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WE'LL FIGHT THE AXE!

From a "Class Struggle" correspondent in Manchester.

For Gardner and Sons of Eccles, manufacturer of diesel engines, the crisis has meant falling orders and short time working. This has not prevented them from installing £17 million worth of new computer-operated machinery. Now that the six month period during which the government pays 75% of the company wages bill is coming to an end, management plan to make 700 workers redundant. Yet the workers have evidence that output will be boosted next January from 75 to 100 engines a week. They expect to reach pre-recession production levels with 700 less workers to pay! Not surprisingly, the workers are angry and determined to resist.

First of all, when union officials sneaked in to negotiate redundancy terms, 1500 workers downed tools and confronted them with a mass demonstration. Some held banners saying "We'll fight the axe", "No job losses" and "Allison will go before us!". Then a mass meeting was held at which a motion to resist all redundancies was passed by 2,480 votes to 6.

WE'LL FEED THE MONKEYS

Works convenor Tom Macafee has declared, "We are not Luddites. We welcome the new technology, but technology belongs to the whole people and not the richest 8.4%. We'll be happy to see the output doubled and then we'll enjoy seeing our wages doubled or the working week halved. Let them bring in the silicon chips. We don't mind if they fill the factory from floor to ceiling with silicon chips. We don't mind if they make it so that it only needs a monkey to push a button to run these machines, We'll be happy just to come in and feed the monkeys so long as we've still got jobs... As long as we put out the same number of

engines, the company must employ the same number of workers."

On Saturday, the Salford Trades Council called a demonstration to oppose the threatened redundancies. When the demonstration lined up with Gardner's shop stewards committee marching behind the Labour Party contingent, their motive became clear. Labour MP Carter-Brown turned up to make a ridiculous speech, blaming all the ills of this capitalist system on the present Tory government. The way he was dressed, you would think he was going to a wedding, not a protest march. But Carter-Brown must have felt like a jilted bride when he realised that less than 1% of Gardner's workforce had turned out to hear him! Clearly they are not interested in seeing their protest turned into a jamboree for the Labour Party and their SWP allies.

Marching through Eccles, the

SWP showed the depths to which their politics have sunk. Chants such as "T-H-A-T-C-H-E-R, shit!" could only have been intended to discredit the struggle of the Gardner's workers and alienate them from the general public. Another SWP gem was "Occupy, nationalise, fight for the right to work." They should try convincing the steelworkers of Consett about the wonders of nationalisation under a bosses' state.

UNITED AND FIGHTING

If the redundancies are carried out at Gardners, it will mean a substantial drop in living standards for the unlucky 700. With mass unemployment now a permanent feature of monopoly capitalism, some of them will never work again. So the stakes are high and the struggle against redundancies is a struggle they can't afford to lose. Recent events have shown that Gardner's workers are united and determined to fight on until they win!

FOR IRAN - IRAQ PEACE

By the International Editor.

The fierce war being fought on land, sea and air between Iran and Iraq, the fratricidal bombing and the Iraqi occupation of Iranian territory is a tragedy for the peoples of the two countries, the Middle Eastern region and the entire Third World.

There are many differences between Iran and Iraq. Territorial disputes, disputes over offshore islands, religious differences and complicated problems of national minorities. Iraq demands that Iran grant regional autonomy to the Arab national minority in its Khuzestan province. Iran fears that Iraq is seeking to take the place of the Shah's Iran - as the most powerful state in the region and 'policeman of the Gulf.' It remembers that Iraq attempted to annex

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The area of fighting between Iran and Iraq is concentrated in some of the richest oil producing areas in the world and around key shipping lanes. The Soviet Union looks down from the north.

Black and Asian workers in Britain bear much of the brunt of the Tory onslaught on workers' rights. A great many white workers rightly feel a sense of duty to support the anti-racist struggle.

This is at a time when the Tory government is attacking practically every trades union right the workers of this country have fought for and won. Clearly the bickering leaders of the TUC, who are falling into complete disarray (and who have never fought except over a negotiating table), are not capable of organising defence in this situation where industrial warfare is bound to grow.

Some lessons of previous periods show that some of the greatest achievements in class struggle of the British working class have been accomplished when they fought most closely in collaboration with national minorities living in Britain. For example, the 'Red Clyde' of the First World War and after saw close unity of workers of local and of Irish origin (about 16% of the workers of Glasgow at that time were Irish-borne). Again, the great unemployed struggles of the early 1930s were most militant in towns like Birkenhead, where British workers drew inspiration from the militancy of Irish unemployed.

In such situations of unity with national minorities, British workers have broken and can break with the reactionary leadership of the TUC - those labour

aristocrats bribed with the crumbs from the imperialist banquet table. For, just as the Irish workers of the 'Red Clyde' and indeed of Britain today retained and still retain links with the war of national liberation in Ireland, so also many black and Asian workers in Britain provide a direct link with advanced national liberation movements in the third world.

What every workplace needs is a core of organisation and leadership that is animated by the spirit of militancy we have been seeing among the national minorities of Southall and Bristol - organisation of the Irish type, of the Zimbabwe type. Nothing less than that is going to defeat Tory (and Labour) class warfare.

Anti-racist unity, then, is not something in any way subsidiary in importance to the industrial struggle. On the contrary, our ability to fulfil our duties in supporting the most oppressed sections of the working class to a very great extent determines our fighting capacity in industry and in the class struggle as a whole. Without anti-racist unity, the British working class will be unable to organise even for its own defence, let alone to make such contributions to the struggles of the international working class as were made by the struggles on the 'Red Clyde' and other great proletarian struggles of the past.

From our postbag

POLAND AND BRITISH TRADES UNIONS: (We have received two letters from engineering workers on the subject of Frank Chapple's actions regarding the Polish workers' struggles; the following are extracts):

The just demands of the workers in Poland for Free Trade Unions brought out the hypocrisy of both the Right and the so-called 'Left'. Leading Tories were calling for moral and financial support, while at the same time attempting to smash workers' rights in Britain by legislation. The most reactionary trade union leaders were vociferous in their support for Free Trade Unions. One of them, Frank Chapple, betrayed the engineering workers, refuses to support his own members' strikes, tells people that redundancies are inevitable, and accuses workers of 'industrial terrorism' for fighting for a living wage. He makes no secret of his policy of 'class collaboration' and to tie unions to the state. When is he nearly so vociferous when his own members need support?

The Polish workers are fighting bureaucracy, corruption and careerism. They are fighting the heavy burden of Soviet imperialism on their economy. Chapple makes out the Soviet and East European countries to be communist. Many so-called 'leftists' see the Soviet and East European countries merely as socialists who are making certain errors, so they support them. In fact, however, the Soviet Union is an imperialist power dominating the people of East Europe both pol-

itically and economically. We should support workers in both East and West Europe in fighting for their freedom and independence from US and Soviet imperialism.

In July and August we were subjected to a rather strange occurrence the capitalist press of Britain actually came out and gave support for workers who were on strike in Poland. The reason is that capitalists are always looking for a vehicle on which to carry out their anti-communist propaganda. They make Poland out to be a communist country. They take every possible opportunity to stick the boot in, adding more poison to the already distorted views held by many people. The ironic thing, though, is that Poland is not communist, although many of the people who are striking are. The demands of the strikers are in the working class's interests. They are demands which any true communist country would give as a basic right and freedom. The demands are pro-working class and anti-capitalist.

HEROISM OF IRISH YOUTH: (From a member of the Troops Out Movement delegation to Belfast last August; abridged): A young lad of fifteen brought home to me what it must be like to live under a reign of terror. This youngster was walking alongside of me and I asked him questions about what it was like to live in Ireland whilst the British

troops remained. I said that I supposed that after we (meaning the Troops Out Movement) had gone, the Brits would take it out on them, and that there would be a belting in store for him from them. He replied, "Oh yes. The last time I went on a march, I was walking past a fort, and my photograph was taken by one of the Brit bastards. Within an hour and a half the Brits had looked up my name and address and they came round my house at 5 in the morning, dragged me out and beat the shit out of me."

I asked him if he was afraid he might get killed. He replied, "No, I'm not afraid. They have taken all my mates and beaten them up. Any day you go out they fire bullets at everyone here so we are used to it. But last night they did kill somebody and this does not make me afraid but more angry at their presence here."

It is not a joke to be fired at with plastic bullets (and believe me, at the end of the march we were terrorised with plastic bullets fired at random into the crowd of youngsters); they can maim or kill. The British Army also use methods like jumping up and down on the youngsters on top of mattresses so that they do not leave marks. These lads and young girls learn politics at an early age, from first hand experience. They are not worried about the latest fashion in clothes or what records are in the charts. They are learning the survival of their community and what that means to them.

FORDS BOSSES

THREATEN CLOSURE

Unless Fords workers knuckle under and do as they are told, both Halewood and Dagenham would be closed down! That is the ultimatum that has been thrown at Fords workers by the company bosses.

At Halewood, where the new Fords Escort hatchback is being built, the bosses are firing the opening shots in a battle to drastically cut manning levels. In the Body Plant £200 millions has been spent on robot welding equipment, which has already cut the number of workers involved in production from 2000 to 1400. But the bosses have stated that the lines are still 60% overmanned. Their aim must now be to further slash manning levels to less than 1000.

Disputes in the plant are bubbling away like popcorn in a frying pan. One of these disputes affecting 40 doorhangers has resulted in a number of walkouts by these men and the laying-off of the rest of the plant. This typical dispute shows the company's total disregard of safety factors in order to keep manning levels to an absolute minimum and line speeds at maximum. In a number of interviews with the press recently, top company bosses have made it clear that what is important with the new Escort is not how many cars they sell - but how cheaply they are built! The closure threats and their generally intimidating behaviour is designed to meet that end.

Recruitment resisted

From a "Class Struggle" correspondent.

On Saturday September 20th in Port Talbot, Wales, there was a public meeting against army recruitment followed by a picket of the army recruiting offices, called by the Welsh Republican Socialist Movement (WRSM) to protest at the massive army recruitment drive at Margam Park, just outside Port Talbot.

About 200 people took part in the march through the Port Talbot High Street, where they were joined by members of the public. Members of Plaid Cymru also took part. At the public open-air meeting, one of the speakers was an ex-soldier who said that he had become politicised after being stationed in Ireland. "So much of what I saw in Belfast was just like down here in Wales. I asked myself, why am I here?"

The main speaker, Robert Griffiths of the WRSM, pointed out that 100 years ago there was massive unemployment in Wales and unemployed Welsh lads were encouraged to join the British Army. This was not to fight for the benefit of the Welsh people but for the selfish interests of a handful of monopoly capitalists. The Welsh fought in the Zulu War of 1879, and 20 years later, against the Boers. Now we are asked to join the army to fight the Irish. "The Irish, remember, like us, are struggling to maintain their identity as a nation," said Griffiths.

The WRSM distributed a leaflet which ridiculed Tory chauvinism and also described the Labour Party as "British Nationalist".

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A WORKER'S NOTEBOOK

THE CASE OF A PAKISTANI WORKER in Birmingham shows the growing threat to black people through the Nationality laws. He has worked in Britain for 20 years. Since Pakistan left the Commonwealth, Pakistani citizens must go through the complicated process of 'naturalisation' when they apply for British citizenship. This worker applied for naturalisation. After some months, a man in plain clothes came to his house to assess the application. He spoke to the worker for some time, in English, and at one point asked if he would read or fill in the forms himself. The worker replied he couldn't. He was later refused naturalisation on the grounds of inadequate knowledge of English. The coming Nationality Act, first proposed by the Labour Government in 1977, will contain provisions to give the authorities still more opportunities to attack the national minorities in such ways.

THE NUMBER OF STAFF employed by the Home Office increased by 650 between May 1979 and May 1980 - in the Prison Department, Police Support, and Immigration Control.

AT ST BENEDICT'S HOSPITAL, Tooting, the fight to prevent closure is gathering strength and administrators had to call in private ambulances and police protection twice last week. The demonstrators mean business: barricades have been erected which at one point included concrete blocks which could only be removed by a crane. When police eventually did clear a path for private ambulances to come and remove patients, protesters jeered angrily, blocked the path bodily, and finally slashed the tyres. Finally 12 patients were removed, but the occupation continues.

MARGARET THATCHER RECENTLY INVITED some trades union leaders to dinner at 10 Downing Street. Frank Chapple of the Electricians' Union, Sir John Boyd, Engineers, Gavin Laird, Engineers, and John Chalmers, Boilermakers, accepted the invitation. She claims that the Government's policy is one of non-interference in economic struggles between unions and management. Doubtless, then, the dinner conversation will just be about the weather and how good life is at our expense.

SIR TERRY BECKETT, the Walsall-born, £84,000-a-year Chairman and Managing Director of Fords UK, is to give up his job to become the director of the CBI. Although he will take a pay cut to a mere £40,000 a year, he will keep his Fords pension rights, which after 30 years' service should keep him comfortable in old age. Sir Terence became famous for 'beating' the Labour government's 5% pay guideline in 1978. He conceded a 17% rise after the 9-week strike and then defied government-imposed sanctions against Ford, which had to be lifted. He is a former director of ICI. His brother John is chief executive of the British Sugar Corporation.

AUEW LEADERSHIP THEN AND NOW: "Are we to tolerate such a system for ever - class domination so plain that little thought is necessary to realise its slavish character? I declare for myself that, whilst I realise the special urgency of action now, to relieve the sufferings of the workers and their dependants, I urge that no man can be satisfied until the management of all industry shall be in the hands of the whole community on a basis of social justice free from all exploitation." These were the words of Tom Mann, founder of the AUEW. "Many people think I dig the Managing Director's garden. The manual workers are simple-minded people. Honest, but simple-minded. They think I dig the gardens." - Terry Duffy, AUEW leader, 11th January 1980.

SELF-DETERMINATION IS THE ISSUE

On Saturday September 20th Wirral Trades Council, Merseyside, organised a conference on Ireland. About 65 delegates attended, mostly from political groups. Delegates from other Trades Councils included Leicester Trades Council and Tameside Trades Council. The latter was expelled from the official trade union movement by the TUC General Council after defying an instruction to cancel a conference on Ireland organised on March 3rd this year. The TUC showed similar hostility to Wirral Trades Council's initiative in organising this conference on Ireland. No official speakers would attend the conference although 5 were invited.

Wirral Trades Council were clearly restricted by official TUC policy on Ireland and were unable to take resolutions condemning the expulsion of Tameside Trades Council. None the less, the conference enabled a good discussion to take place on this

burning question for the working class.

SELF-DETERMINATION

John Nolen, a member of Wirral Trades Council, introduced the discussion by giving a brief history of British domination in Ireland. He gave a clear lead in upholding Ireland's right to self-determination as the central issue and stated, "It is a war going on in Ireland. We cannot cry about terrorism when the people are faced with an occupation force."

The issue of self-determination dominated the conference. On the question of the partition of Ireland, a speaker from the National Union of Journalists stated that the day partition began it pushed back progress for 50 years, and that as long as the sectarian state in Northern Ireland exists, workers' unity will be impossible.

Speakers from the "Militant" faction of the Labour Party

placed the question of working class unity before support for the national struggle that is going on in Ireland. As such, they found themselves arguing against the right of self-determination as "outdated" and arguing for keeping the troops in Ireland until such time as workers' unity has been achieved. This position was exposed by a number of speakers as a pro-imperialist argument for maintaining the status quo.

Mary Masters of Tameside Trades Council was particularly strong in her exposure of this position and stated that "there is something wrong with a socialist who does not support the demand for self-determination."

No resolutions came out of the conference, but it was useful as a forum for airing the issues involved. The majority sentiment of the conference was for pulling the troops out and allowing the Irish people to settle their own affairs.

"You can push people only so far..."

From a "Class Struggle" correspondent in Leeds

Our wage negotiations recently came up in the small engineering factory where I work, which mostly employs women. Management said they couldn't afford an increase till January instead of September which is our annual date. Then we were offered 10% from January 1981 to January 1982. They also tried to backtrack on some small concessions we have fought for, like shoes.

THREAT OF UNEMPLOYMENT

Some facts and figures on unemployment and redundancies in the area show the kind of atmosphere in which our wage negotiations came up. Up until this year, unemployment hadn't been too bad generally - you don't hear much talk about 'scroungers' on the dole in Leeds, at least not in the factory (though school-leavers and black kids had been hit hard). But this last six months the economic crisis has bitten deep, particularly hitting workers in Clothing and engineering.

The local textile industry has been going downhill for some time. Government grants were given and councils set up to 'modernise' the industry and thousands of workers lost their jobs. Burtons was one example. Manufacturing in Leeds closed down as they concentrated on retailing and went into the property market. At the same time, they have been developing (probably with government grants) the use of Computer Charlie who will do away with all the skilled cutters by producing paper patterns handled by girls with a 12-week training instead of a lifetime's experience.

Many local engineering plants produce axles,

engine blocks etc. for the car industry. Kirkstall Forge, part of GKN, has introduced computers on its machines which allow one man to do the work of five. They recently announced redundancies and told the union that they weren't going to honour last in, first out. Management would pick and choose. GKN is opening plants in the US. West Yorkshire Foundries is part of BL and just sacked 600 men. Everyone thinks it is being run down. Cattons made people redundant while some of their technicians are training new staff in a factory in Mexico. Schlegels are sacking people and there is talk that they are opening a factory in Ireland.

"All this new technology should be a wonderful thing": one worker said. "But not how it's working out for us now." And now it's time for a lot of annual pay settlements, it's clear how the reserve army of labour works. It's not just workers on the dole but people still in work who are being threatened with redundancies to get them to accept lower wages.

Workers at Kirkstall Forge were recently asked to take a wage cut. Workers at Dean Smith and Grace, a local machine tool factory, accepted a £6 wage cut. Another textile firm worked their holidays to avoid redundancies. And the latest talk is of a drugs firm in Castleford who have been told to take a wage cut or 200 redundancies.

FIGHTING BACK

To return to our factory, the workers, in spite of this threatening background of unemployment and redundancy, stood firm. They stood firm and demanded a mass meeting. In the end, by threat of action, we compromised at 10% for a year. Someone said, "You can only push people so far, then they'll fight back."

Wales letter: CLASS AND NATIONAL STRUGGLES

EDITORS NOTE.

We are pleased to publish this letter which raises important questions regarding the class struggle in Britain.

Since we received this letter, the government has been forced to back down and has agreed to grant the Welsh Peoples' right to a separate television channel. They claim that they have done this because they are impressed by the strength of the 'rational arguments' of moderate and influential people. This is obvious nonsense. What has terrified the Thatcher government into backing down for the first time in its term of office is the prospect of a revolutionary alliance forming between the industrial workers of South Wales and the working people, small farmers and petit bourgeoisie of rural Wales, taking the TV channel question as a focus.

Class Struggle will aim to improve its coverage of the Welsh and Scottish peoples' struggles in the future.

Dear Editor,

I was very pleased to see your recent article, 'A Welsh channel for Wales', because I feel that 'Class Struggle' has seriously neglected the struggles of the peoples of Scotland and Wales.

However, I think that the article had an important weakness in that it dealt solely with one campaign and totally failed to situate this in the context of the important class and national struggles taking place in Wales this year - struggles rendered more acute by the monetarist policies of the Thatcher government that lead to the further impoverishment of working people.

Thatcher's heartless statement that Welsh people have a tradition of going elsewhere to find work (some are now having to go to Saudi Arabia!) shows something of the problem.

Two events heralded the new year in Wales- the arson campaign against holiday homes and the steel-

workers strike. The steelworkers - together with the miners who are also fighting to defend their living standards and industry - are a leading factor in the proletarian core of the British working class. The destruction of their industries will have appalling consequences for areas with already high unemployment figures.

Similarly, the arson campaign highlighted the way that they buying of second homes in areas of poverty, high unemployment and some of the worst housing in the United Kingdom was leading to both economic ruination and the loss of national identity.

The significance of these struggles may be lost on some revolutionaries, but it is clearly grasped by the British state. In the wake of the arson campaign the state unleashed repression that it only surpasses in occupied Ireland. Flouting many of its own laws, people throughout Wales were rounded up, held illegally, threatened, maltreated and had their property, particularly diaries and address books, stolen. Those rounded up were, in general, people who obviously had nothing to do with the holiday home fires, and included Plaid Cymru parliamentary candidates and members of various political, cultural, linguistic, historical and commemorative nationalist groups. At night, police roadblocks were set up in rural areas of north Wales and cars were searched, and people questioned, at random. It was a blatant attempt to compile information on legitimate nationalist and left wing political activity - particularly on the newly founded Welsh Socialist Republican Movement - and it has effectively crippled the activities of Cofiw, a historical group that specialises in commemorating important events in the history of the Welsh struggle for national freedom.

The State also took this opportunity to step up its harrassment of Irish patriots living and working in Wales and to probe their links with Welsh nationalists.

Very few of those arrested were charged with any offence at all and those responsible for the arson campaign and the members of the underground nationalist movements such as Mudiad Amdiffyn Cymru (MAC - Movement for the Defence of Wales) have so far escaped capture by the State.

The unity between the class and national struggles was shown most clearly when Thatcher had the cheek to visit Wales. Hounded throughout her visit, on one occasion she had to sneak in through the back door whilst a very militant crowd of almost 5,000 demonstrated outside, some of them with smoke bombs! Those demonstrating included Plaid Cymru and Welsh Language Society members, together with trade unionists, particularly miners and steelworkers - an unwritten united front! The campaign for the Welsh TV channel is now a focus for the struggles of the Welsh people and the threatened hunger strike by Gwynfor Evans - elder statesman of Welsh nationalism - holds out the prospect of militant direct action on a mass scale in Wales, as even Tory MPs from Wales warn.

This focus exists not just because of concern for the future of the Welsh language, moral indignation, or "the absurdity of the present situation, which satisfies none of the TV viewers", as the article in 'Class Struggle' claims. Rather, the cynical renegeing on its election promise by the government shows the complete disregard for Wales by all the imperialist political parties at Westminster. The national identity, language and industrial base of Wales are all under attack.

When writing in support of the struggle of the black people in America, Comrade Mao Zedong said that in the final analysis, national struggle was a form of class struggle. The present situation in Wales shows this clearly. The development of the national and social-economic struggles of the peoples of Scotland and Wales are of tremendous significance for the future of the British revolution.



The Tory government has backed down on the Welsh people's demand for their own television channel. But the courts continue to vindictively fine those who refused to buy TV licences. Last week Plaid Cymru MP, Dafydd Wigley was fined £25, although he immediately sent in his money after the government backed down. The photo shows him (first from left), together with supporters, singing the Welsh national anthem on the courtroom steps after the hearing.

ZIMBABWE MAKES PROGRESS

"Class Struggle" Southern Africa
Correspondent

Just after the February elections in Zimbabwe we asked the new ZANU MP for Gwelo what had been achieved. He said, "We have achieved freedom from political oppression. We still have to achieve military domination. We have to attain economic independence. We have to embark on a cultural revolution. And we still have a war in South Africa".

In other words, what the Zimbabwean people, under ZANU's leadership, had achieved was a vitally important but short step forward.

ZANU HAVE NO ILLUSIONS

Comrade Mugabe and ZANU had no illusions about that. Unfortunately, many people in this country do have illusions: they expected socialism to be built in a day and they become confused, upset and disillusioned when they see Mugabe going out of his way to reassure imperialist companies and white settlers that their businesses are safe and their profits secure. And when Comrade Tekere, a member of the cabinet and of ZANU's central committee was arrested on a charge of killing a white settler, quite a few people spoke of ZANU selling out.

But if you stop and think, then the policies of ZANU become clear. Nothing would be easier than to drive out all the white settlers and expropriate all foreign companies: by a stroke all of ZANU's enemies would be reunited and they would together destroy the revolution in a few months - many white settlers do jobs and have skills that they were very careful no black Zimbabweans would have; big white farmers, who have a lot of equipment can be driven out, but they'll destroy the land and the machinery

first; foreign companies would soon ensure that a blockade more effective than under UDI would hit the country if their profits were touched at the moment. And if Comrade Tekere, after the war was over, in a period of democratic rule did kill a settler, then it speaks very highly of ZANU that he was arrested.

ZANU have to face the real world not a make believe one. The Zimbabwean people are very poor as a result of imperialism; there are many thousands of refugees. British and US imperialism try hard to remain economically dominant by offering only paltry aid, by trying to attach strings to the investment, and by trying to buy the loyalty of those like Muzerewa who, of course, are still there. The Soviet Union is saying through ZAPU, "look your problems would be solved, if you let us support you" (but then you can do what we tell you).

Then in Zimbabwe there are those who expected more changes sooner and speak of sell-out. You can see the British press picking up on this possible division within the people: they are trying to work out whether their investments are safe.

THE REAL WORLD CAN BE CHANGED

This real world can be changed; none of the above is insurmountable so long as the problems are correctly seen, and handled in the right way.

Look at what has already been achieved. In February, there was a real danger that a section of white settlers would continue the war. Their leader, General Walls, has been isolated and discredited so much that Ian Smith condemns him. In the following couple of months there were widespread

strikes: when did you last read of such strikes - they were settled with some advances for the workers, but especially by convincing the workers that revolution is a long and hard struggle. In February top white Civil Servants were kept on; in other African countries they left at independence with all the files. Now, a number of those men have been sacked and told to get out. The majority of settlers have been convinced that their privileges will be progressively removed, but that it is still worth their while to stay. A start has been made on a good education and health service; large areas of land are being redistributed; ZANU is slowly consolidating its military control and building its political base in those areas where it was previously weak: the towns dominated by the white military and those rural areas dominated by ZAPU. The Soviet Union is making fresh approaches but is still told that no strings will be accepted, and British and US imperialism feel safe, but they are not:

"We remain dominated economically by economic lords as we were politically dominated by political lords yesterday... Our resources are wasting away day by day as they are freighted to Paris, London and New York both as lowly-purchased raw materials and as huge profits" - Comrade Mugabe, September 11.

When the time is right, ZANU will develop ways of controlling these companies. We should not expect that to be achieved soon. We can expect it to be developed on the basis of a united Zimbabwean people, and upon the unity of Zimbabwe with other, especially African, third world countries.

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Iran - Iraq Cont'd from P.1.

its neighbour Kuwait, small but oil rich, as recently as 1962. These are real differences. But Iran and Iraq also have many points in common.

They are both third world countries that face the hard task of developing their national economies and improving their people's living standards and have to overcome the backwardness fostered by long years of imperialist, colonialist and domestic reactionary rule. Both Iran and Iraq have sought to defend and extend their national independence. Iran has thrown off US imperialist domination and Iraq has moved away from Soviet tutelage and cracked down hard on the revisionist party, Russia's fifth column. Both Iran and Iraq give firm support to the national liberation struggles in Palestine page 6

and Afghanistan. The two countries should attempt to resolve their differences by stressing these important common points.

The war situation gives an ideal opportunity for reactionary powers to intervene and meddle, particularly the rapacious and vicious Russian bear which lusts after new energy sources and warm water ports. The visit of a top-level Iraqi delegation to Moscow has an ominous ring to it.

The Israeli zionists may also use the confused situation to launch new attacks on the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples.

A number of Arab and Islamic countries have called for an end to the war, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is actively seeking to mediate. We should all wish them success.

BAHAMAS FIGHTS BACK!

The recently published British White Paper on United Kingdom Citizenship is a blatantly racist document which seeks to deprive thousands of black people in Britain of citizenship. It is a 'Keep Britain White' document. To hit at these vicious racist proposals, the government of the small, but fiercely independent, Caribbean country of Bahamas has introduced changes in its own nationality laws that will affect about a thousand rich Britons. These people have never been granted Bahamian citizenship and the government proposes to amend its constitution in order to pass legislation defining who is and who is not entitled to citizenship.

Bahamas' constitution was foisted on it by the British imperialists before they withdrew. It contains clauses that deny the supremacy of parliament. In many matters - including citizenship - parliament is subordinate to the courts which discriminate in favour of the white settler minority. As in Zimbabwe and Kenya, the British imperialists forced the Bahamas to accept constitutional provisions giving special privileges to the white settler minority.

These privileges have been abused by the whites and the government and people of the Bahamas have always resented this. They have finally been goaded into action by the British White Paper, which will adversely affect a large number of Caribbean citizens, including some from the Bahamas.

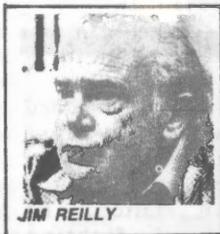
The Bahamian government also wants to be able to deny citizenship to the crooks who have been engaged in massive drug smuggling and the buying up of whole islands and pockets of the most desirable land for speculative purposes and threatening to relegate the blacks to slums and squalor, whilst turning the country into a vast opium den.

Until now, the British Privy Council and the Bahamas Court of Appeal, using Article 5 of the constitution, have prevented the Bahamian parliament from taking action against these anti-social elements. The impending constitutional amendment will change this situation once and for all.

Many rich British capitalists have been becoming large landlords in the Bahamas. Firm action by the Bahamas government will prevent the people being gradually dispossessed of their independence and prevent their country from becoming a white man's neo-colonial paradise.

LEADING REPUBLICAN DIES

Jim Reilly, veteran Republican fighter and leading member of Provisional Sinn Fein (Britain), died in Luton Hospital on Sept. 26, after a short illness. He was ages 54.



JIM REILLY

A tireless fighter in the cause of Ireland's freedom, Jim travelled all over Britain organising, speaking at meetings and taking part in demonstrations in support of Republican prisoners in British and Irish jails. At the time of his death, Jim was on £5,000 bail facing trumped-up charges of 'conspiracy to commit explosions in Wales.'

Together with Sinn Fein's Welsh organiser, Gerry Maclochlainn he spent more than six weeks in prison until bail was granted by the High Court.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES



MALAYA: To mark September 1st, Revolutionary Heroes Day, the radio station, 'Voice of the Malayan Revolution', broadcast an article extending respect to fallen heroes and profound sympathy to their families. The article says, "During the past 50 years, tens of thousands of members of the Communist Party and the revolutionary army and patriotic fighters have dedicated their valuable lives to the liberation cause of the fatherland and mankind. They deserve to be called the best sons and daughters of the people. We remember them, and are determined to carry on the struggle to bring to completion the task they left behind...The Communist Party of Malaya (CPM) Central Committee on 28th April this year issued a statement to mark the 50th anniversary of the Party...The statement...stresses that we should integrate the struggle against the anti-communist and anti-popular reactionary policies being pursued by the National Front government (of Malaysia) and the People's Action Party government (of Singapore) with the struggle against the infiltration and subversion of our country by Soviet-Vietnamese hegemonism."

MALTA: The Maltese Prime Minister, Dom Mintoff, stated at a recent meeting that Malta would strive to maintain its neutrality and called upon Malta's Mediterranean neighbours and the two superpowers to respect this. He told the meeting that under a recent agreement, Italy will grant Malta 95 million U.S. dollars in aid over five years. Italy has agreed to guarantee Malta's sovereignty and to defend Malta, if necessary, with its navy and army in the event of a foreign power threatening Malta's independence, sovereignty or neutrality. Malta will not allow any foreign base on its soil, enter into any military alliance or repair Soviet or American warships. Since Prime Minister Mintoff came to power Malta has strengthened its national independence. British imperialist bases have been ordered out and recent Libyan attempts at interference and bullying have been rebuffed. Malta has strengthened its relations with the third world and non-aligned countries, particularly socialist China.

MAURITIUS: Thirteen trade unionists from two federations have been on hunger strike since 6th September in Port Louis, capital of the Indian ocean state of Mauritius. Everyday mass demonstrations in Port Louis and meetings throughout the island, are called in their support. Mauritian workers staged a general strike in August 1979 calling for better wages and a 40 hour week; recognition of trade unions in the sugar industry; the right to strike and the repeal of an anti-trade union law. In an agreement the government agreed to seek the reinstatement of those sacked during the strike and to amend the anti-union law. One year later the government has done nothing. The hunger strikers aim is to force the government to honour the agreement. Mauritian workers and students in London are actively campaigning to build support for the hunger strikers.

INDIA: IPANA (Indian People's Association in North America) held its third convention in New York in August. It noted the rapid growth of the organisation, particularly in Canada, and condemned the reactionary policies of the Ghandi regime, particularly towards peasants, national minorities, revolutionaries, Harijans ('untouchables'), women and Muslims. It condemned India's recognition of Kampuchean puppet, Heng Samrin. It mourned the death of Comrade Joshi, Secretary General of the Indian Workers' Association (G.B.). The convention received two solidarity messages from Britain - from IWA (G.B.) and the China Policy Study Group.

ASIAN YOUTH GETTING ORGANISED

Kashmiri workers living in Britain have retained close links with the struggle of their country of origin. The Kashmiri Workers' Association (KWA) was originally organised to play a role in the struggle of the Kashmiri people for the right to national self-determination and reunification of their motherland.

As the KWA's activity in the community developed, it was realised that the community faced racist oppression in this country and that a lot of work was required to fight it. The KWA accordingly formed the perspective of carrying out two interlinked tasks - mobilising to support the right of self-determination for the Kashmiri nation, and taking part in the struggle against racist oppression in Britain.

At the first public meeting of the Manchester Asian Youth Movement (AYM) on September 20th, the KWA's National Chairman Mohammed Younas told the audience of 100, "Through the experience we had in the past of opposing racism, I think we are opposing the criminality and imperialism of the capitalist class, and in this way we are actually playing a positive role in the struggle of the working class in this country against the capitalist class.

"There are political differences within the black people in this country, but despite this they can be united to fight racism in a broad united front. To make this successful, more attention must be paid to the less organised sections of the black people. And at the same time, we must reject the reactionary leadership of the black people who compromise with our enemies and sell out our struggle. We must build a united front of all who can be united in the

struggle against racism in Britain today."

BANGLADESHI WORKERS GIVE SUPPORT

The Manchester meeting was offered both moral and material support by the Bangladesh Workers' Association (BWA). As one BWA member put it, "In England the Asian and black communities are very poor and have no assets, only their youth." He said that Asian youth should not be misled by false friends who preach black separatism and at the same time make deals with the Home Office. The need was for a united front with the progressive section of the British working class.

UNIONS MUST SUPPORT BLACK WORKERS' STRUGGLES

Speaking for the AYM, Artar Singh called for all illusions that the state's onslaught is on black people alone to be cast aside. After the recent raids on factories to detain black workers, the trade union reaction was only a few muted voices. When 342 people were charged in Southall, of whom 321 were trade union members, all the trade union movement did was to call for an enquiry into the death of Blair Peach. The threat of fascism is not from the National Front, who would drown if all the black people spat on them at once, but from social democracy and the Labour Party bureaucrats.

Only workers - black and white - can defeat racism. We will demand that the Labour Party takes up the fight against racism, or the blacks will boycott the elections. It is black people who are keeping them in power.

The AYM says: Here to stay, here to fight! No to immigration laws, no to racist attacks!

Jim also had a proud record in the British working class movement. For many years he was a shop steward at the Vauxhall plant in Luton. He had a fine record of fighting for the rights of all working people and he held in contempt and loathing that reactionary top stratum of the labour movement who have been bought off by imperialist superprofits.

We extend condolences to Jim's wife and family.

KWA press statement

The Kashmiri Workers' Association (UK) has sent us the following important press statement for publication. It concerns the recent expulsion of two opportunist members who attempted to destroy KWA policy of opposing the two superpowers (especially in the case of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan) and by causing trouble among the Kashmiri community in Britain. Following is the text in full:-

On 6th September 1980, the Political Action Committee of the Kashmiri Workers' Association (UK) called a meeting of the National Executive. In this meeting it was declared that Nazir Ul Haq, General Secretary of KWA and Mushtaq Hussain, National Organiser of KWA cease to hold all posts in KWA (UK), as a result of the investigations of the PAC in the pursuance of individualistic, anti-people lines of action.

On 7th September 1980, another meeting of the National Executive was called to re-organise the KWA National Executive which it was decided to rename the Central Committee. In this meeting, the CC re-elected Mohammed Younas as National Chairman and elected the following officers: M.A. Asim (General Secretary), Ghulam Nabi (Assistant General Secretary), Mahammed Bashir (National Organiser) and Qurban Hussain (Treasurer).

Note: The findings of the PAC regarding individualistic anti-people lines of action in our association will soon be published in the form of a document.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Starting Thursday October 2nd.
Season of Chinese Films.

Continues through to November 2nd. Chinese films from the 1930's to 1979. Very few seen in Britain before. Full details from National Film Theatre. 'Phone 01-928-3842.

Sunday October 12th.

Fight racism! Stop the deportations!

Public meeting with speakers Anwar Ditta and Asian Youth Movement (Manchester).
3.30pm Royal Park School, Leeds 6.

Sunday October 12th.

On the proposed Nationality Act.

Meeting called by Campaign Against Racist Laws, Bristol Asian Council and West Indian Parents and friends.
2.30pm University settlement, Ducie Rd., Barton Hill, Bristol.

Saturday November 15th.

National Demonstration in Support of Anwar Ditta.

Assemble 12.00 mid-day, Church Stile, Rochdale. Followed by rally at 3.00pm. Provisional Speakers from - Indian Workers' Association, Bangladesh Workers' Association, Kashmiri Workers' Association, Pakistani Workers' Association.

Note: Anwar Ditta has been refused leave to appeal against the decision refusing her permission to bring her children to Britain. The campaign will continue!

REPUBLICAN DIES - cont.from p.7

On release both men were placed under heavy travel restrictions and were forbidden to engage in political activity.

An Irish patriot, first and foremost, Jim felt a natural sympathy with all those fighting for national liberation. Last year he was a guest speaker at the Abergele Commemoration marking the death of the Welsh nationalists killed at the time of the Prince of Wales' investiture.