

VOICE of REVOLUTION

20p

**WORKERS OF ALL
COUNTRIES UNITE !**



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In continuation of RED PATRIOT

MARXIST-LENINIST WEEKLY

ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF IRELAND (MARXIST-LENINIST)

MASS MOBILISATION TO STOP THE FASCIST CRIMINAL JUSTICE BILL!

The weekend of September 14th/16th sees Days of Action being organised to mobilise the masses of democratic people against the Criminal Justice Bill as it comes before the new session of the Dail.

"Voice of Revolution" calls on the working class and all democratic people to participate militantly in this important struggle in defence of the democratic rights and judicial liberties, which the Irish people fought so hard to establish in the past, at the cost of so many generations of self-sacrifice, and which the national traitors of today -- all the bourgeois parties in the "Free" State Dail, both government and opposition, are striving to abolish with this new draconian bill.

The bourgeoisie - as represented by all these parties, whether Fine Gael, Labour, Fianna Fail or Workers' Party - have spent recent years in constant propaganda efforts to whip up hysteria that: "Some-
Contd on P.2 - CJB

MAJOR FASCIST MEASURES OF THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE BILL :

- 1) The Bill is designed to deprive the people of the right to be considered and treated as innocent until proven guilty. The Bill gives gardai unrestricted powers of arrest on the sole basis of "reasonable suspicion" against the citizen, in the case of "serious offences", and abolished the obligation of the gardai to lay definite charges to justify arrest.
- 2) This Bill is designed to deprive people of many existing rights while under arrest and during interrogation, in particular by abolishing the "right to silence"; and this measure still applies (even after amendments) to "suspicion of committing serious offences", despite the government's deceptive claims about the amendments. In addition, the gardai are given a carte blanche to exercise duress, from threats to torture, to extract signatures to false statements, as well as providing the inducement of immunity for the accused where he/she is prepared to inform on others - in other words inducement to perjury as is the case in the current informer cases of British colonialism in the north.
- 3) The Bill is to deprive defendents of many existing rights during trial, for instance by ending the existing "benefit of the doubt" by abolishing the necessity for unanimous jury verdicts, and substituting majority verdicts, as well as giving the state prosecution new rights of access to the defence case prior to the trial, such as alibis, which stacks court procedure still more strongly in favour of the state and against the individual defendent.
- 4) The Bill provides for still more severe jail sentences etc. including mandatory sentences for certain "serious offences", than the already severe penalties.

PROGRAMME OF MASS MOBILISATION

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14th -- Trade Union DAY OF ACTION throughout 26 Counties

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 15th - DAY OF MASS PROTEST throughout 26 counties

11am -- Pickets on local garda stations

2.30 pm DUBLIN DEMONSTRATION assemblies at Store Street Garda Stn. by Busaras, for march via Pearse Street Garda Station to conclude at Mountjoy Jail.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th -- Dublin Inner City "Festival of Freedom".

Contd. from P.1 -- CJB

thing must be done to stop the crime wave" !

They have been pointing to the actual facts about the seriously increasing rates of social crime and then distorting these facts to claim that these statistics are due to "legal protections to the rights of law-abiding citizens being abused as a license to crime by the criminal fraternity and a loophole to evade justice". They have demanded the abolition or at least the curtailment of important democratic civil rights and legal protections for all citizens so as to "give the gardai and the courts the wherewithal to combat crime and bring the criminal to justice".

But the propaganda of the bourgeoisie, of the rich and their political parties, the garda representative associations etc., are all a lie and a deception to disarm the ordinary working people, who are the main victims of social crime. It is to persuade, cajole and intimidate the people into accepting the increasing fascism of the state. It is to force the people to accept fascist powers which are for use against the ordinary working people themselves, and not to solve crime itself.

The truth about the real intentions behind this fascist Criminal Justice Bill can only be brought into daylight by stripping away the rhetoric of the bourgeoisie's "campaign against crime". The question that has to be asked is : what is the true cause of social crime and its increase these days, and who is responsible? Is it the existence of some "criminal fraternity able to abuse judicial liberties"? No, the basis of social crime lies in the very nature of the capitalist system itself. The basis is in the poverty and barbarism forced on the ordinary working people. The massive increase in social crime these days is caused by the escalating hardship and suffering being inflicted on the working people under the ever deepening crisis of capitalism and imperialism, mass unemployment and so on. The capitalist class, the bourgeoisie, is directly responsible for the



system of capitalism. It is they who profit from the exploitation of the people. They grow rich by forcing greater poverty on the working people. It is their greed for maximum profit which has brought about this crisis and mass unemployment to impose even worse conditions on the workers, lower wages, still more redundancies to increase profits etc.

As to the minority of hardened gangsters, this "criminal fraternity" is in fact protected by the bourgeoisie. These criminals have direct links to the bourgeoisie themselves, witness the manner in which a leading drug peddler was enabled to abscond right in the middle of his court case and get scot free out of the country recently, back to his villa in Spain or wherever. The police actually work hand in glove with this "criminal fraternity", whom from time to time they pick up for minor trials to keep up appearances, but with whom they have common interests in prostitution rackets, drug rings and the proceeds of robberies etc. A recent case exposed a garda actually running a brothel, others pocketing parking fines, but this is only the tip of the iceberg of the involvement of the police in organised crime. The police, as they learnt from the British imperialists, use these gangsters as a source of information in the community for their real concern -- the intimidation of the youth and the protection of capitalism against the resistance of the masses to exploitation, against the just patriotic struggle and the social revolution.

There can be no hope of protection of the democratic rights, civil and judicial liberties from the bourgeois parties in the Dail. The so-called "debate" and "criticism" of this Bill, from various quarters in the Dail only demonstrated what a charade, is played out in the Dail, what a conspiracy between government and "opposition" goes on to deprive the people of their rights. The amendments which the Minister of Justice Noonan, finally agreed to, in order to "reduce the severity of the Bill" have actually increased the fascist powers of the gardai in most cases, for instance by granting immunity to the police against prosecution for the use of intimidation or even torture to extract confessions and statements, even when this is proved by defence in the court. Furthermore, such "evidence" extracted by such torture, even where duress is proved in court, must now be allowed to stand as evidence according to one of these "liberalising" amendments".

The Bill is in particular an attack against the youth. In the original version of the Bill the full severity of all the draconian police powers were to be used against anyone over the age of "criminal responsibility" -- i.e. over 7 years of age. Now, by a "liberalising amendment" this is raised to 12 years of age. But this has only been a cynical manoeuvre from the beginning, to give an appearance that the government was "open to reason". The objective has always been from the first to be able to hit at teenage youth in any case, as well as young

adults.

The purpose of the Criminal Justice Bill has been to furnish the "Free" State with greater Fascist powers to suppress the working people who are resisting against the crisis, to help the government force the workers to pay the burden of the crisis. It is to complement the Offences Against the State fascist legislation. These permanent "emergency powers", designed to suppress the just patriotic movement against British imperialism, in support of the people of the north etc, has the draw-back of exposing the dictatorship of this class of national traitors, the capitalists, behind the facade of "bourgeois democracy". But the bourgeoisie need similar fascist powers to force the workers to bear the burden of the crisis, to crush the mass struggles of the people, to suppress the youth and so on. The bourgeoisie has seized on the rising rate of social crime, for which they themselves are actually directly responsible. Concealing their own truly criminal role, they are using the "crime wave" as a means of blackmail to impose the kind of fascist powers for the police and the courts which they want at this time.

The working class and all democratic people must get organised to fight the fascism of the exploiters and their "Free" State in order to defend their democratic rights. Under capitalism, even such democratic rights as the people have won are completely reduced to a dead letter in practice. This is the universal experience of the working people. But this only emphasises the absolute necessity to fight in defence of democratic rights to bring nearer the day when democracy of a purely formal kind is made into a reality by the social revolution and the attainment of political power and the abolition of class exploitation.



Organ of the
Revolutionary Communist Party
of Britain (Marxist-Leninist)

Available from :

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SUPPORT ESB WORKERS' JUST STRUGGLE

Workers in the ESB are waging an important struggle in defence of their rights and against the policy of this semi-state company, backed by the government, to impose new working conditions by company dictate.

The strike began towards the end of July, when the ESB attempted to impose a new system of shift relief on the workers at Poolbeg power station in Dublin. The question of how relief work should be manned and paid for has been the subject of long standing disagreement of several years between the company and the workers, with the company attempting to use the phasing out of nearby Ringsend power station and the question of providing alternative employment for its workforce as a weapon to blackmail the shift workers in Poolbeg to accept new conditions for shift relief.

But the issue at stake in this strike is NOT, as the company and the mass media who provide propaganda for the bourgeoisie and the state are trying to make out, the question of how the Ringsend workers are to be absorbed into new jobs, nor how shift relief should be best provided. The real issue is that the company, in IMPOSING unjust new conditions on the workers, have "suspended from the payroll" some 11 workers who justly refused to accept the company dictate, and have "laid off" (i.e. sacked) another 39 workers for standing by their fellow workers who are being directly victimised.

The strike which started at Poolbeg and now involves some 8 power stations in Dublin and other parts of the south, is a matter of defending workers against the dictatorship of the employers and against unjust sackings and victimisation. Workers throughout ESB are rallying to defend their comrades on the basis of the proletarian principle "An injury to one is an injury to all ! All for one and one for all " !

As in all disputes in the electricity and power industry, where the interests of the capitalists are so immediately and widely affected, but where

also millions of ordinary people are also immediately affected by any disruption of supply as consumers, the bourgeoisie and the government are exerting maximum propaganda efforts through the mass media that they own and control to discredit and isolate the ESB workers and crush their just resistance.

In fact it may well be the case that this new attack on ESB workers has been deliberately provoked and orchestrated by the company in league with the government, through the enormous "personnel department" of the ESB, as has been so often the case in the past. This "personnel department" is an old-hand at trouble-shooting and gangster tactics, skilled in the techniques of propaganda warfare.

An example of this was the recent "release" of so-called information about the wages and overtime earnings of shift-workers in Poolbeg, designed to cast the workers at the centre of the dispute in the role of selfish money grabbers who are trying to keep the other workers out of a job in order to protect inflated overtime. This has always been the black propaganda tactics of the bourgeoisie against ESB workers - to entirely distort the true picture of the earnings and living standards of workers in electricity supply and turn other workers against them.

What about the truly lavish salaries, pensions and perks of the functionaries of the bourgeoisie such as the politicians, and the massive profits of the capitalists ? The ESB shift workers have jobs which require considerable training, involve difficult working hours and responsibility, providing a fundamental production for the community and industry as a whole. But the bourgeoisie and their politicians are nothing but a class of parasites, who leech on the working class and contribute absolutely nothing in return for ill-gotten REAL WEALTH. The fact that other sections of workers, as well as the masses of unemployed, work and live at lower standards than shift workers in the ESB only goes to show how rotten is the lot (next page)

Contd. from P.3 ESB STRIKE.

imposed on the working class as a whole, not that ESB workers are "well off", which is not the case anyway.

And the cause of this present strike is a good example. What are the ESB and government trying to do? No, it is not to "provide alternative employment" to workers in a power station which has been phased out. It is to attack the workers in one of the most modern and highly productive power stations, Poolbeg, so as to force them to accept LOWER WAGES, and then use this to force other workers throughout the ESB to accept similar reductions in earning and wages.

The workers in ESB, just as in all other jobs, never chose the system of overtime. It has been imposed on them, and has become essential to bring wages for the flat week of 40 hours up to decent standards. Overtime has been a means by the bourgeoisie to increase profits by avoiding employing sufficient workers and saving wages, by saving the cost of employing extra workers, saving the costs of the employers' obligations to part-payment of social insurance, facilities for the workers etc. Overtime has been a means of maximising exploitation of the workers and keeping wages to a minimum.

Now the employers want to cut overtime in the recession, there is no question of raising wages to compensate. Why should workers be forced to cut their living standards to suit the profit-making greed of the capitalists? This is nothing but the policy of the capitalists and the government to make the workers pay for the crisis which is of the capitalists own making.

These are the real issues at stake, once again, in the ESB and the workers are right to resist this unjust attempt to cut their wages and living standards. And the justness of their case is irrefutable, as can be seen from the practice of the company orchestrated through the bourgeois press and state mass media, who are trying to distort and cover up these, the real issues at stake in this strike, and cast the workers in the role of selfish trouble makers.

The ESB workers have increasingly rallied to their colleagues the shift workers; and now the company and government tactics to isolate the shift workers are becoming increasingly exposed, they are striving to create disunity to split the workers by floating vicious rumours that "other unions are unwilling to pledge their support to the strike because they consider this is a strike to preserve overtime and prevent employment of more workers". The employers and the government are turning to their allies within the working class movement the labour aristocracy and their representatives who control the trade unions, to assist them split the workers within the ESB and isolate the ESB workers from their class brothers and sisters throughout the working class, including the unemployed. They are also bringing into play all the social-democratic paraphernalia of "impartial mediators", such as Professor Basil Chubb of Trinity College (actually a tried and tested agent of the bourgeoisie) and the "impartial" Employer Labour Council etc. But there is nothing "impartial", nothing to provide a "settlement which is beneficial to both sides even if this means concession on both sides", in these devices.

The ESB workers still have an uphill struggle to fight to defend their rights and prevent the company and the government imposing lower wages and increased exploitation, especially against the blackmail of "helping out their fellow workers with jobs who are endangered by redundancy", the deceptions of "impartial" and "conciliation" talks etc.

The workers must persist and strengthen their unity in struggle for their rights, wages and for jobs. They can never accept this blackmail that it is "those in employment who are keeping those being phased out from having jobs". It is the bourgeoisie and the capitalist system, particularly the crisis which their greed has caused which is to blame. The workers must fight now in order to fit the class for its historic role in ending capitalism itself, by which exploitation and unemployment will be ended also, along with the abolition of the exploiting and parasitical

bourgeois class, with the establishment of socialism and the rule of the working class.

MAKE THE RICH PAY FOR THE CRISIS !

Coming Dublin-London Summit

It has been announced that a summit meeting between the "Free" State and British government has been set for Dublin in November.

Ostensibly such a summit is to discuss the Report of the New Ireland Forum and "how to resolve the problems in Northern Ireland", "end violence" and so on. But whilst the next stage of manoeuvres between the British and "Free" State governments may be cast in this favourable light, this far from the truth, and these governments can never have at heart the good interests of the Irish people, their well being, peace in our country or good neighbourly relations between the people of Britain and Ireland.

The fundamental thing is that both these governments and states are capitalist. They represent the interests of a tiny parasitical class of exploiters, the monopoly bourgeoisie. Relations between them, while they have their contradictions over who is to get the spoils of exploitation, how the loot is to be divided etc. in Ireland, are determined by the fundamental facts of the domination of Britain over Ireland as the imperialist power and, at the same time, the common interests of both sets of exploiter - both the foreign aggressors and the national traitors - in maintaining this system of exploitation and forcing the burden of the crisis onto the backs of the people.

Whilst both the Irish bourgeoisie and the British bourgeoisie may have their own angles on how to put down the dangerous (for them) persistent patriotic upsurge in the north over the past 15 years, the salient thing is that both are determined to work together - however vainly - to put this dangerous revolutionary ferment down.

"Voice of Revolution" calls on the Irish people and the working class to get organised for militant mass struggle to oppose the sinister manoeuvres at the planned Dublin summit in November, and escalate the just struggle for re-unification and genuine national independence.

Review

'REFLECTIONS ON THE MIDDLE EAST'

The July 11th - 14th issue of the Albanian Telegraphic Agency carries an article on the new book by Comrade Enver Hoxha entitled "Reflections on the Middle East". The article entitled "Profound Scientific Analysis of the Great Political Problems of the Middle East" reads :

The communists, cadres and our working masses, and the scholars of different political, historical and social fields, have received with special interest and are reading Comrade Enver Hoxha's new book "reflections on the Middle East". This book, through notes, outlines for articles, analyses and general reviews which are drawn from the "Political Diary" of the author and

and which belong to the period from 1958 to the end of 1983, makes a scientific Marxist - Leninist analysis of the great political problems of the time which are linked with the Arab and non-Arab peoples of the two continents Africa and Asia, and with what is called the "Middle East crisis" in the international arena. They reflect some of the moments and major events, the imperialist and inhuman activities of the superpowers and Israel, as well as aspects of the heroic struggles of the Arab Palestinian people, of the other Arab peoples, and the Afghan and Iranian peoples against the plots of the two superpowers.

From the very first pages the book "Reflections on the Middle East" is interesting for it reflects completely, accurately and with scientific objectiveness the major political, economic and social events during the last 25 years, and it contains profound analyses and important conclusions and teachings. Following the events that have taken place in the Middle East and writing about them in the moments when they have occurred, the author makes an all-round analysis of them based on historical materialism and the fundamental principles of Marxism-Leninism, discovers the internal and external causes, their complexity and interconnection, and makes assessments and predictions, the accuracy of which have been fully confirmed by the development of events in



Enver Hoxha, First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania.

subsequent periods and have real value.

In this new book by Comrade Enver Hoxha the reader will find correct answers as to why so many wars have been waged in that region of the world within a relatively short period; how the Middle East crisis has today assumed such large proportions that, as to the dangers and consequences inherent in it, it influences the entire world situation; what has transformed the Middle East into an extremely hot bed of endless conflicts; who are the open and secret enemies of the Arab peoples; and on a series of other acute political issues.

Throwing light on many facts and events, Comrade Enver Hoxha dwells in detail on those capital problems that have worried and worry the peoples of the Middle East, and all the world. First of all, he discovers the real causes of the explosive situation in this region, the roots of the conflicts in the Arab world where, just from 1948-83, some wars have been waged. There has been almost one war, and even two wars, within a decade, as were those of 1967 and 1973. Twice in succession, in 1958 and 1983, the United States of America used its military strength to occupy Lebanon.

Comrade Enver Hoxha denounces powerfully and all-sidedly the hostile, anti-Arab and expansionist policy of Israel and international Zionism. The

same violent and all-sided exposure is also made of the anti-Arab and pro-Israel policy of the imperialist powers which, in order to realise their interests, just like in the past, now, too, stop at nothing to realise the aims of grabbing from the Arab peoples their national freedom and independence, and first of all the oil.

As Comrade Enver Hoxha points out, "the American and British imperialists and the revisionist traitors are in diplomatic movement, All of them are waving the olive branch, all "wailing" about the defence of the freedom and independence of the peoples, all of them writing and sending telegrams and messages to this address or to that, but all of them hide the truth that, with all this deafening clamour, the American, British and French imperialists, the Soviet revisionists, the Titoites and the others, are defending nothing but their own dirty interests to the detriment of the Arab peoples".

The content and true aims of the global strategy of American imperialism in the Middle East pursued by all the American Presidents before, during and after the second world war, down to President Reagan, the unprecedented arrogance of the United States of America which has proclaimed and treats the Middle East a sphere of its national interests, as its domain, are profoundly and all-sidedly analysed. In this context, he uncovers the "new" forms and

methods worked out in the White House to put into the orbit of American imperialism not none or two, but all the countries lying from Morocco to Iran.

Comrade Enver Hoxha explains and substantiates the aims of the shuttles, the step by step policy, of the US diplomatic missionaries in the Middle East who "cooked" the Camp David accords, which did not and could not bring peace or solve even a part of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The main reason for it can be found by the reader through a number of writings where he sees what place and role Israel has played and plays in the framework of the general anti-Arab strategy of U.S. imperialism, what efforts the United States of America has made and continues to make in order to ensure "secure borders" - that is, borders which include all Arab territories occupied through armed force - for its pistol in this region. The basis of the American-Israeli friendship, the political, economic and military alliances between them, has always been and still is their common hostility and wars against the Arab peoples. This friendship and alliance with the same anti-Arab aims is rooted in the motives and interests from which the United States of America and all its allies have proceeded in creating Israel. "No aims based on altruism or national sentiments impelled the British or American imperialists to create the state of Israel. Their aims were linked with their predatory economic and strategic interests in the Middle East, to preserve their basis and to have a centre of diversion amongst the Arab States".

Besides the open support of U.S. imperialism, Israel has always had the secret aid of the Soviet social imperialists who strive to occupy a place in the sun in the Middle East. Therefore of great current value are the writing in which through many facts and arguments, the policy of the Soviet social imperialists in the Middle East is unmasked. In the outer appearance they pose as "friends" and "saviours" of the Arab peoples, but in essence are not at all such. In the most critical moments, as time has proved, they have

left the Arab peoples, in the lurch and have betrayed them.

Many writings in the book show what features the policy of the Soviet social imperialists has in common with the policy of the American imperialists, what brings these two superpowers together and what has impelled them to collide in fierce and open clashes, before the eyes of the world or behind the scenes, for many years and to trample on the freedom, independence and national and social interests of the impoverished and hard-working peoples of the Middle East. "It is truly", Comrade Enver Hoxha writes, "a great tragedy for a series of Arab peoples in the Middle East that they have long been the prey of American imperialism and Soviet social imperialism. They have been continually caught up in the intrigues of the Warsaw Treaty, represented by the Soviet Union, and of NATO, represented by the United States of America, that aim to have spheres of influence markets and military bases in those countries. The aim of the two superpowers is to keep these peoples divided".

The topics dealt with by Comrade Enver Hoxha are broad and include the main fields of life. They have to do not only with the struggle of the Palestinian people and the Arab peoples against the Israeli aggressors, but also with their struggle for social liberation, with the colossal oil assets, with the very ancient culture of the peoples of the big region of the Middle East.

Of great value for study are the materials which treat the anti-feudal and anti-imperialist uprisings of the peoples of the Middle East - for instance, the heroic struggles of the martyred Palestinian people, the struggle of the Afghan people against the Soviet social imperialist occupiers, the writings which reflect in detail the great values of these peoples in the fields of culture, arts, science philosophy etc., their great contribution to the treasure of world culture.

Likewise of great value are the writings on the energy crisis which has swept over the capitalist-revisionist world, and, in this context,

the role of the countries of the Middle East which are some of the biggest oil producers in the world.

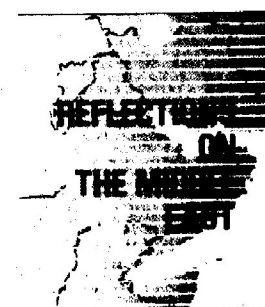
Great and acute problems face all the Middle East peoples who fight to solve them correctly. As it is stressed in the book, the Middle East crisis can never be solved as long as the Palestinian people have not regained their homeland grabbed and martyred by the aggressor Israel, and this will be attained only when all the Arab peoples deal powerful blows to the political economic and military influence of the superpowers and other imperialists powers, and their political and economic influence is finally rejected. Today, the Palestinian people, the Lebanese people, the Afghan people, the Iranian people and all the other Arab and non-Arab peoples of the Middle East are faced first of all not only with the problem of not falling into the traps and plots of the superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union, and Israel, but of establishing and strengthening the real unity inside their ranks to cope with and subdue the united forces of Israel, the U.S. imperialists, the Soviet social imperialists and the local reactionary feudal-bourgeois circles. Only the resolute and uncompromising struggle, based on real Arab unity, will lead them towards the victory of genuine independence and freedom, towards the exploitation Contd. next page

REFLECTIONS ON THE MIDDLE EAST

By

Comrade Enver Hoxha
Now available -- £2. 00
From : P.O. Box 695, Dublin 8

ENVER HOXHA



of their colossal asset, oil in favour of their national and social development and progress.

The materials of the book "Reflections on the Middle East" openly expresses the stands of the Party of Labour of Albania and the Peoples Socialist Republic of Albania on all the problems that have to do with the Middle East crisis, at the time when they have occurred - that is they bear the seal of the time; they deal with the firm principles stands of our country and people in favour of the struggle of the Palestinian people, the other Arab peoples against Israel and the imperialist superpowers, the Iranian people, the Afghan people, the freedom-loving African peoples. These stands are also expressed in many important documents of the Party and state, in different international forums, such as in the UNO etc., where our representatives have defended the struggle and just cause of the fraternal Arab peoples. The esteem and assessments which are contained in this book are further proof of that warm and sincere friendship which has always linked and links the Albanian people with the Arab peoples, and with all the freedom-loving and peace-loving peoples of the world.

Proceeding from concrete facts and events in some materials, Comrade Enver Hoxha expresses his profound grief over the misfortunes and injustices which have been inflicted on these peoples, as well as his great joy over their exemplary struggle for their freedom and national independence, against the occupiers, the savage Israeli, imperialist and social imperialist enemies.

The publication of this book, which has at its centre an important topic of actual interest, one which the two imperialist superpowers, the USA and the Soviet Union, for their predatory political, economic and strategic - military aims, have made one of the most dangerous regions in the world with the greatest tension, constitutes undoubtedly a remarkable political, ideological and scientific event in the life of the country.

CHEMICAL WEAPON DISARMAMENT IS A FRAUD

Only a few months after the two superpowers and other imperialist powers carried out large-scale propaganda that the world was on the verge of an agreement to ban all chemical weapons, officials of the aggressive NATO alliance are calling for the open adoption of chemical warfare plans and the stocking of large quantities of chemical weapons for use in Central Europe. Painting a picture of large Soviet stocks of chemical weapons - reportedly 300,000 tonnes of four kinds of poisonous chemicals - and regular Soviet manoeuvres which include training for operating in the conditions of chemical warfare, the officials called for NATO to "acquire a chemical capability" in order to be able to counter this threat. Among other things, one official declared that even if NATO had adequate warning of a Soviet chemical attack, its troops would be severely hampered by having to wear protective clothing which would greatly restrict their movement, and argued that NATO requires a chemical attack capability in order "to impose the same limitations on them as they do on us". He added: "If the Soviets launched a chemical attack, we would be so handicapped that we would have to go nuclear."

This shows that there is no barbarity which the imperialists and social-imperialists will not attempt to justify under the pretext of "defence", "maintaining the balance" and so on. It also shows that the big fuss raised by the US and the Soviet Union earlier this year about "chemical disarmament" was nothing but a smokescreen to cover up their plans for further development of their plans for chemical warfare. Indeed right on the eve of the Geneva Conference in April, U.S. President Reagan presented his demand to Congress for funding for the production of large quantities of chemical weapons, declaring that this must be accepted in order to provide the U.S. with the necessary "bargaining leverage" in the negotiations. The same

logic was used to justify the deployment of hundreds of intermediate range nuclear missiles in Western Europe, namely that this programme must proceed in order to give NATO bargaining leverage to convince the Soviet Union to reduce the deployment of their missiles aimed at Europe. This concretely demonstrates how the theory of "maintaining the balance" and the superpower bargainings are used to advance the all-sided preparations for imperialist war, which both superpowers and their aggressive alliances are pursuing at an ever-accelerating pace.

At the present time the same scenario is taking place with regard to the militarisation of space. At the same time when both superpowers are preparing programmes of billions and tens of billions of dollars for a massive escalation of the militarisation of space, both of them have been making a big fuss about the necessity to convene a conference on the "demilitarisation" of space.

The peoples cannot be fooled by this demagoguery and have the slightest illusion that the bargainings of those who are the source of the war danger will eliminate or alleviate the war danger. On the contrary they must vigorously develop the mass struggle against the imperialist war preparations and the imperialist system itself.

VOICE OF REVOLUTION

**Marxist-Leninist
weekly**

ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

OF THE

COMMUNIST PARTY OF IRELAND

(MARXIST-LENINIST)

P.O. Box 695 Dublin 8

In continuation of RED PATRIOT

The struggle of class against class must lead to revolution

From : "The Poverty of Philosophy" by Karl Marx

"The first attempts of workers to associate among themselves always take place in the form of combinations.

Large scale industry concentrates in one place a crowd of people unknown to one another. Competition divides their interests. But the maintenance of wages, this common interest which they have against their boss, unites them in common thought of resistance -- combination. Thus combination always has a double aim, that of stopping competition among the workers, so that they can carry on general competition with the capitalist. If the first aim of resistance was merely the maintenance of wages, combinations, at first isolated, constitute themselves into groups as the capitalists in their turn unite for the purpose of repression, and in face of always united capital, the maintenance of the association becomes more necessary to them than that of wages. This is so true that English economists are amazed to see the workers sacrifice a good part of their wages in favour of associations, which, in the eyes of these economists, are established solely in favour of wages. In this struggle -- a veritable civil war -- all the elements necessary for the coming battle unite and develop. Once it has reached this point, association takes on a political character.

Economic conditions had first transformed the mass of the people of the country into workers. The combination of capital has created for this mass a common situation, common interests. This mass is thus already a class as against capital, but not yet for itself. In the struggle, of which we have noted only a few phases, this mass becomes united, and constitutes itself as a class for itself. The interests it defends become class interests. But the struggle of class against class is a political struggle.

In the bourgeoisie we have two phases to distinguish : that in which it constituted

itself as a class under the regime of feudalism and absolute monarchy, and that in which, already constituted as a class, it overthrew feudalism and monarchy to make society into a bourgeois society. The first of these phases was the longer and necessitated the greater efforts. This too began by partial combinations against the feudal lords.

Much research has been carried out to trace the different historical phases that the bourgeoisie has passed through from the commune up to its constitution as a class.

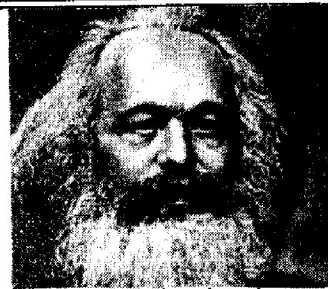
But when it is a question of making a precise study of strikes, combinations and other forms in which the proletarians carry out before our eyes their organisation as a class, some are seized with real fear and others display a transcendental disdain.

An oppressed class is the vital condition for every society founded on the antagonism of classes. The emancipation of the oppressed class thus implies necessarily the creation of a new society. For the oppressed class to be able to emancipate itself it is necessary that the productive powers already acquired and the existing social relations should no longer be capable of existing side by side. Of all the instruments of production, the greatest productive power is the revolutionary class itself. The organisation of revolutionary elements as a class supposes the existence of all the productive forces which could be engendered in the bosom of the old society.

Does this mean that after the fall of the old society there will be a new class domination culminating in a new political power ? No.

The condition for the emancipation of the working class is the abolition of every class, just as the condition for the liberation of the third estate of the bourgeois order, was the abolition of all estates *(see note at end) and all orders.

The working class, in the



course of its development, will substitute for the old civil society an association which will exclude classes and their antagonism, and there will be no more political power properly so-called, since political power is precisely the official expression of antagonism in civil society.

Meanwhile the antagonism between the proletariat and the bourgeoisie is a struggle of class against class, a struggle which carried to its highest expression is a total revolution. Indeed, is it at all surprising that a society founded on the opposition of classes should culminate in brutal contradiction, the shock of body against body, as its final denouement ?

Do not say that social movement excludes political movement. There is never a political movement which is not at the same time social.

It is only in an order of things in which there are no more classes and class antagonisms that social evolutions will cease to be political revolutions. Till then, on the eve of every general reshuffling of society, the last word of social science will always be :

"Le combat ou la mort; la lutte sanguinaire ou le néant. C'est ainsi que la question est invinciblement posée"

George Sand

("Combat or death; bloody struggle or extinction. It is thus that the question is inexorably put" - from "Jean Ziska" - a historical novel by George Sand)

* Note : Estates here in the historical sense of the estates of feudalism, estates with definite and limited privileges. The revolution of the bourgeoisie abolished the estates and their privileges. Bourgeois society knows only classes.