

SOCIALIST APPEAL

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TWOPENCE

GREEK PATRIOTS SENTENCED BY FASCISTS

CHURCHILL GIVES FULL SUPPORT

THE GREEK REACTIONARIES HAVE LAUNCHED A CAMPAIGN OF REPRISAL FOR THE STRIKE IN THE GREEK MIDDLE EAST FORCES. SCORES OF MILITANTS, THE MOST ACTIVE SOCIALISTS AND DEMOCRATS, ARE BEING SENTENCED TO DEATH AND IMPRISONED.

Already out of 22 soldiers from the 1st Greek Brigade on trial, 14 have been sentenced to death; and 4 remain to be tried; 3 seamen have received life sentences; 6 have received 20 years each.

This frenzied revenge receives the full support of British imperialism. Gen. Sir Bernard Paget, C-in-C. Middle East, incites and supports this political repression, under the "non-political" screen of "concern for maintaining military discipline." At the court martial he replied to defendants who were pleading on political grounds:

"I am a soldier and do not know what you are talking about."

This, in a trial which is political in inspiration, origin and aim! In such a cowardly way the servants of British imperialism attempt to cover up their flagrantly reactionary violation of democracy. No matter that the overwhelming majority of the armed forces demonstrated their opposition to the vicious regime of the emigre Greek Government! Considering it undiplomatic to proclaim openly that the rule of the reactionary minority must be upheld, the imperialist "democrats" achieve the same result under another slogan: "No politics! Military discipline must be upheld!"

At the Lebanon Conference last month, where representatives of the resistance organisations discussed with the Cairo politicians about forming a Government of "national unity" Papandreu (the Prime Minister) gave a verbal promise that the strikers would be amnestied. On this basis the E.A.M. representatives agreed to join the Government (it will be remembered that the strike was a protest against the exclusion of EAM from the Cairo Government.) Now this promise is cynically broken.

It is quite clear why it was made in the first place. Papandreu demanded as a condition of collaboration, that the representatives of EAM should issue a statement condemning the strike. To their eternal shame these "leaders", Stalinists and Liberals, did so in the most belly-crawling terms. They spat in the faces of the soldiers who had courageously demonstrated in their favour. Their hands strengthened by this capitulation, the reactionaries launched an offensive. The butchery of the strike leaders began and is now in full swing. Simultaneously EDES, the Monarchist organisation which enjoys the support of the reactionary Greek exiles and the British Govern-

By David James

ment, attacked EAM in Greece, in spite of having opened peace negotiations on the basis of the Lebanon Conference. This was the reward that the treacherous leaders of EAM gained for selling out their supporters: when the reactionaries had made sufficient use of them they were kicked aside.

The whole farce of the Lebanon Conference can be seen to be a manoeuvre by the reactionary Greek Government. They used the Stalinists and their collaborators in the "Popular Front" in order to keep the masses quiet with promises of "unity against fascism" and so forth. Then they were able to attack the defenceless, betrayed soldiers and sailors, with all the resources of British imperialism and its military chiefs behind them. Moreover, they refused to give any of the important ministries in the new Government, notably those of war and foreign affairs, to EAM representatives.

This provoked a sharp reaction from the EAM rank-and-file. The leaders, Stalinists in particular, were willing to sell out to any extent in order to achieve "national unity". The workers and peasants rebelled at the idea of making concessions to those whom they knew as their enemies, who were murdering their comrades in the Middle East, and preparing to fix the shackles of a monarchist military dictatorship on them after the war. The Observer (2/7/44) tells the story:

"Hope for at least a large measure of Greek unity has not been abandoned despite the continued refusal of certain National Liberation Front (E.A.M.) elements to join the Papandreu Government and last week's clash between an E.A.M. band and the forces of Col. Zervas.

The main obstacle to complete unity seems to be the intransigent attitude adopted by certain E.A.M. leaders of secondary rank like M. Claras, who are unwilling to renounce their independence of action to any higher authority.

The three leading figures of the E.A.M. . . . took a prominent part

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GERMANY-WHAT NEXT

Behind The Generals' Revolt

By TED GRANT

THE RECENT EVENTS IN GERMANY HAVE RAISED WIDESPREAD HOPE AND INTEREST IN THE WORKING CLASS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THE SEEMINGLY SOLID FRONT WHICH HITLER PRESENTED TO THE WORLD HAS BEEN BROKEN BY A CONSPIRACY OF GERMAN JUNKERS AND GENERALS.

According to the reports, former ardent supporters of Hitler have attempted to assassinate him. And the Nazis have retaliated in their usual gangster terrorist fashion, by placing all power in the hands of the hated Gestapo and S.S. Chief Himmler.

Whether there was a genuine plot to murder Hitler or not (it seems certain there was) makes no difference to the significance of these events in Germany. They reveal a tremendous split within the German ruling class, which is opening the way to the outbreak of a genuine workers revolution in Germany and Europe.

"Germany is not only Germany; it is the heart of Europe", Trotsky warned before Hitler came to power. But now these words assume added gravity and urgency. For events in Germany may decide not only the future of Europe but the future of the entire world.

Hitler has had nothing better as a means of rallying the German people behind him than the threats of the Allies. Stalin included to dismember Germany. But as the defeats have piled up on all fronts and the misery of the German masses has reached new intensity, the opposition of the German workers has been growing.

The military shock has led to a revival of the underground movement on formidable lines. Reports from the capitalist press in the last four months have indicated strikes in Hamburg, Berlin, Cologne, Essen and other cities. Movements of revolt among the students and other sections of the

middle class have led to executions. Mutinies have been reported among the soldiers and sailors—all these are symptoms of the coming storm.

The laws of revolution apply to all countries and to all peoples. The German nation is no different from any other. Those who sought to find a new system of society in Germany and Italy because of the victory of totalitarianism, have been refuted by events. The military defeats have led to a breaking down of the psychological inertia of the masses, and the movement for the overthrow of the hated regime has gathered strength. Lenin, in his analysis of present day society, laid down four conditions for the outbreak of the social revolution. These have been summarised by Trotsky as follows:

"The basic conditions for the victory of the proletarian revolution have been established by historical experience and clarified theoretically. (1) The bourgeois impasse and the resulting confusion of the ruling class; (2) the sharp dissatisfaction and the striving towards decisive changes in the ranks of the petty bourgeoisie without whose support the big bourgeoisie cannot maintain itself; (3) the consciousness of the intolerable situation and readiness for revolutionary actions in the ranks of the proletariat; (4) A clear programme and a firm leadership of the proletarian vanguard—these are the four conditions for

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CAPITALIST BARBARISM

From the American press we learn that among souvenirs which U.S. Servicemen have sent back from the South Pacific there have been Japanese soldiers' skulls. One case is reported of how the wife of a soldier is allowing her children to play with a skull of a Japanese soldier.

Congressman Francois Walter

representative of Pennsylvania presented Franklin D. Roosevelt with a letter-opener made from the forearm of a Japanese soldier, and apologised for so small a part of the Jap's anatomy.

Imagine the headlines in the British and American press if a Japanese member of the Diet were to present the bone in the form of an ornament, of an American soldier to the Emperor? Imagine the outcry if pictures appeared in the German press of a German girl looking affectionately at the skull of a British soldier which her boy friend had sent her as a souvenir? Yet this is taking place on the Allied side.

What righteous Christian indignation would be aroused if these things were done by the Japanese or Germans. These atrocities are an indication of what bestiality capitalism is capable of, in its period of decline. This is the result of the horrible poison of chauvinism and race hatred systematically disseminated by the capitalists of all countries, so that they can reap the benefits of pitting the workers of the world against each other. Only the destruction of the capitalist system can put an end to such barbarism.



ARIZONA WAR WORKER WRITES HER NAVY BOYFRIEND A THANK-YOU NOTE FOR THE JAP SKULL HE SENT HER

— Reproduced from "Life" Magazine.

SUPPORT APPEAL

ISSUES VITAL TO THE ORGANISED MOVEMENT

The appeal against the conviction of the four comrades sentenced in Newcastle will probably be heard on August 20th.

Although it may mean the extension of sentence, since it lies within the discretion of the judges to count sentence from date of appeal, the comrades are going forward with the appeal because of the vital issues involved for the working class movement.

The appeal will be based upon two fundamental issues.

First, was the Tyne Apprentices' strike an illegal strike? The Trade Disputes Act of 1927 was introduced to stave off the possibility legally, of another general strike—apart from the attempts to emasculate the trade unions which were secondary functions of the Trade Disputes Act. But here it is now used in a strike of a few thousand lads. Even if we accept the statements of the labour leaders that IA(a) will end after the war—which we do not—on the basis of the Tyne conviction almost any strike would be illegal under the Trade Disputes Act. This is particularly the case if "national service" is maintained, as it will be, years after the war.

Before the war and during it, several larger strikes have taken place in Britain, and from the point of view of "coercion" their impact was greater by far. In 1939 and 1940 the engineering and shipbuilding apprentices struck work in almost every important centre in Britain against military conscription and demanded special guarantees for themselves. The strike succeeded in forcing some concessions—though not all. But the situation in the country was different at that time. The workers were not in the angry mood they are in today.

Following the precedent set by Judge Cassels in Newcastle, every

strike is an illegal strike. The Tyne apprentices attempted to "coerce" the Government to obtain exemption of all apprentices from the Pit Ballot Scheme; this can be applied with equal justice to any strike attempting to alter a decision of an Arbitration Tribunal, since the award of the tribunal is legally binding on the workers. This applies to transfers or any other matter coming within the jurisdiction of National Service Officers.

What it is intended to establish is that if the Government enforces certain conditions on the workers, the workers have a legitimate right to strike to enforce their demands—even though the action can be interpreted by the ruling class as "coercing" the government.

The Trade Disputes Act was designed also to make a general strike illegal. This is specifically emphasised in Section 8, Clause 2:

"A strike or lock-out shall not be deemed to be calculated to coerce the Government unless such coercion might reasonably be expected as a consequence thereof."

Could the strike of the apprentices, apart from the intentions of the lads, be reasonably expected to coerce the Government? Can any single strike be reasonably expected to coerce the Government? On these points there will be given a ruling on which every

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WARNING

ALL COMRADES AND SYMPATHISERS ARE WARNED THAT WHEN THEY ARE VISITED AND INTERROGATED BY THE C.I.D., APART FROM PRODUCING THEIR NATIONAL IDENTITY CARDS AND GIVING THEIR NAMES AND ADDRESSES, THEY ARE NOT OBLIGED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS RELATING TO THEIR POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS OR SYMPATHIES. THEY ARE NOT OBLIGED TO SAY WHETHER OR NOT THEY ARE MEMBERS OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY, HOW MUCH MONEY THEY SUBSCRIBE TO ITS FUNDS OR TO GIVE ANY DETAILS OF THEIR POLITICAL ACTIVITY.

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY, BRITISH SECTION OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL, IS A LEGAL ORGANISATION, MEMBERSHIP OF WHICH HAS NOT YET BEEN MADE A PUNISHABLE CRIME!

ANY COMRADE WHOM THE POLICE ATTEMPT TO INTIMIDATE SHOULD REFUSE TO GIVE ANY INFORMATION WHATSOEVER AND SHOULD INFORM THE POLICE THAT THEY WISH TO GET IN TOUCH WITH THEIR LEGAL ADVISERS.

N.U.R. CONFERENCE

BY SID BIDWELL

The Annual Report of the N.U.R. reveals that the organisation now has over 400,000 members and that the total assets of the Union have increased to £3,364,000. These formidable figures show the potential power which could be exercised by the railway workers if they had a fighting leadership and policy.

At the Union's Annual General Meeting which occupied a fortnight at Edinburgh in July, there was no mistaking the militant mood of the rank and file as reflected in the speeches and attitude of the 80 delegates assembled. But the feeling of the workers catered for by the Union has yet to translate itself into an industrial and political programme calculated to lift the railwaymen from their well known deplorably low economic level. When this takes place it will result in pushing the present leaders forward or out.

The presidential address of reactionary F. Burrows attacked those who criticise the Labour members of the Cabinet. He suggested we might leave it to our opponents and concentrate our criticism on Tories and Liberals. This couldn't be answered better than it was in a letter published a few days afterwards in the columns of the Union's journal the "Railway Review". It said: "I, for one, never miss an opportunity of criticising Tories and Liberals; indeed I have done so for 40 years; yet when Labour members behave exactly like these, we can hardly expect our opponents to criticise them, and criticism of Labour members becomes criticism of Tories and Liberals."

Although the delegates gave a good reception to the arguments of Will Ballantine and J. Ferguson (Labour Councillor) for the end of the electoral truce, the resolution was defeated by 17 votes to 57—however a sizeable minority. By this decision the delegates displayed an inconsistency, because they unanimously carried a

motion striking out the words "after the cessation of hostilities" in connection with the correct time to fight for a new programme. In other words they wish to maintain the present parliamentary coalition while ending the industrial truce which has kept railwaymen in a strait-jacket for nearly five years.

And again they displayed symptoms of uneasiness about the effect of the electoral truce upon the life of the Labour Party, by passing a resolution by 53 votes to 19 calling for an end to the truce in By-Elections.

Conference carried a resolution asking the Labour leaders to press the Government for Service Pay, Pensions and Allowances "consistent with present day requirements" but did not say what they considered "consistent with present day requirements". Needless to say, rail workers are not ambiguous when preparing their demands. The resolution enabled the delegates to make known their disgust with the existing position and to express their solidarity with their forces brothers. The ruling-class has utterly failed to drive a wedge between the worker and his class brother in the armed forces.

The Public Session on July 6th was devoted to a discussion on the War. A resolution was carried which had the elements of progress in it and got away from the eustatory jargon of the Allied forces on the military success-reactionary and Stalinist inspired sources. It congratulated all ranks of cesses and spoke of bringing about the utter defeat of Fascism and Nazism throughout the world.

Despite the fact that the resolution means support of the war and other deliberations meant support for the capitalist politicians who lead it, the wording of the resolution indicates that the delegates have no deep seated illusions about the role of British imperialism in the war. We wholeheartedly agree with the aspiration of defeating Fascism and Nazism throughout the world but point out it

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