism has greeted the recent SAS 'victory' at the Iranian Embassy in London. Britain has, so we are led to believe, re-established its military superiority over the whole of the rest of the world, totally routing its US competitors in a kind of international hostage Olympics!

However, other bits of information about the SAS slip out which are more seamy and inglorious. Last week the Sunday Times reported a bungled plan by a squad of mercenaries to overthrow the government of the strategically important Maldivian Islands in the Indian Ocean. Eight out of nine of the mercenaries were on hire from the SAS. British security services tipped off the Maldivian government, making sure, however, that the mercenaries were able to make a safe getaway back to Britain.

Officially the role of the SAS has been to provide discreet services to British imperialism by performing undercover and commando work in places like Malaysia, Oman and areas of northern Ireland such as southern Armagh. However, they also do quite a few odd jobs for friends, like leading the attack on a German aircraft hijacked to Mogadishu, or helping the Dutch to storm the train taken over by Moluccans.

This extends to quite a bit of mercenary work for suitable anti-communist paymasters, Rhodesia being one which has now dropped out of the business. SAS men, whether in or out of their official army posts, are kept in touch with job opportunities by hiring agencies masquerading as 'security firms', 'stunt men agencies', etc.

Mrs. Thatcher made the odd remark in the House of Commons this week that the SAS had made every one of us "proud to be British"! (By the way, is Armagh a part of Britain?)

From,
A CS reader

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NEW ERA BOOKS have just published a Mail Order Catalogue for the first time. It lists hundreds of books and pamphlets, giving a short introduction for many of them to explain what they are about. The list ranges from classical theoretical works to modern political books. It includes cultural and children's books, books from Britain, China and other countries.

NEW ERA BOOKS, 203 Seven Sisters Rd. London N 4. TEL: 01-272-5894
Opening hours 10 am to 6 pm
Late Opening - Thurs until 7.30 pm
Nearest Tube - Finsbury Park.

"Suicide attempts have soared in the North East - in parts where unemployment is high, the increase has been as much as 30%". The Samaritans have also reported increases in the suicide rate throughout the country, and have pointed out that "young people, unable to see any hope of a job, are becoming desperate in their misery". If any more proof was needed that unemployment kills, a US government report a couple of years ago showed that a 1% increase in unemployment went together with a 1% increase in the suicide rate.

"We have had hundreds of arrests this year", said TUC official Harry Urwin last week. Many of these have been trade unionists taking part in industrial action for the first time. There have been, said Urwin, more arrests during industrial action during the first four months of this year "than in any comparable period".

Following a decision by Nottinghamshire County Council to halve the number of nurses and helpers in nursery units, a nursery teacher, Mrs. Eileen Gosbie, refused to teach a class of 38 children aged 4 years without more help. She was immediately suspended and has now been sacked without notice for breach of contract. The seven teachers at the attached Robert Mellors primary school immediately came out on strike and NUT-backed action is quickly spreading to other schools. Already a primary school headmaster and 31 other teachers have been suspended without pay for refusing to teach classes of more than 30 pupils. During the last 5 years birth-rate changes have meant a smaller intake and a real chance to reduce class sizes and improve standards; but vicious cuts by both Tory and Labour governments have had the opposite effect. Strike-bound schools make for practical problems and education worries for parents but nevertheless teachers must get our full support. It is our children they are fighting for.

For generations, the Rose and Crown pub in Mayfield, Sussex, has effectively operated a 'men only' rule. In particular, the game of shove-ha'penny was a men's preserve, with women allowed to play only occasionally, and never between six and eight, when even the appearance of a woman at the pub was eyed askance by the chauvinist shove-ha'penny fanatics. However, the gents got a surprise the other day when they arrived to find that the shove-ha'penny table had been liberated by a well-organised women's movement in the area!

Wearing an "apricot-coloured suit and matching pill-box hat", Queen Elizabeth of the 'United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland', on her recent tour of Switzerland, was grinning happily at yellow tulips at a flower show, which also featured lambs with cowbells around their necks and people dancing around a Maypole...When what should be heard but a demonstration outside calling for the British army to leave Ireland! This action by Swiss progressive people is only one among many in a growing number of countries which show the hatred felt by progressive opinion for British imperialism's occupation of Ireland's six northeastern counties. The foul acts perpetrated there by the British state are something that cannot be obscured by the "brass bands, yodeling choruses and faint smell of chocolate and hyacinths" with which the Swiss authorities tried to counter the demonstration.

NF stirs it up on factory floor... FIGHTING BACK

From a CS correspondent

The attitude of many black workers is that those of us whites who claim to oppose racism are 'liberals' who talk radical but in times of black-white confrontation on the shopfloor are found wanting. There can all-too-often be some truth in this point of view, but it is up to us to work hard to disprove it. The following story gives an example of the kind of situation that can arise.

HARASSMENT

Briefly, the background is as follows. About three months ago, my West Indian friend Vinstone Moore was transferred from the Converting Section of the Kimberly-Clark paper-mill to the warehouse, where I work.

The warehouse has a small but very active group of National Front members. Though not more than about half-a-dozen, they exert a considerable influence on the rest of the labour force. From the moment Vinstone arrived, they proceeded to harass him and make his life unbearable.

The stereotype these racists have of the average black man is that he is (1) lazy, (2) stupid and (3) prone to violence. Vinstone, by his behaviour, proved this NF image of black people to be incorrect. He is hard working, well-educated and a very quiet and amiable sort of bloke. This presented the NF members with a challenge, and they quite deliberately proceeded to try to provoke him into violence.

For example, through the medium of the crew leader (who is the leader of the local NF branch), they made sure he was given tasks for which he had not trained - and when he made mistakes, they crowed with delight. I could go on and on giving instances of the way he was treated.

PERJURY

Eventually things became too much to bear, and they did succeed in provoking him. He and another member of our crew, who had played a leading

Chix Strike 'Not only for ourselves'

"We're not only fighting for ourselves but for the whole Asian community. Not only them. We hope a victory will have a major impact on the struggles of all low paid workers.

"We're also fighting for our rights as women. Women everywhere should stand up...There are thousands of places like Chix around the country. The women in these factories should organise".

This is how one of the strikers at the Chix chewing gum factory in Slough, Berkshire, described the spirit animating their action.

EIGHTH MONTH ON STRIKE

The women and men at this factory have been on strike since October 10th last year. Earning a lousy 95p an hour and working in disgusting and filthy conditions, 90 workers formed a branch of the GMWU (General and Municipal Workers' Union), but were forced to go on strike to get recognition.

The strikers, all Asians, swing quickly into action, mounting a daily picket line which has received mass support on a number of occasions - the most recent of which, on Wednesday 7th May, attracted 300 supporters from areas as far away as Bristol and Cambridge.

role in harassing him, had a row and nearly came to blows. This other fellow, whose name is R. Taylor, then took civil action against Vinstone, whom he charged with assault (although no blow had been struck).

On the perjured evidence of the crew-leader and two others (both of whom I suspect of being NF members or at least supporters) Vinstone was found guilty of a crime that I know, and most people in the factory know, he never committed. His fine and costs added up to £147..

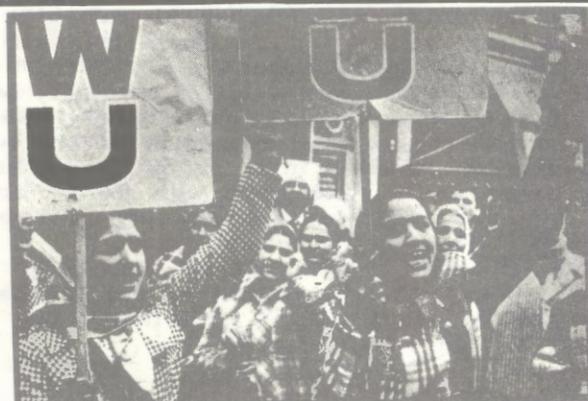
I was bitterly disappointed when I heard of the outcome of the court case. However, on returning to work the next week, I was pleasantly surprised to find that things did not turn out so badly after all. In fact, quite the contrary. We are having a collection to pay the fine and costs, and the response has been quite good so far. Till now, twelve people in my department have each given me a pound, and I have been approached by shop-stewards from other departments and asked to collect from them next week.

In fact, far from causing a stampede into the NF as was expected, the whole thing has had the opposite effect, and Vinstone is more popular than he would have been had this sordid incident never occurred, whereas Taylor and the others who gave evidence against him have been discredited.

Any donations would be gratefully received. All cheques and postal orders should be made out to V. Moore and addressed to CS.

Tell us your news

Many CS readers must have such news of their workplace struggles which would be of interest to workers elsewhere. Write and tell us of your experiences, or contact us so that we can send a CS reporter. This is the only way our paper can become an effective voice of the working class in struggle.



Many of the women have been arrested on the picket line, and have been subjected to humiliating court appearances and heavy fines. However, the company is being hit hard, and the scab labour it has been using is demoralised and dwindling in number.

As in the case of Grunwick, Asian women, that most exploited section of society, are proving once again that "the greater the oppression, the greater the resistance".

SUPPORT THE STRIKERS

All union branches should be called upon to support the strike, and to raise collections for the strikers. Coaches for the weekly mass picket on Wednesdays leave from Oxford and elsewhere. Speakers from the factory are available for public meetings.

Donations/further details: Mohammed Anwar, 271 Goodman Park, Slough, Berks.

Employment bill enacted by summer?

KILL THE BILL!

The Tory government's attack on what little Trade Union rights we have is marching forward. The "Employment Bill" or "Unemployment Bill" as it has been dubbed is well on its way through parliamentary procedure and they aim it to be law before summer.

A lot of hot air has been generated about "secondary picketing" and the like. The issue itself isn't new. The last Labour government complained bitterly during the Lorry Drivers' strike. They were horrified by effective picketing. It was called secondary. They intended to do something about it. Now they are off the hook. The Tories are doing it and Labour can play the game of "friends of the working class".

PICKETING AND THE NEW LAWS

Secondary picketing is when you picket a workplace that is not your own. It is a tactic available to the working class. It is a weapon in our armoury. That is why the bosses want it banned. The Lorry drivers used it, because they needed not only to block the depots but to prevent other lorries doing their work. They had to picket the factories they normally delivered to. The Bill states that employees may only picket at or near their own place of work. The lorrydrivers action will soon be "unlawful". Workers at Massey-Ferguson on Merseyside are occupying their factory which is being closed down. They picketed Massey's factory at Manchester, where the work was being transferred. Their action would now be "unlawful". During the Heath government miners picketed power stations to stop them beating the strike by using imported coal. That, too, would be "unlawful". Steelworkers recently picketed factories other than their own - "Unlawful". Thousands of workers supported

the Grunwick strikers during the last Labour administration; many workers today are picketing Chix alongside their fellow workers who are fighting for union recognition - they would be law-breakers.

What then is at stake? It is a battle to maintain hard-won rights - because we need them. We need them to fight the attack on our living standards. If we want to keep those rights, we will have to fight for them.

HOW WILL THE LAW BE ENFORCED?

The law will be enforced not as part of "criminal law" but as part of "civil law". It doesn't sound so bad that way! But what does it mean? It means that an employer will go to a judge - no jury of course - and ask for an injunction to stop you picketing. The case is heard immediately. The judge, of course, will normally give the injunction. Then if you don't move you will be charged not with illegal picketing, but with contempt of court. Now you may have heard something like this before. Remember the Pentonville Five? The dockers' shop stewards who were put in prison during the Heath government for contempt of court. That's what this law is all about.

But it doesn't stop there. Workers joining a picket line in solidarity with strikers will, of course, be outside the law. But under the Bill so will the strikers themselves. It only needs one "outsider", or rather supporter, on a picket line, and the whole thing is unlawful. The aim is to hit "secondary picketing" and to hit solidarity as well from every possible angle.

Of course the capitalists haven't forgotten money either. Being a question of civil law, the bosses will be able to take us or the unions to court for

causing a loss of profit, if our action is "unlawful" as far as their laws are concerned; and they will claim "compensation". We, naturally enough, will not be able to take them to court and say that when we work we produce £100 worth of goods a day and only get paid £15. There is no compensation in their courts for exploitation - only for employers when we fight the level of exploitation.

ONLY A BEGINNING

This article has dealt only with one aspect of the Bill. It has not talked about similar aspects dealing with blacking; it has not dealt with loss of maternity rights; it has not dealt with the semi-legal establishment of "codes of practice", or the deletion of minimum compensation for "unfair dismissal". Class Struggle will take those up later.

Even more important is the fact that this Bill is only a beginning. It is a springboard for further attacks. Already the Government has said that it will introduce more of its ideas in September. The dispute between James Prior and Keith Joseph, the top Tories directly concerned, has been one only of tactics. Joseph wanted one big all out package like Heath's "Industrial Relations Act". Prior favours a bit by bit approach. That is what we are getting. Even so, the first bit is a big bite on our rights. If we don't fight it, we will have a harder struggle with the next attack.

When the Industrial Relations Act was being brought in, we said "Kill the Bill". That was the slogan on every demonstration. It's a call we need to take up again today.

**Smash the bosses' offensive!
Kill the Bill!**

Forthcoming events

Friday May 16th.

IMPERIALISM AND RACISM. Discussion meeting organised by the London District of the RCLB.

7.30 pm. Roebuck Pub, Tottenham Court Rd., London W1. (Warren St. tube.)

Saturday June 7th.

MEMORIAL MEETING FOR COMRADE JAGMOHAN JOSHI. The Indian Workers' Asso-

ciation (GB) is organising a memorial meeting for its former General Secretary, who was a respected leader of the Indian community, anti-fascist and communist fighter, on the occasion of the first anniversary of his death.

Exhibition, film, songs, speakers. Birmingham Town Hall, 2pm. (Details to be confirmed in next issue.)

Sunday June 8th.

ANTI-RACIST MEETING IN LEAMINGTON. Speakers from Indian Workers' Association and other groups. (Details in next issue.)

Friday June 20th.

THE BRITISH IMPERIALIST STATE. Last meeting in the British imperialism discussion series organised by the London District of the RCLB. 7.30 pm. Roebuck Pub (address above).

ADVERTISE IN CS.

Progressive and anti-imperialist organisations are welcome to publicise their activities in CS. Details for the next issue must be received by Saturday 24th May, at the latest. Address: CS, c/o New Era Books, 203, Seven Sisters Rd., London N4.

Josip Broz Tito, 1892-1980 CHAMPION OF INDEPENDENCE

On May 4 1980, Marshal Tito, president of Yugoslavia, passed away at the age of 87 after a long and heroic fight against illness. Tito's life was one of patriotic and revolutionary struggle.

Born into a large and poor family he was enlisted into the Austro-Hungarian Army. Captured by the Russians during the First World War, he joined the Communist movement in 1917 and fought with the Red Army for three years.

After years of activity in the Yugoslav communist movement he became leader of the Communist Party of Yugoslavia in 1937, when it was weak and riddled with factionalism. Under Tito's leadership it was built up into the leading force of the Yugoslav revolution.

During the Second World War, Tito and the Party led the famed partisans in their heroic and self-reliant war that liberated the country in 1944.

After victory in the liberation war the Yugoslav people continued to defend their country's independence and resisted those who would have Yugoslavia follow a foreign baton. Tito staunchly defended the principles of national independence until his last breath. Whether or not one agrees with the specific policies pursued by Tito, his stand on independence must be seen as helping to create the conditions for all parties in the communist movement to apply Marxism to their own national conditions and seek their own road to socialism.

FOUNDER OF NON-ALIGNMENT

President Tito was one of the founders of the non-aligned movement that has played such an important role in world affairs. Throughout the years he devoted great efforts to strengthening the movement and defending its genuine principles from dominationist tendencies. Only last year Tito went to the Havana Conference to exert his prestige to prevent the Soviet Union's agents from destroying the movement.

Tito was a friend of China and visited the country in 1977. In 1975 comrade Mao Zedong praised Tito as a man "fearless in the face of pressure".

To defend the country, Tito ceaselessly strengthened national security and repeatedly smashed subversive plots by Moscow agents and reactionary nationalists. Tito created a Peoples' Militia and a system of All-People Defence that embraces men, women and children.

The Yugoslav people and government are determined to carry on the work pioneered by Tito. The official Yugoslav statement said, "Tito laid the foundation and the developmental direction for total national defence and military science, based on his thought that 'we do not want what belongs to another, what is ours we shall not give'.

"All that which Yugoslavia is today, all that which we are proud of, that which we are developing and are determined to defend with all our strength, incorporates Tito's deeds!"



Veteran of partisan struggle pays last respects to Tito.

At a memorial meeting in Belgrade one of Yugoslavia's leaders, Vladimir Bakaric said that the heritage left by Tito is Yugoslavia's "granite-like unity which cannot be shaken".

(Contributed.)

"The people and government of Democratic Kampuchea will never forget that respected and beloved President Tito ... stood on the side of the Kampuchean nation and people without any hesitation when ... (they) faced the danger of losing their motherland and of genocide."

This statement by Kampuchean leader Khieu Samphan, shows how Tito fought till his last days in support of independence and the right of each country to seek its own road of development.

London meeting..

KAMPUCHEA SOLIDARITY DEVELOPS

CS V014.10
May 1980

The first public meeting of the British-Kampuchea Support Campaign (BKSC) was held in London on 3rd May. Over 100 people including Kampuchean and other Third World residents in Britain were present.

University lecturer and South-East Asia specialist Laura Summers spoke of the disastrous effects of the invasion on the Kampuchean people saying that even those who had supported the invasion for one reason or another were now changing their minds. Laura highlighted the disastrous consequences for the Vietnamese people who have had to abandon their five year plan and are on the verge of starvation, most industries working only a five or six hour day because the workers are so undernourished. She traced the root cause to the line of the "Indochina Federation" which has long been pursued by the Vietnamese Party. Welcoming

the formation of the BKSC she called on former supporters of Vietnam to put pressure on its leaders to change their disastrous policies.

'Guardian' journalist and expert on Latin America, Richard Gott, said that the western powers had vilified Kampuchea because of its policy of self-reliance. Citing examples from Latin American history he showed that this was always the case when a poor country tries to escape from the imperialist world economic system. Whilst not seeking to deny the 'price of change' in Democratic Kampuchea he noted also 'the price of non-change' in the Third world. Using recent detailed statistics on Peru he showed that even in 'good times' one quarter of the population of the capital city was starving and noted that this applied to 40 or 50 other Third World countries.

Speaking on behalf of Kampuchean residents in Britain, Mr. Phok welcomed the interest shown by non-Kampuchean of differing political views. He stressed that the main issue to be taken up was "KAMPUCHEA FOR KAMPUCHEANS!"

The speakers were followed by a lively discussion.

Class Struggle Correspondent

Now available - Kampuchea Bulletin, No.1, May-June 1980. Articles include: In support of self-determination. Kampuchea - fifteen months on. From the press.

Price 10p + 10p post from BKSC, 61 Rectory Rd., London N16.

British spies

Four different British intelligence organisations spy on the Irish people. They are the Special Branch, Army Intelligence, MI5 and MI6. In a recent series of candid interviews in the "Irish Times" a lot was revealed about the work of these organisations.

These interviews confirm that it is routine for the spy agencies to tap phones, make use of Social Security records, plant weapons, and set up fake terrorist operations at will. The "Irish Times" articles also said, "Different sources agree that one ancient method still overshadows all the rest, providing more information than anything else put together. In the world of intelligence, the informer remains the key". This fact is well known to revolutionaries. It also shows why in the final analysis the people cannot be defeated by intelligence operations; where the people are united around the liberation fighters, the prime source of intelligence, the informer, is dried up.

Contributed

Political status for Irish prisoners!

The H-Block campaign continues to gather support, both in Ireland and around the world. Whether it's the Queen in Switzerland or Willie Whitelaw in Adelaide, everywhere our rulers go, they are confronted by militant support for Irish political prisoners and condemnation of British imperialism in Ireland.

And, importantly for us, this support is growing in Britain. Events at last month's National Union of Students Conference in Blackpool show what can be done. Two members of the Belfast Relatives Action Committee took the floor and described the miseries inflicted on the men and women prisoners in Armagh and the H-Blocks. Despite furious attempts by the "Communist" Party of Great Britain to oppose them, they won majority support for a resolution supporting the struggle of the Irish prisoners.

Irish men and women are in prison because there is a war between the Irish people and British imperialism. The way to resolve that war is to withdraw the army from Northern Ireland and allow the Irish people the right to determine their own future. The struggle of the Irish prisoners for political status is a vital part of that struggle which we fully support.

The Lambert affair

Class Struggle readers may have heard about the recent detention at Dover of Irish entertainer Eugene Lambert. He was charged with deserting from the British Army twenty years ago and thrown into prison. Because he is famous this trumped-up and ridiculous charge became an embarrassment to the British authorities and he was quickly released.

But the Lambert Affair is just the tip of a very chilly iceberg. Since November 1974 over four and a half thousand Irish people have been detained at British ports. Only a tiny fraction of them have ever been charged. The real name of the game is harassment of Irish people. Such activity lays the ground for the Tory proposals to deny Irish residents in Britain their citizenship rights so as to turn them into "aliens" and full-fledged targets of state racism.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES



KAMPUCHEA: The government of Democratic Kampuchea (Cambodia) has repeatedly condemned the Vietnamese authorities for spreading toxic gas in Kampuchea. Now a Vietnamese officer deserting from Kampuchea has confirmed this. He described their use in detail to the Agence France Presse:

"These gases induce a watering of the eyes and chest burns", the deserter said. "If used extensively, they can kill."

"The gas shells used release small yellowish clouds. It has residual effects, and in women, it can result in deformation of the foetus".

"I have heard it said that certain gases were used in the mountain regions. Afterwards, people who drank the water in these regions died".

Meanwhile, the Kremlin warlords have awarded Vietnamese Chieftain Le Duan with the "International Lenin prize for the promotion of peace among Nations for 1979"!

EL SALVADOR: A large number of opposition organisations in this Central American country formed the "Revolutionary Democratic Broad Front" in late April. The front aims to group revolutionary and democratic organisations, trade unions and other mass organisations. General Secretary of the Front, Enrique Alvarez said that "If 1979 is the year of liberation for Nicaragua, then 1980 will be a year of liberation for El Salvador".

SWEDEN: Sweden has practically ground to a halt in an unprecedented labour offensive. Air, sea, bus and rail traffic, industrial enterprises and some shops are all affected. The strike is for an indefinite period and is organised by the Trade Union Confederation. The unions are demanding an 11.3 per cent pay increase but have been offered a mere 1.2 per cent by the bosses. This is the biggest labour incident in Sweden since 1909.

AFGHANISTAN: The second anniversary of the so-called "April Revolution" was boycotted by the masses of the people. Students staged massive demonstrations in the capital Kabul and other cities, which were viciously suppressed. The Russian occupiers even used M1-24 helicopter gunships to strafe children demonstrators.

ZIMBABWE: Opening an International Trade Fair in Bulawayo, Prime Minister Mugabe said, "We welcome investment but it must be Zimbabwe-oriented... The majority shareholding must remain inside the country and profits be reinvested."

THAILAND: The Communist Party of Thailand has strongly condemned Premier Prem Tinsulanon for having described the party as his foremost enemy which must be destroyed for national security. The CPT pointed out that the government is dependent on the United States and uses military aid to suppress the people rather than defend the country from the Soviet-Vietnamese threat. The CPT is the only force really guaranteeing national security, it states.

PHILIPPINES: The New Peoples Army - led by the Communist Party - enjoys wide support from the people in its armed struggle against the Marcos regime. A recent report even mentioned that "A boy who was only seven years old...watched a Philippine soldier patiently and then grabbed the M16 from the puppet soldier... He later handed over the weapon to the local people's militia."

MAY DAY CELEBRATED WORLDWIDE

May Day, the festival day of the international working class, was enthusiastically celebrated this year by the working people of all countries.

The people of the socialist countries were able to sum up their achievements and take pride in their steadily rising standard of living; the people of other Third World countries took a stand for defending National independence and advancing their national democratic revolution - those in Central America plunging into the fight against Yankee imperialism and its puppets; and the workers of the developed capitalist countries took stock of their political and economic struggles and showed their support for the Third World countries and peoples.

* In **SOCIALIST CHINA** people flocked to parks, cinemas and theatres to celebrate and enjoy a wide range of cultural activities, including an exhibition of paintings by British miners. Representatives of all China's 54 nationalities came to Beijing (Peking) to take part in the festivities. Comrades Hua Guofeng, Deng Xiaoping and others hosted a reception on April 30 for over 11,000 model workers and representatives of advanced units, 1,000 foreign guests and representatives of national minorities, overseas Chinese and compatriots from Taiwan, Hong-Kong and Macao.

* In **THAILAND**, 30,000 workers demonstrated in the capital Bangkok demanding higher wages and the right to strike.

* In newly independent **ZIMBABWE**, jubilant rallies were held across the country. In a statement the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs said the rallies demonstrated the "desire and determination of the workers of this country to achieve a meaningful role in the socio-economic system of the country". The Ministry would "strive to generate worker-consciousness and promote the general interest of the worker".

* May Day was a day of fierce class struggle throughout **LATIN AMERICA**. One million people demonstrated in **MEXICO CITY**. Amongst the foreign delegations was one from the All-China Federation of Trade Unions. Workers in **BRAZIL** and **URUGUAY** defied police repression so as to fight for their just demands. In Brazil's Sao Paulo, 30,000 striking metal workers and their supporters demanded the release of trade union leaders and militants. Workers and students in **EL SALVADOR** defied a government ban on demonstrations and took to the streets calling for insurrection. Workers in **GUATEMALA** took up the slogan, "The people united will never be defeated!"

* In **JAPAN** nearly six million people took part in over 1,000 de-

monstrations. The rallies called for workers' unity and opposed the inflationary policies of the big capitalists, calling for wage increases, better work conditions, job and social security. They supported the Iranian and Afghan peoples' struggles.

* May Day saw **SWEDEN** in the grip of a workers' industrial offensive. A rally of 1,000 people was held in the centre of Stockholm. The fa-

mous writer, Jan Myrdal, denounced the Soviet Union's war policies saying it was no longer a question if the Soviets would attack other countries but which country the Soviet Union plans to take next. In **NORWAY** representatives of the Afghan guerrillas and Democratic Kampuchea addressed enthusiastic rallies of several thousand people in Oslo and Trondheim.

LONDON MAY DAY RALLY



Message of the Proletarian Party of Iran being read to the rally.

LIVERPOOL

This year's May Day march in Liverpool was poorly attended reflecting the isolation from rank-and-file workers of the local union leadership and Labour Party hacks who organise such things. However, there was one very militant and vocal contingent on the march, from the Dingle Tenants Association. Pushing prams and carrying placards, they demanded that Liverpool's Labour-controlled council continue with its Direct Works Department to tackle the massive repair list on council houses, and not add these workers to the 91,000 Merseysiders already on the dole.



Around 50 people took part in a May Day rally organised by the London Districts of the Revolutionary Communist League and the Communist Workers' Movement.

In his opening remarks the chairman stressed that May Day is a day of international solidarity, which today meant primarily supporting the struggles of the people of the world against the two superpowers, in particular Soviet social imperialism. Support was extended to the anti-imperialist struggles of the peoples of Kampuchea, Afghanistan, Eritrea, El Salvador and Iran. Support for the struggle of the Irish people against British imperialism was affirmed as an important task for British revolutionaries.

The main speaker for RCLB-CWM stated that the impending unity of the two organisations would be a major step forward in rebuilding the revolutionary party of the working class. He made a self-critical summing-up of the organisations' work over the past year and analysed the new trends in the struggles of the working class and oppressed national minorities.

Comrades from the Bangladesh Workers' Association and the Confederation of Iranian Students spoke on the struggles of their peoples against imperialism and for total national independence.

The meeting received messages of greetings from Turkish workers in London and the Proletarian Party of Iran. The Iranian comrades' message analysed the situation in their country and the world and reaffirmed the friendship between Iranian and British communists.

Also at the rally were some Bangladeshi comrades who sang a spirited rendering of a song from the period of armed resistance to the British occupation. The New Era Singers also performed and a London comrade read a poem by Comrade Mao Zedong.

Class Struggle Correspondent