Birch sinks lower

The CWM was founded by ex-members of an organisation called the "Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist)" which is led by Reg Birch, member of the AUEW executive and the TUC General Council. Since our organisation was founded, we have seen Birch and the clique around him sink further and further into the swamp of revisionism (revisionists are people who revise away the revolutionary essence of Marxism-Leninism, scientific socialism).

Now Birch has joined the camp of the Soviet social-imperialists and their agents.

Since the early 1970's, Marxist-Leninists around the world have recognised the fact that capitalism has been restored in the Soviet Union, and it has become an imperialist superpower, which is socialist only in words. That is why the communists of China, Albania, and the genuine Marxist-Leninists of all countries attack Soviet social-imperialism. Precisely because some people (though they grow fewer every day) are taken in by the "socialist" words the Soviet Union uses to cover up its imperialist character, it is important for Marxist-Leninists to show that the Soviet Union is no friend, but a social-imperialist enemy of the peoples of the world.

But Birch has consistently refused to refer to Soviet social-imperialism; he has just spoken about "Soviet imperialism," Recently, he has even done that less and less. These days, he generally just mentions the Soviet Union, not even calling it imperialist. There are clear signs that he is trying, in his own little way, to reverse the correct verdict of the international communist movement on the Soviet Union and its agents.

In several recent articles in the CPB(M-L) paper, "The Worker," the Birch clique have attacked those who uphold the Three Worlds Theory and accused them of calling for a war against the Soviet Union (A complete lie, since all the supporters of this theory have done is to point out that there is a growing danger of war—which Lenin said was inevitable while imperialism existed—and that the world's peoples better get ready for it). In an editorial of March 23rd, Birch (the article is unsigned, but is in his peculiar style) wrote,

"Now, giving up the struggle to survive and becoming slaves to their exploiters, abandoning national sovereignty, workers are asked (I.E. by the supporters of the Three Worlds Theory, among others-Editor's note) to accept Common Market bureaucratically, all Europe."

Our organization supports the Three Worlds Theory of Mao Tse-Tung, yet we don't support these things—it's just more of Birch's nonsense. But that's not really the point. If "International Imperialism" is to march in a "new crusade" against Russia, what is the Soviet Union? Does this mean it is not part of "International Imperialism?"

This is undoubtedly the conclusion Birch is moving towards. This is confirmed by an article called "The USSR as we saw it," which appeared in the March issue of the CWM Journal, written by J.G. Russell and Birch.

The whole tone of the article is approving; there is no criticism at all of the Soviet Union, not even the mild criticisms which members of the older-style revisionist "Communist" Party of Great Britain sometimes allow themselves. The most revealing sentence of the article says, "Because of the different system of society, the unions' functions are entirely different to ours."

Birch recognizes that British society is capitalist, so if Soviet society is a "different system," then doesn't Birch mean it isn't capitalist?

Birch never really broke with the revisionism of the CPGB, of which he was long a member; he and those around him are degenerating fast, as revisionists will. His latest pronouncements on the Soviet Union are just further evidence of this, and he is bound to get worse. Honest revolutionaries should put no trust in him; should oppose his revisionist line, and, if they are in the CPB (M-L), they should leave it and turn to a genuine Marxist-Leninist organization, for the Birch party is so much under the control of Birch and his close associates that they will not succeed in changing anything from within, as ex-CPB(M-L) members in CWM know from bitter experience.

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