

CLASS STRUGGLE

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VIETNAM TAXES AID TO KAMPUCHEA

The first barge sent by Oxfam loaded with 1,500 tons of supplies has finally reached Phnom Penh, the capital of Kampuchea. But, following their well established track record, the Vietnamese authorities have made sure they get their cut by demanding payment of \$9,000 for the "privilege" of using the Mekong river route which crosses Vietnam. In other words for every barge of aid given to Kampuchea by donors in Britain and other countries £4,300 must be given to Vietnam. John Pilger will of course not mention that to *Blue Peter* viewers. "It is not being made easy for us. The Vietnamese are not being helpful and might reasonably be charged with hindering the operation", stated Mr Geoffrey Busby, the Oxfam official accompanying the barge. Amongst other things he was referring to was a wait of several days caused by Vietnamese immigration officials delaying the clearance papers.

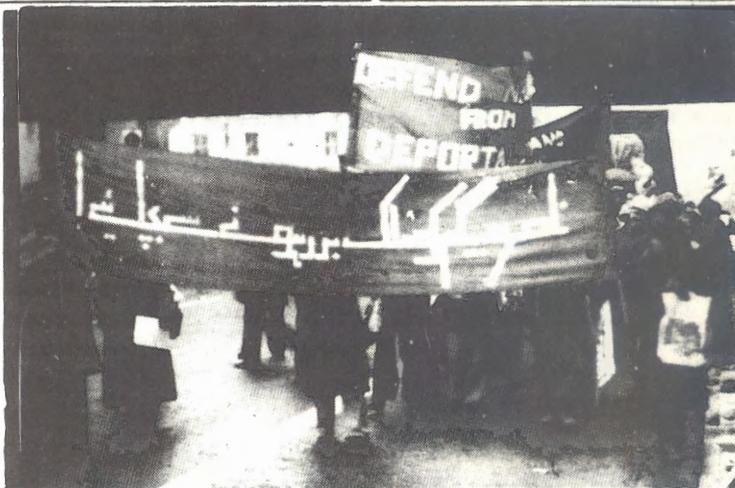
TRANSPORT FOR TROOPS - BUT NOT FOR FOOD

Even when the barge finally arrived in Phnom Penh it took several days to unload because of "shortage of labour". Finally unloaded it cannot be distributed to the most famine stricken parts of the country because of "shortage of transport". This "shortage of transport" has not stopped the deployment of 200,000 Vietnamese troops to fight the supposedly "wiped-out" and "non-existent" opposition to the Heng Samrin regime established by the Vietnamese invasion.

VIETNAM SAYS NO TO FOOD TRUCKS FROM THAILAND

Finally Vietnam and its puppets have refused requests by the International Red Cross and UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund, to bring food into Kampuchea by trucking it directly across from Thailand. Relief officials are emphatic that this is the only way to get large quantities of food to those parts of Kampuchea where it is most urgently needed. Why is the Vietnam regime so opposed to this? Firstly because this would mean that food would also reach areas which Vietnam has been unable to occupy. As it did in the rest of Kampuchea, Vietnam is deliberately using starvation as a weapon against the people. Secondly, it is because this supply route means that the International Red Cross must negotiate with the Government of Democratic Kampuchea, which still exists, as well as with the puppets of Vietnam. The International

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Husband's desertion means deportation

On Saturday, November 17th about 200 people risked the cold and damp and marched through Manchester's main shopping centre shouting "No more deportations-defend Nazira Begum".

Nazira Begum came from Pakistan in 1976 for a holiday but while here she met and married an English citizen. She applied immediately to stay here permanently but because the Home Office takes so long it was apparently not considered until recently and was turned down because, in the interval, she was deserted by her husband.

What is the justification for their decision? The marriage was legal, even under the existing racist laws, and should make her eligible to stay, but the Home Secretary cares little for such "trivialities". She has no right of appeal, so who can challenge his ruling? Only the defence campaign, which has already organised pickets of Manchester immigration offices and public meetings can hope to win justice. This must be stepped up and efforts made to involve the whole local community as well as organisations and individuals nationally. If she loses her fight, how many other women will be under threat in the same way?

At the time of going to press Mrs Begum was still at liberty but in constant fear of arrest and summary deportation. The Home Office after taking three years to decide now want her deported in the shortest possible time. This is purely to avoid Nazira Begum's supporters organising and publicising support for the case. It is such a mass campaign which does not place reliance on lawyers and Labour Councillors and MPs which is necessary to stop such deportations. On this issue the Home Office is accountable to no one.

Immigrants and national minorities must not be made scapegoats for the capitalist crisis. Class conscious workers must fight by every means to get the racist immigration laws scrapped.

Police support racist attack

On the 9th of December 1978, Narinder Singh Marway aged 19, was arrested for possessing an offensive weapon after he had been subjected to a racist attack. The weapon? A religious symbol for Sikhs, a small metal bracelet!

Mr Marway and two of his friends were attacked by a gang of white youths, spat upon and Mr Marway's turban was ripped off and trampled on. He tried to defend himself but was forced to run. He hid himself in a nearby barber shop. The attackers followed and Mr Marway received a cut on his head from an iron bar.

The police arrived and arrested Mr Marway for possession of an offensive weapon, the small iron ring on his arm. In the police statement the crowd was estimated at about 25 whites and only 3 Asians and that the Asians looked very frightened. Yet in this obviously racist attack the police went on the words of a couple of white people in the crowd and refused to interview the Asians. Although Mr Marway had been attacked in a shop, the police refused to question the owner about the attack. In addition the police who called first a doctor and then an ambulance for Mr Marway have refused to write a report saying he was injured in the attack. They have made no efforts to find his attackers.

Once again the racist British state has come directly to the aid of racist attackers. Thus encouraging them even more. In this case it is not only an attack on Mr Marway but on all Sikh people who wish the freedom to practice their religion.

The Steering Committee of Asian Organisations issued the following demands.

1. Charges against Mr Marway be dropped.
2. Mr Marway's attackers be traced and charged.
3. The Sikh symbols are sacred and nobody be charged

- for possessing them.
 4. Police be instructed not to take a biased attitude against blacks.
 5. Effective steps be taken to protect the black community from racial attacks.
- A 200 strong picket was organised outside the court on Nov. 21st. Despite the judge's refusal to throw the case out for lack of evidence, the jury took just two minutes to find Narinder innocent of any offence - a victory for the Sikh community and all anti-racists.

Who gains out of racism?

It has been known for some time that the lowest paid workers are homeworkers. These are mainly women doing sewing on their own machines, sub-contracted to local clothes manufactures. But what is becoming clear in Manchester at least, is that most of these workers are Asian women. Firms pay as little as 10p an hour. One example is for satin bows such as you see around chocolate boxes. Each one takes 5-10 minutes to make and for 1,000 of them (100 hours work) they get the princely sum of £5.50. Firms get away with this because many of these women not only desperately need the money as their husbands are usually in poorly paid jobs themselves, but their alienation from the rest of society through cultural and language problems makes them easy prey. Homeworking reinforces this alienation, making it almost impossible for them to organise and only serves to increase the artificial separation of the working class along the lines of sex and race.

While there is little we can do but give moral and material support to attempts at organising (such as the Homeworkers' Association), we can at least learn the sobering lesson that without organised resistance the bosses will not hesitate to slash wages to the bread line, or even below it, even in this "civilised" country.

MLR RISE HERALDS MAJOR BANKRUPTCIES

The Minimum Lending Rate was jacked up to 17% on November 15th. This represented a 3% rise to a new record high. Credit and overdrafts will become dearer. Interest repayment rates will shoot up to 25-30 per cent. Mortgage interest rates already at 12½% are expected to go up to 14-15% when the Building Societies Association meets on December 14th.

Most ordinary working people know how the rising bank rates hit their pockets. Mortgages and Council rents rise. Credit is harder to get and we have to pay through the nose even more on blood-sucking higher purchase agreements. But it hits the working class masses and other middle sections of the working people in other ways too.

BANKRUPTCIES ACCELERATED

A leading stockbroker in a bulletin for "private circulation only" announced recently: "The shocks are going to come in some major financial crunches for large manufacturing firms in the UK threatened on two sides: on the one hand by the tight restriction on money supply and historically high interest rates..."

And in this case there is going to be an enormous increase in major bankruptcies".

These blunt words written by capitalists for capitalists refers to an increase in major bankruptcies. If "major" companies are expected to

collapse as a result of high interest rates, which concerns are expected to survive? Clearly these can only be the huge monopoly and state-monopoly capitalist combines. The likes of Unilever, ICI, Associated British Foods and the state monopolies who are backed by funds taken from the tax-payers pockets. Only such corporations which have their own source of finance or are closely allied to the big banks benefit from an increase in the Minimum Lending Rate. This alliance between the big banks and the huge monopoly combines forms a financial ruling clique dominating and manipulating the capitalist economy. The higher MLR will force out of business more small and medium sized companies, thus ousting competitors and enabling the monopolies to extend into new areas of the capitalist economy. As the capitalist economy sinks deeper in into crisis the financial giants will get even richer. While the burden of the crisis will be shifted onto the backs of the working class masses. Higher unemployment will directly result from the rise in the MLR.

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT IIP

Official forecasts by the Manpower Services Commission economists show school-leaver unemployment doubling next year and more than 400,000 young people under 19 out of work in January 1981. They add, by 1982 nearly 3 times as many will have been out of work for more than 3 months.

A WORKER'S NOTEBOOK

From our
postbag



The Editor - CS, c/o
New Era Books, 203
Seven Sisters Rd.
London N4.

Dear Editor,

I was impressed by one contribution at a recent meeting against racist laws in Liverpool. The speaker said he was a personnel officer. He said he regularly took on employees from third world countries, because they had the necessary technical skill in a number of crucial areas of developed technology. He was against so-called economic arguments for restricting immigration, and thought there were strong economic arguments for relaxing controls.

He also criticised speakers who called for just uniting "socialists" against racist laws. It was so-called socialists in the Labour Party who had brought in immigration controls, and the only MPs to oppose them had been some Liberals.

He thought the campaign against racist laws would fail if it was restricted to "socialists". It must unite people over a broad spectrum, from different views and walks of life. Many religions people were opposed to racism, and this was something that had to be used.

People like this may not understand the class struggle, but we can unite with them on many issues. Otherwise we will drive them over to the other side. I think Comrade Jagmohan Joshi was right when he said, "A racist Labourite is worse than an anti-racist Tory".

A Liverpool reader.

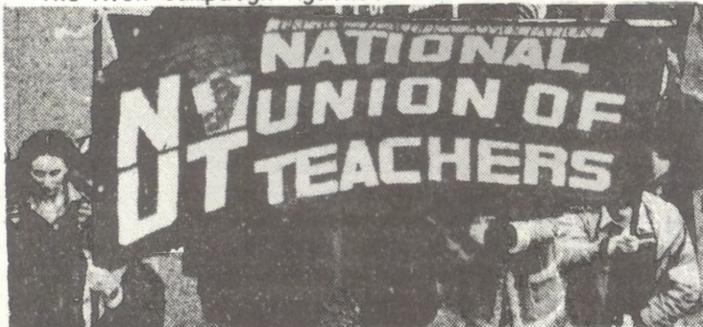
On 23rd of November, Friday lunchtime, 50 people picketed the Immigration Office in Liverpool in support of Gias Uddin. He is the 19 year old restaurant worker in Liverpool, accused of being an "illegal immigrant" under the 1971 Immigration Act. (See *Class Struggle* Vol.3 No.18 for details).

His immediate deportation was prevented in July by the efforts of the Joint Council for Welfare of Immigrants, Gias Uddin Action Committee, and the local MPs but since then he has been held in Harmondsworth Detention Centre in London.

On December 11th Gias will appear at the Divisional Court to get a court ruling that the Home Office must re-examine its evidence.

On the 15th November 7,000 people marched through Bristol protesting against the Education cuts. At the end of the march the rally became so big that the city centre became blocked for a time.

The Avon Campaign Against Cuts in Education are



not only trying to unite teachers, parents and students, but other sections of society, especially trade unionists.

Only by forging such unity for a long term struggle, can these and other cuts be effectively resisted.

■ IN MANCHESTER THE NHS HAS OVERSPENT BY £2M. which they have been told they must recoup.

One way the South Manchester District aims to do this is by special form which has to be filled in by the administrators every time someone leaves.

The first question on the form is "Does this person need to be replaced" if the answer is Yes, then the form goes on to ask "For how long can the appointment be delayed and finally can it be filled by a lower and cheaper grade of staff"

Once again the working class is being forced to pay for the capitalist crisis, this time by denying them access to a reasonable standard of health care. As usual those attacked are the most powerless section of the working class (can you imagine patients going on strike to defend their rights) and as a letter to *Class Struggle* stated recently, nurses face suspension if they take any form of industrial action to ensure adequate standards for themselves or their patients.

■ MORE OLD PEOPLE THAN EVER WILL BE LITERALLY freezing to death this winter. The Gas Corporation is planning a 50% rise in gas prices over the next two years. This, the Government tell us, is necessary not to increase profits (which run into hundreds of millions already) but to "reduce demand". And just to make sure we really shiver the Tories have also axed the fuel discount scheme. Now only those receiving supplementary benefit will be eligible. Every winter hundreds of old people die of a condition called hyperthermia: quite simply they die of cold. Thousands more suffer and die of other illnesses made worse by icy rooms. Old people are not the only ones for whom this winter looms long and cold, but to them warmth is a matter of life and death. This system offers them only death - we must build a society which cares for the quality of life.

■ IN A RECENT BBC INTERVIEW, SCOTLAND YARD COMMISSIONER Sir David McNee said extremists were deliberately feeding on racial issues to further their own ends - and said further that they should get out of the "race scene" and "let the immigrant communities settle and establish themselves". Of course, when representatives of the state like McNee talk about "extremists" they are not referring to fascist organisations like the National Front or The British Movement. No, in McNee's language "extremist" mean the black and asian and other working class organisations. By opposing both the fascists and the fascist Labour and Tory immigration laws they incur the wrath of people like McNee and his "lawful" gang of thugs and murderers- the Special Patrol Group.

■ THE GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERING PLANS TO RAISE THE age for women's retirement from 60 to 65 as part of its plan to cut public spending. If the proposals are put into operation about two million women will have to wait the extra five years before they become eligible for payment. Also likely to be axed is payment of death and maternity grants for all but the "worst off". Further evidence that in times of economic crisis capitalism always hits hardest at the elderly and sick, and those too weak to defend themselves.

■ BRITAIN IS A SOCIETY DIVIDED INTO RICH AND POOR, and if the poor (the great majority of the population) are being forced to bear the brunt of the capitalists' own crisis, then the rich are simply getting richer. On top of the huge pay rises recently handed out to MPs comes the news that when top industrialist Harold Green retired his salary was a staggering £500,000 a year!

NORTHERN IRELAND: British Imperialism

The British Government want peace in northern Ireland. With the usual fanfare they have announced their deep conviction that the people of northern Ireland should decide their own affairs. Following the Mountbatten assassination, the Government held talks with Mr Lynch, the Prime Minister of Eire. The Government bosses of British imperialism were even more determined to bully Dublin into giving up what little independence it has. The army chiefs want to legalise crossing over the border into southern Ireland in "hot pursuit" raids. This has always been resisted by Dublin. But the British army chiefs got their "increased co-operation" between British and Irish "security forces", including concessions to overfly southern Irish territory. In exchange the Government initially announced a sham of a "political initiative" which included proposals for a Council of Ireland. Paisley and the Unionist establishment in the north declared their intention to boycott any such moves. The chiefs of British imperialism knew full well this would happen. They went through the motions in a political manoeuvre to gain concession for the British troops. Now the Government has published its proposals which avoids any mention of power sharing. Of course Paisley and Co have since changed their minds about the boycott. However the SDLP (Social Democratic and Labour Party) has decided to boycott the talks.

Yes! The British Government wants peace in northern Ireland. But there is a snag. British imperialism is refusing to withdraw its troops and is continuing to underwrite the existence of the Six Counties. As long as they do this they continue to strengthen loyalist thinking amongst the protestant community and destroy any possibility of a real settlement in Ireland.

PAISLEY RIDING HIGH

In the last few years the most bellicose Unionist bigot Ian Paisley has enormously strengthened his position amongst the protestant community. He continues the most vile tradition of British imperialism in Ireland using the name of "god" to justify the oppression and discrimination against the catholic community. He and his followers are at present calling for a policy of "search and seize" in the catholic and republican quarters whose degree of poverty is on a par with the black

ghettos of New York. In case anyone should be in any doubt as to what this means, the loyalist sectarian assassination squads have re-commenced their grisly work this Autumn. And with their access to army and police intelligence files through the Ulster Defence Regiment, they are not short of "targets". In this political climate, any talk of "power-sharing" or "constitutional talk" is just hypocrisy and the British Government know it. As a "champion" of the majority Paisley succeeded in securing 170,000 votes at the last European elections. But the sectarian propaganda of the likes of Paisley in no way serves the interests of the protestant working class. It is designed to keep the northern Ireland working class divided and dissipate the class struggle of the protestant majority into hatred and fear of the most oppressed catholic minority. A recent survey by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive showed that over 20% of homes in Belfast lacked four out of five basic amenities. Over 40% of households had main wage-earners bringing home less than £40 per week. So what has loyalism brought for the working class protestant masses. Nothing! Ulster has always suffered higher unemployment than the average for Britain. Loyalism serves the interests of British imperialism.

BRITISH IMPERIALISM IN A QUAGMIRE

British imperialist policy in Ireland is probably aimed in the long run at a Federal arrangement which puts the burden of policing on the Irish bourgeoisie. Thus retaining the advantages of the stable Irish market for British imperialism. Even this would be a progressive development towards reuniting Ireland and undermining the domination of Ulster unionism. But the British troops will not willingly leave in the face of the determined resistance of the people. So their present strategy is to use torture and imprisonment to beat down popular and military resistance from the republicans; to use harassment and intimidation to weaken the will of the republican minority; and to implement a few face saving reforms to prop up the position of the "political moderates" in the north. This policy is implemented by the likes of General Tim Creasey, the GOC, whose last job was running the oppressive armed forces of the Middle East Sultanate of Oman.

BLUNT SPY SCANDAL EXPOSES PARLIAMENT

Thanks to a tip-off from the Prime Minister's Office, Anthony Blunt, the so-called "fourth man" in the Burgess and MacLean spy scandal in 1951, was able to escape before his public exposure by Thatcher in Parliament. He was able to evade press harassment and was sheltered by influential friends. The whole affair, according to the *Sunday Telegraph* is embarrassing to the present Government because it raises "suspicion that the process involves major decisions so secret that even Government doesn't know about them." In other words it raises the question - who actually runs the country. Is it the Government or the Civil Service and the security organisations like MI5? This in turn poses the question, is Britain a "democratic society" run by an elected Government, or is Parliament just a front behind which the real politics of a ruthless class dictatorship take place? Is Parliament just a smokescreen to give our society merely the appearance of being democratic? The fact

is that Parliament and bourgeois democracy is a charade to cover the power of the capitalist class in the organs of state. And in their haste to disassociate themselves from the Blunt scandal, the likes of Alec Douglas Home, Prime Minister in 1964, have shown this up to be the case.

BLUNT AIDED USSR AGAINST FASCISM

As for Blunt, he confessed to being a spy 15 years ago for a guarantee of immunity against prosecution. He says that he was recruited to spying for the Soviet Union in the 30s when it was clear only Stalin and the USSR were determined opponents to the Nazi fascists. The British Government rejected Stalin's proposals for "collective security" and carried out a policy of appeasing Nazi expansionism and encouraging Germany to attack Russia. He claims to have later become disillusioned with the Soviet Union and gave up spying for them in 1951. Speculation is that he is holding back more than he is telling. Whether this is true or not, the

ism bogged down

But this policy is failing. The British army has been forced to admit that it cannot beat the IRA in the foreseeable future. This is because whatever the catholic minority think of the IRA's tactics, which many have strongly criticised on different occasions, they will not betray them to the British imperialist occupation army which they hate. In southern Ireland too, a recent public opinion poll showed that 72% of the people favour British withdrawal and 42% support the Provisional IRA to some degree. British imperialism is fighting an unjust war. So they will fail again and again to beat down civil and military opposition to the British troops. All this leaves is the policy of reform. But this too is in tatters.

THE WAR GOES ON

The war goes on. The oppression of the people is greater than ever and the catholic and republican community are still facing double oppression - as workers and as catholics. The position of loyalism within the protestant community is more entrenched than ever. So what is British imperialism's answer? More of the same medicine! The fastest growing section of British operations in recent years has been their dirty tricks department. We can see this from the number of "accidental" murders of innocent people in border areas. To further extend their policy of increased oppression, they need the co-operation of the bourgeoisie in southern Ireland. Their latest demand is for the right of "hot pursuit" ten miles into the Irish Republic. But there is a problem here too. The Irish bourgeoisie have to give some account to the people of Ireland. Open collaboration with British imperialism loses votes, as the last Dublin Government found out, and as Lynch found out at the recent Cork by-election.

British imperialism is in a quagmire and will only get itself into deeper trouble by trying to secure peace through increased oppression. There will be no peace in Ireland as long as British troops occupy the north. The solution to the "Irish Problem" lies with the Irish people themselves in completing the national democratic revolution against British and other imperialisms. That national democratic revolution must include the re-unification of Ireland and the separation of Church and state in both the north and south.

whole episode is extremely embarrassing - not only to the present Government, but to the British State as a whole. Trying to gloss over how much the scandal has shown up where state power really lies, the *Telegraph* wrote, "Post-War social reform has removed some of the ugliest injustices, the very worst aspects of capitalism." What is this supposed to mean? They go on to say that "spying for foreign powers has become unfashionable". As if this is one of the injustices of capitalism removed since the war. In reality, the injustices of capitalism are as great as they were before the war in the 30s. What has changed is the political status of the Soviet Union. In the 30s, the Soviet Union was a socialist state which was forced to use spying to counter the massive undercover, subversive operations mounted by the imperialist West. The USSR today is a social imperialist, social fascist super-power which will continue to use the weapon of spying to further its own hegemonistic ambitions.

TERROR ACT DENOUNCED

A vigorous demonstration in London on Saturday, 24th November protested to further renewal of the notorious Prevention of Terrorism Act.

This Act represses the whole working class.

It was introduced in 1974 as a "temporary, draconian piece of emergency legislation" to deal with an "emergency situation". It was debated and passed in a single night, in the wake of the Birmingham bombings, without anyone speaking against it. It is still in force 5 years later.

Under the Act a person can be:

- *Forcibly photographed and finger printed on being detained.
- *Held for 48 hours (and a further 5 days with Home Secretary approval) without access to solicitors, family or friends.
- *Excluded from one part of the UK to another without any reason being given. Any appeal against such an exclusion order must be made in the absence of any knowledge of the reason for the exclusion, and the person concerned cannot be present.
- *Raided on a warrant signed only by a police superintendent.
- *Charged with withholding information.

Over 4,000 people have now been detained under this Act. 85% of those held have been Irish people.

Of those detained, only 36 have been charged with any offence under the Act. 12 of these have been found guilty; 12 innocent and 12 awaiting trial.

The Act has been used extensively against Irish trade unionists in this country, and against active trade unionists coming here from north or south Ireland. It is often used at ports to turn back Irish people coming to seek work, particularly if they come from the republican and catholic areas in the north. It has been used against Irish militants here, in order to stop protest from the Irish population against Britain's war in the north. And it has been used against ordinary Irish men and women for no other reason than that they have an Irish accent.

The Prevention of Terrorism Act is an instrument of terror which is used to divide the people: to weaken the people's struggle both against British imperialism in Ireland and against the British state at home. It makes Irish people fearful of speaking out on any matter of class struggle, and threatens them with this reprisal if they dare to do so. It threatens all those who dare to speak out against British imperialism.

The operation of the Act weakens the whole working class in its struggle against capitalism and imperialism.

**DOWN WITH LEGALISED TERROR!
REPEAL THE PREVENTION OF TERRORISM ACT!**

POLICE RESIST CALL FOR PUBLIC INQUIRY

The Chief Constable of Merseyside has sent a report on the death of James Kelly in a Huyton police cell - see *CS* Vol.3 Nos. 16&19 - to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

In spite of the fact that Mr James Jardine, Chairman of the Police Federation told Merseyside police that they were victims of a vicious campaign, the calls for a public inquiry are now becoming so strong that Knowsley Council have passed a motion calling for such an inquiry and expressing alarm at recent police activities in the Huyton area.

KAMPUCHEA CONFERENCE A GREAT

The International Conference of Solidarity with Kampuchea, held in the Swedish capital Stockholm on November 17th and 18th, has been an enormous success. The event marks an important step in formulating clear demands and policies for developing world-wide solidarity with the Kampuchean peoples' struggle against Vietnamese aggression. Around 200 delegates and observers participated, representing a broad spectrum of political views, social position and religious beliefs from 33 countries.

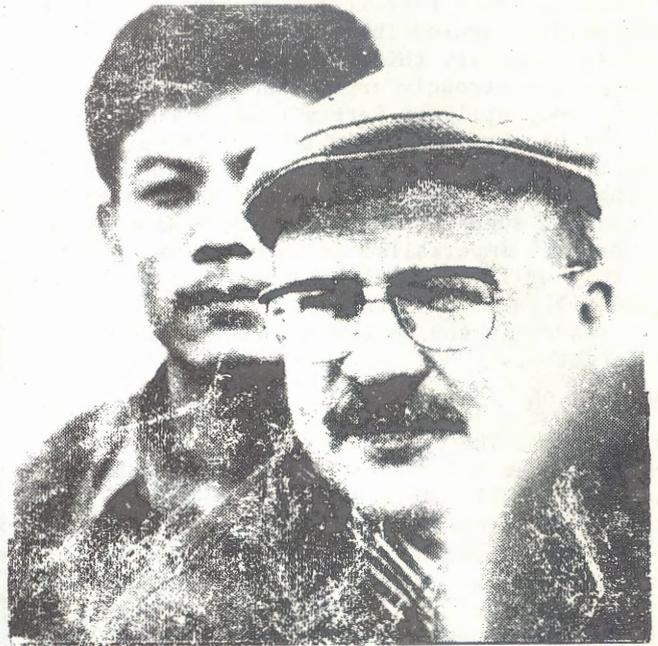
Descriptions of the starvation and misery in Kampuchea has shocked the world. But all too often the media has deliberately obscured the fact that all these horrors are the result of the genocidal war being waged by Vietnam. *"The Khmer people faces extinction"*, stated Jan Myrdal the outstanding Swedish writer and one of the five distinguished Co-Chairmen of the Conference. *"Vietnam, a strong military power has made an all-out attempt to overrun a small neighbouring country... If the world were to accept the invasion and occupation of a small country by a larger and militarily powerful neighbour - then no country will be safe... The Vietnamese Government has set a precedent that points to the destruction of not only the United Nations but the existence of sovereign states in Asia, Europe and the whole world - it is opening the floodgates that will lead inevitably to a new world war if left unchecked."*

Myrdal drew a direct parallel with fascist Italy's invasion of Ethiopia in 1935. Pham Van Dong's spurious justifications today are identical to Mussolini's then. *"Four years later the same smaller states of Europe that had not dared vote for a principled stand against the aggressor had themselves lost their national independence and had been overrun by the troops of the aggressor states and the whole world was plunged into a Second World War. The inability of the League of Nations to stop the aggressor states had drawn the kingpin out of the fragile security system and the result was death and disaster for untold millions"*.

But the Governments of the world have learned from the bitter experience of the past, said Myrdal. An overwhelming majority at the United Nations has denounced Vietnam's Soviet-backed aggression and defended the sovereignty of Democratic Kampuchea. Also, it was now clear to all that behind Vietnam stands the Soviet Union. It is none other than the Soviet Union that has consistently vetoed all efforts to reach a peaceful solution.

In governmental circles in virtually all countries however there is a continuous struggle between appeasers and those who are clear sighted enough to recognise the menace that faces us. *"The appeasers want to follow the road of appeasement in the face of open aggression that led to the Second World War, and they will succeed for as long as the public is kept in ignorance of the facts by the media"*. It is our duty, said Myrdal, to heighten consciousness of the issues at stake and help public opinion become a *"political force enabling the Governments of the world to break down Soviet resistance to a just and principled peace in South East Asia."*

The Government of Democratic Kampuchea has demanded that aid be distributed under United Nations' control, to ensure that it reaches the starving people and not be stolen for the occu-



Jan Myrdal

pation forces. The presence of United Nations' observers would also stop Vietnam's genocidal policies and prevent the colonisation of Kampuchea by Vietnamese settlers. Vietnam has refused.

"In this situation it is necessary to put forward two demands", said Myrdal. *"First, that humanitarian aid immediately has to be given to the Red Cross of Democratic Kampuchea... Second, we must expose the Vietnamese and Soviet Governments who are consciously allowing thousands of Kampuchean to die in pain and suffering every day in order to gain political capital... Should the Swedish people pay taxes in order to finance mass extermination? When the question is put in this necessarily blunt way - everyone knows the answer. There is great willingness to give humanitarian aid to the Kampuchean people but there is no willingness to pay the Vietnamese to enable them to carry out genocide"*. He also said, *"As long as the Soviet Union is blocking the presence of United Nations supervised aid in Kampuchea and the presence of United Nations' observers in the occupied zones, it is an act of aiding and abetting the crime of genocide for the United States to ship wheat to the Soviet Union"*.

"The war in Kampuchea has not ended in one month as the Vietnamese Government had hoped; nor has it ended by the dry-season offensive this year... Still the war continues and still the only government recognised by the United Nations and the world community at large, the Government of Democratic Kampuchea holds a quarter of the national territory; and the armed forces of Democratic Kampuchea have not been broken by the Vietnamese military machine.. But for this struggle the Vietnamese and their Soviet backers would have already have been deployed on or over the Thai border. The fact that the Vietnamese plans have miscarried due to the resistance of the Kampuchean forces has given governments and world public opinion the chance to recover from the shock of seeing the Vietnamese Government's true face, which carried such tremendous prestige in 1975".

SUCCESS

Myrdal concluded, "We have a great task to perform, and we have shouldered a heavy responsibility. But the cause of Kampuchean sovereignty and independence is the common cause of all nations who want to safeguard their own sovereignty and independence and the demand for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Vietnamese aggressor forces is the common demand of all people who want to live in peace. The aid to the Kampuchean people must not go to the aggressor and his troops, and must not be used as blackmail by the Soviet and Vietnamese Government, but go under the control of United Nation's observers to the whole Kampuchean people. Until that is possible the Red Cross of Democratic Kampuchea must receive a maximum of assistance in rescuing the people".

Madame Ieng Thirith, Minister of Social Affairs of the Democratic Kampuchean Government received a tumultuous welcome and made an important and comprehensive report at the Conference. Other speakers included the American scholar, George Hilderbrand; Professor S Novmoff; Dr Pierre Forcier of the Provincial Government of Quebec and T. Dastidar, Co-chairman of the Bangladesh Gano Front. A message from W Zweni, PAC, Azania, an eyewitness to the Vietnamese invasion who stayed with the Kampuchean forces for eight months, was also read out.

A fuller report of the Conference and its decisions will be covered in subsequent issues.

In mid-November, after days of debate, the United Nations General Assembly voted by 91 to 21 to support a resolution calling for the immediate withdrawal of all foreign troops from Kampuchea. This followed an earlier vote which blocked an attempt by the Soviet Union and Vietnam to kick out the legitimate Government of Democratic Kampuchea and recognise the puppet regime of Heng Samrin which was installed by the Vietnamese invasion. Vietnam was refused to withdraw. Amazingly, it has attacked the UN resolution, which stood for the right of the Kampuchean people to decide their own affairs, as "interference in the internal affairs of Kampuchea"! They say that 220,000 Vietnamese troops are not interfering! Where will the Soviet Union and its allies "not interfere" next?

CHINESE PUBLICATIONS

What is happening in China? How is democracy being extended? What does modernisation mean for the people? What are the issues the working people are discussing?

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INTERNATIONAL NOTES



AFGHANISTAN: In three days of heavy fighting, in the eastern province of Badakhasan, Moslem tribesmen clashed with soldiers of the pro-Soviet Kabul regime. They knocked out 22 tanks. ■

UGANDA: Yet more evidence that Amin was put in power by Britain. A report in the *Sunday Telegraph* on Nov.18 referred to a young English woman who was living in Kampala, the Ugandan capital, in 1971. Hours before Amin launched the coup which brought him to power, she received a phone call from her father in Britain who told her not to be worried about events "that might soon take place in Uganda" and that it would be "all for the best". Her father was a senior member of the British Defence staff. ■

AZANIA: Phillip Chiloane, a member of the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania has been brutally murdered by the South African regime. Following many years of harassment by the regime, Phillip Chiloane was banished to Bushbuckridge in the Lebowa Bantustan. The racist police tried hard to include him in the recent fascist trial of 18 PAC activists in which the PAC members received sentences varying from 5 to 30 years. However they could not find any incriminating evidence. Not satisfied by their failure, they had him murdered by a parcel bomb. The regime's racist terrorism on behalf of imperialism only reflects its fear in the face of the development of the national liberation struggle. ■

CHINA: China has accepted another 10,000 Kampuchean refugees from Thailand, according to the Japanese Kyodo news agency. The refugees are being resettled as a community on Hainan Island. China has already accepted 252,000 refugees from Indo-China. ■

YEMEN: President Ismail of the Democratic Republic of Yemen (DRY) has just returned from Moscow, where the new Tsars in the Kremlin have taken steps to increase their hold. A 20 year treaty of friendship was signed which gives the USSR the right to station 18,000 troops in the DRY. A Russian general has been given command of Perim Island which controls access to the Red Sea and the Suez Canal, and 5 Soviet warships will be permanently based at Aden. Already East German officers run the security services in the Republic and Cubans train the police. ■

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SUPPORT THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE



A lively demonstration of four thousand people marched to Trafalgar Square from Hyde Park in London on Sunday November 11th. The demonstration was led by the Patriotic Front who spelled out a clear message - no compromise on principle - only a just settlement placing real power in the hands of the people can guarantee an end to the war. After 98 years of struggle, the Patriotic Front now stood in Trafalgar Square, in the headquarters of the British Empire. The Zimbabwean people will tolerate no sell-out. Anyone who tried to sell out the people would be disowned by them.

VIETNAM TAXES AID TO KAMPUCHEA Cont'd from p1

Red Cross has maintained its principle of neutrality. But the Heng Samrin regime has all along demanded that Relief Organisations deal with it alone. It was largely on this basis that it refused to accept aid from Red Cross and UNICEF for many months. It attacked their insistence on also aiding the refugees in Thailand who have fled the Vietnamese invasion and the starvation it brought, and on aiding the people in the border areas of Kampuchea which Vietnam does not control. John Pilger has openly supported the demands of the Heng Samrin regime, while most of - but not all - the relief organisations have refused this inhumane politically motivated blackmail.

Vietnam and the regime it installed refused food for the starving people in order to put pressure on the international community to recognise the Heng Samrin Government.

THE TRUTH PILGER HIDES

Meanwhile the Government of Democratic Kampuchea has clearly stated that it welcomes aid to all parts of Kampuchea (See *Class Struggle* Vol.3 No.23).

What do these facts show? They show that it is Vietnam which has used starvation as a weapon in its invasion. It is Vietnam which has used its starvation of the people as a pawn in its attempt to get international recognition. It is Vietnam and its puppets who have obstructed aid from reaching the people quickly and in sufficient quantities. John Pilger's campaign for aid is a cover for a political campaign which he is waging in support for the Vietnamese invasion and for recognition of the Heng Samrin regime.

HELP THE PEOPLE OF KAMPUCHEA

Class Struggle, however, supports aid to all the people of Kampuchea, and utterly condemns starvation being used as a vicious weapon by the Soviet backed Vietnamese invasion. We call on our readers to aid the starving people of Kampuchea and to send what they can afford to

BRITISH RED CROSS KAMPUCHEA APPEAL, DEPT K10
9 GROSVENOR CRESCENT, LONDON SW1X 7EJ

UNICEF, UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN FUND,
THE UK COMMITTEE FOR UNICEF, ROOM J9,
46-48 OSNABURGH STREET, LONDON NW1 3PU.

The demonstration, which was attended by a number of trade union branches showed the growing understanding among working people in this country of the need for unity with liberation forces like the Patriotic Front. They attack our own enemies - the Thatchers and Callaghans who use racism and any other dirty trick they can find to divide and oppress working people.

Dismissing the attempts of Carrington and Thatcher to swindle the Zimbabwean people out of their victory, Eddison Zvobgo pointed out that the people of all southern-Africa have a rich understanding of the misery and death caused by imperialism. Pointing to South Africa House he said, "We shall not cease our struggle until that building is called Africa House!"

The negotiations at the Constitutional Conference on Zimbabwe have moved onto the issues of arranging an effective ceasefire.

Some of the issues of the transitional period were resolved. For example, the Patriotic Front and the British Government agreed to supervision of the transitional arrangement by a Commonwealth force. However the underlying differences still remain. The British Government is doing its utmost to keep the Commonwealth force as small as possible, and as much of it as possible from Britain, Canada, Australia etc. A small force will mean that in the transition the present racist forces would continue with the real power. The Commonwealth Secretariat has joined the struggle against the British Government on this issue.

Similarly the real questions of the transitional period on the future role the Patriotic Front forces, on the release of political prisoners, and the abolition of the concentration camps have not been resolved. British imperialists still reject the just demands of the people of Zimbabwe. All these issues still have to be dealt with during the ceasefire negotiations.

True to form Carrington has made proposals that maintain real power in the hands of the imperialists, the white settlers and the black traitors, and told the Patriotic Front to take it or leave it. At the time of going to press the Patriotic Front leaders have gone back to Africa for consultations.

SUPPORT THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE!
SUPPORT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT!