



COLLISION COURSE

in IRELAND British Government escalates repression as resistance of Irish people grows



Workers demand: British Troops out of Ireland now!

ON Sunday, September 5th, more than a thousand workers including a large Irish Contingent marched through the centre of London to join with an even larger crowd in Trafalgar Square to demand the immediate withdrawal of British troops from Ireland.

This impressive demonstration of the solidarity of British workers with their Irish brothers in denouncing British imperialism was organised by the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist). It was an event of political significance. It was the right demonstration on the right issue at the right time.

The situation in Ireland was correctly defined — a colonial war waged by British imperialism against the Irish people. British troops are in Ireland for no other purpose than to kill and terrorise all who challenge Britain's colonial rule which began 800 years ago.

It is a war against Irish workers waged by the same British ruling class that exploits and oppresses workers in this country. Therefore this is a testing time for the workers of Britain. We cannot be free except we declare ourselves in the freedom struggle of the Irish people and take action with them against British imperialism, our common enemy.

The thousands in Trafalgar Square on September 5th will become hundreds of thousands. The imperialist Government of Britain sending its troops across the Irish sea to subjugate the people, as it has sent troops to Malaya or Cyprus or Aden, will find itself assailed in the very heart of the empire. It will meet the same fate as the even mightier U.S. imperialists in Vietnam.

TUC - BECALMED AT BLACKPOOL

THERE exists a great dilemma for all non revolutionary Trade Union leaders whether they be Labour Lords or "left militants". They must pose as champions of the conditions of those who pay their wages, whilst in practice they peddle Class Collaboration, for they are terrified at the prospects of actually fighting the system.

RITUAL

One of the efforts to assert their credibility is that annual verbal ritual—the T.U.C. There in the cosy sanctity of some seaside resort they can breathe fire and brimstone for five days upon those to whom they will slavishly grovel for the rest of the year. The press describes the debates as "fundamental", "hard hitting", "aggressive" and television shows to millions of viewers trade union leaders in action which it depicts as "militant", "tough" and "left wing".

SHADOW BOXING

Few class conscious workers will be hoodwinked by all this shadow boxing. Their day to day existence hammers home the harsh reality behind the verbiage. Unemployment has soared to 930,000 since the last T.U.C. Yet many of the leaders who at Blackpool condemned this, were the very same people who spent the last few years peddling productivity deals which put thousands out of work. Those who ranted loudest (like McGarvey) about solidarity with the U.C.S. workers, were the same people who agreed to the carve-up under the Labour government which put 3,000 Clyde shipbuilding workers out on the stones. There were the pious empty phrases about the need to reflate the economy. The unreality of the situation may be judged by the fact that no mention was made of the world crisis of imperialism and the deepening

repercussions of that crisis in Britain.

SHOW

The big show of the week was the confrontation on de-registration under the Industrial Relations Act. Three lines on this were projected:-

1. The T.U.C. wanted "to strongly urge" unions to de-register.
2. The A.U.E.W. wished to "instruct" them to do so
3. S.O.G.A.T. called for the expulsion of those Unions which remained on the register.

The A.U.E.W. Com-

posite motion was emasculated by their acceptance of an amendment from the T & G which said that de-registration could only be effective if all unions "act collectively". This will clearly be used as an escape route. When some Unions register (Lord Cooper, this years T.U.C. chairman indicated two days prior to the Congress that his union the G.M.W.U. would do so) others will argue that they must follow to protect their bargaining units.

Cont. on Page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

CHINA'S 22nd	page 2
FROM THE WORKERS	page 3
LABOUR PARTY	
CONFERENCE	page 3
INDO-SOVIET TREATY	page 3
INDUSTRIAL FRONT	page 4

"WHEN BOGUES AGREE..."
THE three Prime Ministers, Heath, Lynch and Faulkner, have met and after due deliberation have come up with an agreed "solution" to the Irish problem. There must be an end to violence!

Does this mean that the British troops which are occupying Northern Ireland are going to be withdrawn? Does it mean that the orders given to these troops, "shoot to kill" are to be rescinded? Does it mean that the arrest without trial and the incarceration of Irish citizens in detention camps is to cease? No, it does not mean any of these things. It means only that the Irish people who are resisting the violence being used against them must stop resisting.

Certain differences did emerge during the talks. Faulkner says repressive measures like internment can only end when violence has been stopped. Lynch says the ending of such repressive measures as internment would contribute to an ending of violence. We say the three Prime Ministers had better realise that British imperialism and those who serve its interests in Ireland no longer have a monopoly of violence.

Ireland has known the violence of the conqueror and occupier throughout its history as Britain's oldest colony—the violence of sword and flame and massacre, the violence of economic ruin and mass starvation, the violence of depopulation as young men were driven from their homes to other lands. Whatever Heath, Faulkner, and Lynch may say the people of Ireland are saying loud and clear "We have had enough. No more. An end to partition and divisions imposed by British imperialists".

Not Heath nor Faulkner nor Lynch will decide the future of Ireland but the Irish people. And who are the Irish people? The great patriot and Marxist, James Connolly has told us who are the Irish. "Not the dividend-hunting capitalist with the phraseology of patriotism on his lips and spoils wrung from the sweated Irish toilers in his pockets, not the scheming lawyer, not the slum landlord...not any of these sections who today dominate Irish politics. But rather the Irish working class—the only secure foundation on which a free nation can be reared—the Irish working class which has borne the brunt of every political struggle and gained by none and which today is the only class in Ireland which has no interest to serve in perpetuating either the political or social forms of oppression—the British connection or the Irish capitalist system. The Irish working class must emancipate itself and in emancipating itself must perforce free its country!"

in BRITAIN

Government Policy puts 929,000 out of jobs as workers' militancy mounts

OFFICIAL unemployment figures now are the highest since the end of the Great Depression but workers, denied the right to work are taking matters in their own hands and are hitting back.

PLESSEYS SHOW THE WAY

IN Alexandria, Dunbartonshire, the Plessey electronics factory has been occupied by about 200 workers. When the last of the 700 workers at the factory received their notice on Friday, 3 September, the workers began a stay-in strike to stop Plessey moving material and machinery down to the companies four factories at Ilford, Essex. The workers have been getting financial aid and food from local residents. There is no talk of "friendly capitalists" like Mr. Archibald Kelly buying the factory to save the jobs. The Plesseys struggle has matched the solid determination and courage shown at UCS with a political acumen not so far revealed on Clydeside. When battle begins the only weapon of workers is their own strength and unity—the local council, visiting celebrities from the Labour Movement and "friends" like Kelly are shown to be useless at best.

CIVIL WAR

THE civil war that Heath declared at the United Nations and repeated in the Ireland context in September is not a one-sided affair. He fights in his way and we fight in ours. We the workers will not accept unemployment, the Industrial Relations Act or the war being waged by the Government in Ireland. We have a heritage of 200 years of guerrilla struggle against the employers. Plesseys is in that tradition and at the same time an enrichment of it.

22 YEARS OF SOCIALISM IN CHINA

THE People's Republic of China was established on October 1, 1949 and within the short space of 22 years a feudal backward, war-ravaged and Imperialist - despoiled country has been transformed into the world's leading socialist state.

Daily we see on television scenes of mass starvation and disease in other parts of the colonial and semi-colonial world. Right on the borders of China in the neighbouring countries of India and Pakistan we have the spectacle of millions lining up for crumbs from the very powers that are responsible for their misery. That used to happen in China before liberation; millions trying to escape drought, famine or war, but never again. Today, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China which is guided by the brilliant development of Marxism by Mao, the workers and peasants of China are taking giant strides in all spheres - agriculture, industry, medicine, science. In some things as for example, space

technology, China has surpassed many imperialist countries including Britain. In other areas her technical achievements are second to none.

How could this miracle be achieved? By the correct application of socialism to all aspects of development. From the very fundamental stage of grasping and consolidating political power the socialist construction of China has been strengthened through the great proletarian cultural revolution during which the mass of people were able through their own understanding and struggle to fight the revisionists and reactionaries in their midst and thus prevent the restoration of capitalism. The essence of the cultural revolution was this very thing: to make the workers and peasants use their own political power and understanding to wage unrelenting class struggle.

Today the enemies of socialism ranged all the way from US imperialism, Japanese militarism and Soviet revisionism are



out to attack China but the workers and peasants have created such a strong base that China's socialism is an impregnable bastion of iron. The primary productive force of human society

as a whole is the workers, the working people," wrote Lenin. "Grasp revolution promote production," said Mao. The workers and peasants of China are doing just that and thereby raising socialism to new heights.

A delegation from the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) led by Dorothy Birch, has been invited to China to take part in the October celebrations of the 22nd Anniversary.

There will be a report back meeting of the delegation on Friday November 12 at 7.30 p.m. at Camden Studios (Mornington Crescent or Camden Town tube station)

WHAT BRITISH WORKERS ARE LEARNING FROM CHINA

AT a meeting of all London branches of the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) on Saturday, September 4th, the Chairman of the Party, Reg Birch, and other leading members of the Central Committee led a discussion on the implementation of the Programme unanimously endorsed by the Second Congress.

This meeting was part of the process of applying Marxism-Leninism to the situation in Britain as set forth in the document "The British Working Class and its Party" - just as Lin Piao's "Long Live the Victory of People's War!" is a handbook of the application of the teaching of Mao Tsetung to the problems of China's revolutionary war against Japanese Imperialist aggression.

COMMUNISTS OR DOGMATISTS

The question for the members of our Party is "Are we communists where we work? If we are not, we are simply dogmatists. Factories are the bases of protracted war against the capitalist class and its government, and the Party has to be built in the factories."

The present stage in Britain of the ideological development of the working class and the struggle for proletarian democracy corresponds to the period of the peasant movement in China and the development of rural bases.

Mao Tsetung correctly analysed the situation in China and pointed out that the attempt of Japanese imperialism to reduce China to a colony made the contradiction between China and Japan the principal contradiction and all the internal class contradictions inside China secondary contradictions. The principal contradiction in Britain today is between the working class and the monopoly-capitalist ruling class together with all the arms of the establishment which serve it. Contradictions within the working class must be analysed and discussed as not inherently antagonistic - contradictions between the line of our Party which represents the real interests of the working class and those who think they can survive under capitalism without fighting it, those who think they do not belong to the working class but to some 'privileged middle grouping', those who think of themselves as 'moderate and reasonable' people operating in a system susceptible to reform.

ULTRA LEFTISM

Ultra-leftism, impatience with the working class must be exposed. The leftist complaint that 'the working class is refusing to have the revolution I want them to have' is ultimately rightist because it turns its back on the working class. The charge that trade unions are bourgeois and the call for 'red' trade unions is also turning one's back on the working class and lacking faith in its revolutionary potential. There were defeatists in China who thought that the country was no match for Japan. There are those who think the working class is no match for the capitalist class. But British monopoly capitalism is in its era of decline. The British working class is in its era of progress. The disadvantages of the working class in its conflict with the capitalist system are temporary; its advantages are fundamental. "It is not a question of can we win, but how soon. It depends on the development of our Party and the revolutionary ideology of the working class which are inseparable"

"British capitalism in its imperialist phase is our Japanese imperialist invader, it will not be over-

thrown by a single demonstration or putsch; but by organising an army - workers armed with Marxism-Leninism - for protracted war. From our base areas where people work, in industrial centres, electricity, transport, communications, we shall organise for guerrilla struggle and from these bases the strongholds of state power will be surrounded. These bases must be the main recruiting areas for our Party. Only if our Party shows leadership in day-to-day struggles will workers accept our Party's strategic leadership. The mass line, from the workers to the workers, must never become a cliché in our approach to our tasks."

UNITED FRONT

Lin Piao writes: "In order to win a people's war, it is imperative to build the broadest possible united front and formulate a series of policies which will ensure the fullest mobilisation of the basic masses as well as the unity of all the forces that can be unified." The labour movement is our broad front, and the arena of struggle is provided by unemployment, the attack on the working class of the Industrial Relations Act and the support of British workers for their class brothers in Ireland and anywhere else that British imperialism operates oppressively.

"In the protracted war on which we, the workers of Britain are embarked we cannot guarantee working class success in every single confrontation. It is a zig-zag struggle of advance and retreat based on the strategy and tactics of people's war - fighting when you can win and moving away when you cannot, despising the class enemy strategically and taking full account of him tactically."

Paraphrasing Mao Tsetung's words to the class enemy of the Chinese people we say to our class enemy in Britain:

YOU AND US

"You rely on lies, propaganda and the state power of the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie and we rely on highly conscious revolutionary people; you give full play to your superiority and we give full play to ours; you have your way of fighting and we have ours. When you want to fight us, we don't let you and you can't even find us. But when we want to find you, we make sure that you can't get away and we hit you squarely on the chin and wipe you out. When we are able to wipe you out we do so with a vengeance; when we can't we see to it that you don't wipe us out. It is opportunism if one won't fight when one can win. It is adventurism if one insists on fighting when one can't win. Fighting is the pivot of all our strategy and tactics. It is because of the necessity of fighting that we admit the necessity of moving away. The sole purpose of moving away is to fight and bring about the final and complete destruction of the enemy. This strategy and these tactics can be applied only when one relies on the broad masses of the people, and such application brings the superiority of people's war into full play."

"Workers are prepared to fight. What has to be got across is that the same amount of struggle, sacrifice and unity directed strategically could solve all their problems. We must relate defensive fights to the organised struggle from the base areas which will eventually overcome the class enemy. The complete involvement of the working class in the development of our Party and the complete involvement of our Party in the struggles of the working class - that is the way forward."

STUDENTS TUC

Cont. from page 1.

THIS month sees final year students entering a new academic year with a daunting prospect. Not to be employed in using the skills they have acquired during their training but to be cast onto the scrap-heap of unemployment. All other students are either one or two years from the same fate!

Students, alongside the rest of the working class, must fight for the right to work. But what does unemployment mean for us as students' at the moment? Unemployment must not just be seen as a future prospect, something to be taken account of later. Its effects are going to be felt immediately by us all.

The Government has a well tried solution to unemployment-kick the victims in the teeth. Having fostered the illusory idea of students being a privileged elite for so long, they are now saying that we must no longer regard ourselves as such; which of course no-one with any sense of reality did anyway.

With the libraries bereft of books, and students bereft of the money to buy them, with 'accommodation' the euphemistic term for 'hard floors', things are clearly getting worse not better.

The students will undoubtedly fight back and to make this fight effective they must have an effective Union. As a first step in the development of local Student Unions into genuine bodies of struggle, they must be made autonomous in relation to College and State authorities.

Two Skeletons in the Cupboard

AMERICANS proudly claim, in face of all evidence, that theirs is a civilised society, and yet it is evident to all that the USA lacks two basics - a useful railway system, and a health service. How interesting then, that our own Government should choose an American business 'efficiency' firm - McKinsey, to axe British Rail and the NHS, which both in their times were unique - the one a product of the first capitalism, the second a reformist answer to two centuries of working class fight for improved living conditions.

The pattern for the railways we all know - lines to rural areas to be closed, fit epitaph for a declining capitalism, whose achievement was to build communications between populations rather than isolate, and of course, the redundancies, 10,000 white collar staff to be reduced to 6,400

The NHS is a different matter. Its inception marked the proletarianisation of medical workers, and improvements in the conditions of those worse off, medical technicians and junior doctors. A man employed by the state, on a contract is not petit-bourgeois. The proof of this is shown by the united opposition of all the doctors, chemists and nurses' associations, against the proposed 'sliding scale' prescription charges.

However, now from the

In reality the A.U.E.W. and the T & G are powerful enough individually to resist any encroachment into their areas by state registered unions.

In the event, the 'instruct' motion was carried, but no-one was prepared to say what would happen if the instruction were ignored. Significantly, it was pointed out that the T.U.C. and not the General Council will deal with offending unions. This means they will have a year in which to get the idea of being registered accepted by the movement. Utmost vigilance will be necessary to ensure there is no backsliding even in unions which have taken a principled position up to now.

PROTRACTED

It will be necessary to go on to the offensive by pursuing wage claims, insisting on closed shops and defying the provisions of the Bill at the point of production. For simply to de-register and not to do this would be a sham. The whole movement will have to rally to the support of the first sections which come under attack. The struggle will be long and protracted. It will not be led by the General Council which organised its big 'demonstration' on a Sunday afternoon (in case production would be disrupted), or by Scanlon and Jones who imposed some of the Act's provisions (i.e. the ballot) on the Ford workers.

Throughout the week the Congress leadership was obviously terrified at any suggestions that it should organise mass industrial action. Even on pensions they defeated an amendment from the A.U.E.W. (Technical & Supervisory) encouraging unions to take industrial action on this matter, and left the pensioners with the usual moralising and empty rhetoric.

DEAD END

The most dangerous tendency at Congress was the systematic effort to divert the growing resistance of the working class into the dead end of parliamentary activity. Speaker after speaker called for the return of a Labour Government pledged to repeal the Industrial Relations Act, improve the Social Services, reflate the economy and end unemployment. Clearly they hope to dissipate the energy of the class in a big campaign to return a Labour Government pledged (for the seventh time!) to the building of Socialism.

The Congress had little to do with Trade Unionism other than that Trade Unionists paid for it. When the working class take power there will be drastic changes in the nature of this gathering.

land where the thickness of the wallet determines whether a severely burned patient is treated, or sent home to die, and where mentally retarded children were deliberately infected with viral hepatitis as an experiment, from this land we will have a management consultant.

Be on your guard!

LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE

THE annual round of boring party conferences is here again, with the Labour Party visiting Brighton.

IN OFFICE

Though they now go through the pretence of opposition, in office the Labour Party paved the way and was the originator of many of the present governments policies. Under the Wilson government, unemployment rose to the highest levels then known since the Depression by their espousal of mergers, rationalisations and redundancy payments. The vocal horror they now assume out of office at unemployment and redundancy was never evident in office, as can be quickly witnessed by the history of Weinstock's GEC and Labour's rationalisation on the Clyde (from which the UCS closure of today has its roots). It was they who made the application for Common Market entry and began negotiations, despite subsequent manoeuvrings since over bad Tory terms. Carr's Industrial Relations Bill to shackle the trade unions builds on Barbara Castle's forerunner 'In Place of Strife'. And it was a Labour government that sent British troops in 1969 under the guise of being a "peacekeeping force" over to Ireland, to act as an army of occupation "shooting to kill" Irish workers in revolt against it. The list can go on.

SORRY WAY

But workers are not the unthinking beings with short memories the Labour Party takes them for. There is no flood back to that party, to campaign for it, and it is in a very sorry way at its grass roots. For while workers recognise the bitterness of the struggles against capitalism under the present Tory management, they do not forget life as it was under Labour management, the record of betrayal and anti-working class measures that that government had.

Teachers Pay

A Ploy of the Greeks

TEACHERS have returned to their schools this term eager to learn how the new pay scheme will affect them. The Trojan Horse gift of a 10% wage increase—and teachers are licking their lips at the prospect of a bit of back pay—will soon reveal its true essence. For any wage increase soon evaporates and the teachers will be left to fight again, this time with the possibility of greater divisions in their ranks. The new pay structure seeks to turn each staff-room into as many penny-pinching groups as there are individuals.

The wrong battlefield

MEANWHILE the 35% demand of the college lecturers, having shocked the authorities, has been hastily diverted to arbitration, in the academic arena of the tribunal it will be "rational discussion" that comes into full play. Unfortunately for college lecturers it is not "rational discussion" that wins wage increases. The lecturers must choose their own battlefield on which to fight; that means the colleges where they work.



STAND UP AND BE COUNTED

ON the question of British troops out of Ireland can be tested the sincerity and political sense of those who claim to be progressives and leaders in the labour movement. Most of those who have set themselves up as professional 'leftists' and elbow each other out of the way to be in front of pictures in the capitalist press were conspicuous by their absence on September 5th (picture above).

Where were all those who have marched up and down condemning the wicked acts of other governments but when it was a question of nailing their own government on its home ground were nowhere to be seen? Where were the 'leftists' who make all sorts of international demands but were silent when it was a demand to end the British occupation of Ireland? Where were those whose hearts bleed for the victims of everybody else's aggression but not that of British imperialism?

Among those absent were the opportunists who like to espouse a popular and safe issue — in order to take over a ready made crowd and enjoy the illusion of leading a movement. Also missing were the self-styled Marxist-Leninists who pride themselves on their understanding of imperialism but would rather talk about it behind its back in each other's front rooms than meet it face to face on the streets in the company of the workers they are supposed to be a part of. Not nearly so well represented as they should be were other colonial workers here in Britain who showed their parochialism in not seeing that any struggle against imperialism is also their struggle. Would be leaders of these groups of 'nationals' try to preserve their own status by separating their people from the mass of British workers by limiting their concern to matters in the countries from which they have come.

These last will expose their phoney leaders and join their fellow workers in any demonstration against the imperialist government they know only too well. The others we can do without. They have demonstrated their political bankruptcy by opting out of the confrontation with British imperialism right here where it has to be fought and defeated.

Who needs them? We have the whole working class to win for revolutionary struggle. It is as well that these self-proclaimed 'leftists' and would-be 'leaders' should have exposed themselves. In the protracted class war British workers are waging against the imperialist ruling class it is important to know their friends and enemies. Those who talk revolution but avoid every real skirmish are employers' men.

INDO-SOVIET TREATY

THE Indo-Soviet Friendship Treaty signed last month puts the official seal on Soviet military strategy against China, a strategy which meets with the approval of all the major imperialist powers and of course the capitalists and landlords of India. Its very timing is significant. It was signed when Gromyko made a hasty visit to India during the troubles in East Pakistan. When it is remembered that it is these very same powers that are behind Bangladesh so that Pakistan can be dismembered and an anti-China state called Bangladesh under Indian suzerainty be created the signing of the Treaty becomes a major step in the geopolitical designs of the Soviet Union against China and to expand its own empire including India, East Pakistan etc.

The clauses of the Treaty set out with the maximum of waffle how India and Russia will help each other if there is an attack by a third party. India's tattered non-alignment has been completely smashed because for the first time actual treaty links have been drawn up to tie India to the Soviet military bloc.

USSR TAKE OVER

In 1962 the Nehru Government had attacked China more or less unilaterally although given every aid and encouragement by the USA, Britain and the Soviet Union. Since then the potentialities of India as a major war base in anti-China war plans of both the Soviet Union and the

USA have been clearly recognised. Military aid from the Soviet Union has poured into India and MIGs etc are also being manufactured under licence in two or three Indian factories. For a miserably poor country not to say one that nauseatingly talks about "nonalignment" and "peace" the Indian arms budget is staggeringly high — well above the £700m mark of last year. At a time when U.S. imperialism is being defeated in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos and finds itself suffering huge economic as well as military losses it is naturally delighted to find the Soviet Union ready to undertake the anti-China military plans which the USA had initiated 25 years ago when it saw in Nehru the only Asian leader who could check the communist "menace" of China.

RUSSIAN SPIES

WE understand that in spite of the expeditious way in which British Security cracked down on the Russian spy ring they were not able to prevent certain vital information of a highly secret nature from being spirited out of the country. It is feared that British plans for running down its own aircraft industry and sabotaging ship-building from within may have fallen into the hands of potential enemies. The Russians may also have got hold of British Government schemes for suppressing the people of Ireland which could be used against the people of Czechoslovakia.

SOVIET STRATEGY

The Soviet renegades are busy coming to terms with West German and Japanese imperialism. Brandt's recent visit to the Soviet Union to finalise a detente on Berlin as a forerunner to a general European Security Pact shows that the Soviet junta will stop at nothing to betray the workers of East Europe. Similarly recent moves to cement even closer relations with Japan are linked with the opening up of the vast riches of Siberia to Japanese monopolies and building sinister political links with the newly developing militaristic Japan. The Indo Soviet Treaty fits neatly into this pattern of alignments and must be exposed as part of the chain to bind India to the Soviet empire and thereby to use its resources and people against China.

THE STRUGGLE IN IRELAND IS OUR STRUGGLE TOO.

A Reporter writes as follows in the Financial Times of August 27th. Time after time I have heard Army personnel predicting that the fight in Belfast will soon be followed by a fight in U.K. mainland cities. I actually heard officers talking about the unfortunate mistakes that British planners had made in not taking defence into account when designing new towns. "Stevenson would be awful to handle — but no one bothered to ask the Ministry of Defence when it was planned."

FROM THE WORKERS TO THE WORKERS

AS a regular feature of our paper we print interviews with workers involved in class struggle, so that we may learn from each other's experiences in different sectors of what is all the same fight. These articles are reports from the front in the guerrilla war the working class wages daily with the employing class and the capitalist government which serves its interests.

"The British Working Class and Its Party" adopted by the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) at its Second Congress states: "Whether the struggle is in factory, trade union, school, university or wherever the ruling class or its agents are challenged we cannot be effective unless we are involved. Such involvement entails a proper understanding of the role of the Party in relation to the mass. The Party line must be a mass line or we are only posturing and phrasemongering."

THE following interview was given by a leading shop steward and member of the Workers' Redundancy Committee at the British Aircraft Corporation, Filton, in the Bristol area.

In the West of England the struggle for the right to work has gathered new intensity as the number of redundancies both announced and 'in the air' at BAC Filton and Fairford, Brechnell, Dolman and Rogers and Imperial Smelting, Avonmouth, looks like passing the 2,000 mark.

"More and more workers in the Bristol area are adopting the only position in their real interest — there must not be one more single sacking!"

EXEMPLARY ROLE OF BAC

The present stand of BAC workers at Filton is playing an exemplary role in stiffening the determination of Bristol workers to say "no more!" and in helping to forge local and national working class unity around the issue of the right to work. "National unemployment statistics are seen no longer as referring to other workers in other places but for what they are — an indictment of capitalism and an attack on the whole working class."

BAC, Filton, employs 7,500 manual and white collar workers. Redundancies announced at Filton and Fairford at the end of August amounted to 557 though the firm consistently gives misleading reports to the press. As recently as July the management had denied any redundancy plans at all, but the workers were not put off their guard. "There have been two lightning half-day stoppages with only some 250 men, nearly all nonunion, trying to cross the picket line. There have been three mass meetings attended by 5,000 workers at which there was almost unanimous support for the instructions to the Redundancy Committee 'To resist any attempt by the Corporation to sack any union members on the grounds of redundancy and to carry out any actions in pursuance of same'."

REDUNDANCY COMMITTEE

Overtime has been banned completely and any section where work was attempted during the strikes has been blacked. The shop steward told our reporter: "The workers have plenty of other tricks up their sleeves including a 'UCS' before resorting to all out strike. The men are better organised than the management and the Redundancy Committee can get 5,000 men outside the gates at an hour and a half's notice."

The Redundancy Committee is made up of all 14 unions at BAC and has been so successful in its co-ordinating campaign that management has been forced to agree to meet it where before it would only talk with each union separately. The employers have tried a number of tactics to divide and weaken the men's opposition to any sackings whatsoever.

"They announce an even larger number of redundancies than they intend and then when they lower the number, they appear to be making concessions while maintaining that some redundancies at least are 'unavoidable'. They have paid only minimum rates to those workers involved in blacking certain sections including that concerned with the Concorde 01. (There have been isolated walk-outs on this issue by different unions but agreement has now been reached to fight this retaliatory action by the common action of all unions.) But probably the most serious threat will be Government intervention and blackmail to the effect that disruptions in production could cause the Concorde 01 to cease being a 'viable proposition.'"

The crunch will come in mid-October when the first mass redundancies are due to take place. The management has already been surprised by the organised enthusiasm and determination of the workers.

NOT WHY BUT HOW

BAC workers have already learned a good deal from their struggle as the shop steward explained. "The advantage of the unity of all union members in pressing their common demands for the right to work is apparent to all and it is likely that some joint trade union body for hammering out common tactics will continue to exist even when the present struggle is ended. Another result has been that blue and white collar workers, formerly distrustful of each other, have come together in their determination to take on the boss. Those workers who thought it was their business to work for 'good industrial relations' have been taught a bitter lesson in how much management cares about workers. And most important of all has been the realisation that the enemy is not just one capitalist, but it is the capitalist system itself that is hostile and rotten. After this fight there will be more workers who don't ask 'Why smash capitalism?' but 'How?'"

"The struggle has brought home to workers in the Bristol area the reality of massive national unemployment and the truth that the fight for the right to work although conducted in particular local factories is in essence a fight by the whole working class. BAC workers have already declared their support for men also threatened with lay-offs at Brechnell, Dolman and Rogers and they will form a prominent contingent in the demonstration of all Bristol workers against unemployment on October 23rd."



ON THE INDUSTRIAL FRONT

REDUNDANCY

Unemployment among young people in Co. Durham has doubled in the last year. At Kilmarnock, Massey-Ferguson are to dismiss 430 of the labour force of nearly 2,000 at its combine harvester plant. Aveling-Barford, one of the world's largest manufacturers of road rollers announced redundancies for about 10% of its 2,300 workers at Grantham, Lincs, and Newcastle-on-Tyne. In Walthamstow, Ever Ready are ready to close the battery assembly plant employing 600 people. At Cwmbran New Town, Guest Keen and Nettlefolds is to shut its engineering works at the end of the year. After they had been given the news the 1,000 workers got the rest of the day off because according to the company "We felt they would be a little shocked and would want time to talk about it". Unless they do more than talk, they will have all the time in the world. Cwmbran, according to the government is one of Wales' "growth areas". If this is growth, what's the rest of Wales for?

ALCAN SMELTER

400 electricians, working for contractors N.G. Bailey shut down the £65 million Lynmouth Alcan Aluminium smelter project for two months before finally winning increases of 15p an hour for skilled men and 12p for labourers. During the strike 200 men employed by Clarke Chapmans held a half-day taken strike in solidarity.

COVENTRY TOOLROOM AGREEMENT

8,000 toolroom workers have been holding weekly one-day strikes and imposing an overtime ban as a limited action in protest against the employers' decision to cancel the 30 year old agreement fixing their rates in terms of average skilled wages in the district. (See September Worker) The last rate fixed, in August, was 101.69p an hour.

THE NEWSPAPER LOCKOUT

FIVE of the six Unions in London and Manchester newspapers presented a joint wage claim to the N.P.A. The N.P.A. offered 10% on basic pay and the Unions agreed to recommend acceptance to their members. However some sections of the N.G.A. opposed acceptance wishing to retain their present wage differentials which would have raised the cost of the settlement to the employers.

Activities of the NGA members led to the employers imposing a lock-out. What the workers had done caused some papers to be stopped. The employers action stopped them all. It can give scant satisfaction to all concerned who would lay claim to know their own business that a settlement was finally reached after much burning of midnight oil through the good offices of Mr. Victor Feather. The settlement not surprisingly in such situa-

tion where the entire initiative was left to the NPA was only a matter of peanuts away from the original offer.

STRIKE OF C.A. PARSONS

The strike reported fully in our September issue continues. The workers are still united around their claim and there are no scabs. Negotiations at national level are taking place.

WESTLAND HELICOPTERS

In Hayes, London, where unemployment has already doubled in a year, Westland Helicopters have announced plans to close the whole factory, employing 1,800, within ten months. An immediate overtime ban was agreed on when the announcement was made and further action to safeguard the jobs is planned. In a letter to the workers the managing director said 900 men would be offered alternative work at Yeovil and Weston-Super-Mare. A fine offer! Workers are being given a choice between losing their homes and losing their jobs unless Westland is going to give them each a helicopter to commute to Somerset.

AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

National Farmers Union leaders have rejected a pay, hours and overtime claim by Britain's 350,000 farmworkers. The claim is for an £18 minimum rate for a 40 hour week and double time for weekends and bank holidays. At present the minimum is £14.80 for a 42 hour week with overtime at time-and-a-half.

HOSPITAL TECHNICIANS

5,000 hospital technicians held a national two-day strike in early September to speed up negotiations for £6 to £12 pay increases. Meanwhile 400 hospital laboratory technicians in the E. Midlands have banned weekend and clerical work and are refusing to do police blood alcohol tests. Post-mortem blood tests have also been banned. So far none of the subjects has complained.

TRIUMPH

400 Triumph engine assemblers at Coventry went on strike on September 7 demanding better piecework rate for Dolomite modified engines. The company's offer was based on 40 hours work while the men say 46½ hours is necessary to meet the production programme. Fewer than 200 modified engines have been produced as against a management plan for 4,000 and so 13,000 sports and saloon car workers at Cowley and Liverpool were laid off. Triumph chairman Mr. Bill Davies wrote in the works newspaper that employees were "in danger of committing industrial suicide". The men replied to this by deciding not to meet again until September 23, after the annual holidays. Mr. Davies moaned "only failure of communication on my part could result in action of this kind".

Eventually he realised that if he was to write his messages on the backs of pound notes he would get a better response, and an increased offer was made, resulting in a return to work.

LUCAS

After nearly a months strike, which resulted in 13,000 other Lucas workers being laid off from nine factories, 300 Lucas maintenance engineers returned to work. Their demands for increased holiday pay were met by an offer of a supplement of about £40, compared with an original offer of £10, raised to £15 after a fortnight.

UNDER STARTERS ORDERS

Losing punters have at least one consolation now. The people on the other side of the betting counter are getting organised. Workers in the betting and gaming industry have established the Union of Bookmakers' Employees. The immediate aims are a 40 hour week, overtime rates and the curtailment of evening races. A branch meeting of the lo-tac men must really be something to see...

REDUNDANCIES AT TRAFFORD PARK MANCHESTER

MORE redundancies are to be expected at the G.E.C.-A.E.I. factory at Trafford Park, Manchester.

In just over 5 years the labour force has been cut from 23,000 to the present 7,000 while at the same time the Company boasts of a 25% rise in export orders and certain departments have been working overtime.

As a worker told our WORKER correspondent: "It's all part of their tactics to split us up, divide and rule, and they'll succeed unless we organise to fight. The fight should have started with the very first redundancies, but it's certainly not too late to start now. If the Works Committee doesn't give us a lead, the lads will have to do it themselves—or we'll all be in the dole queue before much longer".

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REVOLUTION IN INDIA

PUBLIC meeting on the situation in India, with a speaker who has just returned from there. Sat. 2 Oct. 7.30pm, Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortess Road, London NWS. Organised by the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist)

BUILD THE WORKERS' PARTY

PUBLIC meeting and discussion, Sun. 3 Oct. 7.30pm, The "Wheatseal" High Street, off Market Street, Manchester. Organised by CPB(ML) Manchester Branch.

CHINA REPORT BACK FRIDAY Nov 12th 7.30 p.m. the CPB (ML) delegation to China reports back on their visit. Camden Studios, Camden St, NW1 (Near Mornington Crescent Tube).

WHEN the Americans open up factories in Britain in areas of high unemployment they do not do so to create jobs for British workers. When the chosen areas are also not noted for traditions of strong Trade Union organisation the intention is clearer.

The Americans want to create high profits and consequently choose the location where they may best dictate to the workers without hindrance from strong Trade Unions. Such is the background to the strike at Fine Tubes in Plymouth.

The workers walked out for Trade Union recognition, but other workers walked in. These scabs continue to work at Fine Tubes to this day.

There have been several arrests, of pickets of course not the scabs. American capital thus works hand in glove with the British state. Capitalism is indeed international.

All credit to those who fight and those who support. It is understandable that workers committed by fifteen months of strike would be reluctant to give up now. The fact that has to be faced though is that pressure on the employer exerted from the outside for fifteen months has failed to have the desired effect. That the pressure was not strong enough does not alter

the fact. The fight to defeat the anti-Trade Union employers, British as well as American, must and will go on; to meet with success requires continuous review of the tactics necessary in each situation. Lessons have to be drawn from the successes and failures of past struggles. The most basic lesson is that the fight has to be fought and won at the factory involved.

The present situation at Fine Tubes which has obtained for some time where there are more scabs than strikers must give grounds for reflection on the tactics employed. After fifteen months such reflection is long overdue.

TRIUMPH OVER DEATH

ALBANIAN Film of their National Liberation Struggle, at Mitcham Old People's Hall, London Road, Mitcham, Wed 20 Oct. 7.30pm. Refreshments will be available. Details will be given at the film show by a Slide Show and talk by a recent visitor to Albania which will be held soon after in the same area. Organised by CPB(ML) South London Branch.

MIDDLE EAST TEACH-IN - PALESTINE, DHOFAR, IRAN, SUDAN, IRAQ

WED. 20 Oct. 6.30-10pm. University College, CCB Theatre, Gordon Street, London WC1. Organised by the Palestine Solidarity Campaign.

U.S. IN TROUBLE

AS the present financial crisis develops out of U.S. imperialism's economic difficulty into a world-wide economic recession, the infighting among the major capitalist countries becomes more heated and intense. The recent meetings between the "group of ten rich" powers and other gatherings have been occasions for attacking each other, blackmail and backstabbing, each attempting to shift the burden of the crisis onto the others. And the US finding it more and more difficult to whip the other imperialist countries into line.

The world monetary system based on the dollar lies in shambles. This is not the cause of the present financial crisis, rather it reflects a more serious crisis that is gripping the economies of the Capitalist world. A realignment of currency exchange and any other changes in the monetary system will not remedy the present situation. There is no remedy as long as capitalism exists. For it is this capitalist system of production which meant that today there are too many goods chasing too few markets while the basic necessities are in short supply.

WHATEVER is the final agreement or disagreement between the "top ten" countries, one thing is certain: it is the workers of these countries who will pay the price with

their own livelihood. One main result of the present financial crisis will be worldwide stagnation in trade affecting all major trading countries accompanied by a recession in production. While, countries like West Germany and Japan have so far been able to escape mass unemployment, they will sooner or later face the same prospects as Britain and the US with record unemployment. As for us in Britain, we already have a post war record of unemployment, at present over 900,000 a result of Labour and Tory attempts to "solve" our economic problems. A further economic recession that comes with stagnation, will mean a swelling of the dole queues, further attacks on the living standards of the working class and their hard won liberties as the government attempts to secure greater profits for the employers.

Under capitalism, crises will come and go; each time the victims are the working class. Capitalism old and feeble, will nonetheless survive at the workers expense any crisis and come out shaken but not dead. There is no natural death for capitalism. Either we continue to pay the price every time or stand up and destroy capitalism for good. The choice is ours. Ultimately we have no choice but to put an end to the capitalist system.

PRICE RISES: THE D-DAY DECEPTION

A couple of years ago an old penny rise in the price of a bar of chocolate hit the headlines. Today it is the accepted fact that a shopping bill changes upwards every week. Half a pound of butter has gone up in a year from 6½ to 12 new pence, and with no sixpence being used on the tubes some fares have doubled.

With decimalization everything was rounded up and often 2½ pence added. Moreover manufacturers are using the

gradual disappearance of certain coins as a further excuse to put up prices. A representative of the Grocers' Association has bemoaned the fact that housewives are not "more aware of the value of the halfpenny." He saw dangers that it may be withdrawn due to "public dislike." It is quite clear that this coin was introduced deliberately to produce this response. When the halfpenny has gone our lowest coin will be the newpenny - worth nearly three old pennies.

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