

CLASS STRUGGLE



No. 8 January 1977 MONTHLY

FIVE PENCE

1976 - A YEAR OF STRUGGLE

1976 has been a year of growing strength and unity of the Third World countries against superpower domination, colonialism and racism. The struggle between the two superpowers for hegemony - world domination - is deepening; but this has led to further exposure and isolation of them both.

In June, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development ended in deadlock. The two superpowers were unable to break the unity of the Third World on its justified demands for a New International Economic Order. At the Law of the Sea Conference, the two superpowers, demanded the right to fish where they pleased. The Soviet social imperialists, with their 4,000 fishing vessels were dead set against countries establishing a 200 mile limit of their own, like Iceland. Again the superpowers failed to get their own way. Within the United Nations (UN), the demands for changes in the structure of the UN, to decrease the power of the two superpowers grew in strength. The present arrogant use of the 'veto' by the superpowers was highlighted by the US preventing the rightful admission of Vietnam, and an arms embargo of South Africa, despite the support of the bulk of the delegates for these demands.

The final session of the UN closed in December with a massive majority supporting the armed struggle of the peoples of southern Africa, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The defeat of US imperialism in Cambodia, despite the opposition to the liberation struggle by the Soviet imperialists, was underlined, when Democratic Cambodia adopted a new Constitution on Jan 5, naming it: "A state of the Cambodian workers, peasants and other working people". In June Vietnam was reunified into a single country.

The Soviet social imperialists, and their Polish revisionist agents were shaken by

(cont'd on p. 2)

CONTENTS INCLUDE:

RISING STRUGGLE OF SOVIET PEOPLE

WHO SUPPORTS THE I.M.F.?

SEVENTH CONGRESS OF THE PARTY OF LABOUR OF ALBANIA

HOSPITAL WORKERS RESIST CUTS

JOURNAL OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE
COMMUNIST FEDERATION OF BRITAIN (MARXIST-LENINIST)

1976 - a year of struggle

(cont'd from p.1)

the militant mass struggle of Polish workers against massive food price increases, and the plunder of Poland by the Soviet bosses. In India, too, the struggle against social fascism and social imperialism grows stronger and stronger with strikes, demonstrations and pitched battles in the streets. The feet of clay of the Soviet Colossus are more and more exposed by the struggles of the workers and oppressed nationalities within its own boundaries (see p.4).

DETENTE - THE FRAUD EXPOSED

The Soviet social imperialist lies of 'detente' have become ever clearer. The new Tsars of the Soviet Union, aided by the revisionist 'Communist' parties round the world, seize every opportunity to paint themselves as seeking 'peace' and 'disarmament'. Yet in every field of its armed forces it is increasing the quantity and quality of its arms. It now spends more on this than the USA - despite producing less wealth overall.

It has arrogantly sent its fleets into every ocean in the world, and declared that its naval strategy is no longer for "offshore defence", but for "attack in distant seas". Soviet fleet Admiral Gorshkov praised the old Tsars' gunboat diplomacy, and declared the aim to "achieve political ends" through "a show of naval force" and "threatening to take military action".

The mask of 'detente' has been stripped from the aggressive face of Soviet social imperialism. Along with the US superpower, it stands exposed before the workers and oppressed nations and peoples of the world.

The struggles against superpower hegemony, imperialism and racism are burning ever fiercer and brighter. As Chairman Mao has said: "The world is in great disorder; the situation is excellent."

LABOUR'S COLOURS EVER CLEARER

In Britain, the Labour party stepped up its anti-working class crusade. The Labour party government and the Labour party union leaders, extended yet again the social contract. Real wages were cut, 'public' spending was cut, unemployment rose to 1½ million. All the time the TUC

is working as the policeman for the bosses' state, and the 'voluntary' social contract. The seamen were threatened by the TUC to 'moderate' their demands. Despite this attack on two fronts the resistance to this attempt to put the burden of the imperialist crisis onto the backs of the working class is growing. Busmen in many cities are vigorously opposing the transport cuts, hospital workers are resisting the attack on the health service. Strikes oppose redundancies. 'Natural wastage', which reduces the total number of jobs available and increases unemployment, was opposed by Liverpool busmen and many other sections of workers. Teachers and social workers are stepping up their opposition to cuts in services and unemployment. In Stockport and other areas teachers are taking direct action to reduce class sizes in schools.

The Labour party claims that there is also a 'good' side to the social contract have been shown to be empty. Despite its legislation on equal wages and opportunities for women, the actual take home pay gap between men and women has widened. Trico workers, men and women, struck for equal pay, knowing that the Equal Pay Tribunal was a bosses' tool, and won their demands. The Labour party claims that their plans of increased nationalisation is a step towards socialism. Yet their speeches show it is nothing more than rationalisation, leading to more redundancies. The miners' overwhelming vote for direct action if their justified demands for early retirement are not met; the continued shop floor struggles in newly nationalised Leyland despite the union leaders' opposition; the transport workers' opposition to redundancies - all show that like in any other capitalist industry the workers in nationalised companies can only defend their interests and improve their conditions by fighting.

The attacks on the working class by the Labour party reformists have only shown their true colours more clearly. The continuing attempts by Labour to patch up the capitalist system in 1977, by attacking the living standards and conditions of the working class will inevitably be met by rising shop floor anger and struggle.

WHO SUPPORTS THE I.M.F.?

Last month's 'mini-budget' aimed further cuts at workers' living standards. It raised the price of food, of gas, of school meals, of drink and of cigarettes. The Treasury officially admits that the present yearly increase in prices of 15 pence in the pound will continue to the end of 1977. Wage increases are falling, controlled by the 'social contract'. The maximum of 5 pence in the pound means a 10% cut in living standards even for those in work. The Labour government's Secretary for Employment, Albert Booth predicts 2 million unemployed next year.

I.M.F. LOAN

By shifting the main effects of the crisis on to working people Labour hopes to prop up capitalism and increase its ability to borrow money from the International Monetary Fund - largely controlled by US imperialism. In getting this loan the Labour government had to promise to cut spending, borrow less, stop printing too much money and keep Britain open to world capitalist competition in trade and finance. This competition is hotting up as even the 'successful' capitalist countries like Japan and West Germany suffer increasingly from 'overproduction' - the inability to sell the products coming out of their factories. There also, unemployment and inflation are the twin evils.

Healey said in September that if he didn't get the IMF loan, "there would be riots in the streets and three million unemployed". However the loan will certainly not protect Healey and his class.

FIGHT BACK

Bread delivery drivers have correctly refused to take the blame for high bread prices and have taken action to defend their jobs. At Leyland in Birmingham workers who were sacked, because the new 'nationalised' bosses said they weren't working hard enough, were protected by fellow workers. Ford workers at Halewood struck too, against suspension of their work mates. At the Marathon yards in Glasgow, the Babcock and Wilcox plant in Renfrew, workers are preparing to defend their right to work. Printworkers in London are continually fighting back against productivity drives. In a magnificent 78% vote the miners pledged industrial action to secure earlier retirement, regardless of the social contract. The miners typify the problems of the bosses and their supporters within the trade unions. The miners have clearly demanded

earlier retirement from this month. Some of their leaders are already backing off and saying they want to 'compromise' and do a deal for after the end of this phase of the social contract - in July. These opportunist leaders do much more damage to the miners than the Coal Board or the government.

TUC PROTECTS LABOUR

The TUC leaders' main purpose today is to protect the bosses' Labour government against working class anger and frustration. Recently the 'nationalised' Bank of England demanded a two year incomes policy with no general wage rise. They said there would be "major problems in making the fall in living standards acceptable."

The TUC leaders' work is to make falling living standards 'acceptable'. The propaganda Len Murray put out after the Budget again made that clear. "The TUC has said the 5% policy will stick and we mean that.. trade unionists will understand that if the UK did not get the IMF loan the alternative would have been even worse."

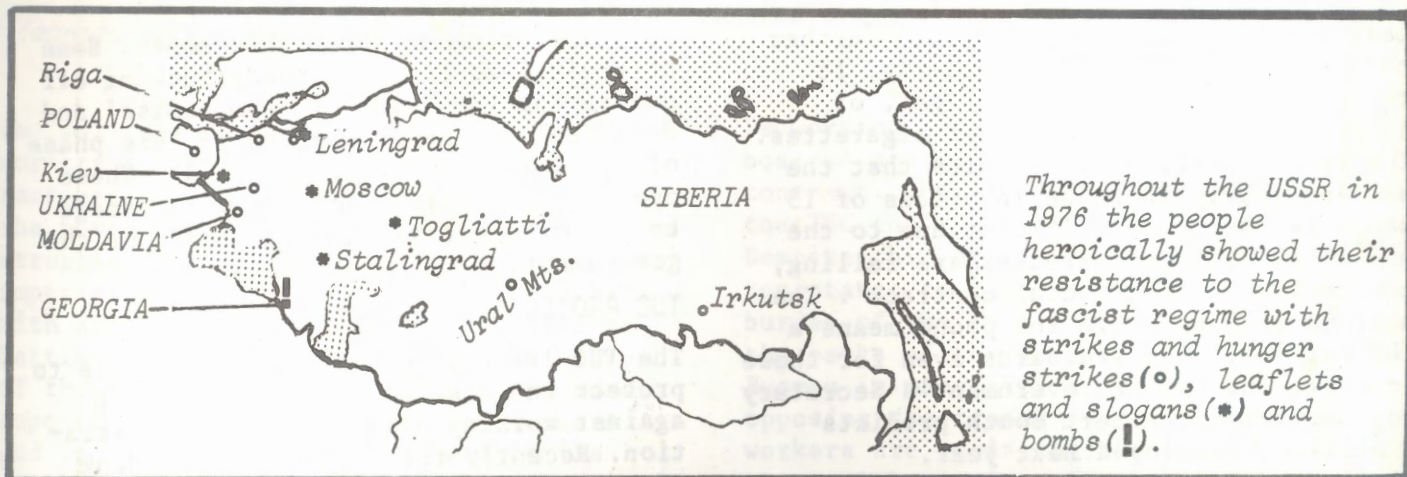
In the main therefore the TUC accepted the Budget. However to maintain some popular support it had to demonstrate a certain phoney 'independence'. It searched around and found a meaningless demand. "The government must make specific commitments on a whole range of economic and social issues." That's all. No mention of what commitments or, much more important, if they had to be carried into practice. The government should find no difficulty in meeting this TUC 'demand'!

REVISIONISTS COVER FOR TUC

The TUC leaders are fast losing credibility among workers as they trail behind the government. Nevertheless their loyal allies, the revisionist 'Communist' party provide a constant 'left' cover for their betrayals. The 'Morning Star' reported the TUC 'acceptance' of Healey's mini-Budget under the following headline: "Cuts Draw a Barrage of TUC Fire". At the end of a long lying story about the TUC having 'denounced' this and 'attacked' the other, the revisionist paper had to admit that no action was decided upon. 'Welcome - not enough' was its overall comment on the TUC 'acceptance' of Healey's attack on workers living standards. So the revisionists have 'welcomed' the TUC support for the Labour/IMF budget.

(cont'd on p. 5)

RISING STRUGGLE OF SOVIET PEOPLE



During the last year, the fascist rulers of the Soviet Union have increased their exploitation and oppression of the Soviet working class and people. Brezhnev and his cronies allege that "class and nationality antagonisms have disappeared." They attempt to paint a picture of peace and harmony. The truth is very different however. 1976 has, in reality, been a year of increased struggle by the Soviet people.

When the 25th Congress of the revisionist Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) was convened in February,

- workers at a telecommunication plant in Leningrad went on strike, in defiance of police and army suppression.
- young people in Leningrad distributed leaflets calling for a new revolution.
- leaflets exposing the fraud of Breshnev's "improved welfare of the Soviet people" appeared throughout Stalingrad.
- political prisoners in Moscow's Vladimir prison, and in concentration camps in Moldavia, Ural and Siberia, protested against the new tsars by going on hunger strike.
- buildings in the city of Togliatti were painted with "Down with the Dictatorship" and other slogans.
- letters were sent to the Moscow television studio, denouncing the "policy of raising labour productivity" as "intensified exploitation of the workers through the sweat shop system."
- a Soviet soldier wrote that "in the last 10 years, the forces fighting against the existing system in the Soviet Army have become even stronger. Armymen do not want to train their guns on their fellow countrymen or the people of other countries."

Notice had been served to the new tsars that the people were not to be fooled any longer. More glorious and heroic acts of protest were to follow;

- in April, a bomb exploded outside a government building in Georgia, a protest against the national oppression, and compulsory "Russification" being carried out by the new tsars.

- on April 14th and 15th, huge slogans demanding "liberty for political prisoners", were seen on the walls of the Institute of Physical Culture.

- on May 9th, slogans reading "How long are we to endure the Romanov dynasty?" were painted on Leningrad trams.

- in April and May, protest strikes broke out in Riga on the Baltic coast, in Kiev the Ukrainian capital, and at Irkutsk in Siberia.

- on August 14th, the slogans "Down with the Party Bourgeoisie", "The Soviet Communist Party is the people's enemy", and "The Soviet Union - a people's prison", were written in Neva Boulevard, Leningrad's biggest street, and a huge streamer, inscribed with the words "You are smothering freedom, but people's soul knows no chains", was placed on the fortress of Peter and Paul.

- the defection of a Soviet pilot with his MIG 25 on September 6th, was followed by a second pilot on September 23rd.

- on October 5th, an 84 year old man, a Party member for 58 years, announced his withdrawal from the revisionist Party. He said that the Soviet leaders had "formed a privileged caste" and were "wallowing in wealth, isolated from the people, riding roughshod over them."

THE PEOPLE - THE MOTIVE FORCE OF HISTORY

Chairman Mao Tsetung wrote that "The people, and the people alone, are the motive force in the making of history." The new tsars scorn the people, but they do so at their peril, for the Soviet people are rising again.

(cont'd on p.5)

(cont'd from p.4)

The determination of the Soviet people to regain their freedom, was most clearly shown in 1976, in an illegal leaflet, widely distributed by an underground Ukrainian organization. The leaflet called for the overthrow of the new tsars, and said that "The non-Russian Soviet peoples are suffering from national and social oppression...while the Russian people are being tied to the imperialist and chauvinist cart, resulting in the cruel exploitation of the labouring people...The new tsars are sitting on the volcano of the people's rage... we should always remember that the real force is in the hands of the people; and if we, all of us, unite, the authorities would give in until they are burnt out from the globe, by the volcano of anger of the people."

THE PEOPLE ARE RISING - SOVIET FASCISM IS DOOMED.

Who supports the I.M.F.?

(cont'd from p.3)

The Labour government tries to cover its capitalist policies with socialist words. The TUC leaders in their turn try to cover up for Labour. Lastly, the revisionist leaders and their paper try to give the impression that all this anti-working class farce is 'Welcome - not enough'.

The opportunists are agents of the capitalist class. They try to bind workers' hands and preach acceptance of the present system. They are the truest supporters of the IMF and their fellow-monopoly capitalists. Without these opportunists' support the capitalist class would not survive.

The opportunist leaders in the Labour movement will not be able to hold back the mass of the people much longer. As their disguise is penetrated more and more, their power drains away.

Suggestions and criticisms help strengthen the paper.

Contact the CFB(ML),
c/o NEW ERA BOOKS,
203 Seven Sisters Road,
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PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE REBUFF IMPERIALISM

When the Geneva Conference on Zimbabwe ended on 12th December, leaders of the liberation forces called for power to be given to the liberation movement.

R. Mugabe and J. Nkomo said that they and the people of Zimbabwe would not accept power sharing with the white racist Smith regime before majority rule. They had gone to the Geneva talks knowing that it is the people's war within Zimbabwe that plays the decisive role - not talks. At the start of the conference R. Mugabe said, "We shall negotiate in Geneva and make war in Zimbabwe simultaneously. Vietnam is our model."

RACIST REGIME FORCED INTO RETREAT

The convening of the Geneva Conference was a victory for the armed struggle of the people of Zimbabwe. The liberation forces have been rapidly growing in strength and have won many victories against the white minority dictatorship. Eastern and North Eastern Zimbabwe are now active war zones and the liberation forces have launched attacks in all areas of the country, including on the rail link with Southern Africa. The US and British imperialism have been worried by this and have been forced to see that their exploitation of Southern Africa is threatened. They had to force Smith to negotiate for a "settlement" so that United Nations sanctions would be lifted and their imperialist exploitation of the people of Zimbabwe continued.

The Financial Times on 25th September said, "A lifting of the sanctions applied against Rhodesia would offer considerable economic opportunities for British and Rhodesian businesses" and that Zimbabwe was an area "which British business could exploit". These 'economic opportunities' for exploiting and oppressing the people of Zimbabwe to extract massive super-profits are indeed 'considerable'. British imperialism already has vast investments in Zimbabwe, and has no intention of giving them up to the people of Zimbabwe. Among the 300 British companies within Zimbabwe are British Steel, British Leyland, ICI, Metal Box, GKN, Schweppes, BOC, Dunlop, GEC, Tate and Lyle, Plessey and Unilever.

The US superpower has massive investments in Zimbabwe and Azania (South Africa)

(cont'd on p.6)

People of Zimbabwe rebuff imperialism

(cont'd from p.5)

from which it is amassing vast super-profits from the backs of African workers. On 20th December a resolution of the United Nations condemned the US for continuing to import large quantities of chrome and nickel from Zimbabwe despite the sanctions.

Frightened by the strength of the Liberation movement and people's war, the US and British imperialists concocted the Kissinger-Callaghan Pact and forced Smith to the Geneva Conference. In a speech on 7th October, Ted Sutton Price, Smith's Deputy Minister said, "South Africa and Rhodesia are the plums of Africa...raw materials, Cape sea route, development. America cannot support Rhodesia with a white minority government because of world opinion. If there were an acceptable government in Rhodesia, America would support this country with everything...

£40 million of US exports are in the pipeline rising to £65 million in December. Without these exports moving the government could not support an agricultural crop next year." It was people's war that really frightened the US imperialists to put the squeeze on Smith and his white minority racist regime. The US and British governments offered Smith £2000 million in credit if an 'acceptable' settlement was found for a transitional government to majority rule in 2 years. In the same speech Price says, "We would have two years trading on the open market. Revive the economy with the £2 billion development fund. 2 years to build up arms and war materials and the armed forces," and that majority rule was "Not seen as one man one vote." Clearly the white racist regime and its imperialist backers wheel and deal to oppose the people of Zimbabwe freeing themselves from imperialist exploitation and oppression. All they



The Zimbabwean people know that the way to get rid of the white racist regime and the foreign imperialists is through people's war.

want is a "settlement" from which they can continue their exploitation.

Leaders of the people of Zimbabwe could see through these imperialist tricks at the conference, and refused to give in. They rely on the Zimbabwean people to escalate the people's war in Zimbabwe to force Smith, the racist white minority regime and British and US imperialism to giving in to the people's demands. The US and British imperialists called the talks "a failure" when they ended on 12th December and they are hurriedly preparing for another conference to begin later in January. They are finding that they can't talk a people armed with a liberation movement and people's war into submission. The Zimbabwean people know that through people's war, the minority racist regime and foreign imperialists will all be defeated.

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HOSPITAL WORKERS RESIST CUTS

Part of Labour's attempt to solve the capitalist crisis has been its growing assault on the National Health Service. The cuts in the NHS have met a widespread resistance, that reflects the growing class consciousness of hospital workers.

Until a few years ago a 'Florence Nightingale' image was widespread through the health service. Some of this was a good thing and showed a genuine desire by the many hospital workers to provide a good health service. This has never been achieved. To the capitalists health service run in the interests of the people is not profitable. In fact the bosses' state, whether Tories or Labour were in power, used this outlook to prop up a service starved of funds, and adequate staff, and to pay low wages with bad conditions for the workers in it.

In the late 1960s hospital workers started to unionise in larger and larger numbers, as conditions got even worse and the crisis of capitalism developed. In 1973 ancillary workers, like porters, cleaners and kitchen staff took action for higher wages and better conditions. Through strikes, and working to rule, they won their demands. In 1975 the nurses took action. Again they used the weapons of working to rule, short strikes and demonstrations. They also called for solidarity action by workers in industry to squeeze the bosses. Manchester docks struck, 7,000 workers came out in Newcastle, South Wales miners called 24 hour strikes. These were just a few of the actions taken by workers. The pay and conditions of nurses improved.

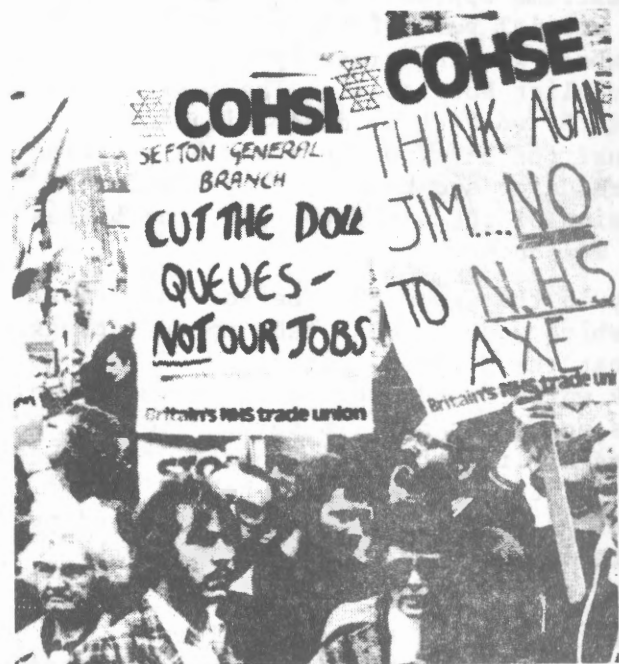
As the crisis of capitalism worsens the bosses and their state have stopped nibbling the health service and started biting great mouthfuls from it.

LABOUR ATTACKS ON HEALTH SERVICE MEET RESISTANCE

In July 1975, Barbara Castle (then Minister of Health and Social Security) announced cuts in resources of 10%. In fact as inflation was running at 25%, the effect is much greater.

New hospitals to replace some of the old cockroach- and mouse-infested ones have been axed.

Cuts are being made in staff through 'natural wastage' and redundancies, and untrained staff are used more in place of trained staff to save money. The fight back is widespread. In many hospitals



Hospital workers with other public service workers marched 70,000 strong in Sept. 76 to show their anger at the Labour government's public spending cuts.

agency nurses, (who are temporary and employed through private agencies), untrained voluntary workers, and overtime have been blacked. In many areas this has been going on since the 1975 nurses' dispute. One example was at Park Hospital, Liverpool where domestics refused to work overtime and forced the replacement of two women workers who had left.

Many Area Health Authorities are trying to close smaller local hospitals. A series of campaigns to prevent the closure of the Elizabeth Garret Anderson Hospital, in London, has led up to a work-in.

MORE CUTS

On Dec. 15th in his mini-budget Healey announced the intention to cut the NHS yet again - by 15% in the 1977-78 tax year, and by a quarter the following year.

The anger of workers against the cuts this year led to hospital and other public sector unions calling a demonstration. 70,000 workers marched through London. The 'left' Labour Party reformists, and other opportunist TU leaders supported this; trying to win support based on the anger of the workers. But it was precisely one of the 'left' Labour leaders, Barbara Castle, who introduced the first big cuts, and opposed the demands of the nurses and junior doctors; it is they who hold

(cont'd on p.9)

UNITY IS A WEAPON OF THE WORKING CLASS

The extreme oppression of black workers is a crucial part of the exploitation of the whole working class by the British imperialist bourgeoisie. The capitalists split the workers by discriminating against the black workers and by stirring up prejudice and hatred. They aim for division of the working class, the bosses' main weapon.

Unity is the weapon of the working class. The white workers must take up the struggle against the greater oppression of the black workers and embrace it as their own. It is no use to pay lip service to the struggle, like the revisionists, the fake 'Communist' Party, who run behind so-called 'anti-racism' rallies led by the Labour Party, the main prop of the racist ruling class.

Racist oppression takes many forms:

- lower wages for black workers. On average black workers earn 8% less than white workers. Often the differential is much greater, like in London Airport. In one department, white "assistant cooks" get £40 a week. Asian workers doing almost the same job, graded as "catering attendants", get £10 less!

- anti-social shifts or dirty, unhealthy jobs for black workers. Black workers are forced into these unpopular jobs in most parts of the country. In the West Yorkshire textile mills, nightshifts are manned almost entirely by black workers. In Fords at Leamington, the workers in the dirty and dangerous foundry and fettling shop are mainly black. The machine shop and trim shop, where conditions are better, are manned by all white workers. One Asian worker with chronic bronchitis was refused a transfer from the dusty fettling shop for 12 years. He eventually had to leave because of ill health.

- higher unemployment for black workers. Between November 1973 and May 1975, the total number of unemployed increased by over half as much again (65%); black unemployment rose by three times as much (156%). In many areas it is much worse. In Lewisham, three times as many black youths (38%) were unemployed as white youths (13%). Discrimination against black workers seeking jobs was the reason.

The cause of low wages, dangerous and soul-destroying conditions and unemployment is capitalism. Unemployment especially is essential to capitalism, for keeping profits up. The ruling class uses the racist Immigration Acts to pretend that it is overpopulation and particularly black workers which cause unemployment. There are not too many workers, there is a

vicious system of exploitation which throws workers on the scrap heap in the interests of the ruling class, which is a tiny minority.

FIGHT DISCRIMINATION, FIGHT UNEMPLOYMENT

White workers can only fight for the right to work hand in hand with black workers. In the Leicester factory of Imperial typewriters, local union leaders refused to support black workers' struggle against discrimination in 1974. The white workforce was confused, and divided from their black fellow workers. Shortly after, the company decided to close its two British factories. The workers in the Hull factory fought back and occupied the factory. The Leicester workforce, weak and demoralised by divisions, could put up no resistance.

The oppression of black workers, together with racism, are built into the imperialist system. Only the revolutionary overthrow of the bourgeois state will sweep them away. Class conscious black and white workers will struggle to build the new Communist Party to carry out this task.

Revolution

THEORETICAL JOURNAL OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE CFB(ML)

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 CFB(ML), has been founded to be a sharp weapon in the struggle to build that Party.

Issue Number Two contains

THE WORKING CLASS GROWS STRONG BY FIGHTING ERRORS WITHIN ITS RANKS

- an article criticising the founding documents of the CFB(ML) and explaining why they must be rejected in the struggle for a democratic centralist party.

BUILD COMMUNIST BASES IN THE WORKING CLASS

The central mass work task for Marxist-Leninists is to build Communist bases. This article explains why it is necessary to concentrate mass work in this way at the present stage.

ON THE INTELLECTUALS - ENVER HOXHA

This article explains clearly and concisely the class position of the intelligentsia, the errors which arise from this, and how these errors can be overcome.

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Seventh Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania

EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT TO THE 7TH CONGRESS OF THE PARTY OF LABOUR OF ALBANIA
GIVEN BY FIRST SECRETARY ENVER HOXHA

"All the capitalists and revisionist states try to saddle the masses of the working people with the consequences of the crisis. In order to keep their profits intact, the bourgeoisie, the monopolists and all exploiters, everywhere have stepped up the oppression and exploitation of the proletariat and working people, reducing their means of livelihood and curtailing their rights....

....Big capital and its state power, social democracy, the revisionists and other opportunists, are accompanying this grave situation, this policy of savage oppression and exploitation, with a great amount of lying propaganda meant to convince the masses of the working people that the present upheavals are allegedly a passing phenomenon, that everything will get back to what it was before, hence they should patiently bear the heavy burden that has fallen on them, and not try to find its causes and rise in revolt. They are striving with every means to avoid the great danger, the revolution, which is the only way for the working class to escape from the crisis and the exploiting capitalist and revisionist system once and for all."
(see article on p.10)

WORKERS WON'T TOUCH FILTH LIKE THIS!

Last month workers at EMI refused to pack the singles made by the punk rock group, the Sex Pistols. Action like this expresses just what working people think of companies like EMI, who will peddle any old trash if it makes them some money. This kind of censorship of a music that reflects only the rotten decay of the ruling class is censorship in the interests of the class.

If it weren't for EMI and other big record companies pumping money into it punk rock would probably have already disappeared through lack of support. The lads who play it are from the working class - and they don't like what the capitalist system offered them. "They try to ruin you from the start. They take away you soul. They destroy you. 'Be a bank clerk' or 'join the army' is what they give you at school" they say. But all they can put in its place is being outrageous - and they don't care if that includes Nazi uniforms. Their

kind of rebellion has got nothing to offer the working class. But the capitalists decided it had something to offer them. And so EMI signed up the Sex Pistols for £40,000.

The big companies producing films, records, and t.v. programmes are prepared to sell whatever will turn them a quick penny - as long as the message of these films and records doesn't attack them, of course. And as the ruling class moves towards fascism, in a last-ditch attempt to preserve itself, the 'entertainment' it tries to flog will have more and more to do with violence for its own sake and sadistic sex - the sickness of a sick class in its final decay.

That's why the action of the workers who refused to let their trashy products leave the factory is a blow aimed in the right direction - against the profits and cultural wares of the ruling class.

Hospital workers resist cuts

(cont'd from p.7)

back the struggle, because they say "we must keep a Labour government at all costs".

The general secretary of the Confederation of Health Service Employees, (COHSE), Albert Spanswick, is trying to get all the branches to affiliate to the Labour Party, the Party making the cuts. This is nothing but a bald attempt to divert the

vigorous struggle of the hospital workers, and tie them to a party that works for the bosses. As one COHSE member, a nursing sister in Liverpool said: "It's the Labour party, that is attacking us. We're not interested in joining the Labour party - we should fight it! It's their doubletalk that holds back the struggle."

SEVENTH CONGRESS OF THE PARTY OF LABOUR OF ALBANIA

In November, the Party of Labour of Albania (PLA), held its Seventh Congress. This was an occasion for assessing the progress made in people's Albania over the past 5 years and for making plans for the future. The Congress was a triumph for the correct line of the PLA under the leadership of Enver Hoxha, and a concrete demonstration of the unbreakable links between the Party and the masses of workers and peasants.

THE CONSTRUCTION OF SOCIALISM

Since the Sixth Congress of the Party, the Albanian people have made great strides forward in the construction of socialism. Relying on the strength, skill and enthusiasm of the workers, the Party has carried forward its programme for industrialising the country. Until liberation in 1943 Albania was a backward agricultural country dominated by imperialism and reactionary owners. Now for the first time in history, steel is being produced in the great combine at Elbassan. Very soon a new oil refinery will be completed at Ballsh and a hydro-electric plant will come into operation on the Drin river. These, and other smaller projects, will greatly strengthen the economy of socialist Albania.

In agriculture, too, great progress has been made. This year - for the first time - the peasants and workers of the state farms produced all the bread grain which the country needs.

Since 1960 total agricultural production has increased by 3 times. During the same period industrial production increased to 5 times what it was.

CAPITALIST CRISIS. SOCIALIST STABILITY

These striking advances have been made at a time when capitalist countries such as Britain are shaken by crisis. In this situation, the capitalists increase their attacks on the working class. Unemployment, wage cuts, soaring prices, cuts in expenditure on education, housing and hospitals are the capitalists' 'solutions' to their crisis. In Albania there is no unemployment, real wages have increased steadily, prices of food and industrial goods have either remained the same or been reduced. Between 1960 and 1975 the number of hospital beds and school places more than doubled.

EVERYTHING FOR THE PEOPLE

Small socialist Albania is marching confidently towards the future, while the 'great' countries of the West are stagnat-

ing. This is because in Albania industrial production is not for the benefit of a few parasites, but 'Everything is for the people'. Because the Party of Labour is the servant of the working masses, the energy and the initiative of the masses has been unleashed for the benefit of society as a whole. There are countless examples of this revolutionary initiative in the life of the Albanian people. It is commonplace for workers to exceed production quotas - to do more work than they are expected to do. Workers also use their free time to work for others.

"Man is not born an individualist... Individualism is the offspring of private property, of the relations of exploitation of man by man and not of his own nature. This is noticed in the life of the collective of the factory where I work. For instance during their free time our men build new apartment houses. Most of them need no apartments; they work for the purpose of meeting the needs of those who lack sufficient dwelling space".
(Haxhi Deliu, cement factory worker)

SELF RELIANCE

In Albania the Party is the servant of the masses, and the working class is the master of its own destiny. This is guaranteed by the class struggle, led by the Party, against 'Bureaucratism', 'Technocratism', and 'Intellectualism': sets of ideas which separate the Party from "its mother - the working masses". Because of this Albania is self reliant. She does not depend on the so-called aid of imperialism and social imperialism - aid which aims at exploiting the economies of developing countries and holding back the advance of socialism. Albania relies not on 'aid' but on the masses. As this is explained by Enver Hoxha in his report to the Seventh Congress: "The principle of self-reliance demands first of all firm reliance on the creative mental and physical energies of the people guided by the Party. Socialism is the work of the masses, therefore, everything produced and created is the fruit of the work, of the sweat and brains of the people."

People's Albania under the leadership of the PLA is in the forefront of the struggles of the world's peoples against imperialism, social imperialism and the vile oppression and exploitation of capitalism. The working class and progressive people throughout the world rejoice at the continued progress of socialist Albania and the Party of Labour of Albania.