

# CLASS STRUGGLE

POLITICAL PAPER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF BRITAIN

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## CONFEDERATION STRIKE DEMAND MILITANCY AND DEMOCRACY

The Confederation misleaders have got a hell of a lot to answer for. They are sabotaging the national strike through their high-handed anti-democratic methods. And when the workers start to kick up about this and demand a say in their own affairs, all these misleaders can do is threaten them with disciplinary action.

National industrial action is now in its fourth week and in many places there still hasn't been a shopfloor meeting to discuss it. The misleaders justify this by saying that the strike call is an instruction and can't be voted on. So, there is no point in calling a meeting. This shows the contempt these misleaders feel for their membership - they see them just as voting fodder. They refuse even to fully explain to their members what the claim is all about and why action is necessary. Many shopfloor workers, for instance, do not even know that negotiations had been going on for seven months before action was called.

### UNION DEMOCRACY

The kick-back from a minority of workers that the capitalist press is making so much of has highlighted the biggest problem in the trade unions at present - lack of democracy for the membership. How should the trade unions have acted? The issue isn't really about whether there is a vote now on the strikes. The main issue is that the membership was not consulted before the claim even went in. If this had been done, support for the claim would be stronger, because it would reflect the wishes of the shopfloor and every one would understand its significance. Having done that, the trade unions should have then kept the membership regularly informed of developments in negotiations, continued education on the claim and continued to investigate the wishes of the membership. Only by doing this could the leaders make a realistic call for action that they were sure would unite the membership. This is very different from just sitting in your plush office issuing instruction and threatening your membership.

*Class Struggle* supports the Confederation claim as a just demand in the interests of the membership. Those workers who are going against the strike in protest about the lousy leadership are confusing two different questions and two different struggles.

Firstly, we have the struggle against the bosses for decent wages and conditions. This should be supported.

Secondly, we have the struggle against the trade union misleaders and their anti-democratic, anti-working class attitudes. This struggle is vital if we are to make the trade union members masters of their own unions. But we shouldn't fall into the bosses' trap by letting this fight divert us from the fight for decent wages and conditions.

Instead, we should see that it is the trade union misleaders who are holding us back from effectively fighting the bosses and that is why we have to get rid of them.

## LONDON MEETING CONDEMNS SOVIET OCCUPATION OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA

The Soviet Union, today, is like Germany under Hitler - frantically aiming to conquer the world. Its infamous invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968 marked a turning point, since when, it has engineered coups, assassinations and wars in virtually every area of the globe.

This was the message hammered out by the platform of a public meeting in London on August 21st. The meeting was organised by the London District of the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain to mark the 11th anniversary of the brutal Soviet occupation of Czechoslovakia.

### COMMUNISTS EXPOSE SOVIET EXPANSION AND SUPPORT FIGHTBACK

A speakers from the RCL lashed Soviet expansionism, attacking Soviet activities ranging from imperialist economic exploitation of third world countries to its use of Cubans, Vietnamese and East German troops as cannon fodder in aggressive wars in Africa and South East Asia.

Cont'd on p7

# DESPICABLE GROUNDS FOR DEPORTATION

On what is just the tip of a very large iceberg of oppression of national minorities in Britain, a number of cases of deportation under the immigration laws have gained national news coverage. The case of the Patel family is one. The Home Office demanded the deportation of Mrs Patel's children because it was claimed, they had not gone through full immigration procedure. Another case is that of Abdul Azad who fought for ten months against deportation following the murder of his mother. Police detained Abdul and tried to pin his mother's murder on him. Having failed to do this they forced Abdul to sign a statement saying that he was an illegal immigrant. Only after he had signed the statement did they allow Abdul to see his father and a solicitor when he filed an official complaint against the police.

But the recent case of Gias Uddin may be one of the most bizarre and certainly one, which like the Heathrow virginity tests scandal, exposes the whole disgusting and reactionary nature of the immigration laws.

## HOME OFFICE TRY TO SPLIT FAMILY

18 year old Liverpool waiter Gias Uddin, together with his mother, sister and four brothers, were accepted for entry into Britain from Bangladesh in December 1975. Gias, with the rest of his family, was joining his father who had been resident in the UK since 1963. In 1978, Gias was detained by immigration officers who claimed he was an "illegal

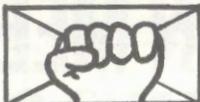
immigrant". Their grounds for stating this was the monstrous charge that Gias is not "the biological son of his father."

Gias spent nearly four weeks in the Risley Remand Centre before being released "pending further investigation." He was subject to restrictions - his passport was taken away and he was required to report regularly to the immigration authorities. In July this year he was re-detained and arrangements made for his deportation to Bangladesh. Protest and opposition to this case of blatant state racism has forced a delay in the deportation which was due to take place on August 6th. On August 7th the Thameside Trades Council passed the following resolution: "Thameside Trades Council expresses its disgust at the Home Office order of deportation against Gias Uddin under the 1971 Immigration Act. We call upon the Home Secretary to withdraw the deportation order."

"Mr Uddin's case is a further example of the denial to black people of rights fundamental under all laws eg habeus corpus and the right of appeal - by the thoroughly racist 1971 Immigration Act. We express our total opposition to this Act and call for its immediate repeal".

To date the Home Office has not backed down. So far Gias has spent over three months in detention. No evidence, even if it would be allowable in support of the Home Office's despicable charge, has been put before a court of law. He has not been charged with any offence. He has no right of appeal.

## From our postbag



The Editor - CS,  
c/o New Era Books,  
203 Seven Sisters Rd,  
London N4.

Dear Editor,

We are engineering workers in a medium-sized factory and have taken part in the strikes round the national claim. We support the stand taken in *Class Struggle* No 17 of general support for the strike while being critical of the leadership given to union members.

Shop-floor workers are in the G&M which is in the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions. The majority are semi-skilled. We were given a "directive" to take part in the strike and told the claim was for £60 for unskilled workers. This was dishonest because it implied £60 basic wage and nothing was explained about the national minimum rate and what it means. In fact, no one seems to know exactly what it means. Last year, we got no increase on our basic but a guaranteed bonus from the higher minimum rate. But overtime and shift money are worked out on the basic not the minimum rate. The unions should raise a clear-cut demand for a minimum basic around which a strong unity could be built. As it is, the majority don't know what they are on strike for.

At our factory, union officials discussed the strike with management before they raised it on the shop floor. We were told that we were directed to join the strike and management had agreed not to let anyone work. It had also been agreed that a twilight shift (evening work, mainly married women) would be laid off without consulting the workers themselves, or their steward. When we discussed picketing, we were told that the Personnel Manager would be there to turn away scabs.

As a result of this confusion and lack of democracy, support is half-hearted. Of course people recognise the need to fight for better wages and conditions in an united way. Instead of building on

this basic class consciousness, the union leaders have done their best to distort it. If the strike escalates and a vote is taken on an all-out strike, it won't be easy to get a majority. People resent being dictated to!

We should support this struggle. We all gain by being united. It also gives us the opportunity, as *Class Struggle* Vol.3 No.17 showed, to build a broader unity among different workers in the engineering industry. Some people seem set on sabotaging this unity from the beginning!

2 Engineering workers - Leeds.

Dear Editor,

The article in the last issue on the one-day engineering strikes was certainly true in the case of my factory. The fact that we've had a 100% turnout so far is a tribute to the workers' basic class consciousness rather than any good union leadership. In fact, many of us still aren't sure what we're fighting for!

The first Monday came during our summer shutdown, so the bosses were no doubt terrified when no-one turned up for work! All we knew about the dispute then was when the stewards came round just before the shutdown and told us not to come back till the Tuesday. No real explanation, or discussion, or vote, we were just told we'd be in trouble if we came in!

Then after the third Monday on strike, the union sent round leaflets, one actually setting down the claim we were fighting for, and the other informing us that someone somewhere would soon be deciding for us about striking two days a week!

No wonder the bosses have stood firm so far. They must be sitting back laughing, confident that with the lack of both good leadership and democracy in the unions it's only a matter of time before the strike crumbles. It's up to us to prove them wrong and make the unions work for us in the process.

J, Bristol.

# RASTAFARIAN RELIGION PERSECUTED

A young Jamaican schoolboy has been singled out by Leeds Education Authority and suspended from school. That was on February 26th. Five months later he had to appear at Leeds Juvenile Court for non-attendance. If he misses one week of school next term he has been told he will be taken into council care. But he will only be allowed to attend school if he cuts his hair.

The boy has every reason to keep his hair long. Being a Rastafarian and wanting to uphold his religion, the boy must follow the religious discipline and avoid cutting his hair.

The Sikhs have similar disciplines, but their long hair is worn under a turban. Sikhs have held a successful campaign for their right to follow their religion. Education Authorities demanded that they remove their turbans and have their hair cut or leave school.

## RELIGIONS AND CULTURAL OPPRESSION

The special oppression of national minorities takes the form not only of state and economic oppression. It takes the form of persecution of religious minorities too. This is not a question of "when in Rome - do as the Romans do" which is the usual maxim for justifying such racist persecution. It is a democratic freedom to practice any religion which must be protected in the interests of the unity of workers and oppressed people.

A defence committee has been set up to fight for the rights of Rastafarians. Protest action includes:

1. A picket of the court when the case goes to appeal.
2. A petition condemning Leeds Education Authority.
3. Publicising this and other forms of state racism.

Petition forms and a prepared motion for union branches can be obtained from:

CRDC, c/o Chapeltown Community Centre,  
Reginald Terrace, Leeds 7.

# TORIES SAY PAY TWICE FOR HEALTH CARE

The Tories are now directly threatening our right to free medical care. They are considering introducing a scheme whereby patients would pay the first £10 of any treatment. In an interview this month, Dr Vaughan, Health Minister, outlined a scheme whereby a visit to your GP would cost £3.50 and a night call £10. The NHS would only pay for bills over £10. The only way out of paying would be to take out private medical insurance. This would mean paying twice for our health service - through taxation and through a private insurance scheme. And for those who can't afford to pay? A return to the pre-NHS tragedy of a sick child and no money to pay the doctor. A return to meningitis diagnosed too late for effective treatment; to severely dehydrated babies with gastroenteritis; to ignoring the early signs of serious disease. The elderly, the chronically sick and the mentally ill would be especially victimised - few insurance schemes give them any cover. Private health insurance started booming under Labour and latest figures show the annual growth rate is increasing to 13%. The Government, under capitalism, has no regard for the health of the ordinary people and are now attacking the very foundations of the NHS.

# A WORKER'S NOTEBOOK

■WILLIAM HICKEY, THE *DAILY EXPRESS* COLUMNIST AND professional sniveller, is worried about the success of Thatcher's "peace plan" in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia). This is on account of the fact that none other than the Queen's second cousin has decided to lend kith and kin a hand in Zimbabwe. He secretly signed on for a six month course with the British South African Police.

"Mind you", said Hickey, "young Simon will certainly excel at scorched-earth policy. He once set fire to Harrow School, and it cost £92,000 to clear up after him."

■THE BOSSES PRESS IS ALWAYS QUICK TO EXPLOIT REAL or imaginary differences amongst workers. A couple of weeks ago the *Daily Mirror* reported on a march of 2,000 strikers involved in the engineering dispute, through the centre of Birmingham. Many workers who are supporting the strike are understandably angry at being ordered out, rather than voting on the issue, but according to the *Mirror* it's only women who feel this way, and opposed the engineering workers' march with a women's so called "right to work" protest. A blatant attempt by the *Mirror* to help the bosses by sowing disunity between men and women workers.

■AS REPORTED IN *CLASS STRUGGLE* NAZIR AND MUNIR Ahmed were charged with an assortment of offences including assault on a policeman and possession of an offensive weapon after plain-clothed police had broken into their house at 12.30am

Finally, after more than 12 months and several delays engineered by the police the trial began on July 30th. It was expected to last over a week due mainly to the number of defence witnesses willing to testify to the racist violence of the police that night. In fact it only lasted 2 days during which time even the judge couldn't ignore the inconsistencies of the police witnesses and the blatantly obvious collaboration in their statements (several used exactly the same wording because they argued they were both describing the truth!!)

The conduct of the police witnesses begged the question are they stupid or did they believe that it didn't really matter what they said? After all the defendants were Asians weren't they and who would believe them instead of a policeman?

■THE POLICE ARE NOW ASKING OUR DOCTORS TO DO their dirty work. A recent report by the British Medical Association warns doctors of a recent but widespread spate of requests by police for confidential information about patients. Information is being sought from doctors and other NHS workers about the whereabouts of "wanted persons" and doctors are even being asked to help catch them. Even the BMA, not renowned as freedom fighters, are worried at this new evidence of increased police activity and state surveillance.

■WHILE CUTS IN THE HEALTH SERVICE ARE CAUSING increasing hardship and unhappiness to the old and the sick, the Scottish Health Education Unit has provided a £60,000 grant for "research into happiness" at a research institute to be established in the Department of Community and Occupational Medicine in Dundee University. It is not enough for the authorities to cut our Health Service. They express surprise at people's increased misery and spend money to find out why? Who are they kidding?

■THE GOVERNMENT IS PROPOSING TO STOP BRITISH women marrying foreign husbands and living with them in Britain. This right exists for women in the Sex Discrimination Act. There is no such restriction for men. So, a Government with Britain's first woman Prime Minister is to remove it. This should serve as an important lesson for those feminists who believe that women's oppression is just a question of male supremacy.

The futile assassination of colonial chief, Lord Mountbatten of Burma, and members of his family, has not taken the Irish peoples' struggle one step forward. The Provisional IRA were proud to claim responsibility saying that it is "one of the discriminatory ways we can bring to the attention of the English people the continued occupation of the British army." But it is not enough just to bring the occupation of Ireland to the peoples' attention, certainly not by methods which trap people of both Britain and Ireland even deeper in the web of ruling class propaganda. What is needed is methods of arousing the opposition of the working people of Britain and Ireland more strongly against British imperialism. First responsibility for this in Britain, lies with the working class leaders of Britain. But the assassination of an old colonial figure is not going to arouse the working class to support the Irish people's struggle one bit. Worse, it gives a platform for the British imperialist media to continue their anti-Irish propaganda that the Irish people are "senseless". Thatcher and the whole cabal of Government chiefs for

British imperialism are now parading as the "concerned" men and women who care for human life. But such hypocrisy is exposed when we look closely at their different attitudes to Mountbatten's assassination and the death of another 18 British soldiers.

## SOLDIERS ARE CANNON FODDER

The ruling class and their politicians mourn their own. Newsreel after newsreel tries to make the working class shed tears with them - not for the 18 soldiers killed at the same time as Mountbatten, but for a wealthy colonialist who got fat from the robbery and toil of oppressed colonial people. Opposing the assassination of this parasite is one thing, but the working class has suffered no loss by his death. This cannot be said of the 18 soldiers whose deaths are not mourned by the ruling class. Working class men and lads are being driven into the army, fleeing from the misery of unemployment. They are expected to be cannon fodder and to be ready to die defending an unjust cause - British occupation of northern Ireland. They must be pulled

# Terrorism is anti-p

The world is in tremendous upheaval. Mass struggles against imperialist reaction and superpower domination flare up in new parts of the globe with every passing day. The spokesmen for imperialism brand all armed fighters for the peoples' struggle as gunmen and terrorists. But what really is terrorism and what is the attitude of revolutionary Communists to terrorism?

The ideas guiding the actions of those claiming the name revolutionary cannot be judged by the amount of sincerity or vigour with which they pursue their activity. In the modern world, there can only be bourgeois or proletarian ideology. So how must terrorism be evaluated? Does it help or damage the struggle against the bourgeoisie and imperialist reaction? That is the issue. Revolutionary communists never reject in principle the use of terror. As Lenin has said:

*"Terror is a form of military action which may be perfectly suitable and even necessary at a given moment of the fighting depending on the state of the troops and on the particular circumstances".*

But to raise individual terror to a whole system of struggle is something else. Class conscious workers need to answer the question - do random bombings or the assassinations of individual members of the bourgeoisie increase or decrease the hold of bourgeois ideology or outlook over the masses.

## MARX AND LENIN ON TERRORISM

In Russian, in the closing decades of the nineteenth century, revolutionary work was carried out by a populist trend called the Narodniks. They were bitter opponents of Marxism. The Narodniks did not understand the leading role of the working class in the revolution. They held that the principal revolutionary force was the peasantry. Young revolutionary intellectuals dressed themselves in peasant clothes and went to the countryside. They failed to mobilise the peasants whose demands and aspirations they could not understand. So the Narodniks decided

to take on Tsarism single-handed, and on March 1st, 1881, succeeded in assassinating Tsar Alexander II. The people in no way benefitted from this and the revolution was not advanced one step. For the early Marxist groups, the sincerity of many Narodniks was not the issue. Plekhanov who led the struggle against Narodism was once a Narodnik himself. The issue was to bury the wrong ideas that the revolution could be carried out by only a few active "heroes" while the masses remain passive. A fierce struggle against Narodism was necessary to establish Marxism, the leading role of the working class and reliance on the masses. Lenin like Plekhanov was uncompromising in his hostility to terrorist sentiments.

Likewise Marx and Engels who were fervent champions of Irish separation from British rule, were scathing in their opposition to bomb outrages.

*"The last exploit of the Fenians, in Clerkenwell (a bomb attack on a prison, which also killed bystanders) was a very stupid thing. The London masses, who have shown great sympathy for Ireland will be made wild by it and driven into the arms of the Government party".* (Letter from Marx to Engels, Dec. 14, 1867)

Today the Government and bourgeois propaganda is, of course, hostile to the people's struggles in Ireland. But the sympathy of the masses of Britain for the specially oppressed catholic minority, at the time of the "B" special atrocities in the late sixties, has been lost in the wake of IRA sectarianism and random bombings. Marx was a thousands times correct when he went on to say in the same letter:

*"One cannot expect the London proletarians to allow themselves to be blown up in honour of the Fenian emissaries".*

Engels, writing about the same Clerkenwell bomb in 1867 wrote this of terrorist conspiracies.

*"The stupid affair in Clerkenwell was obviously the work of a few specialised fanatics; it is the misfortune of all conspiracies that they lead to such stupidities, because 'after all something must happen, after all something must be done'."*

# ASSASSINATION

out.

## REVISIONISTS CRY FOR MOUNTBATTEN

Ruling class propaganda bitterly mourning Mountbatten's assassination is to be expected. Also that many workers will be affected by this propaganda is not unexpected. But those claiming the name Communist and leaders of the working class should not join in the chorus of tributes for a man who, in fact, is a class enemy. But abandoning all revolutionary principle, yet again, the revisionist "Communist" Party of Great Britain (CPGB) in a headline in their rag, the *Morning Star* declared that Mountbatten was "a prince with ability". They did not go on to expose the class this "ability" served but praised him for, as Viceroy of India, solving "the difficult problem of transferring power in less than five months" in 1947. The "difficult problem" the *Morning Star* is referring to was that of maintaining British colonial investments.

Mountbatten's appointments in the service of British imperialism are listed as achievements the

masses should praise him for.

## RULING CLASS STEPS UP OPPRESSION

Following this latest assassination, the Government has hurried out the announcement that the northern Ireland police, the RUC, will be increased by 1,000. "Army Careers" officers have been interviewed on television to allay fears among possible new recruits. A security supremo to command the police and army in northern Ireland is to be brought in. The British Government wants the Dublin Government to sacrifice its independence even further and increase co-operation between British and Irish police and troops. British imperialism's "answer" is to increase British repression, the very thing the Irish people are fighting. British soldiers are dying for this - an unjust war. The wave of Mountbatten wailing must be resisted and call made even louder for:

*BRITISH IMPERIALISM OUT OF IRELAND!*

# people and anti-Marxist

## CLASS NATURE OF TERRORIST SENTIMENTS

Terrorism as a system of struggle is bourgeois ideas in the working class movement. It reflects underestimation or a complete lack of faith in and despair of the masses. Terrorist sentiments do infect the consciousness of the particularly downtrodden masses. But it is especially a spontaneous form of struggle of revolutionary intellectuals who express passionate indignation at the horrors of capitalism and imperialism but who in Lenin's words:

*"... lack the ability or opportunity to link up the revolutionary struggle with the working class, to form an integral whole."*

The Baader/Meinhoff gang in West Germany is a modern example of this kind of movement. Terrorism is a form of opportunism, no less than economism and reformism. Reformism preaches that the bourgeois state can be reformed into an organ which serves the masses. Terrorism believes that the capitalist state can be intimidated by bombs and assassinations into acting more reasonably.

Driven to despair at the "lack of revolutionary activity" of the masses, organisers of terrorism regard their actions as something which will arouse the masses to struggle. Or, compel the masses to struggle against the increased repression which will result. This is nothing but contempt for the people. Secondly terrorism achieves neither of these things anyway. Terrorism, in fact, traps the masses who oppose it into supporting the repressive measures of the bourgeois state brought in to counter it.

## THE MASSES MUST LEARN THE USE OF ARMS

When, the opportunists of the Labour Party and revisionist "Communist" Party of Great Britain, join the bourgeoisie in its chorus of opposition to terrorism, they also renounce with it the use of armed force by the proletariat and oppressed peoples. This is wrong and treacherous to revolutionary struggles by the workers and oppressed people. The oppressed minority of northern Ireland is justified in carrying out armed defence of the catholic community. Further-

more, the working class cannot gain power and oppressed peoples win liberation except by revolutionary, ie violent means. Lenin wrote:

*"Anyone who recognises the class struggle cannot fail to recognise civil wars, which in every class society are the natural, and under certain conditions inevitable continuation, development and intensification of the class struggle. All the great revolutions prove this. To repudiate civil war or to forget about it would mean sinking into extreme opportunism and renouncing socialist revolution."* (Lenin *Pacifism and the Workers*)

But there can be no room for elitist acts of terror or sectarianism. Armed struggle must be based on the political struggle to unite and mobilise the masses - not the other way round. To gain and hold on to power and to prepare for a decisive assault on the power of capitalism, the masses must in the end be armed. Only a party which fears the use of these arms against its power and privilege is afraid of arming the masses.

The British imperialists always present the struggle in Ireland as one of "law and order" against terrorism. This lie is intended to cover over the real just struggle for independence. The British ruling class is not against terrorism - only against Provisional IRA terrorism. Since the killing of Mountbatten, two Roman Catholics have been gunned down in cold blood by Loyalist killer gangs - purely because they are Roman Catholic. Whilst page after page of newspaper cover the IRA, these fascist murders are only briefly referred to in most papers. The *Sunday Telegraph* "coverage" did not even name one of the murdered men.

**In North Belfast yesterday a 23-year-old Roman Catholic man died behind the counter of a delicatessen, hit by a hail of bullets fired by two young gunmen.**

# Scandinavians denounce occupation SOVIET UNION OUT OF CZECHOSLOVAKIA



## Norway

1,600 people marched through Oslo on the evening of August 21st to protest the continued occupation of Czechoslovakia by the Soviet Union. The demonstration opened with a mass rally. It was addressed by a broad platform of speakers, including a member of "Charter 77" - a democratic Czech organisation which stands for independence. The protestors also demanded freedom for all political prisoners in Czechoslovakia.

Similar demonstrations were also held in Bergen, Trondheim, Drammen, Hamar, Lillestrom and in other Norwegian towns.

## Sweden

"Soviet Union out of Czechoslovakia" -  
"Stop persecuting the signatories of Charter 77" -  
"Release political prisoners".

These were the demands of over 1,000 people demonstrating in Stockholm on the 11th anniversary of the Soviet occupation of Czechoslovakia. More demonstrations and rallies were held on the same day in thirty other places throughout Sweden.



# THE RIDICULOUS LIES OF THE NCP

"Over 300 people participated in last Sunday's rally and march in solidarity with Czechoslovak socialism organised by the Czechoslovak Solidarity Campaign."

So reads the lead to an article in the *New Worker* the rag of the New "Communist" Party (NCP). This is a downright lie. 150 adults (mostly hacks), two children and a van took part in this national march organised by the NCP. These people have got so used to lying about the role of the Soviet Union in the world today, that like Goebbels, they wouldn't know the truth if they saw it.

Their march was to "Salute the Defeat of the Counter-Revolution in Czechoslovakia." This "counter-revolution" was in fact a popular movement by the Czechoslovak people and Government against the political, military and economic domination of their country by the Soviet Union. If the occupation of Czechoslovakia was in the interests of the people - how come they didn't welcome in the troops as liberators, but rather threw stones at them and daubed their tanks with swastikas? Opposition to the invasion was so widespread that the Soviet social imperialists maintain thousands of troops there to this day to crush any resistance.

This trusted band of Soviet lackeys fortunately got very little support from the crowds in Hyde Park. Like their Soviet masters they are relatively

isolated and are being exposed as fifth columnists in the ranks of the workers' movement. Like their Soviet masters they are arrogant. They expected to write off any opposition to their lies by just denouncing it as "reactionary". However, when a group of supporters of the Revolutionary Communist League, who had been giving out leaflets denouncing the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia, opposed them with chants of "Soviet imperialists out of Czechoslovakia", all they could do was stare open-mouthed and silent in disbelief! They have no real arguments for their slavish support for Soviet aggression.

## REVOLUTION THEORETICAL JOURNAL OF THE RCLB

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

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- \*The Anti-League Faction - its history and main features
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The RCLB has members in: London Birmingham Bristol Grimsby Leeds Liverpool Manchester Middlesborough Newcastle Yeovil

A representative of the Communist Workers' Movement speaking from the platform pointed to the many struggles of the people of the world against Social imperialist aggression. Special mention was made of the heroic Kampuchean people who are today in the forefront of the fight against the Soviet superpower. Despite very heavy odds the Kampuchean people, under the leadership of the Communist Party of Kampuchea, are inflicting severe defeats against these new Nazis. The CWM spokesman also pointed to the successes of the People's Republic of China and many other third world countries in the struggle to isolate the Soviet expansionists.

#### BWA EXPRESSES SOLIDARITY

A message of solidarity to the Czech people in their fight to overthrow the political and economic domination of their country by the Soviet Union was read out by a representative of the Bangladesh Workers' Association.

#### PRO-SOVIET SPEAKER ANGRILY DENOUNCED

During lively contributions from the floor of the meeting the Soviet Union found a willing backer. A member or supporter of the New "Communist" Party, after pretending to support the platform speeches, suddenly claimed that the Soviet Union had "gone to the rescue of the Czech people to defend socialism" and that "they did so in the interests of proletarian internationalism." People in the audience angrily countered his arguments. They pointed out that people like him serve as fifth columnists within the working class movement. They asked him what sort of "proletarian internationalism" was it that shot down unarmed Czech students resisting the occupation of their country; drops napalm on the people of Eritrea who are fighting for national independence, which carries out a war of genocide against the Kampuchean people and Vietnamese people of Chinese origin; which has occupied Japanese and Norwegian islands; which has enlisted ex-mercenaries of US imperialism to invade Zaire; which has surrounded and constantly harrassed socialist China and whose hypocritical calls for peace and detente cover up the biggest arms build up ever seen. They exposed his lies about "defending socialism" by reminding him that Hitler too called himself a socialist, that the people of the world judge by actions and not words, and that the Soviet Union stands accused of being the biggest, bloodiest butcher in the world today.

#### CALL TO REBUILD COMMUNIST PARTY IN BRITAIN

The meeting ended by saluting the heroic and continuing resistance of the Czech people. It drew out one lesson of their struggle which was the need for a revolutionary party to lead the people in the fight for independence. It called on revolutionaries in Britain to learn that lesson and build a party here to lead the fight for socialism and against war.

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# INTERNATIONAL NOTES



**CUBA:** At the time of going to press, preparatory meetings are being held in Havana, to prepare for the full session of the Conference of the Non-aligned Movement. The Soviet social imperialists are seizing the opportunity that arises, because it is Cuba's turn to be Chairman of the Non-aligned Movement, and to prepare the draft report for the Conference.

The principles of the Non-aligned Movement are precisely those of non-alignment i.e. it is a movement independent of the big power blocks. Under Soviet direction, Cuba is orchestrating attempts to change the movement into a movement supporting Soviet social imperialism against US imperialism. In the first draft report, drawn up by Cuba, it referred to the Soviet Union as the "natural ally" of the third world. After strong protests this term has been dropped, but the report still only attacks "western imperialism".

It is no accident that the chief supporters of this move are Cuba, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Ethiopia and Laos, all of whose Governments are held in power by Soviet, Cuban or Vietnamese troops. There is vigorous opposition to these bureaucratic attempts by a minority to split the movement and turn part of it into an offshoot of the Soviet expansionists.

**KAMPUCHEA:** One of the issues at the Non-aligned Conference is the representation of Kampuchea. The Government of Democratic Kampuchea, led by Pol Pot, is the legal Government and is officially recognised Government by the United Nations, and by most of the non-aligned countries. It is already a member of the Non-aligned Movement.

But Cuba, in total violation of the rules, has prevented the delegates of Democratic Kampuchea attending meetings in Havana to prepare for the Conference, such as the meeting of Asian countries. This has brought vigorous protest from these countries.

The Soviet Union, acting through Cuba, is trying to force the Non-aligned Movement to recognise the Heng Samrin regime, which has been installed in the capital of Kampuchea by Vietnamese tanks. The Vietnamese invasion was itself a violation of the principles of non-alignment, which are based on the right of countries to be independent and to determine their own future.

**ZIMBABWE:** On August 20th, the Patriotic Front issued a statement saying that it would attend the proposed September Constitutional Conference in London. It stated "the Patriotic Front must be clearly understood to have done nothing more than indicate its willingness to negotiate a solution... It rejects both the proposed constitutional framework which has as its basis the illegal internal settlement constitution, and the proposal of ceasefire... war will continue until the objective of liberation has been achieved... By virtue of its established political and military position, the Patriotic Front has become the sole, legitimate and authentic representative of the people of Zimbabwe, without whose consent no settlement of whatever kind could ever succeed."

**CHINA:** The August issue of *The Worker*, organ of Reg Birch's so-called "Communist Party of Britain (ML)" described Carrington as "Mussolini to China's Hitler" at the Geneva Conference for Vietnamese refugees. This vicious attack on the representative of a genuine socialist country tried to turn truth on its head. Was it not Hitler who compelled Jews and hundreds of thousands of subject people to flee Nazi terror? Yes! It most definitely was. Just as the persecution of the Chinese minority by the Vietnamese authorities is forcing an exodus of refugees. There seems to be no limit that the Birchites will stoop to blacken China.

# LAOS UNDER SOVIET-VIETNAMESE HEEL

The people of Laos fought vigorously for their independence against US imperialism. They advanced shoulder to shoulder with the more widely publicised struggles of the neighbouring countries of Kampuchea and Vietnam.

Vietnam's occupation of Kampuchea with nearly 200,000 troops is widely known. But what has happened in Laos? Laos, too, is under the heel of Vietnamese rule, and its Soviet overlords. A Laotian official, who recently fled to Thailand, has given many facts on the present situation which have also been corroborated in other way.

At the end of 1977 between 24,000 and 30,000 Vietnamese troops were stationed in Laos. Since then another 20,000 soldiers have been added to the force, bringing it up to nearly 50,000. These Vietnamese army units are spread throughout the country. Of the 25,000 Pathet Lao troops who fought the war against US imperialism only 12,000 are allowed to carry arms, because of the widespread opposition to Vietnamese domination. Between 2,000 and 3,000 Laotian troops have deserted - either joining the new resistance or fleeing to Thailand.

The Laotian Government ministries in the capital, Vientiane, are also under foreign control. 100 Soviet personnel and 1,000 Vietnamese are directly involved in running them. 800 Vietnamese secret police arrived in Laos at the end of 1978. This KGB-trained force does not report to the Laotian Government. It is under the direct control of Tran Quoc Hoan, Minister of the Interior of Vietnam and member of the Political Bureau of the "Communist" Party of Vietnam. Its task is to monitor the movements of foreigners in Laos and to identify dissidents opposed to Soviet-Vietnamese domination in the Pathet Lao army and among the civilian population.

## NO DEMOCRACY IN LAO PARTY

Since 1975 about 2,500 Party cadres have been purged from the 23,000 member Lao People's Revolutionary Party. Several have been killed, more imprisoned. The Laotian official estimates that 9 out of 10 Party members are opposed to Vietnamese domination but, "there are too many Vietnamese troops; if you speak out you will be arrested".

Vietnam has, as in Kampuchea, even gone so far as to directly colonise parts of Laos. Unable to feed the people of Vietnam due to the militarisation of the economy, and the forced conscription into the army of able-bodied peasants, it is settling its surplus population in other countries. The border between Vietnam and Laos has been "redefined", and on top of this 100,000 Vietnamese civilians have settled in regions of Laos including Bolovens plateau, Cammon, Sam Neua and Phong-saly. Lao peasants have been pushed off their land and out of their villages and herded inland.

Virtually all food aid sent to Laos, where there is widespread shortage, is distributed to the occupying Vietnamese army.

Is this really what the Vietnamese people or the Laotian people fought for? Is this independence, or socialism? The Vietnamese leaders who betrayed the Vietnamese people, who oppress the people of Kampuchea and Laos, and who have sold the great struggle for independence to the Soviet social imperialists have much to pay for.

# INTERNATIONAL KAMPUCHEAN CONFERENCE

On the weekend of June 30th/July 1st, a preparatory committee meeting was held in Paris to plan an international conference to support the struggle for the sovereignty and national independence of Kampuchea. The meeting was sponsored by Mrs Han Suyin, Jan Myrdal, Alain Bouc and Dr Robert Andrei. Friends of the Kampuchean people from nineteen countries took part. Mr Thiounn Prasith, Ambassador of Democratic Kampuchea addressed the committee.

The international conference will be held in Stockholm on November 17th and 18th. A special organising committee has been established by the Swedish-Kampuchea Friendship Association, which has been established by Ms Marita Wikander and Jan Myrdal. Jan Myrdal is internationally famous for his anti-imperialist work, and particularly for his opposition to US imperialist aggression against Vietnam. The Paris preparatory committee adopted an appeal (printed below) which will serve as the basis for participation in the conference. The appeal has already been signed in Britain by Lek Hor Tan (journalist), Felix Greene (author), Hugh Gibb and Laura J Summer. Supporters of the appealed are urged to send their names, addresses and official positions, if relevant to the

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SWEDEN.

Appeal for an international conference in solidarity with the Kampuchean people's struggle for national independence against the Vietnamese aggression

The war of aggression against Democratic Kampuchea (Cambodia) continues. The Vietnamese armed forces have invaded and devastated Kampuchea to overthrow its legitimate government, thus violating the sovereignty of Democratic Kampuchea, the United Nation's Charter and the principles of non-alignment.

This flagrant violation of the independence of Kampuchea must not be tolerated by the international community. To tolerate it would be a threat against all independent nations. Our silence would be interpreted as an acceptance of aggression and invasion.

Despite our diverse opinions we unite in condemning the brutal occupation of Kampuchea by Vietnam with the support of foreign powers.

We demand that all Vietnamese forces withdraw immediately without conditions from Kampuchea, that the national independence and state sovereignty of that country be respected and the the Kampuchean people recover the right to decide their own affairs.

We ask all democratic organisations, international organisations and personalities and all peoples and governments in the world who love peace, independence and justice to develop support and material aid to the Kampuchean people and their legitimate government in their resistance to the Vietnamese aggressors.

We appeal to them to ensure the success of the international conference in solidarity with the Kampuchean people's struggle for national independence against the Vietnamese aggression which will be convened in the autumn of this year.