

# CLASS STRUGGLE



POLITICAL PAPER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF BRITAIN

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MONTHLY 7p

## SHELTON STEEL WORKS AXED NATIONALISATION IS RATIONALISATION

The Labour Party, and the revisionists (phoney communists) and Trotskyites who hang on their coat-tails, are no longer able to peddle nationalisation in bright "socialist" colours. They stay quiet and hope the working class won't notice the savage cuts in jobs taking place in nationalised industries.

After buying up Fairey Holdings, the National Enterprise Board has announced the immediate closure of its Tress Engineering works at Newburn near Newcastle-upon-Tyne. This means the loss of 330 jobs. This ruthless decision came at a time when the workers had been on strike for over a month in support of a wage claim. The management had offered only 7% and were running roughshod to undermine existing work practices.

Nationalisation is rationalisation. In the same way that mergers in the private sector are accompanied by lay-offs and redundancies, nationalisation involves redundancies and closures. This collapse of capitalist industry both private and state brings cut backs in steel production as demand falls. There have

already been redundancies at Port Talbot steel plants. This has now spread to the Shelton steel works in Stoke-on-Trent. 1600 workers are to be made redundant under government rationalisation plans. In reporting these redundancies the "Daily Telegraph" associated them with 3000 jobs to be axed at the Singer Sewing Machine factory on Clydebank, Scotland. The Singer cut-back results from glutted markets and increased competition. The working class is being made to pay for producing too much not too little. This is a capitalist crisis of over-production.

The Transport and General Workers' Union has called for action to keep Shelton Steel-works open. These words must be backed up with deeds. Immingham dockers are giving a lead. They have threatened Industry Secretary, Eric Varley with blacking iron ore imports to the large Scunthorpe Steelworks. This is excellent. But the Government is waving the carrot of large redundancy payments in an effort to split and demoralise the Shelton Steel

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## ZIMBABWE - BRITISH TROOPS KEEP OUT!

On May 28th, the "Sunday Telegraph" asked in a headline: "Will we learn the lesson of Kolwezi?" The "Sunday Telegraph" has "suspicions about the will of any British Government ...to act as France has just done". In a front page article on the same day the Defence Correspondent was more explicit: "As things stand, Britain could not mount a Kolwezi style mission to rescue her own nationals from such potential danger areas as Rhodesia or Zambia".

Well, the "Sunday Telegraph" can put its mind at rest. On June 16th, the "Financial Times" reports: "The Government has taken a fresh look at contingency plans for a military rescue operation in Rhodesia if civilian lives are endangered...Re-examination of the plans was prompted by last month's Franco-Belgian evacuation of Europeans from Zaire...Dr Owen said the UK could rush paratroops to an African destination "within days" in the same sort of strength as the French force sent to help evacuate Zaire's Shaba province...UK forces could certainly secure an African airfield, Dr. Owen said."

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS PREPARING A DIRECT MILITARY INVASION OF ZIMBABWE!

Why? Because the "internal settlement" is not

working. Even with the aid of his black stooges Smith cannot subdue the struggle for freedom led by the Patriotic Front. On June 15th, Smith made a television appeal to Britain and the US to help him. He said "With one act the British Government would solve our problem. It would bring terrorism to an end". The peoples of the world are supposed to think that the "one act" is recognition of the "internal settlement". As if a statement of recognition would put an end to the fight for freedom! The "one act" he really wants is - military intervention. Recognition of the "internal settlement" would be the first step. The second step would be that the legally recognised Government would then ask for military aid and the British Government would respond to the call from a "legal African Government".

Why should the British Government want to send troops to defend Mr. Smith? Because Smith and Co. are defending a source of super-profits for British imperialism. The main source of superprofits there is Zimbabwe's mineral wealth. The British armed forces exist for precisely such reasons - the economic interests of British imperialism, at home and abroad, have to be defended.

# FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK

In the four years since the Labour government came to power the number of workers on the dole has jumped from 561,600 to 1,386,810. Even these figures hide the true extent of the leap. Labour's cosmetic surgery hides the true unemployment figures. Job creation projects, 'training' schemes etc., remove many workers from the dole books, but the 6 months "work" on low wages, rarely leads to a real job, only back to the dole.

## ONLY SOCIALISM CAN GUARANTEE THE RIGHT TO WORK

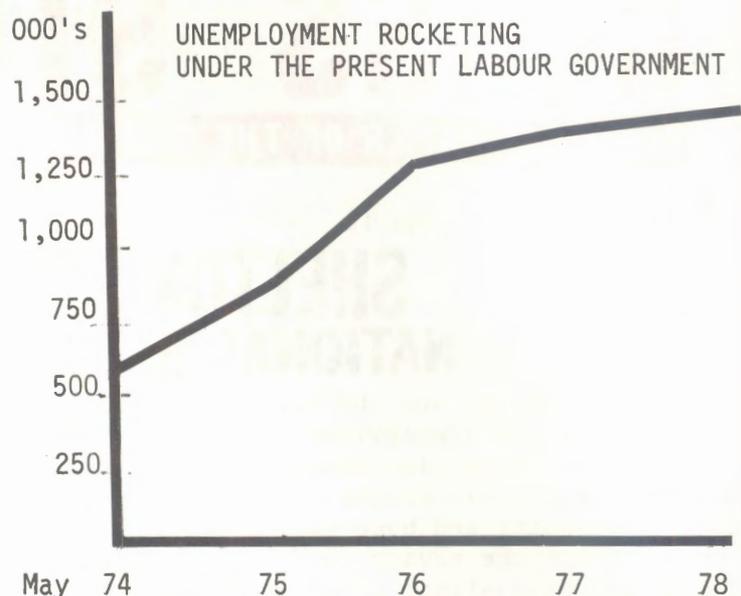
Unemployment is a direct result of the anarchy of the capitalist system. The competition between the capitalist companies inevitably leads into periodic crises - into the large scale destruction of capital of factories. Firms are forced to rationalise. Those that do best are those that can most effectively sack workers. Others are forced to close.

The "right to work" can only be guaranteed under socialism. Only through the revolutionary seizure of state power by the working class, can industry and commerce be taken under the ownership and control of the working class as a whole, and run in their interests. Only through state planning in the interests of the working class, can the "economic laws" of capitalism be limited and finally eliminated. This is why in the socialist countries, the right to work can be guaranteed. Article 48 of the constitution of the People's Republic of China states: "Citizens have the right to work". This is not just words. There is no unemployment in China.

## "REFORMS" CANNOT BRING THE RIGHT TO WORK

In his book "The Class Struggles in France", Marx summed this up: "The 'right to work' is, in the bourgeois sense (i.e. in the capitalist system) an absurdity, a miserable pious wish. But behind the 'right to work' stands the power over capital....the appropriation of the means of production....the abolition of wage labour, of capital, and of their mutual relations".

The opportunists in the workers' movement though try to mislead the working people and hide the truth that under capitalism the "right to work" is a "miserable pious wish". They pretend that with some reforms unemployment can be eliminated. On May 9th Liverpool Trades Council organised a "mass lobby of Parliament" against the extensive factory closures and redundancies on Merseyside. The official Trades Council leaflet for this march drafted under the leadership of the Labour "left" and the so-called "Communist" Party of Great Britain, put forward a "programme" for creating jobs. One of their proposals was the nationalisation of the top 25 firms. The "right to work campaign", a front organisation of the "Socialist Workers" Party, also calls for nationalisation as a solution to unemployment.



This false solution flies in the face of the facts! In the 10 years from 1964 to 1974 there were 260,000 jobs lost in the mines, 40,000 in electricity, 20,000 in gas and 30,000 in steel! Nationalised companies are nothing else than state monopoly capitalist firms operating within the capitalist system just like private companies. In fact many companies are nationalised precisely in order to carry through rationalisation and redundancies. The point is made dramatically clear by the fact that the biggest closure that the Liverpool march was opposing was the closure of British Leyland's Speke plant!

## FIGHT CLASS AGAINST CLASS FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK

The fight for the "right to work" can only be in the final analysis a revolutionary struggle for the rule of the working class - the dictatorship of the proletariat - and the building of socialism. It is also in the immediate situation our rallying cry in the struggle to fight class against class to defend every job. We will not eliminate unemployment until we eliminate capitalism, but we can resist factory closures and redundancies and win more jobs through mass class action - through fighting for our interests against the bosses' interests behind the slogan - "We won't pay for the bosses' crisis!"

Firstly, we must reject the lie of the bosses and their Labour government that if we accept wage cuts, there will be more jobs. This lie is shown for the capitalist garbage that it is by the fact that whilst the capitalists, aided and abetted by the sell-out trade union leaders, have forced down our wages over the last few years, unemployment has rocketed. On the contrary, only by fighting for higher wages for the basic week will we be able to cut out overtime and force the employers to take on more workers. The trade union traitors blame workers for doing overtime, when it is their own collaboration with the bosses in cutting real wages that forces many workers

# GARNERS - OPPORTUNISTS JUMP ON BANDWAGON

The strike for union recognition at the Garners steak house chain is now in its sixth month. The firmness and determination of the strikers to see the struggle through is unshaken. But now that it is clear that the Garners workers are ready for a long struggle, the knives are coming out and the Labour traitors who helped sell out the Grunwick struggle are jumping on the bandwagon. Tribunate M.P.s have visited the picket line in Oxford St., London. They gave £187 on the Garners' workers strike fund. But the sting was in the tail. The honeyed words showing 'support' for the struggle was used to hide real opposition to the self-reliance and determination of the strikers. In an attempt to free the Labour government of blame, Chairman of the Tribunites, Fletcher, said the Garners bosses were getting around loopholes in the Employment Protection Act. While trying to get the strikers to rely on the Labour Party amending this Act, Fletcher completely ignores the real issue. The Garners' workforce are mainly immigrant workers and it is their lack of rights resulting from the immigration acts which the Garners' bosses are exploiting. The racist work permit system allows the boss to hold immigrant workers in conditions of virtual slavery by refusing or threatening to not renew a work permit. The Garners workers are

## STOP THE GROWING POLICE POWER

Continuing police demands for cutting and abolishing legal and democratic rights, police boss David McNee made an all-out public attack on the right to bail recently. He spoke only of people charged with armed robbery. But this is only so his demands for greater police powers can be made acceptable to the public. McNee makes the same assumptions as the former police chief Robert Mark who is notorious for his attacks on the rights of trial by jury. Mark demanded more convictions from juries and more summary trials in Magistrates Courts. Mark's arrogant assumptions were that defendants are guilty until proven innocent. McNee's demand for detention of 'suspects' of robbery is the same and will give more powers to the police to detain indefinitely. Black and Irish people suffer particularly from arbitrary police arrest and trumped up charges. The recent case of West Indian youth George Lindo imprisoned for two years by Bradford Crown Court for a crime he could not have committed shows how much police powers of getting a conviction have been increased. Robert Mark's anti-jury speech came when juries were acquitting 50% of police prosecutions. The Criminal Law Act 1977 has greatly increased police powers and made conviction easier. While the prosecution can ask any number of jurors to stand down, defendants can question only three. Mark and now McNee promote the police as the custodians of the public welfare. They are

fighting racism and that includes the Labour Party.

Not only are the Labour opportunists vigorously enforcing existing racist legislation. New attacks on black and immigrant workers are being devised in the Home Office without a single mention in Parliament. Black workers seeking employment are obliged to give evidence of identity, usually a passport, and a clearance letter from the Home Office. This is an extension of the work permit system and results from the all party select committee racist recommendations which have not even been voted on in Parliament. Clearly Labour is a viciously racist party.

### LABOUR TRIES TO REVIVE BANKRUPT ARBITRATION SERVICE

Speaking from the Garners picket line, the notorious opportunist Sydney Bidwell tried to revive ACAS with promises of moves to "strengthen its powers". When the Grunwick workers were relying on mass picketing and calling for blacking of the company, the opportunist Trade Union leaders called on workers to rely on ACAS and the state. This treachery sabotaged the struggle at that time and bailed out Ward - the Grunwick boss.

By learning these lessons of Grunwick, the Garners workers will see through the Labour Party's tricks.

nothing of the kind. They are an arm of the rule of the monopoly capitalist class and are chiefly concerned with protecting the bosses' state power and holding down the growing resistance of the working class. We must oppose any moves which increase the arbitrary powers of the police and defend victims of police repression. Support for the campaign to free George Lindo helps expose the police as the racist, reactionary force that it is.

FREE GEORGE LINDO!

### FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK Cont'd from p2

into an average of 4¼ hours a week overtime to make up the money.

Secondly, we must fight redundancies everywhere they are threatened. This means organised mass action of the rank-and-file. And it means mass action from the point of view of the whole class. How many "militant" shop stewards are prepared to fight closures and sackings - but when it comes down to "voluntary redundancies" or "natural wastage" they sit back and don't bother to lead a strong campaign amongst the workers on the need to fight for every job.

We need to take up the struggle not just against the bosses, but against the opportunists in the unions. We must fight to turn the unions into fighting class organisations - class unions that fight for jobs behind the slogans: WE WON'T PAY FOR THE BOSSES' CRISIS!

FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK!

# WOMEN'S OPPRESSION HITS THE WHOLE WORKING CLASS

Women's emancipation is a major question of the workers' class struggle and socialist revolution. Women make up half the population. Without mobilizing the support and participation of the masses of working class women it will be impossible to overthrow capitalism and build socialism. The bosses understand this only too well. That is why capitalism teaches men to look down on women and not take them seriously and women to accept this position. Both ideas are perpetuated to divide men and women and weaken the working class. Women's role in society is still regarded as chiefly that of wife and mother. Approximately 40 out of every 100 of the working population are women. Two in every three working women are married and are usually expected to do the domestic work too. This prevents women from taking a full role in social life and production. It isolates women, particularly housewives divorced from production. The bosses seek to use this isolation to turn women against the workers' struggles. Backward political views of some of the wives of Cowley car workers have been mobilized to oppose strike action.

With the development of capitalism more and more women have worked in industry. Women workers have waged militant struggles. In June 1968, women sewing machinists struck for an upgrading of their skill. This struggle for equal pay triggered and inspired an upsurge in women's struggle. It has forced concessions from the ruling class on equal pay and opportunities. But this legislation has not ended the oppression and discrimination against women.

## EQUAL PAY ACT A FRAUD!

The Equal Pay Act was passed in 1970. It came into force five years later in 1975. In this time women's average weekly earnings rose from being half of men's to just over half at 57%. To get around the act the bosses had been given

## HOSPITAL BEDS CUT—WAITING LIST GROWS

Recently bed allocations at the new Royal Liverpool Hospital were published. Out of a total of 820 beds, Medicine and Surgery will have only 425. In exchange the Area Health Authority will close 215 beds in Sefton General Hospital. In addition similar numbers will close in the Liverpool Royal Infirmary and the Royal Southern Hospitals and about 100 beds will go in the David Lewis Northern Hospital. The story is the same for other specialities. For example, in the Urological Department in the new Liverpool Teaching Hospital, 41 beds are proposed but at present this department has 125 beds in the 3-4 hospitals which will be closed.

Figures above are the present day numbers of beds, but over the past 3-4 years the number of beds have already been reduced a great deal. For example, Sefton General has had one surgical ward of 20 beds and one medical ward of 25 beds closed permanently. Various back up facilities like the convalescence home

plenty of loopholes. Jobs done by women were re-defined as "light work" to justify paying less than men. When this didn't suit, other excuses were found. Women rifle packers at Parker Hale lost their claim because although their work was heavier than men's, the men did "a bit of clerking" as well. The bosses of United States company Tricos in Brentwood, London, justified paying £6.50 a week less to women on the grounds that the men used to work nights. Three hundred and fifty women struck for equal pay and waged a struggle for 21 weeks. Men on the same job came out in support. Victory was won in the teeth of opposition from the Industrial Tribunal and press and T.V. silence. Only through militant class struggle did these women win equal pay.

## SOCIALIST REVOLUTION: THE ONLY ROAD TO WOMEN'S EMANCIPATION

The oppression of women emerged with the development of private property and inheritance through the male line. It is a part and parcel of a class society. The socialist revolution and the abolition of exploitation of man by man will create the conditions for ending centuries of women's oppression. Under working class power and a planned socialist economy women will be able to take a full part in production to help build socialism. Nurseries at the place of work and public kitchens and laundries will completely free women from housework hold drudgery and allow families to make a greater contribution to building industry. Only socialism can abolish capitalist crisis and enable women to play their full role in production. The struggle against women's oppression and to free women from isolation in the home under capitalism, will strengthen the workers' class struggle against rotten decaying capitalism. ■

in Aigburth have been closed and social services reduced.

These cuts result from Government measures to reduce spending on the Health Service. National Insurance contributions paid by the working class are being siphoned off to bail out capitalism via the National Enterprise Board. In addition the drug monopolies are milking the Health Service white through high prices. But an official at the Clatterbridge Hospital cancer treatment unit (Merseyside) tried to conceal this. He said beds had been cut from 178 to 149 "because of developments that have taken place in treatment methods... there has been a continuing fall in the length of stay of patients". It is true that patients stay 12 days on average instead of 20. But there is a waiting list of at least one week for cancer treatment. The urgent needs of the people are neglected under capitalism. ■

# A WORKER'S NOTEBOOK

THE ROTTEN 'COMMUNIST' PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN is having more and more trouble selling its paper 'Morning Star'. Even some 'C'P members can't stomach reading the rag any more. Last month a letter came out from one Party district committee urging members to place a regular order, to take extra copies, and promising that the editors would soon be tarting the paper up. What the revisionist 'C'P don't recognize is that it is their anti-working class politics that is the basic fault in their paper, and no amount of flashy design or sales campaigns can make up for this.

HEALY, CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER, SPEAKING at the NALGO conference on June 14, said that the 2½% National Insurance surcharge would have little or no effect on prices. In his budget speech in April he said that this surcharge was unacceptable because of the price increases that would result from it. This is just one example of the lies, confusions and distortions that the bosses use to defend the rotting capitalist system.

RACISM IS VERY LUCRATIVE FOR THE BOSSES. THE magazine 'Race Today' has reported that the Labour Government's racist denial of child tax allowance to overseas dependents of black workers in Britain is robbing the black immigrant community of an extra £70 million a year. Black immigrant workers used to be able to make income tax claims for the regular payments of money sent to their families, just as any worker is entitled to claim for their dependents in Britain. Immigrant workers from Common Market countries are also entitled to claim child tax allowance for children living in France, Belgium etc. Suppression of this right increases the special oppression of black immigrant workers and further impoverishes their families and dependents in countries already ravaged by imperialism. It must be firmly opposed by all workers.

AN UNSKILLED WORKER IS TWICE AS LIKELY TO DIE before retiring age as a professional worker. He has an average life expectancy of 65½ years - living to pick up only nine months of pension. He is literally worked to death by capitalism.

THE POLICE HAVE RECENTLY STEPPED UP THEIR harrassment of black youth in the St. Pauls area of Bristol. They have been picking up young black men and women at random, and trying to provoke them into 'resisting arrest' so that they can beat them up and then charge them. If this fails they hold them overnight and release them next morning with no charges being made. When the local National Front organizer Ray Dowler and a fellow Nazi kicked in the door of the community paper 'Bristol Voice' at lunchtime on May 4th however, it

took the police over an hour to get there after being phoned. Despite identification of the fascists and their car, no charges against them have yet been brought.

A RECENT REPORT ON TELEVISION STATED THAT A small village called Goosy is in decline and that the working population is moving to a nearby town. They reported that the decline is perfectly normal. But they did not say that the closing of the school, shop, pub, the stopping of the bus and train services are contributing factors. The workers are having to leave and sell their houses at knock-down prices to middle class business men who don't need these facilities. They send their kids to fee paying schools and shop in town using Jaguar cars instead of a bus service.

These workers were deliberately victimised to rob them of their homes. There is no doubt that after the last worker has left, the pub will re-open for its new richer clientele.

Send contributions for "A Worker's Notebook" to the "Editor: Class Struggle", c/o NEW ERA BOOKS.

## SHELTON STEEL WORKS AXED Cont'd from p1

workers. The opportunist trade union leaders are assisting in this by failing to raise the demand of saving jobs and uniting around a struggle to make the bosses pay for the crisis. This is the militant slogan of all class conscious workers who want determined class struggle against the bosses' rotten creaking system.

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## MANIFESTO

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# SUPERPOWERS' DISARMAMENT FRAUD EXPOSED AT UN

The Tenth Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Disarmament took place during May and June, following demands from many Third World countries for an end to the superpowers' arms race. As usual, the two imperialist superpowers, the Soviet Union and the United States, made flowery promises about working for peace, while in fact, both continue to build up massive stockpiles of both nuclear and conventional arms, and both continue to interfere in other countries' affairs.

During recent years, the peoples and nations of the Third World have intensified their struggle against imperialism. The U.S.S.R. has been kicked out of Egypt, Sudan and Somalia and an increasing number of African and Middle Eastern countries are demanding an end to Soviet aggression in the Horn of Africa. In 1975 the people of Indo-China defeated the massive war-machine of the United States, and the U.S.A. suffered a further setback this year, when the Panamanian people regained sovereignty of their canal. British imperialism too is on the defensive, particularly in Zimbabwe where the armies of the Patriotic Front are winning new victories daily.

It is because the Third World is so determined to defeat imperialism, that it is demanding that the superpowers disarm. This is a just demand, but for years both superpowers have made phoney promise after phoney promise, while intensifying their arms race.

## 1961 DISARMAMENT PLEDGE - A HOLLOW PROMISE

In 1961 the Soviet Union and the United States issued a statement in which they spoke of "General and Complete Disarmament". Seventeen years later, not one of the statement's supposed aims have been put into practice. Far from working for any sort of disarmament, both have greatly increased their military expenditure. In 1961 the USSR spent 20 billion doll-

ars a year on arms, and the USA 40 billion dollars. Now they spend 120 and 100 billion dollars a year respectively. During this period the Soviet Union, now the biggest spender, has increased its strategic missiles 14 fold, nearly doubled its naval tonnage, increased the size of its air force by several thousand military aircraft, and its army by 10,000 tanks and more than a million men. So much for Brezhnev's commitment to world peace.

At the U.N. assembly the superpowers continued to play tricks to try and evade the pressure of world opinion. On the question of nuclear disarmament they dwelled on side issues, they advocated the "Complete Prohibition of Nuclear Tests." But as a result of former partial test ban treaties, and the "treaty on nuclear non-proliferation" most countries have had their right even to the peaceful use of nuclear energy restricted, while the superpowers have continued to stockpile arms at full speed. Even if they were genuine about a complete test ban now, this would not touch their nuclear arsenals or stop them from producing new ones. As comrade Huang Hua, the Chinese Foreign Minister said in his speech, "In a word, their proposals in various guises, serve the single purpose of consolidating their positions as nuclear overlords, so they may freely subject other countries to nuclear threat and blackmail!"

## INDEPENDENCE AND PEACE

The Third World countries stressed that "conventional weapons should also be the object of disarmament agreements." But the Soviet Union, which in recent months has been using tanks, aeroplanes, guns and warships in its military adventures in Africa, actually slandered the Third World as being "the source of the arms race"! Rich words from the most aggressive imperialist power in the world to-day!

## REMEMBER CZECHOSLAVAKIA 1968 Demonstration Sunday 21st August

Nearly 10 years ago, on August 21st 1968, the Soviet Union invaded Czechoslovakia. Soviet troops are still in occupation. This act dramatically demonstrates once again that the supposedly socialist Soviet Union had degenerated into an imperialist power.

Today the two superpowers are locked in struggle for world domination. The strategic focus of their struggle is Europe. There is a serious danger of a war in which the main threat to the independence of western Europe will be the Soviet Union.

The defence of national independence from the two superpowers is an integral part of the struggle for socialist revolution in Britain.

Throughout Europe demonstrations will be held in August on the anniversary of the invasion of Czechoslovakia. In Britain the Revolutionary Communist League and the Communist Workers Movement are jointly organising a demonstration.

Full details in August issue of "Class Struggle".

Contact your "Class Struggle" seller for local transport arrangements



## BRITISH IMPERIALISTS VACILLATE

The British, as usual, vacillated in the debate, and as usual, came down on the side of appeasement. Callaghan talked loudly about the superpowers' activities in Africa, and called them the "New Columbuses". But in reality he relies on the US support for British imperialist exploitation in southern Africa, and seeks to pacify the Soviet Union by the offer of loans and technical equipment, and falling in with the Soviet hoax of "detente". Callaghan actually went as far as claiming that Soviet actions in Africa have nothing to do with "detente", which should proceed smoothly despite the fact that the USSR is pouring arms and ammunition into Africa on a scale never seen before, not even at the height of colonial plunder. The Labour government claims to work for peace, but refuses to stand up to the superpowers, and at the same time carries out imperialist plunder itself.



## CHINA EXPOSES THE SUPERPOWERS

The Chinese delegation at the U.N. energetically supported the Third World's demands, and played a leading role in exposing the role of the superpowers. Huang Hua warned that people should not rely on disarmament for the maintenance of world peace, because as long as the superpowers continued to struggle for world domination, they would continue to build new and more arms. "People should get prepared materially and organizationally to resist a war of aggression. The better the preparation, the less the chance that the warmongers will dare to unleash a war."

Huang Hua pointed out that the superpowers controlled over 90% of all nuclear weapons, and produced well over half of the world's conventional arms. The superpowers called on other countries to reduce their armies. But "Many Third World countries still lack adequate

defence capabilities...what arms do they have to reduce? Disarmament must start with the superpowers. This is a fundamental principle."

If they were genuine about disarmament Huang Hua said, the superpowers should cut down their huge arsenals, stop threatening other countries, withdraw all their armed forces stationed abroad, undertake not to station massive forces or stage military exercises near other countries' borders, and stop exporting arms to other countries with the intention of bringing them under control or fomenting war. If they made major progress in the "destruction of their nuclear weapons, and reduction of their conventional weapons, then other countries should join the Soviet Union and the United States in destroying all nuclear weapons. It is high time that the two superpowers demonstrated their sincerity with actual deeds instead of hollow words."

The vast majority of the world's peoples want peace, but only by preparing to resist wars of aggression and fighting superpower imperialism can we delay world war. We can't fight for peace by appeasement, or by believing the superpowers' false promises.

## The Soviet Union under the New Tsars

A new pamphlet from the People's Republic of China, showing how capitalism has been restored in the Soviet Union.

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# ZANU/RCLB SPEAKERS TOUR BRITAIN

At the time of going to press, the ZANU-RCLB speaking tour in solidarity with the struggle of the people of Zimbabwe led by ZANU and the Patriotic Front is still on the road. Successful meetings have been held in Grimsby, Leeds, Manchester and Liverpool.

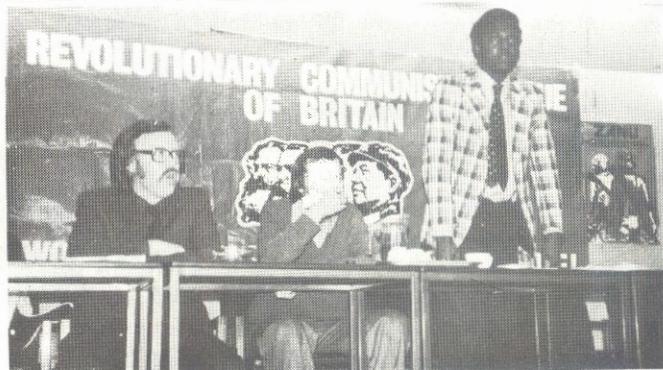
The tour has enabled British working people to grasp more clearly the successes of the Patriotic Front - the only genuine representatives of the people of Zimbabwe - in the people's war, and exposed the desperate manoeuvres of British imperialism and the Smith regime to hijack the revolution through the Anglo-US proposals and the so-called "internal settlement". The meetings have also given a boost to the fund raising campaign to buy a landrover for ZANU and the Patriotic Front, which will be sent to Zimbabwe as a concrete example of the solidarity of the British working class, and the people of Zimbabwe.

## ZANU SPEAKER DENOUNCES BRITISH IMPERIALISM

Regrettably ZANU were unable to send a member of the Central Committee to tour Britain due to the acute stage that the struggle has reached in Zimbabwe. Comrade Karimanzira, the organising secretary of the UK District Executive Committee of ZANU, represented ZANU, accompanied by Comrade Redfern, the Secretary of the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain.

Comrade Karimanzira opened his speech with a message of solidarity from Comrade Mugabe, the President of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU). In his speeches comrade Karimanzira traced the history of bloody aggression by British imperialism against Zimbabwe, showing how the people of Zimbabwe have never stopped their resistance. He showed how all their experience demonstrated that complete and genuine independence would only be won by pursuing their war to final victory. He showed that, although there were contradictions between British imperialism and Smith, they were united in trying to protect imper-

ialist interests in Zimbabwe. He roundly denounced the "internal settlement" farce, and the lies and traitorous activities of the black traitors in Zimbabwe. He pointed out that the struggle in Zimbabwe was part of the worldwide struggle. "our enemy has no colour", he declared, "it is imperialism and exploitation. It is capitalism and greed".



## "HAND OVER POWER TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT!"

Comrade Redfern, in his speech, showed that the British imperialists who exploit and oppress the people of Zimbabwe, in the pursuit of super-profits, are the same people who exploit and oppress the workers of Britain. We have one enemy, and one fight. Every blow struck against British imperialism in Zimbabwe is a blow against the enemy of the British working class, and every blow we strike in Britain is a help to the people of Zimbabwe. He called on the working people of Britain to demand that British imperialism hands over power to the Patriotic Front, the true representatives of the people of Zimbabwe. Comrade Redfern pointed to the preparations being made by the British government to launch a military intervention in Zimbabwe, and called on workers to be prepared to act militantly against it.

## SUPERPOWERS KEEP OUT OF ZIMBABWE!

Comrade Redfern, also denounced the two super-

Cont'd on p9

## 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! HAND OVER POWER TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT!  
DOWN WITH THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLOT! SUPERPOWERS KEEP OUT OF ZIMBABWE!**



# INTERNATIONAL NOTES

## USSR

On April 14, in Tbilisi, capital of the Republic of Georgia, 20,000 people demonstrated their anger at the new proposed constitution which does away with their rights to use their own language. The Russian Tsars passed laws last year imposing the teaching of Russian in schools and its use in scientific publications. Similar demonstrations took place in the Republic of Armenia. Under the new Tsars, nations have "officially" disappeared, the rights of the people to use their own language has been trampled on and the Brezhnev clique sanctions massive migrations of Russians into national minority regions. When the Soviet Union was a socialist country under Lenin and Stalin, the nationalities

## ZANU/RCLB SPEAKERS TOUR Cont'd from p8

powers. He attacked U.S. imperialism, which is working hand-in-hand with British imperialism in order to pursue its own imperialist interests in Zimbabwe, and exposed the Soviet Social imperialists who are lurking at the back door looking for an excuse to carry its expansionist aggression deeper into Southern Africa.

The aid the British working class gives to the people of Zimbabwe will help them not only in defeating our common enemy British Imperialism, but in building their strength to safeguard the revolution and protect their national independence against all aggressors.

On Saturday June 24th over 120 working people attended an enthusiastic meeting in London in solidarity with the people of Zimbabwe, led by ZANU and the Patriotic Front. Although ZANU had been unable to supply a member of the Central Committee to tour Britain due to the acute stage of the struggle, two members of the Central Committee addressed the London Rally. They were comrade Ushewokunze, the ZANU secretary for health, and comrade Zvobgo, the deputy secretary for information and publicity. In militant speeches they expressed the certainty of victory in their armed national liberation struggle, and showed the importance of the victory of the people of Zimbabwe on a world scale.

The rally applauded revolutionary songs played by the ZANU singers and the New Era singers. A film on the struggle in Zimbabwe was also shown.

A collection at the meeting brought the total money raised on the speaking tour to over £250. All the money raised will go to the fund organised by the RCLB to send a landrover to the liberation fighters of Zimbabwe, as a gift from the British working class.

flourished and participated in the building of socialism, now under the fascist dictatorship of the new Tsars, the Soviet Union has become a prison house of nations.

## AMERICA

President Carter has warned that the USA will escalate the space arms race unless the Soviet Union agrees to ban hunter-killer satellites.

Superpower contention in space has been going on for years. Both the USSR and the USA have hundreds of spy satellites circulating the earth which are used for a variety of military purposes. The activities of 30 Russian hunter-killer anti-satellite devices, which are capable of destroying or disabling enemy satellites, have come to light.

Robert Kirk, currently building a "hunter-killer" for the Pentagon said "in the military arena, our forces are becoming critically reliant on space for surveillance, reconnaissance, early warning, navigation, meteorology, mapping, communications and command and control." Two-thirds of military messages move by satellite.

Earlier in the year, Harold Brown, US Defence Secretary said America had been "left with no choice" but to develop a "capacity to destroy Soviet satellites" and earmarked \$73m to the task.

Despite both superpowers' words of "detente", "peace" and "mutually balanced force reduction" they both continue to arm to the teeth and pose the greatest danger to peace in the world today.

## ZAIRE

Taking advantage of the difficulties of Zaire, following the invasion of mercenaries in the pay of Soviet social imperialism, the United States superpower and other western imperialists are attempting to strengthen their domination of the economy of Zaire. The "Sunday Times" pointed out that: "the devaluation of the local currency at the behest of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has proved a disaster." Now the IMF - a tool of US imperialism - is demanding in collaboration with the EEC that IMF personnel take over direct running of key areas of Zaire's economy, including the Central Bank of Zaire. It is also putting strait-jacket controls on public financing and import-licensing, and demanding that Zaire improves its huge external debt of over £1,200 million (a debt caused by imperialist plunder in the first place). All this is the condition of further loans of \$116 million and \$120 million.

Suggestions and criticisms help strengthen the paper. Send them to "Class Struggle", c/o NEW ERA BOOKS, 203 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

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# STRUGGLE FOR POLITICAL STATUS SHARPENS

A recent report by Amnesty International has once again shown that the British state continues its policies of torture and terror during imprisonment in Northern Ireland. There are now more than 2,000 political prisoners facing systematic torture. 100 are women in Armagh prison and almost 100 are Irish prisoners in English gaols. Recently Brian Macguire was hung in his cell by the RUC in Castlereagh Barracks. The prisoners are fighting a determined struggle against this oppression, with the mass support of the people. The struggle centres around the question of political status. What is the background to this struggle?

Under the Special Powers Act internment was introduced in 1971 - and with it came detention without trial by jury, secret police witnesses, and the use of torture against republicans and Catholics. The number of political prisoners steadily grew - Long Kesh, Magilligan, Armagh, Crumlin Road Gaol - all were filling up with men and women "detained at her Majesty's pleasure". But the resistance and struggle against their oppression grew and the people gained some victories. In 1972 after a long hunger strike political status was granted to some prisoners. This was a big victory. British imperialism was on the retreat. At the end of 1975 mass opposition forced the end of internment. The British government and military adopted a new policy of heading off mass struggle which had built up around the issue of internment. An atmosphere of conciliation and acceptance of the occupying troops was promoted. But British imperialism was only after a breathing space and had no intention of giving up internment. It has since taken a new form. In 1977 3,444 people were held and 'interviewed' without access to a solicitor.

Internment was replaced with so-called 'provisional' detention and in March 1976 the Labour government abolished political prisoner status for new prisoners and branded republicans and some unionists detained and lying in gaols as gangsters, criminals and thugs. This is nonsense! Arrest and detention under the Special Powers Acts is a political act by the British government to protect its rule in Northern Ireland. The victims of this political repression are political prisoners.

## STRUGGLE AGAINST CRIMINALISATION GROWS

In September 1976 Kevan Nugent, a prisoner in H Block, Long Kesh refused to accept this denial of political status and refused to wear the prison uniform. Since then he has been kept naked except for a blanket. There are now over 300 political prisoners "on the blanket" in Northern Ireland's gaols. Women in Armagh gaol who are fighting for political status are kept in solitary confinement 23 hours a day and they have been isolated from other prisoners who have been moved to separate wings of the prison.

In recent months the struggle for political status of the prisoners inside Long Kesh has intensified. The men have refused to wash or accept showers, to mop or brush out their cells or to slop out. This means that naked prisoners in solitary confinement have to eat, urinate and excrete in a 10' by 6' cell. They have no radios, no tobacco, no books or writing materials. They have no control over heat in the cells. The food they get is cold and inadequate and medical attention is appalling. In these conditions there is only one doctor for over 300 men. This means that by now the risk of disease, even epidemic or death is high. Prisoners already suffer from migraines and skin rashes.

## MORE REPRESSION - MORE RESISTANCE

To oppose the action of the British state and give support to the prisoners Relatives Action Committees (RAC) were formed in Belfast. The RACs made up mostly of women have organised meetings, pickets and demonstrations to highlight the plight of the "men on the blanket". On 26 February and 5th March, 7,000 marched through Belfast in support of the prisoners.

The just struggle of the prisoners for political status and against the barbaric conditions they have to suffer is a struggle against British imperialism in Northern Ireland. Imprisonment is one of the weapons in the arsenal of the ruling class. In Northern Ireland prison has been coupled with beating, torture and humiliation. But all the measures used by the British state to crush resistance and weaken the resolve to struggle against British occupying troops will only get them more bogged down. The people of Ireland have a heroic tradition of struggle against oppression and exploitation. The greater the oppression, the greater will be the resistance of the Irish people. The people of Northern Ireland must be allowed to settle their own affairs by the troops being withdrawn immediately. ■

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## SOVIET SHIPPING EXPANDS

According to the "Economist", the USSR has since 1970: "expanded its cargo liner fleet far faster than growth in either its own trade or world trade would justify", to become the world's largest fleet. By offering prices 40% below present freight rates, western shipowners just can't compete. The social imperialists now pose "a serious challenge to the profitable operation of western shipping". In 1976 the Russians made \$600m out of their shipping ventures and captured one fifth of the Transatlantic market, 95% of seaborne EEC trade, and between 20-25% of Europe-Africa and Europe-American routes. The article points out the strategic implications behind the expansion of the Soviet fleet being greatest where the USSR has important foreign interests. ■

# BELGIAN ARMY RUNS ON RUSSIAN OIL!

All over the world the Soviet Union is stirring up trouble, doing everything it can to increase its power. Many times "Class Struggle" has exposed the military adventures and threats of the Soviet Union in Europe, Africa and Asia. Its aggressive policies of expansion show that the Soviet Union is an imperialist power and the most dangerous source of war in the world today.

Like all Imperialist powers it wants economic control over other countries, and it does not always use open aggression to get that control. The U.S.S.R. is fast becoming a major economic force in Europe, playing the Capitalist markets and building up its strength.

## BELGIUM- A DEVELOPED SECOND WORLD COUNTRY

Belgium is a developed industrial nation right at the heart of Western Europe. It would be a juicy prize for the Soviet Imperialists, and for the past 7 years they have been making a concerted effort to penetrate its economy.

## NAFTA B: THE SOVIET OIL COMPANY

In November 1967 an oil company called NAFTA B was formed in Antwerp. In name it was a Belgian company, but in fact it was almost totally owned and controlled by 4 Soviet state enterprises. When it was formed Nafta B had capital of 3 million Belgian francs. By 1972 that had increased to 202 million. Nafta B is now the largest foreign oil company in Belgium, and the second largest commercial company of any kind, with an annual turnover of 20 billion francs.

How did this rapid growth come about? Nafta B has very few service stations, and in 1974, when it already had a higher turnover than any other company, it only employed 175 people. In fact Nafta B has expanded so much because it is under contract to the Belgian Government. Nafta B, the Soviet Oil Company, supplies oil to the Belgian army which forms part of NATO. The Leopard tanks and heavy vehicles of the Belgian armed forces in Germany run on petrol from Lithuania, shipped in Soviet ships by Nafta B! Incredible as this may seem the Soviet Imperialists supply a vital ingredient to the army which is supposed to be prepared to fight against them. It doesn't take much to imagine what would happen in a war.

## CARS AND STEEL

As well as supplying oil, the U.S.S.R. also imports goods. Mainly it imports steel- as much as it can get. It does this through SCALDIA-VOLGA, another Soviet controlled "Belgian" company which supposedly deals in Russian-made cars. However its automobile business is fairly insignificant. In 1975/76 it was only selling 15,000 cars in the whole of Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg. Yet its capital has expanded enormously and its demand for steel is insatiable. This steel, which is bought from several Belgian companies, is sent to the Soviet Union. Not only is the steel bought by Scaldia-Volga high-technology, specialised steel tubes and

## TURNOVER OF FOREIGN OIL COMPANIES IN BELGIUM

COMPANY	(1974)	
	TURNOVER (francs)	NO. OF EMPLOYEES
1. NAFTA B (USSR)	20,200,819,000	175
2. CHEVRON (USA)	19,133,007,000	774
3. SHELL (GB)	17,612,313,000	1,374
4. ESSO (USA)	14,072,000,000	1,334
5. TEXACO (USA)	12,436,819,000	868
6. FINA (Holland)	10,952,000,000	794
7. BP (GB)	8,284,000,000	771
8. ELF (France)	7,064,000,000	202

alloys, it is also bought in quantities far exceeding the company's requirements. One Belgian steel company alone- Arbet Sidmar- supplies 60% of its total production for the Soviet Union, enough to build 400,000 cars a year. Clearly it is not used to produce cars!

Added to this the Soviet Union is in any case the world's leading steel producer. It also imports large quantities from Japan, West Germany, Italy and other industrial countries. The explanation for this is simple. The Soviet Union is building up arms at a terrific rate and preparing for war. In such conditions it needs enormous quantities of steel, and it gets it from the main producers in the West and Japan.

## SHIPPING- A SOVIET COLONY IN ANTWERP

In order to assist its expansionist activities in Europe the Soviet Union has built up its merchant fleet. Despite international agreements the U.S.S.R. ensures that all trade to and from the Soviet Union is carried in Soviet ships. In Antwerp, Belgium's main port, they have established a section of the port entirely for their own use. This section is completely cut off from the rest of the port. Belgian dockers have reported the shipment of arms through the port. To help them in this task the Soviet Imperialists have bought up or set up other "Belgian" companies -BELGIAN BUNKERING and TRANSWORLD MARINE AGENCY CO.

## THE FINANCIAL CENTRE OF SOVIET EXPANSION IN EUROPE.

The Soviet Union's strategic aim is control of key sectors of the Belgian economy. As well as oil, steel and shipping it also has growing interests in nuclear power and mining. Throughout Europe it has set up a network of banks to finance its activities. The main one is the BANQUE COMMERCIALE POUR L'EUROPE DU NORD, based in Paris. This is one of the biggest French banks. Other banks, formed to finance Soviet expansion, are - MOSCOW NARODNY BANK LTD. in London, the WOZCHOD HANDELSBANK in Zurich, the OST-WEST HANDELSBANK in Frankfurt and the EAST-

# CPK EXPRESSES SOLIDARITY WITH BRITISH WORKING CLASS

On the 3rd anniversary of the total liberation of Kampuchea (Cambodia) on April 17th, and the founding of Democratic Kampuchea, the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain sent a message of congratulations to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kampuchea (CPK).

The message pointed out that "the victory of the people of Kampuchea, led by the Communist Party of Kampuchea, against US imperialism was a great victory for the working class and oppressed peoples and nations of the whole world."

The letter also saluted "the recent victories of the people of Kampuchea in defending national independence against the attempts of Soviet social imperialism to subvert the gains of the Kampuchean revolution."

We publish below the reply of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kampuchea.

To the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain.

It is a pleasure for us to receive your message of congratulations on the Third Anniversary of the glorious victory of April 17, 1975 and the founding of Democratic Kampuchea. Your message is a precious token of deep feelings of revolutionary friendship of the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain, of the working class and the people of Britain towards the Communist Party of Kampuchea, the people and the Revolutionary Army of Kampuchea. You have brought about a powerful encouragement and firm support to the just struggle of the people and the Revolutionary Army of Kampuchea under the correct leadership of the Communist Party of Kampuchea in defending the independence, national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the gains of the revolution. At the same time, you have encouraged and firmly supported the Kampuchea's people in their endeavours to build up socialism by firmly abiding by the position of independence, sovereignty and self-reliance. On behalf of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kampuchea and the people of Kampuchea, we would like to extend to you our warmest fraternal thanks.

In return, we wish the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain, the working class and the people of Britain further successes in their revolutionary cause.

May the ties of friendship and solidarity between our two peoples be further developed in their interests and that of the revolutionary cause of the peoples the world over.

With our warm revolutionary greetings.

Department of External Relations of the Central Committee  
of the Communist Party of Kampuchea

## BELGIAN ARMY RUNS ON RUSSIAN OIL!

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WEST UNITED BANK in Luxembourg. We can be sure from this that what is happening in Belgium is also happening in the other countries of Europe, including Britain.

### CAPITALISTS PUT PROFITS BEFORE NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE

The facts about Soviet expansion in Belgium were rooted out by the real friends of the people - the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of Belgium. The capitalist class just did not want to know. They have actively helped Soviet Imperialism to increase its power in Belgium.

The message is clear enough. For all their talk about standing up to the Soviet threat, and safeguarding national integrity, the capitalist class is interested in only one thing - profits. Whether they get those profits in roubles or dollars it makes no difference. Never mind if one day the steel which they sell to the Soviets comes back to Europe in tanks and bombs. Never mind if the Belgian tanks run out of oil. National independence is something which can be sold at a profit, and now there is a new and greedy buyer in the marketplace. ■

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