

# THE WORKER



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## CAMBODIA VIETNAM

In March 1970 the CIA backed a right wing coup to oust the head of state Prince Sihanouk and install a more pliant administration with Marshall Lon Nol at its head. By April the US had concocted an excuse for invading Cambodia and extending their war in Vietnam. The riposte delivered to the invading forces by the people's army was so severe that by July of that year Cambodia was being bombed by the USA, an operation that continued until August 1973 - seven months after the Paris Agreement, and in violation of it.

Today the US troops have gone and the eyes of the world are upon Phnom Penh which, if it falls in the near future, will be the first capital city to be captured by revolutionary forces since Peking in 1949. The marionette masters in Washington, finding all their strings save one, the airport at Pocheatong, severed, bewail the intransigence of a Congress which forbids the use of B-52's. There are none so blind as those that will not see. If the experience of the war in SE Asia demonstrates anything at all it is that there is no purely military solution to imperialist problems.

President Ford talks of a 'moral commitment'. To Lon Nol? Between such thieves there can be little honour. Lon Nol is already an embarrassment and may well go the same way as that other American ally, Diem. Meanwhile, Ford has an allocation of \$275m to prolong the civil war in Cambodia, to spin out the agony of a dying city. This is blood money pure and simple! This war has already cost the lives of one tenth of the population, but what is that to planners who count in megadeaths? It is a barbarism of an unprecedented dimension that a decadent imperialism will treat entire nations as food for power, as hostages to the needs of capital, and at the same time chant sterile litanies about the 'best hope for peace' being 'negotiation from strength'. That strength has proved to be illusory for this is the secret of people's war that:-

"... many strokes, though with a little axe,  
Hews down and fells the hardest timber'd oak!"

But the rebuilding of Cambodia has already begun. In the countryside, from hamlet level upwards, the people are beginning to exercise their power. The programme of the National United Front of Cambodia is being vindicated even before the last citadel of reaction has fallen. The NUFC with its Marxist-Leninist vanguard has proved its farsightedness, its grasp of the real and of the potential. With such a leadership the Cambodian people are more than equal to the task of building a new land, independent, sovereign, and prosperous.

Article 27 of the Paris Agreement commits the United States to make restitution and assist in the healing of the war wounds which it inflicted in its bestial attacks on North Vietnam. It has done no such thing. Indeed, General Westmoreland (a former US commander-in-chief in Vietnam) reports that the President was very interested in his suggestion that bombing by B-52's should recommence and that Haiphong harbour should be mined once again. But the work of reconstructing the monuments of centuries of labour goes on with or without US aid, undaunted by threats of such an inhuman character. Here they are building a socialist base which will strengthen the revolutionary forces in Vietnam and beyond its borders.

In the south US aid continues for the Thieu junta, providing the means whereby more of the population are subjected to terror, torture and the suppression of liberties. Notwithstanding the daily incursions of puppet troops, however, the NFL and the Provisional Revolutionary Government are successfully consolidating the liberated zones and pressing ahead with the struggle to overthrow Thieu as the means of ensuring the implementation of the Paris Agreement. The signal military victories which they are scoring are a fitting tribute to the justice of their cause and to their ability and determination to carry the revolution through to the end.

## NUT Conference

The Annual Conference of the National Union of Teachers beginning on Saturday March 29th will be an important occasion for the future of education in this country. Since the Union is the major stumbling block to the Government's cuts in expenditure the delegates will have to declare unequivocally the national response. Though seduced by

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## THE FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT TO WORK IS THE FIGHT TO SMASH CAPITALISM

### Crosfield Electronics

Over 300 workers were given the sack last Friday, March 7th, without warning from management. The work force has been reduced by a third, and another 100 are to be put on short-time working.

Only six months ago this firm was taken over by the De La Rue Group. Crosfield's reason for selling was said to be cash flow problems. He soon remedied that.

De La Rue paid him £6 million and put him on the board of directors. The cash flow went all in one direction - straight into his pocket.

Workers were told last August that this take-over would strengthen the company and indeed more job opportunities would be created, with jobs available throughout the whole De La Rue Group.

The Company, unbeknown to the workers did set up a firm in Peterborough some 2½ years back called Westwood Instruments. When the stewards and members found out at that time, they stopped work. The stewards demanded the right to go to Peterborough and meet the workers of this new acquisition. We won our demand.

When the stewards went there they found the workers were unorganised, had lower rates of pay and few of the conditions that had been extracted from the employers by trade union activity in London. The workers in Peterborough were at first hostile to the stewards. They said they did not want to join the Union because they had staff status. The staff status consisted

of wearing a badge on your overall with your name and the words engineering technician underneath, whether you were a grinder, miller, fitter, etc.

The London stewards visited Peterborough consistently at three monthly intervals explaining the necessity to organise. Over a period of time the workers became convinced, elected stewards, joined the Union and a working relationship was established with the London stewards.

At that time there was work for all, over 300 companies were on the firm's sub-contractor list, some of them specialised.

Over 50 per cent of the work was being contracted out and the management was offering £25 to any employee who could introduce another skilled worker to industry.

There were Queen's Awards to industry; best years ever, receptions at Hornsey Town Hall. Yet in a year they say orders have declined 50 per cent due to world markets, etc.

When stewards and members found out at the beginning of this year work was running down, they banned overtime. The management in their mismanagement thought it was a good idea. We demanded that all sub-contract work be called in and done on site.

On Friday, March 7th, the management called the stewards to a meeting and while the stewards were at that meeting got their managers to call meetings of members on the shop floor to announce the redundancies and

cut backs.

Members refused to attend these meetings and told the managers to deal with their elected representatives, i.e. the shop stewards.

We contend that the whole exercise was carried out by the Company in a callous and heartless fashion not for economic reasons, but as firm company policy of moving manufacturing capacity in London to Peterborough.

Many of the workers in Crosfields have already been made redundant in London some two or three times and thought they had at last found some job security. Members and stewards feel that this is an attempt to weaken trade unionism - especially so when the shop to be closed is the one with the Convener and two of the shop stewards in it.

The rate that industry is being moved out of London, egged on by successive governments, will mean that large sections of working class areas, i.e. Tower Hamlets, Southwark, Camden, Islington will in time become distressed areas.

We fight for the right to work where we live.

We accept the right to work for everybody in the country. We say you are not going to solve some other section of the country's problem for us. If this firm gets away with moving production to Peterborough, they will have to recruit fresh labour there.

Stewards and members are determined to fight this one with good organisation. Morale is high we are determined to win.



## LABOUR'S RUBBISH

Glasgow's Labour Party-controlled Corporation has stated that they see themselves in the front line of the Government's attempt to enforce the Social Contract. What this means is a virtual wage-cut for the dust-cart drivers employed by the City.

The Corporation have called in the army to clear the more than 50,000 tons of rat-infested rubbish lying in the open.

On the first day of the use of troops there were scuffles with pickets at the Dawsholm incineration centre in the north of the city. Maintenance engineers at the two other incineration depots walked out in protest at using the army as strike breakers and a deputation from the Rolls Royce factory at Hillingdon has stated that the factory will be closed down if the troops are not withdrawn.



ONCE AGAIN LABOUR CALLS IN THE SCABS IN UNIFORM

## 'NO' TO EEC

British capitalists have got their heads well screwed on in wanting to go into the common market. And British workers have got theirs well screwed on in wanting to get out.

The aim of the EEC is to equalise conditions throughout the market so that firms can operate freely over a wider field. The overall effect of this has been to force closures in sectors that cannot compete and rationalisation in the more profitable sectors. The result of the first is unemployment; of the second, productivity working. The net gain for capitalism is increased profitability; as usual, workers pay the human cost.

In the Market, not just single firms lose out, but whole regions. Notably the coalfields and old industrial centres of Northern France and Belgium have been run down, the least productive the most of all. Capitalism has shifted to more rewarding areas, especially the Rhine, where a skilled, disciplined workforce is much appreciated.

Of course, while conditions for industry are equalised, they see no reason for equalising rates of pay and conditions of work. On the contrary, the Market preserves differentials to allow firms maximum room for manoeuvre in dealing with their workforces.

Unemployment within the Market is now running at four million, or one in twenty. Their answer is, let labour move to where there are jobs. More than that, they congratulate themselves on giving us 'freedom of movement'! We see the Southern Italians made, with their government's connivance, into a cheap labour reserve for German capitalism, and they pass it off as 'freedom of movement'!

Firms are making full use of the opportunity to combine. Limited combination or full scale merger, the companies involved emerge stronger than before. The ultimate aim is to build up American-style techniques, notably that of incorporating the union into the management.

American capital has gained much ground in the Common Market and their purposes would be well suited if Britain were to enter too. Preferring the conditions of an extended market for their subsidiaries to operate in, they are postponing further investment in Britain until they see we are well and truly in. Already owning ten per cent of our manufacturing and hoping to own twenty five per cent by the early eighties, it would be most inconvenient for them if Britain were to stay out.

On top of all this wheeling and dealing, we also have to bear the brunt of a policy of high food prices. Why does this operate? Simply because the French wouldn't join the Market unless they could make as much profit from their agriculture as the Germans would from their industry. To stop prices dropping the EEC steps in and buys up the surplus, which is then sold on the world market - at a loss - to bargain hunters like Brezhnev.

Therefore, not only do European workers have to pay unnecessarily high prices, they also have to subsidise losses made through sales on the world market out of their taxes!!

## Who's defending the NHS?

A report by the North Nottingham Community Health Council has described conditions in the Nottingham City Hospital's burns unit as shocking. This unit serves an area with a population of about two million. A consultant plastic surgeon stated that patients are suffering from cross-infections because conditions are so bad, although the risk of cross-infection has been kept within reasonable limits because of 'superhuman' efforts by the nursing staff. A new unit has been planned for eight years time, but the Government still has not produced the money.

Another aspect of the Government's attitude towards the NHS was evident when a consultant at St George's Hospital, London, stated recently that nurses had double the national average of sick days off because of their tough and

demanding job, in which they did not get the support they needed from the NHS.

Revelations such as these come at an inconvenient time for the Government, which is striving to cut back the NHS while at the same time trying to appear to be defending it. Yet the cases of the Nottingham City Hospital burns unit and the overworked nurses, demonstrate clearly who is really defending the Health Service. Our health is defended by NHS employees, often working under very difficult conditions, not by Mrs. Castle prating about pay-beds. The struggle for better pay and conditions by NHS workers is also a struggle to defend the Health Service, a struggle which must end with an attack on the class which is trying to take our Health Service away from us.

## Editorial

# A glorious perspective

### Socialism the only way

As we have clearly demonstrated: capitalism in Britain is in a grave state of crisis and the ruling class firmly intends workers to bear the brunt of it. Those who create wealth and at the same time suffer most under capitalism are expected to make the greatest sacrifices to enable the system that exploits them to survive. Workers are threatened by the Labour Government that if they do not make such sacrifices and accept vicious wage-cuts voluntarily, they will be denied the right to work at all.

As a crowning ignominy the Labour Government tries to delude workers with phoney schemes of having some say in their future, like workers' participation, so that the working class can be made to appear as collaborators in their own doom.

We have said that the only choice for the working class in this situation is to reject with contempt any social democratic illusion of power and seize real power, to smash the state of the dictatorship of the exploiters and establish the dictatorship of the exploited which puts an end to all exploitation. Socialism is the only way.

### Socialism the best way

But that is to present only one side of the picture - socialism as a desperate remedy which alone can emancipate us from wage slavery.

For two hundred years the working class has struggled valiantly within the confines of the capitalist system without changing by one iota the basic class situation of workers whose miserable share of the wealth they produce and whose very right to work at all are at the mercy of the employing class and its state machine. After two hundred years of class conflict over wages and conditions, workers in their hundreds of thousands can still be thrown on the scrap heap of unemployment as of no further use to humanity.

On the negative side, socialism is the end of all that - the end of rising prices, falling real wages, unemployment, poverty in ill health or old age, the end of desperate uncertainty about what the future holds.

But in addition to exploitation at the place of work the whole quality of life under capitalism is rotten. Where men are expected to creep about submissively to be allowed some kind of a roof over their heads, some kind of life for their families, some small portion of what belongs to them anyway, there is a spiritual corruption like the physical pollution with which a profit system poisons life generally.

Men have great gifts and talents to be released for the general good. That creativity which is stunted and chained to the profit-seeking of the few strains at the leash to be able to serve the physical and spiritual needs of all fellow men in a great cooperative socialist society.

### We and the reactionaries

"You cannot change human nature", the reactionaries say as a justification for perpetuating exploitation. We interpret that saying in another way. Two hundred years of oppression, of robbery, deprivation and contempt, have not broken the spirit of the working class. Even when they have betrayed themselves by accepting the delusion that they could satisfy their needs by manoeuvring within the system that humiliates them, they still have kept that basic class fellowship of the exploited which is the ultimate source of socialist ideas.

As this capitalist system shows itself to be degenerating into greater shabbiness, corruption and cruelty, we are forcefully reminded that we have a world to win - a bright, wholesome world of comradeship, dignity and creative purpose.

Wanting socialism passionately as the realisation of our own working class ideology is the only way we workers will be able to find in socialism the remedy for our present plight.

## WHY RISING PRICES

Rising prices are built into the latest stage of capitalism - monopoly capitalism. In this system, the typical firm is no longer competing against many like itself. It is the giant corporation - Plesseys, Fords, ICI and the like. These multinational firms often control large portions of the market for a particular commodity. Those firms who produce a similar commodity often collaborate, collude, in order to extract a higher price from the consumers - that is us, who produce the goods in the first place.

As long ago as 1957, the American publication "Business Week" declared that, "In the U.S., the price system is one that works only

one way - up." What is true for the U.S. is equally true for the U.K.

The modern economy does not operate through competition - price competition - to any great extent. It has no need to, for greater profits can be achieved by other means. Not at the expense of 'competition' but with it! The main characteristic of increased monopolisation in the economy is the ability of firms to charge high prices. British Governments - Tory & Labour - have never been slow to encourage mergers and the greater concentration of capital in fewer and fewer hands. The increased concentration inevitably leads to less and less competition and higher and higher prices.

## No soft options in Rhodesia

If there was ever any doubt about the right road for real liberation in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia), it will have been cleared up by Smith's putting a stamp of approval on ZANU's armed struggle by locking up ZANU's leader, Ndabaningi Sithole.

Not long after his release from prison as part of Smith's attempt, under the goad of Vorster's pressure, to get talks started, Sithole said: "I am quite certain the Smith Government wants to lock me up again and I am ready for it. After ten years you get used to jail and the struggle will go on."

Smith is not the only one who was hoping there might be some easy way out for his regime, conceding a little in the hope of being able to hold on to minority rule even without any further support from South Africa. Certain Afri-

can leaders would also be prepared to settle peacefully for the empty show of some political progress toward more democracy.

The hope reflected in the British press was that the collapse of Portuguese colonialism in Southern Africa and the more realistic line of Vorster in the neighbouring racist regime would result in some bloodless changes in Zimbabwe which would avoid too much rocking the boat.

But changes do not come about simply as the result of changes in external conditions. The solution in Zimbabwe will have to come from within and it will come as the Zimbabwe Liberation Army continues the war under ZANU leadership to free the country in the only language Smith can understand - the language of guns.

## Revisionist wishful thinking

The Kremlin, in its latest Papal Bull' entitled "The Working Class and the Contemporary World", has ruled that the working classes of the capitalist countries "lack political maturity and have too low a degree of organisation to make full use of the opportunities presented by the crisis in their countries". "Left extremists" are warned against any "adventurist" actions and attempts to

"ignite immediately the revolutionary energy of the working masses".

In other words they would have us believe that we are weak even to bother to organise ourselves and that we should dampen the revolutionary feeling of our class. What is revisionism, if it is not exactly this - that it despises and turns its back on the working class!

## 104 th ANNIVERSARY OF THE PARIS COMMUNE

"The proletarians of the capital" said the Central Committee in its proclamation of the 20th March (1871), "have in the midst of the failures and treason of the ruling class, understood that for them the hour had struck to save the situation by taking into their own hands the direction of the public affairs. . . . they have understood that it was their imperious duty and their absolute right to take into their own hands their own destiny by seizing upon the political power" (state power). "But the working class cannot simply lay hold on the readymade state-machinery and wield it for their own purpose. The political instrument of their enslavement cannot serve as the political instrument of their emancipation." (from Marx, The Civil War in France)

The day is dawning when the lessons learnt from the great Paris Commune - that the old state must be smashed before an entirely new, workers' state can be built - will be applied in Britain.

## On the Industrial Front

### Wilson's plea for wage restraint

Wilson's speech that unbridled wage militancy could seriously damage the economic prospects of nationalised industries and the expansion of the social services was greeted with scepticism and hostility by many trade unions.

Railwaymen, bank employees, USDAW who have subsequently won an interim £2.50 per week from the Co-op for their shop-workers, and all other unions with claims pending will not be deterred by these fatuous statements. Workers want increases to sustain an ever-increasing rate of rising prices.

It is significant that many of the unions now putting in claims are led by those who tell other sections of the working class to abide by the social contract. Their own members think differently.

### The economic review

Union leaders who approved the TUC's 1975 Economic Review envisage "a much extended system of joint regulation at workplace level". If workers get involved to the extent that the TUC is talking about. We have to say workers already get involved in quite a lot of it.

But when Murray talks about switching from the social contract to that old hoary chestnut productivity bargaining we have to say for what? To put more workers out of work and have a greater rate of exploitation?

We can do all these things ourselves because it is the working class that has the skills and knowledge to do it. The only thing is we don't need the employing class. They are the only ones that hold us down and reap the rewards. Get rid of them, then we will be able to do all the things that need to be done in the way of efficiency without sackings and without exploitation.

### Docks

With the week-old stoppage of dockworkers being joined by 1200 tally clerks, over £50 million worth of exports are being held up in the London docks. The dispute is over the long-term question of the right to work. Dockers work is being done in inland container depots and an erosion of 11,000 jobs has convinced the dockers that only direct action will safeguard their jobs and make more work available. Foot's plea to return to work fall on deaf ears.

The publication of Government plans to extend the Dock Labour Scheme will take at least another month, and implementation of those plans will be somewhere in the future.

Jack Jones, to get himself off the hook with his own members has referred it to the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service, its public hearings are complete but being as long-winded as its name suggests it is expected to be several weeks before its report is produced.

### Industrial civil servants

Over 180,000 industrial workers in Government employ have started a campaign for more pay. The worst hit is the House of Commons with picket lines manned by electricians and engineers. No mail is going in or out as postmen refuse to cross picket lines. In the dining rooms cold meals have to be washed down with milk as catering staff refused to light the gas.

Sir Geoffrey Howe, who's salary is many times that of the workers, said: "This betokens evil times for the future." Ronald Bell, another MP, demanded that these "Cowboy and Indian games should stop".

What arrogance! Does he think workers think it is all a game?

That people who see that they have heating, lighting and see to their wants are described as Cowboys and Indians is an affront to the dignity of the working class. The placards the strikers carry such as "Like Big Ben we are forced to strike", give the true picture of workers determined to maintain their living standards.

### British Airways

Clerical workers on British Airways won a resounding victory against their employers. As a result of a solid and well-organised strike, their employers had to abandon their pay-on-the-plane scheme. Naturally this method would have intensified the work of the air hostesses and inevitably have meant redundancies for clerical staff in the airports.

### Nottingham

For two centuries the hosiery workers have fought for a decent wage, resisted their employers greed for the dream of a fair deal.

The "crisis" of the knitwear and hosiery industry, based in and around Nottingham continues to deepen.

Already more than a thousand workers have been laid off or put on short time; threats have been voiced that more unemployment is to be expected. Among the more recent workers to lose their jobs are eighty at the Ruddington firm of Cooper & Roe.

The frantic management of the Marathon knitwear group have invited their workers to suggest "economy measures" to help ride out the crisis. This is asking workers to participate in cutting their own throats. And at Kinswear, where workers declined a £2.80 pay rise, this is exactly what workers did.

## Chile .. social democracy, midwife of fascism

When Salvador Allende's "Popular Unity" administration was elected to office in Chile five years ago it was heralded by pseudo-socialists of every persuasion, from the British Labour Party to the Soviet government, as a victory for the notion of a "peaceful road" to Socialism. Three years later Allende lay murdered, his administration destroyed, and the Chilean people were subjected to the most vicious repression in their history.

Marx once said that "violence is the midwife of history", and this is as true for the ruling class as it is for us. Now we can see that social-democracy, the desire to avoid struggle and an abdication of responsibility to self-appointed leaders, is the midwife of fascism.

Against the background of repression a scene of growing opposition can be seen: class organisations are again gaining strength - strikes, "go-slows", demonstrations for civil liberties once more appearing.

We print extracts from communications from the Revolutionary Communist Party of Chile to THE WORKER, and send greetings to all those in struggle in Chile.

"The history of the struggle of the Chilean people has been long and brilliant. All through this century mass struggles have confronted various social-democratic governments, whose bourgeois policies have manifested themselves in liberal, reformist or fascist forms. The common denominator (of these forms) was, and still is, the necessity to pass the crises onto the backs of the workers in the form of increased exploitation. . . .

"Inflation, unemployment and inhuman living conditions are the in-built characteristics of our economy, brought about by the monopolists and big landowners, together with economic and technological dependence on US imperialism. It is against these scourges that the people's struggles have been basically directed - these struggles taking economic, political and even armed form. . . .

"The reformism of Christian Democracy, backed by US imperialism, was discredited and brought to an end as a result of the enormous surge of mass struggles. It was in this situation that "Popular Unity" with Allende at its head, came to power, representing both the mass struggle for freedom, at a given ideological level, and at the same time the ability of revisionism to absorb a strong anti-imperialist movement for its own ends. . . .

"Its ("Popular Unity's") measures against the monopolists and landed proprietors were already castrated because they were applied outside of the framework of the (people's) struggle for power, by giving them priority and presenting them as a substitute. In this way disarming the people ideologically, politically and militarily. The illusions created by revisionism in the minds of the people about the jockals in uniform, whom they called the "People in Uniform", were intended to, ~~justify~~ the repression exercised by them on the working class and the peasantry, and had their natural consequence in the coup of 11th Sept. 1973. . . .

"A ruling class frightened by the people's struggle and the beginning of their attempts to arm themselves and turn against revisionism, coupled with economic disaster brought about by the ruling class, right-wing sabotage and the immoral acts of a bureaucratic bourgeoisie in government, in addition to the influence of revisionism on a handful of generals, lead to US imperialism carrying out the most bloody coup in the history of Latin America. They imposed fascism in reaction to mass struggle."

### Bradford builders

200 construction workers, mostly members of the TGWU and UCATT, building the £8 million transport interchange in Bridge Street, Bradford, have returned to work after a successful three-day strike to secure the reinstatement of a sacked workmate.

The dispute began when a man was sacked for not completing a difficult job in a short enough time. His workmates' response was immediate - one out, all out.

They all walked out leaving tons of quick-setting concrete only half-poured. The following day three men, drivers of lorries carrying concrete around the site, were sacked for supporting the strike. This action only made the strikers even more determined.

After the third day, Taylor Woodrow, the employers, capitulated. The workers went back to work following negotiations which secured the reinstatement of the sacked man. Realising they had gained the initiative, a new set of claims were submitted to management and backed up with an immediate work-to-rule.

### Unemployment

Maason, Scott & Thrissel's attempt to make 160 workers redundant was a deliberate attack on the union organisation, an attempt to create divisions amongst the workforce and to intimidate them into good behaviour. This unsubtle attack has been bravely resisted by a well planned, unifying campaign.

The strength shown in this fight should not be allowed to disappear with the acceptance of 'voluntary redundancies' of those over 60. The results of accepting a reduction in the workforce by whatever means are exactly the same - a weakening of organised strength.

The threatened redundancies follow a series of successful fights over pay and conditions but as with those fights the winning of this struggle will only produce at most a short truce.

The struggle against redundancies now facing MST workers has deep implications. The working class can provide the solution - unemployment for us under capitalism or unemployment for the class which has oppressed us for so long under socialism!

# Labour govt. and the superpowers

If Wilson has any claim to fame it is the contortionist's stunt of being able to lick the boots of two super-powers at once. A project to supply Rolls-Royce aero engines to People's China which would create employment for a lot of British workers is opposed by the United States because it conflicts with the "Cocoon" list governing trade with "communist countries".

The Soviet Government has also indicated diplomatically that it would oppose the Spey engine project even if Washington should withdraw its objections.

China has already ordered 35 Tridents worth about £120m. But the possibility of further orders obviously depends on ease of acquiring the engines which power these airliners and the facilities for overhauling them.

Wilson's boast about the deal he made in Russia has to be judged in terms of reducing Britain to an unequal partner of super-powers which fleece the whole non-socialist world, as opposed to enjoying equal trade with socialist China.

## Imperial Typewriters

The sit-in at Imperial Typewriters (Hull) continues. The workers maintain their demand that all jobs be saved. Meanwhile the management continues with its policy of refusal to make back payments it owes to the workers. When threatened with court action it called on the Conciliation and Arbitration Service to help. But talks between management and unions broke down. The workers, speaking from a position of strength, said they'd come to get all their outstanding money and not to bargain with the management who expected the workers to give up control of the factory as a pre-condition for paying up. The management then tried to buy the workers off by making partial payment. Many workers refused to take anything but the full amount. A summons has now been issued against the company.

Liton Industries, the US owners of Imperial Typewriters have set up a new company in Germany, called Imperial Typewriters and Business Machines, to produce new typewriters for export to Britain. So much for Liton's talk of their not having a market. Mr. Peter Grant, Hull TGWU official, said the general feeling was one of disgust and anger. The management had allowed wage negotiations for 1975 to go ahead when they already had advanced plans for a new typewriter based on the shut-down of the British factories.

The union has submitted a report to the Government outlining their plans for the factory. Mr. Grant said that the workers were insistent that all jobs be secured, even if not producing typewriters. They are going to stick the occupation out until they have won the right to work. Support for the sit-in has been magnificent and workers' representatives have been invited to speak up and down the country.

# Kith and kin : Russian revisionism and labour reformism

It is not surprising that Len Murray should have invited Alexander Shelepin, ex-secret-police and present Russian trade union leader to Britain next month. After all, when it comes to betraying the working class that both are supposed to represent, the present leaders of the Kremlin could teach the labour social democrats quite a few tricks.

The rate of exploitation in Russia, if measured as the ratio between profits and workers' wages has risen from about 100 per cent in the early 1900s, under the Czars, to about 200 per cent

in 1973.

Brezhnev's exhortation that the Russian workers should do "aus-tained and conscientious work" has resulted in an almost three-fold increase in the speed with which workers have to labour through a variety of methods called "scientific reorganisation".

The Shebekino Experiment, first started in the Shebekino Chemical Combine is a way of increasing the surplus value to be squeezed out of workers by dismissing part of the labour force and stepping up the productivity norms of the remainder. By July 1973

almost 300 industrial enterprises had copied the Shebekino example and sacked 70,000 workers.

Unemployment is matched by the deliberate creation of an army of floating workers. People unable to find jobs in their own part of the country who must drift from place to place seeking employment, account for 20 per cent of the labour force.

No wonder Murray and his mates want to have discussions with Shelepin.



Women fighters of the Cambodian National Liberation Forces

## May Day meeting

MAY 1st 7.30 p.m. CONWAY HALL RED LION SQUARE.

### FROM DEFENCE TO ATTACK

Workers of Britain, for over two hundred years we have defied the capitalists and organised in trade unions in defence of our livelihood and dignity.

Capitalism is in deep crisis. It has been forced to adopt new methods: social contract, nationalisation, worker participation, the claim that classes are no longer important, the plea to pull together to solve capitalism's problems.

But we recognise these lies (and no-one tells them so well as the Labour Government) as the ever-tightening controls of an oppressive state, precursor of fascism. We know it is capitalism which plunders our natural resources and stifles the intellect and skill of our workers. We know that only revolution can save Britain.

Our class understands, yet still draws back. History cannot stand still; we have to choose.

It is no longer enough simply to defend ourselves in our unions, no matter how well that struggle is waged, for to do that alone is to extend the hand of welcome to fascism.

There is only one alternative: working class socialist revolution waged by the workers of Britain. Our Party, the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) is dedicated to this task.

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PUBLIC MEETINGS IN THE BELLMAN BOOKSHOP. 7.30pm

April	4th	The Ideology of the Working Class Does Not Match its Capacity for Struggle
"	11th	International Contradictions and Their Effect on the Working Class
"	18th	New Tasks of the Working Class and its Party

### 'THE WORKER'

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# WOMEN CATER FOR STRUGGLE

During a recent dispute over scab labour, work at the Isle of Grain power station (Kent) was brought to a standstill and 50 women canteen workers (TGWU) were given assurances that they were to be paid for any time lost. The women accepted the promise. On returning to work their employers, Bateman Catering, immediately forgot about the deal.

## Immediate action

So the women - who cater for over 2000 men and the site hotels - met immediately and decided to strike. Within hours the site was in chaos. 600 Laing's workers came out in support, and others knocked off at 12 o'clock. Bateman's were flabbergasted! They threatened sackings, eviction of site personnel from their rooms - every other tactic they could muster. But as one member told us, "It takes the men 6 weeks to shut this place. Catering is such a key sector that everything stops within 2 days!"

## Quick settlement

Bateman collapsed - and the lay-off pay settlement sets a precedent for 1500 other site workers. These men had been prepared to wait around several weeks and accept the decision of an 'impartial' arbitration procedure to settle their identical grievance. The women's direct action sliced through all that nonsense. And when it was all wrapped up, one of the men concluded "There was a time when the women would cook our meals while we held our union meetings - but this turn-out has shown us up good and proper. They were never encouraged to participate, but now they've tasted victory and they know what they can win!"

## Capitalism denies birthright

"Maternity wards in hospitals in Medway, Kent, need 34 per cent more beds to cope with the present birthrate", warned Kent's medical officer at a recent meeting of Medway Community Health Council.

Medway, a vast industrial area, has one of the highest birthrates in the country and yet its proportion of hospital beds in maternity wards is one of the lowest. This type of situation is becoming a national one, and is yet another symptom of the Government's attack on our Health Service and on the standard of living of the working class.

In Korça, Southern Albania, an area similar in many ways to the Medway towns, the Health Care programme is a world apart! The new children's hospital is typical - over 200 beds (15 per cent vacant), 19 doctors, 120 nurses. No doctor has more than 850 patients on his roll, no hospital doctor has more than 10 "in-patient" cases! The work of the 11 hospitals in the area concentrate on preventative medicine, involving parents in courses for care and providing accommodation for parents and relatives to be with the patients. The hospitals are too big for present needs, but a Socialist country can look to the future!

## Cont. from front page

Houghton the NUT will not abandon education under attack.

Already, in parts of the country, notably in Leeds, Buckinghamshire and Richmond, teachers have stopped work in opposition to local cuts. The stoppages have been precipitated by the threat to jobs but we must move before the axe falls, realising that we are all threatened. There can be no area in England or Wales remaining unaffected by the cuts, whether it is a college of education or a school closed or even the lights of a classroom dimmed. Only the Union can be the rallying point for the struggle to keep lit the beacon of knowledge. Only the Conference can launch a struggle elevated to one of total opposition to all cuts.

It will have to consider its salaries claim for April '76. It will have to reject the slavish mentality that seeks to "maintain standards of living" and to maintain relativities with "comparable" workers.

The Conference will mark the first attempt by the Union to define comprehensively a teacher's duties. At present, teachers can technically be asked to do anything connoted with "the work of the school". But despite the strictures of Lord Houghton, the days of teacher servility are over. Teachers will now give themselves guidelines as to what constitutes the "work of the school". They will negotiate expenses for out of school activities. They will establish their entitlement to holidays and breaks during the working day. They will decide on a minimum number of marking and preparation periods.

The Conference decisions will underline a constant truth, that teachers are in the front line of the fight of the whole working class for education. The future resides with us, who alone can give the marching orders.

## IN BRIEF

Now we know why the Labour Government had to allow such a rise in petrol prices - so that Royal Dutch Shell and British Petroleum could amass ONE AND A HALF BILLION POUNDS in profits during 1974!

### TO RUSSIA WITH LOVE

Britain gives the Russians £1 billion in export credits and to finance it Britain borrows at high interest rates. Russia by the system of deferred payments gets the goods now and pays much less later in a depreciated Sterling. Who says British capitalism is not generous - with our money! The Russians have learnt how to be capitalists very quickly and are not slow to benefit from the senility of the oldest bourgeoisie in the world.