

# THE WORKER



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## 1975 - A CRITICAL YEAR FOR THE WORKING CLASS

### Paying for our own enslavement

Ford's, the commercial and military vehicle builders, is the most recent capitalist firm to receive Government assistance to overcome "its liquidity problems". Like British Leylands, Burmah Oil and many other firms they are yielding to a measure of Government control in exchange for financial help.

But the money which is being poured into these bankrupt firms to keep them going and to keep the profits flowing into the pockets of management is taxpayers' money the bulk of which comes from us, the working class. The Labour Government is subsidising mismanaged, incompetently run industry out of the wage-pockets of workers.

And to make matters worse Wilson uses the fact that the Government is paying subsidies to crack down, not on management for being incompetent, but on workers for industrial action in defence of their living standards.

"With public capital and an appropriate degree of public control involved," the Prime Minister said on January 3rd, "the Government could not just-

ify to Parliament or to the taxpayer the subsidising of large factories which could pay their way but are failing to do so because of manifestly avoidable stoppages of production."

He was obviously directing his remarks to such settlements as that of Ford's which ignored the social contract when he singled out particular sections of the motor car industry where he expected a big reduction in industrial action. "We cannot afford any avoidable surge in production costs... caused either by thoughtless or by calculated sectional demands for higher living standards which are unrealistic in the year or two ahead."

#### 1974 strike record

The total of 13.9 million days lost through stoppages in the first 11 months of 1974 was more than double the figure for the same same period in 1973. This is the measure of the working class's determination not to let the full burden of the economic crisis be shifted on to their shoulders. It is this determination Wilson

is trying to curb and suppress.

The ironic thing about this bailing out of private industry with our money and then using that as a reason for demanding our restraint in defending our livelihood is that the Labour Party has the nerve to call it 'socialism'. The right name for the direction this enormous extension of Government interference in industry and in the lives of working people is taking is fascism. 'Nationalism' of this social democratic character has nothing whatever to do with the genuine workers' control of industry in socialist countries like China or Albania where state power is firmly in the hands of the working class.

It is interesting to note that the system resulting from an ever greater intervention in Britain's crisis-ridden economy by the capitalist Government and the deformation of socialist institutions resulting from the restoration of capitalism in Russia by the revisionists, while starting from opposite political sides, are becoming more and more alike - state capitalism, the negation of workers' rights.

### EDITORIAL

As the crisis of capitalism deepens and as the ruling class and its Government in Britain show themselves increasingly incapable even of insuring profits - let alone of maintaining a system in which workers can expect a reasonable return for their labour, the working class itself has to prepare to take over, to assume state power, to make Britain an economically viable and politically independent home and workshop for its working people.

#### How does the working class prepare itself for this mission?

By recognising that class struggle within the system, imperative as it is for survival, is not enough. Workers in Britain have the longest history of resistance to capitalist exploitation. They have not hesitated to take on the Government itself when it has customarily intervened on behalf of employers. They have an unmatched record of persistence in struggle and of manoeuvre without surrender. And yet, in spite of this, as long as they fight within the capitalist arena according to capitalist rules, they cannot prevent crises nor can they maintain their hard-won standard of living when crises occur. They can even find themselves, due to the particular incompetence of ruling class and government in Britain falling behind fellow workers elsewhere who are less well-organised and less wise in the ways of class struggle.

#### Is the working class strong enough to take over?

In Britain there are only two classes - the exploiters and the exploited, the capitalist class and the working class, that is all those who live by the sale of their labour-power which in an advanced industrial country is always both manual and mental. The working class are well over 85 per cent of the population. Given that this were a class-for-itself and not merely a class in-itself, that is, given the conscious recognition by all of belonging to the working class and of the necessity of the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism which is an essential part of such class consciousness, they could assume state power tomorrow.

But we do not delude anyone with the idea that the conquest of state power by the working class is going to be easy. No ruling class in history has ever abdicated voluntarily. They will fight to hold onto their power, wealth and privileges, using every mercenary willing to murder in their pay and exploiting every split they can find or make within our ranks. But with correct leadership we can defeat them. Otherwise we shall find ourselves prostrate under fascism which is what capitalism with its back to the wall inevitably becomes.

#### What is the correct leadership for revolutionary struggle?

The correct leadership for revolution can only be the theoretical concentration of the experience of workers anywhere in making and consolidating revolutions as applied to the concrete conditions of Britain today. Only Marxism-Leninism has ever made successful working-class revolutions and then been able to maintain their results. Only a Marxist-Leninist Party can provide the correct leadership for the mobilising and deployment of the working class in its war against capitalism.

We, in the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist), are aware of the grave responsibility this places upon us. In the coming year we dedicate ourselves to this vital task with revolutionary zeal.



...over 85 per cent of the population'.

# PRG VICTORIES IN VIETNAM

The Labour Government is still refusing to recognise the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Vietnam (PRG). According to David Ennals, Labour Minister, the PRG does not meet Britain's qualifications for recognition. So in our name it recognises the rotten Thieu regime, which represents not the people of South Vietnam, but the US imperialists.

Obviously, the qualification for being "recognised" by the Labour Government is to abolish all civil liberties, maintain an army where the rate of desertion outstrips recruitment, obey the dictates of a foreign power and shamelessly break international agreements to which it is a signatory.

In the two weeks before Christmas the Thieu regime has suffered a series of stunning military defeats. The British press is now every day reporting fresh setbacks. In the puppet areas there is 70% inflation, and only the PRG appears to have had currency! In the face of all this, and the rising demands that Thieu must go, Western military experts are making 'gloomy' predictions about the future. The gallant people of South Vietnam are making history and have no need of predic-



People in Saigon defy the fascist police of the Thieu regime in a mammoth demonstration against corruption and graft.

Meanwhile, so long as Britain refuses to recognise the PRG, the North Vietnamese are refusing to accept Britain's ambassador to Hanoi. Having for so long ignored their rights,

and participated in our name and at our expense in the suppression of the Vietnamese people, British imperialism is finding that it is not the only country which has its own criteria for recognition.

Already 40 countries recog-

nise the PRG. We demand the British Government join that number and respond to the desire of the British and Vietnamese people for the development of friendly relations in the interests of the people of both countries.

## ON THE INDUSTRIAL FRONT

Mother-Goose capitalism has hatched a brood of lame ducks for 1975. The gander, in the form of a Labour Government, has, within three months of winning an election, forced the working class into lay-offs, 3-day weeks, and redundancies while its minion, the TUC, flaps about squawking "Social Contract, Social Contract!"

Enter Aladdin, not with a miner's lamp but with a brand new 'magical' device called the National Enterprise Board, which is going to try and make these lame ducks lay golden eggs for their shareholders. In the wings, Ali Baba and his Forty Thieves increase taxation on workers again and again to pay for it all.

Meanwhile workers are being exhorted by people like Lord Watkinson (Cadbury-Schweppes) and Lord Catherwood (Institute of Business Studies) to work harder for the same money to save capitalism. They are trying to con us with schemes for more 'worker participation' (Leylands for example). Participation means, in effect, how many redundancies shall we agree to.

The Golden Goose, that is capitalism, is dying of old age both nationally and internationally, and has now outlived its usefulness. Our task is to cook that goose once and for all - revolution is the only concrete way forward for the working class.

### Shrewsbury pickets

The TUC met the Prime Minister on the 18th December to be told by him that he was unable constitutionally to intervene in the case of the Shrewsbury Pickets. Thus Wilson stands by the savage sentences handed out to the building workers under the 1875 Conspiracy Act. But the real conspirator is the Labour Government which serves capitalism, which seeks to retain

the wealth that rightly belongs to us.

It is to the shame of the working class that we would go along with the TUC decision to lobby Parliament instead of stopping work. The building workers especially have to be the vanguard in the struggle of the working class in this instance. We freed the Pentonville Five. The same tactics could also free the Shrewsbury lads.

### US recession

The American economy is in a parlous state. According to the Organisation of Economic and Cultural Development bi-annual report, US unemployment may reach 8% by the end of 1975. The US economy recorded the second worst balance of payments deficit in its history in the third quarter of 1974, an increase of 900 million dollars on the second quarter.

The Commerce Department report for November indicates that the US is plunging downward into recession faster than expected and that the budget deficit in the coming financial year could be as high as 40 billion dollars.

What does this mean for Britain?

The nature of capitalism, because it operates according to the laws of the jungle, will see every country trying to defend its own monetary system. The monetary systems of the Western world are in chaos, but the American Government will use every device, including blackmail to see that the God-Almighty dollar reigns supreme, against petrodollars, euro-dollars, the pound sterling or any other currency.

As a result of the decision to allow the pound to float, there has been a devaluation of over 20%. This explodes the myth that higher wages are the cause of our troubles. We are exporting more and earning less.

For British and American workers it means worsening stan-

dards of living and mass unemployment. The common disease of the Western world is capitalism and the cure lies within all workers' hands.

### Rolls Royce

The Midlands. Shop stewards' representing 12000 manual workers at the Midland factories of Rolls-Royce (1971) have rejected a company pay offer. The stewards at the plants (which are mainly centred around Derby) are objecting to the productivity concessions the company is seeking to secure as part of the deal.

Scotland. 3500 white-collar workers at Scottish plants have accepted pay rises of 25%. This works out to increases of £7.50 across the board for a 37½ hour week on top of basic rates between £30 and £70 per week. Workers here must also resist the introduction of productivity agreements, work measuring and discussions on manning levels just as workers in the Midlands are.

London. Workers in London at the Willesden and Hythe Road factories resumed work on Monday 6th January after a six week strike by panel beaters. The management has agreed to pay an extra £3 per week differential to the panel beaters and also to an extra £2 per week to all employees in the Division, 500 of whom had been laid off during the dispute.

### Lay-offs and redundancies in the motor industry

The collapse of Aston Martin with 500 workers being made redundant is only the tip of the iceberg. Lucas. 3000 workers are to be put on short-time working (foreign cars accounted for 35.6% of car sales last November). Chrysler. 5000 Scottish workers are to go on a 3-day week and other plants in the Chrysler

group are also likely to be affected soon. If the situation does not improve the company will undoubtedly attempt to achieve redundancies.

Reliants. Scimitar GTE sports-car production is to be cut back. Talks are to begin with Union officials on work-sharing and voluntary redundancies.

York Trailer Company. More than 60 workers are fighting a move by management to make them redundant because of a drop in orders. They have returned their redundancy notices and demanded top-level talks.

General and Municipal Workers' Union. The Executive of the Union is to adopt a "Jobs Before Money policy" for 1975. They ought to realise that it didn't save the workers at Aston Martin from the sack. The boast of "good industrial relations" and the decision of the workers to forgo a wage rise to help "save the firm" are seen in their true light with the criminal loss of 500 jobs.

The GMWU has many members in the car industry. Workers here want jobs and money and not the opportunity to subsidise their employers.

### British Oxygen

3200 production workers and drivers at British Oxygen's 46 depots are demanding a £4 a week pay increase in advance of their annual settlement in May. Rejecting the Guidelines of the Social Contract on a twelve month break, they have turned down a paltry offer from the management. The workers say they have contributed enough to the Company profits for their claim to be met.

### British Airways

Shop stewards representing 11000 engineering and maintenance workers at airports throughout Britain have rejected a 15% pay offer from the management.

## Bakers.. the fight goes on

The nation-wide strike of 33,000 bakery workers was one of the first industrial disputes to be referred to the Conciliation and Arbitration Service which was set up by the Labour Government but is supposed to be "absolutely independent of the Government!"

In spite of the £70 million made last year by only three of the bakery firms, guaranteed by the Government's huge flour subsidy, the industry pays some of the lowest wages in the country - £23.80 basic for men and £19.05 for women.

At the national conference of the bakery workers' union the claim agreed upon was £40 for 40 hours. But the settlement agreed to by the National Executive of the union and the employers under the auspices of the Conciliation and Arbitration Service only brought the basic wage up to £28.50 plus a £4.40 unconsolidated threshold payment.

This settlement aroused anger on the part of workers who had waged a successful strike and expected to have their full demands met; but they were not strong enough to continue the fight when an offer acceptable to some had been accepted.

Resolutions of no confidence in the National Executive have been passed and there has even been a move to reconvene the union congress; but the real question is one of achieving enough unity at rank and file level to continue the struggle and to make sure that union officials are obedient to the demands of members. The strike even if it failed to win the full claim was a major step toward this kind of unity.

## Bread is politics

Bread (and some other foods) are kept at an artificially low price by the Labour Government's subsidies. This is money filched from the working class in taxes, which is given to the bosses, in a pretended defence of the workers' living standards.

In some supermarket chains, especially those owning their own bakeries, bread is sold at low prices, e.g. 9p a loaf at Jackson's and Fine Fare in the Hull area. Profits are guaranteed by the Government subsidy and by paying low wages to bakery workers.

When the bakers' union decided on an overtime ban and no Sunday working, in furtherance of their claim to raise the minimum wage from £23.80 to £40 for a forty hour week, the 300 bakers at William Jackson's in Hull, earning £28.20 for a fifty-four hour week (equivalent to £20.90 for forty hours) decided on strike action on 30th November. By the following Monday 500 others had joined in. As the strike took hold, workers at many smaller bakeries were required to work over thirteen hours a day so that the boss could make a quick kill.

When the Union Executive accepted the decision of the Conciliation and Arbitration Service, a mass meeting decided to continue the strike in Hull. But, as elsewhere, many workers did in fact go back, so the majority decided to return to work but to carry on the struggle by a ban on overtime and Sunday working.

# 1974 A REVOLUTIONARY SITUATION

The capitalist class has been only too thankful to escape the year of 1974. For them the record has been a sorry one and it was the accelerating difficulties of over-production, financial trouble and inflation that led to the declaration in *THE WORKER* of a revolutionary situation.

According to official figures, industrial output fell by two per cent in the first ten months of 1974 as compared with the same period in the previous year.

The most drastic drop was in steel, the motor industry, con-

struction and textiles. Compared with the corresponding period in 1973, in the first 11 months of 1974 the weekly average steel production dropped by 17 per cent and car output by 12 per cent.

In the first half of 1974, private house building showed a drop of 35 per cent and orders in the third quarter of the year were down 51 per cent on the comparable period in 1973.

In the textile industry, staple fibre output fell by 7.7 per cent in the first half of 1974 and in

the third quarter, had fallen by 36 per cent from the levels of the same period a year ago.

Meanwhile, many enterprises have been operating under capacity. After research into 1,237 companies recently, the Confederation of British Industry reports that the industrial capacity of 56 per cent of the enterprises is under-utilised. Many other enterprises have closed down because of lack of funds. The confederation's report shows that 60 per cent of the enterprises are short of funds.

As the curtain fell on 1974, Aston Martin was making a dramatic appeal for Government money. On the same path before them had trod British Leyland, Rolls Royce and Ferranti.

Jessel securities, which boasts 1,000 million US dollars in assets, British Caledonian, which is the second biggest airways company of the country, the Triumph investment trust and a number of other large enterprises have gone bankrupt. Small and medium enterprises are harder hit. Over 3,960 such enterprises went into bankruptcy or closed their doors in the first nine months of 1974.

The working class is never allowed to be mere spectators of capitalist crisis. In the first eleven months of 1974 more than 100,000 workers had been dismissed. The number of unemployed has been well over 600,000 (according to official reckoning) since July, almost 3 per cent of the labour force.

While production fell, inflation and monetary crisis gathered speed. At the end of 1973 the annual rate of inflation was 11 per cent. In the past year, it climbed month by month to over 20 per cent now. Wholesale prices increased 28 per cent on average in a year ending last month. Last month's retail price index went up by 18.3 per cent as compared with the corresponding period in 1973.

The economy has also been hit heavily by its huge trade deficit, unfavourable balance of international payments and the tottering position of the pound. This country imports 80 per cent of its industrial raw materials and more than half its foodstuffs. The exports necessary to strike a balance are finding a reluctant market. British commodities are less competitive abroad as other crisis-ridden nations fight more fiercely for markets.

The country's trade deficit ran to a total of £4,787 million in the first eleven months of the year, representing an increase of more than 100 per cent compared with the trade deficit for the whole of 1973. The deficit in November alone went up to £534 million, breaking the monthly record.

The huge trade deficit has led to a huge international payments deficit. From January to October the international payments deficit ran to a total of £3,224 million, more than double the total deficit for 1973 which stood at £1,500 million. Official estimates are that Britain's 1974 trade deficit and international payments deficit will hit record post-war levels.

In this situation the pound has

further weakened. In early December the parity of the pound in relation to other major western currencies once fell 21.5 per cent on the foreign exchange market, registering the sharpest drop in three years.

The simultaneous outbreak of many economic ills finds the British ruling class at a loss for a cure. In its attempts to cope with the crisis, the Labour Government has presented three budgets within less than a year, the first time this has happened in Britain's history. Huge def-

icits were registered in each budget. £6,300 million of deficits was shown in the third budget alone. As a result, inflation worsened. The Government has borrowed large amounts of money from foreign countries. Britain's new foreign debt in 1974 climbed to over 3,000 million.

The year is over but the problems remain. Already 1975 is predicted as another year of gloom for capitalism. For the working class it will be a critical year.

## The year through

- January Issue 1 "Workers Reply To Gov't Lockout"  
The three-day week is introduced, using the miners' overtime ban as an excuse. Solidarity with miners increases.
- Issue 2 "A Revolutionary Situation"  
Economic crisis, govt attack and a working class refusing to bow down. Hence revolutionary situation. But need for revolutionary consciousness.
- February Issue 3 "Support the Miners, Fight Where You Are"  
Class struggle sharpens. Need to broaden offensive against Phase III.
- Issue 4 "To Hell With Elections, Let's Get On With the War"  
Attempt at parliamentary diversions. The CPB(ML) only party to denounce Whitehall follies as irrelevant.
- March Issue 5 "Victory for Miners"  
Not by parliament but by class struggle. Great victory against Phase III.
- Issue 6 "Who are They Kidding?"  
New Labour Govt. floats Social Contract.
- April Issue 7 "It's Still Smash Phase III"  
True to form, Labour Govt. maintains Phase III pay laws.
- Issue 8 "No Contract With Capitalism - On With The Offensive"  
There can never be peace between exploiters and exploited.
- May Issue 9 "May Day '74"  
Revolutionary situation throughout world. In Britain too.
- Issue 10 "AUEW Strikes"  
Historic victory against state. Industrial Relations Act finally buried in nation-wide struggle.



The beginning of the working class's campaign against the Industrial Relations Act in 1971 which was finally successful in 1974 when the act was repealed.

- Issue 11 "Real Politics In Action - Nurses, Nalge Fight Govt."  
Two new sections of the working class engage in disputes. Symptom of breadth of struggle.

## 'Worker' headlines

- June Issue 12 "Troops Out"  
The Worker denounces Ulster 'strike' as near fascist. Troops must quit Ireland before Ireland's problems can be solved.
- Issue 13 "Wage Fixing Moves Towards The Corporate State"  
Phase III, still in existence, and Social Contract attempt to bind working class. Struggle developing in many sections.
- July Issue 14 "Workers Fight Wage Cuts"  
Miners pass resolution against incomes policies. Nalge and Teachers fight over London weighting. Health struggle grows. Disputes all over country.
- August Issue 15 "A World To Win"  
The Worker points out revolutionary implications of situation. Need for both Party and Class to raise their sights.
- Issue 16 "They Can't Afford This Working Class"  
Capitalism can't live with us - can't live without us. But we can live without it. Victory for Nalge in London disputes.
- September Issue 17 "Labour and Tory - Two Faces of Capitalism."  
TUC accepts Social Contract in our name through our idleness. Setback for our class.
- October Issue 18 "Don't Vote - Prepare For Revolution"  
New election farce. Once again, no difference between parliamentary parties. Fords win against Social Contract. London teachers gain resounding victory. Significant success for health workers.
- Issue 19 "To Hell With Social Contract"  
Miners begin opposition to productivity deal.
- Issue 20 "Not Peace But War"  
Defense not enough. We must declare war on employing class.
- November Issue 21 "Contract Out"  
Scottish strike wave hits Contract. Over 50,000 on strike. Action spreads to South.
- Issue 22 "Prepare For Revolution - The War In The Mind"  
CPB(ML) stresses need to reject implications of Contract. Not enough just to reject clauses. Need to reject social democracy. Miners vote against Coal Board's Scheme.
- December Issue 23 "Oppose the Act of Terrorism"  
Under pretence of attacking terrorism, Govt attacks rights of working class. End British occupation of Ireland. We can only be free when all are.
- Issue 24 "As 1974 Ends Time Runs Out For Capitalism"  
Gloomy year for ruling class, who look towards fascism for solution. Workers have no choice but revolution, and essential for that are revolutionary consciousness and Party.

# The Houghton Report

"The Houghton Report ought to bring peace in an area of public life." This was the conclusion of Maurice Kogan, a member of the Houghton Committee on teachers' salaries which reported just before Christmas. The pompous claims of justice and fairness are thus rightly dismissed and the real aim of the report clearly stated.

The Houghton report is an anti-teacher, anti-education document. It is the ruling class's answer to what the teachers have been fighting for in the last three or four years. On salaries it offers no real improvement. The recommended increases are based on comparison with other 'professions', the idea being that teachers cannot have an increase in their salaries unless someone else has already got a similar increase. Needless to say, such a concept, if accepted by workers, would

have the effect of consigning the working class permanently to the destitute days of Dickens.

On conditions of work it states what the teachers have forcefully rejected, namely that "the job cannot be compressed with a rigid structure of prescribed duties, hours or days" taking us back a long way, especially when college teachers already have such a 'rigid structure'. The report accepted the cuts in education imposed by the Government if only by implication. It blames the teachers for wanting 'to have it both ways' when it is the Government who want to have an education system without paying for it. Houghton also accepts the social contract (so much for their independence) something the teachers have yet to pronounce upon.

The report, brought about by teachers' struggle in London early last year, is neatly designed on the one hand to pre-empt po-

ential struggle by those who sat on the sidelines hoping but not daring to fight for what they deserve and, on the other hand, to create such divisions so as to divert those who have fought into squabbling among themselves. The offer of a global sum that can be shared among the teachers in any way they like is not new. The Pay Board report on the London Allowance came up with the same idea which was decisively and successfully rejected. That Houghton could come out with such a report only reflects the passivity of teachers (other than in Scotland) while the report was awaited.

Will Houghton bring the 'peace' that the Government wish for so much. That cannot be so for teachers have always fought against Government attacks on education, and the devaluing of our skills by low pay is just another way of attacking education in Britain.

## State of emergency in Bangladesh

Growing chaos in 'Bangladesh' including a famine that has already cost the lives of 500,000, assassinations running into thousands and runaway inflation has been reflected in the declaration of a state of emergency. All political activities, the right to strike and other constitutional liberties have been suspended.

One of the factors leading up to the declaration at this time was the refusal of the Indian Government to give 'Bangladesh' aid. For the Indian Government which is unable to feed its own people to have taken over by aggressive conquest this area also subject to famine and natural disasters (a one of the most obscene acts of history).

In December 1971 when the pseudo left was hailing India's act of aggression against Pakistan as some kind of 'Bengali liberation' our Party condemned it for what it was - an imperialist war of annexation.

"The spurious policy of non-alignment," we said, "is now clearly abandoned and the existing Indian Government under the Gandhi clique stands revealed not only as the tool of imperialism but with imperialist ambitions of its own."

"This act is only possible under the direct instigation and support of the Soviet imperialists, the Brezhnev gang of revisionists in Moscow."

"The territorial integrity of the state of Pakistan must and will be defended by the workers and people of East and West Pakistan. They will unite to drive out the aggressor Indian Government."

"The Gandhi Government aggression is designed to deceive the people of India, to divert them from the internal problems of India which that Government is incapable of solving. In this the Gandhi deceivers will fail..."

The truth of this assessment has become clearer with every passing month. Ruhmus stands revealed as the puppet of his country's enemies. The people of that unhappy land will surely find the leadership to drive out the aggressor.



A worker from a Farm Tools Repair Plant near Kwang Chow demonstrating a rice transplanting machine to a delegation from Cambodia.

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# The Alternative.. Socialism in practice

## Two ways to end the year

In Britain we have new shortages and new factory closures every week - allegedly because of the 'world crisis'. In Albania, also affected by the 'world crisis' when it buys from abroad, prices, even of sugar, remain the same for consumers. The State makes up the difference out of the surplus it keeps in hand by selling ten per cent more than it buys from abroad. Last year, the socialist trade enterprises provided 18 per cent more milk, 60 per cent more eggs, 3 per cent more sugar and 16 per cent more cheese.

There are no shortages, no price rises and a constantly rising standard of living, and expansion in every direction, instead of factory closures and lay-offs. The new railway which brings iron ore from the mountains to the new metallurgical combine at Elbasan was completed early last year. Work began on new projects such as the ferro-chromium plant, the Enver Hoxha engineering plant, an antibiotics factory, a rubber factory and a plant to produce prefabricated parts for housing construction.

So much for Western pundits who insist that there can be no enthusiasm or enterprise without private ownership and the profit motive.

## China's new oil pipeline

In the 1960's the workers of Taching made a massive effort to build a large oilfield, and were so successful that China is largely self-sufficient in oil, and a slogan was coined "In industry learn from Taching."

In 1970 work was begun on a 1152 kilometer pipeline from Taching to the North China port of Chinhuangtao. The pipeline was finished in autumn 1973 and has worked smoothly for a year. Workers in machinery plants along the route heard that one factory could not produce all the large-calibre steel pipes needed, so they made new machinery and turned out some of the pipes themselves, as well as the rest of the equipment for the pumping stations.

Most of the digging and pipelaying had to be done in bitter winter weather in order not to disrupt farm production. The pipeline has carried the enthusiasm of the Taching workers across China as well their technical knowledge and high standards.

## Industry and agriculture in step

One of China's principles in expanding her industry is not to let one sector get out of balance with another. Another is to rely on domestic supply rather than imports, as happened before liberation. Agriculture is of key importance, as it is the basis for light industry, providing cotton, wool, tobacco and foodstuffs for processing. For the last 13 years all the harvests have been good and the results are seen in the doubling of production of light industry in the last nine years.

Socialist planning ensures that the communes concentrate on the all-important grain but still provide an all-round variety of crops for local industries. Industry supports agriculture by sending workers and technicians to the communes to develop production and learn what machinery is needed. In Hunan province the paper-making industry helped farm-workers to reclaim 50,000 hectares of land and grow reeds, which now provide hundreds of thousands of tons for paper-making. Industries are not concentrated in towns or one area, but workers are setting them up all over the country. Sugar, for example, was once grown only in the south, but is now found even in Tibet, and every autonomous region and province has sugar refineries.

## IN BRIEF

### "GUN-BOAT" KISSINGER

Kissinger has spelled out the circumstances in which the US might go to war over Middle-East oil. They would not actually start shooting over the price the Middle-East countries might put on their own oil; but if "there was the threat of some actual strangulation of the industrialised world -".

But then another thought occurred to the US Secretary of State - Vietnam! "That might be a very dangerous course," he said ruefully. "We should have learned from Vietnam that it is easier to get into a war than to get out of it." It reminds us of the debt the world owes the Vietnamese people for the sound defeat they administered to US imperialism.

### INTRUDERS PUNISHED

From Johannesburg it is reported that four South African policemen have been killed on active duty in skirmishes with liberation forces in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia). South Africa is learning that the people will never tolerate foreign interference in their affairs and will punish intruders.

### SOUTH KOREA

"We have no political prisoners - only communists and others involved in conspiracies against the country" - President Park.

### INDO-CHINA

"You always write it's bombing, bombing, bombing. It's not bombing. It's air support!" - former US attache in Cambodia.

### NO JOY

"I cannot say in all truth that I do look on capitalism and business with the same joy as in 1960" - Jim Slater.