

CLASS STRUGGLE

Paper of the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain.

Incorporating

NEW AGE

PAPER OF COMMUNIST WORKERS' MOVEMENT

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Back to the days of Charles Dickens

WORKHOUSE 1980

By a "Class Struggle" correspondent, Liverpool.

Most people consider that the humiliation of living on Supplementary Benefit is the greatest punishment the government can mete out against the unemployed. They are wrong. The DHSS is allowed to send people to a Re-establishment Centre, and may withdraw their benefit if they refuse to go, or if they leave before they are given permission,

Men at the residential Centre in Henley-in-Arden, near Stratford, complain that they are treated like children. There is no occupational training, and the men have to clean or garden all day. They have to follow petty regulations (taking a shower every afternoon, etc.), and have an 11 p.m. curfew. If they are late the police are called in.

Though it's near enough being a prison, in some ways it is even more restrictive. For example, no visitors are allowed. There is no telephone, even though men are kept here for up to 14 weeks. The men are not told when they can leave until the day of departure, and should they leave earlier, benefit is stopped for 6 weeks.

"EVERYBODY IS A PRISONER"

Jim Martin, 27, from Hemsworth, Yorkshire is a typical resident. He was unemployed for two years in a mining village where it was "the pit or nothing, and the pit was not taking anyone on." He went on to say, "I got a notice to come here and have an interview with the DHSS 'Careers Officer', who told me that I hadn't had a job for a long while and that I should go to one of these centres. They tried to make it sound like a

holiday camp. If I didn't go, he said I would lose my money."

He was told nothing about being able to appeal against this decision, and after 6 weeks he is unclear as to when he may leave. However, he has been told that should he leave of his own accord, or fail to do the pointless jobs expected of him, benefit will be stopped, and he could be prosecuted for failing to maintain himself. "It's a general threat," he said; "everybody is a prisoner."

HUMILIATION

The men at the Centre tell of the ridiculous and humiliating ways they are treated. They have to shave, or are refused breakfast; they are reported if they stay too long in the toilet...

Several men volunteer for the Centre in the belief that they will learn a trade. One was Aiden Fitzgerald, "I volunteered, but you learn nothing. I was told a pack of lies. The place is like a bloody open prison. The only freedom you get is at night, but you can't do anything with the £5.95 they give you each week." In fact the only work apart from 'shit-shovelling' is a little bit of carpentry.

How dare the newspapers cry

about oppressive treatment in other countries, when our own unemployed are treated like this? These Centres are supposed to rehabilitate people who have been unemployed for long periods. But what is the point, when there are no jobs to go to, and when these men aren't taught a trade in any case? The only answer for the unemployed is employment.

IRISH HUNGER STRIKE

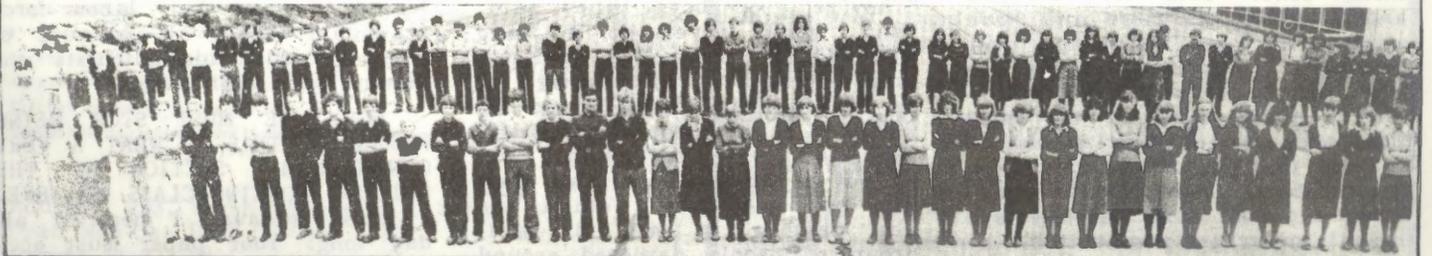
As "Class Struggle" goes to press, the Irish prisoners 'on the blanket' in H-Block, Long Kesh, have announced that some of them are to go on hunger strike starting on October 27th. For years they have withstood terrible conditions, torture and beatings in their struggle for the right to be treated as prisoners of war and now they see a hunger strike as the only weapon they have left.

A statement smuggled out of Long Kesh said, "We refute most strongly the tag of criminal with which the British have attempted to label us and our struggle, and we point to the divisive, partitionist institutions of the six county state as the sole criminal aspect of the present conflict."

The prisoners are already weakened by years of imprisonment, solitary confinement, torture, beatings, starvation diets, and denial of medical care.

Continued back page

The class of '80 — and only six have jobs



FOR IRAN - IRAQ PEACE

The continuing fratricidal war between the two third world countries, Iran and Iraq, is causing great suffering to the peoples of both countries and damage to their economies, particularly to Iran whose territory has been invaded and occupied. Further, it poses a threat to the entire region and to world peace as the two superpowers intensify their scramble for domination in the region, with the Soviet Union standing to gain most from the conflict.

Having been booted out of Iran, the US imperialists are scrambling to find secure footholds in the region. They have recently acquired access to naval facilities in Somalia, Kenya and Oman, and will dispatch 1400 troops to Egypt at the beginning of November. The recent military coup in Turkey considerably strengthened their position in this strategically important country. In the wake of the conflict the US has sent four AWACS radar planes - together with military personnel - to Saudi Arabia, and has said that it will make its space satellite intelligence available to 'friends' in the area. Carter has proposed that an 'international task force' be sent to 'protect' the Straits of Hormuz, through which passes half the oil used by the West. Many Islamic and third world countries have opposed the idea as have West Germany and Japan. However, the British imperialists have dutifully fallen in line and even arrogantly dispatched the warship HMS Coventry to the area. The US has a 10,000-strong 'Middle East Rapid Deployment Force' stationed, courtesy of British imperialism, on the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia. The US would dearly love to see the anti-imperialist Khomeini government overthrown and replaced by the likes of Bhaktiar, the Shah's last premier, or General Oveissi, 'Butcher of Tehran'. In view of this, the strengthening of national unity and solidarity in Iran is to be particularly welcomed.

But it is the Soviet Union which has most to gain

from the conflict, has the greatest capacity for aggression and is the most dangerous. Its brutal invasion of Afghanistan was above all a stepping stone to 'warm water' ports, vital shipping lanes and sources of raw materials. Its garrisons in South Yemen and Ethiopia place it very near the vital Straits of Hormuz. Despite some moves by Iraq to strengthen its national independence, the Soviet Union still has great influence in the country, including about 1000 advisors. A number of reports talk of a continuing and increasing flow of Soviet weapons to Iraq. The Soviet Union also plays its dirty double game by offering arms to Iran but its Premier, Rajai, has said, "we will not exchange our independence for weapons."

On October 8th, the Soviet Union signed a 'Peace and Friendship Treaty' with the Syrian regime. President Assad thinks that this will help to prop up his shaky regime which is supported only by the Alawite community, comprising 15% of the population. But these treaties have been used not only to aggress against others. As Amin, the hapless last president of Afghanistan found out, it can also be the death warrant for the Head of State of one signatory country. The recently announced 'Union' between Syria and Libya also strengthens Soviet influence. Libya has been a recipient of massive Soviet military aid and the adventurer Gaddafi has threatened and provoked his neighbours, including Tunisia, Chad and Malta.

Clearly, the losers here are the peoples of Iran, Iraq and the Middle East. That is why Iraq must immediately halt its aggression and withdraw its troops to the internationally recognised border, the two countries must ceasefire and should solve their problems peacefully on the basis of negotiations, placing to the fore the overriding common interests of all third world countries and peoples.

From our postbag

PORT TALBOT DEMONSTRATION
From a CS reader: On Saturday 20th September, I took part in a demonstration in Port Talbot, organised by the Welsh Socialist Republican Movement, in protest against the British army's recruitment campaign.

I have been on a number of demonstrations in London over the last 12 years and my experience has been that the public's attitude, in the main, varies from indifference to mild curiosity, and in some instances, to hostility. Frequently heard comments... "Damn students; it's we tax-payers who are carrying them", or, "Bloody Reds; always stirring things up."

But the demonstration at Port Talbot was different. We were cheered on by the public, many of whom joined the demonstration. One of the people to whom I gave a pamphlet, an elderly lady, had this to say:- "I have three sons. Both my husband and I were born here and have worked in Port Talbot for over 30 years. We have struggled to give our boys a better education than we got, in the hope that they would enjoy a chance in life that was denied us. Now my husband has recently been made redundant and at his age he will never get another job.

"My sons are well-educated,"

she went on. "The two older boys both have a trade, but with jobs like hen's teeth, they don't even bother to look for work any more. It's just a waste of time. The youngest boy is 17, just out of school, and all they can offer him is the dole queue. So what have we struggled for and worked so hard for, all these years?"

"Now we are told, 'Join the army. It's a great life; the pay is good, and you will get the chance to travel.' But where the hell will they travel to? I'll tell you. They'll travel to Belfast, to kill Irish people. Well, I said to my sons, "If either of you want to earn a living shooting people who are fighting for the same things that we people in Port Talbot are fighting for, never call me 'Mother' because I will never call either of you 'Son.'"

When I asked her how her sons re-acted to this, her face lit up with pride, and she said, "They're good boys. They said, 'Mam, we'll never do a thing like that.' You see, mister, they know who the enemy is, as my husband and I do as well. It's not the Irish, it's not the IRA. They didn't put us out of work. Oh no, we know who our enemy is." Whilst she was talking to me, a small group of people gathered around and expressed their full approv-

al of her view.

I don't know who this lady was, and shall probably never see her again, but of this I am quite sure, when people like her become organised and go into action, there is no force on earth that will be able to resist them.

ERRONEOUS BELIEFS AMONG WORKERS. From a CS reader: As a factory worker, my experience of the proletariat is that large numbers of them (where I live, at any rate) still hold firmly to the view that the depression we are experiencing along with redundancies and closures, are all the fault of the Trade Unions whose disruptive activities make British industry uncompetitive and (On how often do I hear this bloody drivel) 'they price themselves out of a job.'

So that group of philanthropists, who open factories for the most altruistic of reasons, otherwise known as capitalists, are forced to make their labour-force redundant. And all because of those wicked trade unionists who demand such high wages.

NOW, WE MUST STOP BEING ROMANTIC. THIS IS WHAT A VERY CONSIDERABLE SECTION OF THE BRITISH WORKING CLASS BELIEVE. I know, because I hear it all day long. Your paper must accept this. Continued on page 5

BARRICADES AT GARDNERS

From a "Class Struggle" correspondent in Manchester.

The last issue of "Class Struggle" reported on the struggle at Gardners engineering works in Eccles. Hoping to find the workforce demoralised and divided by short-time working, the management were attempting to rationalise production and sack 700 workers. The response of the workforce was an overwhelming vote to resist all redundancies. Since then the struggle has reached a new stage with the workers on all-out strike and in occupation of the factory.

Jolted by the first militant response, management immediately reduced their demand to 590 redundancies. They now say that 520 shop-floor workers and 70 administrative workers will have to go. But the workers say that this is the true figure which management had in mind all along and does not represent any compromise. In negotiations the unions held firm to their demand that all 590 threatened redundancies be lifted. After talks broke down, a mass meeting was called on Friday at which a motion calling for all-out strike and occupation was passed. Both productive and non-productive workers are supporting the strike.

Recent production has been about 75 engines per week, but it was expected to reach 120 by January. The workforce wanted to continue short-time working, sharing whatever work was available until orders picked up again. They also demanded that the government continue to subsidise the wages of those on short-time. The decision to end government support after 13 weeks (the usual period is a maximum of six months) seems to be linked with management's plan to sack 590 workers before production increases again.

STAYING OVERNIGHT

At the time of writing this report the gates are locked and barricaded. The workers are operating a 24-hour rota, with many bringing in sleeping bags and staying overnight. They are not just sitting pretty in the canteen, but occupying their own sections where the engines are produced and their bosses' profits are made. The immediate goal is for union recognition to make the strike official.

This action at Gardners can give great encouragement to millions of workers up and down the country who are facing wage cuts and redundancies. With winter rapidly closing in it looks likely to be a long, hard struggle. They are not just fighting for themselves but for all of us and they deserve all the support we can give them.

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A WORKER'S NOTEBOOK

THE NEW SOCIAL SECURITY ACT hits claimants harder than ever. It will have the effect of dragging people into low-paid jobs, splitting families, increasing harassment, and forcing people into 'fiddling'. And all for papers like the "Sun" to make a meal out of!

* You have to prove you're looking for work; failure to apply for jobs, training opportunities, seasonal work, etc., can lead to loss of benefit.

* Refusal to accept a job that pays less than your benefit can lead to withdrawal of the benefit at two weeks' notice.

* Sons and daughters of the unemployed will be expected to support their parents, the income of any member of a household being taken into account as a resource of all its members. This could even affect people sharing flats as well.

* Exceptional Needs Payments will be virtually unobtainable (so apply now while you still can!)

* Do you care for a sick relative? Exceptional Circumstances Additions (subsidies for heating, special diet, etc.) will be cut.

* Did you have your Giro stolen? Urgent Needs Payment in such cases will have to be repaid in full.

* Did you get a 'golden handshake' when you lost your job? If it left you with £2000 or more in the bank, then you won't be entitled to any benefit.

Right of appeal against these measures will be very limited.

"LET HALF OF THEM OUT". This is admitted by Mr Attrib Governor of Winson Green Prison, Birmingham, to be the rational thing to do about Britain's overcrowded prisons. In a recent article in the "New Statesman", he analysed the cases of the 4093 people who passed through Winson Green Prison between July 1979 and June 1980, and identified groups who should not have been committed. These were: (i) 'unlawful immigrants', who he said the Immigration Department had had imprisoned "when they have committed, so far as we know, no offence of any kind whatsoever"; (ii) maintenance cases; (iii) drunks and drug addicts; (iv) absconded cases from psychiatric units; (v) social cripples and inadequates. Based on Home Office information, the UK is top of the European league for proportion of people in prison, with 80 per 100,000 of the general population (West Germany has 67, and Holland has 13.4 per 100,000.)

VARIOUS EMPLOYMENT EXCHANGES IN BIRMINGHAM have been taken over for a day at a time by strikers from the Birmetals foundry. The 700 manual workers are fighting for their jobs, and have maintained a picket night and day since August 22nd. The management has threatened white collar workers with the sack unless they cooperate in strike-breaking, and has also employed scabs and cowboys for this purpose. Support for the strike is strong, with meetings three times a week, each followed by a march on the factory. A Day of Action is planned for October 17th.

When the Birmetal workers' claim for unemployment benefit came to the attention of Parliament last June, Thatcher commented, "If the people at Birmetals go for pie in the sky, then they deserve what they get." One striker, Michael Nevin, was given a week's notice to quit his flat when his landlady was told he was on strike: "I had nowhere to live, no money, no benefits at all. I had to sell all my worldly possessions to live - watch, TV, stereo..." It was Nevin who, at a mass meeting, put forward the resolution "to picket the gates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, indefinitely"; he now has his mail delivered to him on the picket line.

THE STATISTICS OF DECAY: according to the Financial Times, industrial production in Britain has fallen by 8% since 1973. This drop, though, represents only a beginning. Last April Mr. Frank Cassel, a treasury Under-Secretary, announced that the government expects manufacturing output to fall by a further 4½% this year and to continue to decline for the next three years.

Blackpool Conference ...

Unlike previous years, the battle between 'left' and right at this year's Labour Party Conference generated a great deal of heat. The newspapers were full of reports regretting the apparent display of heated argument and controversy. Prominent coverage was given to Callaghan's appeal for unity against Thatcher, and the press seemed to display genuine nervousness at the stand Benn was taking.

The Labour Party always swings to the 'left' when out of office and this usually involves some struggle between a 'left' and right wing. Wilson, Barbara Castle and Michael Foot were one deemed the Labour Party's 'left' wing in the early 1950s. But this 'split' does not change the fundamental reformist and class-collaborationist nature of the party.

A SPLIT IN THE CAMP OF 'SOCIAL DEMOCRACY'

The bourgeois press expressed genuine nervousness and even horror at some of the proclamations Benn made. But this stems more from

a fear of what his apparent radicalism may arouse among the workers than a real fear of Benn himself. Militant demands for change arouse these desires among the masses.

But Benn is a fake! Except for his open declaration against the partition of Ireland, there is little to be said in his support, or socialist in what he says. And even on the question of Ireland, his speeches give the distinct impression that he sees partition as something to be ended not by the struggle of the Irish people but by an Act of Parliament. However, on this issue, Benn could rest easy with the full knowledge that the trade unions and their block votes were not even prepared to be in favour of ending Labour's bi-partisan policy with the Tories on Ireland. What can be called socialist in a party which does not support the struggle of an oppressed people?

However, the split in the Labour Party is important not because the Labour Party can be changed. Its significance lies in the fact that the split is a measure of what issues are radicalising 'social democracy' in the current national and international situation. The press

"My English friends are worried that quite soon I shall lose the right to vote in British elections; but their greatest fear is that sooner or later I may lose the right to be employed in certain jobs. They would have me apply for British citizenship without delay." Mr. Donald Hinds, a Jamaican who has lived and worked in Britain since 1955 wrote this in the "Guardian" on 5/9/80.

The cause of this fear is the new nationality law which the Government is seeking to bring in to set the seal on institutionalised racism in this country. A White Paper published in July follows the lines set out by the Labour government in 1977 in their Green paper.

The proposed law is very complex, and will affect black and Asian people in many ways. This article concentrates on the problems that Mr. Hinds and people in his situation face.

British citizenship

The majority of national minority people living in Britain are Commonwealth citizens from India, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, the Caribbean and African countries, and ex-Commonwealth citizens from Pakistan and Kashmir. If they came here before 1968 and have lived here 5 years, they have the right to stay under Immigration law. The new law will not affect this right directly, but it will not grant them British citizenship.

DITCH LABOUR PARTY

have given a lot of publicity to the possibility of the formation of a new centre party in the event of the 'left's' victory. If such disintegration of the Labour Party was to happen, it would certainly be no loss to the working class. But the result might well be an organisation even more dangerous in its ability to mislead the working class.

CORPORATISM

Labour claims to be a working class party. Yet little, if any, of the conference was given over to supporting or encouraging the mass struggle of the working class. The conference was geared to support on paper, through resolutions for particular election policies as usual. Just how much the independent struggle of the working class is considered insignificant, compared to elections, is revealed in the strategy of a pact between the TUC and the next Labour government. According to the Labour Party's conception of 'socialism', this is sufficient for the era of socialism to be ushered in. But this is no less than taking another step toward incorporating the unions

The dilemma for these people, like Mr. Hinds, is what to do about this. The White Paper proposals affect their choice in two ways:-

First, they indicate that, if they do not apply for citizenship, their civil rights will be rapidly taken away. The White Paper does not propose that Commonwealth citizens will immediately lose the right to vote, serve on a jury, take certain employment in the public services and hold certain ranks in the armed forces. But it says: "The Bill, by establishing a British citizenship, will make available a ready definition by which those duties or entitlements may be redefined in the future." Translated from Home Office officialese, this means the new law will make it easier to deprive a large percentage of black and Asian people in Britain of their rights to vote, work in the public services, etc.

Second, the proposed law will take away the entitlement of Commonwealth citizens settled here to become UK citizens by REGISTRATION. This entitlement should mean that these people can take UK citizenship as of right by a comparatively simple, cheap and quick process. In practice, the Home Office ensures that it is not so easy. This was shown when Pakistani citizens had to exercise this right in a hurry before it was taken away by the Pakistan Act. Out of the 100,000 applications, one in five were refused. But by

Proposed Nat

STATE RACISM

taking away the entitlement to register (with only two years' grace for men, three for women), the new law will leave open only the method of NATURALISATION. If registration is difficult, naturalisation is nearly impossible. It is at the discretion of the Home Secretary, without appeal, and "costs more, takes years and requires you to satisfy harder tests and be interviewed by the police." (Chapelton Law Centre, Leeds).

Should be a right

Many black and Asian people hesitate to register. They do not want to pay £50 or £150 for something which should be a right, and they do not want to face interviews with racist authorities and risk refusal. But, more important than that, as Mr. Hinds explains, "To be a citizen needs love and confidence. One must be confident not only that one belongs, but that others accept one's belonging. If the confidence of black citizenship is not reflected on both sides, then it becomes second class. I find my confidence being undermined daily in newspapers, TV shows, radio and at customs."

Jamaicans, Indians, Bangladeshis and other national minority people in Britain do not see why they should be forced to

ONCE FOR ALL!

to the bourgeois state, just as Mussolini's and Hitler's national socialism' did.

THE EEC

In his most demagogic of speeches Benn, on the first day of the conference, put forward a scheme for creating 1000 Labour peers in order that a Labour government could decree total nationalisation and withdrawal from the EEC. As if this would be allowed by the state apparatus! However, the idea was greeted with resounding applause from delegates who saw no contradiction between Benn's constant speechifying about democracy and this proposal which can only have the effect of concentrating more power!

ing Street. No doubt many at Blackpool genuinely desired socialism. But the 'socialism' they were applauding was not based on any concept of working class power. Rather, on an economy where the bureaucrat capitalists of the state monopolies are dominant.

For people who consider themselves 'socialists', such delegates are amazingly gullible when it comes to seeing through the propaganda and trickery of a section of the British capitalist class - namely

the section that is orchestrating a campaign for withdrawal from the EEC. This section of the capitalist class wants a return to the empire days when British imperialism got cheap butter and dairy produce from the Commonwealth; it includes the likes of Tate and Lyle, who lost out to German beet sugar when Britain joined the EEC. Yes, the EEC is a 'rich men's club'. But Benn and Co. are demagogically misleading the working class by pretending that withdrawal from the EEC will lift the burden of the capitalist crisis from our backs.

UNILATERAL DISARMAMENT

The most striking feature of Labour's phoney 'left' is its failure clearly to oppose the expansionism of the Soviet Union. On the events in Poland, Benn commented that the Polish workers are seeking an extension of democracy while British workers desire an extension of socialism. The implication here is clearly that the bureaucrat capitalist regime in Poland under the heel of the USSR is a socialist one which merely needs democratic adjustment. By the same distorted reasoning the Soviet Union is let off the hook from being branded imperialist.

It is in this context that we must judge the 'left' of the Labour Party's support for unilateral disarmament - in other words, disarmament by Britain in the face of the superpowers armed to the teeth and rivalling each other for world supremacy. Couple this with their demand for withdrawal from the EEC and we have a recipe for making Britain and Europe at this time more open to aggression from the USSR and more dependant on the US.

Europe is the focus of superpower rivalry, and the greater its ability to withstand aggression, the longer the impending war can be delayed.

But Benn is pushing a pacifist notion of unilateral disarmament which can only strengthen the position of the Soviet Union and so do a great disservice to the working class. The Soviet Union is 'socialist' only in words - in its deeds, it is imperialist.

REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

Reformism is increasingly bankrupt. Marxism is the only scientific ideology the working class has for building a revolutionary party and leading a revolutionary struggle for the seizure of power by the working class itself. Let us ditch the Labour Party once and for all!!

Nationality Law

STEPPED UP

change their citizenship. They have worked and paid taxes and contributed to the wealth of this country's rulers for many years. That is why they should have the same rights as white people here. But they do not have equal rights now, and taking British citizenship will not make them immune to racist attacks by police, bureaucrats, bosses, media, etc.

They know Britain's imperialist rulers will never grant them full democratic rights, so why should they not continue as Jamaican, Indian or Bangladeshi citizens? Their culture is always under attack in Britain. Nothing makes this clearer than the proposal to retain the "language qualification" for naturalisation. The White paper says: "The Bill will provide that an applicant for naturalisation must show that he has adequate knowledge of English or Welsh."

Why should the right to full civil rights depend on speaking English, the language of the oppressor? It is important to uphold the rights of the Welsh because they are an oppressed nationality in Britain whose language is under attack. But what about the right to speak Urdu, Punjabi, Bengali, Chinese and other Third World languages, which are now the common languages of large sections of the

community in Britain, despite the failure of the state to cater for them through the schools and media, etc.? By imposing a "language qualification" which excludes these languages, nationality law makes a direct attack on national minority rights.

Dual nationality threatened

Some national minority people face the even harder prospect that if they become British citizens to protect their civil rights they will lose the citizenship of their original homelands. The White Paper does not say that Britain will cease to allow dual nationality, though this would be a likely next step after the Bill is passed. But the countries of origin of many national minorities here do not allow dual nationality themselves (India, Nigeria, Kenya, Zambia, Sierra Leone, Australia).

These are some of the reasons why all democratically-minded people must oppose the new nationality law. It will take away nationality law. It will take away the right of national minority people to choose their citizenship. It will lead to formal deprivation of civil rights for many national minority people. It will create different legal classes of citizenship in Britain, and these will be used to step up racist attacks by the state against national minority people and their culture. Above all, it will enshrine the racism of the Immigration laws in the basic law of citizenship itself.

This is happening at a time when the whole of the working people are being attacked by state policies, which increase unemployment and destroy living standards - a time when black and Asian people in particular are being harrassed, by the racism of the police and the state, and by immigration law enforcement which divides their families, turns them back at airports and subjects them to search, detention and deportation. In practise, people are being forced out of this country all the time. The new law is a further step down the road to legislation on repatriation.

LETTER CONT'D FROM PAGE 2.

If we are to make an impression on the working class, we must know what they believe. And they believe it because they read it in the 'Sun', a paper which I have reason to believe enjoys a wider circulation amongst workers than "Class Struggle."

I suggest that you do an article listing the utterly fallacious reasons for the present position of the economy as given by the 'Sun', and then proceed to explain who the real disruptors of our economy are.

Editor's note.

We have received a number of letters requesting more all round analysis of the capitalist crisis and are planning several articles. In the next issue we will examine the impact of new technology.

The World Scene

NORTH KALIMANTAN

The Communist Party of North Kalimantan (CPNK) celebrated its 15th anniversary on 19th September. To mark the occasion the radio station, "Voice of the Malayan Revolution" broadcast an authoritative commentary on the history of the Kalimantan peoples' revolutionary struggle.

The article begins by pointing out that Kalimantan is an island of rich natural resources so that since the 16th century it has been an object of contention amongst European colonialists. The Kalimantan people always resisted invaders and so it was not until the 19th century that the British and Dutch colonialists succeeded in carving up the island.

After more than 100 years of British imperialist occupation, the people of North Kalimantan took up primitive weapons to wage a heroic resistance. During the Japanese occupation, the people waged guerilla warfare from the mountains. After the surrender of the Japanese imperialists, the British imperialists, who had earlier fled, returned to occupy North Kalimantan. But in the new situation after the war, the people were not prepared to return to British overlordship.

The commentary notes, "The great victory of the Chinese revolution in 1949 promoted the dissemination of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought and gave great impetus to the anti-imperialist and anti-colonialist struggle in North Kalimantan. In 1951, the 29th October Student Movement against enslaving imperialist education broke out in Sarawak and later developed into a widespread anti-imperialist and anti-colonialist struggle."

After this movement a group of intellectuals began to propagate Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought and to integrate with the workers and peasants.

On this basis, and with help from the Communist Party of Malaya, the Sarawak Liberation League, a revolutionary organisation based on Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought was founded on 20th March 1954. This provided a unified leadership for the struggle against British imperialism.

On 8th December 1962, the Brunei people rose in armed struggle opposing the incorporation of Brunei, Sabah and Sarawak into 'Malaysia' and calling for the establishment of a new North Kalimantan. However, the British imperialists forcibly incorporated Sabah and Sarawak into 'Malaysia' on 16th September 1963, leading to the development of a large scale armed struggle against British imperialism and the reactionary Malaysian ruling class throughout North Kalimantan. On 18th August 1964 the North Kalimantan National Liberation League was formed to unite in struggle people from different classes, nationalities and religious beliefs.

PARTY FOUNDATION

The Sarawak Liberation League held an enlarged Central Committee meeting from 17th to 19th September 1965. Reviewing its 10 years of work, the League noted that the conditions, basis and necessity for a revolutionary proletarian party had been created in North Kalimantan. The meeting unanimously agreed to dissolve the Liberation League and to found the Communist Party of North Kalimantan.

In its founding declaration the NKCP stated that it would integrate the universal truth of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought with the concrete practice of the North Kalimantan revolution, the first stage of which was the national democratic revolution. The correct road for this new-democratic revolution is to mobilise the peoples of town and country, carry out people's war, rely on the peasants to build revolutionary bases in the countryside and finally seize political power throughout the country under the leadership of the proletariat.

The NKCP has a 14 point programme of struggle calling for the overthrow of the imperialists and local reactionaries and for the establishment of "an independent, democratic, peaceful and prosperous North Kalimantan."

The programme calls for removing all privileges from foreign monopoly capital and domestic compradors and for protection of the legitimate rights of the national bourgeoisie. It opposes chauvinism and calls for national autonomy within a unified North Kalimantan and for the creation, development and protection of the rights and livelihood of the workers, peasants, mountain nationalities, fishermen, craftsmen, professional people and small traders. It calls for equality between men and women, an end to colonial culture and education and the development of national culture and education, freedom of religious belief, speech, the press and to demonstrate.

Turning to the international situation, the commentary states, "At present, the revolutionary situation in South East Asia has undergone great changes as a result of the invasion of Afghanistan and Kampuchea by the Soviet-Vietnamese hegemonists. The Communist Party and revolutionary people of North Kalimantan are closely watching the development of the situation and are determined, together with the people of various South East Asian countries, firmly to resist the aggression of the Soviet-Vietnamese hegemonists."

"Voice of the Malayan Revolution" also broadcast a number of messages of greetings to the CPNK from fraternal communist parties in South East Asia.

For Your Reference

BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON NORTH KALIMANTAN

*** Situated on North West Coast of Kalimantan Island (Borneo). Divided by the British imperialists into Sabah, Sarawak and Brunei. Rest of island ruled by Indonesia. Sabah and Sarawak forcibly incorporated into 'Malaysia' in 1963. Brunei, a British protectorate ruled by a corrupt sultan. Due to receive 'independence' in 1983. Regime propped up by Gurkha mercenaries. People kept in dire poverty, whilst Sultan and British imperialists siphon off vast oil profits.

*** Population in 1975: 2,044,400. At least 25 nationalities including Dayaks, Chinese, Kadazans; Malays

*** Economy: Rich in oil, copper, bauxite, timber. All plundered by imperialists and local big capitalists. Economy either subsistence or exprt-oriented to cash crops, leaving country at mercy of world capitalist recession.

*** Health service: Inadequate. Last outbreak of cholera in 1977. Malnutrition and hunger widespread. 1972: reports of stovation in rural areas..

THIS IS IMPERIALISM!



China's National Day

China warmly celebrated its national day on October 1st, but without the pomp and extravagance of previous years. This is a part of a campaign to eliminate out-dated customs, stop the waste of resources and narrow the gap between leaders and the masses.

People enjoyed a two day holiday and a number of new films were premiered together with other forms of entertainment. A richly varied carnival was held in Beijing (Peking) on the evening of October 1st and people formed long queues to be photographed at the spot where Mao Zedong proclaimed the founding of the People's Republic in 1949.

China's new premier, Zhao Ziyang, hosted a reception on September 30th. Welcoming foreign guests he said, "This happy gathering symbolises the friendship and solidarity of the people of China with those of other countries in the world."

He praised the contributions of overseas Chinese and the people of Hongkong, Macao and Taiwan to the cause of China's socialist modernisation and national reunification. He thanked the people of all countries for their sympathy and support for China.

"The Chinese people are now working with one heart and one mind to turn China into a modernised, highly democratic and civilised socialist country," he said. "China's reconstruction needs a peaceful international environment. We shall resolutely pursue the foreign policy of peace and strive to combat hegemonism, preserve world peace, develop friendly co-operation with all other peoples, and promote the cause of human progress."

A delegation of representatives from all of China's 55 minority nationalities came to Beijing for the celebrations.

PROVOCATIONS

On 30th September and October 1st the Vietnamese aggressors tried to disrupt the Chinese peoples' festival by staging a number of provocative incursions into Yunnan province. China's frontier guards counter attacked in self defence.

GANG OF FOUR TO BE TRIED

China has announced that the principle surviving members of two counter-revolutionary cliques, those of Lin Biao and the 'Gang of Four' are to go on trial soon. Huang Huoqing, Chief Procurator of the Supreme People's Court said that ample evidence existed for conviction on four counts:-

- Sedition and conspiracy to overthrow the political power of proletarian dictatorship;
- framing and persecuting Party and state leaders and usurping Party leadership and State power;
- persecuting and suppressing cadres and the masses and practising fascist dictatorship; and
- plotting to murder Chairman Mao and engineering a counter-revolutionary armed rebellion.

The prosecution will only concern their counter-revolutionary crimes and will not touch on their errors in work or on wrong political lines. Stress will be placed not on confessions but on facts and reliable material evidence such as dossiers, letters, diaries, notes, records and tape recordings.

China's "People's Daily" welcomed the announcement of the trial and said that it was a victory for socialist democracy and the legal system. For 10 years these two cliques had run riot, bringing calamity to the country and its people. The paper said that the Chinese Party had made serious mistakes during the "cultural revolution" but for Lin Biao and the 'Gang of Four', "it was not a question of making mistakes at all, but a question of organised and premeditated counter-revolutionary activity. Their conduct was completely different in nature from the mistakes made by our Party, and from the mistakes in work made by any comrade, including mistakes in political line."

INTERNATIONAL NOTES



MALAYA. The radio station, "Voice of the Malayan Revolution" has recently carried a number of reports on the armed struggle being waged in north-eastern Kedah, near the Thai border. In late July the enemy forces attempted to attack the area but by relying on landmines and guerilla warfare the liberation fighters defeated the attack and the enemy forces had to be rescued by helicopter. The freedom fighters successfully attacked enemy forces on 25th August and 3rd September. On 9th September the liberation army executed an informer who had led enemy troops to attack the peoples' forces.

GUYANA. Former Prime Minister, Forbes Burnham was sworn in as President of this former British colony on October 6th. The ceremony was boycotted by opposition parties. The Burnham regime has become increasingly unpopular and Burnham is kept in power by armed civilian thugs, some recruited from an obscure religious sect called 'House of Israel', and a military and police force who account for 22% of the budget.

Elections, postponed for two years, will probably be held within the next 12 weeks but it is likely that the opposition will boycott them. Ample evidence exists that Burnham rigged the last two elections in 1968 and 1973 mainly by fraud involving the overseas postal votes of Guyanese living in Britain and the United States. The opposition has called for international supervision of the election. Economic disaster and corruption have forced Guyana to accept humiliating terms from the International Monetary Fund and food and other subsidies for the poor have been slashed. Despite some nationalisations, the country's economy is still controlled by British, American and Canadian imperialist monopolies who fear the prospect of Burnham being replaced by either a pro-Soviet regime or a genuinely progressive government.

JAMAICA. On October 5th, Jamaican Prime Minister, Michael Manley announced that a general election would be held on October 30th. The announcement was made in the midst of the political violence that has claimed more than 400 lives this year. Both political parties hire killers to intimidate and terrorise. There is no shortage of recruits because of poverty and unemployment. The political strife is due in large part to the meddling of the two superpowers. The United States is Jamaica's biggest trading partner and it maintains close ties with the big capitalists whilst the CIA gives extensive backing to the opposition Jamaica Labour Party. The ruling People's National Party is heavily infiltrated by pro-Soviet and pro-Cuban forces. The Soviet Union has a big interest in Jamaica's bauxite and sugar industries. The Soviet policy of pushing Jamaica to produce cash crops for export instead of food crops contributes to a food shortage. Heavy pressure is also exerted by the International Monetary Fund. This continuing imperialist domination is responsible for the misery of the Jamaican people. Unemployment now stands at 30%, rice and many vegetables are scarce and many people seek to emigrate.

WINDWARD ISLANDS. After Hurricane Allen ravaged the Caribbean in August, the British firm Geest Industries Ltd - sole marketers of Windward bananas in Britain - stepped in to do their bit. After much of the banana crop was destroyed, Geest refused to buy any Windward bananas on the grounds that quantities available were uneconomical to ship. Instead Geest went to Ecuador. Bananas are the mainstay of the economies of the four Windward Isles - Grenada, Dominica, St. Vincent and St. Lucia - accounting for over 50% of their foreign exchange earnings. That small third world countries are still held in thrall to imperialist companies shows the urgent necessity of establishing a new international economic order.

WORKING 'ON THE SIDE'

From a "Class Struggle correspondent in Leeds."

"I used to think it was wrong to work on the side. But I've worked for twenty years in regular jobs and I've nothing to show for it. Now I'm on the dole, I'm going to take my chance alongside everyone else." This was the comment made by Pat who recently lost her job in a Leeds clothing factory. The combination of lack of jobs, high prices and low dole is forcing more and more people into this situation. No-one sees it as a long-term solution. It's a way of getting by - finding the next meal or paying the latest electric bill or rent demand.

Working 'off the cards' is nothing new. Some employers, like building contractors are famous for their use of it for tax evasion. 'Illegal immigrants' are another well-known, easily exploited source of cheap labour. There is one small engineering shop in Leeds that pays £25 a week for forty hours if the worker is 'illegal.' Working on the side means working awkward hours, in bad conditions, for low wages with no legal rights, and obviously no union organisation for better conditions. But more and more people have to do it, especially women.

FINDING 'A LITTLE JOB'

Women are losing full-time jobs through redundancies and shutdowns or they are on short time. Getting part-time work in factories is more difficult; employers were prepared to be flexible with hours when they were short of labour but not now. Women who are by themselves with children simply can not survive on present dole or social security money. Some of the jobs that are available pay such low wages that they're not worth doing. So they find a 'little job': current rates seem to be about 75p an hour for bar and catering work and £1 an hour for cleaning work. The extra this provides helps the family get by.

Ann is another woman in this situation. Her marriage broke

HUNGER STRIKE CONT FROM P.1.

There is a grave danger that many will die.

The government doesn't care if they die but massive protests in Ireland, Britain and the world can force them to back down.

The prisoners in Ireland are our brothers and sisters. They need our support. We urge all our readers to support the protests that will be called by the Troops Out Movement and others.

VICTORY TO THE BLANKETMEN !

down and she got into difficulties with SS and paying off an electric bill. She is now by herself with three kids and trying to pay off the electric at £10 per week. "I've no option but to work, I do some office cleaning on the side. Before I was doing bar work. Without this, we simply couldn't live."

Pat has a child-minding arrangement with her daughter Christine who has a nine-month baby. Christine minds the baby in the morning while Pat does office cleaning. At night Pat minds the baby while Christine washes glasses in a club.

This 'other economy' is growing. For men the jobs are mainly heavier cleaning, working on sites, painting and decorating and fixing cars and televisions. For women, it's working in office and private house cleaning, bingo halls, and in bars, clubs and cafes. There is some home work still, but this seems to be on the decline. One family in the area spend their spare time pulling tacking out of jackets - with the children all giving a hand. Women often share jobs and child-minding. For example, two women share a morning and evening cleaning job and take turnabout at child-minding.

CONSTANT FEAR

"Without this, we couldn't live," said Ann and went on: "With it, we live in constant fear of the SS." The fear of being 'dropped on' is always in people's minds. In this area where Ann lives, people think the SS have a regular informer, so many people are being shopped. Whether they use informers or anonymous letters or not, the SS has its own checking-up methods - more and more unexpected visits and inspectors.

WE'RE WILLING TO WORK

Some women have got organised to stop intimidation by SS visitors. One woman described how she and a group of friends turned the tables on a visitor by insisting that he interviewed the whole group instead of isolating and intimidating the one woman.

The problem of working on the side is more complex but there is a crying need for the unemployed to organise to fight for jobs and a decent standard of living on the dole. Such organisation could also build on the kind of mutual support that women have developed for child-minding and make it more systematic. "We're willing to work," say the women, "but we don't get the opportunity to work openly for a decent wage."

BRITAINS CHINESE

From a "Class Struggle" correspondent.

On the afternoon of September 28th, hundreds of overseas Chinese, together with some British friends, gathered at a reception in central London to celebrate the 31st anniversary of socialist China, that fell on October 1st. The reception was organised by the London Overseas Chinese Society, an umbrella body grouping a number of patriotic organisations.

The speakers included the Chinese Ambassador, Comrade Ke Hua, who said that the overseas Chinese have always played a part in furthering the friendship between the peoples of Britain and China. He hoped that the overseas Chinese would continue to contribute towards the development of China as well as to British society.

In addition to the speakers, there was a rich and varied cultural programme that included 'lion dances' performed by members of Martial Arts clubs to the beating of drums and gongs, traditional and folk dances and music from a Chinese orchestra.

The good turnout showed the deep feelings cherished for socialist China by the masses of overseas Chinese in Britain from many different walks of life.

Overseas Chinese communities in other towns and cities throughout Britain also organised celebrations.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

* The Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding (SACU) organised a weekend school to mark China's national day. The speakers included Roland Berger on the current political situation, Walter Easey on China and Hong Kong and Chenhamo Chimutengwende on China and Africa.

* The Scotland-China Association held a celebratory social in Edinburgh.

* The Revolutionary Communist League of Britain (RCLB) sent a message of greetings to the Communist Party of China to mark National Day.

Forthcoming Events

Started Thursday Oct 2nd.

Season of Chinese films.

Continues through to Nov 2nd. Films from the '30s to 1979. Very few seen in Britain before. Full details from National Film Theatre. Phone 01-928-3842.

Saturday Oct 18th.

Demonstrate against Prevention of Terrorism Act!

Assemble 1.30, Stanley House, Upper Parliament St., Liverpool 8. Organised by Merseyside Troops Out Movement.

Saturday Nov 1.

Picket Durham Jail!

In support of Irish women political prisoners held there. 1.30 p.m. Organised by Troops Out Movement.

Saturday Nov 15.

Demonstrate in support of Anwar Ditta.

Assemble 12 noon, Church Stile, Rochdale. Followed by rally at 3 p.m. Speakers from Indian, Bangladeshi, Kashmiri and Pakistan Workers Associations.

Saturday Nov 15th.

BRITISH TROOPS OUT OF IRELAND!

Demonstration called by Committee for Withdrawal from Ireland. Details to follow.

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