

CLASS STRUGGLE

POLITICAL PAPER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF BRITAIN

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UNITY IS STRENGTH

STEELMEN AND MINERS STICK TOGETHER

After the victory of the pickets in shutting down the Hadfields private steel company, the *Daily Mirror* branded the steel workers' struggle as "Mob Rule". At the same time the police who used military style formations to attack the mass pickets were praised as being "determined". No class conscious workers want the sharp divisions of different sections of workers which have been witnessed at Hadfields in Sheffield. Divisions which have been incited by the press, the courts and the Hadfields bosses themselves. But it is clear that the success or failure of the steel workers strike depended at this stage on the victory of the mass picket. That is why the state and the bourgeois media concentrated its efforts to fuel the split of the Hadfields workers and defeat the pickets.

Hadfields closure is a victory for the whole working class on a par with the mass picket which closed Sateley Gate in the victorious miners' strike of 1972. The miners understood how crucial victory in the confrontation at Hadfields was for the steelworkers and in order to defend the power of effective mass picketing. That is why Scargill, the best of the miners' leaders, led a pre-dawn contingent of 300 miners to join the Hadfield picket.

STAKES ARE HIGH

Bill Sirs is still striving to make sure that the steel workers struggle is kept restricted to the wages issue. He is as frightened as the Government and the bosses of it developing further beyond the issue of more pay. But the stakes are high in this strike and they must not be ignored. The Tory Government and the bosses are placing their hopes in new anti-strike and anti-worker laws, and union bosses like Sirs have as much as given them the nod saying "the law must be obeyed". The cabinet has now resolved its "differences" and are speeding up the introduction of such measures as cutting social security benefits to strikers' wives. The struggle against these and other major political attacks on workers' rights and interests cannot be put off

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MAGISTRATES CONVICT VICTIMS OF SPG TERROR

All but 6 of the 342 people arrested and charged after the demonstration against the National Front in Southall last April have been dealt with.

Magistrates in Barnet, North London, convicted at a rate of 67%. One Magistrate, Mr Brian Caniham, convicted at a rate of 93%. Such wide-ranging inconsistencies say the Legal Action Group, have left the Asian Community in Southall shocked and angry. They have dubbed it the "judicial scandal of the century".

One of the last cases to be heard involved Mr Kuldip Singh, a 25 year old engineer, who was on his way home after being treated for an injury to his knee which he hurt while hurdling at his local sportsclub.

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FORD WORKERS FOIL SPEED-UP

Workers in the saloon framing area of the Ford's Halewood Body Plant have successfully foiled the company's attempts to drastically speed-up production whilst at the same time cutting manning levels.

The manning of this particular job was originally different over the two shifts. On the "A" shift there were nine men producing 15 cars per hour, on each of the two lines (total of 30 cars per hour). On the "B" shift 12 men produced 18 cars per hour (total of 36 from 2 lines). The company re-timed the job and announced that on both shifts 8 men must build 17.5 cars (total of 35 cars per hour). This represented a major speed-up for these workers.

The lads within the section, on both shifts, reacted angrily and told the company through their shop stewards that they were not on! The company replied by putting pressure on the lads in the form of strict supervision, involving practically everybody from the Halewood Operations Manager down to the factory cat.

When they realised that this line of attack was not serving its purpose, they resorted to the tried and tested formula of taking people "off pay". They followed this up by throwing out suspensions like you dish out confetti at a wedding. But this time, the company had misjudged the situation. Instead of demoralising the operators concerned, it had the opposite effect and strengthened their resolve and determination to win their fight and smash the fallacy that the company's timings were final in any manning dispute. After four weeks of struggle, the company finally gave in and agreed to man-up the job at 8 men producing 15 cars per hour.

The victory was won by the lads on the framing area without the support of the remainder of the 7,000 workers in the Body Plant. The reason for this is clear. Very few of the other workers were aware of the true facts surrounding the dispute; the original manning levels and the company's proposed changes. The result being that rumours ran rife, mostly criticising the framing lads. "They can do the score easily", and "They're only messing about" were two of the most common reactions.

Who do we blame for this situation with a split in the workforce? Primarily, of course the Ford bosses. They create a situation, then tell less than the true story in their "bulletins", etc. But the union leadership in the plant must be held responsible too. They failed to take any positive steps to inform the plant of the facts surrounding the dispute. A mass meeting of each shift held early on in the dispute would have meant that the framing lads would have had the confidence of plant backing in the struggle and would have prevented the usual rumours and lies from gaining ground.

This was the first major battle over manning levels in this plant at a time when over the coming months the new hatchback *Erica* car is beginning production and gradually taking over from the best-selling, but now outdated, *Escort*. Hundreds of millions of pounds have been spent on robot welding equipment displacing hundreds of workers, and making this the most advanced car plant in Britain. During this period in which every job will have to be fought for we can be confident that the workers will show similar determination as the framing lads. But will the union leaders stand up to the test is the question that needs answering.

Class Struggle Correspondents

Racism

Dear Editor,

In the past it has been the objective of the capitalist class to foster racism, particularly in the workplace and in the industrial superstructure. This was the case because there was a clear need for the working class to be divided. Its capability for political action against its number one enemy - the capitalists - was diverted against false "racial" enemies.

However, in recent years the struggle of the oppressed black working class has forced the capitalists to give in with certain welfare measures and, in South Africa, with other purely cosmetic changes. The breakdown of some racial barriers in South African industry recently, while not altering the racist basis of South African society, is intended to facilitate the better exploitation of the labour power.

Similarly, in Britain, the Establishment is pumping money and effort into the Commission for Racial Equality and the local Community Relations Councils. Although the people who work in these are generally sincere men and women who believe in a future multi-racial society, the capitalist design is that the symptoms of racism will be partially alleviated, while the racist basis of society will remain. Of course this basis will not be altered until capitalism itself has collapsed. Obviously we must work to defend the gains won in relation to the Welfare State since the war and must support minorities struggling in particular against the Government's reductions in public expenditure. But socialists must recognise the limited benefit which these programmes have, and

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From our
postbag



The Editor - *CS*
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203 Seven Sisters Rd
London N4.

always will have, under capitalism. This is true in Britain more than in South Africa - in Azania the brute force of capitalism is more obviously oppressive.

F.C. London.

Fords

Dear Editor,

I work on a line building car bodies at the Ford factory at Halewood. Last week, some of the lads on our line seemed to think the line was moving faster than it usually is. For safety reasons the speed is limited to 69 jobs-per-hour. A car is supposed to pass no less than ever 50 seconds, and we timed it with our own watches at 48 seconds. At about 11 am we told the foreman about this. He came back twice over the next couple of hours and asked if it was any better. But it seemed no different, and our watches still made it 48 seconds.

At 3 pm a process engineer and a safety steward finally arrived with a stop watch to time the track. They recorded the speed at 72.2 jobs-per-hour.

Well you might think we were making a lot of fuss about nothing, as it was only 3.2 jobs-per-hour or 2 seconds fast. But when you work out just what that means to Ford's profits, as we did, you you'll understand. We work 9 hour shifts on days and nights, so that's 28.8 extra cars every shift. At a selling price of around £3,000 per car, that's £864,000 worth of cars every shift. That is a lot of "extra" profit for a company that made £500 million in Britain over 1977-1978. We've decided to keep a closer check on the line speed in future!

A Ford Worker

Justice?

Dear Editor,

I was really interested by last issue's article called "The law and the courts - whose side are they on", showing that workers cannot expect justice in our society. My own experience confirms this.

My husband and I live in an inner-city council flat and as my husband is unemployed and my job is poorly paid; we have not got many luxuries. However a fortnight ago we got robbed and over £200 worth of stuff got stolen. All of the items were presents that our families had given us over the years.

We called the police immediately and the "beat" coppers came around. However they said that they thought it unlikely for the finger-print lot to come down (the last time we were robbed we were told the amount we had stolen did not make it worth-while for them to come).

We said that the CID ought to come quickly before the stuff was got rid off (as we had strong suspicions about who had done it). Even after 2 phone calls we are still waiting for the CID to come.

If we had been some rich couple who could well afford to replace their stuff the police would have been there in a shot. As I said there is no justice for the working class.

A reader.

NHS cuts

Dear Editor,

In the *Observer* of 3rd of February an article highlighted the appalling conditions at Queen Mary's Hospital, Carshalton, where patients ate from swill bins frequented by rats.

It's easy to conclude that the Hospital is a decaying Victorian Workhouse type building which has been hit by Tory cuts and insufficient staff. In fact it is quite the opposite. Queen Mary's Hospital is a group of modern single storey buildings with dedicated staff set in once well-cared for grounds.

According to a report of the Department of Health and Social Security, 1978 titled "Helping Mentally Handicapped People in Hospital" it has almost the highest quota of psychiatrists, medical staff, ward orderlies etc per 100 patients in the whole country.

The result of its present state is not just the fault of recent Tory cuts, but the progressive cuts by Labour and previous governments. No doubt it will be the subject of further cuts and picked up by Labour hacks in the hope of swinging people into voting and supporting the Labour policy.

One can only wonder what sort of condition the patients in other less fortunate hospitals suffer.

B.S.

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A WORKER'S NOTEBOOK

■ MR REGINALD PRENTICE, WELL-KNOWN SNAKE, IS SERVING his new mistress well. He has announced the recruitment of 1,050 more social security goons in the snooper squads - fraud officers, special investigators, unemployment review officers, etc. He says this will save the social security £50 million a year, at the cost of £3 million. It probably will. Not because it will detect many so called "scroungers". But because many claimants will lose benefit on suspicion without any right to a fair trial. And many others will be unwilling to claim and face the harassment and third degree of the SS snoopers. Many claimants suffer hardship because of cuts in the employment of the SS officers responsible for taking and assessing claims. Many fail to claim because the complex system of benefits is not explained properly. Prentice, appointed to the Social Security Ministry because of his "soft heart" towards the "weaker sections" of the community does not propose to recruit more officers to ensure claimants get what they are entitled to.

■ A LABOURER IN A TYRE FACTORY WHO REFUSED TO WORK in an excessive level of dust and fumes suspected of causing cancer, was fairly dismissed according to an Industrial Tribunal. To make matters even more disgusting the company involved, Dunlop, accept that dust and fumes at their factory in Inchinall, Glasgow, are above the maximum level advised by the British Rubber Manufacturers' Association. The man who refused to carry out his work in these dangerous conditions, Mr Thomas Lindsay, may now take his case to the Court of Session (the Scottish equivalent of the Court of Appeal). All this proves yet again that Industrial Tribunals are nothing more than props for the capitalist system and that the health of workers will always come second to the bosses' race for quicker and higher profits.

■ A NOTTINGHAMSHIRE MINER, WILLIAM RICHARDS, HAS won a four-year battle to stop his union deducting a political levy of £2.20p a year to be paid to the Labour Party. Following his victory, more than a dozen fellow miners at Blidworth colliery have followed suit. Opting out of paying this money to the Labour Party is one way that workers can show their hatred and disillusionment with the party that pretends to be socialist but is in fact the "best bosses' party". It was Labour who sent troops into northern Ireland in 1969; Labour who brought in the Immigration Act in 1968, and Labour who introduced the "social contract" in 1974. Why pay Labour to attack the working class? Opt out of the political levy! Turn the unions into fighting class organisations.

■ AS UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES SOAR THE CHOICE FOR THE majority of Scottish teenagers is simple and harsh: the dole or the army. Out of 17,800 boys and girls who left Scottish schools at Christmas, 13,300 are still without a job. The total would be higher if it wasn't for the Government trick "youth employment programme". In the Garnoch valley of Ayrshire unemployment is nearly 20% and last week another 170 jobs were lost from a British Steel subsidiary-Redpath Dorman Long. Of 41 boys and 23 girls who left the local school at Christmas, only 24 have got jobs locally and already some have joined friends and older brothers in the army. High unemployment has many advantages for the bosses; besides providing cannon fodder for their occupation army in Ireland, it is a source of cheap labour whose competition for jobs is used to intimidate workers everywhere.

MICROCHIP: ETU LINE SPLITS WORKERS

The introduction of micro-chip technology is making millions of jobs in engineering and throughout capitalist industry redundant. This will impose an additional burden of unemployment of the mass of working people.

Is this how the scoundrels who head our trade unions see it? Certainly not the ETU leaders. A report circulated to ETU shop stewards called the N.E.E. Technology Working Party Report stated, "If we are to successfully face the challenge presented by NET (New Electronic Technology), then training is a key factor. Without a positive attitude, the new work will be taken up by other groups of workers and without the appropriate additional training, maintenance electricians will not be able to claim this work as theirs simply because they will not be able to do it."

Later on the report emphasises that "All electricians, therefore, must stake their claim to the new electronics work..." And what about those workers who will lose their jobs or whose skills may become redundant? According to the line of this report they may be members of "other unions looking to encroach on what is obviously electricians' work..."

CRAFT NOT CLASS OUTLOOK

The document is concerned purely with increasing the power and influence of the ETU at the expense of other unions. Achieving what the report calls "strengthening the bargaining position, status and importance of maintenance electricians..." at the expense of other workers. However, the rudeness of this approach to what is a major political question for the working class does not end here. Not satisfied with adopting an aristocratic stand in relation to the mass of workers, the document goes on to pick an argument with other crafts and proposes an end to the "common craft rate". Not satisfied with turning its back on the mass of semi and unskilled workers, the report rats on other skilled workers and advises maintenance electricians to increase their rate relative to other crafts. At the same time the report has the cheek to say that this will not be easy... as the employers may seek to undermine the solidarity of electricians by encouraging the formation of elite groups."

Finally, the report does not even stand up for demanding additional pay when or before being retrained in new electronics skills. This, it is said, would result in "no job at all". The ETU leaders' whole perspective is one of increasing its sphere of influence in competition with other unions. There isn't an ounce of class unity or anti-capitalist struggle involved in the aristocratic attitude they take to other unions and workers.

To meet micro-chip technology, more than ever, the working class needs united struggle to demand jobs or income. This a question of political opposition to capitalist rule which makes technology a threat to the livelihood of working people and not something which serves the working class.

Contributed

EXPERT IN BRITISH STATE

The events of Bloody Sunday in Derry, northern Ireland, on January 30th 1972 will hold their place in history as one of the most calculated and vicious acts of British imperialist oppression. Bloody Sunday was also the most important expression of the rise and consolidation of the new breed of counter-revolutionary experts in the armed forces. The most notorious of whom is Frank Kitson. Kitson had been selected by a group of senior officers and civil servants to carry out an investigation into the steps which should be taken in order to make the army ready to deal with subversion, insurrection and peace-keeping operations during the second half of the 1970's. The theoretical side of his work, which was based on the experience of British troops in Malaya in the 1950's was given in his book, *Low Intensity Operations*. Following its publication he was posted to northern Ireland as commander of the 39th Airborne Brigade. It is clear that he was given instructions to "put his theories into practice", and Bloody Sunday was deliberately chosen as the occasion for the "test run". In the jargon of counter-revolutionary experts, the Derry March and demonstration would give the army just the right "scenario."

KITSON'S PROMOTION

The subsequent careers of Kitson and those most closely involved with him at the time of Bloody Sunday and the following months, clearly show that the British state, the ruling class has fully embraced the Kitson doctrine. This is best summed up as accumulating masses of information through surveillance and interrogation of the people, and intimidating friends and acquaintances, in preparation for suppression and selective terror.

At the time of Bloody Sunday, Kitson was a Brigadier. A few months later - in May 1972 - he was appointed Commandant of the School of Infantry at Warminster. He was now placed in a position to teach his counter-revolutionary techniques to infantry battalion officers and NCO's for immediate application.

FOR IMPERIALISTS CRIME DOES PAY

At the beginning of February, Major-General Sir Frank Kitson, architect of the ruling classes' strategy against "subversion" (by people) became a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath. The Queen gave him his medal.

2 weeks earlier, Giuseppe Conlon died in Hammersmith Hospital after being moved there from Wormwood Scrubs. In 1974 his son was framed for bombing in England and when Conlon, a semi-invalid, travelled to London to help him, he too was arrested, framed up and given a twelve year sentence. All this was according to the principle laid down by Kitson - that the law, civil rights and every other freedom for the people, should be swept aside to discredit and demoralise people who want their freedom.

Conlon always protested and fought for his rights to the end. He was a sick man and when he died weighed no more than four and a half stone.

Conlon was framed up at a show trial which was used to whip the English press into a hysteria about the struggle of the Irish people. The fact that he was innocent was of no importance to the "counter-insurgency" experts who arranged it. Medals for liars and murderers, cold graves for men and women who stand up to injustice. That is the nature of British rule in Ireland.

Contributed

THE TERROR PROMOTED

At the end of his two year stint at Warminster he was given the job of making sure that his theories would be thoroughly understood, embraced and used as the basis on which future strategy and tactics would be applied at all levels in the armed forces. He was appointed to the Royal College of Defence Studies (RCDS) in London, the most senior higher defence training centre. Only one in fifty officers ever get there. At the RCDS his theories would be absorbed not only by very high ranking members of the army, but also by similar officers from the air force and navy. Not only those - senior civil servants attended RCDS courses along with high ranking officers and personnel from foreign countries.

Kitson's latest book *Bunch of Five*, is based on some of the lectures he gave at the RCDS. He also became a frequent lecturer at the other higher defence training college - the National Defence College at Latimer, which is subordinate only to the RCDS. At Latimer, "students" are middle to high ranking officers of the three armed services, and also civil servants and police. All of them are of British nationality.

KITSON STILL RISING

Kitson's next promotion was to the command of the British Army, 2nd Division of the British Army on the Rhine, where he was promoted to Major-General in 1976. Now there was only one small gap where the Kitsonian doctrine had not been expounded and controlled by Kitson in person, and that was the army's college of up-and-coming young officers selected to be the future "high-fliers" - the Staff College at Camberly. So in 1978, Kitson was appointed to be its Commandant. The TV series *War School*, was based on Kitson's period at Camberly.

In January, 1980, Kitson was promoted to Lieutenant-General and appointed Deputy Commander of the UK Land Forces, with its HQ at Wilton, near Salisbury. He has also been made Inspector General of the Territorial Army and Cadets.

While we continue to commemorate each year the citizens of Derry murdered on the Bloody Sunday in 1972, let us also understand the other vital lesson of that day - the ruling class has adopted Kitsonian tactics to be standard practice in any future serious confrontation between the state and citizens. Kitson and his cronies have been promoted to do the job.

More assassinations in Belfast

Loyalist assassinations continue in Belfast. In January, a Catholic named William MacAteer was shot down on a stretch of the Ormeau Road which is known as "murder mile" because of previous assassinations there.

A friend who was walking with him narrowly escaped death, and for him it was the second time. Several years ago he was out walking with his girl friend in the same area when she was shot dead.

Many northern Ireland Catholics can tell a similar story; almost all have either had first or second hand contact with the army or the police or murder gangs. The aim of this terrorism is to cow the Catholic population and make them fearful of struggling for their rights.

It is against this background of constant terror that the British Government arranges its talks and consultations with the likes of Ian Paisley, in the hope of finding a solution "acceptable to all the parties".

Contributed

MIDDLESBROUGH MARCH AGAINST CUTS

About 2,000 people marched through Middlesbrough on Saturday 9th of February. Local people think it was one of the biggest rallies in recent times. It was organised by the Cleveland Cuts Committee, to protest against the Government cuts in public services.

The marchers walked behind trade union banners. Iron and Steel Trades Confederation (ISTC) members formed one of the largest sections and many of the slogans demanded 20%. Passing the Tory headquarters, there was loud booing and chants of "Maggie Thatcher Out! Out! Out!" In the shopping precinct workers gazed out of shop fronts, others climbed onto rooftops or waved from balconies. Shoppers readily accepted leaflets and a few even joined in. The sympathy of the onlookers was obvious!

The march ended at the Town Hall. The Labour-controlled council originally offered the hall for free. But, in the face of legal action by the Tories, Labour typically backed down and decided to pay for it out of party funds. On the platform, there were the usual Labour and trade union bigwigs, though the biggest cheer went up for the Cousett delegation (a steel plant threatened with closure) and to Sid Clay of the Teeside Pensioners Association.

Sid Clay spoke first. In a passionate speech he reminded the audience that the 9 million pensioners were simply workers who had grown old. He exposed the misery of many old people and described how the cuts would add to their suffering. Above all, he pointed out that charity was not the answer. Workers work for their pensions and have a right to a good standard of living. Finally, he urged people to organise and bring about a speedy reversal of present policies.

The Labour hacks spoke next. First, they accused workers of being stupid for being conned into voting Tory. Next they blamed workers for the "mistakes" of the past Labour Government. Why? For not lobbying their MPs and Trade Unions! Their speeches were greeted with silence. In contrast, the pensioners, the school meals spokeswoman, the Cousett delegate had their speeches repeatedly interrupted by applause.

The rally was a fine expression of the feelings of the vast majority in Teeside. It exposes the press lies of public support for Tories and their conservatism. More rallies and gatherings are planned in Middlesbrough. The next few months will show the resistance of the people. They will, however, need to guard against the misleadership of the Labour party. *Class Struggle* Correspondent

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Building the revolutionary Communist Party to lead the working class is the central task for all genuine Marxist-Leninists in Britain today. *Revolution*, the theoretical journal of the RCLB has been founded to be a sharp weapon in the struggle to build that Party.

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HARASSMENT AND INTIMIDATION IN ZIMBABWE

Since the condemnation of Britain at the United Nations for its continued violation of the Lancaster House agreement and its bias against ZANU, Lord Soames and the Government have stepped up their attempts to cover themselves by blaming ZANU.

What the British press does not denounce is the fact that since the ceasefire 122 people have been killed - nearly all by the "security forces"! In other words by the Army and by Muzorewa's thugs who are called "auxiliaries". Muzorewa's private army has rushed in to "police" the previously liberated zones as ZANLA forces (ZANU fighters) have gone to the collection points.

It is not therefore surprising that most "violent incidents" have occurred in these areas. They come from the same people who have tried to murder Robert Mugabe on several occasions - Muzorewa's thugs. At the same time the British press accuse ZANU of harassment of voters, yet we have seen white Rhodesian farmers bussing "their" workers to Muzorewa's meetings during work hours, but stating in interviews that they would not provide transport or time off for the workers to attend ZANU meetings. The workers do not have their own transport and anyway a curfew is operated for most of the off-work hours. Who then is preventing free canvassing?

Meanwhile a couple of hundred thousand refugees are still waiting to be allowed back in. The refugees have seen with their own eyes massacres of refugee villages in Mozambique and Zambia by Smith-Muzorewa troops, and will undoubtedly vote for ZANU

and ZAPU. Very few will have got back by the time of the election. That is no accident. Lord Soames and his friends are making sure of it.

Ian Smith makes pathetic attempts to scare people about ZANU's aims ("Tell your workers", he said to white industrialists and farmers, "that the Marxist-ZANU - will take everything: cattle, goats, chickens and children".) and stories of "ZANU harassment" abound; but the reality was summed up by a teacher in Eastern Zimbabwe: "There is going to be a landslide for Mugabe in this area... He is enormously popular. Now why should he be so popular if the people were subject to cruelty and harassment by ZANLA?"

SUPPORT ZANU ELECTION FUND

ZANU's achievements and aims are summed up in their own statements:

"ZANU took up arms in pursuit of just principles, not to replace one form of injustice with another. The enemy of the people of Zimbabwe is not, and never has been, the British people. Our struggle has never been and never will be directed against any group identified by the colour of their skin. Our enemies are not the white Zimbabweans..."

"We have always fought against colonialism, against foreign domination. We have always fought for the creation of a united anti-racist Zimbabwe nation. R Mugabe, 27th January 1980.

"Where (the imperialists) relied merely on

VIETNAM PARTY PURGES REFLECT CONTI

Vietnam continues to be racked by purges. In 1976 the Communist Party of Vietnam claimed a membership of 1½ million. Last December a Vietnamese newspaper put the figure at just over 1 million. In the intervening period the party claimed rapid recruitment so the likely figure for the number of people who have been purged or have left the party, since 1976 is between ½ million and 1 million.

On February 2nd Le Duan, the party leader, showed he was still not satisfied. "People who do not observe the party line in internal and external matters must be replaced", he said. The Hanoi newspaper *Nhan Dan* complained last November 24th that "certain people who fail to grasp the situation there (in Kampuchea - *Class Struggle* Editor) have shown doubt or vacillation in their feelings and actions". On January 22nd the paper again complained that some people in private discussions and letters have "attacked the line and policies of the party and its leadership". What is clear that the purge is against those who are opposed to the Vietnamese Authorities' aggression in Kampuchea, their racist attacks on ethnic Chinese in Vietnam, their attacks on China, their alliance with the Soviet Union, and their handling of the Vietnamese economy. It is also clear that the Vietnamese party leaders will not tolerate any discussion of these issues by party members. But despite the already massive purge there is still resistance in the party.

PURGE "NOT DONE IN EARNEST"

In May 1979 a directive was issued by the Party Central Committee concerning the purge. It complained that the purge "has been slow and protract-

ed" and that "it has not been done in earnest in many places or was gone through merely as a formality and not as required in the directive of the Party Central Committee".

The economy itself is in dire straits. Rice production, for example, last year was 15 million tons while the 1976 plan had predicted 21 million tons. The economic problems are closely linked with the huge cost of supplying and maintaining an occupation army of 200,000 in Kampuchea. Above and beyond the direct cost there is the indirect cost of the loss of productivity of 200,000 workers and peasants. But it also is a reflection of bureaucratic management and lack of enthusiasm of the masses in Vietnam.

SCAPEGOATS AT THE TOP

In a vain attempt to reverse the situation the purges have also led to the sacking and demotion of certain state leaders. Most of these probably do not oppose the party line, but are losing their jobs as Le Duan seeks scapegoats and because the party leadership thinks that a few cosmetic changes in personnel will solve problems. It won't. Only changes in policy will.

Among those who have lost jobs are Tran Quoc Hoan, who was sacked from his job as Minister of the Interior and Nguyen Duy Trinh who was removed from the post of Minister of Foreign Affairs as well as from his position as a Vice Premier. Phan Trong Tne was sacked as Minister of Transport and Communications. Dang Viet Chan, the Minister of Foreign Trade, and Nguyen Huu Mai, Minister and Vice-Chairman of the State Planning Commission, also lost their jobs. Le Thanh Nghi, the Chairman of the State Planning Commission also lost his post, but



A ZANU-run medical clinic.

bullets, we relied on a combination of the bullets and the hearts and minds of the people. Where they concentrated, massacred and tortured the people, we organised and politicised the people, giving them the correct line of the struggle as we brought power to them in their liberated zones".

R.Mugabe, 1st January 1980.

"Because we have fought to achieve both military and political power, we must not allow the puppets and the reactionaries to reap the ripe peaches we have tended. ...ZANU is fighting the elections so that it can achieve political power for the people in the same way as it has achieved military power

NUED OPPOSITION

kept his title of Vice Premier.

GIAP'S KAMPUCHEA FAILURE

The most famous head to roll was that of Vo Nguyen Giap, the Minister of National Defence. Obviously the Vietnamese Authorities are angry of their continued failure to subjugate the Kampuchean people. Giap, however, does retain his title as a Vice Premier.

Vietnam, today, is seen to be a country in a state of economic collapse. Refugees, massive purges, and aggression against others are part of the make up of the state. The heroic Vietnamese people who threw out French and US imperialism still have a struggle on their hands to win national liberation and democracy.

Contributed

While Vietnam puts up a front by offering new "talks" with China to decrease tension, the real intentions of Hanoi's ruling clique are shown in its continued provocations on the border. In January alone the Vietnamese authorities committed 207 acts of provocation. On January 17th 4 peasants in China's Shuikou People's Commune were injured by Vietnamese artillery. On the 21st Lo Baorang, a peasant living at Naguan village was shot. The following day 3 herdsmen were injured after being fired on near Boundary Marker No.50. and a number of their cattle killed. On the 26th, Li Dedu, a 61 year old peasant was killed and a dozen of his co-workers in the Daho production team were injured when attacked by Vietnamese troops who had crossed the border. These are just a few examples of the true nature of Vietnam.

for them. That is why ZANU declared 1980 as the year of the Peoples' Power...

"We believe that the achievement of political power by the people will remain hollow in terms of their material development unless it can translate itself ...by way of economic power in social form. ZANU thus believes in the development of a socialist economy.

"...It is recognised that private enterprises will have to continue until circumstances are ripe for socialist change... The capitalist system cannot be transformed overnight.

"Today, power is still in white hands...

Tomorrow a ZANU Government will ensure that political and military power is in the hands of the the people as a whole.

"ZANU believes that the people of Zimbabwe must as a nation be non-aligned and that the Republic of Zimbabwe should emphasise their neutrality as between the two World blocs by becoming a member of the Non-Aligned Movement."

ZANU ELECTION MANIFESTO 1980

ZANU's stand is clear. Its popularity is known but but it still needs funds for its election campaign. Please send cheques, postal orders, etc to, J Bayley, New Era Books, 203 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES



CHILE: 10,000 miners were forced back to work at the state-owned El Teniente copper mine on February 1st, after two weeks on strike. The miners at the world's biggest underground copper mine were demanding a 33% rise, while inflation is running at 38%. The workers won 9% plus welfare benefits. The strike was the biggest since 1973.

Xinhua - the New China News Agency - also reports that students and teachers are actively opposing the sacking of 57 Chilean professors in a political purge of the universities. One of the professors is a leading member of the "Group of 24" - an organisation fighting for democracy. The fascist junta is purging not only those who are active against the junta, but all those with "ideological differences".

ITALY: The Chamber of Deputies has voted by 466 votes to 79 to extend police powers to detain "suspected" terrorists in Italy. Now the police can hold "suspects" for 12 years without trial, previously it was four. Such increasing attacks on democratic rights are not only backed by the Christian Democrats but by the Italian Communist Party - the "fraternal party" of the Communist Party of great Britain.

AZANIA: Two British oil companies, Shell and BP, have recently moved into the South African coal-mining industry. Here they are openly defying an EEC code on minimum wages and conditions and are employing black South African workers at starvation wages. BP's report reveals that 328 of its 602 African employers received less than £17 for a 48hour week. Shell has broken the code by refusing to publish a report at all: one can only guess at their superexploitation. It's not that they can't afford to pay more - Shell's profits for the first half of 1979 were £1328 million and BP's were £622 million. Monopoly capitalists like them will invest anywhere in the world for the cheapest labour and the highest profits. They are much too powerful to care about "codes of conduct" - only mass struggle will defeat them.



NO RETURN TO THE BACKSTREETS!

SMASH THE CORRIE AMENDMENT

On February 5th, thousands of men and women descended on London's West End to demonstrate against the Tory MP John Corrie's private member's bill to amend the 1967 Abortion Act. The Corrie Amendment would mean that it would be much more difficult for women to get an abortion. The demonstrators heckled the Parliamentary debate and attended a meeting in Central Hall. Among the slogans on banners were -

NO RETURN TO THE BACKSTREETS and
KEEP IT LEGAL - KEEP IT SAFE

SPG TERROR CONVICTIONS

Cont'd from p1

He was arrested by a member of the Special Patrol Group, who claimed that Mr Singh had assaulted him with a brick. The allegation was denied, claiming it was the officer who had repeatedly struck him on the head with a stone.

Mr Singh was fortunate in the fact that his arrest had being photographed by a freelance photographer, showing the constable holding the stone and Mr Singh holding his head.

The handling of the cases by the nine magistrates has been criticised by over 30 lawyers involved, but has been rejected by the Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham.

STEELMEN AND MINERS

Cont'd from p1

until the opportunist leaders think it appropriate. Just like victory at Hadfields, mass picket was necessary for maintaining the strength of the steel workers fight, every question the Tories are raising to hit the workers must be fought. The steel workers' struggle must be enlarged into a major political struggle against the Tories' anti-worker laws.

Following the victory of the mass picket at Hadfields, Jim Prior announced the Government's intention to stop social security payments to strikers' wives. The Government is trying to starve the working class into submission. They have chosen to do this rather than impose fines on the unions for disobeying new laws or failing to stop wildcat strikes because they believe it will be more successful in preventing strikes that will become too expensive for union funds to stand. The Government wants the TU bosses to do their dirty work for them. By withholding strike pay, they will be expected to stop strikes.

ZANU FUND P. 7

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 *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.



HELP BUILD THE REVOLUTIONARY TRADITION

All donations to:
NEW ERA BOOKS, 203 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.
Please include a note saying it is for the
RCL/CWM Press Fund.