

NUREMBERG: DEATH TO NAZI CRIMINALS

TRIAL SERVED TO COVER ALLIED WAR GUILT

By BILL HUNTER

SALUTE THE DUTCH SOLDIERS!

Protest at War Against Indonesians

AMSTERDAM — 21st Sept., 1946.

During the second week in September, the soldiers at Harderwijk camp near Amsterdam, Holland, were informed that they were to embark for Indonesia.

Last week, the Committee issued two leaflets, one addressed to their fellow soldiers and the other to the workers of Amsterdam.

WORKERS OF AMSTERDAM

We thank you for the wonderful solidarity with which you supported us today in our struggle against being sent to Indonesia.

DOCKERS, SEAMEN AND RAILWAYMEN

We know that you made great sacrifices in the Dockers' and Seamen's Strike. It's not so easy for you to go on strike again.

We don't call you to a General Strike. With disappointment we read that the National Council of the E.V.C. (Dutch T.U.C.) has

taken a decision to withhold strike pay for action in support of Indonesia.

Therefore, we don't ask you to strike. But you can help us by declaring us contaminated, everything intended for use against Indonesia.

We now understand why the Government took such sharp measures against your Strike. They were afraid for the War against Indonesia. You see, you can prevent it.

Thus, we count on your support. Just think that you yourselves will have to serve for two years to fight against the innocent. You can always count on us, the great majority of us don't want to go. Don't let us down.

LONG LIVE THE BROTHERHOOD OF WORKERS AND SOLDIERS. WE DON'T WANT TO FIGHT FOR THE MONEY-BAGS!

Soldiers' Committee.

THE NUREMBERG TRIAL, WHICH BEGAN ON NOVEMBER 20th, 1945, HAS ENDED. GOERING, RIBBENTROP, STREICHER AND OTHERS—LEADERS OF FASCIST GERMANY, SUPPORTED AND ENCOURAGED BY ALLIED STATESMEN IN THEIR DAY—HAVE BEEN SENTENCED TO DEATH OR TO LONG TERMS OF IMPRISONMENT.

BUT SHACHT, VON PAPEN AND FRITSCH HAVE BEEN RELEASED. THEIR GUILT, LIKE THAT OF THE BIG FINANCIERS OF GERMANY, IS NO LESS THAN THE GUILT OF THE OTHER NAZI GANGSTERS.

BUT LIKE THEIR COUNTERPARTS IN OTHER COUNTRIES, THE INDUSTRIALISTS AND BIG FINANCIERS WHO PROFITED FROM THE WAR, THEY ARE TO ESCAPE THEIR JUST DESERTS.

Battle Against German Workers

Fascism systematises and accentuates all the repressive brutalities and horrors of capitalism in decay. A harassed and desperate ruling class, utilising the sweepings of human rubbish, reaches ghastly lengths of bestiality. That much was known by every socialist worker, long before the Nuremberg trial.

The working class of the world, and least of all, of Germany, have no cause for tears over the fate of the Nazi leaders.

MOLOTOV DOFFS HIS HAT TO RIBBENTROP, 24th AUG. 1939



The capitalists of Britain, America of France all applauded the Nazis when they smashed the German working class movement and massacred the finest workers. They are as guilty as the Nazis of many of the crimes committed by the latter.

In November, 1939, Molotov said:

"Today so far as the European great powers are concerned, Germany is in the position of a state which is striving for the earliest termination of the war and for peace, while Britain and France, which but yesterday were declaiming against aggression are in favour of continuing the war and are opposed to the conclusion of peace. Roles you see are changing."

LESSONS OF THE SQUATTERS MOVEMENT

Statement Issued by the London District Committee, R.C.P.

The squatters had to leave their new houses, forced out by the State acting on behalf of the rich property-owners. But the fight for housing the homeless and overcrowded continues. To bring this fight to a victorious conclusion, we must learn the lessons of the Squatters' Movement.

Effect of the Movement

This movement has had some great effects. First of all, it has brought the reality of the housing problem sharply before the eyes of the people of this country. It has shown up the plight to which millions of people are condemned, as a result of capitalist rule.

Role of Labour Leaders

And the movement has done a great job of educating the working class itself. It has shown that when the Labour Government is faced by a revolutionary threat to capitalism, it rallies to Capitalism's defence.

For An Honest Accounting

But if we are to make an honest accounting, it must be admitted that the movement failed to achieve the desired result. The threat of eviction has succeeded, and the "rightful" owners.

Protest Arrests

We denounce the Government's action in arresting Communist Party Leaders, and call for the immediate withdrawal of all charges against them. A Broad Defence Committee must be set up, representative of all sections of the Labour Movement and of those who defend civil liberties, with the task of campaigning for this demand.

Lack of Political Preparation

The movement should have been preceded by a wide political campaign.

RELEASE THE PARATROOPERS

Officers Should Have Been on Trial Not Men

BY G. NOSEDA

A storm of protest is sweeping through the organised Labour movement in Britain against the vicious sentences imposed upon the Paratroopers at Kluang, Johore. Of the 255 Paratroopers sentenced at the court-martials, 8 were originally given 5 years plus discharge with "ignominy".

These monstrous sentences have been imposed upon these worker-soldiers for daring to take the only effective course of action open to them, as a protest at the intolerable and degrading camp conditions under which they were expected to live.

The O.C. of the men concerned, claimed in his evidence, that he had warned the men against taking collective action of their complaints, that the only method recognised in the army of presenting grievances, was by individual complaint. That this procedure is farcical is only too well-known to any worker who has had any contact at all with the armed forces.

It was this knowledge that was one of the factors in deciding the paratroopers to stand together in their protest. There was no other effective way open to them. A letter sent by this same O.C. to the Area authorities concerned, asking for some action to be taken to improve the terrible and insanitary camp conditions, was not answered, or any radical improvement made.

It is clear that not the 255 paratroopers should have been court-martialled but those officers responsible for allowing the filthy camp conditions to continue.

The evidence at the court-martial revealed a complete disregard for the welfare and elementary sanitary conditions of the men, on the part of the military authorities responsible. Yet this camp had been used by troops for months previously. It was in a shocking state.

For the whole company of men there, as the evidence showed, only four water taps were available and one of these reserved for the use of sergeants. The men complained of "lack of proper washing facilities, shower baths, poor feeding arrangements, and the absence of educational and recreational facilities." The overbearing and unsympathetic attitude of the Regimental Sergeant-Major in

B.O.A.C. Strike

A.E.U. Break-Away

Responsibility of A.E.U. Leaders

RANK AND FILE MUST WIN BACK A.E.A. WORKERS

BY F. EMMETT

The strike of Air Line workers on September 12th cannot be easily understood unless the background to the dispute is examined. Why should a comparatively unknown organisation—the A.E.A. (Aeronautical Engineers Association) suddenly hit the headlines by striking for recognition? Why should workers join and remain in an unrecognised Union when there are recognised Unions that they could join?

Put simply—perhaps over simply—the answer is that these workers have lost confidence in the established Unions (A.E.U., E.T.U., T.G.W.U., etc.). These Unions were parties to the original B.O.A.C. agreement and it is from this agreement that the more recent happenings have developed.

The agreement allowed for a "Works Committee" to be set up in each of the Corporation's bases which would consist of delegates from the shops, elected irrespective of Union membership. Nons could vote and could be elected. This ruled out the traditional form of representation by Shop Stewards.

The agreement also fixed wages at a comparatively low scale (skilled rate is even now only 2/3d per hour), and laid down that wage rates could only be altered by negotiation between the Union Executives and the Corporation. Fixing of the rates at even a District level was ruled out, leave alone negotiation on the job.

When, after the agreement was already in force, the workers

charge was another grievance. The prosecution's evidence was completely unable to refute these charges. Despite this, the military nabobs found the men "guilty".

The same shabby method of collecting prosecuting evidence was carried on as happened in the case of the R.A.F. militants who were court-martialled earlier this year. The Investigation Bureau of the army was soon on the spot. Gestapo-like methods were used in an attempt to play the men one against the other. To one of the paratroopers charged, the investigation officer, Lieut. W. A. Savin, said, "I have got dozens of statements of the men. They are all coming clean. Why don't you?"

Intimidation methods were tried on this same paratrooper, the officer threatening him "that he would get 3 years, some of the men would get 5 years, some 10, and others would be shot if necessary." These and similar bullying and fascist methods were used against the lads to frighten them into "confessions".

These vicious sentences are an act of criminal injustice perpetrated upon working class youth conscripted into the armed forces of British imperialism, by a reactionary and anti-labour military caste. The sanctity of the bureaucratic and totalitarian capitalist military "discipline" is placed above the welfare and interests of the worker-soldier. The "crime" of the 255 victimised paratroopers was that they stood up to challenge the military autocracy who regard and treat the "other ranks" as cannon-fodder and raw material for their wars.

The organised working class movement must solidarise with the victimised paratroopers and demand their immediate and unconditional release. Will Nally, Labour M.P., has vigorously protested at the "stupid" and vicious sentences, and has stated his intention to raise the matter in Parliament demanding their immediate release.

(Continued on Back Page.)

Consequently, offered an alternative organisation which promised them a "democratic" Union, catering specifically for Civil Aviation, with direct representation on the Executive body from the bases, many of the best elements among the B.O.A.C. workers decided that there was a way of solving their problems; they broke

(Continued on Back Page.)

DON'T LEAVE IT TO THE FEW

KEEP YOUR PAPER GOING
AN APPEAL TO EVERY READER

BY HAROLD ATKINSON
(National Treasurer, R.C.P.)

THIS entreaty is directed to every reader of "Socialist Appeal" who sympathises with our ideas. It is prompted by the bad state of the Fighting Fund, as revealed in the list of September donations. Money is the very life blood of our publishing activities. Without it we cannot carry on. Yet over the past couple of months the flow seems to be drying up.

The purchasing power, the real wages of the workers, is declining. This we recognise. But we don't accept it as a reason for a decline in our revenue. With the masses bearing the brunt of the aftermath of the imperialist war; as they shouldered the cost, and made all the sacrifices, of the war itself, the need increases for the voice of sanity in a world made mad by capitalism; for a call to revolutionary struggle for the establishment of a socialist system of society in which poverty and want, fascism and war, will find no place. Let us, therefore, face the issue as a challenge. Let us find a broader following for our socialist message; an ever-increasing circle of friends and sympathisers.

We have confidence that we only need to call to your attention, the conditions in which we are compelled to struggle, and you will rally to the aid of your paper. Have you stopped to think of the burden voluntarily undertaken by the small group of pioneers, struggling in face of every obstacle, to show the need for socialist revolution?

Twice a month our paper appears. It is the collective effort of voluntary workers, and a tiny regular staff underpaid and with totally inadequate facilities. Our half-year's telephone bill totals less than the cost of a couple of foreign cables to a bourgeois newspaper. Twice a month, in rain or shine, the small and valiant band of comrades distribute the paper in the localities; see that it gets into your hands, comrade reader. All the time we are faced with a growing burden of debt. That is, where we can obtain credit. The money for our paper quota, for example, must be found before we get delivery. The big capitalist combines are not anxious to help the production of a revolutionary journal.

All this falls on the shoulders of a very small group of comrades. Yet there are thousands of readers of "Socialist Appeal" most of whom are in sympathy with our revolutionary communist aims, most of whom are concerned to publicise and support the struggles of the workers. It is to these readers that we make this appeal.

Throughout history all progressive movements have been inaugurated by small groups of self-sacrificing pioneers. It is the same with our movement today. Yet the need for revolutionary propaganda, agitation and organisation grows with each passing day. Help in every way you can to broaden the circle of socialist pathfinders by spreading the influence of "Socialist Appeal" and building up the Fighting Fund.

Don't leave it to the few!

INDUSTRIAL NEWS

BY N. PENTLAND

Dockland - Defend the 29!

Some Questions to Frank Campbell

NO SPLITS! FOR DEMOCRATISATION OF THE TRADE UNIONS. DEFEND THE 29 MILITANT LIVERPOOL DOCKERS

The reactionary attack by the leadership of the Transport & General Workers' Union against the 29 former leaders of the Liverpool dockers strike movement has provoked national bitterness and disgust. Every dock worker will rally to the defence of the 28 militants; every dock worker will consider this attack by the Donovans and Deakins as an attack upon his rights and his struggle.

For playing a leading role in the national strike of the dockers, in which the overwhelming majority participated, and which was opposed only by the top officials, these 29 militants are charged with carrying out acts contrary to union policy! Thus union policy appears as something opposed to the great mass of union members; something decided by a small clique of top officials.

Some Questions to Campbell

The natural anger and disgust of the Liverpool ex-strike Committee (now the Merseyside Area Dockers' Welfare Committee) took the form of proposing a split from the union and the formation of a more democratic one. For two weeks Frank Campbell, Chairman of the dockers' committee, and P. Callanan, Secretary, carried on intensive agitation for a split.

Thus the dockers were faced with a most serious question. The Revolutionary Communist Party, immediately produced a leaflet opposing the proposed break-away. Following on this, the leaders of the Dockers' Committee announced a change in this policy. At a meeting of 2,000 dockers in Liverpool P. Callanan stated: "I am absolutely and unequivocally opposed to any break-away from the Transport and General Workers' Union. We will fight on only one front, and this within the union. If the union men don't do their jobs we will get rid of them." This excellent statement of

policy was welcomed by all experienced militant workers. After this meeting Frank Campbell made a most amazing statement to the "Daily Mail": "The policy of this organisation has been changed but I am not making any statement as to why. We have no connection with the Revolutionary Communist Party, who came to distribute leaflets outside our meeting thinking our policy was to break-away. We laid a trap for them and they fell into it."

What is the meaning of this statement? Does Frank Campbell wish to say that his two weeks campaign for a break-away was to fool somebody? The only people he fooled, if this is the case, were the rank and file dockers. This is the truth of the matter. Perhaps he wished to compromise the position of our party?

The Policy of the R.C.P.

The policy of the Revolutionary Communist Party is known to all militant dock workers throughout the country. The London dockers in particular know that our party has consistently opposed irresponsible splits and break-aways of the type proposed by Campbell. When, during the dock strike of last year, the question of split was raised by the Glasgow break-away union, the strike committees of London and Liverpool (the latter on the insistence of the London Committee) both declared themselves against such a policy. In summing-up the gains of the strike against the

Stalinists who tried to belittle and minimise the struggle, we stated in the "Socialist Appeal" editorial (November 1945):

"Both in Liverpool and London the Strike Committees have explained the fate that would await those dockers who tampered with the ideas of splits from the unions. At this stage they explained, such splits would play into the hands of the Donovans and the Deakins. No splits, but a struggle within the union to oust the present leadership has been the programme of the Strike Committees. In this the dockers have made a very important contribution to the Labour and Trade Union movement."

"This has always been the policy of revolutionary communists. Not only is Frank Campbell's statement inexplicable, but it reveals dishonesty and irresponsibility. As with his attacks upon our Party during the dockers' strike—the only party to stand with and aid the dockers—his attacks today can only aid the bosses and their agents. All militant dockers must demand an end to such methods, which can only hinder the dockers' struggle for better conditions and union democracy."

The dockers are bitterly opposed to the Donovans and Deakins, they are determined to defend the 29 and the correctness of their past struggles. But they are also opposed to any suggestion of break-away, knowing that these can only lead to disorganisation of the struggle and the strengthening of the official leaders. P. Callanan expresses this view clearly and correctly.

For a Militant Programme

The defence of the 29 militants from the attack of the corrupt leadership, the preparation for future struggles, all this is only possible if the lessons of the strike are understood clearly. As we stated in the above quoted issue of the Socialist Appeal:

"However, it is not sufficient to know that one must fight the union leaders on their own ground; it is necessary to advance a programme of struggle against the present constitution and structure of the trade unions. This programme can only be: For union democracy, for annual re-election of all officials, who will be paid the average wages of the workers. If the unions are to be converted into militant organisations of the working-class then these must be the slogans of a national dockers' movement."

Without such a programme, without consciously preparing and training the workers for these tasks the Merseyside Welfare Committee, as with all other committees, will degenerate into an obstacle to the dockers' struggles against the bosses and their agents.

Defend the 29!
For a militant Workers' Programme—Build Job Committees.

No splits—For Union Democracy!

Letters

To the Editor,

From A Soldier Abroad ON A TRAIN IN GERMANY

Cuxhaven, 10th August 1946.

The outstanding thing here is the crowds of children, all ages—and all begging, begging, begging. It's pretty horrible, I can assure you, for obviously one can only give to a few, even with the best will in the world.

Lovely kiddies, too—some are really beautiful. Some are thin but some seem quite normal. They follow for ten minutes or so in order to pick up one's cigarette ends. Time after time, one is approached by men who wish to buy cigarettes—the accepted rate apparently is 4 marks each, which is about 2/-.

The housing is mainly flats and as Cuxhaven is a small fishing port, it is not far to land from buildings—result: plenty of allotments which are quite obviously well tended.

The girls are friendly—for practical reasons, of course.

We are waiting for a train bound for Bielefeld. It is now about 1 p.m. and we have recently passed through Luneburg and before that the outskirts of Hamburg.

Kiddies From Nowhere

Whenever the train stops the kiddies seem to spring from nowhere to start begging. The boys respond very well to these children, and when the train leaves all have had something—they rarely eat the food given it's usually carefully carried home. Just think, we have a N.A.A.F.I. on the train and can buy fancy cakes, etc., enough to make ourselves ill for a week. By the way, we have had nothing but white bread, and yet the bread I have seen in the civilian shops looks really grim.

3 p.m. We are waiting at Haver just now. This area is terribly damaged from air-raids, rather like Battersby.

4 p.m. Minden, Westphalia.

Another full-scale meal plus another parcel of sandwiches—I think the way we are being over-fed is a degree more than disgusting.

Bielefeld, 11th August. The kiddies I've seen usually go bare-foot. One of the last youngsters I saw begging on the railway lines was a little girl about 7 with a leg off—trying to wave standing on crutches. Do I need to comment?

14th August. Since I have been in Germany I haven't seen any factories at work, and most of those I have seen are just in ruins.

"A Rotten Affair"

17th August. En route to somewhere in the Ruhr, we passed through Osmbrück—or what was left of it, for if anything it was the most badly damaged place I have seen. The only houses that I saw that might be said to be still standing, were usually short of at least one wall—and people were living in those.

This business of B.A.O.R. wives is a rotten affair—did I tell you that I heard of a street in Bielefeld where the people had notice to quit complete with a list of furniture to be left for use by these British families. About 10 days notice, I believe, and if you can imagine what that would mean to you, and try to picture yourself finding accommodation in conditions about 100 times worse than in Birmingham, then you may have some idea how these people must feel about this infernal scheme of our Socialist Government.

1st September. Did I ever mention the shock I got when I first noticed that folks were living in cellars of ruined houses, (and I mean ruined—completely wrecked) and in makeshift shelters rigged up—perhaps by fixing some kind of roofing.

This is all up to date.
A British Soldier

To Harry Pollitt from the R.C.P.

THE FOLLOWING LETTER HAS BEEN SENT TO HARRY POLLITT, SECRETARY OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY FROM THE POLITICAL BUREAU OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST PARTY.

Dear Comrade,

The Political Bureau of the Revolutionary Communist Party, at its last session, discussed the question of the attack launched by the Labour Government against the squatters, and especially against the Communist Party and its members for the assistance given to the movement of the squatters.

The Political Bureau decided: "That in view of the progressive character of the actions of the Communist Party and its members in their aid given to the squatters, and whatever divergences of programme and policy separate us and other working class bodies from the Communist Party, it is the duty of all organised workers and working class bodies to rally to the assistance and defence of the Communist Party while the Government attacks it for the support given to the squatters."

While it remains under attack in defence of your actions in aiding the squatters. The P.B. also decided to appeal to all other bodies of the working class to do likewise, and to form a united front on this practical issue of the class struggle.

We need not remind you of the differences on principle, programme, and policy that exist between our organisations. These are fundamental differences and have caused many bitter clashes and conflicts between our organisations and its leading members in the past. Nevertheless, and without shirking over these differences or giving up the right to criticise the policy of your Party, we believe that on this practical and progressive action we can find a basis for a united and common front of struggle. With this end in view, the P.B. of the R.C.P. is prepared to place its forces side by side with the Communist Party forces in defence of the squatters and members of the C.P. who are under attack.

What a far cry all this is from the days of Lenin and Trotsky when a departing wife of an ambassador of the Workers' State would have expected to number as "distinguished" friends, not the parasites from the Mayfair drawing rooms, but leading revolutionaries in the working class movement.

In his autobiography, Leon Trotsky likens his first contact with the diplomats at Brest-Litovsk to a feeling of having "stepped on something unclean". He writes: "At his (Lenin's) insistence, I set off for Brest-Litovsk. I confess I felt as if I were being led to a torture chamber. I absolutely cannot understand revolutionaries who willingly accept posts as ambassadors and feel like fish in water in their new surroundings." So far as the Gusev and the rest of the bureaucratic usurpers are concerned, the explanation is simple. Unlike Trotsky, they are not revolutionaries. These "diplomats" represent, not the interests of the masses, but those of the bureaucratic caste which exploits them.

Yours Fraternally,
JOCK HASTON,
General Secretary,
Revolutionary Communist Party.

NUFFIELD STRIKE

Defend Victimised Convenor

BY H. LEE

Last month the Oxford and Cowley District Committee of the A.E.U. participated in one of the most disgusting strike-breaking episodes.

On Sept. 12th, 160 workers of Nuffield Exports Ltd., Oxford, came out on strike in defence of their convenor, who had been victimised.

Seldom has there been such a clear-cut case of victimisation, which deserved the unconditional support of the whole of organised labour.

It is sufficient to relate the record of the shop since it elected the victimised convenor to represent them less than 18 months ago. There was only 40% T.U. organisation in the shop at the end of the war, by the end of last year, the shop was 100% T.U. Militancy and solidarity prevented breaches in the closed shop being made in January. Since then the shop organisation has won several concessions and resisted the application of miserably bonus systems.

On the flimsiest of pretexts, the convenor was dismissed and offered a weeks pay in lieu of notice. That same night the District Committee heard the case of the victimised Convenor and recommended that the Executive Council give official recognition to the strike. A week later, on Thursday, 19th Sept., the Divisional Organiser came down, attended a meeting of the men on strike. During this meeting he had plenty to say about "procedure" and it was obvious that he was opposed to the strike and that he was in favour of a resumption of work at any cost, to permit of a local conference being called.

On the following day the management approached the strikers' shop stewards and offered to reinstate the Convenor, but refused to recognise him as convenor. The strikers turned down the offer, pointing out that they were determined to retain the right to elect whom they pleased to represent them without an "if you please" to the boss.

Meanwhile leaflets were distributed stating the case for the workers. The employers then posted a notice at the works gates intimating that they were closing down the factory: in effect a lock-out had been instituted.

The D.C. met the E.C. of the Nuffield Organisation, who offered to reverse the decision to close

down the factory on condition that Barker (the victimised Convenor) was not reinstated, and as a concession, they agreed to hold a local conference immediately.

The D.C. went into session, and after a "long" discussion decided to instruct the men on strike to return to work. They sent couriers into football matches, dog-tracks and cinemas to root out the M.I.E. Shop Stewards and succeeded in getting the majority of them to agree with their strike-breaking proposal.

The D.C. could not wait for the mass meeting that was called for Monday night to put the position of the D.C. on the strike. They had not the time to get members' addresses from the branch secretaries, so they approached the management who obligingly provided them with the addresses of the workers who were on strike! Then followed a series of personal calls and telegrams instructing the men to return to work.

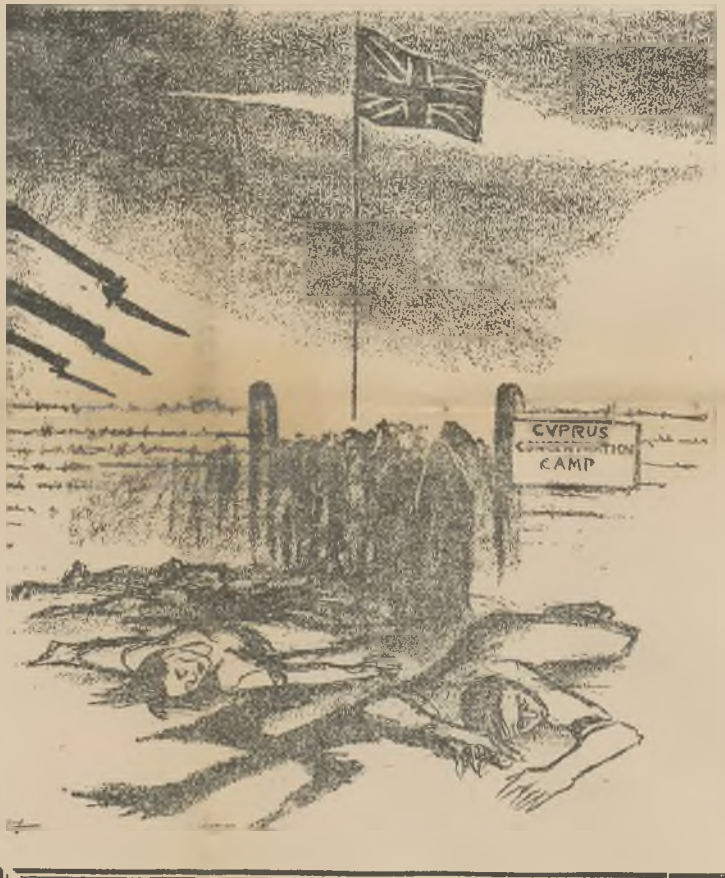
On Monday morning, half the men on strike turned up, and a meeting was held outside the factory. Barker, the victimised convenor, pointed out that faced with the virtual reversal of the positions previously adopted by the D.C. and by the M.I.E. shop stewards, they were left with no alternative but to accept the decision of the D.C. and to return to work to give the lousy arbitration machinery a chance to work. It was decided to return to work the following day. But then Bro. Longworth appeared on the scene. Not satisfied with the retreat which he had sounded, he began a stampee. He insisted that they return to work immediately as a sign of good faith.

This was the biggest mistake of the workers, who throughout the strike had remained solid to the core. The result was the complete disorientation of the ranks.

The result was that only about 350 attended the mass meeting called by the M.I.E. stewards to give the "facts" of the strike, but no time whatsoever was given to the representative of the striking workers to say what the workers thought about the sell-out.

If the Local conference results in the reinstatement of Bro. Barker it will be because of the solid stand of the strikers, and not because of the belly-crawling procedural arbitration methods of Longworth.

If the local conference fails it will be the duty of every organised worker in Cowley and Oxford to consider the need for election of a militant D.C. and of militant shop stewards. Trade Union rights were won by militant workers fighting leaderships. Trade unionism can only be defended with similar methods.



From LEFT and RIGHT

BY AGITATOR

Mrs. Tennant ... Landlady

Mrs. Eleanor Tennant, Chairman of the ultra-Vansittartist "Face the Facts Association" has been in the news again, this time in the rôle of racketeer landlord.

For one "furnished" room, in which "the beds were mattresses on springs, supported by wooden blocks and flower pots", she was charging no less than £3 7s. per week! The Chelsea Rent Tribunal reduced this to £1 18s. 0d. a week. This decision Mrs. Tennant declared "savoured of the Gestapo". The mild actions of the Tribunals in checking some of the most blatant profiteering scoundrels is described by this anti-working class crusader as an "infringement of British liberties."

Mrs. Tennant and her reactionary outfit have been busy during the past months running anti-alien, anti-semitic campaigns; meetings at which she provided a platform for such notorious fascists as John Beckett.

It is not the Rent Tribunals or bodies (of which there are far too few), which act in some measure against the grosser racketeering exploiters, that endanger democratic liberties, but from precisely such gangrenous growths of the "Face the Facts Association" calibre. And it is the duty of the organised workers to show their recognition of this fact in a very positive fashion whenever and wherever these reactionaries show their faces in public.

Socialist Jazz

The attempts of the Stalinist bureaucracy to "explain away and expose" decadent and "superficial" western bourgeois culture,

are extending into some weird fields. The Moscow Correspondent of "The Times" recently wrote:

"A commission has been appointed to investigate charges of vulgarity and paucity of ideas made against the Soviet music-hall. There is, it is asserted, too little material performed reflecting the mood in which the Soviet people are expected to set about fulfilling the Five Year Plan. Exception is also taken to the quality of the jazz-band, directed by Leonid Yutsov, who according to most of his critics, has recently made unsatisfactory headway in evolving a Soviet type of Jazz different from western European forms."

Someone should explain to the Commission that music-hall and Jazz (and in passing they might note that the latter is a product of America not western Europe) reflect the level of education of the masses, which in turn is conditioned by the economic base of society. It is a peculiar commentary on Stalin's recent claim of building "Communism" in Russia and leaving capitalism in the rest of the world, that the cultural level of the Soviet Union calls for de-westernised music-hall performances and Jazz adapted to Russian tastes.

... and Mayfair Tea Parties

By way of contrast we learn, from the London "Star" of September 21st that: "Madam Gusev, wife of the Soviet Ambassador, has been saying good-bye to her London friends, in a milieu where she would not have to bother about the quality of music-hall programmes." She

met them at an informal mayfair tea party after making a special journey from Paris by air. She was dressed in powder blue, and wore a turban hat slightly over one eye, a vivacious touch which was rather in contrast with the collection of smart black hats worn by distinguished British women guests."

Neither the names of these distinguished women, nor their distinguishing characteristics were revealed. Madam Gusev in her "vivacious turban" must have called to mind the now famous words of the late President Kalinin to the peasant woman: "If you wear burlap shoes nobody will notice, but if I should do so you can imagine how everybody will look at me."

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In his autobiography, Leon Trotsky likens his first contact with the diplomats at Brest-Litovsk to a feeling of having "stepped on something unclean". He writes: "At his (Lenin's) insistence, I set off for Brest-Litovsk. I confess I felt as if I were being led to a torture chamber. I absolutely cannot understand revolutionaries who willingly accept posts as ambassadors and feel like fish in water in their new surroundings." So far as the Gusev and the rest of the bureaucratic usurpers are concerned, the explanation is simple. Unlike Trotsky, they are not revolutionaries. These "diplomats" represent, not the interests of the masses, but those of the bureaucratic caste which exploits them.

SOCIALIST APPEAL

Organ of the Revolutionary Communist Party, 256, HARROW ROAD, LONDON, W.2. Phone: CUN 2526. EDITOR: E. GRANT. BUSINESS MANAGER: D. GRAY.

New Purges in Russia

BY TED GRANT

In the last few weeks, news reaches us of the new wave of purges in Russia which is affecting all strata of the lower strata of the bureaucracy. Managers in industry are being dismissed and replaced in thousands on charges of graft and corruption, bureaucratism, incompetence, swindling and misuse of funds of the state.

In agriculture the collective farms are being purged. And a tremendous campaign against "ideological" backsliding in a capitalist and nationalist direction in literature, the arts, the press, cinema, science, the schools, the army, has been begun at a signal from the Kremlin.

These convulsions have shaken the political superstructure in the Soviet Union. They are a reflection of the discontent of the population after the great efforts and exertions of the masses during the war. The Soviet population put up with greater hardships and endured greater privations than any of the other main belligerents. Now, after the war is over they see that the bureaucrats still intend to maintain their inflated standards of life, while the Soviet people continue to exist on a level of hunger and privation not much higher than their incredibly low standards during the war.

Stalin and his bureaucratic clique are, to a certain extent, leaning on the masses in order to restore the pre-war equilibrium within the bureaucracy. The usual Stalinist method is being employed: making scapegoats of the lower ranks for carrying out a policy decided by the Kremlin. The nationalistic and middle class ideology put forward during the war, glorifying the Czarist past of Russia and denigrating such oppressors of the Russian people as Ivan the Terrible and Peter the Great, of such Czarist hangmen as the Generals Kutuzov and Suvorov, this chauvinist ideology was ordered and encouraged by the Kremlin in order to serve the needs and interests of the bureaucracy itself.

But while the masses could be reconciled to such chauvinistic and racial outpourings about the superiority of the Slavs at a time when they were directly menaced by the threats of German Fascism, they could not be inspired to make further sacrifices for the Five Year Plan under this banner once peace had been restored. The fruits of victory for the workers in Russia has been the perspective of harder and harder toil under the regime of Stalin for the indefinite future, in order to rebuild and expand the power and industry of the Soviet Union. Thus, in the endeavour to reconcile the workers and peasants to this, the bureaucracy has had to resurrect phrases about Socialism and the society of the future. This also serves to lull the workers abroad, who have become alarmed at the inequalities and sumptuous standards of the bureaucracy, and by the iron dictatorial regime established by Stalinism. But in reality nothing fundamental is changed. Only a different varnish is used.

A few quotations will illustrate the process of taking place. The foreign press reports "Drastic purges" in the Communist Party of the Ukraine for "failure to make careful selections of party and administrative personnel, a prevalence of 'bourgeois-nationalist ideology' among the intelligentsia and widespread bribery and nepotism."

According to "Bolshevik" the "theoretical" journal of the Russian C.P., the Stalinogorsk Coal Trust "never fulfilled its plan," but simply inflated its figures to make up monthly quotas, e.g. reported a daily production of 544 tons when the real production was only 150 tons. (Quoted from "Time" Magazine Sept. 9th).

"Le Monde" reports on September 13th, that Gorenchime, Soviet Attorney-General, has started investigations, and "Pravda" comments: "The Party must play a preponderant role in the re-establishment of national discipline."

The Union of Writers of the U.S.S.R. has expelled the novelist Mikhail Zoshchenko and poetess Anna Akhmatova, on charges of "apollonianism". The Central Committee has attacked the entire cinema industry, particularly singling out the Cinema Minister Bolchakov and Eisenstein, world-famous producer. The Arts Committee, which produced Soviet plays is accused "of having tried to poison the consciousness of Soviet citizens with an ideology hostile to Soviet society, to revive the residues of capitalism in people's minds and customs."

The purge has been very extensive in agriculture. The "Times" of September 24th, reports a Decree of the Council of Ministers and of the Central Committee of the Soviet Union, signed by Stalin and Zhdanov jointly: "The decree calls attention to the inflation of the managerial staff to the detriment of the

collective farms' distributable income; to misappropriation of public lands on a mass scale through the extension of private allotments beyond the legal limit and the allocation of common land to various local organizations; to the pilfering of collective property by local State and party officials, some of whom, it is stated, are dipping their hands into collective property as if it were in their own pockets; and, finally to slackness on many farms in holding general meetings and electing leaders, a habit which is debarring workers from taking part in the farms' affairs.

The decree calls for a decisive end to these violations of the collective farm charter and threatens offenders with prosecution under the criminal code. It demands an immediate correction of abuses, including the expulsion from the collective farms of all 'drones' who fail to contribute a minimum quota of labour, and by cancelling a curative measure, it brings to an end the practice by which local authorities are empowered to take over common land for their own subsidiary enterprises."

This indicates how far the collective farms had disintegrated under the pressure of the war, the destruction of tractors and other agricultural implements, the destruction of the land and the transforming of industry into producing almost entirely war material. Under these conditions having to fall back on old primitive methods and the individual plough, individualistic and small capitalist tendencies were inevitably produced. More and more the most energetic and grasping of the peasants began to seize tracts of land from the collective and operate them as their own individual property. The manager-bureaucrats on the land, in return for bribes, turned a blind eye upon their development and many participated in it themselves.

But the bureaucracy does not desire to share power with such elements. Moreover, individual production is very uneconomic in comparison with giant collective farms. The moment that the bureaucracy were in a position to do so, they have turned upon the neo-kulaks. They were compelled to turn a blind eye while industry was producing sufficient tractors to serve the needs of the collective farms. With the restoration of a certain measure of production, of tractors combines and other mechanical agricultural implements, they have launched a new campaign to restore the collective farms. All petty capitalist tendencies within agriculture (it has not assumed any great importance for industry) are to be ruthlessly crushed, as they were during the first Five Year Plan. And in this, undoubtedly the bureaucracy will gain the support of the big majority of the workers and peasants.

But this does not mean that capitalist tendencies will be eliminated or curtailed. On the contrary they will receive an impetus during the new Five Year Plan, but in a different direction: far from moving in a Socialist direction: towards greater and greater equality and the abolition of privilege for the favoured officialdom: this is to be increased during the next few years.

As Lenin ceaselessly hammered, differences of this character are capitalistic differences which have nothing in common with Socialism. Yet "Labour Research" controlled by the Communist Party, blatantly declares in its issue of July, 1946: "Certain developments in Soviet organisation apparent before the war are emphasised in this plan. Wage differentiation, a stimulus to efficiency and excellence of skill, is to increase within each industry. There is greater cash stimulus for good work by technicians and organisers."

The sharpness of the measures in the Soviet Union demonstrate that even under the totalitarian regime of Stalin the class struggle still goes on. The discontent of the masses, particularly the soldiers, who have seen the lies and propaganda of the bureaucracy exposed by the fact that the standard of living in the countries they have invaded is higher than that in the Soviet Union; the shortages and hunger, the further sacrifices for the building up of industry while the difference between the masses and the bureaucrats becomes greater and greater, produces a mood of bitterness and antagonism among the workers and peasants. The repercussions of this social antagonism will have great consequences in the long run. But meanwhile,

(Continued on Back Page.)

DUTCH SOLDIERS AND WORKERS SUPPORT INDONESIAN TRIESTE

As the Dutch Imperialists, assisted by the Labour Government, prepares for a renewed offensive to crush the Indonesian masses, the workers and soldiers of Holland are showing, through militant action, their solidarity with the oppressed Indonesian people. On Tuesday, September 24th, dock workers, transport, public service and factory workers of Amsterdam staged a 24-hour strike as a protest against the embarkation of fresh troops for Indonesia.

In an attempt to break up a demonstration organized by the strikers, the police opened fire several times and chased the demonstrators with drawn swords. The 24-hour strike was the culmination of growing resentment on the part of the Dutch workers against the war against the Indonesian people. Hundreds of young workers are today languishing in Dutch jails because they refuse to go out to the Far East to fight against the Indonesians. The father of a conscript who had refused service met the police who came to arrest him with the following words:

"I am convinced that you are coming to arrest my son to place him in the hands of your superiors. They will place him, against his will, in a struggle against those who are not our enemies. My son does not serve the cause of the capitalist-owners. There is no difference between this and murder, for our people are menaced neither from Indonesia nor by any other people. Like many more, my son will under these circumstances, refuse to serve in the army."

(From "De Tribune" Dutch Trotskyist paper).

For nearly a year now, the Revolutionary Communist Party, Dutch Section of the Fourth International has been foremost in mobilizing the workers of Holland into action on behalf of their class brothers in Indonesia. Shortly before the outbreak of the 24-hour strike, they issued a leaflet, addressed "TO THE DOCKERS AND SEAMEN OF AMSTERDAM" from which we publish the following extract:

"On many occasions the Amsterdam dockers and seamen have been to the fore when it came to defending the interests of the Dutch proletariat against the Dutch exploiters. During the February strike in 1941, directed against the crimes of German capitalism, the dockworkers stood at the head of the struggle. Now it is once again necessary, through action to prevent a new crime by Dutch capitalism. This crime is the war against the Indonesian workers and peasants. To regain its stranglehold on this people, Dutch imperialism seeks to bloody suppress the Indonesian revolution. The exploiters, who live only on the blood and sweat of the workers, want to compel thousands of Dutch workers to break the resistance of their class-brothers in Indonesia."

The leaders of the Big Trade Union organizations, the N.V.V. and the B.V.C. have often declared in the past that work in the docks and on the ships would come to a standstill if it actually became a question of violence being used against the Indonesians. That moment has now arrived. Now that it is a question of deeds, however, these gentlemen have openly betrayed the cause and declared that the sending of tens of thousands of working-class youths to the slaughter is a POLITICAL QUESTION. The Dutch workers have made it implicitly clear, through resolutions, that they have no desire to suppress the Indonesian Republic or to restore colonial exploitation. . . . At this critical moment, the leaders of the big working class parties, the Labour Party (Partij van de Arbeid) and the Communist Party of Holland (Stalinists), also remain silent. By paper action they attempt to direct the militancy of the workers. Neither petition nor protest meeting can prevent the Dutch bourgeoisie from commencing their war against the Indonesian Republic. Only the united struggle of the working class can achieve this."

Dockers, Seamen, the lives of thousands of Dutch and Indonesian comrades are in danger. The Dutch capitalist demand sacrifices from us, so that they will be able to haul in their profits in the near future again. Only the working class has the power to prevent it.

NOT A MAN NOT A CENT FOR THE OPPRESSORS! WAR AGAINST INDONESIA! NO TROOPS AND ARMS FOR INDONESIA! NOT A DROP OF BLOOD FOR THE OIL AND RUBBER CAPITALISTS! COMRADE DOCKERS AND SEAMEN, INTO ACTION!

The Dutch workers, through their 24-hour strike, have given a great lead. Only class action can call a halt to the great offensive in which a great number of British troops will be involved. The organised Labour Movement in this country must follow the example of their Dutch comrades and take action against any future shipment of men or munitions to Indonesia. Pressure must be brought on the Government, through the Trade Unions, Co-operatives and other working class organizations to withdraw all British troops from Indonesia. The Labour Government must be compelled to recognize the Indonesian Republic.

END THE WAR OF AGGRESSION AGAINST THE INDONESIAN REPUBLIC! WITHDRAW THE TROOPS! ALL AID TO THE COLONIAL REVOLUTION!

SUPPORTERS OF YUGOSLAVIA Because of the policy of Stalinism the workers are divided on racial lines instead of being united on a class basis.

IN TRIESTE hardly a day passes by without a demonstration or a clash. . . .

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SUPPORTERS OF ITALY

TRIESTE

Hotbed of National Hatreds

BY ENRICO

Towards the end of the first world imperialist conflict, the spirit of international solidarity was in great evidence, climaxed with the international actions of the workers in defence of the first workers' state, the Soviet Union.

To-day, this spirit is sadly lacking. The Soviet Union is not the spearhead of the struggle. The Stalinists, alongside the reformists, are turning the workers' struggle away from their real enemies, to the national defence of their "own" capitalist state on the one hand, or to the defence of Stalin's reactionary foreign policy on the other.

Only when the working class realise this, will they understand and reject these politics of betrayal. It is for this reason that we, of the Fourth International, appeal to the militants in the Labour and Communist Parties to examine the role of their leaders in the disputed territories in general, and Trieste in particular.

Intense National Hatred In Trieste

It goes without saying that Trieste is of the utmost importance to the contending powers, Russia and the Anglo-American bloc.

The walls and streets of Trieste and other disputed cities of Venezia Giulia are covered with anti-Tito and anti-Italian slogans. High on the hills overlooking Trieste itself, supporters of Tito have written "We want Tito" and slogans demanding the inclusion of Venezia Giulia in the Yugo-Slav republic. Far below, in the busy streets, the uneasy peace is disturbed by mass demonstrations and counter demonstrations, the battle of words being transformed into actions, both sides spilling blood. Both sides are further infused with an intense racial hatred furthering the ends of blind nationalism.

For many years, the workers in Venezia Giulia, Italian and Yugo-Slav alike, lived in peace realising common desires and interests. Even when Mussolini compelled the Slavs to accept the Italian language as the only language taught in Venezia Giulia schools; even with the oppression of the Slavs as a minority, the workers remained united in their hatred towards Fascism. Both the Italian and Yugo-Slav workers were inspired by anti-Fascist activity. Together in the Partisan movement they conducted a bloody struggle, first against Fascism and then against the German occupation under the red flag of internationalism, not as today under the nationalist flags of Yugo-Slavia and Italy.

Why The Change?

Why then, this change of heart? Why then this terrible split in the ranks of the workers? The responsibility can be laid directly at the doors of the "Communist" and reformist leaderships. We will go further, and say at the doors of the Stalinists alone, for the working class have grown accustomed to the betrayals of Social Democracy policy to be communist, due to the traditions of the October Revolution.

Four months ago, the Stalinists in Italy, in line with their international degeneration, split on the issue of Trieste, and they had to split. But as we now see, both sections serve their Muscovite master. The pro-Tito, Venezia Giulia Communist Party, aided by Yugo-Slav officers are behind many acts of terrorism against the minority of Italian nationalists. In Trieste, Manfouome, Gorizia and Pola, they and their controlled trade union "Sindacati Uniti" have led, and are leading strikes which are in fact reactionary in the extreme. Not one class issue is involved, not one demand for higher wages to meet the terrible cost of living. The one demand that is in evidence is that Venezia Giulia must be included in the Yugo-Slav Republic.

Meanwhile, the capitalist Christian Democrats, Italian Socialist Party and Camera-del-Lavoro (Italian T.U.C.) are not idle. They in turn conduct strikes and demonstrations in the interests of Italian capitalism, the pawn of British and American imperialism.

Role Of Stalinism In Italy

What then, is the role of the Stalinists in Italy proper? We have seen that the Stalinists in

Venezia Giulia serve the Soviet Bureaucracy alone. We claim that the Italian Communist Party serves the same bureaucracy. (Togliatti, not daring to condemn the reactionary role of Tito, speaks of "justice" and urges the working class to believe that the problem can be solved by U.N.O. His party does not conduct a struggle against the Italian capitalist class. On the contrary, his party participates in that government, Togliatti being a minister himself, in that very Government which is called imperialistic and Fascist by both the Soviet Delegation in Paris and the Venezia Giulia Communist Party.

Togliatti, carrying out the orders of Stalin, knows that his task is to maintain Stalinist influence in Italy proper, and needless to say to speak for Venezia Giulia being included in the Yugo-Slav Republic will antagonise the Italian working class, who feel strongly on this issue. Already thousands of militants are demanding to know why Togliatti supports Stalin's claim of \$25 millions in reparations. They know, as all class conscious workers know, that capitalism was responsible for the war and that these reparations will not be squeezed from the Italian capitalist class, but from the workers and in this case with the aid of the Stalinist leadership in Italy.

There is no doubt, Togliatti is not in an admirable position. Who knows, the Soviet delegation may yet come to an agreement with Britain and the U.S.A. on Trieste. The Venezia Giulia Stalinists may yet be the next scapegoats of Moscow's power politics.

We have written much on the role of official working class leaders but this could not be complete unless we begin to realise the policy of the Allied imperialists through A.M.G., a policy for which the British Labour Government must be held responsible. A.M.G. has a huge police force of British trained, pro-Italian, nationalists, also the British 1st Armoured Division, 56th London Division, and the American 88 Division to keep "law and order". But they serve the interests of Western imperialism against Russia. This occupation only tends to antagonise Tito's followers further, resulting in terrorist attacks against British and American troops. This serves to widen the gaps already existing between the workers and occupying troops.

Workers! Unite Against Capitalism

We have appealed to the militants in the Labour Party and Communist Party in the past; once again we say there is a way out for our class and mankind. The monstrous politics of the present day working class leadership can only end in further defeats of our class and the third world war. The Fourth International declares, and our Italian Section, the Workers' Communist Party (P.O.C.) carries forward the only programme for the workers in Venezia Giulia and Italy itself. A united front of all workers against both Tito and the Italian capitalist class, a programme of economic and political demands to raise the standard of living and to enable the workers to choose their own future. The guarantee of civil rights to all minorities, for a struggle against the racial hatred of Stalinism and Italian nationalism. The withdrawal of all Allied troops. We do not claim that even this will be the solution of Trieste but it is the only way forward to internationalism and the only solution: A Socialist Federation of the Balkans within the United Socialist States of Europe and a Socialist world.

Seamen's Solidarity

FRENCH SEAMEN IN NEW YORK JOIN AMERICAN SEAMEN'S STRIKE

New York, 19th September.

1,000 French seamen in New York, members of the World Federation of Trade Unions British and American seamen, members of the National Maritime Union, C.I.O.

A resolution from the French seamen states: "We salute the American seamen. We want to express the solidarity of the international working class, whose ties are bound closely in common struggles for emancipation from exploitation and wage slavery."

The "Militant" (organ of the Socialist Workers' Party (Trotskyist), gives in its issue of 14th September, more examples of this excellent demonstration of international solidarity. It reports that Swedish, Danish and Norwegian seamen's union instructed their union branches to do everything in their power to aid the American striking seamen.

4 Y.C.L.'ers JOIN R.C.P.

Statement to the C.P.

In view of the recent expulsion of Comrade O'Donoghue from the Hanwell Branch of the Communist Party, we, the undersigned members of the C.P. and Y.C.L. have decided to issue this statement to Party members and sympathisers.

Comrade O'Donoghue, a Party member of several years standing, recently raised for discussion within the Branch, on a notice of motion a question of great political importance, namely, the speech of the Chief of the Propaganda Section of the Central Committee of the C.P. of the Soviet Union—Alexandrov (Feb. 1st, 1946). In this speech the entire Marxist-Leninist Theory of the State is openly revised. Instead of this matter being discussed in a democratic manner, Comrade O'Donoghue was immediately called before a meeting of the Branch Committee.

At this meeting, after being questioned for more than an hour, charges of disruption and distorting Trotskyist literature to Party members were made against him. These charges, which were sent to the London District Committee were so stupid and baseless that they were never pursued. The additional charge that he was in contact with Trotskyists, which he had never concealed and which was in fact known to leading and rank and file Party members, was the only reason given for his subsequent expulsion.

In view of Comrade O'Donoghue's good record as an active Party member, this expulsion bears all the hall marks of a heresy hunt and political victimisation. The refusal of the local leadership to accept for discussion in the Branch a matter raised in a correct and democratic manner, clearly exposes the claim of our Party to be a democratic Party as utter humbug and hypocrisy. A full discussion around Alexandrov's speech, would clearly show all honest Party members—as it has shown us—that the principles of Marxism in dealing with the State has been rejected by Stalin. No wonder that the local leadership recoiled from a discussion on this theoretical question, for not a word in speech or print has been given by the leadership of the British C.P. on this matter. There was, and still is, no "line" on it.

The expulsion of this active member for contact with the Trot-

skyists, and the demand that Comrade O'Donoghue break off such contact—a demand that no genuine Party claiming to be based on democratic Centralism can defend—demonstrates quite clearly that the C.P. Leadership is fearful of the impact and strength of Trotskyist ideas.

This experience has led us to seriously study past and present C.P. policy.

The unprincipled belly-crawling manner in which the affiliation campaign was conducted, its terrific defeat and the subsequent attack on the Labour Government, show the dishonest non-Marxist character of the so-called Communist Party.

The soursults of the Party for many years have no relation to the emancipation of the workers in their struggles, but are dictated by the needs of the Soviet bureaucracy. The Third International, which was founded by the Bolsheviks to assist the World Revolution, was rendered impotent by the policies of Stalin and then dissolved by him overnight with no discussion among its various sections.

The failure to produce at the Nuremberg Trial any documentary or other evidence from the captured Nazi archives, to prove the allegations that Trotsky was linked with the Nazis, exposes the whole campaign against Trotskyism as a monstrous falsification.

For these reasons we are convinced that the "Communist" Party is Communist in name only, and that the traditions and principles of Communism are now carried on by the Revolutionary Communist Party, British Section of the Fourth International.

Many ex-C.P.'ers, disgusted by the opportunism of the Politburo and Galluchers—and the local satellites—have found their way into its ranks and we intend to take our place by their side.

COMMUNIST WORKERS! Link up with us! FOR A SOVIET BRITAIN! FOR THE SOCIALIST UNITED STATES OF EUROPE!

FOR THE WORLD REVOLUTION! LONG LIVE THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL!

Signed:

J. O'DONOGHUE, (Late Sec. Hanwell C.P.) E. GEORGE, (Late Sec. Hanwell, Y.C.L.) B. JOHNSON, (Late Lit. Sec. Hanwell C.P.) B. GRIMES, (Sec. Hanwell Y.C.L.)

The above statement was sent to every local member of the C.P. and Y.C.L. together with a notice of a meeting to be held with Comrades E. George and J. O'Donoghue among the speakers.

This meeting on Monday, September 23rd, was picketed by three prominent local members of the C.P. for the purpose of (1) Preventing their members from attending, and (2) Reporting those members who did attend for the purpose of taking action against them.

These Stalinist pickets were approached by local R.C.P. members and offered ample time from the floor of the meeting in which to put forward their own case and to denounce the ideas of the platform. Needless to say, this democratic offer was rejected.

G. Chapman, a member of the London E.C. of the Y.C.L., hotly criticised them for not accepting this offer and their refusal to defend their ideas when challenged; making it quite clear that he was attending the meeting in order to hear the case of those comrades who had joined the R.C.P. There can be no possible doubt that in defying the ban, this comrade will be on the carpet.

5 or 6 other Y.C.L.'ers accepted the dictates of the pickets, in spite of our appeal to them to listen to us and defend their Party. 2 ex-Y.C.L. members attended the meeting.

The gain of four members to the R.C.P. from the C.P. is the result of the first direct contact in the Hanwell area between the two parties, and we go forward with optimism for future gains.



