

COMMUNIST PARTY OF BRITAIN (MARXIST-LENINIST).

PARTY STUDY DOCUMENT.

INTRODUCTION: THE NEED FOR EDUCATION IN THE PARTY.

Education is necessary to a Party, necessary to a communist. It is a tool which provides conviction. The lack of it in a Party is the greatest weakness allowing the development of two lines; for want of study and education always an "ideal" position will arise as against a materialist Marxist-Leninist line.

Marxism-Leninism is not only a scientific exposition of political economy, but a scientific way of thinking - from which emerges what is referred to as the universal truth of Marxism-Leninism, basic objective laws. The use of Marxism is to provide not a dogma but a guide to be applied to the concrete conditions in a country.

In Britain we need especially to know these tools and to know how to use them, for we do know at least that the complexities of British capitalism, the long standing class supremacy, cunning and skill of our ruling class is second to none.

The problems of the British capitalist class, a declining imperialist power, are enormous. The contradictions it has are insoluble by them. Our world is one in which revolution is the main trend, but the ever present threat and possibility of a 3rd World War exists. "With regard to the question of world war, there are but two possibilities: one is that the war will give rise to revolution and the other is that revolution will prevent the war." (Mao)

We have to accept that in Britain our knowledge and study of Marxism is sorely neglected. This our Party to be a revolutionary party must correct. Without a revolutionary theory there cannot be a revolutionary party, and that theory is Marxism-Leninism. We must begin to strip away the mystique which we have allowed this basic philosophy to be shrouded with. The mystery for us, as much as it is there, and its solution, lies in the application of Marxism to the present period, the present day here in Britain. A task never before seriously undertaken.

We can start in modesty and without fear or feeling of inferiority, remembering that theory is for practice and theory comes from practice. Marxism can be properly understood as the practical tool of revolution ever being developed as a live philosophy. It provides a datum - it is the vertical and horizontal, the square and the flat, the plumbline and the level.

With the knowledge that these datums are both clearly understood and are true we shall be convinced and dedicated revolutionaries unswerving in our struggle, true communists serving the people.

## BRANCH STUDY

No-one is so wise that he does not need to study. And no worker is so stupid that he cannot grasp all the basic ideas of Marxism-Leninism. The theory emerged from the working class; it would not be logical to say that it cannot go back to the class whence it came. There is no room for intellectual laziness in our Party. Who are we to pronounce that the working class needs ideological development if we are not prepared to develop our own ideologies?

Learning is a process of active struggle: you cannot sit back passively and expect the ideas to soak in. Therefore everyone must get involved. Branch study is a collective matter; there is no room for a Professor of Marxism-Leninism. Study must be honest; the difficult or awkward passages must not be skipped or skated over with superficial oratory.

You will learn in proportion to how hard you work. The Classics were written at a time and place very different from where we are now. To read them intelligently you must understand the situation in which they were written. This means that you must read the prefaces and footnotes as well as the texts. Sometimes you need access to a history book or an encyclopaedia.

Our attitude to the Classics must be creative and critical. We need cadres who can make their own decisions, be self-reliant. The Classics must trigger off ideas, provoke thought and initiative. A reverential and parrot-like approach will paralyze us. People who retreat into the Classics to "prove" their argument by quotation fail to see Marxism-Leninism as a living thing. We will only understand the theory of the past to the degree that we apply it to the practice of the present. We must complement our study of the Classics by study of the British working class. "In order to know how it shall be done it is necessary to know how it is."

The best way to conduct Branch study is for one member to be designated leader (and he must have really worked at the study passage), for all members to read the passage beforehand, then for the Branch to read the passage aloud, paragraph by paragraph, and share the collective understanding. What does it mean? Why was it written? What was its effect at the time (a very difficult question)? Does it throw any light on our situation? The reading should rotate from member to member: this way everyone gets involved and everyone is encouraged to prepare.

The study leader must make sure the class has a focus. Why are we reading this passage? What are we trying to learn from studying it? His introduction and summing up at the end are important parts of a successful study meeting.

## SYLLABUS I: BASIC READINGS.

1. The Party Programme, "Burning Questions", "The Worker".
2. "The Communist Manifesto", (Marx and Engels), chapter I, and the first preface ed. 1872.
3. "Capital", (Marx), chapters
4. "On Practice", (Mao).
5. "History of the Party of Labour of Albania".

Pages 115-121, which gives guidance on the ideological and organisational basis of a Party.

Pages 149-158, dealing with factionalism and preserving unity.

Pages 135-145, linking up with the masses is the foremost task.

Pages 196-199, further strengthening Party unity.

Pages 305-318, balance sheet of the National Liberation War of Albania.

The last paragraph of Vol. I. of "History of the Party of Labour of Albania".

6. "Serve the People", (Mao).
7. "State and Revolution", (Lenin), chapter I.

## SYLLABUS II: REVISIONISM AND SOCIAL DEMOCRACY.

1. "Foundations of Leninism", (Stalin), chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 7.
2. "The Proletarian Revolution and Renegade Kautsky", (Lenin), chapter I pp. 5-19, chapter 2 pp. 19-30, chapter 7 pp. 72-90 (Chinese edition).
3. "Left-Wing Communism, an Infantile Disorder", (Lenin), chapters 5-9 pp. 26-92.
4. "Rectify the Party's Style of Work", (Mao), - in pamphlet form and in Selected Readings.
5. Speech in Moscow, 1960, (Enver Hoxha).
6. "Study Marxist-Leninist Theory Linking it Closely with Revolutionary Practice", (Enver Hoxha).

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION ON SYLLABUS II.

1. Why is it that so far the British working class has failed to make revolution?
2. Every Marxist-Leninist Party is in danger of revisionism. What forms could this take in our Party?
3. What does it mean to have Marxist-Leninist leadership of the working class?

SYLLABUS III: ECONOMICS. II

- 1. "Wages, Price and Profit", (Marx).
- 2. "Economic Problems of Socialism in the U.S.S.R." (Stalin).

READING LIST CHINA AND ALBANIA.

In order to understand the fight against Imperialism today we must study the work of the Chinese and Albanian comrades. Comrades Mao and Enver Hoxha can assist us in our guerilla war against British Capitalism.

CHINA.

First Revolutionary Civil War Period (1924-1927).

- 1. "Analysis of the Classes in Chinese Society", (Mao). For knowledge of feudal China.

Second Revolutionary Civil War Period (1927-1937).

- 2. Four articles in one book - "Why is it that Red Political Power can exist in China?" price 5p.
  - "The struggle in the ChingKang Mountains".
  - "On Correcting Mistaken Ideas in the Party".
  - "A Single Spark Can Start a Prairie Fire". Written to give heart to "defeatists".

The War of Resistance Against Japan (July 1937-1941).

- 3. "Combat Liberalism".
- 4. "Interview with the British Journalist James Bertram".
- 5. "Problems of War and Strategy".
- 6. "The Orientation of the Youth Movement". 10p the lot.

The War of Resistance Against Japan (1941-August 1945).

- 7. "Some Questions Concerning Methods of Leadership".
- 8. "On Production by the Army for its own Support and on the Importance of the Great Movements for Rectification and for Production".
- 9. "Talks at the Yen-an Forum on Literature and Art".

The Third Revolutionary Civil War Period (1945-1949).

- 10. "Speech at a Conference of Cadres in the Shansi-Suiyuan Liberated Area."
- 11. "Greet the New High Tide of the Chinese Revolution".
- 12. "Talk with the American Correspondent Anna Louise Strong". This is in short

supply but is in the Selected Works of Mao, Vol.4, only 25p to you.

These few documents show Chairman Mao's constant fight against "left" and right deviations, and the battle to create unity of the masses against the Imperialist invaders and their own bourgeoisie; their constant struggle to win allies, to preserve their forces, to prevent adventurism, to promote a better life for the people and to build Socialism.

These 12 documents can be bought in a set for 20p, less than half the cost. The Selected Works of Mao will be sold to Party members at £1.30, just over cost price. There are many other important documents of this period as single pamphlets which can be obtained at the bookshop, very cheaply.

N.B. They are in short supply.

#### The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution.

Collection of documents in pamphlet form. 10p.

The Constitution of the Communist Party of China. 5p.

The fight against revisionism is constant, as it is in our own Party. These documents are of vital importance to prevent further mistakes.

#### Finally but not least...

Speech by Chiao Kuan-Hua, Chairman of the Delegation of the People's Republic of China at the Plenary Meeting of the 27th Session of the U.N. General Assembly.

5p.

China is continuing the fight against Imperialism, carrying it outside its borders and by other forms.

When Comrades have studied these simply written documents they might feel qualified to tackle the difficult "Four Essays on Philosophy" by Chairman Mao, 10p to Party members.

#### ALBANIA.

We have difficulty in obtaining regular supplies of Albanian literature, so Comrades must share.

1. "The History of the Party of Labour of Albania". We only have Part II at the moment, but this is an important section. Price 10p.

We have in full supply these works by Hoxha:-

2. "25 years of Struggles and Victories on the Road to Socialism". Price 10p.

3. "It is in the Party-People-State Power Unity that our strength lies". Price 10p.

4. "Speeches 1967-1968". Price 10p.
5. "Study Marxist-Leninist Theory Linking it Closely with Revolutionary Practice".  
Price 5p.

The Struggle Against Revisionism.

Hoxha's 1960 Speech we do not have at the moment.

6. "Czechoslovak Socialist Republic Caught in the Grip of Soviet Revisionist Invaders".
7. "Congress of Capitalist Restoration and Social-Imperialism."
8. "Military Pressure - Basis of the Political Dictate and Blackmail of the Soviet Revisionist Leaders".
9. "On the Stand of the People's Republic of Albania towards the Warsaw Treaty".
10. "The Demagogy of the Soviet Revisionists Cannot Conceal their Traitorous Countenance".
11. "Soviet-U.S. Alliance at Work Against the Czechoslovak People".
12. "Open Fire On Revisionist Betrayal".
13. "On the Eve of the Moscow Revisionist Farce".

(Items 6-13, 12p the lot.)

14. "Leninism - the Banner of Struggle and Victory", (Ramiz Alia). A concise but masterly account of "Putting Theory into Practice" in Albania. Price 5p.

Remember, comrades, that Albania through its spokesman Enver Hoxha showed communist courage in denouncing revisionism at a Conference of all Communist Parties in 1960, and condemned Khrushchev's unprincipled attack on Stalin.

The only Socialist country in Europe deserves our special study.

A STUDY COURSE FOR CONTACTS.

Several Branches have now run study courses in which our Party's line is presented to invited contacts. The course takes the form of discussions of particular texts which are read aloud, paragraph by paragraph. At the end of the course those people who have shown fitness to be members of the Party are approached with a view to recruitment. Procedure on the course is as follows:

1. The course meets one evening per week for 5 consecutive weeks.
2. It begins when we know of 5-10 new contacts who would like to attend.
3. About five Branch members who can guarantee to attend every session are invited.
4. One Branch member is appointed leader of the course.
5. Each person pays a course fee of 25p at the first meeting.
6. TOPICS:
  - Week 1. Bourgeoisie and Proletariat (extracts from Chapter I of "The Communist Manifesto" by Marx and Engels.)
  - Week 2. The Dictatorship of the Proletariat (extracts from Chapter I of "State and Revolution" by Lenin.)
  - Week 3. The Party (Chapter 8 of "Foundations of Leninism" by Stalin.)
  - Week 4. "The British Working Class and Its Party" (Congress document.)
  - Week 5. Theory and Practice ("On Practice" by Mao).

*Week 6 Congress 76 / Party and New*

This procedure has been worked out carefully on the basis of experience. The course is as short as possible consistent with the need to deal thoroughly with the political issues. Some people are bound to drop out, but having only 5 sessions and making everyone pay the course fee in advance keeps most in. The number of participants (contacts and Party members) is kept to 10-15; big enough to guarantee the discussion will not flag and small enough to give each person a chance to speak his mind. The Branch members are there to teach - but also to learn the art of fighting for a line in discussion. The task of the leader is to see that the line is presented correctly and to supervise the entire course. The first three sessions introduce the fundamentals of Marxism-Leninism. The fourth is on our Party and the application of these principles in Britain. The fifth is on the theme "practice-theory-practice"; what practice brought these people to our theoretical course and how are they going to apply these new ideas in their own practice? The way these questions are answered should reveal the potential recruits.