

CLASS STRUGGLE

POLITICAL PAPER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF BRITAIN

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MAKE THE BOSSES PAY FOR THE CRISIS DUMP LABOUR'S 5 PER CENT

The Labour bosses have trotted out a decree that the next pay limit should be 5%. So secure have Callaghan and co. been in getting the bosses' way in holding own wages, they have blurted out that free collective bargaining is a thing of the past. Gone are the calls for wage restraint to get inflation down. Now they think that the working class has been bludgeoned with enough lying propaganda that wage increases are the cause of inflation to begin taking it for granted. The TUC is performing the same exercise as last year and the year before. First it was "No phase 4". Now it is "No 5%" which presumes support for some kind of phase four. Last year the TUC voted against the social contract but did nothing against the 10% limit. This year the TUC has stated there will be no automatic backing for workers who strike to break the limit.

WAGE CUTS THREATENED AT WESTLANDS

Many of the 2000 production workers at Westland Helicopters (WH), Yeovil face huge

wage cuts in a new company pay deal. Such arrogant demands are the inevitable follow-on if Labour's lies and threats are accepted. Already it is known that the deal excludes WH workers from national engineering settlements. The workers see this as at least a 2 year wage freeze on top of wage cuts now. A piece-work system which has meant many injustices for the workers has also enabled skilled workers to earn an average of £96. The bosses are out to keep up the level of exploitation but force wages down. This is the latest in a series of attacks over the last 16 months involving redundancies and loss of jobs. The workers have fought hard and significant struggles against these attacks and accumulated much experience. But it is clear that WH are preparing for what they hope will be a decisive defeat for the shop floor. It is class collaborationist ideas and propaganda from the trade union misleaders which is weakening unity and

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1968-1978 USSR GET OUT OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Ten years ago, on August 20th, 1968, the Soviet Union invaded and occupied Czechoslovakia. Within a day, Soviet troops, supported by the armies of Poland, East Germany, Hungary and Bulgaria, had occupied all of Czechoslovakia and sealed off her borders. Tanks and armoured cars rumbled down the streets of Prague, while jet fighters circled overhead. All important government buildings were quickly taken over, and Czechoslovakia's government leaders were arrested.

The Czech government had ordered their army and police "not to offer resistance" and called on the people to "remain calm". Because of this act of cowardice and betrayal there was no nationally organised resistance, but the people spontaneously hurled themselves against the invaders. On the first day, hundreds of people were killed in Prague and Bratislava alone, they marched arm in arm to block the advance of Soviet tanks. Many Soviet soldiers looked confused. Brezhnev and his fellow fascists in the Kremlin had not dared to tell them that they were actually invading Czechoslovakia. They thought they were on just another military exercise!

To resist the occupation, workers in many industries went on strike. Prague workers held a one day general strike on August 23rd. On



August 25th "Resistance Shock Brigades" were formed, which built barricades with overturned buses, hurled petrol bombs from roofs and attacked the troops with whatever weapons they could lay their hands on. Many students from Prague's Charles University were killed or wounded, because they resisted the seizure of the University. Students, defying threats from Soviet officers marched in the streets carrying the corpses of their fallen comrades, and singing the "Internationale"!

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GRUNWICK - SIGNPOST OF CLASS STRUGGLE IN BRITAIN

Two years ago in August, 1976, 137 workers walked out of the two Grunwick film processing factories in Cricklewood, North London. The workers had revolted against the low wages, bad conditions and humiliation imposed by the ambitious Grunwick's boss George Ward. They sought union recognition and the TUC put the mainly Asian workers in contact with the small union APEX. But in his frantic war to cut into the markets of the big monopolies, Ward wanted unfettered power to impose sweatshop conditions. He found an immediate ally in the shabby anti-trade union organization the so-called "National Association for Freedom". They financed Grunwick's anti-trade unionism.

UNITY IN STRUGGLE AGAINST RACISM

The Grunwick strike was a militant struggle against racism. The workforce is nine-tenths black, mainly East African Asians. Racism which discriminates against black workers in jobs, wages, etc is used to isolate the struggle of black people against their added exploitation and try to intimidate national minorities. But the spread of support for the Grunwick strikers cut right through this racism. The excellent organizational leadership of the strike committee energetically campaigned for support and it became known nationwide. TUC misleaders were put on the spot and compelled to voice support. Len Murray declared that the "Trade Union movement is not only behind you but alongside you in your struggle unto victory". Words are cheap with opportunists.

Working class unity against racism frightened the life out of the ruling class. In a day of victory for the struggle on July 11th, 1977 18,000 workers joined the mass picket in a march. Cricklewood postmen blacked Grunwick mail for 45 days. The Post Office escalated this to a lock-out. At this time the TUC bigwigs who along with the bosses feared this spread of the mass picketing redoubled their efforts to divert and disperse the struggle.



After exhausting pressure to get the workers to rely on ACAS, the workers were promised easy victory in the courts.

OPPORTUNISTS BAIL OUT WARD

The Grunwick strikers were on the brink of victory in the summer of 1977. A tirade of opposition to the mass picketing came from the capitalist press. APEX leader Grantham agreed with the bosses and demanded the pickets be restricted. To get what the bosses wanted Grantham and the TUC boasted that the case to put before the Scarman inquiry was unanswerable. They demanded the August 8th mass picket be called off pending the outcome of the inquiry. The strike committee vigorously opposed this but support was split.

Workers class struggle cannot win victory through the bosses' courts. They are there to protect the property and exploiting interests of the capitalist class. Three thousand people turned up in solidarity on August 8th but Ward and the police had got their breathing space. The ruling in favour of APEX did not change the class nature of the inquiry. The extraordinary degree to which Scarman backed union recognition revealed the contradiction between monopoly and small capitalism. It was nonsense for the SWP to declare that Grunwick was a struggle in which the right to be a union member is at stake. Do they really believe Fords, British Steel, etc. would refuse to recognise unions. The ruling monopoly capitalist class seeks to use trade unions and incorporate them into the state apparatus. Ward does not have the power to benefit from this.

BOSSSES BACK WARD IN THE END!

The monopoly bosses proved more afraid of the mass struggle around Grunwick's spreading. While APEX pursued its legal wrangling, the bosses backed Ward to the hilt to crush the struggle. The police unleashed whole-scale terror at the November 7th picket. Bit by bit Grantham and the TUC put the boot in too. Strikers who went on hunger strike to demand cutting off essential services were threatened with expulsion by the TUC. UPW officials have been fined £1,460 for organizing the blacking of mail.

The final act of cynical betrayal came from APEX leader Grantham when he condemned the whole Grunwick struggle for not involving a majority of the workforce.

Grunwick is a brilliant example of class struggle in Britain. Despite the rotten misleadership of all opportunist shades jumping on the bandwagon, only traitors to the interests of the working class belittle the strike's significance. A revolutionary Party in the leadership of such heroic struggles will ensure that the working class will win victory in the course of determined opposition to these misleaders. ■

FIGHT FOR DEMOCRATIC RIGHTS FOR NATIONAL MINORITIES

Build Unity of the Working Class

IMMIGRATION CONTROLS - LEGALISED RACISM

In the coming election both Labour and Tory will argue about "reasonable immigration controls" and "sensible quotas". They are attempting to divert attention from the main issues and further divide the working class by stirring up racism. We must understand the immigration controls are simply "legal" racism, a weapon used by the state against the working class; and look at why people from the Third World come to Britain to work and live. It is no accident that the majority of national minority workers here come from countries that have been direct colonies of British imperialism.

In the 1800's, the main source of labour outside Britain for expanding industry here was Ireland. More recently people have come from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and the Caribbean islands mainly. All these countries were British colonies. Even after independence, they have not become self-reliant economically and are still exploited by imperialism. Often Britain has been replaced by the US as the main exploiter.

CAPITALIST WEALTH BUILT ON SUGAR AND SLAVERY

From the 1500s on, Britain competed with other European powers for control of the Caribbean islands. Originally they stole silver and gold. Later, fortunes were made by conquering islands and producing sugar on plantations. This led to the slave trade which was profitable to British capitalism, because the main problem was lack of labour. Bristol, Liverpool and Glasgow all became wealthy trade centres - Bristol based on the sugar profits and Liverpool on slavery. Slavery was abolished not because the profiteers underwent a change of heart but because it was too expensive a form of labour. The fortunes made in the sugar and slavery trade financed the industrial revolution in Britain. When colonialism grew into imperialism other areas like India were more important to British capitalism. But it was this history of exploitation that led to the poverty and unemployment in the Caribbean which forces its people to emigrate.

SELLING CLOTH IN INDIA

In the days of merchant capitalism, India's hand-loom weaving industry was more advanced than methods in Britain. Indian products were bought cheaply and sold in Europe. When the British weaving industry developed, Britain used its colonial power in India to plunder cotton, and force the Indians to buy British manufactured goods. Weavers who continued work had their hands cut off. Peasants in Bengal were forced to grow a dye needed for British industry: they were taxed if they did not produce it. The result was the 1776 famine in Bengal, an area which had been self-

sufficient in food, in which a third of the population died. Imperialism in India prevented industry growing, kept the economy backward as a source of raw materials and superprofits for British capital. India's developing local industry cannot compete with transnational monopolies like ICI, which hold back India's industrial development. Imperialism still dominates India and is the basic cause for emigration.

RECRUITMENT FOR BRITISH INDUSTRY

Since the Second World War, the state has used immigration controls as a weapon to benefit capital. When labour is needed, people are encouraged to come. Enoch Powell recruited for London Transport in the Caribbean. The textile industry in West Yorkshire pays low wages and employs mainly women. When they needed to work 24 hours, they recruited Asian men to work the night shift. Asians were recruited for the foundries in Leeds and smaller firms round the car industry in the Midlands. At times of crisis and high unemployment, these workers are discriminated against and made a scapegoat.

BANGLADESHIS IN LEEDS

A discussion with a group of Bangladeshi workers in Leeds illustrated the general points made above. They have all worked for West Yorkshire Foundries for over ten years, owned by British Leyland. 75% of the work force is Indian, Pakistani, Caribbean, Bangladeshi, Polish or Irish. British Leyland's profits increased between 1966 and 1975 nearly 100%. All the Bangladeshis are unskilled workers and the basic wage is well below national average. They all come from Sylhet, a poor area in Bangladesh: they were all poor farmers who could not support their families from farming. They stressed that even with sending money back home, their families were not well off. Some of the older workers had been seamen before settling to work here. They feel increasingly oppressed by racism and discrimination - attacks in the street, poor service in hospitals etc., but are particularly angry about difficulties with immigration. "We've worked here, paid taxes. We have a right to know where we stand", they said. If they go back to visit their families they are harassed on the way in and out. It can take up to five years to get a dependent child or wife into Britain legally. Imperialism, they said, "has sucked us dry for 300 years".

Immigration controls are a weapon used by the ruling class against the whole of the working class and we must fight for the rights of Third World people to live and work here. This is part of the struggle for unity of the British working class and the oppressed peoples and nations of the world in the common struggle against imperialism. ■

HOSPITAL WORKERS "WORK IN" TO BEAT CUTS

The week of the 30th anniversary of the NHS was "celebrated by demonstrations and work-ins against the deliberate running down of the health service."

On Saturday 1st July, medical and ancillary workers at the 230-bed Bethnal Green Hospital in East London began a "work-in" at the hospital's casualty department. The City and East London Area Health Authority had ordered the unit's closure on that day but the hospital workers backed by the local population and other hospitals had no intention of allowing this major cut in hospital facilities to take place.

The ambulance men are solidly behind the health workers. They refused to comply with the health authority's order not to use Bethnal Green Hospital's casualty department. In the first week of the "work-in" the doctors and nurses have treated over 124 patients. Two were patients who had had heart attacks. Their lives were saved by the militant doctors and nurses. Had the casualty department been closed down, these patients would have had to be taken another 2 miles to another hospital a delay which would have resulted in their death. The hospital authority's response has been to plan the casualty department's complete closure on August 1. This is in callous disregard that East London's infant mortality rate is 20% higher than national average and hospital admissions are 30% above national average.

Support for the Bethnal Green Hospital is massive. This was shown clearly on July 5th, the 30th anniversary of the NHS, when hundreds of local people demonstrated their support for their hospital. There had also been tremendous support for the one day strike call to defend Bethnal Green Hospital on the 30th June when hospital workers from 8 London hospitals came out. On July 4th a huge demonstration in London took place against the cuts. A day of mass strike action against the closure of Bethnal Green casualty took place in the East End on the day of its threatened complete closure. Another is planned for the 10th August.

DEFEND THE NHS

The NHS is a hard won right fought for by the working class. We have now to defend this right. This year has shown the determination of workers and all working people to fight for a bigger and better NHS. Nurses, ancillary workers and doctors are in the forefront of the struggle against closures, staff shortages, low pay, and lowering of health standards.

Inevitably, the Labour Party hypocrits have jumped on the bandwagon hoping to win some credit in time for the election. Ian Mikardo is hoping to appear as some sort of a champion of Bethnal Green Hospital. But he fully supports his party's anti-working class policies. It is the treacherous Labour Party which is holding down our wages, smashing the NHS and



doing all they can for the capitalists. When the Labour Party express support for a just struggle, we know that they do so for reasons of their own - to try and regain the trust of the working class.

Labour has systematically cut the health service since 1974. On the one hand Callaghan made speeches on the 30th anniversary of the NHS praising it as not putting a price on health care. At other times like all opportunists he makes an hypocritical about-face and lectures people on the need for economy in the NHS to justify the cuts. The Labour Government's record of managing and enforcing the cuts is clear and even Callaghan cannot use Goebbal's "art" of lying often enough to cover it up. Callaghan relies on Labour's phoney lefties to bail him out. Ian Mikardo is notorious in this role. But we must have no illusions in Labour's "left" whose honey words of phoney support are aimed at concealing the Labour Party as the best bosses party. The Bethnal Green Hospital workers are waging a determined and confident struggle. They need unstinting support from the whole working class.

DUMP LABOUR'S 5%

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giving the pretext for the bosses to step up their demands.

DUMP MISLEADERS - DEFEND WAGES

Capitalism is in deep crisis. The point is who is going to pay for it. The bosses and the opportunists have gone all out to put the bill at the workers' feet. The wealth of capitalism is put before the working class. The fact is the working class and the labour of oppressed peoples in the third world produces the wealth. It is unpaid labour which yields the profits and interest payments on which capitalism feeds. There is no common interests of workers and capitalists. To collaborate with the bosses is to help them screw more out of the working class. The pay deal must be rejected out of hand and the unity of the working class to defend living standards and win just wage increases built in fierce opposition to the TUC and Labour bosses.

FIGHT FOR INDEPENDENCE-RESIST THE SOVIET THREAT

It is ten years, since the USSR invaded Czechoslovakia. During that time, the Soviet Union has vastly increased its armed forces, intensified arms production and has increasingly interfered in the internal affairs of other countries.

The USSR is locked in a deadly struggle with US imperialism. This struggle, which one day will result in war, is particularly intense in Europe. Europe is a highly industrialised area, with a large skilled workforce. Whoever rules Europe holds the key for world domination. The speed with which the USSR crushed Czechoslovak independence proved how important Europe was to them then. Now the USSR is on the offensive, and has its eye on western Europe.

The only guarantee for victory in a war against superpower aggression, would lie in a people's war of resistance, but the ruling class in Britain tries to shelter in the arms of the USA, and at the same time pacify the USSR. This is treachery and a betrayal of national independence.

SOVIET STRANGLEHOLD TIGHTENS

Recently, the Soviet Union has greatly strengthened its armaments and expanded its armies in Europe. The number of its ground forces in central Europe now exceeds 600,000. It has moved more and more tanks to the western borders of its east European Empire, and upgraded the attack capability of its air

USSR GET OUT OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA Cont'd from p1

Every day thousands of people demonstrated. Anti-Russian slogans appeared everywhere, and nazi swastikas were even daubed on Russian tanks. Heroic acts like this, showed just what the people thought of Soviet claims that they had acted to "safeguard socialism", and that they respected Czechoslovakia's "territorial integrity"!

For years the Soviet imperialists had treated Czechoslovakia like a colony, but in January 1968 their puppet dictator, Novotny had been overthrown. Whilst the new leadership headed by Dubcek was no more communist than the old leadership, it had opposed Soviet domination, demanding economic and political independence, and reforms in COMECON and the Warsaw Pact. It is this not any "love for socialism" that angered Brezhnev and his fellow fascists in the Kremlin.

On August 23rd, 1968 the Soviet air force took the Czech leaders to Moscow, where on August 26th under threat of death, they conceded defeat and capitulated to the Soviet warlords. On August 27th, as soon as this news came through, thousands of people demonstrated in Prague's Wenceslas square shouting "Traitors! traitors!" and "we don't want to live on our knees!"

The Soviet Union has attempted to crush all resistance through fascist terror methods, but they have failed. During the last ten years, there have been strikes and demonstrations

force. Its navy has encircled western Europe with huge fleets in the Barents Sea, the North Sea, the Baltic and Mediterranean. It is in a position to launch an attack on the whole of western Europe.

BRITISH GOVERNMENT STRENGTHENS USSR

Despite this build up, and despite increased Soviet aggression throughout the world, the British ruling class is not preparing to meet this threat. It tries to pacify the Soviet imperialists, while in reality strengthening them. At the moment, British Petroleum (in which the government has a majority shareholding) are negotiating a deal with the Soviet Union, which will vastly increase Soviet supplies of oil. The USSR needs technical help and investment in industries like oil, because it has put so much money into arms expansion, many of its major industries are short of investment, technical know-how and skilled manpower.

BP may make a profit from this, but they will actually be helping the Soviet army by making more petrol available to it, as well as strengthening the Soviet economy in such a way that enables Brezhnev to keep spending more than \$130 billion a year on military expenditure! In the 1930's, British capitalism helped Hitler's Germany in the same way. They helped build the Nazi war machine then, and are helping Brezhnev now, all in the name of profit.



and many Czechoslovak people have given their lives in struggle. On May 31st this year, Brezhnev was addressing a meeting in Prague castle. As soon as he smugly said that Czechoslovakia since 1968 "had passed the test with honours", he was immediately blacked out on both TV and radio, a brave act by technicians who could face many years in prison. Brezhnev has shown utter contempt for the Czechoslovak people, but this is nothing compared with their hate and contempt for him and for what he represents!

Victory for RCLB Party building "CLASS STRUGGLE" FORT

From September, "Class Struggle" will more than double its frequency and begin publication on a fortnightly basis. This will place in the hands of Marxist-Leninists and class conscious workers an even sharper weapon in the struggle to rally the advanced workers and to lead and unite the masses.

"Communists disdain to conceal their views and aims". These are the great words of Marx and Engels in concluding the "Communist Manifesto". The more regular "Class Struggle" will enable the RCL to lay its party building line and the standpoint of revolutionary communists more frequently before the class and revolutionary intellectuals.

VICTORY FOR SELF-RELIANCE

Unlike some examples of increased frequency in publications, fortnightly "Class Struggle" does not represent a frantic burst of energy for raising flagging morale and dwindling support. The CPB(ML) increased the frequency of its paper "The Worker" to weekly at a time when it was at its weakest ideologically, politically and organisationally. The increas-

ed regularity of "Class Struggle", however, marks an increase in our strength ideologically, politically and organisationally. The correct Party-building line of the RCLB has led to a 50% increase in the League's membership since its foundation in July, 1977.

In preparing the conditions for going fortnightly, the RCLB has carefully avoided idealism which places the desire for more frequent publications way ahead of objective conditions. It is easy to publish frequently by using outside printers. But in order to resist the attacks and sabotage of the bourgeoisie (capitalist class) communists must be self-reliant and keep the initiative in their own hands. The RCLB has the equipment, cadres and material means to sustain a fortnightly political paper.

A MORE FORMIDABLE POLITICAL WEAPON

Opportunist misleadership and spinelessness in the British working class movement, strives to restrict the working class to trade union and economic struggle. In this too, they bet-

"CLASS STRUGGLE" continues and advances revolutionary traditions

On January 1st, 1930, the first issue of the "Daily Worker" was brought out by the Communist Party of Great Britain. It was produced in an old warehouse in Tabernacle St., London EC2. It was the first working class daily in Britain. From the outset the paper cut a path as the revolutionary daily political organ of the CPGB through boycott and suppression by the capitalist class and state. Fleet Street howled with fury, branding the paper as interference in the internal affairs of Britain by Moscow. In response to reporting of soldiers' bad living conditions, the capitalist press speculated on and demanded the arrest of the "Daily Worker" editor. Support for insurgent armed struggle against British imperialism in India was frantically described as "rank sedition".

The first early blow against the "Daily Worker" was a boycott by London wholesale newsagents. To beat this boycott, Party members and supporters throughout Britain undertook their own local distribution to newsagents and set up sale-posts. The boycott led to the CPGB having its own distribution network. It was a bad thing turned into a good thing which showed the self-reliance and revolutionary determination of Communist Party members. The biggest blow against the "Daily Worker" came when the government imposed a ban under defence regulations in January, 1941. The ban hit communist leadership in Britain hard at a time when the Nazi hordes were preparing an assault on the first socialist state. Mass opposition to the ban forced the government to climb down after nineteen months of struggle to "beat the ban". Its circulation now reached over 100,000 at a time of strict paper rationing.

In its history as a revolutionary Party, the CPGB gave bold leadership to the proletariat in the struggle against fascism, imperialist war and to defend the first socialist state - Lenin and Stalin's Soviet Union.

"C"PGB MODERN REVISIONISTS TRAMPLE ON REVOLUTIONARY TRADITIONS

The successes of the CPGB and the "Daily Worker" turned the heads of the leadership and made them forget class struggle. The Party's revolutionary leadership had won it widespread respect and support among the working class and intellectuals. Abandoning these revolutionary aims and struggle, in favour of a strategy of winning a majority in parliament, likewise brought decline and collapse. With the adoption of the so-called "British Road" of peaceful transition to socialism, the CPGB substituted class collaboration for class struggle. The revolutionary traditions of the Party and the "Daily Worker" were trampled under foot. In its quest to gain respectability as a bourgeois party, the "Daily Worker" has since been changed to the neutral name of "Morning Star". But this has not saved this mouthpiece of revisionism and Soviet social imperialism in Britain from further decline and even near collapse.

"CLASS STRUGGLE" CONTINUES AND ADVANCES THE TRADITIONS OF THE "DAILY WORKER"

We are taking the first steps in rebuilding the revolutionary Communist Party in Britain. We have a long way to go to reach the stage of producing a revolutionary Communist daily in Britain again. But "Class Struggle" has raised the traditions of the "Daily Worker" and placed them back in public view. Like the CPGB and the "Daily Worker", with the correct line we can go from strength to strength, boldly, confidently, and self-reliantly and begin to arm the working class with the political consciousness necessary for overthrowing capitalism and building socialism.



PREPARE FOR FUTURE VICTORIES -

While "Class Struggle" advances and the struggle to rebuild the revolutionary Communist Party records new successes, the revisionist "C"PGB sinks deeper. "Morning Star" pages cry out for more sales to stem the tide of its declining circulation. But it is the bourgeois line of the "C"PGB which is the cause of this decline. In 1976, we reported a "Morning Star" sale of 25,000 per day which was less than their claimed membership at that time. This figure has fallen to 21,000 per day.

This is good news for the working class of Britain. It indicates that more class conscious workers are turning away from or becoming disillusioned with the bourgeois politics dressed up as Marxism which fill the "Morning Star's" pages. Furthermore the "C"PGB continues to promote as socialist the Soviet Union which has degenerated into a social imperialist contender for world domination. These are fifth column activities on behalf of an expansionist imperialist power. We can only celebrate the declining influence of such a fifth column.

But the decline of treacherous leadership is not enough. Since the "C"PGB trampled on Marxism-Leninism and adopted the "British Road to Socialism", the working class of Britain has been without a vanguard party. The power of opportunist misleadership in the trade unions and the political life of the working class has not been seriously challenged. The

line NIGHTLY

ray the interests of the working class and collaborate with the capitalist class to save their profits. Fortnightly "Class Struggle" will give better leadership in the struggle against opportunism and the fight to turn the unions into fighting class organisations.

It will be more than this. It will be more effective in its general political opposition to the whole creaking edifice of capitalism. In Lenin's words when he was explaining the role of "ISKRA" (The Spark) in the Russian revolution: *"We wish particularly to emphasise our opposition to the view that a Labour newspaper should devote its pages exclusively to matters that immediately and directly concern the spontaneous Labour movement and leave the theory of socialism, science, politics, questions of party organisation, etc., to an organ for the intelligentsia"*.

Lenin was combating the opportunists of his time. We are combating opportunism in our time by unfolding political exposure of British imperialism and promoting support for

the unity and struggle of the third world against imperialism particularly the hegemonism (domination) of the two superpowers.
NEW CHALLENGES

"Class Struggle" is not a business or a thing-in-itself. It is an indispensable weapon in the struggle to rally the vanguard of the working class in a revolutionary Communist Party and strike deep political root among the working class masses. The whole organisation of the Revolutionary Communist League is moving up into a higher gear to take a firmer grip of this weapon in our fight. The greater topicality of the paper will make "Class Struggle" more effective in putting the RCL line on the class struggle nationally and internationally. This will require more systematic base-building work in order to use this advantage to the full. Bigger sales of "Class Struggle" will bring more strength to the struggle for the revolutionary Communist Party of the working class. By making a good job of producing and selling the new fortnightly to more working class people, we are laying the ground for greater victories in Party-building in the future.

BUILD FORTNIGHTLY "CLASS STRUGGLE"
WIN MORE VICTORIES IN PARTY-BUILDING!

"CLASS STRUGGLE" - SHARP WEAPON IN BASE BUILDING

When the "C"PGB abandoned revolutionary struggle, the factory branches and cells were closed down. The new organisational structure was based on localities for electioneering purposes. In the struggle to rebuild the revolutionary Communist Party, the League firmly bases itself politically, ideologically and organisationally on the working class. We intend to do a good job in building factory cells. "Class Struggle" is an indispensable weapon in this work. The working class is throwing up leaders and militant fighters all the time. But they are being absorbed and churned out disillusioned by the Labour and revisionist Parties. By carrying "Class Struggle" into the factories we are taking the line of the RCLB to the working class. The paper is acting as a focal point for revolutionary leadership which will win vanguard fighters for the future Party. But this cannot be done in an abstract manner.

and the struggle to win back the unions. In its series on "Turn the trade unions into fighting class organisations", the RCLB raised the following slogans:

- 1) No collaboration with the bosses!
- 2) Fight for democratic unions!
- 3) We won't pay for the bosses' crisis!
- 4) Stop paying Labour to attack workers!
- 5) Oppose oppression and discrimination of black and women workers at the place of work!

These slogans go straight to the heart of the matter. The working class armed with them will be in a stronger position to cut right through opportunist treachery. They are political slogans for successfully waging class struggle against the capitalist class at the present time. As such they are important for rallying the working class in the factories and building a base for Communist leadership.

RALLY THE VANGUARD IN THE COURSE OF THE STRUGGLE TO TURN THE TRADE UNIONS INTO FIGHTING CLASS ORGANIZATIONS

"Class Struggle" plays the part of an organiser. But it is not a thing-in-itself. It is a weapon in the workers' class struggle. The trade unions are basic organisations for defending the working class at the place of work. But they have been captured by opportunists who sell out the interests of the working class. In the factories, "Class Struggle" is a force against this opportunist misleadership

There is growing opposition to the Labour Party and the revisionists whose record of misleadership is becoming more exposed. These slogans will certainly be grasped as key by more and more class conscious workers who want to fight the bosses and their system. We will seize these opportunities to win greater victories in winning class conscious workers and do more to organise them into factory cells. With such a solid base in the factories, the future Communist Party will be in a position to give decisive leadership in the workers' economic and political struggles.

BUILD "CLASS STRUGGLE" SALES

Labour Party and the "traitors under cover" in the TUC have become more bloated with arrogance. The working class led by a revolutionary Communist Party will certainly begin to knock the stuffing out of these faithful servants of the capitalist class. But we have a long way to go in rebuilding the Party. The work required must be done in a planned and conscious way. Not an haphazard and spontaneous manner. "Class Struggle" has an important part to play in this planned work.

USE "CLASS STRUGGLE" WELL

If there is an RCLB branch in your area contact us. We can help you through study to increase your grasp of the political line in "Class Struggle". Your criticism will help strengthen the paper. More than this, the paper needs to get to more class conscious workers in the factories. The RCLB will help you make contact with such workers in your factory.

The important thing is not to be frightened of using the paper. Its clear line is cutting a path for revolutionary leadership in the factories. Wide sales of "Class Struggle" in the factories will bring increased strength to the RCL. Even if there is no RCLB branch in your area, fill in the form below and send it to us:

"CLASS STRUGGLE" IS YOUR WEAPON - USE IT!

"CLASS STRUGGLE" is your weapon. Use it!

I wish to know how to use "CLASS STRUGGLE" in my factory or workplace.....

I wish to receivecopies on sale or return basis for my factory or workplace

I wish to discuss/attend RCLB "CLASS STRUGGLE" study groups

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HOME-WORKERS BEGIN TO ORGANISE

About a quarter of a million people - no one knows exactly how many - work at home unprotected by employment legislation. They are mostly women with young children dependent on them, and others are disabled or old people. They do fiddly, repetitive, labour-intensive jobs which it pays capitalists not to mechanise just because this pool of sweated labour is available. Typical jobs are carding buttons, assembling fishing rods, finishing garments, painting toy soldiers. Homeworkers are almost always paid by piece-rates, and the recent Low Pay Unit report found that more than half earn £10 or less for a 50-plus hour week.

Bosses make super-profits out of homeworkers, and when it suits them they dismiss them without having to worry about redundancy pay or compensation. They actually claim that homeworkers are self-employed. When a woman or her children are injured through doing the work, they have no legal come-back. At the moment test cases are being fought before industrial tribunals just to prove homeworkers

are employees, because until that is established they have no protection at all.

The super-exploitation of homeworkers is part of women's oppression under capitalism. The lack of child care facilities means that women with babies and toddlers to look after are trapped in the home, separated from each other and from social production. In most cases they are economically dependent on men, so employers can get away with the disgusting patronising phrase "pin money", applied to the few pounds which have cost the woman many hours of work.

In Long Eaton 40 homeworkers joined the Furniture, Timber and Allied Trades Union and negotiated higher piece-rates to cover overheads and holiday pay. All over the country homeworkers are beginning to organise themselves and trying to join trade unions. This is in the interests of the whole working class.

The struggle against this super-exploitation of women homeworkers is part of the struggle to build unity of men and women workers to crush capitalism. ■

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1968~1978 USSR GET OUT OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA Demonstration Sunday 20th August

Nearly 10 years ago, on August 21st 1968, the Soviet Union invaded Czechoslovakia. Soviet troops are still in occupation. This act dramatically demonstrated that the once great socialist Soviet Union had degenerated into an imperialist superpower.

Today the two superpowers are locked in struggle for world domination. The strategic focus of their struggle is Europe. There is a serious danger of war in Europe, a war in which the main threat to the independence of western Europe will come from the Soviet Union.

Throughout Europe demonstrations will be held in August on the anniversary of the invasion of Czechoslovakia. In Britain the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain and the Communist Workers Movement are jointly organising a demonstration in London.

CWM and RCLB resolve that:

"We oppose Soviet aggression and appeasement of Soviet social-imperialism. We fight for working class leadership of the struggle for independence against superpower domination as a component part of the struggle for socialist revolution. Only preparations for peoples war, not bourgeois defences, can guarantee independence. We fight for the unity of the peoples of Europe against the Soviet threat and superpower domination."

ASSEMBLE AT SPEAKERS CORNER AT 2 P.M. TO MARCH TO CZECHOSLOVAKIAN AND SOVIET EMBASSIES.

Czechoslovakia - Soviet Union get out!

Eastern Europe - Soviet Union get out!

Western Europe - Soviet Union keep out!

Superpowers, out! out! out!

Fight for independence -

resist the Soviet threat!

US bases out of Europe -

Workers unite for peoples war!

US BASES OUT OF EUROPE

The British ruling class not only carries out its abject appeasement of Soviet social imperialism. It at the same time allies itself with the other superpower, United States imperialism. US imperialism does not care about British independence. It is concerned only for its own interests, its own profits, its own sphere of influence. It opposes Soviet aggression only because it wants to dominate Europe itself.

Far from protecting European independence, it will do its utmost to drag Britain into any war between the two superpowers for world domination as one of its allies.

The US has military bases all over Britain and the rest of Europe. We should have only one thing to say to US imperialism - Get out and go home!

WORKERS UNITE FOR PEOPLE'S WAR

The peoples of Indo-China, in their defeat of US imperialism, showed that it is people not weapons that are decisive in war. In 1968, the Czechoslovak leadership failed to mobilise the people and Czechoslovakia was over-run. The USSR was also threatening Romania at that time but the Romanian government mobilised the people, declaring that every man and woman would fight to the end. The Soviet armies did not invade. These are vivid lessons for us; but the ruling class in Britain is scared of the people. It dare not arm the working class and people whom it exploits and oppresses. The British imperialists can never build a people's army, it would be arming its own grave-diggers! That is why we need to build a strong and Genuine revolutionary Communist Party that can and will prepare and mobilise the people to protect national independence from the superpowers, whilst struggling for socialist revolution in Britain.

FOR EUROPEAN UNITY AGAINST SUPERPOWER DOMINATION

The peoples of Europe need to be united against the Soviet threat and superpower hegemonism (domination). The two superpowers are by far the biggest military powers the world has ever seen; and we need to be united with the peoples and nations of the third world who are the main force fighting the two superpowers.

Whilst only people's war can guarantee independence, we must demand now that the European countries stop appeasement and prepare an adequate co-ordinated defence. Only by standing up to the Soviet threat can the war be delayed, which buys us time to prepare the people's forces for socialist revolution, and for the protection of national independence. Those who demand the unilateral disarmament of the European countries, such as the so-called "Communist" Party of Great Britain, do so on behalf of Soviet social imperialism. Unilateral disarmament will not bring peace, it will hasten invasion.

At the same time we must fight tooth and nail against British imperialist aggression against other countries. We must support the struggle of the Patriotic Front in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) against British imperialism. We must support the struggle to kick British imperialism and its army out of Northern Ireland. Only by fighting all imperialism can we build genuine unity against the superpowers.

OPPOSITION TO BASES GROWS

Despite local opposition the United States Air Force have been given the go-ahead by the government to use RAF Fairford in Gloucestershire as a base for the KC-135 tanker planes. The US had another choice, RAF Greenham near Reading in Berkshire, but fierce local opposition on the grounds that the area is heavily populated resulted in Fairford being used instead. Fred Mulley, Labour Defence Minister has said that the government's decision was justified in order to strengthen NATO. But the real reason is that Britain allows the US to call the shots on military matters through NATO and would not have refused the US demand for such a base.

The question has been asked by the people of Fairford and Greenham as to why such bases are necessary. What are the tankers to be used for? They are to be used to refuel USAF nuclear bombers over the Atlantic. They will not be used as the Government claims, to protect Britain and Europe, but to increase US military might in its imperialist rivalry with Soviet social-imperialism.

Soviet social-imperialism is on the offensive and is the more aggressive superpower. It is poised for military expansion in Europe. US imperialism is on the defensive, but there is no reason to believe it will act any other way but as a barbaric and treacherous superpower. It must not be relied on to safeguard the independence of European nations. In its rivalry with the Soviet Union, the United States will hand over countries it considers dispensable to appease Soviet expansionism just as the British and French imperialists sacrificed Czechoslovakia and Austria to appease Nazi Germany.

REVOLUTION

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COMRADE MUGABE OF ZANU EXPOSES REAL MURDERERS

The British capitalist press was hysterical in its propaganda against the Zimbabwe freedom fighters at the time of the massacre of 12 missionaries and their children. They eagerly reported Smith's lies that the Zimbabwe African National Union was responsible for this

latest atrocity by the racist regime. The following statement by ZANU exposes that such massacres are perpetuated by the Smith fascists, notably the Selous Scouts, as part of a general strategy to discredit the freedom fighters and prop up the regime.

ZIMBABWE AFRICAN NATIONAL UNION (ZANU) (PF)
ZANU HEADQUARTERS - MAPUTO
25th June, 1978

STATEMENT ON RECENT MASSACRES BY THE SMITH - MUZOREWA - SITHOLE - CHIRAU REGIME:

Since the reconstitution of the Smith fascist regime to include the three fear-ridden puppets, Muzorewa, Sithole and Chief Chirau, the regime's forces have, with the complicity of these puppets, acquired a new and extended licence to go on a terrorist rampage of bloody massacres, marking the path of the new regime as a gory trail. Hundreds of innocent civilians have since been massacred, assassinated or tortured to their death.

Only on Thursday (22nd June) night, the regime's terrorist troops unleashed an unprovoked murderous assault upon civilians at an agricultural experimental station at Sussundenga in Mozambique killing 17 refugees and two Belgian nationals and abduction of scores of men, women and children.

The following day, on Friday, the regime, realising that this barbarous incident had drawn the attention of the international community, once again let loose its forces upon the innocent missionaries at Elim Mission and had twelve of them assassinated in a tragic bid to cover up its bloodstained foot-prints leading to Sussundenga. It was indeed a bloody diversionary tactic, horrible in the extreme.

We deplore these brutal and callous acts which are recognisable not only by their terrorist and bloody nature but by their shape and design as they smuggly fit into the regime's general strategy of systematic genocidal intimidation.

Over the last five weeks alone, the fascist regime's crime record constitutes a grim study of assassinations and massacres of the most gruesome and macabre-variety.

- (a) Massacre of over 100 civilians at a meeting at Bassera in Gutu District,
- (b) Massacre of 25 civilians at Mashenganyika Kraal, in Chanamora area, for no apparent cause.
- (c) An average daily record of 20 civilians deaths for such false reasons as "running with guerillas", "breaking the curfew" or "caught in between crossfire",
- (d) Massacre of 19 civilians, including 2 Belgian nationals at Sussundenga in Mozambique, and now,
- (e) Massacre of 12 missionaries and their children at Elim as a cover for Sussundenga.

Smith and the three puppets accomplices must be made to bear the full blame and responsibility. ZANU has now been operating for years in the country. Its operations cover some 80% of the total land area in the country. It has maintained excellent working relations with the missionaries and their establishments which have supported our just cause and given our fighters assistance in a variety of ways. We have no desire to depart from this established mode of operating.

The massacres uphold our contention that a barbarous and inhuman regime thriving on murder and violence can only be overthrown by organised violence. Our war must gain full support of the international community because it remains the only effective method of bringing about a democratic government and creating a just society in which power rests with the majority and not with a bigoted racist minority.

PAMBERI NE CHIMURENGA!

Public Meeting: Friday August 11th Zimbabwe - Who are the terrorists? speakers from ZANU & RCLB

PLACE: CONWAY HALL (Small Hall)
RED LION SQUARE
LONDON WCI

(Nearest tube: HOLBORN)

7.30

All proceeds to landrover fund

ZIMBABWE DAY

A DAY OF CELEBRATION ORGANISED BY ZANU
in commemoration of the founding of ZANU
on August 8th, 1963.

SATURDAY AUGUST 12TH,
St. Hilda's East,
18, Club Row, LONDON E2
(Nearest tube: Old Street)

2 - 7pm Speaker from Central Committee of ZANU
plus film and songs All proceeds to
8pm DANCE. Admission £1 Patriotic Front (ZANU)

ZANU/RCLB SPEAKING TOUR SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED

The ZANU - RCLB speaking tour ended successfully with two public meetings held in the West of England. The tour has been a resounding success which boldly promoted support for the armed struggle led by ZANU and the Patriotic Front to crush the tottering racist regime and liberate Zimbabwe from British imperialist domination. Collections were made at all the meetings to go toward sending a landrover to the liberation fighters. This is a modest step in our long struggle to systematically aid the war of the Zimbabwe people and thereby weaken our common enemy - British imperialism. It is an important task which can only be done on a national scale by a national party-building organization or by the Party itself. It cannot be done by isolated individuals or small groups.

A meeting held in Bristol at the Corn Exchange, was successful in a number of ways. But most notable of all was the failure of the bourgeois press to isolate the campaign.

Looking for a sensational story, they attempted to link the campaign with the massacre at Umtali only a few days before. However, in their response to leafleting, many workers in the area have shown their ability to see through bourgeois propaganda and identify with the line of the League in support of the Patriotic

Front and the oppressed people of Zimbabwe. They can clearly see that the Patriotic Front would gain nothing from such atrocities, and recognised that the Smith regime is responsible for the crime. The press coverage had a positive result that the bosses had not allowed for. It shows that to be attacked by the enemy is not a bad thing but a good thing. It shows we are doing some good work. Over 40 people attended the meeting and contributed £35 towards the campaign.

At a meeting in Yeovil, the comrades organising the meeting overcame the obstacles placed in their path by the local bourgeoisie. Two venues were cancelled at short notice, but comrades were self-reliant, and held the meeting in a local park. Despite the presence of young fascists, who constantly tried to disrupt the meeting, it was another success. £23 was collected from an audience of 18, and when the Yeovil press made a smear attempt it was countered by a letter from one of the people present who emphasised the optimistic and anti-racist aspects of the ZANU speaker's contribution. With these two meetings the RCL in the west of England has firmly established its public face.

Total collection for the landrover fund was over £360.



INTERNATIONAL NOTES

RUSSIA

The recently published results of the Soviet economy in 1977 remained consistent with a steady downward drift in economic indices since capitalism was restored there. The modestly targeted increase in National Income of 4.1% could not be met. The grain harvest fell 17 million tonnes - output dropping 5%. Industrial production only just managed to exceed the planned target by a small margin, but steel, oil and coal production all slumped. Labour productivity grew by a mere 4.1% despite massive influx of western technology.

The early 1950s saw labour productivity rising by 10.1% yearly, and National Income by 12.3%, but then, that was when the working class ran the economy, under socialism.

SPAIN

150 people died (with the final death toll expected much higher) when a gas tanker exploded at the Los Alfaques campsite near Tarrogon.

British and Swedish fire experts came to similar conclusions quite independently. They said that the site was grossly overcrowded and contributed to the high death toll. "The caravans and tents were so close

together that in some cases there was not even the space for one person to pass between them. Fire prevention standards in Sweden as well as in Britain would never allow such a thing". Proper spacing at the site would have halved the 800 population and fewer people would have died. On its own this argument ignores the hazards and strict safety requirements of carrying dangerous chemicals by road. The tanker itself had a three inch weak spot in the tank. The proper safety checks had been neglected. Risk can be reduced by carrying more such chemicals by rail.

Such neglect is part of capitalism.

KAMPUCHEA

On April 22nd, a delegation of journalists of "THE CALL/EL CLARIN", the organ of the Communist Party (Marxist-Leninist) of the United States, began a tour of Kampuchea. The delegation reported "Everywhere we went, we saw the most tremendous enthusiasm and spirit of hard work imaginable...Ieng Sary told us: We have overcome many difficulties since 1975 (the year of liberation from US imperialism - Editor's note). We have basically solved the problems of food, clothing and housing...Now the situation is excellent." The report went on, "We saw a people who were joyous in their labour - singing, smiling and laughing - because they know that the new world they are shaping in Kampuchea belongs to them".

Suggestions and criticisms help strengthen the paper. Send them to:
"The editor: Class Struggle"
c/o NEW ERA BOOKS.

SOVIET UNION IS BEHIND PERSECUTION OF CHINESE IN VIETNAM

At the instigation of Soviet social imperialism, the Vietnamese authorities have been carrying out a widespread anti-Chinese campaign. Chinese nationals living in Vietnam have suffered widespread persecution and nearly 150,000 have been forcefully expelled into the People's Republic of China.

Turning facts on their heads the Russian and Vietnamese press are claiming that the expelled Chinese have voluntarily crossed into China contrary to the laws of Vietnam!

What are the facts? Widespread persecution of Chinese nationals exists. One form this has taken is the attempt to force Chinese residing in Vietnam to take up Vietnam citizenship. It has been China's consistent policy to favour and encourage Chinese living abroad to take up the nationality of the country of their residence. At the same time China opposes any attempt to force Chinese nationals to do this. In 1955, this policy was agreed by both the Chinese and Vietnamese Parties. In 1956, the US puppet regime in South Vietnam tried to force Chinese residents into Vietnamese nationality. This was vigorously opposed at the time both by China and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (North Vietnam). Again, in 1965, in its "letter to Chinese brothers and sisters in South Vietnam" the south Vietnam National Front for Liberation stated that: "The Chinese residents have the freedom and right to choose their nationality". Now, under Soviet encouragement, the Vietnamese authorities have adopted a chauvinist policy of attempting to force Chinese to take Vietnamese nationality. The expelled Chinese nationals who have been living in Vietnam, many for all their lives, have fought in the Vietnamese revolution and taken part in socialist construction side by side with their Vietnamese comrades; like Cheng Chun-chiang, who moved from South Vietnam to North Vietnam 26 years ago where he was warmly received by comrade Ho Chi Minh. He still carries 3 medals for meritorious service in the revolution. His wife was a lathe turner; like Ho Chih-chiu, a fisherman in a co-operative, who was cited as a model worker for 13 consecutive years; like Chung Tsung-chan, who was vice-chairman of a co-operative; like Ma Huang-mei who was a shop assistant in the state trading corporation. 8 of the 17 assistants were Chinese nationals. She described how the Chinese were given the dirtiest and heaviest jobs; how only the Vietnamese assistants could buy good quality clothes from the corporation; how the babies of Vietnamese were given a state subsidy and a food ration, but not the Chinese; and finally how the Vietnamese authorities last year cut their food ration entirely forcing them to buy costly food on the black market, and finally to return to China.

SPREADING ANTI-CHINA RUMOURS

Many refugees told how the Vietnamese authorities tried to force them to spread rumours that China intended to dominate, and sometimes even invade Vietnam. The whole anti-Chinese

campaign is intended to drive a wedge between the peoples of China and Vietnam, in order to allow Soviet social imperialism to establish a dominant position in Vietnam, to bring it under its thumb and to use it as a base to dominate South-east Asia. The truth of this is vividly illustrated by the admission of Vietnam to the "Council for Mutual Economic Assistance" (CMEA) at the end of June. The CMEA is dominated by the Soviet Union, and through it the Soviet social imperialists, control the economies of Eastern Europe. Through CMEA the Eastern European countries have been reduced to colonies from whom the Soviet Union makes super-profits.

REVOLUTIONARY FRIENDSHIP OF PEOPLE OF VIETNAM AND CHINA LIVES ON

The revolutionary friendship of the Vietnamese and Chinese people though is standing up to the anti-Chinese campaign. The people have not forgotten that Chinese residents in Vietnam fought side by side against French and US imperialism. They have not forgotten the political, material and diplomatic support that the People's Republic of China gave to Vietnam in its revolutionary struggle and in its socialist construction. Many refugees have described how Vietnamese people supported them when they were being discriminated against. The Soviet social imperialists still have problems in their attempt to dominate Vietnam.

"MORNING STAR" LIES IN SERVICE OF USSR

The British revisionists in the so-called "Communist" Party of Great Britain, of course, repeat word for word, the Soviet propaganda campaign. In an editorial in their paper the "Morning Star" on July 4th, they accuse China of "picking a quarrel" with Vietnam. They do not oppose persecution or forced expulsions. They talk of the "exodus" of Chinese from Vietnam as though it was voluntary. Finally they attack China for withdrawing its aid projects from Vietnam. Of course China has withdrawn aid from Vietnam. What do they expect China to do when the Vietnamese authorities persecute the 1½ million Chinese nationals in Vietnam, spread rumours that China intends to invade Vietnam, and openly attacks China on a variety of false charges. Secondly, as China has said, they have to find the funds from somewhere to cope with 150,000 refugees!

"The Morning Star" also implies that the refugees are merchants from Ho Chi Minh City in southern Vietnam who were hit by the anti-speculation drive. This is an outrageous lie. Even the Vietnamese foreign Minister pointed out a few months ago that 99 out of 100 are working people. Does the "Morning Star" really believe that there are 150,000 merchants trying to protect their livelihood by fleeing to socialist China! Of course, they don't. They are just playing their part in the Soviet Imperialists' anti-China propaganda drive.