

CLASS STRUGGLE

POLITICAL PAPER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF BRITAIN

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POLICE CHARGE THE VICTIMS OF RACIST VIOLENCE

"In this country there is one law for the victims of racist attacks and another for those who commit them."

These are the bitter words of Mr. Ahmed, a Ford worker who lives in Manor Park, Newham, London. He is married with a small child. He and his family have suffered constant abuse. Bricks have been thrown through his windows. The response of the police to such attacks was that they could do nothing unless the attackers were identified.

When on October 22nd, another window was broken, Mr. Ahmed caught one of the youths red-handed and immediately called the police. The youth's parents then arrived; shouted racist abuse at Mr. Ahmed; broke another window and smashed open his door, threatening Mrs. Ahmed with a knife. When the police finally arrived they took statements from the parents accusing Mr. Ahmed. Two days later, West Ham police charged Mr. Ahmed with assault. This is not all!

On October 28th while Mr. Ahmed's family were celebrating their child's first birthday the door bell rang. On opening the door, Mr. Ahmed was hit in the eye, dragged outside and beaten on the head with an iron bar. The attackers then fled in a van.

Mr. Ahmed needed 28 stitches in his head and was hospitalised for 2½ weeks. He now suffers from persistent headaches and may need a brain operation.

FASCIST VIOLENCE ASSISTED BY POLICE

Although friends of Mr. Ahmed took the attackers' van number and also recognized one of them, it took

over three weeks for the police to arrest this vicious fascist. When on November 20th Mrs. Ahmed phoned Detective chief inspector Ashdown to enquire if the attacker had been arrested, he told her to stop "pestering" him and slammed the phone down.

This case is not an isolated incident. It is another in the category of the Virk brothers who were given prison sentences of up to seven years for daring to resist fascist hoodlums and thugs. It shows that the state is the real instigator, backer and encourager for racist terror meted out against black people and national minority communities. The police and the racist imperialist state as a whole is terrified of the growing resistance by national minorities to their special oppression. The state wants to terrorize black people into accepting their worse conditions and not dare to fight back for fear of greater reprisals.

National minorities will never end their struggle against state racism and fascist violence. Racism, however, not only hits national minorities who suffer greater oppression because of it. It hits the unity of the working class and seeks to divert and split the struggle against capitalism and for socialist revolution. Class conscious workers must set their faces like a stone against this vicious ideological weapon propping up British imperialist rule and exploitation.

PICKET ORGANIZED BY THE NEWHAM DEFENCE COMMITTEE OUTSIDE WEST HAM MAGISTRATES COURT ON JANUARY 8TH WHEN MR. AHMED WILL BE TRIED FOR ASSAULTING THE YOUTH WHO ATTACKED HIS HOME.

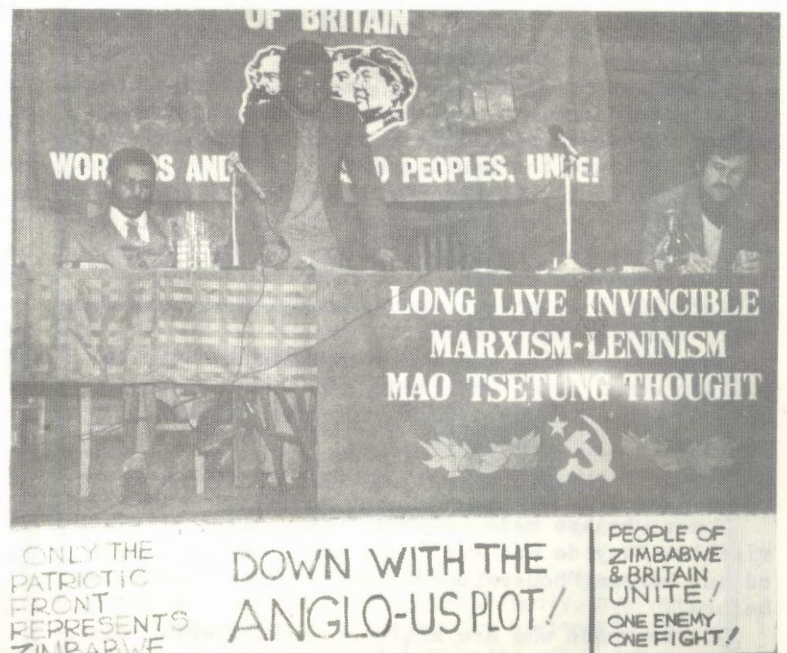
PUBLIC MEETING CELEBRATES SENDING LANDROVER TO ZIMBABWE

On December 9th, a public meeting in London marked the culmination of the current campaign of solidarity with ZANU and the Patriotic Front in their armed struggle to liberate Zimbabwe. The meeting began with songs by the New Era Singers. Two songs - *Pamberi Ne Chimurenga* and *Africa, Africa* - set the right tone for the meeting.

AIMS OF CAMPAIGN

Opening the meeting, the Chairman summed up the aims and results of the campaign before introducing the three speakers from the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain (RCLB), Pan African Congress (PAC) of Azania and the European representative of the Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU). He restated the two aims set for the campaign when it started in April.

1. To expose and oppose what British imperialism is doing in Zimbabwe and to develop the spirit of working class internationalism
2. To give concrete support for ZANU and the Patriotic Front.



The Platform (from Left to Right)- Comrade Muendane of PAC, Comrade Schava of ZANU and Comrade Burford of RCLB.

Cont'd on p8

FORD "SANCTIONS"—A FACE SAVER FOR CALLAGHAN

Labour's 5% pay limit has been brushed aside by a growing number of workers in various industries— and it still has over 7 months to go.

Callaghan is now beginning to panic because their pay policy is facing total collapse. The eventual settlement at Fords after the nine-week strike there bore no relationship whatsoever to Labour's wage policy. Also, it received a great amount of publicity in the bosses' press and TV. Prime Minister Callaghan obviously feels he must do something to frighten workers into accepting his 5%, and not follow the example of workers at Fords and others who have broken it.

SANCTIONS WILL HAVE LITTLE EFFECT

But as far as Fords are concerned, the sanctions will only have a minimal effect. All they entail is that no new government orders for Ford vehicles will be made "unless they are vital and cannot be bought elsewhere". Although local authorities will be "recommended" not to place any orders, there will be no compulsion, and many will ignore it.

Fords will hardly be losing any sleep over this. They have always had long waiting lists for their vehicles, usually several weeks. Some dealers quoted 12-14 weeks for a Cortina — before the strike. Now they say it's 5 or 6 months! More orders from the government would only add to these waiting lists. As the bosses' "Daily Telegraph" said, "the demand for its cars, vans and lorries is now such that it can almost certainly get by very nicely without government orders".

LABOUR BACKS FORD'S PROFITS

Even this doesn't show the whole picture. Far from really hitting out at Fords, Labour are actually giving them hundreds of millions of pounds to invest in new plant and machinery. Much of that money will go into Fords new engine plant at Bridgend, in South Wales, where out of a total cost of £180 millions, the state will provide a staggering £148 millions. This shows Labour's real attitude to such powerful American monopoly-capitalist concerns.

It is also worth noting that the site is near to

Callaghan's own constituency in Cardiff, which will provide much of the labour for the new plant.

So why then does the Ford chairman, Sir Terry Beckett, talk about the "serious and damaging" consequences of the sanctions to the company? He does this because giant transnational corporations like Fords are desperate for the maximum profit because of the cut-throat competition they face in the world motor industry. Fords last year made a record profit of £246 millions. Fords are desperate to outstrip even this staggering figure, and fear any action that takes even £1 away from them.

But this alone will not save Labour's 5%. Three successive years of wage cuts means that the pay struggles in 1979 will be fought just as ferociously as over the last 5 months.

FORDS ATTACK JOBS

The resumption of work is barely two weeks old and Fords have begun to attack. At a meeting with management on December 6th, stewards in the press shop were told that Fords intend to abolish the die-setting department within 18 months and replace it with die-setter/operators.

This so-called "consolidation" of jobs must be seen in its true light, as it adds up to no more than an indirect reduction in the labour force. About 42 jobs are at stake. A consolidation of die-setters would mean a cancellation in the recruitment of operators and it must be fought. Already the trade union leadership has set a pattern of isolation by convening a meeting of die-setters only, when in effect this problem involves all of the work force. Fords demands can only be rejected by the unified action of all the workers.

There cannot be negotiation on these jobs without rank and file participation. So workers must demand the right to set up committees in order to organise and plan the necessary action needed in the face of these attacks. IT SHOULD NOT BE LEFT IN THE HANDS OF THE TRADE UNION MISLEADERS TO DECIDE WHAT ACTION TO TAKE. Past experience has endowed workers with the knowledge that these leaders cannot be trusted to protect jobs.

WOMEN'S INCOME VITAL—NOT 'PIN MONEY'

The bourgeois press would have us believe that women's wages — so-called "pin money" — are used for the luxuries of life; colour telly, holidays abroad, flash motorcars, etc. In reality a woman's hard-earned wages are more likely to go on food, clothes and to help pay the heating bills.

It is a fact that women's wages have helped to increase living standards since the war. But these improvements are fast fading away. At the present time of economic crisis, wage cuts and declining welfare services affect every family. Now, more than ever, women's wages are vital.

Women are facing massive unemployment. Over 1½ million women have lost their jobs and thousands more have been made to work part-time as part of rationalisation processes.

POLITICALLY INVISIBLE

Women who are made redundant are politically invisible. They do not swell the ranks of the unemployed but become "housewives" (who did their housework before?)

Of the women who are actively seeking work, three-quarters are not registered as unemployed. As many as 80% of the women who lose their jobs get neither dole nor social security.

A woman losing her job is not saving a job for a

man. Rather she is saving money for the bosses and saving face for the Government's unemployment figures.

We can see how it suits the capitalist system to keep women down. Women's position in the family is a convenient excuse for not giving them equality as workers. When women are unemployed, this "doesn't count" — the working class family, not the state pays the price. Men and women must fight together to defend jobs and living standards.

REVOLUTION

THEORETICAL JOURNAL OF THE
REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST LEAGUE OF BRITAIN

Building the revolutionary Communist Party to lead the revolution is the central task for all genuine Marxist-Leninists in Britain today. "Revolution", the theoretical journal of the RCLB has been founded to be a sharp weapon in the struggle to build that Party.

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Price 30p (plus 7p postage) from New Era Books. (Also back issues)

FORDS T.U. SECRETARY BACKS POLICE

At a time when bakery workers' picket lines up and down the country are being harrassed and attacked by police, Fords TGWU Secretary, Mr. Broughton has written to Scotland Yard praising them. In a letter made public by the Assistant Commissioner at Scotland Yard, Broughton showed complete disregard and no class feeling for workers' sharp struggles against police repression. He thanked police officers "for their kindness, civility and superb consideration for those of us on the (Ford) picket lines". Furthermore, in a letter saying he had no objection to his grovelling note to Scotland Yard being made public, he declared it "shows how well the police worked with responsible people". This adds insult to injury and is a stab in the back for the bakery workers, miners, building workers and all those arrested at Grunwicks.

The police force is an arm of the state which props up the rule of the capitalist class. If the police were afraid to attack Ford picket lines, it is because they are afraid of the militancy of Ford workers. They were afraid of the Fords dispute developing into a united class confrontation with the Government. Broughton and other trade union opportunists should worry less about being "responsible" to the bosses' police force and more about being responsible to the workers' united class interests. ■

EVENTS

ZIMBABWE PUBLIC MEETING

Speakers from ZANU and RCLB, and songs
Merseyside Caribbean Centre,
Amberley Street, Liverpool 8.
Tuesday, December 19th, 7.30pm

PUBLIC MEETING: Third of a series

The Three Worlds theory and the strategy
for revolution in Britain.
Conway Hall (Small Hall), Red Lion Sq.,
London WC1.

CLASS STRUGGLE PAMPHLET NUMBER TWO

TURN THE UNIONS INTO FIGHTING CLASS ORGANISATIONS

Available from New Era Books, price 15p (plus 7p if by post, Bulk orders - details on request.

The pamphlet is based on a series of articles carried in "Class Struggle", the political paper of the Revolutionary Communist League of Britain, between December 1977 and June 1978.

The pamphlet exposes through many concrete examples, how the opportunist trade union misleaders work in the interests of capitalism and makes the call to fight against trade union bureaucrats and struggle to turn the unions into fighting class organisations. It points out that any struggle must be unified and raises five slogans, which show how to orientate our struggle effectively.

1. No class collaboration with the bosses!
2. Fight for democratic unions!
3. We won't pay for the bosses' crisis!
4. Stop paying Labour to attack workers!
5. Oppose oppression and discrimination of black and women workers at the place of work!

The pamphlet exposes the Labour Party, the Communist Party of Great Britain, and other opportunists, who sabotage or oppose both the struggle for socialism and the day-to-day economic struggle.

Read the communist view on the trade union struggle. Sell it and discuss it with your workmates.

A WORKER'S NOTEBOOK

■ **BUSING IN BRADFORD** The Bradford Education Authority has put into practice a racist policy of busing the children of 1,400 immigrants to schools five or more miles away from their homes. The stated aim of this policy is to provide equal educational opportunities. The result, however, is the opposite. The journeys cause hardship and inconvenience. Parents have no choice of schools and cannot possibly build up a relationship with a school miles away from where they live and work. The local schools in national minority areas suffer further cutbacks in facilities because it can then be claimed that the "need" is in the already better equipped suburban schools.

■ **ONE OF THE WAYS THE BOSSES TRY TO JUSTIFY THEIR oppression and exploitation of the working class is by using pseudo-science to "prove" that we are genetically inferior.** The latest volume of evidence to the Royal Commission on the Distribution of Income and Wealth includes statements by Professor Eysenck of London University. He quotes approvingly statements by the late Sir Cyril Burt that the inheritance of intelligence plays a major part in the determination of people's income. This arrogant fascist carried out bogus experiments on coal miners in the 1920s, measuring headshape and size, to prove that the working class is genetically inferior. What Eysenck forgets to mention is that it was conclusively shown last year that Burt faked his results, even going as far as to invent imaginary co-researchers to give his lies more credibility!

Lord (formerly Jack) Diamond, Chairman of the Commission, gets over £9000 a year for a 2½ day week. Now that is clever.

■ **FASCIST THUGS** In June, *A Worker's Notebook* reported that two members of the National Front had been identified kicking in the door of the community newspaper *Bristol Voice*. Evidence was so overwhelming that the police were forced to act, and the case has finally come to court. The two Nazis, however, got small fines. Furthermore, immediately after the court case the two witnesses who had been in the *Bristol Voice* office were attacked by the Nazis and two of their henchmen in the foyer of the magistrates' court! It is easy to see that the bosses' law will not protect us from fascist violence.

■ **A POINT TO BE DRAWN OUT OF THE THORPE AFFAIR IS** the way in which bourgeois politicians, despite the hot air spouted about the differences between them, rally round to protect each other. Soskice, former Labour Home Secretary, the current Liberal leader, Steel, and former Tory Home Secretary, Maudling were all aware of allegations against Thorpe years ago. But, true to their class interest they joined together in keeping the lid on this particular can of worms. They do the same over things which are much more important to the working class.

■ **IN A NOVEMBER ISSUE OF CLASS STRUGGLE WE REPORTED** the vicious racism of the Hillingdon Council (near London) housing chief toward a Kenyan family who had recently immigrated. Councillor Dicks refused to house the family who were homeless on the grounds that they had made themselves homeless by leaving Kenya. He went to the extent of dumping the family at the Foreign Office. Dicks' attitude to a white Rhodesian, Peter Turvey, his wife and seven children was entirely different. He immediately housed the family. This shows how Dicks was motivated by racism. The Kenyan family were compelled to leave Kenya. The Turvey family, however, were running away from the justice of impending majority rule in Zimbabwe (Rhodesia).

MAKE CAPITALISM PA

The various politicians in parliament are fighting amongst themselves again. The question that is causing all the arguments this time is how best can the workers be made to pay for the bosses' crisis.

We have the Tories led by Thatcher on one side - and Labour supported by Ted Heath on the other. It seems that the only thing they haven't yet thrown at each other in this political circus are custard pies!

Quite simply, they all - that is the Labour and Tory politicians, and the bosses themselves - want to make sure that the burden of the economic crisis is placed firmly onto the backs of the working class. But it is over which tactics should be adopted to do this, that they can't agree.

5% LIMIT BROKEN IN PRIVATE SECTOR

The list of workers who have broken through Labour's 5% pay limit is growing week by week, with Fords, British Oxygen, Vauxhalls, Esso tanker-drivers being amongst them. It is this which is putting the wind up them and making them shout at each other all the more.

Labour favour setting a limit on wage increases

each year, to apply to all workers. This limit is supposedly "voluntary". Their aim is to get the co-operation of the TUC and trade union leadership in order to make sure that struggles to break the limit are either sabotaged or mis-led. They also plan to print paper money, which has the effect of forcing prices up - higher than the rate of wage increases - so bringing about wage cuts.

Whereas the Conservatives propose setting no rigid limit for the private sector (but say they will leave each company to pay "what it thinks it can afford"), they have talked about setting a limit in the state sector, saying that anything given above that limit must be paid for by "increased efficiency". What they really mean by all this is that in such areas as the Health Service, Education, Social Services, etc., they favour greater rationalization by making more cuts, throwing tens of thousands of workers on to the dole. Wage increases for those workers left, they argue, will be paid for by the wages of those who have lost their jobs! Tories say they won't print paper money in the way

PRIVATE PRACTISE CASHES IN ON N.H.S. DECLINE

Private health insurance sharks, the biggest of which is the British United Provident Association (BUPA) - founded in 1947 in opposition to the NHS - and NHS consultants with private practices, hope to gain rich pickings from the rundown of the NHS. They prey on the justified anxiety of NHS patients. They work from both inside and outside the NHS to undermine it. In the last few years, the treacherous Labour Party have greatly increased their assistance to them by closing down NHS hospitals, deliberately keeping doctors and nurses short of staff and therefore endangering patients' lives and well-being. The Labour Party's promise in 1973 of giving NHS patients the privileges of private patients was a blatant lie. It was just another useful hypocritical slogan to drum up support at the time. Last year, 600,000 patients were on the NHS waiting lists for operations, 40,000 of these were urgent cases which can mean a wait of up to two years. And these lists keep growing. Patients die waiting for operations and die because there is not enough specialist equipment to keep them alive. While Callaghan pretends all is well, doctors and nurses are constantly exposing what the health cuts really mean and are ready to defend the NHS.

BUPA'S PRIVATE HEALTH CARE ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN

Is private health insurance the alternative? Is the so-called "independent sector" better able to do the job of the NHS? No! These private health companies, BUPA, American Medical International (AMI), etc., boast the most up-to-date hospitals. BUPA owns thirty hospitals and AMI a couple with a few more in the pipeline. Yet they not only recruit NHS trained staff, but they also use NHS hospitals and laboratories to provide the expertise and all-round health care they are unable to provide or find unprofitable to give. This is despite the rundown of the NHS! Apart from this, BUPA's double-page advert (regularly in Sunday glossies) only mentions surgery for this where profits are made - cardiac (heart) surgery, gynaecology, for example. Private insurance rarely covers prolonged ill-health and mental illness for example. Private patients have the use of NHS hospitals but NHS patients are denied the use of private hospitals. Private practice is taking away facilities from the working class by its use of NHS facilities and using them for the wealthy who can afford private beds.

Private health insurance companies are motivated



The work-in at London's Elizabeth Garret Anderson - An example of hospital staff resistance to health cuts.

Following the failure of the *Scottish Daily News* "workers' co-operative", another "workers' co-op" is in deep trouble. Kirkby Manufacturing and Engineering (KME) has had further government financing turned down. Without it, it can no longer operate. At first, when the government refused extra funds of £2.9 million to KME, it was expected that Worcester Engineering, a Midlands central heating company, would buy it up. Particularly as the Labour Government was more than willing to give Worcester Engineering a gift of £4.3 million as a sweetener. At the time of going to press Worcester Engineering has announced its withdrawal from the deal. This may be a negotiating trick or it may be for real; either way it's pretty certain that the "workers' co-op" as such is dead.

A LONG STRUGGLE TO SAVE JOBS

Merseyside is well known for its high unemployment. Kirkby, an overspill housing and industrial estate just outside Liverpool, has always been particularly badly hit. In the early 70's the KME factory was operated by Fisher Bendix. Fisher Bendix ran down the factory and tried to close it down as part of its rationalisation plans, which included moving some production to Portugal, to take advantage of low wages there.

Whilst the Upper Clyde Shipyard workers were carrying out their work-in, the Fisher Bendix work-

PAY FOR ITS CRISIS!

that Labour have been doing, so they favour attacking workers more through unemployment than through inflation. Labour prefer the balance in favour of inflation. Neither want one exclusive to the other, it's just a question of which is emphasised the most at different times to serve the bosses' interests.

But whichever party is in government, or whichever policies they adopt, they are both aiming for the same result. This shows how they are the two wings of a single bird of prey (capitalism).

TUC MISLEADERS SUPPORT LABOUR

One of the most important differences, however, is whether the TUC misleaders support or oppose the government. Over the last four years they have done an effective job of sabotaging many struggles against wage cuts. This has been under Labour. Almost identical policies were carried out by Ted Heath's Tory government in 1970-74. Yet these same sell-out union leaders opposed them. It is because of these class collaborationist antics between the

by profit - not by a desire to care for the health of the people. Therefore they are mainly interested in the upper and middle classes - those who have the money to bribe their way through life, including buying health privileges. Three quarters of the two million privately insured patients are insured with BUPA, and only 2% of these are manual workers.

LABOUR AIDS RICH AND SQUEEZES WORKING CLASS

Successive governments have constantly tried to find more ways of squeezing money out of NHS patients. Remember in January 1977, the Labour Government, through the McKinsey management consultants, tried to test the ground for the introduction of charges to NHS patients - £20 a week for in-patients, £5 for casualty treatment and £2 for every visit to a G.P! This is on top of the billions collected in National Insurance Contributions. The reactionary elite band of consultants in the British Medical Association who support private practice, were overjoyed. But the Government couldn't get away with these scandalous, anti-working class recommendations and they were shelved for the time being.

"CO-OP" IN TROUBLE

ers in Kirkby occupied their plant and barricaded themselves in. The workers took a good stand. They were fighting for jobs by all the means at their disposal, and they were doing it without any illusions in the promised land of nationalisation, or any of the other catch-all answers that the Labour left trot out. "We don't care whether the factory is bought by a private company or nationalised," one said, "what we do care about, and what we will fight for is our jobs."

The occupation was long, but in the end successful and a firm called International Property Developers (IPD) took over the plant, promising to keep up production. It soon became clear that IPD had no real intention of rebuilding the factory as an important manufacturing plant. IPD was far more interested in property speculation of the factory land and buildings.

On July 12, 1974, the 1,200 workers that were left occupied the plant for the second time. This time, Anthony Wedgwood Benn, who had recently become Industry Secretary decided with the agreement of the stewards to establish it as a co-operative (KME). The workers welcomed this. Their main motive was that it kept the plant in production and therefore kept their jobs. This is fine.

Labour government and the top union leaders, and because no Tory government could even hope to repeat this, that we say that Labour is the best bosses' party!

Ted Heath, himself, realises this. Which is why he so strongly supports Labour's 5%.

CBI PREFER LEGAL CONTROLS

The bosses themselves, however, won't come out clearly on one side or the other. But through the CBI it is becoming more clear that they are in favour of a pay limit. They don't like government sanctions against firms who are forced to exceed it however. They want the trade unions to be restricted through statutory controls.

Meanwhile the battle against the 5% goes on. Perhaps the most crucial struggles in the next few months will be in the state sector, where the TUC misleaders are still having plenty of success in selling out struggles. Support for them from workers in the private sector, especially those who have exceeded 5%, will play a large part in whether they also can win victories in smashing the 5% limit.

These charges would not "help" the NHS. They would mean a return to the days when only those who could afford medical treatment got it, and those who couldn't died. We have only to look at how many workers and their families in the USA are refused medical treatment because they cannot afford private practice insurance. Many die or remain in debt for the rest of their lives paying off health bills to these blood sucking sharks.

Like everything else, working class people have only one way open and that is to fight for the changes needed to bring about an NHS which serves the working class. Only under socialism, when the working class holds state power through their communist party, will the needs of the people be realised. Until then we must fight to protect our living standards from the bosses' attacks. We must give full backing to NHS doctors and nurses and all those who are fighting against the Labour Party's policy of reducing the NHS to a skeleton health service. The NHS is a hard won right - and we intend to keep it!

NO RETURN TO PRIVATE PRACTICE! DEFEND AND EXTEND THE NHS!

Workers fight to defend their jobs any way they can. But the Labour Party "left" and the so-called "Communist" Party of Great Britain see it as far more than that. As far as they are concerned, the setting up of such co-ops, represents a creeping socialism. The co-ops, to them, are little outposts of socialism in Britain. The history of KME shows what rubbish this is. Although KME is not owned by a private capitalist, it operates entirely within the capitalist system. It can do nothing else in capitalist Britain! KME has in fact been forced to cut down its own workforce, getting rid of 470 jobs and reducing the workforce to 730. KME has received £5½ million in government grants and is currently losing £20,000 a week.

CO-OPS ARE NO ROAD TO SOCIALISM

Benn established two other co-ops, the *Scottish Daily News*, which collapsed in November 1976, and the Meriden Motor Cycle company, which is also now in serious financial difficulties. Experience shows that these co-ops do not represent a road to socialism for the working class. The principal issue of socialism is not a question of such policies, but a question of which class holds political power. This is what Benn and his like deny. Behind all their fine phrases and magnificent gestures lies in reality an attempt to divert the working class from the only road to socialism - the revolutionary road.

ROMANIA REJECTS SOVIET

Romania "has not handed over and will not hand over to anyone the power to decide whether the Romanian armed forces are to take part in a given military operation. This power belongs only to the Romanian parliament, people, Party and State Organs".

With these words, President Nicolae Ceausescu refuted the attempt by Soviet social imperialism to take further direct control of the armed forces of the Warsaw Pact countries. President Ceausescu was speaking at special meeting called in Bucharest on November 25th, to mobilise the people to back his strong stand at the Warsaw Treaty Political Consultative Committee meeting which had been held two days earlier.

At the Warsaw Treaty meeting the Soviet Union attempted to make the other Warsaw Pact member countries greatly step up their military expenditure, accept tighter Soviet control and unified command of their armed forces, and allow the holding of joint military exercises on their soil. The Romanian delegation militantly defended Romania's national independence and flatly refused to accept any of these demands.

MOBILISING THE PEOPLE

Standing up to intense Soviet pressure, President Ceausescu led his delegation back to Romania, and immediately started calling meetings to mobilise the people. On November 24th, he called a meeting of the Executive Political Committee of the Romanian Communist Party, which unanimously backed his stand. The following day two more meetings were called in Bucharest. Representative of workers from the major industrial plants, representatives of

scientific, literary and educational circles, representatives of the country's youth movements, and representatives of agricultural workers attended. At the meeting, they solidly supported his stand on the independence of the armed forces, and his statement that Romania "was and still is firmly opposed to any unjustifiable increase in military expenditure". The representatives unanimously resolved to "safeguard the country's independence and sovereignty, and to uphold the right to chart the future of their country."

WORKERS SEND TELEGRAMS OF SUPPORT

Telegrams of support have been pouring in from all over the country - from factories, agricultural co-ops, party and government organs, and social bodies. The Bucharest Party Committee wrote, "the working people of the capital whole-heartedly support and appreciate this firm stand, which reflects the unanimous aspirations of the Romanian people for a life of peace and security and for the determination of their own destiny without any interference from abroad". On November 28, representatives of units of armed forces were called to a meeting, where they loudly applauded President Ceausescu. A specially convened meeting of the Party Central Committee met the following day to reaffirm their policy for national independence.

Clearly the Soviet Union has not got its way! It wanted to have total control to involve the bloc's military might in its own pursuit of world domination. Whilst many of the Eastern European countries agreed, Romania refused. It wanted the people of the Warsaw treaty countries to pay for the Soviet

VIETNAM'S NEW COVER FOR AGGRESSION

The Soviet-instigated aggression by Vietnam against Democratic Kampuchea (Cambodia) is reaching ever higher levels. The Vietnamese authorities have claimed in the past that Kampuchea was the aggressor. As all the fighting is done by Vietnamese troops on Kampuchean soil, this excuse is pretty tattered. Now they are using a new sign board. They have established a small group of Kampuchean renegades and called it the "Kampuchean National Front for Liberation". This is the new cover behind which they are continuing stepping up again their invasion of Kampuchea. The programme of this new counter-revolutionary organisation says that it will stop the war with Vietnam. As the war is a result of Vietnamese aggression against Kampuchea, the only way Kampucheans could make peace is by submitting to Vietnamese rule. That is exactly what the new organisation is set up to do. The Vietnamese authorities want to put it in power as their puppet.

Even this new cover, though, looks pretty tatty. Setting up a front organisation cannot hide the fact that it is Vietnamese army units still fighting in Kampuchea. It is Soviet planes bombing Kampuchean territory. Neither can it hide the fact that the vast majority of Kampucheans support the Communist Party of Kampuchea and their government. This support is shown by the fact that despite overwhelming supremacy in terms of numbers of soldiers and weapons, the Vietnamese invasion has so far been an ignominious failure. This testifies that the mass of Kampuchean people are fighting hard in a just cause, and that the ordinary Vietnamese soldiers are not fighting hard because they have no desire to invade Kampuchea.

The "Morning Star", the daily rag of the fake "Communist" Party of Great Britain, of course, faithfully reported and supported the setting up of the

so-called Kampuchean National Front.

VIETNAMESE DEMONSTRATE AGAINST SOVIET UNION AND WAR

Not surprisingly the "Morning Star" has "accidentally" failed to report a recent statement by a Vietnamese soldier captured in Kampuchea. Firstly he was captured on Kampuchean territory. This shows who is invading whom. Secondly he talked about the Soviet advisers, who are now training the Vietnamese armed forces. Thirdly he reported that 300 Soviet pilots, 100 Soviet aircraft technicians and hundreds of Soviet jet fighters are based at Tan Son Nhut airport. Fourthly he described how Soviet and Vietnamese officers often ill-treat the soldiers and local people in Vietnam. Fifthly he described a demonstration outside Tan Son Nhut airport last April, where 300 workers and peasants armed with axes and hammers, chanted "Soviets get out of Vietnam" and hung streamers across the road saying "Down with Soviet military aid", and "we oppose forcible conscription of soldiers to invade Kampuchea".

MANIFESTO

The Manifesto of the RCLB puts forward the stand of Marxism-Leninism on the major questions facing the working class, both internationally and nationally. It points out that our central task today is to rebuild the revolutionary Communist Party of the working class. The Manifesto is the founding document of the RCLB. The publication of the Manifesto marked an important step forward towards the drafting of the Party programme. The Manifesto is available from New Era Books. Price 37p (inc p&p)

The RCLB has members in: London Birmingham Bristol Grimsby Leeds Liverpool Manchester Newcastle Yeovil

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DEMANDS

Union's massive arms build up. Romania refused. And it wanted the right to hold joint exercises on the soil of any of the countries. Romania has always opposed this. Who can forget the rape of Czechoslovakia in 1968. The Soviet-led invasion was carried out precisely under the initial guise of a joint military exercise! It became a military occupation. The occupation even went against the Warsaw pact agreement, which is supposedly only an agreement for mutual defence against foreign invasion. Ceausescu denounced the invasion then. Romania took no part. In fact the working people of Romania were mobilised the following day ready to defend their independence.

ROMANIA IS A TOUGHER NUT

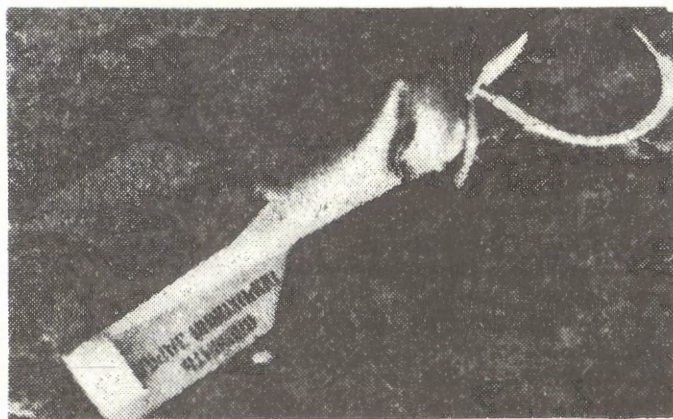
The Soviet social imperialists have long had a "theory" of the limited sovereignty of other countries in the Warsaw Pact. Its invasion of Czechoslovakia showed how the Soviet Union sees those limits. The new Tsars in the Kremlin are blazing mad at Ceausescu and the Romanian people, but they are finding that Romania is a far tougher nut to crack than Czechoslovakia!

UP TO ITS NECK

Only a few years ago the Soviet Union and Cuba used to claim that they supported the struggle of the Eritrean people for independence and complete liberation. Since then the Soviet Social Imperialists have extended their influence in Ethiopia. Now they are actively involved in suppressing the Eritrean revolution. A recent statement from Eritrean Liberation organisations stated that two high-ranking Soviet generals (one air force, the other infantry), 200 other high ranking Soviet officers and 3,000 to 4,000 Cuban troops are engaged in directing and co-ordinating the war at all levels, taking an active part in the fighting.

The Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) reported a Soviet naval bombardment followed by an attempt by Soviet ships to land troops in northern Eritrea. "The guerrillas have destroyed 20 Soviet-made tanks driven by Soviet personnel, and captured 5 others". The attack was beaten off. The EPLF went on: "It is no longer the Dergue (Ethiopia's military council) we are fighting. It is the Soviet Union... the MiGs are flown by their pilots. The heavy guns and artillery are manned and fired by Soviet troops... On each front hundreds of Soviet experts are conducting the battles and are shooting on the spot any Ethiopian soldier who attempts to retreat."

In Eritrea, the Soviet Social Imperialists are certainly showing their true colours!



Remains of a bomb dropped on the Eritrean town of Diga. It bears the Russian inscription "Insert powder cartridge".

INTERNATIONAL NOTES



NAMIBIA: The sham elections being staged in Namibia (South West Africa) are impressing nobody apart from the imperialists and the South African regime which is organising them. The biggest liberation force SWAPO does not recognise the constitution which is a justification for continued South African domination. SWAPO has called for a boycott of the elections and denounced them. In an attempt to stop the SWAPO campaign the racist regime has arrested 6 SWAPO leaders and many of their political activists. Who ever "wins" the election, the liberation war will continue.

MIDDLE EAST: Palestinians demonstrated for 2 days in the city of Ramallah on December 5th and 6th, when Zionists moved in to flatten houses belonging to Palestinians. Whilst the Zionists destroy the property of Arabs within occupied Palestine, they are building military installations to perpetuate their occupation of Lebanese territory. A military airport is being built at Marjeyoun and a port on the coast near Nakurah. Both these places are inside Lebanon.

IRAN For the last couple of weeks the struggle in Iran has been growing again in intensity. Oil workers have walked out again on strike, and mass demonstrations appeared again on the streets. They were met by bullets. This time the fascist police terror has been met in kind. At five in the morning on December 4th, civilians armed with automatic rifles attacked a police station in central Teheran using home-made bombs and grenades.

The airports are jammed with US and British personnel who have been running imperialist concerns in Iran. Now they are on the run. The Iranian people told them long ago that they weren't wanted in Iran, that Iran was going to be independent. They were warned to leave before December. Now large crowds of Iranian workers are attacking imperialist enterprises. In Esfahan, south of Teheran, for example, several hundred people chanting slogans against US imperialism, and the Shah's fascist rule, attacked the headquarters of the Grumman Aircraft Corporation of California, and burnt it down.

President Carter reaffirmed his support for his agent, the Shah, on December 9th. The British Government, which likes to call itself "socialist" backs him too. The people have made it clear what they think of all of them.

USA While President Carter continues his hypocritical "human rights" campaign. He conveniently forgets to mention such rights in the USA. The Journal of the British National Association of Teachers in Further Education carried an article in its November issue on the struggle of Indiana teachers for a new contract. When they went on strike 13 of the leaders were imprisoned, and the rest fined \$100 a day by the courts who ordered them to go to work. The unions were fined a total of \$16,000 a day. Many other teachers are being taken to court.

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Concretely in its campaign the RCLB set itself the aim of sending a Landrover to the liberation fighters to aid their armed struggle. The campaign over-fulfilled its target and at the time of this meeting had raised approximately £4,600. The Landrover is on its way to the freedom fighters. Although the British working class has reason to be proud of this contribution to a liberated Zimbabwe it is only small. We must continue to give support to the armed struggle of the Zimbabwean people. This is not a matter of charity; it is our internationalist duty. British imperialism is the main enemy of the people of Zimbabwe - the same main enemy which oppresses and exploits the working class here in Britain. Every blow against British imperialism in Zimbabwe weakens our common enemy.

SUPERPOWER RIVALRY IN AFRICA EXPOSED

Speaking for the RCLB, Comrade Chris Burford, the Chairman of the RCLB, paid tribute to the initiative of comrades in raising money. Public meeting, collections, jumble sales and most importantly factory gate collections. The last was a vivid expression of the link between the struggle of the working class of Britain and that of the oppressed peoples against imperialist. One RCLB cell of only five comrades contributed £300,

After pointing out that British imperialism is the main enemy of the people of Zimbabwe and that it will never change its class nature, Comrade Burford said that the campaign must be seen in the context of the international situation as a whole. The analysis of this must be guided by Mao tsetung's strategic concept of the theory of the three worlds. British imperialism is now a second rate imperialist power and its ability to bully and control is

world and will strengthen the international united front against the two superpowers.

ZANU ATTACKS FIVE MILES FROM SALISBURY

Opening his contribution Comrade Muendane of the PAC attacked those who dismissed ZANU as not "authentic" or representative of the people of Zimbabwe. He won uproarious applause when he reported a news broadcast he had just heard that ZANU had attacked 5 miles outside Salisbury. Continuing his bitter sarcasm against those imperialists and their agents who decide who is "authentic", he exposed Sithole and Muzorewa as going over to the enemy's side. They are part of imperialist designs to impose a neo-colonialist solution in Zimbabwe and Azania (where there is formal "independence" but the imperialists still have real control). He exposed the Anti-Apartheid Movement as part of a similar movement to impose neo-colonialism in Azania (South Africa).

BRITISH WORKING CLASS HAVE SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY TO SUPPORT ZIMBABWE'S STRUGGLE



Comrade Schava speaking for ZANU said that ZANU attaches a lot of importance to the meeting. In the history of ZANU's fight against British imperialism, the landrover is the first gesture of solidarity from the British working class. He showed how in liberating Zimbabwe and defeating British imperialism there, some of its tentacles are being cut off and its ability to bribe the workers' bureaucracy from superprofits in Britain weakened. This aids our struggle in Britain.

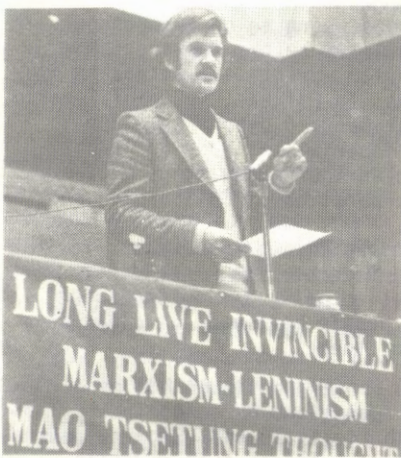
Throughout its struggle ZANU has refused to be bought. This has ensured the victories of ZANU and the Patriotic Front to the point that 1.3 million people have been liberated in the liberated areas. Hundreds of thousands of Zimbabweans in "protected villages" have been freed. ZANU and the Patriotic Front have responsibility for three-quarters of the country. This involves a total of 4.6 million to 4.9 million people. The white populations is deserting the towns. They have nothing to fear except losing their privileges.

Comrade Schava pledged that a liberated Zimbabwe would fight for the total liberation of all of Southern Africa. He said they were prepared for a protracted struggle and called on the British working class to oppose British troops being sent to Zimbabwe *no matter what the pretext*.

The meeting concluded with a standing ovation and the slogans:

- Pamberi Ne Chimurenga!* - Forward with the armed struggle.
- Pamberi Ne ZANU!* - Forward with ZANU.
- Pamberi Ne PAC!* - Forward with PAC.
- Pamberi Ne RCLB!* - Forward with the RCLB

Long live the unity of the workers and oppressed peoples of the world.



Comrade Chris Burford, Chairman of the RCLB addresses the London meeting.

dwindling. The Internal Settlement (the Anglo-American plot for a neo-colonial solution in Zimbabwe) is funded by US imperialism to the tune of \$200 million. US imperialism is striving to out-manoeuvre British imperialism. Soviet social imperialism which is challenging US imperialism for a redivision of the world, is also in a race with Britain and the United States to split the Patriotic Front and fish in muddy water. Soviet social imperialism subverted the struggle of the people of Angola against Portuguese colonialism. As a result, the Brezhnev imperialist pirates grabbed Angola's 1978 coffee crop at 38% of its market price.

It is inevitable that agents of imperialism and social imperialism will manoeuvre to usurp the people's struggle. But the peoples' victory is also inevitable. The more the Zimbabwean people hit hard at British imperialism, the more they aid the working class of Britain. The Zimbabwean people's victory will be a victory for the peoples of the whole