



ONE WAR: ONE STRATEGY

PROTRACTED WAR VICTORIOUS IN VIETNAM

THE United States, like a trapped beast, lashes out wildly. The bombing of Hanoi, the mining of Haiphong harbour, the new attempts to turn Vietnam into a raging inferno are last desperate lunges of a defeated Titan. Capitalism is a dying force. On its deathbed, with the hopelessness of the damned, it determines to take with it to Hell as many human souls as it can garner. Hence the viciousness of the vanquished.

Vietnam has lost many of its sons and daughters in this war. It goes without saying that without readiness for sacrifice the war could not have been fought. Workers, fighters may die but a working class, a people cannot die. Every last barbarity perpetrated by U.S. imperialism has been recorded and will not go unavenged. Blood debts are being repaid in blood; in April alone the Vietnamese people's forces took a toll from their enemy of 90,000 killed, wounded or captured.

For us it is time to take stock of this world-historic achievement of the Vietnamese. Vietnam is the international touchstone of our age — the contemporary classic of confrontation between exploiter and exploited, as instructive for us as the Paris Commune of a century ago. It has been in essence a third world war — a war in which no-one in the world could remain uninvolved and unmoved. And in this war, how have we the British people performed?

Governments, Labour identical with Tory, have tailed obediently three steps behind their Washington masters, excusing and explaining each new enormity.

The working class, with a few honourable exceptions, have tried to look the other way.

The various "Left" factions in the social democratic circus have acted entirely true to form. The "Left wing" of the Labour Party and the King Street revisionists, never daring to support the Vietnamese, made little deprecating noises about the bombing of north Vietnam. (The bombing alive and bloody murder of people throughout the country was all

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PROTRACTED WAR BASIC FOR BRITAIN ENGINEERS' GUERILLA STRUGGLE GAINS MOMENTUM WORKING CLASS IN PERIL

THE National Committee of the A.U.E.W. (Engineering Section) reaffirmed its full support for the current claim for improved wages and conditions and congratulated members who are taking action in pursuing the claim; there being no illusion that members of the Union would not have to indulge in struggle to win their demands.

The following sort of actions are being taken in this conflict with the Engineering Employers.

Members of the A.U.E.W and T. & G.W.U. at **Preformed Lined Products, Andover**, took strike action, having been offered an increase of £2.00 which was considered unsatisfactory.

Workers at **Hi-Flex International Ltd., Salisbury**, following a meagre offer to increase wages with no improvement in hours of work, holidays and other conditions, decided on strike action to win their demands.

Sit-in at **Davy Manufacturing Co., Sheffield** by nearly 800 workers following many weeks of negotiation with management by Shop Stewards and T.U. Officials, with no satisfactory offer on the claim being made. Workers decided at a mass meeting to place a ban on overtime and allow no work to leave the factory. On management indicating that an improved offer would be made, the restrictions were lifted. Further negotiations produced no satisfactory offer. The

reaction in the factory was immediate. The ban on movement of work was put back and the general feeling was that the workers had been conned, and ultimately despite the lock-out threat, workers at 2 further mass meetings remained resolute and united. They have not accepted the lock-out and are now occupying the factory on a sit-in basis. In fact, they are picketing the factory from inside.

Osram G.E.C. Erith, London, male and female workers receiving no offer from the Company in respect to their claim operated a ban on overtime and piecework. The Company threatened that if there was not a return to normal working on the next day they would not get paid. The workers decided to continue their sanctions and clock cards were withdrawn from racks the following morning. The heat and power were turned off, and toilets locked. Workers replied by taking strike action.

Smiths (M.A.I.) Cricklewood, London, Tool-makers took strike action in support of their de-

mands for improved wages and conditions, following the Company's failure to make a satisfactory offer to the claim.

This is how engineers are answering the Engineering Employers Federation and their policy, as decided by their Management Board at their meeting on the 28th January, 1972 as follows:—

"This Board recommended that member firms should adopt a policy of maximum possible escalation when faced with industrial action, on the basis of making the action as costly to the Unions as possible, as quickly as possible. This is not to suggest that there should be domestic lock-outs, but that wherever possible any sectional action or go-slow should not be tolerated but management should react in such a way that the Unions turn it into full strike action. Member firms would in this way be taking a positive step to support other members of the Federation."

Fight employers' escalation — with workers escalation of struggle.

THE DRIVE TOWARD THE CORPORATE STATE

THE working class in Britain is under attack as never before and the threatening form of the corporate state is becoming daily more discernible.

The Government and the Railmen

It is obvious in the handling of the rail dispute that the Government was set on attacking one of the major unions as a test of its new powers under the Industrial Relations Act. The difference between the final offer of the Board and the modified demands of the three unions involved was too trifling to permit any other interpretation.

Over the question of a mere three million pounds the Government was prepared to invoke the whole range of anti-working class measures in the Act — a cooling off period, an enforced secret ballot and whatever else might be necessary to "safeguard the public" from the national emergency which was supposed to result from the railmen simply working to rule.

The Government had dodged a show down with the miners. They were too well organised on the basis of their own tactics of carrying the fight into the enemy's camp and too well supported by other workers. But in the case of the railmen, with a divided leadership all too ready to compromise, with a patchy militancy among the rank and file and with, it was thought, little popular support, the Government decided it had the right victims for a trial of strength.

They could still be proved wrong if the railmen learn fast enough in struggle. On positive lesson is that in making demands in the knowledge that there must be a fight, never lower the sights prior to struggle. This does not mean that you do not assess the concrete conditions once the struggle has been joined in order to decide how to preserve your forces for further struggle as well as how to get the most out of the fight you are in.

As ludicrous as has been the position of the negotiators on the union side in their desire to avoid struggle, resulting in such a narrow gap between the Board's offer and the men's demands, that difference is no longer the real issue. The issue now is the use of compulsion against workers by the capitalist government. It is a vital issue not only for the railmen but for our whole class. This must be the basis for the support other workers, particularly those in other forms of public transport, must give the railmen.

On the question of the secret ballot we say Don't vote! Organise to defeat the class enemy backed by its capitalist government! The secret ballot is openly

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treated in the Act as a weapon against workers. Workers must repudiate it absolutely - just as the more politically class conscious workers abstained from voting in the last general election. A general election in a capitalist society is simply a nationwide secret ballot for the purpose of thwarting the class demands of workers. That is why we said of that election and of those to come: **Don't vote! Organise to smash capitalism!**

The Government and Shop Stewards

Another major issue with which the Government's axe-man of the Industrial Relations Court is involved is the blacking of container lorries by Liverpool dockers in defence of their jobs. Here the question is one of trade union structure: are shop stewards solely responsible to their union leadership or do they have a responsibility to the men they represent? Sir John Donaldson, President of the Industrial Relations Court, is saying that it is not enough for a trade union leader, Jack Jones in this case, to exhort shop stewards to obey the law (which he has proved himself willing to do). If shop stewards or any other union officials continue to support militant action by members after a court injunction, they must be dismissed by the union and replaced with obedient stooges.

By treating a trade union as a giant business corporation where responsibility and authority flow downward from the top and those at the bottom have no power or influence at all, the Government obviously intends to transform British trade unions into just such corporate institutions - like most of the unions in the U.S. or Sweden or West Germany.

The trade unions in Britain were created by workers themselves in the teeth of ruling class hostility. The rank and file members through their solidarity and militancy have always been the guarantee that their unions would remain working class organisations of defensive struggle - not bourgeois institutions for policing the workers in respect to the keeping of wage bargains.

The Government and Union Splitting

One of the phoney arguments the Government used to try to win support for the Industrial Relations Bill was that it would assist in obtaining union recognition. What is happening in the Post Office shows what they really had in mind.

A group of telephonists calling themselves the Telecommunication Staff Association and enjoying the backing of certain right wing MPs has received from the Industrial Tribunal permission to take part in trade union activities at work - thus setting themselves up in opposition to the Union of Post Office Workers.

The recognition of small specialist groups is one of the ways the Government hopes to break the power of the unions and ensure that the next time the Post Office workers, for example, carry out mass industrial action there will be plenty of 'legitimate' scabs to cross picket lines.

Pelt-Mell toward the Corporate State

Once the workers of Britain by their own unremitting struggles had established trade unions against the opposition of the capitalist class, the capitalist class boasted of trade unionism and the right of workers to strike as the marks of bourgeois democracy.

But bourgeois democracy cannot long continue to exist after the emergence of monopoly capital. Monopoly capitalism with its huge national and multinational corporations has its own political expression - the corporate state. The crisis of British capitalism which is driving Britain into the Common Market and intensifying class struggle inside the country is spurring on at a reckless rate the development of the corporate state, of fascism.

Fascism in Britain will not conveniently advertise itself to the working class by wearing jack boots and marching under the Swastika. But the Industrial Relations Act is the exact double of the Nazi Dr. Ley's Labour Laws. The Immigration Acts are the equivalent of the Nazi efforts to split the working class along racial lines.

The working class is in deadly peril. The civil war against workers proclaimed by Heath in a speech made at the U.N. last year has begun in earnest.

What is the Working Class to Do?

The clue to the strategy the working class must adopt to prevent the fascistisation of Britain is provided by the very anti-working class acts of the capitalist government, whether Labour or Tory.

The Government can lock up individuals, fine particular unions or take punitive action against an isolated section of workers. It cannot lock up the working class. The working class must be united as never before, defeating every attempt to split them in any way and holding steadfast to the principle that violence against one is violence against all.

The Government is determined to use all means to deprive workers of the ability to safeguard their jobs and livelihood by industrial action. Workers must by all means continue the class struggle, finding new forms of guerrilla action in the protracted war they must wage till the enemy is finally overthrown and exploitation ended. The engineers are already taking the lead in pioneering new forms of factory-based guerrilla action. To cease to struggle is the death of our class and the victory of fascism.

The Government is out to smash the trade unions as working class organisations and turn them into agencies of the corporate state. Members must ensure that the real power of their unions remains on the shop floor where the fight is, that their unions are democratic organisations with power and authority flowing from the membership to their stewards, officials and leaders.

The Government will try to prevent the working class from having its own political party as the headquarters for its protracted war. Workers must support and build their revolutionary party, the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist). It is their party and without it there will be no possibility of bringing the rich experience of the international proletariat to the specific problems of winning our class victory here.

The struggle will be long and arduous but we have a world to win. Working class state power which was won and then allowed to slip away in the Soviet Union, which was won and preserved in China and Albania, which is being won on the battlefields of Indo-China today will surely be won and held in Britain. The birthplace of the proletariat will surely become one of the socialist nations of a world where the terrible burden of exploitation has been lifted from the backs of workers everywhere.

NORTH WEST ENGINEERS FIGHT ON

ENGINEERING workers in the Greater Manchester area are continuing their occupation of over 20 factories in support of their present claim. So far agreements have been reached at 39 separate firms in the area, each one covering all three points of the claim for better wages, shorter hours and increased holidays.

The so-called 'unity' of the local Engineering Employers Association is being demolished by the real strength and determination of the workers involved. The association is in a state of confusion and contradiction within its ranks, and as such has started to hit out blindly. Already it has expelled another two firms from the association Sir James Farmer Norton Ltd in Salford and Devoige & Co. Ltd in Droylsden - for signing agreements with the workers covering all three points of the claim. This brings the total number of firms expelled since the present struggle began up to seven.

At the same time as this the association has instructed its member firms not to disclose the terms of any agreement, yet it is known that the workers at James Farmer Norton Ltd got an increase of £2.50p a week with two extra days holiday and a 35 1/2 hour working week. The employers' association has also been conducting an hysterical propaganda campaign against the engineering workers in the local evening paper.

The employers and press were jubilant when shop stewards and the shop-floor workers at two of the factories involved in this fight accepted a cash-only offer recently. This was going to be the turning point, the workers had 'had enough' and were 'cracking', but their jubilation was short-lived when the workers involved - at Mather & Platt Ltd in Newton Heath and Mathew Swain Ltd in Fallsforth - subsequently rejected the offer as it did not contain improved holidays and a shorter working week.

HIGH MORALE

At Bredbury Steelworks the first factory in the area to be occupied, the workers are still in control of the plant and so far the management have refused to make any offer before normal working is resumed. A worker at the factory told us: "This is it, we're not packing it in now after seven weeks. We'll start normal working when we get a satisfactory offer and not before. We're as determined as we ever were. If not more. The morale here's never been so high".

2,000 engineering workers from four factories in the Altrincham area recently marched through the town centre in support of their claim, and that of all the engineers in the Greater Manchester area. "We decided to get out and show our unity and strength together in this march. We are going to see this lot through to the end this time, and the employers can stick

their meagre little pitance they've offered us. This time it's not good enough". This was the comment of one of the workers on the march and it reflected their determination to see that all three points of the claim were met.

At GEC-AEI in Trafford Park, where the 3,500 shop-floor workers had been locked-out since before Easter, the workers went back in on April 25th and further talks have begun with the employers over the claim. The workers are still on day-work in support of the claim, which rather cuts away the employers' statement at the time of the lock-out that 'the shop-floor workers may return to work and will be paid in the event of normal working being resumed'. The company bosses have already threatened that a further breakdown in talks could put the workers' jobs at the factory in jeopardy; obviously in the hope that they can pressure the lads into accepting any offer they may make. The result has been the opposite as a member of the Works Committee pointed out: "The lads on the shop-floor are more determined than ever that all three points of the claim must be covered. Their attitude has definitely hardened as a result of the management's warning". The workers at the factory will surely

see that they must bring their own tactics into play in support of their claim and not merely allow the bosses to dictate the rules.

At Hawker-Siddeley Aviation in Woodford, Cheshire, the occupation is still continuing. Before the occupation actually began the management had been collecting in any keys they knew to be held by the unions at the plant, as well as covering the notice boards with their official statements as to how the stewards were misleading the men. Needless to say this had no effect what so ever, and when the workers decided, they occupied the plant without any resistance from the employers. Part of the plant is being occupied continuously while the other section is being occupied daily on a shift system with the lads in one day in six.

A worker at the factory told us: "Like the rest of the engineers in the area we're determined, determined to see this through and get our demands met. The employers have been trying to hold out and force us back but they've not succeeded. We are in control, we are the troops in this struggle".

Latest news: The 16 week Hawker-Siddeley strike has just ended with the acceptance of £3.25 per week rise plus extra holidays and other benefits.

Latest news: The four week Hoe-Crabtree occupation has ended with £3 per week rise and an extra days holiday. Hindle-Valves workers are still out.

IRELAND: ARMY VS. DOCKERS

FOR some time recruits to the British Army have undergone strict control exercises which takes the form of 'Army against



ANOTHER LAME DUCK? OUR STRUGGLE WILL CRIPPLE IT!

Irish'. Recently the programme has been extended to cover 'Army vs. Dockers'. These rehearsals have been so realistic that troopers taking part have been knocked out of action for a week.

That the Army should see no difference between Irish protesters and striking dockers proves how closely linked are British imperialism and the development of a Corporate State in Britain itself.

CS KILLS HERE TOO.

British workers are already being drawn into the gory claw of repression in Ireland. On 1st May a worker was killed and another badly

injured in an explosion at a CS gas factory at Dorking, Surrey. A spokesman for Schermuly's, who make the gas for Northern Ireland, said, "There is always a risk in working with explosives," Schermuly's has no regrets. Like Krupp and Messersmitt in the Third Reich, Schermuly gets a fat, guaranteed government contract, with guards, barbed wire and dogs supplied to keep out awkward questions.

ONE FIGHT, ONE STRUGGLE

Confronted by the growing ruthlessness and repression of the Corporate State, British workers must see their struggle against the Industrial Relations Act, unemployment and increased rents as one with the fight of the Irish people against British imperialism. There is no way out, on either side of the Irish Sea, other than through struggle. The Vietnamese people have shown how a small coun-

try can take on and defeat a major imperialist power, as long as the struggle has mass support and is led by a Marxist-Leninist Party.

From the Times, Sunday May 20th 1972.

'Soften up Ulster and then go in'

THE Army should soften up Ulster 'no-go' areas and then move in, General Sir Walter Walker, former Commander Nato land forces Northern Europe, said at Newcastle last night.

The general, who retired from the Army on Monday, said: "I have engaged in campaigns against blacks yellows and slant-eyes. Why should we have one rule for the whites and one for coloureds?"

"We have to decide if Northern Ireland is part of Britain or not - and, if so, to act accordingly. "We should cut off their petrol, gas, electricity and stop food going in, soften them up and then go in; give warning so that they can get their women and children away before we go in, but go in."

SUPPORT FOR PALESTINE WEEK

BEGINNING on May 14th, the Palestine Solidarity Campaign held a series of events to mark Palestine Week.

On the 14th, 1,000 people marched from Speaker's Corner to the Israeli and Jordanian embassies, the symbols of Israeli and Arab reaction and both equal enemies of the Palestinian people's cause. A very successful public meeting was held the following day where the two speakers, one Arab, one British put the Palestinian struggle into the wider context

of world imperialism and linked it with the struggles in their own countries. On the 16th Eisenstein's great and historic film about the Russian Revolution, 'October', was shown. Throughout Palestine Week, the accent was on linking Palestine with mass struggle all over the world, and particularly with the struggle in Northern Ireland. A manifestation of British imperialism on our doorstep. Despite setbacks and hardships, we are certain that Palestine will win.

THINGS TO COME

(From an article on Brigadier Frank Kitson, published in the Sunday Times, May 14, 1972.)

(Brigadier Frank Kitson, experienced British Army expert on fighting colonial wars in Kenya, Malaya and more recently in Northern Ireland, is a ding to be the new Commandant of the School of Infantry at Warminster. In this key training position his ideas about the role of the new army of the future are pretty significant.)

"Briefly, Kitson's theories are addressed to the proposition - one endorsed by the Prime Minister, among others - that internal subversion and civil anarchy represent the dangers of the future, rather than orthodox international war. Quite apart from Ulster, Brigadier Kitson is not afraid to envisage the possibility that protest and unrest in mainland

Britain might reach a point where 'the Army would be required to restore the situation rapidly.'

"He is also interested in the idea that the Army might take part in the monitoring of people suspected as political subversives. ...

"The problem is that subversion - in Ulster, England or anywhere else - is inevitably about politics. On a technical level, Low Intensity Operations seems to demonstrate beyond doubt that successful counter-subversion depends upon the idea that the military be involved, right from the start, in identifying and defining the nature of the subversive threat. "The Guru of the New Model Army, by Bruce Page and Lewis Chester, Sunday Times, May 14, 1972.

SHIPREPAIR WORKERS

FROM THE WORKERS TO THE WORKERS

Port of London Authority Policy and Government Policy

IN July of last year so concerned were A.U.E.W. stewards at the rapidly deteriorating work position, that they sought a meeting with the P.L.A. to discuss improved facilities for shiprepairing in the Port of London. At that meeting, with the employers in attendance as well, Lord Aldington agreed to provide improved facilities strictly on a commercial basis.

Prior to this they informed the employers that they were closing the two main dry docks in the Royal Group of Docks because they were uneconomical and the employers formed a concor-

tium, bought them out and have since operated them at a profit.

We at that meeting accused the P.L.A. (Port of London Authority) of being more interested in selling land and closing berths and entering the world of property speculators than in running the port. This they denied. But we are more than ever convinced that this is true. Only recently they have refused permanent berths to two shipping lines and turned nine ships away-on the grounds that there were not enough berths available.

Their future policy of closures has been brought forward from 1975 to the end of 1972. A grim outlook indeed for all workers in the Port.

Government Policy and G.L.C.

G.L.C. are trying to force firms out of the West India and Millwall Docks to acquire the land for re-development one of the most modern and up-to-date being the Olsen Line at Millwall. The Government were asked to help by requiring to pass an act so that all British merchant shipping compulsorily have their repairs done in British ports except for emergencies as is operated by American shipping.

Mr. John Davies, then in the Board of Trade, refused point blank and said that where the practice exists in any country they should seek to end it and that ship owners should have their ships repaired wherever they think fit. Neither were the Government prepared to give further tax concessions for ship owners for repair work. The situation today is that B.P. tankers that are 50% government owned with British tax payers' money involved are being repaired in Continental ports.

Common Market Ports
All Common Market ports receive help from their governments or municipal authorities in the way of subsidies to attract shipping. Ship-repair workers are being flown over to these ports at higher rates of pay to work on the same vessels as they worked on in the Port of London. The out-

flow of money from this country to pay for all this must add up to a considerable amount in any year.

The Employers

In 1968 there were 17 firms doing shiprepair work in the Port of London. This has now been reduced to 5. The competition between the two major firms has led to a price-cutting war in which workers in both firms are being exhorted to work harder in order to remain in whatever firm survives the other.

Fortunately the stewards and members of the various unions concerned are not falling for this one and are resisting all attempts by the employers.

A document was produced by the employers which was then thrown out at a mass meeting of ship-repair workers and the fight against sackings continued.

We have put an overtime ban on in all three firms in the London Graving Dock Group of Companies if any worker of any trade is put under notice; and subsequently the employer has had to withdraw the notices.

With the background of this workers are pursuing the national wage claim of £6.00, 35 hours and extra holidays in every difficult situation. But if the Government had its way we shall all end up as waiters in plush hotels and yachting marinas and taking poodles out for walks round the block.

AN a regular feature of our paper we print interviews with workers involved in class struggle, so that we may learn from each other's experiences in different sectors of what is all the same fight. These articles are reports from the front in the guerrilla war the working class wages daily with the employing class and the capitalist government which serves its interests.

An interview with Raymond Atkinson A.U.E.W. shop steward, Don Barrick and Arthur Baines at the occupied factory of Hindle Valves Ltd., Hunslet, Leeds.

1. What were the events leading up to the occupation?
Our original basic wage was £15.00 for unskilled men and £19.00 for skilled men. In accordance with the engineers claim, and after national negotiations had broken down, we put in a claim for £20.00 for unskilled men and £25.00 for skilled men, plus, shorter hours, increased holiday pay, etc. The management rejected this and ignored the issue. A work to rule then began for a week, the management then offered £1.50 for skilled men and £1.25 for unskilled men - this later became an overall increase of £1.50 for all grades. The men rejected this and the work to rule continued. On Friday April 21 two lads were selected at random by the management and suspended. On Monday 24 April at 8.00 a.m. the shop stewards met the management and at 9.00 a.m. after refusing to return to normal working all 80 men were suspended. Picketing then began. On Friday 28 April we discovered that the management were removing valves in their car boots during the day and night. There were approximately £250,000 worth of completed valves in the factory. The management by getting these out could ignore us for a lengthy period. We decided to occupy and an all round the clock sit-in began.

2. Is this tactic better than a strike or picketing?
Definitely. We have gone and immobilised £250,000 worth of valves, brought the factory to a standstill, prevented any intervention or removals, made things easier for the lads involved than say picketing duty would have done. This action has added another lever to our methods of struggle.

3. And the reaction from the employers to the occupation?
They were quick to offer increases to the lads in other factories in the Leeds group when we tried to bring them out. Now they have offered us a similar £2 increase. But there is not much that they can do. Only clerical work is going on - basically checking. They cannot do anything production-wise because we are here to stay - until we win.

4. Have the employers made any new offers since the occupation began?
They have now raised their offer to £2, but after all this lot only a substantial increase will suit us - that is the full claim.

5. What support have you had from other workers in the area?
The convenor from Vickers (Hoe-Crabtree factory also occupied across the road) has been down bringing his lads support, so have other workers. Lads from an occupied factory in Ossett (near Leeds) are coming over today. We have a hardship fund which has had donations from workers and students in Leeds.

6. What is the morale and the organisation of the workers in the factory like?
Solid. We can go on indefinitely. We are on 12 hour shifts consisting of six men a time. We have tea machines and lighting but the management have cut the heating off. They pretend we are not here but that cannot last, or frighten us. We are all together, totally solid and united.

7. And to the future, what of the Industrial Relations Act and the threat that it poses?
Industrial Relations Act or not we will stick out for the best settlement we can get. We definitely don't recognise the act, or accept it. Everyone now knows exactly what we are up against. If the management gets tougher, we could get tougher, but there is practically nothing they can do. We have them over a £250,000 barrel. We're sitting tight - to win.

IMPERIALIST TREATY

FOLLOWING its treaties with India and Egypt, the Soviet Union signed another one with the Baathist regime in Iraq. This fifteen year military, economic and political treaty following Kosygin's visit to Iraq in April this year is the result of an intensive effort by the Soviet Union to establish a firm foothold in Iraq replacing Britain and the United States. The treaty took Iraq back to the days of the Portsmouth pact with Britain in 1948 and the Baghdad pact in 1954.

It has always been the desire of the imperialist powers to control this very important strategic area specially in relation to the Gulf which possesses two thirds of the world's oil reserves. Kosygin's visit was accompanied by a visit by Russian naval units to the port of Um Qasr on the Gulf as a taste of things to come.

The repressive measures adopted by the Iraqi regime against the peasants and workers resulted in the political isolation of the Baathists. Their only ally is the local revisionist party, who are dreaming of a bigger share in the plunder of the Iraqi people. Faced with such isolation, the Baathist regime found in the Soviet Union a new protector: this time in the name of "socialism."

Facing this reactionary line-up is the Communist Party of Iraq (Central Command) organising the people in preparation for armed struggle.



THE CPB (ML) delegate to the 7th Congress of Albania Trade Unions is greeted by Enver Hoxha. First Secretary of the Albanian Party of Labour. There will be a public meeting on this Congress and its relevance to our struggles in Britain on Friday, June 30th, 7.30 p.m. at the Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortress Road, NW5.



NO JOBS ON TEESIDE

UNEMPLOYMENT marches on. The number of jobless 18 year olds has more than doubled from 28,000 in October 1968 to 64,000 last October. On Teeside in 1968 there were 46 vacancies for every 100 unemployed 18 year old girls. Now there are only 11. For boys it is even worse, only 9 jobs for every 100.

DOWN ON THE FARM

After the miners, the engineers, and the railwaymen, Britain's farmworkers have shown they are not intimidated by unemployment and an 8% 'norm'. At their conference they called for a 50% increase in the basic farm wage - from the present £16.20 for a 42-hour week to £25 for a 40-hour five-day week. The last two years have seen Wages Board awards of £1.65 and £1.40. There are problems. Only one third of the 300,000 farmworkers are organised and they are split up among thousands of employers. But the growth of militancy has provided a suggested solution from an executive member - the same chosen by the engineers - selective action where workers are strong, blocking off dairies and creameries, cutting food supplies at the docks....

ST THOMAS'S SITE

Electricians employed by Phoenix Electrical on the St. Thomas's Hospital site went on strike on Friday 21st April, demanding the reinstatement on site of a sacked member.

OCCUPATIONS

The engineers' sit-ins are now spreading out from Manchester. But occupations are becoming normal tactics, not just in heavy industry, but wherever there are workers, wherever there is class struggle. And that means everywhere. In rural Norfolk there have been two sit-ins and already one victory.

In the 100 workers occupied Dawson and Barfos bottling equipment factory at the beginning of May. In April we reported the story of the 35 women shoe workers at Fakenham who occupied rather than accept redundancy when their factory was closed down. To keep the sit-in going they started to produce and sell leather goods.

They do jobs which previously they thought beyond them. The two months of occupation have given them real pride in the creativity and skills they have developed, and a closeness and comradeship they had not expected. Nowadays all decisions are discussed and taken together. If one has a problem, everyone has a problem. Children play on the floor while their mothers work at the machines. Friends, relatives and supporters call in constantly. The job of guarding the machines at night has been taken over by a brother of one of the women - an apprentice welder, himself made redundant during the miners' strike.

Now negotiations are taking place aimed at saving the jobs by continuing to run the factory as a co-operative producing handbags etc.

ON THE INDUSTRIAL FRONT

C.A. PARSONS

Members of the technical and supervisory section of the AUEW at C.A. Parsons, Tyneside voted to drop sanctions against members of the U.K. Association of Professional Engineers in return for a company guarantee of no compulsory redundancies this year, short-time working and the reinstatement of the 600 workers dismissed for refusing to work normally. UKAPE had been using the Industrial Relations Act to break the previous closed shop at C.A.

Parsons. Now this is unnecessary.

For the next two years the UKAPE president will be Mr. Ralph Lionel Clarke. He is noted as an author - of a pamphlet called "Responsible Trade Unionism." The publishers - The Monday Club. So much for the "non-political" UKAPE. The struggle against the Industrial Relations Act and the fake "unions" that seek to grow under its protecting wing can only be seen as a political struggle.



Women engaged in their work-in at the shoe factory in Fakenham.

STRIKES TO CONTINUE AT TWO GLOUCESTERSHIRE PLANTS

ENGINEERING workers at the two Dowty Fuel Systems plants at Arle Court, Gloucestershire, voted at a closed mass meeting of 450 on May 10 to continue the strike already in its seventh week.

At an earlier meeting the workers had shown their confidence in their works convenor, Graham Hendry, by backing the continuation of industrial

action with only 17 voting to go back to work. The latest company offer of £2.50 a week more for skilled men and £1.87% for unskilled was described by Hendry as totally inadequate as far as the men were concerned and they would accept no less than £5 of the £8 claim and an extra weeks holiday, sick benefits and a shorter working week.

VIETNAMESE VICTORIOUS

Cont. from page 1

right - just stop bombing the north). The Trotskyists were happy to support the Vietnamese as long as they were convinced the Americans would win - at which point they could condemn the "treachery" of the Stalinists (i.e. Ho Chi Minh). When it became clear even to them that the Vietnamese were not going to lose they made themselves scarce, found other carrion to crow over.

A whole generation of youth in Britain received their political baptism of fire from the guns of the Mekong Delta. For them Vietnam has been an almost sacred cause, a rock of faith in a shifting, doubtful world. Yet they did not translate their faith into deeds. They did not build for victorious Vietnam a movement to compare with that built by their parents for defeated Spain.

Why? Why have we, the

working class of Britain, failed in our internationalist duty? Why have we left it to the Vietnamese people, in the way an earlier generation left it to the Soviet working class, to carry the burden of revolutionary war without our taking the action here that would have complemented their struggle? Can we shake off this social democratic sleeping sickness before it numbs us entirely?

Ho Chi Minh said the only true internationalism is to make revolution in your own country. We rejoice with the Vietnamese people in their victories. We grieve with them in the destruction wrought upon their land. Let us now vow that we the workers of Britain will match their intellect, their heroism and their achievement in the very heartland of the imperialist beast.

REPORT ON UNCTAD 3

End of a Charade

THE third United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (Unctad III) ended on May 19 in Santiago, Chile, its final weeks submerged in the inevitable conflict between the demands on the one hand of the Group of 77 - the 'third world' block - to prolong the conference, and on the other, the blatant desire of the developed capitalist countries to get the charade over as soon as possible and get back to business precisely as before.

And all this to the accompaniment of loud noises of moral indignation in the western press, apparently amazed at the unwillingness of the developed countries to carry out the pledged transfer of resources to the underdeveloped world which emerged from the Unctad II agreements in 1968.

Trade pattern

The developing countries are dependent on raw material exports (80% of their total) to the advanced capitalist countries in exchange for manufactured goods. This is a trade pattern which has emerged from a long history of imperialist plunder in the search for maximum profits - a predatory involvement taking many forms but which results always in the same thing: the massive export of capital from the victimized country to the imperialist country, the depression of raw material prices, and the blocking of any tendency for the so-called 'host' country to diversify or develop its economy and challenge the monopoly of the markets held by the imperialist power.

The profit rate achieved in foreign countries by the corporations of capitalist countries is in general much higher than the domestic rate. To give one example, for Standard Oil of New Jersey, it is four times as great. Aid is nothing more than an effort to avoid the appearance of open imperialism, while

the essence of the relationship is the same. Aid is tied to stringent terms and usually at very high interest rates. It draws the developing country into a vicious circle of high interest loans to cope with huge trade deficits, new loans to pay off old ones, and leaves it open to greater leverage by the imperialist power.

Costly 'aid'

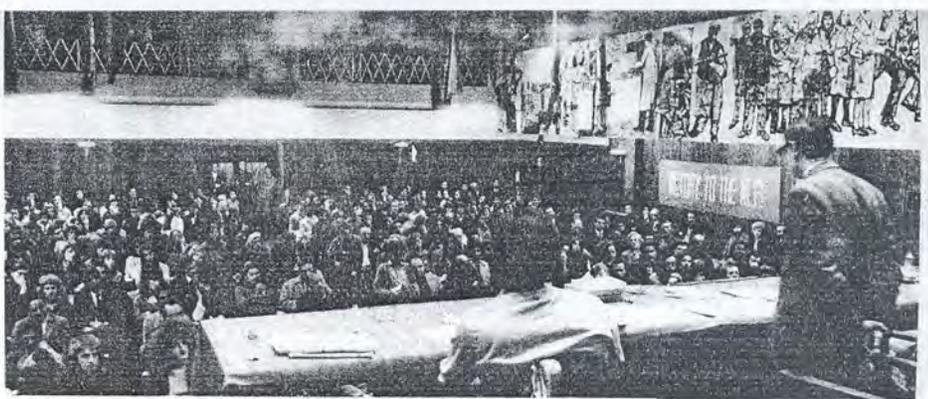
At the moment, debt service repayments are rising twice as fast as export earnings, a sure way to bankruptcy. Over the past 20 years the flow of foreign capital into the developing countries has meant a net loss for them of many hundreds of million dollars and left them in debt to the tune of nearly 70 thousand millions. Adding to this the losses resulting from the decline in the prices of raw material exports, and the increasing cost of imports, it can be seen that international economic relations have caused damage since the war of over 100,000 million dollars for the developing world. Direct investment has been particularly harmful. Between 1950 and 1967, Latin America alone received 3,900 million dollars and lost 12,800 million. In other words, it paid out four dollars for every one received.

One solution

The Chinese people have clearly indicated the way out for the developing world. They have learnt through long years of struggle that to consolidate political independence it is essential to develop economic independence according to the principles of self-reliance.

For us in the advanced capitalist countries, the answer is clear. It is not to deplore the actions of our own ruling classes, yet absolve ourselves from responsibility, nor is it to claim responsibility and raise frenzied cries for more aid on favourable terms, pretending that a debt is thus being repaid.

There is only one answer. And that is to unite in our own country in our own struggle, in order to bring about the defeat of that system, capitalism, which is at the root of this world-wide system of exploitation.



Reg Birch, Party Chairman, addressing the audience at Conway Hall, London, which was packed full for the CPB (ML) May Day rally.

SOLIDARITY WITH SPANISH WORKERS

SPANISH WORKERS' STRUGGLE

OVER thirty years after the fall of the Spanish Republic in 1939, opposition to Franco's fascist regime has started to pose serious problems to a government already crumbling due to growing internal contradictions within Spain.

The most recent and one of the most violent clashes between workers and the government's fascist police started in March this year at Ferrol del Caudillo (Francisco's birthplace) in what has hitherto been the least militant of the provinces, where 4,500 shipyard workers went on strike for better pay and working conditions and to reinstate 6 workers sacked through the strike. Fascist riot police using machine guns opened fire on a demonstration killing two workers wounding over forty and carrying out more than fifty arrests. Later the same night three Spanish warships were anchored in the port. The strike came at a bad time for the government as the shipyards are 18 months behind schedule on five missile frigates being built for the Spanish navy to American design and on which many foreign experts (American) are working (for over double the pay of course). This shipyard supplies frigates for many foreign navies. A wave of sympathy strikes all over Spain followed including occupation of the town of Ferrol for some hours. Meanwhile the struggle continues.

As the Communist Party of Spain (Marxist-Leninist) said in its paper Working Class Vanguard:

NEW PEAK IN STRUGGLE JUST as in the strikes, demonstrations and actions of the working class, miners, office workers, doctors, teachers, etc., the recent student struggles have been characterized by their lofty fighting spirit and clear-sighted political content. All these struggles taking place in factories, working areas, mines, hospitals, transport, banking, University and Institutes, and in the squares and streets of many cities take on a revolutionary significance when viewed in the light of the prevailing savage dictatorship and repression in our country and in comparison with the pacifism and collaboration with which Carrillo is trying to enslave the struggle of the masses.

The revolutionary line based on the principle of class struggle and Marxist-Leninist ideology unfolds irresistibly. To bring about the unified action of all the truly anti-revisionist and revolutionary forces within the framework of the working class who wish to truly serve the people and put an end to the present situation has come to be an urgent task which cannot be postponed. In this unifying task the Communist Party of Spain (Marxist-Leninist) whose activists are found in the front ranks of the struggle against the Yankee-Franco regime will not spare any efforts or sacrifices.

NO LET-UP FOR U.S. IN VIETNAM

IN that momentous month of April the offensive of the liberation forces of South Vietnam saw 90,000 enemy troops put out of action, 530 aircraft destroyed, 69 warships sunk, and the liberation of many cities, towns and villages. Activity has been unabated throughout May. For the Saigon puppet forces it is best to defect. For the Americans, Vietnam has become a raging inferno, a Dien Bien Phu emerging in every place, every south Vietnamese capturing or inventing the opportunity to fight.

Take the Gia Lai province, for example. From the night of May 13th to dawn the liberation fighters attacked and occupied all the enemy bases and posts on one section of Highway 14. They annihilated the puppet 6th ranger regiment and captured or destroyed large quantities of arms and war material. The people in dozens of local "strategic hamlets" rose in struggle with the result that 10,000 people in a wide area have been liberated.

The inheritance of the past 7 years of American "protection" for the south Vietnamese has been 21 million bomb craters, produced by a quantity of explosives equivalent to 1,215 lb for every inhabitant. So reported an American university team.

And in the past 7 years, US imperialism has extorted 50,000 million dollars from its workers to sponsor its criminal activity.

Now, the punchdrunk Nixon has launched new raids against the north. As the bombs rain down, the Democratic Republic of Vietnam replies: "Every factory, every construction site, every cooperative, every public office, every school, every street must be turned into a combat trench ready to crush any military adventures of US imperialism."

The Americans justify their aggression by alleging an invasion by the North Vietnamese. As if a country, a people, can invade itself! They talk of saving their POW's and protecting their troops. So it can invade any country and justify an escalation because its fingers get burnt! The Americans have extended the war to the whole of Indo-China. The Indo Chinese respond by fighting as one. A recent US Senate investigation revealed that they are on the verge of losing Cambodia and Laos and that, in a reverse of the "domino theory", would mean inevitable defeat in Vietnam. Six of one and half a dozen of the other.

THE following letter was issued by the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers on May 4th 1972:

TO: ALL SHIPBUILDING AND SHIPREPAIRING DISTRICTS AND THE DIVISIONAL ORGANISERS CONCERNED.

Dear Sir and Brother, STRIKE IN SPANISH SHIPBUILDING YARDS AND REPRESSION BY POLICE

Shipbuilding workers in democratic Unions all over the world are reacting angrily to the news of brutal repression in the Spanish State-owned Bazan shipyards in El Ferrol. Two workers were killed and 36 seriously injured when police opened fire on a crowd demonstrating against the imposition of a so-called "collective agreement" signed by the government-controlled "sindicatos."

Some 20 workers were arrested - about half of whom were imprisoned according to I.M.F.'s affiliated democratic Unions in Spain. This repression, which took place on March 9th, was followed by the closure of the yards and a Cabinet decision to declare the workers subject to military law, obliging them to return to work by March 20th - 22nd under the threat of court martial. To implement these measures marines were drafted on March 21st into all departments of the yards.

The latest news received by Executive Council is that the arrests have passed the number of 40, and probably half of them are being kept in jail at this time, although it is difficult to obtain exact figures. Executive Council have decided to demonstrate solidarity with our Spanish brothers by instructing all of our members to refuse to undertake repairs to Spanish ships.

Please convey this instruction to the members in your District and advise Executive Council of any action or developments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JUNE 5th MONDAY. Informal Meeting on Women's Struggle 7.30 p.m. at Brighton Workers' Bookshop, 37 Gloucester Road, Brighton.
JUNE 9th FRIDAY. Film Show "Battleship Potemkin" 7.45 p.m. at the Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortress Road, London NW5 (Near Tufnell Park Tube Station).

JUNE 10th SATURDAY. Booksale, a vast collection of books cheaply priced. Bellman Bookshop, 155 Fortress Road, London NW5.

JUNE 16th FRIDAY. Public Meeting on Vietnam's Glorious Victories, 7.30 p.m. at the Bellman Bookshop.

JUNE 23rd FRIDAY. Film Show "Strike" 7.45 p.m. at the Bellman Bookshop.

JUNE 30th FRIDAY. Public Meeting on the 7th Congress of Albania Trade Unions addressed by the delegate who attended on behalf of the CPB (ML) 7.30 p.m. at the Bellman Bookshop.

JULY 1st SATURDAY. Jumble sale, a wide variety of goods to choose from. Bellman Bookshop.

JULY 7th FRIDAY. Film Show "End of St. Petersburg" 7.45 p.m. at the Bellman Bookshop

BELLMAN BOOKSHOP

Report on the Activity of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania, submitted to the Vth Congress by Enver Hoxha.....40p

Report on the Fifth Five Year Plan (1971-75) by Mehmet Shehu.....30p

Many new books and pamphlets from China
MON. 10.30am-4.30pm
TUE-SAT. 10.30am-6.00pm

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