

CLASS STRUGGLE ★

POLITICAL PAPER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF BRITAIN

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UNION MISLEADERS FURTHER EXPOSED IN 1978

1978 has seen a gradual rising tide of class struggle against the bosses' and Labour government's wage controls. In many sections of industry, the 5% pay limit has become a dead duck. Having suffered three years of Labour's pay-cuts, workers generally have been far more prepared to strike for pay demands, than last year. But the lack of a correct revolutionary leadership, such as only can be provided by a revolutionary communist party, has resulted in some disunity, confusion and demoralisation.

The mounting opposition to a fourth successive year of pay cuts in 1978, especially in the last 5 months over the 5%, has not been due in any way to leadership from top TU leaders and the TUC. It has been purely a spontaneous and just reaction of the working class to defend their living standards. It was only under ever increasing pressure from the great mass of workers that TU leaders were forced to put on their "militant caps" and at least pretend to give some leadership to achieve the workers' demands.

The best example of this was the completely spontaneous walk-out by Ford workers in September which began their nine-week strike. TU misleaders like Ron Todd had expected quite lengthy negotiations before any talk of a strike would arise. By then, one of Ford's famous "final offers" would have bought-off key sections of the workforce and so prevented a united decision to strike. What went wrong for Todd and his cronies was that the workers themselves weren't prepared to sit back and leave all the initiative in the hands of the misleaders. Immediately upon hearing Ford's first insulting offer of 5%, tens of thousands of workers downed tools and walked out of the gate. Todd had no alternative but to make the strike "official". The bosses' press always talks about such strikes as being orchestrated by the union officials in fact they take place despite their treachery and opportunism.

Unlike the opportunists, communists aren't surprised at such spontaneous reactions as those of the Ford workers. Communists fully realise that workers are prepared to struggle to defend their living standards, they are prepared to back their demands with direct action - provided they are consulted before a strike, and given good leadership during it. It is only the opportunists who talk despairingly about workers being "backward" and "apathetic".

WHY DO WAGE STRUGGLES USUALLY END IN DEFEAT?

Most wage struggles end in defeat, even though they may achieve a partial victory in smashing the 5% limit. The principle reason behind these defeats is that the leadership of the working class is at present firmly in the hands of opportunist mis-



Union Misdemeanor
Tom Jackson
visits Grunwicks
last July.

leaders.

When the capitalist class realised it couldn't prevent the trade union movement from growing, in the early part of this century, its attitude to trade unions switched from one of open hostility to one of appeasement. The leaders of the unions were bought-off and used as agents of capital within the ranks of the workers' movement. The wealthy British bosses can afford this from the plunder of imperialism. This is still very much the situation today. In many unions, leaders can only move up in rank, and once elected are there for life. They earn big wages, live in expensive houses and drive big cars often provided by union funds. Their standard of living and life-style is nearer that of the bosses than that of the workers they are supposed to lead. Because of these privileges enjoyed by Trade Union leaders, they have a vested interest in keeping the capitalist system going.

So when the bosses' profits rise each year as a result of the Labour/TUC imposed wage cuts, they feel more than pleased. When Jack Jones created the social contract Ford's profits were £7.8 million. In 1977 they were £246 millions. Leader of the postal workers, Jackson, is over the moon about the Post Offices' profits rising from £159m. to £170m.

All leading union officials openly oppose any challenge to capitalism because this would mean a challenge to their privileges also.

The current battle against the 5% is revealing a more devious and hidden form of misleadership. Because most unions and indeed the TUC, are officially opposed to the present pay limit, their sabotage of workers' struggles is now less obvious. But despite their more militant speeches, their actions still aim at a sell-out.

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NATIONAL MINORITIES— STATE RACISM HIDES BEHIND NATIONAL FRONT

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. (Article from Vol. 2 No.16 of *Class Struggle*)

Throughout 1978, *Class Struggle* has consistently published articles on the position and struggles of national minorities against racist oppression and super-exploitation. From the March issue when we first reported the strike of mainly immigrant catering workers of the Garners Steak House chain, in London's West End, to the previous issue which reported the police charging the victims of racist violence, *Class Struggle* has worked to educate workers on the importance of fighting racism. Opposing racism is not only a matter of humanitarian justice. It is a class question which is crucial to uniting the working class against the British monopoly capitalist class and achieving socialist revolution in Britain.

1978 UPSURGE AGAINST NATIONAL FRONT

1978 has seen a notable rise in the growth of hatred for and opposition to the National Front fascists. Recognising this growing movement of exposure of the NF, the Anti-Nazi League (ANL) leaders jumped on the bandwagon and sought to turn it into pro-Labour Party election channels. In their eyes the question of racism and fascism is purely a question of the NF's provocative racism. They seek to cover-up the more pernicious racism of the Labour Party and hide the fact that racism is a product of imperialism. It is an ideology which developed to justify monopoly capitalism's plunder of colonies and the Third World. As such the state (police, army, courts, etc.) which props up their rule instigates and uses racism to keep down national minorities and the whole working class. It is not for nothing that the police so zealously protect National Front meetings and demonstrations.

MAIN QUESTION IS EXPOSING STATE RACISM

For over ten years, the National Front has sought to cultivate a "respectable image" as if it were possible for this organisation of thugs and gangsters to do so. But their increased exposure has made the NF turn more to violent attacks. At Newcastle Crown Court, an NF member charged for possessing bomb-making equipment said "I'm more than ever convinced that the best answer to communism is bullets or molotovs" and that the "Newcastle branch is heavily into fire-bombings and bashing". As the quotes on this page show, this is well known by the police. But the police and the state protects the National Front and uses it as a shock brigade against black people's communities to intimidate and terrorize. But as Mao Tsetung said, they are "lifting a rock only to drop it on their own feet". The British imperialist state is becoming increasingly exposed as the instigator of the special oppression of national minorities, as indeed it is the main enemy of the whole working class.



Police protecting National Front leaders.

UNION MISLEADERS

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The misleaders now say that opposition to the pay limit must be considered in the context of the profitability of each individual company. This is what they mean when they speak of "responsible free collective bargaining". It is alright for Ford workers to strike because the Ford bosses hauled in record profits last year. But for the likes of British Leyland they advocate "productivity" deals, which increase the rate of exploitation of each worker in return for a slight increase in wages on top of the 5%.

CLASS STRUGGLE NOT CLASS COLLABORATION

If these opportunists really represented the interests of the working class they would fight to defend the living standards of all workers, regardless of the bosses' profits. They would lead the workers in a struggle to ensure that the capitalists, and not the workers pay the price of capitalist crisis.

Class collaboration must be fought against. By organising on the shop floor and in the union branch, class conscious workers can advance the struggle to turn the unions into fighting class organisations and make the capitalists themselves pay for their crisis. Only a really revolutionary communist party is capable of uniting these advanced workers and leading them forward in this struggle. Because no such party yet exists, this remains our central task in Britain today. Only a communist party is able to fulfill this role because only it can set the struggle to defend workers' living standards in the context of the overall struggle to destroy the capitalist system itself and build a new socialist society.

NORTHERN IRELAND — WHERE THERE IS OPPRESSION THERE WILL BE RESISTANCE

The year 1978 has seen the continuation of the sharp class struggle against British imperialism in Northern Ireland. 1978 marks ten years since the current "troubles" began. They flared up as a mass movement of bitter resentment and hatred against Stormont's sectarian rule and a campaign to end discrimination against the Catholic minority. This struggle quickly developed into a political struggle to end the artificial partition of Ireland by British imperialism which discrimination and special oppression of Catholics and Republicans is aimed at perpetuating. Divide and rule is an old imperialist tactic. Now, having failed to impose its "power-sharing" solution aimed at heading-off the Irish people's struggle whilst maintaining British domination, the British Government is left with direct rule propped up by the army and the police. Throughout this year like the previous ones, the working class of Britain has been fed with a constant flow of lies and distortions aimed at depicting the Irish people as "mindless" or "ungovernable". But they cannot completely cover up the reality of British domination of Northern Ireland.

TORTURE AND ARMY MURDERS EXPOSED

During the period of internment in Northern Ireland introduced under the Special Powers Act in 1971, Amnesty International exposed the systematic torture meted out by the British army in Northern Ireland prisons. Sensory deprivation through prolonged hooding of prisoners with constant noise was correctly branded as torture. Although internment has ended, it has been replaced with "provisional" detention since March 1976. As exposed in an Amnesty report of July, 1978, the earlier exposure of torture during internment has not ended it. If anything it has become more physically brutal. Brian McGuire was hung in his cell by the RUC in Castle-reagh barracks. Previously it was British army interrogators. Now the RUC also resort to sadistic beatings and humiliation to get "confessions". Eight out of ten of all the prisoners in Long Kesh and other jails have been sentenced without a jury on the basis of "confessions" made in police cells.

It takes cases where the British army is exposed for shooting and murdering people who have passed information to the army before the British capitalist press will make the effort to report the contradictions in the stories put out in army press reports. Otherwise, the bourgeois press strictly observes police "D" notices censoring news from Northern Ireland. One such case was the murder of a boy named Boyle who reported an arms cache in a graveyard to the authorities. When Boyle returned to see if the arms cache had been removed, he was shot in the back by an army gunman in hiding. The British army top brass put out a story that Boyle aimed the gun at the troops. It was the fact that Boyle was shot in the back which exposed their lies. In another case James Taylor was shot down by SAS thugs after returning from shooting fowl and discovering his car tyres had been let down. This is only the tip of an iceberg of army terror which is directed mainly against Catholics and republicans who dare to struggle against British rule in Northern Ireland.

POLITICAL STATUS DEMAND HITS BRITISH RULE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

With the abolition of internment in 1976, the Labour Government abolished the previously won right for political status for republican prisoners. This right is justified since British imperialism's

occupation and domination of Northern Ireland denies the Irish people their national rights. The British army has no right to be in Northern Ireland. It is an occupation army.

In place of political status the British Labour Government has sought to brand Catholics and republicans struggling against the troops as common criminals. 1978 has seen an immense sharpening of prisoners struggling against this "criminalization". Since September 1976 when Kevan Nugent, a prisoner in "H" Block, Long Kesh refused to accept denial of political status or put on a prison uniform, the number has swollen to 300 political prisoners in Long Kesh who are kept naked except for a blanket. Women in Armagh gaol are being kept in solitary confinement for 23 hours a day for fighting for political status. In Long Kesh after the men refused to mop or brush out their cells, the authorities have allowed conditions to deteriorate abysmally and allowed the risk of disease and death to increase.

The struggle for political status is a struggle directed against British imperialism in Northern Ireland. It also has mass support. At the beginning of the year in February and March, 7,000 people marched through the streets of Belfast in support of the prisoners' demands.

"NO NATION THAT OPPRESSES ANOTHER NATION
CAN ITSELF BE FREE"

The Irish people have a long history of struggle against British domination. It is certain to continue at the present time for as long as there is a single British soldier on Irish soil. The sectarian and terrorist methods of struggle of the IRA, however which show little faith in the struggle of the masses play into the hands of British imperialism who use such incidents to isolate the justified demands of republicans and Irish people generally. The British Government has taken advantage of the demoralisation and divisions elitist terrorism causes to justify its own greater state terror. The Prevention of Terrorism Act which gives the British police sweeping powers was rushed through Parliament at the time of the Birmingham bombings.

The British ruling class with their lying claim of combating terrorism want to blind the working class of Britain to the political oppression which gives rise to the IRA's desperate terrorism in the first place. But we must not be fooled by this. Whether we are fighting for socialism in Britain, or in the immediate struggle for independence in Northern Ireland, we are fighting the same enemy, the same state. We strengthen each other, by supporting each others just struggle. If it is impossible for the working class of Britain to fight economic and political repression in Britain, if the bosses are allowed to run rough-shod in Northern Ireland. The majority of the people of Britain want the troops out of Northern Ireland. 1979 will see the sharpening of the struggle to make this a reality. ■

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THE WORKING CLASS WILL HA

The New Year is an appropriate time to sum up progress made over the last twelve months in the struggle to rebuild the Party of the working class in Britain, and to reaffirm our determination to make even greater progress in 1979. We should be full of optimism. Practice is proving that the Party-building strategy of the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain (RCLB) is fundamentally correct.

The article on *Class Struggle* in this issue outlines the progress made by *Class Struggle* over the past year. This reflects the growing strength of the RCLB both politically and in terms of members. Since the founding of the RCLB in July 1977, the membership of the RCLB has grown by over 50%. The practical work of the RCLB has been concentrated principally on the factories, and the influence of Marxism-Leninism amongst workers in these areas has grown.

The Zimbabwe campaign launched by the RCLB, which finished in December was a success. Firstly the RCLB set out to take the issue to the workers in the factories. Leaflets opposing British imperialism, exposing the manouvres of Smith, British imperialism and

the two superpowers, and publicising the victories of the liberation fighters led by ZANU and the Patriotic Front have been regularly distributed at the factories. Secondly, the campaign to raise funds to send the landrover to Zimbabwe was a success. The landrover and large quantities of clothing are on their way.

DEVELOPING INTERNATIONAL LINKS

The RCLB has developed links with revolutionary communists around the world. Our fraternal contacts and exchanges with them are a great inspiration to us. Most importantly we are able to learn from their stand and their experience in struggle. So also are our contacts with the heroic national liberation movements in the third world.

In March, the RCLB affirmed its unity with other European communists, when Chris Burford, the Chairman of the RCLB, spoke at a meeting in Brussels commemorating the 130th anniversary of the publication of the *Manifesto of the Communist Party* by Marx and Engels. The meeting was called by the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of Belgium. Also speaking were

"Class Struggle" is the political paper of the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain (RCL). It is not produced as a business for the purpose of profit, neither is it produced to create academic discussions about politics. It is produced for a practical purpose - to be a weapon in the struggle for socialism. "Class Struggle" fights for the interests of the working class. It exposes the lies of Britain's imperialist ruling class and its agents, and demonstrates who are our friends and who are our enemies. "Class Struggle" does not restrict itself to casual reports about this strike or that strike, but sets out to arm the working class with the pol-

"We wish particularly to emphasise our opposition to the view that a labour newspaper should devote its pages exclusively to matters that immediately and directly concern the spontaneous labour movement and leave the theory of socialism, science, politics, questions of party organisation etc.; to an organ for the intelligentsia".

- Lenin explaining the role of "Iskra" (The Spark) in the Russian revolution.

itical consciousness, which alone enables us to see the class struggle as a whole, the role of the state, the relation between the class struggle in Britain, and the class struggle throughout the world; to see our immediate struggles in the context of the main struggle of the working class, led by its own revolutionary Communist Party, for the revolutionary overthrow of the imperialist ruling class, and the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat (the political power of the working class exercised through its own state) and the construction of socialism.

In particular, at the present stage, "Class Struggle" serves the working class and the RCL, in the struggle to re-establish a genuine Communist Party in Britain, a party that has been sorely missed since the degeneration of the "Communist" Party of Great Britain after the Second World War since its desertion to class collaboration with capitalism; and since its establishment as a fifth column for the new rulers in the Kremlin, who have overthrown socialism in the USSR, replaced it with a social-fascist dictatorship (Socialism in words -

"CLASS STRUGGLE"—BUILDING

fascism in deeds), and turned the Soviet Union into an aggressive, expansionist superpower bent on dominating the world.

"Class Struggle" has made important advances in 1978. This reflects and is based on the advances made by the RCL. In its turn, "Class Struggle" through its improvements has been a very important weapon in aiding the strengthening of the RCL.

INCREASED FREQUENCY OF "CLASS STRUGGLE"

The end of February 1978, marked the end of a fund-raising campaign to improve the publications of the RCL. We set out to raise £1,500. Through hard work by members and supporters of the RCL this target was passed by over £300. In February, the then monthly "Class Struggle" was increased from ten pages to twelve, and a new format was introduced making the paper far more attractive. Using the funds raised, we bought new machinery, and during the summer paid attention to laying the conditions for transforming "Class Struggle" from a monthly to a fortnightly paper. In September, "Class Struggle" became an eight-page fortnightly, with a reduced print size. This meant that each issue carried more material than the monthly ten-page issue had done. "Class Struggle" has become more topical and lively and so gives a stronger and more effective lead to the working class. This was a major step forward.

A BETTER POLITICAL STAND

Politically, "Class Struggle" has advanced and corrected past errors through increasing its coverage of the struggle in Britain in areas other than the economic struggle in the factories, carrying more articles for example, on the struggle of national minorities against state oppression and the resistance to fascist thugs, and on other political struggles in Britain. In its international section, "Class Struggle" has played a very important role in the campaign of the RCL in support of the struggle of the people of Zimbabwe against British imperialism. It has continued to expose and oppose the two superpowers, and their rivalry for world domination, paying particular attention to Soviet social imperialism - the rising, most aggressive superpower and the main centre of revisionism (capitalism dressed in socialist clothes) in the world.

HAVE ITS OWN PARTY AGAIN

leaders of other European Communist organisations - the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of France, the Communist Party of Germany, the Marxist-Leninist Party of the Netherlands and the Communist League of Luxembourg.

Throughout the world, genuine communist organisations are increasing their unity, strength and influence. Together with the Communist Party of China and all other Marxist-Leninist Parties and Party-building organisations we will enter the new year with great enthusiasm and determination.

UNITING THE BRITISH MARXIST-LENINISTS

The RCLB has been particularly encouraged by the advances made by the Communist Workers Movement in its own right, and by the growing unity of our two communist organisations. On the eve of May Day, at a joint mass meeting in London, the two organisations issued a public pledge to struggle even harder for unity. In August we jointly called a militant demonstration to mark the tenth anniversary of Soviet social imperialism's fascist invasion of Czechoslovakia. We look forward to the day when the RCLB

and the CWM will unite into a single communist organisation.

The RCLB has strengthened its ties further with other genuine Marxist-Leninist groups as well, and will spare no effort in the struggle for ideological, political and organisational unity.

Our conviction in the correctness of our stand on party-building is reinforced even more by the pathetic antics of a tiny minority of people in the Marxist-Leninist movement, the Birch clique at the head of the CPB(ML) and others who are sinking even deeper into the marsh of political and organisational opportunism.

The unity of the genuine communists is deepening. The Marxist-Leninists are growing stronger in the struggle against opportunism. We have every confidence that we will continue to march forward during the new year.

The British working class will have its own revolutionary Communist Party again!

Forward with the struggle to rebuild the party of the working class!

IMPROVING OUR COMMUNIST PRESS

LEARN FROM PAST ERRORS AND WEAKNESSES

Does this mean that "Class Struggle" is perfect? No, it doesn't. We have made important advances, but there is still much to do. "Class Struggle" has on some occasions been incorrect or given a bad lead. One example was the article in CS, volume 2, number 16 on democracy in China. This article explained the role of revolutionary committees in China, and praised them 100%. This was at the very time that the Chinese people were summing up their experience of revolutionary committees and dismantling them where they were used to run enterprises (though keeping them where they were principally organs of Government) and replacing them with other democratic forms. We will carry articles in the future explaining these developments. But the most important thing is that "Class Struggle" made a serious error, and misled British workers on the situation in China. We have learnt some lessons from this and made changes in our procedures. Another example was the article carried on the case of Astrid Proll (CS, Vol.2 No.17) a German woman who is facing extradition under the "Suppression of Terrorism" Act, for alleged involvement in terrorist activities, several years ago in Germany. It is correct to oppose all increases in state power, which is the state power of the ruling class, and which is inevitably in the end used against the working masses; but there are thousands of cases of oppression by the state against the people every day. By picking this example, at this time, instead of the many others we could have used, "Class Struggle" inevitably blurred the distinction between elitist terrorism on the one hand and communism of the other. Terrorists have absolutely no faith in the working class. They have no understanding of developing mass struggle, and substitute their own individualist actions for it. The result of the article was to sow confusion over the stand communists take against terrorism.

In some cases "Class Struggle" has given incorrect facts. One minor example is the article on Zaire in CS Vol.2, No.11, where it wrongly states that Zaire has a border with Kenya.

THE TRUTH IS IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING CLASS

All these things are important, because "Class

Struggle" must give good leadership, and stand up for the truth. The working class has nothing to fear from the truth, because truth is in the interests of the working class. The capitalist press is well known for lies and distortions. They need to lie and distort things to preserve the rule of the imperialist ruling class. When "Class Struggle" gets things wrong - even though accidentally - it becomes tainted in the same way. This inevitably would lead readers to distrust it. All the workers who write for "Class Struggle", and particularly the Editors will have to pay more attention to checking their facts and getting it right.

IMPROVE STYLE OF WRITING

Last, but by no means least, we must continue to work on improving the style of writing in the paper. We have made some progress on this, particularly since "Class Struggle" became a fortnightly in September. But we have more to do. Firstly, this is the responsibility of the Editors, and regular writers for the paper - none of whom are professional journalists. As Mao Tsetung says, we must "speak the language of the masses". Many of us can make points clearly and vividly when talking to work-mates, but when it comes to writing it down, it often becomes stilted and clumsy. We will learn to overcome this through experience - but only if we consciously pay attention to it. Secondly, we want more workers to contribute articles about struggles which they are involved in or know about. Not only economic struggle at the place of work, but about oppression and struggle in all areas of society. A number of articles are already written by workers involved, such as some of the recent articles on the Ford wages struggle, and that makes the articles more factual and more lively. It does not matter whether such contributions are written in the form of articles or letters (like the letter published recently from a worker in the bakery dispute). Both are welcome. Of course, the editorial committee will still have to edit the material we are sent to ensure that all contributions printed follow the political line of the RCL and support the struggle of the workers. And we will have to select the best

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WORLD'S PEOPLES MARCHING FORWARD

Mao Tsetung summed up the overall trend of class struggle on a world-scale when he said, "Countries want independence. Nations want liberation. People want revolution". This general trend continues. In the midst of turmoil and temporary setbacks, the revolutionary struggle is going forward. It is impossible to briefly sum up all the complexities of the international class struggle in a short article but some of the key features of the struggle can be drawn out of developments during 1978.

THE TWO SUPERPOWERS ARE THE MAIN ENEMIES OF THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD.

All imperialists live off plunder. All imperialists are driven to seek to exploit and oppress the people of other countries. All imperialists would like to rule the world. Today, there are only two powers that have the strength to struggle for world domination - the two superpowers, Soviet social imperialism and US imperialism. The tentacles of the two superpowers are stretched to every corner of the globe, whether it be the Middle East, Africa, the Far East, Latin America, Australia or

Europe. Everywhere they vie with each other for hegemony (domination). Whilst they speak of "peace" and "detente" and sit down at tables to discuss "arms limitation", they, in practice, build up their arms at an unprecedented rate. The military forces of the two superpowers are each greater than the whole of Europe, Japan and Canada combined. The two superpowers are the main enemies of the people of the world.

SOVIET SOCIAL IMPERIALISM IS THE MAIN SOURCE OF WAR

As long as imperialism exists there will be war. The two superpowers are driven to compete with each other. US imperialism is the declining superpower. It still retains a huge economic empire, and military forces. Yet it has been shaken by struggles throughout the world. Soviet social imperialism is on an all-out offensive. It is the rising power, the up-and-coming superpower. It wants a redivision of the world. It is out to replace US imperialism, as overlord. It opposed US imperialism, but not because of any real intentions of solidarity with the anti-imperialist struggle. It does it entirely

ZIMBABWE 1978 - THE YEAR OF THE PEOPLE

"Let us, therefore, in every sense of the phrase make 1978 the PEOPLE'S YEAR, the year the broad oppressed masses have been totally and effectively mobilised in every village, district, province, city, town, mine or farm into supporting the war as their war. The people are the surest instrument for achieving true victory over the enemy".

This great call to the revolutionary fighters of Zimbabwe was made by Comrade Robert Mugabe on New Year's Day in 1978. Throughout the last year that call has been answered. The racist Rhodesian regime has been shaken from top to bottom.

1,300,000 Zimbabweans live in liberated areas; over 3,000,000 more in semi-liberated areas. Hundreds of thousands of Zimbabweans who were herded into concentration camps called "protected villages" by the fascist Smith, have been freed by the liberation fighters.

The armed struggle of the people now covers every corner of the country. Even within the capital Salisbury, the colonial troops cannot rest. As recently as December 10th, a guerrilla unit made an assault with rockets and small arms inside the city limits. Then, on the night of December 11th, Patriotic Front guerrillas blew up a huge oil storage depot two miles from the city centre. The column of flames and smoke which climbed over a thousand feet into the air was a shattering body blow to the racist settler regime. Despite every trick and every outrage committed by the imperialists, and their agent Smith, the masses are marching forward. The colonialists can twist and turn, but they can not escape the blows of the Zimbabwean people led by ZANU and the Patriotic Front.

THE "INTERNAL SETTLEMENT"

Early in the year, Smith hatched his "internal settlement" claiming to have reached agreement with the "representatives" of the African people. Firstly the four African traitors who signed this "settlement" represent nobody but themselves. Secondly, the "agreement" is nothing but a paper cover to protect the interests of the British and US imperialists in Zimbabwe, and the interests of the white settlers. Whilst it agrees to abolish land "discrimination"; it does NOT return the land stolen from the African people. It protects the companies. It maintains the

colonial state apparatus - the army, police, courts, civil service. One African, Byron Hove, who was appointed a "co-minister of justice and law and order" was sacked on May 14th, when he said in a speech that the police force needed to be reformed.

Owen, the British Foreign Minister, called the internal settlement "a step in the right direction" Even so, this Labour Party spokesman for British imperialism dared not recognise it. Firstly, he was scared of the power of the Patriotic Front, and secondly, of the growing unity and strength of the other African nations who denounced the farce of the "internal settlement". Instead he continued to place his hopes in splitting the Patriotic Front (PF). He told one of the traitors, Sithole, that the best way to get recognition was to persuade Nkomo, the joint leader of the PF to join the settlement. They failed.

SMITH'S VICIOUS ATROCITIES

Alongside the deceit of the "internal settlement", Smith, with the backing of the British and US imperialists, has attempted to terrify the people into submission. Refugee camps in Mozambique and Zambia have been attacked, and appalling barbarities carried out on the inhabitants mainly women and children. Thousands have been butchered. Such atrocities have been carried out inside Zimbabwe itself. On May 14th, racist troops opened fire on an unarmed crowd listening to a speech from a member of the PF. Well over fifty were killed in cold blood. Sometimes the atrocities are blamed on the liberation fighters to try to influence public opinion. On June 22nd, the colonial regime's troops attacked civilians on an agricultural experimental station at Sussundenga in neighbouring Mozambique, killing seventeen refugees and two Belgian nationals. The following day realising that the incident was drawing the attention of people around the world, the regime loosed its forces on the Elim mission, assassinating twelve innocent missionaries, and blamed the attack on ZANU. The capitalist press in Britain and the rest of the imperialist countries responded gratefully with a vicious campaign of vilification against the liberation fighters. Evidence from captured soldiers of Smith, and from a delegation of British lawyers has proved that

for its own aggressive interests, and because of its own hegemonist ambitions. It has subverted the struggle in Vietnam and in Angola, and turned these countries into vassal states and staging posts for further expansion. It has staged coups in Afghanistan and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. It launched a proxy war to establish rule in Zaire and in socialist Democratic Kampuchea. In both these places it has been beaten back. It occupies four of Japan's northern islands, and has even proclaimed the seas around them as Soviet territory. It occupies Norway's Svalbard Islands. It has amassed troops on Iran's borders, waiting for a chance to subvert the national democratic struggle as it did in Angola. It has stepped up its bullying and threats on independent countries in an attempt to force them to give in to Soviet demands. It is the superpower on the offensive. Inevitably it will collide more and more viciously with the US superpower, trying to protect its empire. This is the cause of war.

THE THIRD WORLD IS THE MAIN FORCE IN THE STRUGGLE AGAINST IMPERIALISM, COLONIALISM AND HEGEMONISM

The Third World is more and more uniting to oppose the two superpowers and other imperialists. Within Third World countries, the people's armed struggle for complete national liberation is surging forward. In Iran, a huge mass movement against US imperialism and its agent, the Shah, has built up. In the Phillipines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), Namibia and Azania (South Africa), Ethiopia, Eritrea, Nicaragua, Argentina and in many other countries, the people's armed struggle is advancing step by step. The victories won in these liberation wars will give a shattering blow at the two superpowers and the whole imperialist edifice.

But the struggle against the hegemonism of the two superpowers and against imperialism and colonialism is broader than that. Even the capitalist rulers of Third World countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America are getting united and making

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Smith's forces carried out the attack. But the British press continues to blame it on ZANU.

SMITH ALLOWED IN USA

In October, Smith was allowed to visit the USA. This was in direct violation of sanctions agreed at the United Nations (UN). It was an attempt to give Smith a platform and build support for imperialism against the Zimbabwean masses. When a resolution was passed at the UN condemning this blatant violation of sanctions, the British representative stood alongside US imperialism and refused to vote for the motion. The Labour Government has made a big fuss against oil sanctions busting (carried out with its full knowledge in the past) but this is only to cover up the fact that it is still walking the same road.

SUPERPOWERS WANT TO MOVE IN

The people of Zimbabwe are marching forward. They have defeated the manoeuvres of British imperialism and Smith. Every act of oppression and barbarity by the settler regime, has been met by a redoubling of effort to bring down racist rule. The people of Zimbabwe are aware that alongside the British imperialists, the US imperialists are there too. The US imperialists, whilst supporting British imperialist attempts to divert the struggle, are simultaneously working to push the British imperialists aside and take over as the main overlord. ZANU has made it clear that they will no longer accept US imperialism at any negotiating table. It only needs Britain there to recognise the Patriotic Front, which it will be forced to do.

Many Zimbabweans also recognise the danger from the other superpower - Soviet social imperialism. The Angolan revolution was stabbed in the back and hi-jacked. In north Africa, the Eritrean revolution fighters, who were previously hailed as "anti-imperialists" by the Soviet Union, are now being shelled by Russian ships; their villages and towns bombed and napalmed by Soviet pilots in Soviet planes; their people massacred by Soviet and Cuban-led Ethiopian troops. The Soviet social imperialists often act as supporters of the struggle against the other superpower and other imperialists but they do it for their own reasons. They did it only to try and creep in through the back door, and become the new rulers, as they have done in Vietnam

THEIR ENEMIES ARE OURS

The people of Zimbabwe are fighting heroically and they are winning. They are fighting for complete

liberation and true independence. They will not be duped by new masters for old. We, in Britain, are proud of their struggle. We support them wholeheartedly. We have the same enemies as them - the British imperialist ruling class and the two superpowers. The RCLB is delighted to see the landrover (paid for by money raised from the working people of Britain) on its way to the battlefield. We are sure they will put it to good use. We wish ZANU, the Patriotic Front, and the revolutionary masses of Zimbabwe great victories in the New Year.



demands. They also have their contradictions with imperialism. They, also, for their own interests are forced to struggle against the two superpowers and other imperialists, and their opposition is made firmer by the struggle within their own countries.

Following the victory in imposing the 200 mile sea limit as the norm, despite the opposition, particularly the opposition of the two superpowers, they are stepping up their demands for a new international economic order. They have formed cartels to push up the price of raw materials, such as oil, and coffee. Such just moves are part of a struggle against imperialist superprofits made by buying raw materials cheap and selling goods back to the Third World at high prices. The Third World countries are stepping up their economic, technical, scientific and cultural exchanges, to undermine the domination of the superpowers and other imperialists. At international conferences, they are standing up to denounce the war preparations of the two superpowers, and to demand that they remove military bases. Sudan, Egypt and Somalia, have kicked the Soviet social imperialists out of their countries after finding through their own experience that Soviet "aid" was nothing but a means of infiltrating and attempting to dominate their countries. The Third World countries have rejected imperialist manoeuvres for establishing neo-colonial rule (where formal independence is gained, but the imperialists still control the country through its economic domination and plunder) in Zimbabwe and Namibia. They are supporting the armed struggle in those places, as well as the struggle of the people of Azania and Palestine. All these struggles combine to make a powerful current taking the world's peoples forward.

EUROPE - THE FOCUS OF CONTENTION

Europe, too, is threatened by superpower hegemonism. Much of Eastern Europe is under the rule of Soviet social imperialism. Its rule is backed up by extensive military occupation and by a social-fascist (socialist in words - fascist in deeds) dictatorship. In these countries, too, the people are resisting. Demonstrations, strikes and other protests are becoming more widespread. In Poland, the illegal Communist Party of Poland is leading struggles against Soviet social imperialist domination. Romania and Yugoslavia are standing up for their independence and refusing to bow down to Soviet pressure.

Western Europe in the main is still tied to the US empire, though the influence of the US has in general declined. But Western Europe, too, is faced by the threat of Soviet expansion. Soviet social imperialism has its eyes on Europe. It wants its massive concentration of industrial plant, its technology and its skilled work-force. It wants to dominate the whole of Europe and reduce it to the level of the vassal states of Eastern Europe.

This makes Europe the focus of contention of the two superpowers. It is where the military might is most highly concentrated.

OPPOSE BRITISH IMPERIALISM

At the same time, the European countries are still ruled by ruthless imperialists, who in their turn are after whatever they can screw out of the Third World. The British imperialists, for example still get plunder from southern Africa (see article on Zimbabwe), Malaysia, Iran and other places. These second-rate imperialist powers (the Second World) are in a dual position. On the one hand, they

are part of the cake, which the two superpowers (the First World) are fighting over. On the other hand, they are attempting (though less successfully) to continue to take part in the plunder of the Third World.

BUILD THE BROADEST POSSIBLE INTERNATIONAL UNITED FRONT AGAINST THE SUPERPOWERS

Clearly, As Mao Tsetung said, the world is divided into three. We must grasp the nature of these different contradictions because our revolutionary struggle is not taking part in a vacuum, but in a real world, where great storms are brewing. It is in the interests of the world proletariat as a whole and the British working class in particular, to respond to the call of the great Communist Party of China to build the broadest possible international united front against the hegemonism of the two superpowers and their war preparations. We must defend our independence in the course of our revolutionary struggle for socialism. And we must aim our main blow in the international class struggle at the most dangerous superpower, the rising superpower, (and in Britain the least understood superpower) Soviet social imperialism.

At the same time, it is our particular internationalist duty to support our class brothers and sisters who are fighting our own immediate enemy - British imperialism. This is in their interests and it is in ours. We cannot uphold our independence against superpower hegemonism, if we do not also vigorously support the independence of the Third World against British imperialism, as well as their struggle against the superpowers. We must support every demand and struggle against imperialism, from the great armed revolutionary wars led by the Marxist-Leninists, to the demands of Third World countries for higher prices. We must add our weight to force our imperialist ruling class to accept these just demands. We must oppose the inevitable attempts of the ruling class to intervene militarily against the liberation struggles, and at the same time we must oppose the appeasement of the ruling class and any tendency to sell out British independence to the two superpowers.

Whilst working vigorously to prepare the ground for socialist revolution in Britain, we must also proudly hold up the banner of national independence.

Workers of all countries, Unite!

Workers and oppressed peoples and nations, Unite!

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material out of what is sent. But it is only if our readers send in their contributions, that we can develop "Class Struggle" even more as the paper that fights for the interests of the working class.

BUILD ON THE GOOD - GET RID OF THE BAD

During 1978, "Class Struggle" has made important progress overall; but communists must conscientiously sum up their experience. We must build further on our strengths and struggle to overcome our weaknesses and errors. By adopting this outlook we are confident that 1979 will be a year of further advance.

MANIFESTO

OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF BRITAIN
The Manifesto of the RCLB puts forward the stand of Marxism-Leninism on the major questions facing the working class, both internationally and nationally. It points out that our central task today is to rebuild the revolutionary Communist Party of the working class. The Manifesto is the founding document of the RCLB. The publication of the Manifesto marked an important step forward towards the drafting of the Party programme. The Manifesto is available from New Era Books. Price 30p (plus 7p postage and packing).

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