

CLASS STRUGGLE

POLITICAL PAPER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF BRITAIN

June 1978 VOL.2, No.11

MONTHLY 7p

POLICE COMPUTER - ANTI-PEOPLE SPYING ON THE INCREASE

The recent installation of over £100,000 worth of computer by Suffolk police is a clear example of how modern science is being used to increase the power of the state in capitalist Britain.

Scotland Yard is already using a computer system which can decipher hand writing. The police scientific development branch is experimenting with one that will recognise the human voice. In Hendon, London, a national police computer is linked to all the 800 police stations in England and Wales - a result of a project launched in 1969 under Wilson's Labour government. One of its tasks is to programme tape from the Vehicle Registration computer at Swansea. By the end of next year the details of every person owning a car along with codes saying whether the car is 'of long term interest to the police' will be on file.

The computer also has a fingerprint file of all those convicted and sentenced over the last 40 years. This is despite the fact that the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 is supposed to ensure that any conviction should vanish from the records after 5 years. It can be used in conjunction with the 3,500 computers used by the various government and public sector agencies. In Jan. 1975, the technical journal Computer Weekly reported that detect-

ives on a murder hunt had searched the memory banks of a Department of Health and Social Security computer looking for a letter.

Many people might not object if they felt this was all geared to tracing hit-and-run drivers or preventing psychopath killers. But clearly this is not the main reason why vast amounts of money is being spent in this way by the State. £35 million at Hendon alone. According to the "Times" last February, Scotland Yard had refused to say whether it was true that two thirds of the names on the biggest section of their records was of 'suspects' and 'associates'. A further article in September said that the names of tens of thousands of those 'suspected' by the Special Branch 'for reasons of national security' were to be fed into the computer.

In a factory occupation at the Greenwich Reinforcement Company (part of the British Steel Corporation (BSC)), workers discovered just what the police do in the name of "national security". Files marked "strictly private and

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POLICE STEWARD NATIONAL FRONT MEETING

The London Waltham Forest "Guardian" recently reported a National Front election meeting heavily guarded by police at Walthamstow Girls High School. The meeting, which was claimed to be public, was allowed in the school despite a Council ban on racist groups hiring schools and halls. The ban was over-ruled on the grounds that it contravenes the Representation of the People Act.



Outside the school, police vetted people going into the meeting. A Waltham Forest "Guardian" reporter was refused admission in spite of the right of journalists to attend public meetings under the Representation of the People Act.

Inside the hall, police stewarded the meeting. A dozen policemen lined the back of the hall. Many more stood around in the foyer. National Front stewards lined up beside anybody who spoke at the meeting. No wonder that except for the platform speakers' fascist demagogy, the meeting was largely silent.

The role of the state in protecting this vicious anti-working class organisation is clear. Without the police to protect them, the National Front provocateurs could not withstand the spontaneous anger of ordinary working class people - black and white.

FIGHT STATE RACISM

In the May issue of "Class Struggle" we reported the campaign to free George Lindo. George is a West Indian who was framed by Bradford police in February. An all white jury convicted him for a crime he could not have committed. He was sentenced to 2 years imprisonment. This is not an isolated example of police racism. Black people know this well. But this is forgotten and hidden by opportunist organizations such as the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) who would have us believe that racism is mainly a question of fighting the National Front fascists. The National Front and their like are vicious enemies of the working class. But to pretend they are the main enemy, as the Labour 'Left', the sham 'Communist' Party of Great Britain and other opportunists do, diverts the struggle away from the bosses' racist state.

PHONEY CONCERN HIDES REAL RACIST OPPRESSION

Ex police chief, Sir Robert Mark, claims that "There is not a single section of the people more concerned to achieve a good relation with immigrants than the police". These are empty words designed to deceive people. A Pakistani factory worker from Southall who has lived in Britain for 5 years described his experience. "The police came to my work and said they wanted me to help with their enquiries. I was taken to Southall police station and said, 'you are an illegal immigrant'. When I said no, they started hitting me and said they would stop hitting me if I said yes... They had their hands over my eyes while they were hitting me so I couldn't identify them". The worker got a lawyer and prevented police attempts at a quick deportation. There are countless other examples.

RACISM IS A CLASS QUESTION.

Police racism doesn't happen because every copper is a born racist, or because police hate black people. In a society divided by class, the police exist to hold down and oppress the working class. The great nineteenth century co-founder of scientific socialism Engels described the state as representing "the most powerful, economically dominant class, which through the medium of the state, becomes also the politically dominant class and thus acquires new means of holding down and exploiting the oppressed classes."

In the modern world, racism is one of these 'new means'.

Racism is the product of imperialism. In order to justify holding in bondage the populations of the colonial countries, the British ruling class fostered the idea that black people are inferior to white. The arrogant colonizers described their role as the 'white man's burden.' Racism is now also used to justify the low wages and special oppression of black people in Britain. The fact that the British police chiefs want men schooled in racist oppression

is shown by the recent announcement by the Bedfordshire police chief. He wants to recruit ex-white Rhodesian police. But nothing can stop resistance to racist oppression and exploitation.

The capitalist state covers up and Labour opportunists ignore police and state repression of black people. Reports of racist violence against black people often attempt to turn truth on its head making black people instigators rather than victims. But it is not just a moral question. Attacks and killings by racists, like the recent stabbing of Altab Ali in Tower Hamlets, London, must be opposed by the whole working class. We definitely cannot rely on the police when they are themselves racist stormtroopers. The call has again gone out from the East End of London and Wolverhampton for black self-defence groups - 'Self-defence is no offence!' The working class must support such groups and give them any help they can. This is a crucial part of the struggle of the working class as a whole against the capitalist state and the fight for workers' unity. ■

FREE GEORGE LINDO

After being framed and imprisoned for a crime he could not have committed, George Lindo is facing racist harassment and victimisation from prison officers at Armley jail in Leeds. These started with verbal taunts and abuse led by a prison officer called Flemington. But after failing to provoke an incident with George, another frame up was staged. On April 16th George Lindo was arrested by Flemington and accused of attempting to escape. His cell bars had been tampered with but not by George. Ignoring George's protests of innocence, he was forced to put on the uniform of those who attempt to escape and put in solitary confinement. After protesting to the prison governor, he was given "the benefit of the doubt this time".

Armley jail is notorious. Since George has been imprisoned at least one prisoner has "committed suicide". George Lindo has no intention of committing suicide or attempting to escape. A just campaign is being waged to have him freed and the police racist frame-up reversed. ■

POLICE COMPUTER

Cont'd from p1

confidential" revealed a network of spying on the workers. It involved the BSC, the reactionary Economic League, Special Branch, local police and certain sell-out trade union officials.

The police force is an arm of the capitalist state. It is not neutral but is there to help keep the capitalist class in power. To this end, the latest technical developments which under socialism will serve the working class are used to keep tabs on all those who fight the bosses' rule - militant workers, anti-fascists and communists. This is the oppression of the working class, not "protecting national security". ■

WORKERS MAKE MAY DAY A DAY OF STRUGGLE

Demonstrations celebrating May Day, the day signifying international workers struggle against imperialism and reaction, took place throughout Britain. But this was not reflected in the capitalists' May Day news reports. BBC reported a motley band of National Front fascists parading in the East End in preference to the main London May Day march. The Labour and revisionist "Communist" Party opportunists, where they failed to turn it into a jamboree, played down the significance of May Day. They used it as an occasion for apologetic speeches excusing Labour treachery. But the bitter mood of workers was reflected in the demonstrations and their turn out in London, Liverpool and Leeds.

LONDON

Several thousand people marched from Charing Cross Embankment. The RCLB and the Communist Workers Movement formed a militant contingent behind the banners of both organisations. An RCLB rally at Charing Cross Embankment upheld the principles of May Day and exposed the opportunists. Slogans led by the RCLB denounced both superpowers (USSR and USA) and supported the struggle against British imperialism in Zimbabwe, the struggle to transform the unions into fighting class organisations and the struggle to build the revolutionary Communist Party.

LIVERPOOL MARCH LARGER

The largest May Day demonstration in recent

RCLB AND CWM PLEDGE TO STRUGGLE FOR UNITY AT PUBLIC RALLY

On the eve of May Day, the day of international workers' solidarity, the Communist Workers Movement (CWM) and the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain (RCLB), held a joint public meeting. The meeting marked a new stage in the struggle for Marxist-Leninist unity and was characterised by militant unity and struggle.

Making the main statement on behalf of the RCLB, Chairman Chris Burford began by firmly upholding the militant principles of May Day. Although the bosses dream of the working class giving up class struggle and spending May Day dancing round Maypoles, new strikes and struggles flare up all the time. Despite the treachery of the opportunists the workers spontaneous strike struggle is sharpening. But without a Marxist-Leninist Party the workers' struggle against capitalist exploitation and opportunist treachery cannot be sustained. This makes building the Marxist-Leninist Party the central task of the Marxist-Leninist movement which is fragmented by small group mentality.

After pledging the RCLB to win unity with the CWM by struggling over major principals, comrade Burford showed that in the next two years there will be a major two line struggle

years was held in Liverpool. Leyland workers formed a strong contingent. Placards opposed the closure of the TR7 plant in Speke. On this march too, the RCLB and CWM formed and marched together. Throughout militant slogans were shouted and contrasted with the mute misleadership of the opportunists who dared not voice one of their worn out spent demands.

LEEDS MAY DAY MARCH GOES AHEAD

The police used National Front violence as an excuse to ban all marches under the Public Order Act during the local elections.

Two thousand police, complete with horses and a helicopter turned out to stop the march, organised by the Trades Council. Over 500 demonstrators braved the police picket around the assembly point.

When the march started, the police arrested two demonstrators. The Trades Council leadership backed down and told marchers to disperse. Despite this lack of leadership, the demonstration moved from the road to the pavement and carried on marching past the puzzled police. They were thrown into confusion by this use of working class initiative. This is a clear indication of working class determination to uphold the principles of May Day and fight back against state attacks on our democratic rights despite opportunist misleadership.

against small group mentality. Progress in building the Party will be made, but a handful of leaders clinging to their small groups will sink deeper. The unity of the CWM and RCLB will be a major contribution to establishing the leading Marxist-Leninist centre and the revolutionary Communist Party.

Making the main statement for the CWM, comrade Ian Williams said that bad leadership had brought about a lack of political consciousness to the working class. He underlined the responsibility that Marxist-Leninists have to the working class. Comrade Williams went on to say that we cannot allow minor theoretical quibbles to divide us. We must struggle to win unity on major questions. He said that there are solid grounds for optimism and particularly stressed the importance of exposing the Soviet Union.

Comrade Williams concluded with a warning of the danger of fascism and a militant pledge that the CWM will struggle unstintingly to win the unity of Marxist-Leninists.

After a discussion and closing remarks, the meeting concluded with a contribution from a

Cont'd on p4.

LEEDS BUS WORKERS FIGHT CUTS

After five weeks on strike, Leeds bus crews returned to work on May 24th, after forcing the West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive to withdraw cuts in bus services.

The management ignored an agreement to negotiate any cuts, and on April 16th tried to implement new schedules in west Leeds that would have resulted in the loss of more than fifty jobs, and drastically cut services.

The bosses said that this was a management matter, nothing to do with the unions, and that if the new plans proved to be "economic" then rescheduling would take place throughout Leeds.

The new schedules never took place though. The bus workers walked straight out, and stayed out until the management backed down and agreed to negotiate.

Throughout their struggle, the bus workers had the support of bus crews in other Yorkshire cities, many of whom staged one day solidarity strikes.

The president of the Leeds Chamber of Commerce called the bus crews "greedy and selfish". Far from being greedy and selfish, the bus workers have sacrificed five weeks pay in order to save jobs and services.

Although the bus workers will have to make sure that their full-time officials don't sell them out at the negotiating table, they have won a substantial victory. The management has had to publicly withdraw some of their worst proposals, and the bus workers have shown that they are not prepared to pay for the bosses' crisis.

JOBS FOR THE BOYS

The opportunist trade union misleadership get well paid for their services to capitalism. Many get appointed to work part-time on government sponsored bodies. The average pay for one of these part-time appointments is £1000 a year plus expenses. Jack Jones has 13 such appointments. Hugh Scanlon has five. Harry Urwin, the deputy General Secretary of the TGWU has nine of these part-time jobs. He is a member of the Manpower Services Commission, the National Freight Corporation, the National Enterprise Board, the Industrial Tribunals Panel, the Energy Commission, the Machine Tools Economic Development Committee, the Industrial Development Advisory Board, and the Committee on Finance for Investment.

Other union bosses who have several of these lucrative government appointments include Sir(!) George Smith, the General Secretary of UCATT, who has seven, and Reginald Bottini, retired General Secretary of the National Union of Agricultural Workers who has ten. Six appointments each are held by J. MacGougan, the General Secretary of the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers, and H.A. Ray, the National Secretary of the TGWU. Lord(!) Plant, who is the ex-Secretary of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation, has managed to collect five. Len Edmundson, who recently retired as a member of the AUEW executive council is another one who has scored six.

These opportunists show how the TUC is thoroughly integrated into the British state machine. It also means, of course, that our trade union misleaders who are already on extremely high salaries can get plenty of extra money for doing this work - most of which they do during the hours they are supposed to be working for us anyway. It means that they have no problem living the luxury life of the people they serve - the British ruling class.

NATIONAL FRONT MEETING Cont'd from p1

Earlier in the day of this fascist meeting about thirty girls walked out of their lessons and assembled in a Greek theatre in the school grounds. Parents and teachers joined in protests outside the school.

RCLB AND CWM UNITY RALLY Cont'd from p3

representative of the Zimbabwe African National Union. In a speech expressing bitter hatred of imperialism, he pointed out that the main danger for Zimbabwe at the moment is neo-colonialism. He exposed manoeuvres by British imperialism and its puppets to split the Patriotic Front and affirmed "we hold tight and resolutely" to the armed struggle. The struggle against British imperialism in Zimbabwe will sharpen contradictions in Britain. "We must together forge close ties, we are fighting in the same war to bring imperialism to its knees" he said.

A collection for the RCLB Zimbabwe Solidarity campaign brought £175.

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A WORKER'S NOTEBOOK

NATIONALISATION BRINGS RATIONALIZATION. 1,200 men at Falmouth Docks are beginning to realise that nationalisation under capitalism still serves the bosses. The men 'hoped it would be a workers' paradise when their company was nationalised'. But only eight months after the take-over they are locked in an industrial dispute. Vernon Wilson, secretary of the workers' committee said: "We thought nationalisation would be great". But now British Shipbuilders, the State run company which runs the dock, have threatened closure unless there is a 15 percent cut in the workforce. The State grab has turned out to be a nightmare for the workers.

MORE THAN 200,000 WORKERS GO OFF TO THEIR jobs every day - even though they would be better off on the dole. Many of them, with wives and children to support, earn as little as £30 a week, while single workers among them earn a paltry £20. These workers were praised recently in a report issued by the Low Pay Unit. The Unit's director, Frank Field, said: "It's a miracle how these people can manage at all." Under capitalism more and more workers are finding it impossible to manage, praising them for 'gritting their teeth and getting on with life is cold comfort. Only socialism can bring permanent improvements to the lives of working people.

SHELTER, THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE HOMELESS, HAS recently issued a report spotlighting the bully-boy tactics used by bailiffs. Under court orders these parasites recover debts by seizing family possessions and selling them off. This often means that they ransack homes for arrears as low as £10. One family whose arrears amounted to £200 had more than £700 worth of goods seized. These were subsequently sold at auction for an incredible £38.14. When the bailiffs had deducted their £20.63 fee - leaving £17.51 - the family were evicted because they still owed £183. The report concludes that "Thousands of families are terrorised each year... because of rent arrears due to sheer poverty."

TRESS WORKERS FIGHT NEB. OVER 200 WORKERS AT Tress Engineering at Newburn on Tyneside have been on strike for over a month in support of a wage claim. The factory has recently been bought up by Labour's National Enterprises Board, and the Shop Stewards Committee is convinced that the "NEB management is determined to seriously undermine existing work practices". So far the management have come forward with only a 7% increase in wages, which the workers have rejected. The workers at Tress are maintaining a picket of the factory from first light to midnight each day, and have received support from other workers all over Tyneside. Postal workers

have refused to cross the picket line and deliver mail to the firm.

WORKING CLASS UNITY BEATS RACISM. JACK SMITH was formerly a racist and a member of the National Front which he joined after leaving the Labour Party, but no longer. After being heavily fined for his part in a racist window smashing spree in Bradford he was given the sack from his job as a bus conductor with the West Yorkshire Road Car Company. Shortly after he had appealed against the decision he was in the Keighley garage canteen when about 12 of his Pakistani work mates came over and offered to back him. He now knows that this is what saved his job. "The help I received from the coloured lads changed my views" he said later. "I am no longer a racist."

JOHN LEWIS, THE COMPANY WHOSE INTERESTS include Waitrose Supermarkets, have just shown how generous capitalism can be! Last year the company's profits topped £25 million and, as they've been doing for fifty years, they were kind enough to share some of it with their workers. About 23,000 workers each received about £380. However, the weekly wage of these workers barely reaches £35 putting them amongst the lowest paid in the country. The bosses' charity doesn't amount to much more than a few crumbs scattered amongst the very people whose hard work provided the profits in the first place.

Have you a small item suitable for inclusion in "A Worker's Notebook"? If so, send it to: The editor, Class Struggle, c/o New Era Books, 203 Seven Sisters Rd., London N4.

REVOLUTION

THEORETICAL JOURNAL OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF BRITAIN

Building the revolutionary Communist Party to lead the revolution is the central task for all genuine Marxist-Leninists in Britain today. "Revolution", the theoretical journal of the RCLB, has been founded to be a sharp weapon in the struggle to build that Party.

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TURN THE UNIONS INTO FIGHTING CLASS ORGANISATIONS

Since December, "Class Struggle" has carried a regular series of articles on the need for a systematic and protracted struggle within the unions - a struggle to change them from the bottom to the top, so that they serve the interests of the working class, and not the interests of the bosses. The series has put forward the five slogans, raised by the Revolutionary Communist League, which must guide our work at this stage of the struggle. These are:

1. No class collaboration with the bosses!
2. Fight for democratic unions!
3. We won't pay for the bosses' crisis!
4. Stop paying Labour to attack workers!
5. Oppose oppression and discrimination of black and women workers at the place of work!

WINNING BACK THE UNIONS IS A STRUGGLE OF THE MASSES!

These slogans guide a struggle which is in the immediate interests of the mass of British workers. We have seen the blatant sell-out of Grunwick workers by the Trade Union leaders. We have seen that despite their militant talk at the 1977 TUC, in "support" of the struggle, they have in fact sabotaged mass picketing, refused to black the company, suspended and disciplined Grunwick strikers and post office workers who supported them, and so on. We have seen how the Firemen got stabbed in the back by the same Trade Union leaders. But the sabotage of struggle is not confined to these open class battles. All workers have suffered from a drop on average of £6 in the value of their wages, through the collaboration of the union leaders with the bosses and their state during the years of the Social Con act. At the same time unemployment has trebled to over 1½ million.

This collaboration with the bosses, and their Labour government, in shifting the burden of the crisis onto the backs of the working class has not been successful just because of

a handful of sell out leaders at the top, but because of the sabotage by opportunists (who talk a lot about 'socialism', but in fact betray our class at every step) at every level of the unions.

OPPORTUNISM HAS MANY DISGUISES

The betrayal of class struggle takes many forms. It is a Labour government that is serving the bosses, and trying to solve the crisis of their system, by orchestrating the attack on our class. It is the Labour party which is the most widespread force within the unions, collaborating with their friends in the government. But opportunism does not only take the form of 'social democracy', of the Labour Party. The so-called "Communist" Party, which has abandoned Marxism-Leninism, and the Trotskyites play their part. Both refuse to expose the Labour Party as a bosses' party - let alone expose them as the best bosses' party, the most successful in attacking our class. Both portray themselves as "saviours from on high" who will save us, but in fact are just as bureaucratic and anti-democratic and fear mass involvement in the unions. Sometimes they sound ever so revolutionary and trot out their so-militant slogans, but then their ultra-left tactics and demands invariably have no effect except to divide the working class, and sabotage the struggle as effectively as the open sell-out outs.

The struggle to turn the unions into fighting class organizations will be a long and protracted struggle, but the 5 slogans represent the interests of the mass of the workers, and though opportunism hides behind many disguises, it will be exposed in its day-by-day activity and in its reaction to the 5 slogans.

BUILD THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY IN THE COURSE OF THE STRUGGLE TO TURN THE UNIONS INTO FIGHTING CLASS ORGANISATIONS

ISRAEL - 30 YEARS OF OPPRESSION

Towards the end of the 19th century, the imperialist powers divided the world between them. European immigrants poured into Africa, Asia, and Latin America building colonies by dispossessing the people of the three continents, brutally oppressing and exploiting them. It was out of the imperialists' savage desire to expand throughout the world, that the reactionary colonialist and racist ideology of Zionism was developed.

Zionist ideology was utilised by the imperialist powers to justify the large-scale settler occupation of the homeland of the Palestinian people. The Zionist invasion of Palestine was wholly supported by British imperialism through the infamous Balfour Declaration. Over the next 30 years, the number of Zionists

in Palestine increased from 8% to 31% of the population.

In 1947, collusion between Britain, USA, and the Zionist movement got the United Nations General Assembly to partition Palestine and granted the Zionist colonial settlers 54% of the land. The settlers wanted even more. They waged a bloody terrorist war against the Arab population of Palestine, occupying 81% of Palestine, destroying hundreds of villages and dispossessing over a million Arabs. The state of Israel came into being in 1948 by making another country - Palestine - cease to exist. Israel is a racist settler state like Rhodesia and South Africa. Israel has no right to exist.

In further wars, Israel has extended its frontiers and on each occasion it has rap-

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idly established settler villages within the more recently occupied areas, such as the Sinai desert of Egypt, the Golan Heights of Syria and the West Bank. May this year, was the 30th anniversary of the founding of the colonial state of Israel. Zionist jamborees were held in most of the imperialist countries. British imperialist support for Zionism was reflected by the congratulations heaped on Israel by the Labour government and by the screening of special pro-Israeli TV programmes. The historical and present facts of Zionist fascism cut through this sickening Zionist propaganda and show that the real brothers and sisters of the British working class are the Palestinian people, represented by the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Their long and heroic armed struggle is a just struggle, and part of the world-wide struggle against imperialism.

Winning back the unions is essential if we workers are to fight an effective struggle in defence of our economic interests. But we can have no illusions that this will be enough in itself. Even with militant unions, with mass democracy, mass activity and good leadership, our economic struggle will at best be a struggle against the effects of the capitalist system, not against the system itself. Capitalism really is in a crisis. It has in-built contradictions which will inevitably propel it into such crises again and again, just as it has done ever since capitalism existed. It can never serve the working people, constantly increase living standards and production, or eliminate unemployment.

It cannot be "reformed" as the opportunists claim. The only final answer for the working masses is to destroy capitalism and build socialism, and that is first and foremost a struggle for the political power of the working class. Only with political power can we destroy capitalism, which the bosses will fight tooth and nail to protect, and build socialism. The struggle for the political power of the working class can only be led by a party which works unwaveringly for the interests of our class - a revolutionary Communist Party. We need a Party to co-ordinate the struggle on a national basis, summing up the experience of all our different struggles and leading us forward. Indeed, even the struggle to turn the unions into fighting class organizations cannot make major progress on a national basis without the leadership of such a Party.

The 5 slogans put forward by the RCL represent the interests of the mass of workers, and guide us in the struggle to win back the unions. At the same time, in the course of this struggle, we call on all class conscious workers to rally round the RCL and work hard to rebuild a genuine Party of the working class - the revolutionary Communist Party!

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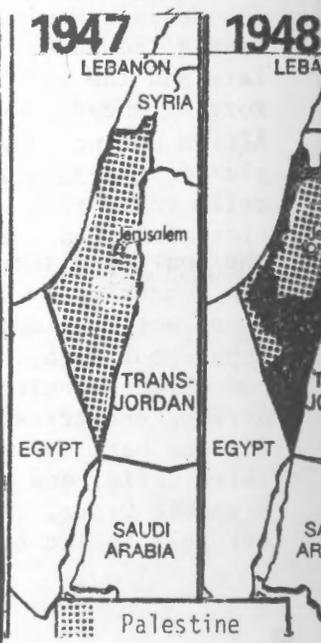
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It cannot be "reformed" as the opportunists claim. The only final answer for the working masses is to destroy capitalism and build socialism, and that is first and foremost a struggle for the political power of the working class. Only with political power can we destroy capitalism, which the bosses will fight tooth and nail to protect, and build socialism. The struggle for the political power of the working class can only be led by a party which works unwaveringly for the interests of our class - a revolutionary Communist Party. We need a Party to co-ordinate the struggle on a national basis, summing up the experience of all our different struggles and leading us forward. Indeed, even the struggle to turn the unions into fighting class organisations cannot make major progress on a national basis without the leadership of such a Party.

The 5 slogans put forward by the RCL represent the interests of the mass of workers, and guide us in the struggle to win back the unions. At the same time, in the course of this struggle, we call on all class conscious workers to rally round the RCL and work hard to rebuild a genuine Party of the working class - the revolutionary Communist Party!

established settler villages within more recently occupied areas, such as Sinai desert of Egypt, the Golan Heights of Syria and the West Bank. This year, was the 30th anniversary of founding of the colonial state of Israel. Zionist jamborees were held in most of the imperialist countries. British imperialist support for Zionism was reflected in the congratulations heaped on Israel by the Labour government and by the screening of special pro-Israeli TV programmes. The historical and present facts of Zionism cut through this sickening Zionist propaganda and show that the real brothers and sisters of the British working class are the Palestinian people, represented by the Palestine Liberation Organisation. Their long and heroic armed struggle is a national struggle, and part of the world-wide struggle against imperialism.

FORD WORKERS' CLAIM

On April 21st, Ford of Britain announced record profits of £246 millions, more than double last year's profits. Ford workers may be surprised at this, because they have been continually told over the year that their 'poor quality' work and 'strike happy' attitude is preventing the bosses making a 'reasonable profit'.

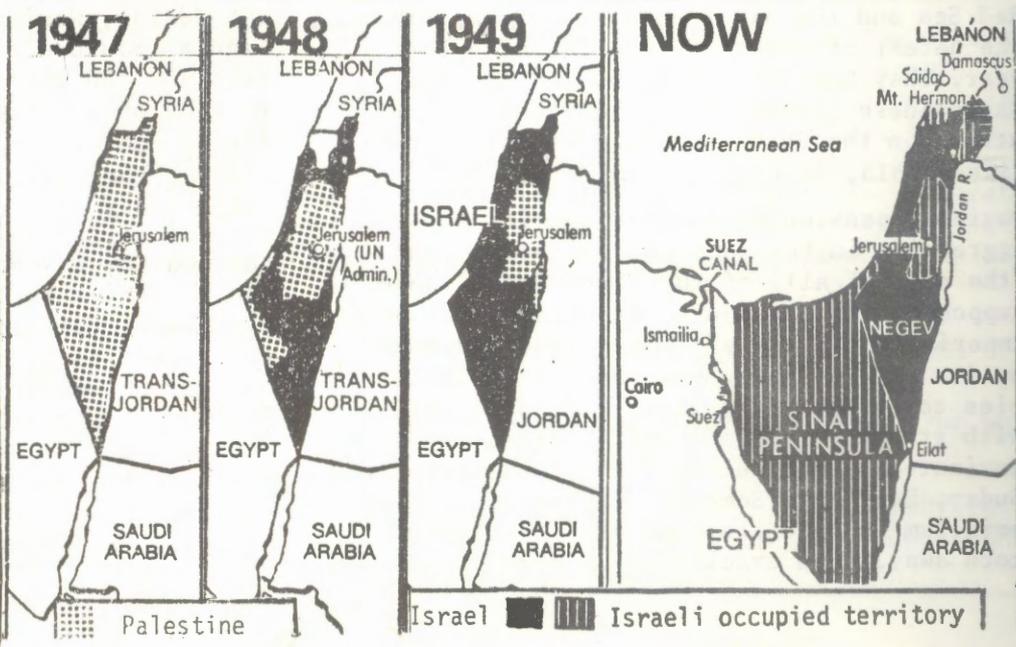
The fact is that the Ford capitalists are making fabulous profits and living in tremendous extravagance out of the Ford workers' sweat. A row among the Ford capitalists regarding the share-out has revealed how much. In an action against Henry Ford II in the American Courts, shareholders claim that his salary in 1977 was £545,000. This is before the profit he takes on his shares. On top of this the company paid for his apartment which cost £193,000 and a further £55,000 a year to maintain it. In contrast the Ford workers at Halewood, Merseyside who are attacked and regarded as lazy and irresponsible have lost \$16-17 per week primarily through lay-offs over the year.

Last year's pay claim was partially successful in so far as the basic wage rates were increased by more than 10%. But no progress was made on other points in the claim. Ford convenors plan to base the 1978 claim on last year's. It will include a 35-hour week, extra holidays for service, full pay for sickness, extra pay for line-workers and, particularly important, substantial improvements on lay-off pay. This is in addition to the cost of living increase.

Actually achieving any success in the claim depends on the involvement of the workers on the shop floor. Only in this way can workers prevent the national and local union misleaders selling out the struggle.

NURSES DEMAND MORE STAFF

Angry nurses marched to the South Tyneside Health Authority building in South Shields on May 27th. The nurses set off from the Ingham Infirmary and General Hospital immediately after they finished the night shift. The nurses padlocked the door of the Health Authority building before staff arrived and refused to let anyone in until the Authority agreed to discuss the problem of staff shortages with local representatives of NUPE.



SUPERPOWERS STRUGGLE TO DOMINATE AFRICA

"The scramble for Africa is on again". So said "The Guardian" newspaper on May 22nd. Today the African continent is aflame. The people of Africa are rising up in struggle for liberation. At the same time it is a battleground for the two superpowers, and other imperialist countries both for possession of the wealth of Africa and for its strategic importance in the world.

EUROPE IS THE FOCUS OF SUPERPOWER RIVALRY

The two superpowers, Soviet social imperialism and US imperialism are fighting each other for world hegemony (domination). The decisive question for them is "who controls Europe". Europe is the focus of the struggle of the two superpowers because of its large and modern industry, and its highly skilled work-force.

In the struggle between the two superpowers, it is the Soviet Union, the newcomer to the imperialist scene, which is bent on redividing the world to its own advantage, whilst the United States is doing its utmost to defend its sphere of control and influence. As the expanding superpower, the Soviet Union is the main source of war.

In order to capture Europe the Soviet social imperialists need first to build up their own strength, whilst weakening the other superpower, and at the same time weakening the European countries. Africa is a strategic target in this struggle.

SOVIET EXPANSIONISM IN AFRICA

The Soviet imperialists, and their Cuban mercenaries, are making a determined drive throughout the African continent. They subverted the National Liberation struggle in Angola, took control of the wealth (for example it takes coffee from Angola at a third of the world price) and established it as a base for further expansion. They sowed division in the Horn of Africa in order to step into the area in a bid to control the Red Sea and the oil routes to Europe. After the defeat of their puppets in Zaire last year, they have re-armed and trained the Katanganese gendarmes and launched another attack on the Shaba province of Zaire. Zaire, like Angola, is rich in raw materials.

Soviet expansionism carries out its acts of aggression in the name of "socialism" and "the natural ally of the third world", and supposedly in the course of "aiding the anti-imperialist struggle". This lie is exposed by its ruthless economic rape of those countries to which it has given its "aid" (aid with strings attached) and by its attempt to dominate and manipulate those countries. In Sudan, Egypt and Somalia, Soviet social imperialism has had its mask of "friendship" torn away, been expelled from those countries



and had its profiteering and manipulation exposed. At the same time the people of Eritrea who have fought a long National Liberation struggle, firstly against US imperialism, are now resisting aggression by the Soviet Union's Cuban mercenaries, including the dropping of napalm on the liberated towns by Cuban pilots in Soviet MiG jets!

Soviet social imperialism is after control of the wealth of Africa not only for its own direct economic gain, but also because by wresting control from the other superpower, and the European imperialists it will have a major impact in weakening them economically and militarily.

OLD IMPERIALISM IN AFRICA TRIES TO MAINTAIN ITS POSITION

Since the Second World War the old imperialists have suffered many set-backs. Most African countries have won their political independence, and the National Liberation struggle in Southern Africa, in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), Namibia (South West Africa) and Azania (South Africa) against the imperialists and the white racist settler regimes, are forging ahead. The imperialists in most of Africa can no longer directly control and plunder the African continent at will. But still today they exploit the people and countries of Africa through neo-colonialism - through the continued economic domination of many African countries by US imperialism and the minor western imperialist powers. They make super-profits by buying cheap and selling dear and through their big investments in many African countries. The African countries are hitting back by uniting with the rest of the third world, and demanding a New International Economic Order. The opposition to this just struggle is led by the two superpowers.

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SOVIET AND ALL IMPERIALISM—OUT OF ZAIRE

On May 12th, the city of Kolwezi, in the Shaba province of Zaire, came under attack. Several thousand mercenaries armed by the Soviet social imperialists, and trained by Soviet and Cuban forces in Angola took part in the assault. This is a repeat of the invasion launched against Zaire on behalf of the Soviet Union last year (see May 1977 issue of "Class Struggle").

The Soviet Union would like to portray the mercenaries as national liberation fighters. The facts of history prove the opposite. The mercenaries were formerly the troops of the United States puppet Moise Tshombe. In the early 1960s Tshombe was described by Moscow as head of "a despicable clique of secessionists". When Tshombe was defeated his troops fled to Angola, where they acted as mercenaries for the Portuguese colonialists fighting the Angolan liberation movements. Portuguese colonialism was defeated in Angola, but Soviet social imperialism came in through the back door. The mercenaries are now paid by the Soviet imperialists. They have had many masters but their role is the same - imperialist puppets.

Zaire is crucial to the Soviet plans to take over Africa and encircle Europe. It has immense mineral wealth and contains two-thirds of the western imperialist powers' sources of Cobalt, which is essential for manufacturing some heat-resisting alloys used in armaments manufacture. It also has borders with Zambia, Kenya, Tanzania and the Sudan.

EUROPEAN IMPERIALISTS INTERVENE

In response to the Soviet attack the western imperialist powers have carried out their own military aggression. 1750 Belgian paratroopers and infantry and 600 French Foreign Legionnaires have gone in. British Hercules aircraft and US airforce transport planes have been

used. This counter-attack was plotted by the four countries at a NATO meeting in May. They say they intervened to rescue the lives of some working people there. Since when have they given a damn about the lives of workers? Have they bothered about the hundreds of workers who die working in their copper mines in Zaire? Of course not! Belgium has \$800 million worth of investment in Zaire, West Germany \$80 million, Britain \$60 million and France \$10 million. This neo-colonial investment is what they are concerned about "protecting".

Neither the two superpowers, nor the European imperialists want to see Zaire truly free and independent.

SUPPORT STRUGGLE OF ZAIRE AGAINST SOVIET AGGRESSION

Despite the neo-colonial nature of Mobutu's government, the struggle of that government and the people of Zaire against Soviet aggression is a just struggle. The people of Zaire are fighting heroically against the most dangerous enemy of the people of the world - the Soviet social imperialists. They are holding back the plans of the Soviet Union to take over not only Africa, but also Europe.

But Mobutu also serves the interests of western imperialism. This is why he had to accept western imperialist military involvement. These troops are just as likely to try to suppress a genuine revolutionary anti-imperialist struggle by the people of Zaire. The people of Zaire have to defeat not only the Soviet Union, but also these other imperialists who control Zaire's economy. The workers of western Europe have a special responsibility to demand that the imperialists of Europe, who exploit and oppress us as well as the people of Zaire, pull out their soldiers. This is our contribution to the revolution in Zaire. ■

SUPERPOWERS STRUGGLE TO DOMINATE AFRICA

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In southern Africa, whilst the Soviet imperialists try to divide the Liberation movements and worm their way into power by the back door, the US and other imperialists, such as Britain, are also trying to split the movement, and set up neo-colonial governments. Black governments, but with protection for the US, British and other imperialist's investment.

SUPPORT STRUGGLE OF AFRICAN PEOPLE AND NATIONS

The people of Africa are standing up and fighting. They are fighting imperialism and superpower domination. At the same time they are faced with a struggle between the two superpowers being waged on their continent, which is characterised particularly by Soviet/Cuban colonial expansion and warmongering.

The RCLB supports the struggle of the African people and nations against the two superpowers, especially against social imperialism, which is preparing to attack Europe. At the same time we support their struggle against British imperialism and the other second-rate imperialist powers. Every blow they strike against our ruling class is a blow for us as well.

WORKERS AND OPPRESSED PEOPLES AND NATIONS OF THE WORLD UNITE!

DOWN WITH SOVIET SOCIAL IMPERIALISM - THE MOST DANGEROUS SOURCE OF WAR!

SUPPORT THE STRUGGLE OF THE AFRICAN PEOPLES AND NATIONS AGAINST IMPERIALISM, COLONIALISM AND SUPERPOWER DOMINATION! ■

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

CHAIRMAN HUA VISITS KOREA

On May 5th comrade Hua Kuo-feng, Chairman of the Communist Party of China (CPC), and Premier of the People's Republic of China arrived in Pyongyang on a friendly visit to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). The visit was made at the invitation of comrade Kim Il Sung, the General Secretary of the Korean Workers Party and President of the DPRK.

Hundreds of thousands of Korean workers lined the streets to welcome Chairman Hua, waving flags and banners saying "friendship" and "unity". On behalf of the people of Pyongyang Chairman Hua was presented with a statuette of a Korean fighter and a Chinese fighter standing shoulder to shoulder, entitled: "Comrades-in-Arms Sealed in Blood." The statuette represents the deep ties formed between the two peoples and the two parties in their past revolutionary struggles. In his speech Chairman Hua recalled that Korean revolutionaries had fought with the Chinese People's Liberation Army in China and likewise the Chinese people fought side by side with Koreans, during the Fatherland Liberation war against the US orchestrated invasion. The two leaders also pointed out that their unity lived as strong as ever today. "As they firmly united with each other and defeated two imperialist powers

in the past, so the people of the 2 countries will struggle shoulder-to-shoulder for ever in the future, too, as comrades-in-arms and brothers and win victory together," said President Kim Il Sung.

Speaking on the international situation President Kim Il Sung stated: "Imperialism and other dominationist forces are engaged in a furious scramble to draw the third world countries into their sphere of domination...the present situation urgently demands that the countries of the new-emerging forces, the non-aligned countries, form a united front against the imperialist, old and new colonialist and dominationist forces." He firmly supported "the Chinese people in their just struggle for liberating Taiwan and achieving the unity of their country", and congratulated Chairman Hua Kuo-feng and the CPC in their victory over the "gang of four".

In his reply Chairman Hua denounced "United States imperialism which occupies South Korea and pursues a policy of dividing Korea." "We maintain that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea is the sole legitimate sovereign Korean state," he said.

Chairman Hua returned to China on May 10. ■

Air Marshal Cameron attacks the Soviet Union

On his recent visit to Peking, Sir Neil Cameron, Marshal of the Royal Air Force and Chief of the Defence Staff said:

"Our two countries are coming together closer and closer. This must be good because we both have an enemy at the door whose capital is in Moscow."

These remarks were welcomed by the Chinese. Chou Chun-lin, commander of the People's Liberation Army, Shanghai Garrison described Cameron's visit as "a new development of the friendly relations between our two countries."

AN ENEMY OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

British workers know Cameron as an enemy of the working people, a faithful servant of the imperialist bourgeoisie which daily exploits and oppresses them, the leader of the armed forces which murder and oppress the people of Northern Ireland. How then can the leaders of socialist China welcome such a man?

The Chinese Communists have made their attitude on this question quite clear. Wang Bingman, President of the Chinese People's Friendship Association explained last year in an interview - "We don't support the British bourgeoisie, we support the struggles of the British working class.." As for the British capitalist class, he continued - "We appreciate their public denunciation of the Soviet Union, but this doesn't mean we support their bourgeois policies."

USSR - MOST DANGEROUS ENEMY OF THE WORLD'S PEOPLE

Once this is understood it is perfectly clear why the Chinese leaders welcomed Cameron to Peking. What he had to say was quite right. The USSR is the common enemy of Britain and China. In Europe it has forces which are 3 times superior to those of NATO. Every 18 months it equips a force of planes and missiles equal in strength to the whole Royal Air Force.

It is also true that good relations between China and the countries of Europe are an excellent thing. China is a great force opposing the Soviet and United States superpowers, the main enemies of the people of the world. The greater the links between China and the European countries, the more difficult it will be for the superpowers to attack either Europe or China. Such good relations are a good thing for the people of Europe as well as for the people of China. They are only a bad thing for the superpowers, in particular the USSR which is the most dangerous enemy of the world's people.

'LEFT' LABOUR SUPPORTS SOVIET SOCIAL IMPERIALISM

This is why the British supporters of Soviet social imperialism have been so vigorous in their attacks on Cameron. Ian Mikardo, the 'left' Labour MP compared his remarks to a declaration of war on the Soviet Union. Norman Atkinson, the treasurer of the Labour Party, has demanded his resignation. The 'British Soviet Friendship Society' accused him of "blatant warmongering" and "an attack on world detente".

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ONLY THE PATRIOTIC FRONT REPRESENTS ZIMBABWE

Day by day events in Zimbabwe expose the rotten nature of the so-called "internal settlement". This "settlement" is nothing more than a group of traitors to the Zimbabwean revolution, gathered around Ian Smith, and called the "interim government".

In April, Byron Hove, who had been appointed by the "interim government" as a "co-minister of Justice and Law and Order", called for reforms in the racist police force. He was promptly sacked.

On May 14th, a crowd of Zimbabweans were listening to an address by a liberation fighter. Rhodesian troops arrived on the scene and promptly opened fire on the unarmed crowd, killing well over 50 men, women and children.

The "internal settlement" is being rejected by the people of Zimbabwe, who know that the armed struggle led by ZANU and the Patriotic Front, is the only way to a genuine independence. As a result the interim government is resorting to more and more devious means in an attempt to confuse and deceive the people of Zimbabwe, and the world. One of Smith's latest tricks is to "legalise" ZANU and ZAPU. As soon as this was done, one of the black traitors in the "interim government", Sithole, who used to be a member of ZANU, promptly called his own organisation ZANU! This is the name he campaigns under in Rhodesia, and in the British press, he is now referred to as "the leader of ZANU". Meanwhile the real ZANU and the Patriotic Front continue the armed struggle, and are winning victory after victory. As comrade Mugabe, the leader of ZANU, says: "the Smith regime is illegal and it has no right to allow or ban an organisation inside Zimbabwe."

The events in Zimbabwe prove that only the Patriotic Front represents Zimbabwe. We should oppose the attempt of the British ruling class, and their Labour government, to set up a neo-colonial regime in Zimbabwe, and demand that the British government recognise the Patriotic Front as the sole legal representatives of the people of Zimbabwe, that they break off negotiations with Smith and the "interim government", and that they negotiate only with the Patriotic Front and hand over power to them!

POWER TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT!

RCLB-ZANU Speaking Tour

A MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF ZANU SPEAKING ON THE STRUGGLE AGAINST BRITISH IMPERIALISM IN ZIMBABWE.

ACCOMPANIED BY NEIL REDFERN, SECRETARY OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE RCLB.

Meetings will be held in:

GRIMSBY	SUNDAY	18th JUNE
LEEDS	MONDAY	19th JUNE
MANCHESTER	TUESDAY	20th JUNE
LIVERPOOL	WEDNESDAY	21st JUNE
BIRMINGHAM	THURSDAY	22nd JUNE
LONDON	SATURDAY	24th JUNE
BRISTOL	SUNDAY	25th JUNE
YEOVIL	MONDAY	26th JUNE

See local publicity for details, or ask any RCLB member.

ZANU/RCLB PUBLIC MEETING IN LONDON

A public meeting will be held on Sat. 24th JUNE from 6.30 - 10.30 at the Co-op, 129 SEVEN SISTERS RD., LONDON N7. Tube - Finsbury Park.

There will be a photo exhibition, a film and songs on the struggle of the people of Zimbabwe.

Speakers: Member of the Central Committee of ZANU, and the Secretary of the Central Committee of the RCLB.

ZIMBABWE SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN

The Zimbabwe solidarity campaign launched by the RCLB has set itself three basic tasks:

1. To expose and oppose British imperialism in Zimbabwe and to develop the spirit of working class internationalism.
2. To raise money to send a landrover to the liberation fighters in Zimbabwe.
3. To force the British government to recognise only the Patriotic Front.

In Zimbabwe our class brothers and sisters are fighting our common enemy: the British ruling class. Their enemy is our enemy. Their fight is our fight.

Concretely, our target is to send a landrover, as a gift from the British working class to the liberation fighters of Zimbabwe. Show your solidarity. Give generously to the Zimbabwe fund. If you can't afford money, you can help by providing old bedding and clothes for the liberation fighters and refugees. Every penny, every blanket will go to Zimbabwe.

RCLB members and supporters will be collecting at factory gates, or you can give donations to any member of the RCL. If you can't do either send donations to: J. Bayley, c/o New Era Books, 203 Seven Sisters Road, London N4., enclosing a note saying it is for the Zimbabwe fund.

BRITISH IMPERIALISM OUT OF ZIMBABWE!

ONLY THE PATRIOTIC FRONT REPRESENTS ZIMBABWE! POWER TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT!

ZIMBABWE - THE STRUGGLE AGAINST BRITISH IMPERIALISM. A new pamphlet by the RCLB, available from New Era Books, 203 Seven Sisters Rd, London N4., or any branch of the RCLB. Price 5p.

CAMERON ATTACKS SOVIET UNION Cont'd from p10

Who are these people trying to fool? It is the Soviet Union which is the biggest warmonger in the world today. It is the Soviet Union in its world-wide rivalry with US imperialism that is the biggest threat to peace, not those that

expose its war plans.

The more the peoples of the world are prepared for that threat, the more they stand up to the Soviet Union and United States, the longer a war will be delayed. And this is in the interests of the people of the whole world. ■

VISIT TO A PEOPLE'S COMMUNE

The RCLB delegation visited a commune near Wusih (nearly 100 miles west of Shanghai). It is called the He Lei People's Commune and covers an area of 12 sq. kilometres. The commune is divided into 8 Production Brigades and 80 Production Teams. Production teams are generally based on the village and production brigades are based on the advanced co-operative.

POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC PROGRESS SINCE 1949.

The Wusih area was liberated in 1949. At that time the land was owned by landlords, rich peasants and fish pond owners. Only a tiny minority of the poor and middle peasants had any land. The productivity of the land was low, the life was very hard and natural disasters such as floods were taken to be completely out of the hands of man to prevent.

After liberation in 1949 came land reform. Land reform gave land to the peasants individually but it did not overnight assure that capitalism would be defeated. The land and fisheries were still based on individual households. Although the landlords had been overthrown, socialism had yet to take firm roots in the countryside of China. Progress lay with the correct policies of the Chinese Communist Party in advancing the revolution in China's countryside stage by stage.

First came the Party's call in 1951 to form mutual aid teams to increase the effectiveness in their struggle against landlords, for production and against natural disasters. This call found an enthusiastic response amongst most peasants though some distrusted the movement for a time until the all round benefits became clear. For example, in 1954, a disastrous flood in the Wushi area did little damage to the better prepared mutual aid teams but hit the remaining individual households badly.

However, the mutual aid teams still were based on private ownership of the land and fisheries. So disputes broke out over who should get helped first. Soon this problem was solved by the creation of elementary co-operatives and then advanced co-operatives. Advanced co-ops bought the individually owned implements from their owners and transformed them into public property. The overall strategy of the Party and the people was to gradually do away with payment according to land and bring in the system of payment according to work.

In 1958 the commune movement began which made this fundamental change in the class relations in the countryside. Responding to the Party's call six advanced co-ops in Wusih organised the He Lei commune. This was a great triumph for the peasants in their class struggle against capitalism. Since that time further advances had been made in consolidating and extending the dictatorship of the proletariat

in Wusih and throughout China. The People's Commune is a form of the rule of the workers and peasants of China. The principle of "from each according to his ability, to each according to his work" is now firmly established.

MASSIVE INCREASES IN PRODUCTION UNDER SOCIALISM

Before liberation the area now covered by the He Lei commune cultivated two crops every year. One crop of wheat and one crop of rice. Today three crops are grown every year. This is one crop of wheat and two crops of rice. The fishponds yielded 250 kg. of fish for every square metre of pond. Today 778 kg. of fish is yielded for every square metre of pond. Silk output has doubled. Vegetable production has trebled. Grain production has increased four-fold. All this adds to the wellbeing of the commune members and enables the commune to accumulate funds to increase mechanisation, laying the groundwork for improved working conditions and further improvements in productivity.

The He Lei commune is nearing basic mechanisation which means that all the most arduous commune tasks will be made easier with walking tractors, bulldozers and other means to assist the work.

SOCIALISM RELEASES THE PRODUCTIVE FORCES TO SERVE THE PEOPLE!

It is hard to compare China's countryside with our own. Before 1949, in China, the peasants were forced sometimes to sell their children to release their debt. Before 1949 in China, mechanical aids were scarce indeed. Now the rule in China's countryside is the People's Commune with well organised and increasingly mechanised labour. With the landlord class overthrown and the rule of the workers and peasants more or less assured, good harvests are possible even in difficult conditions. The Communes have good schools, medical care, their own hospitals and workshops.

In Britain farming is very highly mechanised and efficiently run. But as we know crops produced are grown for profit which has led to the wholesale destruction of products like milk and eggs. In the EEC "mountains" of butter, beef etc., are a scandalous testimony to the rule of capitalism in agriculture.

When the workers of Britain take power we will not have the problem of mechanisation of agriculture. What we will have is the problem of a depopulated countryside. This is the tendency under capitalism. We may well have to re-populate our countryside to ensure a good healthy agricultural situation. The lesson from China's experience is that the class struggle in the countryside, led by the Communist Party, is essential to all round growth of the economy in the interests of the people. ■