

Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist)

On To Greater Victories

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Transcription, Editing and Markup: Paul Saba and Sam Richards

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ON TO GREATER VICTORIES

The Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist), in line with its policy statement, **The British Working Class and its Party**, adopted at its Second Congress April 9-12, 1971, has already begun vital discussions with militant workers all over the country on the tactics and strategy of what can only be a protracted war. As this policy statement makes clear:

... What is required is that the mass (of workers) are motivated to make revolution, which means that they must be led by revolutionaries from their own ranks. Above all, the action they are taking, even though not of a revolutionary character, must be strategically sound and tactically well conducted. Then the class struggle itself will be the necessary teacher. It follows that we must recruit from these skilled class warriors and that the Party must be made up in cadre force overwhelmingly of these leaders. It follows also that we have the task of assisting them in strategy and tactics, in the analyses that will create such action, for there is no such thing as a hand-picked natural Marxist."

MEETING THE MILITANTS IN COUNCILS OF CLASS WAR

At one such meeting of militant workers, shop stewards and trade union officials recently organised by the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) a spokesman for the Party began by pointing out: "We are not here to discuss politics in terms of pushing a line down your throats. Other parties don't talk with workers but at them. They don't learn from workers but only seek to instruct them.

"We claim that we are unique as an organisation in recognising the need for a revolutionary party. We were not to soon— if anything we left it late. All other political organisations, whether they admit it or not, try to come to terms with the capitalist system. Many workers still think this too—that they can come to terms without getting bloodied up. A lot more workers are going to get the sack. The only thing to do is to tell the boss "if one goes all go". Workers know this, that a stand will have to be made but they say "we'll make it eventually". The time will come when we will realise that we've missed the boat. We could have fought but didn't.

The line we put forward at the last elections: "Don't vote. Organise!—to defeat capitalism" was endorsed by workers who boycotted the polls in their thousands. We are not a ballot-box Party. Our policy is to destroy the capitalist state and it

cannot be done peacefully.

"We make no apology for our close affinity with China and Albania, but our problems will have to be solved here. That is why we are meeting with you to hammer out a clear line of struggle over the long haul."

Another member of the Party with lifelong experience of struggle on the industrial front reminded those present at the meeting that "All struggle is political struggle — particularly now when the capitalist state stands behind every employer. It is no longer enough to fight this employer on this specific issue. All struggle is struggle against the capitalist system and the working class needs to be clear about what they are doing. They have to understand the nature of the guerrilla war against the class enemy on which they have embarked.

"We have to adapt to our own situation here the strategy of liberation fighters elsewhere. The principles of people's war as formulated by Lin Piao on the basis of the experience of the Chinese in their struggle must be applied to our struggle to find what is relevant to the protracted war in which we are engaged against British monopoly-capitalism."

The Chairman of the CPB(ML) on Protracted War

Reg Birch, Chairman of the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist), arrived late at this meeting of militant workers. "I have just come from another meeting," he explained, "in which we discussed all day whether we had an agreement with Ford's management. What the management is wondering is How can we stop workers having a nine weeks strike, not signing anything, and still picking up the money?" That is what the Industrial Relations Bill is about.

"Wherever the working class is engaged in struggle they are fighting the Bill. We must extend and deepen that war and

we must explain why they are fighting. They are not fighting for pennies or to keep a shop steady from getting the sack. They are fighting against capitalism.

"There are three forces here in Britain — the working class with its revolutionary potential, the class power of capitalism more vicious than ever because it is weaker and a revolutionary party — the CPB(ML). The policy of our Party is quite simple: everywhere you are struggling against the employer you are struggling against the Bill and the capitalist state and we support you. That is a protracted war. We will have no premature general strike, no Passchendale for workers. The workers army will out-manoeuvre and out-fight the class enemy, keeping its forces intact and its moral high, engaging on the principle of "ten against one". Our guns at this time are industrial action wherever and however it occurs, our village bases the factories.

"Workers do not want to oppress anyone. They only want not to be oppressed themselves. That is our strength and our morality. Ours is a just war and, knowing that, we demonstrate, as has been proved in anti-imperialist struggles elsewhere, that men are more important than weapons.

"Not only in Ireland is the order 'Shoot to kill.' They'll try it here. But British troops in Ireland are finding that they don't have a monopoly of violence.

Join the workers' army. Fight in a just war. Toward workers we have the responsibility of seeing that they are not asleep when the attacks come

"You can go on as before," he told the workers at the meeting, "but that would not be intelligent. It is not like before. Capitalism has declared war on you. When Heath said that civil war is the danger — he said it in the U.S. because he was afraid to say it here — he was

declaring war on you. Only workers who fight capitalism are workers. If they don't, they are scabs. But I have never seen a mate run away from a fight. Only sometimes we failed to explain what it was about.

"Remember we are not just talking about ourselves but about our children too. I wince with shame at the years I spent in the revisionist CPGB. I knew it was rubbish but there was nothing else. Now the workers have a revolutionary party but they have to develop and strengthen it themselves."

There was a full exchange of views at the meeting. In conclusion a spokesman for the Party said: "We want to enrich our Party with all those who have fought and are fighting in the struggle. We need to meet you again and your mates. This is only one of many such meetings. Political clarity as far as we are concerned is an endless dialogue between us and those who must bring about revolutionary change, the workers of Britain."

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