

CLASS STRUGGLE

POLITICAL PAPER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF BRITAIN

Vol.4 No.2 January 24th to February 6th 1980

fortnightly 8p

STEEL—SOUTH WALES WORKERS DEMAND GENERAL STRIKE

There have been some bitter strikes over recent years, involving many different groups of workers in Britain. But the current steel strike seems likely to exceed them all. 90,000 steel workers have now been on strike since January 2nd. The strike followed the BSC's (British Steel Corporation) insulting offer of 2% or 6% with strings. However, it is now escalating into a full scale political struggle involving the fight against closures and workers' rights to launch effective picketing. What has been ridiculed by the bourgeois media as secondary picketing.

POLICE ANTI-PICKET SQUADS IN ACTION

The state is giving full backing to the steel bosses demands that picketing be restricted. In Lanarkshire on Friday 11th January, nine pickets were arrested when the Strathclyde Police Special Support Unit moved in against 100 workers picketing a steel stockyard. These units, similar to the SPG (Special Patrol Group) are used by the state to move at a moments notice to any area in the country. As well as being extensively used against pickets, the SPG achieved notoriety at Grunwicks, and in Southall last year when Blair Peach was murdered.

But the spirit of determination is as strong as ever. At Port Talbot in South Wales 9,000 strikers staged mass pickets on private steel. At Hatfield when mass pickets arrived at the gates of a private steel manufacturer, the bosses hurriedly invited union leaders in. They sought to convince them by opening up the books: that they were not taking on BSC work. When asked what was their attitude to this move by the bosses, the pickets stated the final decision lies with us, the pickets, whether or not we continue. This spirit has driven the steel bosses into a fury and they have stepped up their lectures on how secondary (ie effective) picketing is damaging the country and the steel workers' job situation.

THE FIGHT TO SAVE JOBS

These are touching sentiments from the likes of BSC boss Sir Charles Villiers who only a few days later announced that BSC is to cut 11,287 jobs at Llenwern and Port Talbot, South Wales. These plants will have their liquid steel production cut from five million tonnes per year to 2.8 million tonnes. The Welsh TUC estimates that the total number of jobs going in steel will be 15,000. And it doesn't stop there. 21 out of the 36 South Wales pits could close with a loss of 21,000 miners' jobs. The effects of such closures and job losses will be to turn South Wales into a huge economic dustbowl. In fact the question of job losses in steel and mining is felt to be the main question by many steel and

coal workers. The steel strike on the wages issue is felt to be an attempt by Bill Sirs and ISTC (Iron and Steel Trades Confederation) misleaders to divert attention from the jobs issue.

The National Union of Mineworkers (NUM) and mine-workers are committed to fighting the rundown in steel and defending miners jobs. In 1947 there were 107,000 miners in South Wales. There are now only 30,000. Not only the workers of Wales feel strongly on this. A South Wales Tory paper the *Western Mail* reported its view on the steel cuts by saying: "Wales is destined to become an economic wasteland and remain that way".

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REMEMBER BLOODY SUNDAY

"I have travelled in many countries. I have seen many civil wars, and revolutions and wars. I have never seen such a cold-blooded, organised, disciplined, planned murder.

"I saw a young fellow who had been wounded crouching against the wall. He was shouting "don't shoot, don't shoot". A paratrooper approached and shot him from about one yard.

"I saw a young boy of about 15 protecting his girlfriend against the wall and then proceeding to try and rescue her by going out with a handkerchief and with the other hand on his head. A paratrooper approached, shot from about one yard into the stomach and shot the girl in the arm".

F.Grimaldi, Italian photo-journalist.

This is just one of the many eye witness accounts of "Bloody Sunday", January 30th, 1972 when 13 people taking part in a peaceful protest in Derry were shot dead by British paratroopers. All 13 were unarmed young men, selected by marksmen to have the maximum effect of intimidating and terrorising northern Ireland's Catholic community - particularly the youth. "Bloody Sunday" was a cold-blooded act of murder aimed at intimidating Catholics and Republicans into giving up their campaign for civil rights, Irish unity and self-determination. The Widgery tribunal set up to "enquire" into the events

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of "Bloody Sunday" trotted out a whitewash report. "The troops lost their heads", the report concluded. This was and still is nonsense. "Bloody Sunday" followed a decision in Whitehall to teach the northern Ireland Catholics and Republicans a lesson. Public statements were made by the Army excusing the atrocity and claiming that those killed were IRA men who had wielded rifles. No evidence of this was ever discovered. Such remarks were made purely to throw dust in the eyes of the public and confuse the initial outrage of people in Britain, Ireland and the world.

The facts are clear. All witnesses testified to the peaceful nature of the demonstration. I. Cooper of the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) stated: "I could see the British Army systematically picking off people who had been lying down and who were trying to run away".

RESISTANCE SHARPER

The British state continues its policy of murder, torture and terror to put down the struggle in Ireland. Already this year they have murdered two young Catholic teenagers joy-riding in Andersonstown. They are, however, not crushing the resistance, instead struggle directed at the occupation force is becoming sharper and more systematic. The current "troubles" began as a mass campaign for Civil Rights for Catholics and an end to their persecution by "B" Special Police. But the brutal suppression marked by "Bloody Sunday", internment and SAS (Special Air Services) terror have dispelled all illusions among the people that the campaign for Civil Rights can be separated from the struggle to end British and Stormont rule in northern Ireland.

The people of Ireland are now more conscious than ever of who is their enemy and are showing greater determination to get the troops out. British soldiers are dying, but the blame for this must be put squarely at the door of the British Government and state. While the RCL does not support the tactics and political line of the IRA, it must be recognised that they are part of the struggle of an oppressed people and nation. The soldiers are part of an army of occupation. As such they have been

made a legitimate target in the Irish people's struggle and war to get the troops out. The British Government can save the lives of soldiers in northern Ireland by bringing them home. This is what our demand must be.

REMEMBER BLOODY SUNDAY

On Sunday January 27th a demonstration has been called in Birmingham to commemorate the anniversary of "Bloody Sunday" under the slogan, "Political Status for the Irish Prisoners of War". This demonstration is an opportunity to display our militant solidarity with our Irish brothers and sisters struggling to get the troops out, gain the opportunity to settle their own affairs and complete Ireland's national democratic revolution.

A coach is being arranged from London to take people to the demonstration commemorating the anniversary of "BLOODY SUNDAY" to be held on Sunday 27th January in Birmingham. Anybody who wishes to book a seat on the coach should contact: NEW ERA BOOKS. Telephone Number 01-272-5894



From our
postbag



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

Dear Editor,

With all the propaganda of the Western newspapers and television, from John Pilger of the *Daily Mirror* to the servants of the Soviet Union and Vietnam who write in the *Morning Star*, it is important to concentrate on two main points when thinking and talking about the war, devastation and starvation in Kampuchea.

The two main causes of this disaster are first the hideous and inhumane bombing by the US of Kampuchea towards the end of the Vietnam war (waged under the direction of Nixon and Kissinger) and second the invasion by Vietnam which is fully supported politically and militarily by the Soviet Union. In the brief period from 1975 to 1978, under the Government of Democratic Kampuchea headed by Pol Pot the worst effects of the devastation caused by US imperialism were beginning to be overcome and the people were at least fed and clothed - they were not starving. Agriculture and irrigation were being restored and improved and there was renewed hope for a better life for the mass of people in this fertile country. The methods used by the Government were necessarily rigorous and city

dwellers had to face fiercer conditions than they ever had to before. But a revolution, as Mao once said is "not a dinner party".

With the invasion by Vietnam in January 1979 any hardships suffered by the vast majority of the people during the previous three years became a minor aspect compared with the new horrors the Vietnamese have caused. It is the Vietnamese invasion that has brought yet again starvation and death and the only solution is for the invaders to get out as demanded by the United Nations Resolution earlier this year with a vote of 13 to 2.

Once again it is the US and Soviet aggressors with their hangers on who are or have caused the wars. This is always the outcome of imperialist policies.

BP, London.

Dear Editor,

The working class are really being hit hard by redundancies, factory closures and cut-back of jobs in private and nationalised industries and in public service.

But another side of the same coin is the pressure being put on people without jobs. The Government knows that the numbers of people on the dole is increasing and will increase further. They are using all means to avoid paying money to these people in social security benefits.

The amount of people in social security and unemployment offices responsible for paying out claims is being cut back. But they are taking a lot more people in the sections responsible for preventing people claiming - the Fraud Squad snoopers and the Unemployment Review Officers. What can justify the harassment of school-leavers in areas where there are no jobs (like Netherley in Liverpool)? What can justify snoopers descending on one-parent families with Gestapo-style cross-examinations and sitting outside their houses in cars at all hours? Only one thing - they hope to trap these claimants into saying something that will enable the social security to suspend their benefits, or to make them so fed up that they stop claiming and scrape a living by relying on relatives or some form of crime. They force kids into stealing and women onto the streets!

Now there is the new proposals to change the social security system. The proposals are deliberately unclear, and there's a lot of them, but their intention is clear. They aim to reduce the amount of money paid out in benefits by reducing the living standards of claimants. The main thing in the new White Paper is the proposal to reduce the area of discretion. The argument is that this will make the rules for giving benefit open, rather than secret, and help people understand what their rights are. In practice it will mean that people forced by unemployment, sickness etc on to the poverty line will not be able to get as much in the way of so-called "exceptional needs payments" when they cannot afford things like furniture, blankets, clothes, heating. That way the Government will save money at the expense of the poorest people in society. At the same time they will need less people working in the social security offices dealing with claims, and so there will be more jobs lost.

A Liverpool reader.

Dear Editor,

I thought that fellow readers of *Class Struggle* might be interested in a recent conversation I had with an Uzbek. The Uzbeks are a people found in North Afghanistan and in the adjacent territory of Uzbekistan, part of the USSR. My friend told me that on the day when President Mohammad Daoud (the King's cousin) was overthrown, early in the morning the Russians present "were in their buses throwing flowers and clapping and laughing"; a 9 am radio broadcast informed the people of the successful "revolution". My friend asked: "whose revolution was it? Ours or the Russians?" We all know that it was not a popular revolution carried out by the armed masses but an army coup d'etat of lecture-indoctrinated officers trained in the Soviet Union. (Prime Minister Noor Taraki subsequently proved unsatisfactory and was replaced by Amin in another coup - now the Soviet Union has put a third puppet in.)

While the social imperialists have made friends in the ruling circle, their high-handed and arrogant solitude from the people of Afghanistan does not encourage friendship. The imperialist logic of the Kremlin can be seen in their attitude to the Uzbeks. While mainly professional people like teachers, doctors, engineers etc have accompanied the movement of troops into Afghanistan, these professional people are mainly from Uzbekistan but the Soviet rulers have ordered that they must not talk in Uzbekian to Afghanistan's Uzbeks for this would be "interfering in internal affairs"! They must talk in Tajik (Persian) People communicating is forbidden but the delivery of 20 missile helicopters to bolster Amin's regime against the people's attack is permissible, as is the Soviet invasion.

R.S.

A WORKER'S NOTEBOOK

■ OUR SICK PAY IS BEING ATTACKED IN TWO WAYS. A Bill at present going through Parliament will make the first 8 weeks of sick pay payable by the employer instead of the State, and will make all sickness benefit taxable. For the first three days of sickness there will be nothing; then the bosses will have to pay (they will be compensated by a reduction in National Insurance Contributions) and the Government will grab-back a tax. What a clever scheme!

The Tories know they could never get away with a simple cut in Sickness Benefit so they invent devious tricks like this one.

■ THE *SUN* "NEWSPAPER" RECENTLY QUOTED, AYATOLLAH Khomeini, in huge headlines, as saying that women are slaves to men and going on to say that their function in life is to fulfill their husbands' desires. Not a surprising statement from a religious leader, or from the *Sun* for that matter. We cannot expect this kind of newspaper to look for anything positive from what is happening in Iran, especially when you only have to turn the pages in this oh so righteous paper to see nude women on almost every page. Whose pleasure is that for? Frequently the same rag carries articles criticising women who choose to go to work. That is against enormous odds and leaving their children in nursery and other forms of childminding.

For the *Sun* to accuse Iran of being backward towards women is quite pathetic.

■ A BELFAST MAN WHO CAME TO ENGLAND SIX YEARS AGO spent three days in a hospital psychiatric wing after being detained for four days under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. His sister-in-law, Mrs Veronica Martin is filing a complaint to the Hampshire police concerning the effect it has had on him. She says he is now disorientated and having hallucinations. Mrs Martin, who is from Southampton, was detained along with her husband, Mr James Martin who has lived in England for 17 years. He has since been sent back to Belfast under an exclusion order.

Mr Martin and his family are just a few of the 4,345 people who have been detained since the act was introduced 5 years ago. And the traumatic effects Mr Martin experienced are getting even more common.

Only 46 people have been charged with offences under the Act. The Act allows the State to hold anyone for up to seven days, frequently without proper clothing, denies access to lawyers, in insanitary conditions, under constant lighting. Your right of silence is abolished, and you may be physically ill-treated, fingerprinted, photographed and then simply released.

The police say that law is helping to prevent terrorism but do not produce the evidence to support their case. We all know who the law is helping and we can give plenty of evidence.

■ ACCORDING TO A REPORT IN THE *SUNDAY TIMES* THERE has been a big state cover up job on the numbers of old people who die from hypothermia (from the cold). A former junior minister, Michael Meacher has revealed that DHSS officials suppressed independent research findings on hypothermia because of their politically embarrassing implications. Mr Meacher, who was Under-Secretary at the DHSS said that he was over-ruled in 1976 over a reply he wanted to give to a Parliamentary question on the incidence of hypothermia since 1970. According to Mr Meacher the death rate for old people dying from the cold could be as many as 35,000 a year! He was advised by DHSS officials that it was "most certain" that any reply suggesting large numbers of people were suffering from hypothermia "would be used to bring pressure" on the then Labour Government to improve heating provisions for old people. Mr Meacher also believes that many old people who die from hypothermia are written off as heart attack victims on their death certificates.

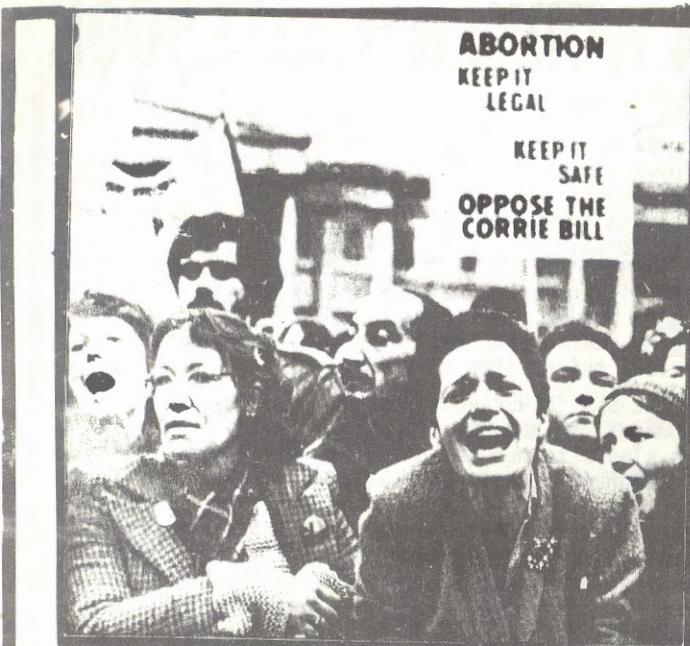
ABORTION AND THE

working class at heart, men as well as women. Naturally, out of all the views given most publicity the one which would most benefit the working class is noticeably absent. But first, what are the other main viewpoints?

THE SPUC LINE

The anti abortion lobby has two sides. Firstly there are the grass roots supporters who believe that a abortion is morally wrong because it entails taking a life. They argue that a foetus (unborn baby) is "alive" from the time it is conceived. A lot of pseudo-scientific arguments are used to justify this. Such as - a foetus from very early on looks like a normal baby. This ignores the fact that no baby has lived when it has been born before 24 weeks after conception; even with the most sophisticated equipment. SPUC (the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children) even goes so far as to criticise the famous test-tube baby on the grounds that a number of eggs were fertilized and after one was selected the others were discarded. Many take the next step and argue against contraception as well. Much of this view stems from Catholic teaching. There is, however, increasing opposition to this oppressive edict from Catholic men and women.

We do not have the space here to counter all the arguments SPUC uses but it should suffice to say that it has never been determined scientifically when life begins or ends for that matter. Remember that a person's hair is still growing several days after being certified "dead". It would also be logical to say that any woman or girl who has a period is equally depriving a baby of life. Somewhere a line has to be drawn and in the absence of effective and safe contraception we argue that the most satisfactory time is when the foetus would not live if born.



Few issues produce more extreme emotional reaction than abortion. It has been subject to gross distortion from both sides and we intend here to show a way through the minefield of claims and counter-claims to see what is in the best interests of all those involved.

The Corrie Bill, due for its 3rd reading in Parliament on February 8th, will, according to its sponsors, cut abortion by 2/3. The effect on women who cannot afford Harley Street treatment, will be disastrous. (*Class Struggle* 23 stated that Harley Street did 10,000 abortions every year, for £1/4 million before the 1967 Act). It is vital therefore that we understand what is involved and fight now for what is right.

Abortion is a class issue, like all issues in a class based society, and as Marxists we make no secret of the fact that we have the interests of the

KELLY'S MURDERERS MUST BE PROSECUTED

Speaking at a Liverpool public meeting Tommy Banks, Chairman of the Jimmy Kelly Action Committee gave evidence in a sharp exposure of the facts regarding Jimmy Kelly's death whilst in police custody. The report of the independent pathologist called in by the Kelly family to carry out a second post-mortem documented details of bruising in 32 places, and a skull fractured in two places. The police pathologist quickly diagnosed death by heart attack brought on by drink. However, the police pathologist took the heart out and left it out. The independent pathologist refers to Jimmy Kelly suffering acute shock from any of several injuries he received including a kick in the testicles!

The police have made two conflicting statements regarding Jimmy Kelly's arrest and subsequent death. One claimed that death resulted from fighting outside a pub. The other claimed his body was found on a piece of wasteland. Five independent witnesses have made statements regarding his condition when leaving the "Oak Tree" pub in Huyton and the police kicking and beating him when he was being arrested.

Tommy Banks put the following questions exposing the shameful lies of the police in this matter:

- * If Jimmy Kelly was found unconscious on a piece of wasteland, why put him in handcuffs?
- * Why was he taken to the police station and not to the hospital? An ambulance was not called until 12.23.

- * Why did the police not render first aid?
- * Why have the family not been told why Kelly was arrested?
- * Why did the police pathologist fail to find any injuries?
- * Why was the case not treated as a murder enquiry?

To this date the coroner has not issued a death certificate and the police will not return Jimmy Kelly's suit.

The evidence of Jimmy Kelly's murder by the police is clear but it is only by accident that it has been made clear. If it had not been for the fact that Jimmy Kelly's niece, a police woman, had heard over the police radio that he had arrived at Huyton police station dead-on-arrival, the Kelly family would not have been told till hours later. By then the police would have done more to cover up the evidence. The complicity of the Director of Public Prosecutions to cover up the affair does not result from ignorance of the facts. They are now widespread public knowledge. The DPP is part of the bourgeois state apparatus which oppresses the working class and people to perpetuate the rule of capitalism. And the state apparatus is afraid to admit guilt in Jimmy Kelly's death because it will unleash struggle on the whole question of police violence.

But their attempts to cover-up the Jimmy Kelly murder are arousing more anger and determination to bring the guilty members of Huyton police to trial. ■

THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE

We will not disagree with any limit established by medical evidence. However, Corrie's attempt to reduce the limit is not based on medical evidence but is just designed to reduce the numbers of abortions available.

THE REAL FEAR FOR RULING CLASS

Our main argument is with the ideas behind the anti-abortion viewpoint, ideas which form the more dangerous side. This can be summed up as "a woman's place is in the home". It is this attitude which makes the anti-abortionists serve the interests of the ruling class. As Lord Spens put it recently "if married women were to give up work and return to their homes our problems would be solved in an instant". Most of the ruling class would agree, but are more wary about saying it. Instead they try to find other ways of achieving the same objective. Forcing women to have unwanted children, denying them child care facilities through public spending cuts reducing the number of part-time jobs. All these have the same effect. But what is the "problem" Lord Spens refers to? We would suggest that it is not really unemployment as most people will assume. Much more threatening to them is the increasing unity of working class men and women which is only possible through women working and fighting alongside men where they can see the class contradictions at first hand. If they are isolated at home, subjected to ceaseless propaganda from TV and radio, they lose all sense of power through united class struggle and end up demoralised and negative.

ABORTION AND CHOICE

So what do we suggest? Abortion must be available for all women but they must also have the right to have children without suffering the consequences described above.

MASS PROTEST AT PARLIAMENT

5th February, 2 pm, Central Hall,
Westminster, London.

ASSEMBLY OF WOMEN (3rd reading of Corrie Bill)

8th February, 2 pm, Central Hall,
Westminster, London.

We agree with those people who argue against a abortion after the time when the foetus could live. What we do want is adequate facilities, medical and counselling so that no-one will go over the limit against their wishes. Techniques such as the vacuum aspiration method are cheap and reliable, requiring only day care facilities, the widespread use of which would mean no-one would need to go over even a 20 week limit. Until these facilities are easily available we will fight any attempt to reduce the limit because we will always put the interests of the living before those who may be born later.

Similarly, although we would prefer all terminations to be done on the NHS, we will fight any attempt to restrict the charitable organisations which provide the only reliable option for people obstructed through the NHS.

At the same time we must take up the campaign for increased child benefit, more job security after pregnancy and better child care facilities at the place of work. Only then can women choose freely whether to have a child or not.

Our view on who should decide whether or not to have an abortion, is that both parents should decide whenever possible. After all, men should have the same right to have children as women. It's not their fault that they can't get pregnant, as some feminists imply. The final decision has to be the woman's of course if no agreement can be reached.

Lastly, while all these reforms would be valuable in themselves, we must have no illusion that they bring equality. Only in a socialist society will there be no material basis for such divisions and by patient education and struggle they will finally disappear for good.

Contributed

Cont'd from front page

GENERAL STRIKE

As we go to press the Welsh TUC has called a one day General Strike for 28th January and a general strike involving stoppages by steel, coal and transport workers for March 10th. Bill Sirs has threatened a General Strike. Although it is not clear if he is talking about a strike of all steel workers or a General Strike of 1926 proportions. The pressure for such a general political strike is coming from the steel and mine workers who are determined to win this fight. Sirs has jumped at the chance to talk to the Government. But it is clear talks alone will not bring the steel bosses to heel. The steel workers at present are fighting alone in a struggle with high stakes. Thatcher and Co. are out to "teach the working class a lesson". We must give full support to the steel workers and not fall back from using the weapon of a General Strike.

MAKE THE LEADERS FIGHT!

LAY-OFFS AT HALEWOOD?

In general the movement of steel around the country has been effectively halted. Yet despite this Fords here at Halewood have still been receiving supplies of steel. Fords usually import around 80% of this steel and "Ford" marked containers are still arriving at Halewood by rail, loaded up with steel

from abroad. Furthermore, "Ford" lorries have been bringing in new stocks as well. Without these fresh supplies, press shop production would grind to a halt in about 3 weeks. But Fords manoeuvres at beating the strike are going to fail eventually, as essential components manufacturers' stocks run dry.

In this situation the issue of layoff pay is likely to be of great importance to us. Being an "outside" dispute, we are entitled to 80% of our basic pay - until the nationally-based fund is exhausted. Under normal circumstances this would last us no more than 2 weeks. But late last year many plants in Dagenham were laid-off for a week or so. This is likely to mean that the fund is far from full. This can only hammer home to us the importance of the item in the 1978 wage claim for layoff pay whenever and for as long as we are laid off. This claim was, incidentally, soon dropped by our national leaders.

Major strikes like the present steel strike and the lorry drivers strike last year are likely to occur with greater frequency in the coming years. This is why we must press for a better deal when we are laid off.

Class Struggle Correspondent.

LONDON MONTHLY DISCUSSION MEETINGS

February 8th....British capitalism in crisis

March 7th.....Imperialism and the working class

At the Roebuck pub, Tottenham Court Road, London W1

Organised by the RCLB, c/o New Era Books. 7.30pm

"COLD BLOODED MURDER, DECEIT AND

"We hope to lay the foundations for a free, independent and democratic society". These were the words used by Lord Carrington to open the conference which produced an agreed constitution and ceasefire in Zimbabwe. "The United Kingdom's role will be to establish just conditions for independence", he said. Carrington posed as a man who would ensure conditions for a "free and fair" elections in Zimbabwe after the ceasefire.

But what has actually happened?

* On January 4th the guerrillas of the Patriotic Front (PF) left a village near Umtali following the terms of the ceasefire. The very next day white Rhodesian troops moved in and arrested 13 people. They haven't been seen since.

* At "Protected Village number 7" (-a nice name for a concentration camp), repression has increased since the ceasefire. The young men are frequently arrested and beaten up by the police; the PF have been prevented from holding an election rally there and the villagers have been told they will be shot if they are one minute late for the curfew which remains in force despite the ceasefire!

* On January 3rd a ZAPU (PF) group on its way to an assembly point stopped to cook. It was **attacked by Rhodesian troops. One man was killed.**

* On January 11th another group of 28 was approaching an assembly point when a large group of police ordered them to surrender their arms. The guerrillas refused and 7 were shot.

CARRINGTON'S LIES

Lord Carrington's words on freedom and independence are just hot air. British imperialism was forced to the conference table by the armed struggle of the PF backed by the overwhelming support of the people of Zimbabwe. Now the imperialists will use any means to avoid their defeat. Partly they ignore the agreements signed, partly they twist the meaning, partly they renege on assurances made verbally during the conference. Now they are using every trick to gain the victory of the black traitor Muzorewa in the elections:

* Muzorewa has 20,000 hired and armed thugs. The agreement forbids it, but in fact they are free to go anywhere; and they do - killing opponents and intimidating the people.

* Muzorewa is backed by the white Rhodesians. The agreement limits white Rhodesian army and police activities to actions approved by the governor. But they do what they like and have the actions approved later. The army has not been withdrawn to barracks as agreed.

* South African troops remain in Zimbabwe despite the agreement which explicitly includes their withdrawal.

"We cannot at all accept the presence of South African troops in our country as it is not only an act of aggression but also a violation of our agreement". R.Mugabe, Chairman of ZANU.

"I do not see how I can allow Kenyan troops to share Rhodesian soil with South African troops" Kenyan President Daniel Moi, speaking on January 15th, when he threatened to pull out of the Commonwealth monitoring force as a result of Britain's violation of the ceasefire agreement.

British imperialism's actions, since the agreement was signed, have been denounced by President Nyerere of Tanzania as "cold blooded murder, deceit and treachery". His condemnation of events is echoed by Amnesty International, the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace, the Commonwealth High Commissioners, the rest of the front-line states, ZANU, ZAPU and Kenyan military observers.

PATRIOTIC FRONT HONOURS AGREEMENT



ABOVE Patriotic Front troops assemble in highly disciplined formation at one of several gathering points. BOTTOM LEFT South African soldier guarding Beit Brid Bridge on Zimbabwean side of the border.

The Patriotic Front meanwhile has shown it honours its agreements. Even the British General in Salisbury had to admit that the gathering of guerrillas at the assembly points was an "outstanding success". Following the agreement which put the British Governor in charge of all troops in Rhodesia on both sides, and which recognised the "equality" of both sides, the PF have offered their troops to be used to help enforce the ceasefire. But the British Governor, Soames, refuses the offer while giving the racist and puppet forces a free hand. Undoubtedly this will lead to intimidation by the Smith-Muzorewa alliance during the election. The PF have honoured the ceasefire despite the grossest provocations.

OPPOSE IMPERIALIST MANOUVRES AND BETRAYAL

ZANU and the PF are well aware that British imperialism has not changed its nature. They know that the agreement and cease-fire was a result of their armed struggle. Now, while they are fighting the



TREACHERY"

election, they will continue to expose the oppression in Zimbabwe. They know that they must be ready for a total betrayal and an attempt to massacre their forces. They have stopped all guerrilla fighting, but they have prepared defences to their camps, and they have taken other precautions. Our job is to oppose British imperialism's manoeuvres and betrayals, to oppose the rigging of the election and to help the nationalist forces in the election.

They alone stand for independence and democratic rights in Zimbabwe.

(Contributed)

SUPPORT THE ZANU ELECTION FUND

The elections in Zimbabwe are going ahead. Inevitably the imperialist powers are doing their utmost to ensure the victory of their puppets and agents or of those they think that they can most influence.

Lord Soames, the British Governor, in Rhodesia, is using his power to do everything possible to rig the election in favour of Muzorewa. South Africa is backing him to the hilt as well. The South Africans have already supplied him with around 1,000 vehicles and a helicopter. This will undoubtedly help his campaign.

The Soviet social imperialists are not to be outdone. In the past they have backed Nkomo and used their support of ZAPU to put pressure on ZANU. They have gained a lot of influence in ZAPU and want it to win the election. Recently they brought up the number of vehicles they have supplied to Nkomo to about 1,000 as well. Tiny Rowland, a British imperialist who supports Nkomo, has previously given him an executive jet for his personal use which Nkomo has traded in for a helicopter to match Muzorewa.

ZANU has no imperialist backing. ZANU has been for years the most consistent fighting force for independence and has carried the brunt of the guerrilla war. Through the formation of the Patriotic Front with ZAPU, ZANU showed it stands for militant unity against imperialism. At the same time ZANU fought all attempts to split the PF while pursuing the armed struggle. But ZANU also opposes all interference and has always stood by the slogan "We are our own liberators". That is why we particularly support ZANU, whilst supporting the unity of the Patriotic Front.

ZANU is the most popular party in Zimbabwe. It knows the elections will not be fair. It knows that if it wins, the British imperialists and the South Africans are prepared to launch a coup. But it knows how strong its support is and that it is still likely to win the election. But it too needs finance. Not aid with strings. But aid from the workers of the world and from all people who support independence from all powers, peace and democratic rights.

That is where we all come in. ZANU needs money for bicycles for election work, for leaflets, for shirts. And it needs the money now.

We ask all readers to contribute whatever they can afford.

Donations should be sent to:

ZANU ELECTION FUND

c/o NEW ERA BOOKS,
203, Seven Sisters Rd.,
London.N.4.

Cheques payable to J.Bayley.



PRO-SOVIET JAMBOREE DENOUNCED

January 7th, 1980 marked the 1st anniversary of the Vietnamese occupation of the Kampuchean capital Phnom Penh after a 2 week *blitzkrieg*. To "celebrate" the occasion, the Britain-Vietnam Association (a motley collection of mainly senile Hanoi bootlickers) gave a reception. With appropriate irony the guest of honour was the Vietnamese Charge d'Affaires. With guests from the Soviet, East German, Cuban and Laotian embassies it all added up to an event as grotesquely bizarre as an SS reunion.

However, January 7th also marks the beginning of the new stage of the Kampuchean peoples' resistance so the Hanoi bootlickers weren't having things all their own way. They were met outside by pickets with placards denouncing USSR/Vietnamese aggression against Kampuchea and Soviet aggression against Afghanistan. A couple of friends of Kampuchea had managed to obtain tickets for the reception. When the Vietnamese renegade spoke of the "glorious uprising of the Kampuchean people" a woman right in the front row demanded, "then why are over 200,000 Vietnamese troops still there?" There was a stunned silence in the hall before the Vietnamese representative managed to blurt out a reply that sounded like a pre-recorded phone message. All hell then broke loose as friends of Kampuchea began shouting anti-Vietnamese slogans and were able to provoke havoc in the hall before being physically thrown out. Thus the Vietnamese diplomat was able to get a taste of the opposition to the policies of his Government and the whole affair served to put a damper on the evening for the attendant hacks. The diplomatic corps seemed taken aback, the homegrown revisionists rabid... and when they came out they had to brave their way through a militant picket shouting, "Vietnamese butcher, out of Kampuchea!"

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NATIONAL MINORITIES SHUN COMPLAINTS BOARD

Lord Plowden, Chairman of the Police Complaints Board (PCB), admitted last year that very few complaints against the police come from the national minorities. He naively professes to have no explanation for the national minority community's lack of faith in the PCB or for the "disturbing" fact that assault came out top of the list of complaints made. Such naivety is pitiful. Especially when it is remembered that PCB in its 1978 report dismissed 99.5% of all complaints as, "simply part of an attempt to discredit evidence against the accused".

RACIST STATE - MAIN OPPRESSOR OF NATIONAL MINORITIES

"Blood on the Streets", a report by Bethnal Green and Stepney Trades Council on racist attacks in East London published last year exposed the refusal of the police to protect national minorities against attacks by fascist thugs. The police invariably arrive too late to stop the attacks and apprehend the attackers or do not turn up at all. And when they do turn up they harass the victims by demanding proof of right of residence under the racist 1971 Immigration Act. The Trades Council reports "numerous cases where Asians who had been attacked on the street were themselves arrested when the police arrived". This happened in the case of the unjust gaoling of the Virk brothers who defended themselves against a racist attack. When racist attackers are identified or apprehended by national minorities and handed over to the police they are released without charges. The notorious case of the brutal stabbing of Mustafa Siddiqui is an example of this. None of the many witnesses were questioned by the police who told the Siddiqui family to take out a private summons. The Trades Council reports that this is the normal response of the police to complaints of racist attacks.

FIGHT RACISM IN THE UNIONS

Jagtor Singh Sahota, the Secretary of the Bradford Indian Workers' Association, has just been elected Secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU) on Bradford Metro buses. He had to go through two elections because one of the defeated candidates made an objection when Sahota won the first one.

Sahota's view on the reason for the re-ballot was published in the *Leeds Other Paper* on the 11th of January. Refuting that the re-ballot was purely technical, he said: "The Union don't want a black person in this job (of Secretary) who has political convictions".

Sahota is the seventh Asian to be elected to the branch committee, at a workplace where black and white workers are very divided. The strength of the Asians on this committee which also contains four white members is the result of extensive campaigning by the Asian Youth Movement exposing the bus company's racist practices.

Sahota is determined to work to unite the workforce and told an interviewer: "The issue of black verses white may arise. I would like to avoid it... but if it comes to a point I will stand firmly against racism".

The bosses foster racism to keep the working class weak and divided. There is no place for it in the trade unions or any truly working class organisation.

RACIST STATE'S OFFICIAL THUGGERY

A recent incident in London's East End is a clear example of what the working class, particularly the national minorities, know to be the daily diet dished out by the boot boys in blue. 19 year old Leander McKay gave birth prematurely at Mile End Hospital a few minutes after arrival. She had been rushed from her home where she suffered a brutal beating at the hands of Limehouse police. Both Leander and her mother, Dulcie McKay, suffered facial and bodily injuries during the course of a police raid on their home under the pretext of enquiring after Leander's boyfriend. The house was ransacked, without a warrant. When Mrs. McKay protested, she was man-handled and punched in the face. Mrs McKay, and another daughter, 25 year old Lander, were arrested and imprisoned overnight at Limehouse police station where they were charged with inflicting "actual bodily harm" on the police. The various reports that have been published over the years show that incidents where the police charge their victims with the very crimes they themselves have just inflicted is common police practice to discredit evidence against them. Far from this being an isolated act of a few rogue cops it is an everyday occurrence throughout the entire country.

SUPPORT THE RCL-CWM PRESS FUND

On January 1st, 1980 the Revolutionary Communist League and the Communist Workers' Movement announced their decision to unite.

Unity gives us many opportunities to advance revolutionary politics in Britain. One of the most important results will be the development of our revolutionary press. Unity will bring the merger of the editorial committees of *Class Struggle* and *New Age*. This will improve the content of our paper. But that advance must also be accompanied by improvements in our presentation. We want to produce a 12 page fortnightly paper by summer and we need new equipment to improve the layout and look of our paper.

Our aim is to develop the liveliness and readability of *Class Struggle* and to involve more people in writing for it. We want workers in the factories, people on the housing estates, activists in many struggles to help build up *Class Struggle* as their own paper. We want you to write for it, to organise around it, to sell it.

But it also takes money. We can't do everything at once but we can make a good start. We urge all readers of *Class Struggle* and *New Age* and all those who want to see a genuine revolutionary paper produced in Britain again to dig deep into their pockets. Send a lump sum now or send a little every week. If you can only afford 10p it is welcome. It all builds up.

Unity gives us opportunities, but we need money to take them all.

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