

# THE WORKER



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## You can't serve two masters

When the full-time convenor of the Felixstowe workers accepted an invitation to become the first worker - director on the board of the Felixstowe Dock and Railway Company, his work mates promptly sacked him as their convenor.

The new convenor elected by the workers to replace the new 'director' put the matter very simply: "We knew he couldn't serve us and them. It had to be one or the other."

The sacked convenor complained of the men's decision that he could not wear two caps, pointing out that 'worker participation' is "the policy of their union, the TGWU, of the TUC and is soon going through Parliament."

The Felixstowe workers have shown that they have too firm a grasp of the essentials of class struggle to be taken in by their own union leadership, the TUC or the Labour Government on this question of whether workers will have any real say in how industry is run till they have taken state power themselves.

The Ryder report urged British Leyland to adopt 'worker participation' as "the most crucial factor in improving industrial relations and in creating the conditions in which productivity can be increased" or, in other words, to bring about industrial peace and higher profits.

### MINERS TOO

The NUM has taken a similar stand in rejecting Benn's advice in July that: "the mining industry was ripe for advance towards workers' control through participation in management." Miners are not interested in the TUC's proposals for 50 per cent worker-director representation on supervisory boards. "We might be interested in 51 per cent representation on the National Coal Board."

Moves towards 'workers' participation' or, as it is sometimes called, 'industrial democracy', are also being made by Chrysler, Harland and Wolff and GEC. The idea is to enable these companies "to take advantage of the ideas, enthusiasm and energy of workers" in raising productivity. This is precisely what has happened in the factories and farms of the socialist countries like China and Albania where the talents and skills of the working people have been released in enormous industrial and agricultural gains; but these workers are working for themselves,

not to put more profits in the pockets of capitalists.

The irony of this attempt by Government and employers to fool workers into thinking they can have some say in running their own factories and farms under capitalism is that it started as a proposal of the ultra-leftists in the movement for 'workers' control'.

Other workers will have to give the same answer to these schemes as the Felixstowe dockers: "You can't serve two masters. If you join them you're no longer one of us."

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## CAPITALISM'S FIFTH COLUMN

The organised working class of Britain is in grave danger -- and not simply because the capitalist ruling class and its government are determined to defend profits by slashing wages to the bone and creating a huge reserve army of unemployed.

That is nothing new. It has been the response of the employing class to every economic crisis since the dawn of the capitalist era.

What is new is that the capitalist class is no longer able to do this in the old way.

The main form of the ruling class's inability to rule in the old way is its absolute dependence on social democracy within the working class to be able to rule at all. It can no longer win in direct confrontations with our class like the attempt to impose the Industrial Relations Act which was smashed by workers under the leadership of the engineers nor like the more narrowly-based attempt to isolate and defeat the miners.

The Labour Government's 'In Place of Strife', the blueprint for the Industrial Relations Act, could not be fastened onto the labour movement even with full TUC support. Nor until the social democratic leadership of unions like the T & GWU had joined the Labour Government, the CBI and the TUC in forging a restrictive wages policy could it appear as a limitation acceptable to the labour movement.

The Industrial Relations Court destroyed itself trying to impose on the AUEW from outside its 'right' to determine who should and who should not be a member of the union; but the social democratic attack on union democracy from within has enabled the ordinary courts of the land to intervene on the crucial question of who is to represent the engineers on their own National Committee, and the courts are being invited to intervene again in the matter of elections to the Executive Council. Social democracy (bourgeois democracy) is the exact opposite of working class democracy. Only the fight for democracy in the unions, real working class democracy, can deprive of their base such social democratic collaborators with the enemy as the £6 flat rate operators.

### What is social democracy?

Social democracy is the working class's own reluctance to fight which has become the class enemy's main weapon against us. It is the working class's attempt to avoid political struggle by delegating the 'politics' to others that sustains the Labour Party as capitalism's principal instrument against us.

The whole philosophy of reformism instead of revolution, of seeking gradual improvements within the capitalist system instead of smashing it, of avoiding struggle by capitulation and class collaboration is simply the ideological form of the working class's delusion that it can evade all out class struggle by any other means than abject defeat. It is the exact opposite of working class ideology which is nothing but revolutionary confrontation with the class enemy for the final emancipation of workers from wage slavery.

In the present situation social democracy counsels us not to fight but to wheedle the Government to do something about rising prices and un-employment when the Government, on behalf of capitalism, has brought about those very conditions. Working class democracy is using our own strength to prevent the class enemy and its Government from imposing a lower standard of living through either wage cuts or unemployment.

Every grave danger is also, properly understood, a great opportunity. The fact that the main threat is within us means that purging our own ranks and our own minds of capitalism's Fifth Column, social democracy, is all that is still required for revolution by a powerful united working class, willing to fight against being ruled in the old way.

## Albania hammers imperialist deceit

Moscow's new move for a total ban on nuclear weapons tests is designed to condemn forever the peoples of various nations to a position of unpreparedness and weakness and make them powerless in the face of the superpowers, according to a recent article in the Albanian paper "Zeri i Popullit".

The Soviet Government wants the current 30th session of the United Nations general assembly to discuss the question of concluding "a treaty on a full and universal ban on nuclear weapon tests".

The article draws attention to a mass of facts to show that both the Soviet Union and the United States are engaged in feverish arms race and war preparations. They have never been sincerely interested in solving the problems of disarmament.

So what is their game? According to the Albanians, "They try to lull the vigilance of the people with their pacifist slogans and deceptive disarmament agreements and force them to come under their nuclear umbrella."

The article talks of the need to oppose such machinations, reject the pious pacifist talk; press for the abolition of imperialist blocs and military bases for aggression, and to get troops out of foreign lands. Only thus will come peace and genuine security.

It was Albania alone of all the European nations that refused to participate in the deception of the Helsinki Conference in July. Their stand had been indicated by Enver Hoxha when he said in an electoral speech of 1974:

"Where does security of the peoples of Europe or of the peoples

of the world lie? Does it lie in the public or mysterious travels of a certain Kissinger, of a certain Gromyko or in the tricks of a certain Breznev who is bleeding the Soviet and the other peoples white, in the travels of a certain Nixon who drowned the world in blood and guided the American mafia to Watergate bugging and cover up, a most shameful scandal which shook the whole of America? And the future of the world should be entrusted to this kind of people? A fine future indeed!

Of course, those who have placed their trust in those tragic illusions are free to attend the meetings in Vienna, Helsinki and anywhere they like. Let them play with one another. But we too, are free not to go to those meetings. This is what is most important to us."

# INDUSTRIAL FRONT



# Steeled in Struggle

## The sabotage of British textiles

An aura of gloom and doom surrounds the textile industry, once a leading factor in the economy of Britain. Production levels have fallen in most sectors, and in the year since August 1974, employment has fallen by 8.5 per cent. In the north-west 3000 workers have lost their jobs since the beginning of the year and over 4000 have lost employment in the woolen and worsted trade which is concentrated in the west Yorkshire area. If anything, the forecast of the prospects for the knitwear and hosiery industries of the East Midlands are even blacker.

The 'patriotic' capitalists declare that imports of 'cheap' foreign goods are to blame for the removal of industry and work.

What gall! Since when have the bourgeoisie in any country and particularly in Britain, balked at exporting investment capital to countries such as Hong Kong, Taiwan and Portugal - the principal producers of textiles imported into Britain - in their search for higher profits?

Further, the wool textile manufacturers openly campaign in favour of the EEC, in favour then, of the de-industrialisation of Britain, of the smashing, of our working class organisations.

## Lockout with a difference

Faced with a management that refused even to talk about a threatened 170 redundancies, workers at Masson, Scott and Thriassell in Bristol took immediate steps to remind all concerned who is really dispensable in the work place.

On Monday, 8th September, union stewards were up at the crack of dawn to organise a factory-gate picket with a difference! Instead of keeping the men out, they refused entry to all management personnel. They showed the real overmanning problem in British industry when it was found that eliminating the management drones made no difference at all to the effective running of the factory. Later that day a mass meeting endorsed the stewards' action and within hours the managing director agreed to the men's demand for talks. The immediate demand being won, the lock-out of management was terminated the same day.

Subsequently, the 170 planned redundancies were reduced to 125 and notices were delayed to await 'volunteers' to fill that number. Not surprisingly, with 1½ million unemployed, there were not enough volunteers and now management has nominated those its wants to go willy-nilly. The great majority nominated are on the staff side, including stewards in APEX and TASS; shop floor workers (AUEW) have been left alone partly, no doubt, because of management's reluctance to draw into the fight those who have made clear that "nobody will have to go, who doesn't want to". All unions involved have passed resolutions opposing redundancies, now those directly threatened must take the initiative in passing from 'talks' back to industrial action with full confidence that they will be supported by the rest of the workforce.

## Opposition to Labour Government

The following resolution was passed unanimously by the Brighton Branch of the EEUPTU on September 5th, and was sent to the EC of the EEUPTU.

Resolution opposing the "Labour" Government's anti-working class policies.

We, the Brighton branch of the EEUPTU oppose the attempt of the "Labour" Government to solve the economic crisis at the expense of the working class.

We do not accept the alternative being offered of high unemployment or reduction in living standards (in fact we have both). Neither do we accept the slashing of the Social Services which will lead to further unemployment and hardship for working class families.

We urge our union to fight for full employment and to oppose all attempts by the state to interfere in free collective bargaining. A union is its members and its duty is to them.

## Throwing it all away

When motorcycle workers at Wolverhampton showed off their new machine, they were unwell more than just the bike. They were demonstrating for all to see the waste of skill, of experience, of effort, the sheer waste of time that is capitalism.

For this machine, in technical terms, a stepped-piston two-stroke, a masterpiece of design, represents perhaps the fourth qualitative leap-forward this century - a two-stroke, yet running on pure petrol, with nothing but oil in the crankcase. Thus they have solved several major problems - improved combustion and lubrication, reduced noise, and pollution.

This new engine was designed under licence at the former Norton works by two of Britain's most experienced engineers in their field. Then in February, "Norton Triumph (Europe) Incorporated ordered work to be stopped. It was only restarted when the works was closed altogether, and the workers whom this firm had ludicrously called redundant, while picketing the plant, enthusiastically set about building the prototype behind their picket. Another proof of how little workers need the boss.

During the same week, Norton also sacked its whole racing and development team, including Peter Williams, known worldwide for his combined expertise on the race track and in engineering development.

Here lies ample proof that it is not British workers who are useless, but the system which has squandered our skills for 200 years. Not we who should be redundant, but British Capitalism (Europe) Incorporated.

## Victory at Hirwaun

The success of the people of Hirwaun in getting British Gas to apply for planning permission to re-site natural gas storage tanks is a lesson in correct tactics. They have maintained a 5 year round-the-clock picket with reinforcements from local factories. In times of need, against the siting of - the storage tanks near their homes as a hazard to safety and the environment.

The action group heralded the announcement as a victory for local people to have a say in such matters. Meanwhile the picket will continue until the new site is definitely fixed.

## NUPE

As the government's attack on public services grows stronger, and local authorities as well as central government agencies attempt to impose ever greater cuts, the anger of the members of the Unions directly involved has forced even the most social-democratic of Union leaders to make some sort of stand.

Thus the representative of the National Union of Public Employees moved the successful motion at the recent Trades Union Congress opposing all public expenditure cuts and calling for the maintenance of the standards of the public services. However, in a recent issue of NUPE's journal, the Executive Council made their true position clear.

The report says: "Recognising the responsibility of the trade union movement in helping to maintain the Labour government in office the EC emphasised that they were not seeking to provoke an industrial confrontation with the Government". In other words, they call for opposition to the cuts, while discouraging their members from taking any such action.

However, this sense of responsibility to a capitalist government does not extend throughout the Union. Many are now taking up the fight in a real way. For example in Southwark, a borough in south London where massive reductions in staffing and sweeping 'redeployment' have been threatened, motions opposing all cuts and supporting action against them have been passed at branch and district committee level and have been made the policy of the workers' representatives on the borough's consultative committee.

An activist in the campaign against the cuts, a nursery nurses' shop steward, and secretary of the London Day Nurseries Branch of NUPE told THE WORKER, "More and more of our members are recognising these cuts for what they are - an attack on all working people. This government is determined to destroy all we have won over the last century, and we are just as determined to defend it, and to win more. They choose to represent a system which lives by attacking us: there can be no identity of interest between us. But this fight is not just for us working in the public services, it is a matter for all workers, and all Unions".

Any dispute is rarely the simple cut-and-dried confrontation as presented by the capitalist press, who in the case of the present dispute involving 13,500 blast-furnacemen, have sought to hide the real issues of jobs and the industry's future by stressing wage demands of £120 - £140 per week. Because of the low demand for steel, low production in Europe and stockpiling by the consumers and stockholders, the management of British Steel have sought confrontation within the industry.

This confrontation manifested itself at the new £65m. plant at Llanwern with the installation of a new type of blastfurnace that is capable of doubling production and the loss of jobs through demanning. The National Union of Blastfurnacemen rightly took up the challenge to that which would have proved detrimental to workers throughout the industry. The management pushed the confrontation further by clocking-off a union member without consultation.

The belligerence of the management was attacked by the NUB general secretary when he stated that the Corporation had not shown "...any degree of perception or common sense" and that "...the whole affair could have been negotiated in a sensible and amicable manner".

This led to a certain amount of brinkmanship by a call for a national strike of NUB members. The call was anticipated by workers walking off the job at Cardiff East Moors, Port Talbot, Cleveland, Corby and Scunthorpe.

At the discussions that followed, the management, realising that they had bitten off more than they could chew, took a different line than previously by reinstating the suspended worker with normal payment for the period of suspension, by agreeing that the new plant will not be worked and the status quo will be maintained.

## Building workers sit tight

When Cammell Laird, the Birkenhead shipbuilding firm, sacked Peter Lind, a firm of building contractors, from its site in February this year, 200 former Peter Lind building workers occupied the admin. offices of Cammell Laird and 'confiscated' £1 million-worth of plant and machinery in a bid to secure their jobs. They wanted assurances that because of their employer's incompetence, they would not be thrown on the dole.

Over the ensuing four months, the sit-in workers were served with numerous High Court writs demanding that they return the machinery and vacate the offices; all of these, because they were ignored, were ineffective. However, because the occupation was proving to be a stalemate, with the workers and their families suffering constant harassment from police, security firms and private detectives, the men voted to withdraw from the occupation and return the plant. They had cost Cammell Laird dearly in court costs and now shifted their struggle to the picket line.

The new contract for building the slipway had, meanwhile, been given to Wimpey, who used stormtrooper tactics to get through the picket line: on 11th August and following days, police bodily removed the pickets,

pending a public court of inquiry which will not be binding on negotiations to be re-opened after the inquiry.

The public inquiry is to be held by the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service with TUC General Secretary, Len Murray, in the wings. Murray has commented already that it was a "...credit to the level-headedness and sense of responsibility" by negotiators on both sides that averted the catastrophe and that the nation generally and trade unionists will be relieved.

Such praise from such a quarter should always make us workers look to see what we did wrong. The anger of the NUB was understandable as part of the realisation that the capitalist state is one of the worst of employers. Without that anger and that sectional opposition the blastfurnacemen would not have been able to halt even temporarily the managements' actions against their interests.

But anger is not enough. Sectional militancy is not enough. If the main issue in connection with the installation of the new plant had been the right to work throughout the industry and if the demand had been made that not one more job in steel would be sacrificed, then the whole work force, a hundred thousand strong, could have been mobilised behind the threat of a national strike the BSC could not have ignored.

And if, making the kind of use of the EEC the capitalist class always intended, management countered with a threat to import steel from the continent to break the strike, that steel would have been blacked and no dockers in the country would have touched it. Who knows better than the dockers the use capitalists make of new equipment not to increase production but to increase profits by cutting the labour force?

In just one week, over 1000 police were used to restrain the pickets and allow the coaches carrying Wimpey workers through the gates. Faced with a mass picket of Merseyside workers, rallying to the support of the Peter Lind men, Wimpey gave vent to bellicose threats: they would if necessary use helicopters and boats to get their men in! Instead, they gave them the day off!

Latest developments are that, faced with mass support from other building workers - including the Wimpey men who have realised that their employer is not defending their interests (what's sauce for the Peter Lind goes, is sauce for the Wimpey gander when it comes to layoffs) - Wimpey have consented to negotiations with the Peter Lind men. However, their offer is plainly calculated to sow division among the pickets who remain after this long seven-month struggle. Wimpey are offering just 22 jobs with five of those effectively Wimpey nominations. It doesn't take a genius to work out that the leaders of the struggle would soon be squeezed out. The Peter Lind men are being cautious and now, aided by the Wimpey men who are threatening strike action unless a satisfactory deal is reached soon, their tenacity looks like paying off.



A women's surveying team in the new Takang oilfield.



Chinese scientists have developed a new cereal, octoploid triticale. It is disease-resistant, higher in protein than wheat, and has a high yield.

## SOMETHING TO CELEBRATE

The working people of China will have governed their own country for 26 years this October. The results of their energy and enthusiasm in building a new China for the people are shown in these photographs. They have relied on their own people and on developing their industry using native raw materials. Land-reclamation, railway construction, house-building, heavy and light industry all need so much labour that unemployment has been unknown for years. Since the Great Leap Forward of 1958 China's rising production of radios, watches, bicycles, clocks, detergents etc., testifies to the increased purchasing power of the Chinese and their improved standards of living. A people who have so successfully overthrown capitalism can be justly proud on their National Day.

Over 10 per cent of China is desert. The peasants of Mongolia, with the resources of their commune behind them, plant shrubs and trees to reclaim thousands of square kilometres of land for crops.



## U.N. and China

In recent years the military struggle against colonial domination has found a diplomatic arena. At the United Nations 30th General Assembly there have been continuing disagreements with all the imperialist countries over the terms of aid to the underdeveloped countries and with the US over the admission of North and South Vietnam as full members. The US Ambassador's threat to cut off financial support if the majority of members did not stop voting against the US has been largely ignored.

For 20 years the US, Britain and other imperialists have tried to use the UN for their own ends. Now the position is reversed and China, whom they tried to keep out, is leading the moves to isolate the imperialists. All this would not have been possible without the victorious national liberation struggles in Africa and Asia.

As soon as a unanimous resolution on relations between the developed and underdeveloped countries (including aid) was passed at the UN, the various imperialist countries (including USSR) issued qualifications and their own interpretation of what the resolution meant. One of the underdeveloped countries' proposals which was attacked was the indexing of raw material prices to the export prices of industrial countries.

The imperialist countries cannot accept such proposals because they run counter to the whole purpose of their 'aid' - which is to dominate the economies of the underdeveloped countries. They do this by lending capital at excessive interest rates, so that the 'aided' countries can buy often obsolete machinery at inflated prices. In return all they ask is to control the raw materials of these countries. Still less can the imperialists countenance the low interest loans with no strings attached which China gives developing countries. An example of this is the Tanzanian railway, down which the first wagon-loads of copper ran earlier this month. It has not entailed the selling of mineral rights to a multinational company and the Tanzanian economy will be stronger, not weaker for the aid given. Contrast this with the sordid involvement of the US in South America as revealed in the Watergate scandal.

But even if so-called non-aligned countries were to extract genuine aid from the imperialists, it would still not guarantee their independence. Non-alignment is an illusory concept. The world today is divided into two camps: the imperialist camp led by the US and USSR, and the Socialist camp led by China and Albania. UN members cannot stand on the sidelines suspended in mid-air, for neutrality is always in practice a stand on one side or the other.

## France

In France 600,000 young people have been unemployed since the last summer holiday. Another 600,000 will join them at the end of this school year.

Under great pressure by the workers' actions, the French government made a move to 'help' the unemployed. ... An incentive of £60 will be granted to the employers for each young worker they employ. During the first year at work, considered a training period, they will produce commodities entirely free for the employers since their wages will be refunded to the capitalists by

the government, out of the taxpayers' money.

And this is likely to continue indefinitely, with the capitalists sacking the lot at the end of the year and employing a new batch of free labour. Unemployment, short time, dismissals and increased repression have called forth a determined and immediate answer from the French working class. In the present wave of struggle over 50 factories in a wide variety of industries - from printing to textiles - are being occupied as part of the fight for the right to work.

## Extension of limits a patriotic act

The British Government has at last awakened to the fact that 200-mile limits are 'a betting certainty' but doesn't want to take unilateral action pending the outcome of the United Nations International Law of the Sea Conference (ILSC). Even so, it is necessary to move before this to protect our resources, making agreements with nations affected, as so many other countries have done. In this way the ILSC will be presented with a fait accompli, which the superpowers would have to accept.

For millennia people and countries have protected their resources and extended their control over the shoreline and adjacent sea. As far back as 1613 William Welwood stated that it was "the primitive and exclusive right of the inhabitants of a country to the fisheries along their coasts" By the early 19th century a fishing limit of 3 miles was accepted by all maritime nations, but attempts by small countries to go further were sabotaged by the imperialist powers. In fact it was the socialist Soviet Union that took a major step in the breakthrough

when in 1925 it extended its limits to 12 miles. In this case it was difficult to ignore this extension of national sovereignty.

Throughout the 1950's Iceland enlarged its limits, but this was opposed by the British Government, leading to a series of Cod Wars. In 1964 there was international agreement on the 12-mile line and at this time Britain was behind in implementation, which led to poaching of our fishing grounds. In 1973 Iceland pushed up to 50 miles, producing the latest of the "Cod Wars". Then we said in the Worker, "The 'reasonable' posture of the British ruling class in the Iceland dispute is just a 'cover-up' operation for, just as in Ireland, there is a still continuing history of exploitation and oppression!"

Since then many Latin American and other third world countries have extended their limits up to 200 miles. The ILSC has been prevented from legalising this by the manoeuvres of the superpowers, for they see that the small nations' assertion of sovereignty at sea threatens to

curb their naval power, an important lynchpin of their military domination. Conversely their hegemonic aims are served by their 'missionary' fishing fleets, invariably followed by their battleships and submarines.

Norway has this year established no-trawl zones and seek eventually to establish 200-mile exclusive economic areas, with the agreement of concerned countries. Iceland has declared its intention to extend its limits to 200 miles from 15th October, which has led to talks with Britain, with the aim of replacing the present 50-mile accord with a new one to cover the new situation.

In the past year British trawler workers have been calling for an extension of limits to at least 50 miles. This correct stand is necessary to protect the West Scottish herring spawning ground and to prevent overfishing by the Soviet Union and Poland with small mesh nets in the North Sea. Membership of the EEC could jeopardise our sovereignty by making a 50 or 200 mile limit a farce, with Holland or Germany able to call our sea their own.

# More teachers .. not fewer 30th anniversary of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam

The executive of the National Union of Teachers has issued a declaration to continue "to resist with all the authority and power at its disposal the compulsory transfer of teachers, non-filling of vacancies and any deterioration in staffing standards" in schools.

The declaration is noble but the stance is defensive and it will be up to teachers to change the terrain of battle.

The Government has just released a circular on local authority expenditure for 1976-77. In regard to education it states that there is "no scope for improvement of standards" and that "standards of material provision and up-keep of premises must remain below the level generally accepted as desirable in the recent past."

On staffing in particular the circular says that for pupils in the compulsory age range, "the aim should be to maintain, but not to improve, existing staff ratios. While some authorities will need to increase their teaching staffs for this purpose, those authorities with a falling population, mainly large urban areas, should reduce their teaching staff proportionately."

The teachers have already registered their demand for improved staffing and for more teachers.

Firstly, the teachers want smaller classes, but larger staffs are required for a whole host of other reasons. There needs to be more remedial work. Teachers need to be released for in-service training, to assist newly qualified colleagues for curricular planning, and for marking, preparation and administrative activities. There needs to be more teachers to cover those who are ill. Teachers are carrying an insufferable workload and the education provided is inferior.

The response, then, to the Government's offensive is not merely to resist redundancy but to demand more teachers. The resources are there.

All around the country, Divisions and Local Associations of the NUT have been opposing staffing cutbacks.

Temporary successes have been won. The Inner London Education Authority has conceded that non of its 25,000 teachers would be made redundant. There will be no compulsory transfer. But some part-time staff are not being engaged and there is little prospect of employment for newly qualified teachers next year. There has, none the less, been a 'pruning' of London staffs achieved through "natural wastage".



On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam, the Vietnamese Embassy in London held a photographic exhibition illustrating graphically the struggles and achievements of the glorious Vietnamese people.

Various sections of the exhibition

catalogued the fight against French imperialism, US imperialism, the devastation wrought on that beautiful country, and the efforts now in progress to rebuild it. Further sections were devoted to Ho Chi Minh, Uncle Ho to the Vietnamese people.

The photographs, many of them

never seen before in Britain and including some inspiring pictures of the liberation of the south, portrayed vividly the heroism of a people fighting against imperialism using people's war against 'superior' technology. It was an inspiration to all who had the privilege to visit it.

## Shouting in the dark

The new Bristol Polytechnic campus site at Coldharbour Lane, known locally as Colditz, has now been officially opened by Lord Crowther-Hunt. The celebrations were especially inappropriate in view of the education cutbacks, which have cost the new campus two of the three projected student villages, the student health centre, as well as numerous academic facilities. To add insult to injury, a 10 per cent all round budget reduction for the Polytechnic has just been ordered. 1750 off site students, due to begin courses there will find transport to the campus consists of one country bus every half hour.

Unmoved by the Government's generosity, the students interrupted Crowther-Hunt's peroration by playing a Wagnerian funeral march at full volume, and slow marching past with a coffin bearing the alleged remains of the "bigger purpose built campus" in Britain. Attempts to silence the musical cortege by cutting off the power also succeeded in plunging the hall in darkness and, mercifully, silencing the P.A. system which the wretched Crowther-Hunt was using. He was, accordingly, reduced to shouting in the dark, which cynics may feel to be symbolically appropriate.

## British Troops Out

Day by day the people of the six counties of Northern Ireland suffer British imperial rule. This rule which has fostered disunity and civil strife for centuries is a cancer eating into the heart of Ireland. The presence of British troops which is 'justified' as necessary to 'protect the people serves only to foster sectarianism and the violence which is its derivative. The ever increasing list of victims of this situation makes it all the more imperative that we, the British working class, must raise our voices all the louder in the demand for the withdrawal of British troops.

Each week a new paramilitary group adds its set of initials to the tragedy that is Ulster today. Whether they label themselves republican or loyalist their terrorism serves only to reinforce Britain's hold and to deny the Irish people their right to national self determination. Their parliamentary counterparts are no better. At present they quibble over the 'issue' of power sharing or how best they can act as agents of British imperialism. The only power that is truly an issue is the power of the Irish people to rid themselves of foreign domination.

The Government in Dublin adds to their past treachery. In its every action it seeks to deny the birthright of the Irish people, the Irish nation. It subverts the 32 county republican constitution and betrays the past generations who sacrificed so much for the cause of the Republic.

Meanwhile Whitehall continues to turn out new schemes and constitutional proposals and the killing continues. Successive British Governments have juggled with statistics, options and majorities in the vain attempt to legitimise its colonial rule. In seeking to find a formula for 'responsible' government it ignores the true responsibilities; the responsibility of the British Government itself for the suffering of the Irish people, the responsibility of the Irish people to unite and build an independent nation, and the responsibility of the British working class to demand an end to what is being done in its name.

British workers with any respect for their fellow men cannot afford to ignore or evade their responsibilities. The call must be made constantly in every work place and trade union branch, withdraw the troops and recognise the sovereignty of the Irish people in their own land.

## Another Hull closure

Hard on the closure of Imperial Typewriters, another Hull firm faces execution. Sentence has been pronounced on 1200 workers in the Drypool Group, custodians of 500 years of shipbuilding skill on North Humberside, plus another 1000 employed on subcontract engineering work in Beverley, Selby and Bridlington. With the closure of Thorne Electronics and Sunblet Bakery, this

will push the local unemployment rate over the present record 7.8 per cent.

Drypool's proposed closure results from financial difficulties shared by all British shipyards. The employers talk of increased cost in the time lag between placing of orders and payment on completion. Temporary deficits have been filled by short-term loans at high interest rates.

leaving Drypool in debt. Three times this year the firm approached the Government for financial aid, but was refused. This led National Westminster, the Group's bankers, to refuse further security, leaving the way open for the Receiver.

Shipbuilding requires a stable programme of long-term investment, which the British industry last enjoyed in 1928. Since then finance companies and banks, which control the capital flow, have preferred quick-profit speculation in light consumer industries.

Since Drypool was due for nationalisation next year, it was generally expected that the Government would get the firm out of its present problems, but the Dept. of Trade and Industry has refused even to place naval orders with the British yard, despite the promise of ship-owners with half-finished vessels, to pool nearly £2 million as a saving fund.

The total value of orders at present is £12 million, including 2 offshore oil supply vessels (Drypool is the biggest British builder for North Sea oil and gas), 2 chemical tankers, 5 trawlers, and 2 tugs. The yard's traditions go back beyond the 'Bounty' of mutiny fame (1784) to the founding of no. 2 dry dock (still in use) in 1640. The workers are conscious of their irreplaceable craftsmanship and demand the right to work where they live not, as the employers have suggested, become migrant labour in France or Holland.

The workers have been promised wages until October 10, when the Receiver will make a final decision. Whether or not the yard will close will depend ultimately not on the graciousness of the Labour Government, but on the actions of the workers.

## Women's year exhibition

"The World as we see it", an exhibition of the work of women artists celebrating International Women's Year, will be on display at the St. Pancras Library (Shaw Theatre), 100 Euston Road, NW1 throughout October.

Among artists represented are Hilda Bernstein, Mary Louise Colouris, Gertrude Elias, Elizabeth Moore and Maureen Scott.

The exhibition is open on weekdays from 9.30 am to 8 pm and on Saturdays from 9.30 am to 5 pm.

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All to be held in the Bellman Bookshop, 155, Fortress Road, London N.W.5. at 7.30 p.m. unless otherwise stated.

- OCTOBER 3: "Common Market or Socialist Britain"  
10: "The Fight against Cuts is Revolutionary"  
17: "The Tragedy of Young Workers"  
24: "London Murder: The Destruction of a City"  
31: "Imperialism - The Dying Beast Lashes Out"  
NOVEMBER 7: "The State of Counter-Revolution"  
14: "The Role of the Party of the British Working Class"  
21: To be announced  
28: Celebrating Albania's National Day. Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, Nr. Holborn Station. 7.30 p.m.

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