

CLASS STRUGGLE

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CONFED STRIKE A SELL OUT!

After two months of industrial action and nearly ten months of negotiations, the strike is over and everybody is back at work. The union leaders are claiming a victory but the facts speak for themselves and show that it is nothing but a shameful sell-out. Even the modified claim has been further watered down beyond all recognition.

PAY

The original claim was for a minimum wage this year of £80 for skilled men. The final agreement gives skilled men only £73 and it won't necessarily be this year. The new rate of pay will be paid from the "anniversary date in each plant", that is, the date agreed by unions and management locally on which negotiations will take place. So, if your local "anniversary date" is April, you don't get the increase until next April! And the last National Agreement expired on April 7th, 1979. So this wonderful "victory" has cheated us of at least six months and possibly twelve months increase in our wages.

WORKING WEEK

The original claim was for a 39-hour week this year with a gradual move to a 35-hour week by 1982. Then, the Confederation dropped its commitment to a 35-hour week completely and stuck out just for the 39-hour week this year. But in the end, even this "victory" was denied us. What did we get? A 39-hour week as from November 1981! This is accompanied by a commitment not to seek a further reduction in the working week for a further two years. What we have is a 39-hour week for four years, instead of the 35-hour week in three years as originally claimed. That kind of victory we can do without!

HOLIDAYS

The claim was originally for a minimum of five weeks annual holiday. Then it was modified to two days this year with no definite commitment beyond that. What we got was something else again - an extra five days holiday by 1983 with two days extra between November 1979 and November 1980 "to be taken at the discretion of the employer". So some people will get no increased holidays this year, and the rest will probably

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IRELAND: THERE CAN ONLY BE PEACE WITH JUSTICE

Over a million Irish people listened to the Pope at Killineer in Ireland, as he launched his passionate appeal against violence. His outspoken plea for peace will no doubt strike a powerful chord. Who among the mass of people does not want peace? How many thrive on war and violence? Who enjoys killing or dying? The desire for peace is a desire of the masses. This desire, coupled with the Catholic Church's influence makes the Pope's call very effective.

Of this there can be no doubt. That is why the British media, and those Irish papers which are subservient to British capital, headlined it with unconcealed delight. The *Sunday Mirror* of September 30th screamed right across the front page: THE POPE BLASTS IRA. But wait. If the capitalist press are so happy about it, there must be more to the Pope's message. There is indeed.

POPE ONLY ATTACKS VIOLENCE BY IRISH PEOPLE

Did the Pope attack the violence of the British Army? Did he condemn the SAS murders of Republicans? Did he speak with disgust of the links between British imperialism and the Loyalist assassination squads? No - he did not. He made it quite clear that his appeal was only an appeal to the Irish people. It was an appeal not to resist. "Do not believe in violence. Do not support violence. It is not the Christian way" he said. "My dear young people, if you have been caught up in the ways of violence, even if you have done violence, come back to Christ."

TO WIN PEACE IT IS OFTEN NECESSARY TO USE VIOLENCE

The question of violence cannot be seen in abstract. Sometimes it is necessary to use violence. The military defeat of Hitler, the struggle of the Patriotic Front in Zimbabwe, of the Kampuchean people, of the Palestinians, the Iranians and the Nicaraguans all demonstrate that violence is indeed at times necessary. It is necessary in order to win peace and freedom. There are just wars and unjust wars. Even the Pope knows that violence is necessary at times. His bodyguards were armed with automatic weapons. The ruling class carries out its oppression and exploitation with violence. It will defend itself with violence, and it can only be overthrown by violence. The imperialist system is a system based on violence and is a system which breeds wars. Those who want peace can only ensure peace by destroying that system.

IRELAND IS A VICTIM OF VIOLENT OPPRESSION

Ireland itself was conquered by military aggression, ruled and partitioned by brute force. British

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imperialism has extensive interests in Ireland, north and south. It will never give them up without a fight. The Pope himself recognised that oppression existed. He called on "all who bear political responsibilities for the affairs of Ireland" to "achieve justice". This is good. But it is another thing to actually bring about justice - the justice of independence for Ireland, of the reunification of Ireland and of the right of the Irish people to decide their own future. In fact the Pope's speech, which made no distinction between terrorist tactics and the right to waged an armed struggle for liberation, was warmly welcomed by those who bear principal responsibilities for violence in Ireland - the British imperialists. No wonder the *Sunday Mirror* could say that his statement "far exceeds the hopes and the expectations of the British Government."

The British people must understand what has happened and what is happening in Ireland. The Irish people have the right to independence and freedom. They have the right to fight for it. The British troops are not in Ireland "to protect the peace." They are there to protect the profits. They are not a solution to the problem. They are a basic part of the problem. Yes, British imperialism wants peace in Ireland. It wants peace so that it can continue its domination.

CONFED STRIKE A SELL-OUT

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only get one day, with the second day going onto next year's entitlement. But still - two days in two years is quite near - so I suppose we should be grateful for their militancy on this one.

And that's just about your lot! It is an insult to our intelligence to claim it is a victory, a "historic settlement", an "inspiration" to other workers, as the Confederation leaders are doing.

WHY WERE WE SOLD OUT?

Because the Confederation is a law unto itself, with no real links with the shopfloor, it has the power to call us out on strike and to order us back to work as it sees fit. There is no machinery to allow the unions' rank-and-file to get to the Confederation leaders and make its voice heard. Even resolutions of censure passed in union branches will only go as far as the national level of that union (if we're lucky!) and not to the Executive Council of the Confederation. They are answerable to nobody but themselves and the employers they spend all their time hobnobbing with.

As previous issues of *Class Struggle* have pointed out, the only democratic way is to formulate a claim based on the opinions of the rank-and-file, to explain that claim fully to all members and to rely on them to fight hard for what they understand to be in their interests. This is the only means to success.

Talking of sell-outs, we must mention Frank Chapple's own personal crusade for democracy in all this. Chapple has never supported industrial action in pursuing this claim, and therefore it is no surprise that at the last minute he decided to openly scab on the struggle and seek a separate meeting with the Employers Federation to try to get something that would enable him to bring the EETPU back to work while the other unions were still out. His concern that the "nation" was being held to ransom for the sake of "one hour" is understandable to all who know Chapple. But did the TUC criticise him for such treachery or try to bring him back into line. Not at all - they promoted him! Only about a week

Communists oppose terrorism. It plays into the hands of imperialism and confuses the issues. As *Class Struggle* (Vol.3 No.18) said, it drives the masses into the hands of imperialism. This is another reason why the Pope's appeal affected so many Irish people, but that is all the more reason to stand up clearly for the right of oppressed people to liberate themselves through armed struggle.

Through his speech, the Pope, however sincere he was in his call for justice, has helped those who have no interest in justice or in a just peace.

THE CHURCH MUST BE SEPARATED FROM THE STATE

Finally, the Pope's visit to Ireland highlights another major issue of Irish liberation. All people have the right to their own religious beliefs, but in Ireland, north and south, religion is more than that. The Church is a fundamental part of the state itself. This is true of other countries, including Britain. But in Ireland the problem is highlighted. Southern Ireland has a Catholic state. The Church is involved in everything from making laws to the education system. In the north, Orange protestant power plays a similar part.

The reunification of Ireland is an essential part of the main struggle for independence. The complete separation of the Church from the state is one of the essential conditions for that reunification. Religion must become a matter of individual belief and not part of any ruling force.

after his treacherous statements on the Confederation claim the TUC announced that Chapple was to be their representative on the National Economic Development Council. They know their own kind, and they look after their own.

LESSONS

We must learn the lessons of this strike. We must demand democratic debate on pay claims in future; we must struggle to change structures that hinder this; we must rely on our own strength and be clear about who our real friends are and who our enemies are. We must be on our guard against false "friends" who claim to be on our side, like the union leaders and the so-called "Communist" Party of Great Britain. These lot have a paper called the *Morning Star* which carries the caption "the one that's different". On the Confederation strike there was no difference at all between it and any other sell-out rag. Their headline was "2 million engineers win cut in hours" and their article ends by saying, "The engineers breakthrough must also give added edge and urgency to the campaign for the 35 hour week decided by the TUC General Council at its last meeting". What absolute lying nonsense! For a start, we know how the TUC is fighting for a shorter working week, when it promotes Chapple for denouncing the struggle. And secondly how can this "breakthrough" lend "urgency" when 2 million workers are tied to a 39-hour week for 4 years by union agreement!

This struggle has demonstrated clearly that the union bosses and the employers are on the same side of the fence, and together they succeeded in inflicting a defeat on the working class.

THE FIGHT AGAINST BRITISH IMPERIALISM

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| OCTOBER 26th | British imperialism in the world | MONTHLY DISCUSSION MEETINGS |
| NOVEMBER 23th | British imperialism and the third world | to be held on Fridays at 7.30pm at the |
| DECEMBER 14th | British imperialism and Ireland | Roebuck pub, Tottenham Court Rd, London W1. |
| JANUARY 11th | British imperialism, the superpowers and the struggle for independence. | Organised by the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain, |
| FEBRUARY 8th | British capitalism in crisis | c/o New Era Books, |
| MARCH 7th | Imperialism and the working class | 203 Seven Sisters Rd, London N4. |
| APRIL 4th | Imperialism and racism | |
| MAY 16th | The British imperialist state | |

Send suggestions and criticisms to: the Editor - CS, c/o New Era Books, 203 Seven Sisters Rd, London N4.

NEW SPY CHIEF IN IRELAND

The British Government is taking new steps to "solve the Irish problem". Have they decided to get out or stop their exploitation and oppression? No. They have merely tried to improve the organisation of their oppression.

Sir Maurice Oldfield has been appointed to a newly created position as "Security Coordinator in northern Ireland". He will attempt to "improve" British aggression by establishing more efficient coordination between the 13,500 British troops and the 6,500-strong Royal Ulster Constabulary.

He will find himself at home in directing the activities of SAS assassination squads, plain clothes troops and Special Branch spies. He is a former head of MI6, the secret intelligence service and well used to spying and murder.

This time the British Government has not even tried to pretend it is an impartial force in the middle of a battle between "rival gangs of Protestants and Catholics". The recent escalation of murders of Catholics by Loyalist extermination squads is not even mentioned. Oldfield's job is described in the media purely and simply as to "smash the IRA". He will, of course, direct activities against all Republicans. This will be nothing new. The new aggressive set up he will head is already known in Republican circles as "the Stormont KGB".

He will not succeed. Peace will only come to Ireland, when the cause of war - British imperialist oppression - has been removed.

MORALISING SOLVES NOTHING

Childminders by Brian and Sonia Jackson was published recently. It has been given a lot of press and TV coverage.

The report paints horrifying pictures of a child with an unregistered minder being roped to a kitchen table for hours, of youngsters with cigarette burns on their arms and of children beaten. One woman who was a registered child minder had her own three children taken into care. For children now in the care of childminders there are stories of parents on shifts, asleep all day being responsible for the kids.

The way the report has been handled has been to condemn women - those who work and leave their kids in such hands and those who mind children, but are not really capable, to make ends meet.

Women didn't like sending their youngsters into the factories in the last century, and they don't like what goes on now. But our rotten capitalist society determines what is necessary, not our own wants.

Jackson see the need for more registered childminders with better financial support, but he oppose nurseries attached to factories! "He would not wish to leave his own children in a creche at many of the factories he had seen". This is where we need them most, near their working mothers.

Childminders has come out at a time when some Councils such as in Liverpool are closing their nurseries. This proves the fact that the service cuts can only make the lives of workers and their children harder.



A WORKER'S NOTEBOOK

THE ARROGANCE OF THE POLICE CHIEFS AND ORGANS OF the state has reached a new height. The police enquiry into Blair Peach's death has not even produced a face-saving cover up. In spite of the existence of several eye witnesses to the murder, Scotland Yard and the DPP (Department of Public Prosecutions) have announced that no charges will be brought against the SPG. Scotland Yard say that no SPG men were picked out at identification parades. One of the eyewitnesses claims that at one identification parade all of the policemen wore beards. The officer in charge explained that this was because the suspect involved had grown one since the Southall demonstration! Commenting on the cover up Mr Mohammed Asghar, co-ordinator of the Southall Rights Legal Aid Centre said, "We see it as the clearest evidence that police can get away with murder".

FOLLOWING THE CORONER'S DECISION TO REFUSE A jury in the Blair Peach murder hearing, demonstrators protested outside police stations nationwide.

THE POPE'S VISIT TO IRELAND WAS GIVEN ALMOST saturation coverage by the BBC. It was given almost as much coverage by the revisionist rag the *Morning Star* which featured a photo of the Pope on its front cover with the accompanying headlines, "Will anyone heed his plea for peace?" The Pope, according to the *Morning Star* was "precise in his attacks against violence and repression by the state". Back in the world of political reality even the bourgeois newspapers were able to ascertain the real purpose of the Pope's visit to Ireland which, according to the *Birmingham Post* "far exceeded the expectations of the British Government". In other words, by manipulating the emotions of the Catholic community and by using syrupy words and phrases like "love your enemies" the Pope's visit represents nothing more than an attempt to undermine the anti-imperialist struggle in northern Ireland. In their support of the Pope's speeches the "C"PGB once again reveal themselves as despicable enemies of the Irish working class.

ANY WORKING CLASS MOTHER OR FATHER FACED WITH the enormous problems of finding day-care facilities for their children will have been outraged by the statements made by Social Services Secretary Patrick Jenkin. In an article in the *Sun* newspaper entitled "The shame of Britain's don't care mothers" Jenkin is quoted as saying that "parents who use childminders are neglecting their responsibilities" and he further urged women in particular to take on the full responsibilities of parenthood - by staying at home. Parents, declared Jenkin, have no right to expect free state nurseries and child-minding facilities. Jenkin's statements are not only an insult to the thousands of working class families who because of their financial situation have no alternative but to put their children into nurseries but represent also an attack on women themselves. Working class men and women, and the working class as a whole should continue to struggle for improved child minding facilities as well as for the right of women to decide for themselves whether they wish to stay home or go out to work.

ITS WORTH REMINDING OURSELVES OF THE KIND OF "salaries" the state pays to Britain's top "parasites" - the royal family. The Queen's pay for this year is £2,134,200. The Queen Mother's is £200,000. The Duke of Edinburgh's is £98,000. Princess Margaret's is £64,000 and Princess Anne's is £63,000. And Thatcher and Callaghan have the nerve to talk about the working class making "inflationary wage demands".

LABOUR CONFERENCE—'LEFT' FAC

The Labour Party Conference was headlined as victorious for the "left". "Democracy", "accountability" and "more authority to the Labour Party NEC" were the catchphrases of the day. Benn, Heffer and Frank Allaun rode the crest of a wave while Callaghan faced questions on when he would resign. The whole charade was aimed at convincing working class voters that the Labour Party was transforming itself into a party that would next time represent the interests of the working class. Capitalists in selling their commodities pay a great deal of attention to flashy packaging and advertising. It is the same with the Labour Party. "Left" packaging and camouflage, however cannot change the reality that the Labour Party is a capitalist party, an imperialist party, using socialist phraseology to mislead the working class. Mussolini was once a "socialist" and the fascist Hitler regime styled itself as "National Socialists". Today, the gang ruling in the Kremlin describes social imperialist aggression as aid to national liberation struggles and even quotes Lenin to justify their actions.

But Labour's phoney rhetoric is likely to mislead many workers. Hatred for the Tories and their measures to shift the burden of the capitalist crisis onto the backs of the working class will be used by the Bennites.

WHAT DEMOCRACY?

There were three votes on the long term enquiry into Labour Party structure which gained most pub-

licity. How the leader is elected, who writes the manifesto and whether a Labour MP should be subject to annual re-selection. The authority of the MPs over the Labour Party is a feature of the bourgeois Parliamentaryism of this reformist party. It is, of course, undemocratic. But bourgeois democracy itself is only a facade of democracy hiding the state power of the capitalist class. And in their demands for more democracy in the Labour Party, the Bennites have not exposed or denounced this fraud of Parliamentary (bourgeois) democracy. They imply that the power of the masses over Parliament will be increased by greater power of the Labour Conference and Party over the MPs. But who will have most say in "controlling" the MPs? At the Conference only a few hundred thousand votes come from Labour Party branches. The rest, numbering millions came from the block votes of the union bosses. What's democratic about this? What control do the mass of trade unionists have over the likes of Murray, Bassnett, Chapple, Duffy and Co.? None! But formal democracy is not the main thing. The Labour Party and the TUC are opportunist bodies whose ideology serves the bourgeoisie (capitalist class) not the working class.

LABOUR BACKS BRITISH IMPERIALISM IN IRELAND

As soon as the Labour Conference started talking about concrete political issues, there was no mistaking on whose side it stood. This Party labelling itself "socialist" jumped to the aid of British

TORIES DENY HEALTH CUTS

The Health Minister, Dr Vaughan made a speech to the Tory Conference which was packed with lies. It was difficult to recognise the Health Service he described as our own. "The Government kept its election pledge to protect the NHS", he said. What incredible hypocrisy! A motion was passed which asserted that "the NHS is sufficiently funded" and that the apparent shortage of money is due to funds being misspent and misapplied to the detriment to the patients. They must live on another planet! "Small hospitals which were more efficient and vital to local communities must not be closed" he said. Even he must choke on that sentence! He goes on to blame, yet again, all the ills on industrial disputes. And what does he have to say about the cutbacks now affecting every area in the country? Nothing! Not a word!

WIDESPREAD HOSPITAL CLOSURES

Health Authorities have had to cut back expenditure by over £100 million this year to pay for increases caused by inflation. The City and East London Health Authorities (AHA) agreed cuts of £3½ million resulting in the closure of the London Jewish Hospital, partial closure of St Leonards Hospital and the staff cuts at St Bartholomews and the London have resulted in the closure of at least one children's ward. These cuts were greeted by a demonstration of 400 hospital workers and a petition signed by 70% of the local GPs.

Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham AHAs were asked to make cuts of £5 million. The Authorities refused and resigned their posts.

Since then cuts have been implemented in Guys and Kings Hospitals and other smaller ones in the area.



Vaughan's honeyed words can't hide the escalating cuts.

In Merton, Sutton and Wandsworth, £5 million in cuts have been agreed closing six hospitals; Putney General, Wimbeldon General, Cumberland, Henderson Psychiatric, St Benedicts for Old People and the Belmont Unit for children. Partial closures include eight children's brain surgery beds, a muscular dystrophy unit, a home for delinquents and many other such specialised units. The cuts were agreed to a background of hospital workers' jeers and a chorus of "You are murderers" and "You are smashing the Health Service". Since then there has been a one-day strike at St Benedicts Hospital.

Similar cuts are affecting every area in the country. Everywhere, nursing and technical staff are not being recruited, wards are lying empty, research and specialised units are lacking funds.

It's action, not words that count, Dr Vaughan. The twaddle at Blackpool is headlined but the cuts are everywhere being covered up. Neither Tory nor Labour have done anything for the health of ordinary people. Militant demonstrations are taking place. Our Health Service must be fought for.

E COVERS IMPERIALIST POLITICS

imperialism and voted overwhelmingly against "Troops out of Ulster". One-time left winger Michael Foot led the debate. Not once did he mention the oppression of the Irish people, particularly the Catholic and Republican minority, under the heel of British domination. Foot made it clear that while Labour will permit the British working class to wage trade union struggle for a better wage, it will not tolerate opposition to British imperialism in Ireland. This is Labour through and through. Workers can try and live better under capitalism, but don't dare challenge the rule of British imperialism in Britain or its oppression and exploitation of other countries.

Proletarian internationalism is a fundamental principle of the interests of the workers and oppressed peoples. But the likes of Foot, Benn and Co. who are such "champions" of the workers in Britain would have us believe that our interests lie with unity with the British capitalists when it comes to Ireland. What kind of "socialism" is this?

FRANK ALLAUN BACKS SOCIAL-IMPERIALISM

Brezhnev and Co. would be very pleased with Frank Allaun's closing speech. Closing the Labour Party Conference, he declared that the "Arms race is the threat - not Russia". This is exactly the propaganda position of the Kremlin. Allaun said "I don't believe the Russian people want war any more than we do". Quite right! But who's talking about what the Russian people want? Does Allaun think that the

Brezhnev gang who rule by terror in the Soviet Union carry out the wishes of the Russian people?

Brezhnev and Co.'s idea of peace is - submit to our demands and give in to our threats and there will be no war. But this is impossible. The Soviet Union is no longer a socialist country. Capitalism has been restored there. As a rising imperialist superpower the Soviet Union wants its "share" of the world market and resources. Soviet social imperialism is challenging US imperialism for world domination. It is this which is leading to war and the arms race is the military reflection of this economic and political rivalry. Allaun made himself a mouthpiece of Soviet social imperialism by making this speech and helped prettify the Soviet Union which is indeed the most arrogant and most dangerous source of war.

COMMUNISM NOT "LEFTISM"

Labour is incapable of acting in the interests of the the working class. No matter how much it is tarted up with seemingly democratic and "left" phrases and speeches from its members. The ideology of the working class can only be a revolutionary one based on the principles of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought. The "left" of Labour may have a new lease of life in misleading the working class. But their ultimate exposure will be even more devastating. An increasing number of class conscious workers will be won to and participate in building genuine Communist revolutionary leadership of the working class.

NURSES FIGHT HEALTH CUTS

Nurses in Manchester's Central District are preparing to resist Government attacks on the Health Service and on nurses' working conditions.

Wards are closed because there are not enough nurses to staff them. The Hospital Authorities claim that this is due to holidays, but as the nurses in the United Hospitals Branch of NUPE point out, "The truth is that the nurses aren't there in the first place. It's been a case of struggling through with understaffed wards, closing one ward and moving the staff for a couple of weeks, then closing another and round and round we go...During one of these change rounds a patient recently had a cardiac arrest and died. No one can say that it caused his death, but it certainly didn't help keep him alive. So what about the future? Well, there were 8,000 less students taken on this year."

Student nurses are left alone to look after wards at night. This can be during ½-hour dinner breaks, or even longer if the qualified nurses are needed elsewhere. But the General Nursing Council recommends that no nurse in training be left in charge of a ward. Empty words don't help the student nurse or the patient neglected because of lack of safe nursing cover.

Nurses' pay is being reviewed by the Clegg Commission - due to report at the end of the year. Not much can be expected of that. The Commission is comparing nurses with workers in mainly female occupations, where wages are notoriously low. What the Health Service needs is much more money just to restore standards to what they were 10 years ago. With the Government determined to cut spending and promote private health services, standards are bound to sink even further.

NURSES' RIGHTS ATTACKED

Nurses are fighting for a shorter working week. The Nurses' and Midwives' Council have offered to reduce the working week from 40 hours to 37½. But there is a catch. Nurses will have to take a corresponding wage-cut! The NUPE bulletin answers, "That just about sums up what they think of you. An insult."

Nurses, like all working people, have to defend their conditions by taking industrial action. But the right to take industrial action is being taken away from nurses. The General Nursing Council say nurses who limit or withdraw their services are liable to "proceedings for professional misconduct." This would mean striking them off the register, removing their qualifications for which they have worked so hard, and stealing their livelihood.

The NUPE bulletin points out that this rules out "not only strikes but any form of work-to-rule. It could mean a nurse refusing to lift patients single-handed or students refusing to take charge of wards at night, will make themselves liable to a charge of professional misconduct. Are nurses going to allow themselves to be treated less equally than their colleagues in other vocations? Are they going to allow themselves to become the victims of an archaic, Victorian-minded bunch of dictators, or are they going to stand up and be counted when it comes to telling them where to go?"

The interests of the nurses are the interests of the entire working people. They will not stand alone in their struggle. The working class must fight for nurses' rights to a decent living and for our right to an effective, caring, free health-service, available to all.

THIRTY YEARS OF SOCIALISM CELEBRATED

One hundred and fifty participants enthusiastically celebrated the 30th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China at a rally in London on October 7th which was organised by the RCLB. Six speakers make up a multinational platform which reflected the breadth of support which exists for socialist China throughout the world.

The Chairman of the meeting opened the rally by describing the poverty, starvation, degradation and brutal oppression that the Chinese workers and peasants suffered under the yoke of imperialist oppression until their liberation in 1949. He reminded the audience of how British communist Tom Mann had strongly supported the Chinese revolution in the 1920s and 1930s and how the Communist Party of Great Britain - when it was a revolutionary Party - had organised "Hands off China" campaigns when British gunboats joined other imperialists to suppress the struggles of the Chinese masses. Comrade Chris Burford, Chairman of the RCLB, welcomed the opportunity to speak on this occasion with fraternal speakers from liberation movements. He pointed to the significance of representatives of the RCLB and Communist Workers' Movement standing together on the same platform and said it was a fitting occasion to point out that significant progress was being made in the struggle for unity between the two organisations. He recalled that when the Communist Party of China was founded in 1921 it had only as many members as the Marxist-Leninist movement in Britain today. Yet after 28 years of hard struggle, China was liberated.

FRATERNAL SPEAKERS APPLAUD CHINA AND SPEAK OF THEIR OWN STRUGGLES

The Cultural Secretary of the Bangladesh Workers' Association took up the theme of the wide support for China, pointing out that it had been earned through China's actions. He recalled the Chinese volunteers who fought in Korea after the US invasion and pointed out that at the time of Vietnam's struggle against US imperialism China was giving aid to the tune of \$1,000 million a year. He also gave



Chairman of the RCLB, Chris Burford addresses the meeting

examples of economic aid given without strings to third world countries. He vigorously attacked the Soviet expansionists, who, using India, moved into East Pakistan in 1971 in order to shoulder aside the masses of Bengalis and the Marxist-Leninists who were on the path of winning their own liberation. The Soviet imperialists established their own vicious rule to replace the old rulers. 30,000 more communists died fighting the Soviet expansionists. But again the fruits of victory were snatched from the people's hands when a coup put the US imperialists back in power. The people of Bangladesh know well the nature of both superpowers. China, he pointed out, had always understood what was happening and had seen the danger from the Soviet expansionists.

At the end of the Bangladeshi comrade's contribution a message to the rally from the Revolutionary Organisation of Iran was read out. The Iranian comrades drew out the vital importance of using united front tactics to unite the mass of the people against the main enemy at any particular time. This was one of the important lessons of the Chinese revolution. A speaker for the Anti-Fascist and Anti-imperialists Student Front of Greece, which is led by the Revolutionary Communist Movement of Greece described the history of solidarity between the Greek and Chinese working class. He went on to describe the present situation in Greece and vigorously attacked the Greek Government for its stand of

HUA GUOFENG TO VISIT BRITAIN

Hua Guofeng, the Chinese Premier will be visiting Britain from October 28th. His visit is part of a tour of a number of European countries. Inevitably there will be mixed reactions to his tour. Some people will warmly welcome it. Others will vigorously oppose it. Some will be confused, a number disinterested. What should our attitude be? We should welcome the visit.

WHY HUA'S VISIT IS IN THE PEOPLES' INTERESTS

First it is essential to understand the basis of Hua's tour. Hua Guofeng is the Chairman of the Communist Party of China. He is also the head of Government. When Hua Guofeng meets with the European bourgeois Governments he is not doing so as a representative of the Communist Party. The Communist Party of China supports the Communist parties and national liberation movements around the world. The Revolutionary Communist League itself has had a delegation invited to China and has had discussions with the Party.

But the Chinese Party and people recognise as do all genuine revolutionaries, that in the real world

most of the Governments are bourgeois. China exists in a real world and of necessity must discuss and negotiate with Governments - with bourgeois Governments - with capitalists. Hua Guofeng is visiting Europe and Britain as the head of state of China.

China has to trade with the capitalists. During Premier Hua's tour doubtless there will be many discussions on trade and finance. China is a backward country as far as its economy is concerned and needs modern technology. To get that technology will require making some compromises. The capitalists will not give it away for free. The Chinese people have shown that they are prepared to make compromises, but they will not give up their socialist system. In fact it is necessary to make compromises in order to strengthen socialism in China, in order to build a modern China that can defend itself. China's general policy should be wholeheartedly supported. When a quarter of the world's people are defending and developing socialism, that is in the interests of workers and oppressed people all over the world.

Not all the speakers who wanted to come to the rally were able. The Committee of Patriots of Democratic Kampuchea in France (CPDKF) were refused visas by the British Government in an attempt to stop them speaking. These anti-democratic manoeuvres could not prevent a message being read out. The CPDKF sent "warmest greetings" to the rally and expressed their strong support for the international solidarity between the Chinese people and the people of the world. The message went on to condemn Vietnam's policies of aggression and exploitation and pointed out that the Vietnamese invaders of Kampuchea face "military difficulties as well as political, economic and diplomatic difficulties." The message lashed out at the Vietnamese leaders' "policy of genocide against our people" and added, "they are systematically trying to spread famine throughout the land." The CPDKF declared the intention of the Kampuchean people to carry through their people's war until final victory. Strong applause followed the end of the message which read, "In this spirit we wish you the greatest success in your activities to mobilise public opinion to support the just struggle of the Kampuchean people and to demand the withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea. Long live international solidarity!"

The Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (South Africa) also sent a message saluting the rally. The PAC similarly declared their intention to "struggle through to the end to win liberation."

appeasing Soviet social imperialism while acting for US imperialism. The Front stands for independence from both superpowers.

This was soon followed by a moving contribution from a young militant from Fords who sang a poem in Punjabi. The poem *Lal Salaam* - Red Salute to the immortal martyrs - was dedicated to the martyrs of the Indian and Chinese revolutions.

The Youth Forces for National Liberation of Jamaica (YFNL) pointed out how, learning from Marxism-Leninism-Mao Zedong Thought, the YFNL was

working to build a united front of workers, peasants, Rastafarians, patriotic and national bourgeois forces. The speaker pointed out that US imperialism is the main enemy in Jamaica but Soviet social imperialism is increasingly challenging the US over who dominates the area. The People's Republic of China was a great friend of the Jamaican people he added.

Keith Bennet, speaking for the Communist Workers' Movement made the last speech. He drew together the many points that had been made on the international struggle and applauded the foreign policy of the People's Republic of China.

The speeches at the rally were punctuated by songs from New Era Singers and Red Flag. It ended with all the participants, of various nationalities, enthusiastically singing together the *Internationale* - the anthem of the international workers' movement.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

USA: On October 13th, Fidel Castro's sister spoke out at a demonstration organised outside the United Nation's building where the Cuban leader was speaking.

In a TV interview, she accused him of selling out the revolution and turning Cuba into a Soviet satellite. She attacked him for personal ambition and said that by selling out to the Soviet Union he was trying to keep himself in power for the rest of his life.

RHODESIA: Who backs Muzorewa? According to a recent edition of *Counter Information Services* (CIS), Muzorewa enjoys not only the financial backing of the South African Government but also has, in the past, received large sums of money from the ex-Shah of Iran. CIS also revealed that Muzorewa's chief lobbyist in the USA, Neville Romain, is a self-confessed CIA agent and that apart from being busy raising funds for Muzorewa, he has been seeking financial support for Muzorewa's fellow stooge and traitor, Ndabaningi Sithole.

BUILDING AN INTERNATIONAL UNITED FRONT IS VITAL

But Premier Hua's visit will also raise vital questions of international politics. The Chinese Government has for many years worked to build a united front against the two superpowers, and especially against Soviet aggression. The strength of this international united front lies mainly in the unity of the third world countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. China has done a great deal to build this united front, which is mainly made up of bourgeois Governments, because the united front is hitting at the world's main enemies and thus helping the people's struggle. The united front is also vital in the struggle for peace. Undoubtedly it is delaying the outbreak of a war between the two superpowers, at a time when the Soviet social imperialists are trying to take over the USA's declining empire.

WHY EUROPE?

In all this Europe is very important. It is the focus of superpower rivalry. Vast armies face each other across a dividing line. Europe has a highly developed industry, rich resources, a skilled workforce and occupies a strategic place politically and geographically. If the Soviet Union occupied Europe it would be in a powerful position to dominate the

world. The massive Soviet arms build up and its activities in Vietnam, Laos, Kampuchea, Afghanistan, Yemen, Ethiopia etc show that this is a very real threat.

It is in the interests of the people of the world, as well as the British and European working class, to ensure that Europe remains independent. Premier Hua Guofeng will make this very clear. Of course, China also supports the struggle of the third world against all imperialism and supports and welcomes every advance in struggle. But that does not lessen at all the vital importance of the struggle to unite Europe, Japan and the third world against superpower hegemonism (domination) and particularly against Soviet expansion.

WHO OPPOSES HUA'S TOUR - AND WHY

For all these reasons the British people should be interested in Premier Hua Guofeng's visit. More - it should be strongly supported. But there will be those who oppose it. There are active supporters of Soviet aggression in Britain. There are others who are frightened of the Soviet threat, and don't want to upset Brezhnev. They want to appease the Soviet Union, just like Chamberlain appeased Hitler. Backing down to Hitler did not stop him. It won't stop the new Tsars in the Kremlin either. Finally there

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UNITED FRONT LAUNCHED IN KAMPUCHEA

On August 21st, Khieu Samphan, the Kampuchean President announced over radio Democratic Kampuchea, the new draft political programme of the "Patriotic and Democratic Front of the Great National Union of Kampuchea". The new programme is aimed at uniting all patriotic Kampucheans both inside and outside Kampuchea against the Vietnamese aggressors and their puppet in Kampuchea, Heng Samrin.

AIM IS TO WIN INDEPENDENCE

The aim of the Front is to win back Kampuchea's independence and to "build up an independent, united democratic, peaceful, neutral and non-aligned Kampuchea". The programme contains an extensive statement of the Front's domestic and foreign policy. It calls for building a society "in which every citizen enjoys democratic freedom in his occupation as well as in his daily life, ...in political life, in spiritual life and in the material life".

BUILD DEMOCRACY

The Front states that it wants to create a national assembly elected through secret ballot with universal vote. The Government of Democratic Kampuchea is to be enlarged at all levels and welcomes the participation in the Government of "representatives of the various political organisations, social strata and the patriotic independent personages who struggle against the Vietnamese aggressors and their running dogs on the basis of the political programme of the Front".

In other areas the programme states the Front's objectives to build up the economy, to ensure the liberty to exercise one's occupation in all fields to promote public health, to guarantee equality between men and women, and to develop the national culture and traditions.

PROGRAMME WIDELY DISCUSSED

The draft programme was drawn up by the Government of Democratic Kampuchea headed by Pol Pot after discussions with several Kampuchean organisations. The draft is now being widely circulated inside and

outside Kampuchea so that the more opinions can be sought before the programme is finalised.

Already many people in Kampuchea, who did not support all the past policies of the Government of Democratic Kampuchea have joined the fight against the Vietnamese occupation. They include former supporters of Lon Nol and hundreds of deserters from the Heng Samrin forces. On top of this many members of the village committees which were set up by the Vietnamese have gone over to the revolutionary forces. The Vietnamese have also suffered many desertions from among their own forces.

FRONT WILL AID RESISTANCE TO VIETNAMESE OFFENSIVE

The Vietnamese have now finally launched their expected offensive. For months they have been reinforcing their troops which now number well over 200,000. The Soviet Union has flown in wave after wave of supplies. The building of a broad front against the Soviet-sponsored Vietnamese aggression can only add to the ability of the Kampuchean people to liberate their country, which is their most immediate and pressing task. Without their liberation the Kampuchean people will not only lose their freedom, but their very survival is threatened by mass starvation created by the Vietnamese aggression.

SUPPORT THE KAMPUCHEAN PEOPLE

Work has been started in Britain to create a committee to support the struggle of the Kampuchean people.

If you wish to take part in or know more about the committee, write to New Era Books, (c/o 203, Seven Sisters Rd, London N4) who will put you in touch.

Class Struggle will report as soon as possible on the establishment of the committee, and will publish its official address.

HUA GUOFENG TO VISIT BRITAIN

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are those with ultra-left ideas. Such people think that it is "impure" to make compromises, to negotiate, to sign agreements. Heaven forbid, Hua Guofeng will actually shake hands with Thatcher and meet the Queen! But if that helps the struggle for peace, and the struggle to defend independence then it is a good thing. Lenin himself did it quite readily when necessary. Ultra-left ideas which oppose such tactics are as damaging to the struggle for socialism as any open betrayal.

WHAT ABOUT OUR STRUGGLE FOR SOCIALISM?

China's diplomatic activities are in our interests. They are delaying the outbreak of war, and helping to ensure that the people's enemies will be defeated if one does occur. But does it mean that we should now abandon our struggle for socialism? No, of course not. The revolutionary overthrow of the bourgeoisie in Britain is our task. Defending independence is part of that struggle, but it does not replace it. As Mao Zedong himself spoke of such questions in 1946, when the Soviet Union, under Stalin's leadership (then a great socialist country) was negotiating with Britain, France and America. After supporting the Soviet Union in making some

compromises he said:

"The kind of compromise mentioned above does not mean compromise on all international issues. That is impossible as long as the United States, Britain and France continue to be ruled by reactionaries... Such compromise between the United States, Britain and France and the Soviet Union can be the outcome only of resolute, effective struggles by all the democratic forces of the world against the reactionary forces of the United States, Britain and France. Such compromise does not require the people in the countries of the capitalist world to follow suit and make compromises at home. The people in those countries will continue to wage different struggles in accordance with their different conditions".

(p 87, Selected Works of Mao Zedong, Vol IV)

Today it is the Soviet imperialists and the US imperialists who are the main reactionary forces. We must play our part in the struggle to force our reactionary Government to line up against superpower domination, and we must aid the struggle against British imperialist oppression of other countries. But we must do this as part of our continuing struggle to overthrow the British imperialist system and reactionaries like Thatcher and Callaghan, and establish a socialist and independent federal republic of Britain.

Welcome Premier Hua Guofeng to Britain!