

B-Leyland shop stewards meet:

DANGEROUS DOUBLE-TALK

BY DAVID MAUDE

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The Sheffield AEF No. 2 branch declared on Tuesday night that the atrocities that have come to light in Vietnam reflect the inability of the American imperialists to fight against a people's war.

The mightiest war-machine in the world can only resort to a policy of wiping out all living things over huge areas of Vietnam, with no prospect of a military victory.

We feel that the Wilson government, which supports American policy in Vietnam through the dependence of the economy on American finance, should break from supporting the war.

We oppose the prospective visit of Wilson to America to receive his instructions and ask district committee to state its position on this.

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'Workers Press'
Saturday December 6,
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West German Foreign Minister Walter Scheel said the French government's new attitude towards the EEC was a good augury for the future.

Problems

All, it seems, is sweetness and light.

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After the revolution, he was placed in command of the Tenth Red Army in July 1918, and was entrusted with the defence of the then-named town of Tsaritsyn (subsequently 'Stalingrad' and finally 'Volgograd') on the river Volga.

It was in Tsaritsyn that Stalin recruited Voroshilov to his personal clique on the basis of a clash with Trotsky over military policy.

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During the debate on the strike fund levy, the Leyland committee's joint secretary, Dick Etheridge—re-elected to the CP's executive committee at the Party's recent Congress—defended the AEF executive's decision not to back the strike.

MDW

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What use will a national shop stewards' committee of the motor industry be if it is not going to fight?

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'The news media have gone way out on a limb. They have put themselves on the hook with off-the-cuff interviews of people whose authenticity could be challenged.'

Bailey's statement is part of a concerted attempt to muzzle the US press, radio and television.

'Subversive'

Vice-president Spiro Agnew has already denounced 'subversive' influences on the reporting of news by the mass media.

These defenders of US imperialism fear the impact of the revelations on Nixon's so-called 'silent majority', who are now becoming highly vocal—against Nixon and his war.

Docks talks re-open

TALKS on the London docks pay and productivity deal, rejected a fortnight ago in a secret ballot, re-opened yesterday afternoon.

A meeting of the Enclosed Docks Modernization Committee—which consists of employers and union representatives—was fixed after a telephone call from T&GWU docks group secretary Peter Shea to committee chairman John Hovey.

The T&GWU was expected to put proposals at the meeting on new terms for lifting the 21-month-old ban on working containers berths.

6,000 NURSES IN MILITANT PAY RALLY

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The secretary and an official of the Royal College of Nurses outlined the RCN campaign, which involves writing letters to MPs, and gaining support of the general public through petitions.

Strike support

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BY ROBERT BLACK

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This was certainly the case with Voroshilov.

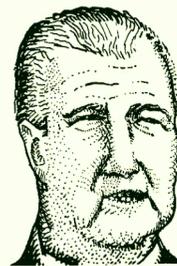
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Mysterious

As a result of his and Stalin's insubordination, the Polish campaign ended in defeat and the western frontiers of the Soviet Union were pushed back deep into the Ukraine and White Russia.

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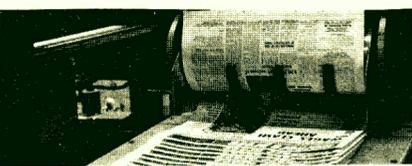
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said, that 'bearing in mind the prospects of Britain joining the Common Market there is also a need for an international motor committee'. This now goes forward for discussion by the British-Leyland Trade Union Committee's executive. Having made this correct decision they then went forward to reduce it to the status of 'left talk'.

Voted down

They voted down, after a stormy debate, a resolution proposing the setting up of a permanent strike fund throughout the combine. Sixteen votes were cast in favour of this resolution, 150 against. 'Words, words, words', was the comment of one shop stewards' committee chairman. 'It's amazing,' added a senior steward. 'As the working class moves forward, some sections of the combine leadership seem to go more and more into retreat; it's as if they are afraid to have money.'

The resolution, put forward by BMC Service, Power Jacks and Leyland (Scotland), urged that all British-Leyland workers pay 6d. a week levy to the Central Fund, British-Leyland Shop Stewards' Committee, to be used to help strikes within the British-Leyland group and that the conference 'consider a policy for assistance for any plant within the group if assistance is requested by trade union representatives at the plant'.

Another resolution dropped from the agenda, proposed from Southall's AEC plant, condemned the attitude of our unions in not making the dispute at Standard-Triumph, Liverpool, official. During the debate on the strike fund levy, the Leyland committee's joint secretary, Dick Etheridge—re-elected to the CP's executive committee at the Party's recent Congress—defended the AEF executive's decision not to back the strike.

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Both Voroshilov and Stalin were in their natural element in these surroundings. Of such human refuse was their anti-Leninist faction built. Basing themselves on the disgruntled layers in the army, Stalin and Voroshilov mobilized the so-called 'Military Opposition' at the Eighth Bolshevik Party Congress in March 1919.

'Pandering'

It argued that Trotsky was pandering to reactionary elements in recruiting ex-Tsarist officers to train Red Army commanders. Lenin came out against the 'Military Opposition', insisting that until the working class could acquire the necessary cultural and technical sophistication, it would have to rely for many years on the best experts of the old regime willing to serve the Soviet power. The crushing of the military 'opposition', which included not only members of the Stalin-Voroshilov group, but many Party men misled or confused by Voroshilov's anti-expert demagoguery, hardened the bitterness of the 'Tsaritsyn group'. It collected a wide range of lower Party functionaries, who in one way or another believed they had been slighted by Trotsky during his command

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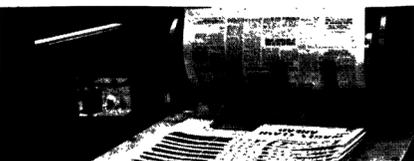
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BY JACK GALE

FOR MANY years the alternative for miners appeared to be the Communist Party, or in recent times, 'lefts' like Laurence Daly, who were supported by the Communist Party.

Until Daly's election, the chief office in the union—general secretary—had been held since nationalization by members of the Communist Party—first, Arthur Horner and then Will Paynter.

Horner, in the first days of nationalization, assiduously opposed strikes as 'betrayals of the Labour government' (not a word about the Labour government's betrayals of the miners!) and he intervened personally to try to end the 1947 Grimethorpe strike.

The record of the more recent Will Paynter, a member of the Communist Party for 40 years and now holding down a £6,500-a-year job on Wilson's Commission on Industrial Relations, was analysed at length in 'The Newsletter' (February 4 and February 25, 1969).

Paynter had been pushed for this 'plum' job by 'The



PART TWO

else. The hours will only be gained in the same way.

● A fight on wages. Everywhere miners are saying that the demand for a £15 minimum on the surface and £16 underground was too modest. A year ago, the All Trades Union Alliance suggested a struggle for £16 and £17. But many miners are now going beyond this. They are saying that the dustmen are right to demand £20 and miners should demand it, too.

● Full county rate for all skilled faceworkers, no matter where they are allocated.

● Solve the crisis in the industry by stopping all interest payments. Men's livelihoods are more important than profits.

● Workers' control of the pits. Open the books of the Coal Board. Let the workers themselves, employing the help of sympathetic experts, accountants, technicians, etc., examine all plans.

● No pit to close unless genuinely worked out, or for some valid geological reason. Workers' committees to agree before any pit can close. Transfer to suitable alternative work with no loss of earnings.

● End 'divide and rule'. Disputes in any one colliery to be immediately circularized, first to those in the same panel, then to the county as a whole, for solidarity action.

● Extend nationalization, under workers' control, to all fuel industries and to all other major industries.

● Immediate ratification of strikes and payment of strike pay unless satisfactory negotiations are begun. Revoke the present negotiation and arbitration machinery.

● Build a revolutionary leadership in the unions through the All Trades Unions Alliance, together with workers in other industries, particularly engineering, cars and docks.

This is a programme around which a new leadership can be built in the mines.

On the move

The treachery of the TUC leaders in the 1926 General Strike isolated the miners for many years from other sections of the working class.

They sought their salvation in a Labour government and hopes of nationalization. They have had both of these and been disappointed in both.

The sell-out of the surface hours strike can bring only a temporary respite.

The miners, like the car-workers, dockers, dustmen, firemen and schoolteachers, are on the move.

The Wilson government, under orders from the international bankers, must resist.

Trotsky's analysis and conclusions from the General Strike—the need to construct a revolutionary leadership in the unions—is more valid today than ever before.

What is involved now is not an industrial struggle but a political struggle—linking on to the struggle carried on by the Young Socialists against all the betrayals of the Wilson government since 1964.

It is the struggle for the Fourth International.

MINERS SINCE NATIONALIZATION

conference of the Labour Party over closures.

Paynter then wrote to the Yorkshire area saying that 'no useful purpose would be served' by acting on this suggestion.

(The texts of both these letters were published in 'The Newsletter', February 25, 1969.)

In fact, Paynter's only gesture in relation to closures was to offer concessions to the very government which was closing the pits!

a strike in support of a £1 increase for day-wage men.

All the main areas supported this demand against the opposition of the NEC.

Here was Paynter's opportunity! He had the ranks solidly behind him, and a conference vote to back it up.

Now he could really go to war against the right wing.

He went to war, right enough—against the militants. Not only did he—like Daly, today—fall back on 'procedure'

class battles developed, the Party would come into its own because of its industrial strength.

Yet now the Communist Party has lost position after position in one union after another.

After years of covering up for Paynter, Dash and Etheridge it now—far from leading the growing militancy of the working class—devotes its entire energies toward canalizing it behind the 'official' leaderships of 'lefts' such as Daly, Scanlon and Jack Jones.

These are not mistakes. It is the theories and policies of Stalinism which prevent any member of the Communist Party from developing as a revolutionary within its ranks.

Lenin always insisted on a fight against the ideas of even the best workers who came to the communist movement, to free them from the dominance of bourgeois ideology.

He carried out this fight in the early Congresses of the Communist International and in writings such as 'Left-Wing Communism'.

Decline

Stalinism not only liquidated the leading cadres of the Communist International, it also abandoned the struggle for revolutionary consciousness amongst the advanced workers.

It is this which led to the betrayals in France and it is this which accounts for the industrial decline of the British Communist Party.

The one great question which emerges from the recent strike over surface hours—the biggest miners' strike since 1926—is the need and now the opportunity for a new leadership in the coalfield.

Events are moving with lightning rapidity.

Only a few months ago Daly was taken at face value by many miners. He was elected, with Communist Party support, because the men believed he would lead a fight on closures and wages. He had talked about strike action to stop closures.

But in the strike over surface hours, Daly stood out against the miners.

Branch after branch, meeting after meeting demanded the resignations of both Ford and Daly.

Socialist Labour League members, of course, supported Daly against the right-wing candidate, but we warned that

it would be a big mistake to place full confidence in him because he was not committed to the overthrow of capitalism.

At that time the Communist Party said we were 'sectarian' and many members of the NUM believed them. At least, they were willing to give Daly a chance.

Well, he has had his chance now.

So, the record is that the right wing, the Communist Party and the Labour 'lefts' have all betrayed.

Yet the hours strike, like the Cadeby strike which preceded it, shows what a wealth of fight there is in the working class.

But today more and more miners are beginning to realize that a completely new leadership must be built.

It was Jock Kane and Sammy Taylor of the Communist Party who accompanied right-wing officials Schofield and Lee in trying to talk the Cadeby men into going back to work.

And the Yorkshire area council of the NUM as was pointed out in Workers Press at the time—tried to use the hours question to wriggle out of a fight over wages and were caught in their own trap.

All the miners' pent-up resentments, accumulated over the years, burst to the surface.

But this strike, spreading like a forest fire through Yorkshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Wales, Kent and Scotland, did more than put the right wing on the spot.

Spectre

It threatened the government's incomes policy and raised the spectre of new leadership in the mines.

Every political tendency except the Socialist Labour League was thus compelled to work to bring the strike to an end.

For the Communist Party it was not simply a matter of failing to train militants as Marxists. They have now gone much farther than that.

At they are the most reactionary force in the labour movement.

They lined up openly with TUC general secretary Vic Feather, claiming that his intervention was a 'break-through'.

Communist Party members were divided and demoralized.

In the Yorkshire area panels some CP members were calling for an end to the strike.

B.B.C.-1

9.38 a.m.-12 noon Schools. 12.30 p.m. Farm Management. 1.00 Cadw Cwmni. 1.30 Watch With Mother. 1.45-1.53 News and Weather. 2.05-2.25 Schools. 4.20 Play School. 4.40 Jackanory. 4.55 Blue Peter. 5.20 Journey To The Centre Of The Earth. 5.44 National News and Weather.

6.00 London—Nationwide.

6.45 The Doctors.

7.05 Top Of The Pops.

7.30 Dad's Army.

8.00 Softly, Softly.

8.50 The Main News and Weather.

9.10 Sportsnight With Coleman: International Amateur Boxing.

10.00 In A Class Of Their Own: What makes a good teacher?

10.30 24 Hours.

11.15 Car-Wise.

11.45 24 Hours (part 2). Reports on today's By-elections.

TODAYS TV

Regional Programmes as BBC-1 except at the following times:

Midlands and East Anglia: 6.00-6.45 p.m. Midlands Today, Look East, Weather, Nationwide.

North Of England: 6.00-6.45 p.m. Look North, Weather, Nationwide.

Wales: 2.30-2.50 p.m. Dysgu Cymraeg. 6.00-6.45 p.m. Wales Today. 6.45-7.05 Heddidi. 10.00-10.30 Yn Y Tren.

Scotland: 2.30-2.50 Around Scotland. 6.00-6.45 Reporting Scotland. 10.00-10.30 First Person Singular.

Northern Ireland: 2.30-2.50 For Schools. 6.00-6.45 Scene Around Six. Weather, Nationwide. 10.00-10.30 Date With Derek.

South and West: 6.00-6.45 Points West, South Today, Spotlight South-West, Weather, Nationwide.

B.B.C.-2

11.00-11.20 a.m. Play School. 7.00-7.30 p.m. Teaching Adults. 7.30 Newsroom, Weather.



Arthur Horner, Communist Party member and Paynter's predecessor as NUM general secretary, opposed strikes in 1947 as 'betrayals of the Labour government'. (Not a word about the Labour government's betrayals of the miners!)

Others turned up to lobby the Yorkshire area council against the sell-out and had to refuse to read the 'Morning Star' in front of political opponents because they could not justify the line it carried.

The unofficial strike committees were unable, because of their limited political position, to carry a fight through against the combined opposition of the government, the Coal Board and their own union leaders, 'left' and right.

As a result, they ran to Victor Feather to get them off the hook and called off the strike without consulting the strikers.

Shortly afterwards, a pamphlet appeared called 'What Next For Britain's Miners?' Whilst containing some criticisms of Lawrence Daly and calling for democratic reforms within the National Union of Mineworkers, this pamphlet leaves out the main question—the construction of a new leadership.

This pamphlet appears to have been published with the support of the revisionists' 'Institute for Workers' Control'.

One of its signatories is Jim Oldham, a leader of the Yorkshire strike committee and the man who moved the recommendation in the Yorkshire area council for a return to work.

The revisionists end up supporting those who were pushed into a dead-end by this strike and proved incapable of leading it to victory.

But the widespread disgust at the present NUM leadership must be transformed into a movement to replace it.

Campaign

That movement is the All Trades Unions Alliance. It has a daily paper, the Workers Press.

There is plenty to campaign on:

- Genuine rank and file representation on all strike committees. No self-appointed strike 'leaders'.
- End the system of permanent officials. All positions to be up for re-election every three years.
- No retreat on the hours question. Eight-hour day on the surface and seven hours underground NOW. The wages concessions were won by the strike and nothing



Paynter, who remained a member of the Communist Party until he joined the government's Commission for Industrial Relations, tried to prevent any industrial action against pit closures. Miners, instead, have been channelled by the Communist Party into organizing lobbies like this one at the Brighton Labour Party Conference in 1968.

Guardian' and 'The Financial Times'.

'The Guardian', in particular, praised him in the most lavish manner—for preventing trouble over pit closures!

'His outstanding performance at the NUM during the contraction of the industry and his constant advocacy of a rational plan for restructuring the unions has won him many admirers.' (February 1, 1969.)

But Paynter devoted his 'outstanding performances' to stopping industrial action against pit closures.

His most blatant performance was his intervention against the New Monkton men in 1966. When 1,600 men lost their jobs at this pit the Yorkshire area council decided to fight.

'Co-operation'

A right-wing Yorkshire area official, Sid Schofield, then phoned Paynter and received a letter from him in which he declared that pit closures were government policy and that the union could not change that policy without the support of the whole labour and trade union movement.

Paynter urged the Yorkshiremen to co-operate with the Coal Board in the closure of New Monkton and this intervention enabled the right wing in the Yorkshire area leadership to reverse the previous decision to take action against the closure.

However, Paynter's reference to the 'whole labour and trade union movement' was merely a blind to cover his retreat before pit closures.

Towards the end of 1967 both the Scottish and Yorkshire areas of the NUM demanded a special re-call

In the 'Coal News' of May 1968 he declared that he would accept seven-day working in selected pits in return for Wilson's promise of a slow-down in the rate of pit closures.

Fighting talk indeed!

Every miner in the land knows he is working himself out of a job and that the Wilson government cynically broke its promises made to the miners in 1964.

Paynter's attitude to the miners, however, was much more fierce. In April 1967 at South Wales he placed the blame for the economic ills of the industry not on the interest payments which are bleeding it white, but on the miners themselves!

His attack on absenteeism gave the green light to every vindictive manager in the land to launch an 'efficiency' drive against the men.

Throughout all this, the Communist Party defended Paynter and many sincere rank-and-file members desperately sought for fig leaves with which to cover him.

The line was the same as that which is now being dragged out again to defend Daly—he is in a minority in the national executive, he doesn't really want to do what he is doing, secretly he 'sympathizes' with the militants, etc., etc.

This would make a mockery of all the Party members' efforts to get their leading members in official positions if all they can do when they get there is behave as ventriloquists' dummies for the right wing.

But, in any case, it is just not true.

Paynter demonstrated this himself in 1964 when a special delegate conference called for

(a ballot with a two-thirds majority before a strike can be official) he and Ford toured the country opposing strike action on the eve of the ballot.

Paynter openly declared that he was speaking not only for the NEC, but for himself, and to underline this, the right-wing area council in Lancashire had his speech printed and distributed to every branch in the area in time for the vote.

Paynter's parting gift to his members was a public statement in 'The Guardian' to the effect that the unions should base their strategy not on the economic and financial requirements of their members, but on those of the employers!

'Government—Labour or Conservative—is in industrial relations to stay. We are facing a permanent and irreversible change in society. Our collective bargaining strategy depends on the overall economic and financial requirements of two groups—the government and the dominant employers.' ('The Guardian', December 6, 1968.)

Degeneration

But Paynter's story is not merely the story of one man's political degeneration. It is the story of Stalinism in Britain.

Dominated by the theory of peaceful transitions to socialism, the Communist Party failed to build and train Marxists in the unions.

In the immediate post-war years the Communist Party held leading positions in a number of key unions—such as the National Union of Mine-workers, the Electrical Trades Union, the Fire Brigades Union and the Amalgamated Engineering Union amongst others.

Party members were frequently reassured that when

Rangers. 6.00 ATV Today. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Star Action Movie: 'Robin and the Seven Hoods' with Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr. 11.05 Haddigh. 11.59 Pulse. Weather Forecast.

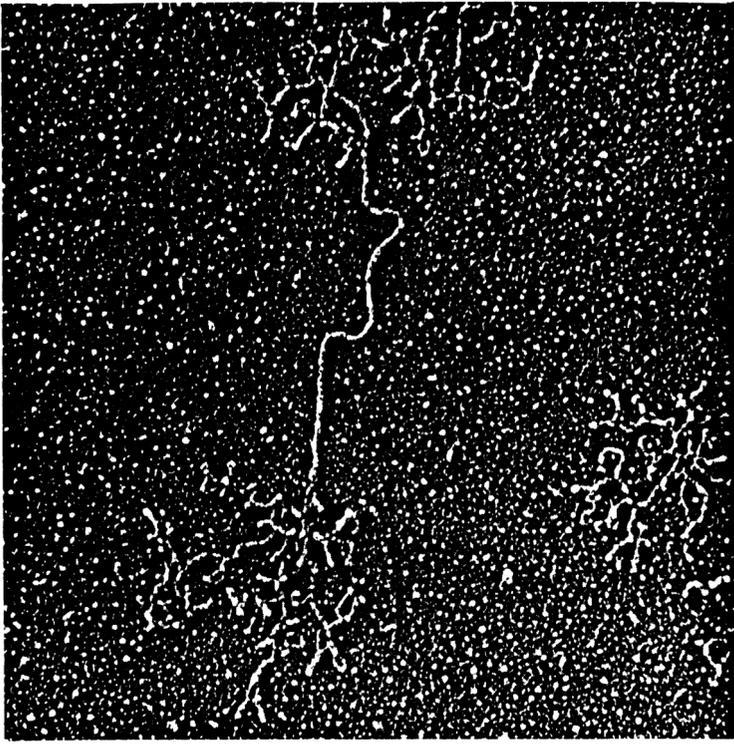
GRAMPIAN: 4.25 p.m. The Short Story. 4.55 Spideerman. 5.15 Maggie. 6.00 The Beverly Hillsbillies. 6.25 Newsview. On Site. 7.00 The Thursday Film: 'Young At Heart' with Doris Day and Frank Sinatra. Backstage musical. 11.00 Never A Cross Word.

YORKSHIRE: 4.00 p.m. Houseparty. 4.30 Arthur. 4.55 The Forest Rangers. 6.00 Calendar. Weather. 6.30 Castle Haven. 6.55 'The Proud and Profane' with William Holden and Deborah Kerr. 11.00 Happy Ever After. 12 midnight Late Weather.

ULSTER: 4.30 p.m. Romper Room. 4.50 Ulster News Headlines. 4.55 The Adventures Of Seapray. 6.00 UVF Reports. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 'Kisses or My President' with Fred MacMurray. Polly Bergen. 11.00 Gideon's Way. 11.15 Weather.

TYNE-TEES: 4.13 p.m. North East Newsroom. 4.15 News Headlines. 4.17 Sara and Hoppity. 4.25 Mr Piper. 4.53 North East Newsroom. 4.55 Ivanhoe. 6.00 Grampian News. 6.10 The Double Life Of Henry Phylfe. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00 Adventure! 'Stark 17'. 9.00 McCue's Music. 11.00 Poking Patch.

ATV MIDLANDS: 4.00 p.m. News Headlines. 4.02 Survival. 4.15 Peyton Place. 4.40 Paulus. 4.55 The Forest



An electron microscope photograph of pure gene (centre), isolated by the Harvard team from bacterium.



THE ISOLATION of a group of pure genes from a microscopic, but living, organism constitutes a major step forward in our understanding of the origin of life and the causes of inherited diseases.

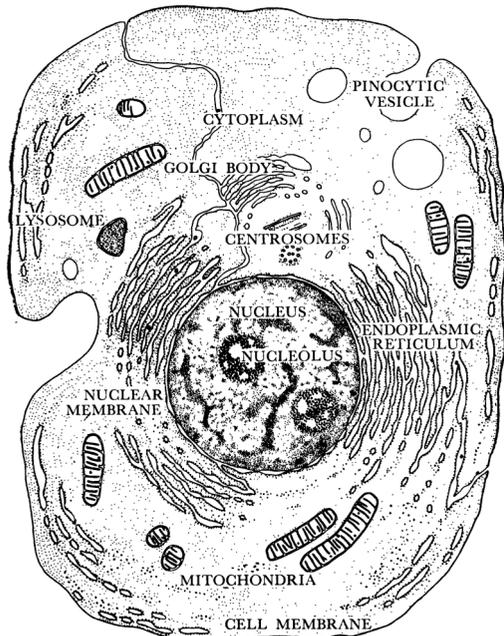
As was to be expected, this advance in the science of genetics, carried through by a team of young research workers in the Harvard Medical school, has sent shudders through the middle class by raising the spectre of supermen, that is, the possibility of breeding human beings to some pre-selected specification.

The cries of protest in defence of the sanctity of the individual, which are emitted on these occasions, is the defence of the 'divine right' of millions to die of disease and starvation.

However, genetics is still a very young science and the sort of 'genetic engineering' involved in changing the characteristics of humans (or even plants) is still some way in the future.

There is a huge gap between the manipulation of mammalian cells and the bacterial cells used by the Americans.

As 'The Times' expressed it: '... the progress by the American team makes the same contribution to genetic engineering as Newton's formulation of physical laws did to the landing of men on the moon.'



A typical cell revealed by an electron microscope.

Middle class shudders at superman spectre

Inevitably, the study of living organisms has lagged far behind that of inanimate objects.

For thousands of years, reference to the Bible or other religious writings was considered sufficient in answer to the question: 'What is life?'

Even to consider the possibility of a scientific investi-

gation was heresy.

The division between living and non-living matter was considered absolute.

Man was possessed of the divine 'vital force' and fashioned in the image of God.

Even Kepler, who perceived the orbital motion of the planets over 350 years ago, thought that fish could arise by spontaneous generation from salt water of the seas.

Even Darwin, whose theory of evolution was based on the assumption of the existence of heritable variations among individuals of the same species, knew nothing about the pattern that heredity follows.

Ironically, while Darwin was writing in 1872 that 'the laws governing inheritance are for the most part unknown', the answers had been revealed six years previously by Mendel, a Silesian monk.

Genetics

It was not until 1900 that his work became known and it was realized that 1866 had seen the establishment of genetics as a science obeying objective laws.

It is worth while describing one of Mendel's investigations in detail.

Mendel studied the effects of the crossbreeding of two plants endowed with contrasting traits. If red-flowered and white-flowered peas were allowed to self-fertilize, with no possibility of cross-fertilization, the plants yielded seeds which bred true to type—red or white, like their parents.

However, when cross-fertilization took place, he found that all the seeds gave rise to red flowers, but when this new generation of red flowers was cross-fertilized, seeds were

produced that gave rise to both red and white peas in the proportion of three to one.

As over a thousand plantings had been carried out initially, there was no possibility that this was a chance result.

Precisely the same proportion was revealed of tall to short plants in a further investigation.

Mendel correctly concluded that there are factors in peas which determine their colour and height. These factors became known as genes and are transmitted by a single pollen (or sperm in the case of animals).

The factor for redness or tallness is dominant, in that it asserts itself over the recessive gene (whiteness or shortness).

Why are some genes dominant and other recessive?

As yet, the detailed mechanism is not known, but with this assumption it is relatively simple to explain Mendel's results.

1st fertilization:

Genes	Combinations	Appearance
White	white-red	red
Red		

2nd fertilization:

Gene pairs	Combinations	Appearance
White-red	white-white	white
White-red	white-red	red
	red-white	red
White-red	red-red	red

The concept of dominance, together with that of gene pairing, is sufficient to explain Mendel's results—three red peas to one white.

During the 100 years following the publication of Mendel's findings, scientists have slowly pieced together the molecular mechanisms which unerringly achieve the transmission of heritable traits to the offspring.

The discovery that all the larger organisms, animals and plants were composed of cells was a great landmark in the history of biology. It was eventually completed by Pasteur when he showed that all cells, even the smallest single-celled bacteria, are produced by other cells.

An up-to-date picture of the cell, as revealed by the latest electron microscopes, is shown below.

It would need 5,000 such cells to cover one full-stop on this page!

This only emphasises the enormous refinements in technique that were necessary before the constituents of the cell could be analyzed in detail and their role in the reproductive process established.

The cell membrane is broken down either by mechanical grinding with some abrasive substance, sonic vibration or dissolved by an enzyme (the protein 'trigger' which sets off a reaction).

Components

The cell's contents are then exposed to 100,000 times the force of gravity in a centrifuge. As the rotation increases, the various components of the cell sediment out one by one and can be collected for individual examination.

The two major questions are: what are the roles of the cell's constituents?

How are the basic molecular building-blocks duplicated in the process of replacement of worn-out cells and in the reproductive process, during which the cell 'grows a second set of innards' and splits to form two cells?

The cell membrane recognizes with its molecular memory the hundreds of compounds swimming around it and permits or denies passage according to the cells requirements.

The function of the mitochondrion emerged in the early 1950s as the furnace of the cell: It embodies 40 enzymes which process glucose and store its energy in a form readily usable by the cell—a kind of molecular battery.

It also burns up fragments of worn-out cell components and it has been established that most of the molecules of which our bodies are composed are completely renewed once every few days!

Within the cell's nucleus reside the chromosomes, thread-like bodies containing protein and the fundamental hereditary material, DNA, one of the nucleic acids.

They are found in all cells and in primitive organisms, e.g. bacteria, all the genes are located in a single chromosome.

In higher organisms the full complement of genes in a cell is divided among several chromosomes.

In addition, each chromosome occurs twice, so that there are two pieces of genetic material controlling a given

characteristic in any one cell.

These are the (loosely labeled) 'gene pairs', referred to above in connection with Mendel's laws.

When a cell divides, the genetic information embodied in the DNA is passed on to the two daughter cells during this process.

Each chromosome is duplicated, drawn to opposite sides of the nucleus, which then splits, followed by the rest of the cell.

The pinpointing of DNA as the basic hereditary material took place in 1944, but it was not until 1953 that Watson and Crick put forward their famous double-helix model for DNA—like two intertwined springs.

Replication takes place in the following way.

The two strands separate like the two halves of a zip. Then each half fashions a new 'mate' for itself, using its old 'mate' as the model.

Thus the exact replication of DNA (and therefore the gene) is ensured.

How does the DNA spell out its instructions for the building of a particular protein molecule?

The problem of 'decoding' DNA seemed enormous. It was calculated that the storage of information for the proteins of a bacillus would require a closely typed 3,000-page book!

Code cracked

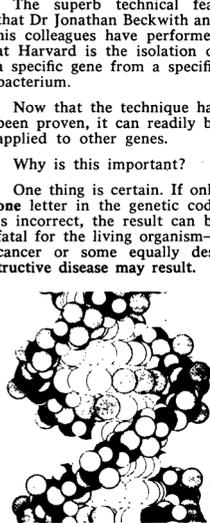
However, without going into further detail, it is, perhaps, sufficient to relate that the code was cracked in 1961, but that there still remains much confusion over its validity.

The superb technical feat that Dr Jonathan Beckwith and his colleagues have performed at Harvard is the isolation of a specific gene from a specific bacterium.

Now that the technique has been proven, it can readily be applied to other genes.

Why is this important?

One thing is certain. If only one letter in the genetic code is incorrect, the result can be fatal for the living organism—cancer or some equally destructive disease may result.



A model of the DNA molecule with the 'intertwined springs' of phosphate-sugar chains surrounding base pairs.

Conversely, a further refinement of technique may see a cure for such 'natural' scourges through 'genetic engineering'.

Why did Dr Beckwith call a press conference and express his dismay at the possibilities for genetic manipulation?

The 'New Scientist' says that 'it is not only the skills of scientists that worry him, but also the proven ineptitude of governments in applying them'.

No doubt there are many like Dr Beckwith who realize, if only superficially, that imperialism can turn man's greatest scientific achievements into weapons of destruction.

Destruction

It is ironic that Nixon proposes the destruction of bacteriological weapons at the same time as American scientists put within the grasp of his masters the means for blue-printing viruses against which there can be no defence.

The full implications of 'genetic engineering—the freeing of mankind from disease and the conscious improvement of his physical and mental qualities—can only be realized when he is liberated from the day-to-day battle for the basic necessities of life.

It is this task that the socialist revolution must carry out.

The next two articles in 'Scientific World' will deal with the controversy over the origin of life in the universe and genetics under Stalinism—the Lysenko period.

CLASS STRUGGLES IN AFRICA

By N. Makanda



SOUTH AFRICA is rather different from the other countries of Africa.

The other countries are plain and simple economic colonies (semi-colonies) of Britain, western Europe and the United States, in the main, with Japan a more recent addition to the list of imperialist powers operating in Africa.

South Africa, on the other hand, is, to use a definition which Trotsky made in a letter to South African Fourth Internationalists during the 1930s, 'a slave colony for the Blacks and a Dominion (partner of imperialism) for the Whites'.

It has all the features of a semi-colony as far as the 14 million people whom the Dutch, British and Boers classify as 'non-European', or 'non-White' or 'Black' or 'Coloured' or 'Kaffirs' or 'Natives' or whatever the mood of the term used in the hundreds of racial laws on the Statute Books of South Africa.

All sub-divisions of the so-called non-White 'races' are both super-exploited and super-oppressed.

The vast majority of the 114 million so-called 'Bantu' of the two million so-called 'Coloured' (defined as 'neither White nor Black' by the 1951 Population Registration Act) and of the 750,000 classified as 'Asians', are landless, rightless, voiceless, propertyless, segregated and regimented cheap labour working mainly for big companies with headquarters in London or other 'Western' capitals.

Virtual slaves

They are, virtually, the slaves of absentee monopoly-capitalists.

For this majority, forming some three-quarters of the population, the country is a semi-colony, more a 'slave-colony'. Their daily lives prove that Trotsky's definition was no exaggeration.

But for the other quarter, the four million, approximately, of so-called 'Europeans' or 'Whites', South Africa is a 'Dominion', like Canada, Australia or New Zealand in the days of the 'White' Commonwealth of (British) Nations.

For they have full legal rights, a parliament, own or occupy property, earn super-profits if they are employers and super-wages if they are workers and live on top of the colour bar beneath which they keep down the non-whites.

They live in a Greek democracy of virtual slave-owners and freemen, of 'patricians' and 'plebians', excluding from their citizenship every single 'slave'.

For the 'non-white' majority the country is much like any other semi-colony in Africa—very much worse from the 'legal' point of view, of course.

Extension

For the 'White' minority, South Africa is like Canada, Australasia, Britain or western Europe.

It is, for all practical purposes, an extension or annexe of Britain, in particular, almost like an additional, vast, British

South Africa — a slave colony for the Blacks...



county—with one main difference, for them, namely that oceans separate oppressor nations like Britain from the nations they oppress; but in South Africa the 'oppressor nation' sits immediately on the necks of the oppressed, regarding the oppressed people as the subject part of their 'White'-ruled 'nation'.

The imperialism of 'White' South Africa is, firstly, part of the imperialism of world-capitalism, especially of Britain.

One of the things this column will try to do is to show that British imperialism is very real and is by no means 'dead'.

That it is dying is clear, but its death-throes are no joke in Africa, any more than in Asia or parts of 'Latin America'.

'White' South Africa is a bastion of world imperialism, a fore-runner and huge version of other bastions of the Israel type.

It is a military bastion of NATO against 'communism', i.e. the revolution in Africa in continuation of the Russian and Chinese Revolutions.

Shares fell

It is a major economic bastion, especially of British capital, a fact which was borne

out in the autumn when shares of British companies on the South African Exchange fell nominally by £2 billion and this was estimated by South African economists to be nearly one-third of the nominal capital in stocks and shares.

Which means that Britain's nominal quoted capital was some £6 billion in South Africa.

The 'plunge' in Johannesburg shares gave some idea of the extent of British capital in South Africa, enough, at any rate, to show that it is massive.

There are many other and more reliable ways of estimating the depth and extent of British economic 'participation' in South Africa's economy; all of which show that the economy is 'very British indeed', and that the 'South African' economy is very much a part of the 'British' economy, which extends far beyond the shores of Britain.

At the moment, with so much 'public attention' on the Springbok Rugby tour of Britain, the deep, basic, economic, political and also military facts are covered up and hidden, especially the fact that at the base of the South African economy lie British investments.

Misleading

The cry of the anti-apartheid demonstrators in Wales: 'Springboks Out' (of Britain) can even be a misleading one.

For the problem of liberation in South Africa, as in many other parts of Africa is, rather, how to get 'Britain out' (of Africa).

However, in order to understand this better, it is necessary to find out to what extent and in what way Britain is 'in' South Africa.

Using the nominal share-figures mentioned, of £6 billion, and known rates of profit in South Africa, would give British capital more than a billion pounds (£1,000 million) profits a year from South Africa.

Some of this is re-invested, part is exported back to the UK or elsewhere.

But this is one rough indication of the scope of British economic control over South Africa—that is of the super-exploitation by British capital of the prisoners of the 'slave colony'.

To give an idea of Britain's profits from South Africa: they amount to about a quarter of the profits of the capitalist class in Britain itself.

Which means that about a quarter to a fifth of what is called 'Britain' or the 'British economy' is not here but in South Africa.

...and a Dominion for the Whites



Stewards less than determined

Ford bosses prepare to reject parity claim

WALK-OUT AT BATHGATE LEYLAND PLANT

By our industrial reporter
BRITISH - LEYLAND'S Bathgate factory was at a standstill yesterday, following a walk-out on Tuesday.

The decision for a walk-out was taken at a mass meeting attended by over 3,000 workers.

This followed the internal transport drivers' 'blacking' of car delivery men running internal transport.

The factory has been operating an overtime ban for several weeks in pursuit of a wage claim, which is due to be heard at York on December 12.

The management has offered a two-year package deal tied with productivity 'strings'.

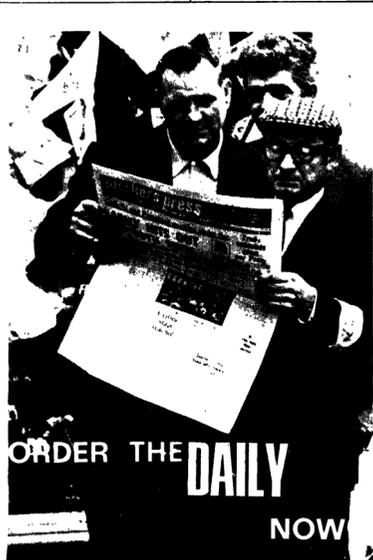
The offer was for an immediate 41s. increase with further 30s. increases at the end of 1970 and 1971.

The main condition was the maintenance of output at 106 per cent (bonus level). This offer was rejected by the shop stewards.

The shop stewards have also turned down management proposals for the introduction of an agreement which would mean a tightening of factory discipline and control over shop stewards, new measures of job-evaluation and production speed-up.

CZECH ELECTIONS POSTPONED THIRD TIME

THE Czech General Elections, last held in 1964 under Novotny, and already twice postponed since the Kremlin invasion of 1968, have again been deferred by the Husak regime until at least 1971.



Full subscription (Posted daily) £10 a year £2 10s. for three months

VERY FEW weeks are now left before Ford workers are due to challenge the company in a struggle for parity of earnings with the Midlands car plants.

Much has still to be done between now and January 18. Last Friday's meeting of Ford's Joint National Negotiating Committee revealed just how much.

'The main thing,' commented the Transport and General Workers' (T&GWU) Moss Evans on leaving the meeting, 'is that the company has recognized that we have made a wage claim.'

What a victory! The unions made their claim on September 25 and, two months later the company... recognized that a claim had been made!

Mr. Evans also believes that Ford now 'intends to respond with a hard cash offer'.

He is, to put it mildly, being somewhat optimistic here. Ford labour relations director Robert Ramsay actually put the issue as follows:

'We are not suggesting to you that we cannot consider wage improvements in 1970. What we are saying is that in making our decisions we must carefully take the commercial factors (falling home market demand, sharpening international competition, etc.) into account... we have to embark on reasonable discussions in the light of all these circumstances.'

Exports

'Unless we keep our heads and make sound decisions on wages and other business costs', he warned, 'we are going to fail to hold our place in export markets.'

'We must take into account reasonable discussions... we must make sound decisions.'

Many Ford workers, led by Communist Party shop stewards and 'left' trade union officials to believe that their union leaders were going into a determined struggle for 'Parity Now! Equal Pay Now!' and for the abolition of all the penal clauses they agreed in March of this year, will be asking: who are 'we'?

The answer is quite simple. Ramsay has 'no hesitation in asking you [the union negotiators], as their [the workers'] representatives, to be responsible in negotiations by supporting us in our determination to keep a viable business, because the unions' own reference paved the way for this arrogant assumption. As Ramsay put it:

BY DAVID MAUDE

'You instanced a selected number of rates of pay, mainly in the Midlands; and then you thought it was not unreasonable to suggest that the Ryton plant of Rootes at Coventry ought to be the appropriate comparison for talking about parity.'

'You also submitted a number of figures to suggest that the productivity per man was better in Ford than in our competitors; and you concluded by asking us to examine realistically your aspirations for parity.'

Warned

Such terms of reference, as the Socialist Labour League has consistently warned, are a blue-print for betrayal.

To argue, as have Ford stewards at Dagenham, for parity in terms of the productivity contribution we Ford workers have made is to accept the vicious Measured-Day Work system Ramsay freely admits gives the company 'a favourable comparison' with other car firms as regards what he describes as the 'net added value (profit) per employee.'

And Ramsay is quite open about Ford's intentions here: 'Now the company's overall objective can be stated quite simply.'

'It is to succeed in business as an efficient company and

to provide employees who contribute to our success with as secure and rewarding employment as possible, consistent with the limitations of the business we are in—and we are in, of course, one of the most fiercely competitive businesses there is.'

'We believe that there should be no difference between us on that objective.'

'You made much of the fact that we are more efficient than our British competitors. We agree with that; we are proud of it and we intend to stay that way.'

This is the authentic voice of the ruling class.

It rules, it is proud that it rules and it intends to go on ruling!

No reformist trade union leaders—'left' or right—are going to fight Ford to a finish; in fact, they are not even going to open hostilities.

Only a politically prepared force, linking the fight for a decent wage at Ford to the struggle for the nationalization of the company under the control of its workers and prepared to go all the way is going to do this job. We invite all those who seriously want to carry forward this struggle to engage in the most thorough discussion of all these questions. It is only in the columns of the Workers Press that such a discussion is going to be carried on.

HUDDERSFIELD

I.C.I. workers demand rises, fight strings

By an industrial correspondent

A MASS meeting of Amalgamated Engineers and Foundryworkers at the Huddersfield ICI factory has decided to fight for a 2s. wage rise, without strings.

The meeting also expressed concern at discussions between shop stewards and management around productivity deals.

Two previous management attempts to introduce productivity deals agreed by the AEF executive committee have been overwhelmingly rejected by the rank and file. The deals which ICI are now trying to introduce involve:

- Flexibility between craft and between craft and process workers.
- Job-time control—a form of Measured-Day Work.
- Wage increases related to 'proven' increases in productivity.
- Possible reduction by turnover of 20 per cent to 30 per cent of the labour force.

Imposed

The present talks were forced on shop stewards after a 6.8 per cent wage increase was agreed between ICI and the union national executive on condition that shop-floor productivity talks should take place.

Many ICI workers feel that these productivity deals could lead to the smashing of the union at local level and the driving of wedges between different sections of workers.

Nurses

● FROM PAGE ONE
headquarters demanding TV coverage.

A meeting was then held in Piccadilly Gardens. One young male nurse from Burnley who could not get into the meeting said:

'We need more militant action. The RCN leaders aren't prepared to do anything. Other workers should support us. Talk in terms of strike action and Wilson will start worrying.'

A student nurse from Southampton commented: 'The RCN leaders should be removed. They've got no fight. We can't strike, but we want other workers to strike for us.'

Satellite chain to aid marine navigation

BY MARTIN ZARROP

UNTIL THE 20th century, navigational aids for ships at sea had remained virtually unchanged since the invention of the compass.

Relying on the earth's magnetic field, the magnetic compass differed little in principle from the Chinese lodestone, used over 7,000 years before.

Such an instrument can assist the navigator in holding a ship to a particular course, but gives little information about its geographical position.

Since 1944 a new instrument has been in use, which allows an immediate plot of position to be made from instrument readings.

The Navigator system, developed by Decca, is based on master stations transmitting radio signals which can pinpoint the position of a vessel or aircraft by automatic cross-referencing.

Old technique
In principle, this is the old technique of finding your position by taking bearings from two identifiable landmarks.

Since its use in the D-Day landings, Navigator in its various refined forms has been installed in some 15,000 ships. Its greatest use is in operations close to the shore, where the master stations are located and it has been shown that big ships can be berthed completely automat-

ically by the use of this equipment.
The biggest disadvantage at present is the lack of a worldwide network of stations. Inertial navigation systems, used extensively in aircraft, are now becoming available for ships.

Accurate

These give a very accurate second-by-second log of position and operate, it is claimed, independently of all disturbing influences.

The accuracy is reckoned to be better than 150 metres.

The position of the ship is determined by signals from four US Navy navigation satellites orbiting the earth.

These signals are fed into the computer and give new updated readings every 100 to 110 minutes.

The velocity of the ship is determined by sonar beams aimed at the sea bed.

The beacon signal registers a 'shift' due to the ship's velocity.

Thus the satellites give long-term readings, while the sonar gives a short-term correction. Integration of the two sets of readings results in a highly accurate positional system.

By using sonar and satellites, navigation takes place almost completely without landmarks.

This equipment, developed by the American Litton Corporation, is likely to be far more expensive than the Decca system of navigation, but together they open up the possibility of far greater overall safety at sea.

U.S. AND CANADIAN LABOUR NEWS

General Electric strike enters sixth week

THE STRIKE of 150,000 General Electric workers in plants throughout the US has now entered its sixth week. Like the eight-week copper strike of 1968, the GE strike promises to be one of the most vicious class battles in US labour history.

The arrogance of the GE bosses backed by Nixon is more than matched by the militancy of the rank-and-file workers who have vowed to 'stay out till hell freezes over'.

They have good reason to.

GE is notorious for labour spying, interrogating employees for union activity, discharge of union activists, denying collective bargaining, wage-cutting through reducing established job rates, and refusal to arbitrate grievances.

GE's aim is to destroy the power of the unions in its plants.

It has large inventories, big foreign markets and huge financial resources.

The company has already secured court injunctions to allow the entry of 'supervisory personnel' and they hope that growing unemployment and the threat of plant closures will force the GE workers back.

The AFL-CIO leaders however, have done little to ensure victory apart from coordinating a fund-raising campaign to raise \$15 million dollars for the strikers by calling on workers to boycott GE products.

Arms supply

The strike is of crucial importance because GE is one of the biggest suppliers to the government's arms and space industries.

It is also one of the biggest customers for government subsidies and tax incentives.

Recognising this, the 'New York Times' has demanded a 'non-inflationary settlement' through arbitration.

If the GE workers lose it will be a major victory for Nixon's and the big monopolies' policy of wage freezing and union busting.

As the Bulletin of the Workers' League remarks:

Mobilize

'The GE-Nixon strategy can be stopped if labour mobilizes the rank and file of the unions in massive rallies throughout the country at which labour poses a strategy of its own—a general strike if necessary to win the strikers' demands and the building of an independent labour party by the 18 million organized workers in the United States.'

N.A.T.O.—Warsaw Pact talks?

THE Warsaw Pact Summit which began in Moscow yesterday is thought to have discussed preparations for a diplomatic approach to the West German government.

Officials in Moscow have so far declined to give details of the talks, stating that they concern 'topical international problems'.

The Warsaw Pact conference coincides with the NATO Summit, which also began yesterday, in Brussels.

Most observers believe that this timing is based on a mutual desire to begin negotiations between NATO and Warsaw Pact powers leading to an all-European security conference some time next year.

Voroshilov

● FROM PAGE ONE
Voroshilov's career only prospered after Lenin's death in 1924.

Following the removal of Trotsky and the mysterious death of his successor, Frunze, Voroshilov was appointed Commissar for War in December 1925.

At once he was busy purging the Red Army of Leninists sympathetic to the Left Opposition.

He was always jealous of the military skill and reputation of leaders such as Tukhachevsky, Yegorov and Yakir, who had steadfastly refused to add their voices to the crescendo of slander against Trotsky.

Voroshilov's opportunity for revenge came with the great Stalinist terror which followed (and was prepared by) the Kirov assassination of December 1934.

Only two out of the five Red Army Marshals were supporters of Stalin: Voroshilov and the ex-cavalry officer Budyenny (a notorious drunkard).

Stalin ordered the framing and killing of the remaining three: Tukhachevsky, Yegorov and Blukher, together with the purging of thousands of lower-grade army commanders.

Now Voroshilov was in his element, signing death warrants for the men under whom he had so resentfully served

during and after the Civil War.

The complete political and moral degeneracy of Stalinists like Voroshilov was revealed at the 22nd Congress of the CPSU in 1961.

In the session for October 27, Alexander Chelapine related how on June 10, 1937, the doomed General Yakir wrote to Voroshilov begging help for his innocent family (one of whom, his son Piotr, is a now prominent leader of the anti-Stalinist opposition).

Voroshilov wrote in the margin of Yakir's letter: 'I doubt the integrity of a dishonest man—even though Voroshilov knew him to be innocent of the false charges brought against the Red Army leaders.'

A second letter was then sent by Yakir to Stalin, a letter which spoke of his undying devotion to the Soviet Union and cause of communism.

In the margin of this second appeal, the following notes were made, together with the signatures of their authors:

'Stalin: Yakir, trash and a traitor.'

Voroshilov: An exact description.

Kaganovitch: A traitor, a pig.

Molotov: Entire agreement with Stalin. [As always.] The punishment: death.'

Destroyed

This is how Stalin and his servile cronies spoke of and destroyed the finest commanders of the Red armed forces.

Thanks to Voroshilov's purging the cream of the Soviet military high command, the Nazis were able to take a terrible toll of the Soviet forces and civilian population in the first months of the war.

This has been openly admitted in the Soviet Union since 1956, though today attempts are being made by arch-Stalinists to rewrite the history of the war in line with the old Stalinist myths of Kremlin infallibility.

No doubt the funeral of this blood-stained Stalinist killer will be the opportunity for the Stalin revivalists to sing the praises of their departed hero more loudly still.

We, however, will remember and honour all those who fell in the Stalinist purges, crushed by the counter-revolutionary bureaucracy served to the end by Voroshilov and his like.

For their apologists in Britain we have only contempt.

Another Israeli raid

ISRAELI troops yesterday morning crossed into the Lebanon by helicopter and destroyed an Arab guerrilla base.

The 24-hour raid on the Jebel Rus guerrilla camp was preceded by an Israeli artillery barrage across the ceasefire line.

Israel claims to have destroyed the guerrilla positions, killing 12 during the operation, one of the most serious for the last month.

Students occupy college

MORE than 250 students at the Northwestern Polytechnic in Kentish Town, London, yesterday continued the occupation of the college's administrative block they began at 8.30 on Tuesday evening.

The occupation, scheduled to last for 24 hours, was an attempt to force the college to concede more places for student representatives on the Academic Board.

The college had originally offered 30 per cent of the places on the Academic Board to student representatives, but next term, when it merges with Northern Polytechnic, the number of student representatives will be cut to 22 per cent.

Blocking access

Yesterday morning, students were blocking access to the college offices, though a spokesman for the 27-member occupation committee emphasized that nobody would be physically prevented from entering the offices.

'We hope this action will force the college to negotiate, but we will be meeting again on December 9 to consider further action if they do not', the spokesman said.

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Four-power package deal on Middle East

ACCORDING to reports from the United Nations headquarters in New York, the governments of the Soviet Union, the United States, France and Britain are nearing an agreement on a Middle-East 'package deal'.

The terms of the deal are based on the British resolution adopted by the UN Security Council meeting of November 22, 1967.

This resolution, endorsed by both the Soviet Union and the US, called not only for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied territories, but the re-opening of the Suez canal and other waterways controlled by Arab governments, and 'an end to Arab belligerency'.

This resolution, which placed the Arabs on the same level as the Israeli aggressors, is now in the process of being refurbished by US and Soviet diplomats in the hope that it can be imposed by a four-power fait accompli on the Arab people.

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