

# WORKERS'

NOVE  
Vol 1

No 7

1977



# NOTICEBOOK

MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE C.W.M.

20p

## CONTENTS

	<u>PAGE</u>
Editorial	1
Lucas	3
Ireland - Divide and Rule	6
Belfast 75	12
Overtime	14
US Bases	17
National Liberation	20
The Chartists	26
Life and Socialism	35
Do You Know	37
The Communist Party Of China	38
Forum for Discussion	39
Song	43
Do You Know	44

Printed by Saltley Action Centre, Birmingham.

# EDITORIAL

£6, 4%, the 12 month rule - and the Social Contract lives on...We allow it to.

What was the bargain struck between Labour Government and Unions all that time ago? In return for wage controls, for workers 'tightening their belts', prices, dividends and unemployment were to be held down, rents frozen and food subsidised. Again and again we've been told, 'Make this sacrifice for just a few years, then things will get better...'

We've kept our side of the bargain. But what of the Government?

\*PRICES in just three years, from Feb. 1974 to Feb. 1977 have gone up by 69.5% and food prices by 81.5%. (Compare this to our £6 and 4%!)

\*UNEMPLOYMENT is at a post-war record of 1½ million, and still rising.

\*PROFITS of the big banks and huge monopolies have rocketed.

So much for this "contract" between Labour Government and Unions. They've conned us again.

The 12 month rule is just another con. Union leaders have the nerve to call on workers to be moderate in their wage demands, "to save the Labour Government" (and their own cushy positions) They don't seem to realise it couldn't be any worse under a Tory government. Under both, workers suffer.

So what does concern our so-called 'workers' government'? That industry be made more 'efficient' Whose industry is it? Not the workers! And it is the employers, both state and private, who gain from this 'efficiency', while workers are made redundant or made to do the work of two.

The Labour Government has also roped in the Unions in its efficiency drive. The union leaders are clearly collaborating - and continually settle for productivity deals, instead of straight wage increases, for their members.

So while Labour helps the employers to struggle back on their feet in the crisis, the union leaders aid and abet. All together they form a powerful corporate body, as we saw in the Lucas to Olmakers' dispute, and they work together to clamp down on any initiative from the shop floor.

All these manoeuvres by Labour government and Trade Union leaders shake the fighting capacity and strength of the working class, by sowing confusion and disillusionment in its ranks. At the same time, Labour allows vicious enemies of the working class, like the National Front, to promote their anti-working class, racist and fascist ideas and to parade around openly on the streets under massive police protection. We workers must break completely with any illusions we might have about the Labour Government serving the workers' interests. In fact, it weakens and betrays the working class. It is only by relying on our own strength and shop floor organisation that we can get a better life and true socialism, through revolution.



# WHAT IS HAPPENING AT



# LUCAS

## The Toolroom Workers

The Lucas toolroom workers strike, for a £500 increase in bonus payments lasted over 10 weeks . The behaviour of the Trade Union leaders in this dispute further highlighted the growing trend among these "leaders" to betray the workers interests. They say the Labour Government must be saved. And in betraying the workers in such disputes, they in fact aid the management .

During the ten week Lucas strike, all tool-room workers in the Midlands area were out and there were official pickets at all Lucas factories. Almost all production at Lucas was brought to a halt, and workers at Leylands, Ford and Chrysler had to be laid off.

The toolroom workers claimed that their productivity had gone up 30% over the last three years, but their wages kept down by the Social Contract had not.

1977 — £76,000,000?

1976 — £56,000,000

1975  
- £32,000,000

1974 —  
- £18,000,000



Leader of Lucas meets Leader of Labour

## The Alliance

The company only offered £3. At this point, the official trade union leadership showed who they really supported. They backed the company as did the government. Even before this, Terry Duffy, AUEW executive member, was against the strike altogether and he did all he could to get the men back to work, without their demands being met.

In the end, the workers were forced back by a "terrible alliance", trade union leadership government and Lucas. The Lucas management could feel confident about the outcome of the strike because of the position of the trade union leaders.

Meanwhile, Lucas still rakes in the profits. Since the ~~social~~ contract, introduced by that "workers government" -Labour, the profits of the Lucas bosses are up over 30% while the workers wages are fixed and buy less and less.

Whatever "leaders" of the working class -trade unions leaders or Labour- say in support of the social contract, the 12 months rule and so on, wage restraints (= cuts) don't help us workers in the short term or the long term. We suffer while the bosses profits rise. We have been conned long enough. These treacherous "leaders" must be fought and replaced by real ones who serve the workers interests.



# IRELAND

## DIVIDE AND RULE

### PART 4



In our series on Ireland we've traced the origins and history of "sectarianism" in that country, how it was planted there by British imperialism and encouraged and fostered by them, the rich landowners and industrialists, whenever their rule was under threat from the struggle of the Irish people for freedom and independence. The last issue of 'Workers Notebook' covered the period after the First World War, the division of Ireland, the Civil War and the Depression, during which time the unity of Irish workers (Protestant and Catholic) was again destroyed with the old tried and tested weapon of sectarianism.



## Sham Independence

By the 1950s it was apparent that the development of an Irish capitalism as an economic force independent of British capitalism was a non-starter, and the idea of the independence of Ireland was really just a sham.

The legislation restricting foreign control and ownership of Irish industry was repealed in 1959 and since then almost all the major private industries in Ireland have passed into the hands of foreign, mostly British, capitalists. Likewise the mineral resources of Ireland are now being exploited by foreign concerns, which like all the other foreign-owned, enjoy such giveaway terms - tax holidays, government grants etc. that little if any benefit is kept for the Irish people. The minerals, for example, are extracted from Ireland, they are processed abroad, and then Ireland has to buy them back at extortionate prices.

No less than £1,000 million of Irish capital is invested abroad, mainly in Britain, while in return Britain actually has more investment in the supposedly independent 26 counties than in the 6 Northern counties!!

The final capitulation by Irish national capitalism was the Free Trade Agreement of 1965, between Harold Wilson and Sean Lemass, Prime Minister of the Irish Republic. Economically speaking Britain and Ireland are now more united than at any time since the First World War!

## Civil Rights Campaign

In the '60s it seemed that the Orange statelet of Northern Ireland had its social basis knocked from under it. The Civil Rights Campaign starting in 1967 aimed at the very basis of "Unionism" - the economic discrimination in

housing and jobs, which ensured a permanent Catholic minority, and a perpetually tame protestant majority.

The campaign showed dangerous signs of overstepping the sectarian barriers, uniting Protestant and Catholic workers, and the Unionist government reacted almost instinctively with its traditional weapons. It treated the Civil Rights Campaign as a "Catholic Question", as a "Republican Question". It employed its full battery of police-state powers, powers on which even the South African Rulers looked with admiration. It incited mobs of the most extreme Orange bigots aided with reinforcements from the police to attack the Catholic working-class areas in attempt to revive the old tried and tested weapon of reaction all over the world - the pogrom.

In fact, the accusation of the Republican, IRA, influence behind the Civil Rights campaign now began to gain some credence, for the IRA defended with much success the Catholic working-class areas against the pogromists. Republicanism began to gain a new attraction for the Catholic workers; the long dormant IRA took on a new life and meaning.

## British Troops In

The rioting and the action of the IRA in routing these attacks brought a sleight-of-hand response from Westminster. British Troops were sent in to "stop the disorders", "to protect the Catholics".

Within a short time these "protectors" themselves attacked the Republican areas and attempted to disarm them, to leave them defenceless, while the former attackers were left armed to the teeth. Firearms certificates were issued by the ream by unionist J.P.s.

Britain certainly didn't want civil disorder

- which is bad for business -, but faced with a choice between Unionists and Republicans, Westminster obviously chose Unionists. Humanity dictated defence of the Catholic areas against the bloodthirsty pogrom organisers. The politics of British imperialism dictated that Republicanism, Irish Nationalism, was the enemy.

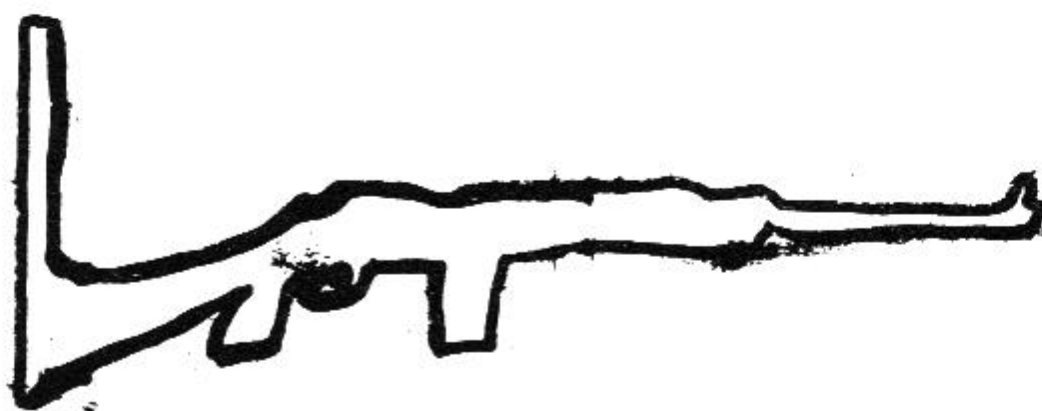


## Troops Out

Marxist Leninists in Britain saw and said clearly that the imperialist troops are there to defend imperialism, and for no other purpose. Accordingly, immediately the troops went in, the slogan was raised - BRITISH TROOPS OUT OF IRELAND -, while many so-called revolutionaries from the CPGB to the IS (now the SWP) called for the troops to be sent to Ireland to 'defend the Catholic community'! Later events vindicated us completely.

The entry of British troops guaranteed British power in Northern Ireland. It was only a matter of time before Free Derry and its sister enclave in Belfast were occupied by the troops. More importantly, the British reinforced the prejudices of the sectarians. The "peace lines" etc. created an actual ghetto and Westminster no less than Stormont was eager to establish the problem as one of "Catholic versus Protestant". All actions taken, all speeches made by these governments and their representatives carefully reinforced that view.

After the ineffectiveness of their campaign against the border in the 1950s, the IRA had increasingly come to realise that the question of partition, of independence, was inextricably bound up with social revolution. They realised anew that a military campaign without the backing of the people was foredoomed to failure and they began to develop their politics accordingly. They realised that social agitation - class warfare, against imperialism was essential for a genuinely independent, united Ireland.



## The Provos

In response to this, the sectarians of the Catholic side, including some ministers of Fiannar Fail, succeeded, with large sums of money and much playing on prejudice, in splitting the IRA, the Republicanist Movement. The product of that split was the "provisionals" and these came into the world as an avowed anti-communist organisation, which was as bigotted in its own way as the Orange Lodge.

Initially, the "Provos" had much support because it was felt in some areas that they defended the Catholics of the North better against the terror and deprivations of the army and the RUC.

## Division

However, they had no real understanding of what British imperialism meant, nor of class rule, and they had no analysis of the social forces involved in Ireland; and they soon succeeded with their bomb attacks in doing precisely what Britain wanted. They managed to raise the protestant working class in a militant body for the union, while giving Britain the excuse needed to introduce internment. They were a force for the division of the Irish working class, not for its unity.

With internment Britain safely incarcerated almost every leader of the Republican community -tenants leaders, trade unionists, "Officials", were all herded indiscriminately into the concentration camps, where some still remain.

Likewise the indiscriminate bombing campaign gave Britain the "moral" excuse necessary to justify to British Public Opinion what was becoming an increasingly obvious colonial war in Ireland.

(to be continued)

# BELFAST

# 1975

Bricks flying,  
 Children with adult hatred, running helter skelter,  
 Bin lids clanging,  
 a cacophony of noise  
 As soldiers, with knees trembling  
 and stranded in a pool of bricks and broken bottles  
 hide behind a saracen, waiting to be rescued.  
 This is Belfast 1975.

Standing, looking on,  
 hate burning deep inside, is a typical Belfast  
 woman.

Struggle is the story of her life -  
 to bring up her children,  
 to make ends meet,  
 striking with fellow workers against the evil  
 system that oppresses her.

Husband murdered by an invading army  
 two sons incarcerated in cages like animals,  
 when they stood up for the right to be free.  
 This is Belfast 1975.



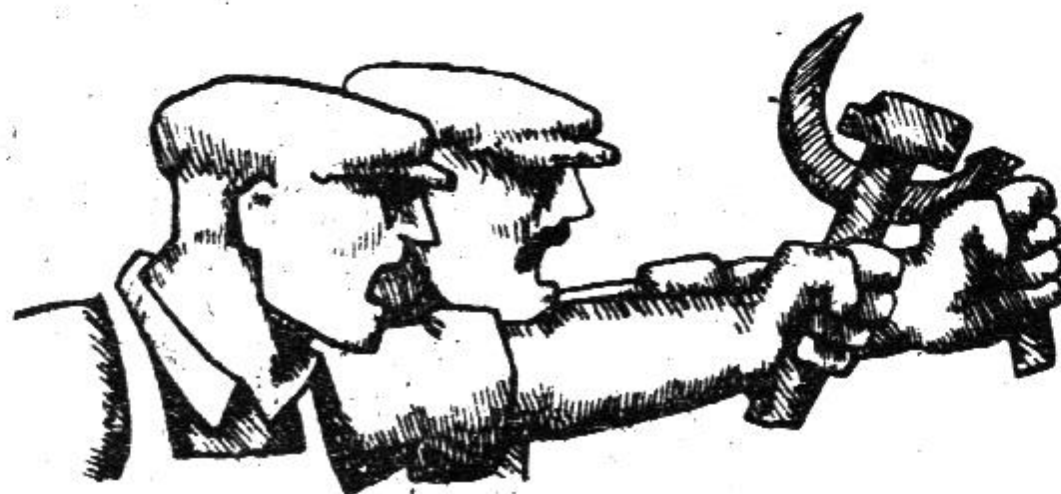
# OVERTIME

## Longer Hours

Any bakery worker knows what overtime means. They are supposed to have a 40 hour week, but that is only for the sake of working out overtime payments. The working week at one place I worked was actually 66 hours -three days we worked 12 hours, another three, 10 hours. The basic hourly rate was about 51p and people relied on overtime payments to make up their wage packets.

Many workers do a lot of overtime -it is still there to do even though there is said to be a shortage of work at the moment. More overtime is being worked now than at any time since the 30s.

Many workers are glad to do overtime because of the money they can earn . Overtime has become a necessity to them and their families. But overtime has only become more and more important because real wages have fallen. The pay seems to be more only because of inflation. In terms of what it can buy, it has dropped. This means that workers are being forced to work longer hours for the same real pay in effect. The normal working day is being lengthened.





## Who Really Benefits?

The ones who really gain from this are the people who own the firms where overtime is going up. It saves them having to take on more workers, keeping up the number of unemployed and using the threat of sacking to try to stop workers fighting for more pay. It also allows the owners of industry to exploit workers' labour force more intensively for little or no real increase in wages.

## The 40 Hour Week

It is inevitable that while the capitalist system exists, firms will try to get more labour out of workers for less or the same money. History proves this. In the middle of the last century, workers in industry after industry forced the government to pass 10 Hours Acts to limit the power of the capitalists to exploit them. Later a 40 hour working week became normal. However the capitalists have always resisted limitations on the working day, and have sometimes been able to recover some of the ground lost to the working class in the past. That's what is happening now with overtime- the gains of over a century of struggle are being attacked in a very stealthily way by the class of capitalists.

## Good Wages = No Overtime

The answer to this is the one that was always upheld in the past by working class militants. All workers should get enough pay for their basic needs so that all the time outside working hours can be spent as each chooses, with friends, family etc.

At the moment therefore, resisting overtime work is necessarily linked with the struggle against any form of wage restraint, and for a proper living wage.

In the long term ,the only way to get rid of overtime permanently and at the same time secure a decent standard of living is to get rid of the system that promotes it, and establish a socialist society in which working people will make all the decisions including how many hours per week they will work.



# US BASES

## IN BRITAIN

### US IN EUROPE

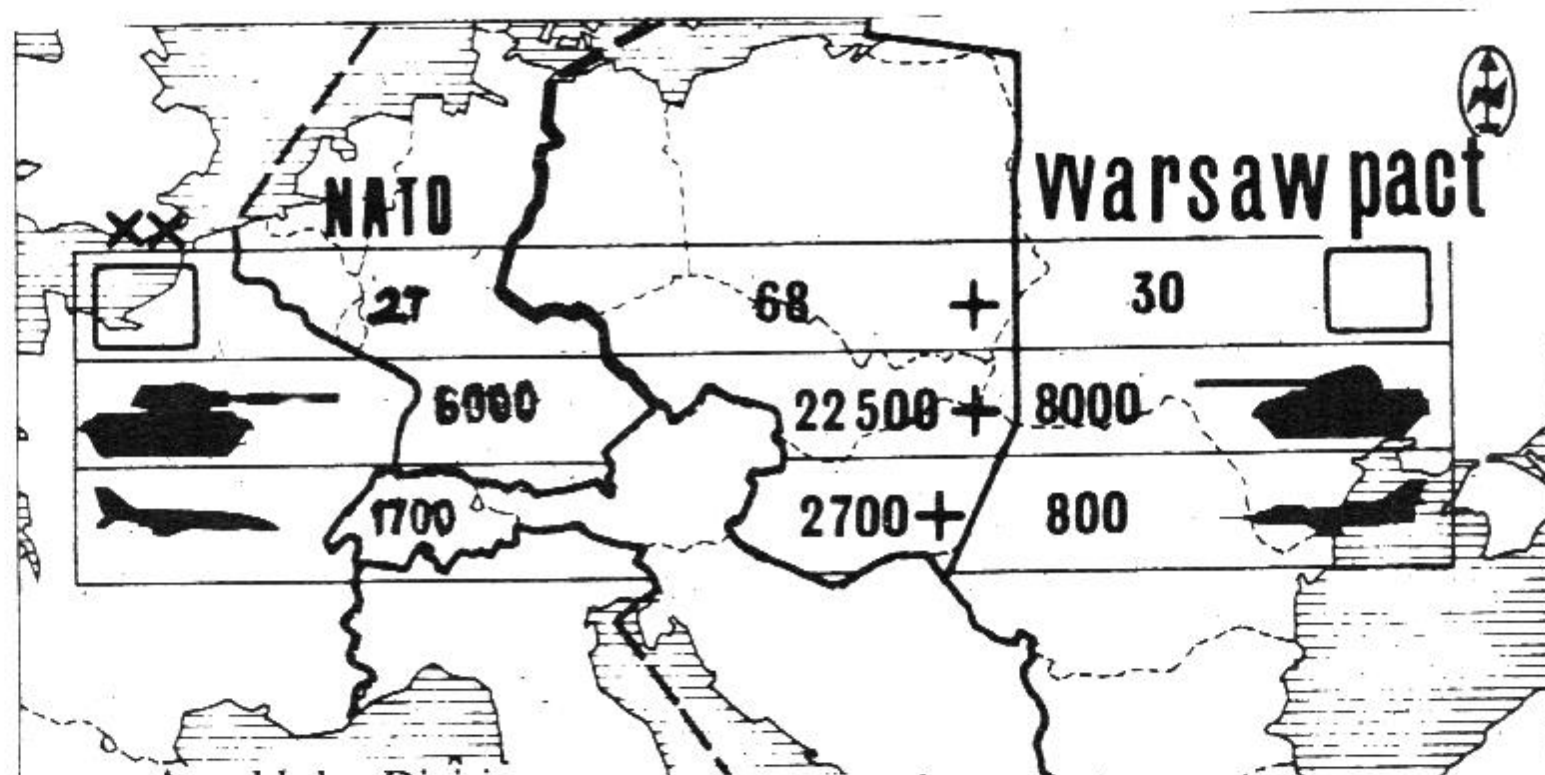
The United States of America wants to dominate Europe, and the bases it has in Britain serve it in its rivalry with the USSR. At Holy Loch on the West coast of Scotland, there is an American nuclear submarine base; it has been calculated that if the weapons on the craft based there were launched on an unprepared world, they would be sufficient to wipe out nearly everyone. It was reported a few months ago that the US Air Force in Britain is being reinforced by 84 swing-wing F111 fighter bombers, which can carry nuclear weapons.

### PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE

Some argue that American bases in Britain are important for defence against the threat of a Soviet attack. This is not true. Firstly, the best defence against a Soviet attack would be a people armed politically and militarily, ready to make it impossible for any invaders to get a grip on the country by fighting a people's war led by the working class and its revolutionary party. The capitalist class of Britain and its allies abroad are incapable of organising such a struggle, because they know that sooner or later, a revolutionary

movement in Britain would strike them down, as well as defeating the Soviet social-  
The U.S. and British imperialists will only try to prevent the working class and its allies from organizing for people's war, so they not only fail to provide any real defence against Soviet aggression, but actually try to stop the people organising for the only kind of struggle which is sure of defeating the Soviet Imperialists.

Secondly, the presence of U.S. bases makes it more (not less) likely that the Soviet Union will attack Britain- they obviously play an important part in contention between the super-powers, and will be a major target for the Soviet social-imperialists.



## US INTERVENTION?

A further point about the U.S. bases is the threat they pose to the socialist revolution in Britain. In Chile the U.S. arranged the overthrow of the Allende government (which was a progressive nationalist regime, not even socialist) without even having bases in Chile; how much easier would it be for it to intervene in a British revolutionary struggle through its bases here- for itself and to assist the British ruling class. Already, there are

clearly some American serviceman who are assisting British fascists; they are members Ku Klux Klan or the States Right Party, and help develop links between these organisations and British fascists.

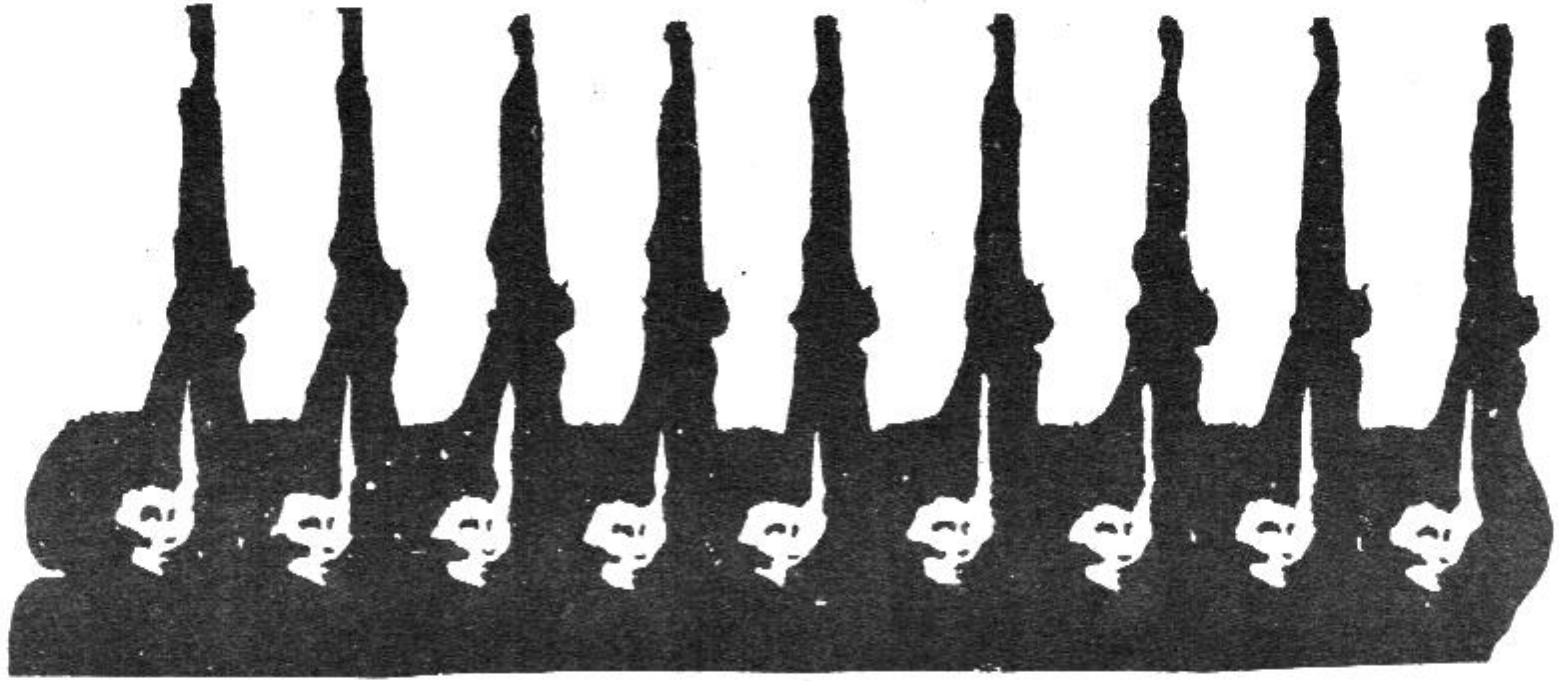
there should be no U.S. bases in Britain ,neither should the Soviet Union be allowed to take advantage of campaigns against them to build up its own influence here. It is right to demand -

"U.S., Get out !

Soviet Union ,keep out !"



# NATIONAL LIBERATION STRUGGLES



The Horn of Africa today is in turmoil. The conflicts in Ethiopia, Eritrea, and Somalia are a part of the lengthy and bloody disintegration of the old empire of Haile Sellasie, "The Lion of Judah". But the crisis on the horn is not just a local issue. Here as all over the world, the USA and the Soviet Union, the two superpowers, are competing for supreme power and control. Here, as elsewhere, Soviet social imperialism is aggressively attacking former strongholds of US imperialism; and it is the people of this area that have to suffer from both.

The history of this area shows how the people have suffered. Together with Liberia - a state in West Africa founded by freed American slaves, Ethiopia was the only African country to escape colonisation by the European powers. Italy's attempt to colonise Ethiopia failed following the Battle of Adowa. Many black movements from Marcus Garvey to the Rastafarians looked to Ethiopia as the "Promised Land". Mussolini's Italian fascists made another attempt to get hold of Ethiopia, and this time succeeded in the 1930s. Haile Selassie went into exile in England.

# THE HORN OF AFRICA

At the end of the Second World War the victorious "Allies" restored Selassie to his throne. Over the next few years his regime was a good servant to the United States - the major imperialist power in the world at that time. Selassie even sent troops to fight in the US war of aggression in Korea from 1950-53. And it was as one of the rewards for his services that US imperialism granted Selassie the independent country of Eritrea. This was forcibly "federated" to Ethiopia and later totally annexed.

## Eritrean Struggle

This is the root of the Eritrean people's struggle for national liberation today. At first the Eritreans tried peaceful campaigns, but these were only met by massacres of their people by Ethiopian troops. So in 1961 the Eritreans took up arms and began a people's war that is now on the brink of success. Led by the Eritrean Liberation Front and the Eritrean Popular Liberation Front the Eritreans have managed to liberate over 95% of their country from Ethiopian control. Only a few towns, the capital Asmara and some main roads remain in Ethiopian hands.

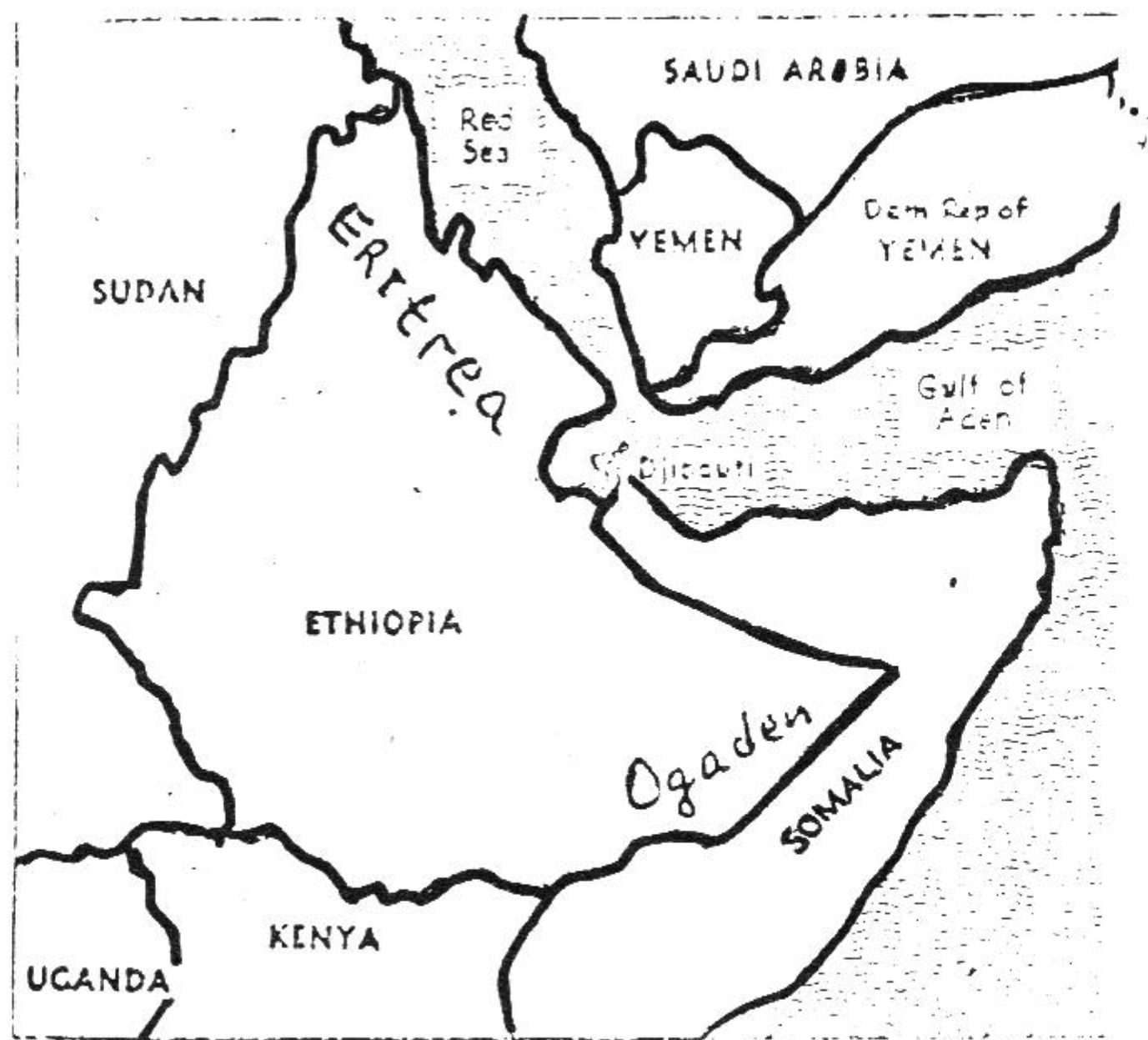
## The People Rise

Haile Selassie's regime meant extreme poverty for the Ethiopian people and great riches for the Emperor. So his regime was not only coming under attack from the Eritreans. All through the 1960s and early 70s the Ethiopian people's resentment of this

parasite, cruel Emperor grew. In February 1974 after a famine that killed an estimated 100,000 people and with rocketing inflation in the towns there was a massive upsurge against the autocratic and corrupt regime, and Haile Selassie was forced from power.

## The Fascist Dergue

However, the new government to emerge from this upheaval was no better than Selassie's, despite its use of the words of 'Freedom' 'Socialism' and even 'Marxism-Leninism'. There was nothing socialist about the group of officers who usurped political power. They are not concerned with the miserable lives of the majority of people in their country; and indeed they have tried to crush any form of opposition and criticism, by murder, torture and committing thousands into concentration camps. Theirs is a military, fascist regime, called the Dergue, whose chief periodically changes as a result of infighting in the ruling clique.





## Soviet Imperialism

The Dergue also claims to be anti-imperialist, yet it started off as a friend of the US and today Soviet social imperialism has moved in as the major influence. Both the Soviet Union and its minion Cuba promote the fascist Dergue as a socialist government serving the interests of the Ethiopian people!! After Castro's visit to Ethiopia earlier this year Cuban mercenaries have now been sent to fight the Eritrean liberation fighters and to help put down the liberation movements in other regions of Ethiopia, such as Tigrea and Afar. So much for the Dergue's 'anti-imperialist character!

The revisionist parties around the world, including the Communist Party of Great Britain, also hail the Dergue as 'socialist! The newspaper, 'The Morning Star' praises the Dergue, denies or justifies its massacres, and slanders the regime's opponents. We should be grateful for this, for it at least allows us to have a glimpse of the type of 'socialism' the CPGB would impose upon the British people, given half a chance!

## Selassie and the US

Meanwhile, in Ethiopia the resistance to the Dergue and its oppression is increasing. On the one hand there is the so-called Ethiopian Democratic Union operating in the north of the country. It is basically an organisation of feudalist warlords with a peasant conscript army and is anything but progressive. It's led by a relative of Haile Selassie and sustained by aid from Saudi Arabian reactionaries and US imperialism.

On the other hand the genuine opposition to the Dergue comes from the nationalist movements in the countryside and from Ethiopia's Marxist-Leninist Party, the Ethiopian People's

Revolutionary Party. The latter has won much support among the workers, peasants, students and military in Ethiopia. It has realised that true political power for the majority of people in Ethiopia can only be won by fighting for it. The ruling regime will never stand down and hand over power of its own accord. The EPRP has therefore created the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Army which has been fighting in towns and countryside. In this fight against the Dergue, it exposes the pseudo-socialism of that regime and of the Dergue's imperialist friend, the Soviet Union. The Ogaden region of Ethiopia has also been in the news recently. The war here is part of the campaign to unite all ethnically Somali people currently in in Somalia, Ogaden and the northern province of Kenya. The Western Somalia Liberation Front has liberated several parts of the area.

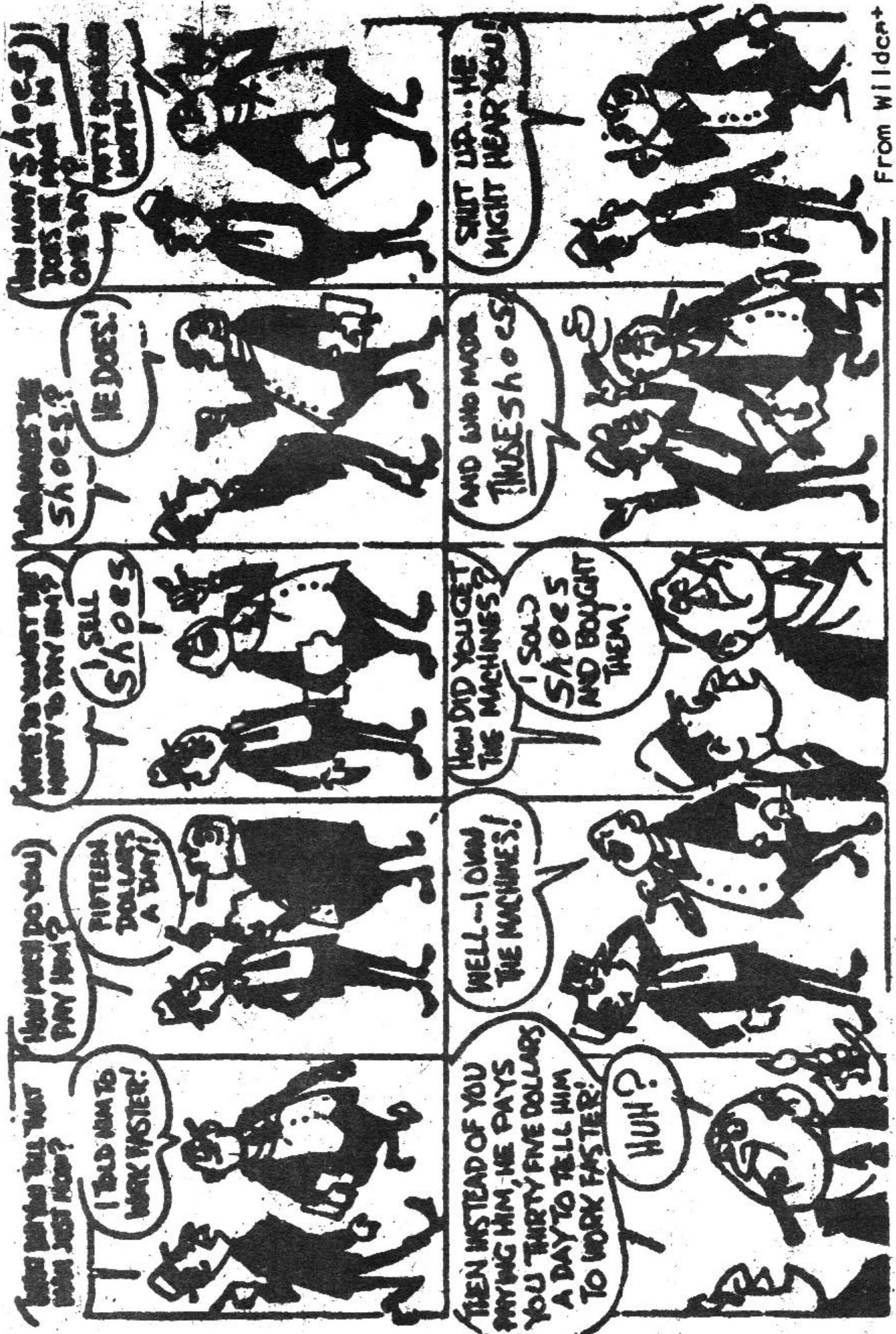
## The People



Fight

The struggles of the peoples of Ethiopia, and of Eritrea for independence, liberation and revolution shows that however powerful and cruel the enemy - like the fascist Dergue and the Soviet imperialist intervention -, the people of a country, relying on their own strength, can win against all odds.

A source of information on Ethiopia is:  
Ethiopian Students Union in Europe, (UK Branch)  
c/o The Basement, 101 - 103 Gower Street, London,  
WCI.



HOW DID YOU TELL THAT MAN JUST NOW?

I TOLD HIM TO WORK FASTER!

HOW MUCH DO YOU PAY HIM?

FIFTEEN DOLLARS A DAY!

WHERE DO YOU GET THE MONEY TO PAY HIM?

I SELL SHOES!

WHO MAKES THE SHOES?

HE DOES!

HOW MANY SHOES DOES HE MAKE IN ONE DAY?

NOT MANY!

THEN INSTEAD OF YOU PAYING HIM, HE PAYS YOU THIRTY FIVE DOLLARS A DAY TO TELL HIM TO WORK FASTER!

HUH?

WELL... I OWN THE MACHINES!

HOW DID YOU GET THE MACHINES?

I SOLD SHOES AND BOUGHT THEM!

AND WHO MADE THOSE SHOES?

WE MADE THEM!

SHUT UP... HE MIGHT HEAR YOU!

# Historical Notes

## **THE CHARTISTS**

In the last issue of the Workers' notebook a parallel was drawn between the battle of trade unionists against the courts in 1834 -The Tolpuddle Martyrs- and the same battle going on in 1977- at Grunwicks. A comparison between the Chartist movement in the 1830's and 1840's and the working class movement today also shows that although much has happened in the last 140 years, little has really changed.

### **ECONOMIC STRUGGLES**

Chartism was the first mass revolutionary movement of the working class. The charter of six points united those who saw universal manhood suffrage as the means of obtaining political power for the working class. The movement developed as workers became class conscious. The industrial revolution involved the herding together of hundreds, often thousands of workers in the new factories, destroying the old handicrafts and the independence and isolation that went with them. The concentration of workers in the industrial workshops raised the possibility of collective action in order to improve pay and working conditions. "Unity is Strength" . However , the struggle for- was an uphill battle that was often lost. It was recognised that failure was partly due to the hostility of the bosses backed up by courts and a government representing the interests of wealth and privilege. Rather than submit after these early reverses, workers extended the scope of collective action from the economic to the political arena. This was one of the main causes of chartism - the

determination of the working class to gain political power and use it in the interests of labour against capital.



## THE POLITICAL STRUGGLE

Workers had been involved in political struggles before the 1830's, but never independently of the capitalist class. This task became urgent after the Reform Act was passed in 1832. This law was the result of a determined and often bloody struggle by both capitalists and workers to obtain the vote. However, the Reform Act only gave voting rights to the capitalists, or rather male capitalists -for women were considered incapable of making decisions. Capitalists and workers had worked together to gain the vote, but only the capitalists gained the benefits of the campaign. (shades of the Social Contract). Two years later the New Poor Law was passed -at the insistence of the capitalists. This treated the the poor like criminals- to be locked up in workhouses, dressed in uniforms, and fed on a bread and cheese diet. This betrayal and subsequent persecution by the capitalists contributed to the growth of Chartism, which acted as a focus for all those workers in various parts of the country who recognised the necessity of wresting political power from the grip of a ruthless, money-grabbing ruling class. Chartism drew to its ranks the skilled craftsmen of London, the miners of South Wales, the handloom weavers of Yorkshire and many other workers whose conditions varied enormously but who were class conscious enough to see beyond their own trades and localities.

containing millions of signatures, demanding the acceptance of the six points. On each occasion the charter was debated in Parliament, but overwhelmingly rejected.

# The Six Points

OF THE

# PEOPLE'S

# CHARTER.

---

1. A VOTE for every man twenty-one years of age, of sound mind, and not undergoing punishment for crime.

2. THE BALLOT.—To protect the elector in the exercise of his vote.

3. NO PROPERTY QUALIFICATION for Members of Parliament —thus enabling the constituencies to return the man of their choice, be he rich or poor.

4. PAYMENT OF MEMBERS, thus enabling an honest tradesman, working man, or other person, to serve a constituency, when taken from his business to attend to the interests of the country.

5. EQUAL CONSTITUENCIES, securing the same amount of representation for the same number of electors, instead of allowing small constituencies to swamp the votes of large ones.

6. ANNUAL PARLIAMENTS, thus presenting the most effectual check to bribery and intimidation, since though a constituency might be bought once in seven years (even with the ballot), no purse could buy a constituency (under a system of universal suffrage) in each ensuing twelvemonth; and since members, when elected for a year only, would not be able to defy and betray their constituents as now.

---

## Petitions And Riots

In 1839 there were riots in the Bull Ring, Birmingham and a mass uprising of thousands of miners in Newport. These were inevitably defeated because they were unco-ordinated and unsupported by other areas. In 1842

there was a wave of industrial sabotage -The Plug Riots- in Lancashire following the rejection by Parliament of the second petition . Workers brought the factories to a standstill by removing the plugs from the boilers of the steam engines. The ruling class was expecting a revolutionary uprising when the third petition was presented in 1848 , so it gave the aged Duke of Wellington -n the responsibility for the defence of London. Artillery units were placed on the bridges over the Thames, the Navy was called in, and 150,000 special constables were drafted into London.

## WHY THEY FAILED

This determination not to yield to the working class helps to explain why the Chartists failed . It was a determination of a confident and united ruling class, and can be contrasted with the lack of unity which bedevilled the Chartist groups . Within the ranks of the chartists were disagreements not only about how the six points could be won but also about what should happen after they had been won . There were "moral force groups" who believed that argument and education should be used to win the charter . They were strongly opposed to any activity that was against the law -even though it was clearly the bosses law- and wanted to see gradual reforms to make capitalism fair to all classes. There were also "physical force" groups who were prepared to use violence if necessary but whose objectives after the six points were achieved were backward looking and impractical for instance the end of modern factory production and its replacement by small rural communities. Finally, there were revolutionary communists who wanted "the abolition and the destruction of those distinctions which have divided the human race into princes and paupers, landlords and labourers

,masters and slaves. In 1848 revolutions too  
-k place in many European countries . Marx  
and Engels wrote the 'The Communist Manifest  
-o' in that year

"A spectre is haunting Europe- the spectre  
of Communism."

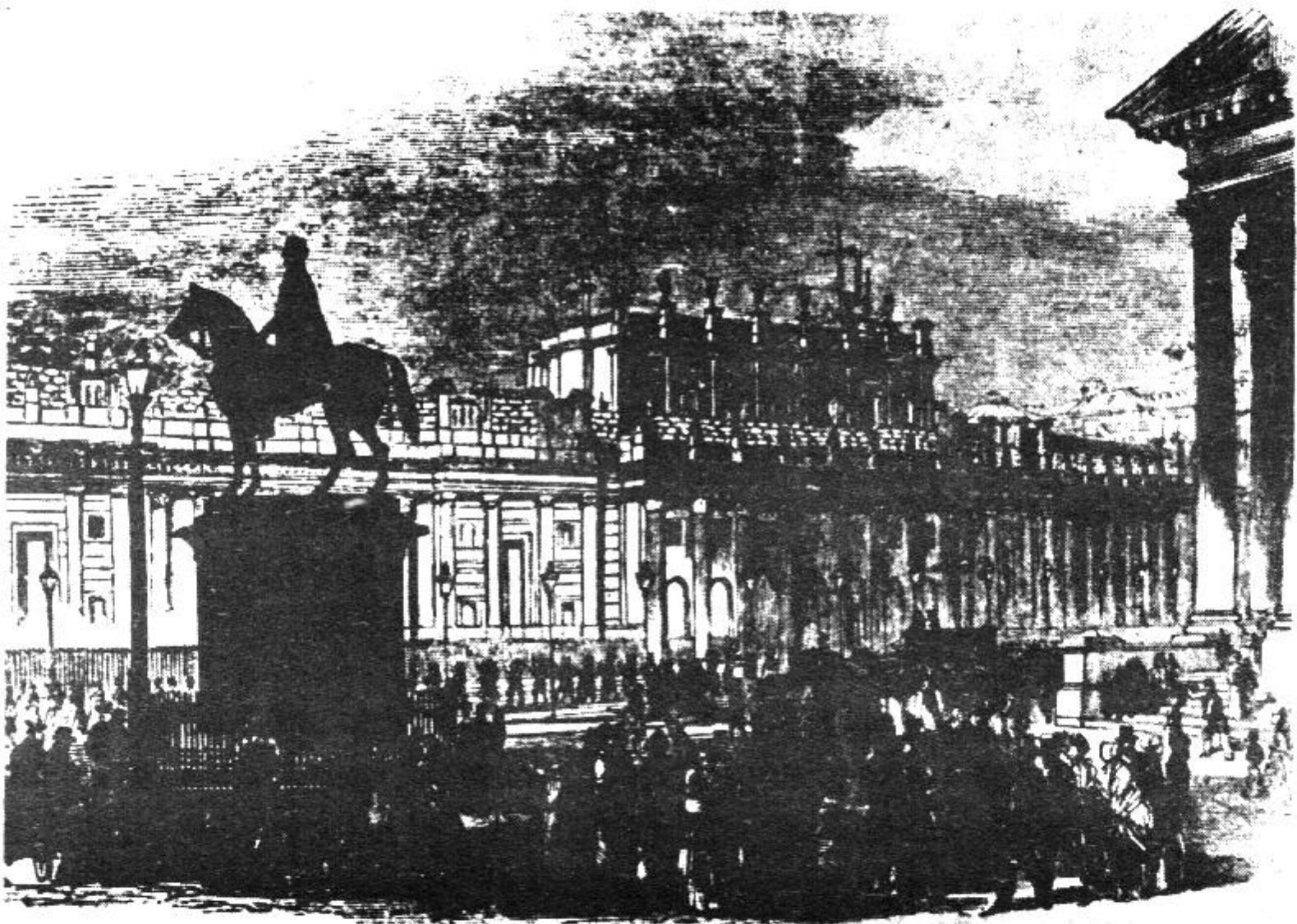
within the Chartist movement the "spectre"  
was represented by such men as Julian Harvey  
and Ernest Jones - no wonder the government  
was determined not to accept the six points.



There were other reasons for the failures  
of Chartism at this time for instance a grow  
-th in trade as new markets were exploited  
in Africa Asia and South America led to a  
small rise in the standard of living of the  
working class. This dampened the sense of  
economic grievance that had given rise to  
Chartism in the 1830's. There was also a  
revival of trade unionism in the 1850's whic  
-h reduced the urgency of political reform.  
Of course, since the 1840's five of the six  
points have been achieved, but this brings



us back to the opening remarks- many things have happened since the 1830's and 1840's but little has really changed. Before the 1832 Reform Act the capitalists allowed aristocratic Whigs and Tories to govern in the interests of capitalism. Since 1928 when men and women got the vote on equal terms capitalists have let "working class" labour governments govern in the interests of capitalism. The decisions that were once made in the lounges of the Athenaeums and the Reform Club are now made in the corridors of Whitehall, the Pentagon, or Brussels. A workers vote counts for as much as in 1848 -Nothing.



*Guarding the Bank of England, 1848. Notice the special constables, and the sandbags round the roof*

The working class is divided now as were the Chartists, hence the inability of either to grasp political power. The backward looking "Physical force" policies have been completely discredited and are even more impracticable now than they were in the 1840's. The rural communities that were set up by some of these Chartists such as Charterville and O'Connerville were short lived. Moral force policies have been tried

over and over again -then as now and they have lengthening dole queues and disintegrating social services as their most obvious achievements. That leaves , to use Harvey's words "the annihilation of the present system, and the substitution instead of an order of things in which all shall labour and all enjoy, and the happiness of each shall guarantee the welfare of the entire community " In short revolutionary socialism.

---

# ALBANIA



# Life under SOCIALISM..



## 1944

Just 33 years ago Albania was the poorest country in Europe. Most of the people lived on the land and starved trying to pay the high rents to the few rich landowners.

The little industry that did exist was owned by foreign bosses. On top of this the towns and countryside had been devastated by years of occupation, first by Mussolini's Italian fascists and then by Hitler's German fascists.

80% of the population were illiterate.

59% of the working population were unemployed. Death from starvation and disease was common.

## The Albania Revolution

In November 1944, however, the peasants and workers of Albania, led by the Party of Labour of Albania, liberated their country and took power themselves. The workers and peasants took over the land and the factories, and since then, Albania has been run not for the profit of a rich and powerful few, but for the benefit of the majority, for the working people. There socialism is a reality; not like the phoney "socialist" words and capitalist deeds of the Labour Party in Britain.

# Socialism a Reality

Here are some aspects of socialism in Albania:

- \*\*\* All medical and social services are free.
- \*\*\* There is no tax.
- \*\*\* Electricity and water supply are free.
- \*\*\* There is no unemployment. It is against the law!
- \*\*\* There is no inflation. Prices are cut regularly, 14 times since 1960, as Albania's expanding industry produces more and more, more cheaply.
- \*\*\* Wages go up regularly.
- \*\*\* Workers in factories and farms can all further their education and skills. Factories all have their own schools, where workers can take evening courses. On the day the worker studies, he works only 6 hours, although he gets paid for the full 8. 55% of all students in Albania are workers, and every third person is following some course of education. Needless to say, illiteracy has been eliminated.
- \*\*\* Factories and farms also have creches and kindergartens.



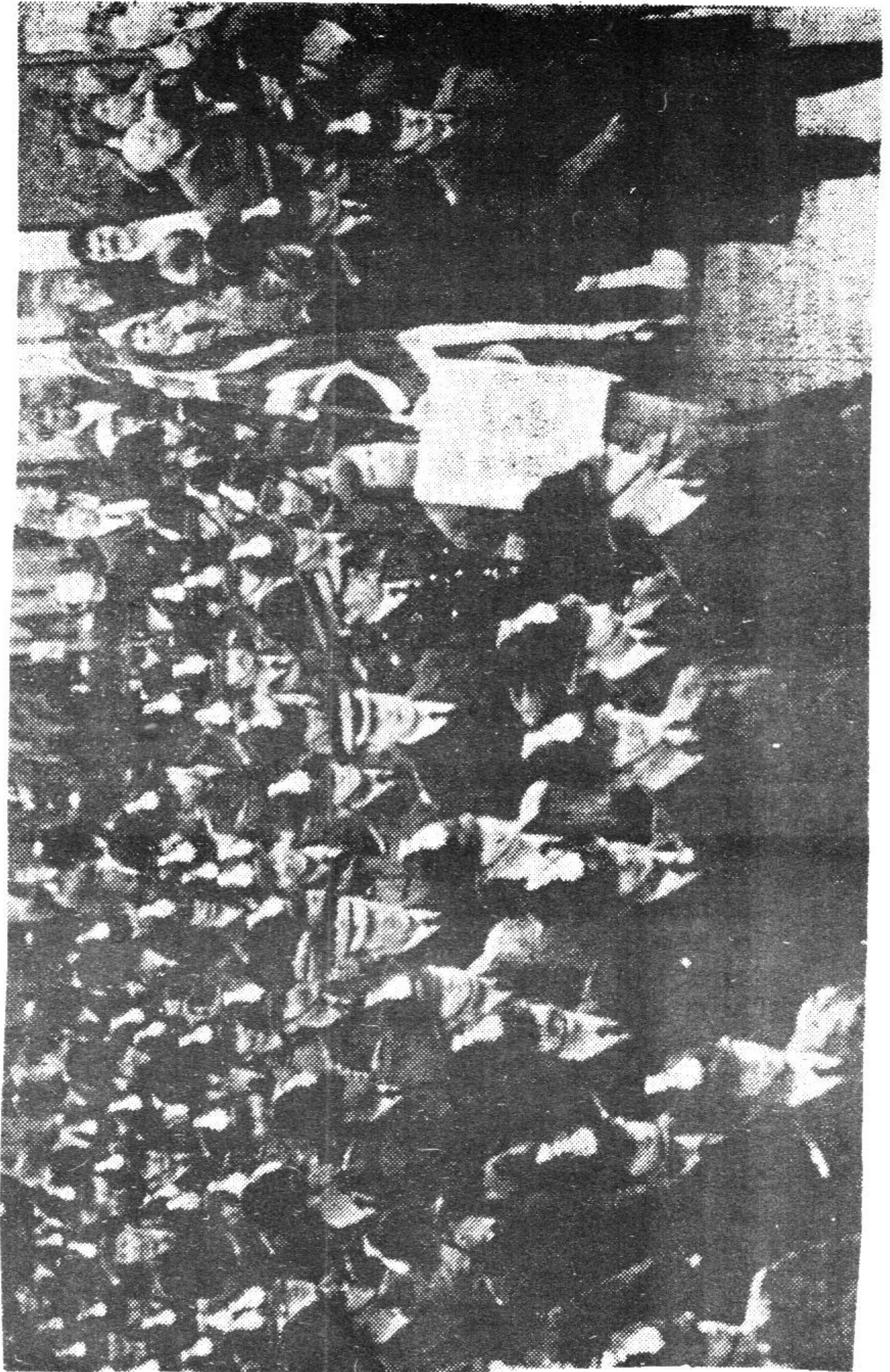
- \*\*\* All administrative workers for factory and farm are elected from and by the workers, and can be removed from their posts by the workers at any time.
- \*\*\* Judges and jurymen are elected every 3 years. Everybody over 18 can vote for a judge and jurymen for their local area. All candidates must have legal training, but are nominated by the Trade Unions, youth organisations, women's organisations and other mass organisations. They can be removed by a majority vote at any time.
- \*\*\* The most beautiful Mediterranean beaches in Albania are not the reserve of rich foreign tourists. It is on these beaches that hotels have been built for workers from town and country. The hotels are subsidised by the Trade Unions, so a worker and his family only pay a very small amount to stay there.

## Worker's Rule

- \*\*\* The Albanian people are well-prepared to defend their socialist achievements from any foreign interference or aggression. Every Albanian man and woman has a rifle at home in the cupboard, and all know how to use it. Military training is part of school education.
- \*\*\* There is no foreign investment in Albania. All industry is owned and run by the Albanian workers. And it is the workers who get the profits.
- \*\*\* The only aid that Albania receives is the free internationalist aid from China, which has no strings attached.



WHO DOES THE STATE'S POLICE FORCE PROTECT ?



# Do you know . . . .

What are the links  
between the National  
Front and the police ??

Protected by 6,000  
police officers, 1,000  
National Front demonst-  
rators marched from  
Levenshulme to Manches-  
ter city centre on  
October 8th.

The place for the march  
was kept a tight secret.  
It was a joint agreem-  
ent between the NF and  
police chiefs, with the  
accord of the Home  
Secretary.

In fact, the Chief  
Constable of Greater  
Manchester said: "I feel  
that this has been a  
great success for the  
police and that the way  
I approached this has  
been justified".

What does he really mean?

The earlier demonstration  
in Hyde, Manchester,  
planned by the NF, had  
been banned by the town  
council, as had the  
anti-fascist counter-  
demonstration.

Yet National Front  
man Martin Webster  
then made a one man  
demonstration in  
Hyde with 500 police  
to protect him.

And then the police  
comes and arranges  
secret venue for a  
demonstration with  
the Nazi NF.

Whose interests are  
the police and state  
protecting?

All this cost the tax-  
payer a quarter of a  
million pounds. Were  
we consulted as to  
whether we wanted our  
money spent on protect-  
ing such activities,  
which propagate ideas  
and incite acts against  
the working class, and  
its achievements?

We must unite our  
strengths to make sure  
that the National  
Front hasn't the right  
to parade in our  
streets.

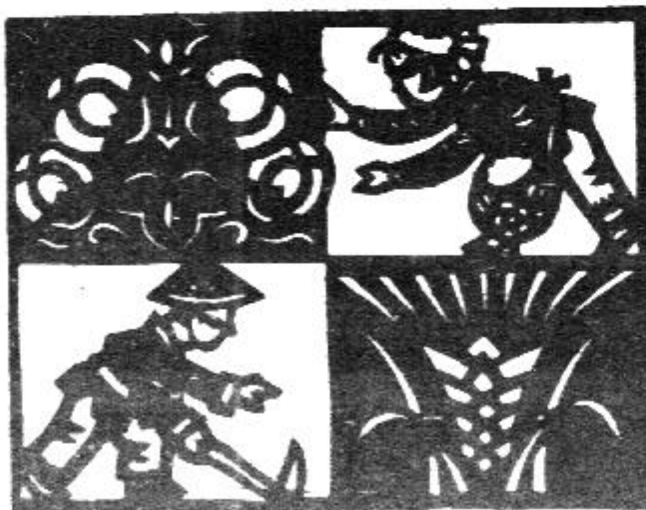
# The Communist Party of China 11<sup>th</sup> Congress

Recently, the Communist Party of China held its 11th Congress, which represented the political culmination of the inner-party struggle there.

That the struggle took place at all, proves the truth of Mao Tse Tung's thesis that class struggle continues under socialism. The successful conclusion of this congress demonstrates also that Mao Tse Tung's political analysis still guides the Communist Party of China, whatever the "China Watchers" stationed in Hong Kong and Singapore may say.

We are sure that there will be further struggles in China, but we are equally sure that the Chinese Party and People will win, as in this historic Congress.

We believe that the Chinese Party under its new Chairman, Hua Kuo Feng, will continue to be guided by the teachings of Mao Tse Tung, consolidate the power of the proletariat, the working class, and build China into a powerful socialist state.





# FORUM FOR DISCUSSION



## INTERNATIONAL SITUATION

After the Second World War in 1951 the Communist Party of Great Britain altered its programme, 'The British Road to Socialism'. What appeared as a turn to a modern form of revisionism here, was shown in the course of a few years to be at the front of an international movement against Marxism. It was characterised by a willingness to abandon the struggle against the world's great evils of imperialism and capitalism, and this sickened real Marxists the world over. They began a struggle against this new revisionism, which gave rise to the Marxist-Leninist movement and to some of the most noble heights of working class struggle.

Sadly however, some of these comrades in their struggle against the compromise of principle, also came to oppose the principle of compromise and dogmatically asserted beliefs, when the conditions they were based on had changed.

The unity of all the people of the world against U.S. imperialism was right and proper when the US was the World's dominant power; but what must one say when the Soviet Imperialists are becoming the dominant power? - the unity of all the people of the world against Social imperialism.

## “ Detente ” and war

In April 1976 the 4th Congress of the Communist Party of Britain(ML) adopted a document whose section 'Debate on Detente' made certain dogmatic statements on the international situation.

Talk of detente by the two superpowers is a smokescreen for the continuing division of the world between them; no sooner is one division agreed than both sides propose another more favourable to their own interests; this will lead to war.

Because the ordinary people of the world lose most and gain nothing by such war, all our efforts must be lent to preventing the onset of war, whilst substituting class war for imperialist war. This is not possible without a proper analysis of the forces at work in the world, knowing who are our friends and who our enemies.

## The 3 world theory

The division of the world into 1, 2 and 3 is artificial and mechanistic' say the dogmatists, is it really? Are there not two imperialist powers who are in a position to dominate the world? And lesser imperialist powers who under any circumstances could only extend their influence locally?

Are the majority of the world nations not developing economies albeit capitalist ones and are they not the most likely prey of the superpowers and therefore most likely to resist them?

It is true to say that third world bourgeoisie oppose the superpowers because they want the exclusive rights to exploit their native workers and peasants, and the second world imperialist bourgeoisies are opposed to the superpowers because they wish to gain protected access to the markets they are restricted in. All of this is the most grotesque bourgeois self interest, but it serves the interest of the proletariat temporarily, and in no sense means

we will not destroy them at the first opportunity.

## National Liberation

' No emancipation and true liberation can be completed in alliances alone of shifting class forces'

Another dogmatic statement in contradiction to facts. National liberation is perfectly possible with an alliance of classes, with the working class taking leadership, indeed this has been the model for the liberation of China, Vietnam, Korea, Laos and Cambodia.

A further dogmatic assertion of the CPBML is that the superpowers work 'with the connivance of the bourgeoisie', this is not so : a certain section of the ruling class -the comprador bourgeoisie do collaborate, but it is in opposition to the self interest of the national bourgeoisie to facilitate the penetration of an imperialist power..

The dangerous threat posed by national and international dogmatism, is that by dividing our friends and uniting our enemies it can only aid social imperialism as Trotskyism aided the nazis -objectively not subjectively.




---

These views are not necessarily the views of the CWM, but we hope that they will stimulate thought and discussion among readers and workers' discussion groups. We would welcome comments and your own conclusions.



## the motor trade workers

I'm one of those motor trade workers  
 Who're labelled as loafers and shirkers.  
 We're crippling the country, the newspapers say,  
 With too low an output and far too much pay.  
 FAR TOO MUCH PAY, FAR TOO MUCH PAY,  
 WITH TOO LOW AN OUTPUT AND FAR TOO MUCH PAY.

Each morning we leave around seven  
 And drive to our mechanical heaven.  
 We make cans of tea, have a laugh and a crack,  
 Till the half-seven bell rings then off goes the  
 Track (repeat)

With pressing and turning and milling,  
 We're finishing, trimming and drilling.  
 We paint and wet-flat and we rivet and bore,  
 While the foreman walks round like a Drury Lane  
 Whore (Rep)

The big banker who's running our nation  
 Claims we are the cause of inflation,  
 He sits at his desk on his fat pin-striped ass,  
 While we do the donkey work, he counts the brass.

Our trade fluctuates with the season,  
 That's mainly the cause and the reason  
 We organise now and go in with both feet,  
 For tomorrow we may well be walking the street.

Investors and financial backers  
 Are greedily counting theackers  
 A fiver an ounce for a working man's sweat,  
 then the bosses begrudge us the wages we get.

So a word for those wealthy fat Tories  
 What dreamed up those newspaper stories,  
 If it's true what you say and we're all in a  
 stew,  
 Then we're the red peppers, the dumplings are  
 you!

(Words: Don Perrygrove; Tune Birmingham Boys)

# Do you know . . . .



DO YOU KNOW THAT JACK JONES WHO HAS BEEN CRITICISING the lush life at the top of the Labour Party is going to get an inflation-proof pension of just...£10,370 a year? How much do his rank and file members get after a hard life of toil?

The manager of ICI isn't worried about the Social Contract with his pay. He gets £93,500 a year!

DO YOU KNOW THAT CONDITIONS IN THE COMMUNITY ARE SO DESPERATE for some former mentally ill patients, that they are returning to the hospitals where they were treated? In a psychiatric hospital in Surrey, discharged mental patients spend their days in the canteens, and sleep at night in the corridors and toilets.

**British Working Class  
literature**

**Write to or visit ...**

**OCTOBER BOOKS,  
4b TEMPLE COURT,  
LIVERPOOL.**

**Marxist - Leninist  
Books - Posters.**

**ALBANIA**

**CHINA**

The success and value of this  
WORKERS' NOTEBOOK depends on  
you, the reader ...

We welcome articles, information,  
letters, comments, and above all,  
criticisms.

Please send all contributions to:

WORKERS' NOTEBOOK

OCTOBER BOOKS,

4b, TEMPLE COURT,

LIVERPOOL.

Subscriptions are available on  
request at £3.50 per year.

WORKERS' NOTEBOOK is published by  
the Communist Workers Movement,  
(CWM), a new national Marxist-  
Leninist organisation which has  
been formed with the intention of  
uniting with other Marxist-Leninist  
organisations and the working class  
at large towards the formation of  
a revolutionary working class party.