

# THE WORKER



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## YOU CAN'T FIGHT THE BOSS WITHOUT FIGHTING THE BOSS'S STATE

### The Bosses' Conspiracy

On October 3rd over 2000 workers from all over Britain and from every branch of industry came to Shrewsbury to protest against the trial of the 24 North Wales Building Workers.

They are being tried for picketing in the national building workers' strike last year - and to do this the bosses will waste an estimated £½ million of our money.

But as workers demonstrating in Shrewsbury, London and Dundee well knew it was not just the 24 on trial but the whole working class. The 24 are guinea pigs, as the Pentonville 5 were, for the Government's aims of outlawing picketing.

Once again our class must by united action scorn bourgeois courts and free the 24. The right to picket was won by centuries of struggle. If we lose it now by allowing this show trial to succeed, then strike action in future will be considerably weakened. We workers demand the release of the 24 whether the Government has to resurrect the official Solicitor or the Official Excuse-maker!

### AUEW DEFIES NIRC

The AUEW ignored a summons to appear before the National Industrial Relations Court on Tuesday, October 9th, and Sir John Donaldson, President of the Court ruled that Union assets worth £100,000 be seized.

The summons arose out of an order to stop a strike at the Con-Mech engineering factory at Woking where union members have been out since September 19th in a recognition dispute. Instead of calling off the strike the Union's Executive made it official.

The Industrial Relations Act is as dead as workers keep it!



Demonstration in support of the 24 building workers charged with picketing offences.

## CHRYSLER

The 'shoddy work' dispute at Chrysler earlier this year had the management on the ropes. They provoked a dispute, hoping to force the workforce into submission, but were hurled back into retreat. Yet only a few months later it is the workforce which is in disarray, searching for a solution, while Chrysler management, with on-off threats of redundancies, has partially the initiative.

How did it happen? As a single setback in the protracted war against the employers it should not dishearten us, but we should learn the lessons. The electricians' claim for staff status - effectively an extra £250 a year - was not an attack on the freeze. It was stated that the action would be called off if Chrysler agreed to the increase, even if the Pay Board vetoed it. The Chrysler offer was the £1 plus 4% limit of £190. But under the crazy capitalist logic of the freeze you can get an increase of up to £250 - if you do your £1 plus 4% sums over the right group of workers. But under

this logic you must rob Peter to pay Paul, and other workers at Chrysler would have to have a reduced share.

For one section of workers to claim a differential because of the greater value of their skills is perfectly justifiable - as is the action of lower-paid workers in claiming parity. Both mean more money out of the employer. But no matter how difficult your job, no matter how low your wage, it means nothing to the employer unless you can back your claim up with industrial action. So if you want a differential, you must have the industrial strength of redundancies. To heighten the stakes, to heighten the divisions. Divide and rule.

Curious things were happening in the EEUPTU as well. People who are collaborating in the notorious Joint Industry Board for the construction industry - which has fought tooth and nail against the idea that electricians should have parity with carpenters (for example at the Inland

continued on page 4

### Editorial

## WORKING CLASS CRISIS

### The Irrelevance of the Blackpool Follies

The working class of Britain is at a major turning point in its history. Decisions taken and acted upon at this critical time will determine how long their struggle for emancipation will take.

One of the fears of European capitalists in connection with Britain's entry into the Common Market was that the militant readiness to embark on industrial action of the workers of Britain might spread to other workers in Europe.

The 'English disease', as they called this willingness to engage in guerrilla struggle on the industrial front, might be catching: for them and their profits this would be as terrible as the bubonic plague.

International capitalists have paid tribute to this capacity for unremitting class conflict, as when Henry Ford complained that British workers, unlike American, gave no warning of attacks and therefore did not enable employers to render strikes harmless.

And yet if the standards of living of British and continental workers are compared, British workers come off worse. It has been estimated that, taking £30 as a wage earned by millions of workers in Britain, similar workers in some 16 European countries get more. In the social services, too, French and West German politicians can boast that workers in their countries are better off than workers in Britain.

Since class struggle, within the limits of the capitalist system by those who are the best in the world at it, has not enabled British workers to hold their own, the answer is clear.

The struggle has to be directed against the system itself. It is neither correct nor possible for workers to live with the capitalist system by trying to reform it. They have to fight it, to overthrow it, to replace it with socialism.

Nothing the political parties are cooking up in Blackpool has anything at all to do with this crucial issue for Britain's workers. Labour and Tory, and Liberal too for that matter, are capitalist parties competing with each other in throwing dust in the eyes of workers while employers go on robbing them.

Only the CPB(ML), a socialist party based on the working class ideology of the overthrow of capitalism, can serve workers at this vital juncture. It is the only party recognising that workers must take on their political task of emancipation themselves - instead of delegating it to a party which is 'labour' in name only.

The major contradiction in Britain today is between a ruling capitalist class, which is showing itself ever more bankrupt, and a working class with a growing recognition that militancy and organisation within the class enemy's terms are not enough.

It is good that this contradiction should appear at its sharpest in Britain. What is being termed "the poor house of Europe", where the "English disease" is rife, is breeding the most dangerous virus for the capitalist world - revolution.

### NO TO PHASE 3!

Workers will not barge in away collective bargaining. They can accept no fetters in their fight to sell the only thing they have - their labour power.

## VICTORY AT FORDS

(This article is based on an interview with those who took part in the successful battle with Fords management to get a work-mate reinstated.)

The trouble started when Mr. Winston Williams, a worker of many years standing, repeatedly complained to the foreman about the speed-up of the work. During the break the foreman tipped over Williams' cup of tea thus provoking him.

When Williams was dismissed the response of the workers in his section was immediate. In

his protests about the speed-up Williams had been speaking for all workers and workers were quick to speak for Williams when management tried to victimise him.

When laid off without pay they took the initiative into their own hands, thousands of workers refusing to leave the factory until they were paid.

As a result of the struggle Williams has been re-instated in another part of the factory subject to the decision of arbitration. Many workers say he should have

been re-instated in the same place, but it was a victory all the same. All workers favour the full lay-off wages claim, but this matter has not been settled yet.

Workers have come out of this struggle more determined than ever to fight in unity. Of management they say: "The harder you hit them the better."

Workers should decide what the speed should be and not accept rates fixed from above. Unless workers take the initiative of fighting into their own hands the trade union will not be able to guard their rights.



Pickets on duty at Fords, Dagenham, during the strike against the dismissal of a fellow worker.

## FROM THE WORKERS TO THE WORKERS

The level of training of engineering apprentices is closely related to the level of union organisation in the factory concerned. Where organisation is weak, apprentices are merely used as cheap labour.

In any case, employers these days require engineering workers with more specialised training rather than all-round craftsmanships. The assembly-line methods of the motor car industry have to some extent invaded the engineering industry.

Capitalism having given birth to new skills also strangles them unless workers fight to stop it.

Two young engineers in the North talk about their apprenticeships, which they have just finished.

Q. Where did you serve your time?

A. A small works in Teesside, fairly typical of small firms.

Q. What did you expect from your apprenticeship?

A. I was told I'd do odd jobs for a year then spend 6-7 weeks on each machine with a skilled man so they could find the job I was best at. Also I would be sent to Technical College for further training.

Q. Is that how it worked out?

A. No. We were put straight onto machines, doing simple, monotonous jobs - like splitting 2,000 steel rods. I was put on a cutting machine which I didn't know how to work and I smashed the blade, sending bits all over the shop. Also I was doing foundry work in the first couple of weeks which was pretty dangerous.

Q. How about the training?

A. We didn't get any proper training, just enough to do the simplest jobs. If we wanted to learn any new machines we had to sneak off our job and find someone who would show us the new one. I went to Tech but got no encouragement - in fact it cost me a lot of money because we were on piece work (though legally we were too young).

Q. If the firm wasn't interested in training why did it have apprentices?

A. Cheap labour. We got £3.15 basic and £1.80 bonus, skilled men got £19.00 and £7.00.

Q. What were conditions like?

A. The biggest problem was safety - the machines were old and dangerous; there wasn't enough room either. We got no training or advice from the firm on safety. In fact when the inspectors came round we had to take the fuses out of the worst machines, cover them with dirt and tarpaulins and then go and stand with a skilled man. At these times, guards, goggles and other safety equipment would mysteriously appear.

Q. How long did you serve there?

A. About five years, but only two lasted the full time out of twelve who started. They found reasons to sack the rest so they could be replaced by younger kids who would be paid less. Then, when our time finished, one of us had to leave because the firm wouldn't pay skilled rates, and they made the other redundant.

## THE EUROPEAN FRONT

The following is an extract from an appeal by the LIP workers: "Right from the beginning we understood that our fight would have to be long in order to be successful.

At each stage of the battle we sought to devise new forms of struggle which enabled us to involve all personnel in the conduct of the struggle, and to fight for as long as was necessary in order to win.

We have managed to overcome our differences day after day, and to maintain a live and active unity for five months.

After four months of struggle we have forced the Government to negotiate.

Acceptance by the Government's negotiator after many evasions, of continuation of employment of the workers in the separate sections (Watchmaking, Armaments, Machine-tools) constituted a second success in regard of our claim: No Dismantling.

In the sixth month the battle

negotiations have entered a new phase: they now revolve around a guarantee of employment for all.

Our demand, 'No Dismissals', remains for us as fundamental for us as ever."

The statement went on to call upon their class to support them by marching on Besançon on the 29th of September.

And the workers came out in their tens of thousands from the length and breadth of France. This was a time of carnival, a "festival of the oppressed" despite the pouring rain. Many of the workers currently engaged in conflict had stalls of their own.

At this moment the threat of redundancy for 160 workers remains. The Government negotiator refuses to give any guarantee of employment, offering only a pathetic 'moral undertaking', and trying to obtain a speedy return to work.

The LIP workers have fought on the immediate issues - no dismissals, against closure and for the right to work. They have not

## WHO'S GREEN? WOMEN AND THE LAW

Because of the level of women's struggle the Government finds it impossible to ignore the question of equal pay and job discrimination. Hence the Equal Pay Act and the recent Green Paper on equal opportunity.

Employers will find a way to get round the formal requirements of the law: look at the 5-year interval designed ostensibly to 'phase' the gradual introduction of the 1970 Equal Pay Act, in practice used to introduce technicians to consign women to low-paid jobs for good. (Memoranda issued to companies by various employers associations to cut the cost of equal pay include such tactics as withdrawal of men or women from certain jobs to limit the scope for parity claims).

## THE LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE

"Left" face forward. Such was the stance taken by the Labour Party at its annual conference at Blackpool. Promises fell thick and fast - nothing was beyond the realms of possibility - to reap these rewards just summon up the energy to put your X for 'Socialism' and heaven on earth will be yours. Sounds good! But what's inside the pretty gift-wrapping? What does the great "left" policy mean?

First they are only pro-se. From experience we know the gap between a promise and its fulfilment in our Parliamentary System is a vast one.

Secondly, many of the promises reveal a shocking lack of memory on the part of the Labour Party. Repeal the Industrial Relations Act! We haven't forgotten which Party produced the original plan in that insidious document "In Place of Strife". In addition it's clear that the Act is already on its deathbed as a result of militant working-class action and will not rise Phoenix-like while the working-class maintains its vigilance. Away

been diverted by the beguiling diversion of 'workers control'.

Of course full employment is not possible under capitalism, but the fight for the right to work is an important stage in education for revolution in the destruction of capitalism and the building of socialism. The LIP workers are correct in facing the issue of the day. It is a struggle for dignity and a stronger working class. They mean to continue the fight.

### Ford

Mr Henry Ford opened a new motor factory near Bordeaux two months ago. So far the factory has had two major strikes and several subsidiary actions. The dispute? Transport costs to and from work!

In fact, so many are the loopholes for employers inevitable in such government machinery that one wonders whether that is precisely their raison d'être: a cheap vote-catching trick, it fosters illusions that the government is doing something about the exploitation of women, whilst not changing the reality of exploitation at all.

The plain fact of the matter is that Capitalism cannot afford to give women equality. Its very existence depends on the source of cheap labour and the pool of unemployed workers women provide, to say nothing of the fact that underpayment of women at work is an excuse to keep men's wages down. It is absurd to think that the State which represents the interests of the

Capitalist Class, would seriously tackle the problem. We should not forget that Barbara Castle enacted 'Equal Pay by 1975' at precisely the time when women workers were beginning to fight for 'Equal Pay NOW'.

A neat move to contain struggle! We should learn from the 1969 Ford Women's strike which so worried the Capitalist Class, that we must fight ourselves for equality, at our place of work where we have the power, not delegate it to some tribunal or other. In so doing we can make our Equal contribution to the destruction of Capitalism and the establishment of Socialism, the only type of society which does not require exploitation and inequality for its very existence.

owners of those industries). The extension of "public ownership" represents a dangerous growth in the power of the State. The Corporate State, with its direct control of the capitalist economy and its workers, increases as capitalism declines for it can then less rely on individual bosses to maintain that system. It is in the interest of the ruling class that State power be extended - so what's the odds if we have a Tory Government which claims to be anti-Nationalisation (remember the lamaduck) but does so when necessary, and a pro-Nationalisation Party which in reality follows the same course.

But of greater importance to the working class is the main platform of this "peaceful road to Socialism", Nationalisation.

The proposal is to extend "public ownership" to immense new areas of the economy (docks, ports, road haulage, oil, merchant banks, etc). What have workers learnt of Nationalisation? What has been the experience of those employed in these nationalised industries? The working-class has learnt through bitter years that nationalisation does not bring forth all the "joys of public ownership". Ask any railwayman, miner or steelworker whether the Government is a better, easier boss than previous owners. The miners strike of 1972, indeed the whole history of struggle within the "public sector" puts paid to that lie.

The working-class as a whole has not benefited. Nationalisation has meant the paying of heavy taxes to maintain major industries for the use of British Capitalists (including the payment of compensation and interest on loans to pay that compensation to the previous

So what is the alternative? Our Party in 1970 put forward the slogan "Don't Vote - Organise to Smash Capitalism". Whether it be Labour, Tory or Liberal, those parties are all on the same course: living with Capitalism, seeking new means to prevent the working-class from achieving the control of its own destiny, as one day it surely must. The "phony left", after all the clamourings and protestations about the need for radical change, fall neatly into line behind the Labour Party! At least that makes it easy for workers to reject the whole lot together.

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# UNIVERSITIES AS BIG BUSINESS

Capitalism degenerates daily and its orchestra is even now tuning up for its swan song, fascism. Even so, new strings are being found for its fiddles.

It was revealed recently that about 20 colleges have set up profit-making limited companies, while others provide industrial liaison and consulting offices. Profits are believed to amount to hundreds of thousands of pounds. Those colleges with limited companies include Aston, Bath, Birmingham, Leeds, Loughborough and Queen Mary College, South Western Industrial Research Ltd. (Bath University) made a profit of £4000 in its second year.

Why have our centres of 'pure' research, the virginal seekers of truth, been forced to become the whores for the pimps of monopoly capital? Because the capitalist state will no longer guarantee to sustain research.

This latest stage in the destruction of the educational system has been developing for some time. Witness the fact that research workers have been spending more time begging for money than doing research. Now they would themselves become capitalists instead of working to destroy the system that would destroy them!

The new entrepreneurs now make a profit and capitalism gets cheap research subsidised by the working class, who pay to maintain these institutions through robbery by taxes.

And the research students? Their position is now clear - skilled workers being paid a pittance. Who can now say students are not part of the working class?

Where does this leave Graduate and Post-Graduate unemployment? Who now needs to employ them - they do all their work before they graduate. The 'New Scientist'

journal recently carried an article demanding that scientists accept the fact that they are too old at 35, because they are too expensive. Should this now be revised to 25?

## SUSSEX GRADUATES

Sussex University has gone back on their agreement to pay Science Postgraduates a 60% increase, won as a result of a ten-day strike strike, by invoking the Pay Code.

The postgraduates have worked out schemes whereby the money can be paid without in any way infringing the "Code". The University has consistently refused to implement these. Science teaching as the term starts may be disrupted.

The experience of last year's strike shows that it is really a question of "Not one at a time but all together!". Even when the postgraduates were forced to strike for 10 days in isolation, they drew so much sympathy for the justice of their case, that the University, as the strike dragged on, became isolated, and was forced to settle.

The success of the campaign now depends on how we can reverse the situation whereby one section fights in isolation against a more powerful enemy.

Success or failure depends on how far and to what extent all workers on Campus support - in all different ways possible - the section in struggle. This alone can isolate the authorities - so ensuring that the very real cost to postgraduates and others of all-out strike action, if still necessary, will be most speedily effective.

# HEALTH - In a Diseased Society

More than one third of NHS patients suffer from mental illness. A large proportion of the remainder suffer from psychosomatic diseases such as stomach ulcers and high blood pressure in which the mental factor plays a big part. Millions of others with psychoneurotic complaints never consult their doctors for they know that they are powerless to help them.

THE FUNDAMENTAL CAUSE OF THIS GREAT MASS OF SUFFERING AND MISERY IS TO BE FOUND IN THE ESSENTIAL NATURE OF CAPITALIST SOCIETY.

Capitalist society is a fear-ridden society, haunted by fear of war, fear of unemployment, fear of eviction, fear of being left behind in the rat race...

Capitalism is a man-eating society where the dominant philosophy of 'I'm alright Jack'

is spread like poison, by the ruling class through all strata.

Capitalist society is a poverty stricken society where old age pensioners shiver and starve, where millions of young workers cannot afford a home in which to marry and raise their families, where prices soar while wages are frozen...

Capitalist society is a corrupt and decadent society where the ruling class sets an example in lying, swindling, philandering and ostentation...

Capitalist society is a stressful, slave driven society where women work long hours in sweat shops for paltry wages and men exhaust themselves in mindless, soul-destroying work in noisy factories...

Capitalist society is a lonely society where millions of workers live isolated from their fellow men, in concrete jungles,

not even knowing their neighbours, where drinking and gambling take the place of comradeship and common endeavour...

Capitalist society is a vicious class society where a handful of bloodsuckers dominate those who do the work and leave them aimless and alienated, without any control over their destiny...

THESE ARE THE MAJOR CAUSES OF DISEASE IN CAPITALIST BRITAIN. A MORIBUND SOCIETY INEVITABLY INFECTS THOSE WHO ACQUIESCE IN IT.

In our day and age, when proletarian revolution is the main trend throughout the world, the only real way to safeguard the health of our people is to fight, inside the ranks of the CPB(ML), for a socialist Britain which will nurture regeneration after generation of vigorous, healthy Britons.



Hundreds of trade unionists demonstrating at the trial of 24 building worker pickets as the two judges arrive at the Shrewsbury court.

## INDUSTRIAL FRONT

### TRIUMPH

The 1,750 workers at the Triumph motor-cycle factory, Meriden, are continuing to build motor-cycles but are refusing to let them leave the factory to be sold. This was their reaction to the plans of the Manganese Bronze combine to close the factory by February. Only a few months ago Manganese Bronze was given £4.9 million by the government so that it could take over BSA cycle production and 'save' the British motor-cycle industry. This is the new government policy on 'lame ducks'.

Now the duck's owner gets a solid gold axe to do the killing. According to the chief shop steward, the managing director, Mr. Dennis Poore, at a meeting, seemed more concerned about machines standing in the rain than the work force being put out into the rain. 'We shall continue' the fight to keep the plant going' he declared. But how to continue that fight? The latest idea is to launch a £5 million appeal for funds to set up a co-operative.

'If Mr. Poore is going to sell the Meriden factory we are in the market as buyers' said the TGWU district secretary. Is rich Mr. Poore going to pocket another £5 million? And this time from workers as trade-unionists instead of taxpayers? The Triumph workers already physically control the factory and its assets. Why should they or fellow-unionists pay a penny for it?

Is this not the same thing as Labour's nationalisation policies, adopted at the same time? Buying out the capitalists rather than fighting them and still leaving yourself in hock to the bankers. No wonder Mr. Poore said 'I think it is a marvellous idea. They can certainly have my wholehearted co-operation in discussing the proposals.'

### WILLIAM PRESS

240 oil rig construction workers at the William Press yard, Newcastle, continued their seven-week strike for bad weather payment of £1.25 an hour. The management has only offered 90p.

### KODAK

Processing of film at Kodak's Hemel Hempstead plant was brought to a standstill by the struggle for recognition by TUC unions, principally ACTT. ACTT members blacked the supply of chemicals to machines operated by the 'house union' the Union of Kodak Workers. Kodak then closed down the colour slide processing section. In retaliation, ACTT members closed down colour print processing.

### LAB TECHNICIANS

Lab technicians at Willesden College of Technology in Brent have banned overtime and instituted a normal working day (9 to 5) in protest against Brent Authority's refusal to pay for the first hour of overtime worked. The dispute arose last year when the weekly hours for technicians were reduced from 38 to 36. Brent like many other boroughs decided to reduce the hours further to 35. However overtime is to be paid only for the hours exceeding 36.

Brent Council is hiding behind phase II legislation and have so far refused to pay for all overtime hours. The technicians thus decided to ban overtime till they get paid for all of it.

The teaching staff have been asked by their union (the ATTI) not to do any work that normally belongs to the technicians. Brent Council's policy could result in all laboratory and practical classes closing down after 5 pm with damaging effect on day release and evening students.

### GLASGOW

What have the last 12 years of Labour and Tory 'regional policy' meant to Glasgow? According to a recent report unemployment rose from 3.8% to 6.5% and the Glasgow region had 65,000 fewer jobs.

### MARSTON RADIATORS

100 sheet metal workers at two Marston Radiator factories in Leeds staged a sit-in in a dispute over their pay claim. The immediate cause of the dispute was the suspension of two men for refusing to do work blacked by the local union branch. Attacking the management's reluctance to negotiate, the shop steward said 'They have been provoking us for three years and now is the time for us to take our stand.'

### HULL LOCK OUT

The best form of defence is attack. The draughtsmen who are locked out in Hull have put this into effect by carrying the fight to the parent company of Manufacturers Equipment, the Fenner Group, where they are picketing. They have received considerable support from within this factory. They have also foiled another attempt to get supplies into Manufacturers Equipment, and finished goods' out. The employers were using a warehouse as a pick-up point. From here they would transfer the goods to or from the factory using their own vans. This warehouse has also been picketed.

A meeting has taken place between the Department of Employment and the employers to which the men's Union (TASS) was invited. An offer was made which fell well below the demands of the men so the struggle continues.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEETINGS TO BE HELD AT THE BELLMAN BOOKSHOP, 155, Fortess Road, London NW5. at 7.30 pm

- FRI OCT 19: Students - The Grants Campaign
- FRI OCT 26: History of the Engineers
- FRI NOV 2: The October Revolution
- FRI NOV 9: People's War in Zimbabwe
- FRI NOV 16: Victory to the People of Cambodia
- FRI NOV 23: CELEBRATION OF ALBANIA'S NATIONAL DAY Holborn Assembly Rooms, St. John's Mews, Holborn.

MEETINGS TO BE HELD AT BRIGHTON WORKERS BOOKSHOP, 37, Gloucester Road, Brighton. at 8.00 pm

- FRI OCT 26: Education in Brighton
- FRI NOV 23: Housing in Brighton
- FRI DEC 14: 50 years of 'Labour' party betrayals

# CHRYSLER

continued from page one

Revenue site, Bootle) - are parading as champions of differentials for electricians, is the name of the game a token fight so people can claim "We fought the freeze but the others betrayed us so we have no alternative to collaboration with the government in Phase III"? With the real crunch in the fight against the freeze approaching, with the electricity generating engineers talking of militancy for the first time ever, this is a dangerous time to have such ideas of collaboration.

Yet any advantage won by Chrysler (despite the vast cost) will be only temporary. The permanent factor is the desire of the workers for unity, clearly felt at Linwood. And even Chrysler's 'ultimate threat' which so terrified those who were afraid of a real fight with the employer - to pull out completely - would, if ever put into practice, produce total unity among Chrysler workers. Let them try it and the millionaires in Detroit will be left wishing they had never heard of motor cars.

### You don't say!

"Almost every official and economist concerned with the freeze, irrespective of his politics, is primarily concerned to limit money wages. The price control aspects are put in primarily as bargaining counters and public relations gestures."

- Financial Times



Chiao Kuan-Hua, spokesman of the Chinese government, delivered an important speech to the UN General Assembly on October 2nd. With Marxist-Leninist sweep he surveyed the entire world situation. Extracts from his speech are given below.

"The Chinese government has long held that our world is now going through a process of great turbulence, great division and great realignment. The basic contradictions in the world are all sharpening and in particular the contradictions between imperialism and colonialism on the one hand and the oppressed nations and peoples on the other and the contradictions among the imperialist countries, especially those between the two superpowers. Although no new world war has broken out since World War II, local wars resulting from imperialist aggressions have never ceased.

The great victory of the heroic Vietnamese People's War of resistance against US aggression and for national salvation has once again proved that imperialism and all reactionaries are paper tigers. A small nation can defeat a big one and a weak nation can defeat a strong one, so long as they dare to struggle, are good at struggle and persevere in struggle. It is not the people who fear imperialism; it is imperialism which fears the people. Revolution is the main trend in the world today.

Now that the war in Vietnam has ended, can it be assumed that the world will henceforth be tranquil? Obviously not. When the Korean war was ended in 1953, some people thought that no more gun-shots would be heard in the world. Not long afterwards, however, the Suez war broke out and then the Vietnam war started. And even today, the war in Indochina has not stopped completely, for there is still fighting in Cambodia. Tension in the Middle East has not relaxed in the least. The colonialists and racists are carrying out armed suppression against the African people, and the African people are developing armed resistance against them. The aggression, subversion, control and interference against countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America by the superpowers are continuing without end.

A recent case in point is the military coup d'etat in Chile. President Salvador Allende died a martyr at his post. We express profound condolences on his heroic death. At the same time, we hold one should not forget how harmful the absurd theory of so-called 'peaceful transition' is to the anti-imperialist revolutionary struggles of the Asian, African and Latin American people, a theory which has been advocated by another superpower. To dismember a sovereign country by armed force and to legalise and perpetuate the division of a country have also become a tendency on the part of the big powers in their attempt to dominate the world.

In the economic field, the gap is widening between the rich and developed countries and the poor and developing countries. And even among the developed countries there exist many contradictions and hence detente among them is far from being the case. The recent fourth conference of the heads of state and government of non-aligned countries strongly condemned racism, Zionism, colonialism, imperialism and hegemonism and strongly demanded a change in the present state of affairs in the world, demonstrating a further awakening of the Asian, African and Latin American peoples.

In a word, we consider that the characteristic of the present situation is one of great disorder throughout the world and not tranquillity. And the main trend amidst this great disorder is that countries want independence, nations want liberation, and the people want revolution.

**THE OUTBREAK OF FIGHTING IN THE MIDDLE-EAST HAS BEEN PROVOKED BY ISRAEL'S CONTINUED AGGRESSION AGAINST ITS ARAB NEIGHBOURS. WE JOIN FELLOW WORKERS ALL OVER THE WORLD IN FULLY SUPPORTING THE EFFORTS OF THE ARAB PEOPLE TO LIBERATE THEIR OCCUPIED LANDS FROM IMPERIALIST-BACKED ISRAEL. THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANISATION WHICH HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN THE FIGHTING AGAINST THE ISRAELI AGGRESSORS, HAS THE ONLY PROGRAMME FOR PEACE IN THIS AREA- A SECULAR STATE OF PALESTINE IN WHICH WORKERS, ARAB AND JEW ALIKE, CAN LIVE AND WORK TOGETHER.**

Abu Iyad, a Central Committee member of Al Fateh who has been slanderously described both in Israel and in this country as the leader of the Black September terrorist group, explained the stand of Al Fateh against terrorism in a broadcast on Voice of Palestine radio on July 16th recently made available in this country. Referring to an "international campaign" to portray the Palestinians as terrorists he declared, "This revolution cannot include terrorists". He pointed out that the resistance movement could not be responsible for the acts of a few people working outside it, and added: "The strategy of the Palestine revolution is the line of armed struggle and of protracted people's war. This line relies on the people alone. We will not abandon this strategy and will never accept any alternative to it."

His speech was a timely reminder of the realities of the Palestine struggle. The hijackings, kidnappings and other terrorist actions of a handful of people,

some undoubtedly saboteurs and agents of Israel, have been built up out of all proportion to their true importance (which is very small) in order to blacken the just cause for which the Palestine resistance movement is fighting.

The Palestinians were defeated in 1948 through a real terror campaign which included the massacre of every inhabitant of the village of Deir Yassin. The Zionists, whose aim for 60 years had been to seize territory and found their own State, shamelessly exploited the deaths of millions of Jews in the Nazi death camps to win world support for their attempted assassination of a people. The Palestinians who fled from the terror have lived for the last quarter of a century in refugee camps in the neighbouring countries. Those who stayed behind live as virtual serfs under the Israeli occupation. After the defeat of 1948 many Palestinians were demoralised, disheartened, disunited. The objective of the Zionists, to disintegrate the

Palestinian people, to dissolve them as a national entity, looked as though it might succeed.

The main achievement of the resistance movement especially the principal organisation Al Fateh, was that it defeated this Zionist aim. It has played an essentially trade union role, guaranteeing the existence of the people through such basic measures as bringing doctors, hospitals, teachers and schools to the refugee camps. Before Al Fateh cholera would rage every year through the camps and the only doctor would spend his time writing death certificates. With the coming of Al Fateh necessary steps were taken and the cholera was stopped. The morale of a people was restored. Their existence as a nation assured, it was possible for the Palestinians to begin the long fight to regain their homeland. For eight years now they have carried on a campaign both from inside Occupied Palestine and from outside. Nobody living elsewhere should underestimate

### Korea

There are now before the General Assembly two draft resolutions on the Korean question - one sponsored by the United States, Britain, Japan and other countries, the other sponsored by Algeria, China and other countries. Regarding the former draft resolution, the Chinese government considers that the position for retaining the United Nations command and the US forces in South Korea and for the entry of both North and South Korea into the United Nations is unreasonable and contrary to the joint statement of North and South Korea issued on July 4, 1972, although it contains the positive element of dissolving the so-called 'commission for the unification and rehabilitation of Korea'.

Is South Korea so lacking in national self-respect that it must rely on the support of foreign forces? Obviously, such a state of affairs cannot be tolerated by the people in South Korea. Subsequently, thanks to the initiative of President Kim Il Sung of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, a joint statement of North and South Korea on the independent and peaceful reunification of the country was issued on July 4, 1972, leading to the start of a dialogue between the North and the South.

The withdrawal of all foreign forces from Korea and the peaceful settlement of the Korean question are long overdue.

### Middle East

'Although the two superpowers are both trumpeting about a general world trend towards detente, a tense stalemate of 'no war, no peace' still prevails in the Middle East. When the Soviet Union dismantled Pakistan in 1971, no one said there was the risk of a nuclear war. Neither has anyone made a similar warning in connection with the current US intervention in Cambodia. It is only in the Middle East that, at the mention of an attempt by Arab countries to repulse Israeli aggression and recover their lost territories, the air is filled with cries about a risk of nuclear war between the two superpowers. Why is this so? Because the situation of 'no war, no peace' created and maintained by the two superpowers serves them best in their scramble for spheres of influence, oil resources and strategic positions in the Middle East. In appearance the two superpowers are each supporting one of the antagonistic sides, but in essence they are like two clay figurines which have been kneaded together and then remoulded. So that there is something of each in the other. Take the case of the aggressor Israel. Can she be so unbridled in her truculence if she receives only supplies of American weapons but none of Soviet manpower? In our opinion, the so-called risk of a nuclear war has been deliberately fabricated to scare people. It is futile to count on the superpowers to bring about a settlement of the Middle East question. Nor will the situation be changed by any resolution adopted by the United Nations. The only way out is to act independently and reply on one's own efforts. China has never had anything to do with the Israeli Zionists. China firmly supports the Palestinian and other Arab peoples in their just struggle against Israeli Zionism. We believe that, so long as they uphold unity and persevere in struggle, the Palestinian and other Arab peoples, with the support of the people of the whole world will certainly surmount all the difficulties on their road of advance, recover their sacred territories and regain their national rights.

ate the unique difficulties of their struggle. Their operations from outside Israel have to be launched from the territory of basically hostile governments. Their operations within are conducted under the guns of the Israeli militarist regime. In both theatres there have been setbacks as well as successes. With the strategy of a protracted people's war, however, the mistakes can be corrected and lessons learned.

### The only way forward

The need for an absolutely clear-sighted leadership is obvious. In time there is no doubt that the Palestinians will form their own Marxist-Leninist Party - not in opposition to the resistance movement but as a natural outgrowth from the struggles launched so far. Again the parallel with trade unionism in a country like Britain should be clear. The party will be an organic growth and it will be formed in the teeth of intense



opposition, both from those who think the resistance movement alone is enough and from those "super-revolutionaries" who would impose it artificially from without.