

CLASS STRUGGLE

POLITICAL PAPER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF BRITAIN

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FORD WORKERS SWEEP ASIDE 5%

On the afternoon of Thursday 21st September, as the news of Ford's 5% "offer" reached the workers up and down the country, spontaneous walkouts showed the feeling on the shop floor.

First to go were 100 toolmakers at the Body Plant at Halewood, Merseyside. They downed tools without even holding a meeting! After a short meeting, the shop stewards in the same plant recommended to a mass meeting of 2,400 production workers that they strike until the following Monday. This proposal was shouted down by the workers! They overwhelmingly voted to strike indefinitely in utter disgust at the offer.

By the end of the day, they were joined by the night shifts and similar walkouts had taken place at Dagenham, Southampton, Swansea, Basildon and Daventry. When the Ford National Joint Negotiating Committee (NJNC) met to discuss the offer in detail on the Friday, the strike was spreading like wildfire up and down the country, they had no choice but to call the remaining workers out and recommend to the unions that the strike be declared

"official".

At Halewood, the mood of the workers had been building up gradually over the 5½ weeks between the summer shutdown and the strike. When workers on the night-shift arrived at the plants on the night of Thursday 21st, they stood around with their coats on, refusing to start work. 75 minutes later they were on their way home!

"It's an insult!" said one worker. Others pointed out that after tax deductions the amount left in the increase wouldn't even pay for the two increases in bus fares due over the next six months. Some fares are to be increased by 75%.

Over the years Ford workers have gained rich experience of the Ford bosses' devious tactics used during disputes, and of the lies used by various trade union misleaders in pushing sell-out settlements. The speed with which the strike spread indicates that even if it lasts as long as the nine-week strike in 1971, they will fight on until a large part of their claim has been met. ■

Ford employs 57,000 hourly-paid workers in 23 plants on 16 sites, with most working in the 6 plants at Dagenham and the 3 plants at Halewood.

DAGENHAM.....24,500	SWANSEA.....2,100	BELFAST.....1,140
HALEWOOD.....12,000	LANGLEY.....2,000	DUNTON.....1,000
SOUTHAMPTON.....4,100	ENFIELD.....1,500	WOOLWICH.....540
BASILDON (tractor and radiator plants).....3,910	DAVENTRY.....1,280	AVELEY.....380
	LEAMINGTON.....1,200	CROYDON.....320
		TREFOREST.....290

FORD STRIKE - SPEARHEAD OF CLASS RESISTANCE TO WAGE CUTS

The all-out strike by the 57,000 Ford workers shows clearly the deep and growing discontent of workers in many industries, after suffering three year of Labour/TUC wage cuts.

In the four years since Labour have held power, Ford of Britain's profits rocketed from £8.7 millions to a record £246.1 millions last year. This is a direct result of the "social contract" formulated

worker would add only another £3.40 to his basic pay. Less than half the increase he received under Phase 3 - while Ford's profits doubled in the same period.

The Ford bosses conveniently forgot the wage controls when it come to giving themselves a wage increase. Chairman of Ford of Britain, Sir Terence Beckett gave himself a wage increase of over 80% to £54,843.

The apparent militancy of the trade union leaders on the NJNC needn't fool anybody. The revisionist Reg Birch, secretary of the NJNC has been involved in sell-out deals with Fords for years. And the new Chairman replacing Moss Evans is Ron Todd. While Ford workers were downing tools and calling the 5% "offer" an "insult" and "not even worth talking about", Todd told the press he was merely "bitterly disappointed", but that "it's early days yet...we want more details on the company's offer of a productivity deal". His reluctance to openly oppose Labour government policy isn't surprising, as he is also treasurer of the London District Labour Party.

It was the bold, militant action of the workers which forced him to back-pedal the following day, and back an all-out "official" strike.

With similar action throughout the dispute,

(Cont'd on p2)

FORD'S PROFITS IN BRITAIN UNDER THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT

£ MILLIONS

1974.....	8.7
1975.....	14.1
1976.....	121.6
1977.....	246.1

originally by the TUC misleaders and the Labour government. Compare this with the wage slips of one Ford worker after a week on the day shift with four hours overtime:

1974 - gross pay £56.44 - take home pay £44

1978 - gross pay £77.07 - take-home pay £54

This is an increase of take-home pay of only 22% over four years, while prices have been going up at around 20% each year! This shows conclusively who Labour's policies benefit! A 5% increase for this

NURSERY SHORTAGE OPPRESSES WOMEN

A recent Government report shows how few services there are for working mothers with young children. There are 900,000 children under five whose mothers go out to work, but day-nurseries and registered child-minders only look after 120,000. Similarly 2½ million children between 5 and 10 have working mothers, but the State and Local Authorities provide next to no services for after school hours, for school holidays and so on.

Lack of such facilities forces women into low paid jobs or no job at all. What sort of job can you get that ends when the school term does or allows you time off if your child is ill? When employers do provide this sort of flexibility they can get away with paying very low pay and with poor conditions.

If their children were properly cared for most women would want to go out to work. As it is, many women with young children work because they have to - their families need their wages. Some are forced to leave children with older brothers and sisters, or just alone in the house or street during the holidays. Enough good day-nurseries and after-school-

FREE THE VIRK BROTHERS

A campaign has been launched by the Steering Committee of Asian Organisations Against Racism to free the four Asian brothers, Joginder, Mohinder, Bolvinder and Sukhvinder Virk who were sentenced to 7 years, 3 years, 2 years and 3 months imprisonment respectively by the British imperialist state for defending themselves against a racist attack. They were repairing a car outside their home in east London when they were attacked by five white youths shouting racist abuse. Using whatever weapons that came to hand the brothers put up a strong resistance and defeated the attackers. They called the police to deal with the youths and arrange for the treatment of two who were injured. The police let the attackers go free, arrested the brothers and charged them with grievous bodily harm. This is yet another example of the racist police giving protection to fascist thugs. National minorities cannot rely on the imperialist state to protect them from fascist attacks - the state itself is the biggest enemy.

FORD STRIKE - SPEARHEAD OF CLASS RESISTANCE TO WAGE CUTS

along with the actions of solidarity by other workers like the dockers, the union leaders will be forced away from any sell-out settlement - including productivity deals - and deliver from the bosses the just demands of the workers. But the strength of opportunist (sacrificing long term aims for short term gains) treachery in the trade union leadership means that the whole working class must be vigilant. Last year some brilliant struggles against the 10% limit, like the Firemen, were lost

hours and holiday care are in the interests of the whole working class. Even when women take part in production, they cannot play a full part in class struggle if they are constantly worrying about their children. The struggle for more child-care services is part of the struggle against women's oppression.

UNION BOSSES WON'T FIGHT

Now that the Ford's workers have set the scene it is becoming clear that 1978 will see a massive upsurge against wage cuts. Even the trade union misleaders are looking more and more militant day by day. They know that their members have had enough. The fact that the trade union misleaders are now taking a "militant" stand means that we must be even more on guard against sell-outs, because we cannot trust leaders who fight only because of angry rank-and-file pressure.

Already the Vauxhall workers have rejected a 5% offer, but what are their union leaders doing? They are spinning out negotiations, and waiting to see what the Ford workers win, then they will ask for the same. This is their regular tactic. If the union misleaders were really sincere about fighting the 5%, they would call on Vauxhall workers to strike, and stand side by side with the Ford workers. United action is where real strength lies.

The attitude of the union leaders is summed up in the following statement by Miller, the TGWU national officer: "If the company's (British Oxygen) offer is the same as the Ford employers, I am quite sure there is no way we shall be able to restrain our members from taking the same action as the Ford workers". Such statements show the true outlook of the opportunist misleaders, who are wearing their "militant" face today. They must still be dumped if the working class is to progress in making the bosses pay for their crisis.

Cont'd from p1

solely because of the actions of misleaders whose first consideration is to keep the Labour Party in power. Their faint-heartedness and class collaborationist policies allowed the bosses to pick-off one struggle against the pay limit after another. The dockers' backing for the Ford workers is excellent and is an important step in uniting the struggle to dump Labour's 5% and make the bosses pay for their crisis.

THE MAIN ITEMS OF THE CLAIM

1. WAGES: To compensate for the loss of purchasing power over the last year and ensure improved living standards in the coming year, a minimum £20 increase on basic rates.
2. HOURS: A reduction of 5 hours in the working week (to 35 hours)
3. HOLIDAYS: Improvement in annual holidays; Sabbatical leave; Improvement in service related holidays; All days of holiday to be paid at time and a third.
4. SICKNESS BENEFIT: Full payment after 1 year of service.
5. PREMIUM PAYMENTS: An improvement in shift rates.
6. LINE WORKERS: Payment of additional 1 hour's pay per shift.
7. PENSIONS: To be based on last year's wages; Optional retirement at 60 years of age.
8. LAY-OFF PAYMENTS: Payment for all lay-offs (at present 80% payment for external disputes only).

OFFICIAL SECRETS TRIAL HITS DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS

Three people are on trial under the Official Secrets Act at the Old Bailey in London. They are two journalists - Crispin Aubrey and Duncan Campbell - and a former soldier - John Berry. The "offence" consists of a private conversation at Berry's house after which three Special Branch men were waiting for them outside the house. Berry had arranged to meet the two journalists to tell them of the activities of Signals Intelligence (Sigint), an army spying network gathering intelligence on liberation movements etc. Berry is charged with disclosing official secrets and the two journalists with receiving them. Berry's service in 'Sigint' for four years, up to 1970, involved him in obtaining intelligence from electronic listening.

The charges are under Section 1 of the act which is normally used on spy charges. They carry a maximum of 14 years imprisonment. The prosecution has attempted a 'spy' smear on the defendants despite their own admission that there is no question of links with a "foreign power". So why has the British Imperialist state come down so heavy in silencing Berry and the journalists? It can only be to give the law courts and the whole capitalist state a tighter control on news and information of the activities of police and intelligence in its surveillance of the people. Although Berry's "information" was out of date two years after he left the army, an example is being made of them to silence others.

JURY FOREMAN AN SAS MAN

The 1977 Criminal Law Act gives greater powers to the prosecution to decide the composition of a jury. The defence is allowed only three challenges to particular jurors and, in this trial, the prosecution have certainly used their advantage to the full. An ex-army Special Air Services (SAS) man was sworn in as a foreman of the jury before public disclosure of this fact compelled the judge to order the swearing in of a new jury. Prior to this, an application for the dismissal of the SAS man on the grounds of his past service was rejected by the judge.

This is a clear example of how the law courts and judiciary serve the ruling class and its state agencies.

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A WORKER'S NOTEBOOK

ON SEPTEMBER 17TH, THE LABOUR PARTY AGAIN DEMONSTRATED its true colours at Gee Cross in Cheshire when the local Labour club played what a police sergeant described as a "friendly and entertaining" game of football with the "Lilywhites" - a team fielded by the fascist National Front. The Labour captain, Denis Charnock said, "The NF players were a good friendly bunch. Although we are politically opposed, we don't let it interfere with our football." In fact, he's wrong. The Labour Party and the Front are at root not politically opposed. Despite the sincere anti-racism of some of its members, the Labour Party is, like the Front, a racist bosses' party. The disagreements are over the tactics for protecting capitalism. At the moment the Labour Party's doing well enough for the bosses for them to consider only keeping fascists like the National Front in reserve.

SOME PEOPLE GET ROUND THE FACT THAT MONEY IS WORTH LESS every day by buying gold and silver jewelry, which is not subject to inflation. The profits of Britain's biggest jewellers, H. Samuel soared by 43% to a record £2,900,000 in the first half of this year. But among the many people who can't do this are Britain's trainee nurses, who do a vital job keeping the country's health service going. Less than £44.50 a week doesn't leave a lot to invest in jewelry if you want to eat as well.

LAST YEAR, AT LEAST £1,500,000 WAS DONATED TO THE TORY Party and organisations connected to it by big business. This money came out of the profits that the bosses screw out of the workers. At the same time the political levy imposed in many unions goes to the Labour Party, to help finance their attacks on working people. We can't prevent companies using profits to support one wing of the capitalist bird of prey, but we can struggle to stop financing the other, more dangerous wing, the Labour Party, by opposing the political levy going to the Labour Party and organising campaigns for mass contracting out by trade union members from paying the political levy.

TWO WOMEN WORKERS WERE DISMISSED FROM THE DOWNLAND BEDDING factory in Kirkby when they refused to work for lower wages than male workers in unacceptable conditions. 56 fellow workers walked out in sympathy. The two women were later reinstated. What is most significant about this case is the way it was handled in the press. The story appeared in the "Daily Mirror" under the headline "Feathers fly over a tickle" and went on... "Flying feathers at a bedding factory really tickled teenaged girls. The feathers flew up their skirts and tickled their thighs..." It continued in the same jokey way. This is one example of the way the bosses' press tries to divide men and women workers by treating a legitimate grievance as a smutty joke, and hoping men will see sexual differences, and not their common lot as workers, as the main aspect of the situation.

THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT HAS AGAIN BLOCKED MOVES TO UNIONISE Britain's armed services, by rejecting a recruiting advertisement submitted to "Soldier" magazine by the ASTMS. Most European states have been forced to recognise trade unions in their armed forces and it's high time it happened here as well. It is a democratic right. What the capitalist class fears is that such rights in the armed services will bring unity between servicemen and the working class. Such unity is clearly in the interests of the working class. It is not surprising the capitalists fear it.

DESPITE FINANCIAL AID FROM THE BOSSES' STATE IN THE form of Government advertising the so-called 'Communist' Party's paper, the "Morning Star" expects a deficit of about £185,000 next year. Understandably less and less people are prepared to pay 12p a day for the privilege of being fed the bosses' lies dressed up as Communism.



THE VANGUARD PARTY NEEDS THE MO

The history of the struggle of the working class in Britain is scattered with "leaders" who regard Marxism as "irrelevant" to Britain or something for intellectuals. Even leaders of the Communist Party of Britain, at the time it really was a revolutionary workers' party, neglected theory and underestimated the workers' ability to grasp political principles. Some half-baked "communists" even boast that they are ignorant of Marxism-Leninism and

"I'm not theoretical...I don't want to be"
- quoted approvingly in "Socialist Worker" in an interview with one of their members.

believe that this makes them more "working class". In fact as Lenin said: *"the role of the vanguard fighter can be fulfilled only by a party that is guided by the most advanced theory"*.

MARX AND ENGELS PUT SOCIALISM ON A SCIENTIFIC FOOTING

The bourgeoisie, the capitalist class, came to power by overthrowing the rule of the feudal aristocracy. This bourgeois revolution tore the shackles off industrial development. The resulting increase in industry, led to the development of a great industrial working class. Inevitably the interests of the bourgeoisie came into sharp conflict with the interests of the proletariat. Marx and Engels did not stand aside from the great struggles of the working masses. They took the side of the proletariat. Through study of the capitalist system, and the history of human society, they uncovered the basic laws of class struggle propelling society forward. Just as capitalism had replaced feudalism, and feudalism replaced slavery, so socialism and communism must bury capitalism. They uncovered the workings of the capitalist system and its inevitable periodic crisis, laid bare its foundation on exploitation, showed the inevitability of class struggle, and how that struggle must lead to the

destruction of the capitalist state by the working class and the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat as the precondition for the construction of a socialist economic system and the massive expansion of production. This was the founding of scientific socialism, of Marxism.

At a time when the proletariat was still groping in the dark, this knowledge helped it become conscious of its place in history. The victory of scientific socialism over all non-proletarian utopian socialist dreams assisted the development of working class parties throughout Europe. Since Marx and Engels laid the foundation of scientific socialism it has been applied and enriched by Lenin, Stalin and Mao Tsetung in the Russian and Chinese revolutions. These five great leaders have drawn further lessons from the experience of great revolutionary movements throughout the world. Stalin described theory as *"the experience of the working class movement in all countries taken in its general aspect"*. Today that theory is properly called Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought. Studying theory and learning from this experience is vital. In Stalin's words: *"theory, and theory alone, can give the movement confidence, the power of orientation"*. Those who deny the leading role of theory serve the bourgeoisie; they work to extinguish the light provided

"Without a revolutionary theory there can be no revolutionary movement" - Lenin.

by theory and push the movement back to groping in the dark.

USE MARXISM-LENINISM-MAO TSETUNG THOUGHT TO GUIDE THE REVOLUTION IN BRITAIN

Theory in itself is useless unless it is applied and used to guide revolutionary practice. The general lessons of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought must be applied to concrete conditions in Britain and the world to develop the strategy and

This summer has seen the growth of a mass movement against the National Front (NF). Over 80,000 marched in London, 40,000 in Manchester and many other places. Every Sunday, hundreds turn out in the East of London to protest against the vicious attacks on national minorities by NF thugs. The National Front is a fascist organisation whose ideology, politics and methods are against the interests of the whole working class and all progressive people.

The Anti-Nazi League (ANL) has organised many rallies and support for the Bengalis in London's East End. It has succeeded in rallying a great deal of popular hatred and scorn for the NF and further exposed its leaders as Hitler-worshippers. But for what purpose? Where is the ANL going and who is leading it?

OPPOSE STATE REPRESSION AND LABOUR RACISM

Hatred for, and organisation against, the vicious racism of the National Front is an excellent thing. But misleaders who seek to manipulate this hatred to cover up a more powerful and more dangerous enemy must be firmly exposed as objectively sabotaging the struggle against racism and fascism. That more dangerous enemy is the British imperialist state itself.

The ANL sprung to life almost overnight and became most active when election speculation was at its height. Its leadership is generally pro-Labour, be-

ing composed of Labour Party members, Trotskyites and revisionists (sham Marxists). The ANL's sole aim is to unite the broadest number of people possible against the NF. Their propaganda against fascism is restricted to the NF which is exposed as just a set of particularly nasty people. It is true that we must defend ourselves and oppose the vicious attacks of the open fascists on national minorities and on the working class in general, but the ANL misleaders seek to divert our attention from the racism of British imperialist state, and the despicable role of the Labour Party.

The Labour Party introduced the 1968 immigration act. It has been in power since 1974 and operates the 1972 immigration act introduced by the Tories. What is more even Enoch Powell points out that these racist laws have been more vigorously enforced under a Labour Government! Labour "justifies" its use of such immigration acts by saying that "Britain can't afford more immigrants". Not a word about the plunder by British Imperialism of the third world, of course. Not to mention that their argument is nothing other than a racist attempt to blame "immigration" for the crisis of the capitalist system. Under the Labour Government these laws have been further used to mount wholesale police attacks on national minority communities, followed by arbitrary accusation and arrest of "illegal immigrants". Police powers to detain those accused, without charge or appeal are immense. Again, police

ANL MISLEADERS DIVER

MOST ADVANCED THEORY

tactics of the revolutionary struggle of the proletariat. No army can win a battle unless it understands the terrain on which it is fighting, and has correct strategy and tactics mapping out its line of advance. For the struggle of the working class, today, that means developing a revolutionary programme based on principle and hard won lessons, and on the actual conditions in Britain and the world.

OPPOSE REVISIONIST ATTACKS ON THEORY

The CPGB was once the party of the working class; but it failed to consistently inculcate its members with Marxism-Leninism, and to thoroughly root out opportunist distortions of Marxism-Leninism in its ranks. Such opportunism pursues illusory temporary gains, whilst ignoring the long term interest of the working class. It is working blindly without a strategy. It is like an army fighting a battle with part of the enemy forces, whilst turning a blind eye to the main enemy force, which is getting ready to win the war! In its most developed forms opportunism is an outright attack on Marxism-Leninism itself. The bourgeoisie has failed to defeat scientific socialism in open battle, instead it attacks Marxism in the name of Marxism. In the period after the second world war opportunism triumphed and became dominant in the CPGB, and in a number of other parties in other countries, including the Soviet Union which has been transformed into a state monopoly capitalist country and an aggressive imperialist superpower.

Today the CPGB is a full blown revisionist party - a counter-revolutionary party - serving the interests of the British bourgeoisie and the Soviet social imperialists. Whilst the CPGB applaud Marx and Lenin to the skies, they attack Marxism-Leninism. In the guise of "applying Marxism to new conditions" they toss their lessons out of the window as being "outdated" or "not applicable to Britain". They

strip the revolutionary essence out of Marxism-Leninism, leaving a fake cardboard shell on which they hypocritically paint the names of Marx and Lenin. This is revisionism - revising Marxism-Leninism and turning it into its opposite. Revisionism replaces revolution with utopian dreams of reform; it denies the nature of the state as an organ of class rule and promotes the capitalist state as "independent"; it denies the aim of the dictatorship of the proletariat, and promotes fake bourgeois parliamentary democracy; it covers state monopoly capitalism with red paint and calls it socialism.

A grasp of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought reveals such distortions, such fake paths to socialism, which lead only into a swamp, which serves the bourgeoisie. It unveils the fake friends of the working class, like the CPGB and the Labour Party. Theory illuminates what is socialism and lays bare what is capitalism in "Marxist" clothing, what is revisionism.

REBUILD THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE WORKING CLASS.

The revisionist attack on Marxism-Leninism destroyed the CPGB and turned it into its opposite. The task of Communists today is to rebuild the party of the working class. This is the task, which the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain was founded to carry out. A key element of that task is to firmly grasp the theory of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought, to apply theory to the concrete conditions in Britain and to draft a revolutionary

"No political party can possibly lead a great revolutionary movement to victory unless it possesses revolutionary theory and a knowledge of history and has a profound grasp of the practical movement" - Mao Tsetung.

programme to guide the revolutionary struggle of the British proletariat. Only a Party that grasps theory and has developed such a programme is equipped to act as a vanguard and lead the struggle of the British proletariat to victory.

ERT ANTI-RACIST STRUGGLE



"WE'VE BEEN PULLING THIS TRICK FOR YEARS!"

harrassment of black people and arrest on trumped up charges is rife. Often it is combined with fascist provocations. Cases like those of George Lindo and the Virk brothers are commonplace. The attempt of the ANL misleadership to hide the role of the Labour Party can be seen further by their planned campaign in the expected general election, where they had intended to campaign under the slogan "Don't Vote NF, Don't Vote Tory" on the grounds that these are the two racist parties. This is nothing but a bald attempt to white-wash Labour's racist record.

ANL LEADERSHIP TERRIFIED OF DEMOCRACY

The ANL leadership claim to have built a broad democratic front in which it is possible for different trends to introduce policy. This is just not true. The organisation is bureaucratically controlled by a self-appointed committee at the top, made up of elements of the Labour Party, the trotskyite organisations, and the so-called "Communist" Party of Great Britain. They oppose elections and fear political discussion. Such "unity" is bound to perish.

The struggle against racism and fascism must be based on opposition to the racism of the imperialist state, whilst fighting the open nazis. It must oppose all immigration acts introduced by imperialists for their own interests, and it must expose the racist and imperialist actions of those such as the Labour Party, and put the lie to their "anti-racist" words. This is what the ANL misleaders want to prevent.

BRITISH TROOPS - STAY OUT OF ZIMBABWE!

The unity of the people of Zimbabwe against British colonial rule and against British and American imperialism is great. This unity manifests itself in the Patriotic Front composed of the ZANU and ZAPU (the Zimbabwe African National Union, led by Robert Mugabe and the Zimbabwe African People's Union led by Joshua Nkomo). Both organisations are pledged to wage armed struggle until the colonial power, Britain, cedes power to the Patriotic Front.

The unity of the people of Zimbabwe, particularly of the workers and peasants but also of others, is due to their oppression by a common enemy. A century ago a band of mercenaries led by Cecil Rhodes invaded Zimbabwe, burned down the capital city and stole the land from those who worked on it. The victorious mercenaries then developed a fascist state apparatus to uphold the rule of the British and later also American mining companies and banks, in whose service they had invaded the country. Zimbabwe is still a British colony and the people of Zimbabwe are united in fighting to free themselves from colonial rule.

It is therefore no wonder that 80% of the country is no longer controlled by Smith but is liberated or semi-liberated. It is no surprise that 600 settlers a month are fleeing the country. It does not astonish us to read that the Anglo American

JAPAN DEMANDS USSR OUT

On September 27th, the Japanese Prime Minister made it clear that Japan will not sign a peace treaty with the Soviet Union, until the USSR returns the northern territories to Japan. The Soviet social imperialists are illegally occupying four of Japan's northern islands. Adding insult to injury the Soviet Union has further claimed the sea around these islands as Soviet territory, causing hardship to Japanese fishermen.

Japan recently signed a treaty with China in which both countries pledged that they would not seek hegemony (domination) in the area. The treaty went further and stated that the two countries were united in their opposition to any third country seeking hegemony. The new Tsars in the Kremlin immediately showed their guilty conscience by denouncing the treaty, calling the opposition to hegemony an attack on the Soviet Union. The cap obviously fits!

At the United Nations, at the end of September, Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, hit out at Japan saying "unfortunately the policy of Japan has been showing some disquieting trends", and accusing Japan of aggression. This crude attempt to divert blame, cannot hide the fact that it is the USSR which occupies Japanese territory, it is the USSR which is moving troops around the world like pieces on a chess board, and it is the USSR that is carrying out a massive arms build up and ruthlessly seeking world hegemony.

EVENTS

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THE IMPERIALISTS TRY TO "DIVIDE AND CONQUER"

A key point in the tactics of British and American imperialism is their attempt to split the Patriotic Front. They have time and time again tried to win Nkomo over to the "internal settlement", have spoken of him as the father of Zimbabwe, have suggested he should be a future president of Zimbabwe. The Soviet social imperialists, too, are trying to split him away and to turn him into their agent, as part of their scheme to creep in through the back door, subvert a free Zimbabwe and turn it into their own colony.

In the last weeks Callaghan has also tried his hand at trying to split the united support of the Front-line States for the struggle of the people of Zimbabwe. These states which surround Zimbabwe have supported the struggle although they are all in a difficult situation. In his recent visit to Zambia Callaghan has been putting pressure on President Kaunda. The basis for his pressure is the fact that the Zambian economy is seriously undermined by British and American imperialism. The "Guardian" of 22 Sept. reports that ministers at Downing Street "discussed details of British aid to Zambia currently involving £22.7 millions". In return for this "aid" the imperialist bloodsuckers expect something: the "Guardian" of the same day writes "Zambia may also raise a request for the stationing of British troops on Zambia's borders with Rhodesia".

OWEN PREPARES FOR DIRECT MILITARY INTERVENTION

We have already exposed Owen's contingency plans in "Class Struggle". The idea of Zambia "requesting" British troops on the border with Zimbabwe is a new variation. At the United Nations on Sept. 27th Owen promised a British battalion of troops either an "infantry battalion" or a "royal marine commando" at seven days' notice by air lift to accompany any peace-keeping forces in the world. He did not name a particular target for this battalion, but he was holding a speech about Zimbabwe at the time! Recently the bourgeois press have been elaborating on a new way of justifying direct military intervention. The "Observer" writes: "There appears to be only one way of averting disaster. It is for Smith.. to surrender to legality...If Smith continues to refuse this lifeline, Britain should announce that it intends to establish its legal presence by sending in Lord Carver as the head of a small British military contingent:"

What is the essence of this line of argument? The essence is, that the problem in Zimbabwe is between Smith on the one hand and Britain on the other, and that Britain ought to stop being nice to this rebel and ought to put a stop to his rebellion by marching in with troops and that the troops would mean legality. This fits in well with the public "confessions" about sanction busting.

But the problem in Zimbabwe is not between Smith and Britain, it is between the British imperialists, the industrial magnates and finance barons on the one hand, and the people of Zimbabwe on the other. And the working people of Britain have no reason to support the industrial magnates and the financial barons. Those are their very own enemies. That is why we are utterly opposed to British troops going to Zimbabwe under any pretext whatsoever.

RAISE £1,200

Four weeks ago, "Class Struggle" printed the appeal of the Central Committee of the RCLB for funds to send a landrover to the liberation fighters in Zimbabwe. The RCLB called for a further £1,200 in 3 months. There has been an excellent response with £400 raised in the first month. There is no room for complacency, however. All members and supporters of the RCLB and all workers and anti-imperialists will have to continue to work hard to ensure we fulfil or pass our target by December 2nd. Sending this landrover, and the bedding, clothing etc., to our class brothers and sisters in Zimbabwe is the best response we can give to the attempts to split the Patriotic Front, and to the threats of armed intervention by the British imperialists and the two superpowers.

TARGET
£1,200
DEC. 2

800

400

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 in 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 collecteng 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, 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!

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INTERNATIONAL NOTES



VIETNAM: Radio Democratic Kampuchea has denounced and exposed the policy of "vietnamising" the Khmer Krom national minority in southern Vietnam being pursued by the Vietnamese authorities. Large areas in the south are inhabited by working people of Khmer nationality. Now the village names are being changed to Vietnamese names, Khmer language is banned in schools, the wearing of Khmer national costumes is forbidden, and many Khmers have been driven off their land. This racist policy is an extension of the treatment meted out to Chinese nationals in Vietnam.

The China/Vietnam negotiations on the question of Chinese nationals in Vietnam have been adjourned by China, whose delegation has returned to China to report. China points out that the Vietnamese authorities are not negotiating, but are using the talks for propaganda purposes whilst stepping up their attacks on Chinese nationals, and on China itself.

U.S.S.R.: At the beginning of September the Soviet Union carried out a military exercise, "Caucasus 2". It was clearly an exercise in attack, and was practising blitzkrieg tactics of capturing a port city with paratroop and airborne units backed up by a drive of tanks and motorised infantry divisions. The location of the exercise clearly portrayed as practising an invasion of Iran. This tactic of making an obvious threat to bully others was used successfully in 1976, when the "Caucasus 1" exercise practised tank invasions of Turkey. The bullying of the Soviet social imperialists then led to appeasement by Turkey and the expansion of Soviet interests there.

PALESTINE: Palestinian commandos blew up an Israeli ammunition depot in Haifa on September 21, and successfully returned to their base. The struggle of the Arab countries and peoples, and of the Palestinians continues for the return of occupied Arab lands and for the national rights of the Palestinian people. Israel has no intention of recognising these rights. Despite the so-called promises of peace of the Camp David talks Israel has stated its intention to massively expand its colonial settlements on the west bank and in other areas, whilst the US holds a shield to protect it. At the same time the racist anti-semitism in the Soviet Union has driven 135,000 Jews into Israel so far. Another 25,000 are expected this year, thus bolstering up the Zionist state from the opposite direction.

SOUTHERN AFRICA: The Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations held a regional conference in Africa in September, where it launched a programme of practical action to assist the national liberation movements in southern Africa. The FAO points out that it is committed to fight malnutrition and hunger on all fronts, and that includes the struggle against colonialism which impoverishes the people. A few days before this statement, the Organisation of African Unity (the united organisation of African governments) announced it would "continue to help SWAPO intensify the armed struggle until every inch of Namibia (South West Africa) is liberated" no matter what the results of the proposed bogus elections in Namibia will be. "Tough sanctions including a mandatory oil embargo against South Africa should be brought before the United Nation's Security Council", it declared.

In the same week the racist colonial South African regime showed its colours again in a vicious attack on black youth during a funeral in Soweto. At the cemetery police charged into a procession of 3,000 singing mourners with batons and tear gas. The funeral was for the student leader Machobane, who was himself killed by the colonial regime after long persecution.

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.

CHINA—DEMOCRACY AT WORK

The capitalists say that Britain is a democratic country, because we have political parties, and from time to time there is a general election. In fact it is nothing of the kind. Whichever party is in power, the capitalist class still controls the state, and they run that state to serve their own interests, not those of the working people.

In China there are a number of democratic parties, but they all recognise the Communist Party as the leading party. Less than 4% of the Chinese people are actually members of the party and its influence extends to every walk of life - factories, communes, schools, local neighbourhoods and government. Yet because in China the working class has state power, and the whole country is run in the interests of the people, there is greater democracy **there** than in any other country in the world. The difference between this and British "democracy" is that it is real democracy, not a fraud which justifies the dictatorship of capitalism.

DEMOCRACY IN THE FACTORIES

To understand how this democracy works in practice, let us take just one example - the factory.

Inside every Chinese factory there are three different organisations - the Revolutionary Committee, the Union and the Party Committee. Together they ensure that each factory is run well and democratically. The Revolutionary Committee is mainly concerned with administration and research, the things which in Britain are done by the management. Unlike the management of a British factory, however, the members of the Revolutionary Committee are proposed and elected by the workers in the factory.

The Union, of which most, but not all workers are members, organises political study classes and mobilises workers to discuss ways of improving the work - increasing production or finding better ways of doing things. It also has a big responsibility for the health and welfare of workers.

The Party Committee, which is elected by the Party members inside the factory, is responsible for giving overall political leadership in the factory. Its members make up a substantial part of the Revolutionary Committee and the Union, although they are usually in a minority. In this way the Revolutionary Committee runs the factory, but the Party plays the leading role.

ORGANISING PRODUCTION

The work in Chinese factories is organised in a democratic way. The amount that each factory must produce is decided, not by the market but by the needs of the people. Production targets are fixed by the state, based on the requirements of the country as a whole and the capacity of the individual factories. However, this target is never decided without the fullest participation of the workers themselves. For instance in the Textile Mill no.2 in Peking, the target is set by the Peking Textile Industrial Bureau, but it is always discussed by all the workers in Union meetings before it is implemented. As a result the target has been regularly overfulfilled for the past 20 years.

Once a plan has been decided on, the work too is organised in such a way as to allow the fullest possible democracy. Usually workers are divided into teams of about 10 people, and it is up to the team to decide how best to carry out their work - who does what job and for how long. Often individual members of the team have particular responsibilities for safety, inspection or checking on political work.

In these ways workers on the shop floor are encouraged to develop their abilities, and to take on responsibilities which in Britain would be regarded as the job of the management. At the same time, the members of the Revolutionary Committee, who are mainly concerned with management tasks also do actual productive labour. In fact, at the Textile Mill no.2, 18 out of the 23 members of the Revolutionary Committee work full time on the shop floor.

THE PARTY SERVES THE PEOPLE

For this system to work properly the role of the Communist Party is crucial. If the Chinese Communist Party were to degenerate - as happened in the Soviet Union - then it would become an instrument of oppression over the workers. That is why the Chinese Party has always attached so much importance to "putting politics in command", to integrating with the masses of the people and listening carefully to their views. They do this by ensuring firstly that all party members live the life of the masses - they get no special privileges and they must all take part in productive work.



Li Ching-jung, deputy secretary of the Party Committee of the Taching Petro-Chemicals works, constantly takes part in physical labour to avoid becoming divorced from the masses.

Inside the factories the Party Committees hold open meetings where the workers can criticise their work. Great stress is placed also on political education and discussion at the place of work. As well as having regular meetings, all Chinese factories contain big posters, known as dazibaos. Some of these are about national affairs - on the campaign against the Gang of Four, or a forthcoming Conference for instance. Others are put up by individual workers and might be criticisms of the Party Committee or Revolutionary Committee, or suggestions as to how the work could be done better. Often a whole debate is carried out in this way. The right to put up such posters is guaranteed in the Chinese constitution.

In these ways the Chinese workers are directly involved in building socialism in China. They enjoy a democracy which British workers have never known, and neither will we so long as the capitalist class has power in our country.