

CLASS STRUGGLE

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LESSONS OF HARVEY'S STRIKE:

UNITE WORKERS' STRUGGLE TO BEAT OPPORTUNIST TRADE UNION MISLEADERS

11 maintenance fitters at Harvey's sherry factory in Bristol have been on strike for 12 weeks for separate negotiating rights for their union, the AUEW. They have just been forced to start negotiating a return to work, having gained nothing through their three months strike. It was misleadership in the AUEW and treachery in the T&G that brought about this defeat.

Management was adamant in refusing to recognise the AUEW because they knew once the fitters had an effective voice it would no longer be possible to keep their wages down to about £10 below comparable industries in Bristol. The T&G production workers would also have gained if the fitters got a rise, through maintaining differentials. But the local T&G leadership went dead against the interests of their members and opposed the strike. When the bosses spread rumours that "real trouble" would mean lay-offs and closure, the T&G stewards failed to expose this lie by showing that there was no way the bosses could afford to close the factory.

The company made £16m profits last year after baling out two loss-making companies in the same group. Instead they helped the bosses split the workforce by advising the production workers to accept scab labour. Local T&G officials directed their members to cross the AUEW picket line.

OFFICIAL 'BACKING' CONCEALED REAL TREACHERY

The T&G allowed the company to take on 5 new fitters, which means production has nearly returned to normal. The striking fitters see no alternative but to try and get their jobs back. All along they have tried to work through official channels, and each step of the way they have found out that their union is not a fighting organisation and does not have the interests of the workers at heart. The strikers pinned their hopes on top level meetings between the AUEW and the T&G at which agreement was reached and fine-sounding "official backing" was given. This was no more than words.

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HUA'S TOUR EXPOSES SOVIET AGGRESSION



On September 5th, Hua Kuo-feng, the Chinese head of state, and the Chairman of the Communist Party of China, arrived back in Peking at the end of a highly successful tour of Romania, Yugoslavia and Iran. The main aim of the tour was to further unite all those threatened by superpower hegemonism (domination), particularly by Soviet expansionism. All four countries are situated close to the Soviet Union, and all four have been subject to Soviet aggression or bully threats in the past. The Soviet Union carries out all sorts of political, diplomatic, economic and military manoeuvres against them with the aim of strengthening its domination in

Europe and the Middle East. Chairman Hua's tour has dramatically highlighted this situation, and brought the issue of Soviet aggression and expansion into the light before the people of the world. This has helped further expose Soviet social imperialism and has torn the mask of "peace and socialism", which it hides behind, from its face.

The four countries have widely differing social systems. In China the working people have political and state power, and use it in their own interests. Through their political power, they have thrown off the chains of imperialism and capitalism and are

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MEDICAL COUNCIL USES RACISM TO FORCE NHS CUTS

Most people who have been to a hospital must have noticed the high proportion of black nurses and doctors - mainly from the Indian sub-continent. Figures for 1977 showed that there were 2882 UK trained doctors and 2800 overseas trained doctors.

For many years the British ruling class has had a policy of "importing" foreign trained doctors because it is cheaper than putting up money to build and run more medical schools in Britain. This worked beautifully for them, although it clearly had the effect of depriving poorer countries like India of trained doctors.

However, after employing foreign trained doctors to make one saving, a scapegoat is being made of the same doctors in order to secure another saving. By invalidating the medical qualifications of doctors from Commonwealth countries, the General Medical Council (GMC) found a way of cutting the number of NHS doctors in line with Government cuts in the NHS. In May, 1975, the GMC declared that they would no longer automatically recognise the degrees of doctors from Commonwealth countries. They said that they would send their own representatives to

DRUG COMPANIES IGNORE SAFETY IN AFRICA

Doctors in Britain refer frequently to a drugs directory called "Mimms" for information on drugs available. A similar directory called "Mimms Africa" is published for distribution there. But it contains quite different information. Drugs which would not be permitted by Britain's Committee for Safety of Medicines, are advertised in "Mimms Africa" and are available in Nairobi, Nigeria, accompanied by misleading literature.

Male hormones, which are used very rarely in general practice here, are promoted for the treatment of malnutrition, loss of appetite in children and as a tonic for elderly patients in Africa. These are potent and dangerous drugs capable of starting growths in children.

Hormone drugs are still marketed in Africa for pregnancy testing - a method banned here in 1975 after they were proved to cause harm to the developing baby. There are many other examples.

Drug companies are trans-national monopoly concerns having no standards except those forced on them. In Britain thousands of expensive drugs are promoted without proof of benefit and with constantly rising costs. The struggle of ten years and more of the victims of thalidomide against the Distillers Company shows the callousness of the drug monopolies.

The sick of Africa are doubly exploited. In the name of maximum profits, the same companies are prepared to ignore proven dangers and see children stunted and babies deformed. Monopoly capitalism is our common enemy. We must unite with the people of the third world to defeat it.

"judge whether the doctors being produced were soundly enough trained for practice in Britain".

What amounted to blatant discriminatory action was justified on the grounds that, "These poorer countries wanted to train doctors appropriate to their needs and the available level of medical care...fit enough to work in rural areas with minimal technical support". How charitable the ruling class is! Such touching concern for the special requirements of the poor countries of the third world. But such pious concern cannot hide the real motives and economic interests behind the GMC's decision. That is, it was one means of enforcing the Labour government's drastic health cuts, which incited racism against foreign trained doctors. This is another example of how racism serves the interests of the British ruling class.

GMC RACIST RULING HITS HEALTH CARE

Since June 1975, overseas doctors have had to sit for a Temporary Registration Assessment Board (TRAB) which is supposed to test proficiency in the English language and professional knowledge. Temporary registration is granted in relation to specified posts in approved hospitals and institutions and lasts for 12 months only. In 1977, only 532 out of 1663 doctors passed this exam. Does this mean that the doctors who fail are incompetent. No! Most pass at the second attempt, many of whom have been working in the NHS for the past 30 years. What the GMC is doing, is using this racist procedure to put pressure on foreign trained doctors in order to compel them to accept inadequate facilities when they are able to get work. Neither the GMC or the Government provide any teaching facilities. They pay for their own upkeep without state benefits. In return for their work, they are given posts in the most overcrowded, poorly staffed and ill-equipped peripheral hospitals. Posts which British trained doctors are not expected to work in. The racist pressure put on the doctors, who face the threat of not having their "Temporary Registration" renewed is used to terrorise overseas hospital staff into accepting poor facilities. The end result is the lowering of medical care with the aid of racist laws and rules.

HARVEY'S

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The dispute was referred to ACAS, which backed the strikers' demands. But as in Grunwicks, the management calmly ignored ACAS's ruling. The strikers then produced a leaflet independently of their union. They appealed directly to their fellow workers. This was the only thing that worried the bosses, who displayed an answering statement. But the AUEW officials opposed any attempt by the strikers themselves to try to unite the workforce.

FIGHT OPPORTUNISM TO FIGHT CAPITALISM.

Opportunists are those who put short-term or sectional interests above those of the working class. These people do the bosses' work for them. They aren't confined to the top leadership of the unions, but have to be fought at every level. It's no good relying on one opportunist to discipline another, as the Harvey's fitters hoped the top level T&G would do, bringing its local leadership into line. It's no good listening to the 'don't rock the boat' line that the AUEW officials came out with, or trusting in institutions like ACAS which just produce delays that benefit the bosses. The way to win disputes is through united action of the whole workforce, and this is the way to expose the opportunists who stand in the way of turning the unions into fighting class organisations.

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OPPORTUNISTS SELL OUT RIGHT TO STRIKE

Opportunist misleaders of the trade unions are showing themselves prepared to stoop even lower in betraying the long term interests of the working class. At Tyne ship repair yards, 3500 workers on 18 dry docks will be paid an extra 16% giving £83 a week to skilled men, £71.60 a week to semi-skilled and £68 to the unskilled. In exchange for this princely sum, the union negotiators have shackled the workers with a "no strike" pledge for a year and ended demarcation rules. The shipyard bosses will now be entitled to shift workers from job-to-job. Although a promise of no dismissals during the year has been given, it is clear that the abolition of hard won trade union practices will make future redundancies and rationalisation of the work-force easier. It is no surprise that the chief executive of the Tyne Ship Repair Group, Butler, regards the deal as an "historic breakthrough".

OPPORTUNISM MEANS BETRAYAL OF LONG TERM INTERESTS

The interests of a section of the working class cannot be reduced to the size of a wage increase without betraying the working class as a whole. Workers demand a decent wage in order to live and not be impoverished by capitalism. The long term interests of the working class, however, lie in getting rid of the capitalist system which turns workers into wage slaves, and establishing a socialist society. By giving a "no strike" pledge the opportunists have bartered with an important weapon in the workers' economic and political struggle against capitalist rule.

But what other long term interests does the "no strike" pledge sacrifice? Apart from removing the Tyneside workers' hard-won democratic right to strike, it betrays united struggle throughout the ship-building industry against lay-offs and redundancies. British Ship-builders and its Cammell Laird subsidiary on Merseyside are preparing to lay-off or make redundant nearly a third of the workforce. 1500 jobs are at stake. The struggle against such lay-offs demands united class action beginning with organising the fight back in the ship-building and repair industry. United class action in defence of jobs is unthinkable without using the workers' strike weapon.

TURN THE TRADE UNIONS INTO FIGHTING CLASS ORGANISATIONS

Opportunist misleadership in the trade unions is particularly spineless at the present time of acute capitalist crisis. In the ship-building and ship-repair industry there is a recession which goes with the slump in world trade and the intense competition in ship-building. In the face of problems for the British capitalists, the opportunists collapse like a house of cards and work overtime to bail them out. Which is done at the workers' expense.

For a long time, the trade union misleaders have collaborated with the monopoly capitalists and sold out the economic and political struggle of the working class. They are now more blatant and it is even clearer at this time of acute crisis that in order to fight the bosses we must fight the trade union misleaders who seek to tie the hands of the working class with treacherous deals negotiated behind closed doors. The struggle against capitalism is also a struggle to win back the unions as organs of the workers' class struggle. That is why we call on workers to take up the cry of:

TURN THE UNIONS INTO FIGHTING CLASS ORGANISATIONS!

A WORKER'S NOTEBOOK

A 60% RISE IN SALARY HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR TUC CHIEF LEN Murray. This brings it to £16,000 per year by 1980. Heads of TUC departments will also get rises from £6,448 to £9,017 per year.

Before awarding themselves these huge increases, a TUC committee consulted with the CBI. The issue between them was that the TUC chiefs wanted salaries comparable with levels in 'major companies' and the Civil Service and local government.

What clearer indication could be given to the working class of the role the TUC sellers-out see themselves in. Like the Chairman of ICI, Unilever or British Leyland which are all 'major (monopoly capitalist) companies', Len Murray and Co. want payments in the manner to which they have become accustomed for their services to monopoly capitalism. ■

A CALL BY MICHAEL WELLER OF THE POULTRY COMMITTEE OF THE National Farmers Union to kill 2½ million laying hens is being considered by the government and EEC. Weller has called for the wholesale culling of hens to reduce the overproduction of eggs and force up the price by about 10p a dozen. The chief executive of the Eggs Authority, Denis Cummings, has accepted the 'need' to reduce overproduction of eggs but there is argument over which hens should be killed and who should pay for it. The present overproduction of eggs threatens to ruin the smaller egg farmers. They want the cost of culling to come out of funds left over from the old egg marketing board. But Cummings opposes this and seeks to put the burden of the cost on the smaller farmers.

This is a clear example of the anarchy of capitalist production and the contradiction between big and small capitalism. Efficient egg farming with eggs at low prices is in the interests of the working class, but the profit interests of the capitalist egg farmers, particularly the monopolies, are demanding a cut back in production to force up prices. Only a socialist planned economy can ensure an efficient production of food based on the demands of the masses and not the profit interests of a mere handful of capitalists. ■

ON THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE CIVIL Rights Campaign in August 1968, fifteen thousand people took part in a six mile march in County Tyrone, Northern Ireland. They were led by 100 people clad only in blankets, protesting the inhuman conditions suffered by the H-block prisoners.

There were also a number of lightning stoppages of work and protest meetings drawing attention to the case of Willie Gallagher, the 19 year old framed up on the charge of bombing the British Legion hall in Strabane. ■

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CIVIL LIBERTIES IS PROTESTING AT the discovery that the prosecution has vetted the jury in the Official Secrets trial of two journalists and an ex-soldier. The leading Q.C. for the state admitted 'Anyone who is known to have been disloyal would obviously be disqualified'. So much for the neutrality of British justice! As Marx says, the state is a machine for the oppression of one class by another. ■

CHILD POVERTY GROWING. FIGURES RECENTLY RELEASED BY THE DHSS show that while there were 650,000 children living on or below the poverty line in 1974, three years of Labour government had raised that figure to one and a half million by 1977. Is this another 'achievement' which we should 'congratulate' the government for? ■

REG BIRCH, THE REVISIONIST LEADER OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF Britain (Marxist-Leninist) has sold out the interests of the working class again. He voted along with the other leaders of the AUEW in the unanimous decision of the union's seven man executive to expel the 32 S.U. carburettor workers from the union if they did not go back to work. In the main this is unjustified. Although the tool makers have a history of putting sectional interests first, expulsion from the Union serves the interests of the Leyland bosses who are demanding the trade unions discipline the membership and police agreements. Further, the strikers have the support of many other workers at the plant and elsewhere who support the tool-makers' struggle for separate negotiating rights. ■

TUC CONFERENCE: A PLATFORM OF

The 1978 TUC conference surpassed itself in its total failure to represent the interests of the working class and readiness to serve capitalism, for that's what pulling the stops out for the Labour Government means. Not even the decision to support the Mineworkers' opposition to Callaghan's 5% decree saves them. TUC chief Len Murray has already made it clear that there will be no automatic support from his band for workers fighting it. So why vote against it at all? Purely to save face. Such is the opposition among rank-and-file trade unionists, the TUC could not accept the 5% without losing what credibility that they have. They need to make gestures of opposition to disguise their real collaboration. Like last year, when the TUC failed to support the Firemen and other struggles against the 10% limit, although the TUC voted against it, struggles against the 5% this year will be in the teeth of opposition from Murray and Co.

FIGHT FOR 35 HOUR WEEK

At the TUC congress one of the main decisions reached was the call for a reduction in the working week to 35 hours, without loss of pay. This is a demand that will win support from all workers. The less time we spend at work and the more time we spend at home with our families and friends, the better.

But more importantly, this is a just demand because a shorter working week without loss of pay means a cut in the rate of absolute exploitation of the workers. That is, time spent working to make the bosses' profits. To explain this more clearly, a worker who at present works 8 hours per day will be producing enough to cover the value of his daily wage in, say, the first 4 hours. In which case the remaining 4 hours he will be producing solely for the bosses' profits. A 35-hour week (7 hours per day) to this worker would mean he still works 4 hours to produce his wage, but now only works 3 hours for the boss. So in absolute terms, he is being exploited less.

In putting forward this demand however, the TUC misleaders ignore all this and say that a 35-hour week will reduce unemployment. According to Moss Evans, sell-out leader of the T&GWU who moved the resolution at the congress, it will create "nearly 750,000 jobs". But this argument just doesn't hold water. The trade union's own research unit at Ruskin College, Oxford, in a recent report showed that in the 1960s working hours were twice cut, from 44 to 42 in 1959-61, and from 42 to 40 in 1964-66. In both these periods the bosses' compensated for the drop in the level of absolute exploitation by increasing the level of relative exploitation, that is by making each worker work harder, and so produce the same (or more) in 40 hours as he did when he worked 44 hours.

We should firmly support all struggles for a shorter working week but at the same time point out that the bosses will inevitably prevent any drop in production by introducing more advanced machinery, speed-ups, etc., making it very unlikely that more jobs will be created.

The TUC's "concern" about the 1.6 million unemployed is more accurately reflected by their outright refusal to support workers fighting against lay-offs, redundancies and factory closures. Unemployment is produced by the anarchy of capitalism, by its crises of over-production. Unsold goods pile up, so the bosses cut back on production. Ultimately, unemployment can only be eradicated by replacing capitalism with socialism and a planned economy and not by merely juggling with figures.

CALLAGHAN DEMANDS TOTAL BACKING

The Labour Government is fully aware of the TUC's services to capitalism despite the facade of opposition to the 5%. But this did not stop him from demanding total backing. He went to great lengths to persuade the TUC to vote for the 5%, and what a performance! Throughout, Callaghan went to great pains to project the image of a "strong man". Like all ruling class politicians, he believes that lies can be made more acceptable to the masses if they are well packaged and repeated often enough. Callaghan certainly needed to do a good job of packaging, to make the lie that wage increases are the cause of inflation stand up to facts.

When the Labour Government/TUC social contract was holding down wage increases to 5%, in the year 1976/77, the inflation rate stood at around 20%.

The rate of inflation is manipulated by the Government and capitalist state. By printing and releasing more money the Government gives a false stimulus to the ailing capitalist economy in order to get it out of the doldrums. But because this additional currency is not backed by increased production, it debases the real value of the currency. Inflation, therefore, devalues the real value of wages. The cause of inflation is capitalism in deep crisis, not wage increases.

SCANLON WINS OVATION FOR CALLAGHAN

After Callaghan's attempts to numb the senses of thinking people with lies, demagogy and a music hall performance, other lackeys jumped in to sing the Government's praises. Scanlon moved an AUEW resolution congratulating Labour's "achievements"

BASNETT DEFENDS BOSSE

The treachery of the TUC in its complete betrayal of the interests of the working class at a time when capitalist crisis is increasing the burden of misery for the masses, is not merely a mistaken policy. It is assisting the strategy of the ruling monopoly capitalist class to incorporate the trade unions into the state. Support for this was clearly expressed in the speech of the out-going president of the TUC, David Basnett.

UNITY WITH CAPITALISM CALLED COLLECTIVE INTEREST

Like all the opportunist misleaders of the TUC, Basnett in his speech presented public spending and state intervention as "socialist" or representing the "collective interests". Around this myth he built a whole collection of policies which were supposed to "re-organise society" in the collective interest, but in reality serving capitalism. He made demagogic statements hailed as giving "precedence to positive leisure rather than destructive idleness". Whatever that means, it did not mean that Basnett supported increased workers' income and more leisure time. He invented another variation of the pro-capitalist ideas used to justify the social contract. That is the idea of the "social wage" which Basnett declared should not be sacrificed for the individual's wage. Quite simply Basnett was calling for the working class to work harder in the "collective interest" but not to expect to get paid for it. And what is this "collective interest" which brings no individual benefit and causes the working class to suffer more unemployment, poverty

LABOUR LIES

since 1974. Just what achievements Scanlon was afraid to say. The £6 fall in the real value of wages? Increased police powers of detention and arrest? The Labour Party campaigned in the 1974 election under the slogan "Back to work with Labour" in opposition to the three day week. There is now a permanent pool of 1½ million unemployed and still rising. Are those the kinds of "achievements" Scanlon is praising? He is wise not to mention them for they are "achievements" in ensuring that the burden of the capitalist crisis is shifted onto the backs of the working class. The very thing the TUC chiefs seek to conceal.

LABOUR UNPOPULARITY GROWS

Despite the ovation that Scanlon won for his praises to Callaghan and Co., the mass of workers feel deep hatred for the Government. The Tory Party is a viciously anti-working class party, but even hatred for the Tories is failing to induce the working class into being ready to vote Labour at the next election. The Government discovered this yet again when they read the results of their privately commissioned public opinion poll which gave the Tories a 6% lead. Callaghan and Co. were wise not to call a General Election this October. They would be kicked out.

The working class has nothing to lose by the fall of the Labour Government. Of course, there will be nothing to gain from the victory of the Tories. What is needed is a revolutionary Communist Party which will dump the misleaders and lead the workers' class struggle against the whole creaking edifice of capitalism. ■

S' CORPORATE INTERESTS

and increased oppression? It is nothing but the corporate interests of the monopoly capitalist class, particularly state monopoly capitalism.

STATE CANNOT SERVE THE WORKING CLASS.

The main assumption the trade union and labour bosses make in describing state industry as representing the collective good is that the state is neutral. A power which stands above classes. Hence they argue that spending by the state cannot be in the capitalists' interest and must serve all classes. This is nonsense! The state has never been neutral. It has always protected the rule of the propertied classes. When have the Government and the police force or the army ever taken the side of workers on strike against factory or plant owners? Never! This is well known to all class conscious workers.

But Basnett seeks to conceal this by presenting only the Tories as representing the interests of the capitalist class because they talk of "private enterprise", as opposed to the Labour Party which stands for increased state intervention. But in reality, they both serve monopoly capitalism although Labour favours state monopoly capitalism because it is necessary to preserve and conceal capitalist rule. This is what makes Labour the best bosses' party.

Basnett has helped contribute towards the bosses' corporate plan to incorporate the unions into the state by his avid support for the tripartite unity of the Labour Party, TUC and CBI. It was this he was defending at the TUC conference. ■

"JOBLESS TO RUSSIA" TREACHERY

Unemployment stands at approx. 1.6million and is expected to continue rising in 1979. At present it is rising at the rate of 150,000 per year according to a business forecast in the Sunday Telegraph of 3rd Sept. But this is not shown by official figures which claim that unemployment has remained the same over the last 12 months. This is part of the lying propaganda of the Labour Party for election purposes. But what do some 'left' Labour and revisionists have in mind for reducing unemployment figures?

SEND JOBLESS TO RUSSIA SAYS TUC DELEGATE

At the TUC, Joseph Winter who is Secretary of the British Trades Union Centre for Workers Education made an astounding statement. After leading a delegation of 105 British trade unionists to Russia on which he spent time sunning himself at a Crimea holiday resort, he trotted out his solution to unemployment. The Soviet Union is short of labour, so the unemployed should be sent there he suggested.

He praised the Soviet Union for "having no unemployment" but failed to mention Soviet social imperialism's (socialism in words, imperialism in deeds) huge standing army poised for aggression and expansion. This is their concealed unemployment. In fact he denied the aggressive intentions of Brezhnev and Co. in the Kremlin. Were not Hitler and Mussolini praised by their supporters in Britain and Europe for 'solving unemployment'? They certainly were and Brezhnev's 'no unemployment' is a similar boast aimed at disguising the fascist dictatorship which reigns in the USSR today.

WINTER A FIFTH COLUMNIST FOR SOVIET UNION

Winter's words are aimed at painting the USSR in bright socialist colours. The socialist Soviet Union of Lenin and Stalin when unemployment really was abolished has long been dismantled by Khrushchev and Brezhnev and capitalism restored. Such prettifying of Soviet social imperialism today by revisionists (sham Marxists) and left labourites disguises real submission to Soviet expansionism. ■

STOP PAYING LABOUR

To fight its election campaign the Labour Party is expecting at least £1 million from trade union funds. The TUC misleaders who control huge sums of trade union funds are anxious to pay up. Already £300,000 has been handed over by the Mineworkers, General and Municipal and the Transport and General Workers Unions.

We should oppose this misuse of trade union funds whether from the political levy or not. ■

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INTERNATIONAL NOTES

MOZAMBIQUE: The Government of Mozambique has taken control of Sena Sugar Estates. Sena, a British imperialist company, produces nearly half of Mozambique's sugar output, and employs 12,000 workers. Sugar is important to the economy accounting for over a quarter of agricultural exports. The take-over results from Sena's failure to build a planned sugar mill to replace an old one it had let run down. This led to no sugar being harvested last year. At the same time Sena has not trained Mozambicans as skilled men, and insists on employing overseas white personnel at high salaries. The take-over is a sharp blow to imperialist manoeuvres against Mozambique. ■

SOVIET UNION/USA: On September 4th, 7 Americans demonstrated in Moscow's Red Square against the two superpowers. As they unfolded a banner saying in Russian "USSR and USA - disarm now" and started to scatter hundreds of leaflets they were jumped on by KGB thugs. Reporters on the scene were also assaulted. Simultaneously, an associated demonstration staged a protest outside the White House in America. Eleven were arrested here too. The two superpowers talk of "detente" and "peace", but clearly their words mean nothing. Their rivalry for world domination stems directly from the basic imperialist nature of their systems. They will not stop their arms build up despite their words. We must fight their war preparations, but have no illusions that such predatory wolves will transform themselves into lambs, without the destruction of their basic systems. ■

MOSCOW NARODNY BANK: A curious chain of events of capitalist greed and enterprise, corruption and speculation involving KGB hit men has come to light concerning the Moscow Narodny Bank (MNB). The Soviet owned MNB is based in London. In 1971 it opened a branch in Singapore where it loaned large sums of money to people who appear in fact to work for the Soviet Union in other ways. The events include large scale currency speculation, where it lost millions; massive investments in Hong Kong, leading to the control of 1500 acres near the Chinese border; and the attempt to buy three Californian banks. Their agent in this deal has just given himself up to the FBI asking for protection from KGB assassins. The MNB claims he's run off with \$70 million, and he is also accused of swindling by the Californian banks. Whilst the MNB has burnt its fingers and appears to have lost huge sums of money, it is clearly no different to any other imperialist bank in its economic activities and it obviously at the same time is connected with the KGB and serves Soviet strategic ambitions. We'll print more on this if we can uncover further details. ■

NICARAGUA: The struggle against the dictator Somoza, and the US imperialists who installed his regime in Nicaragua is deepening. Three-quarters of the businesses in Managua the capital are shut, through the general strike which is widely supported throughout the country. In the cities of Matagalpa, Chinandega and Esteli street barricades have been erected, and battles are widespread between the National Guard and the people. In Matagalpa Somoza has ordered the bombing of the city in an attempt to put down the fighting masses. Widespread arrests of political and trade union leaders, students and even businessmen who support the struggle are being carried out. But the dictators' army cannot hold down the masses. The army occupies one area, then as soon as it moves on to fight somewhere else, the barricades go up again and the armed masses are back in control. This is a people's war. In the long run nothing can stand against it. ■

THIRD WORLD UNITY: At a United Nations conference of Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (TCDC), the third world succeeded in establishing a permanent TCDC organisation, despite the opposition of the imperialists. Greater co-operation in economic development among the third world reduces their dependence on the imperialists and especially on the two superpowers. At the same time it establishes a united third world organisation to continue the struggle for a New International Economic Order against the imperialists who profit from unequal trade and economic plunder. ■

NEW LIES FOR OLD

The facts of the sanctions busting activities of British Petroleum and Shell in supplying Smith's racist Rhodesian regime with oil have now been well publicised. They supplied oil to keep Smith's military machine and industrial and private transport working; partly by operating through subsidiaries in Mozambique; partly by arrangement with the French company Total, who supplied oil direct and received the oil back from Shell and BP; and partly by the same arrangements with Sasol, a South African company.

The entire business shows the role of the Labour Party as a capitalist, imperialist party. It is another example of their lying hypocrisy. The oil operation has gone on since December 1965, when sanctions were first introduced, by a Labour Government as a cover for its real support for Smith's actions. Behind the scenes though they were involved in the operation to give Smith a life line. BP is 31% owned by the British Government, and 20% by the Bank of England. So the state has control. It nominates two members of BP's board, who can veto any resolution.

The oil operation has been known for years. The Zimbabwe liberation movements and third world Governments denounced it years ago, as have solidarity and anti-apartheid organisations in Britain. But Labour and Tory Governments have lied, and the press has stayed quiet. They only admit it now because their old tactics of supporting Smith have been smashed by the great victories of the Patriotic Front. Now they need new tactics. They admit the sanctions busting of the past. "We are genuine now", they say in an attempt to lull us into passivity. In reality they work to split the Patriotic Front, and bolster an extended internal settlement. At the same time they prepare for an opportunity to intervene militarily. They aim to give credibility to their lies that their actions now are purely for "peace and justice", and thus win support for aggression from a section of the British people. The answer to their lies is to give support to the real opponents of imperialism - the fighting people of Zimbabwe.

SUPPORT THE LANDROVER FUND!

ZIMBABWE SOLIDARITY CAMPAIGN

The Zimbabwe solidarity campaign launched by the RCLB has set itself three basic tasks:

1. To expose and oppose British imperialism in Zimbabwe and to develop the spirit of working class internationalism.
2. To raise money to send a landrover to the liberation fighters in Zimbabwe.
3. To force the British government to recognise only the Patriotic Front.

In Zimbabwe our class brothers and sisters are fighting our common enemy: the British ruling class. Their enemy is our enemy. Their fight is our fight.

Concretely, our target is to send a landrover, as a gift from the British working class to the liberation fighters in Zimbabwe. Show your solidarity. Give generously to the Zimbabwe fund. If you can't afford money, you can help by providing old bedding and clothes for the liberation fighters and refugees. Every penny, every blanket will go to Zimbabwe.

RCLB members and supporters will be collecting at factory gates, or you can give donations to any member of the RCL. If you can't do either, send donations to: J. Bayley, c/o, 203 Seven Sisters Road, London N4., enclosing a note saying it is for the Zimbabwe fund.

**BRITISH IMPERIALISM OUT OF ZIMBABWE!
HAND OVER POWER TO THE PATRIOTIC FRONT!
DOWN WITH THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PLOT!
SUPERPOWERS KEEP OUT OF ZIMBABWE!**

PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE ROCKS SHAH

Yet again the struggle of the Iranian masses has risen to a high tide. Workers, students, peasants, shopkeepers and even civil servants and some businessmen are rising in opposition to the fascist dictatorship of the Shah of Iran, and his imperialist masters in the USA. On Monday 4th September, mass demonstrations ended with a call for a general strike. The strike was total in the capital Teheran and in other major cities. On Thursday over 100,000 demonstrators marched again in Teheran refusing to bow down to a ban on demonstrations. On Friday they took to the streets again shouting "Down with the Shah. Down with American imperialism". The Shah declared martial law and ordered the troops to fire into the crowds. Hundreds died. Despite the brutal repression and the imposition of a curfew, the people are continuing to organise and fight.

The US President Carter, is so worried he had to interrupt his Middle East "summit" meeting to phone up the Shah to ensure him of his support. The US imperialists have vast investments and other interests in Iran, which the Shah's fascist rule is protecting. Whilst today, the US imperialists have by far the biggest interests and most "influence" in Iran, other imperialists also have interests there. The "Daily Telegraph" breathed a sigh of relief at "the timely imposition of martial law", praised the "personal qualities" of the Shah, and

took a public stand on behalf of the British ruling class that America's and Britain's "large military and industrial investments...must be safeguarded". Not even the usual lying pretence of support for democracy and independence. The West German imperialists immediately made a quick profit by sending plane loads of teargas and ammunition to the Iranian military.

The Iranian people are striking a great blow at imperialism and superpower domination by their heroic resistance to the Shah and US domination, but as the Marxist-Leninist Organisation of Iran (MLOI) have pointed out, there is another vicious enemy trying to come through the back-door - Soviet social imperialism. The Soviet Union poses as a friend of the Iranian struggle and has its own agents involved in the "Tudeh" party, which has set up an "Anti-Dictatorship Front". This is nothing but a front to replace one overlord, the USA, by another - the Soviet Union. The MLOI point out that when Britain imperialism was main overlord of Iran up to the early 1950s, the USA pretended it was the ally of the national democratic independence movement. Using this ploy it stepped in when Britain was kicked out. History is being repeated. Today, the USSR is using the same ploy. The historical lesson must be learnt.

HUA'S TOUR EXPOSES SOVIET AGGRESSION

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vigorously improving their cultural life and expanding the economy, raising their living standards in an all-round way. The Iranian people suffer under the fascist Shah, and from US imperialism. They are heroically fighting for national democracy and independence. Despite these fundamental differences all four states are threatened by the Soviet superpower. It is because class struggle is so complex, with struggle going on at many different levels that socialist countries keep state to state relations separate from party to party relations. Thus communists play a leading role in uniting all those that can be united against the two superpowers - the main enemies of the people of the world - whilst simultaneously in the context of building such a united front, communists lead revolutionary struggles within each country for national democracy or socialism, according to its particular conditions.

The opposition of the four countries to Soviet social imperialism and the opposition of the third world generally is a major obstacle to the Soviet Union, which is locked in a desperate struggle with the other superpower (the USA) for world hegemony. Because the Soviet Union is the up and coming superpower it has to dislodge the USA from its own position, this makes it the most aggressive and the main source of war in the world. It is because Chairman Hua's tour has so strongly exposed it as the Nazi Germany of today, that it is screaming blue murder at the four countries.

CHAIRMAN HUA GETS TUMULTUOUS WELCOME

Everywhere Chairman Hua went great crowds turned out to cheer his visit. They knew well the significance of his visit from their own experience. In Romania, people waving Chinese flags, thronged him wherever he went. In a speech on August 16th, the day after he arrived, he pointed out that despite the desire of the world's people for peace "the stark reality is that imperialism and hegemonism,

reaching out everywhere in Asia, Africa, Latin America and Europe, have kept carrying out infiltration, subversion, aggression and expansion against other countries." He supported the remarks of President Ceausescu of Romania who attacked "the growing tendency to redivide the world into spheres of influence and areas of domination", and his denunciation of "imperialism, colonialism, power politics and diktat". The Soviet imperialists showed their guilty conscience by immediately declaring that these words were an attack on the Soviet Union. China and Romania signed nine political, cultural and scientific agreements.

When Chairman Hua arrived in Yugoslavia on August 18th, nearly 400,000 people appeared to welcome him. This is an unprecedented turnout in Yugoslavia. Again Chairman Hua spoke out congratulating Yugoslavia on its work in building the non-aligned movement of third world countries which supports independence from both superpowers.

In Iran working people lined his route chanting "China, China". The Governments of China and Iran made agreements allowing the exchange of information and publications between the two countries and providing for exchanges of students and sporting links. Such exchanges will benefit the people of both countries.

The tour has been widely publicised and has been a great success. The true features of Soviet social imperialism have been further exposed to the world's people, and the opposition to expansion has been strengthened. On October 10th, the Chinese foreign minister, Huang Hua, will arrive in Britain on an official visit to continue the struggle to build the broadest possible united front against the hegemonism of the two superpowers. That visit too is to be strongly welcomed.

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

SOVIET UNION USES VIETNAM TO ATTACK KAMPUCHEA

Since their liberation from US imperialism in 1975, there have been continuous armed clashes between Democratic Kampuchea (Cambodia) and Vietnam. Under the guise of a "border dispute", the Vietnamese authorities have launched large scale invasions into Kampuchea. Infantry backed by artillery and bombing have repeatedly violated Kampuchean territory, harrasing people, looting rice paddy, destroying rubber plantations and burning forests. In addition Vietnam has tried to revise the sea border and occupied Kampuchea's Koh Wai Island. 1978 has seen a further escalation of violence. In June, 70,000 Vietnamese troops attempted to annex Kampuchea's rich eastern provinces before being beaten back.

VIETNAM TEARS UP BORDER AGREEMENTS

The present Vietnam-Kampuchea border - the Brevie Line - was drawn up by the French colonialists, who dominated the area before the USA. This border stole large amounts of Kampuchean land and incorporated it into Vietnam. For many years, Kampuchea held out for its "historic rights" but in order to live in peace with his neighbours, Sihanouk, - then head of state - dropped the claim, accepting the Brevie Line. In 1967, after negotiations with Kampuchea, the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) and the South Vietnam National Liberation Front (NLF) agreed to recognise the border. On June 6th, 1967, the NLF said, "the Central Committee of the National Liberation Front for South Vietnam decided to answer positively the appeal of the Royal Government of May 9th, 1967, for the recognition of Cambodia within its present borders". On June 8th, the DRV declared that "it recognises and will respect the territorial integrity of Cambodia within its present borders".

Now Vietnam has torn up the 1967 agreements, claiming the border was "only for administrative and policing duties, but not at all mentioning territorial integrity over the islands". They want even more Kampuchean land.

VIETNAM ATTEMPTING TO ANNEX KAMPUCHEA

Vietnam's aim is to dominate Kampuchea and Laos through an "Indochina Federation". Ieng Sary, Kampuchean Foreign Minister, explained Vietnam's intentions in a 1975 interview: "Claiming to have many experts and technicians, it wanted to send them to our country. It also wanted that our countries should have common foreign and economic policies; the administration of Kampuchea would remain 'autonomous' but in reality under the control of Hanoi. Vietnam has inculcated in its cadres these ideas since 1930. The Vietnamese



The Revolutionary Army of Kampuchea will defend their country's independence from all aggressors.

thought that Kampuchea could not liberate itself and held our people in great contempt...They asked us to cooperate with them in foreign affairs. We told them we want to preserve our independence".

The aim of an "Indochina Federation" is strongly promoted by Soviet social imperialism. The Soviet Union sees such a federation as a way of dominating the whole of South East Asia and encircling China. As the Kampuchean Government pointed out on September 5th, "The Soviet Union is making use of Vietnam as its mercenaries, just as it is making use of the Cubans to play the same role in Africa, to realise its ambition of expanding in South East Asia, taking Kampuchea as a spring board". The Soviet social imperialists themselves describe the Vietnamese authorities as a "reliable outpost", and Hoang Tung (a Vietnamese Party leader) said in a recent interview: "there is a tangibly strong Soviet interest coinciding with Vietnamese interests".

The attempts by the Soviet social imperialists to dominate Kampuchea through an "Indochina Federation" headed by the Vietnamese authorities are not only apparent through the armed aggression on Kampuchea's borders. In the same interview as above Hoang Tung admitted that Vietnam was promoting attempted coups in Kampuchea to overthrow the socialist Government; but the people of Kampuchea have crushed every attempt at counter-revolution.

SOVIET SUPPORT FOR COUNTER-REVOLUTION IN KAMPUCHEA IS NOTHING NEW

The Soviet social imperialists have always opposed the Kampuchean revolution. They supported Lon Nol, the military dictator installed by the USA during the liberation war, even going so far as to insure US arms shipments. At the same time they tried to split the National United Front of Kampuchea, which was fighting an armed anti-imperialist struggle, by sponsoring a "third force" which aimed at a compromise with Lon Nol. Sihanouk denounced these "frenzied manoeuvres" of the Soviet Union saying: "the Khmer Rouge (the Kampuchean Communists) are too patriotic to play the game of the two superpowers." Now since the victories of Kampuchea and Vietnam against the United States imperialists, the Soviet Union has turned its attention to using the Vietnamese authorities to attack Kampuchea.



Most major clashes have been in the Parrot's Beak region and the adjacent provinces of Svay Rieng, Takeo, and Kampot - rich agricultural regions fed by the Mekong. Koh Wai Island is well within Kampuchean territorial waters and is oil rich.