

THE WORKER



Published by the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) May 1st 1974 No.9 Price 3p

MAY DAY '74

Revolutionary Progression: October Revolution Cultural Revolution Revolution in Britain



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

SOLIDARITY WITH NALGO

MAY DAY MEETING CANCELLED

AS A RESULT OF THE STRUGGLE NOW BEING WAGED BY THE NALGO MEMBERSHIP, THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF BRITAIN (MARXIST-LENINIST) HAS TAKEN THE DECISION NOT TO PROCEED WITH THE MAY DAY MEETING AT CAMDEN TOWN HALL.

WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT ALL WHO SUPPORT OUR PARTY WILL FULLY APPRECIATE THE POLITICAL NECESSITY OF THIS DECISION.

OUR PARTY, UNLIKE OTHERS, NEITHER SEEKS NOR EXPECTS SPECIAL CONCESSIONS FROM ANY SECTION OF THE CLASS IN STRUGGLE. FOR US TO ASK FROM NALGO SPECIAL FACILITIES TO ENABLE US TO HOLD OUR MAY DAY MEETING WOULD INVOLVE A FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE ON WHICH OUR PARTY WILL NEVER COMPROMISE. THAT OF 'CROSSING THE PICKET LINE'!

THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF BRITAIN (MARXIST-LENINIST) THEREFORE TAKES THIS OPPORTUNITY OF DECLARING SOLIDARITY WITH THE NALGO MEMBERSHIP AND ALL OTHER SECTIONS OF OUR CLASS IN STRUGGLE.

ANNOUNCEMENT: NEW MEETING 'WORKERS IN STRUGGLE'

PUBLIC MEETING HELD BY COMMUNIST PARTY OF BRITAIN (MARXIST-LENINIST). SPEAKERS TO INCLUDE REG BIRCH. FRIDAY MAY 24 AT 7.30. PM. GONWAY HALL, RED LION SQUARE, HOLBORN WC1.

NALGO gives the lead

Government and employers can no longer utilise the myth of the patient white-collar worker, separated in thought from the rest of the class. Nalgo, a union with little history of struggle, representing 45,000 white-collar workers in London, is now engaged in industrial action spreading throughout all the London Boroughs in support of its claim for an increase of £400 p.a. in the London Allowance.

THE CLAIM

The present meagre allowance of just over £100 was fixed in May 1971. In March 1973 Nalgo put forward its present claim, the validity of which has never been disputed. Manpower is migrating from local government and other essential services at an alarming

rate, causing widespread understaffing and inefficiency throughout London public services.

In March this year the London Boroughs agreed to an interim payment of £216 and £186 in Inner and Outer London respectively, to be backdated to November 1973 and amended in the light of the Pay Board's recommendations to be announced in June. Both Foot, Employment Secretary, and later Wilson, Prime Minister, rejected this agreement as outside Phase III, saying that Nalgo must patiently await the Pay Board's decision.

THE ACTION

But Nalgo's members have already waited 12 months and are not prepared to wait any longer.

Strikes, overtime bans, non-co-operation with agency staff, these actions are now paralysing the London public services. Rents have gone uncollected, telephone switchboards left unanswered, and huge backlogs of paperwork are quickly building up as more and more workers enter the arena.

NO TO THE SOCIAL CONTRACT

On April 11, the TUC wrote to Nalgo pleading with them to halt the dispute and honour the TUC's 'social contract' with the Labour Government. On April 16, Mr Mellish, Chairman of the London Labour Party, hysterically attacked Nalgo for its industrial action which threatens to disrupt local government elections on May 2, and said the Government would not be pushed around by 'these people' (union members).

By their pleading, by their hysteria, how beautifully they illustrate their fear of this giant union, of the 45,000 London workers who will not be pushed around by the 'TUC or the Government'!

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Engineers

OVERTIME BAN BEGINS TO BITE

In the first week of the overtime ban by engineering workers in support of their national claim, the car industry and British Leyland plants in particular were hard hit.

At the big Austin Morris plant at Longbridge, Birmingham, on the first full day of the ban, 3400 day-shift workers had to be sent home. At Rover, Triumph and Jaguar there were long delays.

The big forging and foundry groups like GKN and Birmid Qualcast were also affected, especially in those cases where the refusal of shop stewards to accept flexible hours resulted in complete shut downs.

In Glasgow the area engineering Union representative said the ban was being observed completely in all the factories where it was supposed to be operating.

NEW OFFER FROM EMPLOYERS

Every effort has been made to minimise the effects of the ban by arguing that because the most militant workers had the least to

gain from industrial action there would not be much response to the AUEW Executive's call. But by the end of one week the Employers' Federation was already making a better offer. Not so good an offer, though, that the engineers have any intention of calling off the overtime ban.

Another way in which the employers have been trying to reassure themselves about the engineers' action is the press story that the AUEW's funds are sadly depleted.

In the first place, the exact state of the Union's funds and where they are located is not going to be known to every reporter at a time when Donaldson of NIRC is on the prowl to filch what he can in the short period he still has left for 'legal' robbery.

In the second place the strength of a union does not depend on the size of its bank balance. It depends on the fighting spirit of its members, and if that fighting spirit has been further aroused by having its funds raided, the employers will pay for what their state has done.

see Editorial page 2

Contractors Strike at Shell

At the Shellhaven Oil Refinery in Essex, Foster Wheeler have the main contract to restore the burnt-out distillation unit. At the start of the contract, in the light of recent experience, the unions received assurances that in regard to the employment of labour there would be no blacklisting.

Of course employers always protest that they do not operate a blacklist, but by a strange coincidence certain workers who happen to be ex-shop stewards seem to find it very difficult to get work on the sites.

It became apparent to the unions that, notwithstanding the assurances they had been given, the blacklist was being applied at Shellhaven. As a result, the unions presented the employers with a list of workers who were unemployed, including those

known to be on the blacklist.

The employers' response was the age-old cry of "managerial function". They claimed that the unions were trying to set themselves up as the employment agent, while the sole right to decide who should and who should not be employed rested with the employers.

The union officials, representing Electricians, Boilermakers, Engineers (construction and mechanical) and pipe fitters, took the issue through the negotiating procedure and came up against a brick wall. They then took the issue to the workers who responded with a unanimous decision to stop work. At a mass meeting in Corringham the workers, whose numbers had been swelled by 15, other contractors joining the strike, voted unanimously to

continue the strike until the blacklist was scrubbed.

The regular maintenance workers at the Shell Refinery are fully in sympathy with the workers on strike. They have made it clear to Shell where their sympathies lie. The strikers have full official union backing. This is as it should be. If those who have carried out their obligation to their unions are allowed to suffer victimisation there is no guarantee for any active trade unionist that he will not meet a similar end if he does a job for his mates and the union.

This is a fight of the unions and is being joined at all levels. The employers will refuse to settle at their peril, for the fight will not end at Shellhaven but will be carried into every oil refinery if necessary.

Teachers a big agenda

In London, teachers enter the summer term with business still outstanding. An increase on the London Allowance, bringing it up to £50, is demanded before the end of May. As the Union begins to conduct formally a referendum on the most appropriate duration of strike action, teachers cannot afford to await the results. The schools will have to go ahead anyway and the pace is already swift.

The Government wishes to institutionalise part-time education but has been allowed no rest by teachers. Teachers have proceeded to refuse cover for any absent teacher and are now walking out of their schools on day strikes. They are demanding full-time education or none at all.

At the Eastbourne Conference of the NUT, Prentice for the Government declared strike action to be "damn silly" - but made it clear that teachers would get no more money unless they were prepared to strike!

The conference has focused the national attention of teachers

THE WORKER INTERVIEW

Fireman at Kentish Town Fire Station in London refused to help the police carry out an eviction on 10 April. The police had asked for the use of the Brigade's ladders to get them on to the roof of the house. The following is a statement to the 'Worker' by Dave Challoner, District Organiser of the Fire Brigades Union:

"The lads at the station heard that arrangements had been made with the police with regard to an eviction of eight people in the Hawley Crescent area.

"They were told on Tuesday evening that they would have to do it on Wednesday and they wouldn't do it. They said it was morally wrong. You shouldn't evict people.

"Our worry is that we may be asked to use our equipment on crowds or civil action. You know, it's a police state isn't it? We want to dissociate ourselves from the state."

Last Autumn the state was quite prepared to do the firemen's job for them when it sent the troops and their engines in to scab on the firemen's strike in Glasgow. The firemen have enough integrity not to return the compliment.

on three questions: the salary of teachers, the environment in which they work, and a definition of their workload. A substantial salary claim has been formulated for April '75. The claim is a serious one and involves all the struggle to obtain it must be equally serious and all must attend to it.

A report on working conditions in schools was enthusiastically received. An invitation has now been extended to every school to

root out all inequity whether it be inadequate hot water supply or overcrowded staffroom. Similar union backing is extended in the fight to reduce class-size. No teacher will be expected to teach a class of greater than 35 pupils.

A working party is to consider the whole question of a contract of service for teachers after full consultation with local associations. What teachers can be expected to do is up to them now to decide.

PLESSEY

1100 ASTMS members at Plessey Telecommunications, Liverpool, are in dispute over a two-year-old productivity deal. The company gained by a reduction of 600 jobs, but the workers' own 'rate fixing' proved costly. Staff workers meanwhile were held back under the guise of 'harmonisation' So they pulled out a key section, supported by a levy on other members. On the second day the company decided to send people home. The whole workforce sat in to prevent this. But the workers, having shown their strength, did not want to be sucked into an all-out struggle too soon. They needed to increase co-operation with other workers, and so they decided to return to work with a four-week strike ultimatum.

On the same site, the cable-makers have been on strike, and the machine shops are planning action if no settlement is found over a disparity of earnings problem.

NORTH SEA OIL

No matter where the employers run to, they cannot escape the working class. The first strike on a North Sea oil rig has now taken place. It was a short, sharp dispute over pay.

MAY DAY EDITORIAL

Britain is the home of Marxism. It was here that Marx wrote his major works and was actively involved in the Working Men's International. That is because it was here, with the birth of capitalism, that there also came into being the working class which is to bury capitalism. There could be no theory of working class revolution till the working class had begun to establish itself in class struggle.

And yet, though Britain is in this sense the home of scientific socialism, the revolutionary ideology of the working class, there has been no revolutionary political party in this country till the foundation of the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) six years ago.

CPB(M-L) PARTY CONGRESS

At Easter this year the CPB(M-L) held its Third Party Congress. The Chairman of the Party, Reg Birch, led the collective consideration of work done since the last Congress, the political situation in which we find ourselves and the perspectives of the future. It was appropriate that the re-affirmation of the Party line as set forth in such documents as "The British Working Class and its Party" and "Guerrilla Struggle and the Working Class" and re-dedication to revolutionary action of the Party cadres should immediately precede the celebration of this May Day

NO CONTRACT BETWEEN EXPLOITER AND EXPLOITED

The gulf between the exploiters and the exploited, between capitalists and workers has never been greater than in Britain today. Just consider then, the arrogance and stupidity of politicians who think to bridge it with their 'contracts'!

Those politicians talk about a 'mixed' economy - an economy in which capitalism and socialism are supposed to be mixed together. One might as well try mixing oil and water!

Indeed the gulf is so wide that it is impossible for the illusions of social democracy to stretch across it. Workers are coming more and more to have no other ideology than their own working-class ideology. That means that they are coming more and more to recognise that they have no alternative to revolutionary transformation of society.

ATTACK ON DEMOCRACY

In the present situation of capitalist crisis we are seeing the breakdown and the erosion of democratic institutions. The bourgeoisie are jettisoning the very institutions by which they have existed.

The attack on collective bargaining is part of this general attack on democratic institutions in the move toward a corporate state. The attack on the AUEW is precisely because of its democratic character.

Such working-class democracy is too dangerous for capitalism, and having already brought down two governments, is threatening a third.

THE THEORY ALREADY EXISTS

The theory of Marxism-Leninism, scientific socialism, is there. We communists have not to invent it, only to apply it. We have to apply it in Britain as it has been and is being applied in China and Albania. In those two countries workers have made and consolidated their revolution and are building good socialist societies from which all forms of exploitation have been eliminated.

Our working-class struggle against capitalism in Britain is also our fight against imperialism, shoulder to shoulder with workers in other countries. If we feel a particular solidarity with class brothers fighting against British imperialism, it is because we are more directly involved in their struggle every time we strike a blow at the common class enemy here. We demand: British troops out of Ireland now! We declare our support for national liberation struggles.

REVOLUTION IN BRITAIN

It has been no more possible to substitute an alien capitalist ideology for working-class ideology than it would be to find a substitute for the working class itself. Nor is there any substitute for a revolutionary party of the working class - the CPB(M-L).

There has never before been a revolutionary party in Britain. There has never yet been a revolution in a highly industrialised country. The Party exists. The revolution will have to come - here in Britain, the birthplace of capitalism and the working class. Where capitalism began it will be destroyed.

BBC

BBC television engineers walked out for an hour on the 18 April, causing the substitution of Nationwide regional news with Startrek. The dispute follows the suspension of nine engineers at Southampton, who have been carrying out union instructions in support of their pay demands. The engineers have wanted extra payments for handling colour equipment. The action represents a new unity in struggle between the Association of Broadcasting Staffs and the ACTT.

SEAMEN

The National Union of Seamen are in dispute with their employers over the interpretation of the Labour Government Phase 3. The employers have made a derisory offer of £2.25 a week, 5 days extra holiday and £3.75 a month unsocial hours payment. The Union's demand is for £12 or £13 per month unsocial hour payment. The NUS showed its strength and potential in 1966 when they were blamed by the Labour Government for 'blowing them off course'. They can do it again.



ON THE INDUSTRIAL FRONT

CRISIS AT COWLEY

150 drivers at British Leyland's Cowley plant continued their strike which led to 12,500 workers being laid off. The dispute was originally about layoff pay for drivers arising from an earlier dispute on the shop floor about the raising of track speeds and the introduction of industrial engineers. But the struggle is now about the recognition of shop stewards.

The dispute over industrial engineers dates back three years to the time when a strike at the wrong time weakened the Cowley workers' resistance to the replacement of piecework by measured day work. Ever since then the management has been trying to follow up its victory over piecework and make measured daywork really profitable, and the workers have been fighting a series of rearguard actions. So last year, although Cowley accounts for only one-seventh of the B-L workforce, it accounted for one-third of the days lost. Whenever the employer has problems, be it industrial action or the three-day week, he resorts to lay-offs. Rather than reject the lay-offs and demand to work and to get

full pay, the Cowley situation has been a cushioning to some extent with lay-off pay.

The effect of this weakening of the will to struggle showed itself at a meeting on the industrial engineers issue where half the workforce, in effect, refused to back up their stewards. The management saw their chance and went in for the kill. They refused to recognise the drivers' representative who is also chairman of the joint shop stewards committee.

But only workers can choose their representatives. If they lose that they lose their organisation, they lose everything. British-Leyland wanted to humiliate the workers. The workers must ensure that it is the management who are forced into retreat. The individual concerned is unimportant, the principle is vital.

POST OFFICE

Computer staff in Post Office centres in Kensington and Bristol went on strike to force the Post Office to bring wages into line with those prevailing in outside industry. Other centres may join the action if there is no satisfactory response.

What's so special about these police?

Along with the erosion of democratic institutions in a Britain where capitalism is in a crisis has naturally gone the extension of the Special Branch, the "dirty tricks" section of the police.

British imperialism's occupation of Ireland, the racist immigration acts passed by both Labour and Tory governments and the intensification of the class war on the industrial front all provide areas in which the Specials operate 'outside' bourgeois law in order to defend it.

The Lennon case is only the tip of the iceberg. In that same week it also came to light that the Special Branch had been operating in the Strachan factory at Eastleigh, Hampshire, to smell out 'political agitators' who were supposed to be behind industrial disturbances.

Of course Britain is a "free society". You can always complain when you think the Special Branch has gone too far, and then your protest about the police will be investigated - by the police!

But that does not mean that workers have no recourse. When they become aware that these agents of the capitalist state are snooping around their place of work, they can make it so expensive for their employer that the employer, who probably called on the Specials to begin with, will ask them to go away.

That is how workers got rid of the 'legal' Industrial Relations Act and its whole apparatus of courts, tribunals and so forth. They made it too costly for the employers to be able to afford it.

CHINA Statement to the United Nations



Teng Hsiao-ping, Vice-Premier of the People's Republic of China, addressing the General Assembly of the United Nations.

At present, the international situation is most favourable to the developing countries and the peoples of the world. More and more, the old order based on colonialism, imperialism and hegemonism is being undermined and shaken to its foundations. International relations are changing drastically. The whole world is in turbulence and unrest. The situation is one of "great disorder under heaven", as we Chinese put it. This "disorder" is a manifestation of the sharpening of all the basic contradictions in the contemporary world. It is accelerating the disintegration and decline of the decadent reactionary forces and stimulating the awakening and growth of the new emerging forces of the people.

The superpowers and exploitation

The two superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, are vainly seeking world hegemony. Each in its own way attempts to bring the developing countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America under its control and, at the same time, to bully the developed countries that are not their match in strength.

The two superpowers are the biggest international exploiters and oppressors of today. They are the source of a new world war. They both possess large numbers of nuclear weapons. They carry on a keenly contested arms race, station massive forces abroad and set up military bases everywhere, threatening the independence and security of all nations. They both keep subjecting other countries to their control, subversion, interference or aggression. They both exploit other countries economically, plundering their wealth and grab-

bing their resources. In bullying others, the superpower which flaunts the label of socialism is especially vicious. It has dispatched its armed forces to occupy its "ally" Czechoslovakia and instigated the war to dismember Pakistan.

Since the two superpowers are contending for world hegemony, the contradiction between them is irreconcilable; one either overpowers the other, or is overpowered. Their compromise and collusion can only be partial, temporary and relative, while their contention is all-embracing, permanent and absolute. In the final analysis, the so-called "balanced reduction of forces" and "strategic arms limitation" are nothing but empty talk, for in fact there is no "balance", nor can there possibly be "limitation". They may reach certain agreements, but their agreements are only a facade and a deception. At bottom, they are aiming at greater and fiercer contention. The contention between the superpowers extends over the entire globe. Strategically, Europe is the focus of their contention, where they are in constant tense confrontation.

Soviet Imperialism

It must be pointed out that the superpower which styles itself a socialist country is by no means less proficient at neo-colonialist economic plunder. Under the name of so-called "economic cooperation" and "international division of labour", it uses high-handed measures to extort super-profits in its "family". In profiting at others' expense, it has gone to lengths rarely seen even in the case of other imperialist coun-

ENGINEERS' ANSWER TO FOOT'S ADVICE THAT THEY RECOGNISE NIRC

Resolution passed unanimously by AUEW London (South) District

Committee:
"This District Committee views with utter disgust the further vicious attack upon the Membership of this Union by the Industrial Relations Court. . . ."

We can, with justification, say we are the only affiliated Trade Union to have honestly carried out the decisions of the recall TUC, at Croydon in March 1971, of total opposition to the Industrial Relations Act. We urge Executive Council to call upon the entire Membership to take strike action in defence of the Union and to demand that the TUC, now mobilize the entire Trade Union Movement to take the ultimate action, unlimited strike action by all affiliated Unions commencing on April 29th, 1974.

We demand the foregoing in the knowledge that such action is the only positive manner in which this National Industrial Relations Court may be prevented, in its 'death throes' from entering into further vindictive attacks upon the Trade Unions."

Crosfield Joint Shop Stewards Committee

At a mass meeting of Members on Wednesday 17th April, 1974 the following resolution was carried overwhelmingly:

This factory meeting of workers at Crosfield Electronics Ltd. London calls on the Executive Council of the AUEW, to declare a strike of all members, immediately the National Industrial Relations Court carries out its threat to sequester the £47,000 damages it has awarded the Con-Mec Engineering Co. from our funds or assets.

And further that the Membership remains on strike until all monies taken from our Union by the NIRC are returned.

Resolution passed unanimously by Shop Stewards Quarterly Meeting, AUEW London (south) District:

"This District Committee condemns the further attack upon this Union by the National Industrial Relations Court with its decision to order the AUEW to pay £47,000 compensation to the Con-Mech Firm following its flight to secure Trade Union recognition. We urge Executive Council not to pay the money and to take all possible steps to prevent it being seized. . . ."

les. The "joint enterprises" it runs in some countries under the signboard of "aid" and "support" are in essence copies of trans-national corporations. Its usual practice is to tag a high price or out-moded equipment and sub-standard weapons and exchange them for strategic raw materials and farm produce of the developing countries. Selling arms and ammunition in a big way, it has become an international merchant of death. It often takes advantage of others' difficulties to press for the repayment of debts. In the recent Middle East war, it bought Arab oil at a low price with the large amount of foreign exchange it had earned by peddling munitions, and then sold it at a high price, making staggering profits in the twinkles of an eye. Moreover, it preaches the theory of "limited sovereignty", alleges

that the resources of developing countries are international property, and even asserts that "the sovereignty over the natural resources is depending to a great extent upon the capability of utilizing these resources by the industry of the developing countries". These are out-and-out imperialist fallacies.

Socialist China

China is a socialist country, and a developing country as well, China belongs to the third world. Consistently following Chairman Mao's teachings, the Chinese Government and people firmly support all oppressed peoples and oppressed nations in their struggle to win or defend national independence, develop the national economy and oppose colonialism, imperialism

Their Pound of Flesh

It's an ill wind that blows nobody any good. The collapse of the 'fringe' banks is giving the more 'established' financial institutions the chance to make a killing in the guise of a 'rescue operation'. When friendly neighbourhood moneylenders Cedar Holdings crashed, four institutions, plus Barclays Bank which played the leading role, put up £74 million to stop complete collapse.

Since then Barclays has been running the concern, and a deal has been dreamed up under which the institutions will buy Cedar Holdings' properties, worth some £40 million, they will get interest of 1½ per cent above the normal inter-bank rate on the loan, and they will get another £5 million as a 'premium'. As well as this, the four institutions will each get a £1 'A' share. Little enough reward, it would seem. But each of these shares will carry ten million votes, giving a total of 54 per cent of the votes.

This is what capitalism means by democracy. When the Labour government got a loan of thousands of millions from the clearing banks, how much control did that buy?

and hegemonism. This is our bounden internationalist duty. China is not a superpower, nor will she ever seek to be one. What is a superpower? A superpower is an imperialist country which everywhere subjects other countries to its aggression, interference, control, subversion or plunder and strives for world hegemony. If capitalism is restored in a big socialist country, it will inevitably become a superpower. The Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution, which has been carried out in China in recent years, and the campaign of criticizing Lin Biao and Confucius now underway throughout China, are both aimed at preventing capitalist restoration and ensuring that socialist China will never change her colour and will always stand by the oppressed peoples and oppressed nations.

The French Elections A statement from the political bureau of the PCF(M-L)

In our country, the contradiction is not between right and 'left' but between proletariat and bourgeoisie. Right and 'left' are both bourgeois. In the history of our country these two sides have succeeded each other without bringing about the slightest change. It is very often would-be 'left' governments which have carried out the most anti-working class policies of the bourgeoisie. Each time the Socialists have shared power they have committed such crimes as Jules Moch's repression of the miners' demonstrations in 1947 or the assassination of many Algerian patriots ordered by Guy Mollet, Lacoste and Mitterand with the support of the revisionist 'Communist' Party.

Today, the utterly reactionary nature of the Socialist leaders remains, and there has been an attempt to give them more credibility as 'socialists' by the leaders of the revisionist 'Communist' Party, traitors of the working class and the revolution.

Our Party calls on the working class and all the working people of our country to reject the ballot box, to refuse to give their vote to the representatives of the bourgeoisie among whom Mitterand is the most dangerous. DON'T VOTE!

Although many illusions persist among our people, carefully nurtured by revisionist leaders, Trotskyites and others, the anti-electoralist and anti-imperialist trend is developing. Our Party calls on all industrial workers, peasants, employees, small shopkeepers, students to continue and intensify struggle in enterprises, in the countryside and in universities and demonstrate on 1 May to show their opposition to all bourgeois solutions to the crisis, their determination to smash the state apparatus through indispensable revolutionary violence and establish a new kind of power such as the Paris Commune, able to sustain itself this time and provide the basis for a socialist society.

ALBANIA Self-reliance the Only Way



Workers' flats in Saranda. The Albanian State supplies materials and workers supply the voluntary labour to build homes for themselves and their comrades.

This year Albania celebrates the 30th anniversary of its liberation from the German and Italian invaders and the establishment of people's power. Albania was officially declared independent in 1912, but not until 1944 did the people have a chance to be really free. Nor had all attempts to dominate Albania ceased. The Germans had hardly left the country when the Yugoslav "Communist" party began to tell the Albanians, "Albania cannot build its economy and develop independently; it is just a morsel for imperialism" concluding that Albania's only course was to "join with Yugoslavia in a confederation or even more than that".

But the Albanians had not won national liberation for nothing. They saw clearly the dangers of such a relationship and the need to practice instead the Marxist-Leninist principle of self-reliance - that Communist parties should not allow other parties, even fraternal ones, to interfere in their affairs, but should rely on their own strengths to build socialism without outside help, if necessary.

ANTI-REVISIONIST STAND

The Albanians resisted the British and American attempts at subversion, but came under attack from the Russians when they began to criticise revisionist tendencies in the International Communist movement. These were in effect a dampening down of class struggle and wars in the world in favour of 'peaceful co-existence' with the USA. Unable to buy the Albanians' silence with 'aid', the Russians broke every

agreement they had made with Albania, withdrawing all specialists and technicians, sending home all Albanians studying in the USSR refusing any further aid, including a loan of wheat after the poor harvest of 1952 and even confiscated Albanian ships which were under repair in Sebastopol. For the second time in 20 years the Albanians appeared to lose out because of the stand they took against any revision of Marxism-Leninism.

GAINS

But did they really lose more than they gained 7-30 years ago, 93.1 per cent of Albania's wealth came from agriculture. Under the Soviet revisionist policy of "division of labour" between countries, Albania could have remained a dependent agricultural country, a supplier of raw materials. But in 1970, 42 per cent of the national income came from industry, and 65 per cent of exported commodities are industrial. Most of the country's raw materials, spare parts for machinery, construction materials and fertilizers are made in Albania, as well as the 'means of production' the machines themselves.

The Marxist-Leninist policy of self-reliance stands Albania on its own two feet in a Europe full of lame ducks - including the Soviet Union. 14 years ago the Russians refused wheat to a hungry Albania, now they beg wheat and butter from America and Europe and rely on capitalists to exploit the riches of Siberia for them!

IRELAND

A colonial question

In 1969 Wilson's Labour Government ordered British troops into Northern Ireland. Today, five years later, Wilson pays a first visit to his hirelings. His job is to assess the role of the troops and the complementary 'political solution'.

In 1968-69 a great mass movement of the people of Northern Ireland began to emerge. Centred round the Civil Rights campaign, it culminated in the August 1969 uprising threatening the Stormont regime. When the Royal Ulster Constabulary with its guns and bullets, professional ruthlessness and thuggery failed to hold back the people of Derry and Belfast, the troops were sent into the streets.

With the exception of the CPB (M-L) all political organisations, and especially the so-called left, welcomed the introduction of troops.

The British army introduced a more disciplined system of terror and murder. After all British troops had their apprenticeship in such places as Cyprus and Aden. Extreme forms of repression were introduced from detention without trial and torture to outright murder in the streets. In the wake of the Army, British imperialism attempts to concoct a coalition, power sharing (where the British government shares out its Ulster ministries and offices among its Irish lieutenants), Sunningdale and the like and even talk of reducing the number of troops in the streets.

To a large extent, the Sunningdale agreement, the referendums, elections, coalitions, are irrelevant. The question of Northern Ireland has been and remains a colonial question. A 'protestant/catholic division' is suitable for British imperialism, for the Loyalists as well as for some of those who proclaim themselves as Republicans, but it has nothing to do with the reality of the situation.

It is a question of imperialist occupation and exploitation by Britain of part of Ireland. It is of no consequence whether such control is achieved through a 'Stormont regime', an 'assembly', a 'coalition' or through direct rule.

The working class in Ireland will have to reassert its leadership of the republican anti-imperialist movement as it did in the days of Connolly. For us, the British working class, the task is to demand the withdrawal of British troops from Ireland. To the extent that we do not do this and fail to pronounce our support for the people of Ireland, to that extent we share in the responsibility for the imperialist atrocities in Northern Ireland.

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37 Gloucester Road.

Class Struggle in Japan

April saw the Japanese workers flexing their muscles with the employers and government and winning large wage increases necessary to match the steep rise in inflation.

At different times, more than 6 million trade unionists walked off their jobs to close down almost all public transport and many other key public services in a week or more of nationwide strikes. Wage increases ranging from 29.3 to 31.5 per cent were extracted from the government and employers, the highest ever granted in any single year. The nationwide strikes were preceded by partial walkouts and work-to-rule operations on the railways.

The strikes were not only concerned with wages but with a right-to-strike issue for the civil service and other public corporation employees. Over 20 years ago the right to bargain collectively and to strike was taken away. Now Japanese workers demand it back. In this round of battle the government merely promised to hold further talks with the unions. Contrary to the picture presented by the western media, the Japanese working class is not content with merging their interests to the corporation. They combine and fight to defend their own class interest.

During the strike, the government sent police to search the offices and homes of executives of the striking teachers' union, bringing forth a response of anger from all trade unionists who will not tolerate such a return to the times of fascism.



Japanese workers have been demonstrating all over the country against inflation and frozen wages.

NALGO

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PUBLIC MEETINGS

LONDON

MAY 3rd: Film "Arise ye workers". (About the fight against the Industrial Relations Act)

MAY 10th: Meeting. "Nalگو smashes myth of 'the Social Contract'."

Both meetings to be held at the Bellman Bookshop, 7.30 p.m.
MAY 24th: Meeting. "Workers in Struggle" The Conway Hall 7.30 p.m.
Speakers include Reg Birch.

LIVERPOOL

MAY DAY MEETING: Wed. May 1st. 7.30. p.m. AUEW Hall Mount Pleasant, Liverpool 3.

TEESSIDE

MAY DAY MEETING: Wed May 1st. 7.30. p.m. The Star and Garter, Middlesbrough.

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The Nalگو Executive was left in no doubt as to its members' answer when it met the TUC. A lobby of strikers, led by workers from Islington, told the Executive to repudiate the 'social contract' and insisted on petitioning the TUC to withdraw its request. The Nalگو Executive decided to ignore TUC/Government pressure and to honour the interests of its members. The action continues.

Nalگو is not interested in a contract with any Government, be it Labour or Tory. Irrespective of Mr Mellish's outlandish remarks, it fully intends to halt local government elections on May 2 by refusing to count votes or man polling stations. Other unions have shown solidarity by calling on their members not to volunteer to count votes.

Nalگو is now in the front line of attack on Phase III and has ignored all pleas to settle within it. Nalگو is giving a lead to unions in a similar position as well as to the whole working class.