

# THE WORKER



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**Chairman Mao Tsetung died at 00.10 am on September 9 th 1976**

# GREAT SADNESS AND A NEW RESOLVE

September 10, 1976

The Central Committee of the CPB(M-L) is profoundly shocked and grieved to learn about Chairman Mao's death. It sends its deepest fraternal condolences to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, all comrades and the people of China.

Like Marxist-Leninist parties throughout the world the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) grew up under the banner of Chairman Mao's Marxist thought. It was his gigantic contribution to Marxist understanding that helped all of us grasp the significance of uniting theory and practice and applying Marxism-Leninism to the national situation facing the working class. It was under his leadership that the struggle against modern revisionism, headed by Russia, attained clarity. Above all it was Chairman Mao's genius, which led the peasants and workers of China to overthrow millennia of exploitation and oppression and establish a socialist democratic state, that has given a new impetus to the working class of the world to chart its revolutionary course.

The phenomenal successes of socialist China and the strengthening of working class control through the great proletarian cultural revolution are and will remain the most tangible evidence of his mighty work not only for his own land but for the entire world.

Today revolutionaries throughout the five continents feel great sadness but also a new resolve. Mao Tsetung's work and thinking remain to instruct and illuminate the long bitter years ahead of fighting and destroying capitalism. Our strength and our determination, like that of the great Chinese people, must not falter. Then, as he wrote in one of his magnificent poems,

'We can clasp the moon in the Ninth Heaven  
And seize turtles deep down in the Five Seas;  
We'll return amid triumphant song and laughter.  
Nothing is hard in this world  
If you dare to scale the heights.'

R. Birch for Central Committee, CPB(M-L)



**On the  
death of  
Mao**

"All men must die, but death can vary in its significance. The ancient writer Szuma Chien said, 'though death befalls all men alike, it may be heavier than Mount Tai or lighter than a feather.' To die for the people is heavier than Mount Tai, but to work for the fascists and die for the exploiters is lighter than a feather."

His own death is many times heavier than Mount Tai and the hearts of the world's workers and peasants are heavy with this loss. But Mao Tsetung has also said: "Countless revolution-

ary martyrs have laid down their lives in the interests of the people, and our hearts are filled with pain as we the living think of them - can there be any personal interest, that we would not sacrifice or any error that we would not discard?"'

Workers everywhere will feel as their response to this loss, which fills our hearts with pain, a quickening of revolutionary zeal and this is the way a lasting monument will be raised to this great Marxist-Leninist leader and servant of the people.

# The Great Revolutionary

"How is Marxist-Leninist theory to be linked with the practice of the Chinese revolution? It is by shooting the arrow at the target. As the arrow is to the target, so is Marxism-Leninism to the Chinese revolution."

--Rectify the Party's Style of Work 1942

"What is a true bastion of iron? It is the masses, the million upon million of people who genuinely and sincerely support the revolution."

--Be concerned with the well-being of the masses 1938

"The present upsurge of the peasant movement is a colossal event. In a very short time... several hundred million peasants will rise like a mighty storm, like a hurricane, a force so swift and violent that no power, however great, will be able to hold it back."

--Report on Investigation of the Peasant Movement in Hunan 1927

"The revolutionary war is a war of the masses; it can be waged only by mobilising the masses and relying on them."

--Be Concerned with the Well-Being of the Masses 1934



## Philosopher who served the people

In one of his philosophical essays Mao Tsetung answers the question: where do correct ideas come from? "Do they drop from the skies? No. Are they innate in the mind? No. They come from social practice, and from it alone; they come from the three kinds of social practice, the struggle for production, the class struggle and scientific experiment." Our correct ideas come from the experience of working people down the ages in their productive efforts and in their struggles against oppression and exploitation.

ation.

This is the philosophical basis of the mass line: "from the masses, to the masses". Correct ideas come from the working masses, are formulated into revolutionary theory and are then given back to the masses again who recognise them as their own and are gripped by them and in this way these ideas become a material force for changing the world. Hence the injunction that only those who can learn from the masses can teach them.

"Liberate philosophy from the confines of the philosophers"

"The class struggle is by no means over. The class struggle between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie, the class struggle between the different political forces and the class struggle in the ideological field between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie will continue to be long and tortuous and at times will even become very acute... There are still a number of people who vainly hope to restore the capitalist system and they fight the working class on every front, including the ideological one."

--On the Correct Handling of Contradictions among the People 1956

"The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution is in essence a great political revolution under the conditions of socialism made by the proletariat against the bourgeoisie... It is a continuation of the prolonged struggle waged by the Chinese Communist Party and the masses."

-- 1968



On October 1, 1949, Chairman Mao announced to the world the founding of the People's Republic of China.

lecture rooms and text books and turn it into a sharp weapon in the hands of the masses." In 'On Contradiction' Mao Tsetung contributed to the process of turning the philosophy of the working class into such a sharp weapon by explaining dialectical materialism in the clearest possible way with instructions for its use written into the explanation. This account which incorporates the work on materialist dialectics of all the great Marxist theoreticians makes this method of solving problems more accessible than it has ever been before. From it can be learned the importance of isolating the principal contradiction in any complex situation which gives it its essential character, of distinguishing it from secondary contradictions, of recognising the principal and secondary aspects of the major contradiction and of handling correctly antagonistic and non-antagonistic contradictions.

The proof of this contribution is that Marxists everywhere have found it easier to use the tool of dialectical materialism in analysing and solving the problems with which they are faced.

In the ideological struggles in China over attempts to smuggle back reactionary habits and views under the guise of reviving Confucianism or over more recent attempts to re-open questions settled by the Proletarian Cultural Revolution the working people have thrown themselves into intellectual battle on behalf of correct revolutionary ideas and against all moves to restore capitalism and change China's colour. What this is coming to mean in China that for so long enjoyed Mao Tsetung's leadership is a whole nation of philosophers using Marxism creatively to defend socialism, to change society progressively and to change themselves in the process.

"Our principle is that the Party commands the gun and the gun must never be allowed to command the Party."

--Problems of War and Strategy 1938

"Weapons are an important factor in war, but not the decisive factor; it is people, not things, that are decisive. The contest of strength is not only a contest of military and economic power, but also a contest of human power and morale... The richest source of power to wage war lies in the masses of the people."

--On Protracted War 1938

"Ours are guerrilla tactics. They consist mainly of the following points: Divide our forces to arouse the masses; concentrate forces to deal with the enemy.

The enemy advances, we retreat; the enemy camps, we harass; the enemy tires, we attack; the enemy retreats, we pursue..."

--A Single Spark Can Start a Prairie Fire 1930

## Cultural Revolution : Monument to Mao

The Proletarian Cultural Revolution is the great social monument to the creative Marxism-Leninism of Mao Tsetung.

The October Revolution established the possibility of the working class seizing state power as the condition for building socialism. It was the Proletarian Cultural Revolution which established the possibility of the working class being able to hold onto that state power once seized and, with vigilance, defending socialism against class enemies within and without.

In dealing with these great issues Mao Tsetung profoundly deepened and enriched Marxism-Leninism. As he says of the period of socialist construction: "Socialist society covers a considerably long historical period. In the historical period of socialism, there are still classes, class contradictions and class struggle between the socialist road and the capitalist road, and there is the danger of the capitalist restoration. We must recognise the protracted and complex nature of this struggle. We must heighten our vigilance. We must conduct socialist educ-

ation. We must correctly understand and handle class contradictions and class struggle, distinguish the contradictions between ourselves and the enemy from those among the people and handle them correctly. Otherwise a socialist country like ours will turn into its opposite and degenerate, and a capitalist restoration will take place."

The key to the solution of this problem is the Cultural Revolution. "The proletariat must exercise all-round dictatorship over the bourgeoisie in the realm of the superstructure, including the various spheres of culture."

In the Soviet Union, despite the October Revolution, there was a capitalist restoration which followed the death of Stalin. The theoretical basis for this degeneration was provided by the revision of Marxism.

Our Party, the CPB(ML) was born out of the anti-revisionist struggle in the world movement in which the Chinese Communist Party under Mao Tsetung's chairmanship played a momentous role.

## HULL FISH BOBBERS

We reported in THE WORKER (Issue 16) how the bobbers who unload fish in Hull, when threatened with redundancy, answered with offers to take cuts in pay to save jobs. But the bosses naturally continued with their plans nonetheless. This showed the bobbers that no victory is won by retreat.

They turned round and imposed a work-to-rule and go-slow. After a two month dispute, during which the management sent trawlers to other ports, transporting fish across Britain to Hull and encouraging

blacklegging by staff and trawler crews, the bobbers have won a partial victory - the management have withdrawn the redundancies. But they have also said that they intend to review the situation in the new year.

This means the war will continue. The bobbers must not be timorous: they should prepare for the battle to come, and make it plain to the bosses that they don't intend to be meek and that they have learnt that force can only be opposed by force.

## ISLE OF GRAIN

The struggle for the building of the Isle of Grain power station continued. The 850 men sacked by Babcock and Wilcox - agents of the Central Electricity Generating Board - have now been out of work for 13 weeks. They were sacked for supporting 28 men who refused to work with glass fibre unless given protective clothing. A continuous picket of the site has been effective in cutting the supply of materials to the site. All work will soon grind to a halt.

Recently a demonstration called by the Isle of Grain Joint Shop Stewards Committee stopped work at the site for two hours to discuss the situation. This was supported by about 600 men, including 200 from the nearby BP oil refinery, who stopped work in sympathy.

The dismissed workers have a cast-iron case. A report from the Industrial Hygiene Unit, called in by the unions, stated that glass fibre dust levels on the site were thirty times as high as the danger level. However, the safety of workers has never bothered capitalism. Babcock and Wilcox even tried to prevent the Unit from taking the measurements! When confronted with its report, they laid down their conditions for a return to work - higher productivity, a poorer bonus scheme, sub-contractors to be given work on the site (thus breaking the powerful

## Teachers active as term begins

As the 1976-77 school year opened amidst unprecedented difficulties and disorder, teachers throughout the country were already proceeding with their campaign in defence of education.

New tougher guidelines have been despatched by the National Union of Teachers to its divisions in an effort to challenge not only local authorities who are trying to cut staffing levels but also those whose staffing levels are already bad.

The Union has recommended action in Stockport where staffing standards are reputed to be the worst in the country. Stockport has 278 classes of 35 or more in its 126 primary schools.

Sanctions against teacher shortage are being applied already in Cumbria, Devon, Knowsley, Lancashire, Leicestershire and Surrey. The action will be sharpened and oversize classes will now be directly challenged.

In Oxfordshire a severe threat to books, equipment, and the jobs of 500 teachers has led to plans for a half-day strike by the county's teachers on September 21, the day the

## Veto US

### Imperialism !

The US Government will veto Vietnam's admission to the United Nations because the Vietnamese are unable to account for all the soldiers and airmen sent against them in acts of mass murder during the war of US aggression. US imperialism notorious for its brutal crimes against the world's people in the interest of monopoly-capitalist profits has the colossal cheek to try to justify this exclusion on the grounds that Vietnam is not sufficiently "peace loving and humanitarian" for membership!

The people of the US who repudiated the vicious war waged in their name must denounce their Government for this act of spite against the Vietnamese people.

#### Brent nurses

At the Central Middlesex Hospital, Brent, in London, the staff have begun to fight back against unemployment.

Six newly qualified nurses at this hospital were refused employment because of "lack of money". The nurses, who are all from overseas, would therefore have been forced to leave Britain.

In response, more than 100 hospital workers staged a sit-in of the administration block until officials agreed to consider taking the nurses on for another three months.

## Equal Pay-Dialectics of Legislation

The Equal Pay and Sex Discrimination Acts came into effect in December 1975. The Equal Pay Act had in fact been on the statute book since 1970 but, ostensibly to give the employers time to adjust to the requirements of the Act, its effective date was delayed for five years. This delay has served the interests of the employers exceedingly well by enabling them to study the Act in detail and to exploit all its loopholes.

During this five-year period the employers have been busy trying to change conditions of employment and the status of male workers so as to make it impossible for women workers to compare their jobs with those of men, either on a basis of similarity or under a job-evaluation exercise. For instance, the number of jobs done by both men and women has been reduced so as to avoid direct comparisons, the terms and conditions of employment in different firms within the same group of firms have been altered to prevent women, who cannot draw a comparison at their own workplaces within the group, job evaluation exercises have been loaded so as to re-grade jobs to the degree that they are "light" or "heavy" to discriminate against women in the rate payable. The loopholes within the Equal Pay Act have made it easy for employers to use these tactics and many others to avoid giving women equal pay.

THE WORKER issue no 14 reported that within four months of the Act's becoming enforceable 4000 complaints had been received from women workers, 1745 of which were taken to industrial tribunals. It should

## Grunwick strike

On August 23rd 200 members of APEX at Grunwick factories at Cobbold Road and Chapter Road, Willesden voted to strike. The unfair dismissal of a woman worker that day was the last straw in a long history of bad conditions and low wages: £25 for a 35 hour week, £28 for a 40 hour week.

Grunwick workers have struggled against the employer in the past without success but this, their fourth strike, is more determined than ever. The unity, strength and confidence among the Grunwick workers grows daily. 'Blackleg' is nearly 80 per cent effective. The employers latest tactic of sacking a number of those on strike has only served to unite the workers in struggle.

The strikers' demands are: 1) Recognition of APEX, 2) Reinstate-ment of all sacked workers who have been victimised, and 3) £36 per week basic minimum wage.

Since September 3rd a delegation of strikers, with the help of the local trades council, have been visiting all the large workplaces in Brent. The reception they have received has been magnificent, financial donations and messages of solidarity have come from many factories and support is now growing from as far a field as South Wales.

A message of support came from the equal pay strikers at Trico-Folberth Brentford and read, "Your fellow strikers at Trico-Folberth now in our 16th week of struggle for equal pay, salute your magnificent campaign at Grunwick for an end to exploitation and discrimination and for Trade Union recognition. We wish to convey our fraternal greetings of support and solidarity with you. It is only when we stand up for our rights and build a strong trade union that we can put an end to injustice."

### 'THE WORKER'

155 FORTRESS ROAD, LONDON NW5.  
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#### WORKER: NEW SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Regrettably, the new round of increased postal charges has forced us to raise the annual subscription rate of the Worker. It is now £2.50 for 24 issues (including postage).

ment Appeal Tribunal with comparable functions to the Industrial Relations Court.

It is the working class, through its history of struggle against the oppressor, that has forced all these Acts to be passed. But it is the ruling class that controls the drawing up of such legislation and it is the ruling class that controls its interpretation through the courts and tribunals. It is a victory for our class that the bourgeoisie is forced to recognise our rights by passing such an Act as the Equal Pay Act, and we will use this legislation and when we see fit in the interests of our class. But equal pay will not be won by fighting on the employer's terms within his territory. It can only be won through struggle by taking the employer on our terms within arenas of our choice.

But, ultimately, the working class must know that the developing power to impose equal pay through struggle frightens the employing class more in the long term than simply the prospect of paying out a few more pounds. This is why they would have their Acts; this is why they so kindly set up their tribunals for us. "Paying up" is a serious wound in their terms but the development of the power of the working class would be a fatal one. They have created the corporate non-struggle atmosphere in which we so slavishly choke at present; it is their last hope. Our hopes are embodied in the struggle of our sisters; Trico breathes life into us and gives us dignity. It would be to our greatest shame if we allowed this fight to be carried by a section of our class. The whole class must take up the banner for the whole of the power, state power. They cannot give us this at a tribunal, we must seize it.

The trade union movement has in the past always been on its guard against laws being used to neutralise struggle and has always been swift to throw out legislation interfering with union democracy, witness the Industrial Relations Act of 1971. Yet many of the Industrial Relations Act's provisions raise their heads again in the Employment Protection Act without a murmur of dissent from the trade union movement. For example, the provision of a certification officer with powers over union rulebooks, the Employ-

# Working class morality and the TUC

At Brighton, at the Trade Union Congress of 1976, delegates of the organised workers of Britain raised and took firm decisions on such moral questions as the defence of the health and safety of fellow workers against the vicious depredations of employers, as the guaranteeing of equal pay for work of equal value regardless of sex, as the denunciation of racism and the positive re-affirmation of the brotherhood of the working class, as the demand for bigger pensions and better conditions for the old and better opportunities both in training and jobs for the young. They were not primarily concerned about their own wages and conditions nor even about the wages and conditions of their particular members. They were concerned about the social wage of all - that is, the quality of life enjoyed by all workers in this country who make up the vast majority of the populations.

What this reflects is the working class morality which has developed in factories and other places of work in direct opposition to capitalism's ethic of individual greed. This working class morality, born of the conditions of social labour, is based on the realisation of workers that not only is unity their strength but their very survival, that an attack on one has to be regarded as an attack on all and no real advance is possible at each other's expense, that the extreme selfish individualism of the official morality of bourgeois society expresses itself in the actions of the scab, of the boss's man in their midst.

But it has never been so obvious as it is today that none of these expressions of working class morality in a decent social wage for all can be realised in capitalist society. On the moral plane, it is the exact equivalent of the check on the forces of production - all the skills and creative energy of the best trained and organised working

class in the world - by the relations of production - the prison of capitalist class exploitation in which millions languish without jobs and the capabilities of those who do work are mis-used in production for profit instead of production for the satisfaction of human wants.

With the speeches of the representative of the Labour Government and the Secretary of the TUC joining together to talk about the 'indissolubility' of the so-called 'social contract' between Labour Government and trade union movement, which simply means the indefinite subjection of the trade union movement to the interests of capitalism, the whole Congress slewed dishonestly into illusions, pious hopes, wishful thinking and shabby compromises. Hence the ridiculous discussion on the question of whether workers' participation should apply only to the 'nationalised' industries or to the private sector as well, which showed no conception of the real nature of state industry under capitalism and assumed that workers and capitalists in complete parity could agree on how to run a private industry for profit!

This idea of the 'social contract' makes working class morality as dishonest as the false humanism of the bourgeoisie. Mao TseTung has spoken of this: "As for the so-called love of humanity, there has been no such all-inclusive love since humanity was divided into classes. All the ruling classes of the past were fond of advocating this, and so were many so-called sages and wise men, but nobody has ever really practised it, because it is impossible in class society."

To will the end we must will the means. Only in recognising that working class morality has to be revolutionary in order to bring about the conditions in which it can flourish can we prevent it from becoming as empty and dishonest as bourgeois morality.

evidenced by the welcome to him expressed by Vorster himself. And when a man like Ian Smith states 'I think the free world, as a unit, a strong unit, has got to come in and lend their influence to try and bring about a correct solution. America as leader of the free world has an obligation to assist in achieving a settlement of the Rhodesian problem', one is inclined to wonder what 'free' and 'correct' imply. The fascist regimes of Southern Africa fear they can no longer control the people of South Africa in the old way. They demand that the 'free world' should do the policing for them.

For the other African countries hoping to avoid the potential human cost in confrontation by entering into discussions under US auspices, terrifying pitfalls are opened up. Once having opened the door to intervention, economic and political leverage, they will fast learn that it is not 'peace' that will be brought in its wake but in reality the continuation in violence of all existing oppression of people in Africa.

## Kissinger props up Fascism

In the next few weeks, Kissinger, as emissary of American imperialism will attempt to define and order the political future of Rhodesia, Namibia, and South Africa. Armed with a battery of economic bribes, hailed by western capital as 'a new use, on a bigger scale than ever before contemplated, of the West's great economic power...' Kissinger will employ his personal gimmick of 'shuttle diplomacy', developed over Middle East negotiations in recent years.

Set against the rising tide of demonstration, revolt and organised armed struggle by the South African peoples against the fascist regimes they face, Kissinger's 'peace initiative' is clearly exposed for what it really is - nothing less than a sortie on behalf of capital designed to defuse the mounting class conflict and deflect the growing power and will among the people of South Africa to rid themselves of fascist domination.

That Kissinger's proposals serve only the interest of the existing regimes is clearly



Reg Birch, a member of the TUC General Council and Chairman of the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) pictured outside the Conference Hall at Brighton.

## The Daily Jang

When the workers of the "Daily Jang" decided to organise themselves they started a struggle that could have endangered their whole livelihoods. In the precarious situation of having their work permits revoked, with their families in Pakistan open to forms of intimidation from the employers, they are showing a lead to other members of the class who are reluctant to struggle and are acting as a reminder to those of us who already have Trade Union rights that these rights are not won easily.

Having won recognition for SOGAT in early April but not getting the benefits of that recognition in terms of hours and wages, they struck on 23rd July and it was only a matter of hours before the strike was declared official.

The management says that as a supplement to their wages the workers received bonuses and medical benefits for their families in Pakistan. Once one worker received a bonus, the meagre medical benefits were withdrawn from their families when the workers here issued their demands for the minimum union rate.

## Oxon strike

In an unprecedented display of Oxfordshire unity, four thousand cleaners and other workers who are members of NUFE, and two thousand workers who are in NALGO, are to join the three thousand teachers by walking out of their work-places on September 21st. They face the same threat as teachers. The Council has already frozen all job-vacancies for its manual employees and now prepares compulsory redundancies. Departments like the Social Services face complete collapse. Already the pressure of work on social workers brought about by cuts has produced a statement from the Director of Social Services that there is a 'high risk of tragic mistakes and errors of judgement'. Yet still the Council plans to cut a further £200,000 next year.

Already important lessons have been learned by teachers and other employees of the Council. Their confidence in the efficacy of consultation with

## Seamen Be Calmed

Ten years ago, the then Labour government smashed the seamen's strike, using all its force and every smear tactic known. It was then that the famous dictum, "a tightly-knit group of politically motivated men" was used, by Harold Wilson, to describe and to discredit the executive of the National Union of Seamen.

Now, ten years on, the Economic Committee of the TUC does the dirty work for capitalism and their success in this will come to the extent that the seamen, on the ships as much as in their executive, lack the political motivation to steer themselves out of their present predicament.

The seamen find themselves victims of their own policies and self-delusions. Like many others, they thought they could support the Social Contract in principle, and scrub around, should the need arise, in practice. They will find that this is not possible.

The Social Contract is not about £6 or 4½ per cent - the figure is not important - but the principle that once the Labour Government has with the TUC set a limit, all must abide by it and that the General Council shall enforce it and decide on interpretation.

To that extent the decision by the seamen to take industrial action over their claim contained the seeds of an attack on the corporatist principles underlying the Social Contract. Hence the vicious reaction by the bourgeois press and social democrats alike to the seamen, who had defied their threats and pressure and had voted in their thousands for action.

Those among the seamen who have not yet done so must come to realise that they cannot fight with their feet in two camps. Either they accept the dictat of the General Council, surrender all sovereignty, or they reject the Social Contract and all corporatism. At present they have the worst of both worlds - bitter opposition from the bourgeois state coupled with self-imposed restrictions on fighting it.

First they must break through the inherent contradiction of basing their case on opposing the Tory Council's over-zealous implementation of Labour Government policy - the social democratic 'stop-in-the-mind'. Secondly, they must regard this action as merely the start of a protracted and sustained struggle in active defence of education.

## Meetings

- FRI. SEPT. 24: 1976 ALBANIAN DELEGATION REPORT, 7.30 PM CONWAY HALL, RED LION SQUARE, WC1  
FRI. OCT. 1: The sacrifice of the next generation - no future without Marxism, Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortress Rd. NW NW5, at 7.30 pm.  
THURS. SEPT 30: Seize the unions. 8 pm. Amcoats Hotel, Great Amcoats Street, Manchester 4.  
FRI. OCT 1: From workshop of the world to Industrial wasteland, 7.30 pm. Maintrend Bookshop, 17 Midland Road, Old Market, Bristol 2.

## Bookshops

- Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortress Road, London, NW5  
Brighton Workers Bookshop, 37 Gloucester Road, Brighton.  
Main Trend Books, 17 Midland Road, St. Philips, Bristol 2.  
October Books, 4B Temple Court, Liverpool 2.  
Northern Star Bookshop, 18A Leighton Street, off Great George Street, Leeds.