

Workers must defend Britain's integrity

DEVOLUTION is a recent weapon of attack on the British working class to divide the class into three segments. In this way it becomes easier to exploit the class in the name of so-called different sovereign nations within the British Isles. This is a deliberate attack on our class since the ruling class finds British working class organisations thorns in their flesh. Their evil plans are to weaken the working class so that they can get away with the destruction of industry and skill, carry out cuts in public expenditure and export their capital abroad.

United Struggle

The working people of Scotland, Wales and England have over 400 years of united struggle against the employers. The first red flag was flown in Wales, and in 1830's Scottish workers took a leading role in the founding of a union for the cotton industry for the whole of Britain. During the 1840-50's, a sense of belonging to national unions was expressed through the Grand National Union of Spinners, the Grand Consolidated Trade Union. The same outward-looking attitude was extended to the political field, from the reform movement to the early 19th century, such as solidarity demonstrations after the Peterloo Massacre, to the consolidation of the labour movement at the end of the century. The Chartist Struggle was waged all over the country.

In the 1960's, North Sea oil had become the salvation for the

Scottish National Party; when the oil has only less than 15 years' life. To international monopoly capitalism the oil is seen as a gift horse, to whom the SNP has offered virtual free rein in investment and control.

Already, (outside Canada) US investment is greatest in Scotland and double that in the rest of Britain. More jobs were lost due to redundancies in the electronic and power industry than were created by North Sea oil or related industry. There has also been a complete failure of oil companies to set up oil-related industry such as petrochemicals. Another feature is the shift of capitalist investment away from socially useful but less profitable manufacture, to oil production. An American financial journal was quoted a couple of years ago as saying that the oil multinationals are "standing in the forefront of the fight against socialism in Britain". It would seem that they have quite an interest in the dismemberment of Britain. Archetypal Scot, Sir Hugh Fraser, when introducing 200 businessmen to the SNP, said that the Scottish Council for Development and Industry supports devolution as an antidote to Scotland's "shocking record of industrial relations".

Devolution lie

As oil could delude the Scots workers into believing the promises of wealth from the oil, so in Wales devolution feelings are aroused by groups called

'Cymdaithas Yr Iaith', the Welsh Language Society, and Plaid Cymru. Their devolved Wales will be as the feudal period prior to the Tudors. At the same time they are very proud of the Welshness of the Tudors. The recent corruption trial of Labour councillor Julian Hodges, an owner of Commercial Bank of Wales and Reliant Car Company, along with others give Plaid Cymru a chance to show that they are an alternative to the Labour Party as they are 'pure socialist'. It is not surprising that the literal meaning of 'devolution' in Welsh is 'over-abundance of lies'.

Class Destruction

The role of imperialism is to divide nations such as Germany, Korea, Palestine, Congo, Cyprus and now Britain on the pretext that these countries were always divided into two or more parts.

Devolution, like the EEC must not be taken by our class as merely an increase in bureaucracy but as a passport to the destruction of the British working class by the multinationals. As Stalin put it, "it means that support must be given to such national movements as tend to weaken, to overthrow imperialism, and not to strengthen and preserve it."

If we have devolution today, there will be separation tomorrow and annexation the next. Opposition to devolution is to save Britain for British workers, for the socialist Britain where the culture and language of the people will be preserved and developed without the exploitation of the capitalist class. The working class is the only custodian of our national sovereignty, which can only come through the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat.