ITALY

Three Million Workers On Strike

The struggle, by Italy's working class against savage monopoly capital exploitation continued to rise in October. Strikes swept the whole country in the last week of the month, with the number of strikers reaching three million. Many cities were thrown into chaos as transport came to a standstill, newspapers stopped publication and shops and factories closed. This has dealt monopoly capital a heavy blow.

One million three hundred thousand metal and machine-building workers were involved in a series of nationwide strikes. In Italy's second largest city, Milan, 100,000 metal and machine-building workers staged an impressive strike on October 21. The strikers forced their way into many factories and held workshop meetings. In Turin, an industrial centre in northern Italy, 400,000 metal and machine-building workers walked out on October 24. Over 10,000 strikers held a demonstration in a workshop of the Fiat Auto Works. In the Tuscany region, 20,000 striking metal and machine-building workers paraded in Pontedera, the main machine-building centre of that region. The procession of striking workers merged with a demonstration by several thousand students holding a solidarity strike. Workers hoisted red flags on the roofs of some plants. Other cities also were the scene of strikes and demonstrations by metal and machine-building workers.

Workers in many other trades staged nationwide strikes from October 22 to 25. A 48-hour nationwide strike by 130,000 postal workers and employees took place on October 22 and 23, while mailmen stopped work for six days. A 24-hour nationwide strike was held by 900,000 building workers, 80,000 quarrymen and 55,000 kilnmen on October 23. Nationwide walkouts by 220,000 chemical and pharmaceutical workers and 90,000 city and intercity tram and bus workers occurred on October 24. All the main Italian cities were thrown into chaos as transport came to a standstill. On October 25, the printing workers held another nationwide strike, forcing both morning and evening papers to stop publication. On October 21, 20,000 workers and employees in the salt and tobacco enterprises started a 10-day nationwide strike.

In addition, general strikes against the sharp rise in commodity prices and rents and the excessive income tax levied on workers by the government completely paralysed Lucca, Massa-Carrara and Lecco Provinces on October 23 and Varese, Pavia, Reggioemilia, Modena and other cities the next day.

Workers in Italy's biggest rubber trust, "Pirelli," had carried on intermittent strikes for three months.

The nationwide strike struggle is continuing unabated.

INDIAN REACTIONARIES

Factional Strife Boiling Over

The struggle between the two factions of India's reactionary ruling Congress Party, which is coming to a head again, has made reactionary Congress rule more wobbly than ever.

Last August, the group represented by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi took the offensive against the group known as the "Syndicate" whose representatives are Congress Party President Nijalingappa and former Deputy Prime Minister Morarji Desai. The move toppled Desai from office and resulted in the election of V.V. Giri as President of India who is patronized by the Indira Gandhi group. Since then the in-fighting between these two factions had become more and more intense until it developed into an open split in the Congress Working Committee, the party's policy-making body, on November 1.

On October 15, Indira Gandhi came out with a sudden announcement dismissing four ministers of the Central Government who belong to the "Syndicate." This not only curbed the "Syndicate's" influence in the Central Government but also put pressure on several more important government ministers associated with the Nijalingappa group. The Indira Gandhi group also demanded election of a new party president by the end of October, a move designed to remove Nijalingappa from his post and put a protege of Indira Gandhi in his place.

The "Syndicate" did not take this lying down. On October 31, Nijalingappa kicked out two of Indira Gandhi's men from the Congress Working Committee. An enraged Indira Gandhi retaliated by calling a meeting on November 1 of all Congress Working Committee members loyal to her to counter the Working Committee meeting of the Nijalingappa group, and decided to convene in New Delhi on November 22 the All-India Congress Committee, its central leading organ. The Indira Gandhi group gave it to understand that of the 700-odd members of the All-India Congress Committee it could be sure of the support of well over 400 and that this would be enough to oust Nijalingappa from office. The "Syndicate," in a resolution adopted at its own meeting, took the Indira Gandhi group to task for "indiscipline" and declared that the group had no authority to convene an All-India Congress Committee meeting.

The dog-fight between these two factions has spread from New Delhi to many states. As most of the Congress setups and governments at the state level are now in the hands of the "Syndicate," the Indira Gandhi faction must seize control of the states in order to defeat its adversary. Following the contest between the two factions last August, a resolution to "maintain unity" was adopted to keep up appearances.

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thus completed in the fields. The plant’s revolutionary committee then mobilized all the workers to make their proposals and suggestions, which made it possible to finish the overall sketch of the Hongqi harvester in a short time. The workers designed the parts and elements in the workshop, with designing, manufacturing and improvements taking place at the same time. After five months of hard work, the first Hongqi self-propelled combine harvester was successfully designed and produced.

Kiangsi Province Turns Out Large Numbers of Trucks

By following Chairman Mao’s teaching of “maintaining independence and keeping the initiative in our own hands and relying on our own efforts,” the working class in Kiangsi Province successfully trial-manufactured the Chingkangshan truck last year and put it into serial production this year. Various types of new motor vehicles produced in Kiangsi are now on the roads throughout the province.

Kiangsi had no motor industry before liberation. There were only a few motor vehicle repair workshops with a combined labour force of just over 40 workers. After liberation, the handful of capitalist roaders in the province pushed the counter-revolutionary revisionist line of the renegade, hidden traitor and scab Liu Shao-chi and did everything they could to obstruct and sabotage the development of the industry. The result was that not a single motor vehicle was made in the province.

The Kiangsi Motor Vehicle Repair and Assembling Plant created by merging several small motor vehicle repair shops has been expanded into the Kiangsi Motor Vehicle Plant since the establishment of the Kiangsi Provincial Revolutionary Committee. Displaying the dauntless revolutionary spirit of “fearing neither hardship nor death” and overcoming many difficulties, the revolutionary workers in this plant have successfully trial-manufactured the Chingkangshan truck.

In trial-manufacturing and producing the trucks, the plant’s workers severely criticized such counter-revolutionary revisionist trash of the renegade, hidden traitor and scab Liu Shao-chi as “relying on specialists to run factories” and “put technique in command.” They persisted in relying on their own efforts and began the work by using indigenous methods. In order to go into serial production of trucks, the workers in the whole plant went in for technical innovations and made equipment themselves, thereby gradually mechanizing and automating production. Around 80 per cent of the machine tools on the production line turning out the cylinders were made by the workers, and equipment was increased by 50 per cent compared with what the plant had previously. In the past two years, the plant has made more than 80 special machines which created favourable conditions for serial production of trucks.

While the Chingkangshan trucks were being produced, many special administrative regions and cities in the province started to turn out trucks suitable for their own localities. These trucks have a simple structure and are inexpensive and easy to load and unload. They are welcomed by the poor and lower-middle peasants, and give powerful support to agriculture and help speed up socialist construction.

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Immediately afterwards, however, almost all the bigwigs of the two groups personally carried their activities from New Delhi to the states where they strove to knock out their rivals. Indira Gandhi, taking the field herself, went barnstorming at a stretch in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal States where the in-fighting was most acute. She even went to Mysore, the home state of Nijalingappa, to incite some members of parliament who had grudges against him to demand that the president withdraw from the party. The two factions were locked in the scramble for power in other states too, and confusion reigned in New Delhi as well as in the various states.

The daily sharpening of the factional struggle inside the Congress Party is a reflection of the aggravating class contradictions in the country. Under the heavy blows from the Indian people’s vigorous revolutionary armed struggle, Congress rule in the service of the big landlord and big capitalist classes in India is shakier than before. Indira Gandhi time and again cried out in alarm that the “Congress would end its life if a change was not to be made.” Jagjivan Ram, Minister of Food and Agriculture, also said apprehensively that if the Congress failed in the “green revolution” (in reference to the so-called “agricultural revolution” which the reactionary Indian Government has put forward to deceive the people), a red revolution would ensue.

In these circumstances, the Indira Gandhi group, in an effort to maintain its increasingly shaky rule, put up the signboard of “socialism” and trumpeted about “nationalization” and the development of the “public sector” of the economy. This is actually to step up the development of bureaucrat-capitalism and to further deceive and bamboozle the people. Her new policy, however, was greeted by a strong rebuff from the “ Syndicate” group, which speaks mainly for certain sections of the monopoly capitalists in India. The fight for power between these two factions will surely become more intense with the deepening of the political and economic crisis which today holds the Congress Party in a tight grip.

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