

THE WORKER



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WORKERS TAKE THE OFFENSIVE



Reg Birch speaking at Tower Hill to 5000 workers who marched against the AUEW fine

Hitting them where it hurts

Over half a million engineers downed tools on November 5th to express their contempt for the Industrial Relations Act and their indignation at the fine imposed on their Union.

They were joined in this action by dockers, building site workers, electricians, sheet metal workers and thousands of workers from various sections of the working class.

This is only part of the industrial offensive opened up in response to the Government's anti-working class moves on behalf of the employers. In Scotland stoppages will take place on Nov. 12th and, in addition to the complete shut downs on Nov. 5th, many engineers have imposed continuing overtime bans.

There were no national news papers; the motor industry was closed right down all over the country as was the aircraft industry around Bristol. It has been estimated that production losses

from this action in Leylands alone came to nearly £4 million. That figure would have to be multiplied many times for the total effect on the employing class of the engineers' counter offensive.

This action by the engineers is only a foretaste of what is to come. It is the working class flexing its muscles as it switches from defensive to offensive class warfare. It sets the key for the claims engineers, miners, public employees and many other sections of the working class will be lodging and demanding - in spite of any limitations the Government seeks to impose by phase three.

But above all it begins offensive battles against the employing class - guerrilla war in which they never know where we will hit them next.

Nov. 5th was a practical demonstration of the fundamental truth that the employing class needs us workers; we are the source of their profits. We workers do not

need the employers or their Government. We could run the country a lot more efficiently and in the interests of all, not just the tiny capitalist class.

The machinery of government can move very fast when the employers feel threatened. From the original sackings and strike at Con-Mech it was only a matter of weeks before the National Industrial Relations Court seized £75,000 from the AUEW. If the engineers had mutely accepted the fine or capitulated to the court, the Con-Mech boss would have been a hero to the employers. But when the engineers' anger started to build up, when the employers knew that the working class was going to fine

This is class war

Addressing the thousands of workers assembled at Tower Hill after their march from Hyde Park in demonstration against the Industrial Relations Act, Reg Birch, member of the AUEW Executive Council and Chairman of the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist), thanked all those present and all those hundreds of thousands of other workers who had stopped work this November 5th in protest at the £75,000 fine on the AUEW.

"We welcome the other trade unionists who have seen the correctness of our stand and have joined us," he said, "because our stand has been a somewhat lonely one.

We will not go to court. We will not recognise this law. In their extremity the Government instructed the Industrial Relations Commission to say to the employers at Con Mech 'you ought to recognise the Union.' But we would never demean our working class by going to such a court and beseeching them to intercede with the employers for us.

It has taken us long enough to render the employers powerless. They had to run to their capitalist Governments for help. You will note I say Governments in the plural, for Labour as well as Tory have rushed to the assistance of the employing class with anti-trade union legislation and wage-freezes.

We have believed we could live with the employing class. We have thought we would be all right taking up a defensive position. The capitalist Government has brought in phases one, two and three against the working class. We are still in our phase one of live and let live.

It is their policy to introduce counter-revolutionary measures. We must have phase two of our attack. 'This is class war. We shall have class law - our law. They try to impose their law on us but we shall destroy them. They believe we shall sue for peace but our end is the end of the employing class.

The whole trade union machinery must move from a position of defence and take the offensive. 'The control of the instruments of production in the interest of the community' is an aim of our union and we must set about realising it.

There is no such thing as a reasonable employer. There is not one employer who has not welcomed the Industrial Relations Act as a weapon against workers. There is not one employer who does not hide behind the Counter-Inflationary Act when workers try to defend their standard of living.

This is no six-day war; it is a long and bitter war. Their attacks on us, whether using a Goad or a Langston or a petty director of Con Mech, will only make us more united. We must impress on all workers that we are the only power. Now that they have begun this war, we must exert that power that is ours."

CIR attempts to sow confusion

The machinery of government can move very fast when the employers feel threatened. From the original sackings and strike at Con-Mech it was only a matter of weeks before the National Industrial Relations Court seized £75,000 from the AUEW. If the engineers had mutely accepted the fine or capitulated to the court, the Con-Mech boss would have been a hero to the employers. But when the engineers' anger started to build up, when the employers knew that the working class was going to fine

the bosses not thousands but millions, with strikes as on Nov 5th and other actions, then they started to condemn the Con-Mech management as 'idiotic', 'out of touch', 'outdated'.

In an obvious attempt to sow confusion, and persuade people that the Nov 5th strike was unnecessary, the Commission on Industrial Relations has rapidly reversed its judgement on the Con-Mech recognition issue, and now says that the AUEW should have the right to represent some of the workers. This

decision only shows how effective the struggle against the fine on the AUEW has been, how it has frightened the employers, who are losing millions, not just because of the strikes, but because of all the production lost by meetings deciding whether or not to have a strike. The CIR decision makes no difference to the real issue - The very existence of the NIRC. It is not a question of 'good' or 'bad' decisions by the NIRC or CIR. Workers can never leave it up to an outside body to decide when or if they can fight the employer.

speeches on tower hill

A divisional organiser of the AUEW who played a leading role in the Confederation of Engineering & Shipbuilding Unions No. 8 Committee's call for the one-day strike described the stoppage and demonstration as "a turning point in our affairs."

"The employers may own the factories and machines but they are all silent today.

Too long have we been passive. It is time that we hit back. This calling of a one-day stoppage is only the first step. We say to the employers; for every pound taken from us we will take ten from you,

The Government is encouraging every little crank in industry, like those at Woking, to resist trade union recognition. What they are trying to do with their phases is to phase out unions, to end collective bargaining. They have declared war on us. When shall we declare war on them?

The £75,000 is only a fraction of the millions they have already stolen from us in the three phase trick alone. We will not go to that Court. There is no justice in that Court.

And it is time the TUC stopped smoking the pipe of peace and holding pow-wows with the Government. They should be organising the troops to act.

Whether they do or not we go onto the attack."

A leading member of the T&GWU expressed the solidarity of his union with the engineers in their struggle:

"The Industrial Relations Act takes us right back 130 years to

Tolpuddle. In 1973 we find workers still having to fight for recognition and unions being fined for backing them.

But as today shows, this stick to beat the workers has turned into a boomerang. It is going to cost the employers far more than it costs the unions."

A member of the Executive committee of the Sheet Metal Workers pledged support for the AUEW's continuing fight.

"They say once a law is passed you have to accept it. Poppycock! The whole history of the working class has been a fight against unjust laws. We will never accept unjust laws passed for the benefit

of a privileged minority.

Never mind the unacceptable face of capitalism - it is capitalism itself that is unacceptable to us."

A representative of UCATT pledging the solidarity of his union reported that dozens of sites had been closed in support.

"This movement of ours, 10 million strong with 350,000 shop stewards representing rank and file workers, will not permit attacks to be made on our class. When our heroes of the past were told to obey the law or face imprisonment, they knew what to do."



Reg Birch calls for a workers' offensive

Glasgow firemen spearhead victory

In the words of Glasgow firemen's leader James Flockhart, the city's fire brigade has been the "spearhead of the breakthrough in pay and conditions for firemen throughout the country. This is a great victory for Glasgow firemen". Rises of between £5.36 & £6.65 a week plus £2.48 under a local agreement were won.

Right from the start of their action, support flowed in from firemen in other areas, trade unionists and students. The overtime ban from October 3, which hurt the employers while basic wages were maintained and morale built up, escalated to strike action when the corporation hid behind the Government wages law. After nine days of the solid, first-ever strike, a majority of Britain's firemen were working to rule, countless workers had pledged support, and the strike fund (they got no strike pay) had reached £8,853.

There was widespread local support - a mass meeting of West of Scotland engineering stewards organised financial aid, pensioners donated and £69 was collected from students and employees of Glasgow University in 7 days. And this was just the tip of the iceberg.

James Flockhart pointed out in our last issue that "there comes a time when you can't go on being exploited. We can't go on risking our lives for a miserable wage." Miserable was the word for it. £20.20 for 40 hours rose to only £28.20 after 15 years. Eight hours overtime was compulsory. 26 deaths and hundreds of injuries since 1960. 200 men short. 80

resignations this year. They struck in the interests of a better fire service for Glasgow's people.

At a fund raising meeting, Owen Morgan, the strike vice chairman pointed out that "troops occupying the fire stations was a sickening sight and that our fight today is the fight of other workers tomorrow."

One clear lesson for other areas where the working class has to engage in a fight, is that by concentrating your forces where it

hurts the employers most, with the initiative in the hands of the militant workers in the acute local situation, gains can be made at little expense to the whole work force. The firemen's union executive should have realised the ingenuity of this tactic and supported the Glasgow firemen from the outset. It is such ingenuity that boosts the morale of the whole class and creates an awareness of the power the working class does in fact possess.

Revolutionary diplomacy

When China was elected, by a large majority to membership of the United Nations in 1971, many wondered how this country would perform in an organisation which had been increasingly discredited. What was the 'revolutionary diplomacy' the Chinese talked of?

There can be no clearer indication of China's mass line in the international arena than the stand taken in the recent debates on the Middle-East ceasefire. On October 23rd, Egypt called for an emergency meeting of the 15 member Security Council to discuss Israeli violations of the ceasefire. A meeting was arranged but was delayed for 4½ hours while the USA and USSR representatives held joint discussions in private. When the meeting eventually began, the US representative Scalf proposed and the Soviet representative Malik seconded the call for an immediate vote on a ceasefire resolution; a resolution that none of the other members of the Security Council had received or read! The Chinese representative, Chiao Kuan-Hua, opposed this attempt to railroad the resolution through. Interruptions from Malik, the USSR representative, attempting to stop Chiao Kuan-Hua speaking, created such disorder that the meeting had to be adjourned. The President of the Security Council upheld China's right to speak. Chiao Kuan-Hua then made the following points:- This draft resolution is a mere scrap of paper, which makes no condemnation of Israel's expanded aggression, puts the aggressor and the victim of aggression on a par and fails to make the slightest mention of the demand for the immediate withdrawal of the Israeli aggressors from all the occupied Arab territories. Fundamentally speaking, the Chinese delegation is opposed to this draft resolution. I deem it also necessary to point out that the evolution of the United Nations to the present state of affairs has reached intolerable limits.

EDITORIAL

WORKERS AGAINST THE STATE

It was appropriate that the engineers' action against the Industrial Relations Act, which Sir John Donaldson has called "a threat to Parliamentary democracy itself", should have taken place on Guy Fawkes' Day.

The very real sense in which Sir John Donaldson's charge is true is that engineers and the vast number of workers who support their struggle against the capitalist state are fighting their battle with capitalism on their own ground using their own weapons, and are not waiting for it to be decided by others in a Parliamentary election or a Parliamentary debate.

The November 5th industrial action is a sign of the political maturity of the working class with the engineers at their head. It is their realisation that they have to carry on the fight themselves in the arena where they can make their united strength felt - the industrial front. It is their understanding that there can be no capitalist exploitation without an oppressive capitalist state.

From the time the Labour and Tory Parties were forced by the economic plight of their masters, the capitalist class, to show themselves more openly anti-working class, it became inevitable that the working class would wage its own economic and political battles from its factory bases with no regard for the Parliamentary charade.

Illusion of Constitutional Democracy

It has been one of the successes of the bourgeoisie in countries like Britain to be able to exercise the minority rule of the proletariat class through an apparently "democratic constitution". It has been the particular task of social democracy to present this rule as in the general interest as it has been one of Marxism's tasks on behalf of workers to expose this political fraud.

The Labour Party has to appear to oppose the Industrial Relations Act, even though it provided the blueprint, because it must try to get the debate off the shopfloor and the streets, where it is a threat to the whole capitalist system, and back into Parliament.

The growing strength of the organised working class, from one in eight in 1906 to one in two in 1972, at a time when Britain's economic crisis makes the capitalist class more dependent on the state than ever for its profits, has led to such open anti-working class legislation as the Industrial Relations Act and the Counter-Inflation Act.

Militancy and Political Understanding

But the attempt to incorporate unions into the capitalist state structure comes also at a time when working class militancy and political understanding have never been at a higher level. This is shown by the support of the rank and file workers of other unions for the engineers' action even when their own leadership has wavered.

The Sunday Times has said: "It is now a nice question whether the Industrial Relations Act will destroy the Engineering Union or whether the union will destroy the Act." The Union is not its funds, which can be raided, but its members who can never be put down, while workers have already demonstrated that the Act can be made too costly to the employers for further use.

The confrontation is really between the working class and the capitalist state, for in this struggle the engineers are fighting in the interest of the whole class and the Industrial Relations Act is simply one manifestation of that state. It is a war which will not end till the working class has not only abolished capitalist exploitation but also liberated society from the domination of the capitalist state apparatus. In place of the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie, the rule of the many by the few, will be put the dictatorship of the proletariat, the emancipation of the many who produce the nation's wealth from the yoke of the few who steal and squander it.

You can't use capitalist law to fight capitalist law

The futility of the cry by some "righteous leaders" of the labour movement that "we must defend ourselves" before the National Industrial Relations Court, which was echoed again at the last TUC Conference, has been borne out by a recent decision of that body concerning a case of unfair dismissal. In that case, Donaldson ruled that a worker is not unfairly dismissed if "his continued employment is not in the interests of business." This surely must be

the ultimate in bourgeois logic. What employer would fire a worker if it was not in his own interest, i.e. "in the interests of business"? The result of this ruling would obviously mean that in every case where a worker is sacked the employer must be acting fairly. This decision coupled with the latest fine on the AUEW clearly shows that the Industrial Relations Act has heralded the beginning of the Corporate State.

What is the need for the United Nations? Would it not suffice to have the condominium of the United States and the Soviet Union plus a Secretary-General? Nevertheless, out of respect for the countries concerned, we would give consideration to that draft resolution. But we will never allow it to be imposed on us. The superpowers want to force through the draft resolution before it is distributed. What kind of logic on earth is this? If the countries concerned - I repeat, the countries concerned - want such a thing, we have no alternative, but the maximum we can do is to refrain from opposing it. In addition he said:-

Fundamentally speaking, the days are gone when the two superpowers could manipulate and dominate the affairs of the world. Neither one superpower nor the two superpowers combined can impose their will on the people of the world, on the third world countries and other states.

The Chinese representatives did not take part in the voting.

Govt faces loss of power

The Arab oil cutbacks could represent the last camel that breaks the back of the man of straw, Edward Heath. It was the 1972 miners strike that marked the defeat of the 'lame duck' policy - trying to break the spirit of the working class with mass unemployment and head-on confrontations over wages. Now the

next government strategy, the freeze, is facing its greatest crisis. The engineers are hitting back at the Industrial Relations Court and their massive wage claim will soon have to be faced by the employers of over two million workers. On the power front, the government and the ruling class face a triple threat.

The total oil reserves are less than three months supply, as are the coal reserves, while a more immediate threat is posed by the 14,000 electrical power engineers who are banning overtime. And will gas and other power workers miss this tactical opportunity.

Miners

A mineworkers' delegate conference recommended branches to vote in favour of an overtime ban. Such a strategy will bring the reserves down and make the government even more vulnerable. The existing Coal Board offer is at the limits of the Phase III policy. The miners

deserve support from all workers - not for being a 'special case' but because they are militant workers fighting the freeze. Sometime around the New Year the government will be faced with a choice - a freeze on wages or a freeze on the whole economy when the fuel runs out.



Electrical power engineers

The electrical power engineers, the men who directly control power supplies, have never taken action before.

Now they are in the front line of the struggle against the freeze with their demand for effectively twice the present payments for stand-by duties over the 38 hour

week. The present action consists of a ban on such extra duties. The power engineers are on stand-by one week in four and they want £13 for this week, plus £5 for each weekday they are actually called out, and £8.50 for each weekend call. The generating boards are in an even

worse mess because of the failure of the summer maintenance programme - a mess of their own making, for the basic problem is a shortage of labour following the productivity drive of the past when many jobs were lost. So remember to lay in the candles this year.

NHS workers continue the struggle

Workers in the National Health Service - nurses, ancillary workers and students - have not accepted that social service means social servitude, and are finding new ways of organising and struggling together.

Nurses and hospital workers at King's College Hospital, London, experiencing rising prices while their wages stay still, have started a canteen boycott around 4 basic demands:

- 1) All canteen prices to be reduced by 25 per cent.
- 2) No further price rises.
- 3) Inspection of food by elected

union representatives.
4) Right of inspection of accounts by union representatives.
Support has been almost 100 per cent and free food is being provided by nurses and porters. It was decided at a mass meeting of nurses and workers to continue the boycott for a week, and then employ the more hard-hitting tactic of lightning boycotts. A long campaign is expected and Trade Union support is growing fast.

The KCH medical students' union has decided to support the nurses fully in their fight against rising prices, the pay laws and

refusal to raise grants. The medical school refectory will be boycotted for the same time and duration as the nurses' and boycotting will continue until the nurses' demands are met. The students are organising a fund for free food, pickets, leaflets and publicity.

We stated in 'The Worker', at the time of the end of the ancillary workers' action, that theirs was a correct retreat. Hospital workers and nurses have remembered the lessons learned during that strike, and are attacking from a different position - a position of increased strength, organisation and experience.

Students fight for homes

Cambridge

Cambridge College of Arts and Technology students rely on mass support and achieve in a few days more than was achieved by three years of Whitehall/Local Authority talks.

On Oct 10th an emergency meeting of students was called to discuss the acute housing shortage for students. Many were unable to find accommodation and were sleeping on the floors in their friends rooms. The situation has been aggravated in Cambridge by the policy of demolishing larger, older houses which used to be let as bed sitters and replacing them with expensive office blocks and flats. Students and young people on low pay have been priced out of the market.

They immediately occupied Owletone Croft, a large, sound building which has stood derelict and decaying since 1969 when the 200 nurses housed there had been

re-housed at the Addenbrooks Hospital Site. The local education authority had offered to buy this building in 1970 for a students hostel (£250,000). This was refused and plans from Whitehall were to demolish the building and build a £1 million training centre on the site - at some time in the future.

The students are winning, they remain in occupation, they have the water supply restored and are raising money for the electricity supply. The people of Cambridge have supported them providing fires, beds, blankets etc. The Department of Health has agreed not to demolish the building and have agreed with local authorities to consider its use as a hostel for (ancillary) hospital workers and students.

The people of Cambridge have achieved in a few days what had not been settled in years. They have highlighted the shortage of houses and of low pay and grants, and by standing firm and using the right tactics have shown that they are not asking for favours from Whitehall but are demanding their rights,

Bristol

After a Grants campaign march 1,200 strong, about 500-600 students from all Bristol colleges occupied the University Administration block from the 25th to the 27th Oct. in support of grants and local accommodation demands. The sit-in, which effectively stopped all administrative work for its duration, was controlled by mass-meetings of 200-300 students.

The Vice Chancellor, politically isolated, was driven to use the apparatus of the capitalist state to end this, and perhaps, he hoped to prevent future sit-ins: he sought High Court injunctions and served summonses to get particular individuals and 'unnamed others' out of the building. Correctly the students retreated maintaining the initiative in leaving as they had seized it in occupying. All ultra-left attempts to turn the sit-in into a suicidal war of attrition were rejected.

FROM THE WORKERS TO THE WORKERS

An interview with NUM delegates at their recent conference. The two delegates interviewed were from the Yorkshire coalfields at Upshire and Bentley, near Doncaster. One was the area secretary.

Q. What are the details of your claim?

A. We are asking now for new minimum basic rates of £45 a week for all face workers covered by the National Power Loading Agreement, £40 a week for other underground workers and £35 a week minimum basic for surface workers.

Q. How has the Coal Board replied to your claim?

A. Their current offer of a £2.40 increase to all workers underground, and of £2.25 for surface workers comes nothing near the claim we have put to them.

Q. What will happen now?

A. This morning we have decided unanimously to accept our national executive council resolution calling for a complete overtime ban, to be imposed if and when necessary.

Q. How will the Phase III proposals affect your decision?

A. If the Coal Board doesn't meet our demands we will definitely carry out this resolution which has just been ratified. We shall fight to the bitter end.

Q. What is your attitude to the recent fine imposed on the AUEW?

A. I can't remember a more vicious Act than this one, and I think we should unite in this fight to destroy it by every means possible, because it is plain to see how the Government are trying to use it to stop free collective bargaining and to beat us workers down. Of course we back the engineers! Wherever there is a workers' struggle, we can guarantee that the miners will be a part of it, because we realise that it is our struggle as well.

INDUSTRIAL FRONT

Post Office

Post Office clerical workers continued their selective strikes in the campaign to win the same concessions already won by 400,000 Civil Service workers. The action taken by the civil servants at the beginning of the year forced the Government to make concessions under the 'anomaly' section of the Phase III rules. The current strikes, mainly in computer installations, are aimed at causing the maximum effect. So the importing of cargo at Heathrow Airport has practically been stopped because the computer controlling this is out of action. Workers grateful that their telephone bill has not yet arrived can also thank the Post Office strikers.

Hull Dockers

Hull's 2000 dockers, in pursuance of their £8 a week pay claim, have staged the first in a series of lightning strikes. The claim is to cover the increase in the cost of living. The port employers' association have offered £2.57 to £2.92, an offer which has been rejected by the men who are going ahead with their lightning guerrilla strikes, one a week, until an offer closer to the £8 claim is made. It is being left to the shop stewards' committee to make the decision of what day the strike should be on. This preserves secrecy and the element of surprise. The dockers say this policy will

quickly disrupt the operations of port users and bring pressure to bear on their employers.

Cambridge Journalists

NUJ members working for provincial newspapers all over the country began what is effectively an overtime ban and work to rule on October 12th.

The action is being taken to back up national pay negotiations which the employers organisation (The Newspaper Society) are attempting to delay.

The Cambridge Evening News attempted to retaliate by ordering sub-editors to work an extra half-hour on each day. The local NUJ response was immediate - they called a three day obligatory union meeting - effectively a strike. This resulted in four daily issues of the paper being very depleted.

The editor was forced to rescind his command and the work to rule goes on. This highlights the situation which exists on many newspapers, which have depended heavily on voluntary overtime.

Pools Strike

700 Littlewoods pools checkers at Liverpool walked out in support of a demand for a £2.50 rise and an end to the present under staffing and overwork. 'We are just slaves here' said one of the girls. 'We have nothing to lose but our chains'.

Read 'The Worker'

A newspaper written by workers for workers, published fortnightly by the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist).

The students had struck a blow in the grants campaign and for the hundred or more homeless Bristol students. They had set an example to all students in self-reliant struggle at the work-place as opposed to phoney activism of pressure-group petition and social-democratic 'protest'. Many new students gained their first experience and confidence in class struggle.

Before the students left the building the Vice-Chancellor pro-

posed no victimisation either legally or through his own disciplinary code. This was only because the sit-in has strengthened and not weakened the students. They have not put themselves in a position where he can attack with impunity as happened after the last big sit-in in 1968. The Vice-Chancellor is now 'negotiating' on the student demands - the students, however, having attacked him once without harm to themselves are considering ways to continue the struggle.

Angola's Liberation War



Dr Jonas Savimbi, President of UNITA, showing villagers in a liberated area weapons captured from the Portuguese

On the 29th July this year, Angolan guerrillas launched an attack on occupying Portuguese troops in northern Moxico province. The troops, moving on the road between Luso and Luma Cassal lost 35 of their number and the guerrillas captured a 60 mm mortar together with 30 shells. It is many small successes like this that have led the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) to report that their protracted war of liberation against the Portuguese colonialists is being won. The following article is based on a discussion with Jorge Sangumba, Foreign Secretary of UNITA and its resident spokesman in Britain.

Angola has a long and bitter history of colonial oppression. The Portuguese took control of Angola in 1482 and during almost five hundred years have taken a heavy toll in natural and (especially) human resources. Huge numbers of Angolans were taken to North America and the West Indies during the years of the slave trade and the net fall in population during Portuguese occupation has been enormous - from a peak of twenty million to less than six million today.

Feudal Society

Present Angola is a feudal society where a system of forced labour is still in operation.

Educational and medical facilities are almost non-existent.

Throughout the five centuries of Portuguese domination Angolans have struggled for independence. It was a natural development, therefore, in 1961 when armed struggle assumed a more regular form. At this time there were two political parties involved in fighting against the Portuguese - the Popular Union for Angola (UPA) which later became the Revolutionary Government in Exile (GRAE) and the Popular Movement for liberation of Angola (MPLA), which was also based outside Angola.

The next major step forward for the Angolan People occurred in March 1966 when UNITA was formed. This party was based in Angola (the only place from which a successful revolution could be fought) and its objective was to secure a base area in which schools and clinics could be built and where the people could develop politically.

Hit and Run Tactics

Since those early days the people's army - Armed Forces for Liberation of Angola (FALA) has liberated large areas of land in the eastern part of the country. It uses hit and run tactics to destroy Portuguese posts, ambush military convoys and sabotage the means of communication. FALA uses NATO weapons captured from the Portuguese - self-reliance has been a major principle of UNITA

- it does not rely upon foreign aid.

FALA, with about 4000 guerrillas, is very heavily outnumbered by the colonial forces but in seven years has liberated some one and a half million people from Portuguese control. Angolans in the liberated areas pay no taxes to the Portuguese and have their own schools, which are used by adults and children - for the raising of the literacy rate is important in the politicising of the people. They have clinics which are operating with some success despite a severe shortage of medical supplies and trained personnel. In addition, agricultural cooperatives have been set up and there are now no shortages of food in the liberated areas despite the use of defoliants and napalm by the Portuguese.

The most important success of UNITA is the political awareness of the people. Four or five villages form a local committee and four of five local committees form a Peoples Assembly. Each Peoples Assembly has control in its area, adjudicating in local disputes and having responsibility for the protection of the people through the Sentries of the People - in the event of a major incursion by Portuguese troops the nearest FALA unit would be called in.

No Illusions

UNITA has no illusions that the road ahead will not be long and hard. A secure base has been established in which Portuguese ground forces can make no more than brief attacks (although these areas are vulnerable to attacks from the air) but the country is vast (almost fifteen times the size of Portugal itself). As the guerrillas move westwards and threaten the larger towns and cities on the coast the Portuguese will intensify their attacks on Angolans and will receive more and more assistance from the United States (already giving \$300 million per year) and from the rest of NATO. Nonetheless with the positive gains already achieved to be built upon and the awareness and determination of the people victory is inevitable.

Mid-East war threat to superpowers

What began as a defiance of the United States and the Soviet Union, the two super-powers are now attempting to turn into complete submission to their will. The armed forces of Egypt and Syria together with the support of other Arab countries were able to score a number of important victories. The Israeli Zionists, like pirates thrive on quick victories. They cannot sustain the protracted war the Arab countries promised. As soon as this situation became clear, the super-powers began their hectic activities to get a ceasefire. Kosygin went to Cairo followed by Kissinger's visit to Moscow leading to the US/Soviet ceasefire resolution being hurried through the UN security council.

Kosygin's visit to Cairo had one purpose only, to force Egypt to hold back. Using Egypt's dependence on Soviet arms, Kosygin was able to force acceptance of a ceasefire, the outlines of which had already been agreed with the US. It is worth noting that the Israeli breakthrough across the Suez Canal began after

Kosygin's arrival in Cairo.

Apart from Kosygin's visit to Cairo, the Soviet Union has been doing most of the running throughout the present crisis. At the security council it was the Soviet Union who attempted to stop the Chinese delegate from speaking, insisting that a vote be taken even before the draft resolution was translated and circulated. It is the Soviet Union who was too eager to send troops to the Middle East. The US with the memory of its defeat in Vietnam too fresh would not undertake such a venture. The Soviet Union, having failed to have troops included with the UN forces, sent its own 'observers' to the area.

The war in the Middle East constituted no danger to world peace. It threatened not world peace but Israeli aggressors and the imperialist powers. It is only a threat to peace in so far as the two super-powers take it upon themselves to interfere directly or indirectly in the affairs of the countries of the Middle East.

That the war endangered the US/Soviet detente goes to show the basis of such an understanding between the two super-powers, that of encouraging aggression and occupation by Israel of neighbouring countries.

As the US began to replace the weapons and armour the Israelis lost in the war, the Soviet Union kept up its supply of manpower, even more crucial to Israel's military strength, in the form of Jewish immigration. This Soviet policy hailed in the West as ending the persecution of Jews in the Soviet Union, is nothing but an extreme expression of anti-semitism in the Soviet Union. It is based on the racist (Zionist) ideology that the Jews form a separate race apart from the rest of the population and as such have to be treated differently. Hitler sent the Jews to the gas chambers; the Soviet Union sends them to Israel to be used as cannon fodder for imperialism. The initiative taken by Egypt and Syria in repelling Israeli aggression has shown what can be done by independent and united action on the part of the Arab countries. It has shown that quick victories are illusory and that protracted war is the only solution. It has shown that in fighting against Israeli aggression, the Arab peoples come face to face with the US as the direct backer of Israel and the Soviet Union, whose interests run counter to those of the Arab peoples.

The dependence on the Soviet Union can only mean blackmail and defeat. Soviet friendship means a deal with the US behind the backs of the Arab peoples and a demand for immediate cash payment in international currency for arms so urgently needed by Egypt and Syria.

With the imposition of a ceasefire, old ghosts have been revived. The Palestinian and Arab peoples have all along rejected all the plans hatched up by the super-powers for a so-called 'peaceful solution'. The Palestinian people with the Fedayeen as their vanguard are carrying out armed struggle to liberate their stolen land, Palestine. Their aim is the establishment of a secular democratic Palestine to replace the present racist set-up in Israel. No UN resolution or super-powers' blackmail and force will divert the Palestinian Fedayeen from fighting on to achieve that aim, the only guarantee to peace in the area.

To be hated by the enemy is a good thing

Engineering MPs challenged the Government's handling of industrial relations following the November 5th strike by the AUEW and argued that the Government had better follow the example of "sensible employers" and ignore the Act.

Mr Heath called the strike "a political demonstration". He added later: "Neither the Act nor the Court are responsible for any confrontation. The only people responsible for confrontation, and they are now isolated in the trade union movement, is the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers. If they had carried through the same procedure as the Transport and General Workers' Union then there would have been no confrontation of any kind."

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEETINGS TO BE HELD AT THE BELLMAN BOOKSHOP AT 7.30 PM

Fri. Nov 16: "Victory to the People of Cambodia". New film from Vietnam

Fri. Nov 30: Film - Title to be Announced

MEETING TO BE HELD AT OCTOBER BOOKS AT 7.30 PM

Fri. Nov 16: Education and the Working Class

MEETING TO BE HELD AT MIDLAND INN, MIDLAND ROAD, OLD MARKET BRISTOL AT 8.00 PM

Thurs. Nov 22: The Labour Party: Enemy of the Working Class

MEETING TO BE HELD AT, BRIGHTON WORKERS BOOKSHOP AT 8.00 PM

Fri. Nov 23: Housing in Brighton

Celebrate Albania's National Day

SPEAKER: REG BIRCH

(Chairman of the Communist Party of Britain (ML))

Reporting on recent talks held with Enver Hoxha (First Secretary of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania)

FRI NOV 23 HOLBORN ASSEMBLY ROOMS
St. John's Mews, HOLBORN

NEW ALBANIA SOCIETY