

# CLASS STRUGGLE

POLITICAL PAPER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF BRITAIN

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## CONFEDERATION STRIKE DEMAND NO SELL OUT!

At the mid-September meeting between the Confederation and the Engineering Employers Federation (EEF), the EEF again refused to meet the claim for:

£80 minimum wage for skilled men and  
£60 for unskilled

A 39-hour week this year with further staged reductions towards the achievement of a 35-hour week by 1982

2 days extra holiday this year

Instead, they proposed a "compromise" in two areas.

1) Drop the claim for a shorter working week and they would "consider" giving one day's extra holiday next year

2) Drop the claim for further improvements in the minimum wage for the unskilled and semi-skilled, and they "may be prepared" to offer a small improvement on the skilled wage.

What this "compromise" means is that the EEF has no intention of taking the Confederation claim seriously. The negotiations are getting nowhere.

So what was the Confederation's attitude to this? As you might expect, it was to back down even further. They modified the claim again, and are taking steps that will undermine the national strike.

### 35-HOUR WEEK SOLD OUT

On the claim, the Confederation has now dropped the demand for a 35-hour week by 1982, and is only putting the demand for a 39-hour week now. This is much more important than it might seem at first. It changes the whole emphasis of the struggle for a shorter working week. On the original claim, the emphasis was on a 35-hour week which was to be achieved gradually over three years. This was in line with Conference policy of most of the trade unions in the Confederation. Now the emphasis is on a 39-hour week as a goal in itself. It will become enshrined as the "normal" working week, just as the 40-hour week has done for the past 15 years. The Confederation is deliberately misleading its members when it points out that the 35-hour week has been dropped on the basis that further reductions will be part of "annual negotiations". We will see how many "annual negotiations" it takes them to obey their own Conference.

Cont'd on p3

## CHINA 30 YEARS ON



*Ours will no longer be a nation subject to insult and humiliation. We have stood up.*

On October 1st, 1949, Chairman Mao Zedong publicly proclaimed the founding of the People's Republic of China. The Chinese political forces that served imperialism had been defeated.

A programme of land reform was launched to abolish the feudal system. The people confiscated the holdings of big capitalists, but the state gave compensation to smaller capitalists who had supported the new democratic revolution. This had been promised earlier in order to coin maximum support for the struggle and to neutralise some of the enemy forces. By 1956, private industry, commerce and handicrafts had basically been transformed into a socialist economic system.

### CLASS STRUGGLE CONTINUES

But such steps do not end class struggle. Inevitably there will be people who want to turn back the clock, and there will be people who will pose as communists, who really want power for themselves, not for the people. Such people are enemies of socialism. Apart from this there are bound to be differences among

Cont'd on p8



Dear Editor,

It has been made very clear in both articles and letters in *Class Struggle* that the national leadership of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions (CSEU) do not want to struggle for decent minimum wages and conditions in the engineering industry. They have tried to sabotage the dispute from the word go.

In fact, Terry Duffy, leader of the AUEW, himself proposed the Employers' "final offer" of £70 skilled MTR at a meeting between the CSEU and Engineering Employers Federation (EEF) held on Thursday, June 7th! Duffy was hauled over the coals for this at the recalled National Committee of the AUEW held a week later, and at the National Conference of the CSEU held in Llandudno on June 26th. It was at that Conference that the campaign for national action was begun in pursuit of our very reasonable demands.

This Conference called for a full mobilisation of membership, instructing Confederation District Committees to hold meetings of both shop stewards and members. It noted "with concern the lack of campaigning for the national claim that appears to have become the pattern since the local bargaining for money has been introduced. While recognising that the issues negotiated at national level are less emotive, the need to campaign and move the rank-and-file into action is still paramount if the claims are to be won."

Yet, this resolution has been made a dead letter through the actions of the opportunist leadership of the unions involved. Most of the membership have never been allowed meetings to discuss and rally about the claim. When I approached shop stewards and the convenor of my factory about holding a meeting, I was told there was no need for one and that the District Committee of the AUEW didn't want any meetings to take place. The opportunist reason given for this was that if there was a

meeting then workers would want to stop taking industrial action. What a distortion of the truth!

At Baker Perkins at Hebburn a meeting was held not only backing the national action, but blacking products of the Baker Perkins Group where work was continuing normally - in various factories in Peterborough. I believe that Baker Perkins in Peterborough have now given in because of this action.

There are many examples of this throughout the country which are being kept away from the rank-and-file engineering workers. I have found some of it out through being a branch official in the AUEW, yet what chance does anyone else have. It is clear that by preventing democracy the union leadership wants to spread demoralisation and sabotage the strike action. They are trying to pose as militants while being viciously underhand and reactionary.

Finally, the leadership has tried to prevent an all-out strike, even despite continuing lockouts at many companies. They say that they haven't got the money for strike pay, begging the question of what they do with our dues. It is clear that they are scared of an all-out strike as we are capable of winning.

H. Newcastle.

Dear Editor,

Everybody knows by now that Duffy is just not interested in fighting for the Confederation claim - he was the first one to put forward the question of £70 for skilled men!

But Duffy is not alone in this - the EETPU leadership has also been working very conscientiously during the strike to undermine it.

In their first circular to shop stewards about the three 1-day strikes in mid-August, they emphasised the fact that members were not allowed to do more than the overtime ban and 1-day strikes.

In another circular dated September 3rd, it is reported that the National Industrial Committee for Engineering decided to propose that the Confederation "suspend any further industrial action after

## CHAPPLE CONDEMNS NUCLEAR OPPONENTS

In the latest issue of "Contact", the journal of the EETPU, under the heading FRANK CHAPPLE SAYS, is a paragraph:

"Who, in twenty years time, will accept responsibility in any western country for a shortage of power and its consequences because nuclear power stations were held up in construction?"

Another article, "The nuclear debate" by the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB) in the same issue states, "yet critics unrealistically demand more and more safety from the already very safe nuclear power, while accepting the ten thousand times higher risk of dying in a traffic accident!"

We know how "safe" the bosses make their factories. As safe as we force them through struggle.

Will Frank Chapple accept responsibility when our Harrisburg occurs? It is not likely, is it? To like a reactor accident to a traffic accident is glib sleight-of tongue which turns facts upside down. Such accidents are rare, but they have occurred and the immense devastation and long-term harm they could cause cannot be likened to a road accident.

The bosses will have their reactors made as cheaply as they can - we know that means that safety will be a low priority. It's profits they're in business for - not social conscience!

### NUCLEAR NEGLECT CONTINUES IN BRITAIN

The same construction firm that built the Harrisburg  
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reactor on Three Mile Island is now building a reactor close to the San Andreas fault in California - a place where earthquakes are known to occur. The local people are protesting. I wonder if Chapple would talk of accepting responsibility for a shortage of power if he lived nearby.

A point the bosses' press conveniently missed about Three Mile Island was that the United States Marine Midland Bank (which through various investments, directly controls the Three Mile Island reactor) has one of its directors, Willian Lyons, on the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, as well as the New York State Economic Development Board. Both these bodies are supposedly responsible for protecting the public interest in energy development decisions.

We can see what has happened in the States so we must be ready to take on the bosses, including their nationalised, state capitalist side, like the CEGB. We must also prepare to take on their representatives in the trade unions like Chapple.

We can't trust the bosses' good-heartedness to build safe reactors - they won't! Only under socialism, where the interests of the people come first can we know that reactors will be built as safely as they can be. Even then they will only be built when their safety is assured.

the 2-day strike on September 3/4th, so that negotiations with the EEF could be resumed."

The latest issue of the EETPU's paper *Contact* which is circulated to all the membership, came out around September 25th. That is more than six weeks after the beginning of industrial action - and yet the 16-page paper does not have one article on the Confederation claim or the strike. They make no attempt to educate and rally people around the claim.

Whether by openly fighting against the industrial action or by merely "neglecting" to educate the membership on the issues - the EETPU leaders in a variety of ways can be seen to be sabotaging the struggle, just like other trade union leaders.

It is clear that they do not want to fight for this claim.

EETPU Shop Steward

Dear Editor,

When my boyfriend moved into the flat that we now share, the rent was £10. That was in mid '77. It is now £16, and due to go up a further £2 in November. It does include a charge for "background heating" - but you have no choice about whether you use the heating or not, because you pay for it anyway. The heating ducts are infested with cockroaches - the best you can do is try to stop them getting into your flat. The rates are also included in the rent - and you should see what you get for your money round here! The streets are cobbled, some have a thin wrinkled skin of tarmac over the cobbles, and the potholes in them, and the unevenness of the pavements are a danger to life and limb.

Now we have been trying to get a mortgage. Because of the difficulty, my boyfriend asked in work how three of his work-mates got theirs. Two of them had had to offer backhanders - for the privilege of paying enormous interest rates! (The third who had owned a house before had to go through a rigmarole of moving into his mother's for a few months and then applying to the building society as if he was a first time buyer!)

Whether you're renting or buying you're getting robbed soft.

R. Liverpool

DEMAND NO SELL OUT

Cont'd from p1

LOCAL SETTLEMENTS

The Confederation has also started putting the emphasis on urging its members to seek to get a local settlement of the claim. To put this forward now is equivalent to admitting they can get no further nationally, and encouraging the break-up of the national fight. A few big well-organised sites may be able to get the claim agreed locally, but there is no way that the thousands of tiny little engineering shops up and down the country will have enough clout individually to win the claim. You wouldn't expect them to succeed when the big guns of the trade unions have failed nationally. The Confederation misleaders are almost certainly hoping that enough sites will settle locally to give them an excuse to call the strike off.

When you add all this up and include the fact that the Confederation is sitting twiddling its thumbs while thousands of workers from Lucas Aerospace, Rolls Royce and other places are being laid off and getting no money at all from the trade unions, there is only one conclusion you can come to: they want to sell us out. It is up to us to stop them, to intensify the struggle against the EEF as well as the opportunist enemy within our own ranks.

# A WORKER'S NOTEBOOK

■ THE PROFITS OF THE SEVEN MAJOR OIL COMPANIES rocketed in the first six months of 1979. The reason for this is couched in the seemingly innocent phrase of financial journals - "a general improvement in oil trading margins." In other words - higher prices. The oil billionaires cashed in on shortages and even worked themselves to create or maintain shortages. Here are the facts:

	1st half 1978 £millions	1st half 1979 £millions	% increase
Exxon	644.2	830.2	29
Gulf Oil	175.3	251.2	60
Mobil	248.4	391.2	57
Socal	232.1	353.0	52
Texaco	152.1	312.7	106
BP	206	622	202
Royal Dutch/ Shell	394	1328	237

■ MORE THAN 900 WORKERS FACE THE SACK FOLLOWING the decision of ITT Consumer Products UK Ltd to concentrate production of colour televisions at its Basildon, Essex factory. ITT are stopping production next year at the Kearsley factory near Bolton and at the Hastings factory. Speaking in a television interview a union official expressed "disappointment" at the decision. He catalogued a number of treacherous agreements made by the trade unions in exchange for a promise of keeping Kearsley open. 100 jobs were sold out in 1978. "Industrial peace" was declared with the union submitting a low wage claim and promising no strikes. The factory was exempted from the Confed strike. An ITT spokesman said "We've been very happy with things at Kearsley." And so they should be! They have got what they wanted without any disruption. This example exposes yet again the lie that "class peace" can save jobs. Only class struggle can give any promise of success. But the opportunists do not learn this lesson. In the television interview the union official said "I don't regret our methods."

■ THE GOVERNMENT HAS PUBLISHED A "CONSULTATIVE document" - Company Accounting and Disclosure - which proposes changes in the disclosure requirement of company law. While proposing to increase the disclosure requirements of larger companies (employing over 250 people), it proposes to reduce the disclosure requirements of smaller companies (employing under 50 people). Small companies will be renamed proprietary companies which will be exempt from some important disclosure provisions. They will not need to file a profit and loss account for public inspection. The "consultative document" even suggests that proprietary companies may not need to produce audited accounts at all.

Most of the working population work for such small companies. If implemented, these proposals will deny access by these workers to the essential facts showing how much profit their bosses are screwing out of them. They are green light for sweat shops and non-unionised firms.

■ GOVERNMENT SUGGESTIONS THAT £200 MILLION CAN BE saved next year by school meal cuts or increased prices have been dismissed by the Conservative-controlled Metropolitan Authorities Association and the National Union of Teachers as "impracticable".

£200 millions is half the cost of the meals service and to meet it there is no doubt other areas of education spending would be affected.

Schemes to reduce the number of free meals by 40% or to start snack bar services have been suggested.

*Nationwide* tried to present the cuts in school meals as a good thing for the children and that children will prefer the new "snacks". When the invited dietician pointed out that meat, potato, veg, and pudding was the most balanced meal on the table she was talked over by the interviewer!

# NATIONAL MINORITIES FACE ARBITRARY IMPR

Last year 1305 people on any one day were held in Britain's prisons without trial or sentence and without the right to bail on the grounds that they were "suspected" by the police of being "illegal entrants" under the 1971 Immigration Act. This figure of national minorities thrown into prison by the racist state because of their colour has risen from 811 in 1974. Periods in prison have lasted for as long as 12 months and, in 1978 alone, 187 people were imprisoned for more than three months. The *Observer* recently reported the case of a man who had been resident in Britain for 14 years who was held in gaol for 12 months. The number of national minorities in prison under the 1971 Act represents only a small proportion of those questioned and detained at police stations.

## RACIST STATE EXPOSED

*Class Struggle* continues to expose the vicious inhumanity of the monopoly capitalist state against the national minorities such as the bone X-Rays and virginity tests ordered by racist immigration officials. Readers will never forget the outrage perpetrated on 17 year old Abdul Azad who was cruelly beaten and imprisoned for three months as an "illegal entrant" by the racist police immediately after his mother had been found battered to death by unknown murderers. Almost a year later Abdul still faces the threat of deportation and has to report daily to his police oppressors. Cases such as this include the unjust deportation of Mrs Manju Patel and her three children, now penniless in India. Meanwhile, the Home Office employs delaying tactics in the hope that people will forget the short-lived "concern" and publicity of the capitalist press.

## HARRASSMENT OF NATIONAL MINORITIES IS AN EVERYDAY OCCURENCE

MPs are reporting that they are being asked to take up an increasing number of cases of arbitrary detentions and threats of unjust deportation. Nazim Akhtar, who was seven months pregnant, was detained for over six weeks at Harmondsworth. She had to be rushed to hospital in danger of losing her baby

She had been complaining for some time of feeling unwell but the Harmondsworth doctor uncaringly rejected her complaints. During her detention she was locked out of her room from 9am to 9pm and had nowhere to rest except on hard chairs. She was subsequently released for a limited period only because the Home office refused to accept her statement and that of her fiance that they were to be married. Akbar Dad Khan, a factory worker of eight years residence in Britain and deputy general secretary of the Standing Conference of Pakistani Organisations, was detained at Harmondsworth for 24 hours because immigration officials were not prepared to question him on arrival. Shemin Mohammed has been fighting for more than a year to stop the threatened deportation of her husband, Afzal. In desperation she has said she will abort

## Dictatorial Powers of

The 1971 Immigration Act came into force on January 1st 1973. Under the Act, all persons other than those defined as "patrial", that is, who has a right of abode in the UK must be a person; one of whose parents was born in the UK; or a citizen of the UK or colonies, one of whose grandparents was born in the UK or a person who has been ordinarily resident in the UK for five years or more. Thus all aliens and all Commonwealth citizens who are not patrial need permission to enter Britain. The Act's main function was to put the three million immigrants already in the UK and their relatives, as well as any potential immigrants, under strict control. The restrictions are aimed at maintaining a section of the working class under permanent blackmail.

THE ACT divides even British subjects and citizens of the UK and Colonies. Those who have UK citizenship by birth, adoption, naturalisation or registration have unrestricted "Right of Abode" to the UK. But those who - although British subjects, citizens of the UK and Colonies under the British Nationality Act 1948 - acquired this citizenship overseas and were not born to a citizen born in the

## POLICE PROTECT FASCIST TERROR

Any suggestion that the police aid and protect fascist para-military organisations and activities are vehemently denied. Last year a series of letter bombs were sent to Socialist Workers' Party (SWP) candidates during the election campaign, the "Communist" Party of Great Britain (CPGB) head-



Hyde, Manchester, 1978: Thousands of police protect NF's Martin Webster

quarters in King Street, London, and the Housmans and Colletts bookshops, also in London. Luckily no one was killed. Although some people were injured. These acts of terror were carried out by the so-called SS Wotan B which is part of the fascist para-military organisation Column 88. This is known to the police. In connection with these letter bombs two people have been arrested, one charged for contravening the Race Relations Act. The other was charged for being in possession of a bullet. And that's as far as it goes.

Manchester police chief Anderson has refused to invoke the Public Order Act (under section 2

# PRISONMENT

his child if the Home Office carries out the deportation. Immigration officials are openly racist with black visitors to Britain as well as returning national minority residents. West Yorkshire policeman, Istekhar Sheikh, was told by a Portsmouth immigration official, "Bugger off, we don't want too many of your kind in this country." 13 out of 60 Pakistani cricket supporters on a package visit organised by Pakistan International Airlines were refused entry. One was stopped because he could not explain in English what a wicketkeeper was. Zimbabwe-born student, Mabel Luza, is being deported although she has a firm place on an Office Studies course in Liverpool on the grounds that she does not have a firm place and her right of appeal was refused because her application was one day late.

## BLANKET RAIDS ON NATIONAL MINORITY COMMUNITIES

The Illegal Immigrants Intelligence Unit (IIIU) based at Scotland Yard, was set up in 1972 to co-ordinate information and blanket passport raids on national minority communities throughout the country under the 1971 Act. Few illegal immigrants have been discovered but many national minorities have been subjected to detention and harassment. These blanket raids involve police and immigration officers but are not aimed at any particular named individual that they are seeking. These raids have continued since the 1971 Act became law despite the untrue statements by both Labour and Tory ministers at the Home office that, "We do not use the police or immigration service for a general swoop." Fifty people from national minorities were detained at a police station after a raid on 10 premises on October 11th 1973 in London. 14 were kept overnight and subsequently released when relatives established their "right" to be in the country. On the same night in Camden 13 houses were raided producing no illegal entrants. In December 1975 and February 1976, the IIIU raided four garment factories and questioned anyone "foreign looking". In December 1977 homes and Bangladeshi restaurants were raided in Newcastle. 70 national minority people were required to prove their "legality" including 24 who were detained overnight and longer at the police station. One person, Rupa Ali, was held in prison for 42 days before being released. Community Relations Officers in Lewisham complained in 1978 of "dawn raids" by the IIIU in the area. These examples demonstrate the racist nature of the immigration laws which give the state sweeping powers to harass, arbitrarily imprison and unjustly deport Britain's national minorities. Class conscious workers must support their class brothers and sisters who are fighting state racism and struggling for civil rights for national minorities in Britain as part of the struggle to unite the working class against the bosses' attacks on the working class as a whole.

## THE 1971 IMMIGRATION ACT

UK do not have the "Right of Abode" and are thus subject to immigration controls. The Act creates first and second-class British citizens.

THE ACT abolished the system of "Employment Vouchers" which gave the holder the right of permanent settlement in the UK and created the new system of issuing "Work Permits" for a specific job with a specific employer. Work permits are initially issued for one year and renewable up to four years provided the job is available. This system leaves workers at the mercy of employers and prevents immigrants from gaining the right to citizenship after five years.

THE ACT empowers the Home Secretary to deport any person whose removal he thinks is conducive to public good or on security grounds. The victim has no right of appeal.

Every Immigration Officer is given power to remove any person who he believes is an illegal entrant into the UK. Immigration Officers and the police, are given powers to search any premises without warrant if they believe that any illegal immigrant is living there and can also arrest him without a warrant of arrest.

which gives police powers against para-military organisations) against SS Wotan B and Column 88.

### PUBLIC ORDER ACT USED AGAINST WORKING CLASS

The Public Order Act was rushed through Parliament in 1936 following the victory of the East End workers over Mosley's fascist in London's Cable Street. The police tried to force a path for the Mosleyites but were completely routed by the East End masses. The Public Order Act was supposedly directed against the provocative demonstrations of Mosley and other fascist parties. But infact gave general powers to the state and police to ban demonstrations and public meetings. The state is not neutral, it is an organ of class rule. Fascist parties like the National Front and Column 88 are terrorist shock brigades in the service of the rule of capitalism. The capitalist state and its organ the police protects its servants. Witness the example of thousands of police marching through Manchester escorting National Front leader Martin Webster while the Public Order Act was used in Leeds to ban anti-fascist and May Day demonstrations last year.

The experience of the working class proves that the capitalist state will not work in its interests.

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# SOCIALIST WORKER ATTACKS LIBERATION

*Socialist Worker*, the newspaper of the "Socialist" Workers Party has shown yet again its two-faced attitude to liberation struggles. An article on September 8th on the Constitutional Conference on Zimbabwe, which is going on in London now, correctly started off by exposing the intentions of the British Government. The Government is attempting to establish a neo-colonial Zimbabwe where there is formal independence, but where British and white settlers retain their economic interests and therefore real power. The article also pointed out that Muzorewa, who heads the Rhodesian Government, is just a convenient black face which covers up where real power lies.

But the stab in the back comes in the second half of the article, when *Socialist Worker* asks the question; "So why are the Patriotic Front participating (in the Constitutional Conference?)" and answers the question "It shouldn't".

## ATTACKING THE PATRIOTIC FRONT

The article goes on to attack the leaders of the two wings of the Patriotic Front, Joshua Nkomo of ZAPU and Robert Mugabe of ZANU. "Mugabe," it says with incredible arrogance, "is far less of a revolutionary than the Western media paint him". Well *Socialist Worker* is obviously "forgetting" a few facts!

ZANLA, the liberation army led by ZANU, has carried out a vigorous and heroic peoples' war to achieve freedom for Zimbabwe. The ZANLA fighters and the people of Zimbabwe have had considerable success. It is this peoples war that has forced the Smith regime and the British imperialists to seek desperately for a "new solution". That solution was to hide their continued rule behind a puppet Government of black stooges like Muzorewa. The aim of the imperialist is to win support from people both inside Zimbabwe and internationally who have so far supported the liberation struggle. Initially, this was not very successful. The support for the liberation struggle has continued. So now the Tory Government, following the same policy as the last Labour Government, has called a constitutional conference. It does not expect the Constitutional Conference to reach agreement. It has called it in order to try to appear "reasonable", and so to try again to isolate the liberation forces.

## THE PATRIOTIC FRONT NEEDS BROAD INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT

The Patriotic Front is well aware of this. The Patriotic Front knows that the main reason for their gains so far is the success of the liberation struggle. They also know that further success rests on continuing that armed struggle - which they are doing. But the Patriotic Front is actually making the revolution, which *Socialist Worker* is only talking about. So they are fully aware that leading the most conscious people in the armed struggle is not enough on its own. They know that the armed struggle needs to be backed up by diplomatic struggle. It needs to be backed up by strategy and tactics which ensure that broader sections of the people support the liberation struggle, and that internationally broad sections of the people including many Governments support the Zimbabwean people and not the British imperialists.

## DIPLOMATIC STRATEGY

That is why it has to show that the Patriotic Front is entirely prepared to negotiate a settlement pro-

viding it is a genuine transfer of power to the masses of Zimbabwe. By attending the Constitutional Conference it will expose the fact that the reactionaries have no genuine intention of transferring real power. If the Patriotic Front carries out its political and diplomatic strategy well, and that is what it is doing, it will be the reactionaries that are isolated at the end and not the liberation fighters.

The *Sunday Telegraph*, which is well placed for knowing the real intentions of the imperialists, has already carried an article pointing out that the British Foreign Secretary, Carrington, had expected the Patriotic Front to walk out of the first session. Carrington had calculated that this would win some support for Britain being able to recognise the Muzorewa Government and thus give more open and extensive aid to it. Carrington was most put out by the fact that the Patriotic Front has been able to turn the tables.



Patriotic Front leaders Mugabe (left) and Nkomo

## SPLIT THE ENEMY

The Patriotic Front has said it will compromise on non-essential points. Therefore, while it opposes special white representation in Parliament it has said it will accept 20% of whites. But it demanded that the whites' "rights" to block changes in the constitution for the next decade must be abandoned. As the Patriotic Front knows it has mass support and would win any free election easily, it knows it can change such points it doesn't like later. What was the effect of the Patriotic Front's compromise? The Muzorewa delegation promptly split. Smith has attacked Muzorewa. The enemy has been divided and weakened.

At the same time the Patriotic Front knows that the constitution is not itself the real issue. The real issue is how will power be transferred and who will control the army? Will the army be based on Smith's army or the Patriotic Front armies? By compromising on non-essentials the Patriotic Front is ensuring that the real public struggle will be on the key issues. It will be British imperialism and its puppets that become isolated in international circles and not the Patriotic Front.

This diplomatic struggle is not the main struggle. But it is essential for the Patriotic Front to win as broad support as it can to back up the armed struggle. And they are doing that well. They are also working to cause divisions between the British imperialists and other imperialists, between the British imperialists and the Muzorewa delegation and between different sections of Muzorewa's delegation. It all helps.

## COMBINE ALL FORMS OF STRUGGLE

So when, *Socialist Worker*, after attacking the

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Patriotic Front says, "But despite all this they have refused to lay down their guns. And it is through those guns that a genuine independent Zimbabwe will come about." (September 8th) *Socialist Worker* just shows its own ultra-leftism. It sounds so militant, but the point is that it is not only through the guns that a genuine independent Zimbabwe will come about. It is the armed struggle that is the basis of liberation, but liberation will only be won by correctly combining the political struggle, the armed struggle and the diplomatic struggle.

## ULTRA-LEFTISM LEADS TO BETRAYAL

But *Socialist Worker* goes even further. It makes its ultra-left analysis, which ignores the need to win even the most vacillating ally, even temporarily, to the side of the revolution. (This is a characteristic of all the SWP's work). But on the basis of that analysis it then proceeds to attack those who are actually leading and making the revolution. On September 15th, *Socialist Worker* stated, "The Lancaster House (Constitutional) Conference will seek to preserve the existing white dominated state machine in Zimbabwe in order to defend the interests of the multinationals." This is lying garbage. The British imperialists want that. So do Smith and Muzorewa. But is that true of the whole Conference? Of course not. The Patriotic Front are at the Conference not to sell out, but as part of their struggle to destroy the Zimbabwe state machine. *Socialist Worker's* ultra-leftism and criticism is in fact an outright attack on the Zimbabwean revolutionaries.

## SOCIALIST WORKER'S LYING ATTACK ON FRONTLINE STATES

But this is not all. *Socialist Worker* also attacks the front line states which border Zimbabwe. "Zambia, Tanzania and so on are in an economic mess. They need aid from Britain and America and so will help out pressurising the Patriotic Front... If (Mugabe) refuses to participate (in the Constitutional Conference) then Machel of Mozambique will deny him bases." (September 8th) On September 15th, *Socialist Worker* repeated the lie; "Their rulers (of Zambia, Tanzania, Botswana, and Mozambique) will put heavy pressure on Nkomo and Mugabe to come to an agreement with Muzorewa and Smith." Unfortunately for *Socialist Worker* many people in Britain are well aware of the enormous support the front line states have given the people of Zimbabwe. Food, guns, shelter and political and diplomatic support; all this despite economic pressure from the imperialists and armed attacks by Rhodesian troops. *Socialist Worker* wants British workers to join the imperialist's attacks on the PF and on the front line states. They do it by proclaiming "support for the revolution", but they are in bed with the main enemies of the revolution!

At the same time they cover up for the imperialists. Note how they talked of "Zambia, Tanzania and so on" being in "an economic mess", as if it was their own fault. Note how they say Britain and America is offering "aid". They are indeed in a mess, but it is not of their own making. It is because of imperialist plunder which *Socialist Worker* has "forgotten" to say.

Many members of the Socialist Workers Party want to overthrow capitalism. But the line of that Party is a line of posing as "the most left" but in reality betraying revolutionary struggle. The SWP road will never lead to socialism.

# INTERNATIONAL NOTES



**AFGHANISTAN:** The pro-Soviet puppet government in Kabul has been rent with internal feuding. In a palace coup, Prime Minister Tarraki was shot and replaced with an even more vicious thug, Hafizullah Amin.

This so-called communist's only link with the people comes through napalming, bombing and shelling villages with newly acquired Soviet helicopter gunships and T-62 tanks.

The 70,000 strong Afghanistan Liberation Front led by Sabagatullah Mojadedi controls most of the country. It is armed with rifles captured in battle and recently acquired its first tanks when soldiers deserted the government forces. They recently killed several Russian "advisers".

Moscow is so anxious about the safety of its quislings that it has just despatched a further 10 companies of troops to Kabul. Asian countries noted with alarm the increase in Soviet military manoeuvres on the Afghanistan border.

**CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC:** Several African countries have expressed their support for the overthrow of Bokassa, the former dictator of the Central African Republic. The new President Dacko denounced Bokassa's tyranny which included the massacre of hundreds of school children who were protesting about school uniforms.

He told the Soviet Union that it must stop shipping arms and ammunition into the country. Bokassa was a good friend of Idi Amin. Amin was also supported by the Soviet Union.

**LEBANON:** On September 21st Israeli planes bombarded civilian areas just south of Beirut. Syrian fighters counter-attacked and seriously damaged two of the aggressors. The rest were chased back to Israel.

**KOREA:** The US imperialists still continue their provocations against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by flying high altitude reconnaissance flights over the country. The newspaper *Rodong Sirman* denounced the violation of the country's sovereignty as "a planned military provocation aimed at disturbing peace in Korea, worsening the situation and leading to a dangerous stage."

**CHINA:** The influence of the Gang of Four remains in certain areas of China. People who have been unjustly framed and still have not had their grievances redressed have been told to go to Beijing (Peking) if they fail to be heard elsewhere.

**CANADA:** On September 1st and 2nd, delegates from all over Canada met in Quebec to found the Workers Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist) of Canada.

The Congress dissolved the Canadian Communist League (Marxist-Leninist) - the organisation that has fought for four years to build the party - to found the new organisation.

The Congress elected a Central Committee with Roger Rashi as its Chairman. It also decided to keep *The Forge* as its newspaper. *The Forge* is a good and lively fighting newspaper which is widely read throughout the country.

**KAMPUCHEA:** The International Red Cross and other aid organisations have said that it is impossible to distribute food and medicine to the sick and starving Kampuchean people in the Vietnamese occupied areas of Kampuchea. Heng Samrin, the Vietnamese puppet in Phnom Penh, refused visas for three Red Cross personnel. On top of this the new Vietnamese offensive makes distribution impossible. Meanwhile Red Cross officials crossed from Thailand into the liberated areas of Democratic Kampuchea, where the Government headed by Pol Pot has helped them distribute 850 kilograms of medicine and food.

the working people themselves that have to be thrashed out. Mao Zedong stressed that such contradictions among the people are different to the contradiction with the enemies of socialism. Differences among the people should be thrashed out democratically, on the basis of seeking truth from facts, and then the decisions should be tested in practice.

The Chinese people were well aware of the fact that the Soviet Union had degenerated into a state monopoly capitalist system. The ruling clique in the Kremlin pronounced that in the Soviet Union class struggle had died out. By such devices, backed up by purges and the use of the KGB, the new Tsars in the Soviet Union consolidated power.

The Cultural Revolution in China was launched in 1966 with the intention of preventing such a counter-revolution occurring there.

#### ULTRA-LEFTISM AND CAREERISM

During the Cultural Revolution though, other enemies of the people tried to seize power themselves. Lin Biao and the Gang of Four did not talk about the dying out of class struggle. They took an opposite line, but for the same purpose. They talked about class struggle and the dictatorship of the proletariat all the time. Differences among the people were treated as though they were differences between the people and the enemy. In practice it meant the suppression of democracy. Workers, peasants and intellectuals were punished if they disagreed with the views of the Gang of Four. Through such methods the Gang of Four worked to build their own power. To a certain extent they succeeded for a time.

At the end of 1976 they were thrown out of their positions of power. Their own corruption was exposed and the people reacted with mass celebrations. A weight had been removed from their backs.

#### LEARN THE LESSONS OF ULTRA-LEFTISM

But there are many important lessons and there was much that had to be put right in China. Unlike the Soviet revisionists who took power on the basis of a right opportunist line, the Gang of Four concealed their power-seeking behind an "ultra-left" line. Their attempts to seize power was smashed. But it is also extremely important to understand what is wrong with the ultra-left line, which confused many people, not only in China but throughout the world.

#### CLASS STRUGGLE IN A SOCIALIST SOCIETY

One lesson is on the question of class struggle under socialism. In his report to the National People's Congress last June, Hua Guofeng, the Chairman of the Communist Party of China stated: "While carrying out the four modernisations, boosting our productive forces and raising labour productivity, we must continue to wage class struggle economically, politically and ideologically in correct ways so that it will be impossible for the bourgeoisie to exist, or for a new bourgeoisie to arise...Both the view that class struggle has died out and the view that it should be magnified are at variance with objective reality at the present stage..."

#### THE DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT

Chairman Hua went on to talk about the dictatorship of the proletariat (the rule of the working class) The aim of the dictatorship of the proletariat is to protect the masses from their enemies and that means that it is based on a broad democracy. *Class*

*Struggle* (Vol.3 Nos.10&14) reported on the great extension of democracy in China since the overthrow of the Gang of Four. Hua Guofeng linked the question of the dictatorship of the proletariat with the pressing need to modernise China.

"The aim of the dictatorship of the proletariat is to safeguard the peaceful labour of our people as they strive to make China a powerful socialist country with modern agriculture, industry, national defence and science and technology. The present level of our productive forces is very low and falls short of the needs of the people and the country...Of course, in promoting socialist modernisation the ultimate aim is to realise the great communist ideal of "from each according to his ability to each according to his needs." I don't think there is any doubt on this score among the deputies present here."

#### MODERNISATION IS ESSENTIAL

The question of whether to put emphasis on modernisation was itself another major point of the struggle against ultra-leftism. The Gang of Four created a situation where anybody who worked to build up industry and productivity was attacked for "denying the class struggle." This caused havoc in industry. But the point about socialism is that it is superior to capitalism. Mao Zedong himself pointed out that socialism should lead to faster economic development. This is a central point for communists, because communists understand that the crime of capitalism today is not just, or even mainly, that the distribution of goods is unfair, but that it leads production into stagnation and periodic crises. We want socialism because only through socialism can production expand rapidly and thus lead to a better life for the mass of the people. The Gang of Four oppose this view.

Also, China is a very backward country. It needs to modernise. The process of mechanising agriculture for example is now making big gains. Since liberation over half a million tractors have been built. This relieves the immense burden on the peasants, ensures the people can eat better, and in the process eradicates small-scale production. In China this development helps to lay the conditions for continuing the struggle to eradicate feudal ideas among the peasantry.

Another very important reason for China to modernise as fast as possible is the real danger of a new world war, which is being fueled by the Soviet social imperialist's rapid escalation of their aggression against other countries. A strong China is not only good for China and its defence, but it is also good for world peace, because China is in the **front** line of the opposition to Soviet aggression.

#### THIRTY YEARS OF TORTUOUS PROGRESS

China has gone through many twists and turns in the struggle to build socialism. This is inevitable. As Mao said, "The road is tortuous but the future is bright." But after 30 years the Chinese people have many real achievements to their credit. Their conditions are vastly improved and power is firmly in their own hands. They intend to keep it there.

