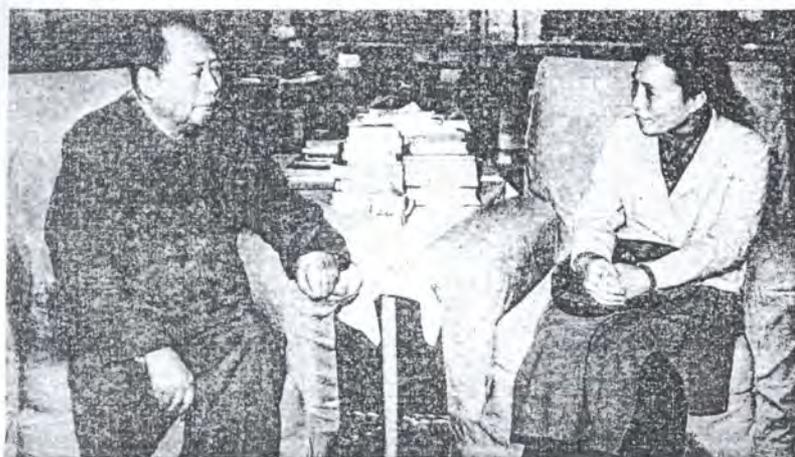


THE WORKER



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A STRONGER WORKING CLASS



South Viet Nam's Minister of Foreign Affairs Nguyen Thi Binh of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Viet Nam meets Chairman Mao Tsetung, in Peking on Dec. 29, 1972 (Page 4)

CIVIL SERVANTS DEFY GOVERNMENT

A mass walk-out by many of the 260,000 civil servants in the Civil and Public Servants' Association and the Society of Civil Servants on Wednesday, January 10th, signalled the start of the first industrial action ever undertaken by Britain's civil servants. They closed down the Cabinet Office, the British Museum and much of Westminster. They threw Heathrow into chaos. Denied a room in Somerset House they took over the courtyard for a mass meeting. Over 700 local social security offices around the country were closed at times during the day, and walkouts by Customs officers caused disruption at several ports of entry.

At a meeting in Bristol feelings ran high. When a representative from the SCS Executive complained he couldn't afford to go on strike, he was greeted by an angry cry from the lower paid CPSA workers of: 'If you can't afford it how do you think we bloody can - if we can't afford to lose a days pay on strike then we need more pay!'

Their action was in protest against the freezing by the government of the pay increase due on January 1st. The government expected the civil servants to be a model for the whole country in meekly accepting the freeze. In fact they have been a model for all workers - in standing up and opposing the freeze. A joint statement by the two unions stresses that they do not see civil servants as a 'special case'. Of the January 10th action the statement says: 'It shows that civil servants today are prepared to take suitable direct action to protect living standards. They are not fighting for specially favoured treatment for the Civil Service.'

The CPSA have announced plans for mass meetings in 23 regional

centres between January 16th and February 15th. Selective strikes will be held in the areas in which they will do the most damage. Announcing strike action, William Kendall, General Secretary of the CPSA, attacked the weak-kneed and submissive attitude of the TUC in the face of the freeze. 'We cannot stand by and watch the TUC kow-tow to Downing Street in a situation in which the living standards of our members have been savagely reduced,' he said.

Civil Servants have often in the past been in the vanguard among so-called 'white-collar' workers. While the rate of trade union membership for white-collar in manufacturing was about 15% during the 1960s, for civil servants it was over 80%. And in Britain the right to strike has been won for civil servants where in many other countries it has never existed. But there was always a reluctance to use the trade union instrument that the workers had forged. Employment in the civil service was seen as a haven, a refuge from the class war which engulfs the rest of society. The government had a reputation as a 'good employer' who couldn't go broke, wouldn't throw you out of work and would provide you with pension on retirement.

The result of this at best smug, at worst seivile, attitude held by many civil servants was that their position was eroded. Far from a haven, it has turned out that public employment is a poverty trap.

How to break out of it? Not through the set-piece skirmishes apart from the mass at Whitley Council meetings. Not by clinging to the principle that pay should be based on comparison with similar workers outside the civil service. Why should civil

servants tail along behind anyone? Certainly not by heart-rending appeals to Parliament (the employer). Not without struggle.

Civil servants know this very well and are taking up the fight on many fronts. Besides the fight for pay there is the fight against redundancies and for the creation of new jobs to meet a heavier work load. There is the fight against 'dispersal' which leads to the uprooting and splitting of families and is a device to create redundancy. Running through all these is the theme of the fight for standards: an ill-paid, undermanned civil service, fearing job loss and family disruption, cannot provide the service that the public deserve. The fight to maintain standards is a fight to preserve skills; like the fight against pollution, it is part of the struggle against the corruption and debasement of life by capitalism.

The CPBML hails the stand against the government taken by the civil servants. The working class grows broader and stronger every day.

Engineers support CPSA

This London North District Committee congratulates the membership of the CPSA for their determined action against the Government's wage freeze.

We call upon our Executive Council to make public our Union's support for the CPSA and any other union engaged in action to defeat the Government wage freeze.

We further condemn the scandalous decision of the TUC General Council to continue 'talks' with the Government in a period when every section of the Trade Union Movement is under attack by the Government.'

Editorial

Revolution is the main trend in the world today. In the world-wide struggle between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie, between socialism and capitalism the revolutionary movement of workers is everywhere in the ascendant and the reactionary forces defending capitalism are everywhere in some degree of disarray and retreat. These forces are still able to inflict violence on working people - like the US Government's bombing of Vietnam or the British Government's attack on workers here in trying to cripple and confine them in a corporate state; but these are signs of vicious weakness, not confident strength.

Here in Britain the working class has the longest direct experience of capitalist exploitation. No one can teach British workers anything about fighting for survival under such a system. But to mobilise themselves in order to smash the system and capture state power they require a leadership which can inform their struggle with the lessons paid for by the blood of workers elsewhere who have successfully thrown off the yoke of class oppression. They need Marxism-Leninism in the form of their own political party, born of their own class agony - a repository of scientific socialism, validating its leadership role by being in the forefront of every struggle.

To say that revolution is the main trend is to say that Marxism-Leninism is increasing its hold on the minds and hearts of working people. When it grips the masses it becomes a material force, capable of changing the world. Marxism-Leninism is the ideology of the working class; in adopting Marxism-Leninism workers are coming into their own philosophical heritage and applying to their own struggles in this place or that the universal experience and knowledge of workers everywhere.

Out of the experience of the proletariat in struggle Marx developed the revolutionary theory of the capture of state power by the working class and the ending of the exploitation of man by man. Under the leadership of Lenin this theory was tested in the social practice of the October Revolution.

In this process Marxism-Leninism has been enriched by the theoretical work of the great revolutionary leaders - Stalin, Mao Tsetung, Ho Chi Minh, Enver Hoxha. Their ideas, drawn from the experience of the masses and proved in revolutionary socialist practice, make up scientific socialism. Just as it would be futile to try to make an electric motor without understanding the principles of electro-magnetism so it is useless to try to make a revolution without understanding Marxism-Leninism, scientific socialism.

The most political struggle of workers in Britain today, the fight of the engineers against anti-trade union legislation and thus against the capitalist state, has not come about spontaneously, without preparation and without leadership. It is no accident that the engineers who most consistently applied in their conflict with the employers the tactics of guerrilla struggle as formulated by the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) should have provided the strongest political resistance, on behalf of the entire working class, to the corporatisation of the state. Nor is it a coincidence that in this union leadership, which aroused engineers to factory-based actions all over the country and brought half a million engineers into industrial action by stating that workers would not stand idly by while their funds were raided by the boss's Court, there is a Marxist-Leninist member of the Executive, Reg Birch, Chairman of the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist).

This example of a Marxist-Leninist lead adopted by the EC, taken up by militant organised workers and forced through in the teeth of the ruling class by correct hit and run tactics is a model for British workers in the coming year of struggle.

It is the complement here in Britain to the strong voice of Marxism-Leninism raised on the international scene by that great socialist power, the People's Republic of China. This is the beginning of ensuring that Britain is part of the world where revolution is the main trend.

70,000 more strike against NIRC

The engineers' action against the fines imposed by the NIRC did not end at Xmas. 30,000 on Tyneside, 17,000 in S. Wales, and 2,000 at the British-Leyland truck plant at Bath-gale, West Lothian struck on January 8th. Vauxhall workers from Luton and Dunstable, and other workers from the Luton area, a total of some 20,000, struck on Jan. 15th.

In response to the Executive's call to take the steps they consider appropriate to defend the policy of the Union and to maintain and develop the AUEW, the first time any Union

has done this, a total of 500,000 to 600,000 went on strike. Dockers and other trade unionists came out in solidarity. The loss of earnings to these men and women is estimated as some £3,000,000, with the government thus losing at least £600,000 in tax. For the employers the strikes meant a production loss of over £6,000,000 and a profit loss of about £500,000. All this over £66,000 worth of fines! The working class is prepared to make sacrifices and to make the employers suffer as well. And this is only the beginning.

FREEZE PHASE II

The Government is now preparing to move into phase II of its 'freeze' which is no more than a re-hash of its pre-freeze proposals. This time however, it is to be enforced by law without even the pretence of getting a 'voluntary agreement'.

The limit on wage increases of £1 a week plus 4% of the pay bill and the punishments proposed for striking or even threatening to strike for more are simply a confirmation of the policy of attacking the standard of living of every worker and further curtailing our freedom.

This is why the TUC's cosy chat with Heath and his ministers is an even greater betrayal of the working class than before. The TUC leaders never had the right to have any discussions with the Government while the Industrial Relations Act hangs over the neck of every worker. With an imposed freeze, with workers everywhere engaged in or preparing for a battle, with the engineering workers successfully defying the Act mobilising over half a million workers, the TUC visit to Downing Street to be 'informed' of the details of phase II is open collaboration with the class enemy.

Underlying everything is the fact well known to ministers as well as TUC leaders, that whether the TUC accepts or half-heartedly opposes phase II, it will not stop workers from continuing the battle against the freeze.

We've been here before

While the Tory government proclaims 'Phase II' of its incomes policy let us look back at the record of the so-called 'Opposition'. In 1966 the Labour government's freeze was carefully planned to induce workers to get increases by signing productivity deals — the deals that were to lead to ever-increasing redundancies and a million unemployed. The emphasis on measuring productivity was part of the process leading to measured day work (and we have seen how plants that kept piecework as opposed to measured day work have been the most successful in beating the present freeze).

The Labour version of Phase II was the 'policy of severe restraint' as laid out in the White Paper 'Prices and Income Policy after 30 June 1967'. 'In the present economic situation priority must continue to be given to economic recovery and the strengthening of the balance of payments. There can be no justification at present for returning to the norm of 3-3½% per annum which prevailed up to July 1966. ... Over the twelve month period beginning 1 July 1967, no-one can be entitled to a minimum increase; any proposed increase will need to be justified against the criteria set out below. ... The country cannot at present afford any further general reduction in the standard working week or general movement towards longer holidays'.

Price control was even more laughable than the present freeze, the only exception being Wilson holding a laundry price increase.

The workers made mincemeat of the Labour prices and incomes policy and will do the same to the present plan, despite the despairing cries of those who insist that the only way to fight is to sit back and await the return of the 'benevolent' Labour government.

Students - prospects for 1973

1972 was a milestone in the development of the student movement. From organisations more akin to debating societies and social clubs our unions are now developing into real organs of struggle. In colleges throughout the country the mass of students have involved themselves in action over their own conditions.

In the early part of the year the student unions carried through a militant campaign against the DES proposals for state control of student unions. The government temporarily withdrew these. The support for the campaign showed the latent strength and determination of students. In some colleges students realised this, took the offensive and asserted the total autonomy of their unions. The campaign for autonomy is ongoing. Its work is proved in struggle and struggle consolidates its strength.

In the face of a declining standard of living students have realised that they must fight back. Local struggles developed around the level of hall fees and canteen prices. Strikes and lightning boycotts

proved effective in gaining reductions. As with autonomy, these essentially defensive battles spurred students to go on the offensive. At the Margate NUS conference the greatest emphasis was put on winning a substantial increase in grants and ending many of the inequities. Our claim was to be backed with guerrilla tactics, to be adopted as best suited local conditions.

1973 will be a testing year for student unions. The grants campaign will be the major aspect of our activity. It provides us with a great opportunity to demonstrate our strength and potential in concrete struggle. It will also expose yet again the time-serving opportunists, who have for so long confined their activity to pseudo-revolutionary actions, avoided struggle at all costs and have brought us only defeat. If at long last we can see an end to these frauds and a conscious development of the mass guerrilla line, we can look forward to 1973 as a year of victory.

Fight 'education on the cheap'

For the Authorities at Warwick University, the term started badly with a rent strike on the first day, called by the Students' Union, and a one day stoppage by the university workers, including porters, cleaners, catering staff, bus drivers, and others.

It makes Warwick one of some 25 universities and colleges in Britain to take action by withholding rent as part of the national campaign of the N. U. S. for higher grants. The one-day strike on 8th January of the T. G. W. U. came about when the £2.40 pay rise, nationally agreed on 6th November and automatically

awarded to workers at other colleges in the area, was not awarded to Warwick University workers. The rent strike continues and the university workers are considering their next action.

The strikes have brought about a greater solidarity between students and workers at the university, the Students' Union passing a resolution to support the university workers in their struggle. The Government policy of 'Education on the cheap' is affecting both students and university workers and they are fighting it in the only way possible, struggle for higher grants and higher wages. Struggle against the same enemy.

The freeze that never was

Behold the frozen prices! For the first week in January the Daily Mirror's shopping clock informs us that the price of their £5 worth of groceries (at 1970 prices) leapt by 12p. (now £6.49). Not bad for a price freeze considering this massive increase has only been beaten four times since November, 1970, one of these during the freeze where the increase was 17½p.

To the public furor over meat prices especially that of beef the government has reacted with a vigour reminiscent of its belated and pathetic attempts to 'facilitate public complaints of violations of the freeze'. It swung into action and — yes, appointed an inquiry.

Here are some of the astounding conclusions of this august body.

1. 'It is undoubtedly true that beef in the last few years has become a relatively more expensive item in our budgets than it used to be.'
2. 'Housewives hold the key to pegging prices.' 'It's all supply and demand. If housewives don't buy, the price comes down. However when they then buy at the new cheap price it goes up again. Heads you lose, tails you lose. In any case, Inquiry member Dame Elizabeth Ackroyd said: 'It is quite interesting that in terms per head, beef consumption has been going down gradually for several years.' Thus you can argue that we have already been following her advice for several years — with 'interesting' results. But the reality of housewives being able to peg prices is brought out by the inquiry's conclusion that prices of the recent order are here to stay.
3. The inquiry therefore concludes that 'In the future meat will be a relatively more expensive foodstuff and people will adjust their choices accordingly.' No element of compulsion — people just will not be able to afford it.
4. Last but not least of a long line of contradictory statements, the inquiry found that farmers were making too much profit, but that nobody was profiteering.

The futility of inquiries is nothing new. Ireland's decline through misery after misery to the seemingly inevitable climax of the great famine was accompanied by the absence of any important measure of alleviation — and by an average of 5 parliamentary inquiries per year. The handloom weavers and frame work knitters were duly inquired into as they starved.

But even the present astronomical price rises are only a forerunner of the future. Prices here are nowhere near Common Market levels yet. A good cut of beef costing around 75p, a pound in Britain this weekend would cost £1.35p. in Paris — 60p. more. Other prices are similar. With the cost of shoes expected to double soon, with the removal of free school milk and cheap school meals, are we heading full circle to the worst days of the industrial revolution when barefoot rickety urchins foraged for food, and the workers harked back to the days when Englishmen were renowned for their consumption of beef?

The thing that no government inquiry will tell us is how to stop this accelerating deterioration of living standards. We can only do that by stopping capitalism — Permanently.

ALBANIA - where people's needs have priority



Enver Hoxha, First Secretary of the Party of Labour of Albania, chats with a group of villagers about the tasks of strengthening Socialism in their country

£10 Christmas bonus for the pensioners, an outcry at the exclusion of some 7,000 who were unfortunate enough to earn during the last week, and a sigh of relief when the government finally grants them the money as well. Is this the answer to the poverty of the aged in Britain?

In this country 130,000 people die each year of hypothermia because they cannot get the fuel to keep warm. 10,000 single men and women sleep rough or in hostels every night in London. In 1972, (this year when we are told that, despite problems, 'we have never had it so good'), 6,172 children had to be taken into care in England and Wales because their families are homeless or living in unsatisfactory conditions.

This society, where the richest 1 per cent own 30 per cent of the country's wealth, is also a society where the fight for compensation for thalidomide children takes ten years; where our health facilities are so overloaded that there is a waiting list of 607,000 for NHS beds.

When all additional expenditure on desperately needed housing and other social services is represented by press and government as a gift of unmitigated generosity, an attempt to obscure the fact that every penny used is taken from workers' wages in the first place, a comparison of the situation under socialism is an eye-opener.

28 years ago, Albania was the most backward country in Europe, with only five per cent of her economy engaged in industry, and 85 per cent of her population illiterate. A quarter of her peasantry had lost their homes during four years of war, and the economy, and the countryside generally, were devastated.

The situation in Albania today is impressive not only as an indication of the distance moved since the taking of state power by the people, but also as a vivid testimony to the superiority of socialism, the collective ownership, control and planning of the use of national resources by the people of the country.

This tiny society, only 2,000,000 people, now builds houses at an annual rate sufficient to rehouse the homeless population of Britain twice over. Having repaired the devastation of the war years by 1946, they have now completely rehoused half their peasantry and were capable, after an earthquake in 1967, of mobilising the society to rebuild 6,048 homes within 29 days. Rent for these homes is only 3 per cent of an average worker's income, and in addition the state provides long term interest free credits, enabling 30,000 homes to be built privately.

Workers in Albania face no deductions from income, neither tax nor social insurance contributions, the last being provided entirely by the state and industrial and agricultural enterprises. They receive full sick pay, free medical treatment, pensions, fully paid pregnancy leave, even payment of burial costs. Education is completely free, and one in three of the total population is studying, either full or part time, the latter under a system of fully paid leave for study of two hours each work day, plus fully paid leave for exams. As a result of the development of such opportunities, Albania had eradicated illiteracy in the age group under 40 within ten years.

Not only is there no unemployment in Albania, but by law, if a worker loses his or her job for any reason, the institution is compelled to ensure them work elsewhere. If a worker falls sick, his job is held for 6 months and for a pregnant woman 12 months.

Mothers of young children are provided with full kindergarten and creche facilities at their place of work, and in the early years get two hours per day at full pay to care for the child. An extensive system of industrial laws forbids overtime working by pregnant women, by workers under 16, and provides additional holidays for particular categories of jobs considered more difficult or hazardous.

In 1944 Albania had a ratio of 1 doctor to 10,000 people — a total of 10 hospitals in the whole country, with 805 beds between them. More than half the population suffered from malaria, tuberculosis and syphilis were rampant. Today these diseases have almost completely been eradicated, swamps cleared and land reclaimed. In 1970 the ratio of doctors to people was 1:1,100, which will have been reduced to 1:850 by 1975.

Taken together with the other conditions of Albania — no inflation, in fact prices have been reduced 11 times in the years of people's state power, and prices are fixed throughout the country, so that a commodity bought in the remotest region will cost the same as in the cities; real incomes rising at a rate of about 9 per cent per year; a life span which has been increased from 36 in 1944 to 66 in 1970, a system where people and people's needs are the priority — the contrast acts like a powerful searchlight illuminating the terrible inadequacies of our own system, where the abundant wealth of a highly developed technological society is appropriated by the few, and where profit, not people, is the be all and end all.

CHINA AND THE INTERNATIONAL STRUGGLE

125 years ago (January 1846) Marx and Engels wrote: 'Society is more and more splitting into two great hostile camps. . . . 125 years later the impossibility of reconciling the exploiters and the exploited, oppressors and oppressed, is no less true. Capitalism long ago attained its highest, its final historical form - imperialism. Imperialism is the era of revolution, the death of capitalism and the dawning of the socialist order. Under imperialism the subjection of whole nations in the interests of monopoly capitalists of other states is a fundamental and inevitable fact. The democratic demand of nations for the right of self determination is a progressive, just and natural expression of those historical conditions. And further, the harsh experience of the oppressed peoples is teaching them that, ultimately, there can be no solution but the victory of socialism.

The socialist revolution does not take place as a single event, it is not a 'single battle on a single front', it is rather a 'whole epoch of intensified class conflicts, a long series of battles on all fronts'.

And the fight is far advanced. In 1972 the people of the world were locked in life and death struggles with the forces of imperialism.

When we reflect on the many successes of the preceding year we think most of all of the gentle people of Vietnam, who brought low the mighty American war machine, paying with their lives for the right to determine their own destiny. Together with their Laotian and Cambodian neighbours they have shown by their example that a just cause pursued with courage, determination and with the correct political understanding, is unbeatable. The ruling class in the United States has achieved only greater humiliation and discredit in its attempt to keep the world free for the domination of the banks and the giant corporations.

Closer to home the people of Ireland, north and south, have the removal of British troops as the first and most pressing of the tasks to be achieved before Ireland can be truly free.

In the Middle East progress has been made by the oil producing states to free themselves from superpower control. The armed struggle of the people of Dhofar against the 'secret' war of colonial suppression waged by British imperialism has been prosecuted with vigour. The Palestinians have persisted in their fight against Israeli aggression and for the reclamation of their territory, and they will continue to struggle until they have instituted the secular state of Palestine.

There can be no short cuts or easy solutions. Foreign 'aid' is a good example of such a nostrum. What actually passes as aid is a loan heavily tied to the interests of the 'obliging' state and the end result is an increasing inability to exercise any form of national sovereignty. Last year, for instance, the Egyptians suffered intolerable interference by the Russians in their internal affairs, who, selling them arms in order (superficially) to 'support and assist' them in their fight against Israeli aggression, retained total control, refused to allow any of the weapons to be fired and continually demanded further concessions. Indeed, whilst posing as an ally of the Arab states, Russia 'advised' against demanding increased oil prices since the 'western' imperialists might attack them, and went so far as to tell them that their oil was international property. With friends like Russia the Arabs have no need of Israel!

The other feature of 'foreign aid' is the extortionate rate of interest. In a very short time the entire GNP may be required to service such a loan. Only China offers aid at low interest or even with no interest at all, attaches no strings and does not use the debt as an occasion for international blackmail.

Everywhere today it is the same. Revolution is the main trend.

And all the while the rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union continued unabated. Despite the 'mutual recognition' of each other's 'security interests' based on the 'principle of equality', nothing has really changed. Their mutual interest consists only in the



Crops grow well in the areas around Shanghai's Taopu industrial district, thanks to the workers' efforts in making multi-purpose use of industrial waste to prevent pollution

domination of smaller, weaker states, an equitable division of the world into 'spheres of interest'. At the same time as these two self-appointed global policemen reached agreement on limitations to the production and development of nuclear weapons, 'in the interests of world peace', so their meddling in the affairs of other nations actually increased world tensions, and meanwhile they continued to supplement their enormous stockpiles of nuclear weapons to augment their armies and navies, and built even more warplanes. World peace is a dream, a utopian fancy, so long as imperialism continues to exist. Empty phrases about nuclear disarmament and 'non-proliferation' serve only the interests of those whose wish it is to preserve a monopoly of force.

China enters the new year politically and economically stronger, more united and determined to carry out its historic task of leading the world revolutionary movement.

China's economic advance has been phenomenal. 1972 witnessed a 16% increase in crude oil production, 30% in textiles and fabrics, 18% in chemical fertilisers, 3 million hectares of land were reclaimed or improved, and in spite of the severe drought, total grain output was the same as that of 1970 while industrial crops increased by 35% on the previous year.

In the UN China led the independent and non-aligned countries in opposition to the domination of the super-powers. On pollution the Chinese delegation showed who the real polluters were: the imperialist war-mongers. While condemning assassinations and hi-jacking as a means of waging a political struggle, China opposed the inclusion on the agenda of the UN of the question of 'international terrorism' in so far as this was an excuse for further repressive measures taken by the imperialists against the liberation movements.

The growing role of China internationally gives great encouragement and further help to the liberation movements and workers everywhere. The U.S. policy of 'quarantining' China has had to end in defeat with Nixon's visit to Peking, as what was once a trickle of states seeking trade and diplomatic relations grew to a torrent. Even the King could see that he was wearing no clothes at all.

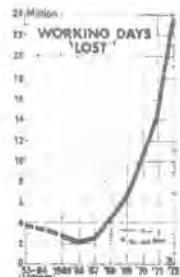
Great gains and advances were made during 1972, in Britain and the rest of the world. We are part of that great movement of workers and oppressed peoples to bring about the final defeat of imperialism and the victory of socialism.

Out of their own mouths

and Thomson are now well set up in the EEC and dishing out 'jobs for the boys' at £12,000 a head. EEC — Mansholt meanwhile reminds British workers that 15 years of EEC integration have failed to produce 'any broad improvement in conditions generally for the great mass of the population'.

North has been equally forthright as Britain joins the EEC and the U.S. considers the use of nuclear weapons in Vietnam: 'Our aim must be that Europe can emerge as a valid partner of the U.S. in strengthening the prospects for peace and prosperity across the world'.

Carl Duerr, USA 'expert' to a group of Midlands Businessmen — 'Honesty has no place in management. People confuse honesty and legality. It is credibility that matters. You must be seen to be honest, but you don't have to be honest!'



ON THE INDUSTRIAL FRONT



James Goad, Superscab

Britain's youngest but fastest growing profession has had a severe, and hopefully fatal, setback. Courtesy of the NRC we have, following in the footsteps of Mr. Goad, a breed of men, or at least beings walking on two legs, who seek fame and fortune simply for being contemptible in the eyes of their fellow workers. Mr. Goad is, we are told, a religious man, a man of principle. He values his principles highly. £30,000 no less. For this he would consent to stop being the pretext for attacks on the union of his former fellow workers. Seeing a profitable bandwagon, or sewage cart, others jumped aboard, and were promptly driven home, on full pay. A Mr. Young and a Mr. Canavan at Thorn Radio, Valves and Tubes Ltd's factory at Sunderland resigned from their unions and went home. They were waiting, no doubt, for their £30,000 cheques to arrive through the letterbox. But then they saw that the religious Mr. Goad has not actually received his 30,000 pieces of silver, that

the workers at Chrysler were so impressed with their Mr. Langston that they wanted physically to lay hands on him and that owing to the incompetence of the Attorney-General in drawing up the Industrial Relations Act Mr. Langston probably cannot even bring the union to court. No doubt our Sunderland heroes reflected on the fact that 7,700 Thorn workers, who had already banned overtime and would strike if the two men continued to draw their pay, were a good deal closer than half a dozen Fleet Street leader writers. And so they applied to rejoin their unions. Perhaps prompted by the conversion of their paid leave into unpaid leave? The workers may have been over-generous in allowing them back at all unless they have learnt their lesson. Meanwhile Mr. Goad has not been attempting to attend the Sudbury AUEW branch lately. 'I'm reserving my position,' he says. Or have people not a million miles from Whitehall told him to lay off?

Hull dockers

Although temporarily ignored by the bourgeois news media, dockers in Hull are continuing their fight for the right to work. They are turning away lorries belonging to Williams of Goole because the firm employs unregistered dockers who do work previously done in Hull, and at a lower rate of pay.

Midland Cold Stores

Another nail in the coffin of the NRC. The Vestey group has dropped its complaint to the NRC over picketing of Midland Cold Stores by dockers. Vestey's has failed to turn the drivers against the dockers, failed to get NRC orders accepted, failed in attacks on the principle of 'dockers work'. But spare no sorrow for the millionaire Vestey cousins. With soaring beef prices their control of beef imports from farm right through to butcher should be raking in the money. No wonder they aren't willing to risk a full-scale punch-up over another instance on 'employers' rights.

Rolls Royce

80 computer staff at Rolls-Royce headquarters staged a one-day strike in a demand for parity with Rolls-Royce factories in Scotland, at present earning £400 a year more.

Filipino girls

The Rochdale firm of Alderglen Manufacturing has been forced to give up its bond system under which 60 Filipino textile workers were held to their two-year contract. The girls (living up to 9 in a room in company-owned houses) were paying £1 a week (out of earnings that could be as low as £13) into a company fund from which £200 was deducted whenever a girl left the firm or did outside work to supplement her meagre wage. The bond system was introduced, according to the managing director, after some of an earlier group of girls had left before the end of their contract (at £12 a week). So, in an attempt to re-introduce serfdom, he applied his bond system. And has now had to scrap it and promise free passage back to Manila for any girl who wants it.

Stationery Office stationary

The government already has trouble getting workers to accept its laws. But now workers around London are being spared the prospect of even reading the laws, 170 bookshop and mail order staff employed by the Stationery Office went on strike at the beginning of the year. They object to the ending of a deal linking London pay to agreements between SOGA and the London Newspaper Distributors.

Electrical contractors

300 electricians working for contractors Watson Norrie on the £230 million A cher plant being built by the British Steel Corporation at Scunthorpe went on strike for an extra £10-12 a week to bring them level with the money being paid by other contractors. The walkout followed the sacking of 38 men for working to rule.

VIETNAM

Nguyen Thi Binh, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam, paid an official visit to China on 27th December. A communique at the end of the visit declared: 'The Vietnamese people ardently love peace, but it must be a peace in independence and freedom. So long as the U.S. Government continues to pursue a deceitful and perjurious attitude and obstinately intensifies the war in seeking a military victory, the people of South Vietnam will be determined to fulfil their pledge, together with their kin and kin in the north, to realise Ho Chi Minh's sacred testament, surmount all the hardships and difficulties, carry on with perseverance and intently their resistance till complete victory.'

The communique went on: 'The Chinese Government and people firmly support the solemn and just stand of the Provisional Government and the Government of North Vietnam on the peaceful settlement of the Vietnam question and the efforts made by them to this end, and firmly support the Vietnamese people in their war against U.S. aggression and for national salvation. The Chinese and Vietnamese peoples are of the same family. So long as U.S. imperialism does not stop its aggression against Vietnam, the Chinese people, steadfastly following Chairman Mao's teachings, will firmly support and assist the Vietnamese people in their just war not flinching from the greatest national sacrifice.'

The two sides noted with satisfaction that the fraternal friendship and militant unity of the Chinese and South Vietnamese peoples are daily growing in

strength and developing. Nixon has proclaimed his hopes for an honourable settlement of the war in Vietnam. Why then did he repudiate the agreement reached on 20th October last year?

In spite of the U.S. Government's bad faith, the Vietnamese have agreed to return to negotiations in Paris because, as General Vo Nguyen Giap has stated, the victory of the Vietnamese people over Nixon's air offensive has denied the U.S. any pretension of negotiating from strength. The US Government has expressed its concern for the 'sovereignty' of South Vietnam. It has stated that its 'basic demand' is for the removal of North Vietnamese troops from the south. The whole world knows that according to the Geneva Agreement of 1954 the military demarcation line was to be provisional and that under the terms of the same Agreement Vietnam was to have been reunified by 1956. The United States, however, to whose tender mercies both north and south have been subjected, now wishes to make this a permanent division. The Vietnamese are ONE PEOPLE. The unity of Vietnam is not a matter for debate.

The Americans put 500,000 troops into Vietnam. They station warships in its coastal waters. They fill the sky with aircraft and litter the countryside with their wreckage. Now, as they are forced out, they turn around and with hearts of lead cry 'shame' that the Vietnamese have invaded their own land. And even as they cry 'peace' they introduce another 10,000 'military advisors' to put a backbone into the puppet army and step up the flow of war material.

'Fair Trading'

Following 'fair dismissals' in the Industrial Relations Act, and 'fair rents', comes a 'Fair Trading Bill'. One of the first acts of this government was to abolish the inoffensive Consumer Council in the 'stand on your own feet' phase. Finding the capitalists could not stand on their own feet, this phase has been abandoned and now we are to have a 'highly paid' Director of Fair Trading and a Consumer Protection Advisory Committee. The Monopolies Commission is to have wider powers, thus giving the state increased control over the structure of British industry. Also the Monopolies Commission will be able to report on so-called 'restrictive labour practices' thus making propaganda against workers organising to save jobs. But doubtless learning from unpleasant memories of trying to enforce the Industrial Relations Act, the Government is making no provision for legal action arising from such reports.

Such solicitude for the consumers sounds odd coming from a government which has pushed food prices up by 22 per cent and plans further increases to celebrate entering the Common Market. But if any capitalists are caught by the new legislation they will be the smallest ones; and the system as a whole does not need their petty swindles to exist, and can afford 'consumerism' as an inexpensive diversion from the class struggle. The basic exploitation in this society is not exploitation of consumers, for we are all consumers, as surely as we are all born with a mouth and a stomach. The exploitation is class exploitation, based on men's relations in production, not consumption, and will not be ended by tinkering but by revolution.



Civil servants outside Somerset House demonstrate in one of many actions against the freeze

Preparing for civil war

In 1970 at the U.N. Heath said that the main danger was civil war. He is now drooling about 'social partnership' but this does not mean an end to preparations for civil war. On the contrary, one of the most cogent advocates of such preparations, Brigadier Frank Kitson, has been appointed Commandant of the School of Infantry where he is now able to carry out his aim of training officers and NCOs in the most effective ways of repressing a civilian population. His book 'Low Intensity Operations' explains some of these methods and is a polemic against 'some influential people both inside and outside the army' who deny that the army will have to play 'a counter-insurgency role' or who say that 'a fit soldier with a rifle' is all that is needed. Kitson is described as 'above all a realist' by General Carver, Chief of the General Staff.

Kitson's long and bloody career stretches through Kenya, Malaya, Muscat and Oman, Cyprus, and finally Belfast. He thus considers himself an expert in fighting 'subversion and insurgency'. But what are 'subversion' and 'insurgency'? According to Kitson, 'subversion' is 'all illegal measures short of the use of armed force taken by one section of the people of the country to overthrow those governing the country at the time, or to force them to do things which they do not want to do'. 'Insurgency' is the use of armed force for the same purposes. And what are these 'illegal measures'? 'Political and economic repression, strikes, protest marches and propaganda' according to the Brigadier. Obviously a forward-thinking man who sees the Industrial Relations Act as just the beginning.

—And our far-sighted Brigadier can suggest a situation in which the army would be needed in Britain. 'If a genuine and serious grievance arose, such as might result from a significant drop in the standard of living, all those who now dissipate their protest over a wide variety of causes might concentrate their efforts and produce a situation which was beyond the power of the police to handle. Should this happen the army would be required to restore the position rapidly'. To meet this, the author advocates early preparations. And as the civil administration is not really up to the job, 'representatives of the armed forces should be brought into the business from the very beginning'. But how will the public feel about these military Gauleiters, each responsible for a particular district in Kitson's detailed organisational structure? 'There is no danger of political repercussions to this course of action, because consultation can be carried out in strictest secrecy'.

The book tells officers how to 'repress subversion' most efficiently, by painstakingly collecting masses of information, from interrogations, from checking patterns of movement rather than making blind, blundering searches. Kitson would like to keep the troops as far away as possible from the people to stop them being won over by 'subversives', but against this he sets the need to have as many soldiers as possible collecting information. 'Their employment and leisure activities, if any, should be planned with this in mind'. One of Kitson's favourite techniques, used in Kenya, is the use of turncoats in 'pseudo-gangs' to lure potential and real opposition into the open.

But despite all the expertise, despite all the arrests, despite all the tortures, despite all the killing, the British army was not able to hold onto Aden. It has not suppressed the people in Northern Ireland or in Malaya. However many lectures are given at the School of Infantry, it will not succeed against the British working class.

Tuzo leaves but repression stays

Lt. General Tuzo has been removed from his position as General Officer Commanding British forces in Northern Ireland. The people of Northern Ireland, who for three years have had to suffer at the hands of the military machine he commanded, have not wept.

Nor have they cheered. It may suit British imperialism to remove from the arena of battle one tyrant, if it facilitates the agreement for the continued subjugation of Ireland, which has been made with the Dublin government and which will be announced in the white paper due out in a matter of weeks. And Tuzo has made such common cause with the morons of diabolic Unionism, who understand nothing of the needs of imperialism, that his presence can no longer be tolerated.

But though it may suit them to remove him it does not mean that

there has been any change in strategy, or any relaxation of oppression. The people of Northern Ireland are still under the same savage attacks from troops as they were in 1969. Barely a week ago the British Army Press Office had to 'apologise' (once again) for shooting a seventy year old woman. Four or five weeks earlier they were 'apologising' for shooting two men at work on a building. How many people do they kill without apologising? This is murder pure and simple.

The removal of one tyrant will change nothing. It will not lessen the determination of the Irish people to fight on. For there has been no let up in their just resistance nor will there ever be until the blight of imperialism has been banished from Ireland for ever. Our demand has not changed. All troops must be withdrawn now.

GREEK STUDENTS

The Greek Marxist-Leninists, struggling under the harshest conditions of illegality, took an active part in the recent student struggles and those last April, presenting clearly their arguments that the burning problems of the working masses are inseparable from those of the students.

On October 10, before the beginning of the new student term the fascist controlled student union (EPEE) announced the opening of the student election lists, imposing a time-limit of October 20, the junta's intention being to exclude a large number of working students and those living in the provinces from participating in the elections, and to completely exclude the first-year students. The students opposed all the junta's manoeuvres to gain control in universities and polytechnics and to run student affairs, many facing arrest and torture in the process.

The development of the student movement depends on close connection with the struggle of the masses for the overthrow of the fascist regime, a lackey of the Americans, for the liberation and independence of Greece and the establishment of a people's democracy and socialism.

With the completion last April of five years of fascist dictatorship, the students of Athens and Thessalonika launched demonstrations against the fascist junta, showing great militancy in opposing police attacks. In Athens alone nearly 2000 students expressed their opposition to the regime.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Friday, January 26th Public Meeting: Students, 7.30 p.m., Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortess Road, N.W.5.

Friday, February 2nd Public Meeting: Children in Albania, 7.30 p.m., Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortess Road, N.W.5.

Friday, February 9th Public Meeting: Common Market, 7.30 p.m., Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortess Road, N.W.5.

Friday, February 16th Public Meeting: Art and Culture, 7.30 p.m., Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortess Road, N.W.5.

Exhibition of art work by members of the CPB(ML): Monday Feb. 12th & Wednesday Feb. 21st - 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., At the Bellman Bookshop.

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SOCIALIST RADIO

Radio Peking: 9.30 p.m. to 11.30 p.m. 32, 47, 45 metre bands
Radio Tirana: 7.30, 9.30, and 11 p.m. 32, 42 metre bands
9.30 to 10 p.m. also on 215 metre band.
Radio Hanoi: 9 to 9.30 p.m. 19 metre band.