

CLASS STRUGGLE

POLITICAL PAPER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF BRITAIN

April 1978 VOL.2 No.9

MONTHLY 7p

LABOUR'S AXE FALLS ON HOSPITALS

Defend and extend health care

At Sefton General Hospital Liverpool recently, a circular was sent to all the wards from the head of Physiotherapy department: "due to shortage of staff only emergency work will be done". Already in Sefton General instead of 15 there are only 3 physiotherapists working, looking after 1500 beds. Work-load is high and working conditions are poor. There is a constant threat of total closedown. Patients who should have breathing exercises before and after operations to reduce risk of infection don't get any. People who have had mild strokes need daily exercises to avoid contractures and facilitate movement of limbs, improve speech and slowly become independent. The constant care and individual attention which this requires need staff. But the cuts have created a serious shortage in this department.

On the wards it is the student nurses who have to do the actual nursing because very few trained staff are employed although available. Student nurses are often "taught" by other students rather than by a qualified nurse. It is a common sight to see 2-3 nurses running a ward of 30 beds. But at night the situation is even worse. Often there is only 1 student in charge of a ward while night sister looks after 2-3 wards. Training has also been cut. Until a few weeks ago auxiliary nurses would get 4 weeks training in such procedures as taking and recording temperatures and blood pressure. But that has been discontinued. However conscientious these women are, legally they are not protected if mistakes occur.

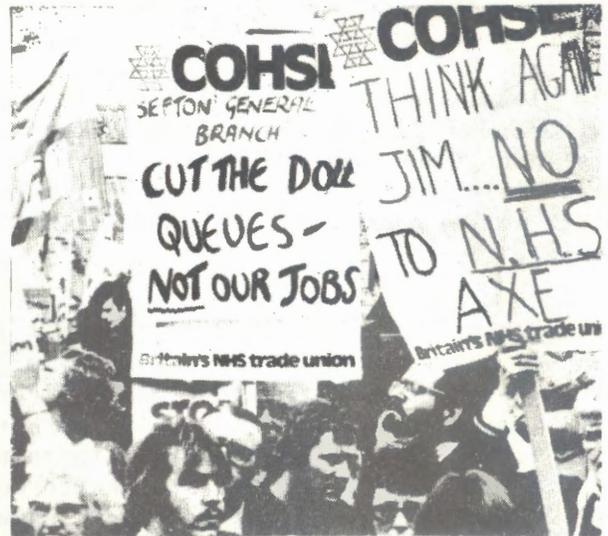
GARNERS STEAK HOUSES - STRIKE BITING

The Garners Steak House strike in London's West End is now in its third month. The workers are more determined than ever to stay out until the company recognises their union, the Transport and General Workers Union.

As reported in the March "Class Struggle" the workers are struggling against low wages, long hours and bad conditions. They are mainly immigrant workers whose super-exploitation is made possible by the racist work permit system.

SUPPORT FOR GARNERS WORKERS GROWS

"Class Struggle" interviewed the pickets again in London's West End on a busy Saturday night. Normally the restaurant is jam-packed with a turnover of thousands of pounds. The



Sefton General workers demonstrate against cuts in 1976.

Theatres are usually better staffed than most of the other departments but even here at nights when only emergency surgery is performed they "borrow" a nurse to help during the operation. During the day if an emergency like a car-accident or caesarian case turns up then routine surgery is delayed or even cancelled in spite of long waiting lists.

This is the health service you are getting for your money. Capitalism reduces everything to the bosses' profits interest. The lives of workers is regarded as a cheap resource at times of high unemployment. Defend the health service against the bosses' attacks! ■

average cost of a meal is around £4. But despite notices claiming "Business as Usual", the restaurant was virtually empty. A few waiters with no work stood about uneasily.

The company pretends that the strike is not affecting them, but they have had to take on new staff at higher rates. Only three weeks after the strike began, the few remaining waiters were given a £5 a week rise and the managers £12. This was bait to keep them working. But it didn't stop one worker joining the strike. He wrote to the company refusing to be used as a strike breaker by being shifted from one branch to another.

(cont'd on p2)

LABOUR AND TORIES PRODUCE ANOTHER RACIST REPORT

On Tuesday March 21st a Commons select committee produced yet another report to Parliament aimed at stirring up racism, and strengthening police powers of harassment against the black population of Britain. The report was delivered by the "Committee on Race Relations and Immigration."

The report starts from the assumption that immigration is to be reduced as much as possible. It aims to build up the myth that it is immigration that causes bad housing, unemployment and so on, and conceal the real cause - capitalism. Written from the viewpoint of the ruling class, the report inevitably ignores the plunder of third world countries by imperialist countries like Britain, and by the two superpowers - which is the precisely the cause of black workers being forced to leave their countries.

This racist report then goes on to call for increased restrictions on immigration (it is, of course, only concerned about Asian immigration). It even supports preventing children over 12 coming to Britain with their parents. Further, it calls for "substantial" increases in police resources and powers to search out "illegal" immigrants. In the February issue of "Class Struggle" we showed the sort of racist police campaign already being waged, by reporting on a campaign in Newcastle where police moved in, en-masse, against the Bangladeshi community, rounding-up "suspects", and imprisoning some for weeks. Such campaigns are aimed at intimidating the black community, and stirring up divisions among the people. The report calls for more of such campaigns.

GARNERS STEAK HOUSES - STRIKE BITING

One worker who has worked at Garners for eleven years told us that with his catering experience he could easily find another job. But he was not just fighting for himself, but for decent wages and conditions for all catering workers.

The pickets patiently explain to the potential customers the reasons for their strike. One picket was heard to say "Please don't cross our picket lines, to you it's just a meal, to us it's our jobs." The customer turned away. Many people stop to talk to the pickets and wish them success in their struggle. Placards in many different languages explained the situation. While the writer was there two men walked into the restaurant. When the workers shouted after them, the men turned and walked out, amidst much laughter from the pickets and the staff inside.

Many of those still working are not antagonistic to the strike. Most have no work permits

WHO PRODUCED THE REPORT?

Clearly this report paves the way for greater oppression of black workers. Which lackeys of the ruling class in Parliament were directly involved in producing it? The report was supported by all members of the committee. The committee contained 10 members - 5 Tories and 5 Labour. It was chaired by a Labour MP. Clearly, although the Tories are openly racist and Labour hides behind a cloak of "anti-racism", when it comes down to it they are BOTH racist bourgeois parties. This is underlined by the fact that one of the Labour MPs on this committee is Sidney Bidwell, a member of the Tribune group. The "Communist" Party of Great Britain views Bidwell as one of their left-wing allies. They call him a staunch opponent of racism and fascism, and frequently print articles on such subjects by Bidwell in their paper - the "Morning Star". The "Morning Star", of course, failed to mention the fact that one of their regular writers was responsible for this report.

LABOUR - THE BEST BOSSES' PARTY

Through such reports, and in other ways, the Labour Party spreads racism; yet it makes a lot of noise about being anti-racist. In the same way, the Labour government has carried out a ruthless programme to overcome the crisis of capitalism by shifting the burden onto the backs of the working class; yet it proclaims itself the "party of the working class". It is this smokescreen that helps make it the best bosses' party. ■

Cont'd from p1

and are counting on the bosses' reference. They face the threat of losing their jobs and being deported.

The pickets were very pleased to see the front page article in the last "Class Struggle" supporting and explaining their strike. They handed copies to the waiters, encouraging them not to be intimidated as there are people outside ready to support them.

The pickets receive £20 a week, £6 a week strike pay and £2 a day from donations. This financial help and support is essential if they are to win this battle. They urge all trade unionists to send messages of support and donations to the strike committee. Along with this we must demand the abolition of the racist system of work permits. It enables such as the Garners boss to enforce slave working conditions. The interests of the whole working class demand that wages are kept up and all workers have the same basic rights. ■

TURN THE UNIONS



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!

INTO FIGHTING CLASS ORGANISATIONS

STOP PAYING LABOUR TO ATTACK WORKERS!

This article continues the series introduced in the December issue of "Class Struggle" on the struggle to "Turn the Unions into Fighting Class Organisations". So far the introductory article and the articles on the first 3 slogans have shown how the opportunist union misleaders work to prop up capitalism, dampening, diverting and often opposing outright the class struggle of the workers. The opportunist misleaders have worked hand in glove with the Labour government in an all round attack on the living standards of the workers. In order to fight capitalist exploitation and oppression it is clear that we must fight the opportunists WITHIN the unions tooth and nail. Yet through the unions' "Political levy" the workers are actually PAYING the Labour Party to prop up capitalism, and attack them! Our response is "Stop paying Labour to attack workers!"

HOW THE POLITICAL LEVY WORKS

By law the "political fund" of the unions have to be operated separately from the general fund, which cannot be used for "political" purpose. The money of the political fund is raised through the "political levy". When you join a union you pay this levy automatically, as it is included in your weekly contribution. Although the precise details vary from union to union, the bulk of the political fund is controlled by the National body, and a small part is controlled by the district committees.

THE POLITICAL FUND GOES TO THE LABOUR PARTY

Nearly every union spends its funds entirely on the bosses' Labour Party. In case workers in a particular area object to financing the party in power, which is attacking them, most unions have rules preventing the workers spending the money in their own interests. Rule 18.6 of the EETPU for example says:

"expenditure from the fund must be in conformity with the constitution of the Labour Party." The AUEW rulebook states that support can only be given to election candidates who "accept the policy and programme of the Labour Party" (Rule 44.3).

FIGHTING BACK

How can we to fight back? Firstly the rank-and-file workers themselves, must take control of the political fund. This means that the workers in the branches must demand the right to spend money from the fund in their own interests. This struggle in itself will bring all sorts of anti-democratic opportunists out

of the woodwork. It will be a long struggle which will include supporting conference resolutions for democracy in the unions, and supporting rules changes to get rid of the limitations which only allow the money to be spent on the Labour Party. The details of this struggle can only be decided within the specific conditions of each separate union.

Alongside this campaign, revolutionary Communists support the campaigns to contract out of the political levy which are already taking place. In Grimsby for example lorry drivers and many factory workers in the TGWU are collectively contracting out of the political levy. In June 1977, "Class Struggle" reported that 250 workers at the Laporte chemical factory alone had contracted out. Last February we reported that 300 firemen in Durham stopped paying their political levy as a result of the direct experience of fighting the Labour government, and being sold out by the Labour opportunists in the TUC. Such campaigns directly nail the Labour Party as the best bosses' party. Working to build such campaigns of mass contracting out is an important part of the struggle to "Turn the Unions into Fighting Class Organisations". At the same time we must clearly distinguish between building such campaigns and individual contracting out, which in itself is only a gesture.

By approaching the struggle on the political fund and the political levy in a correct way, class-conscious workers will be able to rally large numbers behind the militant slogan:

"DON'T PAY LABOUR TO ATTACK WORKERS"

LEYLAND: MAKE THE BOSSES PAY

On February 15th British Leyland announced that the No. 2 Plant in Speke, Liverpool is to close. 2700 workers will be made redundant, pushing the total number of unemployed for Merseyside to about 90,000, or one in eight people.

This is Leyland's first step in cutting the workforce since Edwardes, the new Leyland boss, declared that 12,500 jobs must go. The Government put Edwardes in charge of Leyland's last year after car sales had failed to meet the Ryder report target. Lord Ryder's target in 1975 was for Leyland to retain 33% of the home market and build up sales in Europe from 3% to 4%. In the frantic scramble between the world's car giants, Leyland's is no match for the U.S., European and Japanese car monopolies.

CAPITALIST CRISIS OF OVERPRODUCTION

The rivalry between these car giants is becoming more and more intense. Huge sums are invested in new plant and equipment to prevent them falling behind in the race for profits. The production process is cheapened and speeded up until the market is glutted. Each of the car monopolies is accusing the other of excessive production. Leyland chief Edwardes lashed out at Japanese car production as "irresponsible" in a speech to the American Chamber of Commerce.

Leyland is falling behind because a large part of its plant and equipment is old and worn out. Leyland employed two and half times as many workers as Citroën (France) to produce the same number of cars last year. This is typical of British capitalist industry. The British ruling class is the oldest and most decadent ruling class in the world. For decades and centuries British imperialism has got fat from its colonial plunder. The British bosses boasted that the sun never set on the British Empire. Finance capital amasses fantastic wealth from the so-called "invisible earnings" from banking and insurance transactions alone. The British imperialist bosses have lost their former monopoly in the world. The two super-powers the USSR and USA are the biggest exploiters now. To save itself British imperialism is increasingly offloading its profits crisis onto the working class who it blames for the crisis of its rotten creaking system.

NATIONALISATION MEANS RATIONALISATION

Ryder proposed that £2,090 millions be invested over eight years. No public proposals for job cuts were made. This served the interests of the Leyland bosses and the Labour Government who were trying to sell the 'Social Contract' at the time. Now Edwardes is rationalizing Leyland in the same way as the State has cut jobs in other nationalized industries.

For example in the 10 years up to 1974 the number of miners was cut by half and 167,000 jobs cut on the railways.

Many TU leaders throughout Leyland welcomed the Ryder Report and Leyland nationalization. It was sold as a 'socialist' measure which would save jobs. But events have proved yet again that nationalization is rationalization. Nationalization under capitalism is not socialism. It is state monopoly capitalism which faces the same crisis as private monopoly capitalism. The difference is that taxpayers' money is used to prop up the nationalized industries' profits.

MAKE THE BOSSES PAY FOR THEIR CRISIS

The crisis in the motor industry is part of the general crisis of capitalism. The closure of the Speke plant represents a cut back in production. The Leyland car workers are "producing too much" not too little. Leyland has a production capacity of 1 million. Edwardes calculates that they can sell only 819,000. So 12,500 jobs are going to be axed. The cost of moving TR7 production to Coventry will be £51 million. This is a measure of how capitalism destroys productive capacity.

The crisis in the car industry is part of the general crisis of capitalism. The Speke shop stewards plan a "right to work" campaign to oppose the closure. They should be given full support by employed and unemployed workers alike. By exercising democracy in the struggle against the closure, workers unity and militant readiness to struggle will be won.

FIGHT FACTORY CLOSURES!

MAKE THE BOSSES PAY FOR THEIR CRISIS!

Joint Public Meeting of RCLB and CWM

SPEAKERS FROM THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF BRITAIN AND THE COMMUNIST WORKERS MOVEMENT ON THE STRUGGLE TO UNITE THE MARXIST-LENINIST MOVEMENT.

2-5 p.m., SATURDAY APRIL 29th AT
THE PUBLIC HALL, OLD TOWN HALL,
HAVERSTOCK HILL, LONDON N.W.3
(opposite Belsize Park tube station)

There will also be a speaker for **ZANU** on the struggle in Zimbabwe.

**Build the revolutionary
Communist Party**

NORTHERN IRELAND - TROOPS OUT NOW!

The so-called Prevention of Terrorism Act was renewed again in Parliament recently. This act was dragged through Parliament in a week at the time of the Birmingham pub bombings. At the time it was described by the then Home Secretary Roy Jenkins as a draconian law. This was justified on the grounds that it was temporary and would have to be renewed every 6 months.

This is not how the Labour bosses regard it now. Home Secretary Merlyn Rees in demanding the Act be renewed for a further 12 months clearly exposed that the government wants this fascist legislation permanently on the statute book.

OPPRESSION IN IRELAND BRINGS REPRESSION TO BRITAIN

The Prevention of Terrorism Act removes basic civil liberties. Under it the police have extensive powers of detention and arrest. "Suspects" can be detained for seven days without charges being made. Access to a solicitor is denied. 3,000 people have been detained under the Act since 1974. Only about 5% have ever been charged. Some of these were only for charges arising from the Inland Revenue Act. The police use the Act for gaining information on the activities of republicans, communists and anti-fascists. This clearly shows that British imperialism's occupation and brutal repression in Northern Ireland is bringing increased reaction to Britain. This means that if the working class is to successfully struggle against oppression and growing fascist reaction



30th Jan. 1972 - 'Bloody Sunday': part of the mass demonstration, just before the imperialist army opened fire.

in Britain, we must oppose the British bosses' occupation of Northern Ireland. A nation that oppresses another nation cannot itself be free. The majority of the people of Britain want the troops out. We must loudly voice this demand. It will strengthen our struggle by building British and Irish workers' unity. Demand:- **TROOPS OUT NOW!** ■

BIRCH PRAISES USSR

The March issue of the AUEW journal carried an article called "The USSR as we saw it". The article arises from an official visit of representatives of the AUEW executive to the Engineering and Instrument Makers Union in the Soviet Union. The 2 co-authors of the article are J.G. Russell and Reg Birch. Birch claims to be a Marxist-Leninist, and is Chairman of the CPB(M-L).

Throughout the article Birch makes no criticism of the USSR. In fact the entire tone of the article is one of approval.

In the USSR capitalism has been restored. It is an aggressive imperialist superpower. Internally, the working class is exploited by a bureaucrat monopoly capitalist ruling class. The rule of the Brezhnev clique is enforced by a fascist police state apparatus. The "unions" in the USSR are nothing but organs of the bosses' state for keeping workers in line.

In his article, Birch says: "Because of the different system of society, the Unions' functions are entirely different to ours." Britain is a capitalist society. Presumably then Birch means that the USSR is not capitalist,

that it is socialist.

In socialist countries, Unions do indeed have a different role. But the USSR is capitalist and this statement by Birch is nothing but an attempt to conceal the fact that the Russian union bureaucrats he is hobnobbing with, are not representatives of the workers, but are bureaucrats living off the backs of the workers.

In the article, Birch praises the "desire for peace" amongst the ordinary shop-floor workers. Now Soviet social imperialism is an expanding superpower, carrying out aggression all over the world and engaged in building the biggest war machine the world has ever seen. It is true that shop-floor workers in Russia as anywhere want peace. But why has Birch decided to emphasise this - whilst at the same time keeping silent about the war plans of the Soviet ruling class. It is to cover up Soviet aggression.

The article could have been written by any slavishly pro-Soviet member of the "Communist" Party of Great Britain. It is just one more proof that Birch has nothing to do with Marxism-Leninism and is in fact a thorough-going revisionist. ■

APRIL 1978

SUPPORT THE STRUGGLE OF THE ZIMBABWE PEOPLE

Call for solidarity with Zimbabwe

Friends and Comrades!

The people of Zimbabwe are fighting! With rifles in hand the guerrilla forces of ZANU and the Patriotic Front are fighting fiercely and heroically throughout Zimbabwe against the vicious and treacherous racist regime of Ian Smith.

The white racists headed by Smith are rats - fat rats, gorged with the sweat of the people of Zimbabwe. But they are not the main enemy themselves. They are the agents of a far bigger enemy - British imperialism! British imperialism is today the main enemy of the people of Zimbabwe. British imperialism, in collaboration with US imperialism, is desperately trying to hang on to every one of the many rich pickings it grabs from that bitterly oppressed country.

The monopoly capitalists who try every day to squeeze more profits out of us in Britain are the very same imperialist ruling class that for tens of years has sucked profits at an even greater rate from the Zimbabwean people.

At this moment, through their agents they are spending half a million pounds a day on their war against the Zimbabwean people. But they are still losing!

And now that their racist agents, the colonialists, are cornered by the liberation forces of ZANU and the Patriotic Front, the British imperialists are desperate for a neo-colonialist settlement - a "settlement" which in name hands some administrative jobs over to a few black figureheads, but which in reality will keep real power in the hands of the giant British and US imperialist companies!

The more imperialism and its agents are cornered the more treacherous and vicious they become. It is only to be expected they will try every trick in the book to split one section of the Zimbabwean people from another. It is only to be expected that even before their treacherous words die away they will launch yet another vicious and desperate attack on the freedom fighters and Zimbabwean people.

Friends and comrades, it is the same vicious imperialist class oppressing and exploiting the workers in Britain that manipulates the vicious war against the people of Zimbabwe, a people whose only crime is that they wish to be free.

The Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain has therefore issued a rousing call for all comrades, all workers and all revolutionary people in Britain to make quite clear which side we support!

We are launching a vigorous campaign of solidarity and support for the revolutionary people of Zimbabwe, a campaign closely linked with the vital Party-building task of putting down deep roots in the industrial working class.

In this campaign everything now depends on the militancy, liveliness and inventiveness of all friends and comrades. Scratch your heads and think, each month and each week, of yet another way to spread the word to other workers in Britain about the heroic struggle of the Zimbabweans. Think of every possible way to support it. Have you got a spare blanket? We will get it out to the Zimbabwe fighters. Can you spare the price of a packet of cigarettes? We will see that it is passed on. What about your friends and workmates? Whatever you have, send it in! Can you spare more? Send that in too!

Every blow the Zimbabwean people strike, is a blow against our own imperialist ruling class, a blow against imperialism, a blow against the schemes of the two superpowers for world domination.

THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE WILL FIGHT! THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE WILL WIN!

WE WILL RESOLUTELY SUPPORT THEM TO THE END!

SPEEDY AND GLORIOUS VICTORY TO THE PEOPLE'S WAR IN ZIMBABWE!

Signed: C. Burford, Chairman of the RCLB 17.03.78.

Zimbabwe



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ONLY THE PATRIOTIC FRONT REPRESENTS Z

APRIL 1978

PEOPLE! BRITISH IMPERIALISM OUT OF ZIMBABWE!

The Solidarity Campaign



THE RCLB IS DOING

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aign a big success.

An appeal from ZANU

One very important feature of the contemporary African situation is the people's struggle for national liberation and independence from imperialism. During the last five years or so, the struggle by the people of Zimbabwe against British colonialism and imperialism has intensified. Over 80% of the countryside is now an operational area. The colonial settler regime is now tottering on the brink of defeat. Despite the brutalities and murderous violence suffered by the people, they have come to believe that such are the necessary consequences which must accompany the liberation process.

Behind this background of a beleaguered and dying regime and a resolute people, the British imperialists aided by their international, and Zimbabwe, conspirators have unfolded plans to divert the liberation struggle towards nominal independence. Having failed on the battlefield, having failed to suppress the forceful will of the people of Zimbabwe by violence, the imperialists now want to use lies to hoodwink the masses into a neo-colonialist Zimbabwe. The aim of British imperialism and colonialism is to preserve its dominant role in which it would continue to enjoy a disproportionately huge percentage of the wealth which comes from exploiting the labour and natural resources of Zimbabwe. It is this exclusive arrangement which has served as the guiding principle for all successive British governments. But we are aware that a socio-economic arrangement which in the main is responsive to the desires of the imperialist countries will only accelerate, with untold misery, the ongoing process of underdevelopment.

The military successes of the Zimbabwe patriotic forces - which the British capitalist press would like to hide from world opinion - must be proportionately recognised in any subsequent settlement of the Zimbabwe question. Only those forces which have fought, together with and at the head of the masses, for the desired changes in government and general living conditions can rightly represent Zimbabwe at any "transfer-of-power" talks with the British government. But this line of thought militates against imperialist designs. It is only logical that the imperialists have encouraged a reactionary clique of their Zimbabwean lackeys to enter into agreement with the colonial settler regime. The intention is to by-pass the authentic representatives of the struggling masses thereby diverting the independence from being genuine and total. They aim at an arrangement which, whilst emphasising changes at the political level reduce changes in the central issues of economic control and state security to a very secondary role. But all these attempts at hijacking the Zimbabwe revolution are doomed to failure. The struggle will continue because this is the only way we can neutralise the delaying actions of the imperialists and their lackeys. There can be no half solutions or compromises. Our revolution means a complete change of our present situation on the road to progress and development. Imperialist economic domination must go because it is on this that every other kind of domination depends.

And so our present task is one of intensifying the armed struggle to even greater heights. The British working class must grasp the essence of our struggle: that we are struggling against British imperialism. Our struggle is of objective relevance to the British situation concerning the working class struggle towards socialism. We are struggling to break capitalist imperialism at its weakest links and it is only right that the British working class lend us moral and material support. The death of imperialism is fast approaching; we continue to shed blood to that end. We expect the British working class to identify with our present and continuing campaign as a reaffirmation of the principle that all people, including the fighting people of Zimbabwe, love freedom, justice, progress and peace.

Signed: K.C. Katsande for ZANU London Office. 21.03. 78.

ZIMBABWE! POWER TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT!

A WORKER'S NOTEBOOK

THE COMMON MARKET "INTERVENTION SCHEME" PAYS for the purchase of foodstuffs that cannot be sold at an "acceptable" rate of profit. This food is then hoarded until it can be sold profitably or it is destroyed. In Britain's cold stores in January there were over 14,000 tons of beef - 3 times as much as a year ago. There is also a butter mountain and the amount of skimmed milk in store has increased 15 times.

This senseless situation, where perfectly good food is hoarded to keep prices in the shops high isn't just a feature of the Common Market but of capitalism in general. The system of "production for profit" must be ended and replaced with socialism, where production is for the benefit of the people. ■

IN BRISTOL ON MARCH 16TH, A 17 YEAR OLD BLACK worker and his friend were stopped by police as they drove home. It was 10.30 at night. All the necessary documents - license, insurance, etc. - were produced instantly. But without any reason the police arrested them both and took them to the local police station at Lawrence Hill. They were searched and locked up until 2.30 in the morning, just 5 hours before they were due at work. They were eventually released without being charged and with no apology only the excuse that the police were "only doing their job".

The whole working class must support black workers in their struggle against special oppression by the imperialist state. ■

PORTSMOUTH COUNCIL LASHED OUT £225,000 ON last year's Jubilee farce. In spite of the reactionary nature of this "celebration" you'd think some of this money would have filtered through to the people for things like street parties. It did - £32 for the whole of Portsmouth! Thousands were squandered on banquets, a carpet for the Queen to walk on (£10,000), a 14ft fibreglass crown (£9000) and so on, and the rest was lost through lack of public interest - unsold programmes, etc. "Public" funds come out the pockets of the people, but they are rarely spent in their interest. ■

TWO WOMEN WHO WORK IN THE CANTEEN AT HEMHEATH Colliery, Staffordshire, have recently won their struggle for equal pay with the man who runs the canteen at night. They will get an extra £10 a week bringing their wages to £41.50 plus a free coal facility worth an extra £5. The NCB bosses tried to wriggle out of the claim by arguing that the man was getting extra for working nights. They wanted to pay the women less for working days rather

than the man more for working nights in order to keep the wages of both low. The fight of women for equal pay is in the interests of men and women alike. ■

BRITAIN'S JUDGES, WHO HAVE ALREADY MADE THEIR racism clear on a number of occasions this year, are now attacking workers' right to strike. Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, speaking in Birmingham attacked the right to strike without the blessing of a trade union. Since most strikes start unofficially and, because of the union misleaders - many remain that way. He is attacking the right to strike without the state's permission. The class nature of the British legal system couldn't be clearer, and its faith in the opportunists more obvious. ■

ACCORDING TO A RECENT EDITION OF APEX NEWS, the general secretary of APEX, Grantham - the opportunist union misleader who orchestrated the sell-out of the Grunwick strikers - has become a director on the board of Chrysler UK. The bosses reward their lackeys for their service to capitalism. ■

REVOLUTION

THEORETICAL JOURNAL OF THE REVOLUTIONARY
COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF BRITAIN

Building the revolutionary Communist Party to lead the revolution is the central task for all genuine Marxist-Leninists in Britain today. 'Revolution', the theoretical journal of the RCLB, has been founded to be a sharp weapon in the struggle to build that Party.

REVOLUTION VOL.3. NO.1 includes:

Birch No Longer Part of the Marxist-Leninist Movement

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AVAILABLE FROM NEW ERA BOOKS:

4 issues for £1.65 (including postage)

MALTA SAYS NO TO IMPERIALISM

Fourteen years ago, Malta gained its "independence" from Britain, but continued to be dominated by British imperialism and its NATO allies, who, in the words of Dominic Mintoff, Malta's Prime Minister, had turned "Malta into an island fortress." In 1972, the Maltese people demanded that the NATO imperialists get out. The last British forces are to leave Malta in twelve months time, and the Soviet Union is eager to take their place, but Malta has banned the fleets of both superpowers from its waters, and stated that in future it will not be bullied and bossed around by anyone.

The Maltese people are aware of the danger posed by Soviet imperialism. They have not been taken in by the Russian's sugary words of "peace" and "socialism".

Last November, Prime Minister Mintoff attacked the Soviet fascists, and said that "to bring about this great change - to dismantle NATO's indomitable fortress in a Mediterranean dominated by the two superpowers - the people of Malta asked for the support and co-operation of all the peace-loving countries of the world. It was a great eye opener to us at this crucial moment to discover who were the genuine upholders of independence and socialist ideals. The Soviet Union remained aloof and denied Malta even the most rudimentary exchange of trade and information."

Dominic Mintoff compared this to the assistance given by China, who helped the Maltese to build several factories, and are at the moment helping in the construction of the Red China Dock, one of the largest ship repairing docks in Southern Europe.

Mintoff said that it was real aid like this that has helped Malta to become increasingly free from imperialist control. "In less than a decade the people of Malta will have completely restructured their economy and will have ushered in a new way of life - for the first time in its history, the Maltese nation will not live like the vultures devouring the corpses of war, but like a dove of peace earning its living with honour and decency." In the next year, Britain will try to find a way to carry on exploiting the Maltese people, and the two superpowers will try to move in. Malta deserves support in its struggle to throw off the greedy clutches of all imperialisms.

VICTORY TO MALTESE INDEPENDENCE!

SUPERPOWERS OUT OF THE MEDITERRANEAN!

SOVIET PRICE RISES

The Soviet Union, and their revisionist supporters in Britain, claim there is no inflation in the USSR. In March, the price of coffee increased from £1.50 to £6.80 a pound - a rise of over 400%.

At the same time, petrol went up from 35p to 75p per gallon and the cost of car servicing increased by 35%. There were also substantial increases in the price of chocolate and confectionary and beer, wines and spirits.

Mr. Nikolai Glushkov, Chairman of the Price Committee said that the price "adjustments" were to "satisfy the hundreds of people who wrote letters complaining of the unjustifiable low price of petrol!"

RCLB FIGHTING FUND - A GREAT SUCCESS

The Fighting Fund to build up the working class press, which has been regularly publicised in "Class Struggle" finished at the end of February. We are very pleased to report that we exceeded our national target of £1,500 by more than £300. All branches of the RCL set themselves high targets to fulfil locally - and every one of them exceeded their targets.

How did we achieve this? We did it by careful planning and enthusiastic hard work, and by the good support of many of our supporters. Many events - such as socials and film shows - were held, money was collected at public meetings and at factories where "Class Struggle" is sold, greetings cards and handicrafts were made and sold.

The response to the Fighting Fund was so great, because it is clear to many people just how important it is to build up a real working class press - to produce a newspaper that tells the truth about what is going on in the world and in Britain; one that exposes and opposes all the enemies of the working class, including those that pretend to fight for the

working class like the Labour Party, the Trade Union opportunist misleaders and the revisionist "C" PGB; and to produce a journal of Marxist-Leninist theory which serves the interests of the working class, by scientifically analysing the problems and tasks facing us at present, in the struggle to rebuild a real Communist Party of the working class to lead us in the overthrow of capitalism and the construction of socialism in Britain.

The £1800 has gone a long way towards buying a better printing machine. This means our publications will be better produced, and in a few months we will be able to produce "Class Struggle" as a fortnightly paper. It means the RCL will be able to make a better contribution to the working class struggle.

This was the first fund-raising campaign launched by the RCL, and it was a big success. With the spirit of enthusiasm and hard work that our comrades and friends brought to this campaign, we can go on to achieve greater victories in all areas of our work in the future.

130th ANNIVERSARY OF COMMUNIST MANIFESTO

March 1978 marked the 130th Anniversary of the publication of the "Manifesto of the Communist Party" written by Marx and Engels. On March 4th, a meeting to commemorate this historical milestone was organised in Brussels, where the Communist Manifesto was written, by the Communist Party Marxist-Leninist of Belgium (PCMLB).

One of the basic principles of the Communist Manifesto is expressed in the slogan "Workers of all Countries, Unite!" This spirit of proletarian internationalism - international working class unity and solidarity - pervaded the meeting from start to finish. On the platform were speakers representing fraternal Communist Parties and Party-building organisations from all the countries bordering Belgium, including comrade Chris Burford, Chairman of the RCLB. The workers and other working people at the meeting enthusiastically welcomed the open expressions of international solidarity, and the great unity of views expressed by the fraternal speakers. Strong applause greeted telegrams of solidarity from the Canadian Communist League (Marxist-Leninist), the Marxist-Leninist Communist Organisation of Portugal (OMLCP), the Marxist-Leninist Communists of Zaire, and from an Italian worker, who had worked in Belgium.

After the speeches two excellent cultural groups - the "l Mai - Ho Tsch Minh" from Munich, West Germany, and the "Lyre des travailleurs" from Lille, France - sang old and new songs of class struggle and national liberation, with the audience enthusiastically joining in the choruses, finally ending up with the 2 groups jointly leading a thunderous singing of the "Internationale", the anthem of the international working class.

MILITANT UNITY IN SPEECHES

All the speakers vigorously exposed the revisionists and opportunists who talk of "marxism" but who revise and distort its revolutionary essence. They showed that the basic principles of the Communist Manifesto on the revolutionary struggle of the working class to destroy the state power of the ruling class and to build the dictatorship of the proletariat (the active democracy of the masses and the suppression of the exploiters) were as true today as ever. The political agents of the ruling class who deny these principles are outright opponents of socialism and the working class.

One after the other, the speakers militantly pointed out that the theory of the three

worlds elaborated by Chairman Mao Tsetung is a concrete analysis of the present balance of political forces in the international arena, looked at from the point of view of the interests of the international working class. They exposed and denounced the war preparations of the two superpowers, and, to applause, they particularly exposed the aggressive expansionism of Soviet social imperialism.

They strongly supported the struggles of the peoples and countries of the third world against superpower domination and imperialism. Speakers pointed to the absolute necessity in the present situation for the working class in Europe to defend national independence from superpower aggression, whilst relying on the working class and deepening the revolutionary struggle for socialism.

INSPIRING TRIBUTE

The enthusiasm of the meeting, and the solidarity of the international working class and the international Communist movement which it represented, was a fitting and inspiring tribute to Marx and Engels, the founders of Scientific Socialism, and the authors of the "Manifesto of the Communist Party". It will leave a lasting impression on all those who attended. ■



Part of the platform at the Brussels meeting. From left to right: Cde BURFORD, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain; Cde DOERNER, member of the Political Bureau of the Communist League of Luxembourg; Cde JURQUET, General Secretary of the Communist Party Marxist-Leninist of France (PCMLF); Cde SEMLER, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Germany (KPD); Cde LEFEBVRE, (standing), First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party Marxist-Leninist of Belgium (PCMLB); Cde PETERSON, Secretary of the Central Committee of the Marxist-Leninist Party of the Netherlands (MLPN).

The "Manifesto of the Communist Party" is available from New Era Books, 203 Seven Sisters Rd., London N4. Price 15p (plus 12p postage and packing). The pamphlet: "Chairman Mao's theory of the differentiation of the three worlds is a major contribution to Marxism-Leninism" is also available from New Era Books, price 15p (plus 10p for p&p). This excellent pamphlet concretely demonstrates the correctness and the importance of the theory of the three worlds, and shows its relation to the principles and policies followed by Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin.



INTERNATIONAL NOTES

U.S.A.

At the time of going to press 160,000 US miners have been on strike for 110 days - the longest strike in the history of the United Mineworkers of America (UMW). The strike began on December 6th as a massive rank-and-file protest against what was described as the worst contract in their history - negotiated by the opportunist UMW leader, Miller. The contract would have deprived the miners of the right to strike, established fines for wildcats and cut pensions and medical benefits.

The contract has now been twice renegotiated and twice rejected and Miller denounced as a bosses' man. The miners have also flouted President Carter's injunction ordering them back to work under the vicious "Taft-Hartley Act" for an 80-day cooling off period.

The bosses thought they could starve the miners into submission by stockpiling coal but the plan hasn't worked and the miners are struggling on brilliantly relying on their own efforts and despite all hardships, convinced of victory. They have received donations of solidarity from striking US farmers and also money from the steel and auto workers, and Britain's Yorkshire miners. ■

SOVIET UNION

The Soviet revisionists, who have restored capitalism in the USSR, are going to the United States' experts for their training in management efficiency. In February Radio 4 reported that: "More Russians are enrolling for Harvard business studies courses than ever before." ■

MIDDLE EAST

Following numerous incursions over the past few months, 25,000 Zionist Israeli troops launched a huge combined military invasion by land, sea and air into south Lebanon. They now occupy all territory south of the Litani river.



The Zionists bombed and shelled civilian targets, destroyed towns and villages and strafed fleeing refugees on the roads, killing hundreds and leaving fearful devastation. The target of this massive piece of terrorism was Palestinian and Moslem towns in Lebanon in an effort to crush the Palestine Liberation organisation, and it was a resounding flop. The invasion met stiff Palestinian resistance which inflicted heavy losses on the Israeli invaders. When the Israelis finished bombings the Palestinians had mysteriously disappeared; when Israeli troops were bogged down due to rains, the Palestinians reappeared behind their lines.

At 6p.m. March 21st the Israelis ordered a ceasefire and on March 23rd the first UN peacekeeping forces arrived to police southern Lebanon. The policing of Lebanon by the UN was rejected by the PLO because the force would defend the state of Israel and actively oppose the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people to return to the homeland which was stolen by the Zionist settler regime. ■

SWEDEN

Swedish foreign minister, Karin Seder, expressed concern over the presence of 6 Golf class submarines belonging to the Soviet Union in the Baltic Sea. Each vessel is equipped with nuclear missiles capable of reaching targets from Paris to the Arctic Circle. He said "For several years, we have with worry noted that nuclear weapons of different types have been stationed close to the Nordic area, including now the Baltic Sea. Judging by their range, the missiles are intended for targets in Europe." ■

KOREA

On March 4th, 3,000 American and 6,500 troops of the South Korean puppet government took part in the biggest military exercise in South Korea for 25 years. It lasted 11 days, involving 10 US warships and army units flown from Hawaii. The exercise was designed to intimidate the people of Korea from continuing the struggle for the expulsion of US imperialism, for democracy, and national reunification. ■

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TWO MEETINGS MARK CHINA'S ADVANCE

At the beginning of March, the 5th National People's Congress (NPC) of China held its first session. The NPC is the highest state organisation in China, made up of 3,500 delegates from all over the country who meet to decide the general lines along which China is to be run. Usually it is elected for a period of 5 years. However this time only 3 years have gone by since the 4th Congress was elected. During that time the Gang of Four attempted to seize power, sabotaged China's economy and undermined the construction of socialism. After they were defeated it was decided that a new Congress must be held so that the Chinese people could sum up the lessons of those three years, and set new tasks for the period ahead.

INCREASE PRODUCTION

In his speech to the congress, Hua Kuo-feng, Prime Minister of China and Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party, outlined what those tasks should be. He said that now the Gang of Four has been defeated the Chinese people must unite and struggle hard to build China into a great, modern, powerful socialist country by the end of this century. They will do this by increasing production in a series of 10 year plans. People like the Gang of Four have in the past stood in the way of increased production - saying that it was "unrevolutionary". In fact it is only by increasing production, not for the benefit of a privileged few, but for all the people, that China will stay revolutionary.

"FIRMLY GRASP CLASS STRUGGLE"

China will do this by relying on the people - "the only makers of world history". A basic theme of the Congress was the need to increase democracy, "firmly grasp class struggle", and expose class enemies, and reactionary ideas.

Unlike the revisionists who look down on the working people, China's leaders have faith in the masses. In the words of a "People's Daily" editorial greeting the close of the Congress - "Our most reliable base is the masses of the people. Provided they are fully aroused, any wonder can be performed."

THE NEW CONSTITUTION - DICTATORSHIP AND DEMOCRACY

The Congress also adopted a new Constitution for the People's Republic of China. This sets down the legal basis for socialism in China. It sets out the general principles by which China is run, and also defines the rights and duties of the Chinese people.

A number of changes were made in the Constitution. The most important of these aimed at strengthening the power of the working people's state, and at increasing democracy among the Chinese people. So, the army and the people's economic enterprises have been strengthened. At the same time the need for increased democracy has been underlined. For instance the Chinese people now have the constitutional right - "to participate in the management of state affairs and of all economic and cultural undertakings." As far as individual rights go, the Chinese constitution is the most democratic in the world. It not only allows freedom of speech and of belief and the right to strike, it also gives all citizens the right to work, and the right to rest. It gives equal rights to women in every field.

The Constitution combines dictatorship over the enemies of the people with the greatest democracy for the people as a whole. Both of these are indispensable if China is to achieve the tasks set by the Congress, and build a strong and self-reliant socialist country.

At the same time as the National People's Congress, the 5th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) was also held in Peking. The CPPCC is made up of representatives from the different nationalities in China, intellectuals and a number of Patriotic Democratic parties which still exist in China.

It has always been the Chinese Communist Party's aim to unite as many people as possible against the main enemy in the interests of building socialism. Now that the workers and peasants hold political and economic power in China, the CPPCC has an important role to play in building the country.

It is particularly important in relation to the minority nationalities in China. The Communist Party has always worked to unite all the different nationalities, and takes care of the particular problems of the minorities. That this policy is a successful one is shown by a speech by Nandon Kunga Wongchug, the nephew of the former Dalai Lama, who was the reactionary religious leader of Tibet. He said at the Consultative Conference - "I have seen a new Tibet as well as the old. The contrast is astonishing. I am greatly honoured to attend this great gathering as a representative of one of China's minority nationalities."

Suggestions and criticisms help strengthen the paper.
Contact the RCLB, c/o NEW ERA BOOKS, 203 Seven Sisters Rd., London N4.