

CLASS STRUGGLE

POLITICAL PAPER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF BRITAIN

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ANTI- TRADE UNION LAWS MAKE THE LEADERS FIGHT!

Workers' rights won through hard struggle and embodied in law since the 1906 Trade Disputes Act are under attack again. The Tories have wasted no time in announcing their so-called "trade union reforms" which they aim to be law next Autumn. By then the Government wants the new laws working for the bosses, giving new powers to the police and state to attack picket lines, impose balloting and aid scab labour. As price inflation spirals towards 20% and more, the Government is banning the working class using its most effective weapons to resist.

PICKETING OUTLAWED

As if butter wouldn't melt in their mouths, the Tories in their statement pose as the champions of individual freedom. They, with the double-talk and hypocrisy of bourgeois (capitalist) politicians, claim to be defending a "citizen's right to work and go about his or her lawful business free from intimidation." But which citizens are they talking about being allowed to go about their "lawful business"? Are they talking about the 200,000 individual miners who praised and enthusiastically supported the mass picketing at Saltley Gate in 1974? A confrontation

Cont'd on p2



LIVERPOOL: OVER 1,000 DEMONSTRATE AGAINST RACIST OPPRESSION

About 1000 people were taking banners down and collecting up placards around the podium at the Pier Head in Liverpool, when a passing boat blew its siren in solidarity. The crowd cheered and clapped at this act of workers' unity at the end of a successful demonstration against racism. The demonstration was well supported. Besides banners of the Merseyside Anti-Racist Alliance, the Liverpool Black Organisation, (LBO) and the Anti-Nazi League, there were many banners from trade union branches. The National Front was the main target of anti-racist and anti-fascist slogans shouted at the beginning. But gradually other slogans were picked up - particularly slogans against immigration controls. A contingent of black youth of the LBO coined the pointed slogan - "Smashing arms and breaking heads - they're only doing their job."

Throughout the demonstration, a contingent of the RCLB raised slogans hitting state racism and exposing Labour racism.

SELF-DEFENCE IS NO OFFENCE - FREE THE VIRK BROTHERS
SMASH STATE RACISM - STOP POLICE HARRASSMENT
SMASH STATE RACISM - ABOLISH 'SUS' LAW
SMASH STATE RACISM - DISBAND THE SPECIAL PATROL GROUP
IMMIGRATION CONTROLS ARE RACIST CONTROLS
END IMMIGRATION CONTROLS

RACISM EXPOSED

Roy Brown of the Liverpool Black Organisation pointed at four areas in the fight against discrimination. The National Front have never marched through Liverpool, he said, but now they are becoming more visible on Liverpool streets. Police harrassment must be exposed and brought to people's notice. On Education, he said that the Liverpool

Cont'd on p5

MAKE THE LEADERS FIGHT!

Cont'd from p1

which was necessary to secure the miners' victory. Are they talking about the tens of thousands of "individuals" who gathered at Grunwicks? No! They are talking about the "individual freedom" of the NCB state bosses to use scab labour to break strikes. They are talking about the "individual freedom" of Grunwick boss Ward to pay starvation wages and the "individual freedom" of workers afraid to fight him to cross the picket line. The Tory's talk of protecting "individual freedom" is nothing but humbug to attack the unity, solidarity and organisation of the working class.

The Tory's new law builds on the restrictions the police are empowered to enforce on the number of pickets. Labour legislation gave the state these powers aimed at mass picketing. Now the Tories want to outlaw solidarity picketing and restrict pickets to those in dispute. They are, however, magnanimous in not making solidarity picketing a criminal offence

SECONDARY PICKETING PARTICULARLY ATTACKED

Following the success of the lorry drivers last winter in bringing the bosses to heel, the Government has rushed to clamp down on their effective means of struggle. It was necessary in order for the drivers to win victory, to picket not just their depots where their vehicles were parked, but goods depots too. The Tories have made a great deal along with their Labour predecessors, of disputes between unions and workers which arose at that time. With typical hypocrisy this is used to justify legislation banning secondary picketing now. But we cannot allow ourselves to be confused by this. If there are disputes or contradictions between different sections of workers, it is up to the workers involved to settle it. The bosses' Government cannot be allowed, by setting itself up as a supreme judge, to use the fact that there are contradictions among workers to take away democratic rights.

IMPOSED BALLOTING

As if proposing the most reasonable thing imaginable, the Tories are proposing that a new state supremo

NO STATE INTERFERENCE IN CLOSED SHOP

The bourgeois state can have no right to interfere in the organisations and the procedure of working class democracy. This is a matter of principle for the working class whether it comes in the form of the Tories appointing a "Certification Officer" to watch over the unions or the Labour/TUC concordat. It is not in our interests to have the state setting up closed shops for us. But the Tories opposition to and interference in closed-shop agreements is out-of-order and should be opposed by all workers. On the face of it, it seems very democratic to uphold workers rights not to be a member of a trade union. But you can bet your bottom dollar that if the Tories are upholding this "right" it is because it serves their interests to do so.

CLOSED SHOP CAN SERVE BOSSES TOO

Of all the Tory proposals for curbing trade unions' rights and legalising union bashing, their proposals against the closed shop have sparked off most fury from the TUC big-wigs. They have been silent on the attacks on picketing. But in defence of the closed shop they have shown great energy. And what are their arguments? They are that the bosses benefit from closed shops too. In fact this is re-

with the title of "Certification Officer" should vet the procedure of

- 1) electing full-time officials
- 2) matters involving changes in union rules
- 3) calling or ending of strikes

These are the categories which the Tories have said should be decided by secret ballot. With the arrogance of an overlord, the Government statement says

"The union would be required to submit copies of ballot papers, paid up accounts and other information the certification officer might require to satisfy himself that the relevant expenditure was reasonably incurred and that the secrecy of the ballot was properly secured."

The working class is not opposed to secret ballots where workers decide that it is necessary. The miners hold pit-head ballots. But it is up to the workers to decide when and if to hold a secret ballot. The argument that mass meetings and hand votes intimidate people is a bosses' argument for preventing quick strike action. Of course workers try to influence their work mates. There is nothing wrong in this.

The Tories particularly want to impose postal ballots. They want workers to be as isolated as possible when making decisions so as to increase the power of the bourgeois press and media in swaying votes. Postal ballots in union procedure give more power to those who don't take part in branch meetings, people who, therefore, have less right to make a decision because they cannot know the issues involved.

TUC STILL PREPARED TO TALK

The TUC chiefs have spouted a lot of hot air so far against the Tories. But they continue to promote illusions that there is a peaceful way round the attacks on trade union rights. Murray and Co are still prepared to go into "consultations" with the Government. This in itself is an indication of a readiness to compromise. Class conscious workers can have no illusions that the struggle against the Tories revamped Industrial Relations Act will also be a struggle to make the trade unions fight. ■

cognised by the Tories. What is it about closed shops that benefits the bosses? the power of opportunist misleadership in the unions coming from the Labour Party and revisionist "Communist" Party of Great Britain means that they can be relied on to police the work-force, sell-out strikes and even exclude genuine working class fighters. Trade union blacklisting in the hands of such traitors to the working class is not directed against keeping out scabs. It is directed against working class militants. This aspect of the closed shop in the hands of the opportunists must be ruthlessly exposed.

The misleadership of the opportunists and the closed shop are often confused in workers' minds. Opportunist treachery leads to anti-trade union sentiments among many workers. Thatcher and Co. are trying to use this to weaken trade union organisation. But opposition to the opportunist misleaders must not become a revolt against trade union organisation including the closed shop. The opportunists must be fought and exposed in the struggle to turn the trade unions into fighting class organisations. In this working fighters uphold the maximum unity of the working class as its greatest strength. ■

LETTER: Spot the difference

Now that the Tory Government is sitting comfortably in Westminster, the trade union leaders and TUC are whipping up the frenzied chorus that the "bed of roses" layed down by the Labour Party is going to be torn up by the Tories.

All the pundits are forecasting alarm and despondency, higher unemployment, high inflation and higher everything. The working class are taking the brunt of all these things. But stop, and look back, they are not just the result of a Tory Government in power. Look to just a few months ago, when the Labour Party were in power. What was unemployment like then? Approximately 1½ million were out of work according to official figures. Inflation? Callaghan claimed an inflation rate of about 11% But the prices of food and necessities were going up by more like by 15% whilst wages rose between only twelfth and fifth. Hardly a bed of roses! Yet Len Murray, Moss Evans and other opportunists like the "Communist" Party of Great Britain are trying their best to make us believe it was.

The truth is that both for the trade union misleaders and the ruling class Labour in power makes things easier for them. Trade union officials can justify not leading the workers economic struggle by claiming it threatens Labour's chances. The bosses have less to do to keep the economic struggle in check because the trade unions are doing the job for them. Why is it only right to fight for higher wages when the Tories are in power? Whether it be Labour, Tory or Liberal the fact remains that the average man in the street is no better off. Its no answer for us simply to keep changing between Labour, and Tory. The crux of the problem is the political system they serve - capitalism.

Capitalism only works for a minority and their riches come from exploiting the majority of us - the working class and oppressed people. We will only get what we deserve when we realise that it must be taken rather than wait for it to be given.

D, Liverpool

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A WORKER'S NOTEBOOK

■BRITAIN WAS BRANDED A "BARBARIC SOCIETY" IN A report by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. The report lumped together that many children are being battered by their parents with horrific cases of children who have been sadistically flogged, branded, scalded in hot water and even murdered by battering. Leaving aside the inexcusable sadism of some of the cases - Is baby battering as the report implies, endemic in Britain only? Statistics prove that maltreatment of children is inseparably linked with deprivation and economic oppression. Baby battering is prevalent in all of the so-called "civilised" Western European nations where often overworked and overtired working class mothers and fathers are forced to bring up children on low wages and in oppressive conditions. Maltreatment of children is an endemic feature of declining capitalism and cannot be put down to some peculiarly sadistic trait of the British working class.

■AN ENQUIRY INTO THE EVENTS AT SOUTHALL PUT together by the Commission for Racial Equality has been leaked to the press. In it the police, especially the SPG, are accused of using "very considerable violence" towards those demonstrating against the National Front on the day that Blair Peach was murdered. It also accuses the police of "gross and inexcusable outbursts" and catalogues injuries sustained by demonstrators. Apart from the death of Blair Peach, a young Asian boy had to have his testicles removed and a young West Indian youth was in hospital for 10 days with a blood clot after being struck by a truncheon.

■A FACTORY WHOSE BOSS WAS AWARDED THE MBE FOR services to exports is to close following a "slave wages" strike by 21 of its workers. The strikers are fighting not only for union recognition but also to save the jobs of 42 of their fellow workers. The sacked workers of Selected Toys of Didcot said they earn between 35p and 40p an hour and in a "good week" take home £22. Others earn as little £10 a week. The factory boss, Bernard Young, claimed that he did not know how much his staff earned but that he was sure the wages were "perfectly adequate". Commenting on the strike Mr Young said, "I don't need this kind of trouble at my age and I have enough to live on comfortably." Yes and we know how he got comfortable.

■THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE 'COMMUNIST' PARTY OF GREAT Britain ('C'PGB) has fallen to 20,599 from 25,293 in July 1977. They give the reason for this that they have not "convinced" enough people by their actions as well as words. This meant that if they shout their rotten policies louder, people will start joining them. They are deluding themselves and the longer they keep on doing so, the weaker they will become. The 'C'PGB is a mouthpiece for the lies of Soviet social imperialism abroad and an apologist for the Labour Party's treacherous misleadership of the working class in Britain. It is this which loses them support. The weaker they get the better.

■THE LEADERS OF THE NATIONAL FRONT HAVE FALLEN out again. What is the issue this time? The same as before - who is to be Fuhrer. Deputy Fuhrer Andrew Fontaine suspended budding Fuhrer Martin Webster for closing a tea stall. But the dispute turned out to be not between these two. When the Fuhrer himself, John Tyndall, arrived on the scene he re-instated Webster and a row flared up between himself and Fontaine. There may well be real differences between them about how to win mass backing for National Front fascism. But like the anti-working class gangsters they are, thieves have a habit of falling out.



PROLETARIAN DEMOCRACY AND BOURG

This article is the third and final in the

The bourgeoisie (capitalist class) came to power in the struggle to overthrow feudalism waving the banner of freedom of the individual and freedom of conscience. This expressed the demands of the rising bourgeoisie who wanted to develop capitalism free from feudal and religious restriction. They wanted the masses to be released from the land and free to sell their labour power to the capitalists for wages. This is freedom compared with the bondage of feudalism. But for the masses it remains only the freedom to sell their labour power to the highest bidder. The capitalist system and its wealth for a tiny minority of bankers, factory owners etc is based on the exploitation of wage labour. So, when the bourgeoisie talks of freedom, they mean freedom for the capitalists to exploit and freedom for the working class to be exploited. The bourgeois Parliament under conditions of universal suffrage grants the shoddy right to the proletariat to elect an assembly once every four or five years. But the power of the capitalist class with the great wealth it owns and controls ensures that the Parliament consists wholly or mainly of bourgeois parties. Thus making it an arena for struggle between different sections of the bourgeoisie. If ever parliament ceases to serve the interests of the ruling class or becomes a challenge to that power, the bourgeoisie will use its authority vested in the state, police army, civil service etc to disperse the parliament. Bourgeois democracy supposedly based on individual freedom is a system of democracy for the capitalist class and dictatorship for the proletariat.

WHAT IS THE DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT?

The bourgeoisie came to power behind the banner of freedom in general. Such freedom in general is impossible in class society. There can only be class freedom for the ruling class and dictatorship for the oppressed masses. The bourgeoisie disguise their dictatorship behind parliamentary democracy.

The proletariat, however, in its class struggle against the bourgeoisie openly declares its inten-



China's National People's Congress - the highest political body, whose delegates are all accountable to the people who are 21% peasants, 14% PLA members, 13% revolutionary cadres, 1% returned overseas Chinese. All of China's national minorities

tion to establish a system that will deprive the bourgeoisie of its freedom to exploit; a system that will give maximum freedom to the proletariat to abolish exploitation and remould society to serve the people; a system that will enforce dictatorship over the overthrown capitalist class and new bourgeois elements who seek to appropriate socialist public property for themselves, whilst establishing for the first time real democracy for the masses which will unleash their initiative. To the capitalist class this is horrifying and, still proclaiming capitalism as the only free system, they attack working class power as dictatorship of one party ie the Communist Party. Why is it that a revolutionary Communist Party is the leading party in the socialist state. It is because this party using Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought has won the support of the masses during the years of struggle against oppression and reaction. It is because such a party is the party of the proletariat. If the party

Chambermaids lose through lack of support

30 chambermaids recently ended their picket of the Grosvenor House Hotel in London's Park Lane after 5 weeks. They were protesting at being sacked and kicked out of their living quarters for daring to support their shop steward against calculated and blatant victimisation by Trust Houses Forte - the largest hotel chain in the world.

Originally, they had been members of the General and Municipal Workers' Union (GMWU), but found the officials so unhelpful and unsympathetic that they left and joined the FTAT (Furniture, Timber and Allied Trades Union). After squeezing a few improvements out of their bosses the victimisation started. Finally their steward, Ellen Gallagher, was sacked, along with the 29 who supported her. Like many full-time Union Officers, who value a quiet life more than their members' interests, FTAT officials had the brass neck to try and stop their picket! Despite this, and the lack of support from most other unions they fought on.

BUILDING WORKERS HELP NOT ENOUGH

One bright spot was the support they got from members of UCATT, the builders' union, who refused to build the stand for a massive antiques fair in the Great Room. The effects of this fine solidarity were countered by violent scab labour and the police who refused to lift a finger to safeguard the pickets, telling them to move on as they "couldn't guarantee their safety". A sharp contrast to the protection given to National Front marches!

They encountered other serious problems, like the reliance of many workers on living accommodation provided by the hotel, and in the case of migrant workers the ease with which they can get booted out of the country if they have the nerve to protest at abysmal pay and conditions.

In the end the bosses won this battle, but many valuable lessons were learned in the course of it. With bosses the size of Trust Houses Forte, who can call on the police, scab labour, racist immigration laws, and so on, to help them out, the working class must be more united, and better organised, to fight back. We need unions that support each other and their members, men like the building workers who support the struggle of women workers, black and white workers, young and old, fighting together. Then we'll start giving the bosses a hiding!

BURGEOIS DEMOCRACY

nal in the series on the nature of the state.



political body in the country - is a truly representative people who elected them. 27% of its delegates are workers, cadres, 15% intellectuals, 9% patriotic people and 1% minorities are represented at the Congress.

should turn revisionist and betray the masses and restore capitalism, as in the Soviet Union, the masses should be organised to overthrow it like in any other bourgeois state. But if the communist party remains true to its principles and serves the working class, why shouldn't it remain in its position of leadership. When the bourgeoisie oppose the predominance of the communist party in the Government and state of the dictatorship of the proletariat, they are demanding the equal participation of bourgeois parties in the state. They are demanding rights for exploiters and thus opposing the dictatorship of the proletariat and the construction of socialism.

REVISIONISTS OPPOSE THE DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT.

The position adopted towards the dictatorship of the proletariat represents a fundamental dividing

line between Marxism and revisionism. The open representatives of the bourgeoisie attack the dictatorship of the proletariat as suppressing individual freedom and human rights. This is an expression of their class demand to rise above the masses and hold a privileged position. The revisionist (capitalist dressed as Marxist) distortions and opposition to the dictatorship of the proletariat is far more subtle. When Khrushchev came to power in the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and made an all-out attack on the principles of Marxism-Leninism on the pretext of opposing the "Stalin cult", he opposed the dictatorship of the proletariat on the grounds that classes no longer exist in the Soviet Union. He said that the Soviet state is now a state of the whole people. This is nonsense; when classes no longer exist, the state as an organ of class rule will no longer exist. Yet, an internal apparatus of repression still exists in the Soviet Union, Who is it repressing? The masses. In denying the existence of classes and therefore class struggle in the Soviet Union, Khrushchev was protecting the handful of bourgeois elements who had seized control in the Party and were embarking on a programme of restoring capitalism, principally in the form of state monopoly capitalism. Their "state of the whole people" was nothing but a variant of the western bourgeoisie describing the bourgeois state as representing the "national interest".

"...And now as to myself, no credit is due to me for discovering the existence of classes in modern society, nor yet the struggle between them...What I did that was new was to prove

- 1) that the existence of classes is only bound up with particular historical phases in the development of production*
- 2) that the class struggle necessarily leads to the dictatorship of the proletariat*
- 3) that this dictatorship itself only constitutes the transition to the abolition of all classes and to a classless society..."*

Marx

LIVERPOOL ANTI-RACIST DEMO Cont'd from p1

Education Authority discriminates against young blacks. Every worker on Merseyside is discriminated against when it comes to getting a job (unemployment is approximately 12%) but unemployment among black youth is over 50%.

Eric Lynch, vice-chairman of the Merseyside Anti-Racist Alliance spoke of the oppression, degradation and discrimination of several generations of black people in Liverpool. The only way for a black man to work before the war was as a low-paid seaman or showman. During the war every black family in Liverpool lost a seaman. Those that returned came home to the same virtual colour bar in council housing that existed before.

An active trade unionist, Ernie Higgins, said that there is evidence of the City Corporation practising discrimination against employing black workers. He thought that his generation had not fought hard enough for the youth and congratulated the number of black youth on the demonstration. All these speeches were enthusiastically clapped and cheered.

LABOUR SPEAKERS HECKLED

The chairman of the Liverpool District Labour Party was last to speak. He talked about Nazi Germany and its role in the Second World War. He lumped German fascist leaders and the German workers (many of whom died in concentration camps) as "Germans" and

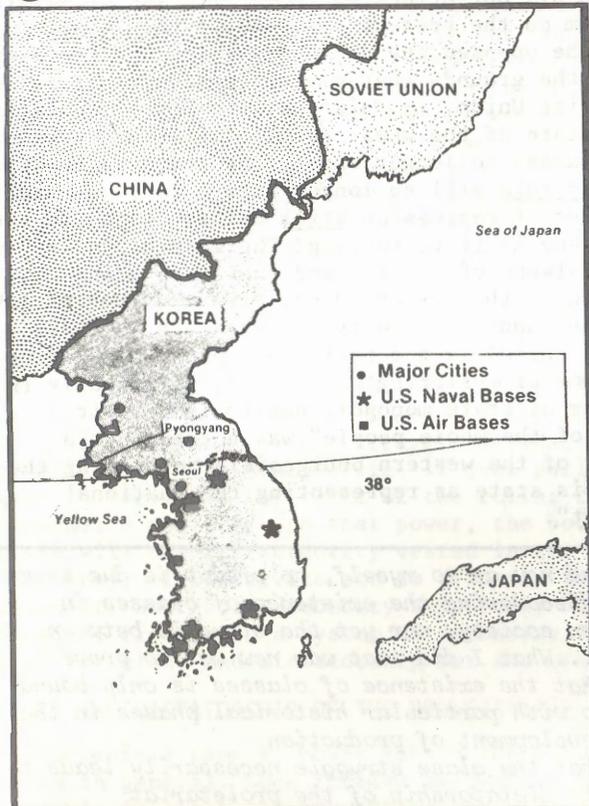
"Nazis". This started widespread objection from the audience. Hecklers shouted him down pointing to Labour's record of racism and police harrassment. Hecklers exposed Labour on immigration controls and the use of virginity tests against Asian women right throughout his speech.

Barry Williams, member of the 'Communist' Party of Great Britain and leader of Liverpool Trades Council tried to isolate the hecklers with a phoney vote for a "united platform". Williams who earlier faced shouts of "what about the 'Communist' Party's line on immigration" called the hecklers "provocateurs...trying to disrupt the meeting." The response was half-hearted, however, with many people drifting away. So much for William's attempts to defend Labour.

LIVERPOOL TRADES COUNCIL DEMANDS

- END IMMIGRATION LAWS
- END POLICE HARRASSMENT OF BLACK PEOPLE
- END ALL FORMS OF RACE DISCRIMINATION
eg in housing, schools, leisure, sport and education.
- PREVENT USE OF MEDIA TO ASSIST RACIST PROPAGANDA AND THE BROADCASTS OF FASCIST AND RACIST ORGANISATIONS.
- END RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT
- OPPOSE THE VIOLENCE AGAINST BLACK PEOPLE
- BY THE NATIONAL FRONT AND BRITISH MOVEMENT

DPRK BORN IN STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE



Today, US imperialism rules half of Korea, Its plunder of the south is protected by the fascist dictatorship of a gang of puppets headed by Pak Jung Hi, who were installed in power by the US itself. How did Korea come to be divided? In this article, Class Struggle details some of the key points of the heroic struggle of the people of Korea for national independence.

Since just after the turn of the century until 1945, Korea was under the colonial domination of Japanese imperialism. During this period, there were many popular uprisings throughout Korea. In the 1930s there were two vital developments that laid the basis for the success of the national liberation struggle against the Japanese colonialists. In 1932, Comrade Kim Il Sung proclaimed the birth of the Korean People's Revolutionary Army. Kim Il Sung called for the unity of the broad masses of the Korean people and the launching of a people's revolutionary war. In 1936, the Anti-Japanese United Front for the Restoration of the Fatherland was established. It was based on a worker-peasant alliance, and included intellectuals, handicraftsmen and national capitalists. This alliance of forces opposed to Japanese imperialism was essential for victory.

In 1945, 13 years after the revolutionary national liberation war was launched, the Japanese were defeated.

US MOVES IN

With the defeat of the Japanese by the Korean people and their allies, particularly the Communist Party of China and the then socialist Soviet Union, the Korean people started to rebuild their shattered economy. But as they started to pick up the pieces US imperialism moved in. The US claim that they were responsible for the defeat of Japan in Korea. But it was only on September 8th, 1945, 30 days after Korean liberation that two divisions of the US 24th

STATEMENT OF KOREAN PATRIOTIC ORGANISATIONS

Class struggle prints below extracts from a joint statement made by a number of Korean organisations at the time of the anniversary of the defeat of US imperialism's attempt to crush the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The month between June 25th and July 27th is promoted as the "Month of the anti-US joint struggle for the withdrawal of US troops from south Korea." This is a month of world-wide solidarity with the struggle of the Korean people.

"American President Carter said in his election "pledge" that he would withdraw the US troops from south Korea.

"The world people welcomed it as a good thing.

"The United States, however, has further increased its military assistance to south Korea behind the screen of deceptive clamour for "troop pullout" instead of withdrawing its troops from south Korea.

"In recent few years alone, the United States has introduced into south Korea a great number of lethal weapons and operational equipment including nuclear weapons and guided missiles and continued to conduct frequently clamorous war exercises simulating the attack on the northern half of the Republic.

"The United States conducted the largest-scale "south Korea-US joint operational exercise" unprecedented since the cease-fire last March, when the dialogue between the north and south were

resumed and our side proposed to stop all military actions threatening the other side...The US authorities consistently egg the south Korean rulers onto war and national division and actively patronise and encourage their fascist terror rule.

"Carter is intending to personally visit south Korea after few days to cover up the manoeuvres of of the south Korean authorities who are most cruelly violating the human rights and trying to perpetuate the country's division, building even reinforced concrete wall along the whole areas of the military demarcation line and to accelerate war preparations.

"All facts show that the United States follows continually not the road of peace but the road of war and plots not reunification but permanent division in Korea...The United States and the south Korean authorities are going to justify their scheme to have the US troops stationed in south Korea and fix the division of Korea on the unreasonable plea that it aims at preventing what it calls "the threat of southward invasion."

"However, as is widely known to the world the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea already clarified a number of occasions that it has no intention to "invade south".

"It is entirely thanks to the invariable peace-loving policy of the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea that peace has been even maintained in Korea since the ceasefire up to now.

army - 45,000 soldiers - landed in Korea. General MacArthur immediately issued the following arrogant proclamation:

"I hereby establish military control over Korea south of 38° latitude...persons will obey my orders, and orders issued under my authority. English will be the official language."

"Korean People! The happiness of Korea...can only be achieved by the heroic efforts that you the Korean people will exert. Now everything is up to you. Koreans must make themselves the creators of their own happiness."

From a declaration by the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, led by Comrade Stalin, on the defeat of Japanese colonialism in Korea.

What a contrast with the US imperialists. And, of course, what a contrast with the Soviet social imperialists of today!

The US imperialists installed a puppet dictator, Syngman Rhee, in southern Korea. The property of Japanese colonialists in the south, accounting for over 80% of total assets, were handed over to their puppet. In turn, he signed a guarantee of "free investment" for foreign capital. Large numbers of Korean patriots who had fought Japanese imperialism were arrested, imprisoned and murdered. All patriotic and revolutionary organisations were banned, and the progressive press closed down. Key land was placed under the control of American businessmen who moved in in large numbers. Military blockades were set up along the 38th parallel, forcibly splitting up families and villages. Korea was being partitioned.

Simultaneously, the US prepared to invade the north. Paulen, a key US presidential advisor recommended the immediate occupation of northern Korea and the eventual takeover of Manchuria and China.

"The so-called "threat of southward invasion" clamoured by the United States and the south Korean authorities is nothing but a shield to cover their dirty intention to step up war preparations and to perpetuate the division of Korea... Korea must be reunified into one.

"The national reunification is a burning desire of the entire Korean people and the greatest national task the solution of which brooks no delay...The question of Korea's reunification must be settled independently by the Korean people themselves without any outside interference on a democratic principle and by peaceful means.

"For the attainment of peace in Korea and realisation of peaceful reunification of our country, first of all, all the foreign troops in south Korea must get out of it and foreign interference in internal affairs of Korea must be put an end.

"The United States must give up its dangerous reinforcement of armed forces in south Korea and completely withdraw all its troops from south Korea at the earliest date in accordance with the UN resolution and its "pledge"...The Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea has already proposed to hold a negotiation with the United States and expressed its readiness to settle all necessary issues with the United States at any time when it has correct attitude towards the materialisation of Korea's reunification.

"It depends of whether the United States sincerely wants a negotiation with us or not, and, whether she wants it for one Korea or for two

DPRK FOUNDED

While the US was occupying the south, the Korean people in the north were getting on with rebuilding their country. The Workers Party of Korea (WPK) was founded by the unification of two revolutionary organisations in 1946, under the leadership of Kim Il Sung. In September 1948, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) was founded. Revolutionary measures included the nationalisation of factories, mines, railways and banks owned by the imperialists, which were placed under the control of the working masses. Land reform ended feudal exploitation and agriculture developed at an unprecedented rate. Men and women were made equal under the law.

US TRIES TO SMASH DPRK

The successes of reconstruction in the north worried the US imperialists who feared that the people in the south would follow the example and rise up. The US also still aimed to expand their colonial rule. US military bases were built throughout the south. In 1949, forcible conscription was introduced in the south to build up the puppet army. On June 25th, 1950, the US invaded all along the 38th parallel. As planned, the United Nations, which was then under US control, passed a resolution calling for United Nations intervention. This gave the US troops (who became UN troops) the cover that was wanted.

But the US dreams were shattered. Within a week, the Korean People's Army counter-attacked. Its advance was aided by a popular movement in the south. 90% of the territory in the south, including the US headquarters in Seoul was liberated.

US CALLS IN EXTRA IMPERIALIST HELP

On the verge of total defeat, the US, using the cover of the United Nations built a force of two millions of troops from 15 countries - including Britain - which were closely allied with the US

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Koreas, if she accepts it.

"...When the US Army is withdrawn from south Korea and the interference of the United States in our internal affairs is eliminated, the people in the north and south Korea will find by themselves a way to reunify the country on the basis of the North-South Joint Statement and attain the prosperity of the fatherland.

"We have already set forth a large number of most reasonable proposals to solve the question of national reunification independently and peacefully through a dialogue...

"The Korean people will certainly achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of the country with the active support and encouragement of the peaceloving peoples the world over".

The statement was signed by, among others,

The Workers' Party of Korea
The Korean Democratic Party
The Chondoist Chongu Party
(a religious organisation)

The Central Committee of the Democratic

Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland
The Committee for the

Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland.

The General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea

The Korean Christians Federation

The Korean Buddhists Federation

The Korean Students Committee

The Korean Committee for Solidarity with the
World People.

Pyeongyang, June 24, 1979

imperialists. A vast airforce and naval fleet was put together, and the DPRK was reinvaded.

US General Lemay bragged that the US would "bomb Korea into the stone age." Every town and city in the DPRK was bombed and shelled. In just one day, more than 400 aircraft dropped 6,000 bombs on the capital Pyongyang. By the end of the war, there was not a single house or road left intact in the city.

But even the vast superiority of the imperialists in military hardware could not win the war. In just three years, the US and its allies suffered a total loss of troops and equipment which was more than double the amount they lost in four years of fighting the Japanese in the Pacific. The imperialists forces lost over 1,567,000 men including 405,000 from the USA. 12,000 aircraft were shot down.

US AGGRESSION OPPOSED BY MANY AMERICANS

In America there were massive protests. In Korea, thousands of Americans deserted and surrendered to the liberation forces. Rather than admit that this was because the people opposed such blatant colonial occupation of another country, the imperialists invented fantastic stories of the Korean's mystical powers to brainwash people. Even today, we still get films trying to promote such ridiculous lies shown on TV from time to time.

CHINESE PEOPLE SUPPORT KOREA

In their valiant struggle for independence the Korean people were also aided by the "Chinese People's Volunteers", who entered the war after US planes crossed the Yalu river and started bombing China.

US HUMILIATED AFTER THREE YEARS FIGHTING

After three years of bloody struggle, the US invasion was defeated. Its attempt to strangle the newborn DPRK was a humiliating failure. American reporters described how on July 27th 1953, the senior US delegate wiped the sweat from his face and with trembling hands signed the armistice. The Commander-in-Chief of the US forces later said: "I gained the unenviable distinction of being the first US Army Commander in history to sign an armistice without victory."

A US Secretary of State, Marshall, confessed later, "the myth has blown away. We were not so strong a country as others had considered."

Comrade Kim Il Sung summed it up, pointing out that the Korean people's victory "humbled the pride of US imperialism and shattered the myth of its 'might' and brought about the beginning of its downhill turn." The victory, he said, "proved that the decisive factor in war lies not in the superiority of weapons or techniques, but in the strength of the masses of people who are deeply convinced of the justness of their cause and firmly unite as one."

STRUGGLE GOES ON

July 27th, this year is the 26th Anniversary of the defeat of US aggression against the DPRK. The US imperialists still occupy the south and they still have a puppet, Pak Jung Hi, running a fascist dictatorship. But the people of the south are still struggling, and are advancing their unity. Despite the continued brutal murder, torture and imprisonment of patriots and democrats who speak out, the struggle against US imperialism goes on. The international situation has changed too. Today, the US could not use the United Nations in the same way. On the contrary, most countries in the world support the demands of the DPRK for the withdrawal of US imperialist forces, and for the "reunification of the country, independently without any foreign interference, and peacefully on democratic principles. ■

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INTERNATIONAL NOTES



NICARAGUA: The Somoza Government has fallen! After a final seven week offensive, guerrillas of the Sandinista Liberation Front entered Managua, the capital, and after fierce fighting Somoza fled the country and political power fell into the hands of the rebels. A Government of National Reconstruction has been set up, finally ending the despotic year rule of the US puppet Somoza family. It consists a broad popular alliance of all those forces who opposed Somoza - workers, peasants, intellectuals, clergy and capitalists.

The new Government faces great difficulties in resurrecting its war torn economy, but has been offered development aid by a number of countries.

The United States imperialists have been totally unable to influence events in Nicaragua, and all interference by the US has been roundly condemned by the popular forces. America's final humiliation came when tiny Costa Rica ordered US Air Force planes, sent to evacuate American personnel and members of Somoza's family, to leave the country.

KAMPUCHEA: On June 20th in Chamkar Loeu, 12 members of the "Self-Defence Forces" - set up by Vietnam - and 21 Kampuchean villagers crossed into the liberated zones under the control of the Government of Democratic Kampuchea after killing 13 Vietnamese troops responsible for the rape of a Kampuchean woman.

The following day in an occupied part of Battambang province, local inhabitants killed ten Vietnamese troops, set free three condemned members of a "Rural Committee" and escaped to the liberated areas. They reported that the Vietnamese no longer trusted the people in the local organs that they had set up and were now disarming them.

RHODESIA: Troops of the new puppet "Zimbabwe-Rhodesia" Government recently killed 183 members of their own black militia. The militia was said to be loyal to Sithole. Simultaneously, arrests were made of members of Sithole's political organisation.

These events reflect the growing strife between the various factions who make up the new Government of so-called "National Unity".

JAPAN: "Since the Soviet Union and Japan are in the grip of an energy crisis, the two countries should all the more strengthen their economic ties and on this basis conclude a treaty of good-neighbourliness and cooperation" the Soviet Ambassador told the Japanese Industrial Club recently. However, he said, "The Soviet Union cannot accept Japan's unfounded claim, the post-war boundary cannot be altered."

The Soviet social imperialists are cunning but transparent in their motives. For years they have tried to get Japan to forget that their northern islands are occupied by the Soviet Union. Now they are trying to utilise the present energy crisis to woo Japan towards the Soviet Union by dangling a carrot of "economic cooperation".

The Japanese know that the Soviet Union is rich in oil and natural gas reserves, but is also aware of the way in which the Soviet Union uses oil as a weapon in Eastern Europe to keep these colonies in line and doing the social imperialist's bidding.

Please send contributions to *Class Struggle* about the struggles going on in your factory, place of work or locality. This helps to strengthen the paper and make it topical. c/o Editor, New Era Books, 203 Seven Sisters Rd, London N4.