

CLASS STRUGGLE

POLITICAL PAPER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF BRITAIN

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fortnightly 8p

FIGHT LAY-OFFS



"As a kid I went to sleep with the sound of those mills running. My dad worked there. His dad before him..."

These words from the threatened steel town of Consett could just as well have been heard in Corby, Shotton, Bilston, East Moors, Ebbw Vale, Llanwern or Port Talbot.

In the car industry the story is the same. British Leyland alone plans to axe 25,000 jobs, and the Midlands components firms such as Lucas are cutting back drastically. Nevertheless, US-owned Fords made record profits this year, in spite of car sales being down by a third. How do they do it? Recent events at Fords Halewood Body Plant provide a clue: a 'reorganisation' was suddenly sprung upon workers building a near-obsolete model (the Mark 2 Escort), thus deliberately provoking a strike.

As a worker from Fords wrote to us, "Fords' advice to BL on how to screw the workers and push up your profits would be: Can't sell your cars? Provoke

a strike and lay-off the workers. After a couple of weeks, they'll be back, stony broke. Then you can force them to work under even worse conditions."

What few jobs are being created today are mostly in distributive, office, catering and other such trades where the workers (mainly women and many blacks) are normally poorly protected by union organisation and face exceptionally bitter exploitation.

TORY OFFENSIVE

The Thatcher government represents in the most barefaced and repulsive form the interests of capital (whether US-owned, like Fords, or British). It's job is to see that it is not the rich who suffer from the present economic recession, but the workers - and the more defenceless those workers are, the more they are to be made to suffer.

The Tory Employment Bill is an all-out attack on workers' abilities to defend their jobs, while cutbacks in welfare and benefits sharpen the agonies

**MAKE THE
BOSSSES PAY!
IT'S THEIR
CRISIS!**

of the growing unemployed section of the working class. The Thatcher government which is now so cocky will smile on the other side of its face when it eventually has to confront the full fury and hatred of the many millions of working people for whom it plans such suffering.

Of course the Labour Party will try to jump on the bandwagon to stage a come-back. Let us hope they do not have it all their own way this time. Though Labour Party leaders attempted to dominate the May 14th Day of Action, a letter to us from Manchester observed that "a number of people remarked that they were out to show their anger at Tory economic policies, or their opposition to the Employment Bill, not to listen to another Labour Party political broadcast."

BOLSHEVISM

The central question of working class politics in Britain today is this: Will the growing wave of working class anger at the hated Thatcher government just expend itself on another Labour Party election victory? Or will it result in something qualitatively new - the rebirth of a genuine Bolshevik presence on the British political scene?

It is to ensure the occurrence of the latter alternative that revolutionary communists and all other fighters for the working class must work with might and main.

INCORPORATING

NEW AGE

Monthly Paper of the Communist Workers' Movement

THEY WILL NOT LIE DOWN

The struggle of the people of Azania (South Africa) against apartheid and for national liberation goes on. On Wednesday, June 18, more people (at least 42) were killed than in any single day of the 1976-77 upsurge...but the people's struggle cannot be silenced with bullets.

260 high school students in an Indian township of Johannesburg arrested...ten factories on strike in Uitenhagen near Port Elizabeth...Volkswagen's subsidiaries forced to close their plants indefinitely...Fords plant in Port Elizabeth closed because of strike-bound components...s steel plant near Johannesburg closed by strikers...a police station in Paarl attacked with petrol bombs.

Racist commissioner of police, General Geldenhuys says police will shoot to kill...at 8 year old demonstrators! This is Azania as it marks the fourth anni-

versary of the Soweto uprising. The black people of Azania refuse to lie down before their oppressors!

The struggle has been intensifying in Azania since the people's victory in neighbouring Zimbabwe: When Mozambique won its liberation, the Black Consciousness Movement came into being, but today the situation is even more vibrant; where before there was no hope and the state seemed all-powerful, now the people's victories in southern Africa show that South Africa is next and the Boer's days are numbered.

The Pan Africanist Congress has consistently called for a united front of all patriotic forces and there are signs that a number of the liberation movements are taking up the call.

As a veteran Azanian communist and trade union organiser, now a political refugee in Britain, recently told Class Struggle, "Before there seemed as if there was no hope, but the victory in Mozambique, and now in Zimbabwe, have shown the young people what they are capable of doing."

From our Postbag

PROSTITUTION AND POVERTY

Dear Comrades,

I should like to bring your notice to something your readers may be shocked at.

I am a social worker and deal with lots of young mums, who for whatever reason, are getting divorced and looking for non-existent nurseries. Often in such circumstances and without maintenance these women can only obtain one job - prostitution.

One girl got divorced after horrific violence by her husband. Like many women she did not want the tie of maintenance, and without nursery provision to get a normal job, she turned to the 'game'. Here she was on excellent cash. However, a pimp took most of this and beat her up as well. Further, she got caught for soliciting a number of times, and prison, plus her kids being taken away, didn't seem far off. Because of this she decided to stop and go back to poverty, for her and her kids.

A lot of people despise prostitutes, and I can understand this. But I do think the law should favour them against kerb crawlers and pimps. When this problem has been solved, maybe we can start fighting against the real reason for prostitution, which is poverty!

From,

N.R., Liverpool

MAY 14th DAY OF ACTION

Dear Comrades,

One thing that struck me when reading the reports about May 14th was how anti-union the national papers really are. They all appear to have conspired to mis-represent the Day of Action. They tried to give the impression it was a complete failure; yet the number who took some action

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that day was in fact quite high.

In Halifax, the Trades Council planned a march around the issue of local unemployment and cuts in public services, and organised it to start outside the machine tool factory of John Stirks which is under threat of closure. The local paper virtually wrote the march off before it had even started, but as events proved it was the biggest the town had seen for nearly ten years.

At a special meeting called by the Trades Council that night, it was felt the Trade Union should look into the possibility of setting up an alternative press in view of the obvious bias of the town's only evening paper.

From,

A Halifax reader

Dear Comrades,

On May 14th, more than a thousand Trade Unionists marched from Salford to Manchester where they met another 5,000-strong procession and held a rally. At their head was a banner saying "we want a union" carried by pickets from Klein Brothers, the Salford clothing factory, who have been striking for ten weeks now in their fight for union rights. Overall this was a tremendous demonstration of Trade Union solidarity, with many local firms, bus depots, construction sites and public services shut down for the day.

On the negative side, local "left-wing" labour MP Frank Allaun was allowed to address the rally and had the cheek to criticise Tory cuts as though they hadn't started under Labour. It may suit traitors like Allaun to have a bad memory, but few among the large contingent of health workers present will forget the 115 hospitals and nursing homes axed in the last year

of Labour government. Allaun was also indignant about all the millionaires in the Tory cabinet - completely forgetting that the local Labour Party had a millionaire in Harold Lever, MP for Manchester Central until his recent promotion to the House of Lords.

A number of people remarked that they were out to show their anger at Tory economic policies, or their opposition to the Employment Bill, not to listen to another Labour Party political broadcast.

From,

A Manchester reader

AZANIA AND AFGHANISTAN

Dear Comrades,

Just over four years ago the Soweto uprising showed that the spirit of resistance is very much alive and that oppressed peoples will never give up their struggle until they have won their freedom. In recent weeks schoolchildren again were out in the streets in Azania (South Africa) continuing their fight.

I wonder how many of your readers have noticed the parallels which exist with Russian-occupied Afghanistan where the indomitable Afghan people resist their oppressor. In Kabul, too, schoolchildren have taken to the streets and have been brutally shot down and gassed. Girls from one school took off their scarves and put them on collaborationist Afghan soldiers, saying "You stay here at school and I'll go to the mountains".

Truly the liberation struggle is international!

From,

An East London reader

WRITE TO US

Address all correspondence to:
CS, c/o New Era Books,
203 Seven Sisters Rd, London N4.

Dear Comrades,

All the howling over the 'boycotting of the Olympics' by leading nations in the West is an empty gesture unless backed up by economic, trade and technical sanctions. This boycott call is the sole effort by the West in response to the rape of a small third world country by a power so ruthless that it thinks it can get away with anything.

The only real way to hurt the Soviet imperialists is by placing trade and technology sanctions against them and supplying the Afghan people with the material to liberate their country. It is unjust to make men and women athletes who have sacrificed time and money, while the bosses make millions in exporting goods and technology which the Soviet Union uses for its aggressive military activities.

The ruling class always tries to make the working class pay while they coin their profits. The West should make a more honest and determined effort in aiding those who are standing up to the Soviet Union, as are the Afghan, Kampuchean and Eritrean peoples.

No trade with the Soviet Union! Arms and aid for the Afghan fighters!

From,

A worker, Liverpool

Birmingham conference ...

Black workers and the unions

By a "Class Struggle" correspondent

Important discussions took place at a one-day conference in Birmingham on June 14th called by the Campaign Against Racism and Fascism (CARF), Birmingham. Almost 60 representatives of trade unions and national minority organisations attended a busy programme covering such subjects as: racism on the shop floor, problems of black women workers, immigration and nationality legislation, fascist organisation within the unions, etc.

A difficult problem is posed by the general historical background of the racist attitudes prevalent in our society. These attitudes effectively become means of indirect discrimination against black workers especially in trades such as printing where union membership has traditionally been handed down from father to son. In such a situation it is all the more necessary to stress that racial equality is an essential basis for effective trade union organisation in defence of all workers.

Avtar Joughl, a T&GWU shop steward and national president of the Indian Workers' Association (GB), referred to unemployment as "the cesspool in which racists breed." He argued against 'all black' trade unions, and also disagreed with a speaker who had proposed that seats in the unions' leading bodies be reserved for black representatives.

He agreed that it was positive that trade union annual conferences and leading bodies should adopt policies in favour of equal opportunities, but these would only become effective if adopted by the membership on the shop floor. Thus shop floor organisation, participation and democracy were the key, and changes in the unions' superstructure secondary.

What was needed first and foremost, said comrade Joughl, was not necessarily more black shop stewards, but a more class conscious membership. The process of involving more black workers in the movement will inevitably be reflected in the emergence of more black lay and full-time officials at all levels.

* * * * *

CARF aim to publish full proceedings of this conference later this year. Details from: CARF, Birmingham Trades Council, 191 Corporation St., B4 6RP.

A WORKER'S NOTEBOOK

"WHAT THEY'RE UP TO IS ODD, whichever way you look at it", said a Merseyside delegate to the Post Office Engineering Union in Blackpool this month. He was referring to phone-tapping by "supervisors or outsiders, we just don't know." Phone-tapping has been growing in scale in recent years, but the government won't publish the facts. And what did the opportunist union leadership do when the debate took place? It tried to divert the debate into a call for a committee of three 'privy councillors' to report on the matter. A genuine class struggle union would demand a complete end to all such attacks on democratic rights.

FACED WITH FALLING SALES, THE "MORNING STAR", paper of the phoney 'Communist' Party of Great Britain, has spent £50,000 on trying to boost its circulation by 10,000 more readers. After a year of effort, they have had to admit that they didn't even get a tenth of that increase, and the circulation drive has been abandoned. An organisation of genuine class struggle would surely grow, not decline, as class contradictions sharpen. This setback is one more illustration of the bankruptcy of the CPGB's reformism which is trying to divert the struggles of the working class into an attempt to replace the Tory government with another Labour one.

MASS PICKETING is planned at Adwest Engineering, a small factory in Reading, where 58 workers were recently sacked after striking in support of a workmate sacked for working to rule in accordance with a decision of a shop meeting. The 58, many of them black, include eight out of ten shop stewards. The workforce of 350 have taken a militant stand towards management manoeuvres to impose a BL-style ballot. Those outside the gate are demanding unconditional reinstatement, abolition of the present system of works rules and disciplinary procedures, and negotiations for a decent pay rise. Both the TGWU and the AUEW have refused official backing for the action.

WORKERS COULD "SAVE CONSETT" by being more efficient and cost-effective said retiring BSC Chairman Villiers last year. Current production of 240 tonnes per man per year is better than anywhere else in Europe, and yet Consett is to close. You can't believe the liars who run the capitalist nationalised industries. As a local steel worker wrote:

The BSC's in such a hole,
It wants to put us on the dole.
So Consett folk unite and fight
To keep on working - which is our right.

The Consett lads will not give in
To the BSC plan, which is a sin.
We will fight through hell and fire
To keep our jobs until we retire.

Our kids need jobs, so how the hell
Can we sell ours and theirs as well?
Consett's not paved with fool's gold-
We don't sell jobs of both young and old!

AT THE AGE OF 82, Mrs Elsie Hopton of Gloucestershire was last week jailed for two weeks for refusing to pay off an outstanding rates debt because her land has been waterlogged by a Water Board scheme. As she was led away to begin her sentence, she told the magistrate: "You need poleaxing."

PART-TIME WORKERS, nearly all of whom are women, account for 16.9% of the working population. With hardly any protection of their rights at work, such workers are subject to extreme exploitation. Last year, 2,750,000 part-time workers earned less than the equivalent of the supplementary benefit level for a typical family.

HELP REBUILD THE REVOLUTIONARY PRESS

'Class Struggle' incorporates 'New Age'

Three weeks ago, the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain (RCLB) and the Communist Workers' Movement (CWM) united into a single organisation. For some months prior to that, the editorial committees of the newspapers of the two organisations - "Class Struggle" and "New Age" - had been working closely together, and they have now been amalgamated into one.

Contribute to our Press Fund

Just for this one issue of our paper, we received about 60 articles and letters, including the following items for which we have little or no space:-

- * Five full-length articles on: the Employment Bill; police racism in Hackney; the struggle against lay-offs at Fords Halewood; Portuguese immigrants; black workers and the trades unions.
- * A dozen shorter articles on: Lucas sackings; phone-tapping; the Morning Star; health service; racist attacks in Birmingham; Jamaica; Palestine; etc.
- * Several industrial bulletins, leaflets, etc.
- * Many workers' letters, on: redundancies at an Asbestos factory; Trotskyites in Birmingham; rock'n' roll; BSC, etc.
- * Two poems by workers, both on the fight against lay-offs.

This is just a sample of what we could not include in this issue. All the above items and as many more again, would, we are sure, have been of great interest to our readers, and a lot of time and care was spent in writing them and sending them to us.

And yet all these fine items will just lie unused in our files, and are unlikely ever to see the light of day. Every reader can help us to make better use of this material by giving a bit of concrete help in the form of some cash. This will help us increase our space and frequency, and publish more of the material we have to hand.

We are confident that, given a bit more technical skill and organisation, backed by better (and costly!) equipment, we could before long be publishing the most vigorous and lively working class paper this country has seen since the "Daily Worker" of the 1930s and 1940s.

Send contributions to CS, c/o New Era Books (address opposite).

Help to sell 'Class Struggle'

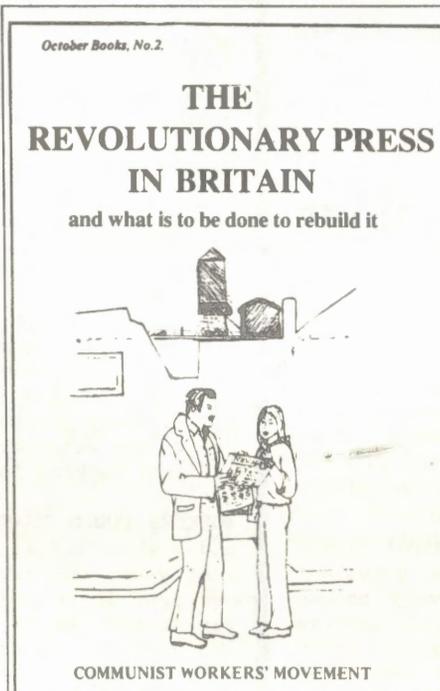
We appeal to all our regular readers to help us expand the readership of "Class Struggle":-

- * Can you spare some time to help comrades with factory-gate or door-to-door sales?
- * Can you suggest workmates or friends who might be interested in buying the paper?
- * If you have problems in obtaining our paper regularly, have you thought of taking out a subscription?
- * Can you take out a double subscription so that you always have a spare copy ready to sell or lend (special reduced rates available)?

Britain is the oldest capitalist country, and doubt, confusion, prejudice and division are deeply implanted in all quarters of society constantly hampering the working class in its struggles. Our paper aims to play its own small part in forging confidence, clarity and unity in the face of the great struggles faced by working and oppressed people.

The working class is always prepared to struggle and fight. But capitalist ideology lies like a mountain across its path. Every issue of "Class Struggle" that is sold can shift a shovel-full of earth out of the way.

SELL AN EXTRA COPY OF "CLASS STRUGGLE" THIS TIME!



This book was published by the Communist Workers' Movement (CWM) last year as part of the work to re-establish a revolutionary press in Britain - something that has not been seen on any scale since the fighting days of the "Daily Worker". The book discusses the experience of the "Daily Worker" and its precursors, and has sections on the use of our paper in the factory and community. It has suggestions and comments on how to go about reporting and writing.

The book also discusses the experience of the communist move-

ment internationally on how to build the revolutionary press, and explains some of the Marxist-Leninist theory on the subject, for instance:-

Propaganda. A communist newspaper makes no effort to conceal its aim, which is to conduct all-round propaganda for revolution, by showing that all the various evils of capitalism lead to one central conclusion - that the working class must seize power.

Agitation. Each individual struggle has its lesson, and the bulk of a communist paper will consist of reports and letters from working and oppressed people in which they pass on their experience of particular evils of capitalism, and how to fight them.

Collective organiser. Besides being a living argument for revolution, a communist paper also has an organisational role to play in welding together all our different local or specialised activities into a single, central task - that of building a revolutionary working class political party.

All these questions, and many more, are discussed in the CWM book. We recommend all our regular readers to study this book, so as to obtain an all-round idea of what we are trying to achieve by publishing "Class Struggle". It costs 80p, and is available from your "Class Struggle" seller, or from: New Era Books (address below).

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SALUTE TO COMRADE JOSHI

"I am happy to be sharing with you the commemoration of a great fighter, Comrade Joshi. He was an inspiration to our comrades", said a representative of ZANU at a meeting at Birmingham Town Hall on June 7th. The meeting, attended by 700 people, was in commemoration of Comrade Jagmohan Joshi, late General Secretary of the Indian Workers' Association (Great Britain) who died one year ago while leading a demonstration against state racism.

"A CORRECT AND JUST STAND"

Comrade Teja Singh Sahota, General Secretary of the IWA(GB), paid tribute to Comrade Joshi's legacy of honest and tireless work. He had not been one to compromise on political principles. Under his leadership, the IWA(GB) took a correct and just stand even when their positions were unpopular at the time. They declared India the aggressor in the wars with China and Pakistan, and supported all victims of aggression. To resounding applause, he said that Comrade Joshi would have loved the victory of the Zimbabwean people.

"FIGHT TILL THE FINAL VICTORY"

The representative from ZANU (Zimbabwe African National Union) said Comrade Joshi would have been happy with the present



stage of Zimbabwe's struggle. ZANU will continue to fight until all power can be transferred to the working people and Zimbabwe can call itself a socialist state. Comrade Joshi would have understood how we have to work within the constraints of each phase of the liberation struggle.

"BUILD ON HIS LEGACY"

Comrade Shirley Joshi said it was necessary to build on the great legacy Joshi had left. There was a story that had to be told - of the steadfast

and courageous way in which black immigrants have struggled - and the IWA(GB)'s role in this struggle from the beginning. "Never let it be said that the first generation of black immigrants played the role of Uncle Toms. Far from it. They took to the streets and struck blows against all oppression. Joshi said "we won't sit back, we will hit back".

Joshi was proud that black workers were in the forefront of the workers' organisations. He pointed out that after the blackman had been attacked and violated, the next victim of Enoch Powell and his like would be the white working class.

He saw the progressive trends in the black power movement. But he pointed out that loyalty to their class must replace loyalty to their national group for black workers. Unless they were willing to liberate all, they could not win their own liberation. The black man holds the key to liberate the white worker, in the full sense of the word.

POETRY

Shirley spoke of Joshi's Urdu poetry, in which he expressed his dedication to the liberation of his homeland from imperialism and social imperialism.

The meeting heard Urdu poems written by Joshi set to music, and the Banner Theatre Group sang songs of struggle. An exhibition on Joshi's life and work was on display.

Ireland

IRISH NATIONALIST ASSASSINATED

On the evening of June 4th John Turnly was machine-gunned to death in front of his family at Carnlough in Northern Ireland. The car in which his masked assassins escaped was stolen from a Protestant area. It is highly likely his assassins are loyalists because John Turnly was that relatively rare thing in Northern Ireland - a Protestant politician who openly supported and worked for the independence and reunification of Ireland, a politician who as Sinn Fein put it, "unreservedly took the platform with those of the oppressed."

Three years ago he broke away from the Northern Ireland Social Democratic and Labour Party, condemning it for its collaborationist politics and failure to uphold Irish unity, and set up the Irish Independence Party. Recently, he had been having talks with Neil Blaney, leader of the Southern Irish Independent group, with a view to uniting the two organisations in order to establish

an all-Ireland nationalist party, committed to the overthrow of partition.

H-BLOCKS

He also gave strong and constant support to the H-Block campaign, in support of political status for Irish prisoners of war. He was in the forefront of the massive Coalisland March in February this year. Last weekend's huge H-Block rally in Dublin showed the growing strength of the campaign he helped to initiate.

MURDER GANGS

All this was quite sufficient to earn him the hatred of the loyalist murder gangs. His assassination, as with all the others, cannot be separated from the general operations of the security forces and their attempt to cow the nationalist population. Many members of the security forces are members of private murder gangs. As if to illustrate the point, the day after Turnly's murder a member of the British Army's Ulster Defence Regiment

admitted in court to membership of the illegal loyalist Ulster Volunteer Force. For this he was given a one year prison sentence - suspended so that he could walk free from the courtroom.

TRIBUTE

The respect in which John Turnly was held in the north was expressed by Richard McAuley of the Sinn Fein Ulster Executive. "His stand on the national question, and more recently his appearance on platforms highlighting the plight of H-Block prisoners, won him the respect of many, including those who would be in opposition on other political issues. I offer my personal condolences and those of Sinn Fein to his family and friends".

The best tribute we in Britain can pay to John Turnly and the tens of thousands of others who struggle against British imperialism in Ireland, is to intensify our support for the demands of the Irish political prisoners, for Troops Out and for the total independence and national reunification of Ireland.

STRENGTHEN POLITICAL WORK, SAYS HUA

Socialist China has recently been attaching renewed importance to ideological and political work in the new situation where the central task of the Chinese people is to work for the modernisation of their country.

At a recently held conference on political work in the People's Liberation Army (PLA) many important Chinese leaders made speeches on the relationship of ideological and political work to economic and other work and the need for political work to be constantly strengthened.

SPEECH BY COMRADE HUA

In a speech, Comrade Hua Guofeng, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, said that political work continues to be the lifeblood of economic and army work during the period of achieving the four modernisations. "Political and ideological work must be strengthened and must not be weakened now or in the future."

Comrade Hua stressed that only when people understood the purpose and significance of their work, recognised that doing production and other work well was for the purpose of building a strong socialist country could their enthusiasm and creativity be brought into full play and their action assured of a powerful impetus. No good results would be achieved if undue emphasis was placed on economic methods and material rewards while political work and efforts to raise the people's ideological awareness were relaxed. It is necessary to build China through hard work and thrift, in particular because she is still a poor country. This would only be successful if peoples' political consciousness was raised. "By waging a painstaking struggle, we actually mean to carry forward the spirit of serving the people and the revolutionary spirit of fighting for the emancipation of mankind as a whole."

Comrade Hua Guofeng said, "In fostering proletarian ideology and eliminating bourgeois ideology, we must do a good job in carrying out political and ideological education in order further to consolidate and expand the proletarian ideological front and further reduce the influence of bourgeois and feudal ideology. We Communist Party members should foster proletarian ideology and use Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought to defeat bourgeois ideology and the thinking of all exploiting classes."

Comrade Hua pointed out that in strengthening political work it was necessary to lay stress on building and consolidating the ranks of the Communist Party.

"Only by consolidating and building well the Party ranks can political work play an effective role. Since our Party suffered serious destruction by Lin Biao and the Gang of Four, we cannot guarantee the success of the four modernisations if we fail now to effectively build the Party."

ARTICLE IN 'RED FLAG'

Many of the ideas in Comrade Hua's speech were expounded further in an article in the 16 April issue of 'Red Flag' (theoretical journal of the Communist Party of China) entitled, 'Fostering Proletarian ideology and eliminating bourgeois ideology is an important task in doing political and ideological work'. The article states that this task has always been considered an important one of the proletarian dictatorship and quotes Marx as saying in 1850,

"The class dictatorship of the proletariat is the necessary transit point to the abolition of
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class distinctions generally, to the abolition of all relations of production on which they rest, to the abolition of all social relations that correspond to these relations of production and to the revolutionising of all ideas that result from these social relations."

The article points out that eliminating the ideas of the exploiting classes will inevitably lag behind the overthrow of the system of exploitation of man by man and quotes Lenin as saying,

"When the old society perishes, you cannot nail its corpse in a coffin and lower it into the grave. It disintegrates in our midst; the corpse rots and poisons us."

The article explains that the continuing influence of bourgeois ideology is connected to the class struggle at home and abroad.

"With the increase in international contacts, the decadent and moribund ideology and way of life of the bourgeoisie will inevitably have an influence on us. The overseas bourgeoisie adopt every possible means to infiltrate our minds ideologically and culturally by flaunting their bourgeois ways of life before us. This makes it difficult for us to eliminate bourgeois ideology and foster proletarian ideology even if we are waging the struggle in a conscientious way..."

"In our present society, class struggle exists (including class struggle in the ideological sphere) and this struggle is extensive, deep-going and unavoidable. We cannot change the nature of this struggle even if we give it another title. The struggle between proletarian ideology and bourgeois, feudal and petit bourgeois ideologies has never stopped."

Explaining the relationship between current ideological struggles and the modernisation programme the article states,

"Ours is socialist modernisation under the leadership of the Communist Party and the guidance of Marxism. We should build not only a high-level material civilisation, but also a high-level socialist spiritual civilisation. We should absolutely not follow the capitalist countries' road of material development and spiritual degeneration. The modernised capitalist countries have highly developed productivity and are able to create tremendous material wealth. However, their social evils are daily increasing and various conflicts are daily intensifying. No bourgeois politician or adviser can find a way out."

In conclusion the article states,

"Our urgent need now is to strengthen education in Marxism...While we stage the ideological struggle to 'eliminate bourgeois ideology and foster proletarian ideology', we must continue to eliminate the pernicious influence of Lin Biao and the Gang of Four. Instead of casting aside the correct slogan of 'eliminating bourgeois ideology and fostering proletarian ideology', we must wipe out the slop thrown on it so that it will again shine with brilliance."

AFGHANISTAN IN ARMS

"The emphasis in Nangahar province at the moment is to hit buildings. If there are people in them so much the better."

This observation was made by 'Guardian' journalist Peter Niesewand who recently spent twelve days travelling with Afghan patriots who are fighting to free their country from Russian imperialism. In a series of newspaper articles Niesewand has testified to the extent of rebel operations and the degree of mass support enjoyed by the freedom fighters. Travelling with freedom fighters on armed operations he saw the co-operation offered them by local people, including those forcibly conscripted into the puppet Afghan army. Certain liberated areas are now stable enough to operate effective customs posts only a few miles from provincial capitals!

UNITED NATION

Confronted with a foreign army of occupation, the Afghan people are uniting as one to fight the Russians on all fronts. Pitched battles have even been fought on the outskirts of the capital, Kabul. The growing Russian casualties are leading to war weariness amongst its troops. Some Soviet military advisers recently refused to go to the front. Many Soviet casualties are sent for treatment to Eastern Europe, rather than to the Soviet Union, for fear that the Soviet people will discover the true extent of the conflict.

The natural gas supply to the Soviet Union was severed for three days in May when guerillas of the Islamic Front attacked the pipeline. The Soviet imperialists plunder Afghan natural gas at prices way below the international rate.

Meanwhile students, schoolgirls in particular, are openly defying the Russians in Kabul. Factory workers in Kabul have also been on strike to protest foreign occupation.

The Afghan peoples' resistance has heightened contradictions in the ruling clique and a large number of members of different factions in the revisionist party have been executed.

FROM SOWETO TO FREE AZANIA!

By a "Class Struggle" correspondent

This slogan galvanised an enthusiastic audience of Azanians and supporters in Deptford, London, to commemorate the fourth anniversary of the Soweto uprising. The overall theme was: unity in the midst of diversity as the way forward in strengthening the patriotic forces in order to smash the apartheid-colonial regime of South Africa.

Drake Koka of the Black Consciousness Movement (BCM) chaired the meeting. Barney Mokgatle, of the South African Youth Revolutionary Council, one of the heroes of Soweto, was given an ovation when he said that the Black youth were prepared to liberate themselves. His answers to those who beg for and accept concessions from the oppressor was: "Half a gram of poison is as bad as a whole gram."

A number of other liberation movements, including the African National Congress (African Nationalist) spoke at the meeting, which also received a message from the Steve Biko Youth Organisation (UK). The Pula Kommune gave a stirring performance of drumming and poetry.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES



GUYANA - Dr. Walter Rodney, a leader of the Working Peoples' Alliance, in the Latin American country of Guyana, was murdered on Friday 13 June by a bomb placed in his brother's car. It is widely believed that this cowardly act will only fuel the growing mass opposition to the corrupt Burnham regime.

In addition to being a political activist, Dr Rodney was an outstanding Marxist historian and author of several books. His, "How Europe Underdeveloped Africa" has exercised great influence on radical scholarship in recent years.

ERITREA - According to the 'Sunday Times' the Soviet Union has recently shipped a huge quantity of arms to help the Ethiopian army suppress Eritrean freedom fighters. Included in the shipment is a quantity of lethal nerve gas. The last big Ethiopian offensive failed last December when Russian warships in the Red Sea had to evacuate Ethiopian soldiers. The 120,000 Ethiopian troops in Eritrea have now been joined by more than 200 Russian advisers. The Eritrean Peoples' Liberation Front (EPLF) has sent a message to the United Nations Secretary General appealing to him to try and prevent the Ethiopian government from using the gas. It has also notified the International Red Cross in Geneva.

VIETNAM - Further evidence of the betrayal of the Vietnamese revolution by the Hanoi rulers has been provided by Truong Nhu Tang, the former Minister of Justice in the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam, who has managed to escape to France. At a Paris press conference he denounced the Hanoi leaders for "betraying the policy of national unity, reconciliation and harmony" and sweeping the former National Liberation Front cadres to one side. He pledged, "to continue the struggle for the real liberation" of Vietnam. In its aggression abroad Hanoi was lining itself up behind the Soviet Union and isolating itself in the world, he declared. Truong denounced the Vietnamese leaders for ruining Vietnam-China friendship and declared that mass opposition was growing to the Hanoi leaders. "The Party leaders even admit the existence of armed resistance movements in the south."

NIGERIA - Following a recent visit to Moscow, Nigerian Minister Paul Unongo has described the Nigerian-Soviet agreement to build the Ajaokuta steel complex as a lousy deal not in the interest of the country. He was alarmed at, "the rate at which (15,000 to 20,000) Russians have been flooding the country as experts on the project... I am afraid if care is not taken, Nigeria might end up as a Russian colony."

EL SALVADOR - Revolutionary and progressive forces in this Central American country are making efforts to strengthen their unity as the struggle to overthrow the US backed government intensifies. The four main guerilla organisations are reported to be forming a joint co-ordinating committee. 80 trade unions with a combined membership of 100,000 have formed a Revolutionary Union Coordination Committee that will ally with the Democratic Revolutionary Front. A number of delegations of the Democratic Revolutionary Front are currently on visits abroad to explain their peoples' struggle and build international solidarity. In particular, they are demanding that the United States stop support to the military government which carries with it the threat of a bigger war in the region.



CHIX WORKERS SOLD OUT

The strike of the Asian women workers at the Chix bubblegum factory in Slough finally ended on 5th June. After a bitter battle for union recognition lasting over eight months, 28 of the 47 made redundant will not get their jobs back. This strike was not broken by the bosses, cops or scabs...but by a 'left-wing' trade union official.

Before the strike, Chix workers were paid a lousy 95p an hour and were treated like animals. The tenacity of the strikers and the growing mass pickets forced Chix boss, Dennis Rose, to make certain concessions - to recognise the union and take back some of the workers. Further pressure would undoubtedly have led to more concessions, even an outright victory. The blacking of glucose and starch was beginning to take effect.

SECRET DEAL

However, General and Municipal Workers' Union (GMWU) official, Jeremy McMullen jumped at the settlement and agreed it without finalising the arrangements or even consulting the strikers. Many of them only heard about it over the radio!

The strikers got together and decided that the fight should go on. At a mass meeting McMullen tried to swing his deal but was shouted down and overruled. The fight was back on.

The strike ended at the next mass meeting when a ballot was held in circumstances that can only be described as a disgusting insult to the striking women. In an open letter to David Basnett, General Secretary of the GMWU, demanding the sacking of McMullen from his union post, strikers' leader Mrs. Jaswinder Brar explained what happened.

"This man has tried everything in his power to make us accept redundancies. But we haven't been on strike for eight months to win redundancy payments...At the meeting on June

5 ballot papers were used for voting but no one explained to us which box was for settlement and which against and most of us do not understand English.

"Mr. McMullen counted the papers himself and said 18 were for continuing the strike and 21 for accepting the terms offered. We could not believe this, as we know our own minds on this matter. A show of hands showed 21 for the strike and 18 for a settlement.

"I asked to recount the ballot papers. McMullen refused and the papers got torn up so no one could recount them..." (The papers were physically snatched from Mrs. Brar by McMullen and later destroyed.)

"We are left unemployed after some of us have worked there for eight years, now on employers' blacklists and yet the scabs who crossed our picket line every day still have their jobs."

LESSONS OF THE STRUGGLE

The struggle of the workers at Chix holds many important lessons for the class struggle in Britain. Firstly, national minority workers brought here as a source of cheap labour do not split the working class but are more and more coming to the fore in workers' struggles. In particular, the downtrodden Asian women have tremendous reserves of militancy waiting to be unleashed.

Further, it shows that the workers' struggle against the capitalists can only advance if it is combined with a ruthless struggle to expose and unmask the opportunists and traitors in our ranks, in order to drive them from the labour movement. McMullen likes to pose as a 'left winger' but at the first opportunity he tried to sell the workers out and did not stop at the most underhand means in doing so. This shows that the agents of the capitalist class

in our movement are better defenders of the capitalist system than the capitalists themselves.

We need to take up the fight to build class struggle trade unions where the officials will serve the membership and be fully accountable to them. In cases like this, such unions would make sure that all relevant material was translated into the workers' own language.

An army that does not root out the traitors from its own ranks will never win victory.

Forthcoming events

Saturday June 28th.

MARCH AGAINST H-BLOCKS AND POLICE CENSORSHIP.

In solidarity with those arrested in Luton under the Prevention of Terrorism Act and against harassment of their supporters. Assemble 12.30 pm, People's Park, Luton. Organised by "Hands off Ireland."

Saturday July 5th.

HOW DID RICHARD CAMPBELL DIE?

Friends of Richard Campbell Committee demonstration assembling at CPSA headquarters near Balham Tube at 1 pm.

Thursday July 10th.

CHINESE LAW

Organised by Bristol Branch of Society for Anglo-Chinese Understanding (SACU) and Bristol Legal Action Group.

Speaker - Kathryn Cronin, Leader of SACU Lawyers Tour to China.

6.15 pm, Friends Meeting House, Hampton Road, Redland.

Saturday July 12th.

DEFEND MUNIR AHMED FROM DEPORTATION

Demonstration called by Munir Ahmed Defence Campaign.

Assemble 12 noon, opposite St. Mark's Church, Waterloo Street, Goldwick, Oldham.

Thursday July 17th.

THE STRUGGLE IN AZANIA

Meeting organised by RCLB London District to discuss the Azanian peoples' struggle and build solidarity.

Speakers invited from various Azanian liberation movements and ZANU. Poetry and drumming from Pula Kommune.

Africa Centre, Kings Street, W.C.2, 7.30 pm. (This meeting has been postponed from July 3rd).

Saturday July 19th.

DEFEND NASIRA BEGUM

Demonstration in support of Nasira Begum and all others threatened with deportation. Assemble 12.30, Whitworth Park, Manchester. Coach organised from London. Phone 272 5894 for details.

Saturday July 19th.

1ST ANNIVERSARY OF THE NICARAGUAN REVOLUTION

Rally and cultural evening organised by Nicaragua Solidarity Campaign. Labour movement and other speakers. Reggae musician and poet Linton Kwesi Johnson. Steel Band and Latin American folk group.

7.30 pm, Logan Hall, Institute of Education, Guildford Street, London, W.C.1.

Tuesday July 22nd.

NASIRA BEGUM VIGIL

All night vigil the night before Nasira's final appeal. Outside Appeals Office, Aldine House, New Bailey Street, Manchester.