

CLASS STRUGGLE



POLITICAL PAPER OF
THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF BRITAIN

MONTHLY

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MILITANT FOUNDING CONGRESS OF REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF BRITAIN HELD

IN JULY, after thorough preparation, a militant congress was held at which members of the Communist Federation of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) and the Communist Unity Association (Marxist-Leninist) met to dissolve their organisations and to found the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain. The decision was taken with great enthusiasm and militant solidarity.

This founding congress of the RCLB is a step forward for the whole revolutionary Communist movement. It shows that unity can be won, if the desire for unity is really there, and if the struggle for unity is

A full interview with the Secretary of the Central Committee of the RCLB starts on page 4.

carried out correctly. It is an important step on the road to uniting all genuine Revolutionary Communists.

Representatives from another Marxist-Leninist organisation attended the congress as observers.

MANIFESTO ADOPTED

After a lively discussion the congress unanimously adopted a Manifesto for the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain. This important document lays down fundamental Communist principles to guide our work, and analyses the world situation and the struggle in Britain. It identifies who are the friends and who are the enemies of the working class.

The Manifesto states clearly that the two superpowers, Soviet social imperialism and United States imperialism, are the main enemy of the peoples of the world. Within Britain, it states that the British monopoly capitalist class is the main enemy of the

working class.

The Manifesto of the RCLB points out that since the degeneration of the 'Communist' Party of Great Britain into a thoroughly reformist and opportunist organisation, the central task is to build the vanguard Party of the working class, the revolutionary Communist Party.

The Manifesto is the most comprehensive document on the class struggle produced so far by the revolutionary Communist movement in Britain, and is an important step in the struggle for a party programme. It will serve as a strong guide to the practical work of the RCLB; and within the revolutionary Communist movement it will be a great help in drawing out the differences between organisations. This will allow a clear struggle to take place over the major differences, and so aid the struggle for unity.

The congress also unanimously adopted a constitution. The RCLB will be a fully

(Cont'd on p2)

REMEMBER CZECHOSLOVAKIA
DEMONSTRATE AGAINST SOVIET SOCIAL
IMPERIALIST AGGRESSION
ARTICLES ON PAGES 12 and 13

OPPORTUNIST LEADERS FIND NEW MILITANCY

Under growing pressure from rank and file trade union members the opportunist leaders of the TUC have been forced to end the formal wage cut agreement with the Labour government.

Over the last year alone real wages have dropped 6%, whilst average profits have risen 40%. Food prices have nearly doubled since Labour came to power in 1974.

INFLATION 17.7%
AVERAGE PROFITS UP 40%
REAL WAGES DOWN 6%

This is the reality of the Labour government/TUC's savage attack on the workers' living standards. For 3 years we have been

told that 'the light is at the end of the tunnel'. Each year wages have been cut more, and unemployment has risen further. Few workers believe the lies anymore. At the recent TGWU conference, Jack Jones was defeated in his attempts to get more wage cuts next year.

Marty trade union leaders who have supported the social contract for 3 years are now suddenly opposing it - not because of a new found desire to lead the struggle of the working class - but because rank and file pressure is so strong that they are being forced to make militant noises to keep their positions. These opportunists will stab any militant struggle in the back if they can get away with it. They definitely cannot be trusted!

OPPOSE LABOUR'S WAGE CUT PLANS

The Labour government has two main planks for its wage cut policy for the coming year. The first is to limit rises in earnings to 10%, the second is to maintain the 12 month limit between agreements.

10% LIMIT - ANOTHER WAGE CUT

The proposed limit of 10% rise in average earnings means a rise of 5% in basic pay rates. Inflation is over 17%. No one can cover this up as anything more than yet another wage cut of over 7%! Healey claims that this will "bring inflation down to single figures by the end of the year". He said the same in 1976, 1975 and 1974! The government has also made it clear that they will fight to force this limit on all workers in public services. Len Murray in a joint press interview with Callaghan

(Cont'd from p1)

democratic centralist organisation, combining centralised leadership, with lively working class democracy.

A Central Committee was elected by the whole congress as the leading body of the RCLB between congresses. Immediately after the congress the Central Committee met to elect a Standing Committee to act as the leading core of the Central Committee.

The congress adopted 'Class Struggle' as the political paper of the RCLB, and 'Revolution' as its theoretical journal.

Warm greetings were sent to the Communist Party of China and the Party of Labour of Albania.

The congress ended with the singing of the 'Internationale'.

stated "co-operation" will continue with the government over pay, although there is no formal agreement!

12 MONTH RULING - MAINTAINING PAST CUTS

The TUC has openly stated its aim to attempt to maintain the wage cuts that have already been enforced. This is the main objective of the 12 month rule. They clamour about the need to prevent a 'pay-explosion'. What they mean is that they will support the bosses against those workers who fight to return to previous pay levels. A second intention of this rule is to split the workers' struggles so that we don't fight for wage rises at the same time.

NO 10% LIMIT! NO 12 MONTH RULE!

STRIKE FOR CLOSED SHOP

Workers at the London distillers James Burroughs, who make Gin and Vodka are out on strike fighting for a fully unionised firm. The workers organised the TGWU there only 2 years ago.

The bosses are using non-union agency labour as up to a fifth of the workforce. The shop stewards convenor pointed out that "agency labour gets no sick pay and no holidays".

They have also been being paid less. The use of Agency labour also weakens union organisation.

Workers are demanding that agency labour be replaced by employing regular workers.

This is the first time there has been a strike since the firm was established in 1820.

UNEMPLOYMENT—RECORD SINCE WAR

The July unemployment figures show over 1,600,000 out of work. Yet the opportunists claim that the social contract is holding down unemployment! Callaghan's response was that the Labour Party would continue

1,600,000 OUT OF WORK

its 'job creation' policy, which employs workers temporarily on low wages. He also said that the figure is "inflated by school leavers". This hardly explains why unemployment this July is 150,000 higher

than last July, and more than every other July since the war!

In Ulster, unemployment is back to 1938 levels. On Merseyside 1 in every 8 are out of work.

More and more the bosses are turning to using unemployment as a stick to beat the workers with in reducing wages, saying it is wage rises that create unemployment. The facts show that unemployment has rocketed while wages have dropped. The fight for the right to work must go hand in hand with the wages struggle. No rationalisation; No voluntary redundancies, or natural wastage

STATE MONOPOLY CAPITALIST PROFITS

The opportunists, including the revisionist 'Communist' Party of Great Britain, have always said there is a "good side" to the social contract. By this they mean the so-called 'socialist policy' of nationalisation. 'Class Struggle' has on several occasions showed that nationalisation means rationalisation and redundancy, and exposed the state monopoly capitalist nature of the new British Aerospace and British Leyland, and older nationalised concerns such as British Rail.

In July, the GPO, the electricity board and the Gas Board all announced increased profits.

The GPO announced record profits of £392 million, two and a half times last year's profits! The telephone side made £365 million following the doubling of charges in 1975. The letter part made £24 million

after 2 increases within the last year.

The Gas Board profits of £31.5 million represents a 25% increase over last year's and the Daily Telegraph estimated that even this figure understates the real profit by £100 million as a result of new accounting procedures brought in by the government to reduce company taxes.

The huge price increases in these state monopoly capitalist corporations, which led to the big profits, were admitted by the Labour government at one stage to be aimed at reducing 'spending power'. In other words it is an indirect way of cutting workers' wages by increasing prices of essentials like gas and electricity.

So much for the 'good side' of the social contract!

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Secretary of the Central Committee of the RCLB interviewed

After the founding congress of the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain (RCLB), the Editor of 'Class Struggle' interviewed the Secretary of the Central Committee of the RCLB. In this interview the Secretary elaborates on the importance of the founding of the RCLB and the adoption of its 'Manifesto', as well as explaining some of the important political points contained in the 'Manifesto'.

COULD YOU FIRST EXPLAIN WHAT THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF BRITAIN IS?

Secretary: The Revolutionary Communist League is an organisation which aims to rebuild the revolutionary Party of the working class. The 'Communist Party of Great Britain' is no longer that Party. It has been taken over by revisionists. They still use the name of Communism but they have robbed it of its revolutionary spirit. So the working class has no Party to lead it in its struggles against the bourgeoisie. We must work hard to rebuild that Party so that the working class can fight back successfully and overthrow the bourgeoisie and the capitalist system in a victorious socialist revolution.

WHY IS IT CALLED THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE?

Sec: We absolutely refuse to give up the name of Communists just because the revisionists have dragged it in the mud and because the bourgeoisie attack us. No, we will hold it high. At the same time we want to explain clearly and quickly to fellow workers that we are completely different from the rotten 'Communist Party of Great Britain'. We are Revolutionary Communists.

We uphold the great victories of the working class throughout the world especially the victories in China and Albania. These lessons are summed up in the science of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought. This is what guides our thinking in the Revolutionary Communist League and our work in the struggles of the working class.

HOW WAS THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE BUILT?

Sec: The founding of the League is a victory for Mao Tsetung's teaching on how to win unity in a revolutionary movement - by struggle - by thrashing over differences of principle until you reach common thinking so you can fight with one heart and mind. As Mao Tsetung said, "Active ideological struggle is the weapon for ensuring unity".

The Revolutionary Communist League is the result of a thorough, principled struggle for unity in the interests of the working class by two previous organizations, The Communist Federation of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) and The Communist Unity Association (Marxist-Leninist). This struggle lasted one year and firm unity has been reached on all major questions.

The founding of the League is a victory against the division of the revolutionary Communist movement into many small groups. In the past the CFB was a federation consisting of a number of groups which talked about unity but went their own sweet way. So the CFB didn't give a strong lead on the way forward for the working class as a whole. The CUA also had some features of small group mentality. But both organizations have struggled hard against this error, which is totally against the interests of the working class.

The Revolutionary Communist League which has just been founded is a fully democratic-centralist organization, able to give a united, centralized lead to its comrades and to the working class and also able to promote lively working class democracy and initiative within its ranks in the struggle to carry the fight forward. It is a national Party-building organization with branches in several cities and towns in Britain.

THE RCL HAS ADOPTED A MANIFESTO. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE MANIFESTO?

Sec: The Manifesto spells out firmly the general line on the way forward for the working class in the struggle within Britain and in the world as a whole. It sums up certain major fundamental Communist principles guiding our work. It shows how we must overcome the influence of bourgeois ideas within the working class in order to win unity and victory. And it shows the way forward in building the revolutionary Communist Party of the working class.

Every worker who uses his head knows we must fight back against the bosses and their state, and knows we mustn't listen to their lies. But how are we going to fight back? How are we going to counter attack? Where are we going to direct our fire exactly? We need clear lines and policies to guide our fight and to unite all our fire onto the target - the monopoly capitalist bourgeoisie.

That's what the Manifesto is for.

WHY IS IT CALLED A MANIFESTO AND NOT A PROGRAMME?

Sec: The Manifesto is a good step forward but it is not enough. We are out to rebuild the vanguard Party of the working class, the genuine revolutionary Communist Party. Such a Party must have a programme, which

by the Editor of 'CLASS STRUGGLE'

says clearly the long term aims of the working class and also the short term steps of how we are going to get there. To draw up a really good programme needs a lot of study - study of the scientific lessons of struggle in other countries and study of the actual conditions **our class**, the working class, faces here - and we have got to combine that study with practice and use it to guide our practice. All this takes hard struggle, hard work and experience, and the Revolutionary Communist League is not yet strong enough to write such a programme.

But we are strong enough to take an important step in this direction. That is what the Manifesto of the RCL is. It makes our stand clear so that we can struggle to reach unity with other **genuine** revolutionary Communists in other organizations in Britain. It gives guidance for our class struggle which we can strengthen and test in practice. It takes us an important way towards that programme of the revolutionary Communist Party of the working class.

We will publish the Manifesto within a month and through 'Class Struggle' urge all workers who want to see the revolutionary Communist Party built, to study it.

WHAT IS THE RCL'S GENERAL VIEW OF THE WORLD SITUATION?

Sec: The world is in upheaval and the threat of a new world war is very real, but basically the situation is excellent!

As the Manifesto says, we must uphold Chairman Mao's theory of the "three worlds". This sums up the situation very concisely and guides the struggle of the working class in Britain and internationally. The main enemy of the peoples of the world are the two superpowers. The Soviet Union and the United States. These are the "first world". They meddle everywhere in striving for world domination.

The main force opposing them are the developing countries of the third world, of Asia, Africa and Latin America. These countries have mostly all won formal independence from their colonial masters but they are mostly still economically oppressed and exploited by imperialism, especially the superpowers. Just because they are so oppressed they are fighting back more and more, increasing their unity and strength.

In between the first and third worlds is the second world of **second rate imperialist** countries like Britain. They try to continue to exploit the peoples of the third world but they are running into more and more

resistance. But at the same time they are also partly oppressed themselves by the superpowers.

So what should the working class do in Britain? We will firmly add our weight to the great international united front which is developing against imperialism, especially the superpowers. This is very important for us because Europe is the main focus of the struggle between the two superpowers.

We will make sure that all workers in Britain understand their best friends are the oppressed peoples and nations of the world. And although we will never rely on our own bourgeoisie we will struggle to make the British government take a better stand internationally and line up more with the third world in the struggle against the superpowers. In order to do this we must fight British imperialism particularly strongly.

THE MANIFESTO RAISES THE QUESTION OF A WAR BETWEEN THE TWO SUPERPOWERS. CAN YOU EXPLAIN THIS?

Sec: Both superpowers are out for world domination. The U.S. wants to hang on to it as much as possible. The Soviet Union wants to grab it from them. Since the beginning of the imperialist era the biggest imperialist powers have fought to divide and redivide the world. This battle inevitably leads to war.

Although the Soviet Union was once a great socialist state in which the working class held state power, it has been taken over by a new bourgeois ruling class. It is now a superpower. It is as much socialist as Nazi Germany was 'National Socialist'. But its talk of socialism disarms some people and makes the Soviet Union especially dangerous. Because it is the rising superpower it is the most dangerous source of war.

The working class in Britain and throughout the world must get prepared for this war between the superpowers. We must open our eyes to the threat from the Soviet Union which is building up its army, navy and airforce behind all its talk of peace and detente. But we must also firmly refuse to rely on U.S. imperialism. Only preparations for a true people's war of national resistance led by the working class can defeat the threat of aggression from the superpowers. We must get ready now to fight and win that war!

AS YOU SAY, THE TWO SUPERPOWERS ARE THE MAIN ENEMY OF THE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD. DOES THIS MEAN WE SHOULD UNITE WITH OUR BOSSES AGAINST THEM, INSTEAD OF FIGHTING FOR THE SOCIALIST REVOLUTION?

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Sec: Definitely not! Our main enemy in Britain is the British monopoly capitalist bourgeoisie and we will overthrow it by socialist revolution. But we must link our fight with the fight of the international working class and oppressed peoples against the superpowers, because the superpowers are the main enemies of the people of the world.

Our strategy for the socialist revolution is to unite all who can be united against the monopoly capitalist bourgeoisie under the leadership of the working class and its vanguard party. One part of that work is to fight against and expose the reactionary, international line of the British ruling class of appeasing Soviet social imperialism, relying on U.S. imperialism and continuing to try to oppress and exploit the oppressed peoples and nations of the world. Fighting against this, like the fight against all the other reactionary acts of the bourgeoisie helps to educate the working class and working people and carry the socialist revolution forward. But if we also actually manage to force the government to take a better stand internationally this weakens the superpowers and cuts back their sphere of activity. If so, so much the better!

THERE IS A SECTION OF THE MANIFESTO DEALING WITH OPPORTUNISM. CAN YOU EXPLAIN THIS?

Sec: Opportunism is sacrificing the basic and long term interests of the working class for the supposed interests of the moment. It's a cancer in the working class movement which undermines our struggle again and again. Opportunists are real agents of the bourgeoisie in the working class movement. People like Jack Jones and Scanlon.

Opportunism is especially strong in imperialist countries like Britain because the bourgeoisie uses the super-profits it gets from imperialist exploitation to bribe and soften up a section of the working class and working people.

The opportunists in the working class movement talk about class struggle up to a point, but they will never go all out and they will never carry the struggle right through to overthrowing the capitalist system. They just seek reforms within the capitalist system and damp down or mislead the unity and strength of the workers' struggle. And because they don't develop the workers' struggle but weaken it instead they stop us even winning some reforms and concessions from the bosses, which we could get in the course of fighting for socialist revolution.

The revisionists are the most dangerous

opportunists because they use the name of Communism but practice opportunism. They undermine the struggle of revolutionary Communists.

WHAT ARE THE TASKS OF COMMUNISTS AT THE PRESENT TIME?

Sec: There are many tasks but what is the central task? It's to build the revolutionary Communist Party of the working class again. The last few years have shown yet again that without our own Party the working class cannot carry on the fight well and raise it to a higher level. Look at the excellent fighting spirit shown by workers in the early 70's in the struggle against the Industrial Relations Act or in the miners' strike. The reason why we couldn't keep this up is because we didn't have a genuine leading working class Party.

(cont'd on p7)

MANIFESTO OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF BRITAIN

The founding congress of the RCLB has adopted a Manifesto, which is a major step towards the programme of the future revolutionary Communist Party.

The Manifesto is an important advance in integrating the universal truths of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought with the concrete practice of the British revolution. It spells out firmly the general line on the way forward for the working class in Britain and on the part it must play in the struggle in the world as a whole.

THE MANIFESTO AND CONSTITUTION OF THE RCLB WILL BE PUBLISHED IN

REVOLUTION Vol.2 No.1

ON AUGUST 15TH. IT WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM THE LOCAL BRANCHES OF THE RCLB OR FROM NEW ERA BOOKS, PRICE 25p.

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO 'REVOLUTION' ARE AVAILABLE FROM NEW ERA BOOKS: 4 ISSUES FOR £1.50 (including postage).

Suggestions and criticisms help strengthen the paper. Contact the RCLB c/o NEW ERA BOOKS, 203 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

(con't from p6)

The opportunists - the revisionists, the Trotskyists, the 'left' Labour leaders - made a big show of being militant but backed down and misled the struggle. They told us we had to behave in order to help the Labour government. But the Labour Party has been doing the work of the bourgeoisie even better than the Conservatives could!

We need a vanguard **working** class Party with the **best** members of the working class in it, linked with the mass of the workers and guided by the scientific thinking won by the international Communist movement in its struggles over many years.

SOUTHERN AFRICAN LIBERATION FORCES MAKE FURTHER ADVANCES

The black peoples' liberation forces in Southern Africa are meeting with greater and greater successes.

In Zimbabwe, guerrillas have attacked Elephant Hills Hotel, in the north-east of the country. This is the newest and most luxurious playground for the white racist elite. This attack shows that the guerrillas are now organised successfully on a new front operating from Zambia.

In June, Zimbabwean guerrillas attacked the railway line linking the two big cities in the country, Salisbury and Bulawayo, blowing up a bridge and destroying a whole section of the track. It was reported to have been the biggest attack in the district. Guerrillas operating from the Mozambique border blew up electricity transmission lines in the township of Kariba, and caused a one day electricity black-out in the capital city of Salisbury. They killed 74 Rhodesian security men in the first 4 months of 1977.

In June, SWAPO (South West African People's Organisation) issued a communique stating they had killed 135 South African soldiers, destroyed 14 vehicles, shot down 3 helicopters, and captured a large quantity of guns and ammunition in the past 2 months.

And what effect are these great victories having on the racist regimes in southern Africa?

The ruling class is becoming more openly repressive and fascist in its methods. They often resort to the blanket destruction of villages and settlements of black people, in the hope of intimidating them.

But the racist regimes are also falling apart at the seams! They are finding it increasingly difficult to pay for the war, to find enough soldiers for the war and to discourage whites from leaving their

That's our central task. One important way to achieve **it** is to concentrate on building Communist bases particularly among the industrial working class.

Another way is to struggle for unity with other genuine Marxist-Leninists, other revolutionary Communists in Britain today. We must get our thinking united on all major questions and then unite in a firm disciplined organization. The founding of the Revolutionary Communist League is a big step towards this. We pledge ourselves to go on fighting for working class unity and working class principles until once again we have a genuine revolutionary Communist Party in this country. ■

sinking ship.

In South Africa, in the first quarter of 1977 the net gain in immigration was 574. In the first quarter of 1976 it was 11,014. There are deep fears of a serious 'brain drain' with professional people - doctors, lawyers, managers etc - leaving the country in droves. In fact, the only immigrants still arriving in large numbers are white Rhodesians! (2,366 from Jan - June, 1977)

In Zimbabwe in 1976, the white population fell by 2½% (6,500) to 272,000. The number of whites settling in the country was the lowest for 10 years, and the number leaving was the highest for 13 years. Half of all white males leaving the country are between the ages of 15 and 39. This obviously will have a tremendous bad effect on their military power, at a time when the national liberation forces are expanding and are fighting in all corners of Zimbabwe.

Even the bourgeois paper 'Financial Times' admits that the white Rhodesians "are no longer fighting for white control, but at best to preserve law and order, in the hope of influencing the kind of black government which takes over".

Later it continues "Mr Smith's dilemma is that he just cannot afford to spell all this out publicly, because to do so would further undermine white morale, increase the rate of emigration and encourage the guerrillas to believe that military victory was at hand..."

Victory is at hand for the peoples of Southern Africa after years of heroic unremitting struggle against imperialism, racism and colonialism. It will be a victory for the oppressed people throughout the world and a further set of nails in the coffin of imperialism.

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED OF THE WORLD, UNITE!

ZIMBABWE DELEGATION VISITS CHINA



Robert Mugabe, General Secretary of ZANU and joint leader of the Patriotic Front.

On June 20th, Robert Mugabe, General Secretary of ZANU and joint leader of the Zimbabwe Patriotic Front arrived in Peking as leader of a Zimbabwe friendship delegation. The delegation was invited by the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries. During the visit,

Robert Mugabe also met and had talks with Chairman Hua Kuo-feng, Li Hsien-nien, the Vice-Premier of the People's Republic of China, and also met the Foreign Minister and the Vice-Foreign Minister of the People's Republic.

We reprint below part of the report by the Hsinhua New Agency of a banquet held in honour of the Zimbabwe guests by Wang Ping-man, President of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries:-

50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE PEOPLE'S ARMY IN CHINA

Five decades ago, three sharp shots rent the air in Nanchang city of south China's Kiangsi province at about 1 a.m. on 1st August 1927. Then hot firing rang out in and outside the city. After some three hours of fighting, a red flag was hoisted atop the city wall. By 9 a.m. the overjoyed people of Nanchang streamed to the headquarters of the uprising troops to hail their success. Peasants from outside the city brought food as gifts to the victors.

This event is the famous "August 1st" Nanchang Uprising from the history of the Chinese revolution. After this, a new-type people's army emerged. One which was under the leadership of the Communist Party of China and which served and fought for the interests of the masses of the Chinese people, an army that was closely linked to the people and relied upon them.

On this the 50th anniversary of the People's Liberation Army, we can look back and see that by having such an army the working class and people of China won socialist revolution, and protected it from domestic reaction and the two superpowers, up to the present day.

"..General Secretary Mugabe conveyed to the Chinese people the happy greetings and message of great solidarity from the people of Zimbabwe and expressed deep thanks and gratitude to the Chinese people for actively supporting their struggle. The Chinese people are genuinely aiding and supporting the people of Zimbabwe in their struggle in order to help them achieve the objective of their revolution, he said. The "aid" rendered by social imperialism is out of the ulterior motive of grabbing spheres of influence, contending for hegemony and fostering puppets there, he added. The people of Zimbabwe are facing menace from both western imperialism and social imperialism, in particular, is more insidious and dangerous. However, he said, the people of Zimbabwe are not to be intimidated; they are bold enough and ideologically prepared to deal with them. The people of Zimbabwe are determined to continue their struggle till final victory, General Secretary Mugabe declared."

General Secretary Mugabe has pointed out firmly that Smith "is sustained by the powers which have fostered him" and "behind Ian Smith and Johannes Vorster stand the real reactionary forces". It is essential "to distinguish the enemy's shadow from the enemy himself". The enemy's shadow are the white racist regimes of Southern Africa. The enemy himself is US and British imperialism which are interfering, in the struggle for the sole purpose of trying to keep as much of their investments and interests safe and profitable as they possibly can.

But the Zimbabwe people will not be fooled. They will defeat racism, colonialism and imperialism in their country by carrying their people's war through to the end.

SOCIAL IMPERIALISTS KICKED OUT

The government of Somalia has ordered 1,500 Russian military 'advisers' out of the country. This blow to the Soviet social imperialists follows shortly after they were kicked out of Sudan. At that time, the Sudanese President Nimeri stated: "We are fully aware of the strategic goals of social neo-colonialism". He described Soviet 'aid' as "aid provided by neo-colonialism," and added: "it wants to take the place of old-time colonialists. Its aim in interfering in Africa is to turn Africa into its colony." Replying to Soviet bullying he said: "We are not afraid of the Soviet Union".

A WORKER'S NOTEBOOK

MILLIONS OF WORKERS IN ITALY, THIS SUMMER have been involved in many mass strikes and demonstrations in protest against increasing unemployment.

On July 8th, more than 4 million workers throughout Italy struck in support of job guarantees. Workers from the engineering machinery, textile, clothing, food and building industries took part in the strike. In Reggio, capital of the southern province of Calabria, more than 30,000 workers held a militant demonstration and rally. There were several thousand workers from all the southern regions taking part, as well as representatives of workers from the central and northern regions. It is estimated that half of Italy's 1½ million unemployed live in the southern provinces. In Calabria alone there are 200,000 workers without work, and more factory closures and redundancies expected.

On June 22nd, more than 2 million workers in the Piemonte region and the Milan province went on a 4 hour strike in support of job guarantees and new contracts. While the day before, all cinemas in Italy were closed for the day by striking cinema workers.

On June 3rd, about 900,000 workers from Fiat, Olivetti, Montedison and other large firms held a 4 hour strike demanding new contracts and job guarantees.

On July 25th, calls went out for a strike and demonstrations by workers at the nationalized food manufacturing firm of Unidal, in Milan, in protest against reports that the firm is to go into liquidation.

ACCORDING TO RECENT FIGURES RELEASED BY THE Dept. of the Environment, there are 794,000 houses in Britain which are officially unfit for human occupation. Over 1 million families live in houses without an inside lavatory and 800,000 without a fixed bat

RISING PRICES, ESPECIALLY FOOD, HIT WORKING people the hardest, as they spend a higher proportion of their incomes on such necessities. Rising prices and inflation are a direct result of the capitalist system. The recent Minister of Agriculture's National Food survey reveals that food is now more than 20% more expensive than the same time last year. The Ministry said that actual food consumption was falling, but the average shopper now spends 76 pence each week more per person on food than 12 months earlier.

In the last year, the price of butter has risen 59%. Lamb and chicken are almost 30% dearer. Pork is 11% more expensive. Weekly consumption of fresh meat has fallen from over 1lb per head to 14.67 ozs.

Fresh vegetable prices are up 40%.

IN PEKING, THE CAPITAL OF SOCIALIST CHINA, vegetable prices have been stable with some drops over the last few years. In the first half of this year they dropped by 12% compared with the same period last year.

Despite having to deal with drought, low temperatures and much wind in the winter-spring period, Peking's vegetable supplies have been adequate. The total amount on sale from April to June was 33% more than the same period in 1976.

IN THE SOVIET UNION, THE NET GRAIN IMPORT hit an all-time high last year, totalling more than 19 million tons - according to official Soviet figures. This is despite a claimed "record" harvest in 1976. While they strive for world domination, the revisionist ruling clique in the Soviet Union faces increasing problems at home. Providing enough food for Soviet workers is one of them.

A RESEARCH TEAM FROM ASTON UNIVERSITY, Birmingham was asked to investigate whether immigrant workers - because of their background - were more prone to industrial accidents than other workers. The leader of the survey, Dr. Gloria Lee, said, "We could find no evidence to support the original idea that because somebody was an immigrant, he would be more likely to incur an accident than indigenous workers doing the same job, in the same conditions" What the team did find was that black workers are "over represented" in the more dangerous jobs in industry, and very few get 'promoted' to safer jobs - especially skilled jobs.

ON APRIL 8th TELEPHONE WORKERS IN CUBA staged a one day strike, showing the sharpening class antagonisms in this revisionist country.

THE NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL ENTERPRISE Board is Mr. L. Murphy, an ex-deputy chairman of the Schrodgers merchant banking group. He is a strong supporter of the Labour Party.

Another merchant banker and a Labour Party parliamentary candidate, Mr. C. Williams has been made Chairman of the Price Commission.

GRUNWICK WORKERS RELY ON CLASS STRUGGLE



The Grunwicks' strikers are drawing massive class solidarity from workers all over Britain. 18,000 workers went on the mass picket and march on July 11th. The police poured in their forces to defend the bosses. But they could not prevent the pickets from holding up the black-leg buses for several hours. Another mass action is planned for August 8th. The strike committee secretary, Mahmood Ahmad, said "I cannot see the busloads of workers getting through at all".

Betraying the struggle yet again APEX leaders, are trying to prevent this taking place.

The strikers' reliance on the power of the united working class is showing up the Labour Party as the bosses' main protectors. Labour Home Secretary Merlyn Rees was jeered when he went to the picket line on June 27th. He defended the police in Parliament, saying that the number of police officers injured was unacceptable. He did not mention the police assaults on pickets, such as on printer James Freeman, who said, "The police beat us to death in the bus. I've had five serious heart attacks and when we got to the station I slumped over a desk. It took nearly one and a half hours before they got a doctor."

'Left' Labour MP Dennis Skinner tried to blame the State attack on "a new Tory attack on basic trade union rights." He doesn't seem to know which party is in power! In fact Callaghan was supported by leading Tories when he urged the unions, as well as the management, to "draw back" from the struggle.

The bosses rely on Labour and trade union leaders to dampen the workers' struggles. The APEX leader, Roy Grantham, has played up the state arbitration machinery, ACAS, and the courts. His call for a maximum of 500 pickets was contemptuously ignored by thousands of workers.

After weeks of solidarity action by Post Office workers at Cricklewood, supported by other branches, the postmen have been finally forced back to work by their union leader Jackson.

The betrayals by so many union leaders show the need to carry out a persistent struggle to turn the trade unions from collaboration into class struggle union organisations.

Within the factory there is concealed support for union recognition. The boss, Ward, has used bribes and threats to win support. He has raised wages by 25% since the strike and improved conditions. One of the workers, Rasheed Mohammed, said that in his previous "opinion poll" Ward put pressure on people not to vote for a union. Workers were told it was possible to find out which way they voted. One person who did vote for the union had his life made a misery.

On July 20th Ward announced the results of an "anti-union ballot" in the factory. Why could he not have agreed to the ACAS ballot months ago? Because he needed time to terrify his workers into submissiveness. Since Ward announced that only 2 workers wanted a union in the factory, many more have joined the strike, including 7 drivers who joined the TGWU!

An Asian reporter visited the factory for the Daily Telegraph. He said that workers "with critical comments refused to speak anything but an Asian language". They fear the sack because they cannot get jobs elsewhere, and they are scared of the boss's stool pigeons.

One worker expressed his growing admiration for class solidarity by saying "You saw how Ravi Tikoo (Globtik Tanker's boss) had to run away from this country?" It is workers' actions which count, and they will defeat all the tricks of their so-called leaders.

SHAM IMPARTIALITY OF BOSSES COURTS

Why are the courts and inquiries by judges being used in the Grunwick dispute? Why do the union mis-leaders try to get workers to put their faith in them?

The bosses know that they cannot prevent the class struggle. Instead they try to control it, to keep it within 'reasonable' bounds, that is to keep it from growing strong and developing workers' political consciousness.

Judges are appointed to 'impartial' tribunals of inquiry to create the illusion that the bosses' state is not against the workers, but outside the class struggle. But look at the record. Lord Justice Scarman has been appointed to the Grunwick inquiry. He presided over the inquiry into the events at Red Lion Square in 1975, where police protecting the National Front killed an anti-fascist demonstrator. He placed the blame on the anti-fascists, and only mildly rebuked the police for one extremely vicious mounted baton charge.

An inquiry was held into the 1972 miners' strike. Lord Justice Wilberforce, who headed it, said in an interview with the 'Sunday Times', "We looked into the whites of their eyes and decided how little we could settle for".

Lord Chief Justice Widgery was responsible for the inquiry which whitewashed the British army massacre of 13 people in Londonderry on Bloody Sunday, 30th January, 1972. The harshest conclusion in his report was, "At one end of the scale some soldiers showed a high degree of responsibility, at the other, notably in Glenfada Park, firing bordered on the reckless". This was a criticism of a mass murder!

Judges and policemen are both doing the bosses' dirty work, in different ways, but just as effectively. Workers are learning to see through the mask of impartiality to the real features of class repression. ■

Bosses' paper admits to and supports racism at Grunwicks

In an editorial of 'The Times' on June 30th, the ugly features of racism were openly revealed.

Saying that "the success of Grunwick has been the result of offering a very prompt service at a very competitive price"; it went on "that has been based on employing immigrants without restrictive practices and at highly competitive, that is low wages. The editorial admitted that black workers were discriminated against when looking for jobs, and said that therefore black workers should be "prepared to work harder and for

less pay than the existing host community"

This double attack on black workers is defended strongly by 'The Times'. It even said: "It cannot be said that this sort of business, of which Grunwick is not an isolated example, is exploiting the workers".

That is the bosses' racist view. The workers' response has already been made - class solidarity of black and white workers fighting in the interests of all workers against racist oppression and super-exploitation. ■

STOP AID TO SOVIET SOCIAL IMPERIALISM

The largest ever Anglo-Soviet trade contracts were signed on 27th July. The deal involved the supply of two methanol plants, worth \$275million, to the Soviet Union, by Davy Powergas and Klockner Ina Industrial Plants.

Morgan Grenfell, the large Merchant Bank (see CS14, p4) helped finance this with a loan of \$233million. This deal was part of a £950million cheap credit facility extended to the social imperialists by Harold Wilson in February, 1975.

This will enable the Soviet fascists to divert yet more energies into refining their relentlessly expanding aggressive military machine.



SOCIALIST IN WORDS - FASCIST IN DEEDS

9 YEARS OF SOVIET THUGGERY IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Nine years ago, on August 21st, 1968, the Soviet Union launched large numbers of troops, aircraft and tanks in a brutal blitz type invasion and occupation of Czechoslovakia.

Brezhnev, and his fellow fascists in the Kremlin, claimed that this blatant act of imperialist aggression was taken in order to "safeguard socialism in Czechoslovakia" and to "preclude encroachment by West German militarist forces". As the Soviet tanks were rolling through Prague, to the boos and jeers of the people, the Soviet Government actually had the cheek to announce that it was following a policy of respect for "Czechoslovakia's territorial integrity", and "non-interference in its internal affairs".

After the restoration of capitalism in most of eastern Europe in the mid-fifties, Czechoslovakia was ruled by a set of fascists who were totally subservient to the USSR. The economy was developed in a way that served the interests of the Soviet Union. Czechoslovak goods were sold cheaply to the USSR, while the Czechoslovaks had to pay extremely high prices for Soviet imports. In addition, between 1960 and 1968 Czechoslovakia was blackmailed into providing the Soviet Union with about 2,000 million roubles in low interest loans and investments. During this period, the Czechoslovak people developed a deep hatred for their oppressors, the Soviet imperialists and their puppets in Prague, who could only prevent an uprising by the use of open

fascist terror.

Early in 1968 the Czechoslovak 'Communist' Party was taken over by a different set of capitalists, headed by Alexander Dubcek. The new leadership was convinced that a more profitable future for the new Czechoslovak bourgeoisie could be found by breaking clear of Soviet domination. Dubcek and his followers started to re-order the economy along the lines of what they called 'market socialism' and made some small political concessions to the masses. What really angered the Soviet fascists was that Dubcek had started to break away from the previous total subservient political and economic relationship with the USSR, and was getting substantial mass support from the people because of this.

Brezhnev and company could not stand for this, and in August 1968 launched their brutal invasion. Dubcek's government capitulated, and instead of leading a people's war of resistance, urged the army and the masses to lay down their arms. But the people fought back spontaneously and with great courage, and still continue to do so. The Soviet fascists declared that their troops would only stay in Czechoslovakia 'temporarily' until the situation was 'normalized'. The people's resistance to Soviet social imperialism has not, and will not become 'normalized'. The troops are still there.

SOVIET SOCIAL IMPERIALISM - GET OUT OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA!

SOVIET AGGRESSION AIMED AT WESTERN EUROPE



The brutal invasion of Czechoslovakia by the Soviet social imperialists was met by huge anti-Soviet demonstrations and fierce resistance by the Czechoslovakian people.

The people and countries of western Europe are facing their gravest danger since 1940, when the German fascists looked ready to seize control.

Today it is the fascist Soviet Union which is threatening us. The Soviet Union

is the more dangerous of the two superpowers and the biggest source of war. As a newcomer to the feast of imperialism it is demanding a redivision of the world to increase its share of the plunder. Notably it is casting greedy eyes on western Europe, which is one of the richest areas of the world in terms of industry, raw materials, technology and labour.

With its severe internal economic and political problems the Soviet Union just has to try and control a bigger and bigger share of the world simply in order to survive.

It is building up a huge military war machine aimed at western Europe. Stationed in eastern Europe and Russia it has 895,000 troops, 19,000 tanks, 235 submarines and 2,900 tactical aircraft. Already it is testing out western Europe's readiness - in northern Europe it conducts regular exercises preparing for an invasion of Scandinavia and has already seized part of Norway's Svalbard Islands. Its military

(cont'd on p14)

THE WARSAW PACT — A TOOL OF SOVIET COLONIALISM

For over 20 years, the Soviet Union, once a great socialist state, has been exploiting and oppressing the peoples and nations of eastern Europe. Soviet social imperialism has reduced many east European countries to mere colonies, dictating to them politically, exploiting them economically, and using its armies to threaten and blackmail them into subservience.

Politically the USSR only grants 'limited sovereignty' to the east European countries who are expected to give Soviet social imperialism full support in its struggle with US imperialism for world domination. In the United Nations they are told what to say and how to vote, and the Soviet armies are at hand to ensure obedience.

Economically, the Soviet Union intensely exploits these countries. Five Year Plans are coordinated by the USSR, and their principle purpose is to serve the interests of Soviet imperialism. Most of these countries are almost totally dependent on the USSR for basic raw materials and fuel. The 'friendship' oil pipeline, 'peace' power network, and 'fraternity' gas pipeline, all controlled by the Soviet Union, have robbed the east European countries of any economic independence, and have enabled the USSR to force unequal trade agreements onto them.

Without the threat, and in the case of Czechoslovakia since 1968, the use of violent military aggression, the USSR could not have enslaved its east European colonies for as long as it has. The Soviet Union has used the Warsaw Pact as a tool to prop up its colonial rule, subjecting eastern Europe to military control and occupation. The USSR has 31 divisions in eastern Europe, and through control of the Warsaw Pact, 'directs' the armies of the east European

states through 'military integration' and 'unified command'.

Of the Warsaw Pact countries only Romania has stood up firmly to the USSR. Politically and economically Romania has followed a policy of self-reliance and independence. Militarily they refuse to be cowed. Only a few days after occupying Czechoslovakia, the USSR threatened to invade Romania. At a huge mass demonstration in Bucharest, Nicolae Ceausescu, the Romanian Party and state leader said that any invasion would be repelled by an army of the whole people. The USSR backed down. This shows that social imperialism can be defeated, so long as the people are armed, mobilized and given leadership.

**SOVIET TROOPS — OUT OF EASTERN EUROPE!
VICTORY TO THE STRUGGLES OF THE EAST
EUROPEAN PEOPLES!**



DEMONSTRATION

REMEMBER CZECHOSLOVAKIA AUGUST '68

- * OPPOSE SOVIET SOCIAL IMPERIALISM
EXPOSE THE MYTH OF DETENTE
RESIST SOVIET AGGRESSION
- * DON'T RELY ON US IMPERIALISM
RELY ON PEOPLE'S WAR AND THE STRENGTH OF THE WORKING CLASS
- * SUPPORT EUROPEAN UNITY AGAINST THE SUPERPOWERS
- * UNITE WITH THE THIRD WORLD, THE MAIN FORCE FIGHTING
IMPERIALISM AND SUPERPOWER DOMINATION

MEET: SPEAKERS' CORNER, HYDE PARK.
DATE: SATURDAY, AUGUST 20TH.
TIME: 1.30PM.
MARCH: TO SOVIET EMBASSY

TO CONTACT ORGANISERS, WRITE TO RCLB, c/o NEW ERA BOOKS, 203 SEVEN SISTERS RD., LONDON N4.

NEW WOMEN IN PEOPLE'S ALBANIA

In those parts of the world where the Capitalists and Revisionists rule, women are among the most downtrodden and oppressed of the working people. They are doubly oppressed - as workers and as women - oppressed and super-exploited at work and oppressed at home. In people's Albania, women are winning all-round equality with men.

EQUAL RIGHTS

They have won equal political rights, and democratic freedom with men. They can elect and be elected to all levels of the government and they take a full part in running the affairs of the country. Most Albanian women work in factories, offices and fields to build socialism. Nearly half of the workforce are women. For this work they receive equal pay with men. To enable them to play their parts to the full, nurseries and restaurants are being built in every town and village in Albania.

(cont'd from p12)

spending has overtaken the US, and is clearly designed for offence, not defence.

While preparing for war the Soviet imperialists try to confuse the people by talking of 'détente' and peace. This is an old imperialist trick aimed at deceiving the people - only one year before invading Poland, Hitler signed the Munich agreement for 'peace in our time'. The Soviet Union is playing the same game - since signing the Helsinki agreement on European 'peace and security' it has added 100,000 troops to its forces in Europe.

PEOPLE'S WAR IS INVINCIBLE

Whilst military integration of western Europe is necessary and forces the Soviet imperialists to hold back from immediate aggression in the last resort it will only be a long people's war that will defeat Soviet occupation of western Europe.

The peoples of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos fought such a war, relying on the armed population, to defeat the other superpower US imperialism. Their victorious struggle proves that however big and powerful the enemy looks, a big country can be defeated by a small one.

The working class and peoples of western Europe are becoming more and more aware of the danger of Soviet social imperialist aggression. Every year in capital cities throughout western Europe demonstrations take place on the anniversary of the Soviet aggression against Czechoslovakia, and expose the danger to western Europe behind the myth of 'détente'. This year in London also such a demonstration will take place.

opportunities for women. This has enabled Albanian women to take a responsibility in all areas of the people's economy and culture.

MERCILESS EXPLOITATION AND OPPRESSION

These changes in the status of women were made possible by the socialist revolution in Albania. Before liberation Albanian women were savagely oppressed. According to Enver Hoxha, the great leader of the Albanian people, women were treated as --

"chattels, as things which could be bought, and sold by males, mercilessly exploited, not daring to open their mouths and express opinions and whose only function was to bear children and toil day and night as slaves."

During the war of liberation, the women of Albania rose up against their oppression. 6000 joined the partisans in the front line. Many thousands more gave support in the base areas and cities. Without their participation, Albania would not have been liberated.

After the establishment of working class power, the Albanian Communist Party and the women's organizations laid the basis for the complete emancipation of women. They were given legal equality. The overthrow of the system based on private property, freed women from the tyranny of the bourgeois family. The development of industry enabled them to play an active part in building socialism.

NEW RELATIONS BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN

These changes were crucial. But they were not enough in themselves. In 1967 Enver Hoxha began a campaign to change people's ideas about women. Many men still thought that women should work in the factory and do all the housework. Both men and women thought that certain jobs were 'suitable' for women and others could only be done by men.

So men were taught to take an equal share in work in the home, and not to look down on such things as 'beneath them'. Women were shown that they must fight hard against their own ideas that they were 'incapable' of certain things. In schools boys and girls were treated equally. No line is drawn between 'jobs for boys' such as chopping wood, and 'jobs for girls' such as sewing and cooking.

In Socialist Albania a new and equal family is being created. New relations between people are being built. Together Albanian women and men are building a society for all the people.