

THE WORKER



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U S S R 1917

ALBANIA 1944

CHINA 1949

BRITAIN NEXT ?

In this month of revolution we celebrate the great Revolution in Russia. This year sees also the 50th Anniversary of the Chinese Communist Party, the 30th year of the Albanian Party of Labour and the Congress of that great Marxist-Leninist Party. What in Britain?

Imperialists of Britain, fighting a filthy barbarous Colonial war against the Irish working class, attempting through industrial legislation to re-fetter the working class in Britain, desire to enter the Common Market with the constant cry that Britain is bankrupt, that workers are pricing themselves out of a job. The Tory party say: "There's plenty of work in West Germany" and need of many skills within the Common Market countries of Europe; hence, they argue, we can have contraction in Britain and expansion in Europe. The British working class have within the period from 1917 passed through one of the worst depressions in capitalist history, a bloody Second World War, have been exhorted immediately after that event to work harder, to accept wage freeze, to be ready to learn 3 trades in one lifetime and presumably now with the Common Market, to learn 3 languages. See the contrast with the Socialist growth in Albania and China. There are now 1,300,000 unemployed in Britain and still it grows.

NEW FEATURES

It is not the working class of Britain who is bankrupt it is capitalism. The contradictions of capitalism in this country are now sharpening to provide new features in class struggle on our part. We have witnessed the emergence of a brave political student force, a recognition among more and more white collar and so-called professional workers, that indeed they are workers and must fight the same struggles as manual workers. We see today in the Upper Clyde and above all, in Plesseys in Dumbarton, the overt direct act of occupation and work-in. Industrialists have reached the conclusion of their ineptitude, that manufacturing is too expensive, that workers are too expensive, that through closures and mergers and land speculation industrialised establishments can lie stagnant for a greater rate of profit to be accrued; while a factory site originally purchased 30 or 40 years ago for £100,000 can be sold for £5½ million as a deserted moor.

If we take the example of those brave lands of China and Albania, take heed of the liberation struggles in the world, and especially recognise the great defence of workers throughout the world through the courage and struggle of the Vietnamese people against the greatest imperialist aggressor of all, the U.S.A., then there can be revolution in Britain too. The very nature of the problems thrust upon the working class in this land perforce must cause them to change their defensive and reformist practices in struggle. Failure to do so will not only make impossible the holding and maintenance of the limited freedoms and conditions won so hardly over years of struggle before but will cause the retreat of our class against the rising corporate state here in this land. Every working class leader in the factories, in the pits, in the yards, must come to know that valiant as is the nature of the class struggles they participate in, through them with Marxism-Leninism their natural birthright and only with this can we be victorious and build Socialism in Britain.

To our Comrades we say: go now to these leaders. Endeavour to recruit from among them the very best now leading those battles. Do it in humility. We confer no favour, we need their wisdom and courage that all may advance. FROM THE MASSES TO THE MASSES. FORWARD TO THE BRITISH REVOLUTION!

BACK FROM CHINA

In China for the National Day Celebrations, the C.P.B. (M.L.) delegation reports back.

Camden Studios, Camden St., N.W.1.
(near Mornington Crescent Tube)

Friday 12th November 7.30p.m.



PLESSEYS: How to fight closures. Workers-outside the Dumbartonshire factory which they have occupied to prevent closure.

ENGINEERS STRUGGLE

THE situation within the engineering industry is just about as complicated and muddled as it could be.

The need for clarity on behalf of engineering workers in facing the coming problems is therefore the more imperative.

The Unions await a reply to their claim presented to the employers in August.

The notice of termination of the 'procedure' expires December end. Unemployment rises.

The Industrial Relations Act exists.

The claim presented on behalf of workers numbering in its effect almost 4 million, is, of itself, complicated enough. Not only a monetary claim, i.e. a straight wage increase, but includes many other features: —

- 4 weeks holiday with higher holiday payment
- No penalty clause
- Equal pay
- Increase of overtime payments
- Reduction of the working week to 35 hours.

This is not the whole. All of which muddy the issue on which a central fight shall be fought, for fight we must. Already the employers have taken gauge of the confusion and are delaying a reply. They have taken note of the lack of involvement of the rank and file membership of all unions involved, not to say disinterest. On the day of stat-

ing the case the members were noticeable by their absence—this has never happened before.

ESSENTIAL

The error of flinging into a claim one demand after another in the guise of militancy is no substitute for recognising the need for bitter struggle ahead with a clear and uncomplicated strategy. The essential aims marked out, not cluttered with ancillaries:

- A straight wage demand.
- No acceptance of the Industrial Relations Act.
- Imposing of T.U. machinery on the employers in absence of procedure.
- The fight against unemployment.

All the above, taken separately, a mammoth task requiring maximum unity, the whole inseparable for the achievement of any one.

There is, as yet, no agitation concerning the delay of the employer to reply.

No publicity concerning the claim, which requires more explanation than previous claims.

Above all, there is the profound common sense of the worker member of the Unions, that such a plateful lacks sincerity. To turn one's back on the demands because of this is the way for certain and complete rejection. It is a matter of urgency now of the rank and file to select from among these many

demands implicit in the wage claim those on which they will concentrate their struggle.

On the procedure there is ominous quiet, the gesture of termination not throwing the employers into frightened panic, and the members presumably taking a wait-and-see attitude. This will not do for passively surrenders to the employers the initiative.

It is for the shop stewards and the members, following mass meetings, to confront the employer with a clear charter on how things shall go on after termination, how they, the workers, will ensure things shall be run in the factory.

EMPLOYERS

The employer will seek to push back. No agreement or procedure exists. This will be an uneven action, take many forms and will be more blatantly shown in one factory than another, but over all subtlety and cunning will be displayed by employers as a whole as we well know.

They will refuse to recognise stewards, attempt to nullify other national agreements. Above all they will try to make inroads on the thousands of domestic understandings, arrangements and agreements, vastly superior to the original national agreements on which they were based. These

have been won on the workshop floor by strong trade union organisation, and by the long struggle from which alone greater strength accrues to our class.

The C.S.E.U. have issued what it terms guide lines for a model procedure, hamstrung already by the threat against trade unions from the Industrial Relations Act and also with demands for maintenance of the status quo, but this procedure has not been accepted by the employers.

In many factories there already exists strong trade union representation, without any written procedure at all. In many others, workers' control and decision has advanced far beyond even gilt edged procedures. This situation can arise only in the eternal vigilance and continued pressure from well developed trade union strength.

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CHINA WINS AT U.N.

ALBANIA BEATS U.S.A.

THE Albanian resolution has won, the Yanks have received a bloody nose and the People's Republic of China her rightful place in the United Nations.

After 25 years a nation representing a quarter of all humanity has been admitted to what claimed to be a world body. Not that it will make much difference to us. The Workers of the World look to China and Mao Tseung and will do so U.N. or no U.N. The danger for the U.N. establishment was that China would start her own revolutionary United Nations of workers and peasants and show up the glass tower on Manhattan for the empty sepulchre it is.

The victory contains some nice touches. It was little Albania, which our government vainly tries to pretend does not exist, who sponsored and fought for the resolution that defeated the U.S.A. And how many American illusions lie shattered! Chiang Kai-shek was once the big hero. "Unleash Chiang," the American press used to shout, meaning: give him an army and send him against the mainland. Well, he's unleashed now and about ready for the Battersea Dogs Home.

UNEMPLOYMENT THE TRUE FIGURES

Government statistics reveal that the monthly totals of unemployed workers issued by the Department of Employment understate the true amount by a third. A writer in "New Society" of October 14th produced figures from the 1966 Census, previously hushed up, which show that 23% of unemployed men and 40% of unemployed women in good health and willing to work are not registered as unemployed. Ever since 1948 the "official" unemployment total has only included those who "sign on" at a labour exchange. But many people do not sign on as they are not entitled to unemployment benefit. These include women who have only been paying the 4p. stamp, the "self-employed" (mainly casual labourers in the construction industry), and single unskilled men under 40 who can be denied all forms of benefit if they cannot find a job within 4 weeks. The author shows that the true total of a million unemployed was probably passed at the tail end of the last Labour Government, that today the total stands at nearly 1,300,000, that in Scotland unemployment has reached the Depression level of 11% and that in the construction industry alone 16% of the labour force are out of work.



B.S.A.

Following the threat of 3,000 redundancies at the B.S.A. motor cycle factory in Birmingham, a mass meeting of 4,500 workers decided not to accept redundancy and to stage a work-in. The mass meeting was held only hours before the first redundancy notices were issued; more than a 1,000 workers are affected by the immediate first stage of redundancies. The remaining 2,000 will be given notice by the end of the year. The company is planning to transfer assembly of B.S.A. motorcycles to its Triumph motorcycle factory at Meriden Coventry, and the Birmingham stewards are to meet those from Meriden in order to black any work transferred to Coventry.

Austin Morris

Following the threat of redundancy which would be caused by the proposed closure of the Austin-Morris export packing factory at Cowley, the national level talks at York broke down. The unions involved decided to call a mass meeting of the 400 workers at the plant and recommend strike action. This caused the management to very rapidly cancel its immediate plans to close the factory.

Meanwhile at the Austin-Morris Longbridge plant, Birmingham, the strike by 120 engine-assemblers continues,

having shut down production of the 1,800 and M.G.B. models. The workers demands are for increase in piece-work rates. By continuing to fight for improved piece-work pay the Longbridge workers are striking a blow against British Leyland's scheme to introduce measured day-work for "modern" more efficient exploitation.

Miners

280,000 miners will ban overtime from November 1st in support of a claim for pay increases of up to 47%. This follows their rejection of a 7.1% increase offered by the N.C.B. In addition a strike ballot is to be held during the week beginning 22nd. This year, for the first time, only a 55% majority will be required to call a strike, instead of the two thirds majority previously required. Other unions are being asked to co-operate by refusing to transport coal.

EE-AEI

Technical and supervisory staff at the English Electric-AEI Traction plant at Preston, Lancs, who have been locked out for the past 14 weeks over a pay claim, have promised continued support from their section of the A.U.E.W. The lockout began when they started an overtime ban after rejecting a miserable offer from the employers of a £1.50 per week increase.

ALBANIA: WHERE EMPLOYERS ARE REDUNDANT

WHILE new groups of workers are being told every day in Britain that their services are no longer required, that they are "redundant", no such problem exists in Albania, the tiny but great-hearted land of 2 million people in the Balkans. This is not because the employers in Albania are very benevolent or good managers—the fact is that there are no employers at all in that country! The people after forming the Party of Labour of Albania in 1941 kicked them out for good in 1944 and have made sure ever since that they would never come back.

With the bosses out of the way the working people could develop the

country according to their own needs. It was a big job because they had inherited the most backward country in Europe—ravaged for centuries by foreign occupation and its own traitorous ruling class.

But the Albanians never went cap in hand to anyone when they had problems; they never relied on the "experts" to sort things out. They just did it themselves, no fuss. They built power stations, oil refineries, railroads, they extended their farming into the newly-drained swamps, they built schools, hospitals

and houses. There was no shortage of jobs—in fact their plans demanded a workforce far beyond what they possessed.

It was the Five Year Plans, begun in 1951, that normalised this intensive development. The workers would everywhere discuss their contribution to the country's plan for the next 5 years. With the workers in full control of their powers and inspired to achieve even more these plans were often over-fulfilled. In 1960 it was proposed that electrification of the whole country should be achieved by 1965. Al-

though they had to start from scratch they have finished the job already!

At the same time they have had the ever-present capitalist enemy to deal with. His callous efforts at spreading terror in the countryside soon after liberation were firmly put down. But still he hovers in the background in a variety of disguises. He would claim that overseas specialists were indispensable for such ambitious development, or that Albania should concentrate on growing sun-flowers and leave the heavy industry for "socialist friends" who knew all about it. Always preaching the inevitable defeat of workers, self-reliant and without capitalists.

The working class and

CPB (ML) DELEGATION TO ALBANIA

AT the invitation of the Albanian Party of Labour Reg Birch, Chairman of the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) and another member of the Central Committee have gone to Tirana to take part in the celebration of the Party of Labour's 30th Anniversary and the convening of the Sixth Party Congress.

They take with them the comradely greetings of the CPB (ML) and the fraternal good wishes of British workers.

peasants launched offensive after offensive against these efforts of capitalist recovery. Always at the helm is the battle-hardened Party of Labour of Albania and its leader, Enver Hoxha. Today they see the main danger as a peaceful degeneration from within, as happened in the Soviet Union.

This month is convened the Sixth Party Congress of the Albanian Party of Labour. It marks two occasions; the 30th Anniversary of the Party, founded on 8 November 1941; and secondly the 20th Anniversary of the launching of the Five Year Plans. The 5th Five Year Plan will be settled at this Congress. We in Britain do not question the "cheek" of the Albanians in doing all this before us. We merely ask when are we, the oldest working class in the world, going to reach full stature and take the road already trodden by our Albanian brothers and sisters.



Young Albanians swinging into action to complete a new railroad, built entirely by volunteer labour.

ON THE INDUSTRIAL FRONT

Swan Hunter

The five day strike by 700 fitters at the Swan Hunter Tyneside shipyard finished on October 20th. The strike was caused by the employers suspending 25 fitters who refused to work overtime during their lunch break. The 700 fitters then walked out demanding that the suspended men be reinstated, and pressing their demand for improved bonus payments. The strike was completely successful in forcing the employers to reinstate all 25 suspended fitters, and the employers have agreed to negotiate on bonus payments.

Tally Clerks

A strike by 1500 tally clerks virtually paralysed the Port of London. Work on 46 ships was halted and some 7000 men had to be sent home. The strike was in protest at the sacking of 20 tally clerks and more trouble is expected following the employers' decision to sack a further 29 in the near future. Further one day strikes at weekly intervals are planned for the next three weeks, followed by two or three day strikes if the dismissed men are not returned to permanent employment.

Doncaster's Monk Bridge

A five week strike of 105 foremen and technicians at the Leeds works of Doncasters Monk Bridge has received the support of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs. Aware that their wages are lagging behind those of shop-floor workers the strikers are demanding an 18% rise and new minimum rates. They see ahead a long hard struggle. The working class gets bigger and more solid every day.

INDIANS IN BRITAIN MEET

CELEBRATE THEIR
REVOLUTIONARY
HEROES

"INDIAN workers in Britain must fight capitalism in this country, along with the rest of the British working class". This was the message delivered to an enthusiastic audience by a spokesman of the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) when he spoke at a meeting of the Greenwich District of the Indian Workers Association. More than 500 Indians living and working in Britain had gathered in the Woolwich Town Hall on October 9 to pay homage to the martyrs who have given their lives in the liberation struggles.

Those speeches pointing out that the revolutionary experience of the Indian people had found

its true political form in the action programme of the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) which was leading the people in armed struggle all over India received an enthusiastic response. The spirit of all the great revolutionary martyrs marches with those who ever since Naxalbari have been spreading the flames of socialist revolution to every corner of India.

Brothers

The spokesman of the CPB (ML) was bringing the Party's greetings to the celebration. He stressed the internationalism of the world proletarian revolution. "The struggle of the workers and peasants of India under the

leadership of the CPI(ML) is the same as the struggle that Indian workers in Britain wage shoulder to shoulder with their class brothers in British factories. This is so because the workers and oppressed the world over are class brothers with the same enemy-world capitalism in its imperialist phase together with all those who serve it, collaborate with it, or capitulate to it".

"Wherever we are the same struggle is being fought out and we can become part of it under the same Marxist-Leninist banner". He pointed out that while national groupings of those driven here to work by the operations of British imperialism were only natural, in order to go over to the

offensive class struggle it was necessary for the whole working class to be united. The ruling class in Britain was launching an all-out attack on workers to destroy their capacity to fight by bringing in anti-trade union legislation, and to break their unity with racist immigration laws. Fascist measures are always first employed on the more isolated and weaker sections of the working class. Workers from Commonwealth countries must not huddle together defensively in their own national organisations. They must join forces with the whole working class in Britain under the Marxist-Leninist leadership to begin the protracted class war for complete proletarian emancipation.

UCS : REASSERT "4 YARDS"

THE most recent development in the struggle at Upper Clyde Shipbuilders on the right to work, the fight against unemployment, is a clear retreat from the first courageous decision of the mass of workers joined together to stage a work-in.

Of course, the actual work-in was a mixture of those who were 'legitimately' employed in the bourgeois sense, those who were retained by workers unity, and those who among them took the money and left.

Mass

This does not diminish the clarity and correctness of the mass decision to refuse dismissal, to demand no closure of the four yards and to occupy, since which time many features departing from this stand through intervention and indecisive and incorrect leadership have emerged. There has been the charging around the country, nay countries, looking for a capitalist to buy so that workers may work, and the leaning on the strength of purpose of the workers by 'politic' is' and Trade Union spokesmen to seek to take over and divert this simple but correct strategy.

The document which is now called a victory is nothing short of the Government's original policy, the closing of two yards, certainly Clydebank and probably Scotstoun. To argue that through Trade Union spokesmen in a meeting with Davies and Eden there has been an advance is quite quite false. The statement writes off the two yards in "diplomatic" language. It says:

(1) Scotstoun might be included for retention if "...feasibility" study showed inclusion to be in the economic interest of the whole project".



Trade Unionists demonstrate against U.C.S. Closures.

(2) "...the Government and C.S.E.U. would make every effort to encourage a purchaser for Clydebank".

It is said that the stewards unanimously endorsed the statement, although the C.S.E.U. had reaffirmed support for "work-in" and "4 yards remain open". The decision by stewards, and latterly by C.S.E.U. to accept the statement was wrong. Only now, by re-asserting the policy "4 yards" and fighting for it, can the statement be overturned, as it must be.

Solidarity

The work-in cannot be sustained in isolation. Only the swiftest development in solidarity from other sections will make

it effective. The supply of materials on a token payment or none at all, through the solidarity pressure particularly on steel workers and others. The prospect of the disposal, sale, of the products. All these require very serious approach and planning. Such a position is neither romantic nor adventurous and is possible through solidarity and this only our class, the working class, can render.

If work-ins are ever to be more than tokens of holding, the later to turn back to capitalism, such plans must be made. The reaction of capitalism "We intend to close anyway" must be met by the working class army as a whole.

ON THE MEDICAL FRONT

ABORTION

RECENTLY a march was organised in Birmingham. Its call—abolition of the Abortion Bill. Organised by the churches, priests of all colours and denominations spoke—Catholic, Protestant and Muslim. It was as if the dead hand of religion was reaching from the corners of the earth to embrace women in its coldness. There were also many who oppose abortion on ethical grounds—the preservation of life—a more laudable objection.

If we are to be materialists however, we must consider the question of abortion in relation to the society in which it arises, and in particular to the position of women. To see it as an abstract, an isolated moral question, is a metaphysical approach, which we as communists reject. It is a commonplace of history that the freer the society, the freer are women. Julius Caesar, the first great imperialist of Europe, was appalled by the equality of the women of the tribes of Gaul, where private property did not exist, and where things of common necessity were held—in common.

He was later to be appalled by the heroism of the Gaul women in the rebellions against Rome. Stalin makes this a main feature in his work. On the National Question, pointing out that no significant national movement has ever existed without the full participation of women.

It is remarkable that all religions which have gained strength in society by their support for the ruling classes, have been most vicious in their moral and psychological oppression of women.

Mortality

As communists we can say only one thing, that a woman, and she alone, should decide whether or not to bear a foetus. This cuts the Gordian knot of ethics, but leaves the question of mortality. Although it is only a half-answer to seek improved technique, it is also true that the mortality of pregnancy is higher than the mortality from abortion.

We sit, in our society, have the polygamous man a hero, the polyandrous woman a whore, but such an attitude can be no part of us. This whole question is indissolubly linked to the economic status of women. The majority of calls for abortion come from working class women, in ill

health, old as mothers, to whom an additional child would be economic disaster. It is noteworthy too, that the differential in wages between the sexes is not diminishing under capitalism. Rather it is widening—as the following figures show:

The average woman worker now earns £13 a week as compared to £28 for the average man. No one can argue that this represents a living wage. Exploitation of the female is worse even than that of the black worker in this country.

Profits

In these conditions of course there is often no choice for a woman worker but abortion, no freedom to decide to bear a child if she would have to support him on her own. So we must add a second demand to the demand for free abortion which is equally fundamental: the right of women in decent conditions whether or not they have the support of the father. The workers' army will have to fight this one out in the teeth of opposition the more bitter even than that against abortion. For profits are directly at stake.

HUMAN GUINEA PIGS

IT has recently come to light that, under contract from the Pentagon, doctors in the U.S. have been carrying out radiation experiments on patients dying of cancer to find out how soldiers could be expected to react to nuclear explosions. The poorest patients are chosen and they are not consulted before being subjected to treatment which, far from helping them, causes protracted vomiting, extreme discomfort and may shorten their remaining life.

This is exactly the same attitude towards human life that was shown in Nazi concentration camps like Auschwitz where people were experimented on by degenerate doctors and surgeons. It is the logical outcome of the capitalist system in which workers cease being human beings and become mere commodities. The piles of human hair and gold teeth fillings outside the gas chambers in Nazi Germany are the final result of a society in which things are more important than people.

From the Workers to the Workers

NURSES' CONDITIONS

HOSPITAL workers in general and nurses in particular are among the worst-paid workers in Britain today. The Workers' asked one of its regular readers, a nursing auxiliary, about his working conditions and the first encouraging signs of semi-organised protest on the part of nurses in the hospital where he works.

"Working conditions for nurses as regards hours of work are pretty bad for a start. Although the hospital is open twenty-four hours a day, there is not a three-shift system as in industry because of staff shortage, which also makes the often ignored manual nature of the work more intense. This, added to a dreadful lack of facilities explains why so many nurses feel that the medical system, i.e. the N.H.S., is rapidly breaking down. Work is shared between night nurses who work from 8.30 p.m. until 8.15 a.m. and day nurses who have to work through three types of duty a week: from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m., or from 11 a.m. until 8.45 p.m. or from 8 a.m. until 8.45 p.m., with time off between 1.00 p.m. and 4.45 p.m.

All dinner or supper breaks are unpaid. The working week (42 hours) starts on Sunday and the nurses' hours vary each week and one only knows them a few days in advance. Usually a long week-end (Friday to Monday) is given once a month but then you have to work more than five days before the next off-duty. There is no opportunity for overtime although unpaid overtime invariably occurs. Time and a tenth is paid for after twelve noon on Saturday and all day Sundays. As a comparison, ancillary workers such as porters, technicians and orderlies who are to a degree unionised and have generally been more militant than nurses, can do overtime and get paid double time on Sundays. We nurses should draw the lessons from this.

It is a widely known fact that nurses get ridiculously low wages and I can only quote a few figures to illustrate how true it is. A nursing auxiliary over 21 gets £13 gross a week; a trained nurse (SRN); a very responsible job, even in charge of a ward) still only gets, after three years training, less than £20 gross a week.

The fact that there is no real trade union through which to fight on wages and conditions of work has obviously got a lot to do with such low wages. Officially, nurses are represented on the Whitley Council (which lays down pay etc) by their "professional" Association, the Royal College of Nursing, which has not been an organisation of struggle for nurses.

For too long now, hospital employers have taken advantage of nurses' justified sense of dedication towards their job, Presenting nursing as a vocation and especially a woman's vocation has only served to cover up low wages and bad working conditions. But the vast majority of nurses are not prepared to have their feelings of dedication abused by expecting them to make sacrifices for the sake of living up to the Florence Nightingale image. As working women and men they are facing both at work and outside work the same problems as any other section of the working class. And eventually they must unite, organise and fight like other workers, in spite of all existing obstacles such as the complicated hierarchy which is meant to divide hospital workers, the difficulty of communications, or the transient character of the workforce.

STUDENT UNIONS : fight for Autonomy

THE Government is now preparing to bring in legislation against the Student Unions—but they are appearing to be undecided on their plan. However they do it, their aim is the same—to prevent the Student Unions from becoming real organisations of class struggle.

Recently (October 21) in Parliament, concrete proposals for ending the closed shop membership and the automatic payment of Union dues by the Local Authorities were put forward. If put into practice this would cripple the Student Unions both in terms of membership and finances. Nevertheless, the Union would remain in the hands of students, and so, in line with the Industrial Relations Act, the Government's intention is a Registrar of Student Unions who would have the power to decide on the Union rules and Constitutions.

Another idea they are toying with, which could be used in conjunction with the first, is the proposed system of arbitration of appeals by individual Union members against their Union in cases of disagreement with Union policy. Thus, student unions would still have 100% membership,

but it is the Capitalists' intention to use the Union through the Registrar deciding the rules and a "legal" court deciding the policy, to prevent students continuing their present political development of struggle.

Arrogance

The justification for this action is 'mis-use' of 'public funds'. This argument being peddled by the Government is that the money going into Student Unions is really the Councils' money and that it should not be used for anything the council or Government doesn't like—what amazing arrogance! The next thing will be the C.B.I. saying that Union dues come from wages they pay out and so the Unions shouldn't do anything against the employers!

This argument is a cover for the Government's real intentions—in the same way as they are attacking the Trade Unions, they are aiming at preventing the Student Unions from becoming effective organs of struggle. Students should take it as a compliment to their recent political development that the capitalists take us seriously and are

making such careful plans to hold that development of struggle back.

Nor should the issue of Unions' independence and autonomy be seen just by itself. There are also the other issues facing students today which need to be fought, and these require an effective fighting organisation—which should be the Students' Union. If the Government's proposals are not prevented from taking effect by the action of students, we will be without an organisation to fight the other pending attacks—the replacement of grants by loans, the end of subsidies for catering and accommodation, the cut-backs in expenditure, and we will be unable to go on the offensive to improve our conditions.

Vital

Thus for students it is an absolute priority not only to maintain our Unions' position in the face of these attacks, but also to develop the Unions. Strong Student Unions are vital if students are to take their place in struggle alongside the rest of the working class in a Protracted War against the Capitalist State.

COLLEGES

THERE is resentment among teachers in technical colleges at the 10% pay increase given to them by the arbitration body set up after more than six months of negotiations. The teachers claim was for a 35% rise; as it is the 10% does not even bring the teachers pay to its 1965 level.

The final conclusion of the arbitration was precisely that of the Government while negotiations were still going on. This is no great surprise to the majority of teachers as any faith in arbitration has long disappeared.

But without the threat of actual militant action to back up their demands, the teachers get as much as the Government is prepared to offer.

DECLARE WAR ON THE WARMAKERS

EVERY new vicious move of the British Government in more troops, trying to seal off the North, the torture of Irish Working Class. In Britain also a movement is beginning around the line put forward by the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) at our historic Trafalgar Square demonstration (picture, right).

We said in August, 1969: "WE condemn the despatch of the British troops to Ulster by the Westminster (Labour) Government. It is an act designed to save a puppet Government no longer able to govern. The United Kingdom Government's intervention can only inflame and is doomed to failure. We call upon all people here in Britain to demand the immediate withdrawal of British troops. Our Party joins with all who seek to assist the unity of the Irish working class to unite against the Northern Ireland puppets, and we are ready to assist in every way possible to achieve this aim. It is for the Irish people to establish a government of their own choosing. The so-called Irish settlement

is clearly seen to all now as a failure. Ireland is one nation. Out with the intruders and their quislings!" We said in Trafalgar Sq. in September 1971: "NOW is the testing time for workers here. We cannot be free ourselves except we fight for the freedom of Irish workers as they are fighting for us". "What shall we do? We call for the withdrawal of all troops—the Stormont Ku Klux Klan, the imperialist forces, the special Ulster 'defence' body, the lot. All workers here, the whole labour movement, all the unions must support this demand. "British soldiers were sent into Ulster by the Labour Government. Their policy of aggression was

endorsed by the Tory Government. General Freeland gave the orders 'shoot to kill'. This brought about the armed struggle of people in defence of their homes, their families". We as a Party say

let us end this chapter in history of British imperialism now! Let the workers of this country say once and for all—Get the troops out of Ireland. Let the Irish people decide their own destiny themselves".

UNITY MUST BE BASED ON PRINCIPLE

WE as a Party have been asked many times — who will we work with on the question of Ireland. We say our position is, and has always been, clear. Since our Party was formed, three years ago our attitude has been that we oppose the partition of Ireland by Britain. We see as a necessary step to the unification of Ireland, the need for a complete withdrawal of all British troops, the release of all political prisoners and the immediate disbandment of the puppet government in Stormont. On these issues we will work with any person or political party. Our job as the Communist Party of the working class is to force the Government into conceding these just demands.



GEC TIME TO FIGHT

"WEINSTECK and the other G.E.C. bosses have had only one aim since they took over this factory, and that's to shut it down altogether. This is just another step in their plans, but they'll do it unless we get together now and fight. If we don't we'll all end up standing in the dole queue."

That was the comment of a worker at the G.E.C. A.E.I. factory at Trafford Park Manchester, where it has been announced that another 700 workers are to be made redundant by the end of the year. This figure is almost double the original estimate of 360 that was made in July when the company first announced that there would be more redundancies. Already in Manchester area there are 26,000 people out of work, and in the North-West, the unemployment figure is now up to 131,000.

Over the past 6 years G.E.C. has made over 15,000 workers redundant at the Trafford Park Factory. In 1965 there were 23,000 workers at the factory while today the total is just over 7,000. The fact is that these sackings have been and are all part of the plan to close the factory once and for all. The G.E.C. bosses would of course deny it, in the same way as they denied that there would be any more redundancies, but the facts are clear and the workers know that this is the case. Within the Trafford Park Factory the Foundry, Meter and Research Departments have all been shut down already. As well as this, Leonard Works, West

Works and Mosley Road Works, also in the Trafford Park area, have been closed. A similar process of events occurred at the G.E.C. Transformer factory in Wythenshawe, also in the Manchester area, which was then closed down and 2,000 workers sacked.

Boast

The last redundancies brought forth assurances from the management that these would be the last. What do they say to those workers involved now! Once again they cry out that it is because there has been a drop in demand for the jobs in the sections concerned, while at the same time they boast in the company newspaper that export orders have increased by 25%.

Then there is also the fact that the company is transferring orders from the factory to outside sub-contractors to be completed under the excuse that it is 'cheaper'.

The tactics of divide and rule are well known by the G.E.C. bosses and they have used them to their full extent. While some departments have been shutting down within the factory, others not affected have been often working overtime, including weekends. And no doubt the company has been eager to use the Labour Party's Redundancy Payments Act of 1965 to help undermine any resistance to these moves. A lump sum may appear attractive, but if it is followed by little chance of obtaining work it is no solution.

ENGINEERS HALF-DAY STRIKE AGAINST UNEMPLOYMENT

Wed, Nov. 24th
Mass Meeting,
Hyde Park 2.30 p.m

Called by
London District of C.S.E.U.

PSC TEACH IN

THE lessons of the past twenty years of struggle by the people of the Middle East are now being absorbed by the revolutionary movements in a period of preparation for a new upsurge against imperialism. This was the main theme coming out of the teach-in organised by the Palestine Solidarity Campaign on Oct 20th at University College, London.

The speaker from Palestine outlined the present acute situation in that area. The struggle in Palestine is still in the forefront of the anti-imperialist struggle in the Middle East. The Fedayeen will continue the fight till final victory.

On Dhofar, a girl spoke of the tremendous advances made by the liberation front in educating and mobilising the people in the liberated areas.

A speaker from Iraq spoke of the extreme repressive measures taken by the Iraqi regime ranging from jail, tor-

MIDDLE EAST

PERSIA: PEOPLES CELEBRATION YET TO COME

PREVIOUSLY under British control, Iran now exists as a vicious fascist regime virtually run by a handful of American and Russian businessmen taking away most of the nation's precious resources in the form of oil and minerals.

On October 15th, 1971 the Shah, faithful bootlicker of these businessmen, proclaimed and held a three day celebration to mark 2,500 years of the oppressive rule of the Iranian kings. Scores of guests, including Podgorny, Princess Anne and Agnew, ate their fill of roast

peacock and caviar. The total cost of this three day orgy, extorted with taxes from the ordinary working people, came to well over £50 million. The workers of Britain will unanimously condemn this outrage which happened in a country where 85% of the people suffer poverty, backwardness, disease and where famine now affects much of the south.

This puppet Shah and his gang of perverts have interned more than 20,000 patriots who dared to resist them. Many have been cruelly tortured. On May 3rd 19 workers were killed when a mass strike against the Shah's spree was fired on by armed policemen. This, and recent attacks on the peasants by Russian piloted Migs, have made the whole Iranian people determined to end this national and class oppression. We are equally determined to support them.

TURKEY

ALTHOUGH Turkey is poor in natural resources its place on the map makes its regime useful to the same international money-grabbers propping-up the Persian regime, and for stifling revolution in the Gulf.

A United Democratic Front now leads the struggle against the puppet Sunay-Tugmac Eram fascist dictatorship recently visited by the Queen. So the Turkish people have their own Shah to deal with, suffering the same internment torture and execution without trial. On October 9th 1971 military tribunals sentenced to death 18 patriotic liberation fighters. All this goes ignored by the national press.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOV. 7th. "FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK." Public Meeting of the CPBML at 11 a.m. "The Yellow Lion," Saltergate, Chesterfield.

NOV. 12th. REPORT BACK FROM CHINA. Public report-back of the CPBML delegation just returned from People's China and discussion. Friday, Nov. 12th, 7.30 p.m. at Camden Studios, Camden Street, London, N.W.1.

NOV. 13th. PRESS FUND SOCIAL. Refreshments, singing & film. Help raise money for our own independent press — and enjoy yourself. Saturday Nov. 13th 7.30 p.m. at Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortress Road, London N.W.5.

NOV. 26th. CELEBRATE ALBANIA'S DAY OF LIBERATION. Fri 26th Nov, 7.30 p.m. at Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortress Road, London, N.W.5. Organised by New Albania Society.

NOV. 27th. "BUILD THE PARTY IN THE MIDLANDS." Public Meeting of the CPBML at "The Pump Tavern," 236 Soho Road, Handsword, Birmingham 21. 7.30 p.m.

DEC 3rd. CONDITIONS IN FASCIST GREECE. A public meeting of the CPBML with opponents of the Greek regime. Friday, Dec. 3rd, 7.30 p.m. at Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortress Road, London N.W.5.

CENTRAL LONDON POLYTECHNIC REVOLUTIONARY ARTS FESTIVAL. NOV 1-5

- Nov. 1. Art exhibition and meeting, 3 p.m.; film "Salt of the Earth", 7 p.m.
- Nov. 2. Women's struggle — meeting 3 p.m.; film "One fourth of Humanity" and speaker returned from China 7 p.m.
- Nov. 3. Industrial struggle — meeting 3 p.m.; films "Kill the Bill," "U.C.S." etc 7 p.m.
- Nov. 4 "Students — apprentices for unemployment?" 3 p.m.; folk & poetry 7 p.m.
- Nov. 5. Ireland: meeting 3 p.m.

BELLMAN BOOKSHOP now open all day

Mon. 10.30 a.m. — 4.30 p.m.
Tues — Sat. 10.30 a.m. — 6.00 p.m.

New pamphlets published by the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist):

BRITISH IMPERIALISM OUT OF IRELAND 5p
STUDENTS INTO CLASS STRUGGLE 3p
TEACHERS TO THE FRONT LINE 5p
(please add 3p for Post Orders)

New publication from China:
MAO TSE TUNG'S Six Essays on Military Affairs
By Post; 20p

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