

THE WORKER



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'The key to revolution'

The key to revolution is the struggle for independence in one's own land, Reg Birch, chairman of the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) told the 7th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania on November 1st.

The first and basic task was to know and confront one's enemy. Pointing out that socialism in Britain will only be achieved by revolution, through the working class, Reg Birch declared, "we do not go to bed with the bourgeoisie".

Our greatest international contribution was to wage and succeed in the battle for revolution in Britain. "The British working class and its Marxist-Leninist Party cannot rest on the struggle and sacrifice of other workers in other lands across the world. It is where we live that counts. No excuses and diversions shall prevail."

The full speech reads:
On behalf of the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist), on the 35th year of your Party and at the time of your 7th Congress, we bring greetings and are honoured to have been invited. We are happy to be with you.

So important, not for Albania alone but for all Europe especially Britain, is the success you are sure to achieve. You are, as a nation, led by the Party of Labour, a Marxist-Leninist Party under the direct tutelage of Comrade Enver Hoxha, a banner-bearer of revolution, socialism and Marxism-Leninism. In this period you are the only successful country and people in all Europe. We have been indebted to you since 1960 because our

Party was begun on the signal speech of Comrade Enver in 1960. So your understanding of Marxism-Leninism not only gave the signal to us, but every day and every year since, your persistence, tenacity and movement toward workers' total emancipation have given us courage to carry on and above all to pledge for revolution in Britain and to emulate you. Your stand - together with the Communist Party of China led by Chairman Mao Tsetung - against revisionism, brought the workers of the world out of a slough of despond.

The key to revolution is the struggle for independence in one's own land. Down with all imperialist, military and economic blocs! Down with the Warsaw Pact

and down with NATO! To know one's enemy and to confront it is our first and basic task. Socialism in Britain will be achieved only by revolution just as in Albania, through the working class. We are dedicated as a Party to that task and we borrow from your strength and success. We do not go to bed with the bourgeoisie. To wage this battle and to succeed can be our greatest international contribution. The British working class and its Marxist-Leninist Party cannot rest on the struggle and sacrifice of other workers in other lands across the world. It is where we live that counts. No excuses and diversions shall prevail.

The test of a revolutionary working class in Europe today is in its understanding of the greatness and historic contribution to Marxism-Leninism, to revolution and socialism, of the Albanian people. Just as in October 1917 and for all the years of the Bolshevik Revolution, the test of class understanding of Marxism was the attitude to the Bolshevik Revolution, now the test is the attitude to Albania. Albania is not alone, nor are the workers of Europe ever without a champion and friend while there is Albania.

Success to your Congress and long live Comrade Enver Hoxha!



Reg Birch, Chairman of the CPB(ML), addressing the Albanian Congress.

FIGHT WHERE YOU ARE



Enver Hoxha, First Secretary of the Party of Labour of Albania, at the 7th Congress of the Party held in Tirana recently. For excerpts from Hoxha's report to the Congress see pages 2, 3. The New Albania Society is holding an "Albania Exhibition" from November 29th to December 18th. Details on page 2.

Eleven days of activity in November saw the struggle against cuts in public expenditure move to a new understanding. "There shall be no more cuts" is the bold stance which permits no further retreat and which compels the counter-attack on those who would strip the working class of all it has laboured to build.

Not one more redundancy, not one more cut. And workers throughout Britain, in every workshop and workplace know that it is where people labour that the cuts are effected. It is in the workplace that the cut must be confronted.

The "education week" and "week of action" from November 7th - 13th produced a flurry of public meetings, lobbies and leaflets. The demonstration and lobby of parliament on November 17th, mounted by 13 unions, saw many thousands from all over the country gather in colourful array and grim good humour to register their opposition to the decline of Britain.

But the most successful activity for education was in the schools themselves. Teachers held meetings to discuss the cuts and parents marched into the schools to establish their presence. The most convincing

message to emerge from the rally on November 17th was to return to the workplace and build anew. Not for an even bigger lobby of parliament. Petition and lobby are fast losing all credibility.

'There shall be no more cuts'



Rather, it is in the workplace that workers establish their dignity and assurance. It is there they employ their skills, build their organisation, and can assert themselves in the struggle for Britain.

We demand the right to work

in the factory, not in the gutter. In the struggle for education the focus for activity will be the institutions of education themselves. Already, in the struggle for health, hospitals have been claimed by those who work in them.

Every cut must be fought, for there is no distinction between a Labour and Tory label, nor between justified and unjustified cuts. Each single cut must be confronted, for only by tackling the specific case can the general problem be dealt with. The struggle must be at the point of production, because that is where we are.

"There shall be no more cuts". This is the line for the whole labour movement. Each battle must be conducted with skill and self-reliance.

We fight at the place of work. There is no place for the trotskyite cause celebre, the essays in demoralisation and disaster, accompanied by initial fanfare and resulting in setback for all.

In our struggle we claim the support of our labour movement. There can be no loyalty to an alien Labour Government, a cretinous commitment which provokes the antics of the trotskyites, and in turn is given succour by such antics.

5 years of self-reliant achievement

In the Report submitted by Enver Hoxha at the 7th Party Congress it was noted that rapid industrialisation in the course of the Fifth Five Year Plan had brought Albania much closer to the objective of becoming an industrial-agricultural country, with emphasis on industry but with a firm grounding on a secure agricultural base.

Impressive as have been the economic achievements, the advance of the working class not only in skill but also in socialist consciousness has been the greatest achievement of all. "The rise in the capabilities of the working class and in its consciousness of the leading role it must play in socialist society, the establishment of worker and peasant control, the struggle of the Party to root out bureaucratic, technocratic and liberal distortions and

tendencies, have further enriched the experience of the dictatorship of the proletariat in the struggle to defend and consolidate our socialist order. They have contributed greatly to barring the way to the danger of bourgeois and revisionist degeneration and of a switch back to capitalism."

As the Report says: "In this period of grave crises that have gripped the capitalist and revisionist world, the strength and stability of socialist Albania, our political and economic stability, are evidence of the superiority of socialism, of the wisdom of the Marxist-Leninist line of the Party, and the correctness of the principle of self-reliance."

"In the construction of socialism, the People's Socialist Republic of Albania upholds the principle of self-reliance... No

country whatsoever, big or small, can build socialism by taking credits and aid from the bourgeoisie and the revisionists or by integrating its economy into the world system of capitalist economy... Just as the freedom and independence of a country are not donated, neither are the revolution and socialism imported. They are the outcome of the resolute revolutionary struggle of the broad working masses of each country with the working class at the head and under the leadership of the Marxist-Leninist Party. The principle of self-reliance does not rule out the internationalist aid of the proletariat, revolutionaries and socialist countries. However, the external factor, internationalist solidarity and aid, is an auxiliary and the complementary element, not the decisive one, despite its

great importance."

Based on these principles there were the following records of healthy growth during the Fifth Five Year Plan from 1970 to 1975: Social production increased by 37 per cent and the national income by 38 per cent, at an average rate 3 times higher than the increase in the population; industrial production increased by 52 per cent at an average annual rate of 8.7 per cent so that industrial production now makes up 65 per cent of total production; agricultural production increased by 33 per cent, at an average annual rate of 5.9 per cent; the volume of investment was 50 per cent greater than in the previous and real income per capita increased by 14.5 per cent which was precisely the target set by the 6th Party Congress five years ago.

During this period the great metallurgical combine at Elbasan began to produce the first high quality steel to be made in Albania and the oil refinery at Ballsh will soon be processing Albanian oil for the products needed by an advancing economy. The huge Fierza hydropower plant on the Drin river is nearing completion.

On the agricultural front bread grain production increased by 35 per cent and Albania is now fulfilling all her grain requirements from within her own borders! One remembers Khrushchev's advice to the Albanians to give up trying to grow their own wheat and get it from the USSR. Now Albania is self-sufficient in wheat while "the revisionist Soviet Union has to hold out their hand to US imperialism for bread."

"Socialist Albania provides a major example which shows that the emergence of revisionism and return to capitalism are not decreed by fate to be inevitable as the bourgeois ideologists try to make out. It proves the vitality of socialism, the invincible strength of the ideas of Marxism-Leninism, which, when they are consistently applied, carry the cause of the revolution and the dictatorship of the proletariat forward with sure steps."



Albanians greet their 7th Party Congress

People of Albania march into a brave new future

Mehmet Shehu, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the People's Republic of Albania delivered a report on the completion of the Fifth Five Year Plan and directives for the Sixth to the 7th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania.

Excerpts from the report:

"The facts show that socialist Albania is developing its economy at rates faster than those of the countries in which the revisionists are in power and the other capitalist countries. In Albania there is stability of prices for mass consumer goods; there are no price rises; there is no inflation; there is no unemployment. The standard of living of the working people is steadily rising and not falling as is the case with the capitalist and revisionist countries.

"The average annual growth of industrial production for the 1965-75 period is much higher in Albania with a 10.8 per cent rate of growth per year than in any other European country. It is higher than the Soviet Union with 7.9, than France with 5.0 or the Federal German Republic with 3.4.

"The accomplishment of the tasks of the Fifth Five Year Plan (1970-75) is shown in the percentage rate of growth of various sectors of the economy.

Total social production	37
National income	38
Total industrial production	52
Total agricultural production	33
Volume of goods transported	45
Volume of investments (for the 5 years taken together)	50
Productivity of labour in industry	21
Productivity of labour in construction	28
Volume of exports (for the 5 years taken together)	75
Goods turnover in retail trade	35
Real income per head of population	14.5

"Further steps were taken to reduce the gap between the incomes of the people in the countryside and the urban population. The real per capita income in town increased by 8.7 per cent while in the countryside it increased by 20.5 per cent.

"In striving for a further uplift of the standard of living of the

working masses and their revolutionary education, as two inseparable tasks of socialist construction, our Party has consistently applied and is applying a correct Marxist-Leninist policy in the field of distribution, not allowing pronounced disparities in the levels of income and the ways of life between classes and groupings of the population, not allowing the creation of privileged and favoured strata that can become purveyors of the bourgeois and revisionist ideology and a social basis for the restoration of capitalism. At the same time, our Party has been prudent and wise in the correct implementation of the socialist principle of distribution according to work, maintaining moral and material incentives at work, without slipping into petty-bourgeois egalitarianism, and always giving priority to moral incentives over material ones. The ratio between the average wage of workers in the respective branch and the salary of the director of the enterprise is 1:1.7; in general the ratio between the average worker's wage and the salary of a department chief in a ministry is about 1:2. The ratio between lowest and highest workers' wages within the respective branch is about 1:1.5-1.65... In the countries where the revisionists hold sway these differentials are 10 to 25 times larger to the advantage of higher salaries, without taking into account the various bonuses which directors of enterprises and the engineering-technical staff receive through the capitalist distribution of profits."

During this five year period there have also been great advances in social and cultural provisions for the people. "In 1970 there was one doctor for every 1,180 inhabitants; now there is one doctor for every 870 inhabitants. Albania has one of the lowest death rates per thousand in Europe and life expectancy has increased from the 38 years of 1938 to 68 years at present."

The working out with the people of the draft directives for the Sixth Five Year Plan show real democracy in action. Over 13,500 commissions and planning groups consisting of more than 82,000 members, 78 per cent of them workers in factories or on the farms, were set up and functioned throughout the country. About 160,000 working people contributed to the discussion advancing about 45,000 proposals, of which over 30,000 were found valuable and endorsed. "That is the reason why the plans are so enthusiastically implemented by the working masses -- "they have the mark of the people on them,"

Science is threatened

"The cumulative effect of the successive cuts announced since 1973 is that by 1980 the SRC budget in real terms is expected to be at least one sixth less than the 1973 budget."

So states the 1975-76 Report of the Science Research Council, although this estimate is already out of date. The cut now being anticipated means a reduction of one quarter rather than one sixth.

The Science Research Council is that body responsible primarily (although not exclusively) for supporting "basic research with no foreseen application", i.e. that which brings in no quick profit. But this by no means implies wasted research. Scientific research, with or without an immediate application, is a basic requirement to an industrialised society. So-called "pure" scientific investigations, whether they led to Newton's Laws of Motion or the discovery of the electron, have radically changed the course of our lives. Developmental technology is inseparable from "pure" research, and an attack on either is an attack on us all. The further science and technology develop, the more avenues are opened up. To deny us the chance of deeper investigation is criminal.

Some of the major effects of the cuts will be as follows:

- A reduction in expenditure on nuclear physics from £41 million to £29.5 million a year. Both of the SRC's particle accelerators are to be shut down.
- A reduction in astronomy and space research from £26 million to less than £20 million a year.
- The severity of the cuts makes it likely that no new grants will be awarded next year and that a further reduction in the number of new postgraduate awards, already 15 per cent lower than in 1973, will take place.

SYRIANS, GET OUT

What Syria failed to achieve in over nine months of fighting in Lebanon, it has now succeeded in doing in a few days under the auspices of the Arab League. Syria now occupies the capital, Beirut, as well as the best part of Lebanon.

The war waged by the people of Lebanon against the phalangist reaction was coming to an end when Syria decided to intervene on the side of the phalangists to keep the flames of war burning. It was during that invasion by Syria that the most outrageous crimes were committed. It was under the direct support of the Syrian troops that a refugee camp was put under siege and systematically bombarded and burned to the ground with thousands of men, women and children killed or maimed. Even when the camp finally surrendered, no mercy was shown to the inhabitants. Even doctors and nurses were summarily shot. To top it all, the camp was looted by the phalangists.

Under whatever flag it operates the Syrian army remains an invading foreign army, intent on subjugating Lebanon to the will of a foreign power - namely Syria. The task now is to drive the invader out of Lebanon. And in this the people of Lebanon should have the support of all,

Restore reward for skill

The pseudo-egalitarian flat-rate principle embodied in the £6 wage policy is destroying engineering. This is the conclusion which emerges from recent Department of Employment and Engineering Industry Training Board (EITB) figures.

With the exception of the years 1948-54, the present skilled differential in engineering is lower now than at any other time over the past 60 years. It has been calculated that if the £6 per week flat rate increase had been applied throughout industry, then differentials would have been narrowed by a further 3 per cent by July 1976.

Between June 1966 and June 1976 average earnings of skilled engineering workers rose from 49.3 pence to 152.1 pence (i.e. 208 per cent). 'Semi-skilled' workers' average earnings rose by 224 per cent.

This ten-year erosion of differentials has been the deliberate consequence of an almost unbroken decade of wage restraint. Although the new £2.50 or 5 per cent versions allow some restoration of differentials it will make little or no difference. On the contrary, because differentials are so low, and because of decline in many engineering sectors, many skilled workers are leaving the industry and fewer young people want to serve apprenticeships.

Engineering is the heart of Britain. 50 per cent of exports for example are engineering products. Yet false notions of equality of wages are destroying the future as well as the present. Between 1965 and 1974 the number of craftsmen in engineering declined from 754,000 to fewer than 600,000. Trainees are also declining.

This decline means that fewer craftsmen are likely to be forthcoming in the next few years. In fact the EITB expects an average of 10,500 trainees per year to complete their training in the immediate future. This is not enough even to replace those craftsmen who have been promoted, let alone replace others who leave or retire!

The answer is obvious. If differentials are low and job prospects uncertain, fewer and fewer young people will be prepared to accept the long road to craft training. The industry is not able even to reproduce itself! To restore differentials therefore is not just about skilled status - nor ending a ruinous wages policy. It is part of the struggle against the destruction of the human capital in engineering itself - a revolutionary struggle for the future of Britain as a manufacturing country.

Hua raps USSR and US

China's latest hydrogen bomb test, on November 17th, is as Chairman Hua Kuo-Feng has said, the result of the socialist unity and enthusiasm of the Chinese masses under the leadership of the Party, "meticulous in organisation and direction". This test, like the four nuclear tests conducted earlier this year, are in the words of the Chinese Party, "a heavy blow to the two superpowers, the Soviet Union and the United States, which are pursuing hegemonism and attempting to practise nuclear monopoly and nuclear blackmail." The essence of Chairman Mao's line during the great proletarian cultural revolution -- taking the class struggle as the key link in the advancement of socialism in all spheres of industry and technology -- has been given renewed impetus by Chairman Hua in his recent statement. Our Party, like revolutionary people throughout the world, congratulate the Chinese people and Party, under the leadership of Chairman Hua, on this latest example of socialist strength and determination.



Chairman Hua Kuo-Feng

Hoxha praises China unity

Faithfully and consistently abiding by the principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism in its foreign policy, the Party of Labour and People's Republic of Albania have aimed, first and foremost, at developing and strengthening the relations of fraternal friendship and militant unity, of cooperation and mutual aid with the People's Republic of China. The close friendship and cooperation between our two peoples, two parties and two countries have been forged and tempered in the great class struggle against imperialism and revisionism, against the hegemonistic policy of the two superpowers, US imperialism and Soviet social-imperialism, and against all the reactionary forces in the world, in the common struggle for the construction of socialism and the triumph of the cause of the revolution and Marxism-Leninism. The Party of Labour of Albania and the Albanian people are loyal friends and allies of the Communist Party of China and the Chinese people. Our two peoples and countries are comrades-in-arms of the same ideal, and are inspired by the same aims and internationalist tasks.

USSR protests far too much

When Leonid Brezhnev of the revisionist Soviet Union visited Yugoslavia he denied any intentions to invade that country.

No-one of course expected him to do otherwise. However the fact that he had to deny such intentions suggest a great deal of consideration and thought given to the subject by the Soviet leadership.

Enver Hoxha has declared that no foreign soldier will ever be allowed to cross Albania to attack either of its neighbours, Yugoslavia or Greece. The same self-reliant stand by Yugoslavia and Greece can be the basis of security in the Balkans from all imperialist threats.

Enver Hoxha's international survey

Excerpts from the Report on the Activity of the Central Committee of the Party of Labour of Albania, submitted by the First Secretary of the Central Committee, Enver Hoxha, at the 7th Congress of the Party of Labour of Albania on November 1st, 1976.

Crisis absolute

"Socialist Albania considers it an honour to stand shoulder to shoulder with the great struggle of the proletariat and the peoples, of all who fight for socialism, freedom and independence... A direct result of this struggle and of the inevitable contradiction of their (the capitalists') system is the very grave crisis which all the capitalists and revisionist countries are going through today... They try to saddle the masses of the working people with the consequences of the crisis... accompanying this policy of savage oppression and exploitation with a great amount of lying propaganda meant to convince the masses of the working people that the present upheavals are allegedly a passing phenomena, that everything will get back to what it was before, hence they should patiently bear the heavy burden that has fallen on them, and not try to find its cause and rise in revolt."

EEC reactionary

"The United States of America and the Soviet Union are the biggest and the most dangerous aggressive imperialist powers known in history... The main pillars on which all their hegemonistic and expansionist superpower policy is based and carried out... are NATO and the Warsaw Treaty, the political and military alliances of the capitalist and revisionist countries and their bases and armies in foreign countries... Comecon and the European Common Market have been created to serve their aggressive, oppressive and exploiting policy."

"Like Comecon, the European Common Market is just such another reactionary organisation. It is a large union of capitalist monopolies and trusts, bent on the savage exploitation of the proletariat and the masses of the working people in Europe and other peoples of the world... The Common Market is a big neo-colonial power which not only competes with the superpowers for the exploitation of the developing countries, but also endeavours to regain and maintain the old privileges of the former colonial powers in these countries. Though the United States is officially outside the Common Market... together with NATO, the Common Market constitutes an organised base and rear area of US imperialism in its rivalry and contest with the other imperialist power, the revisionist Soviet Union."

World division

"The Soviet Union declares that a 'community of free and equal states' has been created but the Soviet fist rules this 'alliance'. There is nothing socialist about it... The monopolists of Western Europe have a great deal to say about the creation of 'united Europe' and so far some sort of 'European Commission' has been set up with a 'parliament' a 'common government' and some formal laws... but, in fact, the

creation of the United States of Europe is meant to eliminate nationhood in various European countries, to integrate and amalgamate their culture and tradition, in other words, to do away with the individuality of the peoples and states of western Europe under the management of the cosmopolitan reactionary bourgeoisie of this continent.

"World capitalism, proceeding remorselessly towards crises and decline, has devised new forms for the exploitation of the masses, not just on a national scale, but also on a world scale, has contrived its last and most sophisticated means of plunder, neo-colonialism and has created financial links and economic and military alliances through which it intends to hold in complete or partial dependence many states belonging to what is called the 'second world', the 'third world', the 'nonaligned world' or the 'developing countries'. All those terms, which refer to the various political forces acting in the world today, cover up and do not bring out the class character of these political forces, the fundamental contradictions of our

which have the possibility of 'opposing' the superpower blocs is being created. It gives the impression that these countries without exception are anti-imperialist, opposed to war, opposed to the dictates of others, that they are 'democratic' and even 'socialist'. This helps to strengthen the pseudo-democratic and anti-popular positions of the leading groups of some states which participate among the 'non-aligned' and creates the impression that when their chiefs establish or dissolve relations with the imperialists and the social-imperialists; they do this not only in the capacity of 'popular governments' but also in the capacity of a group of states 'with which even the superpowers must reckon'...

"But the plunder and savage exploitation cannot go on for ever. Now economic decolonisation has been placed on the order of the day and there is nothing which can stop this new revolutionary process which has emerged on the world stage. The peoples have the undeniable right to establish complete sovereignty over their national resources..."

EXHIBITION

Monday 29th November - Saturday 18th December

ALBANIA- YESTERDAY

The Exhibition will consist of many recent photographs, charts on production achievements, literature, art works, cultural and historical displays. Albanian music will be played and there will be slide shows.

Polytechnic of Central London (Main Entrance Hall)
309 Regent Street, London W1. Open ALL DAY to 8 pm.
Oxford Circus Tube No. 137 and all Oxford Circus buses.

AND TODAY

Organised by the New Albania Society.

epoch... the ruthless struggle between the bourgeois-imperialist world, on the one hand, and socialism, the world proletariat and its natural allies, on the other. The most that these terms and divisions can indicate is the extent of the influence and impact of world capital, international or national, on various states and areas of the world...

"Marxism-Leninism teaches us that in our epoch countries are grouped, according to the social system prevailing in them, into bourgeois-capitalist countries and socialist countries. The theories on the so-called intermediate stage of non-capitalist development, so zealously propagated by the Khrushchevite revisionists, are meant to sabotage the sincere socialist aspirations that exist in many countries..."

'Third World' ?

"The terms 'third world', 'non-aligned states' or 'developing countries' create the illusion among the broad masses fighting for national and social liberation that a roof has allegedly been found under which to shelter from the threat of the superpowers. These terms conceal the real situation in the majority of these countries, which, in this or that manner, politically, ideologically, and economically, are bound to and depend on the superpowers and the former colonial metropolises... The slogan of 'non-aligned countries' gives the false impression that a group of states

"The proletariat, all those who are for the revolution and for socialism, must closely link their struggle with the struggle of the peoples for freedom and independence. This can be done only by resolutely struggling against the bourgeoisie of one's own country, by struggling against imperialism and predatory war."

Alert and free

"As to 'Albania's being only one mouthful' - watch out, gentlemen, for socialist Albania is a hard bone that will stick in your throat and choke you. Should the Soviet social-imperialists undertake such an adventure against our country, they will suffer an irreparable defeat. The same holds good for US imperialism

"In any country, its freedom and independence are dependent mainly on the stand adopted, whether you decide to live free and on your feet, or on your knees as slaves. When you are determined to live free and stand ready to fight, then the blackmail is knocked back, strength is revived, the people's courage mounts, and it is difficult for the aggressor to attack you.

"Marxism-Leninism teaches us that imperialism and the warmongers must be weakened through the revolutionary and liberation struggles of the peoples. If an aggressive imperialist war cannot be prevented, then it is the task of revolutionaries and the proletariat to turn it into a liberation war."

Impressive unity in public sector

Bexley Education Branch of NUPE responded to the call for a Day of Action on the 17th by declaring a one-day strike of all members. But this action by caretakers, cleaners and kitchen and canteen staff, who have been successfully resisting reduced manning, was only the start of the story.

Bexley Education Authority determined to break the strike, and employed a variety of divide and rule tactics. But after a week of these attempts, the authority was faced with a solid encirclement from several unions. In their stubbornness, Bexley Education Authority have built up a wall of resistance against themselves. The teachers' unions were in permanent contact with NUPE and NALGO. NUT members were preparing to obey their Regional Officials advice to the letter: not to strike-break, not to touch any job, however small, that "by custom" was done by NUPE members.

with the local NUT and Trades Council.

In North London, in the boroughs of Haringey and Islington motorcades were used to publicise the campaign. In addition many schools held open evenings so that parents were able to be shown some of the effects of the cuts on the schools.

A delegate meeting at Central Hall, Westminster, was well supported by public sector unions. There was a tremendous show of unity at the meeting. The cuts in education are seen as part of the general attack on the working class and are as much the concern of NUPE, NALGO, CPSA as the teachers unions.

Women's march

The first step in the fight to save four South Devon Maternity Annexes from closure has been taken by the people.

A petition with over 11,000 signatures and a march by Brixham women encouraged the

their opposition to cuts, by passing a motion to initiate action on no cover sanctions, and refusal to cover classes over 30. This is in line with the County Divisions recent decision to ask Associations to act against the cuts!

Trades council

Struggle and resistance to government policies of cut-back and run-down continues to grow throughout Kent. For instance, the Kent Association of Trades Councils - to which all Trades Councils in the area are affiliated, held its Annual Conference on Saturday, November 13th, and urged all its affiliated Trades Councils to mobilise and co-ordinate activity against government, and if necessary, TUC, policy, in the interests of preserving and improving employment, health, education, and all aspects of life now threatened by capitalism. Further proof that workers in Kent wherever

'IQ' takes a caning

The discovery that Sir Cyril Burt, father of British educational psychology and advocate of the theory that intelligence is mostly inherited, faked his research findings leads us to a consideration of the question of whether dishonesty is heritable. In the views about the "inborn inferiority of general intelligence" of those who do society's menial tasks, which have been held by 'thinkers' from Plato to Eysenck, do we have an example of innate dishonesty transmitted genetically from generation to generation? Or, as we Marxists would say, are there not in each age apologists for the ruling class who are prepared to find or fake arguments in support of the theory that those who are most exploited deserve to be because of their inborn inferior intelligence?

Burt held that "innate general intelligence" as measured by tests was the most important factor determining success in the class room; and the 1944 Education Act, influenced by such ideas, suggested a caste system of three types of school - grammar, technical and secondary modern. Jensen in the US and Eysenck in Britain have used similar ideas to arrive at racial-ly or class biased generalisations about intelligence.

In the long correspondence in the pages of the TIMES which has followed on the revelation about the use by Burt, on whose research Jensen, Eysenck and others depended, of cooked figures one of the most sensible was that of Sir Peter Medawar pointing out that since "nature and nurture" are dialectically related it is quite erroneous for any psychologist to claim that he possessed "a Formula which empowers him to ascertain the several contributions of Nature, nurture and of the interaction between the two". He concludes that the expression "innate intelligence" should be dropped from the language.

All together in the 'loo'

In many countries there are seminars on promoting investment in Britain held under the auspices of the British Embassy. But a seminar on this subject which recently took place in Tokyo was under quite different auspices. The speaker was Hiroshi Okochi, director of the Sony Corporation's operations in Europe, and he was talking enthusiastically about the advantages of investing in Britain.

But what about "eikoku byo" his audience wanted to know. Eikoku byo means "the English disease" or the strikes which scare off investors like the plague. Actually it is not a disease at all but the only weapon workers have to defend themselves from the blight of capitalism.

Hiroshi Okochi believes that strikes only occur because of class barriers -- like workers and management having different toilets. It is because workers are not treated as equals (what ever they are paid) that they get restless and go on strike.

So what Sony did first in connection with the 400 workers at their plant at Brigid in Wales was to tear down the partitions in the cafeteria and, in spite of stiff resistance, to force managerial staff and technicians to wear the same uniforms as production line workers. British managerial staff who were trained in Japan have been advised to follow the example of their Japanese counterparts and drop off after work for a few drinks with their subordinates, thus creating a better relationship between management and workers.

He also pointed out that Sony would only negotiate with one trade union which the employees could choose -- so long as they chose the right one!

Employers are the same all over the world and however enlightened they may sound all they want to do is exploit workers. Workers have to go to work to keep their families and fight to get the best wages and conditions possible. Workers only want not to be exploited.



Some of the 60,000 who marched through London on November 17th

But the Education Authority is still out for a bloody nose, for they have now decided to open schools a day early in January to make up for the day lost. The teachers are furious, and are to hold a mass meeting of all unions shortly - just in time for the Council's announcement of projected cuts in employment and services! NUPE's spark has started a fire in Bexley which will be turned into a battle to stop each and every cut.

Teachers

The week November 6th to 13th was designated "National Education Week" by the Council for Educational Advance (CEA), and "Week of Action" by the South East Region TUC.

London teachers engaged in a variety of activities during the week as their contribution to the national campaign. In South London the Wandsworth, Lambeth and Greenwich branches of the NUT worked in conjunction with local trade unionists to organise public meetings, to distribute leaflets and to hold poster parades. Everywhere the message was, "Education is Britain's future. Say NO to the cuts."

Student teachers at Avery Hill treated the week as part of their term of action. Local schools were visited and students worked

Torbay District Community Health Council to say "No" to the proposals.

The Health Authority want to close maternity wings in Newton Abbott, Totnes, Paignton and Brixham and build a new annexe in Torbay Hospital. This is part of a long-term plan to make Torbay Hospital the only one in South Devon.

Public meeting

During National Education Week, trade unionists, teachers, parents, and school leavers attended a meeting 'For Education'. They declared total opposition to the attack on our future, and the following motion was passed unanimously. 'This meeting deplores the cut-back in educational expenditure, and rejects the suggestion that such cuts are in the national interest. In an advanced industrial nation, whose very foundation and progress is based on highly skilled labour, it is a nonsense to prejudice the established standards of state education. We call upon the Secretary of State to reverse this disastrous policy, and pledge our active support to the public sector unions in their campaign of opposition to each and every cut.'

In Gravesham a large number of NUT members have backed

they are organised are determined to call a halt to this destructive process, and to fight back at every level.

Who took part

The demonstration and lobby of parliament on November 17th was particularly well supported by women. The demonstration, organised by NUPE, NALGO, CPSA and other public sector unions was the biggest ever on a weekday with up to 60,000 taking part.

Whitehall was represented with five civil service unions taking part. At the Greater London Council, 1000 workers left County Hall after lunch.

The college lecturers' union, NATFHE, abandoned lectures in several, including London and Manchester, polytechnics.

Members of the NUS placed pickets on lecture halls and were represented in large numbers at the demonstration. A leaflet distributed by the London Students Organisation declared "Cuts offer us no future as young people or as part of this society" and demanded "build up the services and use people's skills".

Miners travelled from Kent and Scotland. The NUM had left individual branches to decide whether to participate, but will defend strikers.

PUBLIC MEETINGS

At the Bellman Bookshop 155 Fortess Road, London NW5
Friday Nov 26th, 7.30p.m. "One World, One Enemy"
Friday Dec 3rd, 7.30p.m. "What are We To Do?"

Bristol

Friday Dec 3rd, 7.30 p.m. "No Profits - No Unemployment in Socialist Albania". Main Trend Books, 17 Midland Rd, Old Market, Bristol.

Brighton

Wednes. Dec 8th, 8pm "The Working Class in Control", Brighton Workers' Bookshop, 37 Gloucester Rd.

Two report-back meetings by members of a CPB(ML) delegation to Albania in summer 1976.

Bradford

Friday Nov 26th, 7.30 p.m. Communal Building, Room 2, Bradford University.

Hull

Wednesday Dec 1st, 7.30 p.m. Council Chamber, Union Building, Hull University, Hull.

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