

# THE WORKER



Printed and Published by the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist), 155, Fortess Road, London, N.W.5 No 15 Aug 8th 1974 Price 3p

## A WORLD TO WIN!



### CYPRUS - Out With Foreign Troops

The independence that the people of Cyprus gained through decades of struggle against British imperialist rule is today once again threatened by the direct intervention of foreign countries. This island which was described by Disraeli as "the key to western Asia" is of immense importance strategically to the imperialist powers contending in the Mediterranean and the Middle East. Like vultures, the US, the Soviet Union and other imperialist powers can hardly wait to dismember this little island, destroy its unity, weaken it and leave it a prey to imperialist schemes and designs.

The problem in Cyprus has never been one of Greeks vs. Turks. This division was created and has been patiently fostered by Britain since 1878 when it occupied the island. Previously

the two communities lived in peace for many centuries. When Britain was finally forced to give Cyprus its independence it had already sown the seeds of sectarianism just as it did in Palestine, Ireland and other places.

These sectarian flames are today fanned by the Greek and Turkish regimes whose actions are lauded by other imperialist powers. The Greek government through their officers in the National Guard instigated a military coup. Turkey was only too eager to grab this opportunity to invade Cyprus. Both acts are in flagrant violation of the sovereignty and independence of Cyprus. The Turkish invasion with its indiscriminate bombing and shelling of towns and villages (killing Cypriots from both communities) so vehemently def-

ended by the press is a brutal act of aggression by a big country against a small one. Their butchery is only matched by the brutality of the Greek-officered National Guard.

The people of Cyprus have a history of struggle against foreign occupation that goes back for centuries. Since independence in 1960, they waged a continuous struggle against subversion and domination by imperialist powers. In 1964 they succeeded in maintaining their sovereignty and independence against imperialist attempts to divide Cyprus into two states with NATO troops to "keep the peace".

There is only one solution in Cyprus. The Cypriot people must be allowed to determine their future without any foreign interference, directly or under the guise of the United Nations.

There will be no holiday for the ruling class this summer. The working class is giving them no rest. Wage claims are mounted from every section; "crisis" is all the capitalist class can see before them.

We workers for our part see this crisis. We see pay boards and freezes come with fanfares and depart like thieves in the night, slinking quietly from the scene. But there is a crisis too, in the mind of the working class. We the workers have caused the employers' acute difficulties by our refusal to lie down and submit to their dictates. The ruling class is floundering. Can the working class seize this opportunity?

We must now lift up our eyes and see the great future before us. The Party and the whole working class must rise to the challenge of a situation of our own making. The challenge of raising our own level, taking advantage of the indecision of our enemies to intensify our attack. To fight the old battles, however well, is not enough. Will we fight this autumn as we did the last? The struggle must advance, lest it stagnate through mere repetition of past victories. Our working class has destroyed Phase III and the Industrial Relations Act. These were momentous achievements. We should not debase them by waiting to defeat similar offensives. Let us determine the time and content of future battle.

We have said in THE WORKER that we are in a revolutionary situation. Convulsions shake the world. The US stands defeated in Vietnam and paralysed at home. Its Pretender, the Soviet Union, daily earns new disgrace in the eyes of the world. The emerging nations find new unity and resolve. Revolution is the main trend, and the world's peoples stand at the threshold of great events.

We in Britain have provided a surging current to this world revolutionary tide. Let not this tide be lost. For now more than ever we have a world to lose as well as a world to win.

### IN THIS ISSUE

INDUSTRIAL FRONT Page2 CANCER DANGER Page3

BRAZILIANS STRUGGLE Page4 FRELIMO Page4

No issue of THE WORKER August 22nd.

Next issue SEPTEMBER 5th.

# ON THE INDUSTRIAL FRONT



## THE ANNIVERSARY OF TOLPUDDLE

July 21st, the Anniversary of the Tolpuddle Martyrs is an historic day for trade unionism, when the Government of the day sought to impose the first Industrial Relations Act and a Statutory Incomes Policy.

On Friday, July 25th this year the curtains came down for Sir John Donaldson and the Industrial Relations Court, smashed by the battle waged by the Trade Union Movement in this Country, led by the members of the AUEW.

It also will be a part of working class history, of workers determination to remain free and unfettered.

The forces of reaction however never give up. The House of Lords that archaic and creaking body defeated the Government four times on the Committee Stage of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Bill.

We as a class do not need bills. Only strength of organisation and unity of purpose.

## SHELL DISPUTE

In the past Royal Dutch Shell have always negotiated at Local Level i. e., Stanlow, Ardrossan, Shell Haven, Teesport and Carrington Refineries separately.

The stewards of all those Refineries nevertheless set up a National Negotiating Committee which the Company have in the past refused to recognise.

At mass meetings throughout the Country, workers voted overwhelmingly for National Negotiations and if not conceded along with a substantial wage increase, National Strike action would follow.

Stanlow started the ball rolling and had been out for 3 weeks.

The Company faced with a National Stoppage caved in and agreed to recognise the SSNNC. So the workers of Shell have won a victory to the extent that Shell have had to recognise the National Shop Stewards Committee and substantial increases have been gained.

## PANTOMIMES

Talks have broken down between Equity and the Theatre Managers Association, over the rate of pay for artists in the forthcoming Pantomime season.

So actors and actresses may be seen parading outside theatres with banners at Xmas.

The biggest Pantomime Show in the country (you've guessed it) Parliament have voted themselves another increase.

## WHEN THE CHINESE CAME TO DECCA

On Wednesday the 26th, as on every morning, we clocked in at 8 o'clock in our factory. The day was dreary and rainy and we were all so fed up. Another day and two more to go before Friday. All day we were talking about problems. The future definitely seemed just as the 'Sun' and 'Mirror' illustrate, doom and gloom and nothing to look forward to. However, things looked a lot brighter when we knocked off at 4.30 late afternoon and were visited by a Trade Delegation from the People's Republic of China: they made a welcome change from our usual visitors. Their whole attitude towards us was not one of the 'Bigshots' who examine everything, including you, all over, as if they are in the supermarket, shopping.

This delegation from the People's Republic of China was friendly, warm and close, and when they looked at our work they gave us a pleasant smile

## BRIGHTON BUSWORKERS

After a successful one-day strike earlier this month by Southdown workers, members of the Transport and General Workers Union went into action again in support of their claim for a full one-hour paid meal break.

By applying guerrilla tactics, maximum damage to the employer with the minimum losses to themselves, the busmen took an unofficial one-hour meal break. One between 10 and 11 o'clock in the morning and another between 7 and 8 o'clock in the evening. Abandoning the air routes they headed back to the Conway Street and Whitehawk depots. The almost unbroken stream of buses rumbled into Conway Street until the garage was full up with 90 vehicles. It was the same tactic at Whitehawk, where 50 buses converged on the garage.

## BRITISH AIRWAYS

Although workers in British Airways are to get London Weighting Allowances, it is the intention of the management to delay any further increases from January 1st, 1975 to April 1st, 1975 and to reduce staff by 2000. They are asking for union co-operation in this.

One can hardly imagine the shop stewards at London Airport accepting a delay in wages and redundancies.

## WHEN THE CHINESE CAME TO DECCA

and a nod; the atmosphere was really great and showed the friendship of the Chinese workers towards the English workers. The effect of this was that workers on the shop-floor greeted the Chinese with a smile. Come teatime and who was sitting in the workers' canteen but the Chinese delegates. Discussions sparked up about the Chinese and the majority of people spoke with enthusiasm.

To all of us the bright future ahead of us was in sight. Some workers spoke of the difference between the USSR and China, and how the USSR's attitude in the world was just like the Americans, becoming bigshots. Whereas the Chinese, although a great nation, have never pushed anyone around - even their simple clothing showed whose side they were on.

So our dull day turned into a fine day, and a bleak future turns into a bright future for the British Working Class!

## DOCKWORKERS

The intention of Michael Foot, Employment Secretary, to carry out the proposals of the Jones-Aldington Report on Dock work has found howls of rage from the shipowners, but only recognises what dockers have demanded.

The Dock-Labour Scheme operating in all the major ports ended the system of casual labour within the industry. Prior to its inception, men could be in work one day, out of work the next. Men got a day's work on the basis of whether their face fitted or were blue-eyed boys, or took their coats off and fought one another for a tally that was the key to a job.

Britain was lagging dismally behind other countries in its practice on the docks. In reaching his "decision" Foot said "I have regard to the desirability of bringing the law and practice in this Country in conformity with the International Labour Convention, no. 137 concerning the Social Repercussions of new methods of Cargo Handling in Docks."

The Dock-Labour Scheme was a victory for the dockers. It gave them de-casualisation pensions and a guaranteed fall-back rate when there was no work.

The employers, as a result of Containerisation and new handling techniques, moved away from the major ports into smaller ports, where there was no union organisation and used the new techniques to their maximum advantage. They also set up bases away from the docks. As a result, the dockers picketed the depots and it led to the arrest of the Pentonville Five. It was the efforts of the whole Trade Union Movement that obtained their release.

Irrespective of legislation, the necessity remains for the dockers to take up the cudgels once again against the employers, to see that they reap the maximum benefit of mechanisation and not the employers.

## FISHER - BENDIX

Workers at Fisher-Bendix are still continuing the fight to save their jobs by sitting-in. Benn has said workers must have a feasibility study before the Government will make it available.

## POWER JACKS, ACTON

Typical of capitalism, the management of this establishment who are in financial difficulties owing to the economic crises, told stewards the only way to solve their ills was by a 100 per cent increase in production, which meant a far greater exploitation of the workers.

Stewards and members have hit back hard and are now in dispute.

## ASLEF

The militant struggle by guards and drivers conducted over a three month period last winter is now bearing fruit. Increases of 29 per cent, double that formerly offered, have now been won, proving the justification of their claim.

# TWO CAN PLAY AT 'DIVIDE AND RULE'

Divide and rule is a favourite tactic of the capitalist class. In Britain they will seek to pit man against woman, well organised against the 'low paid', professional against industrial worker, black against white. In Ireland, Catholic is set against Protestant, in Cyprus Greek against Turk.

In the perpetual struggle between the classes we have our own version of their divisive methods - we seek out and exploit contradictions within their ranks - contradictions between the interests of individual employers and the employing class as a whole (as became evident during the engineers' guerrilla struggle when the Engineering Employers Federation expelled individual members for accepting private settlements forced on them by their workers). The same sort of contradictions exist between individual employers and the government representing the interests of the entire capitalist class. The government applies deflationary policies to increase unemployment in order to try to weaken our class's capacity to struggle; but individual capitalists make their profits, not by laying off workers, but by employing and exploiting them.

Against these weak points in the capitalist ranks, we pit our strongest, exploiting their internal contradictions by concentrating our forces, picking our own ground for struggle, never fighting on the enemy's ground. We avoid confrontations into which the class enemy and its henchmen try to provoke us and set our own ambushes, follow our own hit and run methods which hurt them most with least damage to ourselves.

To base our struggle on threshold agreements, for example, is to recognise the government's right to fix wages and to mark out the limits of our fight. It is letting the enemy choose the field of battle. We don't need government-paid statisticians to tell us when we are falling behind in the struggle to make ends meet. We know our needs and we will not restrict them to making ends meet. We fight according to our strength.

But there are greater battles ahead of us. We know we cannot avoid them because class compromise and conciliation has never brought us anything but abject defeat. The working class's resistance to the massive wage cuts and the imposition of the corporate state by which the capitalists aim to solve their crisis is at once a defensive battle to protect our living standards and an offensive campaign in our protracted war to end exploitation by the overthrow of the capitalist system.

But in this struggle the relationship between the day-to-day tactics of guerrilla fighting and the strategy of the conquest of state power must be understood. The lessons of the day-to-day battles must be transformed from the limited gains of perpetual defence to the conscious preparation, the building of our forces and our experience, for the complete victory of our class which is to come.



Women Fighters of Quang Tri Liberated Areas

## Thieu on the Road to War

In South Vietnam, Thieu's US backed administration is adopting a posture which is leading to the revival of full-scale war. For Thieu, the Paris Peace Agreement is a mere scrap of paper. He will no longer meet with representatives of the Provisional Revolutionary Government, has despatched his US fighter bombers to kill and destroy in the liberated areas, and conducted land-grabbing operations from newly-built strongposts on the edge of his territory.

The Vietnamese liberation forces have administered sharp

retribution. Bombers have been shot down. Saigon troops on nibbling operations have been heavily mauled, and outposts for aggression have been demolished. Meanwhile, in the Saigon-controlled areas, half a million people have been recently involved in mass struggle against the Thieu regime. Illegally set up concentration camps have been demolished and demands made for the release of young conscripts.

In Cambodia, the liberation forces have rejected the US puppet Lon Nol's proposal for "reconciliation" and for a coalition government. The liberation forces now command 90 per cent of the territory with 85 per cent of the population of Cambodia, and they will not rest until the US intruders have been driven from their soil.

Lon Nol is holed up in Phnom Penh and like Thieu has no friends. His soldiers have refused to go into battle, widows have demanded immediate payment of long-delayed relief funds, and the hungry people have forcibly seized rice that was to be denied them.

## THE SAME TODAY

Karl Marx in a statement by the General Council of the International Working Men's Association 1870:

"Ireland is the only excuse the English government has for keeping up a large regular army which can, as we have seen, in case of need attack the English workers after having done its basic training in Ireland."

## MINI - BUDGET .. AN OPPORTUNITY FOR STRUGGLE

Prices are rising every day, but votes are becoming cheaper by the minute. Labour announce their "mini-Budget" - so small most people needed a microscope just to catch a glimpse of it - and the Tories actually accuse them of "electoral bribery"! The ruling class must be in a bad way even to imagine that a 2 per cent reduction in VAT will buy anything. As an attempt at bribery it is pathetic, an insult to workers' intelligence. What's more, we'll have to pay through the nose one way or the other for this £500 million loan - from Iran of all places. The masquerade in Parliament is really getting further and further away from social reality.

To give them their fair due, the bourgeois press did its best to give the mini-Budget some semblance of importance, but

even they quickly lost heart, gave up the pretence, quietly let the "issue" slip and turned their attention to Cyprus.

Linked with the irrelevance of the Chancellor's speech, however, there took place an act of far greater relevance, a small but important harbinger of the future. For, timed to coincide with Budget day, three hundred and fifty taxmen went on a lightning half-day strike.

The strike, the first ever by taxmen in the estate duty office of the Inland Revenue, was in protest at the absence of consultation on staffing matters, in particular over the question of unqualified labour doing qualified work. "We could not let the opportunity pass" were the words of an official of the Institution of Professional Civil Servants, the union concerned.

## PVC Cancer Danger

Amongst the virtues of social responsibility extolled by one of Britain's largest chemical companies in a recent television advertising campaign were claims that it had furthered research into cancer. This will doubtless seem particularly 'rich' to those 800 or so workers employed in Britain's six main PVC manufacturing plants.

Fairly conclusive evidence now exists to link their exposure to Vinyl Chloride Monomer (VCM), the gas from which PVC is made, and a whole range of symptoms and conditions, the most alarming of which is *angiosarcoma of the liver*. This is a very rare form of cancer amongst the normal population and it is invariably fatal. Other conditions include acro osteolysis (a slow degeneration of the distal bones in the fingers), Raynaud's phenomenon (white finger) and other skin, liver and kidney malfunctions.

The connection between VCM and these latter symptoms has been known for some time and was first established by Russian and Rumanian research in the fifties. Yet it has only been recently as a result of the suspected link with cancer (discovered by accident during animal experiments) that major British and European manufacturers financed further research in Italy.

Once the results of this research became known, controversy arose as to whether or not PVC workers have been, and still are, at risk. While only one death from angiosarcoma has been recorded in Britain of a former PVC worker, 13 such deaths have been recorded in America. (In addition it is suspected that past deaths from angiosarcoma may have been misdiagnosed, thus making present mortality studies more difficult.) Most of the deaths recorded so far follow about twenty years exposure to VCM. Thus we could now be on the verge of a wave of angiosarcoma cases amongst workers who have been in the industry since the mid fifties. Although the Department of Employment has issued interim safety standards while further research is carried out, those standards which have been accepted have been those put forward by the Chemical Industries Association (CIA). The new level is set at 50 parts per million (ppm) of VCM in the atmosphere.

Apart from the fact that this level is being flouted openly in plants such as Vinatex, Chesterfield (this has been substantiated by Factory Inspectorate enquiries), the new 50 ppm limit may not be such an improvement after all. Firstly, claims that average levels have been reduced throughout the industry as a whole hide the very high levels which workers are faced with for short periods at particular points in some plants. Secondly, angiosarcomas have been induced in rats exposed to 50 ppm of VCM. Thirdly, the proposed American standard is set at no detectable level. Fourthly, many other known environmental carcinogens are thought to be active at very low level concentrations.

The CIA (a trade association largely financed by BP and ICI - both of whom have recently recorded record profits) maintain that further reductions of VCM levels is financially impractical. £4 million has already been spent on trying to achieve the new standard. £11 million is quoted as necessary to reduce this level by a further 50 per cent. The question of safety versus profit is posed very clearly by the VCM question and the CIA has attempted to cloud the issue by describing the possible dangers as a 'socially acceptable risk'! Socially acceptable to whom one may ask? Clearly not to those forced to breathe the polluted atmosphere of a modern chemical plant. The social acceptability of occupational cancer is the kind of formulation which flows glibly from those surrounded by the air conditioned purity of a London office suite. More significantly, though, it is the kind of formulation made by a capitalist industry which places the value of its profits far above the value (in human terms) of the lives which that industry may consume.

## CONFRONTATION IN THE '20's

The attempts of the ruling class today to cut back on our standard of living are not new. Just as in today's crisis so in previous ones the Government demanded 'reduction in wages to help put industry on its feet'. Between 1921 and 1926 the Government forced a large cut in the wages of all workers.

### Black Friday 1921

When on the 23rd February 1921 the Government announced that government control of the mining industry would end, the employers announced the finish of all contracts of service and demanded a general wage cut. Terms for reemployment were based on savage cuts in wages - in some cases by half. On rejecting the employers terms, the miners were locked out.

Working in union with the employers the Government proclaimed a State of Emergency. Troops were moved to the coalfields, leave cancelled and reservists called up. A civilian defence force was formed and troops were brought back from Ireland.

Against this was deployed the

Triple Alliance - the miners, transport workers and railwaymen - each pledged to aid one another, but with no plan as to how the struggle should be conducted. Internal dissension broke the alliance, leaving the miners to carry out a two-month strike alone, on ground fully prepared by the Government, before conceding defeat.

The defences of Trade Unionism were broken and the initiative seized by the employers. Section after section of workers suffered pay cuts - shipyard and building workers, cotton workers and dockers. The engineers were locked out for 13 weeks in 1922 before capitulating.

The Triple Alliance was totally inadequate to confront the determined forces of the State. As it was, coordination proved impossible, but in confronting the State and then backing down, the Triple Alliance had brought about a demoralising defeat for the working class.

### Red Friday 1925

Four years later at the demand of the Treasury, the Bank of England and City financiers, the pound

was put back on the Gold Standard at the pre-war rate of exchange. With the price of all British goods immediately raised in overseas markets, the obvious solution was to force down wages.

When the mine owners announced a general cut in wages, a special conference of trade union executives was called by the TUC General Council, which pledged unanimous support for the miners, and threatened a complete embargo on all coal movements from the beginning of the lockout.

After demanding that all workers would have to take pay cuts, and repeatedly refusing a subsidy to the mining industry to maintain wages, Baldwin the Prime Minister surrendered and offered a subsidy for 9 months.

The Government had capitulated rather than risk a clash with the Trade Union meeting, but as Churchill said: "We therefore decided to postpone the crisis in the hope of averting it or if not averting it of coping effectually with it when it came".

The circumstances of the conflict made a further conflict inevitable. As the Home Secretary put it: "This thing is not finished. The danger is not over." Thus the Government prepared over the next 9 months for a frontal assault. On the Trade Union side almost no preparations were made as events led them towards a General Strike to be fought entirely on the terms chosen by the Government.

The ruling class may wish to repeat the events of 1921-26. We know better. All out confrontation with the State when it comes will be on our terms, on the grounds chosen by us. Guerrilla struggle does not preclude all out confrontations, rather it prepares for it, it gives it its appropriate time and place.



A scene at Hammersmith Broadway in 1926

## DEATH ON ROADS

The safety record of sites such as Monks at Bridgwater in Somerset, where the M5 is being built reveals an appalling toll of the life and health of ordinary workers. Youths of 19 are allowed to drive 140 ton Euclid trucks with minimal driving experience, and work on a bonus system which encourages them to be as reckless and fast as possible. One such was killed when his vehicle bounced at speed. He leapt out and it fell on him. Another worker had only been on the site for a few hours when his tractor jack-knifed and shed its load on him, killing him. Road rollers on the site could easily be provided with guards, but are not. Thus a worker's leg was crushed. Sub-contractors, lorries frequently have no brakes, or dangerous steering. No safety helmets, harness or steel boots are issued.

It is no coincidence that this employer also blacklists union labour. The safety of workers on the site will only be assured when they follow the lead of other building workers and organise, refusing to work unless adequate safety measures are enacted. The M5 may have been cheap in terms of employers' outlay on safety equipment, but not in workers lives. It is only the workers themselves who can change this.

## NHS STRUGGLE CONTINUES

Implementation by ASTMS medical physics and physiological measurement technicians of effective, coordinated action over several weeks had the 'magicians' in the Treasury quickly 'procuring' an 18% increase for some, 45% for a few. Three years of dependence on government policy (i.e. disregard for yet another section of essential health service workers) meant wages gradually sinking further below starvation level. Less than three weeks of well-planned, tactical ingenuity produced results.

These technicians, with the solid support of fellow hospital workers, have learnt and will continue to learn the efficacy of guerrilla struggle: unity of will with the use of the most effective tactic for that particular time and place. Their original claim of 30% for all could have been met had there been more unity.

ASTMS x-ray staff claiming 40% and regrading are also effectively proving their worth with their determination. Wise and careful implementation of certain tactics in provincial and London hospitals has already had the Treasury purse strings twitching - but a derisory pay offer will not suffice. Again, a living wage for all - no division.

## SUSSEX RENT STRIKE

Sussex University authorities hate the Rent Strike used against them, to win a free Creche for student parents, and which has been such a successful weapon in winning the recent student grant increase.

They are particularly worried now because the strike did not end with the end of the summer term. Foolishly, the authorities took the grant award as an excuse to try and raise rents by £1.25 a week. So - the Rent Strike carried on over the vacation on the demand of No Rent Increase, students withholding over £30,000 of rent.

The authorities' plight is revealed in that they had to wait until the students went away before daring to threaten rent strikers. Now they have written to students' parental addresses threatening legal action if they do not pay up before July 31st. The students' response, in a Union circular, is "This is a bluff and it should be called". The Rent Strike continues stronger than ever.

If the University thought they could pick on students in their absence, they have miscalculated, for the reverse has happened: support has come from members of NUPE, EEPFU, ASTMS, working on campus, condemning any attempts at victimisation and strike-breaking!

# VICTORIES IN AFRICA



## Mozambique Guerrillas on the March

Freedom fighters in Mozambique recently captured the central town of Morrumbala, and have opened a fifth battle front in Zambezia province where 2000 local people joined them within a few days.

Portugal has found it impossible to persuade the guerrilla fighters in its colonies to lay down

their arms before they have won complete independence. The Portuguese are also hampered by the refusal of their own forces to fight the guerrillas, since they prefer to play football with Frelimo instead. This is a clear example of the support that Frelimo's correct line is winning.

# IMPERIALISM AT SEA

China, Albania, Latin America and small and medium-sized countries of the world made a magnificent stand against the two superpowers at the 3rd UN Conference on the Law of the Sea in Caracas, Venezuela. The Conference discussed territorial waters, including fishing rights, transit through straits, and the exploitation of the resources of the sea-bed.

## Imperialist Strait Jacket

The old law of the sea, known as "freedom of the seas" or alternatively "Britannia rules the waves" was merely freedom for the biggest imperial powers to send their navies wherever they wanted. Not surprisingly it is no longer Britain but Russia who is the staunchest upholder of this traditional law of the seas - her warships are currently parading the Pacific, the Mediterranean, the Indian Ocean and wherever there is water.

The USSR and America want to enforce the right of "free passage" for any kind of ship through all straits, without recognising the right of the countries bordering the strait to be informed or withhold permission even when the passage of warships might be a threat to the security of those countries. The soviet revisionists recently called for the "internationalisation" of the Straits of Malacca, but met with the opposition of Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia, which in 1971 announced joint control of the Strait.

## 100% Exploitation or 200 Mile Limit?

At the first UN Conference on the Law of the Sea the superpowers had almost everything their own way. But the world is a different place now; China and Albania have emerged as bastions of socialism and revolution, the US has been thrown out of Vietnam and the independent countries are refusing to be browbeaten by the superpowers. The Latin American countries took the lead in declaring their right to jurisdiction over the sea up to 200 miles from their shores. Any ship intruding into the waters of Peru, Ecuador or Mexico is taken into custody and fined. Over 80 countries, some of them having no coasts of their own, now recognise the politically imperative need to break the superpowers' monopoly of the seas. The Soviet Union was not able to force the conference to require a 9/10 majority for its decisions, but had to accept the decision of 2/3 of members present and voting, without the power to veto. Seeing the enormous support the 200 mile limit had, the Soviet Union conceded, but tried to insist on conditions which would make it ridiculous. Since the coastal countries "lacked the superior technology of the Russians" and might not be able to catch "one hundred per cent of the fish", the Soviet Union proposed that foreign countries had the right to fish in those zones "on the basis of indiscriminate". Thus the Soviet Union upholds the inalienable right of every fish to be caught, and saves coastal countries from having "the useless death" of uncaught fish on their consciences. 240,000 tons of fish died nobly in the cause of Soviet imperialism in the Indian Ocean in 1971, compared with only 4600 tons who enjoyed that right in 1964, while thousands of Pakistani fishermen were done out of a livelihood.

Both the Albanian and the Chinese delegate condemned all the superpowers' crocodile tears over uncaught fish, and their hypocritical talk of 'detente' while their warships patrolled the oceans. The Albanian delegate supported the right of all coastal countries to a territorial zone of at least 12 miles and exclusive jurisdiction over an economic zone of up to 200 miles. The superpowers have already seen the united strength of the third world countries in the Arab oil embargo. No wonder the Russians consider this firm stand on maritime law 'a grave threat' as Gorshkov, Head of the Soviet navy, remarked.

## WEST GERMANY

# 'Roter Morgen' Surmounts Ban

"Banned!" That was the headline of a recent issue of ROTER MORGEN, paper of the KPD/ML (Communist Party of Germany Marxist-Leninist). A previous issue had been banned for telling the truth about the murder of a worker by the West German police.

The worker, Gunther Routhier, had gone with his son, a party member, to demonstrate against the sacking of his shop steward. The police attacked the workers,



and when Comrade Gunther tried to intervene, he was savagely beaten about the head and dragged off. He died in hospital of a brain haemorrhage.

The Party, at a specially convened meeting, granted the dying man's request to become a member of the KPD/ML.

Despite the ban, the KPD/ML now over six years old, succeeded in distributing ROTER MORGEN and telling German workers the truth.

## Footnote To Flixborough

Last year in a Birmingham factory criminal negligence on the part of management caused an explosion in which six workers were killed. In a recent judgement on this case, Imperial Metal Industries which pleaded guilty to failing to clear a building of explosive ingredients before repair work was started, was charged under the Explosives Act 1875 and fined ... exactly £10.

That puts a value of less than £2 on the life of a worker. No wonder employers think workers are being overpaid.

## Research Workers Right to Work

Medical research workers at the Drug Addiction Unit of the Institute of Psychiatry are in dispute over their right to continue their work without interference or police 'help'. Their work involves research into cases of drug addiction. Victorious tactics have been used to provoke pickets at the institute to 'violate' the 'law' in attempts to remove them.

The researchers, members of ASTMS, have persevered with their tactics. There is now talk of an 'independent' enquiry. The question research workers pose is that only they themselves are capable of judging the necessity and success of their work, so of what use is such an enquiry.

# Brazilian People Fighting Fascism

It is now ten years since the fascist coup which established the pro-American military dictatorship in Brazil. Despite claims of 'developing the economy' and 'establishing order and security', fascist rule has meant that the most important sectors of the economy are directly controlled by foreign interests, particularly American, whose vast profits are obtained at the expense of the Brazilian people. A large part of the Amazon area, rich in mineral resources, is actually owned by foreign companies. The results of this victorious exploitation by foreign capital,

supported by the ruling elite, are shocking; more than three million unemployed; basic necessities rocketing in price; malaria, tuberculosis and leprosy are rampant, and 60 per cent of the population is illiterate.

The Brazilian ruling class has made every effort to stamp out democratic movements throughout Latin America, terrified that the 'disease' might 'infect' their own country. Tied economically to US apron strings they have forced neighbouring countries into a similarly dependent relationship with themselves.

To survive, the regime resorts to full-scale terror and repression within Brazil, operated by the infamous 'Death Squads'. 12,000 Brazilians have been imprisoned, and 500 have died under torture. But repression breeds resistance, and resistance has grown steadily. Despite tremendous difficulties, the Communist Party of Brazil has led the fight against fascism for twelve years, during which time many communists have given their lives.

A new stage in the struggle was reached with the formation two years ago of a revolutionary movement in Araguaia, in the south of the state of Para. Correct in their struggle, and supported by the vast mass of the people, they formed a united front, the Union for the Freedom and Rights of the People.

On October 7th last year the government launched its third major offensive against the partisans (two previous attacks had failed miserably). Thousands of soldiers poured into the area, torturing and killing indiscriminately, and razing whole villages to the ground.

When the people fight their oppressors, however, military force in the conventional sense means nothing. The partisan forces use guerrilla tactics: constantly vigilant, they avoid all-out confrontations with the government troops; if necessary, they retreat and reform in small mobile groups to preserve their forces. In September, for example, a group of partisans successfully attacked a military police post, taking their arms, and expelling the soldiers from the region. The soldiers had been universally detested for their treatment of the local peasants. As the struggle develops, more and more people from the towns and villages join the partisan forces.

These frenzied attacks by the Brazilian government, backed to the hilt by American imperialism, reveal their fear of the importance of the movement. The courage and heroism of the partisans and the people of Araguaia is a spark that will eventually spread throughout Latin America, spelling the end of all domination of the people by fascism and imperialism.

## FUND THE NHS!

The nurses' campaign for increased pay continues. Brighton nurses have staged walkouts and a leaflet issued by nurses of the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) says in part:

"Our demand for higher wages has been in front of the government for two months now. During that time we have had every kind of delaying tactic and moral blackmail used against us. No serious attempt to meet our demands has been made - even the Halsey inquiry (the only concrete concession made by Mrs. Castle) is unlikely to report before the end of the year. The only attempt the government has made is to get us back to work, to get us to call off the action, to settle the dispute through the 'proper channels'. But the 'proper channels' have brought us to the position of lowest paid workers in the country, a position the government would be glad to have us keep.

"What difference does it make to us whether Labour or Tory supervise inflation, a deteriorating standard of living, unemployment and all the other ills that beset our class, and have done since the 1800's? None at all - our demand is for the best for all workers, and this demand is not negotiable. Let them find the money to pay our wages and fund the N.H.S. however they will, otherwise we strike again, and even harder."

## Outrage in South Korea

In South Korea, the fascist regime of President Park has illegally arrested thousands of democratic figures, students and young people. Park has been faced with a growing movement for democratic rights and reunification with North Korea. In the first batch of people tried by the military tribunal, 14 were sentenced to death and the remaining 39 were given long periods of imprisonment.

All progressive humanity will denounce the outrages in South Korea.

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