The Newsletter

WEEKLY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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PAGE TWO WHO FOUGHT **BOLSHEVISM?** By Jack Gale

PAGE THREE FROM RHODES TO SMITH -a historical

outline

PAGE FOUR

SHOWDOWN ON DOCKS **CANNOT BE** POSTPONED

PUBLIC MEETING

MANCHESTER Sunday, December 12, 7.30 p.m.

Chorlton Town Hall. All Saints

Speakers: Cliff Slaughter, Editor, 'Fourth International'

Dave Ashby, national seceretary, Young Socialists



The Atomic Handshake? Wilson meets McNamara, U.S. Defence Secretary, outside No. 10 Downing Street before Mc-Namara's latest visit to Vietnam.

JANUARY 26

LOBBY OF PARLIAMENT

Vital stage in fight against capitalism

By CLIFF SLAUGHTER

Party and the Communist Party.

with its 10-year-long marriage to

'the parliamentary road to social-

Into the middle of the protest

lobby on unemployment, there-

(Cont. page 3, col. 1)

Support for

OTHER organisations which

have added their support to the

January 26 lobby, and have

legislation against the unions

The Clydebank No. 4 branch

of the NUGMW which covers

branch of the United Pattern

Most union branches are

sending further resolutions to

their union executive com-

mittees and to local trades

councils calling for support for

In Defence of Marxism

The Permanent Revolution

The Stalin School of Falsification

The Third International After Lenin

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Makers' Association.

the lobby.

resolutions opposing

lobby

THE initiative of the Lambeth Trades Council in class-collaboration, which differentiated these non-political tencalling a lobby of Parliament dencies from both the Labour on January 26 against the proposed laws on wage control and trade unions is being ism' acclaimed by trade unionists all over the country.

On Tuesday, November 30, the Sheffield District Committee of the Amalgamated Engineering Union voted unanimously to support the lobby and there are many militant engineers in that city who will work for a large delegation to back up this support.

During the 'fifties', when the Tories were in power and the economy was booming, factory workers were called out on one parliamentary lobby after another, usually under the leadership of Communist Party or 'left-wing Labour' (of the 'Tribune' type) members and sympathisers.

UNEMPLOYMENT

In 1963, the first dose of unemployment for a generation, even though it remained at only one-quarter of the figure of the '30s, brought a new and immediate response.

On March 26, 1963, many thousands of workers responded to the call of the Trades Councils of the north-east region to lobby

It had been intended by those who called it that this lobby should be just another of the old type-a long queue outside the House of Commons and a few arguments, violent or otherwise,

with MPs. But changes had taken place in the working class.

Over 20 years of full employment, with no major defeat for the working class, meant that the workers had high expectations and were prepared to defend them.

Not only that: in the Young Socialists and the Socialist Labour League, with their papers 'Keep Left' and The Newsletter, there was being built a political leadership which was determined to fight in a revolutionary way, basing themselves on the ability of the working class to struggle.

In our epoch, the question of political power of the working class is raised by every clash with the employers.

It was this drive towards work-

THE VITAL QUESTION ON VIETNAM

HAS WILSON GIVEN NUCLEAR GO-AHEAD?

By JOHN CRAWFORD

S the Wilson government preparing its biggest betrayal of all? Tied by billion-dollar threads to U.S. imperialism, have the Labour leaders given the go-ahead for nuclear weapons in Vietnam?

This is the question raised by the world tour of U.S. 'Defence' Secretary, Robert Strange McNamara. He visited Saigon on November 28, returning to Washington via

the bomber base at Guam. But his Vietnam visit followed discussions with the NATO powers-starting with Britain. What did Harold Wilson, one-time 'left', discuss with the man in charge of the

brutal imperialist war against the Vietnamese workers and peasants?

NOT IGNORED

The question of a European H-bomb was certainly on the agenda, both in London and Paris.

But Vietnam could not have been ignored.

Recent reports from Washington stress the growing desperation there at the defeats suffered by U.S. forces at the hands of the Vietcong.

The war was once planned to end in December 1965.

That was the years ago when U.S. 'advisers' in South Vietnam numbered some 15,000. Now, when 170,000 U.S. men are in action with 600,000 South Vietnamese troops, McNamara tells the world that 'it will be a long

And so, as the casualty lists lengthen, the American ruling class debates whether to try to find a compromise or step up the slaughter.

Already, another 100,000 Americans are expected to be shipped out to Vietnam in the new year.

But more than troops are involved here. The U.S. Seventh Fleet, operating off the coast, comprises 125 warships, including three aircraft carriers.

One of these is the nuclearpowered U.S.S. Enterprise.

Four hundred strike planes operate from these carriers.

The further 'escalation' of the war undoubtedly raises the question of adding to all the other horrors practiced on the Vietnamese people by using atomic weapons.

Since they see no way of bringing Vietnam under their control, the imperialists are prepared to wipe it off the map.

Wilson has gone along with all the actions of U.S. imperialism in South-East Asia so far. What are his views on this new

RIGHT TO ASK

We have a right to ask.

possibility?

After all, did not Clement Attlee, when deputy to Churchill, agree to the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atom bombs?

Was it not the Attlee government which, without even pretending to consult the labour movement, started development work on the British H-bomb?

Imperialism has already shown what it is prepared to do to hold on to its power and the rightwing Labour leaders have always acquiesced. Those Labour MPs who, while

bleating about 'peace' have continued to support Wilson's administration with their votes, must come off the fence.

Wilson and Stewart belong not with Labour, but with Johnson and McNamara and their H-bomb threats.

The 'lefts' should stop faking and cast their votes in Parliament against this reactionary government.

The whole working-class movement must be aroused to throw Wilson and company out of its

SEVEN HUNDRED **IMMIGRANTS SACKED**

After strike over suspension **Newsletter Correspondent**

SEVEN hundred workers at R. Woolf and Company, Hayes, Middlesex, went on strike last Wednesday after the alleged suspension for three days of one of their fellow workers for being ten minutes late.

On Tuesday morning this week all the men are reported to have received their cards.

According to a report in the 'Weekly Post', Southall, a document issued by N. S. Hundal, the convenor, claims that over the past two years the management at Woolf's have continually attempted to break up their trade union organisation.

The document puts forward the following reasons for the strike:

1. The management has congiven preferential treatment to non members and over the

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Successful series draws to close

THE last in the highly successful series of Socialist Labour League public meetings held throughout the country over the past two months, will be held in Manchester this week-end.

Youth, students and adult trade unionists have crowded into these meetings to hear and Young Socialist speakers outline a socialist policy to answer the deepening

crisis of imperialism. The immediate questions and the immediate questions dealt with by the speakers have included the proposed legislation against the trade unions, the betrayal of the working class by the Labour government, which now moves into open attack, and the burn-

ing international questions of Vietnam and Rhodesia. Speakers have maintained that, because of the Wilson government's subservience to nternational finance capital in the name of 'the national in-terest' and 'saving the pound', big attacks have been made on the working and living conditions of the British working

class. It has also led to the British government's support of U.S. aggression in Vietnam This betrayal, speakers said, is more blatant than that of the MacDonald government of

Speakers declared that to answer these betrayals, the working class must clear out the Wilson government through a fight for socialist policies, and, in this struggle, build an alternative leadership

of the working class.

By taking up this struggle against legislation against the unions, against the Devlin Report and Immigration Act and demanding nationalization of all the basic industries, the British working class would also immeasurably strengthen the struggles of the colonial

At the same time, the SLL and YS still put forward the slogans of Victory to the Vietcong' and 'Arm the Africans' and declared full support to the struggle being waged by colonial workers and peasants against imperialism.

All these policies are con tained in the manifesto of the Socialist Labour League 'A Socialist Policy for the Crisis', available from 186a Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4, price 3d. same period there has been constant victimisation of shop stewards. We are therefore demanding 100 per cent trade unionism.

2. Many of our members are regularly taking home only the bare minimum, despite the fact that they are always being asked to work harder and in fact have been doing so. Whilst this has been going on, wage claims for the lower paid workers have been pending for very long rigds; one such claim has been pending to over a year. We are demanding these outstanding claims are settled at once.

A further point states that all agreements between the employers and the workers must be honoured.

The majority of the workers at Woolf's are from India and Pakistan and they organised themselves into the Transport and General Workers' Union.

TOLD TO GO

On Tuesday the strikers were told to go early to their Transport and General Workers' Union branch 1/686 biennial general meeting, where they were to be informed of the latest developments in the strike.

After a discussion on the strike, the several hundred Woolf's men, who had turned up to the meeting were told to go home by a union official and did

When this action was questioned by two members of the branch they were told that the hall was not large enough.

One of the members moved that the business of the meetingthe election of officers-should be postponed for two weeks and that a larger hall should be found.

But the chairman is reported to have refused to accept the motion. The two members continued to object, on the grounds that the militant members of the branch were being denied their rights, whereas at least one member of the British National Party was in

the meeting. A union official then allegedly called the police into the meeting and the two trade union members were removed.

Full support must be given to the Woolf strikers by the labour movement. T&GWU members must also ensure that they enjoy full union rights.

Not sanctions - Arms!

THE seriousness with which the Wilson government intends carrying out the farcical sanctions against the Smith regime in Rho-desia was brought home when his 'left' lap-dogs revolted on Tuesday evening over the movement of crude oil by the British Petroleum tanker, 'British Security', to Rho-

desia.

Wilson claimed that stopping
British Security' might harm
Zambia, and twice, in Parliament,
he said that stopping the tanker would be only a moral, ineffective

gesture.

This contempt of the right wing for the rights and safety of the African workers and peasants must be answered in Britain not merely effective sanctions carried out by British workers, but the raising of the demand of arming the

the majority of engineers in HOUSING POLICY the Singer works; the North Glasgow branch ETU; the Clydesdale Television Engineers' IS RACIALIST Works Committee, Edinburgh; the Croydon, Surrey, Trades Council; the South-west London CAWU branch; the London -say Lambeth Trades Council School of Economics Socialist Society; the Birkenhead No. 7

VIETNAM:

AMBETH Trades Council has taken a firm stand against the local borough council's recent document on housing called: 'Immigration from the Commonwealth'.

The Atomic Aircraft Carrier. The U.S.S.

Enterprise the largest atomic-powered aircraft carrier in the world is now

operating with the Seventh Fleet off the coast of Vietnam.

LEFT' MPs attacked their leaders' Vietnam policy at a meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party on Wednesday. But criticisms

were softened by 'polite and moderate terms', according to Ian Aitken in Thursday's 'Guardian'. John Mendelson, MP for Penistone, urged Prime Minister Wilson to tell President Johnson that Britain insists on the unconditional cessation of U.S. bombing attacks on North Vietnam and an assurance that the Vietcong will be invited to any peace nego-

tiations. But such demands mean nothing as 'polite' demands. These critical 'lefts' have to take a stand on Vietnam by voting against

Wilson's support of U.S. aggression, even if it means bringing down

VOTE AGAINST WILSON

The council has suggested that its housing problem—it has 13,500 families on its fast-growing housing list-is aggravated by the influx of coloured immigrants and that 'a lasting solution to these major concentrations can only be achieved by dispersal throughout Greater London and

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the provinces'. To carry out its responsibilities

to these workers (i.e., give them decent housing) 'might well be regarded by the public within the Borough as giving quite unfair consideration and priority to the claims and difficulties of these

In a press statement given on Monday this week the Lambeth Trades Council says that the borough council document 'divides off sharply one section of workers, who are victims, not causes of the problem, and invites the remainder not only to blame them for the capitalist crime of the housing situation, but even to hound them out of the borough.

Divides workers

(Continued on back page)

Political Department of the

Trotskyism

Stalinism





Who fought for Bolshevism?

THE claim that Stalin fought for the ideas of Lenin requires further examination, particularly as Ramelson, who was always a loyal servant of Stalin, would claim that he is also fighting for the ideas of Lenin against the Trotskyists of today.

Was the theory of 'socialism in one country' one of Lenin's ideas? On the contrary, this 'theory' had been unheard of in the Bolshevik Party until 1924, when it was produced by Bukharin and used by Stalin against Trotsky and the Left Opposi-The entire Bolshevik Party had thought of the Russian Revolution as the heginning of the world proletarian revolution.

This is best established by reading Appendix 2 of Volume 3 of Trotsky's 'History of the Russian Revolution'.

Since, however, members of the Communist Party are not encouraged to read such books, it might be better to prove the point here by referring to books published by Moscow's Foreign Languages Publishing House and sold by the British Communist Party for many years.

On his departure for Russia in 1917, Lenin wrote a Farewell Letter to the Swiss workers.

This pamphlet is available separately and is also contained in Volume 6 of the 'Selected Works' of Lenin, published by Lawrence & Wishart.

In this letter Lenin declared that he was 'leaving Switzerland for Russia in order to continue internationalist revolutionary work in our own country'. The Bolsheviks, he went on, 'hold internationalist views'.

He then declared:

'To the Russian proletariat has fallen the great honour of initiating the series of revolutions which are arising from the imperialist war . . . the specific historic circumstances have made the proletariat of Russia for a certain, perhaps very brief, period the skirmishers of the world revolutionary proletariat.' (Lenin's emphasis.)

Russia, Lenin said:

'. . . is one of the most backward of European countries. triumph Socialism cannot directly there at once. But the peasant character of the country may . . . make our revolution a prelude to and a step towards the world socialist revolution.' (Lenin's emphasis.)

It is clear from this, and from many of Lenin's writings, that he never considered the Russian Revolution as a purely Russian affair, but as a product of the crisis of international capitalism.

He regarded the Russian working class as the vanguard of the international revolution, in the first years repeatedly urging the necessity for the Russians to hold out until the international revolution came to their aid.

When it became clear that this was going to be delayed, Lenin realised that it was necessary to make economic adjustments in the Soviet Union-namely, the New Economic Policy-but he never ceased to be first and foremost an international revolutionary.

Any serious Communist can verify this by reading the writings of Lenin, particularly from 1917 until his death. There is space here to make only one further

At the Seventh Congress of the

Bolshevik Party in March 1918, strengthening of the richer pea-

The second article

answering a lecture

on Trotskyism given

to the South Leeds

Communist Party

by Bert Ramelson

(Yorkshire Area

Secretary of the CP)

by JACK GALE

'It is absolutely true that without a German revolution we shall perish. Here is the greatest historic question . . . the necessity of evoking an international revolution.'

This belief, shared by the entire Bolshévik Party, was in no way a pessimistic lack of confidence in the strength of the Russian revolution. The Bolshevik view that the Revolution could not survive in the face of world imperialism was the reverse side of their conviction that world imperialism could not survive in the face of the revolution.

Moreover, they saw the threat to the revolution not only in terms of direct military intervention but also in terms of an economic threat to the Soviet

Seeing socialism as the organisation of a planned and harmonious social production for the satisfaction of human wants, they regarded collective ownership of the means of production as not yet being socialism but only creating the basis on which socialism could be built.

The Bolsheviks considered that an international economic basis was necessary for the construction of socialism, and realised the tremendous economic dangers of a restoration of capitalism if the revolution remained isolated in backward Russia.

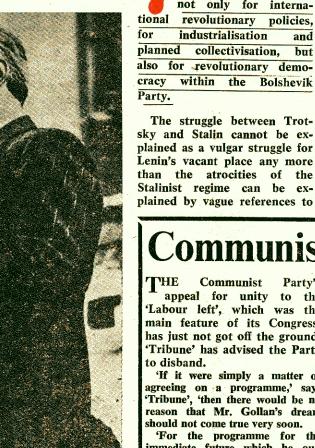
sants and the emergence of a number of speculators and middle-men (known as NEP-men). This, together with the unavoidable use of pre-revolutionary capitalists and managers in positions of leadership in industry, presented a clear economic and political threat to the re-

This leads on to a longstanding myth about Trotsky and Stalin. Members of the Communist Party are still told that Stalin was the man who insisted on industrialising the Soviet Union, while Trotsky was opposed to this and favoured instead wild dreams of 'exporting' the Revolution.

This is a complete lie from

beginning to end. The truth is that from 1924 to 1928 Trotsky and his supporters fought for industrialisation on the basis of a planned economy and were denounced by Stalin and his supporters as 'super-industrialists'. Trotsky pointed out that industrialisation was necessary to preserve the revolution.

If industry failed to provide for the peasant, then goods peasant produce would remain hoarded in the countryside, So, when Ramelson quotes strengthening speculative develop-



Trotsky perusing the printed version of his evidence to the Dewey Commission.

Trotsky as saying in 1922 that ments and encouraging the 'We have not come to the socialist order nor even approached it' this does not prove that Trotsky was opposing Lenin, but that he was saying exactly the same things as Lenin.

The lag of the international revolution, particularly the failure of the German revolution as a result of the murderous treachery of German social-democracy and the absence of a German party of the Bolshevik type, left the Russian Revolution isolated.

It was this which compelled the Bolsheviks to introduce the New Economic Policy.

The main feature of this was the return of a measure of economic freedom to the middle peasants, who were permitted and even encouraged to produce a surplus and make a profit by

selling it to the cities. This inevitably led to the growth of the private capitalist, with a corresponding weakening of the position of the proletariat.

Trotsky continually warned that without a planned development of industry, together with a careful extension of collectivisation of agriculture, carried out in such a way that the peasant would join voluntarily, the revolution would be in danger.

This warning was ridiculed by Stalin, as was the whole idea of industrialisation before 1928.

When Trotsky, as Chairman of the Board of Electrotechnical Development, urged the development of a hydro-electric scheme at Dnieprostroy — a scheme which was to become one of the greatest Soviet achievementsthis was shrugged off by Stalin as being as much use to Russia as a gramophone to a peasant who had no cow! (Central Committee of the Bolshevik Party, April,

of Trotsky's warnings

proved correct in 1928. The state granaries were half empty, workers in the towns were short of food and the rich peasants refused to deliver bread or to sell it at the government fixed prices. Officials sent to collect grain were beaten and driven from the villages.

Peasants who could not obtain clothing, tools or industrial goods refused to part with their grain. Faced with this, Stalin broke

with Bukharin and swung over to

forced collectivisation, 'extermination of the Kulaks as a class', and rapid industrialisation. This created such opposition from the countryside that the

Soviet Union has suffered from its economic consequences ever since, in the form of a permanent agricultural crisis. Eight million peasants were exiled to Siberia. Others, forced

to enter the collectives against their will, slaughtered their animals, smashed their implements and burned their crops. It has been estimated that 18 million horses, 30 million large cattle and 100 million sheep and goats were killed. Famine stalked the towns.

Far from being the saviour of the Soviet Union, Stalin almost brought about its collapse.

	Trotsky	fough	t Stalin
			interna-
tional	revolu	tionary	policies,
for	industr	ialisation	and
planne	d colle	ectivisatio	on, but
		lutionary	,

The struggle between Trotsky and Stalin cannot be explained as a vulgar struggle for Lenin's vacant place any more than the atrocities of the Stalinist regime can be explained by vague references to German Reichstag before Hitler,

'the negative side of Stalin's should 'disappear'; that almost character'. Ramelson now tells his members, to quote the words he used to the South Communist Party branch: 'I hold no brief for the things Stalin did and we didn't know about, but we couldn't object to things we didn't know about. We were over-naive. It won't happen again.'

With these few complacent words Ramelson shrugs off the destruction of the Bolshevik

What does he mean, 'We didn't know about it?'

They published books like 'The Great Conspiracy Against Russia' in which they set out to prove that out of 29 known members of the 1917 Bolshevik Central Committee, 11 were agents of

They 'proved' that the Soviet economy was being sabotaged by,



Neumann

amongst others: The Commissar for Heavy Industry, the Commissar for Finance, the Commissar for Agriculture, for Internal Trade, Communications, Military Industry, Justice, State Farms, Education, and Sea and River Transport.

The Gollans and Ramelsons accepted without any protest that people like Bela Kun, leader of the Hungarian Revolution of 1919, should 'disappear'; that Remmele and Neumann, the leading Communists in

the entire Central Committee of the Polish and Czechoslovak Communist Parties should 'disappear'. Coming nearer home, neither

Gollan nor Ramelson asked any questions when a woman called Rose Cohen, a relative of Gollan's and a close friend of Ramelson's wife, also 'disappeared' while on a trip to the Soviet Union. Nor did they say anything when

Edith Bone went on a trip to Hungary in 1949 and was not seen again-until the prisons were open during the revolution of 1956 and it was discovered that she had been in solitary confinement for seven years. What did you think had happened to her, Messrs. Gollan and Ramelson?

During the purges and trials of 1936-38, thousands of good Communists and even loyal Stalinists were arrested, imprisoned and shot-including a majority of the Central Committee of the Party elected at the 17th Party Con-

The head of the Red Army, Marshal Tukhachevsky, was shot. So were Commanders Yakir, Uborevich, Kork, Putna, Eideman, Feldman and Primakov. Leading foreign Communists, including many who fought in Spain, suffered a similar fate.

And Ramelson says he didn't know about it! Yet their hack, D. N. Pritt, was saying that the Moscow trials were a model of socialist justice!

In books like 'The Great Conspiracy against Russia' the most fantastic details were retailed about how the cunning Trotskyists were not only sabotaging the Soviet Union but were actually covering this up by cleverly arresting each other and having each other shot.

A typical extract from this Stalinist masterpiece runs as follows:

'When Zinoviev and Kamenev were arrested, four agents of the Soviet Secret Police had brought them to NKVD headquarters. The agents were Molchanov, chief of the Secret

NKVD; Pauker, Chief of the Operations Department; Volovich, Assistant Chief of the Operations Department; and Bulanov, Assistant to the Chairman of the NKVD . . . Molchanov and Bulanov were themselves secret members of the Trotskyite-Right conspiratorial apparatus. Pauker and Volovich were German agents. These men had been specially picked to make the arrests by Henry G. Yagoda, the chairman of the NKVD.

And what do you think Henry G. Yagoda was? You guessed it!

'Henry Yagoda was a secret member of the Bloc of Rights and Trotskyites.' ('The Great Conspiracy Against Russia,' Sayers and Kahn, pp. 263-5.)

Not only did the leaders of every Communist Party throughout the world accept this stuff without question, but they hounded out of their ranks any member who dared to doubt it. Is it true that this was just naivetv?

Apart from the obvious fact that people so 'naive' would not be fit to have charge of a Cub pack, let alone a Communist Party, will this excuse hold water? Was there no way in which they could have discovered the truth?

In the famous speech at the 20th Congress of the Russian Communist Party, Khrushchev made it clear that the murder of Kirov in 1934 (the event that sparked off the purges and trials) was a put-up job engineered by Stalin himself.

But Trotsky had written a pamphlet 'The Kirov Assassina-



Remmele

tion' in 1934, in which he established exactly this.

During the Moscow Trials, Trotsky appeared before an independent Commission and presented his defence to the charges made against him by Stalin.

This Commission was headed by the American educationist John Dewey.

It found Trotsky 'not guilty' on all counts. Trotsky's summary of the Trials has been available as a pamphlet for some 30 years ('I Stake My Life').

In this pamphlet he proves beyond doubt that the Moscow Trials were based on lies.

For instance, it was said at the trials that a man called Holtzman met Trotsky's son at the Hotel Bristol in 1932.

Yet this hotel had been burned down and did not exist.

It was said that Piatakov travelled from Berlin by plane to visit Trotsky in Oslo in middle of December 1935. Yet the records of that aerodrome proved that not a single foreign aeroplane landed there in that month.

These works have been available all the time you were enjoying your 'naivety', Mr. Ramelson. Are we to understand that you preferred to accept that Trotsky was guilty without reading his defence? Or that you knew of this, but hoped your members would never find out?

(To be continued)

Communist Party's unity campaign collapses

THE Communist Party's appeal for unity to the 'Labour left', which was the main feature of its Congress, has just not got off the ground. 'Tribune' has advised the Party to disband. 'If it were simply a matter of

agreeing on a programme,' says Tribune', 'then there would be no reason that Mr. Gollan's dream should not come true very soon. For the programme for the

immediate future which he outlined contains almost nothing to which a Labour left-winger, inside Parliament or without, could take exception.

'But then what basis does the C.P. now have for maintaining a separate existence?

'If the British Communist Party vishes to advance the cause of socialism it should announce its mmediate disbandment.'

So there we have it. Wind the Party up Gollan and join the 'left' fakers inside the Labour Party, pecause, in fact, 'you have no difference with us'. Nothing further need be said

about the present state of the Communist Party. Gollan has led it to the brink of disaster.

Because of the 'peaceful road to socialism' theory, the Communist Party might, according to Tribune', just as well be inside the Labour Party playing second fiddle o 'Tribune' and the Fabian

Can there be any greater indictment of Stalinism in Britain?

Gollan and the leadership of the Communist Party will explain **Newsletter Correspondent**

hind the scenes, along the lines the price is at the moment too that the purpose of it all is to high. These gentlemen are too give the impression that it 'agrees with the left' in order at a later stage to cut 'Tribune's throat, politically speaking.

maintain two faces. Gollan seriously wants to come

to terms with the Labour 'left', but dangers involved from the sectarian

busy fixing up their parliamentary careers under Wilson to risk embarrassment by an open Communist Party. In this respect the Party tries to

If it were to disband, there is little doubt that they could all The reality, however, is different. get together, but in this respect Gollan has to reckon with the

left in the Communist Party.

They want to continue as they are going now, so he is caught in a cleft stick. The fake Labour 'left' will not touch the CP with a barge pole just as long as there is a possibility of seats in Parliament under Wilson.

The unity campaign remains just as it was, not an inch further forward. The Communist Party might just as well have not had a

Congress at all.

DLEASE allow me to point out an error in your editorial note printed in The Newsletter on November 20. It concerned the controversy as to who was the chairman of the Military Revolutionary Committee at the time of the October insurrection in Petrograd.

You dispute the contention that Trotsky was chairman and state that it was Lazimir, a Left Social-Revolutionary, who was chairman of this important organ of the insurrection.

In fact Trotsky was chairman of the Military Revolutionary Committee and played a decisive role in the affairs of this organisa-

As witness, I can only quote Trotsky:

6 The decision to create a Military Revolutionary Committee, first introduced on the 9th was passed at a plenary session of the Soviet only a week later. The Soviet is not a Party; its machthe 'tactic' to their members be- inery is heavy. Four days more

did not go for nothing: the conquest of the garrison was in full swing, the conference of Regimental Committees had demonstrated its viability, the arming of the workers was going forward. And that was the And thus the Military Revoluthe insurrection. tionary Committee, although it went to work only on the 20th. five days before the insurrection, found ready to its hands a sufficiently well-organised dominion.

Being boycotted by the Compromisers, the staff of the Committee contained only Bolsheviks and Left Social-Revolutionaries: that eased and simplified the task. Of the Social Revolutionaries, only Lazimir did any work, and he was even placed at the head of the bureau in order to emphasise the fact that the committee was a Soviet and not a party institution.

In essence, however, the Committee, whose president was Trotsky, and its chief workers Podvoisky, Antonov Ovseyenko, Lasavich, Sadovsky and Mekonoshin, relied exclusively upon Bolsheviks. The Committee hardly met

were required to form the Com- once in plenary session with delemittee. Those ten days, however, gates present from all the institutions listed in its regulations. The work was carried through the bureau under the guidance of the president, with Sverdlov brought in upon all important matters. And that was the general staff of

('History of the Russian Revolution', Vol. III, pages 110-111, Gollanz)

Trotsky here establishes, succinctly and indisputably, the origin and function of the Committee and

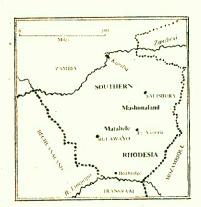
his role in it. Lazimir NEVER was chairman. He was head of the Commission set up by the Petrograd Soviet-on the insistence of the Compromisers -to formulate regulations for a 'Committee of Revolutionary Defence'. This was the original title of the Military Revolutionary

Committee. Lazimir was appointed a commissar to the district headquarters of army regiments around Petrograd. What became of him sub-

sequently, I do not know. Yours fraternally,

I. Buchen.

RHODESIA



From Rhodes to Smith

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT FROM SOUTH AFRICA



Times certainly have not changed in Rhodesia over the decades. There is no difference between the treatment meted out to African workers by white Rhodesian 'authority' today than the brutal methods used last century to move the African peasants from their land.

THE history of how British imperialism conquered Rhodesia is important for many related reasons. Among these are that it shows the historical nearness (only two generations old) of the origin of the great popular demand for the re-distribution of the land—the agrarian revolution.

This demand first arose when Britain plundered the Matabele and Mashona tribes of their communally held land and converted them into landless labourers and peasants without any rights in their own birthplace.

It is especially important to recall this land robbery by force when entire pseudo-analytical articles on Rhodesia, written from a neo-Marxist viewpoint, make not a single mention of the agrarian revolution in Zimbabwe's struggle for independence. They call for the peasants to ally themselves with the workers without

giving the peasants a single good reason (and there is only one: land).

COLONIAL FASCISM

A second sound reason for a reminder of what happened 70 years ago in Rhodesia is that this fairly recent conquest was so bloody and brutal. The subsequent subjection of the African people by the British was carried out with such violence and by brute whitesupremacist dictatorship, that to imagine that the Smith regime is any worse or any different or any more dictatorial than the colonial reign of terror, is merely to be a victim of British chauvinism in yet another form.

Smith is a continuation of

The Governor is a continuation of Baden Powell.

Under British rule there never was any democracy or equality for the Africans.

Imperialism has always used ascist methods in the colonies. wise—or fascist governments in the colonies is something new, is to forget that fascism itself in Europe was the importation into the imperialist countries (Spain, Italy and Germany) of the system

of rule long used in the colonies. A third timely reason is that Rhodes used both white and African agents to achieve conquest and to set up the slavecolony which Smith now manages for Britain as an 'independent'

Against this history, to talk of 'neo-colonialism' as against the Leninist term 'semi-colony' is both confused and confusing.

A recent instance of such confusion, among many others, was the African nationalist illusion that Verwoerd and Co. of South Africa would be upset by 'neocolonies' on their border and for this reason Britain chose to keep Rhodesia 'white'.

Verwoerd, in fact, is not worried by this at all and, indeed has got four 'African states' on his border, practically: Bechuanaland, Basutoland, Swaziland and

Malawi. He gets on excellently with their rulers, has some of them in To suggest that the use of dic- his pocket, and has had equally possible odds when the British tatorships — one-party or other- amiable relations with the Congo crossed the Limpopo river.

government, where his white mercenaries are not unknown.

Semi-colonialism is now 150 years old, almost, since the days of the Monroe Doctrine when 'Latin' America was engaged in her 'long, bloody and protracted struggle' for political independence. The people of India and many other countries were to repeat this struggle in this cen-

It began in the very struggle against conquest and dispossession, including that of Matabele and Mashonaland-i.e., Zimbabwe.

UNEQUAL FIGHT

The conquest of Rhodesia was prepared by the conquest of South Africa. The crushing of the Xhosa, Sotho, Tswana, Zulu, Khoi-Khoin (mis-named 'Hottentot') and Batwa (mis-named 'Bushmen') tribes had taken Holland and Britain, and their spawn, the Boers, two full cen-

The record of the heroic and prolonged resistance of the Batwa, Khoi-Khoin and Bantu tribes against their dispossession and enslavement in South Africa and Rhodesia is documented in '300 Years' by 'Mnguni', a threevolume history of South Africa first published in 1952, 300 years after the seizure of the Cape by the Dutch under Jan van

Riebeeck. By the time British imperialism struck at Rhodesia she already had not only conquered South Africa-with only the Boer War ahead to make the conquest formal—but had by this time become master of the world's largest diamond and gold mines and had established a flourishing industrialist economy, with rapidly growing cities and fac-

tories and mines She had also by then practically completed her conquests in Asia. Hence the Africans in what is now Rhodesia were facing imhistorical outline It was the same old story in his land. By this time, too, the machine

moded assegais and shields. During the days of Tshaka, the Zulu tribal monarch, Mzilikazi

gun had been used in colonial

conquests and the African people

had, at most, some rifles and

dynamite, apart from their out-

had broken away from the then forming Zulu kingdom. In the 1820s Mzilikazi created a proto-feudal order, with the Bapedi, Bangwato, Bakwena,

tribes rendering tribute in return for retention of their lands. In the 1830s the first Trekboer invasions burst into this

developing early feudal system.

Bakgotla, Baralong and Batlokwa

Mzilikazi defeated Liebenberg and Trichart and the British Governor at the Cape D'Urban, was forced to protect the Boers from further humiliations by drawing up a 'Treaty of Friendship' with Mzilikazi in 1836.

This did not deter the Boers and in October 1836 Potgieter attacked Mzilikazi's camps and was duly routed, losing about 5,000 cattle and 50,000 sheep (previously stolen from the

Bantu) at Vechtkop. But then, with the assistance of the missionaries, the Boers won battle allies in a section of the Baralong of Moroka, of the Korannas, the Batlokwa and the Griquas and won a now muchcelebrated Boer victory at Mosega in January 1837.

In this battle the Boers killed 400 old men, children and women in cold blood.

first 'white men' arrived. In November of 1837, on the In July 1887, the Boer, Grobler, got the right to farm in Loben-Marico river, Potgieter and Uys, gula's area. Under Bantu law, assisted by Baralong spies, brought down 500 of Mzilikazi's there was no private and Grobler had no title deeds to crack troops.

Africa-now being repeated at a

different level again: We were

never defeated by the imperialists

alone, but always by ourselves as

well-by our own divisions, by

Mzilikazi, already weakened in

addition by an attack by Dingaan,

then withdrew across the Lim-

popo into what is now Rhodesia.

His well-ordered late tribal, early

feudal independence was recog-

nised by the Boer Potchefstroom

Thus the Matabele of Mzilikazi

Eastwards and north lay many

other tribes and also the ruins of

the very old African-built civili-

sation of Zimbabwe, ruled under

the Monopmotapa kings and

ravaged, African historians be-

lieve, not by the Matabele, but by

the Portuguese gold-seekers and

conquistadores. In September

1868 Mzilikazi died and was suc-

MOFFAT

1846 treaty of independence by

It is worth repeating that the

so-called 'white man' did not find

empty territory anywhere in

Southern Africa. He stole it

from African tribes who owned

the land collectively, per tribe,

and who occupied the country in

large numbers long before the

raiding Lobengula's territory.

In 1880 the Boers broke the

was the first recognised govern-

treachery in our midst.

Republic in 1846.

ment of Rhodesia.

ceeded by Lobengula.

But the missionary, Moffat, Kuruman, fraudulently from tricked Lobengula into 'signing' a treaty which, in English, purported to give the British High Commissioner in the Cape control over Lobengula's right to 'cede' land-a trick aiming at a virtual declaration of ownership by Britain over Matabeleland.

The concession hunters, Rudd and Beit (partner of Rhodes) followed up by getting similar bogus 'concessions' out of Lobengula, including a monopoly of all

minerals in Matabeleland. For the Matabele, these treaties did not exist as private property treaties and could not exist as such, under tribal law, and Lobengula protested vigorously when the British interpreted his 'consent' as agreement to a deed of sale (which did not even exist under Matabele law, with regard

In 1889 the powerful British Chartered Company was formed by Rhodes and dispatched Jameson with troops to force Lobengula to allow the company to enter Matabeleland. Lobengula refused, after his experience with previous treaty-makers and the missionaries. But Rhodes was determined.

RHODES

Cecil John Rhodes, whitesupremacist, colonialist and British to every marrow of every bone, architect of the major apartheid laws of South Africa and Rhodesia, now declared that he would carry out Livingstone's im-

Livingstone had said: 'I deter-

mined to open the country'. In June 1890, Rhodes' forces, led by the infamous hunter, Selous,

government annexed Matabele-

Up to now the Matabele re-October 1893 grew into major

battles at Shangani, Imbebezi and stormed Bulawayo, capital of Matabeleland.

rather than let it fall intact into Rhodes' hands. He died in January 1894 amidst the decimation of his armies and commoners. At once Rhodes began to

say it, the Salvation Army'.

JANUARY 26 LOBBY OF PARLIAMENT

A vital stage in the fight against capitalism

From page 1

fore, a major political break was introduced. The 2,000 unemployed youth and Young Socialists who marched did not carry slogans appealing for the direction of 'new industries' to areas of high unemployment as did those under the influence of the 'official' Labour and Communist Parties.

They called instead for unity of the employed and unemployed, for class action to bring down the Tory government, and socialist policies of nationalization to take away the control of the economy from the capitalists.

LEARNED A LOT

These thousands of workers fought all day against the continuous efforts of hundreds of mounted and foot police to remove them from Parliament Square.

On that day many workers, young and old learned a great deal about socialist roads to parliament, if not parliamentary roads to socialism!

The lobby had a very large impact on public opinion, and strengthened militant workers everywhere.

The Trades Union Congress responded with new regulations confining the organising rights of Trades Councils to their own localities. Somebody was scared.

The Young Socialists went on, even after the pre-election Tory boom brought unemployment down, to fight for socialist poli-While the other 'left' groups were lining up behind Wilson and telling the workers not to 'rock the boat', the Young Socialists and the Socialist Labour League warned that Wilson would

sell out to big business, and called for the labour movement to insist on socialist policies.

The working class retained its fighting strength, but narrowly returned a Labour government in the hope that it would provide better conditions for their struggle than the rule of the

The call of the Lambeth Trades Council and the response to it are a vital stage in the turning of the tide.

All those who said 'don't rock the boat', and even helped the right wing to witch-hunt the Young Socialists, are caught in the trap of 'loyalty' to a government which acts in the interest of the employers on all questions from Vietnam to Rhodesia to the incomes policy.

While Gunter and Brown prepare laws against the independence of trade unions, just as the Tories are doing, the traditional 'left' not only hesitates, but actively obstructs the fighting back of the working class.

On the Liverpool Trades and Labour Council, for example, a resolution of support for the lobby on January 26 was narrowly

defeated. Many 'left-wingers' of the 'Tribune' and 'Voice of the Unions' type spoke against legis-

lation—but against action! Nothing must be done to embarrass the government!

Action now could be 'premature' and an 'adventure'! They used the same excuses to stand by and watch the witch-

hunt of Young Socialists. Gentlemen of this sort, in the Labour Party Constituencies in several parts of the country, are piously passing general resolutions expressing 'concern' about

proposed anti-trade union legislation, while studiously avoiding any action of workers against the Labour government, which prepares this legislation.

When one of their own men, Ken Coates, of the Nottingham Labour Party, was recently expelled even for going as far as he did, his 'friends' in several places could only mutter about his 'wildness' in provoking the right wing.

Meanwhile the Communist Party Congress lurches to the right, and issues an 'appeal for left-wing unity', which cannot even mention the working class!

But these left-overs from the hey-day of boom and British reformism, when protest noises could make a reputation, will be swept aside contemptuously by the working class as it now begins to move and test out a new, revolutionary leadership.

RESISTANCE

While our 'left-wingers' were talking about an 'incomes policy' with socialist trimmings (i.e., socialist words to conceal a capitalist policy), the workers were resisting and fighting as before.

Since the 'Declaration of Intent' of the bosses and trade union leaders, they have pushed up wage rates, through struggle, by 8 per cent this year. The capitalists cannot tolerate

To compete internationally in manufactured products, they need to modernise industry.

Having lagged behind for years, content to draw their profits and rest on protected empire markets. they cannot now keep up with their competitors unless they accumulate profits more quickly.

To do this they must drive down wages; and for this to be done, the government must be called in to weaken the workers' organisations, the unions. This is the job Wilson, Brown, Callaghan and Gunter are doing.



2,000 Young Socialists marched on March 26, 1963. Not bound by Labour or Communist Party policies, they called for the unity of employed and unemployed around socialist policies to bring down the Tories.

So strong is the fighting capacity of the working class, despite the hesitations of the 'left', that the sharpness of their strtuggle is forcing even established trade union spokesmen like the bakers' leaders to recognise, in their own way, the role of the Labour government.

The executive committee of the Bakers' Union, meeting on November 28 carried a resolution which included the following

'We are dismayed to see our government - because we are lifelong socialists - ranged on the side of big business against our tiny union!' ('The Times', November 29, 1965)

Writing to 'The Times', Mr. George H. Elvin, general secretary of the Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians, had this to say on commenting on the bakers' state-

'A government elected with

retain that support if it continues to take the side of the employers against the unions.'

Mr. Elvin wrote 'as a Labour Party member for 40 years and a trade union official for over 30'. The old relation between the

reformist Labour Party and the trade unions is going, never to

CONTRADICTION

This is the meaning of the present situation, despite the fact that these trade unionists still speak of the Labour government as 'our government'.

There is a contradiction between the real situation (Labour government acting on behalf of big business) on the one hand, and the outdated ideas of loyalty to the Labour Party on the other.

This contradiction will be resolved by making ideas in the

the support of the majority of working-class movement conform trade unionists cannot hope to to the reality, so that workers and their organisations can act in the real interest of the working

> the side of loyalty, in whatever 'left' disguise, are playing a reactionary role. The fight against these false 'left-wingers' by the Marxists is,

other side of the contradiction,

Those who cling fast to the

thus, a vitally necessary part of the struggle of the working class itself to break through the barriers of reformism. By building the revolutionary

leadership in the Socialist Labour League and the Young Socialists, and fighting for a Trotskyist daily newspaper, we are involved in the most important task of all. The lobby of Parliament on

January 26 will mark a great step forward in the struggle and experience of the working class in defeating its false reformist leadership on the road to struggle for power against capitalism.

broke through into Matabeleland. In September he built forts on Lobengula's flank in Salisbury, Victoria and Charter. In April 1891 the British

land as a 'Protectorate'. sistance had been sporadic, but in

armed form. Rhodes' armies won bloody

Lobengula dynamited his camp

plunder the land. He began to carve out reserves for the Africans, gave out free land to his troops and 'settlers', and the rest was declared Crown Land. Jameson was made 'Chief' of the Matabele.

At the same time that Lobengula was dying, Rhodes gave a victory thanksgiving at the Cape Town city hall in which he gave special thanks to the missionaries for 'the unanimous support of the religious denominations in Mashonaland-religious denominations representing the Church of England, the Roman Catholics, the Wesleyians, and, if I might

He praised Moffat who had blessed Rhodes' land-robbing army with these words: 'Your men go as liberators to do the vork of the Aborigine Protection Society.'

The church, which paved the way for British imperialism into Rhodesia is now not less active in trying to preserve British hegemony in Rhodesia by subverting the vital struggle to drive Britain out of Zambia and Rhodesia into 'constitutional channels'.

1896 REBELLION

The British drove the Africans off mineral lands, rich in loam soil, impoverished their farms, slaughtered their cattle under the pretext of rinderpest, shot down in cold blood women demonstrators who refused to have their cattle destroyed, and rounded up the people as if they were cattle for compulsory labour service.

The murder of the women sparked off the rebellion in March 1896. It had been well planned and timed to take place during Jameson's absence on the absurd 'Jameson raid'.

British troops received the order: 'Shoot down natives indiscriminately.'

In May the Boy Scout founder, Baden-Powell, took the field together with Rhodes against the Matabele. After tremendous losses, the chiefs were disarmed and, after two negotiations, 'peace' (70 years of Crown colony war) was signed in August 1896.

The neighbouring Mashona tribal resistance continued for yet a further year, before being subdued by machine-guns and the use of treacherous African troops. Officially, 8,000 Mashonas were killed by the British in crushing this heroic rebellion.

SLAVE COLONY

By 1888 it was all over. The British resumed their land plunder, forced labour, cattle-culling, land Acts, introduced hut, poll and wife-taxes to 'smoke' the people out of the reserves to slave for the farmers and mining companies, made the 'white man boss', introduced colour bars at most levels, starved the Africans of education and Rhodesia be-

came what Plomer once called: 'This land where an acre of gold is worth a thousand souls, and a reef of shining dust is worth half a people, and the vultures are heavy with man's

'Stabbed in the back'

-allege bakers

Rank-and-file bakers must call

their leaders to account for this

The union's annual conference

Members must make it plain

is to be put forward to a date

early in January, in place of the

that such 'blow hot, blow cold'

tactics will no longer be tolerated.

Either the leadership must be

prepared to reflect the militancy

of members and fight for their

interests, or they must make way

for another leadership which will

Birmingham

Newsletter Correspondent

bakery workers 'in their present

struggle to achieve a reason-

able rate throughout the in-

dustry' was unanimously passed

at the Birmingham Trades

Council meeting on December

The resolution further rejected

all suggestions that this should

mean an increase in price of bread

in view of the 'large profits made

official of the Bakery Workers'

Union, in moving the resolution

We have no faith whatsoever

in the Prices and Incomes Board.

Nor are we prepared to concede

He and other delegates severely

attacked the role of Economics

Minister, Brown, and Minister of

Labour, Gunter, in their intervention against the bakery workers'

Childs commented: 'If this is to

be the pattern of the future, the

£51m. PROFITS

combines - Garfield and Weston,

were given totalling £51,000,000

'Where are the so-called fruits of

'Five years ago nine men pro-

duced 1,300 loaves per hour.

Today, seven men produce over

4,000 loaves per hour. Yet we

have a paltry £11 10s. per week

threatened against the bakers and

the attempts to force them to put

their claim before the Incomes

Board showed how correct the

Trades Council was in opposing

the Prices and Incomes Board

'This Board is nothing but an

Whilst this debate was proceed

It dealt with the political

responsibility of all members

of the Socialist Labour League

to study and fight for the per-

The political report stressed

that the perspectives of a

revolutionary party flow from a

study of the development of

the class struggle. This does

not mean that a party working

correctly can avoid crises and

develop through conflicts - pro-

vided they are consciously under-

stood. Activity alone is in-

sufficient. It is necessary to

understand and learn from this

Experience has to be linked

with a study of developments in

On the contrary it can only

spectives of the party.

right from the beginning.

employers' Board,' he said.

leadership.

activity.

Another delegate said the actions

Rank-McDougal and Spillers-

automation?' one delegate asked.

Profits of the three main flour

best way to political suicide.'

our right to strike to anyone.'

demands.

Brother Childs, area union

by the miller-bakery combines'.

RESOLUTION pledging

maximum support for the

Trades

Council

supports

bakers

By Sylvia Pick

WE have been stabbed in the back.' This was the verdict of rank-and-file bakers on last Friday's (December 3) announcement of the calling off of their campaign of strikes to win a decent living wage.

On November 28, in Birmingham, their leaders rejected

latest act.

normal June meeting.

George Brown's request that the bakers' claim be such as confectionery. referred to the Prices and Incomes Board.

They declared there would be a national strike by midnight December 7, unless the employers entered negotiations for an interim pay settlement of £1.

Five days later the strike was called off and the claim referred to the Board. The demand for the £1 interim increase had been dropped.

The strike was called off after a meeting between the bakers' leaders and Ray Gunter, Minister of Labour. The bakers' leaders announced that it had been accepted 'because as trade unionists we do not want to fight the government'.

Bakers throughout the country were solid and militant in support of their claim for a wage increase to a basic £15 for a 40-hour week.

Such was the militancy of the rank and file that their leaders were pushed into showing fight in the early stages of the struggle.

There was immense public support for the bakers' case. Television interviewers had found it virtually impossible to get any man or woman in the street to condemn the strikes. Tory newspapers had dropped all attempt to work up public indignation on behalf of 'the

SATISFIED?

It is reported that Gunter 'hinted' to the leaders that the bakers might get their interim increase at the end of the year. Is the executive satisfied with the Minister of Labour's hints?

Naturally enough Gunter and George Brown are highly gratified by what has happened.

It has been hailed as a 'personal success' for Cunter. Brown has praised the 'public

spirit' shown by the leaders in calling off the threatened strike and referring the claim to his

The union executive has made much of the fact that they shrink from fighting 'their' government.

But if a Labour government ranges itself on the side of the employers by intervening through the Board to hold back wage increases, then every claim for better wages must inevitably in-

volve 'fighting the government'. Shock and profound disgust have been felt by Midland bakers, among the most militant in the

Mr. D. J. Daniels, union secretary of the large Wimbush bakery branch at Small Heath, Birmingham, said workers were 'swarming round like ants bitterly protesting' when they heard the first news of the strike being called off.

Their indignation was the greater in view of the fact that the previous night at the Birmingham Trades Council there had been solid support by all unions for the bakers' struggle, including offers of financial sup-

It had been roundly declared that 'if a Labour government doesn't do its job satisfactorily, then it deserves to have its

behind caned'. ing the top union leaders of the Bakers also say that though the bakers were, in fact, 'reluctantly' price of bread has been frozen for agreeing that the bakers' claim three months on the recommengo to the Board. dation of the Board, in fact, employers have been raising the prices of many bakery products,

THE Yorkshire Area Con-I ference of the Socialist Resolution Labour League, held in Shefon Vietnam field last week, discussed the serious problem of the development of a revolutionary

THE following resolution was passed by the Southampton University Socialist Society at a meeting re-

cently. 'The Southampton University Socialist Society condemns the war in Vietnam as being an imperialist war, carried on by world capitalism against a section of the world working and peasant class.

'We condemn American-led world capitalist intervention in Vietnam as being a blow struck by world capitalism against the oncoming world proletarian socialist revolution. As socialists we fully support the great fight that the vanguard of the Vietnamese workers and peasants are carrying out against world capitalism.

'We fully support the fight of the Vietcong. This Socialist Society says Victory to the Vietcong—as soon as possible.

SHOWDOWN ON DOCKS CANNOT BE

Industrial News etter

9,000 face rent increases in Islington

Newsletter Reporter

TWO months after it was claimed Housing Minister Richard L Crossman told Islington tenants they need not worry about rent increases, 9,000 families living in council dwellings have been told their rents will go up in April.

As little as a week ago Crossman announced that there were plans for government subsidies

to local councils. Islington Council, however, has said that if rents do not go up, the housing account will be £900,000 in the red by 1967.

A council representative stated this week that the rents would not be affected by the new subsidies and that they would still have to go up.



Crossman: accused of misleading tenants

The Minister, he said, has made it clear that the subsidies should not be used to keep rents low.

Islington Borough Council Tenants' Rents Protest Association has accused the Housing Minister of 'misleading' them and giving 'false hopes' at a

meeting in September. Crossman, they allege, told them not worry about rent increases because they might be pegged by his plan for

Now, Crossman has told the Islington Council that this claim is 'not entirely accurate'.

Faced council

Islington tenants have already faced their local council with the issue of rent increases -in August this year. At that time they were being ordered by the council to pay increases of up to 38s.—the first amount to be paid then and the second stage to be paid in April next

Leaders of the tenants' movement at that time laid the blame for the increases on the alleged 'incompetence of the Islington councillors to run the finances of the Borough'.

That, however, is hiding the

Islington tenants must follow the demands made by the Lambeth Trades Council (see story front page).

Support others

They must support the fight of tenants in other areas and not see rent rises as being the shortcomings of this or that council. To do that is to divide the struggle into local areas.

The question of housing is a national one. The fact that rents go up is directly linked to the drive for more profit by the leading building industries—it is these monopolies which the tenants' councils must be forced to wage a struggle

increasing use of 'labour-only'*

sub-contractors, and the de-

monstration will take place at

the same time as a building

firm - Emerald Construction

Co.—is seeking an injunction

in the High Court against three

officials of the union - the

General Secretary, G. Lowthian,

the Mersey District Secretary,

[. Cousins and the District

The injunction is meant to re-

strain members of the AUBTW

from officially picketing a building

There, at the Fiddlers Ferry

power station, the AUBTW have

been in dispute with Higgs and

* A system whereby an outside

firm merely supplies the men to

Hill since last June over the

Organiser, Jack Rogers.

site near Warrington.

Have they got to go to the docker and tell him they have nothing?

POSTPONED

From Bill Hunter

result of the Devlin Report-cannot be long delayed.

modernisation committee reported in the press last

week-end. The committee is reported to have withdrawn

the second issue of its broadsheet after 70,000 copies

were already printed and ready to be circulated to dockers

broadsheet was withdrawn after union leaders objected

to a statement in it by Lord Brown-Labour peer and

businessman, appointed by the government as chairman

According to last Monday's 'Financial Times', the

this week.

of the committee.

He had implied that the

modernisation committee had

wage of £18 a week for dockers.

Breaking point

mand was for £15 10s. and re-

vealed that the negotiations

over this were near breaking

Union leaders panicked

because they are afraid of

the reaction of dockers to

Lord Brown's statement.

They are afraid it will

heighten the demand for

the £18 and make the

opposition to Devlin

sharper among the dock-

Now that present wage

negotiations are breaking down,

the union leadership are in a

A circular issued by the district

committee of the AUBTW dec-

lares that there is only one

reason for the firms intention to

employ 'labour-only' and 'that is

to break down the traditional

organisation that has existed on

The attempt to obtain an in-

junction is seen by building wor-

kers as another attack on the

It is expected there will be a

100 per cent stoppage of AUBTW

members on Friday and that they

will be joined by a large number

of workers from other building

Building workers who want to

continue the fight against the

attempts to shackle the unions

legally should also join the de-

monstration and lobby of Labour

MPs on January 26, called by the

Lambeth Trades Council.

Merseyside builders

to march through

Liverpool

Newsletter Correspondent

Friday, December 17, and march through Liverpool.

The demonstration has been called by the Mersey District

Committee of the Amalgamated Union of Building Trades

This is in protest against the employment of 'labour-only' sub-

Merseyside'.

legal rights of unions.

ERSEYSIDE building workers are to stop work on

docks modernisation committee—set up as a

That is what is behind the crisis on the national

already ruled out a minimum That would mean breaking from the modernisation committee and organising a fight.

There must be some other The union leaders' response way. So, it is reported, they to this statement certainly does are calling on Gunter, the not mean that they support the Minister of Labour. £18 demand. The 'Sunday Mirror' reported that their de-

Union officials must have known that wage talks were near a breakdown; didn't they know, in any case, that even if they got concessions from the employers those concessions would be nowhere near rankand-file demands?

Not logical

Thus, is it not logical to assume that the aim was to prevent any independent struggle for wages and to keep the wages movement safely in official hands?

The union leaders are angry with Brown because he broke the rule: 'Keep it dark until we get it sewn up.

If they find it difficult to 'sew it up' now it is because they are now coming right to the tough heart of their problem.

They are coming closer to the point where they have to directly attack the dockersattack 'restrictive practices', manning scales, the 'welt', and operate the plans for mechanisation.

So they face exposing what without being able to sugar the pill with a few concessions.

An accounting

These leaders must be brought to book. 'Blue' and 'White' dockers must immediately demand an accounting from them. Lift the iron curtain which surrounds the modernisation committee and the wage negotiations!

There can be no illusions now as to the nature of these modernisation committees and the role of trade unionists who sit on them.

Dockers can have only one demand in regard to them: pull the union leaders off the national committee and refuse to participate in the regional committees!

Break the unions from the modernisation committee! Unity for a real fight for

wages and nationalization with workers' control!

growing support for the paper. In this way we make the poli-

There was a long, serious discussion about the election of the Yorkshire Area Committee of the Socialist Labour League.

A place on the League's leading committees is not a reward for hard work and devotion. The test of leadership is the ability

This was far from being a com-

League has mobilised workers and youth on demonstrations and campaigns - both nationally and locally-in a way that no other political organisation in Britain can approach. Nevertheless, the emphasis at

the Yorkshire conference was on a rigorous examination of the difficulties and problems of the

The conference was a serious step forward in the creation of a revolutionary leadership

SHOWDOWN between the dockers and the HOUSING POLICY...

From page 1

'It nowhere mentions the high interest rates, the fantastic price of land, the extortionate private rents which are driving all workers-not only immigrantsto seek ever-cheaper anad more crowded accommodation.'

The Trades Council statement added that the borough council document does not mention the profits which add to the cost of building and building materials.

Yet the council was aware of these things and two months ago had imposed substantial rent increases on council tenants, to reduce the Housing Revenue Account deficit.

The Trades Council statement added: 'While the government is preparing to support the profits of the banks and monopolies in their crisis by a wage freeze enforced by laws against the trade unions, the Borough Council conceals the burdens imposed by these same banks and monopolies.

Immigrants blamed

'While the government strengthens the Immigration Act and blames immigrant workers for the effects of its actions and the actions of big business, the Lambeth borough council blames Commonwealth immigration for its housing problem."

The borough council document could very well lead to race riots between white and coloured tenants who are desperate for houses, the statement adds. 'Its talk of the "redistribution

of the population" . . . is reminiscent of the South African Apartheid regime,' it says. The Trades Council demands

that the local council:

Does not disperse immigrant

Opens its financial records for tenants to see the profits paid to the banks, landowners and building industry.

Refuse to pay high interest rates. Use the money for housing.

empty an occupied property to ease housing shortage. Campaign for municipalisa-

tion of all property, except owner-occupied, and nationalization of the land, banks, basic industries. ● Do all building by direct

labour.

Publish the Minutes of a meeting on March 31, 1965, with the Joint Parliamentary Secretary of State, Department of Economic Affairs and Mr. Robert Mellish MP, also the meetings of June 22 and July 20.

Right wing fear lobby

THE fear of the right-wing dominated executive committee of allowing an Amalgamated Engineering Union resolution giving support to the Lambeth Trades Council lobby against trade union legislation and the linking of this with such struggles as the Bakery Workers' Union was fully revealed at the Birmingham Trades Council on December 2. The EC had not put this AEU

resolution on the agenda on the grounds that it was 'controver-A fight was made on a refer-

ence back but was lost.

A letter was read by the Trades Council secretary from the Trades Union Congress to Lambeth Trades Council asking them not to proceed further with their lobby until the TUC Trades Council Joint Consultative Committee had investigated the matter at a meeting to be held on December 13.

Obviously all these moves are feeble attempts to stop working class action against anti-trade union legislation.

If union members fall into the trap of allowing these 'procedures' to stop them seeing the real issues, heavy blows will descend in the near future.

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Revolutionary leadership the important question at Yorkshire area conference

the class struggle and in this way Marxism must be developed.

The Russian Revolution of 1917 was the beginning of the international working-class re-

Since that date workers and peasants throughout the world have been engaged in repeated revolutionary struggles against imperialism.

Capitalism has been able to survive only because of the socialdemocratic leaders, who, since the destruction of the Communist International by Stalin, have misled the working class by the policies of socialism in one country, peaceful co-existence and parlia-

mentary roads to socialism. The conference recognised that the bankruptcy of the old socialdemocratic leadership did not mean that the working class would accept new leaders easily. All who claim to be leaders

would be carefully tested out by

the working class.

In particular, the British work-

ing class would hesitate before accepting revolutionary leadership because it carried a weight of non-revolutionary political tradition on its back.

It is this which enables the revisionists, who adapt to the existing bureaucratic apparatus, to exert a conservative influence on the working class.

HESITATION

Any hesitation by the Marxists in building up the youth movement, any refusal to develop Marxist theory, any failure to fight politically for the programme of the Socialist Labour League, reinforces this hesitation in the working class.

The conference stressed that the building of a powerful

Marxist youth movement remains in the forefront of the work of the Socialist Labour League. The struggle of the youth against the right wing and the fake lefts nad been the most advanced stage of the struggle against social democracy.

The conference decided to support the campaign for the January 26 lobby against antitrade union legislation. The support that has been won should not stop at resolutions but should be translated into action.

It is also necessary to increase the circulation of The Newsletter and build up support for its policies amongst the working

The paper must be used to penetrate the contradictions revealed by developments such as the Rhodesian crisis, which created a split inside the Communist Party, and the situation

in the coalfields where there is tical preparation for the launching of a daily communist news-

to develop others politically.

placent conference. During the last year the Socialist Labour

organisation.

By Newsletter Reporter