

CLASS STRUGGLE

POLITICAL PAPER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF BRITAIN

Vol.2, No.14 - from September 7 to 21, 1978

fortnightly 7p

BRITISH COMMUNISTS LEAD DEMONSTRATION AGAINST SOVIET AGGRESSION



On August 20th, the 10th anniversary of the brutal Occupation of Czechoslovakia by the Soviet social imperialists, the peace and quiet of the Soviet embassy in London was broken by the militant chanting of 140 demonstrators. The demonstrators denounced the brutal occupation and exploitation of Czechoslovakia, and exposed the military build up and war preparations of the Soviet expansionists. Outside the embassy were also 40 members of the so-called "New Communist Party" who were there to congratulate Brezhnev on his suppression of the Czechoslovak people. These traitors to the working class were barracked by shouts of "Quisling". A delegation comprising representatives of the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain (RCLB) and the Communist Workers Movement (CWM) - who had

jointly organised the march - and representatives of the Bangladeshi Workers Association and the Indian Workers Association (Great Britain) presented a letter to the Soviet Embassy denouncing Soviet aggression. A letter was also handed in at the Czechoslovak Embassy near-by.

The march had started with speeches from participating organisations at Speakers Corner, Hyde Park. The speakers pointed out that the crushing of the independence of Czechoslovakia was one of the first public acts that demonstrated to the world's people that the Soviet Union had changed from a great socialist country into an imperialist superpower bent on expansion throughout the world. Today

(Cont'd on p2)

TUC PULLS STOPS OUT FOR CALLAGHAN

The TUC chiefs are working overtime to marshal support for Labour in the next election. To cover up the tracks of Labour's record in office, they are preparing a big propaganda campaign depicting Labour as the trade unionists' party. The next TUC congress is likely to be nothing more than an election rally for Callaghan, Foot and Co. This is a big ideological attack on the whole working class which places the workers' trade union organisation at the service of a party which has forced down real wages by about £6 and ensured the rise of unemployment to 1.6 million.

This is the continuation of the social-con trick which held down the workers' trade union struggle in the face of rampant inflation and the spread of redundancies and sackings. At the present time Labour is boasting that these policies are "bearing fruit" with inflation now standing at 8%. But this is another lie on a par with those leading up to the 1974 General Election. Then the forecast was 8.4% and going down. In fact inflation rose to 30%. Inflation is not only price rises. It is inflation of the currency, through release of more currency

without producing the goods to pay for it. Such monetary manipulation is in the hands of the government and the bosses' state apparatus. If the inflation rate is lower now, it is because it serves the capitalist system better. At another time it will rise again. Already inflationary measures in Healey's April budget are causing a predicted rise in inflation.

FINANCIERS' PAPER PRAISES LABOUR

The Labour Party is not a Party of the working class or the representative of 12 million trade unionists as TUC chairman Bassnett claims. It is the best bosses' party which the TUC traitors back to the hilt. Why do we say this? For a long time they have done a better job of defending capitalism than the Tories themselves because of their connections with the working class and their more far-sighted capitalist policies. They have earned the title of Labour lieutenants of capital. The development of the Labour Party into becoming the main Party of British monopoly capitalism is connected

(Cont'd on p2)

it is locked in struggle with the other superpower the USA for world domination. The speakers pointed to Soviet expansion in Africa, Asia and the Middle East, and showed how the acts of the Soviet imperialists themselves put the lie to the "socialist" mask it wears in an attempt to cover up its true features.



Comrade Chris Burford, the Chairman of the RCLB, pointed out that the focus of the struggle between the two superpowers is Europe. It is the richest prize. Pointing out that Soviet social imperialism is the main source of war today, he called on the people to prepare themselves for defence.

At the same time, it was pointed out, the working people of Britain could not rely on the other superpower, the USA which is only after its own interests. The demonstration's demand for US bases out of Europe made this clear.

The present situation in the world clearly demonstrates the need to defend independence as a component part of the struggle for socialism in Britain, the speakers said.

SIMILAR DEMONSTRATIONS THROUGHOUT EUROPE

The demonstration in London was not an isolated gesture of defiance. It is part of a rapidly growing movement throughout Europe. In many European countries, on the same day, similar demonstrations led by revolutionary communists took place. In Norway, 10,000 people took part in protest demonstrations and rallies. 3,600 marched in Oslo. In Storskog, a city on the Norwegian-Soviet border, a giant poster was erected at the border saying: Soviet Union - Out of Czechoslovakia. Demonstrations and mass meetings took place in 30 Swedish cities. 3,500 protested through the streets of Stockholm. In Copenhagen, Denmark, the "Committee against Soviet aggression against Czechoslovakia" organised a march of 1000. The Soviet Embassy in Reykjavik, Iceland was besieged by hundreds. In Belgium, a demonstration of 800, was joined by bystanders as it marched through Brussels with a mock up of a Soviet tank, and placards condemning Soviet aggression.

None of this, of course, has been reported in the capitalist press. While they oppose Soviet aggression for their own class interests, they also try to say the Soviet Union is "communist" in order to sow confusion amongst the people and turn the correct stand of the working people against Soviet expansionism into anti-communism. For the ruling class to admit that it is revolutionary communists themselves that are leading the struggle against Soviet social imperialism, and all imperialists, would not serve this aim. ■

with increased nationalisation in times of crisis and the growth of State monopoly capitalism. This has happened recently with Labour setting up the National Enterprise Board. Nationalisation and government intervention is painted as socialist by trade union opportunists. But they are really crisis measures to prop up ailing capitalism.

Nobody would describe the "Financial Times" as a workers' paper. It is the financial mouthpiece of bankers, speculators and capitalists. They tell more truth about Labour than Bassnett, Murray and whole TUC put together. So pleased is the "Financial Times" with the Labour government, who they praise for "pressing ahead with redundancies", they have criticised radical Tory opposition to the Labour Party as "rocking the boat". So, the AUEW misleaders in tabling a resolution at the coming TUC which congratulates Labour's record since 1974 are doing it from the same platform as the spokesmen for rich bankers. The difference is that they use words of socialism or so-called defence of the "national interest" to mislead the working class.

CLASS STRUGGLE - NOT CLASS COLLABORATION

The Labour Party and TUC chiefs claim that workers and capitalists have a common interest in putting capitalism on its feet. They say that this is in the "national interest". The fact is that capitalism is a rotten and dying system which is sinking deeper into crisis as new markets shrink and imperialism suffers defeat in the Third World. Capitalism and imperialism can only prosper at the expense of increased exploitation of the working class and oppressed nations of the Third World and expanding markets. The class collaboration policies of the TUC deny this and want the workers to accept more poverty to save capitalism.

This is not the way out of the crisis for the working class. Only the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism and the building of socialism can end the misery of capitalist crisis. It is clear that in this struggle we must give first place to fighting the front line of the bosses' interests in the trade unions and workers' movement by fighting our false friends - the Labour traitors and TUC misleaders. Concretely, we can do this now by opposing union funds going to the Labour Party and taking up the slogan:

STOP PAYING LABOUR TO ATTACK WORKERS! ■

EVENTS

PUBLIC MEETING. "Labour - Best Bosses' Party". Public meeting on the revolutionary line on Social Democracy and elections. Place: Conway Hall (Small hall), Red Lion Square, London W.C.1. Nearest tube Holborn. 7.30 Monday 25 September. Organised by the London District of the RCLB.

ZIMBABWE SOCIAL. An evening of celebration for the liberation fighters of Zimbabwe. FOOD..DRINK ..TALK..SONGS AND DANCES from NEW ERA SINGERS and ZANU REVOLUTIONARY CHOIR. At St.Hilda's East, 18 Club Row, London E.2. (Nr. Old St. and Liverpool St. tubes) SATURDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER. 8.00pm Admission £1, includes food. All proceeds to Patriotic Front (ZANU).

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ATROCITIES AGAINST "UNTOUCHABLES" IN INDIA. Sunday 10 September 1978, 2-6 p.m..Harpur Suite, Harpur Street, Bedford. Organisations maximum 5 delegates, individuals welcome. Write to Indian Workers Association (GB), 346 Soho Rd., Birmingham 21.

BIRCH BACKS SOVIET UNION AGAIN!

The AUEW executive has taken the decision to ban official delegations to the Soviet Union. This decision was taken in "protest against suppression of human rights" in the USSR. Although the political reason for making this decision is inadequate, it should be supported by class conscious workers. It is a blow against the revisionist "Communist" Party of Great Britain and other pro-Moscow quislings who want to link the trade unions to Brezhnev's propaganda machine. The human rights issue however is inadequate because it is inspired by US imperialism. It seeks to obscure the reasons for fascist oppression in the USSR which results from the restoration of capitalism. There are genuine trade unions emerging against Brezhnev's revisionist rule. We should campaign for the AUEW and other trade unions to have relations with them.

The vote on the AUEW executive was 5 for ending delegation and 2 against. Reg Birch voted with Gerry Russell against. These two lackeys of Brezhnev have already visited the USSR on an official delegation and used the AUEW journal to praise the war-mongering Soviet Union as socialist and peace-loving. The April issue of "Class Struggle" carried an article particularly exposing Reg Birch's role in praising the USSR. Reg Birch is Chairman of the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) which was formed in supposed opposition to revisionism. This opposition was always very weak. But it is even clearer now when Birch is showing consistent backing for trade union relations with the Brezhnev/KGB dominated unions in the USSR, that he is really a sham Marxist-Leninist and an out-and-out revisionist.

A WORKER'S NOTEBOOK

FROM HUMBERSIDE COMES THE NEWS THAT THE LOCAL EDUCATION Authority has slashed £2.3 million from its education budget over the last two years. In the same period there has been a 100% increase in the cost of school supplies. The cuts and the price rises have forced a 25% reduction in the provision of classroom materials but the losses don't stop there! 140 teaching jobs will be lost in Humberside causing a serious deterioration in educational standards. Fewer children will be admitted to school before the age of five, specialist teaching in certain subjects will cease and the provision for less able children will be totally inadequate. Predictably it is the working class child who will suffer most not the children of the well off.

FOLLOWING ON FROM THE ARTICLE ON BETHNAL GREEN HOSPITAL in the August issue of 'Class Struggle', the DHSS did close down the casualty Dept. on August 1st in spite of the workers' resistance.

However, local people who use the hospital have occupied the casualty dept. ever since to stop the equipment being moved out. So although the department is not operating at the moment, the struggle can still go on to reverse this cutback.

The occupation goes on 24 hours a day, and support is needed to strengthen it.

A similar thing happened at Hounslow Hospital, where the authorities sneaked in one evening and moved the patients out in private ambulances in spite of the workers' occupation there. But the workers and their supporters stayed in the building and made it the organising centre for resistance to the cuts.

NEARLY 300 WOMEN AT THE DONCASTER WOOD-WORKING FACTORY John Carr Joinery Ltd struck for one day last month in protest against the firm's evasion of the so-called 'Equal Pay Act'. Women workers at other firms in the area are considering doing the same. The strikers used to be known as "female craft process workers". But in June 1975, their jobs were reclassified as "woodworking production operatives", a "semi-skilled" job. To become a "skilled" worker the women would have to sign on for a 3 year apprenticeship with no entitlement to redundancy pay and no obligation on the employer to re-engage them at the end of training. These women are in a worse, not better, position as a result of the "Equal Pay Act". Many other examples make it clear that capitalism cannot provide equal opportunities for men and women; only in a socialist society can women's oppression be abolished.

WESTLAND HELICOPTERS IN YEOVIL HAS BEEN TRYING TO FORCE wage cuts on the workers using the old excuse that the factory is not paying its way. Yet on August 1st they announced an £8 million order for its Lynx helicopter and predicted bigger orders to come. Norway, Britain, France, Holland and Denmark have already placed big orders and other countries like Brazil, Argentina and Egypt have also got the Lynx on their shopping list. In addition an even larger order from West Germany is expected to be announced soon. Westland Aircraft's Chairman Lord Aldington must be very pleased - these orders are good news for him - but it will take a lot to cheer up the 2000 production workers at Yeovil, they face a two year wage freeze on top of the current wage cuts.

A GROUP OF SENIOR ACADEMICS HAVE SUBMITTED A REPORT to Eric Varley's Industry Department which predicts that Britain's unemployment figures will continue to grow. By the year 2000, more than six million people will be on the dole. Other reports submitted to the same department predict an equally gloomy future for workers but they are unlikely to be made public before the General Election because "they are political dynamite". Last month government figures showed that there were 1,512,487 people out of work.

THE NEW FORTNIGHTLY "CLASS STRUGGLE" HAS AN EIGHT-PAGE FORMAT, WITH REDUCED PRINT SIZE GIVING THE SAME COVERAGE AS 11 NORMAL PAGES. COSTS OF MORE TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT AND THE GREATER COST OF A FASTER NATIONAL DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM COMPELS US TO KEEP THE PRICE AT 7p.

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.

REVOLUTION VOL3, NO.3 includes:

A major step in building the single leading centre
Ten years after Czechoslovakia - strengthen the struggle against Soviet hegemonism!
Firmly establish the factory cells
United States Communists on Eurorevisionism
Price 30p. Also available, back issues and the

Manifesto

OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF BRITAIN

SUBSCRIPTIONS TO "REVOLUTION": 4 Issues £1.65 (inc P&P)
"REVOLUTION" AND THE MANIFESTO OF THE RCLB ARE AVAILABLE FROM NEW ERA BOOKS.

NEW ERA BOOKS

"WITHOUT REVOLUTIONARY THEORY THERE CAN BE NO REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT" (Lenin)

NEW ERA BOOKS stocks the works of MARX, ENGELS, STALIN and MAO TSETUNG, MARXIST-LENINIST publications and progressive literature from around the world.

SUBSCRIPTIONS:

REVOLUTION 4 issues £1.65 (inland) £2.25 (abroad)
CLASS STRUGGLE 13 issues £1.95 (inland) £2.70 (abroad)
26 issues £3.90 (inland) £5.40 (abroad)

NEW ERA BOOKS, 203 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.
Telephone 01-272-5894. Nearest Tube - Finsbury Park
Opening hours - 10am - 6pm, Monday to Saturday.
Late night opening, Thursday till 7.30pm.

FIGHT FOR EVERY JOB

The Peugeot-Citroen offer to pay \$430 million (£215 million) to buy up Chrysler operations in Europe has created a political storm of speculation on the picture of the future car market. It was followed by further speculation that British Leyland may link up with a Japanese motor manufacturer - Nissan. What is the meaning of such take-over bids and moves towards mergers of huge car monopolies.

The capitalist system throughout the world is in deep and chronic crisis. Monopoly capitalist corporations are competing furiously for large shares in a shrinking market. Crises of overproduction (unsold goods piling up) are bringing about factory and plant closures of those corporations which cannot compete in this profits jungle. This process is particularly marked in the competition between the car giants.

CHRYSLER COLLAPSE - SIGN OF US IMPERIALIST DECLINE

If the Peugeot-Citroen/Chrysler deal goes through the new combine will be the biggest motor monopoly in Europe. Its production rate will be 2.2 million vehicles a year compared with 1.6 million each produced by Ford and Renault. It marks the rise of West European monopoly capitalism and imperialism and the decline of US imperialism in the European car market.

But this is not the final picture. What is taking place is brought about by the unequal development of capitalism and the American car millionaires and other car monopolies in Europe and Japan are striving frantically to hold on to and extend "their share" of the car market. It is in this

light that we should understand British Leyland's apparent moves to link up with Nissan. It is part of the greater monopolisation of capital in order to compete in the present stage of the crisis of capitalism. Furthermore, with it the car millionaires are sure to rationalise production and close down whole plants imposing a heavier burden of unemployment on the working class and destroying means of production.

FIGHT FOR EVERY JOB!

Greater monopolisation through mergers or state takeovers (nationalisation) is an inevitable development of capitalism. The tasks of class conscious workers to defend jobs are not changed by them. Rather the need for determined and clear-headed class struggle is more urgent in the face of such bosses' nationalisation. The revisionist (capitalist dressed up as Marxist) "Communist" Party of Great Britain has come out with the demand that Chrysler be nationalised. This does not change the problems facing the Chrysler workers who face sackings following a British capitalist state take-over just as much as from a new Peugeot-Citroen/Chrysler combine. But it does mean that more of the workers' tax money will go into the coffers of monopoly bosses. The "C"PCB's position is treachery to the working class which even tries to cover up by ignoring such clear facts as the closures and redundancies which followed the nationalisation of Leylands.

The struggle to save every job is what needs to be put to the working class. It is a class fight by the working class for the right to work and to make the bosses pay for the crisis. ■

Why not write for "Class Struggle"? "Class Struggle" would like to hear about what's going on in your factory, workplace or locality. Contribute to "Class Struggle". Help build the League in order to speed the building of the Party of the working class. Write to: The Editor - CS, c/o NEW ERA BOOKS.

Northern Ireland: support political prisoners' demands

Dr. Thomas O Fiaich, the Catholic Primate of All Ireland has visited the Maze prison near Belfast. He described conditions inside as "inhuman" for the 306 Republican prisoners who are "on the blanket" in H-block.

His remarks have been attacked by the Northern Ireland Office on the grounds that the prison conditions have been "self-imposed" by the prisoners themselves through their campaign for political status! And in reply to parliamentary questions the Home Office has said quite definitely that the prisoners themselves are to blame for the appallingly filthy conditions they are forced to live in.

But what the bourgeois press doesn't bother to tell us is that it was the prison wardens at the Maze prison who first stopped the prisoners from coming out of their cells to slop out without their prison uniforms. They have done this to put pressure on the prisoners to submit to being classified as criminals. This is demanded by the British government to obscure the fact that their occupation of Northern Ireland is propped up by political repression. What they also want to keep hidden is the level of militant struggle of the 'H'-block prisoners. Every 2 weeks the "blanket men" are brought before the Governor of the prison who formally asks them to wear prison clothes. But every time, the men refuse - even though they know that every time

they refuse they lose 2 weeks remission. Every day on the blanket means 2 days of time! And conditions are not getting any better in H-block. Hepatitis has broken out and now the prisoners have to endure harmful hosing down with concentrated disinfectant.

But the British government - through its press and media - keeps churning out lies and distortions about the prisoners' struggles and about the conditions in the Maze. It has repeatedly refused to let some MPs visit the prison. To maintain a facade of lies, which even some representatives of the bourgeoisie, like Dr. Thomas O Fiaich are rejecting, the Labour and Tory parties continue to keep a united face. Airey Neave, Conservative spokesman on N. Ireland said on August 19th of this year that "...since Roy Mason became Secretary of State, the Government have pursued a sensibly firm security policy...of 2 things Northern Ireland can be certain: the Conservative Party like the Labour Party will have no amnesty for terrorists or restoring so-called political status for prisoners..."!

Yet the just struggle of Irish political prisoners against their oppression continues in Northern Ireland and in Britain. Their struggle is a fight against our common enemy - the British bourgeois state and the kind of class "justice" that is daily parcelled out to maintain British rule in Northern Ireland. ■

National minorities resistance grows

STRUGGLE AGAINST FASCIST TERROR BETTER ORGANISED

On May 6th, following the murder of a 25 year old Bengali worker, Altab Ali, the Bengali Community of Brick Lane, determined to "retaliate against the murderers", formed the Action Committee Against Racist Attacks (ACARA). On May 14th ACARA led a demonstration of 8000 people including 5000 Bengalis to Downing Street to condemn the refusal of the Labour Party government to clamp down on the fascist organisations behind these racist attacks. The message of the demonstration was loud and clear: as the state is not prepared to use its force to defend the Bengali people then they will organise to defend themselves. "Self-defence is No Offence" was the popular slogan of the march. On July 17th, 8000 black and white workers walked out of their east end factories and shops to strike against continuing racist attacks and police complicity. This anti-racist political strike affected a number of monopoly capitalist concerns including Fords at Dagenham, where three plants were forced to halt production when 1000 workers failed to turn up for work. These are good blows against the monopoly capitalist class which finances the fascist organisations to attack the national minorities and blame them for all the ills of capitalist economic crisis. It is the monopoly capitalist class which uses its political representatives, particularly the 'best bosses' party - the Labour Party, to pass racist legislation and

prop up imperialism - the actual cause of national oppression. And, it is the monopoly capitalist class which uses its state machine to defend the fascists' freedom to carry out racist murders. Relying on the bourgeois political parties and the state machine has not protected the national minorities in the past. Only by relying on their own efforts and uniting with all those that can be united can the national minorities keep the initiative in their own hands and guarantee their defence against racist attacks. The struggle of the Bengali community in Brick Lane and the support it has attracted is a magnificent example of this. But only by building a genuine multinational revolutionary Communist Party as the single leading centre of working class struggle against the monopoly capitalist class can the source of racism and the threat of fascism be eliminated once and for all. ■

Another Bengali murdered

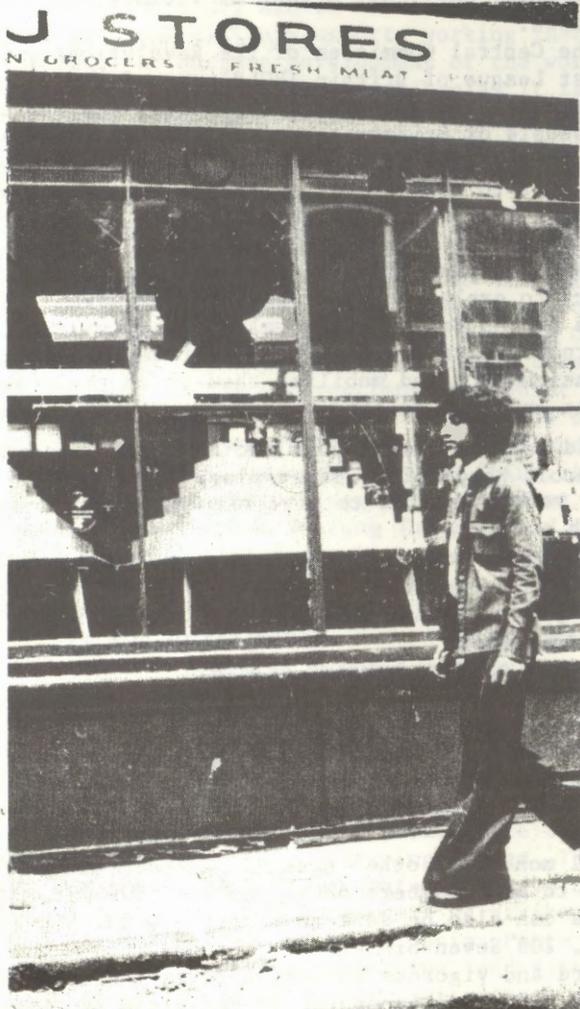
(30/7/78 from 'Janomot Bengali News Weekly'.)
"Another Bengali has been murdered in a racist attack in London. The man was 41-year old Mr. Ambar Ali, an inspector in a plastics factory. Mr. Ali finished work on 19th July at 11p.m., got a lift to fifty yards from his home and started to walk home. An unknown number of thugs attacked him while he was walking along the street. Mr. Ali was taken into some public toilets and badly beaten up. After about 20 minutes, Mr. Ali seems to have managed to walk out of the toilets and begin walking towards his home. He collapsed in the street and some local people say he was run over by a motor bike. By the time the police arrived, Mr. Ali was dead. Mr. Ali was from Dacca district in Bangladesh and lived at Southbury Rd., Enfield, London. He left behind one daughter, two sons and his wife. Two other Bengalis have been killed by white thugs in recent weeks - Mr. Ishaque Ali and Mr. Altab Ali. Our paper has been the only national newspaper to have reported the incident." ■

Fight against deportation sharpens

The struggle against state racism has stepped up in the Bradford area. Using the immigration laws the police have arrested under threat of deportation an estimated 23 Asians and Africans. These arrests take place arbitrarily and are followed by detention for as much as two years before deportation. Access to relatives and a solicitor is denied. Black workers are even being detained after returning from holiday on the pretext of being an "illegal immigrant".

Mushtaque Khal, one of the estimated 23 people, was branded an "illegal immigrant" and deported even though he had a full attendance record at Hull College of Further Education. The Home Office maintained he was not a student. Their arrogance in these matters is backed up by the fact that there is no right of appeal for those the Home Office brands as "illegal immigrants".

A demonstration outside Armlay jail organized by the Asian Youth Movement on July 29th won some success. Mr. Rahman, one of the detained, was released. The fight goes on for the release of the rest.



Broken windows of an Asian shop in Brick Lane testifies to fascist violence against national minorities.



INTERNATIONAL NOTES

NICARAGUA: on Tuesday August 22 twenty patriotic guerrillas occupied the National Palace of Nicaragua (a South American country near to Mexico) capturing many hostages. They demanded the release of many political prisoners and the publication of their manifesto in the press. They won their demands. As they were taken to the airport for free transport out of Nicaragua thousands of workers and students poured onto the streets cheering and waving at their bus. The present dictator of Nicaragua, Somoza, inherited his position from his father, an American trained army officer, who was installed as dictator in 1936 by a coup organised by United States imperialism. Following the attack workers and students have launched their second national strike in a year, in a determined attempt to destroy the dictatorship and US domination. Many have taken up arms. ■

USA: the British press has been full of concern recently about the falling value of the US dollar. They have been crying because Carter isn't doing anything about it. What we are not told is that the US imperialists are quite happy with the situation. The falling value of the dollar does not adversely affect their profits from their imperialist investments overseas. It does however make their exports cheaper in comparison to the exports of the smaller imperialists (the second world) such as the Europeans thus strengthening the USA. More importantly it is an attack on the third world because the dollar is used as a major international currency. Oil, for example, is priced in terms of dollars. Thus the falling dollar is reducing the price of oil and the revenue of the third world oil producing states. This is true for many commodities produced by the third world. The falling dollar is in the interests of the US superpower against the third world and the second world. No wonder Carter is still smiling. ■

BRITISH IMPERIALISM: for many years the countries of the third world have been uniting behind the just demand that their debts to the imperialist countries be cancelled. The debts total a massive £340 billion, and arise solely as a result of plunder by the imperialists. The Labour government in Britain, true to its imperialist nature, refuses to agree to this just demand. The strength of the third world has however forced the government to appear to make some concessions as a sop. Recently it announced the cancellation of £60 million of debts due from 17 third world countries. This is a drop in the ocean of the £900 million owed by these 17 states alone. The cost of this will anyway be met out of the already existing "aid" budget. The sop is also aimed at splitting the unity of the third world by excluding such countries as Kampuchea (Cambodia) and the Peoples Democratic Republic of Yemen, who have most vigorously exposed British Imperialism. The British ruling class, and their Labour party have not changed their spots. ■

THAILAND: the Thai patriotic forces, led by the Communist Party of Thailand, are scoring victory after victory. In June alone they attacked and occupied a military base in Udan, in Thanai province, and won battles with government military forces in northern Thailand and in the southern province of Tjatalong. They have destroyed several tanks and armoured cars, and captured considerable quantities of arms with which to arm the people and develop the mass revolutionary struggle. ■

DOMINICA: 80 banana plantation workers in Dominica have been on strike since Nov 21 last year. The employer is Geest Holdings, a British imperialist company with a monopoly on all banana exports (1 billion a year) from the Windward Islands, Dominica. The workers wages are £6 a week. Geest have tried to break the strike by all means including eviction from company owned shacks and cutting off the water supply. The strikers have called for support for their wages struggle from British workers. They should also be supported in their political struggle for genuine independence against imperialism. ■

Please send contributions to International Notes and A Worker's Notebook to: The Editor, "Class Struggle", c/o NEW ERA BOOKS, 203 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

Raise £1,200 in 3 months

CALL FROM THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE RCLB

The national liberation struggle against British imperialism in Zimbabwe is winning new victories daily. The "internal settlement" government of Smith and his black puppets is on the point of collapse because the vast masses of the people have seen through the fraud of the "internal settlement" and give their full support to ZANU and the Patriotic Front. The support of the people for the correct line of ZANU is the main reason why large areas of Zimbabwe are liberated, why the fighting is now only twelve miles from Salisbury and why we can be confident of final victory for the people of Zimbabwe.

Victory is sure eventually, but before then the imperialists will try desperately to hang on. They are trying even now to split the Patriotic Front and win part of it to their side, but the Patriotic Front is holding firm. If they fail in their splitting tactics, then the British imperialists may gamble all they have in Zimbabwe by carrying out a military intervention. Both Labour and Tory have threatened this under the guise of "rescuing civilians". They may go it alone, with the US or NATO or through the "South African" regime.

The danger of intervention by the superpowers also grows daily. The US is trying to muscle Britain out and will certainly do so if the Anglo-American proposals for a settlement are implemented. The Soviet Union also is looking for an excuse for an armed intervention as it did in Angola, Ethiopia and Zaire.

All this means that the need for material support and solidarity from the British working class grows more, not less, urgent as victory nears in Zimbabwe.

The Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain (RCLB) therefore calls on all members and supporters and on all the workers and people of Britain to raise £1200 by December 2nd. This is the additional sum needed to send a landrover to the liberation fighters in Zimbabwe.

As well as working hard themselves, all members and supporters of the RCLB, all class conscious workers and anti-imperialists should make every effort to explain the struggle in Zimbabwe, and the plots of the British imperialists and the two superpowers, to their workmates, friends, relatives and neighbours and mobilise them to do their share in the campaign to send a landrover to Zimbabwe.

- * Hold collections at your factory, shop, office, school, hospital or other place of work.
- * Ask your workmates to give regular contributions each payday.
- * Collect at your union branch - get your branch to make a financial donation.
- * Ask your friends, relatives and neighbours for contributions.
- * Collect on your housing estate.
- * Give as much as you can to jumble sale collectors and clothing collectors.
- * Rack your brains to think of as many ways as possible to raise financial and other material support. Ask an RCLB member what you can do to help.

All money and other material support can be given to RCLB members or supporters. Financial donations can also be sent to J. Bayley, c/o New Era Books, 203 Seven Sisters Rd., London, N4.

Hard and vigorous work will raise the extra £1,200 to send a landrover to our class brothers and sisters fighting so heroically against our common enemy - British imperialism.

The Central Committee of the RCLB 12.8.78.

ZANU PUBLIC MEETING CONFIDENT OF VICTORY

At a recent public meeting called to commemorate the founding of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) on August 8th, 1963, Comrade Pswarayi, Chairman of the ZANU People's Movement (the internal wing of ZANU) reported how members of the ANC party of Muzorewa are leaving in droves to join ZANU. Muzorewa and his ANC are working hand-in-hand with Smith in the "internal settlement", aimed at protecting the interests of the British and American monopolies, and the property "rights" of the settler farmers. As time goes by the traitorous activities of Muzorewa and Co. become more and more clear even to those who previously followed them. Recent public meetings organised in the towns and countryside by black and white government ministers to try to win support for the "internal settlement" have been attended by only a handful of people. In many cases no one has bothered to turn up at all.

Comrade Pswarayi stated the struggle in Zimbabwe is reaching the end of stage 1 - the destruction of the colonialist state of "Rhodesia". He repeated throughout his speech that the "building is coming down". The rightful owners of Zimbabwe, the masses, have decided to demolish it. Attempts to revamp the building, such as the "internal settlement" are futile.

The colonialist population know it and are leaving as fast as possible. Over 1000 a month are going,

and the rate is increasing month by month. Smith is trying economic attacks on those who want to leave, in order to try to stem the flow. He is even offering land as an incentive to people to stay. But, as Comrade Pswarayi said, the land he is offering to distribute is already in the possession of the masses of Zimbabwe. It is liberated territory.

The meeting, which was held in London on August 13th, was interrupted by police, who marched into the room to remove a man, whom they claimed had single-handedly attacked a group of policemen! They behaved extremely arrogantly and provocatively towards those in the meeting. This crude attempt to harass ZANU members and supporters failed in its purpose of creating disruption and violence.

500 miners at the Rhodesian Copper mine walked out on strike for higher pay on July 28th. On August 15th, miners at the Mangula copper mine also struck. A report in the "Guardian" said: "according to the police 3000 mine workers and their families gathered outside the office at 3.30am armed with axes, iron bars, and clubs." Police used tear gas and shot into the crowd killing four miners and injuring five. Reports indicate that other mines have been hit by similar disputes.

CHINA ENDS AID TO ALBANIA

On July 7th, the Chinese government informed the Albanian Embassy that it was compelled to stop its economic and military aid to Albania and bring back its economic and military experts working there. This move is a concrete development of the worsening relations between China and Albania. It is to be regretted that the relations between the two socialist countries have degenerated, but it is clear that the responsibility for this lies entirely with the Albanian side.

For some time the Albanian Party and government has been making serious errors. The Revolutionary Communist League of Britain (RCLB) has deliberately not made public its criticisms of the Albanian Party leadership, as public disputes between Communists gladden the hearts of the ruling class and create splits in the international communist movement. However this has not been the attitude of the Albanian Party leaders who publicly make slanderous attacks on the Communist Party of China, the stand of the international communist movement and on Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought, and who have deliberately fostered splits and factionalism in the international communist movement. In such circumstances it is impossible to remain silent. Communists are duty bound to take a public stand.

The Party of Labour of Albania have systematically and publicly attacked the theory of the three worlds, which was formulated by Chairman Mao Tsetung. This theory sums up the main contradictions in the world and identifies who are the friends of the working class and people at the present stage, who are its enemies, and which enemies are the more dangerous and which are vacillating forces. This theory enables us to have a strategy of revolution which will lead us forward, so that we strike our blows at the main targets. The Albanian Party leaders have grossly distorted this line, and slanderously attacked it. In launching their attack, they immediately circulated it to all the embassies of

the imperialist countries in Peking. As one example of their erroneous stand they say that there is no difference between US imperialism and Soviet social imperialism. This is a denial of a Marxist approach. It denies the uneven development of imperialism. It is obvious that one superpower is on the increase, and one declining. By denying that Soviet social imperialism is the expanding superpower, the Albanian Party is disarming the world's people in the face of the threat. In this and other ways the Albanian Party is objectively aiding the Soviet imperialists.

The Albanian Party has fostered splits in the international communist movement, and encouraged people to publicly attack Mao Tsetung and the Communist Party of China. One example is that they have opportunistically allied with and promoted Birch as a communist leader in Britain, despite deep differences of line between them, on the basis of encouraging Birch's revisionist clique in the leadership of the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) to attack China in its newspaper.

This type of activity led to the ending of aid from China, when the Albanian government made ridiculous slanders that China was sabotaging its economy and defence forces. The fact is that China has taken a fine proletarian internationalist stand and given unstinting aid to Albania amounting to nearly 10,000 million yuan. In fact China sent 1,800,000 tons of foodgrain at a time when its own food supplies were inadequate. Another example of unselfish aid was the supply of new China-made tanks and interceptors to Albanian defence forces, even before China's own armed forces were equipped with them.

The RCLB is confident that the majority of members of the Party of Labour of Albania are good communists, and hopes that the PLA will in time recognise and rectify its errors, allowing the Albanian working class to play again a great role in the international working class movement.

LEARN FROM THE LIFE AND WORK OF MAO TSETUNG

Build the revolutionary Communist Party

Two years ago, on September 9th, Chairman Mao Tsetung, the great leader of the Chinese people died.

There are many lessons that we can and must learn from his life and writings. In Britain today, the most important task is to build a new revolutionary Communist Party of the working class, which will lead the working class in overthrowing the oppressive rule of British imperialism. Summing up the lessons of the international Communist movement, Mao stressed that the working class needs its own party to build socialism:

"If there is to be a revolution, there must be a revolutionary party. Without a revolutionary party...it is impossible to lead the working class and the broad masses of the people in defeating imperialism..."

The party which Mao was talking about, and the party which we must build has nothing to do with capitalist parties like the Labour or Conservative Parties. It is a party of the working class - *"a party built on the Marxist-Leninist revolutionary theory and in the Marxist-Leninist revolutionary style."* What is this revolutionary theory and style?

MARXIST-LENINIST REVOLUTIONARY THEORY

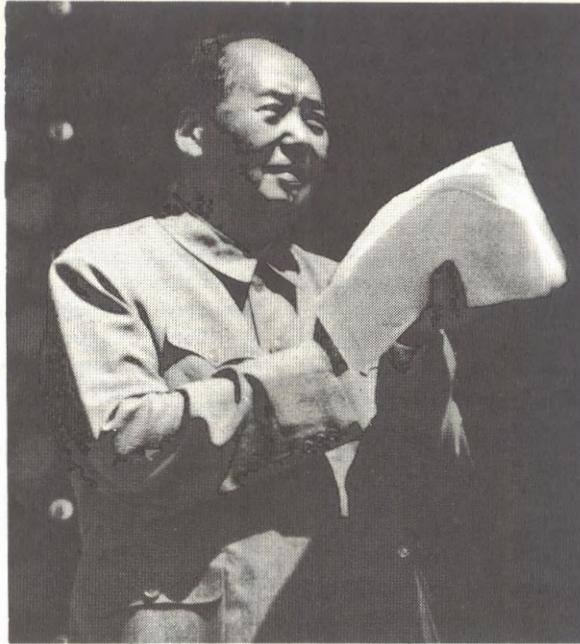
Marxist-Leninist theory is the crystallisation of the experience of the world communist movement over the past hundred years. If we do not understand this theory, then we will be unable to develop correct strategy and tactics for the revolutionary struggle of the British working class, and will be unable to lead anybody in doing anything. As Mao said *"we shall be blind, half-baked, middle-headed revolutionaries...we shall lose our bearings and vacillate now to the left and now to the right, and the work will suffer."* What an excellent description of some "revolutionaries" today who ignore this lesson.

INTEGRATE THEORY WITH PRACTICE

Chairman Mao and the Chinese Communist Party did not study and develop theory for its own sake, but to guide the party in its work, in other words to guide its practice. Unless theory is integrated with practice it is pointless. In Mao's words:

"Marxism emphasises the importance of theory precisely and only because it can guide action. If we have a correct theory but merely prate about it, pigeon-hole it and do not put it into practice, then that theory, however good, is of no significance."

Mao Tsetung was a great theoretician. He also had a deep grasp of the practical movement. He developed a style of work in the Party of always investigating matters thoroughly - *"seeking truth from facts"* - of testing policies in practice, summing up that experience and then enriching and strengthening the original policies or theories. This is an important part of what Mao meant by the *"Marxist-Leninist revolutionary style"*. Through its understanding of this, the Chinese Communist Party



under Mao's leadership was able to lead millions of people in making revolution and construction of socialism.

PRACTICE CRITICISM AND SELF-CRITICISM

Chairman Mao led the Party in its constant practice of criticism and self-criticism. However good a party's grasp of theory and the practical movement, it will still make mistakes. Mao said time and again:

"To check up regularly on our work and in the process develop a democratic style of work, to fear neither criticism nor self-criticism...this is the only effective way to prevent all kinds of political dust and germs from contaminating the

minds of our comrades and the body of our Party".

Parties such as the Labour Party, the Tories, and the "Communist" Party of Great Britain can never admit mistakes; but those whose only aim is to serve the people must always do so, because only then can they correct errors, and strengthen the organisation and its members as fighting communists. The Party has nothing to hide from the working class.

FORGE CLOSE LINKS WITH THE MASSES

In Mao's words: *"Our point of departure is to serve the people wholeheartedly, and never for a moment divorce ourselves from the masses."*

It is the masses - in this country mainly the working class - who make history. It is the working class which will make the revolution and change society. The revolutionary Communist Party of Britain will be the leading core of the British people - but it will not be their overlords. It must be united with the mass of people, and at all times serve their interests. An understanding of this is crucial if we are to build a real party - like the great Communist Party of China.

LONG LIVE MARXISM-LENINISM-MAO TSETUNG THOUGHT

We must study these lessons of comrade Mao Tsetung. If we really understand them and are able to apply them in the concrete conditions of Britain today, then we will be successful in our aim of building a new revolutionary Communist Party to lead the working class in making socialist revolution. The task is a great one, but certainly no greater than it was for the handful of Chinese Communists in 1921. The better we are able to learn from the life and work of Chairman Mao, the sooner we will carry out our tasks. For one thing is certain - the party will be built, the working class will be victorious. As Chairman Mao said:

"The socialist system will eventually replace the capitalist system; this is an objective law independent of man's will. However much the reactionaries try to hold back the wheel of history, sooner or later revolution will take place and will inevitably triumph."