

THE WORKER

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VICTORY! Tube repair men win after 12 week strike

ON 24th September 1969 all A.E.F. Members walked out at the Acton works of London Transport, the main Underground workshop, they were immediately followed by A.E.F. members in the Lige Depot. A.E.F. Members in the Lifts and Escalator division, about 400 in all. When they were still out after 24 hours they attracted no publicity, the service hadn't stopped and they were expected back at work any day as no stoppage here had lasted for more than 24 hours since 1936. The workers did not go back until 22nd December, over twelve weeks later.

The issue involved has been covered in earlier issues of the "Worker" but will bear re-stating. In London Transport there is a most elaborate system of joint consultation, you name it and there is a committee to deal with it. It has been said that by the time an issue has gone through the accepted procedure three or four times nobody remembers why it was raised in the first place and the question of action doesn't

arise. This whole labyrinth of procedure has been deliberately developed to keep the talk going and the action to a minimum. In September '68 the ultra-constitutionalist management simply broke a long standing agreement with the AEF. The agreement concerned the procedure for recruiting skilled Mechanical Fitters.

The AEF agreement was not a closed shop agreement as evidenced by the fact that there are Fitters holding National Union of Railwaymen, ETU and NUVB cards employed under this agreement at Acton and the Depots. The NUR had put forward a claim that their semi-skilled members be admitted to craft jobs on the basis of upgrading while retaining their NUR membership. The NUR argued quite erroneously that a skilled Fitter without indentures equated with a semi-skilled upgraded labourer. Any engineering worker knows this to be complete nonsense. There are in the country far more fully skilled engineering workers without indentures than there are with indentures. These are not upgraded labourers but men who have served their time in the industry, but in firms which did not supply an indenture.

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Britain that legacy of British imperialism, racialism, which the ruling class tries to use to split workers, will be fought as resolutely as in the past year.

Of course the major theme to be traced through each issue of THE WORKER is support for every struggle in which the workers of Britain take on their class enemy. From the special "October" issue which headlined AEF militancy down to the successful fight of London transport workers in December every industrial action, in the automotive industry, in the mines and so on, has been hailed by THE WORKER with complete solidarity. Out of such struggles, with proper leadership, will grow a working class revolutionary movement which will go beyond making claims on the capitalist system to smashing it.

During the year THE WORKER showed its internationalism by reporting the great socialist victories of China and Albania. China is the strong, unconquerable bastion of socialism in the world today. Mao Tse-tung thought is the guide to Marxist-Leninists everywhere in applying scientific socialism to their own problems. Albania's courage and determination in the face of all imperialist threats is an inspiration to all who fight for socialism against imperialist and revisionist enemies. THE WORKER also provided news of liberation struggles all over the world and particularly in the colonial and neo-colonial countries of the British empire. The people of China and Albania and the people waging anti-imperialist wars are the firm allies of the workers of Britain in their own struggle against capitalism.

That, then has been the task of THE WORKER in 1969—to expose the enemies of the workers of Britain and to remind workers of who their friends are. Knowing the enemy, knowing friends is the first essential for revolutionary struggle. In this new year and throughout the Seventies THE WORKER will continue to serve the working class in this way. THE WORKER is your paper. Help us to make it help you.

Complete sets of THE WORKER for 1969 (including "October" and making 13 copies in all) available at 10/- post free from The Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortress Rd., Tufnell Park, London N.W.5.



Engineers march in support of strike action against London Transport Board

ARMED STRUGGLE IN INDIA

THE Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) founded in April, 1969, by comrades many of whom had already become experienced in fierce revolutionary struggle states explicitly in its political resolution:

"It is the responsibility of the working class as the leader of the revolution to unite with the peasantry—the main force of the revolution—and to advance towards seizure of power through armed struggle. To fulfil this task the revolutionary Communist Party must study Chairman Mao's thought."

Acting firmly on this resolution the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) has gone deep into the rural areas, done propaganda work among the masses, organised and armed them, and developed armed struggle with agrarian revolution as its main content.

ON FROM NAXALBARI

After the spark of the peasants' armed struggle was kindled by the Indian revolutionaries in 1967 in Naxalbari (West Bengal State), the flames spread in 1968 to Srikakulam District (Andhra Pradesh), Lakhimpur District (Uttar Pradesh) and Muzaffarpur District (Bihar State). This year the peasants' armed struggle has expanded further. The armed struggle in Andhra Pradesh which started in the remote mountainous area of Srikakulam District has developed and extended to 19 rural areas in 10 districts on the broad plains of that state and the jungle areas of neighbouring Orissa State. Peasant guerrillas are also active in Nainital and Unnao Districts (Uttar Pradesh) Ranchi District (Bihar State), Ruper District (Punjab State), and the southern coastal area of West Bengal.

In Srikakulam District, where the peasants' armed struggle is raging, the peasant masses under the leadership of the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) have set up an area for armed struggle encompassing some 300 villages. Peasants set up people's courts in this area to try enemies of the people and have begun to organize the apparatus of rudimentary revolutionary political power.

REVOLUTIONARY WAR

Lin Piao in his Report to the Ninth National Congress of the Communist Party of China in April, 1969, said: "We must on no account relax our revolutionary vigilance because of victory and on no account ignore the danger of U.S. imperialism and Soviet revisionism launching a large scale war of aggression." On the question of a world war provoked by an attack on China, the bastion of world socialism, by the two imperialist giants, the U.S. and Russia, Lin Piao stated that 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."

Chairman of CPB(ML) leads delegation to Albania (see page 3)

Enver Hoxha's major political statement at 25th Anniversary celebrations.

"The 29th of November, 1944, the day when our valiant partisans brought freedom to our homeland, marks the great day of the real revival of our people, the boundary where the old world ends and where the new world, the brilliant epoch of socialism begins."

"In particular, on the occasion of this red-letter day we hail the unreserved and fraternal aid which has been and is being given to our people for the building of socialism by the great fraternal Chinese people, by the glorious Communist Party of China and the most beloved friend of our people, the great Marxist-Leninist, Comrade Mao Tse-tung."

"U.S. imperialism and Soviet revisionist imperialism are trying to come to terms... to quell the imperialist disputes and contradictions between them so that they will have a clear field to throw themselves with all their forces into the suppression of the revolutionary and liberation movements of the peoples and to direct the edge of their joint struggle against great People's China, the impregnable fortress of Marxism-Leninism and the defence of the freedom and independence of the peoples."

But as Enver Hoxha said: "There is no force on earth now that can stop the triumphant march of the people, there is no force that can avert the inevitable defeat of imperialism and revisionism."



TWO BIRTHDAYS

THE CPB(ML) joins with the great people of China and with true revolutionaries the world over in greeting Mao Tse Tung on his 76th birthday.

Comrade Mao Tse Tung is the greatest Marxist-Leninist of our era. He has inherited, defended and developed Marxism-Leninism with genius, creatively and in an all round way, and has raised it to a completely new stage. Mao Tse Tung thought is Marxism-Leninism of the era in which imperialism is heading for total collapse and socialism is advancing to worldwide victory.

All those everywhere in struggle against U.S. imperialism, Soviet imperialist revisionism or their reactionary puppets find in Mao Tse Tung thought their inspiration and their guide.

Our gratitude to our great Marxist-Leninist Comrade, Chairman Mao, can know no bounds. We can express it most sincerely in applying his thought to our tasks here in Britain, in raising a revolutionary movement which will take Britain out of the ranks of the reactionary, oppressive and doomed powers and place it in the ranks of the peoples advancing along the road of socialism under the red banner of Marxism-Leninism, Mao Tse Tung thought.

A long, long life to Chairman Mao!

"The proletariat is the greatest class in the history of mankind. It is the most powerful revolutionary class ideologically, politically and in strength. It can and must unite the overwhelming majority of people around itself so as to isolate the handful of enemies to the maximum and attack them."

-Mao Tse Tung.

STALIN'S 90th birthday on December 21st was celebrated by Marxist-Leninists everywhere in tribute to the great Soviet leader who carried on the work of Lenin and prepared the Soviet Union for its gigantic task of smashing world fascism.

Stalin never compromised with imperialism abroad nor with capitalism at home and this won him the undying hatred of the bourgeoisie, the revisionists and Trotskyists. But as Mao Tse Tung has said: To be hated by the enemy is not a bad thing but a good thing.

Right up to his death Stalin waged a principled struggle against revisionism and one of his last works, Economic Problems of Socialism in the USSR, outlines the same arguments the Chinese were to employ against the Khrushchevian revisionists during the period of the great polemic.

The following quotation from The Foundations of Leninism is but one example of so many which have a direct bearing on our revolutionary tasks in Britain:

"The interests of the proletariat movement in the developed countries and of the national liberation movement in the developed colonies call for the union of these two forms of the revolutionary movement into a common front against the common enemy, against imperialism."

"The victory of the working class in the developed countries and the liberation of the oppressed peoples from the yoke of imperialism are impossible without the formation and the consolidation of a common revolutionary front."

"The formation of a common revolutionary front is impossible unless the proletariat of the oppressor nations renders direct and determined support to the liberation movement of the oppressed peoples against the imperialism of its 'own country', for, as Engels has said, 'no nation can be free if it oppresses other nations.'"

ARMED STRUGGLE IN INDIA

This truth has been thoroughly grasped by the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist). "Develop revolutionary war to eliminate war of aggression against China" Charu Mazumdar has urged on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. "If," he points out, "the U.S. imperialists succeed in launching a war of aggression against China for which they are now frantically preparing, then India, a collaborator of U.S. imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism, will be an aggressor country."

But Charu Mazumdar goes on to say: "We can prevent the war from becoming fatally inevitable if we are able to consolidate all our forces and spread the sparks of this revolutionary armed struggle throughout India, here and now. No aggressor army will ever dare to attack another country with India—this land of 500 million people, as its rear when the flames of revolutionary armed struggle begin to rage furiously all over the land."

Of the revolutionary upsurge in India and its place in the world revolutionary movement Charu Mazumdar has these inspiring words to say:

"The dream that two young revolutionaries dreamt a hundred years ago and the great call they gave in Communist Manifesto—'Workers of the world unite!', will finally take shape in reality. People of the whole world, inspired with a new internationalism, will unite with the great China, and, led by Chairman Mao, will translate into reality the dream that man has dreamt for thousands of years, and a world without exploitation will be built."

We, the revolutionaries of India, must grasp the great call given by Chairman Mao: "seize the day, seize the hour" in order to be able to take a great part in carrying out the most sacred task of the people of the world. We know that the people of India have never lagged behind in making sacrifices in their struggle against exploitation and for the liberation of the country. Hundreds of thousands of people have fought and thousands have laid down their lives but were unable to win victory. India is no land of cowards. The people of my country are never afraid to lay down their life for a great cause. India's peasantry, which gave birth to countless martyrs, will spread the message of the greatest and the most sacred task facing the people of the world to the villages of India, will inexorably march forward on to the stage of history and

prove themselves the makers of history. It is they, who, led by the working class, will destroy the class enemies, smash the existing oppressor state machines and bury the imperialist war-mongers in its soil of India."

The Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) at this beginning of a new decade sends its revolutionary greetings to all actively engaged in anti-imperialist liberation struggle, but we greet with particular warmth from Britain those imperialists ruthlessly exploited India for over 200 years the heroic Indian peasants and workers who under the correct and courageous leadership of the CPI(ML) are taking up arms against their own feudal reactionaries and the vicious imperialist forces which support them.

REVOLUTIONARY RADIO STATION IN MALAYA

AT THE END of November, 1969, the "Voice of Malayan Revolution" Radio began broadcasting to the people of Malaya. This ended the monopoly of broadcasting which the U.S. and British imperialists and their puppets have henceforth enjoyed.

The inauguration of these broadcasts is an important event in the history of the Malayan revolution. It shows that the revolutionary armed struggle led by the Malayan Communist Party has taken a big step forward on the road to national liberation. The "Voice of Malayan Revolution" Radio is counter-attacking counter-revolutionary propaganda with revolutionary propaganda.

As an article about the new radio station in the Malayan paper Barisan points out: "For 21 years the revolutionary struggle led by the Communist Party of Malaya has been persisting in armed struggle, using the countryside to encircle the cities and seizing political power by armed force. In these 21 years under the guidance of Marxism-Leninism, Mao Tse Tung Thought the people's armed forces have achieved brilliant successes in conducting propaganda among the masses, organising them, keeping in close contact with them and arousing them to strike at the enemy."

VOICE OF AFRICA To help our readers ON SPRINGBOK TOUR

WHAT DO those fighting racist oppression in South Africa think of the Springbok "All-whites" and their reception in Britain? The following is a quotation from Azania News, official organ of the Pan African Congress of Azania (South Africa):

Articulate sections of the British public are using this occasion to demonstrate their positive disapproval of the domination of South African sports by politics at home and abroad. They feel that there should be no racial discrimination in sports locally as well as internationally, and they feel that the government of South Africa has no right to impose this upon sportsmen in South Africa as well as elsewhere in the world. They also feel that South African sportsmen should neither allow themselves to be used as instruments to promote an unsporting doctrine such as race discrimination, nor be hypocritical enough to pretend that they have no say in the matter and are therefore helpless to bring about a solution.

The general attitude of the average white person in South Africa is that of fearing competition from Africans in all aspects of life, but at the same time feeling that they are inferior who need to be disciplined to know their separate place. These young burly rugby tourists share that view and that life. They are taken aback that there should be persons, especially white persons, who challenge that position. They need more of this education.

The white master administrators have made a law that forbids love relations across the colour line, but white men, including policemen and priests continue to violate African women at will, and the white master magistrates and judges punish the African women for having dared to "taste of the forbidden white fruit." Similar laws apply in labour relations, social relations and all other spheres . . .

"Whoever expects a 'pure' social revolution will never live to see it! Such a person pays lip service to revolution without understanding what a revolution really is. The socialist revolution in Europe cannot be anything but a mass outburst by all and sundry oppressed and discontented elements. Sections of the petit-bourgeoisie and of the backward workers will inevitably participate in it. . . . without such participation, mass struggle is not possible, no revolution is possible. . . . and just as inevitably they will bring into the movement their prejudices, their reactionary fantasies, their weakness and errors. But, objectively they will attack capitalism, and the class conscious vanguard of the revolution, the advanced proletariat, expressing this objective truth of the heterogeneous and discordant motley and outwardly incohesive struggle will be able to unite and direct it, to capture power, to seize the banks, to expropriate the trusts hated by all (although for different reasons) and to introduce other dictatorial measures that in their totality constitute the overthrow of the bourgeoisie and the victory of socialism, which, however, will by no means immediately 'purge' itself of petit-bourgeois slag."

-V.I. Lenin.

PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE IN ARABIA

IN THE Dhofar region on the southernmost tip of the Arabian Peninsula people in revolt against British colonial rule have been waging armed struggle with great success.

The armed uprising against British imperialism began in the Dhofar mountains in 1965. In the past four years the People's Liberation Army of the People's Front for the Liberation of the Occupied Arabian Gulf has wiped out more than 3,000 colonialist troops, including more than 250 British officers, destroyed over 400 military vehicles, demolished more than 100 artillery pieces and shot down 15 British military planes.

Since the fall of Rakhut in August, 1969, the People's Liberation Army has grown even stronger. Rakhut was the most important stronghold of British mercenary troops in the western coastal region and its surrender to the Liberation Army after a four-hour battle on August 23rd had such a demoralising effect on mercenary troops that many of them have deserted or surrendered in other parts of the Arabian Gulf.

Now the entire countryside in eastern Dhofar and most of the villages in central Dhofar have come under People's Liberation Army control.

Naturally the British Government, servant of imperialist interests, uses its forces in the area to try to check the people's struggle for independence. Planes and long-range artillery are used to shell liberated villages; but this has only strengthened the determination of the people in the Dhofar area to fight on, to answer counter-revolutionary violence with revolutionary violence till British imperialism has been driven out of the whole Arabian Gulf region.

We support them in their struggle and applaud their heroic victories.

A NUMBER of readers of THE WORKER have complained that the paper should be easier to read. Where the difficulty comes about through long clumsy sentences or the use of unnecessary or unfamiliar words we apologise and will try to make the style simpler and easier to understand. Unclear writing is usually a sign of unclear thinking.

But there are a certain number of words and expressions which are basic to scientific socialism, just as other sciences have their essential vocabulary which has to be mastered by those working in that particular field. We give here a glossary of some of these terms, based on the works of the great Marxist-Leninists. Each month we will add a few new terms and, if possible, improve definitions of those previously given. We would appreciate contributions from readers to help us develop this feature of THE WORKER during the new year.

CAPITALISM

A social and economic system in which those who own or control the means of production like land, factories etc and are eager to increase the value of what they already possess come into contact with those who are free labourers in the double sense that they are 'free' to sell their labour-power or capacity to work and that they are 'free' of, or unencumbered by, any means of production of their own. The crux of capitalism, as of any social system, is the relation of classes to each other — who does what to whom. "The capitalist system," as Marx writes in Volume I of Capital, "presupposes the complete separation of the labourers (as a class) from all property in the means by which they can realise their labour" and the concentration of all means of production and means of subsistence in the hands of capitalists (as a class). "The process, therefore, that clears the way for the capitalist system, can be none other than the process which takes away from the labourer the possession of his means of production; a process that transforms, on the one hand, the social means of subsistence and of production into capital, on the other, the immediate producers into wage-labourers."

BOURGEOISIE

By bourgeoisie is meant the class of modern capitalists, owners of the means of social production and employers of wage labour. The term, BOURGEOISIE, applies not only to the economic characteristics of this owning and employing class but also to the whole individualistic, acquisitive culture of a society in which this class is dominant.

PROLETARIAT

By proletariat is meant the class of modern wage-labourers who, having no means of production of their own, are reduced to selling their labour-power in order to live. (This and the previous class definition are taken from a note by Engels to the Manifesto of the Communist Party). The term, PROLETARIAT, is used for the culture and world outlook of the working class, an attitude characterised by SOCIALISM, the elimination of exploitation of man by man, as opposed to the CAPITALIST, exploitative world outlook of the bourgeoisie.

IMPERIALISM

Imperialism in general is the forceful conquest and exploitation of other peoples or states by a more powerful aggressor state. But we are concerned in this epoch with the particular form of imperialism which is the monopoly stage of capitalism.

This imperialism, as Lenin describes it in his great work Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism, is "capitalism in that stage of development in which the dominance of monopolies and finance capital has established itself; in which the export of capital has acquired pronounced importance; in which the division of the world among the international trusts has begun; in which the division of all territories of the globe among the biggest capitalist powers has been completed."

Not only is imperialism characterised by the export of commodities and the export of capital but also by the "export," for a time at least, of social problems in the homeland. Here is the imperialist Cecil Rhodes on the subject: "My cherished idea is a solution for the social problem i.e., in order to save the inhabitants of the United Kingdom from a bloody civil war, we colonial statesmen must acquire new lands to settle the surplus population, to provide new markets for the goods produced in the factories and mines . . . If you want to avoid civil war, you must become imperialists."

REVISIONISM

The essence of Marxism is carrying class struggle between workers (proletariat) and capitalists right through to the smashing of the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie and the setting up of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Revisionism is a departure from this fundamental Marxist principle while keeping the name of 'Marxism' by which compromise with the class enemy is substituted for class conflict.

VICTORY!

In September 1968 the LTB without more ado ordered that no more skilled men would be employed without producing indentures. This produced in the months ahead a shortage of skilled fitters which AEF members were required to make good by overtime working and mobility. This they of course all refused to do in the face of constant threats of disciplinary action, and they pledged to stand by any member threatened. Whenever the AEF taxed the management with this breach of agreement, which it was, the management could only reply that while they were happy to keep to the agreement, that the agreement gave them no problems, they were under constant pressure from the NUR who took the line that there was no agreement unless the NUR were a party to it. Naturally the AEF could not accept this line of argument as all Unions have their separate agreements quite apart from joint agreements involving two or more unions.

In September 1969 an AEF member came under threat of disciplinary action arising from the dispute affecting all and in consequence all AEF members stopped work.

There are a number of quite significant features in this struggle that need to be noted. For workers to wage struggle against a monopoly in Britain is unique, but here a section of workers took it on, undismayed by the odds against them; a monopoly employer backed by another Trade Union. When the workers realised the magnitude of the task they did not capitulate but doubled and redoubled their efforts.

MASS LINE OF STRIKE

In the three months of strike they collected in benefits, levies and donations over £10,000, addressed hundreds of meetings covering all areas of the country. The workers had a mass meeting twice weekly fully attended and each week saw their strength grow rather than diminish. The position of no retreat was never qualified. In many negotiations which took place week by week and day by day only on the basis of the "Status quo" first honour the agreement and only then talks. All sorts of formulas were produced but each one had to stand scrutiny by the five man negotiating team of four rank and file members and one official, then by the full Strike Committee and then the mass mee-

ting. All compromise was rejected. Formulas for "Status Quo" with a time limit were rejected, formulas making settlement acceptable to "all parties" were rejected, formulas containing provision for arbitration were rejected. The workers presented their own formula on a take it or leave it basis, this formula was put to a mass meeting and was unanimously approved.

The negotiating team were mandated to allow no departure from it. The mandate was carried out.

On Thursday 18th December after a long session at the D.E.P. with the employers the negotiating team went to a mass meeting of the workers and reported that the workers terms had been met in full.

RESULTS OF STRIKE

There is a feeling that things will never be quite the same in LTB. The workers rebelled and they won. It was a very hard struggle but they learned many lessons. The insular attitude cannot continue. No workers engaged in struggle in future will go to the workers at LTB for support and go away empty handed.

The meetings, the marches, the deputations all brought them into closer touch with the workers at large, the movement in general, and the realisation that a strike with all its problems and sacrifices, with no short term economic gain at the end of it can only be seen as a success in terms of the lessons learned and the experience gained by the greatest number involved. The very high spirits of the workers after three months of struggle could only be seen at its best after the unanimous adoption of the report of the negotiating team in the general comment "it will be a long time before they take us on again - we'll be taking them on."

Postscript. After the successful conclusion of the AEF/LTB strike the Strike Committee on behalf of the members made a presentation to Ted Roycraft AEF official who led the negotiating team.

Mr G. Brassington who led the NUR negotiators has been appointed a part-time member of the British Railways (London Midland) Board on his retirement as Asst. Gen. Sec. of the NUR.

WAGE RISE BACKLASH

WHEN THE employers were made to cough up substantial wage increases for Local Authority Workers last September they did not part with the cash with good grace. Council workers are now feeling the backlash as petty dictators in thousands of Town Halls rack their brains to devise ways to encroach upon Council workers' well deserved gains.

This is taking various forms. Where the workers' organisation is strong the employers are stepping warily and where it is weaker they are blatantly trying to bulldoze away all that was gained.

One interesting instance is the London Borough of Barnet. In that Borough before the refuse strike only the dustmen and vehicle fitters were organised. During the strike a substantial number of Parks Department and Highways men stopped for one day in support. This was spontaneous. They are now organised, with their own shop stewards. Following on from this a Joint Shop Stewards Committee was set up representing the Eastern Division of Barnet.

Unused to dealing with any substantial workers organisation in the past Barnet Council dragged its heels in paying the wage increase. It took them eight weeks to make the first payment and even then several more weeks to sort out the chaos. Each demand by Union representatives brought a little more in cash. This can be contrasted to the London Borough of Camden where employees have been well organised for a long time. In Camden there was hardly a hitch in the payment of wage increases and back pay.

As soon as the National Wage negotiations were settled Barnet decided to act. The first thing was to give an extra five minutes tea break in the mornings and a tea break in the afternoon. On the face of it this looked generous enough except that the term "work break" had been inserted instead of "tea break". The Council had decided that only fifteen minutes would be allowed away from work.

Since then there have been several what can only be described as vindictive attempts to whittle down the take home wages, such as an attempt to stop Saturday morning overtime.

However Barnet Council workers will learn, as well as all the other Council workers feeling the backlash, that they are engaged in war in which first one side and then the other attacks or retreats, or stands firm. And also that they are not alone but are just a regiment in a vast front. Council workers must continue the fight. The working class will finally defeat capitalism.

SAME OLD MEDICINE

BARBARA CASTLE'S White Paper shows that, as expected, the Labour government is continuing its anti-working class policies. Just as the Tories did years before, they demand that pay rises be limited to 2% to 4% per year, and be coupled with productivity agreements. A straight forward con to try to get workers working harder for virtually no increase in real wages.

It all goes to show that whoever you get in Westminster, Labour or Tory, they always serve the owners of industry rather than those who work in industry. Of course the Labour Government goes further than the Tories. They have to, British imperialism is in even greater crisis than when the Tories were in power. They introduced the prices and incomes act, and now they have renewed it.

The token abstention of the 29 Labour "left" M.P.s is in the typical style of "parliamentary cretinism". They did not even have the guts to vote against the prices and incomes act - not that it would have made the slightest difference if they had. The Labour left is not there to represent the working class either. They merely fulfill the role of court jesters at the palace of Westminster. And if they are good they may be rewarded with a ministry, like ex-"left" Barbara Castle.

It is however outside parliament and the field of parliamentary legislation that the main attack on the working class is envisaged. The White Paper states that in the long run the prices and incomes policy must be on a voluntary basis. The significance of this is that they demand the total subordination of the trade union movement to the capitalist state. After having forced the TUC into the job of suppressing unofficial strikes, the Labour Government now feels that the TUC can be called upon to reliably carry out an incomes policy in the interests of the bosses and the profit system. The long term objective is to transform the trade unions from instruments for the defence of the immediate interests of the working class into tools of the capitalists for suppressing working class militancy, and organising the workers in the interests of the bosses.

However workers throughout the country will fight the class enemies' attempts to control the unions, and learn through this struggle that the only way to win final victory is to destroy the boss's strongest weapon, the state, and replace it by a workers' state.

BRITISH JUSTICE?

AT THE Old Bailey on November 17th after a trial lasting over four weeks a group of young workers and students who had been arrested ten months earlier were finally acquitted of the charge of "riotous assembly" rising out of a demonstration against racism in Britain and the racist white regimes in southern Africa.

Those in court had the impression that the jury had defied the Judge's directions in returning this verdict. But even without achieving a conviction on the charge brought against these young people it had been possible to punish them. By continuously bringing up the case and then having it remanded during the ten months period the legal authorities had completely disrupted the lives of those under charge before they were found guilty of anything.

Workers lost many day's wages in constant attendance at court and in most cases were declared innocent!

This is only one example of the way in which the police and courts working together can make nonsense of the principle that a man is innocent till proven guilty. In the case of the three Nigerians arrested on the alleged charge of publishing an inflammatory leaflet, they ser-

ved four month's imprisonment before, in one case, being proved to have done nothing whatsoever!

All that has to be done to put protesters out of the way quite legally is for bail to be opposed by the police while a case against those charged is allowed to drag on indefinitely.

The Home Secretary himself, James Callaghan was recently guilty of flouting another "principle" of British justice in respect to commenting on a case sub judice. In rushing to the defence of the police in Brixton who set upon a black diplomat and handcuffed him and then made arrests among those who protested at this action, he was in effect judging the case in advance. The charges against the police in this case are very serious indeed - that they savagely assaulted the young people arrested for protesting at the treatment of the diplomat and some of them had to be rushed to the hospital, one with a broken arm, others with swollen eyes, bleeding noses, cut lips, bruised chests and shoulders. There should be a proper investigation of this case (not by the police) before Callaghan settles the matter to the satisfaction of his own prejudices out of court!

STEEL BOSSES TALK TOUGH

THE STEEL bosses at Port Talbot where the blast furnace men waged such a splendidly fought and successful strike last summer threatened what amounts to a lockout over a wage dispute.

The British Steel Corporation said that it was not prepared to restart production at the steelworks and coke-ovens until the men agreed in advance to provide safety cover without any consideration of their claim for extra money. This would have made 15,000 workers jobless.

Bosses can talk tough when it comes to shutting down plants because they know a period of forced idleness hurts workers'

families more than it down their own. But the ironic thing is that in the long haul workers can do without the capitalist class altogether. In China and Albania they have already done so. But capitalists cannot do without workers. Without workers there would be no surplus value in the form of profits and no capitalists.

That is why it is necessary to take the class struggle out of the area of fighting for shares of the capitalist cake where the boss has the biggest spoon and the sharpest knife and into the area of challenging the whole system on which the boss depends for his very existence.

CPB(ML) DELEGATION TO ALBANIA



Top: Enver Hoxha proposes a toast. Reg Birch far right.
Bottom: Reg Birch, Chairman CPB(ML) exchanges greetings with Mehmet Shehu.



REPORT BY REG BIRCH

ON THE 25th of November, 1969, the Chairman of the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) together with one other delegate member of the Central Committee arrived in Tirana, capital of Albania, for the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the liberation and the victory of the People's Revolution.

From the outset the warm welcome given to all delegates from fraternal parties made it clear in what deep fraternal friendship this great socialist country and the Party of Labour hold all Marxist-Leninists throughout the world.

We were met by members of the Central Committee, the President of the National Assembly and other outstanding workers and leaders of Albania. Their great friendship and fraternal regard stems from their strength and confidence in the enormous advances made toward socialism and the deep understanding of Marxism-Leninism pervading all the people, due to the leadership of the Party and the direct guidance of Comrade Enver Hoxha.

In direct conversation with Comrade Enver Hoxha he thanked our Party for the work we do for international solidarity in our efforts as Marxists-Leninists to develop revolutionary struggle in our own country.

He especially praised our paper THE WORKER for its international stand and also for the "thoughtful and helpful analysis and commentary on the struggle of the working class in Britain." He informed us that the various news items and articles of special interest to Albania would be and always were translated for the information of Party workers and peasants throughout the country.

We were honoured to be present on the 25th November at the Assembly where he delivered a great speech on behalf of the Party, the Government and all Albanian people. In this speech he stressed the tremendous advances made in the 25 years of their free socialist existence, from the defeat of the Italian Fascists and then the defeat of the Nazis to their great peaceful advance as an independent and sovereign state - a socialist state.

Figures and statistics of the great work done in the fields of agriculture, industrial development, electrification and education do not convey the real strength of this socialist country. It has to be seen to be understood. Its international and historical position can be summed up in the statement: The second socialist country in the world today and the first to take up the fight against revisionism.

In dealing with the Soviet revisionist clique Comrade Enver Hoxha said: "We the Albanian Marxist-Leninists will never reconcile ourselves with modern revisionism, with Moscow traitors but shall fight until they are utterly destroyed." And again in dealing with the predatory imperialist nature of the Soviet revisionists in Czechoslovakia he said that the Red Army soldiers, who had crossed Europe and fought in Asia to destroy fascism and bring freedom to the peoples, should "aim the weapons given to them to enslave others against the usurper clique."

"There is and there will be," he said, "friendship and unity between us and the fraternal Soviet peoples, between us and the real Bolsheviks of the line of Lenin and Stalin."

We left Albania greatly strengthened by this fraternal contact, the opportunity to see for ourselves the magnificent results of a quarter of a century's struggles to build socialism. As we departed Comrade Enver Hoxha thanked us for our work in proletarian internationalism and wished us all success in our task of building our Marxist-Leninist Party in our own country and advancing the day of revolution in Britain.

Privileged to have participated in the celebration of this socialist victory and refreshed by direct experience of the great fraternal tie we have with socialist Albania we resolve to work all the more intensively to achieve a socialist Britain.

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STEWARDS OPPOSE U.S. WAR

AT THE Shop Stewards Quarterly Meeting, London (North) District AEF, on December 19th, 1969, those present unanimously endorsed their District Committee's resolution condemning U.S. atrocities in Vietnam and demanding the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all U.S. forces.

It was agreed by members that action would be taken early in the New Year to implement this resolution. This led by workers in making their opposition felt, not only to U.S. aggression but also to the British Labour Government's complicity, will certainly be taken up by other workers all over Britain.

The resolution which is a call to action by all those against this savage imperialist war is as follows:

"This London (North) District Committee condemns in the strongest possible terms the atrocities being committed by the U.S. forces against the people of Vietnam.

The latest acts of mass murder of Vietnamese women and children by U.S. troops are yet further proof that the U.S. Government's policy in Vietnam is one of genocide against a peace-loving people.

We demand that our Executive Council make an immediate public declaration of condemnation of the U.S. Government, to dissociate our Union from the Labour Government's disastrous policy of appeasement and collusion in this war and to declare our Union's support for the Vietnamese people's just struggle for national independence.

This District Committee further demands that the British Government cease forthwith their support for U.S. policy in Vietnam and give immediate recognition to the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam.

We further make an urgent appeal to our entire membership to support all those who are opposing the American war of aggression. We call upon branches and shop stewards committees to give a positive lead to the British labour movement to rally together with the international labour movement in demanding the immediate and complete withdrawal of all U.S. and foreign troops from Vietnam, thus allowing the Vietnamese people to determine their own political future."

POLLUTION

JUST RECENTLY all the pundits who write popular science columns or give Reith lectures over the BBC or serve on various international commissions have suddenly begun sounding off about the poisoning of the earth by waste products and the serious threat to human life of ever-increasing pollution.

What they say is perfectly true. What is strange is their careful avoidance of naming the villain in this crime against humanity. Pollution is treated as a natural calamity which scientists can try to minimise but which can no more be prevented than earthquakes. Or else it is described as a disaster which mankind is bringing on himself without specifying which men are doing it because it puts money in their pockets.

Pollution is part of the capitalist way of life. It goes hand in hand with profits. The whole process is one of laying waste the resources of the world which ought to belong to everyone in order to create wealth for the few. In this general plundering for profit the capitalists are not going to worry about contaminating the air or fouling streams. Men capable of acts of genocide in Vietnam to insure their profits will not hesitate to make the cities in their own lands uninhabitable.

Of course if there were money to be made out of cleaning up the cities that would be different. The capitalists would be falling all over each other for the privilege. But there is not and so the tax-payer has to meet the bill.

The ordinary citizen as tax-payer always has to clear up the mess the capitalists make.

This failure on the part of the "experts" to point a finger at the criminals when they talk about pollution is nothing new. It is like all the scare talk about the BOMB without mentioning that it was U.S. imperialism using the bomb to hold the world to ransom which was the real threat. It is like all the hand-wringing over the population explosion without pointing out that it is the imperialist exploitation of the poorer countries which keeps them from being able to feed their people. China had a population problem till it stood up and shook off the imperialist blood-suckers for all time!

It is right to draw attention to the crime of pollution but it is useless if the perpetrator, the capitalist, is allowed to get away with it. Capitalism as a system will never be made to behave itself and stop wasting and fouling our world. It has to be destroyed like the pest it is - and scientific socialism, Marxism-Leninism, is the insecticide for the job.

ON THE STUDENT FRONT!

Student Activity Continues.

This past month has seen militant vanguard actions in the student front. The struggle at LSE continued with a demonstration at the oration ceremony. At several education colleges future teachers went out on strike in solidarity with the NUT/NAS action. At Sussex University, the Union, under CPBML leadership, passed a resolution condemning the university Vice-Chancellor and other officials for collaboration with the imperialist war in Vietnam. This action was co-ordinated with the London District AEF resolution on Vietnam reported in the December WORKER, thus a worker-student alliance was achieved.

To prevent the appearance of a large-scale revolutionary student movement directed by a worker's party against the exploiting capitalist system (such as has happened in Italy and France, Britain has made education, and especially university education, much more elitist than in those foreign countries now plagued with troubles.

British Imperialism in Crisis.

However, the contradictions in the declining British imperialist system are such that the government has to double the university student population to 825,000 by 1981 while at the same time reducing university costs as much as possible. (See Dept. of Education & Science report.) Within the next decade, this is bound to create worsening conditions and overproduction of people with degrees, hence unemployment. (There are now 18,000 qualified teachers without a teaching job), creating large numbers of intermediate strata within the universities in objective contradiction with monopoly capitalism.

The Department of Miseducation.

Last December, the Dept. of Education & Science Report on "University Development in the 1970s," threatened various schemes to reduce costs of university education during this period of expansion (though corporate profits continue to soar). Some deal with the speeding up and intensifying of the education process. For instance, one scheme proposes that degrees must be crammed into 2 years instead of 3; another that student-staff ratios will continue to widen - this can only mean worsening material conditions within the universities in the coming decade, overcrowding etc.

It's also proposed that either student grants will be reduced or withdrawn entirely, being replaced by a system of loans, and that grant-aided students will have to enter specified kinds of employment after graduation - thus introducing direct corporatist elements into education, wedding the universities even closer to the interests of monopoly capitalism.

All these threats when translated into action by the government will create a response from the universities that elitist entry has so far really prevented.

Without a Party the People Have Nothing.

In the coming decade not only will education worsen through this large student expansion on cheaper outlays, but within society the class struggle of the working class against the capitalists will continue to develop and get more bitter; and the petit-bourgeoisie and middle sections in general will see that their emancipation from the system of profit, exploitation, unemployment and war can only come about through a proletarian revolution and the creation of a worker's state free from the exploitation of man by man.

The CPBML and its student cadres will continue to



New Year Greetings

London North District Committee A.E.F., conveys to all its members fraternal greetings for 1970.

New Albania Society Greetings to WORKER readers May friendship between the workers of Britain and Albania ever flourish!

Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) sends greetings to all supporters of the liberation of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia)

The Youth Front for National Liberation (Jamaica) greets through THE WORKER all fighters against British imperialism.

The Black Peoples Alliance greets all fighters against racialism and wishes them success in struggle in 1970

Greetings to the workers of Britain. For working class solidarity against the monopoly-capitalist imperialists: Indian Workers Association.

For the liberation of Southern Africa from white-fascist rule, the Pan Africanist Congress greets WORKER readers.

The London Revolutionary Socialist Students Federation sends its greetings to workers and pledges its solidarity with them during the coming year.

develop the student struggle from that of the petit-bourgeoisie fighting to renew themselves, to increase their area of privilege, into one where students more and more attack capitalism from the proletarian standpoint, fighting for their future interests not their present ones (see CPBML Student Programme available for 1/- from Bellman Bookshop).

In this decade a powerful student movement under working class supervision will play an important role in the struggle against the foundations of capitalism, for socialist worker's state power and communism.

Radio

(Note: All times of broadcasts are given in British Time)

Daily Broadcasts in English from Radio Peking: 9.30 p.m. - 10.30 p.m. 32,45,47 metre bands 10.30 p.m. - 11.30 p.m. 32,42,45,47 metre bands

Daily Broadcasts in English from Radio Tirana: 7.20 a.m. - 8.00 a.m. 31.42 metre bands 5.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. 31.42 metre bands 7.30 p.m. - 8.00 p.m. 31.42 metre bands 9.20 p.m. - 10.00 p.m. 31.42 metre bands 11.00 p.m. - 11.30 p.m. 31.42 metre bands (The 9.30 p.m. - 10.00 p.m. broadcast can also be heard on medium wave, 215 metre band)

Daily Broadcast from Hanoi: 9.00 p.m. - 9.30 p.m. 19 metre band

NEW ALBANIA SOCIETY

Chairman: Professor Cyril Offord, F.R.S. (London University). Secretary: Joanne Seymour.

AIMS: "To encourage friendship between the Albanian and British people."

"To disseminate knowledge about the country, its history, people and socialist development."

"To encourage personal scientific and cultural contacts."

"To study the political, economic and cultural policy of Albania."

Anyone wishing to become a member of the New Albania Society (annual subscription 10/-) should write to the Secretary, Miss Joanne Seymour, 217 Westbourne Grove, London, W.11.

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We need your criticism, comments and financial support.

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NORMAN BETHUNE ON IMPERIALISM

DR NORMAN Bethune, the great Canadian Internationalist and supporter of liberation struggles who died in China from blood poisoning while operating on wounded soldiers, had this to say about wars like that being waged by the U.S. in Vietnam or by the British Government in Malaya:

"Are wars of aggression, wars for the conquest of colonies, then just big business? "It would seem so, however much the perpetrators of such national crimes seek to hide their true purpose under the banner of high-sounding abstractions and ideals. They make war to capture markets by murder; raw materials by rape. They find it cheaper to steal than to exchange; easier to butcher than to buy. This is the secret of all wars. Profit. Blood. Money.

"Behind all this stands that terrible, implacable God of business and blood, whose name is profit. Money, like an insatiable Moloch, demands its interest, its return, and will stop at nothing, not even the murder of millions, to satisfy its greed. Behind the army, stand the militarists. Behind the militarists stand finance capital and the capitalists. Brothers in blood; companions in crime.

"What do these enemies of the human race look like? Do they wear on their foreheads a sign so that they may be told, shunned, and condemned as criminals? No. On the contrary, they are the respectable ones. They are honoured. They call, and are called, gentlemen. What a travesty on the name!

"They are the pillars of the state, of the Church, of society. They support private and public charity out of the excess of their wealth. They endow institutions. In their private lives, they are kind and considerate. They obey the law, their law, the law of property. But, there is one sign by which these gentlemen can be told. Threaten a reduction on the profit of their money, and the beast in them awakes with a snarl. They become as ruthless as savages, brutal as madmen, remorseless as executioners.

"Such men as these must perish if the human race is to continue. There can be no permanent peace in the world while they live. Such an organisation of human society as permits them to exist must be abolished."