

CLASS STRUGGLE

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Incorporating

NEW AGE

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10P

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Hunger strike starts October 27th.

VICTORY TO THE BLANKET MEN!

By the time this issue of 'Class Struggle' appears, Irish political prisoners in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh concentration camp will have embarked on a hunger strike. Their demands are very simple:

1. The right not to wear prison uniform.
2. The right not to do prison work.
3. Freedom of association amongst political prisoners.
4. The right to organise recreational facilities, to one weekly visit, one letter in and out a week, one food parcel a week.
5. Restoration of full remission.

These conditions existed in Long Kesh before Labour warlord, Merlyn Rees withdrew them in 1976 in an attempt to criminalise the Irish peoples' fight for freedom. Over 200 prisoners sentenced before 1976 still have these rights.

The men in the H-Blocks are political prisoners. They are all held in connection with the revolutionary struggle against British imperialism, they were convicted under special legislation, tried in special, no-jury courts and for most of them the only basis of conviction was a 'confession' signed after days of threats, beatings and torture.

The men in the H-Blocks are embarking on a hunger strike because it is their only remaining weapon. For four years, nearly 400 of them have endured conditions unfit for animals - conditions that are not self-imposed but have been forced on those who will

not wear the prison gear of British imperialism.

These men are weakened by years of torture, brutality, confinement in terrible conditions, lack of medical care and starvation diets. If the hunger strikes last for any length of time many of them will die. Their blood will be on the hands of the British imperialist government.

"Cruel teasing"

As the date for the start of the hunger strike approached, the government, frightened by the prospect of mass activities in support of the blanket men, tried a cynical ploy to undermine their support by announcing that all male prisoners in the Six Counties would be allowed to wear civilian-style clothes.

In a smuggled statement, the men "reject as meaningless the substitute...of prison-issue uniform for prison-issue clothing. The wearing of our own clothes we regard as a basic human right and as only one of our five demands.

"We draw attention to the fact that the women in Armagh already have the basic right of wearing their own clothes which on its own has not met their requirements. The British still attempt to criminalise them and we cannot settle for a situation that our own comrades find totally unacceptable."

The men said that the British imperialists were engaged in a "cruel piece of teasing and political brinkmanship" in an attempt to defuse support for the blanket men and deflect criticism of the government.

Sixty years ago, on October 25, 1920, Terence MacSwiney, Lord Mayor of Cork, died on hunger strike in Brixton prison. Irish patriots have never bowed down and accepted cri-

minalisation by British imperialism. The men in the H-blocks continue this historic struggle.

Here in Britain, workers increasingly face the boot boys of British imperialism on the picket lines when they fight for jobs, trade union rights, decent wages and conditions. The Irish prisoners and British workers face the same enemy! No class conscious British worker can sit back and allow British imperialism to murder Irish prisoners. We urgently call on all our readers to support the protest activities being called by Provisional Sinn Fein, Troops Out Movement (TOM) and others. Details may be obtained by phoning the TOM London office on 01-267-2004 between 10.30am and 1.00pm and 1.30pm-6.00pm, Monday to Friday.

RESTORE POLITICAL STATUS NOW!
VICTORY TO THE BLANKET MEN!

What we can do

In a recent interview with a "Class Struggle" correspondent, Sue O'Halloran, Public Relations Officer of Provisional Sinn Fein (London) was asked, "What can people here do to help?"

She replied, "The British Government and the media try to handle the whole situation by silence. That is their deliberate policy. That policy is made to fail by anything which breaks the silence, which has to be given publicity.

To that end all activity is useful - from campaigns on humanitarian demands to campaigns for political status. These things are not in conflict and people should be prepared to co-operate at all levels.

The prisoners regard campaigns over here as important. It is important that campaigns are built up. And also important that nothing detracts from the hunger strike itself. We don't want any adventurist actions or any individual protests which would focus attention on the particular protest instead of on the prisoners and the hunger strike."

The Irish Republican Socialist Party London Support Group "urge people to show their solidarity with the H-Block prisoners and to actively engage in protests in support of their demands for political status."

"THE WAGES OF FEAR" - that was the headline to the Daily Mirror's Editorial Comment after the AUEW leadership agreed to an 8.2% 'rise' in the minimum engineering wage rate.

"The engineers have accepted an 8% pay rise because they dare not fight for more. They know that anyone who strikes may not have a job when they get back.

Had they been as docile in Labour's last year, Jim Callaghan may still have been Prime Minister today."

"His Government spent billions on trying to keep down employment. It was successful enough for the unions not to worry about losing jobs and to go for big pay packets instead." That is the message of the Mirror.

But is it true?

Firstly, Callaghan and his Labour friends watched unemployment rise from half-a-million to 1½ million during the last Labour Government. It may be true that the union leaders did not worry overmuch about "losing jobs", but Callaghan was in no way successful - nor was he bothered - in keeping down unemployment

Secondly, the Labour Government and the union leaders co-operated in cutting wages - at the same time

as unemployment rocketed. The Mirror can't have forgotten the 'Social Contract' already! Only, in the last year of the Labour Government did rank-and-file pressure grow so strong that a number of union leaders were forced to support the struggle to defend wages. Even then it was not a case of going 'for big pay packets' but a struggle against further cuts in wages.

Callaghan and the union leaders, and now Thatcher in her turn - ably abetted by the gutter press (not to mention the 'quality' press) - have all tried to persuade us that we have a choice between jobs or pay rises.

The reality is that the imperialist monopoly combines are in a crisis. To maximise their profits they will go for increased productivity and a cut in real wages. The successful ones will cut jobs, as will the companies that close down. In the great majority of cases it is not a matter of 'choosing' jobs or decent wages. We are attacked on two fronts and must defend on two fronts.

Of course the Mirror knows this well. It is owned by a major company itself - Reed International. The Editors of the Mirror are not fools. But obviously they hope we are.

From our postbag

RACISM ON TV. From a London Reader:

I have just watched a disgusting racist programme on TV. It was an episode of "The Professionals", a programme that promotes an image of a 'tough guy' elite of fascist cops in order to prepare public opinion in favour of the counter revolutionary preparations of the bourgeoisie. This particular episode dealt with a 'Chinese terror gang' of drug traffickers.

Drug trafficking is an evil occupation. Its perpetrators deserve no sympathy. It is true that a tiny handful of Chinese in this country take part in it. But they are exactly that - a tiny minority of rich individuals hated by the community. The overwhelming majority of Chinese in Britain are industrious and law abiding, concerned mainly with providing a better life for their families. But the programme made out that all Chinese were somehow involved. One cop said, "50,000 Chinese in London, 50,000 potential couriers". Other cops made a string of racist slurs, "All Chinese look alike", referred to 'Chinks', mimicked the way Chinese people speak and made insulting references to the Chinese people's leader, Chairman Mao.

Like other national minorities, the Chinese get a raw deal from the mass media. No peak time programmes portray their culture, history or aspirations or show the contributions they make to British society. Instead we get drug trafficking and Fu Manchu.

This sort of racist crap is not only offensive to the Chinese community but is an affront to the intelligence of British working people.

INTIMIDATION. From a Social Worker

Last year as a social worker in child guidance I had a hard struggle to get promotion from level 2 to level 3, and was finally successful.

Then I applied for and got a job as a social worker in social services. The man who interviewed me (who is now my boss) said that since I was already on level 3, the new job would also be on level 3.

Birmetals sackings resisted

Up to 600 people marched through the pouring rain in central Birmingham on Friday, October 17 in solidarity with the Birmetals workers. They are fighting their wholesale sacking and the conspiracy which has denied them any unemployment benefits. By their side workers marched from other foundries in the Birmid Qualcast group, from BSA guns division and other factories, as well as unemployed men and women, members of the Indian Workers' Association (GB) and supporters of left groups.

In a rally at Digbeth Hall, Al Glasford spoke for the Birmetals Action Committee, and a delegate from the Gardners's Strike Committee in Manchester extended the Gardners' workers' strong support.

Des Morgan, Birmetals' convenor, praised the number of people who had turned up despite the filthy weather. The workers were fighting a company which had found a way to sack them without any remuneration, he said. Trade unionists must realise that this was likely to happen to many of them. Now the "welfare state" was being used to starve the

Now one of my colleagues in Social Services is applying for promotion from level 2 to 3. She is already doing level 3 work but she also needs 18 months post-qualification experience. She previously worked in child guidance like myself, but the boss said that this experience did not count. So she reminded him of my case. He said she must get my permission to quote my case as a precedent, but even if she did so, the result might not be promotion for her, but demotion for me!

Needless to say, she has my full support and I'll get onto the union if he tries it.

workers into submission, denying them the benefits they had paid for over the years. They need the support of solidarity of the people of the West Midlands and from all over the country. As long as the lads and lasses from Birmetals were prepared, they would keep the fight going as they had done for the last 27 weeks. A mass picket was to be held on Friday October 24, aimed to bring out all workers opposed to the Government attacks and particularly the Employment Bill.

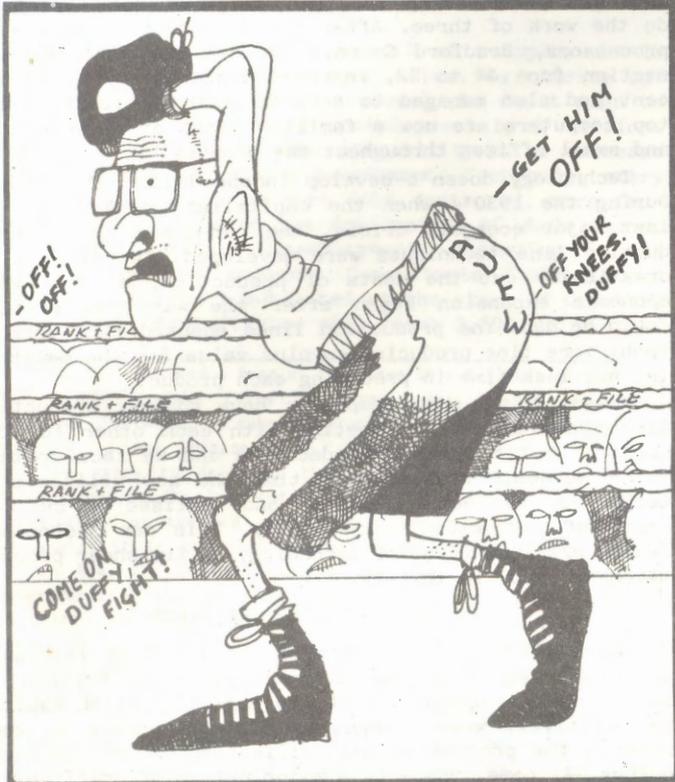
There was the usual bevy of Labour MPs and trade union officials on the platform (including Duffy supporters), whose image demands that they have to be seen to support such struggles. One official said that the West Midlands bosses had stepped up their attacks ever since they succeeded in victimising Derek Robinson. When he started to criticise "those who had let this happen" there was an angry chorus of "The Officials" and "Duffy" from the floor.

Over £1,800 of donations were announced at the meeting, which are only part of the total given so far, and over £100 was raised from those present.

From an AUEW member in Yeovil

Dear Comrades,

Many engineering workers have just been involved in the AUEW Presidential election. The result is not in yet, but during the election, Duffy, was flying his colours high. In the negotiations for the national minimum engineering wage, the employers first offered 6.2 per cent. Duffy rejected it, but gave the bosses the nod by saying: "We are not in an aggressive mood." Now he has agreed an offer of 8.2 per cent, but with 18 per cent inflation we need a rise of well over 20 per cent just to stay on the same real wage, because of tax and national insurance which eats into the "rise". So he's negotiated a cut in real wages of over 15 pence in the pound! The minimum rate for an unskilled worker is now to go up to a "fantastic" £56.80 from £52.50!



"It is the best possible deal that could be negotiated without a struggle...There is a time for boxing and a time for fighting. This is the time for boxing." - ex-ammateur boxer T. Duffy, October 1980, after agreeing to a wage cut in the minimum wage for engineering workers of 15%.

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A WORKER'S NOTEBOOK

WEST YORKSHIRE'S heavy woollen district has over the last twelve months seen its unemployment figures rise by over 90%. Long-established mills and factories have been closed down, throwing hundreds, both white and Asian, on the dole. On 11th October, the openly Nazi British Movement tried to march through Dewsbury town centre as part of their racist campaign to blame one section of the population for the current jobs crisis. Their proposed march, however, was a complete flop. Only 70 turned up and were met by a counter-demonstration, 500-strong, organised by the Dewsbury and Batley ANL and Asian Youth Organisation. The fascists had to be escorted away while the anti-fascists held a march through the town closely watched by the 750 police who had been specially drafted in for the event. Later, three were arrested, including the National Secretary of the ANL, who was held in police custody for the rest of the weekend.

A LIVERPOOL GYNAECOLOGIST had to resort to picking patient's names out of a hat in order to decide who could stay in hospital. Cuts in the numbers of beds and emergencies coming in all the time meant that after the urgent priorities had been decided, there were still more patients left than beds available. A spokesman for the Liverpool Area Health Authority said: "Some patients who have been sent for may well have to be sent home. 288 beds are scheduled for closure in Liverpool, of which 26 are gynaecological. There has been a reduction of 2,000 hospital beds in Liverpool over the past year."

LEGAL TAX DODGES lead to an estimated £1000 million loss in revenue every year. Wealth created by working people is slipped into the pockets of the capitalists without a murmur. And then they have the nerve to talk about Social Security 'scroungers'.

TO KEEP HOUSING AT ITS PRESENT LEVEL, Birmingham City Council needs to borrow a billion pounds over the next ten years. Unless money can be found for repairs, tens of thousands of council houses will have to be demolished, council estates will become rundown and the council waiting list (now about 15,000) will treble. Because of financial pressure, the city built only 800 new homes this year, compared to as many as 9000 a year during the 1960s. Needless to say, it is very unlikely that the necessary billion pounds will be forthcoming. Housing working people is not a priority for this anarchical capitalist system.

A REPORT, by a group headed by Lord Carrington, to the Tory leadership was recently quoted as concluding that "strong unions and advanced technology operated by their members, particularly in fuel and power, mean that no government these days can 'win' in the way Mr Baldwin's cabinet triumphed during the General Strike of 1927 by maintaining supplies and services. The group examined the possibility of using the Armed Forces to break strikes and concluded that such a practice could not be adopted on a large scale for two reasons: first, that Britain no longer had enough troops, and, second, that it would permanently damage the fabric and practice of the country's politics."

"BLACK PEOPLE HAVE SHOWN that they can get organised; white people have a duty to stand alongside us." So said a speaker from the Asian Youth Movement (Manchester) at a meeting on October 12th in Leeds in defence of Anwar Ditta's right to bring her children to Britain. A campaign is being organised, which it is hoped will include sending people to Pakistan to gain more evidence for her case. Since the days of the Labour government, Anwar has been fighting determinedly against Home Office obstruction to her exercise of this fundamental parental right; in the course of this struggle, she has come to the conclusion that "Labour, Tory, both play the same game." (See back page for details of November 15th demonstration in Rochdale.)

12,748 JOBS were lost in Britain last week. The weekly average is currently over 10,000.

UNEMPLOYMENT — AND THE NEW TECHNOLOGY

This autumn at a Westinghouse factory in Pittsburgh, USA, a new production line has come into operation. The £700,000 system produces three electric motors every minute, each from over 50 parts. The line operates at a constant speed for 24 hours a day without any stops for tea-breaks or meal-breaks. The six workers on the line are all robots - three with T.V. vision and the others blind - and do all the assembly work themselves, unaided by humans. Just one example from the many thousands where the new silicon-chip technology will affect jobs in shops, offices and factories throughout the world.

This new technological revolution based on the micro-processor is only just getting off the ground, yet in the cut-throat world of car manufacture, robot welding techniques have been adopted at Fiat, Saab, Volvo, Volkswagen, Nissan, Chevrolet, General Motors, Mitsubishi, Chrysler, Toyota, Peugeot-Citroen, Renault, Ford and now British Leyland. At Fords at Halewood, robot welding has been installed on the line for the production of the new Fort Escort model, eliminating about 600 jobs while a few years ago "investment" generally meant more jobs, today with the silicon-chip and industrial robots the opposite is true. The recently announced £140,000 investment by Fords at Halewood is geared towards cutting costs and jobs by replacing human labour by machines.

ON THE SCRAPHEAP AT SIXTEEN

By a Class Struggle Correspondent.

Three Indian girls told me what unemployment is like for kids in Britain today. K is 16, she was born in Britain. She left school this summer. Why didn't she stay on?

"There are so few jobs anyway, getting qualifications doesn't make any difference. I used to think about being a teacher, a nurse or a telephonist. But as the time to leave got nearer, just anything that came along."

She wrote to a number of places, including the factory where her father works. There were no vacancies. For three weeks she worked in a garment factory in Cape Hill, sewing linings.

"There were no cards, they said it was just provisional, to check how good I was. I worked 40 hours a week. The money depended on piece-work. In the first week I got £9, then £12, then £13. It was all women working there, and they only talked about their husbands and children. I didn't enjoy it."

B is 16 and was also born here. She has CSEs in English and typing. She says she left school because she got fed up with the boys swearing and teasing the girls. "I thought I might get onto a training scheme in Perry Barr. I applied for all kinds of courses in engineering, but I didn't get anything. I would like to be a telephonist or work with accounts. I don't think I have any chance of a job. There is nothing in the Job Centres. They don't let 16-year-olds go for training, only people over 19."

She started training as a sales representative with one firm. But they said she had to be over 17, and insisted on checking her passport to find out her age. So she only lasted a week.

S is 17. She came to Britain from India with her parents when she was 15. She has 4 CSEs, Maths, English, Art and General Science, and an 'O' level in Hindi. She has only worked in the Youth Opportunities scheme, doing painting and decorating in West Bromwich and office work in a community centre.

These girls are growing up with three kinds of oppression, as national minorities, as women and as working class. The only work they can get is fake jobs under the Youth Opportunities scheme. And how long will they last?

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Already there are over 10,000 robots at work in the world. There are 5000 in Japan, 3000 in the USA, 500 in West Germany, 400 in Italy and 150 in Britain. Indeed, using a slightly looser definition of 'robot', Japan claims to possess over 70,000 already. Some 12,000 will be installed in Britain by the end of this decade.

In engineering, new Computer Numeric Controlled Machines and Direct Numeric Controlled Machines now do the work of five lathes or milling machines, while new Machining Centres are even more productive. In Chemical plants small microprocessors are being used to control flows and rates of reaction where highly skilled labour was previously employed.

In offices, sophisticated typing machines called word processors are being employed allowing one typist to do the work of three. After the introduction of 9 word processors, Bradford Council reduced its staff in one section from 44 to 22, increased productivity by 19 per cent and also managed to save £59,000 per year. Desktop computers are now a familiar sight at saving banks and small offices throughout the country.

Technology doesn't develop independently of society. During the 1930's when the capitalist world faced its last major economic crisis, the car industry and production line techniques were developed. The aim was to drastically cut the costs of production, so that when economic expansion began after the war high profits could be had. The production lines ensured that workers spent more time producing surplus value for the capitalist and less time in producing each product.

Nowadays, as more companies have adopted production line techniques and competing with each other for the market, profit rates have declined and we face another major economic crisis. This time the new silicon-chip technology has been developed and utilised to cut the costs of production dramatically. This new technology dwarfs previous forms of technology by its sheer productivity, and flexibility.

THE FRYING PAN OR THE FIRE?

Japan, USA and West Germany are spending vast sums in developing this new technology, while Britain is being pushed further out of the market. British capital is relatively weak internationally and unable to compete in the production and utilisation of the new technology. At home, there is a major crisis of profitability.

"If we do not keep up with the international race in the use of the microprocessor technology then we risk becoming uncompetitive in terms of world trade... if we adopt this revolution enthusiastically in every branch of our economy and make it the cornerstone of our industrial strategy, then we also risk accelerating the scale of labour displacement through the very success of this technological revolution..."

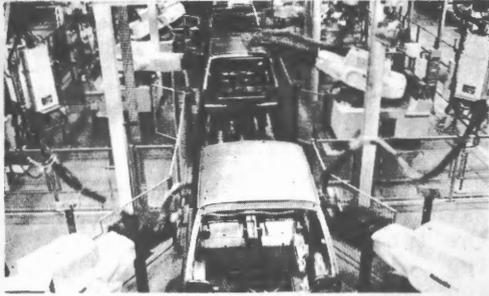
(the words of the head of the Science Policy Research Unit at Sussex University.)

ROBOTS TAKING OVER LONGBRIDGE

This month, the new Mini-Metro came onto the market. At the Metro factory at Longbridge, two lines of 14 Unimate robots now weld one car body every 50 seconds. Last month, 1,500 cars were produced each week. Next month production is aimed to be 3,500 cars per week, and the intention is to increase production to 6,500 cars by 1981.

Even before the body-panels arrive at the factory, the computer centre in the middle of the factory is communicating with computers at the plants which supply Longbridge with parts, so it knows what goods are on the way. As each part arrives at the factory the computer reads a stock label on the packing to ensure that what should have arrived actually has arrived. The computer also drives the cranes which store the parts in over 3,000 racks.

Men only become involved in moving the panels from the store onto the welding lines. On orthodox welding



Robots set a brisk pace on one of two synchronised welding lines that BL Cars has installed for the production of its Mini Metro at Longbridge. When the company begins production of the Bounty, under an agreement with Honda of Japan, there will be less automation on the assembly line

ty and low internal investment. The implications of this are enormous - not only will unemployment increase further in this country as capitalists fail to compete internationally and within Britain but those who do compete will have to adopt the new technologies in order to cut costs. Either way there will be severe job reductions: The workers of Britain faces a double edged sword.

In Britain today, the true toll of unemployment is about 2,500,000. Government statistics, by missing out many married women and self-employed who don't sign on at the dole, underestimate unemployment by 1/2 million. No one now talks about the possibility of a decrease in unemployment, even the government. Everybody, every week expects to hear of more jobs destroyed, more factory closures, and even the destruction of whole towns, like Consett, through unemployment. According to the 'authoritative' US economic Consultants Chase Econometrics, in a report published at the start of October, official Government figures will reach 3,300,000 by 1985.

One robot has replaced a team of craftsmen in a Midlands glassworks which produces radar cones and screens for defence equipment. At Chance Brothers, a subsidiary of the Pilkingtons group, in Smethwick, a new Unimate 2000 Robot has been trained over the past two years to do a job that previously required an 8-year apprenticeship. The job used to be done by 'gatherers' who lifted molten glass at the end of an 8-foot arm from the furnace and manipulated it to the right shape and texture to be put into a mould. Now, the Unimate robot, working next to the furnace with temperatures of up to 1200 degrees centigrade, produces, over two shifts, 36 varieties of cones and screens. Quality at the company is up, while the rejection rate has been lowered, while the production rate has been increased 'considerably', according to a company spokesman.

The Cambridge Economic Policy Group has made estimates of official unemployment figures until 1990 - only ten years ahead - and predicts a gloomy picture with over 4,500,000 unemployed. Chase Econometrics predict a rapid growth in the economy of 4.5 per cent in 1982 and 2.8 per cent in 1983, yet still they predict that unemployment will rise. More will be produced, yet more will be made redundant!

In present day Britain, the new technology will be used to cut the costs of production, to ensure maximum profits for the capitalist. It allows for the first time the automation of the office, an area where labour intensive methods have up to now been the rule. Many of-

lines, some 200 people would be employed, but here only 51 people supervise the robots and multiwelders. The use of robots on one line doing the more complicated welding work has cut manning from 138 to 13 per line.

The new Bounty model which will be produced at Leyland's Cowley Plant at Oxford next year will use slightly less sophisticated equipment. This is the British version of the Ballade which British Leyland will build under licence from Honda of Japan. Here while robots will weld part of the car bodies, humans will work among them applying other welds. Leyland's aim is not only to cut cost but also wring out the maximum work from its workforce.

Leylands have just announced 18,000 redundancies as it rationalises the industry. By 1981 the company says that it will require just one worker for every 32 cars - a rate comparable to Japanese firms. Some token for the unemployed car worker but at least he knows that while a robot works harder than a human, doesn't sleep nor rest, day in day out, a robot can't buy a car.

fice workers who previously thought they had job security are in for a big shock as the automation of offices is carried out. The new technology is beginning to make itself felt already in the car industry. In engineering, because of the huge investment needed for each new machine, the take up of the new technology will be slower - but even here it is already happening. Under the present system it is leading to high and permanent levels of unemployment.

While the popular media, the press and TV, argue that the new technology will introduce the "leisured society" where the needs of life are easily and cheaply available the evidence so far suggests the opposite. Like at Fords or Gardner and Sons (See CS 19) the new technology is being used to create unemployment and redundancies. Capitalism uses the new technology for one sole aim - to maximise profits. Under socialism, where the working class holds power and production is not geared towards earning the maximum profit, the new technology could be utilised to serve the working people. New goods could be produced to lessen the burden on peoples' lives, houses, hospitals and educational facilities could be expanded, and hours of work reduced to give people more time for the family and educational, recreational and cultural activities. But to achieve this we have to fight capitalism, and the way capitalism uses the new technology to create unemployment.

The lesson is clear. Whilst we must resist all job losses immediately, we will be fighting a losing battle unless our resistance is part of a general revolutionary struggle for working-class power and socialism. Militant trade unionism alone cannot change the system which breeds unemployment. We must have revolutionary politics working class politics.

NEW TECHNOLOGY IN THE OFFICE

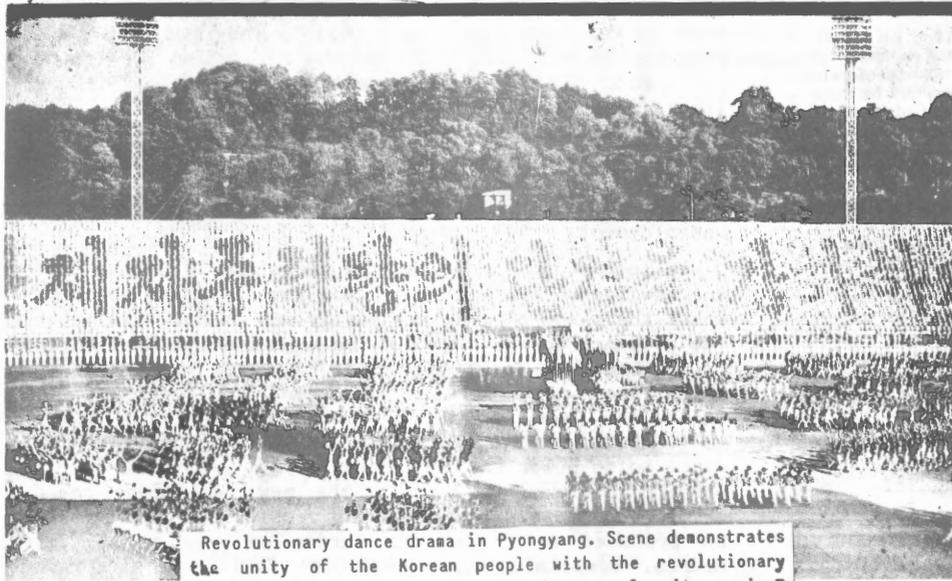
According to a French government commissioned report, produced by Simon Nora, the Inspector General of Finances, the new Technology will lead to massive job losses in the office. As a result of office automation, there will be a 30 per cent loss of jobs in "insurance, banking and finance" over the next decade. While the capital investment for manual workers in Britain stands at £5000 per man, in the office it only stands at £500. The new microprocessor technology now allows for massive investment in offices, changing from labour intensive to capital intensive techniques.

To install a computer controlled milling machine in a factory might cost £300,000, though the cost of the microelectronics would only be a tenth of the total cost. In the office however, a word processor would only cost £3,500 and allow one typist to do the work of three! Philips advertise a computer system to handle payroll, ledgers, invoicing, stock records and VAT for £44 per week. As the advertisement says, "That is less than the cost of a clerk, yet Philips' computers handle the work of three."

Already there are over 100,000 word processors in use in Europe - 20,000 of them in Britain. Business is booming, and this will double by next year. The UK's National Computing Centre has worked out that with such rates of sales, the price of word-processors will have fallen by 80 per cent before 1987, making them an extremely attractive buy for management. Mackintosh Consultants reckon that the number of office computers will increase by almost 50 per cent every year, replacing many clerical workers.

This dramatically increasing use of microelectronic equipment - word processors, accounting machines, desktop computers, high speed copiers, telephone answering systems and dictating systems - will have a major effect on jobs in offices. Many offices are not even unionised, and many that are have been unionised fairly recently. There are many temporary workers, clerks and typists, employed on short term contracts. All this makes it difficult to fight back against management's attempt to mechanise the office. From providing job security in the past, the office of the future is a place of job insecurity.

KOREA



Revolutionary dance drama in Pyongyang. Scene demonstrates the unity of the Korean people with the revolutionary peoples of the world under the banner of unity against imperialism.

The sixth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) was held in the Korean capital of Pyongyang between 10-14 October. Whilst the Congress was in session, the Party celebrated its 35th birthday on October 11. The WPK is a genuine Marxist-Leninist Party that leads the building of socialism in the northern part of Korea, struggles for national reunification and fulfills its internationalist obligations.

The Congress made a detailed survey of the Party's work in various fields since the last Congress ten years ago and mapped out its future tasks. The highpoint of the congress was a comprehensive speech by the Party General Secretary, Comrade Kim Il Sung.

Kim's speech

Comrade Kim surveyed the progress of the ideological, technical and cultural revolutions in Korea. Explaining their necessity he said,

"Even after the socialist revolution has triumphed and the socialist system has been established, the ideological, technical and cultural spheres retain many vestiges of the old society, which give rise to many distinctions remaining in socialist society such as those between town and country and between the working class and the peasantry. Unless the three revolutions are carried out, the traces of the old society cannot be wiped out, nor can the complete equality of the working people be realised."

In a detailed survey of the progress made in carrying out the three revolutions, Comrade Kim laid stress on the progress made in socialist industrialisation, the mechanisation of agriculture and the freeing of women from the

heavy burden of household chores.

He disclosed that between 1970 and 1979 the country's industrial production had grown by 15.9% every year, thus boosting total industrial output value 3.8 times.

During the period under review, socialist Korea had introduced universal 11 year compulsory education and made great strides in the public health service. Comrade Kim revealed that the average life span had now reached 73 years, 35 years longer than before liberation.

OVERCOME BUREAUCRACY

In the development of the State system, Kim called on all officials to get rid of bureaucracy, obey socialist laws, and remember that they are the peoples' servants. He called on the people to supervise officials and develop peoples' power. Socialist development can be pushed forward and democratic rights and liberties can be defended only on the basis of expanding peoples' power, Kim stressed.

Juche Idea

Kim Il Sung called for the whole society to be modelled on the Juche idea which he defined as follows,

"The Juche idea is a world outlook that centres on man, placing man in the centre of all thinking and making everything serve him. It is a revolutionary theory designed to bring about the independence of the working masses."

Applying the Juche idea correctly involves the process of "revolutionisation, working-classisation and intellectualisation of the whole society." In particular this involves transforming the peasantry who are one of the main

forces of the revolution. Kim said that the peasants are the final class that the working class has to transform and that the final class distinction remaining in socialist Korea was that between workers and peasants.

Kim went on to outline a comprehensive programme for the modernisation and development of the national economy.

Reunification

A major portion of Comrade Kim's report was given over to the struggle for the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea, for which the WPK has repeatedly advanced reasonable proposals and initiatives. Kim exposed United States imperialism as the major barrier to Korean reunification and denounced the fascist South Korean authorities as a shock force acting at the instigation of U.S. imperialism. Kim said that the recent popular struggles in South Korea had shook reactionary rule, "In particular, the heroic popular uprising in Kwangju last May when large numbers of people rose as one and fought bravely with arms in their hands."

Kim said that the Americans had been exercising colonial fascist rule in South Korea for over 35 years. Although they, "try to play innocent... they cannot conceal by any means their secret intention as aggressors and their true colours as fascist executioners."

Comrade Kim said that national reunification acquired greater urgency in today's international situation because,

"Antagonism and conflict between great powers scrambling for spheres of influence are aggravated daily. History shows that whenever great powers struggle to expand their

In late September, the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain sent a letter to Comrade Kim Il Sung and the Central Committee of the WPK greeting the then forthcoming Sixth Congress.

The letter said in part, "We are confident that your Congress will further strengthen the outstanding contribution being made by the Korean people to the international fight against hegemonism and imperialism, in the cause of the independence of nations and the defence of world peace."

IMPORTANT CONGRESS HELD

spheres of influence, small nations interests are harmed and they are victimised...If.. our country is not reunified but remains divided into North and South, our people may again fall victim to foreign forces and become colonial slaves. We must not repeat our bitter lot of the past when the destiny of our country and nation was toyed with by foreign powers in their interests and our people were forced to live as a homeless race."

DEMOCRATIC CONFEDERAL REPUBLIC OF KORYO

Comrade Kim said that the best way to realise national reunification was to adopt the policy of great national unity and establish a confederal state that would leave intact the political and social systems of both north and south. Such a state could be called the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo, after a unified state that once existed on Korean soil. Kim stressed that this should be a neutral country belonging to no military or political alliance or bloc and outlined a ten point policy programme for the proposed state that would guarantee its neutrality, the political systems of both parts of Korea and gradually help realise total national reunification.

IMPERIALISM IN CRISIS

Turning to the international situation, Kim Il Sung said that it had undergone a profound change because of the emergence and development of the newly independent countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

"The days when the imperialists oppressed and exploited the people at will and had the world under their thumb are gone forever."

Kim said that the imperialists are going through their worst crisis characterised by "stagnation and decrease of production, inflation and snowballing unemployment."

U.S. imperialism was particularly hard hit and had lost its monopoly of leadership, even in the capitalist world.

WAR DANGER

Kim drew attention to the danger of a new world war.

"The first and second world wars were touched off by the imperialist powers manoeuvring to redivide the colonies, and

today there is an increasing danger of a new world war breaking out because of the scrambles among the dominating forces to subjugate newly independent countries again and take hold of the major zones of natural wealth and areas of strategic importance.



COMRADE KIM IL SUNG.

"The present situation demands that all the peace loving people of the world wage a positive struggle to prevent another world war...strengthening the unity of the anti-imperialist, independent forces is...imperative because the dominating forces are working slyly to alienate and egg nations of the newly emerging forces on to fight each other and to fish in troubled waters...All the newly-emerging nations must maintain independence."

ATTITUDE TO IMPERIALISM

On the relationship of socialist and non-aligned countries to imperialism, Kim said

"We must not have any illusions about imperialism. Its aggressive nature will never change...If imperialism has anything to change it is not its aggressive nature but its methods of aggression..The socialist countries, non-aligned countries and all the newly emerging nations must make no unprincipled compromise with imperialism. Of course, the socialist and non-aligned countries may have diplomatic relations with the imperialist countries and develop economic and cultural

interchange with them, but they must not bargain with the imperialists on matters of principle...give up their anti-imperialist stance...nor must they sacrifice the interests of other countries in their own interests."

Kim called on all non-aligned countries to abide by the fundamental principle of the movement, namely to uphold independence and not to join, support or tail after any bloc cause division in the movement or create any new blocs. He said that all non-aligned countries were equal and that, "They must not antagonise or quarrel with each other, but must join hands to counter the aggression and intervention of the dominating forces in firm unity."

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER

Kim said that the developing countries should take the lead in struggling for a new international economic order. "The developing countries own most of the world's material resources. If all the non-aligned countries join efforts and fight, they can administer heavy blows to the imperialists and drive them to the wall. When the imperialists find no way out, they will have to accede to the demands of the newly-emerging countries, whether they like it or not."

Kim said that his country would develop friendship with the Third World and with those capitalist countries friendly to Korea. Socialist Korea is ready to be on good terms with the USA providing it withdraws its troops from South Korea and does not obstruct Korean reunification.

"Our Party will neither allow foreign forces to encroach upon the interests of our nation or interfere in the internal affairs of our country nor will it model blindly after what others do. We will also respect the national dignity and sovereignty of other countries and will not force our will on them."

FRATERNAL DELEGATIONS

Numerous fraternal delegations from foreign countries attended the sixth Congress of the WPK, including delegations from China, Zimbabwe, Romania, Yugoslavia, Mozambique, Nicaragua and from a number of national liberation movements.

STATEMENT FROM THE BLANKET MEN

We, the Republican Prisoners of War in H-Block, Long Kesh, demand as of right political recognition and that we be accorded the status of political prisoners. We claim this right as captured combatants in the continuing struggle for National liberation and self-determination. We refute most strongly the tag of criminal with which the British have attempted to label us and our struggle, and we point to the divisive partitionist institutions of the Six Counties as the sole criminal aspect of the present struggle.

All of us were arrested under repressive laws, interrogated and often tortured in RUC barracks and processed through special non-jury courts where we were sentenced to lengthy terms of imprisonment. After this men were put in the H-Blocks and were expected to bow the knee before the British administration and wear their criminal uniform. Attempts to criminalise us were designed to depoliticise the Irish national struggle.

We don't have to recite again the widespread, almost total forms of punishment, degradation and deprivation we have been subjected to. All have failed to break our resistance.

For the past four years we have endured their brutality in deplorable conditions we have been stripped naked and robbed of our individuality, yet we refuse to be broken. Further repression only serves to strengthen our resolve and that of our female comrades enduring the same hardships in Armagh Jail.

During this period many individuals, religious figures, political organisations and sections of the media have condemned the way in which we have been treated. Yet despite appeals for a resolution of the H-Block protest the British government has remained intransigent and displayed vindictive arrogance in dealing with the problem. They refused to treat this issue in a realistic manner which is just another reflection of their attitude to the entire Irish question.

Bearing in mind the serious implications of our final step, not only for us but for our people, we wish to make it clear that every channel has now been exhausted and, not wishing to break faith with those from whom we have inherited our principles we now commit ourselves to a hunger strike.

We call on the Irish people to lend us their support for our just demands and we are confident that this support will be very much in evidence in the coming days.

We call on all solidarity and support groups to intensify their efforts and we also look forward with full confidence to the support of our exiled countrymen in America and Australia and throughout the world.

We declare that political status is ours of right and we declare that from Monday, 27th October 1980 a hunger strike by a number of men representing H-Blocks 3,4 and 5 will commence.

Our widely recognised resistance has carried us through four years of immense suffering

and it shall carry us through to the bitter climax of death if necessary.

Signed: PRO, H-Block Blanketmen, Long Kesh Camp. October 10, 1980.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

VICTORY TO THE BLANKET MEN!

Protest activities are being organised throughout the country. Details from the Troops Out Movement on 01-267-2004.

CHINESE ACROBATS

Performances in Chichester, Manchester, Huddersfield, Swallincote, Norwich and London. Details from Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding on 01-485-8236.

Saturday November 1st.

WOMEN'S PICKET OF DURHAM JAIL.

In solidarity with Irish and English women political prisoners. Assemble 1 pm, Guild Hall, Market Place. nr Town Hall.

Saturday November 8th.

END IMPORT OF NAMIBIAN URANIUM! NO NUCLEAR COLLABORATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA!

Assemble 12 noon, Preston Polytechnic car park, Fylde rd. March to rally at British Nuclear Fuels Ltd.

Tuesday November 11th.

PATRIOT GAME.

Film on the Irish people's struggle. Organised by Progressive Film Society, ULU, Malet street, London W.1. 75p.

Saturday November 15th.

FOR BRITISH WITHDRAWAL AND IRISH UNITY.

Demonstration assembling 1 pm. Embankment, London.

Staturday November 15th.

WOMEN IN CHINA

Conference organised by Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding with speakers - Iris Murdoch, Delia Davin, Elisabeth Croll, Kathryn Cronin. 10-5, Camden Teachers Centre, 100 Stanhope st., London N.W.1. £2.50 Pensioners £1.

Saturday November 22nd.

CONCERT FOR CHILE.

With Inti Illimani and John Williams. 8 pm., Dominion Theatre, Tottenham Court Rd., London W.1. Tickets from Box Office 01-580-9562.

Tuesday November 25th.

THESE ARE THE WEAPONS.

New Film from Mozambique. 7 pm. at ULU, Malet st., London W.1. Organised by Progressive Film Society. 75p.



TERENCE MAC SWINEY

Internationally, MacSwiney's heroic fight gave encouragement to anti-imperialist movements and to the first generation of communist fighters in the East.

Comrade Guo Moro was one of the first generation of Chinese communists. A dedicated communist, he was also a brilliant scholar who embraced with equal ease poetry, history, archaeology and science. Until his death in 1978, he held important and responsible posts in the Chinese government and the Communist Party of China. Terence MacSwiney's hunger strike had a profound effect on this great communist.

From China, Guo Moro wrote a series of four poems on October 13, 22, 24 and 27, entitled "Victorious in death", as he followed the news of MacSwiney's hunger strike: "Never has the calendar on the wall so fixed my attention!"

In an accompanying note, he said that Greece and Poland had represented the fight for freedom in the days of the poets Byron and Campbell. Now they had their freedom, but in the struggles of the Irish and Chinese peoples there was now "a second Poland in the West and a second Greece in the East".

"Dear sons of Ireland,
the spirit of freedom will ever stand by you.

For you stand by one another,
you are the incarnation of freedom!"

This poem was read by the New Era Singers during their performance at the 60th anniversary outside that very same "gaunt forbidding pile" Guo Moro described in his poem.

Irish patriots have never bowed down to the criminalisation strategy of British imperialism. The courageous men in the H-Blocks of Long Kesh form part of a mighty historical tradition.

On 25th October 1920, Terence MacSwiney, Lord Mayor of Cork and Irish Prisoner of War died in Brixton Prison after a 74-day hunger strike in protest against his arrest, imprisonment and criminalisation by the British state.

During his hunger strike, MacSwiney was supported by a vast movement in Ireland, Britain and the world - a movement that must be rebuilt today! Huge rallies, involving thousands, were held outside the prison. Demonstrators fought pitched battles with the police. Other demonstrations were held throughout Britain and many labour movement bodies demanded his release.

On the eve of the 60th anniversary of MacSwiney's death, about 100 Irish republicans and British supporters marched to a commemorative vigil outside Brixton Prison. There they staged a short play about MacSwiney and sang rebel songs, which were enjoyed by local youth, black and white.