

THE WORKER

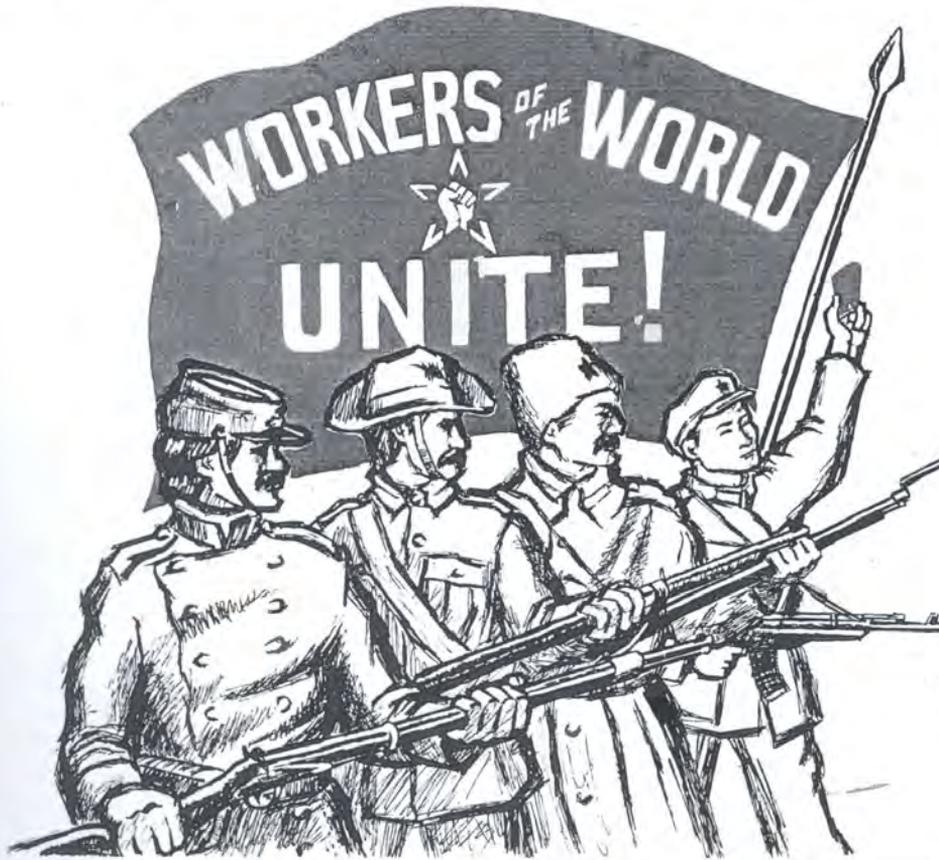


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MAY 1871 - MAY 1971 A CENTURY OF WORKING CLASS REVOLUTION



THE
PARIS COMMUNE
1871



THE
EASTER RISING
1916



THE OCTOBER
REVOLUTION
1917



THE PROLETARIAN
CULTURAL
REVOLUTION
1967-1969

FORD WORKERS SET THE PACE IN CLASS WAR

One of the longest strikes in Britain's industrial history has ended, with the workers who waged it so courageously and with such solidarity undefeated. This particular Ford strike is over — but not the fight. That goes on — and under a leadership which has proved itself in struggle, steered for all the battles yet to come. The workers of Halewood and Swansea have returned — to regroup, to choose their own time for the next attack, to continue by all means the guerrilla war against the employers, striking back at all times while keeping their own forces intact.

If the employers think they have won a victory, it is a pyrrhic one. It would not take many such victories to put capitalism out of the motor car business altogether. For ten weeks workers laid siege to the employers' castle. Now they go back to fight inside all the 26 factories, with the leaders who marshalled them outside the gates back to their posts as shop stewards and convenors to organise continued struggle behind the enemy's lines.

Workers rejected the secret ballot it was sought to impose on them. They did not really participate in it. They can ignore the half-baked result in which less than 50 per cent of their number actually voted. At this time there is no agreement with all the 16 unions involved. The two-year peace embodied in the no-strike clause is a myth. Halewood proved it when they were out again at the end of the very first day of their return, and again in the Dagenham complex.

The AUEW, one of the major unions in the strike action,

rejected by a vote of its Executive Council the motion to endorse the employers proposals. These proposals were merely "noted" whatever that means. What it does not mean is that there is a cut and dried agreement between management and unions which workers would have to regard as binding. The doublecross of the workers' struggle doublebacked on its perpetrators with a boomerang effect. It has been a defeat for the Government which was staking its whole economic rises, a defeat for Henry Ford who for all his pretensions otherwise tried to intervene and a defeat for all who intrigued against the Ford workers behind their backs.

In the battle for parity this is only the second round. Workers to a man have retained and strengthened the unity and dignity which will stand them in good stead for the next. Once again their battle has not only been a victory for them but for Vauxhall and BLMC workers as well. The lesson is obvious — mutual support and solidarity

among all the workers in the motor car industry.

Ford workers now lead the workers in this section of industry by their militant example. From backwardness in struggle they have moved into the vanguard and proved that properly led their front is unbeatable. Their solidarity, 50,000 joined together in a ten week's action in which no one broke their ranks, is unprecedented. Only certain of their trade union 'leaders' having no confidence in the strength and determination of the workers broke and surrendered. But the willingness of workers to go on fighting even then shows that they will not accept capitulation on their behalf.

The struggle of Ford workers involved working class internationalism also, with motor car workers in other countries pledging full support. This was a great lesson which workers here can appreciate with encouragement and pride. As class war mounts workers will know

815,000 UNEMPLOYED

FIGHT NOW FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK

As the number of unemployed grows beyond the present 800,000 mark towards a million and more the Labour Party will gleefully proclaim this as the fruits of Tory rule illustrating the need for the early return of a Labour government to restore unemployment to more reasonable proportions. In such a situation it is necessary to recall the role of the last Labour government in bringing this present growth of unemployment about.

The Labour government always took up the position that if the number of registered vacancies exceeded overall the number of registered unemployed then this was not unemployment in the strict sense. They claimed that it was not simply full employment but over-full employment. In fact it was they who enacted the 1965 Redundancy Payment Act which can now be seen as the biggest single factor facilitating the growth of unemployment by the way it has undermined resistance to sackings and continues so to do.

The thinking behind the Redundancy Payment Act went like this. While there are pockets of persistent unemployment in certain areas, other areas are starved of labour, which requires two things to be done. Develop new industry in such areas as Wales, Scotland, the north east to provide jobs and at the same time encourage employers in the areas of "over full employment" to "shake out" workers to take jobs (lower paid of course) in those sections of industry short of labour.

Of course planned capitalism is a contradiction in terms as experience has always proved. The theory that the workers on

leaving a job not deemed to be essential to the national economy would naturally go into jobs that were essential is nonsense on the face of it and in some of its aspects quite laughable. What of course happened in very many cases was that a worker made redundant with a couple of hundred quid in his pocket for the first time in his life did not rush like a mad thing into the first "essential" job going. On the contrary he took his time and found the best paying job going which was no more "essential to national economy" than the one he had left. This process had its dangers which are clearer now than ever. The worst danger by far being that it engendered a willingness to accept the sack instead of fighting to maintain jobs which is now carried over into an economic situation where redundancy does not now mean money in the pocket while seeking work at leisure but the sack with no job to go to and the redundancy pay fast running out in a period of the highest cost of living ever experienced. The growth of redundancy is not confined either to the areas of "over full employment." There are now no such areas. In fact areas where new factories were set up in the sixties to provide new jobs are experiencing some of the worst redundancies.

Whatever the Labour and Tory economists have said hitherto about controlling the economy with talk of planned use of labour, redeployment, industrial reorganisation, economic growth they cannot disguise the fact that what we have now as a consequence of their policies is

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WORKERS FIGHT RULING CLASS PROPAGANDA

For the press, radio and TV news media to launch all out attacks on workers whenever there is a major strike is no new thing. What is new, reflecting the rise in the class political consciousness of workers as they move into a higher stage of class conflict, is that workers are hitting back as never before.

During the Ford strike the Southend Evening Echo which had expressed its editorial disapproval of the strike decided to intervene directly in trade union affairs by running its own ballot in the Southend and Basildon areas. In this way it was hoped to prove that the strike did not enjoy real support, thus undermining the solidarity of the men who were out.

The Echo immediately found itself in the embarrassing position of having its own employees, members of the printing unions, withdraw their labour in condemnation of this stunt and declare their unity with their brothers at Ford. The Echo failed to appear that evening at all. On the following evening a somewhat subdued Echo published the results of its "ballot" as 200 for a return to work and 34 against — less than a 2 per cent poll with no guarantee that those taking part were Ford strikers.

Then on Sunday, March 28, 4,000 Ford strikers met at a school in Basildon and voted overwhelmingly to continue the strike with only 30 voting against. So much for the power of the press!

NOT THE FIRST TIME

The same thing happened during the electrician's strike when the London Evening Standard's cartoonist drew a very derogatory caricature of the typical electrical worker as bone-

headed, idle and greedy. The print workers refused to allow the paper to come out with management had to agree to publish their own comment side by side with the drawing.

THE FORTESCUE FIASCO

The newspapers broke out their biggest and blackest headlines for the charges made against Ford workers by Mr. Tim Fortescue, Conservative MP for Garston, when he claimed that workers had informed him secretly that drunkenness, idleness and theft were rife at Ford plants like Halewood. But these "courageous men" who had dared inform on their mates turned out on investigation, except for one, not to be Ford workers at all. Furthermore even Ford's management had to admit that there was no substance in the charges.

At the massive demonstration against the Industrial Relations Bill on February 21 a television news reporter made the remark that a lot of those present did not even know why they were there — and then had to climb down and admit that this was absurd. Indeed the practice of singling out workers on picket lines or on their way to mass meetings hoping to find out who would express some reactionary sentiment has gone by the board these days such is the articulate level of class determination and solidarity asserted by any worker who comes within shouting distance of a microphone.

BOURGEOIS "DEMOCRACY"

Apologists for capitalism always boast that one of the great freedoms of the bourgeois system is the right to strike but there has never yet been a strike that was not the "wrong one" held at the "wrong time" for the "wrong reasons." And that other great freedom, the freedom of the press which is open to any honest worker who has several million pounds to start a daily paper, is turning out not to include the licence to libel or denigrate the working class as long as owners depend on workers to set up and print their newspapers.

LANDLORDS' CHARTER

There could be no better example of the way Labour and Tory capitalist governments work hand in hand in the interests of business men and landlords than the Francis Committee Report on the 1965 Rent Act. The Labour government set up the Committee. The Tory government will act in its report. The Committee's recommendations amount to a massive attack on tenants to enable landlords to clean up out of Britain's appalling housing conditions.

Appointed by the Wilson government in 1969, Francis QC was instructed to "look into the working of the Act" and report on the findings. This has been done and the results can only be described as a landlords' charter which the Tories will no doubt turn into law at the earliest possible moment.

For a great many workers whose living standards will be further reduced by the implementation of this Report, Francis' recommendations will bear a striking resemblance to the Industrial Relations Bill in as much as both documents make great appeal to the British notion of "fair play". Just as Carr has the employers' profits in mind when he speaks of industrial action being "unfair" so Francis has the landlords' profits in mind when he proposes a system of "fair" rents for privately owned accommodation.

And to complete the trio of "hear, see and speak no unfairness" we also have Amery announcing last month that council tenants would be getting their own system of "fair" rents, which according to him "would encourage people to buy rather than rent". Last year's big decrease in new house building in the public sector coupled with a corresponding increase in the private sector is no doubt part of this "encouragement".

The nub of the Francis Report is contained in two basic proposals which represent direct and barefaced attacks on working class families. The first of these

deals with rent control. All controlled rents should be abolished by bringing them into the "fair rent" sphere. At one stroke this would mean doubling or even trebling the rents on property presently inhabited by nearly 6 million British people even when the house they occupy is without bath, hot water or inside toilet. Secondly the Report rejects any move to extend the paltry tenancy controls which exist for unfurnished premises. This gives landlords the green light for evictions. More landlords will be combing the junk shops for the "fifty pounds worth" of old, discarded furniture which is all that is needed to escape even the meaneast controls according to the present laws on unfurnished tenancies.

When the Tories move to make the Francis proposals law through a new Rent Act, there will be a new stage in the assistance of tenants to eviction which will be marked by a determination on the part of both council and private tenants to stand and fight. Previously many have been deluded by rent tribunals which they thought were genuine appeal bodies from which they could receive justice. Experience has taught them better.

It has always been more difficult to organise workers' struggle for better housing than to organise workers' struggle for better wages and conditions at the point of production. But with capitalist and Tory and the capitalist government attacking workers on behalf of both landlords and employers, with the proposed Rent Bill being added to the Industrial Relations Bill and the Immigration Bill, all areas of struggle will become more closely linked. Only a party like the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) committed to smashing capitalism, not just to seeking reforms within it, can lead the fight against high rents and slum housing and the fight to end exploitation at work as part of the same struggle against the same class enemy.

RAILWORKERS' CLAIM

There is no more question of the right of rail workers to substantial pay increases than of the fact that they will have to fight to get them.

So far the method of pursuing their wage claim is an object lesson in how not to do it. While the three unions concerned meet the Railway Board together, there is neither a unified claim nor strategy. Each union leadership reacts separately and sometimes publicly to any offer management makes.

In the event the Railway Board offered a package settlement of some £24 million and the unions could share it out among them. This was rejected by all as being far below the level of their respective claims.

A.S.L.E.F. calls for work to rule and the other leaders not only make no call but rule out any real action. The Board make a further marginal offer bringing the figure to £27 million, an estimated increase from 8½ to 11 per cent A.S.L.E.F. and T.S.S.A. accept. The N.U.R. Executive now under pressure divide and leave the issue to their General Secretary.

But what is not forgotten by the railway workers themselves, even if it has been ignored by everyone else, is the very different climate of working class opinion since the solid strikes of council workers, post office workers and Ford workers. The lessons of these struggles will not be lost on the railmen and the pressure is bound to build up to keep their leaders on the rails.

EASTER RISING

On the morning of Easter Monday, 1916, armed units of the Irish Citizen Army and the Irish Volunteers occupied the Dublin GPO and other strategic positions throughout the city, and proclaimed the Republic. The British occupation forces staged a quick counter attack, but even after four days of fighting they failed to dislodge the rebels from most of their positions. On the Friday of Easter week a British gunboat sailed up the River Liffey and began a heavy bombardment of the Republican strongholds. By evening the GPO was on fire and untenable and Padraig Pearse was forced to order the surrender of the Irish Volunteers. Shortly afterwards James Connolly was forced to surrender the Citizen Army as well.

Thus ended one of the most heroic episodes in the long history of the struggle of Irish people against the British invader. After the Rising the British authorities enacted bloody reprisals against the participants. All the signatories to the Proclamation were condemned to death, and the other participants were shipped away to internment in English jails, many of them never to return.

At Easter 1971 the 1916 rising was commemorated throughout Ireland by numerous demonstrations and an intensification of the struggle to expel the British occupation army from the six North Eastern Counties. A fierce clash with the Military took place in Derry on Easter Sunday, when after three hours of fighting the troops were driven from the streets and withdrew to their barracks.

Now as in 1916 the struggle against British imperialism in Ireland is entering a phase of armed struggle. Now as in 1916, the workers of Britain have an obligation to support the Irish struggle and to demand the withdrawal of British troops from Irish soil.

IRAN

In Iran the fascist regime of the Shah, a puppet of U.S. and Soviet imperialists, has allowed the World Confederation of Iranian Students, an anti-imperialist democratic organisation which embraces thousands of militant Iranian students abroad.

On March 2nd, the head of the Military Tribunal in Tehran issued a statement declaring that the Confederation was an illegal organisation whose members (nearly 4,000) would be tried in absentia and could be sentenced from three to ten years imprisonment under the "suppression of communism act".

This new act of suppression in a country that already has over 20,000 political prisoners incarcerated in the Shah's jails, shows how scared the tottering reactionary puppet regime is of the mass of the people.

IRELAND FIERCE FIGHTING

The first three months of 1971 saw the longest and fiercest period of continuous fighting in Northern Ireland since the present troubles began. Police and Army chiefs have been forced to admit that they are unable to hold down the Falls, Ardoyne, New Lodge Road and other nationalist areas of Belfast.

The new GOC Northern Ireland, General Harry Tuzo, has said that a permanent military occupation of these areas would provoke a situation that British troops would not be able to control. This is nothing short of a confession that the British Army cannot suppress the Irish people singlehanded. The military need local support, so in order to gain the backing of Ulster Unionist extremists British imperialism engineered a change of government at Stormont. Chichester Clarke was replaced by a new British puppet, Unionist hard-liner Brian Faulkner.

Likely developments under his regime are the re-arming of the RUC and the recall of the B Specials, plus an intensification of repressive activity by the British occupation army. Already the wraps have been taken off Britain's much vaunted "secret weapon" — two helicopter gunships of the type used by US forces in Vietnam. Meanwhile in

West Germany British soldiers are being trained to combat urban guerrilla forces in preparation for action in Ireland. (And ultimately, of course, for action inside Britain itself as the class struggle of workers in Britain reaches new heights.)

As repression in Ireland mounts it becomes even more vital that the workers of Britain give full support to their class brothers in Ireland. Recently certain "leftist" groups have been circulating a petition calling on the Tory Government to pass a Bill of Rights for British occupied Ireland. This absurd demand is clearly not the way to support the Irish struggle.

There are at present before Parliament two major Bills, the Industrial Relations Bill and the Immigration Bill, which constitute a vicious attack on the civil rights of British workers. Can anyone but an ardent fool or a class traitor really argue that a government committed to such repressive legislation in Britain be relied upon to legislate for civil rights in Ireland?

There is only one way for British workers to support the struggle in Ireland against British imperialism: to demand not a Bill of Rights but the immediate withdrawal of British troops, an end to partition and the release of Irish political prisoners.



ON THE INDUSTRIAL FRONT

The Ford management wanted their two-year pay offer to be the start of American-style "industrial peace" — the peace of the graveyard — at Ford. But this peace was shattered within two hours, never mind two years. Some of the Halewood workers came back after their nine week strike to find work that had been done by supervisors, and so they walked out again. A week later 250 men in the paint shop night shift refused to start work unless the management agreed to accept their decision on work allocation and manning. Meanwhile, whenever Fords did produce any cars, all they could do with them was add them to the 4,000 vehicles produced before the strike and still bottled up in the grounds because of the 3-month-old strike of 350 delivery drivers employed by Silcock and Calling. So inside or outside the gates, the guerrilla war at Fords continues.

REDUNDANCIES

Workers in the paper industry continue to be hard hit by redundancies. At Aylesford in Kent 1,000 men were made redundant by Reed International with the closing of five paper mills. At Aylesford, Associated Paper Mills are to close down the Robert Craig mill at Calderceux, Lanarkshire employing 300 men making specialised papers. British Tissues are to dismiss 385 men at Garstang, Lancashire and transfer production to a new £5 million machine in S. Wales. As the ripples of the Rolls-Royce crash spread outwards more redundancies in engineering have been announced. But 2,500 workers at Upper Clyde Shipbuilders taught the management and all workers a lesson about redundancies and how to fight them when 31 painters were sacked. Then the 2,500 finishing trade workers walked out in protest and forced the management to take the painters back and agree to a work-sharing scheme.

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING

A two-year pay agreement has been made for 59,000 workers in the electrical contracting industry. There will be a 12 per cent increase each year and if

the retail price index rises more than 9 per cent in a year the second payment will be increased by a similar amount. From January 1972 hourly rates will rise to 80p for technicians, 66p for approved electricians, 59p for electricians and 46p for labourers. So even a body like the Joint Industry Board for electrical contracting (see January "Worker" for details of their "good practice code") is having to undermine the government's plans for cutting down wage increases year by year while letting prices run wild.

SCOTT LITHGOW

On February 13th 2,300 boilermakers at the 6 Scott Lithgow shipyards on the Lower Clyde went on strike, virtually closing down all the yards after a few weeks. The men twice rejected an offer of a 7½ per cent increase of £2.9 per cent. Eventually the management conceded an average 8½ per cent increase, ranging up to 10p an hour for the lowest paid, and the men went back to work on April 6th.

SWAN HUNTER

620 fitters at the 5 Tyneside yards of Swan Hunter Shipbuilders went on strike in mid-March for parity with the top boilermaker grades — £27 for 40 hours. 400 fitters at the Wallsend and N. Shields yards of Swan Hunter Ship Repairs went on strike over a similar demand. The management has offered £24.55 but refused to increase the basic rate by any more, demanding their pound of flesh in the form of "productivity" for any more money. Mr. Reg Ibbison, managing director of the consortium, faced with the prospect of all the yards being brought to a halt by the fitters, complained "We are in dangerous waters and this has to be realised. If nobody is going to support this consortium and make something of it, what is the use of running it?" The answer is simple — There's no use at all in you running it. The workers are not going to support the consortium and "make something" (profits for the employers) out of it. You are in dangerous waters all right and nobody is going to throw you a lifebelt.

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NAME

ADDRESS

GKN GIVES GOVERNMENT ITS ORDERS

In his annual report on the trading activities of Guest, Keen and Nettletons Ltd., Britain's largest international engineering group, the chairman, Sir Raymond Brookes, told the capitalist Government just what the capitalist class expects of it.

"The confrontation between Government and extremists who, without regard to the real wishes and best interests of the majority, seek to maintain disruptive power and privilege outside the law was and is inevitable." By these extremists he means workers and working class leaders who are prepared to stand up to the employing class in their fight for the right to work and to receive a reasonable wage for it. By the "best interests of the majority" he means what is best for the capitalist class.

Furthermore until the Government resolves this problem to the satisfaction of capitalists G.K.N. will not embark upon "fiscal-economic policies directed toward economic expansion." Not, mind you, that G.K.N. had a bad year in 1970. Profits went up from £35.4 million to £43.1 million. The surplus on United Kingdom trading operations went up from £26.1 million to £29 million and on overseas operations from £4.7 million to £8.5 million. "We had good reason to expect and perhaps deserved more," the chairman argued, "but . . . strikes, both internal and external, and the Rolls Royce debacle have taken their toll."

REVISIONIST CONGRESS

Mr. Kosygin reporting on economic developments in the Soviet Union to the 24th Party Congress promised that Russia would "outstrip the capitalist economies of the West." Fifteen years ago Khrushchev was making exactly the same promise and yet today Kosygin has to admit that "we still have a long and stubborn struggle ahead" to win out in peaceful competition with the West.

He added that "we are confident of the ultimate outcome of this struggle in favour of socialism."

So are we, but meanwhile it must be pointed out that the Soviet Union has ceased to be a socialist country and has therefore excluded itself, for the time being, from the victories socialism is bound to score.

Perhaps he means that Russia will "outstrip" the West in terms of girly shows. We remember the emphasis Khrushchev once placed on producing sexy parties for women. Or perhaps he is still thinking in terms of Mr. K's idea of outeating the West of goulash wise — not everybody in Russia, of course, but at least the new class of managers, officials, professional people and party hacks who have taken over the exploitation of workers and peasants.

There is one sense in which Khrushchev and his imitators like Brezhnev really have surpassed the capitalist forces of the West. They have, again for the time being, undone the great achievements of the October Revolution and deprived the Russian workers of state power — something not all the imperialist powers intervening in the Russian civil war, not the armed might of the nazi invading forces were ever able to do.

On this May Day we send our fraternal greetings to the Russian proletariat, remembering their first great defeat of capitalism and, for the first time in history, the voluntary liquidation of an empire, their establishment under Lenin's leadership of the first dictatorship of the proletariat and their struggles under Stalin to consolidate and develop socialism. We have no doubt that this mighty class force will gather its strength and throw off its back the treacherous revisionists who have corrupted the CPSU(B) into an instrument of class oppression instead of the vanguard party of the working class it has been before and will surely become again.

SPRING THUNDER IN SOUTH ASIA

"If there is to be revolution, there must be a revolutionary party. Without a revolutionary party, without a party built on the Marxist-Leninist revolutionary theory and in the Marxist-Leninist revolutionary style, it is impossible to lead the working class and the broad masses of the people in defeating imperialism and its running dogs." (Mao Tse-tung).

The Peoples Liberation Front (J.V.P.) of Ceylon was founded some years ago by young people many of whom had seen the face of Soviet revisionism and the revisionist and counter-revolutionary forces of Trotskyism in their own country. They worked underground mainly in the villages, for Ceylon is basically a rural society, amongst the unemployed and under-employed. Due to the higher standard of formal education in Ceylon such work was helped by the greater frustration of high-school and college graduates. Unfortunately they remained a front with individual Marxist-Leninists but no Communist Party to guide the strategy and tactics of revolution. Now with the tremendous advances through armed combat and the arrest of Comrade Sammagathasan, veteran working class leader and founder of the Marxist Communist Party, the possibility of a revolutionary

party, based on Marxism-Leninism leading what must be developed into a people's war, is closer.

The J.V.P. for all its youth has done remarkable work in exposing the true nature of the Ceylon Government. When the coalition of Mrs. Bandaranaike's party and revisionists and Trotskyites won the general elections last year, all the pseudo-leftists throughout the world were shouting about the "victory of socialism". With Communists and Trotskyites in important ministries they said the imperialists would be kicked out and socialism begun. Recognition of North Korea, North Vietnam and much toing and froing to socialist lands added to the illusion. But the people knew only the reality of falling prices for cash crops like tea, rubber and the increasing burden of taxation to pay for the growing indebtedness to the World Bank. They joined J.V.P. in their thousands and direct clashes with the government in guerrilla attacks had been going on throughout last year.

The Government took fright. True to its class base it decided to crush the revolutionary forces. A state of emergency was declared and fascist measures invoked to imprison and kill. But to its surprise a handful of student rebels turned out to be

so strong that the "non-aligned" Mrs. Bandaranaike had to scream for help from fellow "non-aligned" Mrs. Gandhi and imperialist Britain. Helicopters have come from India and Britain (via USA) to bomb guerrilla strongholds. Russia is supplying Mig fighters. Indian frigates (originally British) are standing by etc. But the heroism and dedication of the young partisans will not be wasted. The final break with reformism has been successfully demonstrated and the future struggle of the peasants and workers of Ceylon on the road of Peoples War, guided by a Marxist-Leninist Party, looks promising.

THE SITUATION IN EAST PAKISTAN

Here too a so-called "third world" government which in recent years had shown signs of breaking the imperialist hold by cultivating friendship with China has behaved true to its class roots. The compradors and big landlords of Pakistan have used every kind of fascist and savage measure to bring the people of East Bengal to their knees. But unfortunately the leadership of the East Bengali peasantry is not in the hands of Marxist-Leninists or any kind of front that believes in a peoples democratic revolution. The leadership of the Awami League which won the elections

is a anti-communist, petty-bourgeois looking for its allies in the reactionaries of India. Illusions of electoral reform produced a stage of euphoria which was quite foolish as it left the people unguarded while adventurist confrontation-type provocations were initiated by the Awami League. India has shown itself only too anxious to intervene in furtherance of its own sub-imperialist interests.

The West Pakistani Army arrived and embarked on savage repression that can only be termed genocide. Marxist-Leninist groups have tried to put forward an alternative to the Awami League but in the present state of brutal repression and in the absence of a Party their efforts have been swamped by the reactionary alliance of India and the so-called independent government of Bengal (Bangla Desh). Of course the revolutionary road will triumph for the workers and peasants of East Bengal have a fine history of heroic struggle against British imperialism and then the Pakistani puppets. But first they will have to recognise true friend from foe, recognise the class question as an integral part of the national struggle and embark on a protracted struggle based on self-reliance and the ideology of Marxism-Leninism.

FORDS

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that they do not fight alone, that workers everywhere are strengthened in their own struggles by every victory won here and will therefore show their solidarity with British workers engaged in battle. In no industry is this more obviously the case than in the motor industry with the international ramifications of its monopoly capitalist owners.

The weapon of the ballot which the employers tried to use against the workers, breaking their mass unity and splitting them up into isolated individuals to make marks on a piece of paper, did not work. It never will work because what the worker agrees in isolation, cut off from the strength he gets from his class brothers in mass meetings and mass action, he can never regard as binding on him as a member of the working class.

But the Ford strike has a greater significance than the clash of workers with their employers in this particular industry, not giving ground and reaping what advantages they could without loss to their unity and morale. It is part of the whole rising force of the working class along the entire industrial

front. In the first three months of this year strike action has taken a greater toll of capitalism than in most of last year which had already spread panic in Government and employing class circles. It is part of the general class conflict which is drawing workers from every sector into action.

The rejection by Ford workers of secret ballots and industrial-peace clauses in their own struggle provides a grim look-out for the Government's attempts to impose just such provisions of their Industrial Relations Bill on the working class as a whole. Individual actions fought by workers like that at Fords are being fused into a common class front directed not just at this capitalist but at capitalism itself, the whole system of exploitation and the capitalist government which enforces it.

On this May Day, the day of workers here and all over the world, we salute all those who have irrevocably committed themselves to the mounting class struggle in Britain. They will not retreat. They will not waver from the revolutionary road on which they have set their feet.



Part of the price the US-Saigon puppets paid for their invasion of Southern Laos: 586 military vehicles of various kinds destroyed or captured. Liberation fighters riding a US M41 tank.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Continued from Page One

escalating unemployment engulfing all kinds of workers. As bankruptcies, closures and lay offs grow in number and size affecting all branches of industry unskilled workers, those with tool boxes and those with certificates and degrees are thrown on the scrap heap together.

It is time for an end to negotiations on redundancies, yes, voluntary or otherwise. To sell jobs with unemployment growing apace is the height of infamy. So much has the pass been sold on the question of productivity deals with acceptance now of redundancies as an essential integral part of the deal that the employers in many instances are now bringing the thing full circle and where they can get acceptance of voluntary redundancy a fact implementing productivity deals with no payment of any wage increases at all while workers are required to perform the work of their departed mates for no extra payment.

The situation having reached this pass the struggle with the employers must be joined or dole queues matching those of the thirties will grow. Neither can any time be lost, otherwise the level of unemployment itself will exercise its influence on the will to struggle. The employers will again raise the cry "there's ten

outside waiting for your job."

Above all the political lessons from the performance of Tories and Labour governments must be learned. Capitalism exists on the exploitation of the working class. That is the only purpose of its existence. When capitalism can no longer carry out its primary function it is indeed bankrupt. 800,000 workers not being exploited is a condemnation of the system but capitalism will of course endeavour to exploit this for its own advantage. That is, they will endeavour to use the unemployed as allies in the struggle against employed workers for reducing wages and increasing profits.

Before the advent of the Redundancy Payments Act there were many struggles against the system but many successes. That is precisely why the Labour government introduced the act. Today more workers are now offering resistance and meeting with successes. All such struggles must be encouraged now and joined together in a national battle for the right to work. There is no compensation for loss of a job except another job at comparable conditions. When capitalism can no longer exploit workers it passes the death sentence on capitalism. The workers must organise to carry out the execution.

BRITISH STEEL

NATIONALISATION, REDUNDANCIES AND PROFITS

Tory arguments about denationalisation should not mislead steel workers into thinking that they will get a better deal from the state. It is precisely the heads of the nationalised industries, and the Roy Jenkinases of the Labour Party, who are most adamant on pushing through plans for greater rationalisation and productivity, meaning in reality more redundancies and greater exploitation.

HOBSON'S CHOICE

In the private cutlery sector, one firm reduced its labour force from 1,400 to 500, yet still collapsed. Another firm now produces six times as much with a work force of only 21 times the size, with a production per man at £3,917 a year, less than half of which is paid in wages — the firm still makes a loss.

But the story in the nationalised sector is no better. At Port Talbot one oxygen converter can do the job of 14 old furnaces, and the melting shop workforce cut from 2,300 to 350 men. At Scunthorpe and Teeside, the labour force is to be cut from 15,000 to 8,000, more than doubling the tonnage per man employed.

The steelworkers cannot safeguard their jobs, nor maintain their living standards, by passivity — each and every move to 'improve productivity' will have to be fought, as leading to speed-ups and redundancies. In common with the mines, electricity, gas, etc., nationalisation under the bourgeois state has proved to be of little benefit to the workers. The fruits of state control have all turned out to be nothing but sour lemons.

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SPYING ON WORKERS

(The following excerpts are taken from Data News of April 16th).
 "Those who find the antecedents of Cabinet Ministers interesting will already know that the author of the Industrial Relations Bill, Robert Carr, was a director of Securicor Ltd. before reaching his present prominence. The debate in Parliament mentioned his old firm's attempt to introduce spying into industry on a commercial basis."
 "This is a letter which was circulated in 1963 to business concerns by Complete Security Services Ltd., a subsidiary of Securicor.
 Private and Confidential

54-62 Regent Street,
 Piccadilly Circus, W.1.

"Dear Sirs,
 A Share of the Profits
 Most business concerns however scrupulously managed lose an appreciable amount of money each year through pilferage . . . We specialise in preventing this unwarranted sharing of your profits. Our services include:

- 1 The supplying of undercover agents, a man planted among your employees to provide you with a complete appraisal of any unauthorised happenings.
- 2 The following of vehicles used by employees during the course of their work.
- 3 The investigation of thefts, fraud and embezzlement.
- 4 Reporting on any person who may be suspected of causing dissension or inciting employees to disaffection.
- 5 The screening of prospective employees, a search into their antecedents and background.

Our agents are carefully selected . . .
 Our consultant will be pleased to call to advise you . . .
 Yours faithfully,
 Signed I. DAVENPORT
 Manager, Complete Security Services Ltd."

"As Mr. Carr said in the House, this letter was withdrawn when 'discovered.'
 If the Industrial Relations Bill is passed, no doubt, these services would be provided by the Government!"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHINA : U.S. POLICY IN RUINS

The Western press is full of stories about China ending its ISOLATION. That is not what happened at all. What has happened is that the attempts of the United States to isolate China have failed.

The point about the visit of the American table tennis team is not that China received them hospitably when they asked to come but that the United States has stopped prohibiting its citizens from going and confiscating their passports if they did.

The real break in the situation has to be dated from China's solemn warning to the United States at the time of the ill-starred invasion of Laos. The U.S. Government fell all over itself assuring the Chinese that they had no intention of threatening China's security at all.

One of the reasons for the U.S.'s involvement in Indo-China to begin with was as part of its China-containment policy. With the people of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos scoring victory after victory against the U.S. aggressors and with the Laotian adventure demonstrating the collapse of the whole "Vietnamisation" scheme, the U.S.'s strategy of China-containment as far as Southeast Asia is concerned lies in ruins.

We have only seen the first step in the U.S.'s "agonising reappraisal" of its China policy in a belated attempt to catch up with reality — a China by no means isolated and stronger and more united than ever before.

2nd CONGRESS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF BRITAIN (MARXIST-LENINIST)

At Easter The Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) held its Second Congress exactly 3 years after the foundation of the Party. Delegates from all over the country renewed their determination to build a Workers Party committed to the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism and the establishment of the dictatorship of the proletariat.

From the policy statement adopted at the Congress:
 "We cannot relate to class battles as sympathisers, cheerleaders, commentators. Neither can we be judged in relation to class struggle by what we say about ourselves. Whether the struggle is in factory, Trade Union, school, university or wherever the ruling class or its agents are challenged we cannot be effective unless we are involved. Such involvement entails a proper understanding of the role of the Party in relation to the mass. The Party line must be a mass line and we are only posturing and phrasemongering."

"To say three cheers for every strike is a superficial approach. You cannot be truly identified with a strike unless you are on strike also. What is required is that the mass, the strikers are motivated to make revolution, which means they must be led by revolutionaries from their own ranks. Above all, the action they are taking, even though not of a revolutionary character, must be strategically sound and tactically well conducted. Then the class struggle itself will be the necessary teacher. It follows that we must recruit from these skilled class warriors and that the Party must be made up in cadre force overwhelmingly with these leaders. It follows also that we have the task of assisting them in strategy and tactics, in the analyses that will create such action, for there is no such thing as a hand-picked natural Marxist."

PALESTINE

The unity of the Palestinian Revolution in rejecting the U.S. - Israeli secret schemes for a puppet 'Palestinian State' on the West Bank has demonstrated once again the determination of the Palestinian people to fight on until they achieve the complete liberation of their homeland. Since last September and the all out attack launched on the Palestinian people by the U.S. backed Hussein, the Palestinian Revolution has faced a difficult period. The various piecemeal attacks on the Fedayeen by the Jordanian Army, combined with a campaign of intimidation directed against the Palestinian people, has created new and difficult problems for the revolution to solve.

However, the success of the revolution in going underground and maintaining its armed forces intact has enabled the Fedayeen both to carry out attacks against the Zionists in Israel and to defend themselves from attacks by the reactionary Jordanian Government. Furthermore strong contradictions are beginning to develop within the Jordanian feudal ruling clique itself. After having faithfully acted as a puppet for U.S. imperialism in an attempt to liquidate by force the Palestinian Revolution, the Jordanian reactionaries are now worried that U.S. imperialism may sacrifice them on the altar of a puppet 'Palestinian State.' This has resulted in the Jordanian Government being torn between two trends. As Abul Hasan a Fatah leader has said "both trends, however, are bent on cutting our throat ultimately."

The Palestinian Revolution, despite all the attacks and manoeuvres by the imperialists and their puppets, has shown that it can move forward towards victory by maintaining a policy of political independence and armed struggle.

NUS & TUC

April was a busy month for those involved in education. The NUS, NUT, NAS and Headmasters all held their annual conferences. All the conferences, without exception had a go at government education policy. Keeping in mind what happened at Enfield in March, it seems that Margaret Thatcher is fast losing any friends she might have had.

The teachers' unions are representative of how teachers feel and so what comes out of their conferences has some meaning. Not so the NUS conference, 'union' really being a misnomer for what has so long been known as the student travel agency. In many ways, the NUS is similar to the TUC: it will protest but not really oppose. It is all talk and these days it is 'left' talk because if they talk any other way it's the final goodbye to the NUS as far as many rank and file students are concerned. As many newspapers pointed out the election of Digby Jacks as NUS president is not as 'serious' as it looks. The only difference between Jacks and his predecessors will be that when he retires he will be the first NUS president in a long time not after a job with the TUC.

Just as workers take little or no notice of what Feather has to say so student struggles will continue regardless of what the NUS advises. Like so many workers, students know that they only really get what they want when they fight for it themselves. As Marxist-Leninists we support this stratagem because we know that struggle is indeed the only teacher. To depend on negotiations in all sorts of sub-committees is to lose the battle before it begins.

When Sir Alec Douglas Home announced in the Commons recently that Britain will withdraw its forces from the Gulf by the end of this year, Labour MPs cheered this as a conversion to "their" policy. So much for the Labour Party's policy east of Suez. Sir Alec's "withdrawals" bear no relation to the real meaning of the word. It is nothing more than rationalising British forces in the area.

Although the negotiations are still supposed to be going on, the Foreign Secretary was confident that Britain will preserve its presence in the Gulf in more than one way. He told Parliament that Britain is in the process of setting up a Union of Arab Emirates which is to include all the British protectorates in that area. When this is set up, Britain will then conclude a treaty of "friendship" with the Union. If anyone is in doubt what this means, one has only to look at the Dhofar province of Muscat. Muscat is an "independent" country with precisely such a treaty with Britain. For over six

ALBANIA



The slogan of the Albanian Party of Labour "to build Socialism with a pick axe in one hand and a rifle in the other" is taken to heart by the Albanian people who will never allow any imperialist or revisionist powers to interfere in their affairs.

At the end of 1970 the fourth five-year plan of Albania's socialist advance in industry and agriculture was brought to a successful conclusion and at present the mass organisations of workers in town and countryside are working out detailed proposals for the fifth five-year plan (1971-1975).

At a meeting of the People's Assembly Abdyl Kellezi Chairman of the State Planning Commission, announced that all the targets of the fourth plan had been fulfilled or over-fulfilled. Particularly in the important industries of petroleum, copper, electric power, machine building and light manufacturing did achievement outstrip planned increases. The over-all increase in industrial production over 1965 was 83 per cent as against the

54 per cent envisaged in the plan.

In agriculture not only did the production of such staples as grain, cotton and sugar beet exceed expectations but also the amount of new land brought under cultivation and the increase of irrigation went beyond the planned levels.

Transportation and housing construction also recorded great advances.

In 1970 all taxes on individuals were abolished altogether. Albania has continued to demonstrate not only the superiority of the socialist system over any system based on exploitation but also the possibility for any country no matter how small to develop its own resources in self-reliance without sacrificing its independence for external 'aid'.

MAY DAY GREETINGS FROM THE NEW ALBANIA SOCIETY

MEETINGS TO BE HELD AT THE BELLMAN BOOKSHOP, 155 Fortess Road, London N.W.5.

Saturday, May 15th, at 7.30 p.m.
 "INTRODUCING ALBANIA"

A talk illustrated by slides. — Refreshments
 Saturday, June 12th, at 7.30 p.m.
 "INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN ALBANIA"

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Applications for membership should be sent to Secretary, New Albania Society, 155 Fortess Road, London N.W.5.

OIL IMPERIALISM BRITISH POLICY IN THE GULF

years British officers have been engaged in direct combat with the Dhofari Liberation Army using RAF pilots and planes to bomb Dhofari villages, water points, roads and cattle. The Liberation Army in Dhofar is fighting to rid the country of the feudal rule of the slave-owning Sultan of Muscat. British "friendship" goes to the Sultan, while the people get the bombs.

The Government statement in the Commons made it very clear that Britain will continue to have as much, if not more, military force in the Gulf as at any other time. Most of the 7,000 troops now in the area will remain under the request of the 'Union'. The Royal Navy will pay regular visits to the Gulf (no invitation is needed here) and together with the Air Force will carry out regular exercises. In addition Britain will also "assist" the local police force to enforce some of the most repressive regimes in the world. British imperialist role in the Gulf might be changing, not from a desire to leave the area, but due to the change in the balance of forces, both from the presence of other imperialist powers and the increasing strength of the liberation movement.

The waters of the Gulf are being rapidly swamped with the navies of the imperialist powers. Apart from the British forces, the US has a naval force in the area which, it was announced recently, will remain there indefinitely. The Soviet navy recently paid a visit (the third in 18 months) to the Iraqi port of Umm-Qasr at the tip of the Gulf. This recent interest in the tiny Sheikdoms of the gulf stems from the vast quantity of oil discovered in the area in the last ten years. In this particular field, Britain has been forced to give certain concessions to the U.S. who have been steadily increasing its share of oil production in that area. The merger between the British owned Burnham Oil and Continental Oil of America is designed to increase America's share further. The other imperialist powers are also attempting to get a larger share of the imperialist exploitation like vultures descending on a crippled prey.

But the prey is neither crippled nor dead. Far from it. The liberation forces growing stronger every day, are determined to remove all imperialist exploitation and oppression from the Gulf.