

Red Front

FOR WORKING-CLASS POWER
FOR A SOCIALIST BRITAIN !



ORGAN OF THE MARXIST-LENINIST ORGANISATION OF BRITAIN

Price 1/-

FROM CRISIS TO CRISIS

THE GOVERNMENT'S "CHRISTMAS PACKAGE" OF SQUEEZE AND CUT MEASURES - THE THIRD SUCH PACKAGE THIS YEAR AND THE FORTY-FIRST SINCE 1964 - IS DESIGNED TO CUT THE PURCHASING POWER OF BRITAIN'S WORKING PEOPLE BY A FURTHER £200 MILLION.

The capitalist press has been almost frank about the aims of the new measures:

"The package is likely to raise the unemployment level next year by some 40,000 to 50,000 over what it otherwise would have been. ...

If the new economic package is to produce results, wages will have to be held firmly within the 3½% ceiling while prices rise at a faster rate." ("Financial Times", Nov.3rd, 1968).

The only new feature of the latest cuts is the compulsory interest-free loan imposed on importers in relation to two-fifths of Britain's imported goods through customs deposits which will rise to £600 million. Apart from causing a rise in the prices of many essential imports, this measure - taken in conjunction with the ban on bank credit to finance these deposits - is clearly designed to benefit the wealthy monopolies by forcing many small importing firms into insolvency:

"While many of the larger and better established importers would have the liquidity to meet this requirement, it was felt that smaller importers might be driven out of business." ("The Times", Nov.23rd, 1968).

In the House on November 22nd, Chancellor of the Exchequer Jenkins sought to justify the new measures, which he admitted were "exceptionally hard", by referring to "the exceptional circumstances which have arisen":

"We cannot escape the facts of our international financial position, as the events of the last week have demonstrated."

THE FRENCH CRISIS

A qualitatively new feature of the present situation is that Britain's latest crisis was **provoked** by the sudden development of financial

CONTENTS INCLUDE:

THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF BELGIUM ON THE "LEFT" NEO-REVISIONIST CLIQUE IN CHINA	Page 3
THE LESSONS OF OCTOBER	Page 7
SUPPLEMENT ON THE NIGERIAN REVOLUTION	
THE U.S. ELECTIONS	Page 19
UNITY THEATRE	Page 16
THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND CONTRACEPTION	Page 24
LETTERS	Page 13
SHOP FRONT; STUDENT FRONT	

crisis in France. This fact reflects not only the universality of the general crisis of capitalism, which affects all capitalist countries to varying degrees, but also the inherent interdependence of the contemporary capitalist world. When a Paris financier commits suicide, the shot shakes the stock exchanges in London and Tokyo !

In July of this year the Gaullist government - returned to power with an unprecedented majority, a favourable balance of payments and its vaults filled with gold - confirmed a programme of long-term economic expansion.

Now, only four months later, this programme has been scrapped and replaced by the policies of credit squeeze, cuts in government expenditure and "austerity" with which we in Britain

Continued page 2 ...

have long been familiar.

The wage increases granted to French workers in the summer, as the price of averting political strife for the time being, were sufficient to destroy in international circles France's image as a country of limitless, expanding profitability. The Soviet military intervention in Czechoslovakia shattered de Gaulle's dream of peacefully manoeuvring the smaller formerly socialist countries of central and eastern Europe into the sphere of influence of western European imperialism. As a result, there has been for the last few months a "run on the franc" and an adverse balance of payments which reduced France's gold reserves from over 6,000 million dollars in May to 4,000 million dollars at the beginning of November.

As in the period immediately prior to devaluation of the pound twelve months earlier, the likelihood that this gold drain would force devaluation of the franc (i.e., the adjustment of its "value" in terms of other currencies downwards) added to the pressure on the franc by provoking speculators to sell francs for other currencies in the hope of being able to rebuy them at a "profit" after alteration of the exchange rate.

The French currency difficulties were greatly accentuated by the knowledge, widespread in financial circles, that the French, United States and British governments were exerting strong, combined pressure on the West German government to revalue the deutschemark (i.e., to adjust its "value" in terms of other currencies upwards). The possibility of revaluation of the D-mark caused increased speculative selling of francs in the hope of making a double "profit" by rebuying them after devaluation of the franc and revaluation of the D-mark. The pound was also involved in this speculative buying of German currency.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE BONN MEETING

One of the main functions of the hurriedly-called ministerial meeting of the "big ten" capitalist powers held in Bonn from November 20th to 22nd was to arrange an international credit to help the French government's financial difficulties. This credit was agreed at \$2,000 million (£830 million) - with the condition that devaluation of the franc, if decided upon by the French government, would be of a moderate amount, so as not to give the French capitalists too great an advantage in world markets.

A significant feature of this credit was that the largest portion (\$600 million) was allotted to West Germany, with the United States providing \$500 million, Italy \$200 and other countries (including Britain!) amounts between \$50 and \$100 million.

These figures reflect the respective economic strength, at the present time, of the leading capitalist powers. West Germany (whose reserves of gold and foreign currency had risen by the beginning of November to more than 9,000

million dollars, against French reserves reduced to 4,000 million dollars) now takes top place at least in the European capitalist league. The decline in the economic strength of the capitalist powers victorious in the second world war, even of the United States colossus, and the spectacular rise in that of the defeated West German imperialists, provides a notable example of what Lenin called "the uneven economic development of capitalism".

The Bonn meeting lasted three days, much longer than had been planned, and was conducted in what reliable observers have described as "a bitter and acrimonious atmosphere", mainly because the French, United States and British governments combined to bring the greatest pressure on the West German government to revalue the deutschemark "in the interests of international economic stability". In view of the state of the West German economy at the moment, with its booming export trade and highly favourable balance of payments, this could have been undertaken; it would, however, have raised the prices of German exports on the world market and lowered the price of foreign goods within the German market, to the advantage of West Germany's rivals. The West German government was, therefore, unwilling to take this step without substantial concessions on the part of other capitalist governments. The fact that, when these concessions were not forthcoming, the West German government successfully resisted all the pressure for revaluation on the part of virtually the rest of the capitalist world (only the Italian government supported the West German stand), bears further witness to the economic dominance of West German imperialism in western Europe. As the "Times" put it, speaking of the West German refusal to revalue under the headline: "GERMANY DEFIES ITS ALLIES FOR THE FIRST TIME" :

"This is more than a financial decision - it is a political act". ("Times", Nov.23rd 1968).

French and German imperialism have a common interest in the present period in combining to form a new bloc powerful enough to break the long dependence of western Europe on United States imperialism. But within this developing bloc a bitter struggle has been going on between the imperialists of France and Germany to determine which of them shall play the dominant, leading role in it. Favoured by the uneven development of capitalism, the Bonn imperialists have now achieved victory in this struggle for hegemony and in the next period it is they who will call the tune in the western European bloc. The refusal at present of de Gaulle to concede defeat - manifested in the French govern-

Continued on page 23

The Communist Party of Belgium on The 'Left' Neo-Revisionist Clique in China

(This article is abstracted from a series of articles published in recent issues of "La Voix du Peuple" (The People's Voice), organ of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Belgium. The analysis made by our Belgian Comrades differs from that made by the M.L.O.B. in some minor points - the character of the state in People's China prior to the counter-revolutionary coup of 1966, the precise date on which this coup began, the personal role of Mao Tse-tung. Nevertheless, the two analyses - made quite independently on the basis of Marxism-Leninism - correspond on all fundamental points.)

Under the double pressure of world imperialism and modern revisionism, the majority of the Communist Parties foundered, ceased to be genuine Marxist-Leninist parties and became revisionist parties.

The regrouping of the Marxist-Leninist forces, the movement for the construction of new Marxist-Leninist Parties, which began in many countries in 1963-4, received a severe setback as a result of the manoeuvres of a neo-revisionist faction which in 1966 usurped the leadership of the Communist Party of China.

The ground had been prepared by preliminary manoeuvres: the organs of foreign relations and of state security had already been stuffed with agents of the "black" counter-revolutionary line. The army had been beheaded of its Marxist-Leninist leadership on flimsy pretexts. Then in August 1966 the cultural revolution, which had at first achieved great successes in socialist education, was turned from its original objectives by an anti-Marxist-Leninist group calling itself fraudulently "the proletarian headquarters" and transformed into a political counter-revolution. This counter-revolutionary group, representing the privileged strata of China, cunningly flattered the youth, especially the student youth, trying to make them believe that they had a vanguard political role to fulfil. Freeing the youth for a long time from study and productive work, it utilised them to attack the Communist Party and to try to intimidate the working class. Then, showing its true face, it ordered the army to launch attacks against the Party and the state organs of the dictatorship of the proletariat, as well as against the working people who rose to defend them; it placed under military control the industrial and mining enterprises, the secondary and higher schools, and the people's communes. It set out to impose by force of arms a dictatorship of the reactionary classes, in particular of the old and new bourgeoisie.

THE IDEOLOGY OF "LEFT" NEO-REVISIONISM

The counter-revolutionaries in China could not use the "theories" of Khrushchovite revisionism, or they would immediately have been unmasked. They chose to imitate the counter-revolutionary rebels of Kronstadt, who in 1921 attacked the Soviet state under the colours of "ultra-revolution". They put forward a neo-revisionist ideology which is a confused hodge-podge of reactionary conceptions culled from trotskyism, anarchism, old and new revisionism, social-democracy and even fascism.

The Chinese neo-revisionists have thrown overboard the teachings of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin. They present as "Marxism-Leninism" a falsified version of the thought of Mao Tse-tung, in the form of truncated quotations out of context, emptied of political and class content.

Among the false conceptions diffused by the Chinese neo-revisionists, they deny the necessity of a party of the Leninist type, the organised revolutionary vanguard of the working class. In its place they substitute on the one hand the worship of spontaneity, on the other the cult of personality, the absolute authority of one man. In the propaganda of the Chinese neo-revisionists, in fact, the cult of the individual has been raised to a level never before attained in the history of mankind, to such a level that one can only be amazed that he who is its object does not see that he is the victim of unscrupulous adventurers who are bringing discredit and ridicule upon him.

SINO-BELGIAN PARTY RELATIONS

Having reconstructed the Communist Party in 1963 on the basis of Marxism-Leninism, the Belgian Marxist-Leninists have always applied the principle that the policy of the Party should

be determined by itself. It was with joy that they found in 1963 the unity of views existing between the Belgian Party and the glorious Communist Party of China on all the great questions facing the international Communist movement. This unity of views was confirmed at the meetings which the delegation of the Communist Party of Belgium had in the People's Republic of China in May-June 1964 with a delegation of the Communist Party of China headed by Comrade Liu Shao-chi and including Comrade Teng Hsiao-Ping.

But scarcely had this delegation returned to our country than the leadership of our Party perceived that, in practice, members of the international section of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China were interfering in the struggle of true Marxist-Leninists in various countries to reconstruct genuine revolutionary, proletarian, Marxist-Leninist Parties. These manoeuvres included slanders, lies and intrigues.

In August 1966 a delegation of the Central Committee of our Party met in Peking a delegation of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, headed this time by Kang Sheng, member of the Permanent Committee of the Political Bureau and counsellor of the group of the Central Committee charged with the cultural revolution. Kang Sheng declared that there were divergences of principle with the Communist Party of Belgium, and revealed himself as the spokesman of a neo-revisionist line hostile to Marxism-Leninism. After this surprise attack, Kang Sheng, behaving as representative of a "father-party", unilaterally broke off the discussion, without giving our delegation any opportunity to reply to or to refute these anti-Marxist-Leninist concepts.

Following this, because our Party maintained its firm and correct Marxist-Leninist position and "permitted itself" the "effrontery" to ask for clarification of certain pronouncements issuing from the People's Republic of China, the acts of open hostility multiplied until the Chinese Party unilaterally broke off relations with our Party.

Since March 1967 the counter-revolutionary group which has usurped positions of power in the People's Republic of China has tried, but in vain, to subvert our Party. It has supported attempts by degenerate elements to split the Party; it has tried to bribe certain comrades and to blackmail others; it has collaborated with the reactionary Belgian police to try and seize property belonging to the Party; its agents have organised thefts of Party funds and indulged in threats of physical violence against our members; it has falsified our communiqués in the bulletins of the Hsinhua News Agency. Imitating the shameful and scandalous practices of the Khrushchovite revisionists, it has overnight, without prior notice or even notification, unilaterally broken the commit-

ments into which the Chinese Party entered into with the Communist Party of Belgium for the publication and circulation of various publications, leaving unpaid large sums of money which improperly fell upon our Party.

Such attacks have been made, according to an international plan, against Marxist-Leninist parties and organisations in various countries by the neo-revisionist headquarters of counter-revolution in China.

With this new betrayal, with these new blows on top of those of world imperialism and Soviet revisionism, the Marxist-Leninist parties and organisations came up against extraordinary difficulties which led to the temporary disappearance of some of them, by degeneration and in other ways.

But, as we have seen in the case of the attacks of the Soviet revisionists, the wish to liquidate the revolutionary vanguard of the working class is as vain as the wish to liquidate the class struggle. The class struggle "secretates" the Marxist-Leninist party, just as the brain "secretates" thought.

Betrayal, deception and violence by reformists, revisionists and "left" neo-revisionists can only hold back for a time the development and consolidation of Marxist-Leninist Parties.

The Neo-revisionist Puppet Parties

While instigating disruptive activity against the genuine Marxist-Leninist parties and organisations in course of construction, the counter-revolutionary neo-revisionist clique in China has organised in various countries puppet organisations which it has baptised "Marxist-Leninist", but whose role is merely to repeat the propaganda it dictates, to sow confusion, diversion and provocation among the working masses, and to thwart the development of genuine Marxist-Leninist Parties.

"L'Humanite Nouvelle", the organ of a French organisation directed by a handful of false "Marxist-Leninists" recently published an article on the heroic struggle for national liberation of the Vietnamese people under the title: "NO NEW MUNICH!". It is difficult to conceive of any greater insult than to bracket with the Nazi fifth column and the bourgeois leaders who capitulated to German fascism our Vietnamese Comrades who have fought for so many years with arms in their hands against imperialism, who have inflicted defeat upon defeat upon the forces of U.S. imperialism and its allies.

There exists in Australia a false "Marxist-Leninist" party, the essential task of which is to publish each week stereotyped phrases of allegiance to the counter-revolutionary, neo-revisionist group which has usurped power in Peking. These puppets declare:

"In a general way, one does not demand of revolutionary Australians that they make great sacrifices. This is because the

revolutionary movement here is at a fairly low level.

That is why we must take advantage of this situation to study, to examine ourselves critically and establish a correct balance between the needs of the revolution and our personal affairs." ("The Australian Communist", March 1968 -retranslated from the French).

And these people have the cynicism to attack true Marxist-Leninist Parties who are fighting heroically, in particular the Workers' Party of Vietnam !

Both the Australian puppets of the Chinese neo-revisionists and their counterparts of the Progressive Labor Party in the United States virtually accuse the Vietnamese Comrades of collaborating with U.S. imperialism :

"There are elements in North Vietnam who, under the influence of the Soviet Khrushchovites, nourish the illusion that negotiations can bring results. Whoever heard of negotiating with a murderer who has suffered defeat! " ("Vanguard", April 18, 1968 - retranslated from the French).

"Negotiations on Vietnam have become a vile fact of life. This development can have serious consequences for the heroic revolutionary forces of Vietnam and for the revolutionary and progressive forces throughout the whole world. Although the people's war has defeated the U.S. military machine in Vietnam, the process of negotiations is transforming this victory into a defeat for the revolutionary forces in Vietnam and the world.

Far from leading to self-determination or peace for Vietnam, or for Asia, these transactions will help the United States to prepare for a great war aimed at revolutionary China. U.S. imperialism, with the cooperation of the Soviet Union and North Vietnamese leaders, is going to utilise the negotiations to realise its aims of keeping a concentration of troops based in Vietnam." ("Progressive Labor", June 6, 1968 - retranslated from the French).

The article in "Progressive Labor" goes on to slander the Vietnamese Comrades by confusing the stages of the revolution in trotskyite terms:

"Worse, there is no perspective to transform the people's war into a movement for socialism. Without the perspective to consolidate the people's war into a dictatorship of the proletariat, the revolution is on the way to defeat." (ibid.).

The trotskyite diversionists of Progressive Labor suggest that the aim of the people's war in the south should be "socialism now", thus aiming to split the national front of the national-democratic stage of the revolution and aiding its enemies.

The puppets of the counter-revolutionary group in China, which has attacked the Communist

Party of China and every Marxist-Leninist Party and organisation in the world, which is attacking the heroic Vietnamese people and its leaders, stands unmasked for what they are: counter-revolutionaries who objectively serve the imperialists.

The "Left" Neo-revisionists and Czechoslovakia

After being silent during the months of the acute development of the inter-revisionist contradictions in relation to Czechoslovakia, the Hsinhua News Agency broke its long silence shortly after the armed intervention of the Soviet revisionists in Czechoslovakia.

In the countries under the revisionist yoke, capitalism is being restored. But this restoration of capitalism is a process, and it is essential to assess to what degree the degeneration of the superstructure and the base has proceeded concretely in each country. For the differences of degree in this process of degeneration constitute the source of inter-revisionist contradictions.

However, the neo-revisionists of China have made no attempt in their writings and speeches to analyse in what social conditions, on what social base, these inter-revisionist contradictions have developed.

Our Party, having made a deep Marxist-Leninist analysis of the situation, drew from it the conclusion that, in the present circumstances, there is nothing to choose between the revisionists of the Soviet Union and the ultra-revisionists of Czechoslovakia, that contradictions between them must be considered as contradictions between enemies of the people on both sides, that the sole means of turning to account the accentuation of these contradictions is

"for the peoples of the Soviet Union, of Hungary, of Bulgaria, of Yugoslavia and of Czechoslovakia to transform this inter-revisionist conflict into a revolutionary civil war to re-establish the dictatorship of the proletariat and socialism." ("La Voix du Peuple", August 23., 1968).

The Chinese neo-revisionists have, however, concentrated their verbal attacks against the revisionists of the Soviet Union, and have been content merely to scratch the ultra-revisionists of Czechoslovakia. From this point of view, the position of the "left" neo-revisionists differs in no way from that of the French revisionists.

In a speech on September 2nd to the Vietnamese Comrades at the Embassy of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, Chou En-lai adopted a position of bourgeois nationalism in making it a major reproach against the Dubcek ultra-revisionist clique that it had

"called openly on the Czechoslovak people not to resist the massive intrusion of Soviet troops."

According to Chou En-lai, therefore, if the ultra-revisionists of Czechoslovakia eventually "resist" the Soviet Union - in order to open

the gates of Czechoslovakia more rapidly and more "independently" to direct colonisation without the "intermediary" of the Soviet revisionists - it would be necessary to applaud and support them !

Can one doubt the opportunism of the neo-revisionists of China when Chou En-lai, "in the name of the great proletarian cultural revolution" ; assures the ultra-revisionists of Rumania of Chinese support. According to this it is necessary to support the revisionists of Yugoslavia and the ultra-revisionists of Rumania when they oppose the Soviet Union merely because they oppose the Soviet Union. This is not Marxism-Leninism, but bourgeois nationalism and great power chauvinism.

For the neo-revisionist, counter-revolutionary gang in China is pursuing great-power chauvinist aims in order to try and carve out for itself, by a new division of the world, a "sphere of influence" alongside the super-powers of the United States and the Soviet Union. Thus the principal enemy of the Chinese neo-revisionists, the principal obstacle in the way of their desired redivision of the world, is not U.S. imperialism (in this connection the recent "overtures" of Humphrey towards the neo-revisionist clique in Peking is significant); their principal enemy is the revisionist clique in Moscow. That is why Chou En-lai and his colleagues merely scratch the Czechoslovak ultra-revisionists: on the one hand the activities of the Dubcek clique have objectively weakened the Soviet Union; on the other hand, they hope that this clique will enter, to a greater or lesser extent, the sphere of influence of the Chinese neo-revisionists.

Prior to 1966 the contradiction between the Marxist-Leninist leadership of the Chinese Communist Party and the revisionist leadership of the Soviet Union was, ideologically and politically, the contradiction between Marxism-Leninism and revisionism. Today the contradictions between the Chinese neo-revisionist group and both U.S. imperialism and Soviet revisionism are contradictions based on their respective needs for a redivision of the world.

In accordance with this two-faced policy, "ultra-revolutionary" in words and opportunist in deed, the Chinese neo-revisionists have not hesitated, particularly in Africa, to support certain heads of state who are no more than pawns of neo-colonialism. And where, for motives of great-power chauvinism, they have supported action against imperialism, they have sought to divert the anti-imperialist movement (as in Hong Kong) along the path of noisy pin-pricks which have had no significant political consequences.

On the other hand, acting as agents provocateurs, they have incited the revolutionaries of certain countries to fall into a trap, by instigating them to start unconsidered actions for which conditions were not ripe, sometimes with disastrous results for the revolutionary movement of those countries.

A Message to our Chinese Comrades

The revolutionary Chinese people, with the working class at its head, has fought back and is still fighting back heroically against the counter-revolutionary attack. The neo-revisionist faction which initiated the coup, under its false red flag, is at bay.

We exhort those in China who were revolutionaries and who now lend their names to such infamy: See that you are being manipulated by reactionaries! Break with the counter-revolution! Make a courageous self-criticism! Take your place once more in the ranks of the revolution! Do so without delay, for it is already very late! Otherwise, in the eyes of the revolutionary people of the world and of future generations, your names will be irretrievably linked to the memory of one of the greatest betrayals in the history of proletarian revolution!

We reaffirm here our complete fighting solidarity with the great and glorious Communist Party of China, with its militants and leaders who have been unjustly slandered and persecuted, with the Communists and workers of China who fight the counter-revolution.

We reaffirm here our approval of the propositions of the Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party on the general line of the international Communist movement dated June 14th, 1963 - propositions which the "left" neo-revisionists have repudiated in practice.

Our Party, responsible to the working class and working people of our country, as well as to the world proletarian revolution, will lead an untiring struggle to expose, isolate and sweep away social-democratic reformism, modern revisionism, and "left" neo-revisionism, knowing that this is an indispensable condition for the victory of the fight against capitalism and imperialism.

By its activity in daily struggle, our Party prepares itself and calls on the working class and working masses to prepare themselves for the decisive battles for power, for the destruction of the bourgeois state machine, for the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Our Party holds high, and will continue to hold high, the red flag of socialist revolution, of Marxism-Leninism.

Our Party wishes you, dear Chinese Comrades, success and victory in your hard struggle. For in the end all counter-revolutionary plots, manoeuvres, subversions, intrigues, deceptions and repressions will meet with defeat. The socialist revolution will triumph.

LONG LIVE MARXISM-LENINISM !

WORKERS OF ALL LANDS, AND ALL OPPRESSED PEOPLES,

UNITE !



THE LESSONS OF "OCTOBER"

THE PREPARATIONS

Shortly after the demonstration of July 21st, the trotskyite leadership of the "Vietnam Solidarity Campaign" began to implement long-term plans for transforming the V.S.C. into an opportunist, diversionary mass movement intended to lay the basis, at a later stage, for a new pseudo-left social-democratic party designed to replace the now discredited Labour Party.

The better to implement these long-term plans in the service of Big Business, the dominant trotskyite clique in the VSC formed an alliance with the revisionist Young Communist League, and this alliance of betrayal took organisational shape in the Ad Hoc Committee to prepare for the demonstration on October 27th.

Some militants were at first misled by the smooth assurances professed by the VSC-YCL leadership of this committee, and assumed that its opposition to the positive proposals they had put forward arose merely from honest wrong-thinking. However, a number of events took place which soon relieved them of these illusions. Firstly, it became clear that the leading VSC-YCL clique were using dishonest methods to exclude principled militants from participation in the meetings of the Ad Hoc Committee. On at least two occasions, the venue of the meeting was "changed" at the last moment and subsequent enquiries revealed that all members of the Committee had been notified of the change except for those considered "undesirable".

The crowning evidence of the duplicity and dishonesty of these opportunists was provided at the meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee held on Tuesday, September 17th. After having stated, at the previous meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee, that the decision to avoid the U.S. Embassy

was merely a recommendation of the Committee and could not be considered final until ratified by the meeting on the 17th, when that meeting began to a chorus of angry denunciations from the large number of militants present who scented the odour of betrayal in the air, the Secretary of the Ad Hoc Committee, Guiton, quickly rose to say that this meeting also was "not empowered to reach a final decision on the route and target, as there were other meetings taking place in other parts of the country, the decisions of which also had to be taken into account". This was said in order to avoid the possibility, then looming very large, that the VSC-YCL leadership would be outvoted at that meeting.

In reality, of course, these opportunists had not the slightest intention of altering the plans which they had concocted behind the scenes in cooperation with the police, or of submitting them to any kind of effective democratic procedure. The meetings had been organised merely as a facade to conceal their bureaucratic dictat.

It was these dishonest practices, together with the fundamental decision of betrayal to avoid the U.S. Embassy as the main target of the demonstration, which compelled the MLOB delegation to the October 27th Ad Hoc Committee to make a statement condemning the trotskyite-revisionist betrayal and withdraw from the Committee. This necessary action to expose the opportunist leadership of the Ad Hoc Committee acted as a rallying point for other principled militants on the committee, and these then came together to form the Provisional Committee for an Action Council of Anti-Imperialist Solidarity.

THE DEMONSTRATION

As for the day of the demonstration itself, the

events fully confirmed the arguments which the militants had been putting forward throughout the whole debate with the revisionists and trotskyites. The "March" through Whitehall to Hyde Park proved to be a dispirited and aimless affair. As it moved past the Houses of Parliament - that same neo-Gothic facade of capitalist "democracy" which William Morris once called the "dung market", but which the programme of the revisionist Communist Party describes as "the supreme organ of representative power" - the demonstrators marched in complete silence! Throughout the route demonstrators, disillusioned with the sell-out organised by Tariq Ali and his fellow-opportunists, broke away to make their own way to join the militant demonstration in Grosvenor Square.

As for the class enemy, the monopoly capitalist class and its Wilson Government which is co-operating with the U.S. imperialists in their appalling crimes in Vietnam and elsewhere, the diversion into Whitehall brought them nothing but propaganda advantages. Not since the days of the volunteer blacklegs in the General Strike of 1926 has the capitalist press had such a field day of chauvinist propaganda: "GOD BLESS OUR POLICE!", "A TRIUMPH FOR BRITISH GOOD SENSE!" and so forth. And to cap it all, the pseudo-left mountebank Tariq Ali in a letter delivered to Downing Street, addressed Wilson as "Dear Harold" and signed himself "Yours fraternally"!

Had the thousands that these renegades misled and diverted from the true target of the demonstration been available to augment the six thousand or so courageous militants in Grosvenor Square, the police cordon in front of the Embassy could have been broken and the right to demonstrate in front of the U.S. imperialists' lair - a fundamental democratic right which has consistently been denied to the working people - would have been achieved. Among the reactionary forces which have combined to enforce this denial of democratic rights must now, therefore, be counted the diversionary trotskyite-revisionist alliance.

The seriousness of this betrayal, however, did not prevent October 27th from being a day of great victory for the working class and all progressive people. In Grosvenor Square a magnificent and spontaneously disciplined demonstration took place which has done much to develop and enrich the experience of militant struggle in an urban environment. Above all, the working class and militant youth have learned the necessary political lessons from the trotskyite-revisionist betrayal, and the alliance of these opportunist renegades has been completely exposed, not merely as one of political collaboration with monopoly capital and its state apparatus, but as one which has degenerated to a point where objectively it fulfils the role of a social-fascist para-military detachment of the state.

For where the police were unable to act effectively, as in Trafalgar Square where the breakaway of the main body of militant demonstrators took place, it was the organised squads of "International Socialism" trotskyite stewards who formed a cordon and endeavoured to seal off the route to Grosvenor Square.

MAOIST DISRUPTION

Whereas the major betrayal of October was undoubtedly that perpetrated by the trotskyite-revisionist alliance - for this is the detachment within the broad anti-imperialist movement which most directly serves the interests of monopoly capital - the lessons of October have also exposed another detachment of reactionary thought and practice which has attached itself to the movement. This detachment consists of the maoist representatives in Britain of the Chinese capitalist class, old and new, organised in the leadership of the so-called "October 27th Committee for Solidarity with Vietnam" and the "Britain-Vietnam Solidarity Front." The objective role served by this detachment of reaction was to provoke an emotional "leftist" response to the betrayals of the right so as to create confusion within the militant wing of the anti-imperialist movement as the prelude to the attempted disruption of the principled militant nucleus which is emerging. Thus, the maoist detachment is distinguished from the rightist trotskyite-revisionist alliance by its use of pseudo-left phraseology in order to pay lip-service to correct principles, while striving to implement tactical methods of struggle which weaken the unity of the militant forces and hinder their consolidation into a movement which is politically and organisationally independent of the rightist main enemy.

That this was the objective role fulfilled by the maoists is fully established by the concrete course of action they adopted both during the demonstration and in the period of mobilisation and organisation which preceded it.

Thus, instead of drawing a clear distinction between the traitorous leadership of the Ad Hoc Committee and the temporarily misled but fundamentally honest rank-and-file, instead of seeking to expose this leadership in a principled way and so win over the honest elements, the maoists adopted the course at a critical meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee of shouting abuse and "leftist" slogans with such persistence that the Chairman was eventually compelled to close the meeting. These putschists then remained behind and declared that they now constituted the "Ad Hoc Committee" and had "removed" the leadership!

After this infantile paper coup d'etat, which achieved nothing except to confuse and dishearten the rank-and-file of the Ad Hoc Committee, the representatives of the Provisional

Committee of the Action Council for Anti-Imperialist Solidarity proposed to the "October 27th Committee" the adoption of the following course of action:

that the anti-imperialist militants should dissociate themselves from the Ad Hoc Committee, should set up a democratic committee with clearly defined affiliated membership to organise a separate demonstration with politically correct internationalist slogans and the only principled target: the U.S. Embassy.

The maoist leadership of the "October 27th Committee", however, rejected these proposals, declaring that the decision had already been taken to join the rightist-sponsored demonstration in separate units which would break from it at Trafalgar Square in the direction of Grosvenor Square.

The result of this policy was further to confuse the hundreds, if not thousands, of militants who were moving towards a correct position. Once the demonstration got under way, many of those sympathetic but uncommitted militants felt that, having accepted the leadership and discipline of the demonstration, it would be wrong to break away from it; and the further the demonstration progressed, the stronger this feeling became. By the time Trafalgar Square was reached, most of them had decided to follow the "official" route, thus weakening both the size and cohesion of the march to Grosvenor Square and assisting the police there to prevent a demonstration in front of the U.S. Embassy.

Furthermore, the division of the militants into a number of separate contingents within the main demonstration assisted the trotskyite stewards positioned at Trafalgar Square in preventing the break-away. The fascist-type stewards were powerless to prevent the first and strongest militant contingent (containing the banners of the Marxist-Leninist Organisation of Britain and the Action Council for Anti-imperialist Solidarity) from making its way to the U.S. Embassy. But other contingents were compelled to follow the "official" demonstration into Whitehall and to break away, in complete disarray, as and when they could at points further along the route. Ironically, this was the fate which befell the second contingent in which were positioned the "leading lights" of the maoist bodies, including the paid hireling of the Peking counter-revolutionaries, the forger and embezzler Manchanda!

When the maoists finally arrived in Grosvenor Square, their conduct revealed them to be, not merely putschists and disruptors, but shamefaced capitulators as well. As the battle to break the police cordon surrounding the Embassy was in its first stages, leading members of the "October 27th Committee" were seen and heard to shout instructions to the effect that "... The objective has been achieved ... We must now make our way out of the

Square". But the objective of the demonstration was to demonstrate in front of the U.S. Embassy, not in a side street to the side of it. By their action in seeking to relieve the police of the heavy pressure that the militants were placing upon them and to prevent the realisation of the democratic right to demonstrate in front of the London citadel of the U.S. aggressors, the maoists showed themselves to be objectively a part of the concealed enemy within the movement, albeit one which disguises itself with pseudo-left demagoguery more cleverly than their rightist counterparts in the trotskyite-revisionist alliance.

The disgraceful episode in Grosvenor Square affords yet a further classic example of the process whereby "leftist" adventurism turns into outright capitulationism when put to the stern test of practice, its noisy steam disappearing without trace in the autumn air.

Thus, as always, the "left"-opportunist, divisive and disruptive tactics of the maoists directly assisted the traitorous trotskyite-revisionist alliance, and the forces of world imperialism of which this alliance forms a detachment, in their offensive against the growing anti-imperialist movement.

BUILDING A GENUINE ANTI-IMPERIALIST MOVEMENT.

Although the democratic right to demonstrate in front of the U.S. Embassy was not fully achieved on October 27th, nevertheless the exposure of the treachery of the trotskyite-revisionist alliance constitutes in itself a major step forward in the task of building a truly democratic, disciplined and militant anti-imperialist solidarity movement in Britain based on proletarian-internationalist principles and firmly rooted in the working class.

The first public measures to carry forward this task and to consolidate the forces won on October 27th in organisational form have now been taken at the meeting held on November 3rd with the formation of the Preparatory Committee for an Action Council for Anti-Imperialist Solidarity.

R-R-R-REVOLUTIONARY NOTES

French student Daniel Cohn-Bendit, known endearingly to the capitalist press as "Danny the Red", has had his prohibition to enter Britain lifted to allow him to publicise his new "textbook of revolution" entitled "OBSOLETE COMMUNISM".

Hollywood producer Darryl F. Zanuck is making a feature film on the life of Che Guevara. The director selected was responsible for the musical fantasy "Dr. Doolittle".

The Movement for Anti-Imperialist Solidarity

(The following statement was made by Comrade Mike Baker on behalf of the Marxist-Leninist Organisation of Britain at the founding meeting of the Action Council for Anti-Imperialist Solidarity).

Comrades and Friends,

Speaking as a representative of the Marxist-Leninist Organisation of Britain, I wish to state clearly at the outset that we consider this meeting tonight to be of the very greatest importance to the task of building militant and principled solidarity between the working people of Britain and the workers, peasants and national liberation fighters throughout the world whose focal point and centre are the renowned heroes of fighting Vietnam. After 25 years of untold sufferings and self-sacrifice, of dauntless courage and heroism without equal in the long history of just national liberation wars, these heroes are nearing the achievement of their great aim of national independence and freedom.

There can be no doubt whatever that the many militant and determined acts and demonstrations of solidarity with these great freedom fighters on the part of workers, militant youth and students in the metropolitan countries, of whom many are present in this hall tonight, have played a not insignificant part in building the world army of allies of fighting Vietnam, which has assisted, to one degree or another, in bringing those just aims and demands nearer to their successful conclusion.

We in Britain also may be proud of the contribution we have made to the world anti-imperialist struggle, both to advance the cause of our allies in Vietnam and in other emerging nations in struggle for their national independence and democratic freedoms, as also to advance the cause of our own working class movement. This movement stands on the threshold of a new juncture in its history, a new stage in the development of the crisis of British monopoly capitalism, a new situation affecting every facet of social life in every sphere. I refer, of course, to the onset of those conditions of permanent and insoluble crisis which are the fundamental characteristics of imperialism, and which Marxist-Leninists describe as the epoch of imperialist wars, national liberation struggles and socialist revolutions.

This epoch is now entering into its decisive and crucial phase, and its contradictions are bringing about the inevitable and necessary intensification of class struggle in every sphere of life in the countries of the developed imperialist heartlands, and the equally inevitable sharpening of the class consciousness and political understanding of our most advanced workers, youth and students.

For there can equally be no doubt that the hard work and determined activity and struggle in which all of us in this hall tonight have been engaged over the past months and years to build the bastions of anti-imperialist solidarity amongst our working people have contributed very considerably to the kindling of that vital spark of class feeling and militant unity which is the necessary subjective starting point for the growth of any revolutionary mass movement of the working class.

That spark has already gripped the hearts and minds of tens of

Continued on page 11

PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR AN ACTION COUNCIL FOR ANTI- IMPERIALIST SOLIDARITY

On Sunday, November 3d, a public meeting was held at Friars' Hall, Blackfriars Rd., for the purpose of establishing a Preparatory Committee to prepare for a conference to found an Action Council for Anti-Imperialist Solidarity.

With Mick Shrapnel, a well-known activist in the movement for solidarity with Vietnam, in the chair, the platform consisted of Yorkshire trade unionist Stan Caton, David Ude (representing the Movement of the Nigerian Left), Bill Binding (of the East London Action Council) and Mike Baker (representing the Marxist-Leninist Organisation of Britain.)

The meeting was organised by a Provisional Committee composed of a number of militants, most of whom had been active over a long period in the movement for solidarity with Vietnam and, more recently, in the Ad Hoc Committee set up to organise the October 27th demonstration. It was the struggle against the opportunist policies and bureaucratic methods of work of the Trotskyite-revisionist leadership of the Ad Hoc Committee, culminating in the decision to avoid the U.S. Embassy as the main target of the demonstration, which compelled these militants to organise independently and form themselves into a provisional committee with the aim of working first of all for a principled, militant and disciplined demonstration in front of the U.S.

Continued on page 11

PREPARATORY COMMITTEE, ACAISContinued ...

Embassy in Grosvenor Square, and secondly for the establishment of an anti-imperialist solidarity movement which would take up the struggle from the point where the VSC-YCL-IS opportunists had betrayed it.

A further important point stressed in the speeches of the platform speakers and by a number of contributors from the floor was the essential need to involve the most advanced sections of the working class in concrete forms of fraternal assistance to and solidarity with the national liberation movements in the colonial-type countries and to build such centres of anti-imperialist solidarity in the organised working class movement.

In spite of attempts by a number of anarchists, trotskyites and revisionists - many of them agents of the VSC-YCL-IS alliance sent to the meeting to try and disrupt it - to turn the discussion into an attack on the platform and on the Provisional Committee, the great majority of the participants at the meeting supported the resolution submitted by the Provisional Committee.

The meeting also adopted a programme of immediate activities, which included the organisation of a small demonstration to an industrial target, proceeding to factory gate meetings and agitational struggle amongst the workers. A call was also made for the setting up of a broad committee for the purpose of organising the next mass demonstration of an anti-imperialist character.

The meeting closed with the election of the Preparatory Committee, which was charged by the meeting with the responsibility of preparing for the Founding conference of the Action Council for Anti-Imperialist Solidarity and for leading and organising the work and activities of the movement in the interim period.

THE MOVEMENT FOR ANTI-IMPERIALIST SOLIDARITYContinued from page 10 ...

thousands of our working people from many strata.

Our task tonight is to take the movement forward, profiting from the successes and errors of October 27th, and to achieve that essential leap from the realm of abstract thought and its emotional reflex, spontaneous class feeling, to the realm of fully conscious, purposeful and scientifically concrete unity of theory and practice which are the essential conditions for anti-imperialist solidarity and the hallmarks of the world-view of the most advanced class, the proletariat - whose highest aim is organisation for revolution.

In Britain as throughout the world, the tinder is alight and is striking sparks in every direction: but this kindling flame has yet to be blasted into the all-devouring conflagration which will consume the blood-soaked monster of imperialism for all time. The main planks of this mighty edifice of revolutionary struggle must be laid jointly by the working classes of the developed imperialist heartlands and the workers and peasants of the colonial and emerging countries.

Of all the urgent issues of struggle confronting the exploited and oppressed working people of all lands, that of building unbreakable bonds of solidarity against imperialism is both the broadest and the most concretely and immediately realisable.

At this relatively early stage in the development of anti-imperialist solidarity movements in the metropolitan countries, a most urgent task is to oppose and defeat the attempts of world imperialism, headed by U.S. imperialism, to split and dismember the as yet embryonic united front of the world's working peoples.

This they seek to do through a particular variant of their time-honoured tactic of "divide and rule". It is a tactic which is adapted to the specific conditions of our time, that crucial turning point in history when imperialism and capitalism are sinking down to final and complete defeat and the world's working people are advancing to final victory over oppression on a world scale.

The basis for this victory lies in the worldwide unity and solidarity in struggle of the exploited and oppressed classes and emerging nations, in the building of an overwhelmingly powerful united front of the working people of the world.

For this very reason, it should occasion us no surprise that it is precisely on the vital and pressing tasks of anti-imperialist solidarity that the class enemy, in both his open and concealed form, is concentrating his efforts at spreading ideological confusion, at erecting bogus pseudo-left political parties and mass movements, at penetrating the organisations of the working people with his representatives in order to cause their degeneration and inability to struggle, and at seeking to employ these same disruptive forces for the purpose of wrecking the new militant organisations which the broad working masses are building to replace those which have already fallen to the class enemy. Being no longer able to dragoon the masses behind their dying, but still deeply predatory, system they must employ the dual tactics of counter-revolution - violence on a world scale, embracing both the aggressive colonial wars in the outlying areas of the imperialist system and the attacks on the living stan-

dards and democratic rights and freedoms of the working people in the developed countries at the centre, together with persistent disruption by their agents within the ranks of the working people in both these areas - in a frantic attempt to regain the initiative they have lost.

These, Comrades and friends, are some of the features of the present situation, within which we must learn to work and struggle in the cause of anti-imperialist solidarity.

For at no time in history have the working people been able to make advances on the hard road towards the defeat of capitalism and imperialism and the triumph of socialism except through the most persistent, many-sided and carefully organised struggle.

One aspect of our meeting here tonight has been to celebrate an important triumph in precisely this struggle for the militant unity on the basis of revolutionary principle of the anti-imperialist solidarity movement.

The other aspect - of concrete and long-term significance to our cause - is comprised in the political and organisational steps we shall take to consolidate that triumph and to place the developing anti-imperialist solidarity movement on a firm and principled proletarian-internationalist basis.

The triumph to which I refer is, of course, the important success achieved by all those who showed genuine solidarity with the Vietnamese people by demonstrating in Grosvenor Square.

This was an important question of principle for the whole movement because the main enemy of the working peoples of the world, as well as the main aggressor in Vietnam, is U.S. imperialism.

The background to the betrayal of internationalist principle perpetrated by the clique of opportunists in the leadership of the Young Communist League, the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign and International Socialism has already been analysed elsewhere and there is no need for me to dwell on these more fundamental and long-term issues on this occasion.

What must be stated unequivocally, however, is that the long-term plans of these disruptors and advocates of false solidarity have been shattered and exposed in their true light for all to see.

From being able to parade themselves as "lefts", as "revolutionaries", they are now seen to be on friendly and fraternal terms with "Dear Harold" - that same Harold who is the main architect of the corporate organs of repression which have been built over the last two years by British monopoly capital in preparation for the intense class battles that lie ahead.

The left mask has been stripped from the faces of these renegades and they are now exposed as the advance guard of the extreme right, as conciliators between capital and labour.

The strategic basis of the rightist betrayal by the YCL-VSC-IS leadership was to turn the

October 27th demonstration into an example of its ability to divert the mass movement away from Grosvenor Square.

The role played by the state in this plan was to adopt an ultra-conciliatory attitude towards the demonstration, with the threat of violence only against the "extremist, unorthodox" wing, in order to test the ability of their concealed agents to carry out this diversion. It must never be forgotten that it was these renegades, in joint collusion with the state and the capitalist press, who first whipped up the scare campaign aimed at intimidating the broader liberal elements and of isolating the militants from them.

These were the tactics which served the strategy of diversion and dismemberment.

Also, the fact must be squarely faced that, whilst the strategic principle of dealing blows against U.S. imperialism in Grosvenor Square in solidarity with the fighting people of Vietnam was solidly adhered to by all those embracing this united front, in tactics a number of more or less serious errors were committed.

In the opinion of the M.L.O.B., the tactical line of participating in the official demonstration and accepting, even if only for a short distance, the leadership and false discipline of the renegades, and of dispersing the militant forces in four separate contingents along the line of the demonstration, was such a mistake, stemming from an under-estimation of the support that could be won for the principled target.

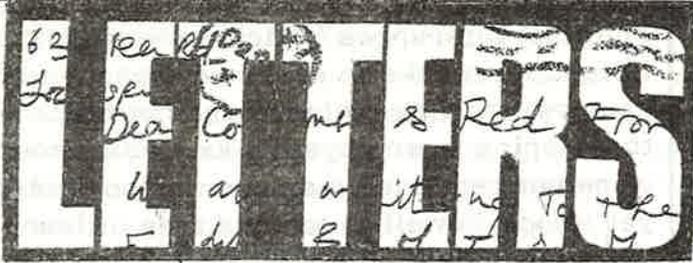
In fact, this error had the effect of confusing many marchers with whom contact could not previously be made but who, given a clear lead and organisation, were anxious to demonstrate in Grosvenor Square against the main enemy, U.S. imperialism.

In effect, these rank and file militants, many of them from outlying areas, were compelled to make their own way as individuals to Grosvenor Square as and when they could.

Also, this leftist tactical line facilitated the task of the IS-VSC-YCL para-military forces, acting as they did in full co-operation with the police, to box off the Grosvenor Square demonstrators and to prevent the majority of them from making an orderly break-off.

We must clearly recognise these errors, and the test of any principled and militant mass movement lies in its ability to learn from those mistakes and to correct them.

Indeed, the leading militants represented in this meeting show every sign of their ability to rectify these errors and to develop a mature line of strategy and tactics in which adherence to internationalist principle is combined with the utmost flexibility towards the less developed sections of the movement



WHY I HAVE LEFT THE COMMUNIST PARTY

After being a member of the Labour Party for nine years, I joined the Communist Party nearly forty years ago - in 1929. I felt convinced that by taking this action I was making a positive contribution to the movement for socialism, and for many years I was proud to be a member of the party which I regarded as carrying forward the ideas of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin.

Peaceful Co-existence

My first doubts about the policy and leadership of the Communist Party were with regard to the so-called policy of "peaceful co-existence". Of course, Lenin vigorously advocated the concept that states with differing social systems should co-exist peaceably, but he held that this did not imply the abandonment or moderation of the struggle against bourgeois ideology. On the contrary, he insisted that the Party's offensive against bourgeois ideology and the Communist education of the working people must be intensified.

It is now clear to me that enemies within the international Communist movement have distorted the concept of "peaceful co-existence", that they have played on the desire for peace to build a social base among the opportunist and wavering strata for the destruction of socialism. These revisionists are now asking for loans and investments from the capitalists, and even inviting them to build and control factories. This action alone destroys any pretence that they are Leninists.

The E.T.U.

I joined the Electrical Trades Union in 1912, at the age of 18, this union being from the first a militant one. When Frank Foulkes became its President - I cite only one man; there were hundreds, but Frank stood out for his outstanding fairness and efficiency - we made rapid progress under his leadership. In its democracy, in its militancy, in its foundation of the first trade union college ever, in its social provisions the E.T.U. became a model for trade unionists to copy.

Although even Frank Foulkes's political opponents paid tribute to his integrity, nevertheless Frank was smeared by the establishment along with others - guilty or innocent - and the E.T.U. destroyed, for the time being, as an effective union. I said at the time that this action was aided and abetted by the silence of those in the leadership of the Communist Party.

Resignation

In the early 1960s I began to have serious

doubts about the correctness of the Party's policy of taking part in the parliamentary game at the expense of mass activity. I discussed these questions with a leading comrade, but failed to get satisfaction.

It was the situation in France in the early summer of this year - the outright betrayal of the working class by the French Party, and the support of this betrayal by the British Party - which finally forced me to send in my resignation to the Communist Party. I realise now that I had too much trust and confidence in the leaders of the Party, and I feel somewhat guilty in not having taken more positive and forceful action at an earlier date.

The Way Forward

It is good to see the rising tide of militancy among trade unionists, led by the engineering workers. It is good to see so many students, doctors, teachers, etc., white and black, joining in the struggle. But without some centralised leadership based on Marxism-Leninism, this militancy cannot lead to real progress.

I have never knowingly misled my fellow workers, and I never will. I see the only possible way forward as a return to the line of Marxism-Leninism. I know that the rebuilding of a Marxist-Leninist Party will be a long and tough process, but it has got to be done and I will contribute all that lies in my power. I like the way RED FRONT is presented, and I shall do everything I can to extend its circulation.

The C.P.G.B. is at a low ebb organisationally, but it still has a number of good, genuine Comrades who are deceived as a result of lack of Marxist knowledge. It is these Comrades, and the militant workers generally, who must form the core of the new Party that we must build. For unless the working class takes the leading role in the great progressive movement that we see developing, the ruling class will find some way to split, confuse and destroy this movement.

Remember the trade union banner:

UNITED WE STAND,
DIVIDED WE FALL !

T.T. Tynan,
Bradford 6.



ANOTHER POLICE FRAME-UP

On Saturday, September 28th, 1968 Mr. David Ennals, Minister with special responsibilities for race relations, said at Gloucester that

"there is racial discrimination in every branch of our society, including the police".

We should like to draw your attention to a specific case which is causing great concern among our black communities in this country.

Last July three black people were arrested and charged with uttering writing threatening to kill police in Hyde Park. For over three months now these men have been locked up in Brixton Prison, pending trial. Several applications have been made for bail to be granted

them, but all have been rejected. The original date for the trial at the Old Bailey has been shifted to an indefinite future date and so their stay in Brixton - which is virtually an imprisonment without trial - has been prolonged indefinitely. All these things are being done to these men in spite of the fact that there is no satisfactory evidence to substantiate the charges brought against them.

We suspect that since the police have no clear evidence they have purposely postponed the trial to give themselves more time to cook up some false evidence in order to incriminate these three men. Secondly, we suspect that the police want more time to work on their main "witness" in order to try and 'smooth out' the glaringly conflicting statements he made at the preliminary hearing. We also suspect that the police have purposely postponed the trial and have made sure these men are refused bail in order to try and weaken their spirit and break their courage. About six weeks ago, one of the accused went on a protest fast and was removed to another wing of the prison; the other two men were prevented from seeing, contacting or communicating with him in any way.

Lastly, we suspect that the postponement of the trial is for the purpose of giving time to prepare public opinion against these men, so that when they are unjustly sentenced no-one will be expected to complain. Already the morning and evening papers, and both the B.B.C. and I.T.V., have presented versions of the case in ways directly calculated to shock the public. They have persistently maligned and misrepresented the Black Power movement to make the British public look on supporters of Black Power (and especially on these three men) as violent and dangerous criminals who must be purged from our society.

We should like to make it abundantly clear that neither our movement, nor any other genuine advocates of Black Power that we know, have published any document ordering the murder of police in Hyde Park. Is it not absolutely ridiculous and incredible to imagine sane and intelligent men writing and threatening to murder police in - of all places - Hyde Park? Is it because these men are black that the police think that even the wildest and most far-fetched accusation against them will be believed by the British public? Is it because these people are connected with the Black Power Movement, that has dared to criticise the pernicious racialism of well-known people like Enoch Powell, or that they had the guts to point out the mounting wave of police victimization of black people (facts which even the police themselves admit), that an attempt is being made to silence them.

Is there any justice where some people's utterances or writings, because of their colour or convictions, are taken out of context and given distorted and hysterical interpretations by the police and where they are judged and condemned even before trial? Mr. Enoch Powell has made

criminal utterances (which were widely publicised for weeks in every newspaper in the country) inciting violence against black people, threatening their physical extermination if they were not repatriated as soon as possible! And yet Enoch Powell is today a free citizen, an "honourable" Member of Parliament and possibly a future Prime Minister of this "democratic" Britain.

On the last Sunday in September a crowd which included Sir Oswald Mosley's fascist movement marched through London shouting insults and abuse at black people. Their women slandered black women with provocative and contemptuous remarks. They carried banners and shouted slogans inciting all whites to unite and fight the 'Second Battle of Britain' to exterminate the blacks and keep England "for ever white"! The police joined them in large numbers on foot and in their vans, and yet their leading spokesmen William Fullier and Joyce Page were not arrested. On the contrary, they were given maximum protection by the Metropolitan Police!

We should like to stress that the patience of a vast number of our black people in this country has been taxed and overtaxed for far too long. We are now thoroughly fed up with the mounting wave of police brutality, intimidation, frame-ups, and victimisation of our people. We are thoroughly disillusioned with the Establishment, because they not only turn deaf ears to our complaints and genuine fears, but appear to be directly encouraging these racist and vicious practices against our people. Unless something substantial is done immediately to ensure the protection of our people; unless justice is not only said to be done but seen to be done, the masses of our oppressed black people will have no alternative but to rise to their own self-defence. And once we are driven to that position, Detroit and Newark will inevitably become part of the British scene and the Thames may foam with blood sooner than Enoch Powell envisaged!

And yet we are willing to believe that there are decent-minded white people who genuinely deplore all the intensified racialism in this country. We believe you are among them. We think you are among those who really desire to see justice, equality and freedom in all sectors of our society.

We feel that the best opportunity for you to show your genuine desires in practice is to join us in demanding the immediate release of Ogi Egbuna, Peter Martin and Gideon Dolo, who have so far virtually served sentences of imprisonment in Brixton Jail for over three months without trial, without bail and without any sign of their case ever being given a fair hearing.

More than that, we demand an immediate investigation into the conduct of the Metro-

Continued on page 15

politan Police in framing up our people and victimising them in such a vicious manner. These men have not only been unjustly arrested, but have been locked up as criminals, made to lose their jobs and deprived of their normal means of livelihood. We therefore demand immediate full compensation for them.

We maintain that the real criminals in this society guilty of insidious violence and of uttering threats to murder are not these three black men. As the whole world knows, they are those 'madmen in high places' whose ideas and feelings 'the Guru of Wolverhampton' has clearly and loudly articulated.

Black Panther Movement,
London, W.10.

REPLY

RED FRONT shares the indignation of the writers of this letter (which has been slightly abridged) at the facts of the case and joins wholeheartedly in demands for the freeing of the three victimised men, as well as for an investigation.

We have always maintained that, within an imperialist society which can maintain itself only by applying the principle of "divide and rule", legislation directed against racialism is of negligible usefulness and can, in fact, be used to serve the cause of racialism by ignoring the "white racialism" of Powell and directing itself against the reactions of the black people who are the objects of white racialist attack.

As the writers say, the masses of black people in Britain have no alternative but to rise up against their oppressors - the imperialists. But imperialism can be destroyed only by united, organised action on the part of all oppressed classes and peoples, and the work of building this united movement must proceed now. A fuller statement of the Marxist-Leninist view on this question appears as a Supplement to this issue.

•••••

IMPRESSIONS OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

In July of this year, just a few weeks before the Soviet military intervention in that country, I paid a visit to some old friends who live in a small village near Gottwaldov, in that country.

Among my first impressions, I noticed that the majority of passengers on the international train from Vienna were Czechoslovaks returning home from holidays abroad. Later, on leaving Czechoslovakia for West Germany, I found again that the majority of the passengers were Czechoslovaks - scouts (this organisation has recently been re-formed to take the place of the socialist-orientated Pioneers), au pair girls and emigrants.

When I reached the village where my friends lived, I found my worst fears confirmed. My hosts, knowing that I was critical (to say the least) of the present regime, did their best to

assure me that almost everyone in the country was "socialist" and that the regime itself was "socialist". But on further questioning it became clear that they had no real conception of what socialism meant and were content to brush aside any facts which showed that the regime was endeavouring to develop free enterprise capitalism. When I visited the family of working people living upstairs, I found them listening to the Czech service of the Voice of America. They commented that the Voice of America now spoke favourably of Czechoslovakia and felt that this was 'a good development', holding that the only reason for the hostility in the past had been 'because of Novotny'. They had no idea that capitalism was inherently hostile to socialism! And the more people I met in Czechoslovakia, the more did it become clear that the views of my hosts and their friends were typical of the average Czechoslovak worker.

One day it was arranged that we should borrow a friend's car and visit the nearby town of Gottwaldov. However, I was not permitted to wear the new jacket I had bought for my holiday. While this had been perfectly acceptable for all occasions in bourgeois Switzerland, it was apparently regarded as being not respectable enough for an industrial town in the Czechoslovak "Socialist Republic".

I found that they considered the sole attraction in Gottwaldov was the large department store, and they were obviously taken aback that I wandered round without buying affluently. They decided that this must be due to my reluctance to pay "higher prices" than in "the West". Strangely enough, they were far from pleased when I informed them that, apart from televisions, refrigerators and transistors, prices were about the same as in Britain, with essentials very considerably cheaper. "Ah!", they said, "but you must remember that wages are much higher in Britain". When I made it clear that my wage was equivalent to an average Czechoslovak wage (1600 Kc., or £44 a month nett), and that of this I paid one-third for accommodation (the average in Czechoslovakia is 8%), they became somewhat annoyed. Clearly, the illusions which have been fostered about life in the "West" have penetrated deeply.

On my return journey, I met a young booking office clerk at the border railway station of Cheb. He took me to his flat, introduced me to his mother and switched on the radio - which was pre-tuned to the American Forces Network in Munich. He showed me his collection of cigarette and chocolate wrappers from the "West", a selection of nude photographs purchased at a strip-club in Yugoslavia (working for the Czechoslovak Railways, he gets a free rail pass) and a large collection of Western pop-records and Suprafon imitations of these. In common with almost all working people I met in Czechoslovakia, he spoke favourably of the

Continued on page 16

Unity Theatre

THE RENT

by Theodore Roszak

Unity Theatre presented in November the premiere of "The Rent", a play by the young American author Theodore Roszak.

Carlo Timorian, a young artist, applies to rent a cottage from Mr. Press, who embodies all the twisted selfishness, aggressive brutality, anti-intellectualism, racialism, obscenity, perversion, and prejudice which capitalist society - and particularly contemporary American capitalist society - is capable of engendering, but whose bullying conceals a fundamental cowardice which is cleverly exposed in the final scene in the encounter with the wealthy socialite who is interested in Carol's painting, Mrs. Winters.

That one character should have all these vices makes Mr. Press, in fact, rather a "horrible example" than a real person, and not even the outstanding performance of Stuart Eames (who is rarely off the set and gives a commendable tour de force) can prevent Mr. Press from being a little too revolting to be credible. Be that as it may. Carlo is coerced into leasing the cottage, but the rent is high: no less than the complete subjugation of the tenant - his person, his values, his painting and his life - to the bestiality of his landlord.

"The Rent" presents a convincing and rightly horrible picture of what happens to an artist who meekly accepts the livery of a propertied class. A programme note says:

"(the author) demonstrates how the capitalistic world demands a rent of humiliation, conformity and perversion from the artist and the individual. Don't we all, in fact, pay this 'rent'?"

The answer is in the negative. Not all of us, not all artists, are prepared to pay this rent. The militant students of Guildford and Hornsey are refusing to accept "humiliation, conformity and perversion" in return for their meagre state grants. And in this lies the structural weakness of Roszak's play: he treats this important theme one-sidedly, in tones only of defeat. There is a virtual absence of dramatic conflict in that no-one stands opposed to the forces of evil personified by Mr. Press. Yet, in the United States as elsewhere, these forces exist - weak though they may be at the moment. Here, in fact, lies the difference between naturalism and the true realism that is the core of all great art: that the latter sees beneath the surface of things to perceive the forces - however embryonic they may be - that will one day wipe out the forces of evil by destroying the social system which gives rise to them. If Roszak can come to realise that the capitalist world produces militant artists as well as unfortunate lambs like Carlo, if he can come to see that the petty-bourgeois need not be a victim

if he allies himself with the in-the-long run invincible progressive force of the working class, his talent will enable him to write more than the gripping play which "The Rent" undoubtedly is: it will enable him to attain the lonely heights of great contemporary drama.

Jo Robinson's patio set is effective, and each of the supporting cast without exception presents convincing, highly individual characterisations. Robert Mitchell, the director, is to be congratulated on a superb production of professional standard which continuously holds the attention and brings out nuances which might well have escaped attention.

The foyer of the theatre features an exhibition of pictures by members of the cast, which further demonstrate the all-round cultural accomplishment of the talented artists who are bringing about the renaissance of Unity Theatre.

LETTERS

concluded...

"new politics" of the Dubcek regime.

My impressions - superficial though they inevitably were - convinced me that the working class in Czechoslovakia has been thoroughly corrupted by the years of revisionist rule and that, subjectively at present, it presents no obstacle to capitalist restoration. Nevertheless I found a positive aspect: beneath the surface rottenness there are still remnants of socialist ideas. The fact that the Dubcek regime has had to present its reactionary programme in false "socialist" colours makes me believe that there could be an early re-awakening of the Czechoslovak working class once the contradictions brought about by the reintroduction of capitalism become clearly apparent.

D.E.,
Ilford.

CORRECTION

In the report of the Annual General Meeting of the ALBANIAN SOCIETY published in RED FRONT of July/August, it is regretted that the name of Mr. W. Hammond was omitted from the list of Committee members elected.

* * * * *

NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT



THE FLAMES OF NATIONAL LIBERATION STRUGGLE, WHICH HAVE IN RECENT YEARS ENGULFED ASIA, AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA, HAVE NOW SPREAD TO EUROPE.

Northern Ireland

One need not go to Rhodesia to hear the call for "One man, one vote". One need only cross the Irish Sea to Northern Ireland, where this elementary principle of democracy does not operate.

Subsidised and constitutionally controlled from London, this colony is administered on behalf of British imperialism by the Unionist Party, which bases itself locally on the interests of the dominant protestant minority.

In Northern Ireland some citizens control up to 50 votes, while others have none at all. Limited companies have up to six votes, while university graduates, business occupiers and their spouses have extra votes nationally and locally. The electoral boundaries are drawn so that a minority of Unionist electors dominates the country. The local government franchise applies only to houseowners or tenants - and opponents of the Unionist Party are denied housing, as well as jobs.

But in recent months a great movement has developed in Northern Ireland, a movement in which progressive Catholics and Protestants march side by side - a movement to demand homes, jobs, universal franchise and freedom from arbitrary arrest.

There can be no doubt that the movement will grow, that it will overcome all the obstacles placed in its way by the brutal police and their collaborators, the protestant fascists led by Ian Paisley, and that it will develop from a movement for democracy and civil rights into an invincible national-revolutionary movement to free the people of Northern Ireland from British rule.

British Marxist-Leninists and progressives stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Northern Ireland. Both are fighting the same enemy - the British imperialists. Every blow struck against this enemy in Belfast and Derry helps the struggle of the British working people for their social liberation. Every blow struck against this enemy in London and Manchester helps the struggle of the people of Northern Ireland for their national liberation.

=====

The Basque Provinces of Spain

The Basque people, who form the nation of Euzkadi lying partly under Spanish and partly under French rule, fought the Franco fascists valiantly during the civil war of 1936-39 and for eight months, from October 1936 to June 1937, succeeded in setting up an autonomous Basque republic.

Now the Basque people, dissatisfied with the inactivity of the conservative Basque "government-in-exile", are raising their fists once more against the Spanish fascist dictatorship.

In 1960 a new nationalist organisation, "Euzkadi ta Askatutuna" (ETA), meaning "Basque Land and Liberty" came into existence. In August the ETA assassinated the detested chief of the political police for the province of Guipuzcoa, Meliton Manzanas. The government declared a state of emergency and arrests of hundreds of Basque nationalists and anti-fascists followed, including many young priests. The Vatican, loyal as ever to the Spanish fascists, ordered priests not to support the Basque national movement.

At present under anarchist leadership, the ETA has devoted too much of its energies to acts of individual terrorism and too little to the mobilisation of the masses of the people for their national liberation. But a truly revolutionary leadership will emerge once more in Euzkadi, and guided by this vanguard the Basque people will without doubt raise the banner of national-revolutionary struggle to achieve, this time permanently, their national liberation.

=====

"KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT" DEPARTMENT

Mr. Ivor Cook was the teacher at Court Lees Approved School whose evidence of cruelty to the boys led to its closure. The school has now been reopened under the new name of the Hays Bridge Approved School.

Mr. Cook has now disclosed that the Home Office found him "unsuitable" to teach further not only at Hays Bridge, but at any approved school and pressed him to take a course in the education of maladjusted children.

They were, however, "unable" to find him a place in any such course, and Mr. Cook has now been given notice to quit his school house and informed that his salary will cease in January.

Available shortly:

RED VANGUARD

A QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF MARXISM-LENINISM

THE MOVEMENT FOR ANTI-IMPERIALIST SOLIDARITY Continued

who are struggling to free themselves from the renegade grip and to join our ranks.

Following from this, it must be clearly recognised that the main negative features of the mass movement for anti-imperialist solidarity up to the present time have been the complete absence of those tried and tested methods of struggle based on discipline and organisation.

This negative feature arises out of the predominantly petty bourgeois composition of the movement - indeed, it has been this fundamental negative feature which more than anything else has facilitated the task of the opportunist leaders to divert the demonstration into a peaceful walk in the park and away from the principled target against which the majority of demonstrators wished to deliver blows.

In an essentially similar way, it was this inherent petty bourgeois dislike of discipline and firm organisation which enabled the opportunist leaders to erect a false facade of ultra-democracy as a sop to those prejudices and as a disguise concealing the fact that real control was exercised through the tiny opportunist political groups which were answerable to no section of the movement, because no organisational structure existed through which mass democracy could be made effective.

It should also be clearly recognised that where individual acts of struggle against the police take place, with the arrests that so often follow, these are not necessarily the result of leftist provocations on the part of the demonstrators concerned. Far more frequently, these incidents are the result either of the frustration felt by genuine militants at the lack of concerted, disciplined and integrated action, or else they are the attempts made by individual militants who have been cut off from the main body and who find themselves in difficulties because of police attacks and have no plan of action as a guide, and no organised detachment to help them extricate themselves.

This sums up the secondary experience of October 27th - its negative features. What now of the primary experience, the positive achievements won? What must now be done to consolidate our position, to lay the basis for a principled and militant mass movement of anti-imperialist solidarity?

That force which has been absent to a large degree from our ranks, the organised working class, must be won to become the basis for our movement.

From the moment when such a development is set in motion and begins to be consolidated, from that moment will these petty bourgeois prejudices melt away under the organised strength of proletarian steadfastness, determination and capacity to organise solidly and many-sidedly for struggle - qualities which are inherent in the

working class and in that class alone, the only truly revolutionary class in capitalist society.

For all these reasons, and especially from the fact that a vacuum of leadership now exists consequent upon the complete exposure and isolation of the class traitors in the leadership of the "orthodox" "protest" movement, an anti-imperialist solidarity movement in which the main base is formed by the advanced sections of the working class, must be built.

This is a first priority for the British working class movement in the present situation of intensifying class struggle.

These are the reasons why the MLOB fully supports the measures that are being implemented tonight to form an Action Council for Anti-Imperialist Solidarity and endorses the proposals that have been put for its programme of aims and activities.

The Action Council is the organic form of independent organisation for struggle thrown up by the proletariat which embraces the unity of the various levels of the working class and the broad strata of the working people in their common struggle against the imperialist exploiter and oppressor.

For this reason, it is also the most appropriate form of organisation for anti-imperialist solidarity. Its birth tonight spells the doom of the renegades of right and pseudo-left who have already been exposed and isolated, and the most decisive turning point towards the development of a powerful British contingent of the growing world anti-imperialist united front.

The imperialists the world over tremble at the prospect of this overwhelming unity of the world's working peoples, and especially at the prospect of the opening up of this most fundamental starting point of revolutionary forms of struggle in the developed imperialist countries, including Britain.

For it will mark the beginning of the end of the blood-soaked imperialist system, which will then find itself engulfed by an irresistible tide of revolutions and revolutionary struggles, encircling it in an inextinguishable band of fire, extending from the outlying colonial areas to the developed heartlands themselves.

Let us all pledge ourselves tonight to work tirelessly, persistently and according to a scientific programme for the achievement of these great aims, the fundamental historical and social content of our epoch.

YOU CAN HELP RED FRONT

* by taking out a subscription: * by persuading your militant workmates to take out a subscription * by sending a donation or, better still, a monthly guarantee * by assisting in the sale of the paper outside factory gates and in public places in your locality. Sale or return details on request.

THE U.S. ELECTIONS

Karl Marx once characterised an election in a "democratic" capitalist country as the opportunity for the people to choose which representatives of the capitalist class should govern them for the next few years. Nowhere in the world can this truth be seen more clearly or more blatantly than in the elections for the President of the United States of America which took place this autumn.

The new President, by a minority of votes, is the Republican Party candidate RICHARD MILHOUS NIXON, who has been making 200,000 dollars a year as partner in a prosperous firm of Wall Street lawyers. Nixon was elected to Congress for the first time in 1946 by accusing his Democratic Party rival of being a "crypto-communist". The success of this manoeuvre stimulated him to team up with Senator McCarthy in the notorious Un-American Activities Committee, and in 1950 he gained a seat in the Senate by means of the same "red-smear" tactics. A mere six years after entering politics he became in 1950 Eisenhower's Vice-President, a post which he held for the next eight years. In 1952, in a famous television chat accompanied by his dog, he defended with tears in his eyes the gift of \$ 10,000 to him by some wealthy Californians for "services rendered".

With Eisenhower's failing health, Nixon and Secretary of State Dulles became the twin pillars of the Republican administration, and it was at this time that he spoke publicly in favour of dropping nuclear weapons on the people of Vietnam in order to ward off the imminent defeat of the French colonialists.

In 1960 he stood as Presidential candidate for the Republican Party on a demagogic platform which combined anti-Communism with vague promises of social reform. But his reputation for dishonesty and **discreditable** intrigue, which had won him the universal nickname of "Tricky Dicky", was too great, and he lost the election to the Democratic Party's candidate, John F. Kennedy. In 1962, after being overwhelmingly defeated for the post of Governor of California, he announced his "retirement from politics" in a hysterical statement to the press.

But after the defeat of the ultra-right Republican Party candidate Barry Goldwater in the 1964 Presidential Elections, the party managers looked again at Nixon. A new image was built up for him, with the aid of deodorants, four-times daily shaves, voice training and the most expensive Madison Avenue publicity agents: the image of a firm but gentle "liberal". In the 1968 Presidential elections Nixon stood for "peace in Vietnam" - once the war had been won! He stood for "better conditions for the Negro people" - once "law and order" had been firmly estab-

lished in the Negro ghettos!

Beneath Nixon's new plastic coating of "liberalism" lies the body and mind of one of the most vicious, unscrupulous and reactionary politicians that even the United States has yet produced.

Nixon's choice as his vice-presidential candidate was SPIRO THEODOROS AGNEW (alias ANAGOSTOPOULOUS), Governor of Maryland since 1966, remembered for little else but his call to shoot looters. Nixon himself has admitted publicly that his choice was made "on the advice of" the millionaire financier of the Republican Party, Tom Pappas, who controls huge business interests in both the U.S.A. and Greece. Both Agnew and Pappas are of Greek descent and open, enthusiastic champions of the present Greek military dictatorship. The Pappas "charity trust" was recently exposed as a cover organisation for the transmission of C.I.A. funds to Greece. The "New York Times" has charged Agnew with "unethical business dealings" (a euphemism for corruption) in that as Governor of Maryland he approved the route of the approach road to a new bridge which passed over land owned by himself.

The Democratic Candidate for the presidency, HUBERT HORATIO HUMPHREY, was foisted on the Party late in the campaign to prevent the possible election of liberal EUGENE McCARTHY, who successfully rallied millions of progressive young people for a withdrawal of U.S. forces from Vietnam. Remembered for his purge of "communists" and supporters of former Vice-President Henry Wallace from the Minneapolis administration in 1948, Humphrey had been a close collaborator with Johnson in all his policies since becoming Vice-President in 1964. His dissociation from Johnson's aggression in Vietnam when the election campaign had begun convinced few people of his sincerity, while the conduct of the Democratic Party Convention at which Humphrey was made the Party's candidate made it clear that the party was "democratic" only in name.

The **third** candidate for the presidency, GEORGE CORLEY WALLACE, founded in October a "third party", the American Independent Party. Openly fascist and racist, Wallace is remembered as the Governor of Alabama who in 1962 made his stand "at the schoolhouse door" of the University of Alabama against the desegregation of education.

Wallace's vice-presidential candidate was General CURTIS EMERSON LEMAY, former Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force, and known without affection as "Old Ironpants". He is notorious for his advocacy that nuclear weapons should be dropped in Vietnam, of increased

Concluded on page 20

STUDENT FRONT

GUILDFORD SCHOOL OF ART

The eight-week sit-in by students of the Guildford School of Art - which defeated all the efforts of the reactionary Surrey County Council to evict them, including writs, guard dogs, security guards and the cutting off of light and heat - ended in July.

A spokesman for the students declared:

"Our aim has always been to try to achieve a means for effectively discussing the educational problems within the school. Owing to lack of cooperation, amounting almost to hostility, from the principal, vice-principal, governors and a number of members of the staff, our aim has never been realised."

When the school reopened on September 30th, it became known that 7 full-time and 30 part-time staff who had actively sympathised with the students had been dismissed, and the Association of Teachers in Technical Institutions (ATTI) declared the college black. On November 4th-5th, students staged a further 24-hour sit-in in protest at the state of affairs at the school.

A letter from the students states:

"The students of the Guildford School of Art have demanded a public inquiry into their education and the reinstatement of all victimised staff. We have the official support of our union - ATTI.

We ask you to support our national campaign by:

- 1) writing or telegraphing the Department of Education and Science (Curzon St., London W.1.) supporting the request of the ATTI, the National Union of Students and the Guildford Trades Council for an independent public inquiry;
- 2) proposing to your union branch, your staff or student association, that it express its solidarity with the victimised staff and writes to the Secretary of State requesting intervention;
- 3) making a modest contribution towards the cost of the national campaign now being organised.

Cheques and POs payable to: G.S.A. Victimised Staff and sent to:

Maurice Plaskow, C.A.S.E.,
1, Lakeside, Oatlands Drive,
Weybridge, Surrey.

THE U.S. ELECTIONS continued/

rearmament and U.S. control of outer space.

The only sensible comment made on the 1968 U.S. presidential elections is credited to a well-known Broadway comedian:

"THANK GOD ONLY ONE OF THEM CAN BE ELECTED!"

HORNSEY COLLEGE OF ART

During the summer term, following the refusal of the authorities to accede to student demands for increased representation on the governing bodies and for autonomy of the students' union, students at Hornsey College of Art in North London organised a sit-in which developed into a "free university" lasting six weeks.

During the summer vacation the Haringey Borough Council Education Committee announced that the college, which should have reopened on Sept. 23rd, would remain closed until November 4th and that 27 students had been told not to return to the college because of "below standard work".

On October 31st, the staff/student commission at the college demanded that all students should be permitted to return to the college, subject to a six months' probationary period. This demand was endorsed on the following day by the Haringey branch of the Association of Teachers in Technical Institutions.

On November 8th the governors agreed that student representation on the college academic panel should be increased, and that all students who had "failed" their assessments should be readmitted on two months' probation. The students' representatives found these proposals unsatisfactory, mainly because they made no mention of students who had not been invited for assessment or of those who had not received their invitations (these included a number of militant students); nor did it mention staff members whose contract had not been renewed.

Later in November the Education Committee, without consultation with staff or students, announced that the Hornsey College of Art would be merged with Enfield and Hendon Colleges of Technology into a new "North London Polytechnic".

The struggle continues.

COMPETITION IN RACIALISM

Some of the more disreputable Labour Members of Parliament are already beginning to come out openly with variants of the racialism fostered by such right-wing conservative M.P.s as Enoch Powell.

In the House of Commons on Monday, Dec. 2nd, Mrs. Renee Short, Labour M.P. for Wolverhampton North-east (adjacent to Powell's own constituency) proposed that no more work permits should be issued to immigrants in Wolverhampton. The Birmingham Coordinating Committee against Racial Discrimination sharply condemned Mrs. Short's "unprincipled competition" with Powell, and pointed out that her proposal would create a situation reminiscent of the South African pass laws.



In October an interim award was agreed between trade unions and employers' organisations in the building industry, which gave to the 1½ million building workers a rise of 3d. to 3½d. an hour.

This agreement was denounced by Minister of Employment and Productivity Barbara Castle on the grounds that it represented an increase of 4-5% and so violated the government's prices and incomes policy, which sets a ceiling of 3½% on wage increases.

On November 14th the right-wing leaders of the building trade unions accepted Castle's proposal that the "impartial" Prices and Incomes Board should rule on whether or not the award should be cut by a penny. And, of course, the Board ruled "impartially" for a penny reduction.

=====

(FOOTNOTE: Britain's 98,000 police received in November an increase in pay of 8¼% in two stages, the first (of 5¼%) being backdated to September 1st. This follows a 9% pay rise in March 1967).

On November 25th the right-wing leaders of the 31 trade unions forming the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions voted to accept the "pay and productivity" offer made in October by the Engineering Employers' Federation. This gives engineering workers an increase in pay of 11½% spread over 3½ years, well within the government's prices and incomes policy, subject to "productivity" strings which Minister Barbara Castle described in the House of Commons on Nov. 25th as "very tough".

One of the trade union team who negotiated this deal was A.E.F. leader Reg Birch, who is also chairman of the maoist and r-r-revolutionary "Communist Party of Great Britain (Marxist-Leninist)".

Prior to the agreement being signed, the organ of the "C.P.G.B.(M.L.)" had this to say about the productivity strings in its October issue:

"The employers' factory deals involve acceptance of drastic changes in customs and practices which add up to giving the employer such a free hand as he has never had before even in days of drastic unemployment. Work study and measured day work to suit each employer's individual requirements instead of bonus schemes based on mutual agreement".

After discussions with Reg Birch and his colleagues, but before the package deal had been officially accepted by the A.E.F., the President of the Engineering Employers' Federation,

James Fielding, said:

"We have negotiated a set of productivity principles which envisages the unqualified acceptance of such techniques as work study, work measurement and job evaluation. We have also agreed that an immediate attack be made on a number of impediments to production. These matters could be the subject of productivity deals at local level. In other words, higher wages could be obtainable for the removal of these restrictions."

The role of maoists as agents of the capitalist class, using militant words but selling out the workers in practice, could hardly be more clearly seen than in Birch's infamous role in these negotiations. The organ of Birch's maoist party even covers up for the most openly reactionary and right-wing of his colleagues. As the October issue puts it:

"The delegations of the recalled National Committee of the AEF realised all this and that is why they voted for all-out strike. It is entirely false for anyone to suggest that their vote 31 to 30 is a reflection of division. It is a fact that all 61 delegates advocated struggle against the employers, any division was on the best tactics to be employed."

It is hardly surprising that the Chinese capitalists, who are engaged in a counter-revolutionary offensive against their own workers, should give their support to such puppets as Birch. And the British engineering employers have good reason to be grateful to them.

By an overwhelming majority of 5 million votes to 1 million, the Labour Party's annual conference in September carried a resolution demanding the repeal of the prices and incomes legislation.

Minister of Employment and Productivity Barbara Castle told the conference that the passing of this resolution would have no effect on government policy!

Half an hour after the conference began, a body of miners pushed past stewards and burst in on the conference carrying posters demanding "HALT PIT CLOSURES!" and "STOP THE MURDER OF THE MINING INDUSTRY!". It was the first time for sixty years that the address of the Chairman had been interrupted in such a way.

In August the campaign organised by the National Union of Teachers (which had included a boycott of school meals duties by 8,000 teachers in 1,000 schools in 18 areas of the country) ended in victory when the government abolished compulsory meals duties for teachers.

Continued over ...

SHOP FRONT continued

In August 1,000 nurses from all over Britain marched to Downing Street to present a list of grievances.

In August, after an 8-week lockout, 90 engineering workers (mainly Indian and Pakistani) won their dispute with Injection Moulders of Queensbury, London (part of the Guest, Keen and Nettlefold group). All the workers were reinstated without victimisation, and won wage increases and, for the first time, the right to tea-breaks.

In September 800 Port of London tally clerks began a policy of non-cooperation and the banning of overtime in pursuance of a wage claim.

In September some of the 2,000 members of the Amalgamated Engineering and Foundry Workers' Union on strike at the Barrow works of the Vickers shipbuilding group demonstrated during the commissioning of the new submarine "Repulse". They pointed out to crew members that the vessel was black, and was unsafe in that it was putting to sea with untested and sub-standard pipe systems.

In September road tanker and lorry drivers staged 48-hour strikes in most parts of the country against the government's proposals to impose tachographs in vehicles, on the grounds that these will function as "bosses' spies".

The right-wing leadership of the Transport and General Workers' Union denounced the strike and urged drivers not to support it. In October the union agreed to a Midlands firm installing tachometers in its lorries.

In September British European Airways engineers held a series of two-hour strikes in support of their wage claim.

In October the teachers' panel of the Burnham Committee presented a claim for an 18% increase in teachers' pay.

In November more than 2,000 farm workers from all over the country staged a demonstration in London in support of the claim of the National Union of Agricultural Workers for a minimum wage of £16 a week and a 40-hour week.

CITY NOTES

In July, following the rejection by the government's Monopolies Commission of the proposed three-way merger between Barclays, Lloyds and Martins banks, Barclays took over Martins for £105 million to regain its position over the National-Westminster combine (formed earlier this year) as the largest banking combine in Britain.

The Monopolies Commission disclosed that, had the three-way merger been permitted to go through, it had been planned to close 1,200 branches and make 3,500 staff redundant.

**

In August the U.S. tobacco giant Philip Morris (beaten by its rival American Tobacco in the battle for Gallahers) made an £11½ million takeover bid for the Godfrey Phillips tobacco company (makers of Du Maurier and Abdulla cigarettes, and of Four Square tobacco). This leaves only Imperial Tobacco British-owned, since the third firm supplying the British market, Carreras, has close links with the South African Rothman company.

**

In September the Italian Fiat group acquired a 40% interest in French Citroen to become the largest car firm in Europe. A merger is now being discussed between the French Renault and Peugeot firms which, if it comes about, will put the West German Volkswagen combine into third place in Europe.

**

In September Robert Maxwell's Pergamon Press made a £26 million takeover bid for the News of the World (revenue: £9 million a year; assets £20 million). The offer was later raised to £34 million.

Maxwell has declared that his long-term aim is to establish the largest printing and publishing combine in Europe, to be known as the European Publishing Corporation (EPA).

**

In December Electrical and Musical Industries (EMI) made a £43 million takeover bid for the Associated British Picture Corporation, which owns the ABC cinema chain and controls Thames Television. If the merger goes through it would create one of the world's largest entertainments combines, with assets of £160 million.

THE B.B.C.

The moves on the part of British monopoly capital to replace the present system of capitalist "democracy" by a totalitarian corporate state structure are further reflected in suggestions by a number of leading members of the government that the present "independence" of the British Broadcasting Corporation was "undesirable" and "dangerous".

Wilson's reference to the B.B.C. at the Labour Party Conference was followed by a more serious speech by Minister of Technology Wedgewood Benn on October 18th, in which he said:

"Broadcasting is really too important to be left to the broadcasters", and complained that public opinion was being shaped by a few well-known broadcasters and that politicians were being held up to contempt.

FROM CRISIS TO CRISIS Continued..

ment's canutian refusal to devalue the franc - alter the objective situation not one iota.

Naturally, the United States imperialists - against the interests of which the developing western European imperialist bloc is directed - are taking advantage of the Franco-German contradictions to try and disrupt the alliance and to draw France back into the U.S. sphere of influence.

THE ONLY WAY OUT

Such is the background to the new squeeze and cut measures announced by Jenkins on November 22nd - measures designed, like all the countless similar measures of the past, to correct Britain's persistently adverse balance of payments.

With each new attack upon the standard of living of the working people, the politicians cry that this at last will solve Britain's economic crisis and we may now look forward to that golden era of prosperity that is always just around the corner. But each new cut merely paves the way for more savage cuts a few months later, as Britain's decaying capitalist economy staggers from one crisis to the next.

It is, in fact, the permanent and insoluble character of Britain's economic crisis - insoluble, that is, within the framework of capitalism - that is responsible for the moves to destroy the whole basis of trade union collective bargaining. The infamous Prices and Incomes legislation is but the first step in an attempt to shackle the British working class by the fetters of a fascist-type corporate state.

That the workers will fight back against the capitalist offensive is inevitable.

The growing movement to form Action Councils for the defence of the workers' standard of living, rights and liberties, the movement to create at grass-roots level new fighting organisations of the working class free from domination by the agents of the capitalist class - these are important steps in the mobilisation of the army of Britain's working people into an invincible force which will, in the not too distant future, tear to pieces the whole decadent, blood-soaked economic and political structure of the capitalist system and set out on the only way out of economic crisis and increasing exploitation:

THE REVOLUTIONARY ROAD TO
SOCIALISM .

THE AFFLUENT SOCIETY

On September 30th families all over Greater London began a rent strike against the GLC, withholding the rent increases which came into force for 200,000 homes. Tenants' associations are recruiting new members rapidly and new associations are being formed on estates where they have not previously existed.

In October tenants' associations stated that 55,000 GLC tenants were holding back the rent increases - about a quarter of the total.

On November 19th thousands of GLC tenants marched on County Hall to protest against the increases.

The Government has ruled that in 1969-70 local authorities can increase their expenditure on education by only 3%. At a press conference on Nov. 19th, Ronald Gould, General Secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said that these cuts not only gravely threatened the quality of children's education but might mean unemployment among teachers.

The Report of the Chief Inspector for Mines and Quarries for 1967 reveals that in that year 151 miners were killed and 982 injured.

From April free school meals for the fourth or subsequent child in a family will be stopped, except on a means test.

Following the closure of the Millom (Cumberland) iron mine in March and the iron-works in August, 35% of the employable men in the town are now unemployed.

After a meeting with the Minister of Housing Greenwood on November 14th, local government leaders warned of large rate increases, drastic cuts in services and a substantial further rise in rents.

In September, within a fortnight of the increase in London bus and underground fares - the Transport Tribunal authorised British Railways to raise season ticket fares by an average of 7½%, together with second class fares for one and two mile journeys.

On November 18th, 22 upholstery workers were burned to death behind barred windows in a Glasgow factory fire.

Speaking in Belfast on November 8th on behalf of the Child Poverty Action Group, Professor Peter Townsend of Essex University said: "The problem of poverty is widespread and the numbers of the long-term unemployed are increasing rapidly.

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AND CONTRACEPTION

As part of their betrayal of Marxist-Leninist principles, of socialism and of the working class, as part of their campaign of proving to the Establishment their "respectability", the modern revisionists have for the most part discarded Marx's famous dictum: "RELIGION IS THE OPIUM OF THE PEOPLE."

Some "Communists", indeed, now speak of taking the "road to socialism" with Marx's "Capital" in one hand and the Bible in the other!

But the role of organised religion remains unchanged. This role is: to serve ideologically the interests of an exploiting class by preaching that exploitation is "the will of god", and by promising that if the exploited meekly accept their exploitation "in this world" they will be rewarded by eternal happiness in a "life after death."

Christianity was adopted as the official religion of the Roman Empire by its slave-owning ruling class. It preached that the institution of slavery was ordained by God, and that slaves who accepted their position would receive (as the modern workers' song eloquently puts it) "pie in the sky bye-and-bye", while those who dared to rebel against it would be punished by damnation and the eternal tortures of hell.

When, as a result of the historical development of society, slavery gave way to the feudal system of exploitation, the Catholic Church adapted its teachings to serve the interests of the feudal aristocracy from which the princes of the church were drawn. And as the rising capitalist class began to challenge the power of the feudal lords, the church fought on behalf of its reactionary masters by denouncing the pursuit of wealth (though not, of course, its possession), the lending of money at interest, and all the basic principles on which a capitalist economic system is based.

In the countries of western Europe where capitalism was most developed, the rising capitalist class overthrew the power of the feudal Catholic Church and expropriated it of most of its wealth, replacing it by national Protestant churches which preached the bourgeois ethic of "the supremacy of the individual conscience". The Reformation must be seen as the first stage in the bourgeois revolution which reached its completion in Britain in the 17th century,

With the political triumph of the capitalist class, the Catholic Church once more adapted its teachings to suit the needs of the new ruling class (abandoning, for example, its condemnation of usury which had barred "good Christians" from banking and finance and which had placed

these operations in Jewish hands). It was, accordingly, permitted to take a subordinate role in those countries where the Reformation had deprived it of ecclesiastical dominance.

Today, in the era of fully developed capitalism, the Christian Church forms an ideological prop for capitalist exploitation, just as in earlier periods it formed an ideological prop for slavery and feudalism.

Knowing that it is militant workers who will inherit the earth, the bishop (presenting the voice of his stockbroker as the voice of God) cries from his pulpit:

"Blessed are the meek"
and "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven!"

To the worker who suffers a wage cut, redundancy or victimisation, the message of the church rings out: "Resist not evil, but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also", and "Him that taketh away thy cloak, forbid not to take thy coat also".

To the objection that such meekness towards the exploiters will increase the poverty and suffering of the masses, the church replies: "Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. ... But seek ye first the Kingdom of God."

And to the workers who threaten to strike, the Church sternly warns:

"Agree with thine adversary quickly; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison. Verily I say unto thee: 'Thou shalt by no means come out of there till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing'".

Not without justice can Wilson and Castle speak of 'the Christian principles' embodied in the Prices and Incomes Act!

The encyclicals of the Catholic Church apply these biblical precepts explicitly to the problems of contemporary capitalist society:

"The pains and hardships of life will have no end or cessation on earth. ... To suffer and to endure, therefore, is the lot of humanity. ... No strength and no artifice will ever succeed in banishing from human life the ills that beset it. ...

The chief thing is the duty of safeguarding private property by legal enactment and protection. ... The authority of the State should intervene to put restraint upon firebrands ... to protect lawful owners from spoliation. ...

Continued on page 25 ..

ANNOUNCEMENT

RED FRONT is now on sale at, and obtainable from: MANDARIN BOOKS LTD., 3 New College Parade, London N.W.3. and HOUSMAN'S BOOKSHOP, 5 Caledonian Road, London N.1. The agency with Collets Bookshop, Charing X Road is now terminated.

The only claim to the fruits of labour is the ownership of the means of production, not the exercise of labour. ...

There are two means with which to cope with the increasing misery of the times: prayer and fasting. Let the poor, and all those who at this time are facing the hard trial of want of work, security and food - let them in a spirit of penance suffer with greater resignation the privations imposed upon them by these hard times and the state of the society which Divine Providence, in an inscrutable but ever-loving plan, has assigned to them. ...

No-one can at the same time be a sincere Catholic and a true Socialist".

It is easy to understand how the Catholic Church, purveying these ultra-reactionary doctrines, came to give its support to the fascist dictatorships in Italy, Germany, Portugal, Spain and elsewhere.

Despite individual clergy of the calibre of the late Hewlett-Johnson, who have tried to reconcile socialism with Christianity, the Protestant churches are equally anti-socialist. As long ago as 1888 the Lambeth Conference, the highest body of the Church of England, denounced socialism as

"undisguised spoliation of the rightful property owners".

And there is nothing in the sordid record of the Vatican more sickening than the support given by the leading Protestant church in South Africa to the racist policy of apartheid.

With the increasing decline of monopoly capitalism, and the consequent need for greater coordination of the ideological institutions which serve the interests of the monopoly capitalists, the movement for oecumenicity - for a coming together of all the Christian churches - has gained ground. But the contradictions within the capitalist world also act in the direction of Christian disunity and nowhere is this more clearly seen than in the present crisis on the question of contraception, which has divided not only the Catholic from the Protestant church but has split the Catholic Church itself - particularly in the developed capitalist countries.

Since the Christian Church in all its sectarian divisions serves the ideological interests of the capitalist class, how does it come about that most Protestant churches have long endorsed contraception while the Catholic Church continues to oppose it? Marxist-Leninists understand that the reason for such a difference in policy is neither accidental nor mystical, but has its roots in society.

The Protestant churches are dominant in, and receive the greater part of their wealth from, the developed capitalist countries. Here, the development of mechanised methods of production and the birth of automation - by which a

dozen skilled workers may operate a complete plant - have meant that the capitalists have less need of masses of labour power. Here, a declining birth rate is of service to the capitalists by keeping the surplus of redundant workers to "manageable" proportions.

The Catholic Church, on the other hand, is dominant in, and receives the greater part of its wealth from, the under-developed countries, particularly those of Latin America. Here, the relatively backward technique of production causes the profits of the capitalists to rest on the availability of masses of "cheap" labour power, and a declining birth-rate would hinder this requirement. This is, at the roots, the reason why the Catholic Church has declined to bring "up-to-date" its attitude of opposition to contraception.

Behind the mystical theology lies simply the need of the capitalist class to maximise its profits and its exploitation.

STOP PRESS

Progressive literature (excluding C.P.G.B. and trotskyite publications) have been banned by the management of formerly left-wing bookshop, COLLETS, Charing Cross Road. On Dec. 6th., following the dismissal of employee Don Nielson, workers held a one-day strike. In view of the blacking of Collets, the Action Council for Anti-Imperialist Solidarity is opening on Jan. 11th. a bookstall at Earlham St., W.C.2., off Cambridge Circus, open to all progressive literature.

The A.C.A.I.S. held a successful anti-Powell demonstration outside the Royal Garden Hotel, London, on Nov. 28th. Members also took part in taking over the pro-Saigon meeting organised by the Anti-Communist League.

On Dec. 24th. the A.C.A.I.S. will hold a demonstration in solidarity with the world's oppressed peoples. Assemble outside Charing X tube station, 6.30 p.m.

The counter-revolutionary regime in Peking, headed by Mao Tse-tung, has declared its support for the "Biafran" secessionists.

"Black Power" leader Ogi Egbuna was on Dec. 10th. given a suspended sentence of twelve months' gaol.

A series of Marxist-Leninist classes organised by the M.L.O.B. will begin in London in January. Details available from RED FRONT.

MAYAKOVSKY -

The streets shall be our brushes
the square our palettes
for 150,000,000 speak through these lips of mine.

-- Vladimir Mayakovsky

(Vladimir Mayakovsky, 1893-1930, was the greatest poet produced by the Soviet Union in the days when, under Marxist-Leninist leadership headed by Lenin and Stalin, it was the world bastion of socialism and working class rule.

Mayakovsky wrote his verse in the spirit of the working class, and in its language. But he was not only poet, but playwright, film writer, artist, poster designer, actor - he turned his great talents to every form of cultural work in the service of the working people).

MY SOVIET PASSPORT

I'd tear
like a wolf
at bureaucracy.
For mandates
my respect's but the slightest.
To the devil himself
I'd chuck
without mercy
every red-taped paper.
But this ...
Down the long front
of coupes
and cabins
file
the officials
politely.
They gather up passports
and I
give in
my own
vermillion booklet.
For one kind of passport -
smiling lips part.
For others -
an attitude of scorn.
They take
with respect, for instance,
the passport
with the double-bedded
Lion and Unicorn.
The good fellow's eyes
almost slip like pips
when,
bowing as low as men can,
they take,
as if they were taking a tip,
the passport
from an American.
At the Polish,
they dolefully blink and wheeze
in dumb
police elephantism -
where are they from,
and what are these
geographical novelties?

And without a turn
of their cabbage heads,
their feelings
hidden
in lower regions,
they take
without blinking,
the passports from Swedes
and various
odd
Norwegians.
Then sudden
as if
their mouths were
abake
those gentlemen almost
whine.
Those very official gentlemen
take
that red-skinned passport
of mine.
Take -
like a bomb
take - like a hedgehog,
like a razor
double-edge stropped,
take
like a rattlesnake
huge and long
with at least
twenty fangs
poison-tipped.
The porter's eyes
give a significant
flick
(I'll carry your baggage
for nix,
mon ami ...)
The gendarmes enquiringly
look at the tec,
the tec, -
at the gendarmerie.
With what delight
that gendarme caste
would have me
crucified on the spot,
because I hold

in my hands
 hammered-fast
 sickle-clasped
 my red Soviet passport.
 I'd tear
 like a wolf
 at bureaucracy.
 For mandates
 my respect's but the slightest.
 To the devil himself
 I'd chuck
 without mercy
 every red-taped paper.
 But this ...
 I pull out
 of my wide trouser-pockets
 a priceless cargo's
 Bill of Lading.
 You now:
 read this
 and envy,
 I'm a citizen
 of the Soviet Socialist Union !

A FABLE FOR CHILDREN

Once upon a time, the people of a village in Bohemia were terrorised by a fierce, wicked giant, twenty-five feet tall. The village school was just outside his cave, and when he was hungry he would lie in wait for the children coming out of school, seize them in his great hairy hands, and eat them.

The blood from the narrow lane leading to the school ran all the way down into the village street - into the shops and even into the church, so that the shopkeepers and the priest went to the village council and demanded that they put in better drains. And they took their children out of the village school (the shopkeepers, that is, for the priest had no children as far as anyone knew) and sent them to an expensive private school well away from the giant's cave.

One afternoon the shopkeepers' children (who wore their hair very long and unkempt to show that they were modern and progressive, and not backward peasants) came out of their private school to find a crowd of peasant children waiting at the gate. One of them, a boy called Tomka, stepped forward. "Will you help us to tie up the giant?", asked Tomka; "if we get together we can overpower the giant and stop him from eating any more children."

The shopkeepers' children looked at each other. "We're sorry", said one of them; "we understand how you feel, for we are very sensitive and understanding. But we believe in FREEDOM. We couldn't support tying anyone up, not even a wicked giant. But we will send him a strongly-worded letter saying that we

think it is wrong to eat children."

"What useless hypocrites you are!", cried Tomka; and the village children went to their homes.

The shopkeepers' children shook their heads sadly. "How rude and uncouth these peasants are!", they said among themselves. And they too went home.

But one of the children at the private school, a pretty girl whose name was Vaneska, was very Socially Conscious, for her mother was a Prison Visitor. And she got some of her friends together, and they made themselves little badges inscribed: NO MORE BLOOD!". And they got brooms and buckets of water, and went to the lane leading from the village school, mopped up the blood that was still wet from the giant's last meal and swept all the bones into the dustbin. They could not remove the blood-stains, because they had sunk deep into the cobblestones, but the lane looked much better when they had finished.

The giant was very pleased with the work of Vaneska and her friends, for he had once slipped in a pool of blood and twisted his ankle. In any case, he didn't like to see the outside of his cave so untidy, with bones everywhere, and he was much too lazy to do anything about it himself.

Meanwhile Tomka had got together all the children at the village school, along with the teacher, and they had decided to go on strike - not to go to school any more until something was done about the giant. And so, when the giant arrived at the school in the afternoon, he found it locked up and deserted. He was just about to drag himself, grumbling and cursing, all the way to the forest to try and catch some deer for his supper, when along came pretty little Vaneska and her Socially Conscious friends, with their brooms and buckets.

The giant found them very tasty.

RED FRONT

is the organ of the MARXIST-LENINIST ORGANISATION OF BRITAIN.

All communications should be addressed to the Editorial Committee, 34, Upper Tollington Park, London N.4.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

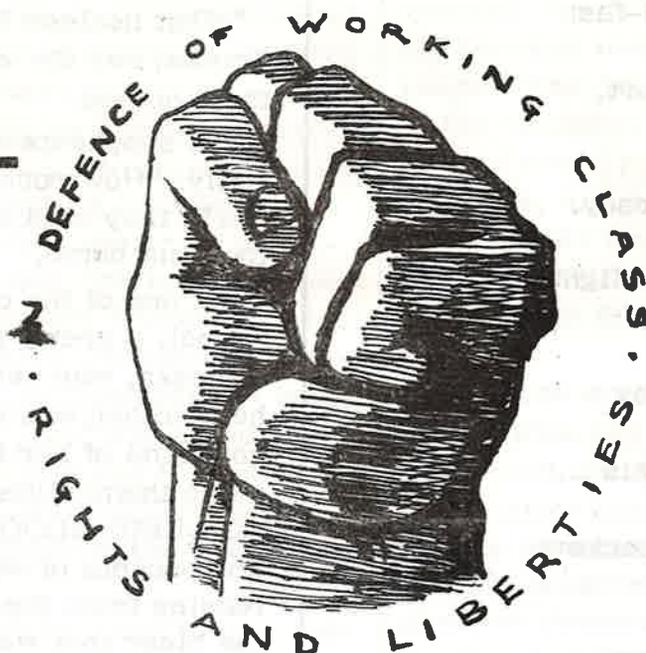
Annual subscription: 4/6d. Single copies: 11d. (Postage included).

Western & Eastern Europe: 10s. Other parts of the world: 21s. (airmail).

Printed and published from the Editorial address by M. Scott.

ACTION COUNCIL NEWS

ACTION COUNCIL
MOVEMENT GROWS :
BRADFORD JOINS
EAST LONDON



The movement for the formation of Action Councils to defend working people's living standards, rights and liberties is growing.

A Provisional Committee to unite tenants with other sections of working people has been formed in Bradford, while in East London a meeting has formed the first estate group of the Preparatory Committee there.

The spread of the Action Council movement to Yorkshire marks a major step in the development of the struggle to unite the working people of Britain against all those who wish to reduce their living standards and destroy the real character of the labour movement. Within the near future other committees will be formed, and a real national alternative to the traitorous domination of the labour movement by Transport House will emerge.

In East London, a meeting at the Britannia public house, Cable Street, Stepney, decided to form a Cable Street Estates Group of the Preparatory Committee. The new group will do all it can to encourage the formation of tenants' associations, especially of Tower Hamlets council tenants, who have been somewhat neglected of late. Some of the worst slums in East London are owned by Tower Hamlets council, and neither the Labour Party nor the Communist Party have done anything to organise these tenants against the town hall.

Until the Tory Party won the G.L.C. elections, very little was done to organise tenants into associations. Now these tenants' associations are being used primarily as electoral organisations to try and put the Labour Party back into County Hall.

But London council tenants know from their own experience that whichever of the two main parties is in office makes very little difference to them. Rents go up just the same, and until tenants are mobilised solidly to refuse to pay rent increases they will continue to rise.

In the twenties some local councillors in East London went to gaol for defending the rights of the people. How many of the misfits and place-seekers in the local Labour Party would be prepared to do that today? Yet if we had a council that said bluntly that it was not going to pay the Government's high interest rates or to impose increased rents in order to meet them, and was prepared to rally the tenants and workers in its area behind it, there is no doubt that it could win.

The aim of the MARXIST-LENINIST ORGANISATION OF BRITAIN is to build a Marxist-Leninist party of the working class in Britain which can lead the British working people to bring about the revolutionary overthrow of the present capitalist state, establish a People's Republic based on the rule of the working class, and build a socialist society based on planned production and the common ownership of the means of production.

Details of candidate membership from:

M.L.O.B.,
34 Upper Tollington
Park,
London, N.4.

BUILD the independent organs of struggle of the working class.

JOIN the struggle for higher living standards, international solidarity and the defence of working class rights and liberties.

If you support a programme of independent class struggle join one of these Action Councils:

EAST LONDON ACTION COUNCIL.
Secretary: B. Binding, 93 Clifden Road, E.5.

ACTION COUNCIL FOR ANTI-IMPERIALIST SOLIDARITY:
Secretary: M. Shrapnel, 1, St. Marks Place, W.11.

LONDON ACTION COUNCIL OF WORKING YOUTH.

Secretary: D. Eldridge, 58, Empress Avenue, Ilford, Essex.

Prov. Ctte. BRADFORD ACTION COUNCIL.
Secretary: S. Caton, 42a, Moorhouse Place, Gibraltar, Pudsey, Yorks.