

CLASS STRUGGLE

POLITICAL PAPER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF BRITAIN

Vol. 3, No. 4 - February 23 to March 7

fortnightly 7p

LABOUR AND TORY HYPOCRITES ATTACK HEALTH WORKERS



What hypocrites Labour and Tory politicians are! They shout themselves hoarse in opposition to health workers on strike blaming them for inadequate health care and loss of life. At the same time Callaghan and Co. carry out massive cuts in the NHS and Thatcher shouts, "its not enough!".

The health service workers are fighting for a basic rate of £60 a week. The low paid of the public sector are falling increasingly behind because of pay limits, and the Government exploits the responsible position of health workers to keep wages down and hours up. In the year ending April 1978, low paid manual workers' earnings increased by 11% compared with a rise of 12.6% in average weekly earnings. At present the basic pay of health service workers is less than half the so-called national average wage of £90. Among the lowest paid in the country, they are using the only weapons they

have - mass organisation and strike action.

The bosses' press would have us believe that they are carelessly risking patient's lives and harming children and the elderly. But have they been able to dredge up one bit of real proof of this? No! Despite the media's search for sensation and gore, all they can manage is inuendo and mud-slinging. And why? Because the health service workers have organized themselves always with the patients welfare at heart. These are the people who really care for you when you are sick - who care for you as fellow workers, without fame and fuss but with sheer hard work. And for that they are paid an insulting wage. The basic pay for a London Ambulance driver with 18 years service is £47.

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UNEMPLOYMENT - DISEASE THAT KILLS

T.V. programmes are nothing to write home about these days. There is the odd exception though - like a recent "World in Action" report. The programme dealt with the medical effects of unemployment in Britain, and some pretty awful statistics are now coming to light. A Professor Brenner has been researching into this in the U.S. for some years and has been asked to study Speke, in Liverpool; and Nottingham. His research method is widely acknowledged to be a reliable one. Basically it is an improvement on the important method used to show that smoking is harmful. Here are some of his findings:

(1) It is always the case that a rise of un-

employment over and above 3% is followed by a rise in the death rate after about two years. Suicides are affected much more quickly.

- (2) A 1% increase in unemployment results in an increase on mortality of over 2%.
- (3) The effects are general, but the old and the young, shopkeepers (who lose trade as areas decline), the low-paid and unskilled are particularly affected.

A doctor working in a large Nottingham hospital discovered that a consistent 40% of the male patients admitted are unemployed.

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RACIST STATE SUBJECTS ASIAN WOMEN TO

A wave of protests took place recently in Britain and Asia, denouncing Britain's racist immigration authorities for subjecting Asian women to humiliating internal examinations in order to establish if they were virgins. Official protests were made by the Indian Government after an Indian woman teacher, arriving at Heathrow to join her fiance, complained that she had been subjected to an internal examination by the immigration authorities because they suspected she was not a virgin. *Class Struggle* reported a year ago that for some time the racist state has been forcing dependents and fiances of national minority workers to submit to such degrading tests as vaginal examinations, and bone X-rays to determine age. Medical authorities report that there is no test which can conclusively prove that a woman is a virgin. These vicious practices are part of a racist campaign of increased harassment by the imperialist state to intimidate national minorities.

RACIST TESTS WILL BE CONTINUED

Labour Home Secretary, Merlyn Rees, issued a statement claiming that the tests had now been banned at Heathrow. No one should be fooled by this racist sleight of hand. When Alex Lyon was Labour immigration minister from 1974 to 1976 he banned these tests. He was sacked by Callaghan just before the cabinet "leaked" a bogus report to Enoch Powell purporting to "expose" arranged marriages to get round the immigration laws. After Powell gave his usual racist performance the Labour Government re-introduced the tests. At the same time as Rees' statement, a Foreign Office spokesman revealed that British High Commissions can require prospective women immigrants to undergo medical examinations while refusing to specify what sort of medicals. Three Indian sisters reported that they were forced to undergo internal examinations before being given entry certificates even though they had a letter

signed by the Home Secretary agreeing to their permanent settlement in Britain. National minority leaders justly denounce the racist nature of these tests and point out that they are not applied to white immigrants. Several Indian leaders have demanded retaliatory action by the Indian Government. They have demanded that all British women entering India should be given internals to determine whether or not they have VD. Imagine the shock and outrage in the bosses' press and the threats against India by British imperialism if this was ever carried out.

LABOUR PARTY RACISM EXPOSED

The Labour Party is a racist party. They quietly promote and enforce the most vicious racist laws and make a scapegoat of the immigration of black people for growing unemployment. This attempts to cover up the fact that national minorities in Britain are hit hardest by unemployment. In the 18 month period up to May 1975, unemployment rose 65% for the general population, while for the national minorities it rose 156%. While adopting a phoney anti-racist pose, Labour enforces racist immigration controls. In 1968, the Labour Government took away the right of entry to Britain for Black and Asian British passport holders. At the same time, not a word is said about the tens of thousands of Rhodesian white settlers fleeing from the justice of a liberated Zimbabwe. Labour is particularly proud of its record in enforcing the reactionary 1971 Immigration Act, which discriminates against Black and Asian immigrants and forces them to work for starvation wages or face the threat of immediate deportation. It also empowers the police to conduct massive military-style house to house search and arrest operations in areas where national minorities are concentrated. These operations are carried out under the spurious guise of seeking out illegal immigrants and many "suspects" are detained for several months before their release is obtained.

SOCIAL WORKERS STABBED IN THE BACK

Following a National Conference of NALGO (National and Local Government Officers' Association) on Friday, January 26th, social workers up and down the country will shortly return to work. Their strike has lasted for up to six months in some local authorities. In many cases though, they will be returning on a worse agreement than the one they originally had!

Social workers first struck, following a misguided call for local negotiations at the 1977 NALGO Conference (see *Class Struggle* Vol.2, No.20). Since that time, their justified struggle for regrading has been consistently stabbed in the back by their own union officials. The initial procedure to call strike action in NALGO is a long-winded one that has to be approved by an entire local branch. In NALGO, the branch membership is composed of all local government officers, including architects, solicitors, environmental health and housing officers, etc. Because of this the members are often quite unaware of the issues involved in another department. A majority vote for action is still unable to call members out until the Union Executive's "Strike Operations Committee" (SOC) has approved it. In this particular dispute, many branches that voted for action weren't approved, and the all powerful SOC often deferred branch requests from their monthly meetings, meaning that no decision on items was ever made. The SOC misleaders demanded that any picketing had to be approved by a full branch vote, and this

again meant a vote by union members who were not social workers. In the case of Liverpool, the national NALGO leadership then went on to rule that strike pay would be stopped if unofficial picketing continued!

When an offer that was concocted by the Local Government bosses and union officials was finally made in November, it was not based on the regrading claim submitted by the social workers. Instead, they were given a document that was very divisive in its nature and in the words of one director of Social Services, utterly unworkable.

The social workers were told another offer would be made two months later! To their horror and amazement, they found an almost identical offer being made. The Social Workers in most instances rejected the new offer, but were stabbed in the back by their Union Executive, who, determined to get them back to work, called a National Conference of all NALGO members. By agitating on the question of the high strike pay that the social workers were costing the union, and by dividing the union membership over an issue that was really only known to social workers, they ensured the strikers were out-voted by two to one, and called the vote a "great victory".

Social workers must now negotiate at Local Council level, to be graded in the new and divisive three-tier system. They go back to work however, well aware of the changes that must be made in their own union leadership.

VIRGINITY TESTS

Labour Party members supported the proposals of the Select Committee, so zealously taken up by the Tories, last March, that the police receive substantial increases in resources and powers to conduct these harassment campaigns as well as banning children over 12 coming to Britain with their parents.

OPPOSE ALL IMMIGRATION CONTROLS

Labour Party policy on immigration controls is designed to build up the myth that it is immigration that causes bad housing, unemployment and falling standards of living. It is designed to cover up the real cause of the working class's suffering - the capitalist system itself. The Labour Party tries to conceal the plunder of third world countries by imperialist countries like Britain, and by the two superpowers - which is the cause of national minorities being forced to emigrate. The RCLB opposes all immigration controls under imperialism because they are a racist weapon used by the monopoly capitalist class to divide the whole working class and undermine the united fightback against the bosses' attacks. The RCLB fights for the unity of the working class and therefore supports the right of national minorities to live and work here. This is part of the struggle for unity of the British working class with the oppressed peoples and nations of the world in their common struggle against imperialism - the source of racism, national oppression and all exploitation.

PRAISE FOR WOMEN - WHAT'S THE CATCH?

The *Daily Mirror* has discovered how wonderful the women of Britain are and ran a front and centre-page spread (8.2.79) to praise them. These articles are dripping with hypocrisy! The idea is to contrast the uncomplaining housewife who is also a wageworker with the men responsible for what the *Mirror* calls "the man-made crisis". In other words, the idea is to set us at each other's throats.

The *Mirror* highlights a woman who works in a factory, whose husband doesn't help much round the house, who does housework in the evening, is always there to greet the kids from school and get her husband's tea, and who never complains. This article is a disgusting con. It makes it sound as if individual heroism is all women need, not help with child-care and housework. What sort of job could a woman get in a factory that was between school hours of 9 a.m. to 3.30 or 4 p.m., and ended in the holidays? If the *Mirror* really had the slightest concern for women it would expose the facts about the work they are forced to take. But its concern is just a sham, part of the great barrage of propaganda the ruling class media have been producing to attack workers for struggling to defend living standards.

Women do work harder and harder in the "crisis", but not because it's "man made". It's permanent NHS cuts, not temporary disputes, that send ill and old people back to their families to be cared for by that elastic and unpaid resource - women. It's closure of nurseries and nursery schools through education cuts that effectively ties more women to the home. Women must support and join the struggle against the 5%, against making the working class pay for the crisis of capitalism. Fighting back - that's the sort of heroism the working class needs!

A WORKER'S NOTEBOOK

■ BOTH GOVERNMENT AND "OPPOSITION" FRONT-BENCHERS have tabled a host of amendments to wreck a Parliamentary Bill designed to give greater freedom of information to the public. One Tory amendment, for example, reads "insert 'shall not'" at the beginning of an important clause which would make Government documents of the past available to the public, while the Labour amendment would remove the legal right to see official documents from the Bill, and leave entirely to civil servants the decision about whether to hand them over at all. Again Labour and Tory, two wings of a single bird of prey, band together to conceal from people the shameful history of bosses' rule.

■ AFTER STRONG PROTESTS, the Hampshire police has stopped sending its cadets to South Africa as part of their training. This is likely to come as little comfort to the black people of Britain, who are systematically harassed by racist laws, whether or not the individual police officers concerned had the benefit of the excellent training facilities provided by the South African fascists.

■ THE COMMUNITY ACTION (CA) ORGANISATION AT EXETER University was met with official smiles and hand shakes until it set up the Exeter Information Centre, which deals with Welfare Rights Advice. Then it met nothing but obstruction. First the DHSS insisted that claimants had to give CA permission in writing to act for them. This seemed reasonable enough. Then the DHSS said they would not deal with CA over the phone. After this, the Department refused to write to CA at all; CA would have to write to them, enclosing a letter of authorisation from the claimant, and then the DHSS would write to the claimant, who could then go to CA.

All this served to make their work in helping claimants get their rights well-nigh impossible. The State doesn't mind people having rights, as long as they don't try and exercise them.

■ *NEWSLETTER*, published by the Indian Workers' Association (GB) carried the following exposure of state racism:

"An Asian worker and his family have been peacefully living in a quiet avenue in Berking for some years now (name and address supplied to Newsletter). Nearby, there is an Indian shop whose windows have been regularly broken by a local gang of racist hooligans who have also been involved in several physical assaults on Asians outside Berking Station. As is usual the local police have refused to do anything about this.

On January 16th, the Asian in question accompanied his shop-keeper friend to Berking Police Station to complain about the racist attacks on the shop and to ask for protection. The officer he talked to was a PC Ingham.

Starting from January 17th, the Asian worker's house also became a target for attacks - the windows at the front of the house have been smashed.

Coincidence?

■ OPIUM FOR THE PEOPLE? IN A WIDELY PUBLICISED sermon on February 11th, the Archbishop of Canterbury made a sharp attack on the Trade Union movement, and on "excessive" wage demands and wages "out of all proportion to the work done". The Archbishop is on a "wage" of £9,628 a year, that's £186 a week. He gets free accommodation etc. He is also chairman of the Church Commissioners, one of Britain's largest landlords. They hold £300 million worth of shares, and made £46 million on their investments last year. He himself forces up rent levels and then condemns workers for trying to increase their incomes to meet his demands!

"CONCORDAT"—LABOUR AND T.U.C. UNITE TO

The TUC misleaders have again run rough-shod over the demands and interests of the working class and entered into another open agreement with the Government of Labour traitors. They call it a concordat and name the agreement "The Economy, the Government and Trade Union responsibilities". It doesn't matter in the least to the Barons of the TUC that there was a mass revolt against the former "Social Contract" which forced the TUC congress in 1977 to renounce it. In fact it is now clear that the TUC council has only been biding its time, hoping memories will be short, before shackling the trade unions with another pact with the bosses and their Government.

BOSSSES' PRESS PLAY DOWN CONCORDAT'S SIGNIFICANCE

This "concordat" shows just how much the TUC stand against the latest upsurge in mass struggle for a living wage. The Ford workers struck while the iron was still hot and didn't wait for the existing agreement to end. They quickly swept aside the 5% by doing so. The "concordat" calls for sticking to existing agreements.

Lorry drivers in their militant struggle carried out strong and effective picketing of goods depots and won a good victory securing in some places the whole claim of £65 for a 35 hour week. The "concordat" seeks to tie the hands of workers by demanding picketing be restricted to the company in dispute. Permission for "secondary picketing" has to be given by a union official who is expected to take into account the interests of "other affiliated unions". This is not aimed at overcoming or preventing inter-union disputes. It is aimed at smothering the interests of the workers' mass struggle.

Class Struggle aims at supporting and giving a lead to the every day struggles of the working class against economic and political oppression. In doing this it welcomes every victory won, no matter how small. But a short item in "A Worker's Notebook" of *Class Struggle* issue Vol.3 No.2 on the victory of Mrs Gordon who forced council officials into rehousing her by holding them in her damp, woodlouse infested flat in Harold Hill, Essex; failed to support this tenant's struggle.

A letter received from Ellen Luby of the Camden United Tenants Association has sharply criticised this item as taking "a supercilious attitude towards this working class woman's action". This is a correct criticism of the article which says her action "is no solution for the thousands of other people throughout Britain who are homeless or in sub-standard accommodation".

Ellen Luby went on to say that such statements are really diabolical:

"What do you expect Mrs Gordon to do for all these thousands of people? What this woman did took a lot of guts, and lots of people said, 'Three Cheers!' It made people take notice who'd never discussed tenants' affairs before."

Class Struggle welcomes Ellen Luby's criticism which exposes an error of intellectualism in reporting Mrs Gordon's militant struggle and some divorce from the demands of tenants struggling for decent housing. It is true that the most effective struggle of tenants and homeless people is united struggle and that a communist party is needed to successfully lead such mass struggles. But this is not aided by adopting a superior attitude to the spontaneous struggles of individual tenants. Learning from Mrs Gordon's spirit of militant class struggle is indeed the way to encourage the very development of such a militant mass tenants movement.

gle with procedure. The "concordat" makes things even more difficult for public service workers. While stopping short of removing their right to strike, which is demanded by Thatcher, the agreement asserts that the establishment of a negotiating machinery and "possibly comparability studies", "would do away with strikes affecting public health and safety". This is the same as saying if such committees were set up, the public service workers would have no moral right to strike. Clearly such committees are just a fig leaf to cover low pay in the public sector.

Thatcher greeted the announcement of the "concordat" with derision calling it a "boneless wonder". The bourgeois (capitalist) press have treated it in the same way. But this must not be taken seriously by class conscious workers. It is allowing the "concordat" to pass without criticism and lulling the working class into a false sense of security. The "concordat" is an alliance which is preparing the ground for a more permanent incorporation of the trade unions into the state. This strengthens the capitalist state against the working class.

In the immediate future the TUC's formal alliance with the Labour Government is aimed at strengthening Callaghan's chances in the next General Election

BLACKLISTING EXPOSED

Blacklisting is a weapon the bosses use to intimidate workers and undermine factory organisations. Officially, the bosses deny such lists exist. But militant class conscious workers are well aware of them from bitter experience. Here are two known examples. In Preston, a list of people who had taken their employers to Industrial Tribunals for unfair dismissal was circulated to most local firms. The practice was leaked out and publicised in national papers.

The building workers union UCATT got hold of copies of two lists kept by Glasgow building firms, Whatlings and Frank Laffertys. The lists contain the names of 67 leading Scottish building trade union activists.

BLACKLISTING FOUGHT

Workers guard their own organisation and defend themselves against this intimidation when possible. In 1973, Shell-haven and Mobil refineries were hit when around 100 construction men stopped work in a 13 week official dispute against blacklisting. In 1978, the £70million Government supported Mobil refinery expansion was held up by a 5 month lockout by Pullmen Kellogg when shop stewards demanded some control over recruitment partly to counter blacklisting.

Far less easy to pin down, however, is blacklisting carried out by trade union opportunists and misleaders who use the closed shop and control in recruitment to keep out militant and class conscious workers who may threaten their privileged positions and expose treachery.

"C" PGB AND BLACKLISTING

What does the revisionist (sham Marxist) "C" PGB have to say about blacklisting? Their paper the *Morning Star* reported the UCATT blacklists. Whilst showing how widespread the blacklist is in the building industry, they call for "discussion in the movement on the issue of outlawing the blacklist". What nonsense! How do you outlaw something that is usually denied, informal or a matter of personal telephone calls. Apart from this, what faith this shows in the capitalist state and the bosses' law courts.

SAVE CAPITALISM

which now he can hold over to October. In the meantime, he is certain to use the agreement to gain another year of wage control.

MASS ECONOMIC STRUGGLE WIDEST SINCE GENERAL STRIKE

The current level of strikes is the widest since the 1926 General Strike. It has drawn millions of workers into mass struggle. The TUC's record has been one of sabotage and moves to prevent the struggle uniting against the Government in a mass political strike. This is how they are best serving the bosses at the present time. Now they have entered into another Social Contract. This is the same pattern that followed the TUC's treachery in the 1926 General Strike. But then the TUC's alliance with capitalism against the workers was called "Mondism" after the TU boss Mond.

Workers mass struggle for a living wage is becoming more of a political struggle against capitalism and the Government. As the struggle sharpens the TUC bosses are showing where they really stand, in the bosses' pockets.

NO CLASS COLLABORATION WITH CAPITALISM!

STOP PAYING LABOUR TO ATTACK WORKERS!

DOWN WITH THE "CONCORDAT"!

What illusion they are creating and promoting among the working class, to expect the ruling class to stop discriminating against working class fighters.

They go on to call for the "setting up of a Labour Board governed by the unions". There is not an ounce of class feeling in these sentiments. At a time when the TUC guardians of capitalism have entered into another alliance with the Government against the working class, the "C" PGB try to tell us that a "Labour Board governed by the unions" - meaning the likes of Murray, Bassnett etc. and their underlings - will end blacklisting.

As for the "C" PGB, it has its own form of blacklisting. In the building industry on Merseyside, the 'party' sites where you need a party card to get a job are notorious.

The position of class conscious workers is not to rely on opportunists or the law courts, but rely on the efforts of fellow workers for protection from victimization and blacklisting.

UNEMPLOYMENT - DISEASE THAT KILLS Cont'd from p1

Professor Brenner, emphasises that the results of his research apply wherever the necessary conditions exist in Europe, the U.S.A. and so forth. He found that each 1% increase in the unemployment rate in Liverpool was followed by an increase of 220 deaths in those over 45. All categories of illness increase - cancer, cirrhosis of the liver, heart attacks, etc.

Each 1% increase in the rate of unemployment in Nottingham resulted in 300 deaths more than the expected figure per year. A British doctor who supports Professor Brenner's work said that death by unemployment had reached plague proportions and would increase dramatically. The figure for Britain as a whole is reckoned to be 54,000 deaths per year.

Other things came to light when Professor Brenner talked with workers in Liverpool who agreed with his findings entirely, because they were typical of their own experience. One worker stressed how essential it is to work with your fellow workers, and told of four dockers who had hung themselves after being unemployed. He said "you become tyrants within your own home" and that people are fooled into believing that "unemployment is a self-inflicted wound". Another worker had a friend who was made redundant five times in five years. He died of a heart

MANUAL WORKERS STRIKE - PUBLIC SUPPORT IN LONDON

The press and TV have been full of hysterical abuse against the council workers who are fighting for a minimum wage of £60. They have been trying to turn the people against the dustmen, school caretakers and hospital workers, by painting them as vicious criminals. In fact these workers are among the most downtrodden and exploited in our society. Many of them hate having to strike, but have no alternative if they and their families are to remain above the bread line. Despite the rantings of the press, most working people understand this, and support the struggle of the low-paid.

One of the most affected areas in the London Borough of Haringay. There the council workers have been on strike since January 22nd. All but two of the schools have been closed, rubbish is piling up in the streets. The workers have been offered amounts ranging from 1½ to 4½p per hour. They have told the local councils what to do with this insulting offer. In the schools the care-takers have received support from teachers, children and parents

STRIKE FUND SUPPORTED

In one Tottenham school alone over £70 was collected for the strike fund. The local branch of the National Union of Teachers has passed a resolution in support of the care-takers' claim and has been actively campaigning in support of their action. A demonstration of parents, and children picketed the council offices demanding that the manual workers be given what they ask.

In Newham, local teachers also supported the care-takers. This contrasts with the stand of the NUT executive which has called on teachers to cross picket lines and open the schools.

In Haringay, the local Labour council said that it supported the strikers. It was quite safe for it to say so while the Government had the main responsibility for meeting or not meeting the wage demand. Now the council is negotiating directly with its workers, it suddenly finds itself unable to meet the strikers' demands. This is typical of these so called "friends" of the people. They pretend to talk for the workers, but act for the bosses.

attack at the age of 32.

ONLY SOCIALISM WILL END UNEMPLOYMENT

The "self-inflicted wound" mentality does some of the harm because people blame themselves and become depressed. Unemployment is an inevitable part of monopoly capitalism in decline i.e. the social system we live under. It will get worse and we must continue to struggle hard against it and against the cuts in the NHS.

At the end of the day only socialist revolution and the dictatorship of the proletariat (working class power) will end this totally unnecessary suffering.

LABOUR AND TORY HYPOCRITES

Cont'd from p1

Is it these workers who are attacking the NHS? Or is it the Government? Who have been closing hospitals and failing to finance transplant units? And who has been foremost in the fight against these cuts?

Hospital workers at Bethnal Green (London) have recently won a fifteen month struggle to prevent the closure of the casualty and outpatients departments.

Facts speak for themselves. The NHS is being attacked - not by the workers' struggle, but by Government cuts. Support the health workers' struggle!

CHINA HITS BACK AT VIETNAMESE

On February 17th, the People's Republic of China (PRC) responded to the incessant provocations of Vietnam, by counter-attacking along a wide front over the border with Vietnam. This action was not unexpected. The PRC has warned the Vietnamese authorities on several occasions to stop its daily attacks on Chinese border posts and on peasants working on communes along the border. In *Class Struggle* recently (Vol.3 No.2), we reprinted extracts from a warning made on December 24th, when the PRC said to Vietnam: "... The Chinese government reiterates that the Vietnamese authorities must take seriously China's repeated protests and warnings and should not turn a deaf ear to them. They must stop all encroachments upon China's sovereign and territorial integrity and all armed provocations and all criminal acts of killing or wounding of Chinese civilians. Otherwise, the Vietnamese authorities must bear all responsibilities arising therefrom".

"There is a limit to the Chinese people's for-

bearance and restraint", China added. "China has never bullied and will never bully any other country; neither will it allow itself to be bullied by others. It will not attack unless it is attacked. But if it is attacked it will certainly counter-attack".

To drive the message home the warning went on: "We state this here and now. Don't complain later that we've not given you clear warning in advance".

The article in *Class Struggle* ended by saying: "There is no sign of the Vietnamese authorities taking this warning to heart. Their daily provocations continue. They will have no one to blame but themselves, if they get the reward they deserve."

Vietnam certainly didn't listen. Just as an example on February 12th and 13th alone, Vietnamese troops opened fire twice on Chinese trains leaving Hekou; they attacked Heping Jie village with small arms and mortars; they attacked Chinese border guards in Chuantou commune, Yunnan, wounding

CHINA'S DIPLOMACY SUPPLEMENTS

China's Vice-premier, Deng Xiaoping (Teng Hsiao-ping) arrived back in Beijing (Peking) on February 8th after an 8 day tour of the USA. His official visit was a direct result of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the USA. Those relations themselves were achieved in December only after 30 years of struggle, when the USA finally dropped its official links with Taiwan and admitted that Taiwan is part of China, and that the PRC is the sole legitimate government.

Deng Xiaoping's tour was of great significance. Firstly it was a major opportunity to expose the expansionist drive and the war threat by Soviet social imperialism, and to warn the people of the world that the Soviet Union's claims that it stands for "peace" and "détente" are an out and out fraud - a cover for aggression.

"China has throughout modern history been a victim of aggression, and even today it is under the threat of aggression. There is no reason for us to start a world war, nor are we qualified to do so.

True, we do speak constantly of the danger of war - not because we like it, but because the danger is a fact, and it comes precisely from the warmongers who are daily propagating an illusion of peace and detente. We think it imperative to face up to this harsh reality, instead of comforting oneself like an ostrich which sticks its head into the sand...

The second world war broke out amidst a chorus of "peace"... In calling on the people of all countries to beware of the danger of a new world war, we hope to delay its outbreak through a united effort".

Deng Xiaoping in America.

Taking advantage of the antagonism that exists between the two superpowers, the main enemies of the people of the world, Deng Xiaoping used the opportunity to hit out at the most dangerous superpower, Soviet social imperialism. The Soviet Union has in the past period engineered coups and assassinations in Afghanistan, and North and South Yemen. It has subverted the Vietnamese revolution and used its agents in Hanoi to invade Kampuchea. It has sent thousands of Cubans as cannon fodder to advance Sov-

iet interests in Africa, using the con that it supports liberation movements. Its ships, planes and artillery units have shelled, bombed and napalmed the Eritrean people, and reduced their towns and villages to rubble. It has built a massive war machine, which is deployed for offensive war. It is the most dangerous source of war in the world today.

Deng Xiaoping's outspoken condemnation of Soviet social imperialism frequently embarrassed the US administration, but was welcomed by most Americans. Friends of China, including revolutionary communists turned out to welcome him as he toured America.

Secondly the visit was used to see at first hand technological and industrial developments in the USA, and sign some initial agreements on trade. America has a highly advanced industry and China has much to learn at a time when it is working hard to develop production rapidly. China is a socialist country, but was liberated from imperialism and feudalism only 30 years ago. Its industrial development has been fast, but it has a long way to go before it catches up with the West. The Chinese people want to improve their conditions and standard of living, so they have to produce the goods first. They want more houses, schools, hospitals,

"For us it is a matter of acquiring the best of the capitalist countries while rejecting that which is decadent. A society which is materially affluent can be spiritually poor, and a country which is scientifically advanced can be philosophically backward. We should acquire their science but reject their philosophy".

"The Japanese have learnt from the United States not only computer science, but also striptease".

(In America)

"The average is two cars for every three persons, but there are many families without a car".

"We noticed that the traditional linotypes in U.S. newspaper offices have become museum pieces... the great advantage in using new

AGGRESSORS

and abducting a militia man called Wen Qiheng; in the Longbang commune, in Guangxi, one soldier, Tan Zuquan, was killed and another, Jiang Nao, was injured when their patrol stepped on mines planted on Chinese territory by the Vietnamese, and peasants of the Wode commune, Guangxi, were fired on as they were grazing cattle. Altogether 300 Chinese have been killed in the last 6 months.

The Vietnamese authorities did not think that China would dare counter-attack, because Vietnam is acting only as a puppet for the Soviet Union, and has a promise of protection. In November the Vietnamese authorities and the Soviet social imperialists signed a "friendship" treaty. This was really a military pact and it stated that, "If either party is attacked or threatened with attack... (the two countries will)... consult each other for the purpose of eliminating that threat".

The Soviet Union is trying to bully and force China to moderate its opposition to Soviet dreams of

world domination. But history shows that backing down and appeasing aggressors only whets their appetites more. China will not appease Soviet inspired aggression. That is why it has carried out a "punitive action against military provocations", or a "defensive attack".

China has no designs on Vietnamese territory. It will retire as soon as it has achieved its purpose of punishing Vietnam. China's action is quite the opposite of Vietnam's invasion and annexation of Kampuchea. China has done this once before. In 1962, India, backed by the USA, tried to use military force to grab Chinese territory on their border. China hit back deep into India destroying India's army in the north. Just as the USA (joined even then by the USSR) was screaming that China was trying to take over the whole of Asia, China withdrew to its own territory! China was not afraid of the US superpower then, and it is not afraid of the Soviet superpower today. Its actions to deter aggression and defend its territory are entirely justified.

PEOPLES' STRUGGLES

and consumer goods. They need to expand heavy industry and energy resources. They want a secure defence. All these things have to be built and made. Mainly China relies on itself, but there is every reason why they should also learn from the USA in these things and gain technology, science and industrial techniques. But in China these advances will serve the people, unlike the USA, there they serve the capitalists.

Deng's visit will also open the doors wider for friendly contacts between the American people and the Chinese people. Agreements were signed on allowing students to study in the other country. Deng Xiaoping spoke of the desires of hundreds of thousands of Chinese people who live in the USA to visit relatives in China and vice versa, and said it would be a good thing. If more working people can visit China and see socialism at first hand that would certainly be excellent.

All in all Deng Xiaoping's visit was a big success. China's diplomatic strategy and its modernisation are not a replacement for the struggles of the international working class and oppressed peoples and nations, but it supplements those struggles and helps provide the best conditions to advance. It is from that point of view that Deng's tour should be welcomed by all progressive people in Britain.

techniques (in printing) lies in raising efficiency and producing more economical results in the long run. The elimination of lead type benefits workers' health. New techniques also improve the quality of printing. But in capitalist countries the introduction of new techniques often means some workers losing their jobs".

"Many American well-wishers hoped that in the course of bringing about the four modernisations, we would avoid the United States' negative aspects such as wasting energy resources and polluting the environment. This indeed deserves our attention. With our superior socialist system, we should be able to avoid the drawbacks of capitalism".

Quotes from Chinese journalists who recently visited the USA.

CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR STRUGGLES AGAINST U.S.

Opportunists from the pro-Soviet fake "Communist" Party of Great Britain to the Trotskyites, have tried to present US recognition of China and Deng's official visit as a betrayal of the struggle against US imperialism. This lie cannot meet the facts.

This year Li Xiannian (Li Hsien-Nien), a Vice Premier of the PRC toured the front line states in southern Africa and met ZANU president R. Mugabe. China gives aid and support to the liberation movements there.

When Deng Xiaoping, himself, toured the South East Asian countries recently, meeting heads of Governments, and developing friendly relations on a state to state basis, he was asked by a journalist if this meant that the Communist Party of China would stop support for the communist parties in such countries as Thailand, Malaya, Indonesia and the Philippines and so on, who are leading armed revolutionary wars against the US imperialist superpower and the Governments of those countries. Of course not, he said. (Unlike the Soviet imperialists and the Vietnamese authorities who in an attempt to lull these countries into believing that Soviet imperialism won't invade them, have cut off support for the communists and denounced them as "terrorists".)

The Communist Party of China has good relations with revolutionary Communist Parties who are active in Latin America, and supports the Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist) within the USA itself.

Quite a different picture to the one painted by the liars, who are the real traitors to the working class.

IRANIAN PEOPLE TAKE BIG STEP FORWARD Cont'd from p8

to his new administration. The communists and the people know that the people's power is based on the fact that they are armed. Many of the working people will not hand back their guns voluntarily.

The struggle in Iran has taken a big step forward and this is to be welcomed. This is the first step down a long road. There will be those who want to stop the advance here. Exactly how these forces line up will determine the next struggle of the Iranian people.

IRANIAN PEOPLE TAKE BIG STEP FORWARD

The coalition of revolutionary forces opposed to the Shah of Iran and to the domination of Iran by US imperialism finally toppled the Shah's last hope on February 11th. On that day, after several days of gun battles in Teheran and other cities, Dr. Bakhtiar, the man who was installed by the Shah as Prime Minister of Iran resigned. His power was lost as the generals lost control of their troops. Two days later he was arrested.

The collapse of the armed forces came despite vicious suppression of anti-Shah soldiers and airmen. In the weeks before the collapse, hundreds of soldiers and airforce personnel were executed for refusing to shoot down demonstrators or fuel planes. Finally major sections of the airforce rebelled and turned their guns on the Shah's forces, alongside the masses of civilians who took to the streets with guns in their hands. This decisive shift in the balance of forces, caused by the struggle of the working people of Iran, had an immense impact. Army officers, seeing which way the wind was blowing, executed their own generals, and declared their support for the new Government set up by the religious leader, the Ayatolla Khomeini, which is being led by Mehdi Bazargan.

Many countries, including China, have recognised the new Government. The USA and Britain, having done everything they could, short of full-scale intervention to keep the Shah in power, have also recognised the facts of life. For several weeks they have seen what was developing in Iran and have had contact with the Ayatolla, hoping that when he comes to power, they will be able to minimise the steps taken against their imperialist interests and still get substantial profits from Iran.

WHAT NOW?

The overthrow of a direct puppet of US imperialism, the fascist Shah, is a big step forward by the Iranian people in their struggle for complete independence. The new Government has said that it will cut off oil supplies to South Africa and Israel - two countries which previously looked to Iran as their major supplier. This will be a further blow against imperialism. How far it will go in making Iran more independent of US imperialism remains to be seen. It will definitely take some progressive measures in this direction, but it is not equipped to complete the struggle for total independence. Only under the leadership of the working class can the struggle be taken through to the end.

Soviet social imperialism (socialism in words, imperialism in deeds) has not been able to take control of a new Government. It will continue to work through its agents in the Tudeh Party to seek a way in, whilst Iran is in chaos. The Tudeh Party will try to push the Ayatolla's Government in to the camp dominated by the USSR. The Soviet social imperialists have also built up massive military forces on its border with Iran, including a Persian speaking division. It still presents a major threat to the genuine independence of Iran and will use any opportunity it can get to move in through the back door.

The genuine revolutionary Communists in Iran have advanced in the course of the struggle. They and the people want the revolution to continue. Already the Ayatolla Khomeini is starting to pull the reins, and has ordered that the people hand their guns in

Cont'd on p7

ZANU RELEASES RHODESIAN PRISONERS

Four Rhodesians captured by units of the Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army (ZANLA) during 1978 were released into the hands of Amnesty International in Mozambique on February 2nd. The four men were Major Wrigglesworth, a 66 year old former British Army officer, Mr. Black, a forest ranger, Mr. Kennerley and Mr. Maartens.

ZANU, the revolutionary party which leads ZANLA stated that these were the only white captives they held, and pointed out that they expected a "steady stream" of black prisoners to be released in return.

Major Wrigglesworth, who was seized at this farm near Umtali on August 1st, last year, described the ZANLA liberation forces as "well-trained, well-

disciplined and in good morale". "You must remember they have had a hard life," he said, "but everything they had was made available to me. I was treated fairly and was told this was due to the Thoughts of Chairman Mao Tsetung, which preached that prisoners should be treated well". He described his march through Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), and said that he and his captors frequently ran into other guerrilla units, but saw no sign of the Rhodesian Army except for one aircraft. When asked if he would return to Rhodesia, he replied, "I would hate to go back".

Mr. Maartens, who suffers from heart trouble also praised his treatment. "I was impressed by the way these guerrillas kept me alive", he concluded. ■

RHODESIAN JOURNALIST SEES LIBERATED ZONES

A Rhodesian journalist who has spent the last three and a half months travelling with a ZANLA guerrilla unit, recently gave an interview with the South African paper the *Star*. In it he pointed out that "in many places the civil (Rhodesian) administration seemed to have collapsed completely and the guerrillas had formed committees of local people to run things". In many areas ZANLA was recruiting a militia from among the locals and arming them as an extension of its forces, he stated.

He also said that medical units and been established to treat the local people and wounded members of ZANLA. In the Beitbridge area he saw a ZANU medical centre with 15 beds for in-patients. On his tour he visited several schools re-opened by ZANU, who provided their own teachers and textbooks.

As President Mugabe of ZANU stated in his New Year speech, "Let it be known that we presently

administer a much vaster territorial zone and a far larger population than the Smith regime does. We are indeed the de facto Government of the country. We cannot, therefore, undermine this reality of our predominance by agreeing to an illegitimate political marriage with reactionary elements long rejected by the masses."

This is ZANU's answer to the "internal settlement" proposals, which the Rhodesian whites recently voted for. The only reason Smith and his British and US imperialist backers are appearing to compromise is because their reactionary rule is tottering on the brink of collapse. Their "compromise" is a last ditch attempt to prevent the liberation of Zimbabwe and protect their interests. The people of Zimbabwe will not be diverted by fake "elections" which could anyway only take place if Smith's forces were given back control of the liberated areas! ■