

THE WORKER

Published By Communist Party of Britain Marxist Leninist



August 1970 Price 6d.

Stop British troops committing MURDER!

DOCK STRIKE ENDS IN SELL-OUT

British troops out of Ireland!

IN NORTHERN IRELAND today British troops in their thousands are rampaging through workers' homes and shooting men dead in the streets.

They are there because last year saw a massive movement of protest against conditions created by British rule in Northern Ireland. British monopoly capitalism, which for generations has profited from the exploitation of workers in the great industries of Ulster like textiles and shipbuilding, relied on its Stormont stooges to keep Northern Ireland quiet and the profits rolling in. But with the rundown of traditional industries, unemployment rocketed to 20% in some places and the people began to rebel. The whole rotten system of inadequate housing unfairly distributed and jobs for the boys came under fire.

Stormont reacted with a vicious campaign of repression using CS gas and the notorious "B Specials." But the people fought back until last August the entire edifice of British rule in Northern Ireland was near collapse. The British bosses, through their 'Labour' Government, sent in the troops. They said they sent them in "to keep the peace": in fact they sent them in to keep their profits.

IRELAND FIGHTS FOR JUST DEMANDS

Northern Ireland today is in a state of siege, a British army of occupation holding back a militant and rebellious population. The Irish demand: British troops out! Ireland one nation! The land that was divided by Britain 50 years ago shall be re-united by the Irish people themselves, and to do this they will have to organise a People's Army. The struggle for re-unification is inseparable from the fight to liberate all Ireland from British imperialism. A phoney, negotiated re-unification would merely replace the direct colonialism of the North with the neo-colonialism of the South.

BRITISH IMPERIALISM FOSTERS RELIGIOUS DIVISIONS

Experience in combat is teaching the Irish the need for a united struggle to expel the invader. Religious differences have been carefully fostered by British imperialism to confuse and divide the people the better to exploit them. The protestant Paisley and the catholic Pope, the Orange Order and the Ancient Order of Hibernians - these are bit part players in Ireland's drama and must not divert attention from the real villain, the British ruling class, or the real hero, the Irish people. Once real battle between these two



protagonists is joined, only class differences will matter.

Irish workers have a great history of united struggle at the point of production against the boss. That struggle is now confronting the biggest boss of all - British imperialism. The Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) is convinced that the liberation of Ireland will only be achieved by a united movement based on the working class. For final success that movement must be led by a genuine communist party fired with the Marxist outlook of James Connolly, Ireland's greatest patriot and deepest thinker, who was murdered by the British Government in 1916.

FULL SUPPORT FOR IRISH LIBERATION FIGHTERS

We call on British workers to give solid support to the struggle of the Irish people for a united Ireland and an end to British rule. Their employers are our employers, their enemies are our enemies, their struggle our struggle. The class which sends the Army against Irish workers will not hesitate to send it against British workers - as armed blacklegs to break the dockers' strike. We salute the heroism of our Irish class brothers in resisting that Army and we join them in their battle cry:

BRITISH TROOPS OUT NOW!

GAS BOMB IN THE "GAS"-HOUSE

Conservative M.P. Angus Maud described the tossing of a couple of CS gas grenades, of the type used by British troops in Northern Ireland, into the House of Commons as a typical example of "this age of violence." Giving our legislators a taste of their own medicine is "violence" at its most reprehensible. But sending the British Army into Northern Ireland to hold down the Irish people with the most brutal force is not violence. That is described as "peace keeping!"

Russian betrayal in Middle East

ON JULY 21st Pravda published an article stating that "the Soviet Union respects Israel's right to a secure existence." It went on to deny that any Soviet missile crews were stationed along the Suez canal.

The Soviet Union is urging Israel to take a more favourable attitude to the secret peace proposals of William Rogers, the United States Secretary of State, and is thus showing its own interest in these proposals.

Indeed, Pravda, in the article quoted above, goes along with the American peace plan by using the Security Council phrasing of "withdrawal from occupied territories" instead of the phrase used in the joint Soviet-U.A.R. communique, "all the occupied territories" which the Arab countries favour.

Nonetheless, Nasser, undoubtedly under strong Russian influence, has stated his unconditional acceptance of the American proposals, and Jordan quickly followed suit.

The Soviet Foreign Ministry is stated by the Times Moscow correspondent to have proposed that "the Arab governments should guarantee Israel against guerrilla attacks" as part of a peace settlement.

Soviet dislike of the Palestinian liberation movement and attempts to sabotage it are known, but this is the first time there has been so open an expression of this position - a position which conforms with Russia's general policy of selling out liberation struggles against imperialism in the interest of its collaboration with the U.S.

Yasser Arafat speaking for Al Fatah and the Palestine Liberation Movement generally completely rejected the U.S. proposals and stated that no cease-fire arranged between Arab States and Israel would be respected by the Palestine forces.

Once more Russia has tried to sabotage a National Liberation Struggle. Those whom the Palestinian Freedom Fighters looked to for help have stabbed them in the back.

The CPB(ML) salutes the leaders and fighters of the Palestine Liberation Movement who are not deterred by the hostility of U.S. imperialism nor the treachery of Russian imperialism from the struggle to free their land.

"The people of a small country can certainly defeat aggression by a big country - if only they dare to rise in struggle; Dare to take up arms and grasp in their own hands the destiny of their country."

Tory Ministers, port employers and senior trade union officials joined together to end the dock strike and cheat the dockers out of any rise in their basic wage - which is what they went on strike for to begin with.

The analysis below was written before the strike was called off but it shows how the sell-out developed and how it might have been avoided.

IT SEEMS beyond belief that a union with a so-called left wing leadership could take 18 months to negotiate a claim, and then give the employers ample warning to make adequate arrangements to withstand a dock strike.

The rank and file quite rightly paid no attention to Jack Jones, Secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union, when he called for them to stay at work, and in striking they gave a clear indication to their delegates of their intentions. The vote at the delegate conference was not a true reflection of the militancy of the dockers. Delegates from the small ports, who were the ones voting against strike action, represent far smaller numbers of workers than those from the major ports who voted in favour.

Dockers by the very nature of the job have a right to high wages and basic rates in an industry that is hard, dirty and carries an industrial injury hazard five times greater than most industries.

The employers who are about to reap enormous profits from the pay and productivity deals contained in phase two of the Modernisation Programme see these future profits in jeopardy if they concede this claim.

The Government of the day, like all other governments serving the interests of the boss class, hastens to the side of the employers with that old well-worn trick, a court of enquiry composed of employers and renegade trade union officials. The outcome will inevitably be a sell out if accepted by the dockers officials.

There is only one rule for workers on this question. If you don't want to accept a Court of Enquiry's findings, you don't participate at any stage.

After playing at deceit the Government then wields the big stick, the threat to bring in troops, and says if you are willing to scab on yourselves by moving perishables and other essential commodities this will save the troops from scabbing. A Tory Government is doing it now. A Labour Government did it in 1949.

All workers have to realise that when you enter into a fight with recalcitrant employers and governments the game, if you are to win, cannot be played according to Marquis of Queensbury's rules. As good as the intention may be, giving wages to a charity instead of putting them into the strike fund makes it all the more difficult to get financial assistance from other trade unions.

There is only one way to win and that is to hold the employers over a barrel as hard as you can. That means no co-operating with either government or employer. The government will have no hesitation in bringing in troops and they will shift any cargo the government thinks necessary. Non-ferrous metals have already been mentioned.

At that stage it will be necessary for the whole of the organised working class to give all out support to the dockers by blacking anything that is shifted by troops and using all forms of working class struggle to defeat the employers and their government.

Discussion Meeting on Ireland

The West London Branch of the CPB(ML) announces a public meeting on Ireland.

Speakers will allow ample time for questions and discussion.

7.30 p.m. Friday 4th September

Porchester Hall, Paddington.
BUSES: 36, 27, 15 & 7.
TUBE: Bayswater & Royal Oak.

PEOPLE OF INDO-CHINA UNITE TO DEFEAT U.S. IMPERIALISM

MEMBERS of the CPB(M-L) were invited to a special showing of the Chinese-made documentary film on the Indo-Chinese People's Summit Conference.

This conference, held on April 24-25, marked a new stage of unity of the peoples of Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam against U.S. imperialism. The film shows what giant strides have been taken in their liberation war following the Washington-planned coup that deposed Cambodia's head of state Prince Sihanouk in March. For the effect of the coup, and of the subsequent invasion of Cambodia by tens of thousands of American troops, was to throw 6 million new fighters into the war against U.S. imperialism - the entire population of Cambodia with the exception of a small, and rapidly dwindling, band of traitors.

The war is no longer a Vietnam war but an Indo-China war. The film shows the complete identity of views achieved by the four delegations at the conference, from north and south Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. In a very moving scene the leaders of the delegations, Sihanouk of Cambodia, Souphanouvong of Laos, Nguyen Huu Tho of South Vietnam embraced each other and pledged their mutual solidarity.

But the unity in struggle extends further than the Indo-China peninsula. The conference was held "somewhere in southern China," and although the film does not portray it a banquet was given by China's Premier Chou En-lai for the four delegations, at which he guaranteed China's total support for their struggle and offered them, as a gift, the first news of China's successful launching of a man-made satellite - symbolic of the gigantic power that China has placed behind the Indo-Chinese struggle.

Since the conference, the unity has extended to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Today U.S. imperialism, its Soviet buddy and all the other reactionaries in the imperialist camp are faced with a great united front along the Pacific coast of Asia from Korea in the north to the Mekong Delta in the south.

Mao Tse-tung's solemn statement, issued on May 20th, expresses the political basis of this great united front. People of the world, unite and defeat the U.S. aggressors and all their running dogs is the programme of the front. Its policy is to unite not simply Marxist-Leninists but all people who are prepared to stand up and oppose U.S. imperialism and its lackeys. Prince Sihanouk is an excellent example, and Mao warmly commends his fighting spirit. The U.S. rulers have the wealthiest and most heavily armed state in the world but they do not have the support of their people and of people around the world. Cambodia is a small country, as are Laos, Vietnam and Korea. But in the last 20 years these small countries have successfully resisted U.S. aggression. Similarly in West Asia there are only 2-1/2 million Palestinians but they are battering the state of Israel and thereby gravely weakening the rule of U.S. and British imperialism in that area. As Mao says, U.S. imperialism, which looks like a huge monster, is in essence a paper tiger, now in the throes of its death-bed struggle. ... Innumerable facts prove that a just cause enjoys abundant support while an unjust cause finds little support. A weak nation can defeat a strong, a small nation can defeat a big. The people of a small country can certainly defeat aggression by a big country, if only they dare to rise in struggle, dare to take up arms and grasp in their own hands the destiny of their country.

Footnote on British Imperialism

Since we are concerned about destroying British imperialism please note the following developments:-

(1) British monopolies like Dunlops are investing in new kinds of machinery to redouble their already highly profitable investments in Malayan rubber & palm oil products, and companies like Plesseys are building new plants in Singapore. (2) Anglo-American oil companies like Esso are busy exploring the coastal waters of Malaya, North Borneo and the Gulf of Siam, for new oil finds. (3) The Malayan National Liberation Army, under the leadership of the Communist Party of Malaya has been scoring new successes in guerrilla warfare along the Malaya-Thailand border against puppet troops manned, trained and "advised" by Britain and U.S.A. (4) The British Government is busy devising new arrangements to protect British investments when the 1957 Anglo-Malayan Treaty expires next year. Heath wants a new five-power military agreement including Singapore, mainland Malaya, Britain, Australia and New Zealand; and his minister - Lord Carrington - is this minute in South-east Asia trying to line up the British stooges. More than 8,000 sailors and Royal Marines took part in naval exercises last month along the waters of eastern Malaya with the navies of these other allies and more are planned to counter "the growing threat of communism."

ARMS FOR S.AFRICA:

What The Liberation Fighters Say

THE DECISION of the Heath Administration to supply arms to the South African apartheid regime is a calculated move of escalating British imperialist involvement in the suppression of the 16 million Black Azanian masses.

It is British imperialism that created apartheid South Africa and it is British imperialism, aided and abetted by U.S., French, West German, Italian, Japanese and other western imperialists, that sustains apartheid oppression through massive economic investments and voluminous trade.

British imperialism has always stood shoulder to shoulder with South African fascism. Terrified by the evergrowing determination of the Azanian masses to wage armed struggle, and the increasing militant support for the struggle from genuinely independent African states like Tanzania and Congo-Brazzaville, the British imperialists have hastily resolved to supply the South African fascists with sophisticated land, sea and aerial military equipment.

The Azanian fighting people and their vanguard movement, the Pan Africanist Congress, are not intimidated by those desperate moves; this only strengthens their resolve to persevere in waging armed struggle, through people's war, till final victory.

The Azanian people take the enlightened revolutionary view that the British imperialists are merely "lifting a rock to drop it on their own feet" since in people's war it is the aggressor which is the principal source of arms for the revolutionary forces.

British imperialism's warmongering will come to no good end in Azania; the revolutionary forces - headed by the P.A.C. - WILL WIN FINAL VICTORY!!

From the Head of the Pan Africanist Congress' Mission in Europe and the Americas.

GREETINGS TO COMMUNIST PARTY OF CHINA

THE SECRETARIAT of the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) sends its warmest fraternal greetings to the Communist Party of China on the 49th anniversary of its foundation.

It salutes the glorious revolutionary achievements of the Chinese Party under the leadership of Chairman Mao Tse-tung. Throughout the decades of bitter fighting, first against the Japanese fascists and then against U.S. imperialism and its Kuomintang stooges, the correct leadership of the CPC enabled the millions of Chinese workers and peasants to break their chains, establish the dictatorship of the proletariat and march forward along the socialist road scoring spectacular successes.

When the ugly features of modern Soviet revisionism became apparent the red banner of Marxism-Leninism was kept flying high by the CPC whose brilliant exposure of revisionism by the Soviet renegades and their satellites helped all of us immeasurably in our struggles against reformism, opportunism and anti-Marxist deviations of all kinds.

With the unfolding of the great proletarian cultural revolution culminating in the 9th Party Congress of the CPC the victory of Mao's correct line against the anti-communist line of Liu Shao-chi and his clique was a triumph not only for the workers of China but for workers throughout the world. The victorious application of Mao Tse-tung thought in all spheres of the revolution, from industry and agriculture to science, literature and education so that workers control all aspects of society has been of the utmost importance for revolutionary people throughout the world.

Strengthened and re-invigorated through the cultural revolution the CPC today, as it forges new links with the masses through party leaders going and toiling among the people and new cadres coming into the party from the most militant sections of workers, peasants, youth and women, is of the strongest friend and ally of all of us who struggle for socialism. We in Britain, taking up the challenge of making revolution in our land to destroy British imperialism root and branch, hail the glorious Communist Party of China. It is an inspiration to us in our tasks ahead.

Long Live the Communist Party of China!

A long, long life to Chairman Mao Tse-tung!



Albanian Handicrafts on Display

There will be an Albanian stand, displaying examples of their handicrafts, at the 18th International Handicraft Exhibition which opens on August 28th and continues till September 12th. These products of Peoples' Albania which all the friends of Albania will want to see will be shown on stand O30.

Exhibition Hall, Olympia.

Solidarity With Palestine Liberation Struggle

Show your solidarity with the heroic struggle of the Palestine guerrilla fighters against U.S. imperialism, Zionism and Soviet capitulationism. Come to public meeting being organised by Indian Workers Association, London Branch. Sat. 8th Aug., 5 pm, at West Avenue Hall, West Avenue, Walthamstow, E.17. Nearest tube: Walthamstow Central on Victoria Line. Workers of the World Unite!

ZIMBABWE LEADER DIES IN PRISON Victim of Rhodesian Fascism

LEOPOLD TAKAWIRA, Vice President of Zimbabwe African National Union, died on June 15 in Salisbury Maximum Security Prison.

During the last six years of his life in jail he was repeatedly beaten and tortured. His death is not only a charge against the fascist settler regime in Zimbabwe but also against British imperialism which preserves the whole rotten anti-people set up in southern Africa.

Takawira took his place in the national independence movement from his earliest years. When a more militant organisation was needed to lead the people of Zimbabwe against their oppressors, Takawira was active in forming Z.A.N.U. which he served as Vice President.

The Party, standing for armed struggle against fascist rule, and the liberation war in which Takawira fired the first shots, stand as a memorial to his patriotism and militancy.

The police of the notorious Smith regime failed even with brutal charges and tear gas to disperse the thousands of mourners who accompanied Takawira to his final resting place in his home village at Chilimanzhi.

COUNCIL WORKERS READY FOR NATIONAL STRIKE

Union leaders forced into militancy

ON 30th July the three Unions representing Council manual workers met the Employers to hear their reply to the Unions' pay-demand. The Unions are demanding a straight £2 15s per week increase for all grades, plus half again where bonus, or other enhancement rates to not exist.

The employers offered 34/- men, and 28/11 women. Also they refused to even consider increasing the annual holiday to three weeks until 1972. The three unions, National Union of Public Employees, General and Municipal and the Transport and General rejected the offer. They are meeting the employers again on 3rd September. In the meantime members' meetings are being called in all parts of the country to consider where and when strike action should take place.

The militant stance being adopted by the Union leadership is almost certainly a bid to keep control. They, as well as the employers, were badly jolted by the rank and file militancy which sprang overnight during last autumn's "unofficial" strike.

The demand for a straight increase for all grades was a result of the angry protests made by the rank and file. During the last strike the leadership fell for a complicated graduation system which robbed many workers of the full gains.

The Shop Stewards' Co-ordinating Committee for London (formed during the previous strike) and consisting of stewards from all three Unions, has already begun to prepare for action. This time, the employers and right wing leaders, will find it more difficult to pull the wool over the eyes of Council workers. The days of poor rank and file organisation in Public industry are drawing to a close.

ALBANIAN WORKERS BREAK ALL RECORDS

The "Dynamo" Factory of Tirana, one of the new Albanian machine-tool factories has, by the efforts of the workers, increased its industrial output by seven times in the last eight years.

They now produce dough-making machines for the agricultural co-operatives, ribbon saws for the timber industry, electric turbines for the village hydro-power stations and machines for glass factories and copper-ware works.

The new machines have been designed and built by the collective intelligence and energy of the factory personnel, workers and technicians.

Just think how Britain's stagnant economy would surge forward if our system was one which unlocked for the good of the community the collective skills and experience of all Britain's workers by hand and brain!

CONFERENCE of ENGINEERS

THE Annual Meeting of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions met in June in the Isle of Man for a week. The conference, representing over 3-1/2 million engineering workers, is an important body in the working class movement and they got through a lot of very important business.

The importance of this gathering and its deliberations and decisions needs of course to be qualified. The decisions are only on paper, but even so quite an effort is made to carry or defeat them, for paper or not, they have significance. How much significance, of course, depends on what efforts are made to translate decisions through struggle into realities. To appreciate this let us examine some of these decisions.

The Common Market.

"This Confederation Annual Meeting is firmly opposed to British membership of the European Economic Community believing that the Treaty of Rome will impose injurious social, economical and political effects. We believe this would remove control and planning of Britain's economy from our elected Government, react against the Trade Union Movement, strengthen the great international companies and by committing Britain to a political power bloc, would perpetuate the division of Europe and increase world tension."

Never mind the social democratic phraseology. It spells clearly complete opposition and departs from the well worn line of argument based on increased prices. Both the Tory and Labour parties are committed to the common market "providing the cost is not excessive." The Confed. resolution is therefore in opposition to all three parties.

Equal Pay.

There were two resolutions carried, the most important obviously the following:

"Equal Pay for work of equal value" - "This Annual Conference instructs Executive Council to give immediate effect to the demand for equal pay for women. To this end we call for the initiation of this including strike action if the employers refuse this long overdue right to our women members, in line with Composite Resolution No.1 carried at the 1968 Annual Trades Union Congress."

The sense of this resolution is the recognition that Equal Pay won't come through legislation or pious resolution. The resolution itself will be pious or real dependant on the readiness of workers to see its terms implemented. Should workers take on the fight the leadership are firmly on the spot. The traditional role of the Trade Union establishment will be a very difficult one in view of the firm commitment involved in the resolution. That is the significance. The role of coward or betrayer becomes more difficult to play and much easier to identify.

Anti-Trade Union Legislation.

The Annual conference policy is clearly defined by resolutions as complete opposition; and while one resolution predictably is aimed at the Tory government the other spells out clearly that such opposition applies regardless of the Party in Westminster at any time.

On several other questions, - Mergers, Unemployment, International Companies to mention a few, good decisions were carried. Yes, on paper. This may be said with particular emphasis on the Common Market resolution. It was carried overwhelmingly on a show of hands but would have been beaten on a card vote which was not claimed by the AEF in the confusion of voting. The AEF having voted down a similar resolution at its own National Committee by the casting vote of the Chairman. Nevertheless it stands and is on record. It is for the members involved now to translate the words into action.

DOCK STRIKE THEM AND US

To judge by the attitude of the national figureheads "leading" the dockers it would seem that perishable cargoes were a much more important consideration than winning the strike. One would assume that having taken on a fight the only important thing would be to win it. The fight was for more money. There is no more to it than that and no one can doubt that the Transport Union, with or without international support, were quite able to win their fight, regardless of the use of troops, in a space of time before any cargo went rotten. There was a preoccupation on the part of the leaders with their public image. What else could explain such nonsense as advice to the dockers to work on perishable cargoes and give the wages to charity. Why should they work at all if they are in a fight, but to give the wages to charity? what about their own strike fund. Can one imagine anything more ludicrous than dockers on a strike giving money to charity whilst at the same time appealing to other workers for support.

But why the guilt about food going rotten and being dumped in the sea. This has always been regarded as sound economics when practised by the merchants. In the thirties food cargoes were systematically destroyed to keep up prices in a situation where low prices by virtue of unemployment and low wages were a threat to profit.

If the importer of food doesn't get the price he wants he will let the stuff go rotten rather than depress his present and future profits. At every stage if the buyer won't pay the price he can't have the goods. Try it for yourself on your shopkeeper. This of course doesn't only apply to foodstuffs. There is a chronic shortage of houses, and at the same time millions of pounds of building labour, land and materials are tied up in empty buildings WHICH WILL REMAIN EMPTY UNTIL THE PROPERTY OWNER GETS THE PRICE HE WANTS. Centre Point stands as testimony - empty for four years. The owner is not at all worried and unlike some dockers leaders he feels no guilt.

The strike is about money not politics. When the dockers and other workers name their price and stick to it in the same way as the pillars of capitalist respectability do that will signal a breakthrough into the realms of politics. Capitalism cannot survive such a challenge.

POST SCRIPT

On the Pearson Report - comments reported in the press.

Bernie Steers, Chairman of the National Dockers' Shop Stewards Committee: "... the old package with a different wrapping, what we are on strike for is an improvement in the basic wage. These proposals do not add a penny." Jack Jones, General Sec. T & G.W.U. called the Pearson findings a "significant advance."

MESSAGE FROM U.S. MARXISTS

FIVE MEMBERS of the Marxist-Leninist Progressive Labor Party and their associates were arrested in front of the British Consulate in New York on July 25th. They were supporting "the heroic strike of British dock workers."

They were brutally attacked and beaten by New York City Police. Scores of demonstrators at the Consulate urged the complete victory of British dock workers and sent a message of solidarity to those on strike. Their call "International Unity Will Win" is the right slogan for workers everywhere.

Against international monopoly capitalism workers have their own class weapon - proletarian internationalism.



ON THE INDUSTRIAL FRONT

EVEN according to government figures, by June this year the cost of living was increasing at a rate of 8% per year as compared to 5% in 1969. So workers have to get increases of at least 8% just to hold their own, let alone improve their position.

DOCKS

The government took a trip down Memory Lane with its handling of the dock strike. The Tories followed Labour's script for the 1966 seamen's strike practically word for word. Once again an election followed by an attempt to get tough with the unions by defeating a big strike. Once again a state of emergency and an inquiry headed by Lord Pearson. Coming attractions will no doubt include redabating speeches and the use of the strike as an excuse for being "blown off course" in the next crisis and all the other old favourites that were used by the Labour Party, the innovators for capitalism.

The claim on behalf of 47,000 dockers was for an increase in the basic time rate from £11.3s.8d to £20 a week. This would have affected overtime rates but not the guaranteed minimum weekly wage of £17 in London and £15 elsewhere. It would not have directly affected piecework rates although local action would have tended to push them up to match the rise in the daytime rate. The effect of the claim would have varied in terms of the amount of piece work done. In general the basic time rate affects about 40% of the pay packet.

After initial uncertainties the dockers showed their well known solidarity and all came out, rejecting the port employers' offer simply to put the fall back rate up to £20. Dockers on the Continent also showed solidarity by refusing to handle cargoes diverted from Britain. From many other countries came expressions of sympathy with the dockers' strike.

The employers had made preparations for a long strike by clearing the ports before the men walked out. This action together with the use of refrigerated ships made all the talk about perishable cargoes going rotten merely an excuse for the threat of sending in the troops.

The Court of Enquiry's findings were presented as a handsome gift to the dockers even though they gave them practically nothing that they had struck for. The delegates quickly accepted and the strike was over, leaving the men just where they had been before they came out. The credit for bringing off this sell-out of the dockers was evenly divided by the boss's paper. The Financial Times, between "the members of the Pearson Court of Enquiry and Mr. Jack Jones."

CAMBRIDGE INSTRUMENTS

50 AEF members, both men and women, achieved victory at this North London factory - part of the George Kent combine. The strike lasted for seven bitter weeks in which the management said "The strikers can stay out until they rot." Eventually the boss had to eat his words and the workers won increases of at least 1/- per hour, and more important for the future, established a strong trade union organisation at the factory.

JERSEY

Another state of emergency. This one was declared when 1,000 local government

manual workers in Jersey went on strike. It's always an emergency for the bosses when workers withdraw their labour, because then the profits stop. The men were claiming £3 a week more for lower paid workers and £2 for higher paid. The strike showed how everything depends on the working class. Fuel and other supplies stopped and rubbish piled up in the streets just when the local bigwigs had been exporting nothing but piles of money from holiday-makers. Faced with this the island's government soon came up with an acceptable offer.

OIL AND CHEMICALS

Police arrested 46 strikers who were picketing the Shell and Burmah Oil refinery sites at Ellesmere Port, Cheshire. The men were arrested as police tried to force a way through for tankers. The strike of 2,000 men employed by subcontractors at three oil and chemical sites in the North-West is for an increase in the basic rate from 11s 6d an hour to 15s an hour. The employers have offered 13s.

ROLLS ROYCE

950 draughtsmen at Rolls-Royce factories in Coventry were locked out by the management. The men were not demanding enough money to allow them to buy the company's cars, just another £5 a week to bring them into line with other Coventry factories. The company in a very provocative manner had said that a 7% increase in its wage bill coupled with a productivity agreement was its final offer. This would have meant increases of £2 5s to £2 15s per week. Local sanctions were imposed and the company immediately replied with a lockout.

OTTERMILL SWITCHGEAR

The strike at this plant making telephone switchgear started back in the beginning of May. The men are claiming increases of £8 15s a week to bring them up to national average levels. They were sacked after rejecting an "offer" from the managing director that the strikers be allowed back at the old rates and that 30 of the 200 strikers be declared redundant. Inflation seems to have reached Devon as well, as the managing director has now pushed this figure up from 30 to 130. The strikers for their part are sticking to their guns.

BUSES

Following an almost identical claim on behalf of 64,000 municipal busmen, a claim for increases of more than 25% on the basic rates has been lodged on behalf of 98,000 company busmen. The claim is for an increase of £4 3s 8d on the present £15 16s 4d for drivers and proportional increases for conductors and garage staff. Improved holidays and overtime rates have already been agreed on.

FARM WORKERS

It may be harvest time in the countryside but the men who make it all possible, Britain's 350,000 agricultural workers have precious little to enjoy except the sunshine. At present receiving a minimum rate of only £13 3s for a 43-hour week, they are putting in a claim for a 37% increase. Their target is an £18 minimum for a 40-hour, five-day week. Strange that the campaigners so worried about the condition of battery hens etc. never bother about the conditions of the farm workers.



FROM A PORTUGUESE PRISON

(Our Party's Chairman was invited some time back to attend as an observer at the trial, in a Portuguese court, of Marxist-Leninist comrades. Conditions in Portuguese jails, as in the country at large, are terribly oppressive because the Portuguese state, Britain's oldest ally, is an outright fascist dictatorship. The communication we print below was received from Portugal and gives some idea of the brutal oppression being faced by our comrades)

VERY grave events have taken place in Peniche prison in Portugal where repression of fundamental human rights is more excessive than in any other prison in the country, as for example, Caxias.

A systematic campaign of provocation and violence has been and is still being carried out against prisoners. The regime in Peniche can only be described as near-homicidal in the sense of attempting to destroy the very personalities of prisoners, making an already bad system worse.

This attitude against the political detainees exposes the government's aim. The government, through the political police - La Pide - now the D.G.S (Directorate General of Security) does its best to destroy slowly men who have in spite of everything high morale, and to transform them into human derelicts. Prison regulations which are interpreted with great elasticity and a "climate of permanent tension" are used by the police to justify repressive violence.

Once can quote a number of severe punishments meted out to political prisoners in the course of a single week. Dr. Joao Pujido Valente, M.D. was kept in "secret confinement," exceptionally severe punishment, as a result of provocation by one of the warders the infamous Poupas. Since then he has had a fortnight's "solitary confinement" with no visitors allowed. Fernando Jose Branco, Jose Luis d'Espiney and Rui d'Espiney, charged with the crime of solidarity (with revolutionary forces) were put in solitary confinement for 6 days with no visitors. Immediately afterwards other prisoners like Francisco Martins Rodrigues, Fernando Broderode Rodrigues dos Santos, Victor Catanho da Silva and Victor Soares were forbidden visits from their families for two months while Nuno Rebocho was denied such visits for 10 days. The prisoners have been beaten by the warders against which and in self defence they have gone on hunger strike, a grave risk to prisoners in enfeebled health.

All these punishments have had the same origin. The authorities of Peniche prison had officially agreed to remove Poupas, whose infamous acts as warder have been internationally denounced. But the head warder, Victor Ramos, a former Franco mercenary in the Spanish Civil War and one of Portugal's most dangerous policemen, managed to get the order revoked so that Poupas continues to be a warder at Peniche.

Friends of the detained, naturally very worried, made every effort to find out from the prison authorities what was happening to the prisoners. They then learnt the true reason for the sudden increase in repression. The authorities have pretended to create discrimination against 3 of the prisoners - Pujido Valente, Rui d'Espiney and Francisco Martins Rodrigues, condemned after 4 years in prison, to 15, 19 and 20 years with extra detention ranging from 6 months to 3 years at the discretion of the "political" police, something that applies to all political prisoners in Portugal.

These 3 prisoners are all Marxist-Leninists and founders of the Popular Action Front (F.A.P.) and have thereby incurred the entire wrath of the government and the political police which has said that it will not let these men get away alive.

The threatening attitude and behaviour of the political police at Peniche is so serious that all friends of the detainees fear for their lives. It is for that reason that the almost sub-human conditions under which prisoners are kept are now being made public.

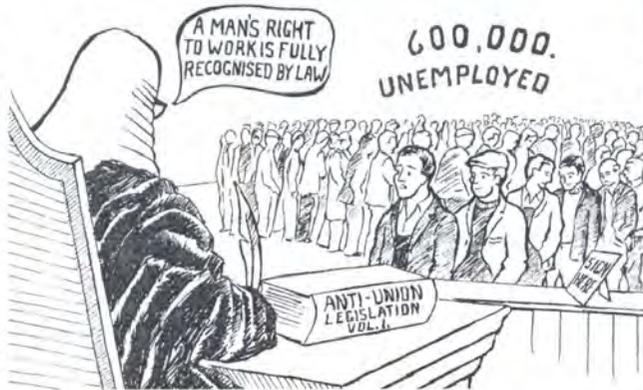
It is curious to note that all 23 prisoners belonging to the "Portuguese Communist Party" (revisionist) are not supporting the other prisoners. Instead they have even told an inspector from the Ministry of Justice that the militants form only a tiny handful of prisoners and added that they themselves were not dissatisfied with Poupas in spite of all that this man had done to prisoners.

The "tiny handful" of militant prisoners are 22 men belonging to the F.A.P., L.U.A.R. (League of Unity of Revolutionary Action) and Frelimo (the national liberation organisation now carrying out guerrilla struggle in the Portuguese colony of Mozambique.)

BRUTAL REPRESSION OF SPANISH WORKERS

THREE construction workers were shot dead by the Spanish police in Granada and 88 workers were seriously injured in the most violent clash between workers and the fascist Government since the Civil War. In Madrid on July 29th the Government placed striking underground workers under military discipline.

The workers of Britain will never forget their brothers in Spain who have endured 30 years of fascist dictatorship without losing their spirit of resistance and will one day free their country from the imperialist-backed Franco repression.



Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, on the right to work.

JOBLESS HIGHEST SINCE DEPRESSION

100,000 workers out of work for over a year

THE JULY unemployment figure of 569,627 or 2-1/2% of the total of workers is the highest for 30 years. Not since the end of the great depression have so many people been out of work. (And it must be remembered that official figures on the employment exchange books are a very conservative estimate indeed of the numbers actually out of a job.)

What is particularly noticeable about these figures is that they do not represent temporary or transitional unemployment. Over 60% of those at present unemployed have been out of work for more than two months and more than 100,000 workers have been jobless for over a year. Furthermore employers reckon that anyone who has been off work for such a period must be regarded as unemployable.

Labour's "economic miracle" of temporarily achieving a balance of payments was at the cost of a stagnant economy.

CAMBRIDGE STUDENTS SENTENCED

EIGHT Cambridge students, who were tried for their part in a demonstration against fascist rule in Greece, have been given prison and Borstal sentences ranging up to 18 months. In addition two were recommended for deportation to fascist South Africa and Brazil. Since appeals have been lodged and the cases are sub judice we are not free to comment on the sentences. But certain conclusions can and must be drawn.

The capitalists always pick on the most vulnerable of their enemies and punish them as an object lesson for the rest. In Britain today this means students are the first to be hit. But it will be students first, workers next. The capitalists know that the real threat will come from the working class, which alone has the economic, numerical and organisational strength to destroy capitalism once and for all. The imprisonment of students is simply preparing the ground for imprisonment of workers.

Politically conscious workers must therefore understand the need to support and defend the students who take militant action. And students must in their turn understand their own vulnerability so long as they fail to be fully integrated with the working class. Workers should try to spread this understanding by raising the Cambridge case in trade union branches, district committees and trades councils. They should circulate the petition, printed below, appealing for the deportations to be dropped, and they should use the petitions to show the close relationship between the British state, the Greek state and the regimes in South Africa and Brazil. Since reactionaries of the world unite to oppress, let workers of the world unite to rebel!

For copies of the following petition write to John Newbiggin, 12 Mill Lane, Cambridge. "At Hertfordshire Assizes two students were recommended for deportation, one to Brazil, the other to South Africa. We, the undersigned, are seriously concerned at the consequences they would probably suffer should these recommendations be carried out. We therefore urge the Home Secretary to show clemency in these cases."

Correspondence

To THE WORKER,

All the politicians are saying, as an excuse for inflation, that all countries have it. That is a lie. China has no inflation at all.

Though in the 40's pre-liberation China had a terrible bout of inflation (like the German inflation of the 20's) when on pay day people stuffed their money into packs and ran to the shops to spend it all before prices went up again. For over 20 years now, since liberation, the prices of grain and other staple food stuffs, rent, public transport etc., have remained completely fixed. The consumer market is flourishing. Prices of manufactured goods are gradually going down due to the rapid growth of the national economy. There is no income tax and no unemployment. China is the only country in the world to have paid off all internal and external debts. Renminbi, China's unit of currency, is now one of the most stable in the world and is increasingly being used in international trading as a stable basis for measuring exchange values.

For comparison, in the same period from 1949 to 1968 retail prices rose in the U.S.A. by 48.7%, in Britain by 11.3% and in France by 161%. The economy of the U.S.S.R. is also beset by difficulties and the gap between rich and poor is big and growing.

The reason for the difference is that China is a real Socialist Country. The working class put their politics in command and wield state power. They are led by the Communist Party and their great leader, Chairman Mao. They are guided by philosophy and that mighty weapon of the working class - Marxism-Leninism, the Thought of Mao Tse-tung. There are no parasites on the backs of the Chinese people. (In England in 1960, 1% of the population owned 47% of the wealth. Did they work for it?)

Inflation, price increases, unemployment, etc., are inherent in the capitalist system. Although there has been a rather long period without a major economic crisis, this cannot last and the imperialist system is heading for total collapse. Socialism will inevitably triumph all over the world. But the task of finally smashing British imperialism is ours - The British Working Class. To do so, let us rally round the leadership of the Party. Study and apply the universal principles of Marxism-Leninism - Mao Tse-tung Thought to the situation in Britain and organise to smash this capitalist state and set up a Workers State.

D.H.(Essex)

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