

# SOCIALIST APPEAL

Organ of the  
**Revolutionary  
Communist Party**  
BRITISH SECTION of the  
4th INTERNATIONAL

No. 32. MID-OCTOBER, 1946. Price 2d.

## WORKERS' PRESSURE FREED PARATROOPERS

# NOW Free All Victims of Military Caste

## WHO EXPLOITS The Hotel Workers?

### Savoy Hotel Ltd. Chairman Holds 20 Directorships

THE HOTEL WORKERS HAVE NOT BEEN FIGHTING MERELY INDIVIDUAL HOTEL OWNERS. THEY ARE UP AGAINST BIG BUSINESS. ONLY THE SOLIDARITY OF THE WHOLE OF THE LONDON ORGANISED WORKING CLASS COULD HAVE BROUGHT THESE POWERFUL FINANCIAL INTERESTS TO THEIR KNEES.

Who are these industrial and financial interests that own and control the big catering combines?

Law Debenture Corporation, loan promoters on the grand scale, have lent money at certain times, to the coal, steel and engineering industries, and received some very profitable returns from such "investments". This Corporation is trustee for £950,000 debentures of the Savoy Group, one of the trustees for £1,188,795 debenture holdings of the Gordon Hotels Ltd. company. And is also a trustee for £746,384 debentures of Grosvenor House (Park Lane) Ltd.

The debenture holders of these hotel trusts draw the maximum benefit of the profits from the large hotel and restaurant trade. Every year has seen an average profit of £98,625 pass into their hands. The extent of the financial interests of the Law Debenture Corporation is indicated by the fact that its Chairman, Viscount Greenwood, is a director of the Accredited Bread Co., Montague Burton's, Agricultural Mortgage Company of Palestine. He is also Chairman of Dorman Long Ltd., and is on the Executive Committee of the Iron and Steel Federation.

The Savoy Hotel Ltd., not capital, £988,934, controls the Savoy, Berkeley, Claridge, and Simpson's. This combine made a

### Hotel Strike Victory page 4

## French Coalition Disgusts Masses

BY J. DEANE

THE FRENCH CONSTITUTION, AGREED ON BY A COMPROMISE OF THE OFFICIAL WORKERS' PARTIES WITH THE M.R.P. (CATHOLIC REPUBLICANS), WAS ACCEPTED BY A MAJORITY OF A MILLION VOTES IN THE OCTOBER 13th REFERENDUM.

Almost 8,000,000 abstained from the vote, while 9,143,310 voted for, and 8,084,067 voted against. Thus, despite the fact that the present constitution was supported by the coalition of the C.P., S.P., and M.R.P., it received less votes than the June referendum.

In June the M.R.P. opposed, at the last minute, the agreed Constitution, which it had designed along with the official workers parties. However, the June Constitution, opposed by all capitalist parties, and only supported by the official workers parties received 286,690 votes more than the present one, despite the fact that this time the M.R.P. which was the largest party in France called for a yes vote.

The workers parties together with the M.R.P. received 15,000,000 votes at the last general election. The combined vote of the other capitalist parties was about 5,000,000.

This is a measure of the defeat suffered by the M.R.P. The present Constitution is more reactionary than the one proposed in June. Not only does it sanctify private property, colonial exploitation, as did the previous one, but establishes a two Chamber parliament (with an upper second house to act as a check on the Assembly and a President with special powers.

In spite of the fact that the present Constitution makes concessions to de Gaulle on these two questions, and that it is even more reactionary than the June Constitution, General de Gaulle opposed it because it is not reactionary enough for his purposes. He

### HE BROKE THE PICKET LINE



SHINWELL eating  
Seab-served Chicken.

This photograph shows Mr. Shinwell attending a dinner and dance organised by the Institute of Fuel at the Connaught Rooms, on October 9th.

Instead of the lobster, roast chicken and pears they had expected, they could only have cold chicken and biscuits. Nevertheless, Mr. Shinwell said: 'It's the best luncheon I've been at for a long time,' and Mrs. Shinwell agreed: 'We're enjoying it hugely, only I do wish my husband could dance.' ('Daily Mail', 10.19.46)

The previous night he had been at Claridges, as guest of honour of the '30' Club. But the 'scores of partridges, sides of beef, roast duck and grilled turbot' they had anticipated were left half-cooked, and they had to be content with bread and cheese. ('Daily Mail', 9.10.46)

Why did they suffer these enormous sacrifices? Because the employees of the two hotels had struck for trade union recognition, and they were being fed by seab labour.

Mr. Shinwell denied that he had received a letter from the National Union of General and Municipal Workers asking him to boycott functions at hotels or restaurants which refuse to recognise the union.

One might think that it would have occurred to a Labour Minister not to help in strike-breaking.

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THE REPORT ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT ON ITS FAILURE TO SECURE EVEN HALF THE NUMBER OF VOLUNTARY RECRUITS WHICH IT CLAIMS ARE NECESSARY TO FILL ITS DEFENCE PROGRAMME, TELLS A STORY OF INCREASING LACK OF INTEREST IN THE "GLORIES OF EMPIRE" OR THE "BENEFITS" OF MILITARY LIFE FOR THE WORKERS.

Coming as it does after the much boosted reforms and inducements that the army offers, this report reveals a great anti-militarist feeling which exists as a part of the general movement of the working class towards the Left.

Millions of young worker trade unionists, conscripted into the army during the war and now returned home are not good ambassadors for the military caste, its reactionary system, and the vicious character of its semi-feudal laws and discipline. These workers have been active in spreading the truth about army life and taking some interest in the well-being of the lads who remain behind.

It is a step in the right direction when organised Labour takes an active interest in protecting the rank and file of the forces from the whims of the military officers. For the struggle between officers and men is part and parcel of the struggle between workers and employers.

### Bellenger Bows to Pressure

Thus, the quashing of the heavy sentences imposed by court martial on the paratroopers and the release of the soldiers is a significant victory for the working class. The vicious sentences aroused an immediate echo of hostility from the general mass of the workers and even extended to the lower middle class.

From all over the country, trade union and Labour Party branches, and other organisations of the working class showered resolutions of protest upon the responsible minister, Mr. Bellenger. Even the capitalist press was forced to bow to the mood of the opposition.

But the workers did not stop merely at resolutions. A large scale campaign of protest meetings and petitions was already under way when the Government capitulated and the paratroopers were released.

### Why The Troops Are In Malaya

That the Government did capitulate to popular pressure is clear to everyone. But the lessons that have to be drawn from this episode are by no means so clear.

The first point that must be noted is that these lads were inducted into the army on the plea that they would have the task of defending democracy and destroying reaction and fascism. Instead, they had been sent to Malaya for the opposite reasons, namely: to suppress the democratic desires, aspirations and rights of the native people and to impose a reactionary regime in the interests of British and Dutch imperialism.

If the Labour leaders had really been concerned with democracy, never mind their alleged "socialism," these paratroopers would never have been sent to Malaya and Java to restore capitalist-imperialist "law and order." There would have been no filthy camp and therefore no need for a protest.

### Bellenger Saves Face Of Colonel Blimps

Yet the responsible Labour Minister did not quash the sentences on the grounds that the actions of the men were justified, nor did he issue the instruction quashing the verdicts on the grounds that the organised working class was opposed to the sentences and he had to take cognisance of the wishes of that class, having been put into office by them: on the contrary: he specifically stated that the soldiers were mutineers and that their actions were illegal. Bellenger quashed the sentences on the grounds that the trial was not conducted strictly according to military law.

The Labour Government was forced to give way to the clamour from the ranks of the working class, but at the same time it covered up the activities and tried to save the face of the reactionary officers who were responsible for victimising the men.

The army expresses the social system in a concentrated form. The British army is one of the last real strongholds of capitalist reaction. The notoriously anti-labour officer caste, pilloried in the last few years to some degree by popular criticism of "Colonel Blimps", is not a myth, but a grim reality. Especially that generation of professional army officers who were reared on the traditions glorified by Kipling, the brutal suppression of the colonial people, have profound contempt and even hatred for the working class.

The protest of the young worker-soldier paratroopers at the admittedly foul conditions of their camp was a direct blow at the professional officers' conception of the function of the ranker. Theirs not to reason why: theirs but to do and die.

### Release All Victims Of Military Law

The immediate result of the release of the paratroopers is the

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## Nazi War Criminals Hang

# British Financiers EQUALLY GUILTY

BY J. KELLY

WHEN THE HANGMAN'S NOOSE TIGHTENED ROUND THE NECKS OF GOERING AND HIS FELLOW NAZIS, MANY STIFF COLLARED EXECUTIVES IN THE CITY OF LONDON WILL HAVE HEAVED A SIGH OF RELIEF. IF WORKING CLASS JUSTICE COULD HAVE HAD ITS WAY, THEIR COLLARS MIGHT WELL BE REPLACED BY THE HEMP ROPE OF NUREMBERG.

Directors of armament firms, Tory politicians and business ambassadors who touted Berlin for business in the years before the war, stand condemned at the bar of proletarian justice as being equally war guilty as the Nazi headmen.

Foremost in this band of twentieth century war makers stands the firm of Armstrong Vickers. Mr. Dodd, American Ambassador to Germany from 1933 to 1938, had this to say in his diary for October 19th, 1934:

"I visited Sir Eric Phipps and repeated in all confidence a report that Armstrong Vickers, the great British armament concern, had negotiated a sale of war material here last week, just before a British Government commission arrived to negotiate some plan with Schacht for payment of short-term debts of £5,000,000 due on current deliveries of British cotton yarn from Lancaster. It is impossible, Schacht said to me yesterday, to pay the British debts. Not last Friday, I reported to Sir Eric, the British arms people were selling for cash enormous quantities of war supplies."

These few lines speak just as, if not more, authoritatively than the wearisome volumes of legal phraseology paraded at Nuremberg. Here is the glaring proof of the role

played by these "Traders in Death Incorporated." Yet Vickers Armstrong continue with "business as usual." All that has changed is that a customer has come to grief. Until his promotion to Cabinet rank in the Chamberlain Government, Sir John Anderson figured prominently on the Board of Directors of Vickers Armstrong. He, along with many other Tory politicians such as Sir John Wardlaw Milne, drew fat dividends from the trade with Hitler, Goering and Co.

As the scapegoats of German imperialism swing by the neck these people can still saunter through the corridors of the House of Commons, masquerading as "solid citizens." The money that pays for their luxurious homes, town and country clubs and holidays, is just as tainted as the loot and plunder of Kaltenbrunner, Seyss Inquart and the rest of these human monstrosities. Their freedom is the strongest indictment of the Nuremberg farce.

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## Stalinist Treachery in Palestine

JERUSALEM—

New light has just been shed on the perfidious, double-dealing role of Stalinism in the struggle against imperialism in Palestine.

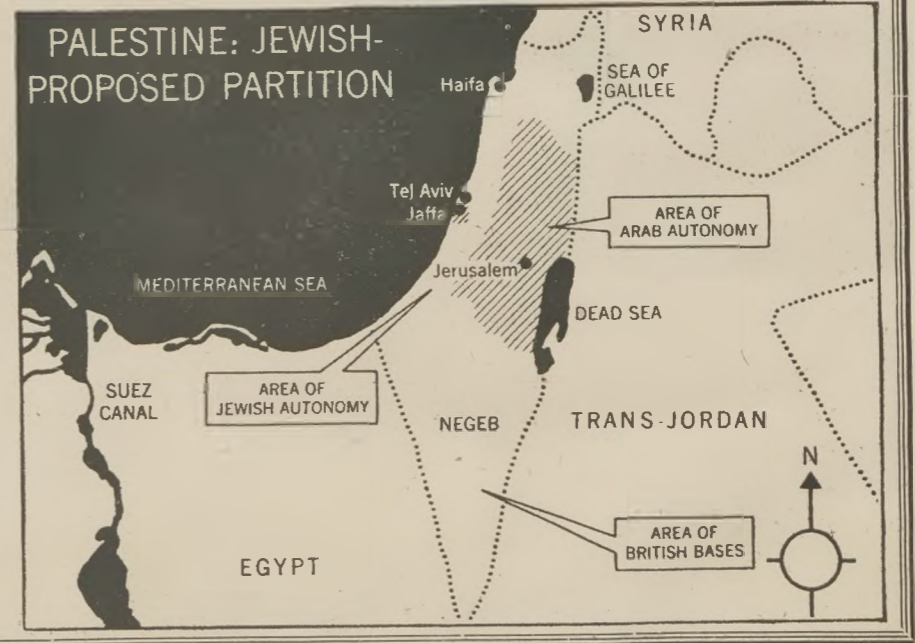
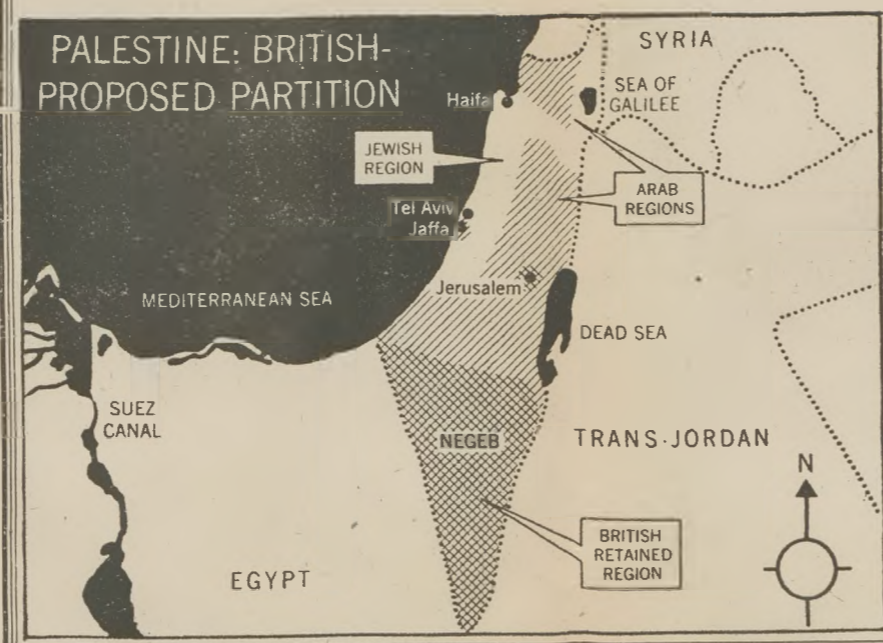
During the recent united Arab-Jewish strikes the Stalinists supported extreme nationalists in both the Jewish and Arab groups who were opposed to a united struggle against the British imperialists.

The Stalinists' habit of dragging after the "nationalists" was displayed in its ugliest form during the last few days. While the Jewish Stalinists launched a struggle against the British White Paper and demanded free immigration and settlement, one of their groups going so far as to join the world Zionist Organization, the Arab Stalinists sang laudations to the Grand Mufti, reactionary leader of Arab bourgeois nationalism.

Al-Itihad, the Arab Stalinist weekly, wrote on June 23, 1946, in honour of the Mufti's arrival in Egypt: "Our struggling nation honours those who sacrifice themselves. The Arab nation in Palestine has shown vitality and faithfulness to its interests and those who work for them. Arab Palestine from end to end celebrated the good news... Arab Palestine expressed its feelings in its celebrations and demonstrations for every man who it is sure served his country faithfully."

**BRITISH SOLUTION** exposes better than anything else the real aims of British imperialists in Palestine. Britain would govern Jerusalem; the Jews would get the fertile coastal strip; the Arabs, who constitute 88-89% of the agricultural population of the country, would get 40% of the land and Jaffa. The real control of the country would remain in the hands of the British. The carving up of Palestine is like carving up the living body. Economically and politically it is a single unit. By retaining the Southern Desert with bases near Egypt and Suez, Britain would hold the strategic area for control of the Mediterranean and routes to India and the East. This would separate Palestine from the rest of the Arab world. This is the real reason for British imperialism's interest in Palestine. Thus her policy of "divide and rule." British workers have no interest in this Policy and must demand freedom and independence for Palestine, which means a withdrawal of all British troops.

**ZIONIST SOLUTION** would divide Palestine into two separate states—Arab and Jewish. Jews would get 65% of the land. The entire coastal belt would go to the Zionists, Arabs would get Jaffa. Of course the Zionists would allow the British to retain their military bases near Egypt and Suez, and thus in the final analysis, their domination of Palestine. The Zionists need the British as a protection against the Arab world. Anti-Semitism is growing alarmingly in the Middle East. It is clear that neither of these plans provide a solution for the oppressed Jews in Europe, or the Arab masses. Palestine must become part of a Free Arab Federation of Peoples with full equal rights guaranteed to the Jewish minority. Only such a policy can unite Jewish and Arab workers against British imperialism in the struggle for an independent Palestine.



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