

VOICE of REVOLUTION

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WORKERS OF ALL
COUNTRIES UNITE !



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In continuation of RED PATRIOT

MARXIST-LENINIST WEEKLY

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

HEROIC PATRIOTIC ARMED STRUGGLE IS JUST AND ESSENTIAL

In the early hours of last Sunday morning, a unit of patriotic armed forces were attacked by British SAS undercover forces as the patriots lay in wait in ambush having mined a nearby road. The patriots fought back heroically, killing one of the British fascist occupation troops. One patriot heroically laid down his life in this battle - Antoin Sean Mac-Giolla Bhrighde (Tony McBride).

Contrary to the deceptive crocodile tears of the bourgeoisie, their politicians, clerics et al, who claim to be so "saddened by any deaths by violence" and who try to blindfold the people with the hoax of equating the death of British soldiers with the death of Irish people, there can be no comparison between the death of this foreign fascist soldier and the death of one of our nation's heroic young patriots.

Young Tony McBride gave his life regardless of the self-sacrifice because he was conscious that he had taken up and was fighting for a just cause, the cause of the vast masses of the Irish people, a cause of 800 years of bloody struggle and self-sacrifice. But this SAS man was, rather sacrificed by the man-eating imperialist system of the British ruling class, a human tool thrown just as so much cannon fodder into the British war machine to maintain the illegal, criminal and unjust occupation of a foreign country.

Although it may be true that the mass of "ordinary" soldiers in the British army are recruited by poverty and unemployment, rather than the conscious fascist basis of the officer class, the fact is that the British army is a volunteer army and its soldiers are groomed to play

the fascist oppressors' role. And soldiers such as this 28 year old SAS man, in particular, are no mere raw recruits, but have volunteered and have gone through the most rigorous screening and training to ensure their reliability as fascist tools of British imperialism. They fight on the soil of a foreign country to uphold the unjust and illegal rule of a foreign oppressor with the utmost savagery and ruthlessness, stooping - especially in the case of the SAS - to acts of barbarity, often cloaked in secrecy and the false name of "sectarian killers" (to blame their own crimes on the Irish people themselves) - namely the calculated torture and mutilation of their murder victims, in a manner most reminiscent of the Nazi war criminals.

The deaths of such British troops are therefore entirely
Contd. P. 2-ARMED STRUGGLE

MILITANT DEMONSTRATION DENOUNCES THATCHER'S VISIT TO DUBLIN

This Monday, a large demonstration of over 2,000 people was mobilised to vigorously denounce the visit of the British war criminal and assassin, Margaret Thatcher, to Dublin as part of the EEC heads of State summit meeting.

A delegation of the Communist Party of Ireland (Marxist-Leninist) participated militantly in the demonstration with its red banner and placards. The Party raised a number of slogans: British assassin Thatcher, get out of Ireland! Victory to the Brit-



Contd. on P.2

Contd. from P.1-ARMED STRUGGLE.

just and even deserved, the execution of hardened criminals and murderers who have plagued our country without the slightest justification for so long. If the British soldiers and the entire British colonial occupation regime were to get out of Ireland, bag and baggage, and return home, then the Irish people would have no quarrel and would not fight and kill British troops, because this struggle is only for the freedom of our own country and not to invade and aggress against some other country, such as Britain.

But the death of Irish people, including the armed patriots, is an entirely different matter. This is their own country and they are quite right and justly fighting to free it from the foreign tyrant. They must be saluted by the whole Irish people for their principled stand and readiness to give everything, even their very lives and their youth, for the cause of our nation. No foreign army has the right to kill Irish people in Ireland.

This is the truth of these type of events in the battle between the Irish people and the British colonial regime. But the mass media of the British imperialists and the traitor Irish big bourgeoisie and their states strives always to give an opposite impression. For them, the British troops are not foreign forces of an unjust and illegal colonial occupation. They are simply "security forces" - even deliberately leaving out "British" -- they are "enforcing law and order against criminals and terrorists". This is to turn truth on its head. The real criminals and terrorists are the foreign forces of British colonial occupation.

Faced with the increasing consciousness and opposition of the people to such flagrant lies, the bourgeois media from time to time strive to advance more sophisticated demagogy to reach the same conclusions -- i.e. to condemn Irish patriots and exonerate and even extol the foreign fascist forces. For instance, they put forward so-called "historical" arguments, that the "War of Independence 1919-21 was fought by real national freedom fighters, in an honourable way according to proper military methods, while today's

fighters are terrorists, criminals and murderers whose tactics are dishonourable" etc.

What utter lies! But the question is, that it is not for some foreign invader and national traitors to pass judgement on how the nation they unjustly oppress should conduct their just resistance. It is British troops who have no right to be in Ireland or bear arms in conflict to murder Irish people. It is Irish people who alone have the right to bear arms in their own country. Irish people have a sacred right, and in fact a sacred honour and duty to take up arms in defence of their nation, the lives of its people and our freedom.

The names of the patriotic martyrs, such as Tony McBride, will certainly go down in Ireland's roll of honour in the future, along with all the fighters for Irish freedom down the centuries and including the ten heroic patriotic martyrs of the H-Block Hunger strike of 1981 from Bobby Sands to Michael Devine. But the names of all the national traitors, whether they call themselves unionists or "constitutional nationalists" will go down in the same list as the foreign war criminals of British colonial occupation, the despised hirelings of the hated foreign tyrant, such as the "Free" State whose armed and police forces immediately went to the aid of the British colonial forces in this particular event last Sunday.

What kind of Irish men were these, who could order the collaboration and who could carry the orders out, and arrest two of the patriotic unit, one of whom was James Pius Clark, one of the heroes of the mass escape from Long Kesh last year? These so-called "opponents of all violence" - the so-called constitutional nationalists -- are prepared to use any kind of violence against their own nation, and have done so up to and including bringing across the British hangman, Pierrepoint, to do their dirty work of collaboration with the foreign aggressor in the 1940s!

All Irish men and women today must support the just heroic patriotic struggle for the overthrow of British imperialism, and it is vital that the masses of the people take up this struggle increasingly.

Contd. from P.1 - THATCHER.

ish miners! Down with partition and collaboration! Unity and Freedom to the Irish people! Freedom and peace to the world's People! British imperialism, get out of Ireland! These slogans were taken up increasingly in the course of the march by many people who came and joined with the CPI(M-L) contingent.

The Party's weekly newspaper, "Voice of Revolution", was sold widely amongst the people in the course of the demonstration.

This protest march was a measure of the increasing militant patriotic sentiments of the Irish people against the age-old national aggressor, British imperialism and against the whole warmongering system of world imperialism and social imperialism. It followed in the wake of last June's militant mass demonstration against the visit of the U.S. imperialist Ronald Reagan, to Ireland. This trend is bound to increase and encompass still wider and wider masses of the Irish people, in particular the working class, as they come forward in revolutionary mass struggle to finally completely defeat and expel British imperialism from our country.

RADIO TIRANA



VOICE OF MARXISM-LENINISM
ON THE INTERNATIONAL
AIRWAVES.

English Language transmission includes.

Time	wavelength
0.7.30 - 8.00	31,42
12.00 - 12.30	25,42
17.30 - 18.00	31,42
19.30 - 20.00	31,42
21.30 - 22.00	31,42
23.00 - 23.30	31, 42, 215

Collapse of Irish Shipping

OBJECT LESSON IN CONSEQUENCES OF FOREIGN DEPENDENCE

For 15 years prior to 1982 the Irish Shipping Company, founded in 1941, had on ly profits to record and in 1982 made its biggest profits ever. However the subsequent crash in cargo prices has taken one of Ireland's biggest success stories with it.

The disaster which has befallen Irish Shipping, as with all the other closes which are occurring daily, has occurred in the context of an economic crisis which has been going on essentially since the early 1970s -- a crisis which is hitting all the countries of the world which are caught in the net of the capitalist/revisionist system. Thousands of companies have gone bust bringing unemployment and poverty to millions. The Irish government, in its National Plan-Building on Reality, told the people of Ireland that "we can build an economy and a society that provides justice and security for all its people". However, like Irish Shipping, the National Plan which (despite its demagoguery about serving "the national interest") expresses and defends the interests of private property, the source of ALL the problems facing the people, is doomed to failure.

The issue for "Free" state government is not whether the people of Ireland NEED a national shipping company, but instead how best it can serve the interests, the NEEDS OF FOREIGN MONOPOLY CAPITAL. It has permitted the destruction of Irish Shipping Company, just as it and previous governments have facilitated the destruction of numerous native Irish businesses. All this has been done at the behest of their foreign imperialist paymasters and has strengthened the grip of these plunderers on the Irish nation. The fall of Irish Shipping is further evidence that NO plan devised by governments devoted to the interests of capital can ever be produced which will serve the interests of the working people.

In March 1981, the Oireachtas Joint Committee on State Sponsored Bodies, reported to the Dail on the 'healthy' state of the Irish Shipping Company. Mr W. O'Neill (then General Manager

and Director of the company) gave the Committee, as his prognosis, the following assessment: "There has been a severe slump since 1976. The shipping industry is subject to cycles of boom and slump. Mostly there are slumps, unfortunately. The slumps are getting longer and the booms shorter, but there is now a modest lift in freight rates. The gap between supply and demand for tonnage is a world wide problem. The prospects for the years ahead are somewhat better than they have been over the past four or five years. With our record up to now we should be looking ahead with more confidence to enhancing our profits over the next few years"

In 1982 the company recorded its biggest profit. The press, economists academics and politicians are now frenziedly trying to see who they can blame for the fact that 2 years later disaster struck. In general, they have come up with "bad management" by the company as the cause. Of course incompetent managers can cause problems, but the facts of the matter are that as far back as 1978 the then Chairman of the Company, Mr Perry Greer, who had been warning about the severely depressed state of the freight market for years, said that at least 30% of the WORLD'S present fleet of dry cargo would have to be laid up in order that freight rates would approach the break even price for ship owners. That is to say that 30% of world shipping would HAVE TO FAIL.

Many commentators make reference to the "cyclical nature of the shipping industry" (to booms and slumps within it) as if this was something remarkable to the industry. The point is that the whole history of the system of capitalism itself has been a history of economic crises which have been cyclical in character. In fact the more capitalism developed, the more the productive forces developed, the more

frequently crises began to occur and with more destructive consequences. Thus in the period since the Second World War, under the influence of many factors, such as the militarisation of the economy, the intervention of the capitalist state in the economy, the development of the technical scientific revolution, the crisis of the colonial system et the crises repeated themselves approximately every 3-4 years. Within the economic cycle the extension of the phase of crisis and depression and a reduction in growth is observed. Indeed, the crises of the 1970s, show that in many capitalist economies the economy fell into the state of crisis when the first signs of growth had only just begun to appear or had not begun. The difficulties for manoeuvring within the world market caught up with Irish Shipping -- but then it was bound to catch up with almost one third of the world fleet anyway. It is in fact an impossibility for ANY plans to be securely made in the capitalist system -- it is a dog-eat-dog system based on competition and insecurity. The Irish government, of course, has had to offend certain sections of foreign monopoly capitalists, in order to please other sections, but its decisions are

essentially made for it in this regard: they have to satisfy the needs of monopoly capitalists to whom they are most deeply entrenched and in debt.. The international bankers have dictated to the Irish government that it has to get its debts under control, and besides insisting that cuts of all kinds be inflicted on the Irish people to ensure this, has obviously insisted that the £145 million or so cannot be used by the Irish government to rescue the national fleet.

The bourgeoisie try to make out that no country, big or small, can be in control of its economy. This is a complete lie. The one country in the world which is able to draw up national plans without fear that unknown factors will destroy those plans is Albania. There is no danger that the national fleet of Albania is in danger of being destroyed by the Albanian government. The Albanians tell us that: "Sea

Contd. from P.3 -SHIPPING.

transport was very limited in the past and was carried on mainly by foreign ships. During the Second World War, even that poor national merchant fleet was destroyed by the enemy. Thus, after liberation it was necessary to start from scratch in this direction. The ports which were destroyed by the enemy were restored and continually improved. Shipyards were set up to build small boats, while high tonnage ships were imported. Now our national merchant fleet plies the seas and its importance in overseas transportation of goods is steadily increasing. The capacity of our sea ports, especially that of Durres, which is our main port is constantly rising". Of course Albania is also free from all the other effects of the economic crisis -- the country knows no unemployment, the people pay no taxes, prices have gone down 17 times since 1951 and the standard of living is constantly rising. The power of imperialism, of monopoly capitalism has no force in Albania. The difference between Ireland and Albania is that they have a socialist system where the plans made by the government are truly in the national interest, in the interest of ALL the people, whereas in Ireland capitalism is in control and we have governments of national betrayal who have no interest in protecting the sovereignty of the Irish nation. Thus the destruction of Irish Shipping, the destruction of the Verolme Shipyards, the policing of the border (for British imperialism), to the tune of £800 million per annum, and the passing of anti-people legislation - the Offences Against the State (Amendment) Act, the Criminal Justice Bill etc, is the end result of the native bourgeoisie's sell-out to foreign imperialism. The Irish people have no other way forward than to fight to destroy capitalism in Ireland and in particular to throw out British imperialism which militarily occupies 6 of our counties. The Albanians had to fight for their independence and so shall we.

Support Central Bank strike

This Monday the 380 workers at the southern "Free " State's Central Bank who are trades union organised went on strike. These workers represent virtually the entire staff, except for about 20 top management personnel, and cover administrative and clerical staff, currency checkers and porters.

This strike has been called by the workers against the flat refusal of the Central Bank to budge from the government-imposed public sector pay rise restrictions to 3% for 18 months after a seven month pay freeze. This strike marks the first industrial action by any section of public sector workers against the vicious state pay restriction under the 24th pay round, but other workers such as postal workers and corporation and council workers, plus many other sections in the health service and education systems, have either taken decisions to fight for their claims or are lining up to take such decisions.

The strike of the workers at the Central Bank is an extremely important battle which must be supported, not only by all sections in the public sector, but also by the entire working class employed in the private sector as well. The bank workers are in a strong position to inflict a crushing blow on the state policy of the bourgeoisie to force the working class to pay for the crisis which they have created, by making workers accept actual reduction in the real value of their wages by the restriction of pay increases over the next two years. This strike catches the government and the whole banking and financial system at a vulnerable period for the bourgeoisie, where the annual Christmas boom has to be serviced by an additional 8% increase in cash to the normal currency supply, and this issue is the task of the Central Bank.

The government thinks that it can get around its own immediate problems to finance day to day state expenditure by transferring its accounts to the private banking sector such as the Bank of Ireland. But the government has not reckoned with the growing spirit of solidarity which imbues all sections of the workers including bank workers. And the bank workers union is now considering action to support their comrades on strike at the Central Bank, such as refusal to handle any additional business transferred to the private banking system from the Central bank.

The workers must, of necessity, in defence of their wages and living standards, as well as their very jobs, unite together in class struggle and fight TO MAKE THE RICH PAY FOR THE CRISIS !

Contd. from P.5 - BRITISH MINERS STRIKE.

iding rich lessons to the entire working class for the necessity to fight against capitalism and its legal dictatorship, as part of the struggle to achieve state power itself, where the workers themselves become the ruling class and make the law.

VICTORY TO THE BRITISH MINERS !



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Marxist- Leninist Weekly

Organ of the Communist
Party of Ireland
(Marxist-Leninist)

P.O.Box 695, Dublin 8



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

from:
P.O. Box 695 Dublin 8

British miners persist in heroic struggle

After nine months on strike, one of the longest major strikes of British workers in this century, the miners are persisting in struggle regardless of the self-sacrifices demanded. The miners are in the forefront of a struggle encompassing the whole working class in Britain to fight against the capitalists and their political executive, the government, who are striving to impose the burden of the crisis onto the backs of the working class through the factory closures, mass unemployment and wage reductions, and the enforcement of more onerous work and the elimination of safety margins on those left in employment by ever increasing productivity measures, new machinery, speed ups etc.

In their heroic struggle, the miners have had to face daily the massed ranks of police, mobilised military style with riot shields, special batons, horses, dogs, land-rovers and so on. Several miners have already been killed on the picket lines, crushed in the melee and beaten by the police. The police have been sent en masse to saturate the mining villages like a foreign force of colonial occupation. Police measures have been taken, including telephone tapping etc., to carry out surveillance and impede the organisation of picketing, including unprecedented measures to restrict freedom of travel for miners. Many thousands of miners have been arrested and are being brought before the courts, where prison sentences and high fines are being handed out by the ruling class judges. But none of these fascist measures has deterred the 150,000 miners from persisting in their struggle, because their cause is just and a matter of their very jobs and the livelihood of their families and communities and the future of their children.

As the strike has progressed the monopoly capitalist government, presently wielded by Thatcher and the Conservative Party, has steadily heaped on the burden of anti-worker Trade



Militant mass picket by miners at Nantgarw colliery in South Wales on November 12.

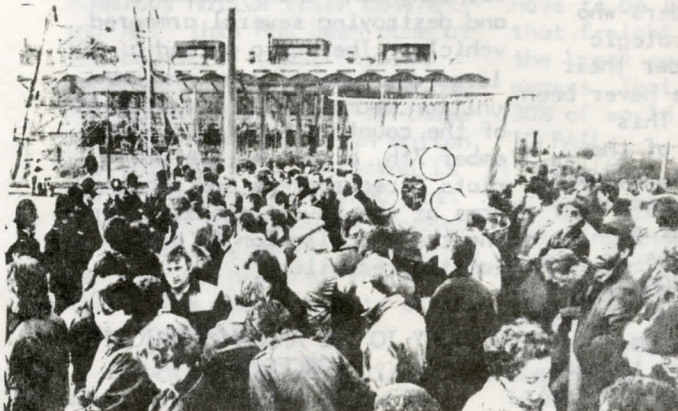
Union and Employment legislation, which successive governments have been imposing to erode workers' democratic rights and fascise society and the state. Now the miners' union, for justly refusing to pay out £200,000 in court fines, has had its entire funds sequestrated by the government, technically wiping out the entire existence of the trade union.

As the British government has increasingly begun to lose the propaganda war to influence the masses of the British people to justify their savage attempt to cut miners' jobs, despite their monopoly of the means of mass communication, the bourgeoisie and their mass media are trying to shift the focus of their slanderous and lying propaganda onto the issue of "law and order". In addition to their attempts to make out that the miners are initiating "violence" (now wearing thin also as people increasingly see the fascism of the police), they are trying now to make out the issue that this strike is in "defiance of the law", and "nobody should be above the law".

However, the question is: what are these laws, what is the justice of these laws, and who is making these laws for what purpose?

The very struggle waged by the workers throughout the last century and the early part of this to achieve simply the right to organise to fight for their rights and living standards, form trade unions, hold strikes etc., had to be fought in defiance of "the law". Because the legal system was entirely a system to preserve and uphold the rights of private property and the ownership of the means of production by the capitalist bourgeoisie, their unrestricted rights to exploit the workers, and to uphold their political class dictatorship against the working class. As a result of great self-sacrifice and even blood-shed the workers forced the British bourgeoisie to concede various basic democratic and trade union rights to the people. But the point is that these last few years have seen the consistent pressure by the bourgeoisie and ALL their political parties (including so-called "Labour") to TAKE AWAY those rights which the workers won decades ago. The bourgeoisie is trying to turn the clock back to before the turn of the century, so inevitably the workers are necessarily taking up again the struggle of their fore-fathers in defiance of these unjust laws and their rotten courts.

The heroic strike of the British miners is prov-
Contd. P.4 MINERS STRIKE



Demonstration by over 1,000 workers outside West Thurrock power station in Essex where the power workers are taking sympathy action in support of the miners.

Contd. from P.3 -SHIPPING.

transport was very limited in the past and was carried on mainly by foreign ships. During the Second World War, even that poor national merchant fleet was destroyed by the enemy. Thus, after liberation it was necessary to start from scratch in this direction. The ports which were destroyed by the enemy were restored and continually improved. Shipyards were set up to build small boats, while high tonnage ships were imported. Now our national merchant fleet plies the seas and its importance in overseas transportation of goods is steadily increasing. The capacity of our sea ports, especially that of Durres, which is our main port is constantly rising". Of course Albania is also free from all the other effects of the economic crisis -- the country knows no unemployment, the people pay no taxes, prices have gone down 17 times since 1951 and the standard of living is constantly rising. The power of imperialism, of monopoly capitalism has no force in Albania. The difference between Ireland and Albania is that they have a socialist system where the plans made by the government are truly in the national interest, in the interest of ALL the people, whereas in Ireland capitalism is in control and we have governments of national betrayal who have no interest in protecting the sovereignty of the Irish nation. Thus the destruction of Irish Shipping, the destruction of the Verolme Shipyards, the policing of the border (for British imperialism), to the tune of £800 million per annum, and the passing of anti-people legislation - the Offences Against the State (Amendment) Act, the Criminal Justice Bill etc, is the end result of the native bourgeoisie's sell-out to foreign imperialism. The Irish people have no other way forward than to fight to destroy capitalism in Ireland and in particular to throw out British imperialism which militarily occupies 6 of our counties. The Albanians had to fight for their independence and so shall we.

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Savage crimes of Soviet forces in Afghanistan

Soviet social-imperialism, like its rival U.S. imperialism will go to the most barbaric lengths to secure its "vital interests" and "spheres of influence". At this moment this character of this social imperialist regime is being more and more revealed in its efforts to subdue the Afghan population in order to perpetuate its fascist occupation of Afghanistan.

Apart from the savage atrocities committed by the Soviet social imperialists in implementing their scorched earth policy in which entire villages have been razed to the ground, including the recent report of the slaughter of 450 unarmed prisoners by the Soviet and puppet troops in the central region of Hazarajat in mid-October, the Soviet occupation authorities have now inaugurated a policy of mass kidnapping of young children. Under this programme, thousands of primary school age children will be taken from their parents and shipped to the Soviet Union for at least ten years indoctrination. The first such shipment of about 870 Afghan children aged from 7 - 9 years left Kabul for Soviet Central Asia on November 5th. The puppet regime of Babrak Karmal described this operation as a "magnificent friendly gesture by the Soviet Union towards the Afghan people". Soviet and Afghan puppet officials have announced that many similar groups of children are to be sent to the Soviet Union in the near future, all of them for an initial schooling period of ten years. Since the Soviet invasion and occupation of Afghanistan in December 1979, the Soviet social imperialists have sent large numbers of Afghan children to the Soviet Union, but never at such an early age or for such long periods.

These criminal activities of the Soviet occupiers reveal the aims of Moscow to permanently transform Afghanistan into a Soviet colony. At the same time, they reflect the desperation of the Soviet social imperialists to liquidate the reserves of the Afghan patriotic fighting forces. The heroic Afghan youth have played and continue to play an important role in the struggle against the Soviet occupiers and the puppet regime, refusing to accept conscription into the armed forces of the puppet regime, and even leaving school to join the armed units of the patriots. By sending thousands of

Afghan children to the Soviet Union for such an extended period of time, the Soviet social imperialists not only want to indoctrinate the children with the Soviet social imperialist ideology and train them to serve in the puppet regime, but also to prevent the replenishment of the patriotic forces. When the children are allowed to return to their homes and families in ten years time, they will have reached 17 to 19. In other words, if they had been allowed to remain with their families, they would have had two to three years experience in the armed liberation struggle of the Afghan people against the Soviet occupiers.

The criminal acts of the Soviet occupiers and their puppets will never be able to liquidate the liberation struggle of the Afghan people. For thousands of years the Afghan people have fought arms in hand against numerous foreign invaders who sought to put this strategic crossroads of Asia under their control, and they have never been conquered militarily. This will also be the fate of the Soviet occupiers. Thus, despite, recent troops re-inforcements which raised the number of Soviet occupation troops in that country to 115,000, the news agencies report the failure of another Soviet mopping-up operation in an attempt to gain control of the strategic Panjshir Valley on the road linking the capital of the country with the Soviet border. Fighting continued for ten days on end, and the Afghan patriots inflicted heavy



AFGHAN PATRIOTIC FIGHTERS

losses on the enemy in men and military material. The occupation troops were forced to withdraw to the city of Ruka, where they were encircled by the resistance fighters. As a result of the fighting, hundreds of enemy soldiers were put out of action or captured. The patriots also seized large quantities of ammunition. The news agencies also report on a number of attacks mounted by the patriotic forces in different cities and regions of the country at Jalalabad, the seventh such attack on the air base in the last ten months. Dozens of enemy soldiers were killed and wounded during the attack, and two fighter planes and one helicopter were destroyed. The patriots also shelled the headquarters of the 81st Brigade of the quisling army in Jalalabad. The patriotic forces also attacked a Soviet military base in the western province of Herat, killing or wounding many enemy soldiers and destroying several armoured vehicles. They also seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition. Meanwhile in the capital of the country, Kabul, on November 7th, a unit of the patriots fired rockets and small arms at the Soviet embassy, forcing the cancellation of a diplomatic reception.

VICTORY TO THE AFGHAN PATRIOTIC FORCES !



The major danger of conventional arming

During the last years of the 1970s and especially during the first years of this decade, there has been a big upsurge in the production of conventional armaments. Apart from the growing danger which stems from the increase of nuclear weapons, both the NATO and Warsaw Treaty Forces are extending their arsenals of weapons with new and highly sophisticated armaments. It seems that this process has definite aims of continuing. In the financial report for 1984, Defence Secretary Weinberger stated: "The greater part of our balance has been defined for the perfection of conventional armaments". The Soviet side has also adopted measures so that it doesn't lag behind in this field either.

Amongst the main reasons why the superpowers have shifted attention to conventional arming is the fact that their race in the field of nuclear armaments has come up against the bitter reaction of international opinion. In many countries there is a powerful anti-nuclear movement. The memories of Hiroshima and Nagasaki reduced to rubble by the American A bombs are making every step which the superpowers take to escalate the nuclear armaments race come up against the protest of million of people on all the continents. Naturally, without neglecting the increase of nuclear stockpiling of weapons, during the last few years, the two superpowers have waged an even more unbridled race in conventional arming.

All this comes within the context of their preparations for war. The high-scale use of new electronic technology used not only in the production of nuclear weapons, but also in the production of conventional weapons has greatly increased the potential of the latter. The most destructive effects of these super-intelligent armaments or of the very high explosive ammunition was proved during the aggression against the Malvinas and the Lebanon. Hence they are called almost nuclear weapons because their range and

potential of destruction almost equal those of small-scale nuclear weapons. Because they are becoming more and more sophisticated, perhaps shorter armed conflicts can be expected, but these will be extremely destructive.

As in the case of a nuclear conflict, Europe is one of the most exposed for such a conflict because it is here that the major part of the sophisticated conventional armaments have been concentrated. NATO has now emerged with a new strategy in which even greater emphasis is being put on conventional weapons. Another reason for the frenzied development of conventional arming in quantity and quality is the growth of the aggressiveness and expansionist aims of the superpowers. The United States intervened in Grenada, in Lebanon and is preparing for further acts of aggression against different regions of the world. For the Soviet Union, the occupation of Afghanistan marked the beginning of the march southward. The intervention of the superpowers is designed to realise American or Soviet penetration into regions of major political and economic interests. "The 80s", stated the Secretary of the American Department of Defence, Weinberger, recently, "will certainly see the creation of new regions of tension, instability and local conflicts which would harm American interests". This assumes importance because

the major part of the strategic resources on which the industrialised countries are dependent are situated in the developing countries.

The designing and production of conventional armaments is also linked with the desire to incite conflicts in different counties of Africa, Asia and Latin America. The superpowers draw double profits from these conflicts. On the one hand, they facilitate their intervention into the belligerent countries in the despicable role of arbiter. On the other hand, the huge armaments dealings are an extremely lucrative business. The following figures prove this. Between 1974 and 1981, the developing countries purchased sophisticated conventional armaments from the United States and the Soviet Union worth \$219 billion. These armaments include 18,211 tanks, 6,041 fighter planes, 30,220 mobile howitzers, 196 big ships, 29,905 SAM ground to air missiles; and so on. These armaments have changed the character of regional wars. These conflicts used to be waged on the basis of the surplus of armaments of the big powers, while now tanks, aircraft and ultra-modern missiles are used, and have made these conflicts far more destructive.

The race for the development of conventional armaments constitutes a mortal danger to the peoples. The peoples never forget that the previous two world wars were fought with conventional armaments, that they caused mankind several million victims. At the latest

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El Salvadorean freedom fighters fighting against the U.S imperialist imposed fascist regime in their country



MEMORIAL MEETING IN MEMORY OF JOHN BUCKLE 1949—1983

General Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist Party
of Britain (Marxist-Leninist)

John Buckle leading a demonstration to commemorate the heroic Easter Rising 1916, Birmingham 1978



The Revolutionary Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) held a memorial meeting on Sunday 25th, November, to mark the first anniversary of the tragic and untimely death of Comrade John Buckle, General Secretary of RCPB(M-L). Comrade John was killed along with 180 passengers in the Avianca air crash outside Madrid airport on November 28th, 1983, in his 35th year.

An important statement on behalf of the Central Committee of the RCPB(M-L) summed up the great contributions of Comrade John Buckle as a militant activist who came forward in the heat of the class struggle, a real Party man moulded and trained by the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party, and playing a crucial role in the founding and development of the work of RCPB(M-L), including presenting the Report of the Central Committee to the historic First Congress of the Party last year. The Central Committee representative spoke about the staunch adherence of Comrade John to Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism, to the struggle of the Party against revisionism,

in particular to combat the adverse effects of Chinese revisionist Mao Zedong Thought, as well as his vigorous leadership of the Party's work and contributions to strengthen the unity of the International Marxist-Leninist Communist Movement. The speech also dealt with the important lessons of Comrade John's life and work in the context of the continuation of the struggle of the Party since his death, a struggle which Comrade John himself contributed so much in mapping out the path ahead to implement the decisions of the First Congress right up until his death at the end of that year.

Memorial messages were read out to the meeting from fraternal Parties and representatives of the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist) and the Communist Party of Ireland (Marxist-Leninist) paid the tributes of the Parties. The representative for CPI(M-L) amongst other tributes, spoke of the great contribution which Comrade John Buckle had made in assistance to our Party and of our great love and respect for him, part and parcel of our love for our fraternal British Party.

Contd. from P.7 - CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS.

session of the United Nations, the delegation of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania stated that the nuclear threat must not cover up the threat facing the peoples as a result of the conventional armaments. More than 100 local and regional conflicts have been waged since World War II have been carried out with conventional armaments. The sale and supply of armaments has today become a very lucrative business, first of all to the United

States and the Soviet Union. Indifference towards the unbridled race in the production of conventional armaments by the imperialist powers constitutes a major danger in itself to peace and the independence of the peoples and states. Hence the struggle against nuclear arming must not be divorced from the struggle against the armaments race as a whole.

(Radio Tirana, November 6, 1984)

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