

# CLASS STRUGGLE

POLITICAL PAPER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF BRITAIN

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**Tolpuddle Martyrs Rally**

## MURRAY IGNORES FARMWORKERS' DEMANDS

Several thousand people attended this year's rally commemorating the fighting spirit of 6 farmworkers, imprisoned and transported to Australia in 1834, for organising a trade union. Like the Shrewsbury building workers and the 5 London dockers in the 1970's, these workers were victimised by the bourgeois state in an attempt to scare off the growing movement against capitalist injustice. A massive solidarity movement among the working class scared the same capitalists into "pardoning" the martyrs 2 years later; with up to 100,000 workers in demonstrations throughout the country, the ruling class retreated.

In contrast to these revolutionary traditions, the main speaker was Len (I'll soon be in the House of Lords) Murray. Murray never once mentioned capitalism or socialism, confining his address to an appeal against Tory Government cuts in education, health and jobs. Like any boss, Murray tried to conceal workers' exploitation by the capitalist class. "There is an attempt to make public expenditure into dirty words scrawled on the wall. It means having enough nurses, enough teachers in the schools day nursery facilities for the very young, and training for school-leavers and workers who must change jobs." As if capitalism has ever given priority to these things; "public expenditure" is first and foremost to ensure maximum profits for the rich. Our fight against Tory or Labour cuts is for the purpose of making the bosses, not the workers, pay for the bosses' crisis.

With the vast army of unemployed, hundreds of thousands on hospital waiting lists, rising prices and housing costs, the General Council of the TUC and the Labour Party try to make workers believe that they stand for something different.

But when workers struggle for justice independently of the misleaders, we see that they are just the other wing of the same capitalist bird of prey. Murray never mentioned support for the farmworkers' struggle - on £48.50 a week - they are pushing for £100. NAAAW President Hose found it "shocking" that senior civil servants got rises equal to the farmworkers annual wage - Is it shocking? It is the bourgeoisie looking after its own.

### DISCIPLINE

Murray was heckled by many workers, with relish he said opposition to the Tories had to be "disciplined" - the kind of discipline the TUC imposed on Grunwicks or tried on with the lorry drivers last winter in their "code of conduct". To workers the TUC's "discipline" spells defeat.

Cont'd on p3

## NORTHERN IRELAND



## TEN YEARS OF ARMY RULE

"...There can be no peace in this community while those charged with responsibility for "keeping the peace" are immune from prosecution for their deeds, including such reckless and careless behaviour".

This is a statement by Northern Ireland Republican Clubs councillor McDonagh. It was made following the shooting of a 15 year old boy and a 14 year old girl joy riding in two stolen cars. Such joy-riding by youth is a common occurrence in Northern Ireland, just as it is in depressed areas of Britain. In Liverpool it is notorious. To justify their shoot-on-sight policy, army chiefs claimed that the cars drove through three army check-points. Such check points are undoubtedly part of the British army's oppressive rule in Northern Ireland. But do they really expect people to believe that summary execution of the young teenage drivers is the only way to stop these cars. Clearly, so protected are the trigger happy troops from civil action, that the army top brass care little about what the people think.

### TROOPS TEN YEARS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

It is ten years since the Wilson Labour Government sent the troops into Northern Ireland. The "B"

Cont'd on p2

# Phoney Communists Misdlead Women

Throughout the history of class society, ruling classes have clung onto their power, not just through force, but also by exploiting differences among the people, ie, divide and rule.

Women have always been in an inferior position under capitalism. The bosses use them primarily as housewives, to reproduce and maintain a healthy workforce. Secondly, they form a very useful reserve army of cheap labour, who can be hired and fired as required, and whose existence and availability helps to keep all wages down. It's inevitable that women have fought back against this oppression. The state has not only tried to suppress this resistance, but also to divert it into harmless dead-ends. One of these is feminism (like Women's Lib, etc), which tries to convince women that men are the enemy, not capitalism.

## CPGB IGNORES CLASS OPPRESSION OF WOMEN

So where does the so-called "Communist" Party of Great Britain (CPGB) stand on this question? On the side of feminism, ie, the bosses! On the women's page of its paper, the *Morning Star*, it

## TEN YEARS OF ARMY RULE

Cont'd from p1

specials police had run amok terrorising Catholic areas and housing estates where the Catholic minority was demanding civil rights. So exposed to the world were the atrocities of the "B" specials, that the British Government were forced to disband them. The army was sent in as "peace makers" and many of the Catholic minority believed that the troops would protect them. This illusion was soon dispelled as it soon became clear that the troops were there to succeed where the "B" specials had failed to crush the struggle of the Catholic and Republican minority. Attempts by British Governments to impose a "political settlement" have failed one after the other. Each, in one form or other, has sought to maintain the rule of British imperialism in the north and the partition of Ireland. It is to maintain this division of Ireland that British imperialism practices discrimination against Catholics and Republicans and incites sectarian divisions in the Northern Ireland working class.

## BRITISH SOLDIERS- CANNON FODDER FOR BRITISH BOSSES

News reports at the beginning of August reported the deaths of two more soldiers. This brought the total number of soldiers killed, mostly ordinary working class lads driven into the army through unemployment, to over 300. Mrs Nellie Webster told news reporters in May of this year of how her son, who was killed in Belfast, was turned down for jobs 54 times. A former Royal Army Medical Corps major, Hugh Thomas, exposed how cases for compensation to families are deliberately "sat-on". "Payments" of around £100 are made. The British army is fighting an unjust war against the people of Northern Ireland and the troops deployed are so much cannon fodder to be used in protecting the interests of the British ruling class. Their role in Northern Ireland is presented as one protecting the "majority" and in the interests of the people of Britain. It is nothing of the sort. The troops are propping up British domination in Northern Ireland and their reactionary rule has brought reaction and increased oppression of the working class in Britain. The interests of the working class lie in demanding an end to this oppression and supporting the national rights of the Irish people to self-determination. That is why we demand:

**TROOPS OUT NOW!**

recently reviewed a "teaching pack for girls and boys on equal rights". This consisted of 18 work cards showing many ways in which women are oppressed under capitalism. But it's the last cards and the comments on them, that expose the bankruptcy of the CPGB:-

"The fact is that our government consists mainly of men, the vast majority of top civil servants are men, 80 per cent of local government councillors are men and men make and interpret our laws.

"It won't be until this situation is challenged and changed that the important issues raised in this pack will be effectively dealt with."

So it's not capitalism at the root of women's problems, it's all the men who are running the country! No doubt, with a Queen in the Palace, and a women in No.10, we can expect some big changes!

## Evidence of Kelly's murder clear

The case of James Kelly, a 53 year old builders' labourer of Huyton, Liverpool, has broken through the heavy press censorship and become a national scandal. James Kelly died after being arrested by Merseyside police. The police have refused to say why Mr Kelly was arrested. But the following picture emerged as relatives and eye witnesses were interviewed in the ITV television news programme "Granada Reports".

James Kelly was returning home from the "Oak Tree" pub in Liverpool. He was pretty merry after having several pints. A police car mounted the curb alongside him and police jumped out. Eye witnesses from neighbouring flats reported scenes in which Kelly was punched and kicked on the ground. Two lads who were said to have the "best view" by the TV reporter said they witnessed no such beating. But this can hardly be taken seriously.

An independent post-mortem demanded by Kelly's relatives revealed bruises in 30 places, a cracked skull and a lacerated toe among his injuries. The police claimed that Kelly had died of a heart attack. When asked by relatives how a tobacco tin and cigarette case had become so severely dented, it was explained away as resulting from a fall. James Kelly's false teeth were found later, broken in two places. Clear evidence of a diabolical police atrocity is mounting up. But the press keep quiet. The local newspaper the *Liverpool Echo* did not print a word. Even the so-called liberal *Guardian* kept quiet. The suppression of Kelly's case numbers with countless others of police harassment and violence, particularly racist violence, which must be punished.

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# MK LIGHTENING STRIKE

The Eley Estate Press Shop at MK Electric in Edmonton, north London was on strike for 2 days at the end of July. More than 50 workers went out of the gates on Monday the 23rd July, demanding that MK not sack a fellow worker, Cliff Payne. Cliff's only "crime" had been to defend himself when set upon by another bloke. But the bosses lumped both together and said it was a "fight". They sacked both workers, who appealed within the company for another hearing.

It was then that the workers at Eley decided to strike in support of their fellow worker. They knew from experience that once Cliff was sacked, the only recourse left was the Government's "Industrial Tribunal". These bodies are always partial towards the bosses. Even when they find in favour of a sacked worker, his boss only has to pay compensation, not give the worker his job back. And Cliff wanted his job back.

At the new company hearing the next day, the bosses stuck to their decision to sack Cliff. They used the excuse that he was still on "probation" within the company.

## OPPORTUNISTS THREATS

When the workers reconvened on Wednesday morning to decide whether to continue the fight or not, they were intimidated by the presence of the opportunist chairman of the senior stewards committee. She came down, not to offer help, but to frighten the workers into going back to work. And she succeeded where the company had failed. The workers went back to work.

Even though Cliff lost his job, some good lessons were learnt. First, company justice is only justice for the company, not for the workers. Workers will never get a fair "hearing" from the company. We can never rely on the company's "justice" and "fairness". Just as we can't rely on the bosses' state Industrial Tribunals for justice. And so the second lesson: workers are right to rely on their own strength and unity. We must strike while the iron is hot, not wait a few days or weeks to see if the bosses will reconsider. Third, we should not be intimidated by the opportunists who are afraid of a good fight with the bosses. When they come down from on high to tell us to go back to work, we should tell them to "sod off". If the opportunists refuse to lead our fight, then we must have new leaders who will.

The Eley Press Shop workers may not have got Cliff his job back but they and the bosses at MK know that when a worker is threatened by the company, his fellows will unite to defend him. ■

TOLPUDDLE MARTYRS

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## THE FIGHT BACK

Many people at the rally were seeking out answers to what is going on. Many hundreds took RCLB leaflets pointing out the need to learn from the revolutionary spirit of the Tolpuddle Martyrs for our struggles today. Many people listened to and applauded revolutionary songs from Britain, Ireland and many other countries sung by the New Era Singers before Murray and Co. arrived. As the RCLB leaflet pointed out "the working class needs to re-build its own revolutionary Communist Party to lead and organise its defensive struggles and the struggle for genuine socialist revolution in Britain". We need to re-learn the lessons from our history to strengthen the revolutionary workers' movement today, so we can dump opportunists like Murray and fight the capitalists without having our hands tied. ■

# A WORKER'S NOTEBOOK

■THE HYPOCRISY AND DOUBLE STANDARDS OF THE Labour Party were again revealed when Roy Hattersley, Labour's spokesman on the Environment, accused the present Tory Government of operating an immigration policy that was "a disgrace to a civilised society". In reply the Home Office stated that there had been no recent change in the application of the immigration laws. Hattersley has conveniently forgotten that the existing immigration laws were vigorously enforced by the last Labour Government - including virginity tests on Asian women and the right of police to detain without trial any person they suspect of being an "illegal immigrant". Hattersley's condemnation of the immigration laws is a condemnation of the racism of the Labour Party.

■SO THE REVISIONIST "COMMUNIST" PARTY OF GREAT Britain (CPGB) are to invite a delegation from "socialist" Vietnam to their annual conference this year. Although invitations have also been extended to the "legitimate" liberation organisations of SWAPO and the Patriotic Front the invitation to Vietnam is a calculated insult not only to the British working class but to the peoples of the third world. Undoubtedly Vietnam will grab this opportunity presented to them by the CPGB to renew its attacks on China and Kampuchea.

■UNDER THE THATCHER GOVERNMENT THE ATTACKS ON the living standards of the British working class continue. A rapid increase in inflation and massive cuts in public expenditure have coincided with not only huge pay rises for Britain's bosses and politicians but also with the announcement of record annual profits for the Gas and Electricity Boards, British Airways, the oil companies and many other businesses and industries. The Electricity Council for instance, whilst revealing that profits were a record £251 millions also announced plans to increase the price of electricity by 8% - on top of the 6½% raise of only a few months ago. Profits rise to record levels but hardships for the working class imposed by British capitalism to find a way out of their own crisis increase tenfold. Such is the law of capitalism in crisis.

■THE DEFEAT OF THE LABOUR PARTY IN THE LAST election has led to a rush of ex-Labour ministers attempting secure profitable places for themselves on the boardrooms of several notable companies around the country. Ex-financial Secretary to the Treasury for instance, Joel Barnett, has recently joined the board of Bodycote International. Bodycote are the owners of the Yorkshire textile firm of William Denby Ltd. who achieved world wide notoriety in the early sixties by locking out their workforce for 18 months. As a result they have been blacked by the Dyers and Bleachers Union, many of whose members lost their livelihood in the lockout. And people like Barnett have the nerve to call themselves "socialists"!

■DRUG ADDICTION WAS UP BY ONE FIFTH FOR LAST YEAR reaching the highest level ever of 4,122. The Standing Conference on Drug abuse further believes that the total number addicted to heroin, cocaine or morphine is up by four times as many. These official figures and estimates can only be taken as an indicator of true levels of drug addiction. It takes an average of two years before opiate addicts turn to the authorities for treatment.

Drug abuse is a product of the increasingly rotten rule of capitalism. It is peddled and encouraged as a "way out" of the "hum-drum" and horror of capitalist society. Such escape through drugs, however, is no way out. It can only bring greater slavery, just as opium was used by British imperialism in the 19th century to keep down the masses of the Chinese people.

# DUMP LABOUR - FIGHT

Labour's worst election defeat since the Second World War has triggered off a new charade of infighting. It's purpose? To restore illusions that Labour is capable of serving the interests of the working class and beef-up its lying "left" image. The last such phoney "battle" was at the time that Hugh Gaitskell wanted to remove Clause 4 from the party constitution. Clause 4 is nothing but a fig-leaf covering the clear record of Labour as a bosses party which even boasts that it does a better job than the Tories in serving capitalism. It states that the aim of the Labour Party is to transfer the means of production to those who "work by hand or by brain". In the early sixties Harold Wilson, Barbara Castle and Co were the darlings of the "left" opposition to Gaitskell. Now it is Wedgewood-Benn who is parading himself as a "left" champion of democracy. He is making loud noises demanding accountability of the Parliamentary Labour Party to the rank and file. Had the Labour Party won the election, this would never have occurred to him. But since Labour lost, it has become a convenient stick to beat Callaghan with in his bid for leadership. Benn's demagogy is no more democratic than Callaghan's bluster and bullying. He seeks only to assert his authority above the Labour MPs and the rest of the Labour Party by standing above both.

## REVISIONISTS BACK BENN TO THE HILT

Tailing behind the Labour Party as usual, the revisionist (capitalist dressed as Marxist) "Communist" Party of Great Britain have jumped on the Benn bandwagon. The CPGB, which once stood for proletarian (working class) revolution and led the working class

in class struggle against the bosses, now wants workers to seek salvation in a campaign for democracy in the Labour Party. They have adopted Benn's phoney demands for democracy in full. Labour has revealed itself as a faithful servant of capitalism in several increasingly reactionary Labour Governments. But this doesn't change the CPGB's repetition of the same tired slogans calling for backing for Labour swindlers only with a new "left" face. They even try to fool the readers of the *Morning Star*, the CPGB daily paper, that Michael Foot is capable of representing the working class by expressing naive surprise that he backed Callaghan against Benn. Foot was once a darling of the Labour "left". This served his ambition once. But he is now being replaced by new ambitious men parading as "left" wingers - the like of Heffer and Benn.

## FALSE FRIENDS - THE WORST ENEMIES

The likes of Callaghan, Wilson, Barbara Castle etc have long been exposed as lackeys of the capitalist class. They are spent as Labour leaders who can win the support of class conscious workers. Under their leadership the working class has more clearly seen the treachery of Labour in office. If the working class is to be kept within the orbit of voting for the bourgeois Labour Party new men who can revive Labour's "left" image are needed. This role is filled by the many Trotskyite and revisionist opportunist parties, as well as the new "left" leaders groomed by Labour itself. These opportunists, particularly the revisionists, who pose as friends of the working class in its struggle against a Tory Government are playing a role which serves the capi-

From our  
postbag



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## HEALTH SERVICE DECLINE IN LIVERPOOL

On Wednesday 11th July, Princess Alexandra officially opened the new Royal Liverpool Hospital, which has cost the taxpayers so much.

For weeks before, people working in the hospital were given the map of the route she was going to take (and the timetable). Cleaners had to polish the relevant corridors everyday for a week! Windows were cleaned only in the places she was going to visit by the window cleaners without the use of any safety equipment. Some of the cracks in the walls, which are already numerous, were hastily filled and painted over, in some places wallpaper had to be used. Posters saying "Beware of thieves" were removed, so as not to offend the royal eye. This left the more obvious dark margins on the walls. A smell of fresh paint was merged with that of fresh flowers which were hired specially for the day, and were carted away within an hour of the Princess' departure. The carparks were closed and ambulances rerouted.

### ROYALTY SMILES ON

So, she saw some of the new wards and the laboratory; talked to a few patients and staff; shook hands with many and smiled on.

What she did not see was the reduction of the many services that the people of the city have already suffered due to this modern hospital.

Cuts in the number of beds from over 2,000 to 720 have meant that within 3 months of starting work in the new place, the authorities were forced to open some wards in Liverpool's Sefton General Hospital for non-acute cases. Although there is an "on call" doctor, no doctor is available immediately for surgical emergencies. Patients have to be moved in taxis, because ambulances are not available at such short notice, and often - due to lack of staff - on their own with their own case notes. The number of nurses in Sefton General has been reduced too. Due to lack of numbers and acute conditions, teaching has been stopped - student nurses being the main source of labour.

### ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY IS A MIS-NOMER

In casualty, instead of a total of 25 beds from the 3 casualty wards that have been closed there are only 5 beds for major cases.

True enough, it has good mobile lights, a casualty theatre, X ray and resuscitation room. But what use is it if patients either have to wait in a corridor or in an extra room, until a cubicle becomes available. To get privacy for examination is impossible since patients have to be wheeled through to X-ray via 2 of the cubicles. The place gets chaotic if 7-8 patients come at once. It certainly can not cope with major disasters.

What the Princess also did not see was the lack of facilities in casualty for staff to make tea, etc, so other rooms have been converted. The doctors residence for the past year has been a converted ward without locks on the doors and where the bleeper system doesn't work well.

Neither did she see the letter from an ambulance

# CLASS AGAINST CLASS

"Opportunists are agents of the bourgeoisie within the working class movement. The opportunists prettify the bourgeoisie and try to divert the working class from revolution by depicting in glowing colours the charms and possibilities of the reformist path. The active people in the working class who adhere to the opportunist trend are better defenders of the bourgeoisie than the bourgeoisie itself...

Revisionism is opportunism disguised as Marxism. It robs Marxism of its revolutionary class content. Revisionism is the most dangerous enemy in the working class movement because it uses the name and terms of communism to deceive the working class, and it paves the way for aggression by Soviet social imperialism...

(Manifesto of the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain)

talist class in a different way to the Tory Party and Labour leaders. The workers' only weapons against capitalism and its crisis are unity and organisation in determined class struggle. Only socialist revolution under the leadership of a revolutionary communist party can win power for the working class. But the Labour Party and its revisionist backers preach reformism, class collaboration and the possibility of peacefully transforming capitalism into socialism. The revisionists serve the bourgeoisie (capitalist class) by working to prevent workers' spontaneous opposition to Labour treachery developing into class consciousness of how the Labour Party serves the capitalist class.

officer explaining that due to shortage of petrol (ie. no money to buy the petrol) the patients who were formerly brought to outpatients may not be able to come by ambulance.

I saw a lady of 75, with a stroke, having to go home in a taxi, which was a great feat of courage even with the aid of 2 people. It cost her £1.00 which is a lot of money for a pensioner. This lady was attending for speech therapy which is necessary but was not available near her home.

The story is the same for ante-natal care, which I am sure will go down, mainly affecting working class people. Some mums have to take 2 buses - which is expensive. But with another small child in the family, it is almost impossible, with no childminding facilities available either.

Liverpool doctor.

## Cuts hit the old and sick

Local authority cuts of 5% are planned for next year. What's 5%? It's 13,000 less residential places for the elderly and physically handicapped; it's 72,000 households losing their home helps; it's 4 million less meals on wheels. In other words the old and sick will suffer yet again; just as they do whenever the bosses try to shift their crisis onto our backs. They have to make economies? Well the Greater London Council can still find £20,000 to spend on restoring the annual chairman's reception. That £20,000 goes on people with dinner jackets as well as hot dinners.

### MILITANT STRUGGLE

Refusal by the Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham Area Health Authority to implement the cuts hit the headlines, when Jenkins the Government's "Health

### "UNITY" AGAINST TORIES COVERS TUC TREACHERY

In response to the row that has flared up between the Labour MPs and the Labour Party NEC, the TUC top brass have threatened to cut the purse strings to Labour. Very Good! But for what reason and can they be taken seriously. They say they want the maximum unity against the Tories and no arguments. Which just so happens to be Callaghan's demand. The choice seems to be, TUC unity with a Callaghan dominated Labour Party or with a Benn "left" dominated Labour Party. For the working class the choice is a bad one. The Labour Party is a bosses' party and class conscious workers want no unity with any part of it. In the struggle against the anti-trade union Tory laws, it is even more necessary to fight vigorously against those who seek to harness it to a Vote Labour electioneering chariot. When the CPGB was a revolutionary party leading the working class in defence of living standards and against bourgeois fascism, its slogan was "CLASS AGAINST CLASS". In upholding the workers' class struggle, the CPGB of the twenties and thirties had to fight suppression and victimisation by Labour misleaders and other opportunists in the trade unions. This is a clear lesson for militant working class leaders today. The struggle against Tory led attacks on the working class is also a fight to turn the trade unions into fighting class organisations in defence of workers class interests. Not to replace Tory servants of capitalism with Labour servants of capitalism. Yes! Stop union funds going into Labour's coffers in order to:

*STOP PAYING LABOUR TO ATTACK WORKERS.*

Secretary" sacked its members. A Commissioner will now be installed by the Government to enforce 5% cuts in the areas health facilities. Health work-



ers' unions COHSE and NUPE have declared that they will not cooperate with this local authority supremo. This is fine as far as it goes, but this example of Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham's attempted boycott has triggered off a campaign by "left" Labour and the revisionist GPCB to gear opposition to the cuts to lobbying "sympathetic" Labour councillors. This is part of making opposition to Tory cuts serve Labour electioneering. During the mass tenants' campaign against the Tory Government's Housing Finance Act in 1972-3, Clay Cross Council

refused to implement the rent increases demanded by the Act. Many of these councillors were summoned and told they must pay the revenue lost through their refusal to implement the rent increases. Did the Labour Party squash these fines once elected in 1974? Not at all! So the example of Labour Councils refusing to implement the Tory cuts must not be used to create illusions in Labour. The dismissal of the Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham Health Authority proves what rubber stamp bodies implementing Government and state policy they are. Only militant struggle which relies on the organisation and support of the masses can build a real fight-back against cuts.

# INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST MOVEMENT

Genuine revolutionary Communist Parties and Party-building organisations have been making significant victories recently around the world. Many examples show that the Marxist-Leninist vanguard organisations are strengthening their roots among the working class and people within their countries.

*Class Struggle* recently reported on the success of the Revolutionary Workers' Organisation (ORT) and the Workers' Party of Spain (PTE) in the Spanish local elections, in which they won over 400 seats. The significance of this is that these victories were based on a revolutionary communist line - not a reformist charade. The results show the growing maturity and strength of Marxism-Leninism in Spain.

*Class Struggle* also reported that on July 1st, the ORT and the PTE united to form the Partido de los Trabajadores d'España (PTE). That evening, some 7,000 delegates to the Congress and supporters celebrated in Madrid. The Central Committee of the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain (RCL) sent a message recalling how both parties were born in the struggle against fascism, and in opposition to revisionism (fake Marxism). The merger of the two parties, which already lead trade union organisations with a total membership of over half a million workers, will make the new Marxist-Leninist Party an even more significant force in Spanish politics.

This trend of Marxist-Leninist unity and development is by no means confined to Spain. Here, we can only give a few examples. At the beginning of the year, the Belgian organisation Communist Struggle (Marxist-Leninist) united with the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of Belgium (PCMLB). The PCMLB has brought out a new journal called *La Voix Communiste* - Communist Voice.

In April, the Communist Party of East Bengal (Marxist-Leninist) merged with the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of Bangladesh, after a long and principled struggle for unity. The Central Committee of the RCL sent its warmest greetings to the Unity Congress which was held secretly in Bangladesh. In part the message reads; "The people of Bangladesh are a great people with a rich anti-imperialist, anti-feudal history...the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of Bangladesh alone is uniting the whole people, first and foremost the workers and peasants; it alone can unfold the people's struggle against the superpowers and their agents in an all-round way and lead the national democratic revolution to victory."

Also in April, the two Communist Parties of the Dominican Republic, Linea Roja and Bandiera Proletaria, united to form the Partido de los Trabajadores Dominicanos (PTD) - the Dominican Workers' Party. The RCL sent a message to the founding Congress of the PTD saying: "Throughout the dark years of the United States/Balaguer (the local US-sponsored dictator) fascist dictatorship, the Dominican Communists proved themselves to be the fearless and competent leaders of the people. Tempered in struggle, you have integrated the universal truths of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought with the concrete conditions of the Dominican revolution, successfully combined legal and illegal work, and unfolded broad mass movements. Since the collapse of the fascist dictatorship you have created new opportunities to expand and broaden your work." The message hailed the consolidation of the two parties as "a major step forward in the glorious struggle of the Dominican people for national and social

## WHO WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR AMIN'S REIG

When the fascist tyrant of Uganda, Idi Amin, was kicked out by the Ugandan Liberation Forces, backed by sections of the Tanzanian Army, the people around the world rejoiced. So did the British imperialists and their servile press. But, although, the British press shed crocodile tears for the atrocities inflicted on the Ugandan people by Amin, their real reasons were quite different. In fact, they appear to have "forgotten" how he came to power, and what they had to say at the time. Well, just to show how two-faced they are, we will remind them.

### A BRITISH COUP

Amin came to power in January 1971 through a coup backed by the British intelligence service. At that time, the then leader of Uganda, Milton Obote, was giving British imperialism a rough ride. Many British companies who were continuing their plunder of Uganda's resources and milking it dry were being nationalised by Obote's Government. So, at the time of the Labour Government in 1969, plans were laid to overthrow Obote. According to a British intelligence agent, Steve Blunden, who was involved in the proposed coup, Amin was their first choice to replace Obote because "the British knew Amin well and... because he was the stupidest and the easiest to manipulate." However, Obote got wind of the plans, so they were temporarily shelved.

As Obote continued to defend his country's independence the plot was resurrected again under the Heath Government. At the Commonwealth Prime

Ministers' Conference in January 1971, there was strong opposition from African Prime Ministers against the British policy of selling arms to South Africa. As tempers frayed at a special meeting of Britain, Zambia, Tanzania and Uganda, after the British policy was described as "racist", Heath blurted out, "I wonder how many of you will be allowed to return to your own countries from this conference."

### BRITISH PRESS PRAISE "GENTLE" AMIN

On the last day of the Conference, the plot was put into action. With British backing, Amin seized power in Uganda, leaving Obote angry at Singapore airport. The British Government instantly recognised the new regime - even before any other African Government had done so. The British press set up a great chorus in praise of Amin. Ian Colvin - the *Daily Telegraph* expert on Africa said "General Amin a beefy, soft-spoken man of the Madi tribe, sets an example of restraint." The *Daily Express* had a front page headline: "THE CHAMP WHO ROSE FROM THE RANKS TO SEIZE POWER." Later, in December 1971, the *Daily Telegraph* published an article under the headline: "GENERAL AMIN: UGANDA'S GENTLE GIANT", which went on to show how Amin would support British interests, especially in Rhodesia.

The *Daily Mirror* was also lavish in its praise for Amin. On July 15th 1971, after Amin's visit to London it reported "A thoroughly nice man. That was the summing up in London last night after a three

# ADVANCES

liberation against the local reactionaries and the superpowers." The journal of the PTD is called *Unidad - Unity*.

It has also been announced that the Canadian Communist League (Marxist-Leninist) will be founding the new Communist Party of the working class in Canada in the near future. The Party's draft programme has been published and is being discussed widely.

## SUPPORT AND LEARN FROM THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST MOVEMENT

The RCL rejoices at these advances. To say that we consider them our own victories is a fact not a cliché. The communist movement, like the working class, is fundamentally internationalist.

These successes have been achieved through hard and principled struggle, always in the context of mass class struggle and the merciless fight against the ruling class, the two superpowers and their agents. They have been won through struggle against revisionist and opportunist distortions of Marxism, not through conciliating with them.

For our part, we must be determined to do more than just acclaim and support the victories of our fraternal parties. We must also learn from them. We must strive to make a fuller contribution to the struggle for socialism, to the struggle against superpower domination and war, and to the struggle against imperialism throughout the world. Revolutionary Communists throughout Britain must also continue to take part in a principled struggle to unite all Marxist-Leninists in a single organisation. These are some of the lessons of the international communist movement. ■

# N OF TERROR?

day look at President Amin of Uganda. He looks every inch the heavyweight champion he once was. But in conversation he was as gentle as a lamb. They liked him on political grounds."

## SOUR GRAPES

You can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink. As a leader of Uganda, Amin didn't turn out to be a servant of the British imperialists, and so he was attacked and ridiculed by British imperialism. This was not out of care for the people of Uganda - they put Amin in to attack the Ugandan people in the first place. It was out of anger because he did not turn out to be the puppet they wanted and indeed he also in some ways attacked British imperialism. His fascist dictatorship was also publicised in Britain in order to spread racism and get a section of the people to accept the lie that Africans are "incapable of ruling themselves". Of course, they conveniently had to forget that the Ugandan people were quite happy until the "civilised" British imperialists put Amin in. So, when the British press complain about this and that in Uganda now - or anywhere for that matter - remember this example. Don't trust them for a minute. We won't forget who was responsible for the bloody massacre of thousands of Ugandans. ■

Send contributions to *Class Struggle* to  
The Editor - CS; c/o New Era Books.

# INTERNATIONAL NOTES



**ERITREA:** Recently, the Soviet-backed Ethiopian military Junta launched a three-pronged attack on Eritrea in an attempt to crush the national liberation war. The 50,000 Ethiopians were officered by Cubans and backed with MiG jets

The Eritrean People's Liberation Front have just reported that they ambushed 8,000 Ethiopians, killing 2,500 soldiers and capturing a further 500.

The Soviet social imperialists are learning the hard way that it is impossible to defeat a just struggle and a people fighting guerrilla warfare. ■

**PALESTINE:** The colonial appetite of the Zionists knows no bounds. A bill in front of the Israeli Knesset (Parliament) is aimed at expropriating 87,000 acres of land in the Negev desert which belongs to local Bedouin inhabitants.

The Zionists plan to use the land for the construction of military airforce bases.

The Bedouin people will have no appeal and they will be "compensated" with less than two-thirds of the value of their land. Even if they got the full value it would not compensate for the fact that this measure will tear half of the Bedouin people from their land.

The Bedouins have already warned that they will forcibly resist this naked theft. ■

**CHINA:** In 1978 industrial production in China was nearly 14% higher than the previous year. This was exceptional due to immediate benefits from smashing the "Gang of 4". But even the 1979 plan is aimed at an expansion of 8%. In the last two years steel production went up from 20,460,000 tons to 31,780,000 tons (55%). Coal production increased from 483,000,000 to 618,000,000 tons (28%). 104,000,000 tons of oil were produced in 1978 compared with 87,000,000 tons 2 years earlier (an increase of 20%). Generation of electrical power went up from 203,000 million kwh to 256,000 million kwh in the same period (26% up). All these are important indicators of a thriving expanding industry, which is necessary to produce more for the people. Meanwhile decaying capitalist Britain struggles to expand its economy by more than 1%. ■

**PUBLIC MEETINGS**  
on the occasion of  
the 11th anniversary of  
the invasion of Czechoslovakia

**CZECHOSLOVAKIA  
AND  
THE SOVIET THREAT TODAY**

TUESDAY, 21st AUGUST, 8.00pm  
SMALL HALL, CONWAY HALL,  
RED LION SQUARE,  
LONDON WC1.

ORGANISED BY THE LONDON DISTRICT OF THE RCLB

TUESDAY, 21st AUGUST, 7.30pm  
COUNTY HOTEL, LIVERPOOL L1

ORGANISED BY THE LIVERPOOL DISTRICT OF THE RCLB.

# THATCHER'S 'NEW' STAND ON ZIMBABWE

From reading the British capitalist newspapers, it would be easy to think that Thatcher's speech at the Commonwealth conference on August 3rd represents an important change of position on the question of the independence of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia). Nothing could be further than the truth. In her speech Thatcher made 4 points:

1. The British Government is committed to genuine black majority rule.

*This is a lie.*

2. It is Britain's constitutional responsibility to grant legal independence and only Britain can do it.

*This is a whining complaint about the solidarity that other third world countries have shown towards the liberation struggle.*

3. The objective must be to establish independence on the basis of a constitution similar to those agreed with other countries who won their independence from Britain.

*Firstly this is intended to claim the "right" of the British ruling class to decide the constitution of Zimbabwe - it is none of their business! Secondly it is an open statement that the ruling class has the aim of continuing its economic plunder. Thirdly it is aimed at amending slightly the "internal settlement" - keeping its essence. Also by approaching the issue from the basis of amending the "internal settlement" it is an attempt to gain recognition of the "settlement" and of the legitimacy of Muzorewa's rule. In fact he is nothing but a puppet of British imperialism and of the white colonial rulers.*

4. Thatcher proposed that the British proposals should be put to "all the parties in the conflict" as soon as possible. And that "discussions" should be held alongside a ceasefire. *The real aim of Thatcher is apparent. She wants a ceasefire in a war which the white colonialists are losing. But there are other aspects of this fourth point. Smith has never been accepted at a conference by the Patriotic Front who have always pointed out that he could only be seen as part of the British Government's delegation. In the same way Muzorewa is a puppet and therefore can only attend a conference as part of the British Government's delegation. Thatcher is trying to present the British ruling class as an "impartial adjudicator" in a conflict between different forces in Zimbabwe. But in reality British imperialism is the main immediate enemy, and Muzorewa is only a convenient (because he is black) mouthpiece for British imperialism.*

## NOTHING NEW IN THATCHER'S STAND

Because Thatcher said that some "changes" would have to be made in the illegal constitution now operating in Rhodesia, the press is claiming that this is a change of stand. But is it? In June Lord Harlech went on a tour of the region on Thatcher's behalf. What did he propose? He proposed that the constitution be amended and that a conference between Smith and Muzorewa and the Patriotic Front be established. On July 3rd the "Voice of Zimbabwe" radio which speaks for ZANU stated: "The present British approach is to deceive the international community into accepting the Salisbury regime and frightening the Zimbabwean masses into submission! That was true then, and it remains true now."



*Demonstration by Zimbabwean youths about being conscripted into the Rhodesian Army.*

## THIRD WORLD STILL FIRM

Thatcher, though, is not doing too well at it. Nigeria, for example, laid into the British imperialists for their attempt to maintain foreign domination of southern Africa. The Nigerian Government has nationalised BP's oil interests in Nigeria and promises to hit British imperialism's economic interests even harder, if there is any attempt to recognise the Muzorewa regime or to lift sanctions. Such actions - along with the direct aid given by the frontline states to the Patriotic Front - show the continuing solidarity of the third world countries with the liberation struggle of the people of Zimbabwe. This support on such matters as sanctions is important, the main factor is the struggle of the people of Zimbabwe. After all successive Labour and Tory Governments have secretly aided the fascist rule of Ian Smith, and the sanctions are a fraud as far as Britain is concerned; and also as far as other imperialists, including the Soviet Union are concerned. Hundreds of British companies have subsidiaries in Rhodesia, including nationalised industries like steel and oil has always been sent. So have many other goods - mainly via South Africa. The question of sanctions and "recognition" of Muzorewa is more of a political question. The fact that "officially" Britain does not trade with its Rhodesian puppets or recognise the Government is a public demonstration that the people of Zimbabwe and their allies have British imperialism on the defensive.

## STRUGGLE CONTINUES INSIDE ZIMBABWE

Within Zimbabwe the British manoeuvres and the placing of black puppets in the Government has not deceived the people either. The struggle goes on. In June the Smith-Muzorewa regime announced that it intended to conscript more black Zimbabweans into its battered army. The regime is driven to such desperate measures because it is continuing to lose the war. Already more than half the black youths who have been forced into the army this year have deserted and joined the liberation forces! The white settlers know which way the wind is blowing too. 1,500 of them fled the country in May, bringing the total in the first 5 months of the year to over 10,000.

Thatcher and the imperialists she represents can wriggle as much as they like. But the writing is on the wall, and the Zimbabwean people are continuing to advance. ■