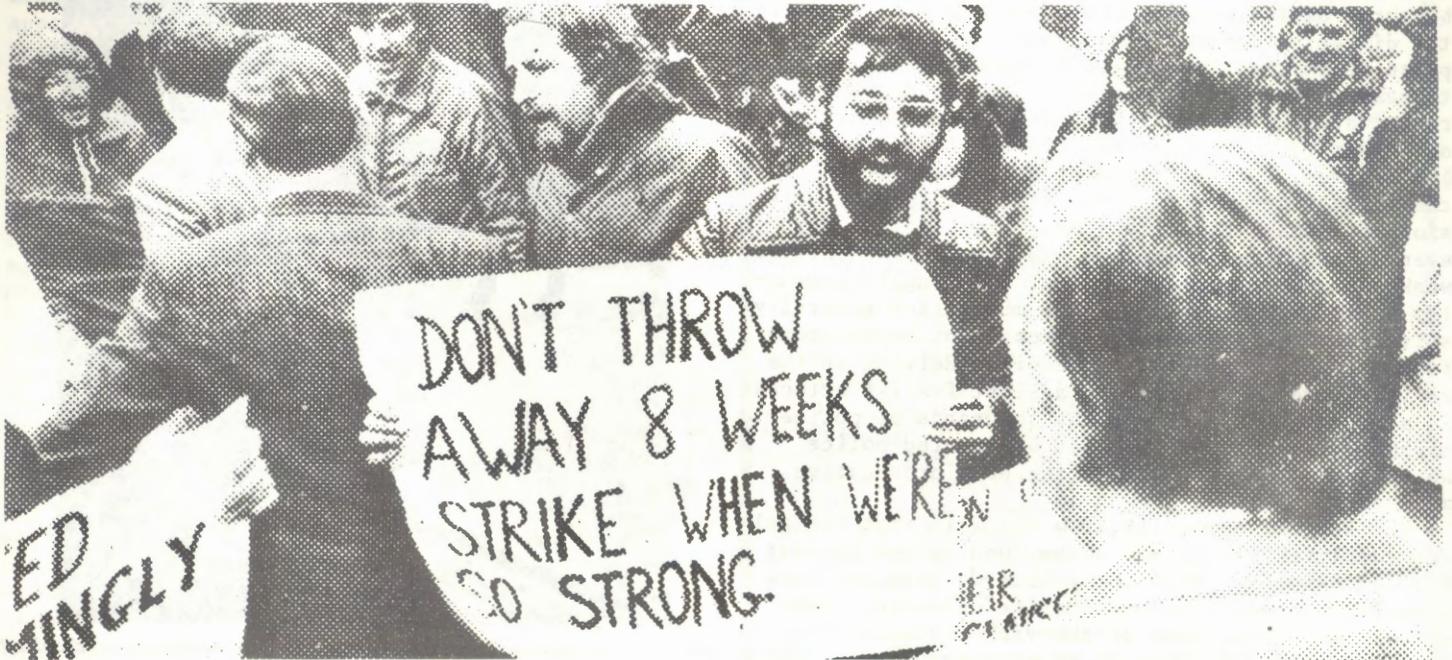


# CLASS STRUGGLE

POLITICAL PAPER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF BRITAIN

Vol. 2, No. 20 - November 30 to December 14 1978

fortnightly 7p



## SELL-OUT SETS FORD WORKERS BACK

On November 22nd, 57,000 Ford workers voted at a series of mass meetings to return to work, ending their nine-week strike. First reactions to the settlement, which was said to be a 17 per cent increase (£10 per week, and time-and-a-third for all holidays) were that a victory had been won. After all, the Labour Government has been insisting on a five per cent pay limit!

But a closer look at the details of the settlement show why we must conclude it was a defeat for the workers. This is because the penalty clauses attached to part of the increase still remain, and seven out of the eight points in the original claim were ignored. (Like the 35-hour week, full pay when sick, lay-off pay, longer holidays, etc.)

Most production workers, grade B, will only

receive £6.52 on the basic rate. A 9.6 per cent increase and that is all that is guaranteed. This is a smaller increase than last year, £7.16, or 11½ per cent. As was explained in the last issue of "Class Struggle", the other £3.48 has penalty clauses tied to it, and is not included in calculations for shift or overtime payments. These penalty clauses disqualify workers from receiving the payments for being absent from work without written permission from a foreman; for being involved in any official or unofficial stoppage of work; for not working "normally" - either individually or as a member of a group; or for being laid-off. Three weeks previously, the workers threw out Ford's "final offer" which included these same clauses. So

→ p3

## GANDHI'S VISIT—PROTESTERS DENOUNCE FASCISM

On November 12th, Indira Gandhi, the ex-dictator of India arrived at Heathrow for a visit to Britain. She was met by hundreds of angry demonstrators chanting "Nazi" and "Dictator". Police protected her by confiscating leaflets denouncing her, and smuggling her out through a cargo tunnel. Two days later, five hundred demonstrators silenced her in Southall when she tried to make a speech defending her fascist regime. She spoke for thirteen minutes, but all that could be heard was a roar of "Indira Murdabad" (Death to Indira) and "Indira Chalejao" (Indira go back). The meeting was stopped and police hustled her out a back door, where 5000 more demonstrators were waiting.

In Birmingham on Saturday, November 18th, only 700 people were admitted to her meeting. This time there was a strict check at the door. The tickets required three signatures of sponsors, overseas Congress members (her party), and this prevented

the infiltration by the opposition. However, 6000 demonstrators were outside, mainly from Handsworth, but also from as far away as Yorkshire and Scotland. The demonstrators who got inside the temple she visited were evicted by the police and two were arrested.

The General Secretary of the Indian Workers Association (Great Britain), main organiser of the protests said "We are not just protesting at the state of emergency but all of her eleven year rule". This is because she has always been on the side of the privileged section of the population, the big landlords and industrialists like Birla, not the masses of the workers and peasants. She sold the wealth of India to foreign imperialists. Of the two superpowers, the US continued to control a lot of private industry like the fertilizer and chemicals, and the Soviet Union, the more dangerous superpower,

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# NEW POLICE STATION AT BRICK LANE Smokescreen For State Racism

The British imperialist state has recently opened a special police station in east London's Brick Lane, scene of a sustained campaign of racist attacks on the local Bengali community by racist thugs and National Front fascists. The police station is manned by three officers and an interpreter, and is connected directly to other local stations. The bourgeois press claim that the Bengali community will be able to seek protection from fascist thugs and report racist attacks in good time for the forces of law and order to apprehend the culprits. Local Bengali businessmen, the self-appointed representatives of the Bengali community on the state-financed Commission for Racial Equality (CRE), are calling for even more police to man the station, particularly at weekends. Who are they kidding? The Bengali community in Brick Lane and national minorities generally suffer special oppression and constant harassment from the police and state agencies. Relying on the racist state for protection against fascist attacks is a non-starter. Witness the thousands of police marching two abreast and lead by mounted police which protect and spearhead the NF's provocative marches.

The Bengali community know too well that the police rarely arrive on the scene when called to halt fascist assaults. When the police do turn up, they invariably arrest the victims for defending themselves (as in the case of the Virk brothers, who were imprisoned for two to seven years for defending themselves against a racist attack by five youths.)

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Police horsemen baton charge Asian workers - through bitter experience, national minorities know the racist nature of the British capitalist state.

## PREVENTION OF TERRORISM ACT HITS DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES

In November 1974, the Prevention of Terrorism Act was passed after an all night sitting of the House of Commons, capitalizing on a public wave of indignation against the Birmingham bombings. It is the most repressive legislation that has been passed in modern Britain, outside wartime. It gives the police wide powers of detention and the power to deport long-term residents of this country. Despite some protests from the press and some MPs - "terrible, but necessary to deter terrorists" - the Prevention of Terrorism Act, which was called a "Temporary Provisions" act and which was to last only one year, has been renewed annually since 1974. Anyone can be arrested under this act and held incommunicado by the police for seven days, subjected to all kinds of harassment and bullying. In detention the police have an automatic right to photograph and fingerprint their suspect. If they cannot scrape together enough evidence for an arrest, they can simply recommend to the Home Secretary that their victim is "deported" to Northern Ireland. The deportee can of course appeal - to the Home Secretary! These gross powers sweep away all an individual's protection under common law - they remove the democratic camouflage from the state power of the ruling class. Also, after being arrested under this act the victim has to face the social stigma of being regarded as a suspected terrorist, and will face the possibility of being sacked from his or her job.

### TERRORISM PLAYS INTO RULING CLASS HANDS

Terrorism is a danger and a menace to the Irish working class and peoples. It does not serve the

interests of the working class but hands over the British ruling class another weapon with which to attack them. It helps the British ruling class divide, confuse and mislead the British and Irish working class and people. Terrorism cannot lead the revolutionary struggle of the Irish people against British imperialism - all it can achieve is to split and demoralize the masses and play into the hands of the British ruling class.

The history of the Prevention of Terrorism Act shows the truth of this! The British state uses the activities of terrorists to launch attacks against the working class and oppressed minorities. These laws are not used against terrorists - they are used against the Irish community in this country and the working class. Since the act was introduced, over three thousand people have been detained but the police have only pressed charges in five per cent of these cases. In most instances, the police use these laws to harass ordinary working people and to collect information on anyone who opposes the state or even fights for simple rights on picket lines. One of the first people to be detained under threat of deportation was an Italian trade unionist working in Britain called Franco Caprino.

Faced with the anger of a wide range of public opinion the Labour Government has ordered an inquiry into the workings of the P.T.A. This will be another whitewash. The only way we can get rid of such laws is by organizing the united strength of the working class and oppressed nationalities in this country, under the leadership of a revolutionary Communist Party, to defend and extend basic democratic rights and liberties.

# A WORKER'S NOTEBOOK

what brought about this change?

## NATIONAL UNION MISLEADERS SELL-OUT WORKERS

It can't be the slight alteration in the penalty clauses. Apart from changing their name from "Attendance Payments Plan" to "Supplementary Payments Plan", the only difference is in deleting the clause penalising lateness. The main reason was the apparent about-turn by the national union officials leading the negotiations. Ron Todd, chairman of the negotiating committee said originally, "This is not an attendance plan - it is a disciplinary plan. That money belongs on the basic rate!" He also described the penalty clauses as a "recipe for disaster". Yet only 16 days later, without any major changes in the offer whatsoever, he said, "I think it is make-your-mind-up-time," and that if Ford agreed to "a couple of minor changes", agreement could be reached.

What he was arrogantly ignoring was that the workers had "made-their-minds-up" 16 days previously, by emphatically kicking-out Ford's offer, along with the penalty clauses. This was a mandate for the officials to tear-up the bosses' penalty clauses and to lead the fight for the original claim. It was under their misleadership that the vote to return to work was carried! This was a blatant sell-out of the workers' interests, as these officials were fully aware that they were sending 57,000 workers back to work after a nine-week strike under worse working conditions than before the strike.

## RICH EXPERIENCE OF STRUGGLE

At Halewood, where the vote to end the strike was less than 2:1, many workers are resigned to the fact that the full implications of the penalty clauses will become increasingly apparent over the next 12 months. Many remember the 4-week strike in 1969 to get rid of similar penalty clauses. Others recall the 'riot act' of November 1976 and the 10-day strike against it three months later. Press shop workers will mention their six-week strike at the beginning of this year over Ford's notorious "eight-point plan" to increase exploitation and oppression. In the light of this rich experience one worker said "They'll take us to the cleaners when we get back...", adding "and as for the £3.48, we might as well forget that. We'll never even see it!"

It is inevitable that under capitalist rule, the working class will meet defeats in its economic struggles. But they are even more inevitable at present, because in the absence of a genuine communist party, the working class is virtually leaderless. Only a revolutionary communist party can give correct leadership to economic struggles by setting them in the context of the main, longer term struggle - to destroy the capitalist system itself, and build a new socialist society.

■ THE FRONT PAGE STORY IN THE LAST ISSUE OF "CLASS Struggle" dealt with the racist violence of the police attack on a bakery workers' picket in Walthamstow, London. We pointed out that most of the workers at the factory are Asian, and that twelve of the thirteen workers arrested were Asians. "The Worker" paper of the revisionist "Communist" Party of Britain Marxist-Leninist for November 16 carries a report of the same incident. But it makes no mention at all of the fact that most of the workers involved are Asian! The "CPBML ignores racism, in the pious hope that it will go away. Communists must face up to racism, and consistently expose it as something that serves the bosses. We must show how the working class becomes stronger by overcoming this division in its ranks. For workers dumping racism is not a moral question, it is a bread and butter issue.

■ AN ARTICLE IN THE "DAILY MIRROR" FOR FRIDAY 17 November is a good example of the way the bosses try to make a woman's work seem inferior to that of a man. Headlined 'Pin money wives are facing the pinch' the article describes how more and more firms are firing their part time staff. More than eight out of ten part-time workers are women, so women suffer most from this move. The article also points out that if it weren't for the wages of part-time women workers, three times as many families would be living below the supplementary benefit level. Now 'pin money' means money for extras. So why does the article contain the absurd sentence 'wives earning pin money to keep their families above the breadline are in danger of losing their jobs'? The only sense we can make of this, is that the bosses' press want us to think that food bought out of a woman's wage packet is a luxury.

■ THE TROTSKYITE "WORKERS REVOLUTIONARY PARTY" shares with the revisionist "Communist" Party of Great Britain the illusion that the law courts are neutral and can judge impartially. They have just lost a libel action against the "Observer" newspaper triggered off by an "Observer" report suggesting that an arms cache was found during a police raid on a house used by WRP members. To impress the judge WRP member C. Redgrave fell over himself to prove that his party did not support violent means of struggle. He thereby proved that the WRP is not a revolutionary party at all, because it is only an armed working class that will be able to succeed in overthrowing the ruling capitalist class and holding on to power. However, the judge was not impressed with the peaceable nature of the WRP and showed how the law courts serve the bosses by finding in the "Observer's" favour.

■ THE HIGHEST PAID DIRECTORS OF OVER HALF THE COMPANIES presenting their annual reports during the last two months took pay rises of more than 10% during the last year. Beckett at Ford took an 80% mark-up, Kalms of Dixons Photographic 50%, and Swaby of the Midlands based Brasway group, 95%. But the big prize went to Robinson at Denby Ware, with 108%. These same bosses will of course go on bleating that it is impossible to pay workers any more than the government's 5%.

■ 11 years ago, 116 children and 28 adults were killed in Aberfan when the tip engulfed the local school. They were killed through negligence by the National Coal Board who refused to make the tip safe. The Aberfan Disaster Fund, administered by local people, has since spent some £150,000 in removing other tips before another disaster. Now, the government is refusing even to discuss refunding the this money to the Fund. Not only does the capitalist state care little for the lives of workers and their families in its pursuit of profit, it also does all it can to get out of compensating survivors for the misery it has caused.

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# SOCIAL WORKERS'

Social workers in the London Boroughs of Tower Hamlets and Southwark have been on strike now for over three months. The same goes for the City of Newcastle, while some other areas like Liverpool have been on strike since the beginning of October. The social workers are struggling to increase wages which in Liverpool are £42 take home for a new social worker and £50 for a graduate social worker with six years experience. This is not a standard rate throughout the country. Some other local authorities pay more.



## THE CLAIM

Social workers are members of the local government union NALGO. The social workers gradings, which affect their pay scales, have not been renewed since 1971, although their responsibilities have increased

greatly. Tower Hamlets council, for instance, employs so-called "assistants" and "ancillaries" who do a full social work job, but take home as little as £30 a week.

The wage claim is based on a demand for regrading to take account of additional responsibilities. Social workers, like industrial workers, have also been hit by the Labour Government's wage cut offensive, and by the Tory's before that. Their claim is a just claim and they are fighting hard for it.

At the same time, many are fighting for local negotiations. The 1977 NALGO conference gave a stamp of approval for this by passing a resolution for the abolition of the National Social Work Pay Scale. While the fight for new scales and pay rises is a just struggle, the means of doing it - by splitting social workers and calling on them to fight separately in local negotiations is in no way in the long-term or short-term interests of social workers in general. Firstly, local authorities pay the social workers, but it is the Treasury which holds the purse strings and it is a national united struggle that is needed to fight the Government. Secondly, where social workers are strongest - in the main cities - many think that they will do better fighting on their own. Even if this was so, which it isn't, it is just turning their backs on social workers in a weaker position.

Many social workers say they don't trust the national union bureaucrats. Right! They can't be trusted. But the answer is not to split the struggle into a local affair, but to unite and fight to drive out the bureaucrats and turn the union into a fighting class organisation. Local negotiations look like an easy solution on the surface, but it is like throwing the baby out with the bath water.

Finally, some argue that the work load is different in different areas. This is true and there is

Just published  
CLASS STRUGGLE PAMPHLET No. 2

## TURN THE UNIONS INTO FIGHTING CLASS ORGANISATIONS

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The pamphlet is based on a series of articles carried in "Class Struggle", the political paper of the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain, between December 1977 and June 1978.

The pamphlet exposes through many concrete examples, how the opportunist trade union misleaders work in the interests of capitalism and makes the call to fight against trade union bureaucrats and struggle to turn the unions into fighting class organisations. It points out that any struggle must be unified and raises five slogans, which show how to orientate our struggle effectively.

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

The pamphlet exposes the Labour Party, the Communist Party of Great Britain, and other opportunists, who sabotage or oppose both the struggle for socialism and the day-to-day economic struggle.

Read the communist view on the trade union struggle. Sell it and discuss it with your workmates.

## MISLEADERSHIP WEAKENS

The bakery industry is one of the lowest paid in the country (£41.55 basic and £3.85 supplement before tax for a 40 hour week). It was inevitable that bakery workers would have to fight for a decent living wage. The claim for £10 was put to the bosses over four months ago, but no leadership was given to the branches from the national union officials on the strong possibility of a hard struggle. The week before the strike the branches were informed that before we got any rise above five per cent, they would have to accept worsening working conditions (shorter breaks, more mobility of labour, compulsory bank holidays and ignoring of safety standards). However, it was understood that it would be at least a fortnight before any action was taken. As it turned out, many bakery workers heard they were on strike the following day on the radio. Therefore most workers were totally unprepared.

The leaders were not prepared either. Branches kept pressing for other unions to be notified. The ETU leadership said that they had not been approached by Sam Maddox, the General Secretary of the Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union (BFAWU) to give support to the bakers, two weeks after the strike had begun. Written circulars from Len Murray only went out two and a half weeks after the strike began! The leader of the Union of Road Transport Workers, Jackson Wall, is still refusing to support the bakers.

Communication between different areas is very poor, giving rise to many rumours, which are causing demoralisation. All these factors have caused some members of the BFAWU to be bribed back to work.

# MARATHON STRIKE

bound to be negotiations for local bonuses, but that does not mean it should not be based on a nationally fought for basic pay scale.

## THE SOCIAL WORKERS' ROLE

Some social workers regard themselves as "front line troops in the battle against poverty". There are certainly many social workers in such areas as Tower Hamlets in London's East End. Once the centre of a thriving port, its docklands are now almost derelict and threatened with closure. Remaining industries are chiefly furniture manufacturing and the clothing trade. Wages are low and unemployment is high. Such decline is often put down to skilled workers moving to new towns or the break-up of old communities by municipal building. But these are only the symptoms of the decline resulting from the ravages of capitalist crisis in which whole industries are moved or rationalized lock-stock-and-barrel. This brings unemployment and decay for which capitalism has no solution. Tower Hamlets employs 220 social workers in a borough with a population of 146,000. That is one social worker for every 618. 1100 children are in council care, the highest in Britain.

Although the number of social workers is higher in the depressed areas, their primary role is not one of "front-line troops against poverty". The responsibilities of social workers are more far-reaching. Some of these are connected with the provision of services to the elderly and the mentally and physically handicapped. But much of their time is taken up with work involving "social control". They have responsibility for compiling reports and keeping files on even the most personal aspects of people's lives. This work includes supplying juvenile courts with reports on family background and "probation" work with 10-17 year olds. The number of

# NS THE BAKERS' STRIKE

What is the leadership's answer to this? More education of those members. No! - Expel them from the union. This is playing right into the hands of the bosses, who want to see the union weakened.

The Bosses' press have emphasised these weaknesses but of course have not reported developments showing splits among the bosses. Jacksons, the largest independent bakers who were part of the bosses' Bakers Federation and who have paid their workers more than £10, have left the Federation. Some managements in Associated British Foods and Ranks, Hovis, McDougall have told their workers they want to give them the £10. But the most important development is that the drivers of the flour wagons are now refusing to take flour through picket lines. So in spite of bad leadership, the strike can still be won. ■

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such legal responsibilities has greatly increased since 1971 when social services departments were set up. Since 1971, 36 new laws and procedures have been introduced which has brought extensive extra duties. The fact that this increased workload stems from new laws tells us something about the role of social workers. Many social workers begin their jobs out of a desire to do something to help people, but their case work is in reality closely bound up with the legal bureaucracy. They act as a kind of liberal-conscience for the capitalist system, giving the appearance that the system can solve the social problems it creates.

The poorest of the working class know that the social worker system does not represent their special interests. Rather they serve as carriers of the bosses' excuses. As such they are inevitably mistrusted and even hated along with the whole bureaucracy which oppresses the working class.

## CAPITALISM CANNOT SOLVE ITS SOCIAL PROBLEMS

This position is understood by many social workers who increasingly hate their role in the state bureaucracy. Their readiness to take strike action is an indicator that they are allies of the working class in the current wages struggle. But class conscious workers can have no illusions that social workers can relieve poverty. Poverty will be ended with the victory of the proletariat in the struggle to overthrow capitalism, and in the building of socialism. Social workers who really desire to serve the people should ally themselves with this struggle. ■

## ASSISTANTS FIGHT FOR UNION

Fifteen care-assistants at a Leonard Cheshire Home for the Disabled were sacked recently in Liverpool. The fifteen included a shop steward. They were told that they were not caring for the residents. Some of the fifteen women have worked at the home for up to six years! The women joined NUPE two years ago, and since then have been active in struggling for better work conditions and a better wage. They were paid poverty rates. It was after the women put in a wage claim in October that they were suddenly given the sack. Leonard Cheshire Authorities have responded to a picket outside the home by advertising locally for new workers at £1.01 per hour - an increase on the women's old rate. They are also telling all new applicants that they will not recognise a union! But, despite the authorities bullying, the issue is unlikely to lie down. The struggle against poverty wages will sharpen. ■



The last four issues of "Class Struggle" have carried major articles dealing with the theoretical and organizational principles guiding the revolutionary communist party. These articles have been welcomed by "Class Struggle" readers showing that the articles are doing a valuable job in introducing some basic principles of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tsetung Thought. The series is not completed and will re-start in the new year with articles on the state and the dictatorship of the proletariat. Because these relatively short articles can only introduce the theoretical foundations guiding the vanguard party of the proletariat, it is important to study the works of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and Mao Tsetung. For an excellent presentation of the Marxist analysis of the state and criticisms of opportunist distortions we recommend the pamphlet, "State and Revolution" by Lenin. ■

# Oppose appeasement of Soviet social SELL THE HARRIER TO CHINA!

The Soviet social imperialists are making no bones about it. They have sent a 1000 word warning to the British Government telling them not to sell Harrier jump jets to China. They have made a clear warning that if Britain does, the Soviet social imperialists will decrease trade links and hit the profits of some companies.

The Labour Government has not agreed yet to sell the Harrier to China. Why? Mainly because they are scared of the Soviet Union. A powerful section of the British ruling class believes that the way to respond to Soviet aggression and demands is to back down bit by bit, and do as little as possible to upset them. This line of appeasement is a mirror reflection of the line of appeasement to Nazi Germany aggression in the 1930s. Forty years ago, Chamberlain, backed down before German demands, and promised loudly "peace in our time". History proves that appeasement does not prevent war. Appeasement only whets the appetite of the aggressor. Now, Brezhnev, the Hitler of today, makes demands, and the Labour Government vacillates and has still not agreed to sell Harriers to China. This vacillation is made worse by pressure from those capitalists who stand to make a quick profit out of trade with the Soviet Union, and who will put this first, despite the massive arms build up and world-wide aggression by the Soviet social imperialists.

## BREZHNEV'S PATHETIC CAMOUFLAGE

Brezhnev's threatening letter went on to call black "white" and white "black". It attacked China's so-called attempt to create "international tension". This is harping on the old Soviet theme that China is a "war-monger", and is a call to pro-Soviet ele-

ments in the Labour Party and to the false communists of the revisionist "Communist" Party of Great Britain and the "New Communist" Party to step up their anti-China propaganda. Such cheap lies cannot hide the fact that it is Soviet troops occupying Eastern Europe, not China; it is the Soviet Union which has built the biggest military machine the world has ever known, not China; it is the Soviet Union that is attacking the independence of the countries of the third world, and using Cuban troops as cannon fodder, not China; it is the Soviet Union which is behind Vietnam's attempted occupation of Kampuchea, not China; it is the Soviet social imperialists who are expanding their economic penetration of the third world, not China; it is the Soviet Union which is waging a struggle with the other superpower, the USA, for world domination (hegemony), NOT CHINA. It is China, who is exposing every lie of the Soviet Union. It is China, who has stripped the mask of peace from Brezhnev's face. It is China who is playing a leading role in warning the world's people to stand up to SOVIET EXPANSIONISM. It is China who has called for a united front against the hegemonism of the two superpowers. It is because China opposes the war preparations of the two superpowers, and constantly warns the world's people of the danger of war, that the Soviet social imperialists call the Chinese leaders "war mongers". It is nothing but an attempt to cover up the true features of Soviet social imperialism.

## SOCIALIST CHINA MUST BE SUPPORTED IN ITS DEFENCE PREPARATIONS

China is a great socialist country. A quarter of

## GANDHI'S VISIT - PROTESTERS DENOUNCE FASCISM

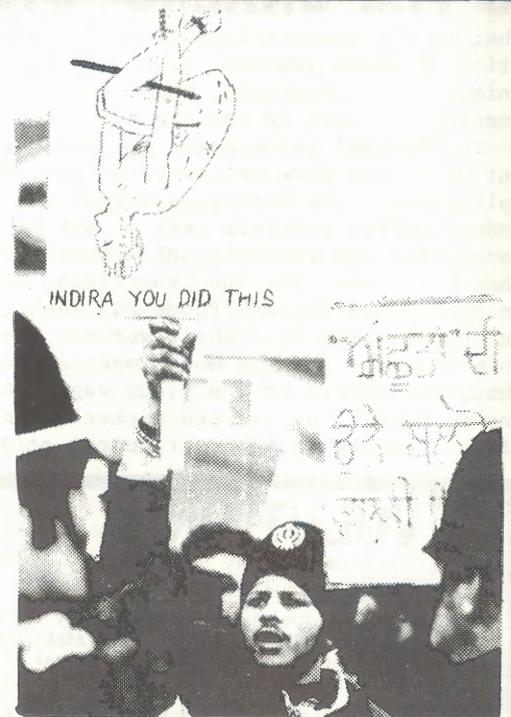
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extended its influence into the state-owned industries like steel and electricity during her rule. Even before the State of Emergency (declared on June 26th, 1975) there were 30,000 political prisoners rotting in jail without trial; peaceful demonstrations were broken up by firing on the crowds; the nation-wide railway strike, was put down by imprisonment of leaders, violence and blacklisting the strikers; discrimination and torture of the untouchables continued unhindered. By declaration of the Emergency the charade of democracy was torn and the oppression began to affect other classes like the intellectuals.

- \* There was total press and radio censorship
- \* The number of political prisoners increased to 300,000
- \* Poor peoples dwellings demolished under pretext of getting rid of slums like the Turkman Gate in Delhi
- \* Forceful sterilisation - again mainly affecting the poor people and the Muslims

The demonstrations were initiated by the Indian Workers Association (IWA,GB) but were supported by the Organisation of Untouchables, AKALI Party which is a Sikh religious party, and supporters of the "Communist" Party of India (Marxist) (CPI(M)). "The Friends of India" which is the supporter of the now ruling Janata Party promised support but in fact never mobilised. This united front was called the "Alliance against Fascism in India" not the "Alliance against Indira's visit" which is what the CPI(M) wanted which would have only focused the struggle against an individual and one occasion. The title "Alliance against Fascism" shows that the IWA(GB) stands firmly on the side of the oppressed people in India and are prepared to expose any party which brings fascism. For example, under the Janata Government:

\*The peasant leader, Krishnan Chetty, has been murdered by the state (reported in "Class Struggle" on 25.7.78



IWA(GB) DEMONSTRATOR IN SOUTHALI

\*1000 political prisoners are still without trial and 180 warrants against political workers are not even withdrawn.

# imperialism

the world's people are marching forward in a socialist society. In China, the working class has stood up and taken political power into its own hands. In the international arena China has fought hard against superpower domination and against the real warmongers, as well as supporting all movements against imperialism and colonialism. It is in the interests of the international working class that China be strong and well equipped to defend itself. In fact it is in the interests of all people who oppose the domination of the two superpowers, and oppose their war preparations, that China is strong. The Labour party, which likes to call itself "socialist", however, has still not agreed to sell the Harriers to China; its abject appeasement of Soviet social imperialism must be opposed.

## CAT OUT OF THE BAG

The Soviet warning note ends up by stating that if the "west" sold military equipment to China, it would be damaging to "the west's long-term interests". China, it complains, is "ideologically hostile to western values". What this means is that the Soviet Union is complaining that China stands for socialism, not capitalism, and that a strong China is not in the long-term interests of the imperialists! So! Any true communist would be delighted! The Soviet Union has only succeeded in admitting that it is indeed an imperialist superpower itself!

*OPPOSE APPEASEMENT OF  
SOVIET SOCIAL IMPERIALISM!*

*SELL THE HARRIER TO CHINA!*

\*Atrocities against Harijans (Untouchables) continue - six killed, fifteen injured in Maharashtra; two killed, six injured in one village in Haryana; a family nearly burnt to death in Ghate village, Allahbad; one killed, twelve injured in Bihar. These are just a few examples in four states in one single week!

As the IWA(GB) spokesman said "Janata is trying to do the same as Mrs Gandhi and is proving a good match for her". The inability of the Janata to solve any of the problems facing ordinary people is the main reason why Mrs Gandhi has been re-elected as an MP last month.

## ENEMIES OF BRITISH WORKING CLASS EXPOSE THEMSELVES

The invitation to Southall for Mrs. Gandhi was in fact extended by the IWA (Southall) - a completely separate organisation to the IWA(GB) - whose General Secretary, Mr. Vishnu Sharma is a National Executive member of the Communist Party of Great Britain. This clearly shows the link between the Soviet social imperialists, the fake CPGB, and Mrs. Gandhi's Congress; all use socialist words and support and act out fascist measures.

Leaders of both Labour and Tory parties had talks with her as well as many other MPs, like Heath and Shore. Mr. Michael Foot, the spokesman of "left" Labour, accompanied her to north Wales. He supported her State of Emergency and still defends her fascist action, calling it "socialism". She even had tea with royalty! This great list exposes the enemies of British working people to be enemies of Indian people too!

# INTERNATIONAL NOTES



**MIDDLE EAST:** On Friday, November 24th, a Syrian delegation to Moscow returned to Syria early, after the Soviet Union refused to sell it arms, unless Syria paid a political price. The Soviet Union wants to control the Middle East. An Iraqi delegation also returned empty-handed a week earlier.

The Egyptian newspaper "Al Ahram" condemned the Soviet Union on November 22nd, for inviting an Israeli political delegation, including members of parliament (Knesset) to the Soviet Union. One of the MPs, Sarid, talked about his "very cordial" reception, and said he had been allowed to meet "leading Jewish activists" in Moscow. Clearly the Soviet Union wants to take over where the US imperialists have failed, as the arbitrator of the Middle East. Neither superpower supports the struggle of the Arab people against Zionism. Both are enemies, who are seeking to establish their own domination.

**INDIA:** 100,000 Indian port and dock workers started a national strike on November 22nd, demanding pay rises and better conditions. India's major ports of Bombay, Calcutta and Madras are paralysed.

**TURKEY:** Over 2000 Turkish people demonstrated in Istanbul on November 20th, protesting against the visit of two Soviet warships. The chairman of a Turkish trade union pointed out: "Russia attempted to establish its presence in the Mediterranean, this ambition has not changed today". The two warships carrying guided missiles held manoeuvres in the Marmara Sea. The message from the Turkish people, though, was clear: "Go home, Russian Fleet!"

**KOREA:** On November 18th the Chinese newspaper "People's Daily" carried an article demanding that the United States carried out the United Nations decision to dissolve the so-called "United Nations Command" and withdraw its troops from Korea. The article attacks the USA for "pretending to undertake a troop withdrawal, in an attempt to deceive world public opinion" whilst trying hard to prop up its puppet, Pak Jung Hi, in southern Korea by increasing its military strength. The article denounces the US army for hanging on to southern Korea and encouraging the American puppet in suppressing the people in southern Korea, and in stepping up its war preparations against the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea.

**MIDDLE EAST:** Zionist military aggression and expansion inevitably means massive government expenditure by the Israeli authorities. This is met by loans from the US imperialists (9 billion US dollars), by keeping wages down, and fueling inflation by printing money. Last years prices rocketed by 38 pence in the pound. Prices have risen by another 37 pence in the pound this year. Inevitably this is increasing class conflict within Israel. 50,000 teachers are on all out strike, and medical workers held a one day warning strike demanding a 40% pay rise. They intend to step up action if their demands are not met.

**USSR:** Vladimir Klebanov, an ex-miner, who started an independent trade union in the USSR, is still languishing in a psychiatric hospital for his pains. About three weeks ago, a delegation of the British National Union of Mineworkers discussed the case with a "Soviet miners' leader" in Warsaw. After hearing such stunning proof of his illness, such as he left his wife, they indicated that they were satisfied with the explanation. They did not, of course, bother to ask to see Klebanov himself.

# IRANIAN PEOPLE FIGHT ON

Despite the attempt of the fascist Shah to shore up his fascist regime by instituting martial law and shooting down demonstrators in the streets, the people's struggle continues.

The Shah offered oil workers a 22.5% pay increase to go back to work, and at the same time arrested their union leaders, sent the army into the oil refineries and approached US and British oil executives to train soldiers as strike breakers. This carrot and stick attack has still only returned oil production to half capacity. The fact is that the strikers' demands are political demands against US imperialism and the Shah himself.

Power workers have repeatedly blacked out large areas of the capital, Teheran, and now striking oil, cement and steel workers and students have been joined by teachers, lawyers and journalists protesting against censorship.

At the same time, US, British and other western bureaucrats serving imperialism in Iran, are receiving warning notes telling them to "get out before Dec. 1st".

The Shah's family have seen which way things are going. The Shah is left virtually alone as they scatter to other countries, protected by the big overseas bank deposits they have accumulated.

Whilst Carter continues to praise US imperialism's agent in Iran, the Shah, as a "progressive" and the British Labour Government backs him as a "friend of the West" (that is - a protector of imperialist superprofits!) the Shah's dictatorship gets ever more brutal. Troops gun down demonstrators in the streets in all the main towns of Iran. A demonstration in a country town was attacked by horsemen, who hacked them down with swords in cold blood. At the same time, the Shah is trying to buy off the struggle of the people by throwing his own cronies out of office on charges of corruption. Neither of these tactics will stop the struggle in the end. The people are after the blood of US imperialism and the Shah. Crumbs will not satisfy them, and in the end greater repression will only build greater resistance.

BRICK LANE POLICE STATION

cont'd from p2

## WHAT IS THE STATE AFRAID OF?

What is the real reason behind the sudden new-found "concern" by the police for the Brick Lane community? The CRE misleaders would like us to think that British imperialism is now feeling guilty for its crimes of murder, slavery and plunder in the colonies of the third world and has decided to turn over a new leaf, discard its racism at a stroke, and love and care for the black people in Britain. But the Bengali community is not so easily fooled. Learning from past experience, the national minorities have realised that only through relying on their own efforts, keeping the initiative in their own hands and uniting with all those that can be united can they guarantee their defence against racist attacks. Scared that this growing self-defence movement will develop into mass struggles against British imperialism - the source of racism and national oppression in Britain - the Government has ordered the police to spy on the people of Brick Lane and crush every manifestation of self-defence against racist and fascist attacks. This new police station is nothing other than a fascist outpost of the British state in the heart of the Bengali community. ■

\*In Frankfurt, West Germany, 50 people were injured when riot police attacked a demonstration marching on the US Consulate. 7000 Iranians, Turks and West Germans took part in the march to oppose US imperialism in Iran.

\*The Soviet social imperialists have not missed the possibilities that exist to subvert the national democratic struggle of the Iranian people, and to replace US imperialism as overlord of Iran. Whilst saying with a dead-pan face that "the Soviet Union does not interfere in the internal affairs of other countries", Brezhnev has ordered massive troop movements on the USSR's border with Iran, and formed an Iranian (farci) speaking regiment! The Iranian people must guard against the Soviet tiger at the back door, whilst pushing the US wolf out the front.

## BRITISH IMPERIALISM OUT OF ZIMBABWE! Celebrate sending the landrover to Zimbabwe

Speakers from the Central Committee of ZANU and Chris Burford, Chairman of the Central Committee of the RCLB, on the struggle in Zimbabwe.

PLACE: Conway Hall (Large Hall) Red Lion Sq.

DATE: Saturday, December 9th

TIME: 2.30 to 5pm.

ZIMBABWE PUBLIC MEETING AND SOCIAL Speakers from ZANU and RCLB, and songs. Merseyside Caribbean Centre, Amberley Street Liverpool 8. Friday December 16th, 8pm.

PUBLIC MEETING: Second of a series of three meetings on the Theory of the Three Worlds - the strategic line of the international communist movement.

Speakers from the RCLB and fraternal organisations, including the Communist Workers Movement.

Saturday December 2nd, 7pm  
Co-op Hall, 129 Seven Sisters Rd  
London N7. Tube: Finsbury Park.

## 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 collecting at factory gates, or you can give donations to any member of the RCL. If you can't do either, send donations to: J. Bayley, c/o, 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!