

# CLASS STRUGGLE

POLITICAL PAPER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF BRITAIN

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## SAVAGE EDUCATION CUTS SPARK RESISTANCE

Huge cuts in education are on the way after the budget which announced a £55 million cut in education spending. Councils throughout the country have drawn up their plans to cut school building, school meal provisions, nursery education and teachers. One authority alone plans to make 500 teaching jobs redundant and close 50 schools. On Merseyside 350 teaching jobs are threatened by cuts in nursery education alone. Clwyd in Wales is slashing £1.6 million from this year's education budget and will cut £3.2 million next year. All nursery education will be shut and school meal services cut by 10%. The potteries (Staffordshire) foresees cuts of around £4 million and will cut the number of teachers by 500. Throughout England and Wales alone 50,000 teachers face redundancy next year.

### WORKING CLASS WILL BE HIT HARDEST

The Government has demanded a 6.5% cut-back in education. But the effect on working class education will be far higher than this. In deciding where to make cuts, local authorities will not axe facilities to grammar schools. It will be the comprehensives that will suffer. Even then education is discriminatory to the mass of the working class, creaming off a few bright kids for special attention. The cuts will not reduce this special treatment for a minority of bright kids. If anything it will extend it.

While for the majority of schoolchildren class sizes will get bigger and individual attention less. The nursery cuts will tie more working class women to the home, and stunt the development of more working class children denied nursery education.

### FIGHT BACK DEVELOPING

A surge of opposition to the Government's public spending cuts is developing. In Cheshire on July 4th, public service workers, including teachers, struck for half a day to picket a council meeting deciding cuts of £19 million. On Merseyside mothers, with their children, picketed the Town Hall in opposition to proposed cuts in nursery education. This kind of struggle is only the beginning. It will certainly spread and become more intense in determination as the cuts bite. The opportunists of the so-called "labour Movement" are already jumping on the bandwagon with supermilitant speeches of opposition to Tory cuts. They seek to gear the struggle to the Labour Party and elections. But these latest cuts are a continuation of Labour's savage cuts in health and education. All class conscious workers must rely on their own organised strength to resist the cuts and expose those who want to use the struggle to restore illusions in the Labour Party.

## ZIMBABWE—THIRD WORLD STANDING FIRM Soviet social imperialists stab struggle in the back

Representatives of British and US imperialism are rushing around Africa trying to split the Patriotic Front and the African states, so they can recognise the Government of their black "Ian Smith" - Muzorewa. *Class Struggle* reported extensively on British and US imperialist aims a few issues ago (see Vol.3 No.9). The coming Commonwealth Conference will undoubtedly be a major area of struggle on this.

### SOCIAL IMPERIALIST SABOTAGE

In the above-mentioned article in *Class Struggle*, we also said, "At the same time we must oppose the different imperialist strategy of the Soviet social imperialists who claim to support the Patriotic Front. They are constantly working to bring the Patriotic Front under their control, so that they can rob the fruits of victory from the people of Zimbabwe. They have also manoeuvred to try and

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So far, the attempts of the imperialist have fallen flat. They were shaken, for example, when Nigeria threatened to stop all oil exports to the USA or Britain if either recognised officially the Muzorewa regime. Nigeria's ability to do this and sell the oil elsewhere is without doubt, given the present situation in the oil trade. Its determination was underlined a few weeks ago, when it cut off all oil to BP after BP used a tanker, which it had chartered from a South African company, to transport oil from Nigeria. Such actions by Nigeria show how even third world capitalist states, where imperialism has a lot of interest and influence can still play a major part in the struggle against imperialism, colon-

ialism and hegemonism. It is the fear of retaliation from such countries which has stopped British and US imperialism even officially recognising the Muzorewa regime (which incidentally showed its true colours by proposing an economic community with South Africa!) let alone sending in troops directly to oppose the liberation forces! Yet ultra-leftists in Britain, like the 'Communist' Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) and the even more 'Revolutionary Communist' Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) still claim that such countries can never support the struggle against imperialism! They ought to look up and see what is actually happening in the world today!

# SAS MURDERERS GO FREE!

Two Special Air Services (SAS) soldiers who murdered 16 year old Catholic John Boyle at a graveyard in Dunloy, Northern Ireland were acquitted by a no-jury trial on July 4th. After informing the authorities of an arms cache discovered in a graveyard, Boyle returned to see if they had been removed. Two soldiers of the shoot-on-sight SAS lay in waiting with blackened faces and shot Boyle in the back with high velocity rifles. Boyle's brother, Hugh, who was haymaking in an adjoining field, was arrested when he raced to the scene of his tractor. His father, Cornelius Boyle was arrested half-an-hour later. A concocted story was put out by the army that John Boyle was shot after picking up and aiming an Armalite rifle at the soldiers. Subsequent evidence and the post-mortem exposed the army's lies. Such was the boiling anger of the people of Northern Ireland, Catholic and Protestant, that the authorities were compelled to announce and stage a "trial" of the two soldiers.

## ARMY MANIPULATE TRIAL

Even a mock trial to allay public anger was hated and mistrusted by the British army top brass. The fascistic Emergency Powers (in force in Northern Ireland) were used to prevent a jury trial. But not satisfied with this, at a remand hearing of the case at the beginning of February this year, the Northern Ireland police and army collaborated to conceal the identity of the two soldiers. They were said to be two of seven standing.

At the trial itself, the so-called prosecution's chief witness, pathologist Dr John Press, admitted a mistake in his evidence of measuring the body. Although this did not change the essential facts that Boyle was hit three times, once in the back of the head and twice in the shoulder, the error was enough for the judge. Giving the SAS soldiers the benefit of the doubt, which was not given to Boyle or to the many Republicans imprisoned after a summary trial, the judge said, "Even though I find Bohan (one of the two SAS soldiers) untrustworthy" and his evidence "vague and unsatisfactory...the more heinous the crime, the cogent the proof." According to the judge, the pathologist's error "seriously undermined the Crown's case."

## REALITY OF ARMY RULE INCREASINGLY EXPOSED

"...any regime that has to resort to these kind of tactics to keep themselves in being cannot be right." These are the angry words of John Boyle's father. He has suffered a great loss at the hand of the British army's terror squad, the SAS. But this means nothing to the army and state top brass, who are only concerned with protecting the power of that state and therefore British imperialism in Northern Ireland. Not only are the army and other state agencies above the law - they are the law. The SAS has carried out many atrocities, including firing rubber bullets at a woman singing from a window, but this Boyle case is the first case against the SAS ever to come to court in Northern Ireland. And then the soldiers are acquitted. Protecting the authority of the state by protecting from criticism and legal control the most de-humanised soldiers in uniform, is more important than compensating Mr Boyle's loss.

This case, along with the shooting of a wild-fowler has increased contradictions in the British ruling class and Northern Ireland politicians.

Religious bigot Ian Paisley, in whose constituency Dunloy lies, has even come out and criticised the army. They are afraid that the increasingly arbitrary rule of the army in Northern Ireland is opening the eyes of the masses to the reality of state terror and repression. The Boyle family informed the police of the armes cache. That is why this particular case went so far in bringing the SAS to trial. But the army's repression, including the killing of 13 young men on Bloody Sunday, is more than just the death of John Boyle. It is oppression based on sectarianism and sectarian violence against the Catholic and Republican minority. It is oppression aimed at and built on maintaining the disunity of the working class. It is oppression to maintain British rule in Northern Ireland. It is oppression to deny Northern Ireland's right to self-determination and freedom from British domination. Our class interests lie in firmly condemning the oppressive rule of British imperialism in Northern Ireland and demanding immediate withdrawal of British troops. ■

## VIETNAMESE REFUGEES: Victims of oppression

Thatcher is quite right to put the finger of responsibility for the thousands of refugees, risking their lives to flee Vietnam, on the rulers of Moscow and Hanoi. Previously, the Vietnamese regional expansionists have tried to depict the boat people as rich capitalists running away from socialism with bars of gold in their hands. As if such a poor country as Vietnam has that much gold anyway. But now, this nonsense is totally discredited in the eyes of world opinion, they have had to make a propaganda sally saying the issue has been exploited to carry out a "cold war". At the same time, the Hanoi authorities in their newspaper *Nhan Dan* are trying to "reassure" the world on their humane intentions by saying that they are trying to arrange for their "safe departures". What humbug! Why should they leave in the first place, if they are not fleeing from oppression and discrimination by the Vietnamese authorities.

## CONDEMN THATCHER'S RACISM

However, Thatcher is wrong not to allow Vietnamese refugees, except those picked up at sea, to enter Britain. Thatcher paints them as a potential burden and resurrects her racist argument that Britain is being "swamped". She goes on to attack the 1½ million Commonwealth immigrants as having to be "absorbed". As if they had contributed nothing through their work and labour and diverse culture. In fact it is the vicious racism of the ruling class state and racist politicians such as Thatcher, Callaghan and Co which has helped the bosses screw bigger profits from employing immigrant workers.

In the past Britain has had a history of welcoming victims of oppression fleeing their country. Now, at a time when racism is being more widely used to split the working class and make a scapegoat of national minorities for unemployment etc, this is being denied. All class conscious workers must condemn racism to build the unity of the working class. ■

# LAWYER EXPOSES POLICE IN SOUTHALL

Mrs Gareth Pearse, speaking on the radio on behalf of all solicitors defending the 300 plus defendants from the Southall incident, exposed the calculated violence of the police in suppressing the anti-fascist demonstration. She pointed out that the image of Blair Peach's injuries being an isolated case of some kind of "maverick" police officer covered up the real extent of the police violence.

She instanced the flow of people who had come in to see the solicitors from the hospital. They included young children with head injuries, girls whose hair had been shaved to cope with head injuries, a man with a fractured pelvis, a man who had to have his testicles removed and a man with extensive and probably permanent brain damage. A house being used as a first aid centre - with a sign to this effect very clearly displayed - was attacked by police who repeatedly clubbed the people inside.

Mrs Pearse said that she was making her statement despite the fact that the cases were coming up in court because of the widely publicised statements by McNee and the Home Secretary. The Home Secretary's statement to Parliament was entitled "The Facts". It was incredible such a statement could have been placed in the library of Parliament without any use of the word "alleged" she said. Mrs Pearse's statement reveals just how much the bourgeois state is discarding bourgeois democratic norms of legal procedure and resorting to more open and violent suppression of the masses. ■

## Pickets protest detention under PTA

On Saturday, June 30th, Thomas McDonnell, a NUPE shop steward at the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, was picked up as he went on the Belfast ferry at Liverpool, after a week's stay in Bradford, and held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA)

On Sunday and Monday evening a crowd of between 30 and 40 people gathered to picket for two hours outside the main police station, the Bride-well, to protest against his being held. The Trades Council, which has a policy of opposing the PTA, sent its banner but little manpower, and people came from Warrington and Bradford to protest. On Sunday night, the shouts of "Free Thomas McDonnell! Repeal the PTA!" got a noisy response from inside the police station. On Monday, at 9.20pm, the picketers were told that McDonnell had been released and was already at the Belfast ferry, so they set off down to Pier Head to wave him off shouting "We freed Thomas McDonnell! Now repeal the PTA!"

Thomas McDonnell is another name to be added to the list of thousands arrested and held under the fascist-type provisions of the PTA. The protest is another reminder to the state that they can't put people away just as and when they like. ■

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# A WORKER'S NOTEBOOK

■ THE RACIST "SUS" LAWS WERE EXPOSED FOR WHAT they are when recent Home Office evidence to the Royal Commission on Criminal Procedure showed a "disproportionate number of arrests of black skinned persons" under Section 4 of the 1824 Vagrancy Act (or that part referring to suspected persons loitering with intent to commit an offence.) In fact, evidence reveals that out of 2,331 "sus" arrests in the Metropolitan Police district last year, 1,016 were categorised by appearance as "black skinned (including West Indian / African). When confronted by figures like these even the racist state machine cannot disguise the fact that racism and the laws on "sus" are a weapon used not only to divide the working class but to intimidate and brutalise black youths.

■ ON TOP OF THE RECENT PAY RISES FOR BRITAIN'S "bosses" we now see MPs clamouring like a pack of hungry vultures for pay rises of over £95 a week! The rises MPs are demanding and getting would take their wages up from £7,000 to £12,000 a year. Thatcher, worried about repercussions such massive rises would provoke amongst the working class recommended that the pay rises be delayed by being paid in three equal stages. But this has been kicked out. The same MPs will be lecturing the working class on "restraint" and raising their hands in horror against "high wage claims".

■ AT THE SAME TIME THAT BRITAIN'S "TOP PEOPLE" are enjoying the benefits of their rises Britain's pensioners are finding that they are increasingly being made to bear a larger burden of the crisis. A pensioner in the Midlands, 64 year old Miss Edith Cooke was forced to burn her furniture because she could not afford fuel. Neighbours and passers-by who saw the flames and went to her assistance discovered that she had lived for five years without bed linen, hot water, carpets or regular supplies of food. A passer-by commented, "I was stunned to discover that an old lady could live virtually like an animal in this day and age!" Miss Cooke's pension is £12 a week.

■ IN THE EUPHORIC PUBLICITY SURROUNDING THE DIS-missal of the "Conspiracy to murder" charges against Jeremy Thorpe not one comment from the media has been heard regarding the summing up of the case by the Judge. Justice Cantley lashed into two witnesses for the prosecution, Peter Bessell and Norman Scott. Mr Bessell, he said, was "sexually promiscuous" and therefore "a humbug". As for Norman Scott, well Scott was a "fraud, sponger, whiner and a parasite". Having destroyed Scott's character the judge added sarcastically, "But of course, he could still be telling the truth". Whether Thorpe is innocent or guilty is not the main question. The Thorpe affair is an example of the kind of squalid and corrupt practices that go on in ruling class circles. What is the question is the staggering preferential treatment that "important" people like Thorpe receive from the very same courts that deal so savagely with cases concerning blacks, Asians and ordinary workers.

■ THE BODY OF MR JAMES KELLY A 53 YEAR OLD WORKER OF Huyton, Liverpool, who died after being arrested by Merseyside police has been impounded following the results of an independent post-mortem. Mr Kelly's relatives refused to accept the body after a post-mortem arranged by the police two days after his death in police custody on the 20th of June. They demanded the independent post-mortem. Now that the results of this second independent post-mortem are known, a third one is to be carried out by both a Home Office pathologist and an independent pathologist. The police have refused to say why Mr Kelly was arrested. There seems to be a lot the police want to keep covered up in this latest death whilst in the hands of the police.



# THE WORKING CLASS MUST TAKE

(THIS ARTICLE IS THE SECOND OF THE THREE ON THE NATURE OF THE STATE)

The state arose because of the division of society into classes whose interests are irreconcilable. The state is necessarily an organ of violence against the oppressed classes - today, against the proletariat (the working class) and some intermediate strata. But this organ of the ruling class does not remain the same. Its form changes. The existence and division of society into classes gives rise to struggle and clashes between them in which the state organs intervene to moderate the conflict and keep it within "acceptable" limits or when necessary to crush the revolt or struggle of the proletariat. In capitalist Britain, the proletariat has won certain rights such as the right to strike and picket. These concessions have been won through struggle. Laws giving legal recognition to certain rights of the working class were necessary to satisfy the demands of the masses and to moderate the intense class struggle around these demands. The "recognition" of these rights, however, does not stop the bourgeois parliament from passing new laws aimed at delaying strikes or confining them, also in order to moderate and hold down the workers' class struggle.

As class struggle inevitably sharpens, as the continued existence of capitalism becomes more and more a brake on social progress, and its continued existence more intolerable to the masses, so the state uses and will use, more force against the proletariat. The Special Patrol Group is increasingly used by the police against picket lines and

*"...The public power (police etc - Ed) grows stronger, however, in proportion as class antagonism within the state becomes more acute."  
Engels*

demonstrations. The police are given more riot training; demonstrations against British troops in Northern Ireland have been banned from Trafalgar Square; increasing powers of arrest and detention through the Prevention of Terrorism Act; the immigration laws and in other ways, have been established. All these show that in the final analysis the state power of the bourgeoisie is based on violence and force.

## Bid to close clinic resisted

Angry women picketed a meeting of the Avon Area Health Authority recently, protesting at the proposal to withdraw the consultant ante-natal services from the Charlotte Keel Health Centre in Bristol. A leaflet they handed out pointed out the importance of clinics like this:

"We are very concerned at the threat to withdraw the visiting consultant obstetrician from Charlotte Keel Health Centre, and to transport women en masse to the Bristol Maternity Hospital. The health centre serves a depressed, inner-city area, with a high proportion of low income families living in poor conditions and with consequent obstetric complications. There are also many immigrant women, some with language problems, and all the women in the area appreciate the security of a local clinic. There is no public transport from Easton/St. Paul's to the BMH. This means that a woman missing the coach provided or having to collect a child from school would either have to walk or take 2 buses through the

## PROLETARIAT WOULD PREFER TO TAKE POWER PEACEFULLY

Karl Marx said in the nineteenth century, when Britain did not have a bureaucratic military machine, that a peaceful transition to socialism may be possible in Britain. This is not the case today. British imperialism once boasted that it ruled the waves, and still has a big military apparatus. The troops in Northern Ireland are holding down the revolt of the people. The ruling class will not give up its wealth, power and privilege without a fight. They are the first to put guns on the table.

The working class would certainly prefer to take power peacefully. But the possibility of this happening is extremely rare if not non-existent. No successful revolution in history, whether to overthrow slavery, feudalism or capitalism, has taken place without force and therefore violence with which the oppressed classes impose their will on the overthrown ruling class. In fact the success of the oppressed classes in doing this and so establishing itself as the ruling class is the only way to judge the success of a revolution. The fundamental question on any revolution is the question of state power.

## REFORMISTS CREATE ILLUSIONS IN PEACEFUL TRANSITION

*"Through the democratic transformation of society including the state, in all the stages of the struggle, democracy can be carried to its utmost limits, breaking all bourgeois restrictions on it, and creating the conditions for advance to socialism without armed struggle."  
Programme of the "Communist" Party of Great Britain: The British Road to Socialism.*

The bourgeoisie prefers to rule behind a facade of democracy for the masses who have the right to elect a "representative" to Parliament once every four or five years. This gives the impression that the Government of the country is the representative authority of the popular will. But this is an illusion and a deceit. The state structure is tied to monopoly capitalism by a thousand threads. So well entrenched is the power of capital over Parliament, virtually

Centre.

"We wish to point out that many of the women who now attend the Charlotte Keel clinic, often only through the considerable efforts of the Community Midwives, will feel unable to make the journey to the BMH or to wait all afternoon while other women are attended to, and that they and their babies will therefore be placed at risk..."

No doubt embarrassed by this show of militancy, the meeting put off the decision to close the clinic. First round to the women, but the fight is by no means over yet.

## HEALTH SERVICE CUTS HIT WOMEN

This threatened cut-back in pregnancy services would be bad enough if it was an isolated case, but in fact it's the same all over the country. A film made by the Spastics Society about the care of pregnant women, called "Feeling Special", revealed that in Britain the standard of care for mothers-to-be is worse than in any other Western country. According

# TAKE POWER BY REVOLUTIONARY MEANS

THE STATE. THE FIRST ARTICLE WAS IN *Class Struggle* Vol.3 No. 11)

nothing can shift it. If the working class does not succeed in returning a large number of genuine representatives of the working class to Parliament and they remain answerable to the proletariat, not the bourgeois state, there is still the state organs of the police and army who will disperse the Parliament if necessary; there is still the massive state bureaucracy built to serve capitalism and inextricably bound to it.

In Britain, the revisionist (capitalist dressed as Marxist) 'Communist' Party of Great Britain plays the most dangerous role of the reformist parties. Reformism is the dogma that it is possible to reform the bourgeois state into legislating socialism or serving the working class through Parliamentary reforms. The 'CPGB is the most dangerous because it dresses up its reformism as Communism and claim that it is based on the workers' class struggle. In theory, they recognise that the state is an organ of class rule. But they paint a rosy picture of the peaceful evolution of the state to serve the working class. The revisionists sew illusions that an extension of democracy will compel the police, the army General Staff, the courts and civil service to accept socialism and the power of the working class. This is backed up with talk about changing the army General Staff if they resist. The revisionists ignore or lie to the working class about the disastrous results of communist parties in Indonesia or Chile when revisionist programmes of peaceful transition were adopted. In both these countries, workers and leftist activists were slaughtered in a reign of fascist terror following army coups. In the 1930's, in Germany and Italy, the growing class struggle of the masses led by strong communist parties led to the same end. There can be no illusions in bourgeois democracy.

The first attempt by the proletariat to seize power was in the Paris Commune in 1871. The masses were armed. But because they didn't smash the bourgeois state apparatus and march on Versailles, where the bourgeoisie headed by butcher Thiers was preparing a counter-revolution, the Commune was crushed. Summing this up Marx concluded that it is not enough for the proletariat to lay hold of the existing state apparatus. It must be smashed and a new state of the dictatorship of the proletariat

to their research 4,000 babies in Britain die unnecessarily each year - and 10,000 are born with a disability they need not have had.

And with the Tories following Labour's example in cutting back health and welfare services, this situation is going to get worse.

The film revealed another fact which shows who suffers when the Government calls on "the country" to make sacrifices. It pointed out that twice as many babies of unskilled workers die in the first month of life than the children of professional workers. As the Spastics Society put it: "Social factors make the difference, not medical ones."

When capitalism hits a crisis, it's the working class that bears the brunt. The bosses live off our backs, and then expect us to pay when their system falls into decay. In the end, the only answer is socialism, but meanwhile we must follow the example of the women in Bristol and fight to retain the services we've got.

**MAKE THE BOSSES PAY FOR THEIR CRISIS!**

established.

## COMMUNISTS AND PARLIAMENT

The revisionists 'Communist' Party of Great Britain present the goal of the class struggle of the proletariat as to gain a "broad left" alliance between the revisionists and Labour "left" in Parliament. They have no faith in the militant and independent class struggle of the proletariat. At times of mass upheaval when the Tories are in power, they tell the workers that the main thing is to vote Labour at the next election. When Labour is in power, they call for reliance on so-called "left" MPs.

The attitude of genuine communists is exactly the opposite. Faith in the revolutionary class struggle of the proletariat and using Parliament (once a new party has been built and reached an appropriate stage of development) to arouse the proletariat to

*"It is essential that the party of the revolutionary proletariat should participate in bourgeois parliamentarism for the purpose of educating the masses by means of elections and the struggle of parties with parliament. But to confine the class struggle to the parliamentary struggle, or to regard the latter as the supreme and decisive forum of struggle, to which all other forms of struggle are subordinate, is in practice to desert the proletariat for the bourgeoisie."*

Lenin

even greater initiative in the struggle. Communist participation in Parliament remains under the guidance and discipline of the Party. The communist MPs serve the party and the working class, not the bourgeoisie and the bourgeois state.

For communists, participation in parliamentary elections is a tactic aimed at furthering a revolutionary strategy of smashing the bourgeois state machine, and establishing a real democracy for the masses protected by force against counter-revolution.

For the revisionists taking part in Parliament is the main thing. They spread illusions in the bourgeois state, and work to disarm the masses. Behind the words of "communism", they truly serve the bourgeoisie.



*Marx said of the Paris Commune that its mistake was that it did not completely smash the bourgeois state apparatus.*

# National People's Congress extends

On June 19th, the Second Session of the Fifth National People's Congress was opened in China and is still going on at the time of going to press. The Congress is reviewing the work of the Government and discussing a number of new laws.

One of the most important is the new electoral law, which will change the system of elections in China and extend democracy. In recent issues *Class Struggle* has carried articles on developments of democracy in industry, pointing out how industrial leaders from section leaders up to directors are being directly elected by the workers, and how the work of these leaders is supervised and discussed at shop floor meetings.

Similarly, changes will now be made for the elections to organs of state power - local government, middle levels and national government. We cannot in this article go into all aspects of the system, but we can give the basic structure and explain some of the main points.

## THE PEOPLE'S CONGRESSES

China is a huge country so it has Government organs at four levels. At the grass roots level there are people's communes and towns. Above this there are counties, cities, municipal districts and autonomous prefectures and counties. At the third level there are provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities. (Autonomous regions and prefectures etc are basically areas comprised mainly of national minorities). At the fourth and highest level there is the central state.

Deputies will be elected directly by the two lowest levels, in other words up to county and city level. The electoral districts - constituencies - are based on workplaces and residential areas. Previously, it was just based on residential areas. The new system strengthens the collective role of the working class. It also ensures that the people know the candidates better, that the deputies are in closer touch with the people, and that the people are in a position to supervise the deputies. Elections must take place every two years for commune and town level people's congresses, and every three years for county and city level. But beyond this all deputies will be subject to recall "for violation of law and discipline or utter negligence of duty." The "duty" of a deputy is defined as maintaining close contact with their electoral units, accepting their supervision and bringing the opinions and demands of the people to the People's Congresses and their Standing Committees as well as the People's Government. Any citizen over the age of 18 years, apart from a few proven counter-revolutionary agents who have been banned by law, can be nominated to stand as a deputy by the Communist Party, the democratic parties, the people's organisations (ie trade unions, women's organisation etc) or by a minimum of 4 individuals.

At the county level (and at the third level - provinces etc) the Peoples Congresses will elect a Standing Committee which meets permanently. The deputies to the full Congress will retain their jobs in the factories and in agriculture, and sessions will be called at intervals, when they will discuss major measures and laws and check up on the work of the Standing Committee. The People's Congresses will also appoint members of the corresponding Peoples Government right down to

the lowest official. All these officials will be appointed for the same period as the corresponding Congress - either 2 or 3 years - and they are also subject to recall at any time, by the people who elect them.

## INDIRECT ELECTIONS FROM COUNTY UP

Deputies to the provincial level will be elected by the Peoples Congresses at city and county level, not by ballot among the whole people. Similarly the National Peoples Congress will be elected by deputies at the provincial level. These deputies do not have to come from among the existing deputies at the lower level, anyone who has worked hard to serve the people may be sent. But why not direct election? It is because once you get above county level, the electoral districts would be so large that hardly anyone would know the candidate. Knowing the individuals is important in a socialist democracy because they are precisely elected as individuals who have proved themselves as working class fighters, who listen to and learn from the masses and want to serve them. It is not like Britain, where there is a choice between 3 or 4 bourgeois parties. Also with huge electoral districts it is impossible for the masses to check up on the deputies, and supervise his or her work. This would make it impossible to remove a bad deputy, or someone who has become a bureaucratic overlord.

The formal bourgeois democracy in Britain does not lead to the government working for the people. What is democratic about Parliament? It is a joke. It is a house of political swindlers. In China there is a real living democracy with the organs of state power in tune with the wishes and demands of the masses, and established to serve them not to serve a bunch of rich parasites living off the labour of other people.

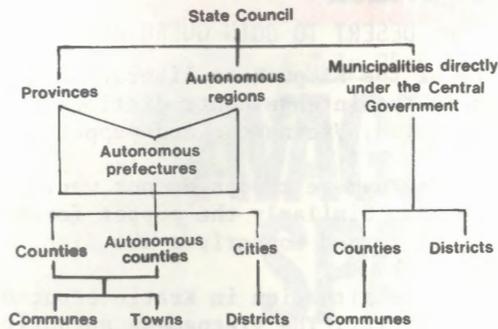
The two lowest levels of Peoples Congresses, which are directly elected by the masses, make up 90% of all deputies.

The new Chinese socialist democratic system is aimed at representing the will of the people and extending democracy. In the past too many people were appointed. The new system is also aimed at improving efficiency by having Peoples Governments separate from the Peoples Congresses with skilled administrators and accountants, whilst at the same time ensuring they are answerable to the masses and having them subject to immediate recall. The new system will be introduced on January 1st 1980.

The British bosses press claims that there is no democracy in socialist China. The system of Peoples Congresses combined with extensive democratic workers control of industry, thoroughly refutes their lies. What they are most upset about is that the Chinese working people exercise dictatorship of those who want to smash their democratic state and replace it by the sort of farcical and fraudulent bosses democracy that exists in Britain, and who want to go back to wage slavery, exploitation, chronic inflation and unemployment. That system may be fine for the bosses but the Chinese masses prefer their real socialist democracy, thank you. Similarly the new constitution puts the lie to the ultra-lefts in Britain who call themselves Marxist-Leninist, and who claim that China has been taken over by a new bureaucratic ruling class. No! China is precisely carrying through the struggle against

# democracy

THE RELATION BETWEEN CENTRAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT



*The State Council is the executive organ of the National People's Congress.*

the previous bureaucratic rule of the "Gang of Four"; and by ensuring greater mass involvement and control over industry and the state the Chinese people are making it more difficult for bureaucrats to entrench themselves in power in the future.

## ZIMBABWE - THIRD WORLD STANDING FIRM CONT'D FROM P1

split the Patriotic Front."

Now some details of Soviet social imperialist sabotage are coming to light. At the end of June a spokesman of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) - whose army, ZANLA, has done most of the fighting in Zimbabwe and who control vast liberated areas of the country - said that ZANU had given up trying to get arms off the Soviet Union. "We are not prepared to be humiliated" he added.

In February, the Soviet Foreign Minister, Leonid Ilyichev visited Mozambique, where he had a meeting with Robert Mugabe, the president of ZANU. He refused ZANU arms with the lying excuse that the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) - which constitutes the other wing of the Patriotic Front and is led by Joshua Nkomo - were doing most of the fighting. At the end of the meeting he arrogantly told Robert Mugabe that he should join ZAPU and accept Joshua Nkomo's leadership. This sounds like supporting the "unity" of the Patriotic Front, but in fact is making unacceptable conditions on ZANU. The Patriotic Front comprises two organisations - ZANU and ZAPU. Through struggle they have won a level of unity allowing a great deal of cooperation at this stage. But the Soviet social imperialists are working to split the Front by refusing arms to ZANU and demanding that it is disbanded!

In late February, the East German revisionist leader Hoeneker was also in Mozambique. He asked to see Robert Mugabe who was abroad. After comrade Mugabe had flown in, Hoeneker changed his mind and sent a subordinate to see Mugabe. The East Germans did the bidding of the Soviet Union and demanded that ZANU publicly condemn China, who had just counter-attacked against Vietnam. ZANU refused to be dictated to over this policy and the meeting broke up.

The Soviet Union's interference is shown in other ways. Radio Moscow has recently started broadcasting in Shona and Ndebele - the main Zimbabwean languages. Thus they pretend to support the struggle, but do their own propaganda to build up their influence.

But clearly the Soviet Union will not support forces fighting for genuine liberation and independence. They are only opposing British and US imperialism so that they can reap the rewards. ZANU has made it clear that it wouldn't be the lackey of anyone

# INTERNATIONAL NOTES



**SPAIN:** On June 30th, the 11th National Congress of The Spanish Workers' Revolutionary Organisation and a Special Congress of the Labour Party of Spain both closed. The Congresses made decisions to unite the two organisations into a single organisation.

The following day, 2000 delegates from all over Spain met in Madrid to mark the unification of the two organisations into the Spanish Workers' Party.

The Constitution of the new Party states, "The ideological basis of the Spanish Workers' Party is Marxism-Leninism enriched with the contributions of universal significance as made by Mao Zedong."

The declared aim of the new Party is to "lead the working class and the masses to the liberation from all exploitation and oppression and to the establishment of socialism by means of the dictatorship of the proletariat till the disappearance of all classes and the establishment of the communist society."

The new Party upholds the theory of the three worlds and says that it "will link the struggle of the Spanish working class and people with that being waged by the world proletariat and the oppressed nations and people at an international level against the two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, and against hegemonism and imperialism."

The Congress elected 90 full and 10 alternate members of the Central Committee.

**LATIN AMERICA:** Jaime Moncayo, Permanent Secretary of the Latin American Economic System (founded in 1975) said in Mexico on July 3rd that the Latin American countries are ready to bridge their differences and advance towards the speedy setting up of a Latin American Union - a community of free nations. This would enable these countries to unite to safeguard their common interests in order to enter into effective negotiations with the industrialised countries on an equal footing for the establishment of a new international economic order. He said that unless they united, the developed countries will ignore the opinion of the developing countries and transnational corporations will continue to dominate the future Latin American economy.

**JAPAN:** On July 1st, 2,800 people marched through the streets of Tokyo and attended a rally to protest the occupation of Japan's Kurile Islands by the Soviet Union and calling for their early return.

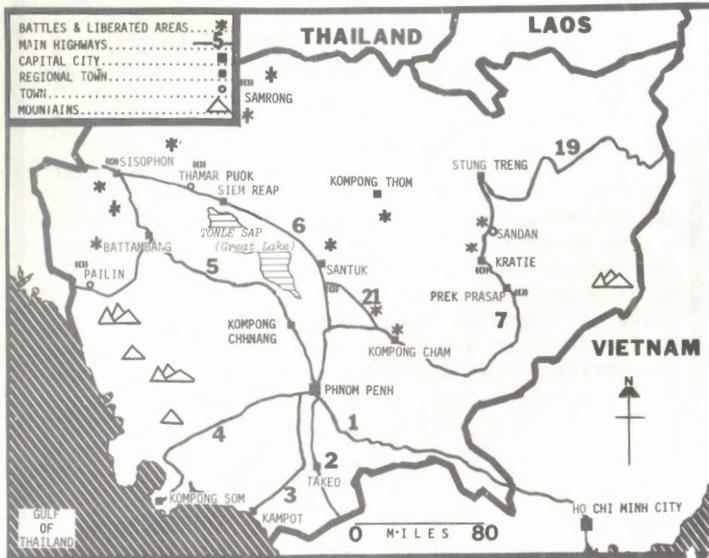
The Soviet Union has just begun to deploy its SS-20 missiles on the islands and is now regularly flying reconnaissance and intelligence gathering flights between them and Vietnam.

"We oppose any hegemonistic behaviours of the Soviet Union aimed at perpetuating its occupation of the northern territories and threatening the sovereignty and security of Japan," said one speaker. It was also pointed out that the early return of the islands also had a bearing on the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Asian and Pacific region.

**WEST GERMANY:** Following talks between representatives of the German Federal Republic and Somalia, West Germany has decided to waive a total debt of 340 million Somali shillings owed to it by the Somali Government.

This is an important victory for Somalia and for the third world. One of the demands of the third world countries for a new international economic order is for cancellation or restructuring repayments of debts.

# KAMPUCHEAN GUERRILLAS STEP UP STRUGGLE



SITES OF RECENT GUERRILLA ACTIONS & REVOLTS BY PUPPET FORCES SHOWN BY (■)

## CONSCRIPT TROOPS DESERT TO JOIN GUERRILLAS

The advance of the Kampuchean liberation fighters is linked to the intense contradictions facing the Soviet dominated, Vietnamese and puppet Kampuchean forces.

Many of the Vietnamese troops do not want to fight in Kampuchea. Similarly the puppet forces are made up mainly of forced conscripts who fight with a gun at their back.

On June 15th the situation in Kratie erupted into an armed conflict. The Vietnamese authorities executed a number of soldiers in the Heng Samrin forces. A pitched battle followed and over 200 Kampuchean soldiers fought their way out of Kratie to join the revolutionary army in the liberated zone.

On the same day 1,000 local people and conscripts in the puppet army rose in revolt in the south of Santuk county. They turned their guns on the Vietnamese troops, putting 50 out of action, raided the warehouses for arms, food and clothing and joined up with the guerrillas.

On June 20th in Prek Prasap county, just south of Kratie, 13 of Heng Samrins troops turned on the 10 Vietnamese they were with and killed them. They also went to join the liberation forces, and were followed by 320 local people.

## FIGHTING THROUGHOUT KAMPUCHEA

Similar events are going on in other parts of Kampuchea. In Battambang province, where the Vietnamese made big advances in the dry season, guerrilla fighting is intense, ranging from Samrong to Sisophon to Pailin. In one county of the province, Thmar Puok, members of 3 village committees, set up by the Vietnamese, led 150 residents to the liberated areas on June 5th. At the other end of Kampuchea, in the East, fighting between Kampuchean in the Heng Samrin forces and Vietnamese occupation troops has been reported on a number of occasions. Much of this has arisen as the families of Vietnamese occupying troops have been sent to the area to settle and colonise it, kicking Kampuchean out of their homes in the process.

Now that the wet season has come, the conditions favour the guerrillas. At the same time the Vietnamese are becoming more arrogant and their aims of destroying the Kampuchean nation and setting up an Indo-China federation under Vietnamese and ultimately Soviet, control are becoming more and more clear. Inevitably contradictions within their own ranks are becoming more and more severe. That is why, despite the aggressors' superior fire power, they are facing greater and greater difficulties.

On June 1st and 2nd Kampuchean (Cambodia) leaders of the guerrilla war against the Soviet inspired Vietnamese aggression met to discuss the situation and sum up experience. They recognised that during the dry season, when the Vietnamese invaders increased their occupation force to 150,000 troops and had good conditions to operate in, the Vietnamese aggressors had got the upper hand as far as the immediate military situation was concerned.

The Vietnamese troops were also far better equipped than the people's guerrillas.

However they also recognised that providing the Kampuchean Revolutionary Army and the guerrillas relied on and mobilised the people they were sure to win eventual victory.

A strong call was made to step up the guerrilla war.

The Vietnamese originally expected to destroy Democratic Kampuchea and ensure the complete control of the puppet government led by Heng Samrin which they installed within a month. Whilst they have occupied major centres of Kampuchea, they have failed in their aim. The bulk of the countryside makes up a vast liberated zone, where the government of Democratic Kampuchea led by Pol Pot, and the National United Front which it leads still retain complete control.

## LIBERATED BASE AREA IN CENTRAL REGION EXPANDED

In February Vietnamese and Heng Samrin's puppet troops were massed in Kratie and sent to "mop up" the northern part of the central region of Kampuchea (Kompong Cham and Kompong Thom provinces). They were met by guerrilla resistance and by early March forced to retreat to Kratie.

In mid May they tried again. This time not only were the occupying forces shattered, but the Kampuchean people launched a counter-attack. The liberated base area was extended rapidly southwards. On May 20th the northern part of Sandan county was liberated. Two weeks later so was the northern part of Santuk county. Major parts of Highway 6, 7 and 21 were brought under control, cutting vital communications and transport links of the occupying forces.

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