

# CLASS STRUGGLE

POLITICAL PAPER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF BRITAIN

Vol 3. No.10 May 17 - 30th

fortnightly 7p

## **RESIST THE TORY ONSLAUGHT DON'T TAIL BEHIND LABOUR**

So we had a change of Government. Callaghan is out. Thatcher is in. There has been no change in the essential nature of the capitalist system. There will be no change in the aim of the Government, which will continue to try to pull British imperialism out if its immediate problems by shifting the burden of the crisis onto the backs of the working class. What will change is the tactics of the onslaught against the working class, and what has changed is the nature of Government propaganda.

Callaghan and the Labour Party tried to stop the working class struggling by preaching class collaboration and by working with the trade union bureaucrats to hold down or divert struggle and to stab workers who did resist in the back. Remember the Social Contract and the plans to revamp it under a new name - the Concordat? Remember the Firemen's strike? Remember the Garners strike which is still going on? Behind this though Callaghan used an iron fist. Remember the police attacks on the Grunwick pickets and the murder of the anti-fascist Blair Peach by SPG thugs during the rumpus running up to the elections? For four years he was quite successful. Real wages were cut. Unemployment went up from 600,000 to 1½ million. During this period, when Thatcher tried to get rid of the Labour Government, the bosses pressed backed Callaghan. When Thatcher put a vote of no confidence in Callaghan in early 1978, for example, the *Financial Times* responded immediately with "Don't rock the boat, Maggie".

But inevitably, Callaghans' promised land never came. More and more workers started to resist the attack on their wages. The Ford workers led a rank-and-file upsurge. Some of the union leaders got worried about their necks and stopped collaborating with Callaghan so openly. Labour's value to the capitalists

Cont'd on p4

## **RCLB & CWM CELEBRATE MAY DAY**

On the evening of May 1st, a packed hall in North London heard the revolutionary message of May Day - the day of celebration and struggle for workers and oppressed peoples throughout the world.

The meeting - called by the London Districts of the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain (RCLB) and the Communist Workers' Movement (CWM) - differed from most other events taking place on the same day in that it was not used to whip up support for the bourgeois Labour Party. In fact, in opening the meeting the Chairman exposed the fraud of bourgeois elections, and clearly exposed the Labour Party as the "best bosses' party".

The theme of the meeting was "Build the Revolutionary Communist Party of the working class". This was given a wider dimension by a short programme of songs of workers and peoples' songs of struggle. Songs from throughout the world were performed by the New Era Singers and an Indian comrade.

The speakers from the CWM and the RCLB summed up the main tasks facing Marxist-Leninists internationally and nationally, and gave a frank assessment of our present strengths and weaknesses. A number of contributions from the floor took up these points, and underlined how different experiences of struggle - in the factories, in anti-racist struggles in the community - all pointed to the need for a Party.

Another feature of the meeting was its international character. Messages of solidarity were received from a number of national liberation and

third world organisations. A contribution was heard from the Bangladesh Workers' Association and from the Confederation of Iranian Students. This last contribution was particularly enthusiastically received especially when the speaker pointed out that the experience of Iran shows what the mass masses can achieve through struggle. The meeting closed with the singing of the *Internationale* on a high point of unity and determination to build the revolutionary Communist Party of the working class ■



MAY DAY IN LIVERPOOL  
ARTICLE ON PAGE 3

# FORDS PROFITS HIGH DESPITE STRIKE

Ford of Britain announced last month that their record profit of 1977 was maintained last year. It shows a slight fall of only £4 million, to £242 million, despite the fact that all production was halted at the end of last year during the nine-week strike. At Fords Halewood, the year began with a six week strike in the press shop.

Fords claim that without the strike, they would have made around £400 million. This isn't very surprising when we recall that the Labour Government's 5% wage limit was designed precisely to boost the bosses' profits - at the expense of our wages.

Before the strike began last September, the unions concerned estimated that if the claim (for £20 a week extra, 35-hour week etc.) was met in full, Fords would still have increased their profits up to £300 million!

The capitalist press, as usual, have been full of admiration for Fords, the most "successful" car builders in Britain. Fords Chairman Sir Terry Beckett boasted that the profit was "impressive". What they all deliberately failed to mention was that every penny made in profit, was made out of the sweated labour of the 57,000 Ford workers in Britain.

Are they satisfied with this profit? No, they're not. Beckett talked about "missed chances", saying that last year's profits are "nearly as much as our record 1977 figure. But we're not in the business of standing still". He said that Fords need to make even bigger profits because of the huge sums needed for investment. In fact they are already in the middle of an investment programme costing around £1000 million.

But why is it necessary that they make such large profits, and that they invest such colossal sums? The answer lies in the fact that Fords are

## LOW PAID DEMAND END TO LABOUR AFFILIATION

*Public Employees*, union journal of NUPE, has carried a report that five branches have tabled resolutions to the union's National Conference calling for an end to financial support for the Labour Party. The Solihull Hospitals Branch makes no bones about its reasons for demanding an end to NUPE money swelling Labour's coffers. The Labour Government "have completely betrayed the low paid workers particularly in the public services whom they were pledged to help" says their resolution. Other resolutions expose the myth that a Labour Government is answerable to the trade union movement by referring to the fact that a Labour Government is not even accountable to the National Executive of its own party.

In the year 1977, NUPE spent more than £164,000 on grants, affiliation fees and delegation expenses to national, regional and local Labour Parties. This is apart from their donations to Labour's election funds which in 1974 was £55,000 and was undoubtedly higher in the 1979 election when the TUC pulled the stops out for Labour.

The opportunist misleaders of NUPE will certainly oppose these resolutions from the branches and hope that in the struggle against Tory attacks their members will forget Labour's opposition to their just demands when in office. But class conscious workers must not forget, and continue to struggle for disaffiliation from Labour. This is an important part of the struggle to turn the trade unions in fighting class organisations.

PAGE TWO VOL:3 NO.10

competing with the likes of Peugeot-Citroen, Volkswagen, Fiat and the Japanese Toyota and Datsun. The rivalry between them is very intense, it is a life and death race in which the "devil takes the hindmost". Fords have to stay up at the front, or they will go to the wall. This means they must screw us, the workforce, for every penny they can. The gigantic amounts needed for investment, for new models etc., must be wrung out of our labour. So they attack us with wage cuts (social contract, Concordat), "Riot Acts", speed-ups, manning cuts, etc.

This is the very essence of the system we live in, capitalism. The need to continually increase profit determines everything. We have no interest in the maintenance of this system. Only a genuine socialist society can change things, and make the needs of the people the important factor, and eliminate exploitation once and for all.

### Rise for Ford Boss Beckett!

While we were being told to accept a paltry £3.40 under Labour's 5% wage controls last year, Ford boss Sir Terrence Beckett was helping himself to a rise of £22,000. His earnings in 1978 were £76,431. Most Ford workers remember that during their nine-week strike, while Beckett was busy attacking us for fighting for a living wage news leaked out that his wage in 1977 had increased by over 80% to £54,843.

This makes it perfectly clear that while capitalism goes through its crisis, it is we the workers who are expected to bear the brunt of it through wage cuts and unemployment. When Ford workers are discussing and preparing their claim for 1979, they well remember these facts.

MAKE THE BOSSES PAY FOR THEIR CRISIS!

## Report helps authorities justify cuts

A horrific report was recently given to the Royal College of Nursing by a Community nursing sister in Bath. Sister Collett told startled nurses that meals on wheels, ambulances and home-helps are being abused by "a lot of pampered patients who're expecting far too much". The sister stated that the problem was caused as usual by a minority: this time women. "They are mostly people who are not really ill, they are the half sick who feel they need some attention". Careful investigation has led Sister Collett to the shocking conclusion that it is the "so-called assessments" of hospital social workers, that led to patients receiving every service available, when they were not needed. Deep research has shown that "with a bit of persuasion they can look after themselves and they are very pleased to do so". She went on, "We should be much firmer and not give in so easily to patients by giving them what they want."

Contributions such as these to the many problems encountered by all public service workers faced with cutbacks and cash shortages deny the importance of their work and pave the way for making their jobs redundant. Capitalism creates many social problems and who is this nurse to decide who deserves and who doesn't "deserve" the services she is referring to. Such attacks only help the authorities to rationalise the staggering cut-backs taking place in all services around the country.

# MAY DAY IN LIVERPOOL

Liverpool Trades Council decided to hold its May Day March on May Day. An act of defiance against the Labour Government's attempt to take the meaning out of May Day by making the first Monday in May a Bank Holiday? No! An excuse for a "vote Labour" jamboree!

About 500 people marched in a lifeless demonstration. No slogans, no shouted demands except those from the RCL contingent which belted out "Labour Party - bosses' party, Tory Party - bosses' Party, Don't vote - Boycott!" and "Make the unions fight for the working class", "British Troops out of Ireland", "Bosses' crisis - we won't pay".

Few had the heart to stay for the rally at the Pier Head. The only good speaker was the convenor from Roneo Vickers, Kirkby, where they've been fighting against his unjust sacking. (see "One out all out" - CS 3.5). The other speakers were three "left" Labour MPs, supporters of Tony Benn's type of national socialism 'C'PGB candidate Roger O'Hara. upheld the unity of the "Vote Labour" platform, asking those who wanted to strengthen the left wing of the Labour Party to vote "Communist".

Real Communist politics had their platform at the RCLs evening meeting and social, attended by about 25 people. The speakers exposed the myth of "democracy" in a capitalist society, and attacked the Labour Party as being capable of doing an even better job for the bosses than the Tories. People are looking for a change - the need for revolution isn't yet clear to many - but patient work will lead to the rebuilding of a real Communist party which is capable of winning leadership of the fight back that is taking place. A good discussion followed, and the evening wound up in militant spirit with the singing of revolutionary songs.

## LETTER ON "TRIAL CENSUS"

Dear comrade,

I read the short article in your last issue about the "trial census" in North London. I was given one of these, and like a lot of people around here I objected to the racist questions, and also the questions about where I had been living for the past 5 years. When they came to collect the form I told them to shove off.

Of course quite a few people did fill in the form - like my neighbour for instance. He answered all their questions, and when I asked him why, he just said that he couldn't see any harm in it. He just hadn't really thought about it. Nothing unusual in that, you'll say. Except that he happens to be a member of the "Communist" Party of Great Britain. How can they pretend to lead the people of Britain to Socialism, when even their own members can't see through the power of the state or its racism? Or perhaps they don't want to.

# A WORKER'S NOTEBOOK

■ FOR A WHILE NOW WE'VE BEEN EXPOSING REG "BACK to work" Birch, leader of the so-called Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) as a man who is doing the bosses' job for them. It seems the bosses agree. Look at these approving remarks from the *Daily Telegraph* of 9.5.79 on the occasion of his retiring from the AUEW executive.

"Mr Birch's going will be widely regretted since he has shown himself a realistic and much respected negotiator whose political views played little or no part in his conduct of negotiations"  
There it is, straight from the horse's mouth.

■ IN A RECENT INTERVIEW J. JOSHI, GENERAL SECRETARY of the Indian Workers' Association had this to say about the Labour Party and racism in general:—"You must understand," said Joshi, "that we are not impressed with speeches, television interviews or press statements, but only with what is actually done... All the various hotch-potch attempts by the state to establish this or that committee is all humbug when the state itself enacted legislation against us. How then on the other hand can they draft legislation that is going to effectively oppose the discrimination they themselves have helped to introduce?... A racist labourite is worse than an anti-racist Tory". And in summing up Joshi repeated what the IWA had told the Smethwick Conservatives in 1964, "If the law of the land does not afford us adequate protection against racials, we reserve the right to protect ourselves, in co-operation with all others who are opposed to the spread of racial hatred".

■ OIL GIANT SUPPORTS LABOUR: it is a fruitful pastime when assessing in whose interests a party stands, to take note of what bedfellows it has. It was interesting therefore to see Mobil, the transnational oil giant, putting an advert in certain national newspapers which praised, very highly, Labour's policy of intervening in industry. They say "Britain played the ace" of £10million grant and 100% tax write-off for one year for a new refinery plant which many European countries had bid for. In return the balance of payments may benefit marginally but we'll get precious few jobs. Mobil and the Labour Party can be sure that when the working class gets real power all "aces" such as this which only benefit the capitalists, will be very effectively trumped.

■ A HEADMASTER AT GROVE JUNIOR SCHOOL IN WOLVERHAMPTON who was awarded an MBE for his "success" in a multi-racial school has banned a 11 year old Sikh boy for wearing a turban, ostensibly the headmaster's decision was taken because the turban did not form part of the school uniform! Commenting on headmaster Ernest Rhoden's decision, Woverhampton's Director of Education Dennis Grayson said, "In some cases turbans do match the school colours." Presumably then, the young lad was suspended not only for wearing a turban but also because it was the wrong colour. This is a thinly disguised attempt to justify and cover up national oppression.

■ IN SPEKE, LIVERPOOL, 230 WORKERS WILL BE MADE REDUNDANT by Evans Medical. This is nearly a third of the workforce. The factory makes codeine, aspirin and paracetamol. It is owned by Glaxo Holdings who made good profits last year. There have been rumours about redundancy for a couple of months. These were repeatedly denied by management. Now workers are discussing ways of fighting back.

In the Speke area of Liverpool there are now 10,000 workers out of work. In Liverpool as a whole, 87,000 people don't have jobs. 11.7% of the workers.

## CONTRIBUTE TO CLASS STRUGGLE

Help build the revolutionary Communist Party!

You can write for the paper about your factory or workplace or what's going on in your community.

We also need photos and cartoons.

Write to: The Editor-CS  
c/o New Era Books,  
203 Seven Sisters Rd  
London N4



# SPECIAL PATROL GROUP :

The last issue of *Class Struggle* reported the brutal suppression on April 23rd of the demonstration by the Asian community of Southall against the National Front fascists. The article exposed the vicious assaults of the Special Patrol Group (SPG) snatch squads on young Asians peacefully returning from the demonstration and the murder of teacher Blair Peach, an active trade unionist and anti-fascist. This attempt by the state and its racist police force to terrorise national minority opposition to organised fascist thugs is the latest in a long series of military style operations by the SPG on areas of high national minority population in London. These areas are Brixton, Peckham, Lewisham, Tooting, Stoke Newington, Kentish Town, Hackney and Notting Hill.

The SPG, trained to use blanket stop and search tactics, road blocks and violent methods associated with a para-military force, is nothing other than a state terror squad. SPG officers are trained in unarmed combat, the use of a sophisticated range of firearms, the use of riot shields and CS gas, the use of snatch squads and other tactics to break up demonstrations. It is also used to smash industrial struggles such as at the Grunwick picket line, where national minority workers were organising against racist super-exploitation. That the capitalist state is conducting a racist campaign to intimidate the national minorities is shown by the statistics taken from the annual reports of the Metropolitan Police Commissioner. The figures show the total numbers stopped, questioned and searched by the SPG and the numbers arrested but not convicted.

|      | stopped          | arrested |
|------|------------------|----------|
| 1972 | 41,980           | 3,142    |
| 1973 | 34,534           | 3,339    |
| 1974 | 41,304           | 3,262    |
| 1975 | 65,628           | 4,123    |
| 1976 | 60,898           | 3,773    |
| 1977 | figures no       |          |
| 1978 | longer published |          |

The use of wide-scale random checks and road blocks in national minority areas has resulted in arrests more often than not on charges of assault and obstruction or on the notorious "sus" (suspect)



Lewisham, 1978: police horses used against anti-fascist charge under the 1824 Vagrancy Act.

## SPG'S RECORD OF TERROR

The SPG first came to prominence with the murder of two Asian youths at India House on February 20th, 1973. Three Pakistanis entered the Indian High Commission in an attempt to draw attention to the plight of prisoners of war held in India. They had a sword and two toy pistols with them and took some of the Commission's staff hostage. An armed SPG unit arrived and within four minutes the two youths were dead - one having been shot in the back.

In the autumn of 1975, the SPG mounted a so-called "anti-mugging" operation in the Lewisham area, during which they stopped 14,000 people and made 400 arrests, over 20% of the total for that year. The main target of these stops were black people. During this period there were repeated complaints of black people being picked up on the streets and being brutally beaten and interrogated at local

# RESIST THE TORY ONSLAUGHT: DON

RESIST THE TORY ONSLAUGHT

Cont'd from P1

diminished. Some still wanted to keep Labour but Thatcher's boot was looking more and more attractive.

Now the tactics have changed. Thatcher does not hold down the workers' struggle mainly by collaboration (but she will still prattle on about the "national interest"). No, she will more openly recognise the existence of class struggle and she will take her stand openly with the bourgeoisie - the ruling class. It is that stand, her open snobbery and her total divorce from the real life of working people that creates among the mass of workers such hatred and contempt. Quite right, she deserves it (and so do the more slimy representatives of capitalism - the social democrats like Callaghan). It is typical of the Tory approach that their first step in office was to push up police pay and the second was to give the military a second pay rise this year - giving them a total of 35%. Will she take the same attitude to workers' rises. Not on your life. It is precisely to maintain the "loyalty" of the state forces at a time of open class struggle that Thatcher has taken such measures.

UNITE AGAINST OPPRESSION OF MINORITIES

It is typical of the Tories that their leader rants

on about Britain being "swamped" by black people. They are open. It is not immigration in general that they are bothered about. It is black immigration. It is what they arrogantly call "alien culture" which is "swamping Britain". They are more open in their promotion of racism than Labour. Our response must be to unite against oppression of national minorities against racist propaganda and against the vicious physical attacks on black communities whether they are carried out by the thugs employed by the state or by thugs of the nazi organisations. But we must never forget that Tory policy is based on the report of an all-party parliamentary committee which was chaired by a member of the Labour Party, nor the fact that Sidney Bidwell, a Labour MP and great friend of the "Communist" Party of Great Britain voted for that report. We must not forget about Labour's promotion of immigration laws which were aimed at blaming immigration for capitalism's ills, or the vicious attacks by the state on national minorities through five years of Labour government.

OPPOSE SOVIET IMPERIALIST EXPANSION - OPPOSE BRITISH IMPERIALISM

Internationally, there are more important differences between the two Governments. Labour and

# TERROR SQUADS OF THE RACIST STATE

police stations. Teachers at local schools were inundated by their students with discussions on police brutality and racism in the area.

In the summer of 1975, as a result of SPG activities against young black people, the Lambeth Campaign Against Police Repression was formed to demand their removal from the Brixton area. The Campaign collected detailed evidence showing that inside Brixton Police Station black youths were punched, beaten and threatened with dogs to scare them into signing prepared "confessions". The same pattern was followed as in Lewisham - road blocks, early morning raids random street checks. In one instance plain clothes officers were observed beating and attempting to plant something on a 14 year old black youth. Local residents rushed out to defend the youth and the SPG were called in. A pitched battle ensued resulting in several arrests. In November 1978, over half the total strength of the SPG, 120 officers, supplemented by 30 extra officers from Scotland Yard mounted in Lambeth what one community worker described as a "mini counter-insurgency exercise". The SPG operation lasted a month and was concentrated around four housing estates all with high black populations. Over 1,000 people were stopped and 430 arrested. 40% of those arrested were black which is more than double the estimated black proportion of the local community. A local solicitor reported that the number of "sus" cases he had to deal with doubled during this period. After the operation was over Assistant Commissioner Gilbert Kelland announced that similar operations were planned for Hackney, Dalston and Stoke Newington - all areas with a high national minority population.

Officers trained in SPG methods including the use of firearms are now attached to local stations. The SPG is being built up as a crack force within the existing police. To carry out their brutal suppression of national minorities and practice their military style operations in these areas, the state relies on racism. However, their activities and training are aimed at suppressing the sharp



*Riot shields used for the first time in Birmingham*

struggles of the working class as a whole against the reactionary capitalist state. Right now the black people are taking the brunt of their activities and are suffering racist special oppression. As racism intensifies so too does the resistance of the national minorities. Learning bitter lessons from past experience, the national minorities are spurning the opportunist line of reliance on the racist state machine of British imperialism - the source of racism and national oppression in Britain - and are more and more relying on their own efforts for self-defence. Scared that this self-defence movement will develop into mass struggles against British imperialism, the monopoly capitalist class has ordered its state machine to crush every manifestation of self-defence in a vain attempt to intimidate the national minorities into passive submission. This is the explanation for the special training and special operations of the Special Patrol Group.

## T TAIL BEHIND LABOUR

Tory both aim to bolster British imperialism, but their tactics will be very different. Thatcher will be more prepared to resist Soviet threats and Soviet expansionism. Soviet expansion and the military threat it poses to Britain is against the interests of the British working class and most of the capitalists. Labour's response to the threat was to appease the Soviet social imperialists. Such activities only encourage the expansionists just as Chamberlain appeased and therefore encouraged Hitler. Brezhnev is the Hitler of today. The Labour Party even has pro-Soviet agents in it as well. Thatcher will stand up to the Soviet threat. That is a good thing but we must always remember that whilst this benefits the working class, helping to maintain independence, Thatcher opposes Soviet imperialism for her class interest and we do for our class interests. We support measures that maintain independence but we must continue the revolutionary struggle for socialism. We must oppose Thatcher using the real threat posed by Soviet social imperialism as an excuse for increasing the use of repressive state machinery against British workers strengthening treacherous alliances with the other superpower or for defending British imperialism's vicious plunder of the third world. We must support

the struggle for a new international economic order being waged by the peoples and countries of the third world. We must support the people of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) in their armed liberation struggle. We know who Thatcher openly backs. We must support the people of Ireland in their struggle against British imperialism.

### FIGHT THE TORIES - DON'T RELY ON LABOUR

The Tory government will be a period of intensified class struggle. It is essential that working class unity is promoted to fight to resist the Tory onslaught in and political and economic issues but we must be clear from the start that our aim is to increase the fighting class unity of the masses. The Labour Party and other opportunists will make every effort to turn it into a bandwagon to put Labour back into office. They will even bring out their "left" face for the occasion. That diversion must be resisted. We cannot rely on future Labour MPs. We know their record. We can rely on one thing only - on our struggle, on our unity, on ourselves.

We must redouble our efforts to build our own working class party - the revolutionary Communist Party - in the course of resisting the Tory onslaught.



*Kampuchean soldiers in one of the liberated areas near Kompong Speu, south west of Phnom Penh. They control the road from the port of Kompong Som, making the capital only accessible from the air.*

# KAMPUCHEA PART OF A COMMON STRUGGLE AGAINST SOVIET EXPANSION

The struggle of the people of Kampuchea (Cambodia) against Vietnamese aggression, and Soviet social imperialist expansion has achieved much support from throughout the world. Only recently Vietnam tried to get the puppet government they installed in Phnom Penh accepted as a member of the "Non-Aligned Movement". 81 of the 87 countries involved rejected the move.

The Vietnamese have spread many lies. First they said that there was "merely" an "internal uprising" in Kampuchea. Recently they admitted that they had many troops there. Several times they have claimed to have eliminated all opposition, when in fact the defensive war of the Kampuchean people continues unabated. Most recently they claim to have defeated the Kampuchean Revolutionary Army and to be now engaged only in "mopping up" operations. Yet they have had to send in an extra 50,000 troops. They had to be airlifted to different towns because few main roads are open to the Vietnamese aggressors. Convoys are ambushed and cut to pieces. They claimed that the government of Democratic Kampuchea had fled the country, but the spokesman for the foreign ministry of Democratic Kampuchea refuted "this lying story" and said: "In reality the leadership of the Kampuchean people's liberation war is inside the country, and is engaged in

the direction of the people's war.

On April 16 - weeks after the supposed flight of the government - a meeting was called inside Kampuchea to celebrate the 4th anniversary of the defeat of US imperialism. The main speech was given by comrade Khieu Sampan, the President of Democratic Kampuchea. So much for Vietnam's lies.

The people of Kampuchea are fighting a struggle for the survival of their nation, and their right to self-determination. Furthermore they are in the frontline resisting Soviet expansionism and their struggle is of great importance to the world struggle. Not surprisingly they have received massive international support.

## LETTER FROM CPK

Recently the Revolutionary Communist League (RCL) received a letter from the external relations committee of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Kampuchea (CPK) which was sent on instructions by the Central Committee, and its Secretary comrade Pol Pot.

The letter is sent in appreciation of the many messages of solidarity and active support for the Kampuchean people from around the world.

For the benefit of workers and other revolutionary and progressive people in Britain, who have stood by the Kampuchean people, we reprint extracts below.

The letter starts by expressing "the deep and sincere thanks of the CPK, the government of Democratic Kampuchea, the people and the Kampuchean Revolutionary Army, and their respect for your spirit of international solidarity".

The letter condemns "the Vietnamese regional expansionists, supported by their masters, the Soviet international expansionists," who are "intensifying their war of aggression in Kampuchea." It warns of the "feverish activities that the expansionists are carrying out at present" and that "this war threatens to extend to other countries of South East Asia".

It goes on: "Our people and our Revolutionary Army are strongly encouraged by your support and your various actions to denounce the Vietnamese aggression, to demand the immediate total retreat of all Vietnamese troops from Democratic Kampuchea, and to defy the attempts of the Vietnamese and the Soviets to force us to recognise their occupation of the territory of Democratic Kampuchea and to legalise their criminal aggression by the recognition of their lapdogs in Phnom Penh".

The international significance of their struggle is also pointed out: "In pursuing a protracted peoples war to defend the continued existence of their nation, the sacred cause of independence, of sovereignty, of the territorial integrity of Democratic Kampuchea, and the right to decide themselves their own destiny and that of their country, our people and our revolutionary army are fully conscious that their struggle is just as much a contribution to peace, security and stability in this region and in the world".

The letter finishes in a militant tone: "Strengthened by the active support, by the encouragement, and by the sympathy for the peoples desire for peace, independence and justice, which has been given by political parties and mass organisations around the world, including your people and your organisation, the Kampuchean people are determined to pursue the struggle until final victory, which will be our common victory".

It is indeed a common struggle, against the common enemy of Soviet social imperialism,

# UNCTAD CONFERENCE OPENS

"Five years after the General Assembly of the United Nations approved in principle the restructuring of the world economy, a new international economic order has remained a pious hope and a mirage for the third world."

With these words the Tanzanian delegate Mr W K Chagula opened up the struggle on May 8th in the general debate at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The conference is being held in the capital of the Philippines, Manila. There are 3000 delegates representing 150 countries.

UNCTAD is an agency of the United Nations. The UNCTAD conference - this is the 5th - is always a major arena of struggle by third world countries against unequal international economic relations between countries.

In his speech the Tanzanian delegate was speaking not just for Tanzania, but on behalf of the "group of 77". This group is a bloc of third world countries who are working together to increase the strength of the third world in these international struggles. This group met in February and agreed on a common stand - the "Arusha" programme - that they would unite around at the UNCTAD conference.

Chagula condemned the "rich industrial countries" who were opposing progress in establishing a "new international economic order". He pointed out that in the present day world in which we are living, the rich are becoming richer and the poor are becoming poorer. "It is a world of massive unemployment, inflation and stagnation of menacing closures of access to markets of developed countries and of the international economic system of inequity".

He strongly condemned protectionism in world commerce: "...protectionism against the manufactured and semi-manufactured goods of developing countries has increased". This was "in addition to the worsening balance of payments situation of developing countries." This was a direct attack on those capitalists and their political frontmen in the imperialist countries who want more import controls as a means of increasing their profits at the expense of the people and countries of the third world. Such politicians, like Benn and the "Communist" Party of Great Britain, are true agents of imperialism. They always, of course, demand simultaneously the "right" to unrestricted exports from Britain to the third world.

Many calls have been made to the third world countries at the UNCTAD conference to increase their unity in the fight for a "new international economic order", and organise around the struggle to establish a common fund to stabilise prices of raw materials, to do away with protectionism, to restore the international financial framework, and to promote economic cooperation among themselves.

The Tanzanian newspaper *Uhuru* has called on the developing countries to carry forward the struggle by using "their natural resources as a weapon to change the present world economic order".

# INTERNATIONAL NOTES

SPAIN: Marxist-Leninist candidates won over 400 city council seats across Spain during the April local elections. The Marxist-Leninist candidates were put up on a joint platform by the Revolutionary Workers' Organisation (ORT) and the Party of Labour of Spain (PTE).

"We are very happy with the results in Madrid's 'red belt', where we polled 8% to 10% (1 in 10) of the vote," stated an ORT spokesman. In Aranjuez, the ORT won a quarter of the votes and took five seats on the council.

IRELAND: Workers in Ireland have been taking part in a massive campaign against the amount of income tax they have to pay. On March 20th 150,000 workers went on strike and demonstrated in Dublin. Smaller demonstrations took place simultaneously in other towns. On May Day, 20,000 workers marched again in Dublin. Many factories were shut down and flights from Dublin airport delayed by industrial action.

RUSSIA: The gap between what the Soviet social imperialists (socialist in words, imperialist in deeds) tell their people to be the truth and what the Soviet people know to be the truth is growing rapidly. Recent news reports exposed that the overall production targets set by the Kremlin tsars had not been achieved for January, February and March. These targets tell the workers how much work to do. Production targets, which must be met by law, are always being lowered but still remain unmet. Social fascist Brezhnev's response is to continue to exhort the Soviet workforce to work harder to increase the quality and quantity of goods!

A report carried in the Soviet paper *Pravda* admitted that the Soviet working people do not believe the lies fed to them by the social fascists any more. It said, "The fear of discussing the problems facing our society today, the tendency to smooth over and avoid unresolved problems, to blur real short-comings and difficulties are not compatible with the tasks today. No doubt *Pravda* is regretting the loss of support the people of the Soviet Union had for the Party and Government when under the leadership of Lenin and Stalin it was a government of socialism. Now Khrushchev and Brezhnev have restored capitalism, the people will increasingly oppose their lies aimed at denying this until these new tsars are overthrown.

Only in a socialist country like China will the workers work hard to meet and overfulfill realistic targets, because they know that they are working for themselves and their families, not their bosses.

FRANCE: In the run up to the traditional May Day demonstrations in France, the French police prepared for another show of strength. After the baton charge on the steel workers demonstration in Paris on March 23rd in which the police ran amok, the police were out to terrorize the French workers with force yet again. But the spirit of the militant steel workers was not intimidated. Young steel workers celebrated May Day by besieging the police station at Longwy in Lorraine holding about 100 CRS anti-riot troops prisoner.

Newspapers slander the workers as being responsible for breaking shop windows and looting to "justify" police repression. But in the riots of March 23rd, a man who was captured by trade union officials and charged with taking part in smashing operations turned out to be a plain-clothes policeman.

# CHINESE TRADE UNIONS SERVE THE PEOPLE

After the General Election, the Tory Government is preparing once again to attack workers' living standards and democratic rights in order to boost capitalist profits. While the Labour Government carried out the same policy using the opportunist trade union leaders as policemen to keep workers' struggles down, the Tories will try to put more legal restrictions on the rights of trade unions.

Both parties in this Punch and Judy act try to destroy the fighting power of the working class to squeeze maximum profits for the capitalist class. The job of all communists and workers must be to turn the unions into fighting class organisations, to prevent this.

But in China today, the unions are already fighting class organisations, in the forefront of the struggle for socialism.

There, all the important means of production are the collective property of the people, not the property of a small handful of capitalists out for maximum profits.

This means that workers have never to worry about plant being sold, closed down or moved. The socialist state guarantees work and job security for everyone. After consultation across the country, the state sets down a national plan of economic development. The production plan for every plant is discussed by the workers and established ahead of time. There are none of the speed-ups that bosses in Britain impose when there is a big contract to fill, only to start laying off workers a month later.

The leadership of the state and each factory is firmly in the hands of the working class. At each plant, the Party Committee directs the work and is the main instrument by which the plant's workers ensure they control their factory.

The Party committee is elected by the men and women workers who are Communist Party members. For instance, at the Shanghai Machine Tool Plant where there are 6000 workers, some 1500 are Party members. These Party members are the workers who are the vanguard of the plant and have shown this by their concern and devotion for the people's welfare and their ability to apply Marxism-Leninism.

While the Party Committee plays the leading role in each factory, the role of unions has become very important. Instead of being redundant under socialism, trade unions are greatly encouraged, so that in China today the great majority of workers - 99% - are organised in unions.

## NATIONAL CONGRESS HELD

In October, last year, the Ninth National Congress of Trade Unions was held in Beijing (Peking), and lasted 11 days. Unlike in Britain where there is a capitalist dictatorship, in China under socialism there is no big contradiction between the workers and their state. At the Congress, the 1967 delegates discussed the need to turn China into a modern socialist country by the end of the century.

When the "Gang of Four" were powerful, the trade unions were paralysed for many years. The All-China Federation of Trade Unions was completely forced to stop functioning for 11 years! Now the unions are playing a very active role in building a strong, modern socialist society.

They play an important role politically educating all of the workers, holding Marxist-Leninist study sessions as well as meetings to discuss the policies set down by the Party and the state.

The unions also allow the workers as a whole to keep a constant check on their leaders and plant management. The workers who are in charge of union



*Workers from the Shanghai Machine Tool Plant leaving the "July 21" Workers' College - a trade union run college attached to the factory which offers a wide variety of technical and higher education courses in machine tool engineering.*

work are elected by the workers in the shops and work teams hold regular meetings to discuss the work, new decisions, things that need changing or criticism of the plant committee's leadership.

After the victory of the October Revolution in the Soviet Union, Lenin said that the task of the trade union is to enable millions and tens of millions of people to "learn by their own experience how to run the state and industry. That is the only sure guarantee that the cause of socialism will completely triumph, precluding any chance of reversion to the past." In China this system is a reality of the present, vastly different to the situation here in Britain.

Besides educating the workers and drawing workers into managerial work and protecting democratic rights, the unions in China play a great role in taking care of the workers' material well-being, leisure and cultural activities. They help in running canteens and nurseries, organising sports and cultural events, and even helping in the family planning programme.

The trade unions in China are acting as fighting class organisations helping to build a strong socialist state which will benefit all the working people of China. While in Britain, the trade union leaders are cooperating with the capitalist class in holding back working class demands, in China, the unions are serving the workers and have reached a new stage of development with new and revolutionary needs to confront.

## NEW ERA BOOKS

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

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

### SUBSCRIPTIONS:

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

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