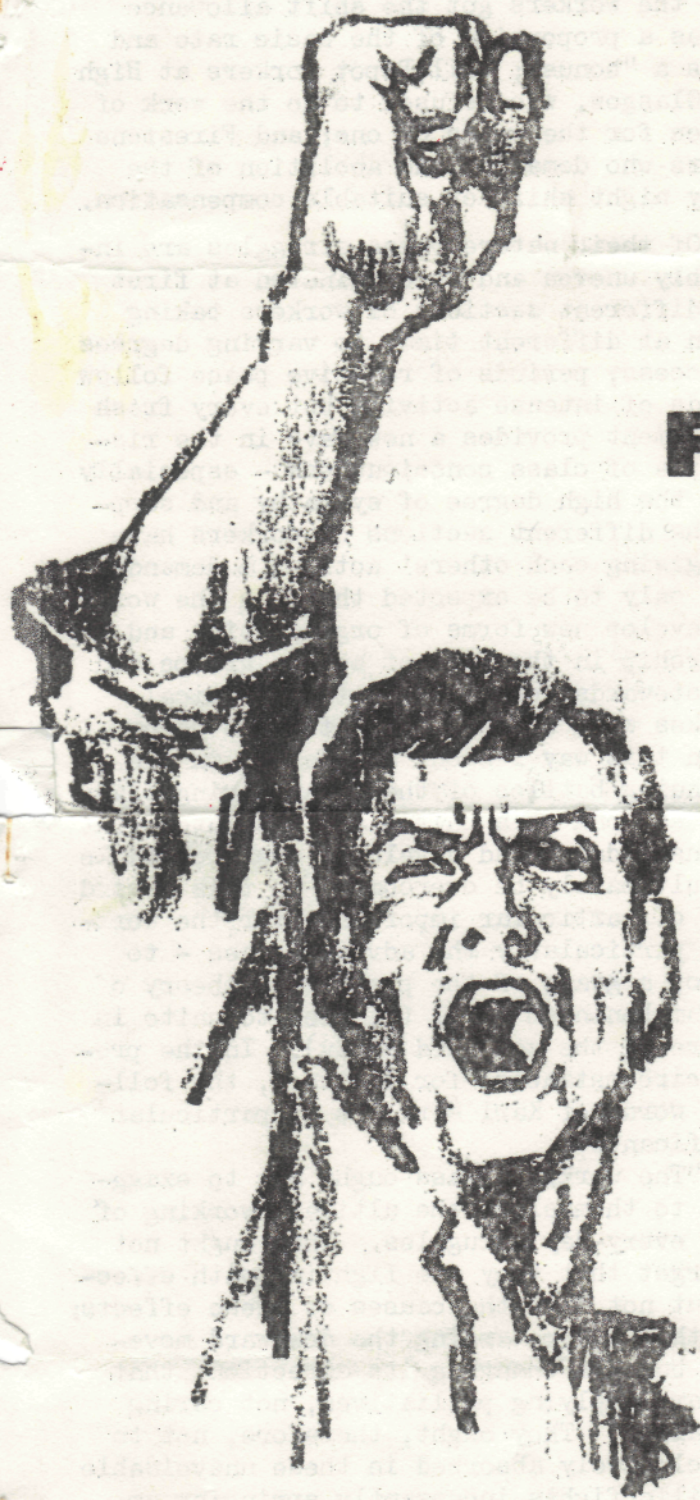


SCOTTISH VANGUARD

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"Unofficial" Action & Revolutionary Leadership.

(see page 2)

Contents also include:-

	page.
Local 'Authorities' -	
Agencies of Capitalism.....	5
Unemployment.....	7
"Jenkins' 'Draconian' Measures" -	
Social-Fascism in Action.....	10
The British Parliament Today.....	10
Michael McCreery & the CDRCU.....	4
Albania - 30 years of socialism.....	6
Brief News.....	9
International Situation.....	9
WPS(ML) & Literature Information.....	10

A Quote from V.I. Lenin:-

"Fighting operations are also permissible for the purpose of seizing funds belonging to the enemy, i.e. the autocratic government, to meet the needs of insurrection, particular care being taken that the interests of the people are infringed as little as possible; that fighting guerrilla operations must be conducted under the control of the Party and, furthermore, in such a way as to prevent the forces of the proletariat from being frittered away and to ensure that the state of the working class movement and the mood of the broad masses of the given locality are taken into account." (Collected Works vol. 10 page 154).

WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!

(Reproduced from "De Kommunist" - organ of the Marxist-Leninist Party of the Netherlands - see page nine.)

★ For a Workers' Republic of Scotland ★

'UNOFFICIAL' ACTION & REVOLUTIONARY LEADERSHIP.

All over the capitalist world the workers' resistance to the parasites' attempts to make them suffer for the sins of capitalism by reducing living standards, increasing unemployment etc. is gathering momentum. Workers do not particularly like going on strike with its consequent extra hardships due to lost income, but at the same time they are well aware that there is NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE under capitalism - you do not get or keep what you do not fight for. The recent upsurge of industrial action in Scotland, overwhelmingly 'unofficial', is a telling demonstration of working class consciousness of this fact in Scotland today:-

The lorry drivers stood firm and united in their modest demands, those in the private sector refusing to return to work until their comrades in the 'public' sector had been guaranteed the same wages for the same hours. The bus workers quite justifiably lost patience with endless, procrastinating and secret official negotiations - as did the craftsmen, drivers, conductors and underground workers in Glasgow.

Glasgow sewage & cleansing workers' fight for a living wage exposed the City 'fathers' (as well as their own union officials) for what they are - red-baiting tools of the master-class who prefer to see "their" city streets piled with rubbish and "their" river fouled with sewage than that they should set a precedent by paying these essential workers a half-decent wage.

The teachers whose contempt for the "special case" Houghton Committee, its derisory interim 'award' and divisive final one is quite understandable - as is their suspicion that an attempt will be made to make the final 'award' do for the next 12 months. The unofficial action groups have pushed the three teachers' unions into life and towards unity.

The students have moved into action, together with their comrades in the rest of the U.K., against government cuts in educational expenditure as part of its campaign to make the working people bear the burden of the crisis.

Rolls Royce & Hoover workers who were not to be intimidated by the familiar threats of the sack and union orders to return to work.

The miners, with the praiseworthy support of their union leadership, rejected, throughout the U.K., the blood-sucking "productivity scheme" of the National Coal Board - reminiscent of the divisive negotiating machinery imposed after the defeat of the 1926 Strike.

Clerical workers at John Brown Engineering, Scottish Legal Life Assurance and book-makers' clerks have taken strike action over wages and equal pay for women.

The employers are particularly reluctant to concede on questions of far-reaching prin-

ciple such as equal pay - or the oil and rig building companies' resistance to unionisation. Other disputes in which a particular principle has been involved over the past months have been at the Grangemouth refinery where the workers got the shift allowance paid as a proportion of the basic rate and not as a "bonus"; Rail Depot workers at High St., Glasgow, who refused to do the work of two men for the wages of one; and Firestone workers who demanded the abolition of the Friday night shift or suitable compensation.

Of their nature these struggles are inevitably uneven and uncoordinated at first with different sections of workers taking action at different times to varying degrees of success; periods of relative peace follow periods of intense activity but every fresh development provides a new wave in the rising tide of class consciousness - especially given the high degree of sympathy and support the different sections of workers have been giving each others' actions & demands. It is only to be expected that, as the workers develop new forms of organisation and leadership in the form of action groups and shop stewards' committees, that tactical mistakes will be made and set-backs occur, but in this way lessons are learnt in the continuing battles of the intensifying class war. As long as a united and resolute front is consolidated and developed every obstacle will ultimately be overcome. In this regard it is of particular importance for the workers - particularly the advanced ones - to develop a grasp of the practice & theory of Marxism-Leninism (e.g. the need to unite in and around the vanguard Party). In the present circumstances, for instance, the following words of Karl Marx are of particular significance:-

"The working class ought not to exaggerate to themselves the ultimate working of these every-day struggles. They ought not to forget that they are fighting with effects, but not with the causes of these effects; that they are retarding the downward movement, but not changing its direction; that they are applying palliatives, not curing the malady. They ought, therefore, not to be exclusively absorbed in these unavoidable guerrilla fights incessantly springing up from the never-ceasing encroachments of capital or changes of the market. They ought to understand that, with all the miseries it imposes upon them, the present system simultaneously engenders the material conditions and the social forms necessary for an economical reconstruction of society," - 'Wages, Price & Profit' where he advises the workers to aim for the 'Abolition of the wages system' & not just 'A fair day's wage for a fair day's work'.

"A POLITICAL PROBLEM"

"We do not see a political problem at the moment" - Scottish Confederation of British Industry representative speaking on Radio 4 about unofficial strike action in Scotland. His cautious words undoubtedly reflect the real and underlying concern of the parasite class today. The "social contract" designed for them by the capitalist Labour Party is being given the treatment it deserves by greater and greater numbers of workers and, as a result, the British monopoly capitalist ruling circles are moving towards the adoption of more direct methods of combatting the working class; the behind-the-scenes mobilisation of the forces of the British imperialist state is gathering momentum in a desperate bid to preserve maximum profits and safeguard the political power of the exploiting minority as the crisis develops.

The open or tacit class-collaborationism of those self-seeking careerists who have wormed their way into and control a considerable part of the trade union machinery has proved a hollow guarantee for the capitalists as the battalions of the working class respond by establishing their own 'unofficial' action groups and shop stewards' committees to lead them in the fight against the encroachments of the "pot-bellied parasites".

"Communist inspired!" (and even "Nationalist inspired!")? The truth is that the workers are inspiring the communists, and that is as it should be, for the more vigorously the workers defend their essential class interests, the closer we get to the Workers' Republic and, ultimately, communism - and the more the communists understand in practice what they have been talking and reading about, particularly in relation to the over-riding task of providing the vanguard leadership of a 'proletarian revolutionary party of a new type' - the Workers' Party of Scotland (Marxist-Leninist).

"OUR DUTY IS TO DEFLECT THE SPONTANEOUS WORKING CLASS MOVEMENT FROM THE PATH OF NARROW TRADE UNIONISM TO THE SOCIAL-DEMOCRATIC (i.e. revolutionary) PATH. OUR DUTY IS TO INTRODUCE SOCIALIST (i.e. Marxist-Leninist) CONSCIOUSNESS INTO THIS MOVEMENT AND UNITE THE ADVANCED FORCES OF THE WORKING CLASS IN ONE CENTRALIZED PARTY. OUR TASK IS ALWAYS TO BE AT THE HEAD OF THE MOVEMENT AND COMBAT TIRELESSLY ALL THOSE -WHETHER THEY BE FOES OR 'FRIENDS' - WHO HINDER THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THIS TASK." (J.V. Stalin, Collected Works vol. 1 page 107, our brackets).

THE POLITICAL LINE OF THE WPS(ML).

The new high-tide of industrial action in Scotland has been a sharp confirmation of the correctness of the line and policies put

forward by the WPS(ML) since its foundation in 1966 - in particular the need for the workers to establish their own 'unofficial' action groups and committees in order to overcome the class collaboration of many trades union leaders in the economic and political struggle, and to link up in upholding their essential class interests in the fight against monopoly capitalism. Such action groups and committees are also the most effective means for defending the trade unions themselves both from the attacks of the capitalists and their governments and the undermining activities of the bureaucrats. The WPS has also consistently pointed out that the issues at stake go beyond the limited but absolutely necessary fights for wages and conditions - especially when the fact of the overall capitalist crisis is considered with the consequent massive unemployment heralded as usual in Scotland by closures and 'redundancies' at the branch plants of the foreign-based monopolies.

And the wider political lessons are being increasingly (though by no means fully & consciously) grasped by the working people - in particular that:-

- 1) They have nothing to gain from a Labour or any other government at Westminster which is controlled by the monopolists and, when necessary, will be swept aside by them;
- 2) They have everything to gain from implementing the policy originally put forward by JOHN MACLEAN in 1919 and upheld today by the WPS(ML) - for a WORKERS' REPUBLIC OF SCOTLAND.

The demand for social justice and the demand for national self-determination are inseparably linked in Scotland today - no person or party can genuinely claim to support one demand while, at the same time, denying or ignoring the other.

SOCIAL JUSTICE does not mean the bureaucratic extension of the capitalist 'welfare' state and its 'benefits' in Scotland. IT MEANS THE ENDING OF THE EXPLOITATION OF MAN BY MAN - the social ownership of the means of production, distribution and exchange under the Dictatorship of the Proletariat, i.e. the political power of the working class which the workers' committees led by the Party can play a leading role in establishing.

SELF-DETERMINATION does not mean 'devolution' from Westminster or anywhere else as envisaged by the opportunist, and so far unimplemented, plans of the various capitalist parties and politicians. IT MEANS THE WORKING CLASS, THE VAST MAJORITY, IN SCOTLAND TAKING POWER IN SCOTLAND and determining their own destiny, rather than having it determined for them by a tiny handful of cosmopolitan parasites.

(This latter objective in no way com-

promises the unity of the workers of Scotland with those of England and Wales (as well as Ireland and elsewhere) - a unity which will certainly not be strengthened and developed by denying the people of Scotland the democratic right to national self-determination - any more than by the spurious and invidious suggestion that the vast majority of the people of England are responsible for the situation in Scotland).

PROPAGANDA WAR AGAINST
UNITED WORKING CLASS ACTION.

In the present situation of working class upsurge capitalism and its agencies are doing their utmost to propagate two particularly rank falsehoods to divide and confuse the workers:-

1) that "the nation" only has "a limited amount" which can be paid out in wage increases and, consequently, that if one section of workers gets a "bigger than average" increase another section must get a "lower than average" one. They are thus trying to make out that the economic difficulties caused by capitalism are an inevitable fact of life and that the workers are stealing the food from each others' plates when, in fact, the fundamental struggle or 'competition' is between wages for the workers or profits for the parasites. The less discrete politicians of all the capitalist parties frankly admit this but excuse themselves by claiming that "a healthy and profitable private sector is necessary for the nation". Thus we see this government, while cutting back on educational and other public expenditure and refusing to pay teachers and others a half-decent wage, handing out an extra £1,500 million of finance for industry because the financial monopolists prefer to invest in more lucrative areas overseas as well as in stock exchange and monetary speculation. They will also be spending about £3,700 million on "defence" (i.e. war and war preparation) in 1974-75 (of which Scotland's share amounts to about £370 million) - despite a lot of publicity about "defence cuts" this is, in fact, an increase of about £300 million over 1973-74.

2) they claim that 'economic' matters such as the level of wages, prices, unemployment, inflation etc. are not really political questions and the capitalist politicians of all parties admire each others' "genuine efforts" and agree that "there are fundamental and deep-rooted problems allowing of no easy solution". Anyone denouncing this hypocritical twaddle must be "an outside force" with "ulterior motives". At the same time they like to make menacing "forecasts" and fascist threats that the workers' "insatiable demands" are "endangering democracy".

WORKING CLASS POWER VERSUS FASCIST POWER.

And it is certainly the case that, faced with the determined resistance and developing struggle of the working people of Scotland, England, Wales and Ireland (where the process is already well advanced) for social justice and national self-determination and the failure of "constitutional" efforts to quench it, the ruling class are bound to step up their support for fascism and to turn increasingly towards fascist measures including the use of provocation. But this in no way means that the working class should back down - fascism will be strengthened and not weakened by concessions.

The WPS(ML) fully supports the workers' just struggles and calls and works for MAXIMUM POLITICAL, IDEOLOGICAL, AND ORGANISATIONAL UNITY of all sections of the working class based upon A SELF-RELIANT CLASS-CONSCIOUS FIGHTING SPIRIT against British monopoly capitalism and its agents within the working class and national movement who are seeking to subvert the struggle and lead the working people into a fascist ambush.

The Party's strategic aim is to lead the working class in THE SEIZURE OF POLITICAL POWER in Scotland - in the course of which struggle the workers will undoubtedly consider any tactics on their merits regardless of ruling class 'law' which will be increasingly used against them. At the same time the WPS is fully prepared to unite with all genuine anti-fascist forces (i.e. anti-fascist in practice) to preserve all democratic rights - which includes trade union rights - won so far and at present being increasingly eroded. THERE MUST BE NO 'FREEDOM' FOR FASCISM - the only answer to reactionary violence is revolutionary violence.

PUT WORKING CLASS POLITICS IN COMMAND!
THE WORKING CLASS MUST EXERCISE LEADERSHIP
IN EVERYTHING!

MICHAEL McCREERY; April 10th 1975 will be the tenth anniversary of the death at 36 of this great revolutionary who led the Marxist-Leninists of Scotland, England & Wales in the struggle against the modern revisionists of the 'Communist' Party of 'Great' Britain when, recognising the need to break politically, ideologically and organisationally with revisionism, he founded the seminal Committee to Defeat Revisionism for Communist Unity in November 1963. The WPS(ML) hails the memory of this great proletarian internationalist and urges the workers to study his life and writings (a small selection of which are available). The next Vanguard will carry a fuller tribute.

Local "Authorities"

AGENCIES
OF
CAPITALISM.

£2,274,600,000 (over two thousand million pounds):- this was the total debt of Scottish local authorities at the end of financial year 1971-72.

£197,996,000 (nearly two hundred million pounds):- this was the total interest paid out on this debt in 1971-72 alone to the capitalist money-lenders.

Recently the WPS published and distributed 15,000 copies of two leaflets to workers in Glasgow and Dundee entitled "Highway Robbery! - Increased Glasgow Transport Fares" and "Dundee Buses - Who Pays and Who Profits?" on the subject of the increased bus and underground fares in the two cities. Amongst other things, the leaflets exposed the extortionate amount of interest paid to the capitalist loan sharks by Glasgow and Dundee Transport Departments (now the 'new' Passenger Transport Authorities), and in this they are no different from other towns and cities. In 1972-73, for example, this interest for Glasgow - £746,000 - turned an operating profit (despite the inflated prices of parts, spares, fuel etc.) into an overall loss; yet fares are increased on the pretext that public transport is "unprofitable" due to "high" wages bills.

This interest paid by transport departments is, however, a drop in the bucket compared with the total amount of interest paid to the financiers by the local authorities as the figures above show - a major factor in incessant rents and rates increases (the latter are to be raised by about 25% in the coming year). Like the so-called 'nationalised' industries, capitalist local government does not serve the people but provides openings for financial investment and industrial and other contracts for monopoly capitalism. Local "democracy", like the Westminster parliament, is a front for the interests of big business.

"LET GLASGOW PERISH"

The pamphlet issued by Glasgow Corporation (motto: "Let Glasgow Flourish") each year entitled "St Mungo's Purse - Facts for the Ratepayer", though small, inadequate and void of explanation, speaks volumes and is an indictment of how the cancer of capitalism operates in local government. The estimated cost of rating services for 1974-75 is £222,735,220. 35% of this is to come from rates, 45% from government grants (a devious method of subsidising big business) and 20% from "sundry income". An estimated £54,828,755 (nearly fifty five million pounds) - ONE QUARTER OF TOTAL EXPENDITURE - will be paid in interest to the financiers.

This figure is especially astronomical when compared with what the Corporation estimates to spend on housing - a paltry if not unbelievable £3,541,472. This is in a city with an internationally notorious housing record where one house in three does not have a bath, one in four has no hot water supply, and one in six does not have exclusive use of a toilet. In May 1973 it was estimated by the Scottish Development Department that there were 69,500 'sub-standard' houses in the city (190,000 - about 10% of all houses - for the whole of Scotland) - and the SDD's 'standards' are predictably very low in such matters - yet ONLY 27,700 HOUSES WERE UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN THE WHOLE OF THE SCOTTISH 'PUBLIC' SECTOR. The SDD also stated that "most if not all of these (i.e. the 190,000) are houses which could have been classed as unfit fifty years ago". On top of this most of the new houses (for which workers have to pay a greatly increased rent) are built in the big schemes on the city perimeters with very poor or non-existent transport and other facilities (especially for the young) and are very poorly maintained. As many workers point out - "They move us from old slums into new ones".

While the capitalists do not scrimp on building hotels and office blocks (with all mod-cons of course) working people face housing shortage and high rents (up by 75% since 1968) with eviction (about 800 in 1973 by 'socialist' Glasgow Corporation about a third of whose tenants are in arrears) and warrant sales for the increasing numbers who find it impossible to make ends meet. At the same time there are thousands of skilled and experienced building workers thrown out of work because the capitalist building industry will only undertake contracts which offer big profit margins.

SELF-SEEKING "PUBLIC SERVANTS"

"St Mungo's Purse" also reveals that Glasgow Corporation alone reckons to spend over seven million pounds in 1974-75 on 'Local Government Reorganisation'. This monstrous restructuring of the bureaucracy has nothing to offer the people but plenty to offer monopoly capitalism and its 'yes-men' in local government who have been awarded (or awarded themselves) staggering new 'salaries'. This rake-off is in addition to the wide-scale corruption as revealed, for example, by the case of the architect Poulson (who, among others, had the top Scottish Office civil servant Pottinger on his payroll) and the profiteering of the Labour provost of Dundee (who quite correctly pointed out, however, that this sort of land specul-

tion is by no means 'illegal' under capitalism - just the reverse). The capitalist media and legal system only take up these few particularly glaring cases to give the impression that they are the exception rather than the rule.

BIG CITIES - BIG PROFITS.

Glasgow is certainly not an odd man out amongst the big cities - throughout the U.K. (and the rest of the capitalist world) conditions in the big cities expose monopoly capitalism for what it is - a tiny group of parasites whose god is profit (and profit is produced from the exploitation of labour despite the "pennies from heaven" overtones of the name "St Mungo's Purse"). The central and local servants of these parasites are the Labour, Tory and Liberal politicians (the Scottish 'National' and 'Communist' Parties have not yet been fully accepted for the job) - and, when all else fails, the fascists, the brutal foot-men of their ailing masters.

Big cities suffer most because these are the centres where capitalism has amassed huge numbers of workers in order to exploit them to the full. Housing under the capitalist system is, and will continue to be, shortage and slums as described above (and as so clearly outlined and forecast by Engels over 100 years ago in his pamphlet on "The Housing Question"). This leads inexorably to further suffering for the workers & their families. Glasgow's health record is the worst in Britain with the highest infantile death, bronchitis and TB rates (yet the City "fathers" would rather see the streets piled with rubbish and the Clyde filled with untreated sewage than pay essential workers a half-decent wage). Dundee comes a close second to Glasgow in overcrowding, slums & poor health while, in England, Birmingham, Leeds and Liverpool all have high figures. The small towns and villages suffer in that they lose a great many of their young workers to the cities, going there to try and earn higher wages simply because the capitalist run or dominated agriculture offers them nothing.

ONLY ONE ANSWER.

The productive capacity of Scottish industry (present annual gross national product - £6,000 million) based upon the labour of the working people could easily ensure adequate housing and other services for the people providing production was owned, controlled and planned by the working class but not under conditions of capitalist ownership and production for profit. For example, a crash programme of house building could be launched, using the wasted talents of our thousands of unemployed building workers. Rents could be drastically reduced (in the

People's Republic of China, for instance, rent takes up about 8% of the average family income - and this includes heating & lighting - compared with at least 20% here for rent alone).

Under the conditions of capitalist exploitation and neglect it is certainly necessary for workers to organise in action groups and tenants' committees to wage the day-to-day struggle for better conditions & against rent increases etc. And, if they find it expedient, they can certainly put up candidates in the capitalist local elections - in connection with a particular issue and to draw attention to their case for example. But the long history of total failure to offer any solutions to the people's problems by self-seeking local politicians of all parties shows that no real progress will be made in this direction - just as none will be made through Westminster elections which, together with local elections, form part of capitalism's state machinery to exploit, oppress and deceive the workers.

The precondition for the success of all plans and hopes for the people's future is the action of the people themselves and, in the final analysis, the SEIZURE OF POLITICAL POWER by the working class. The establishment of working class state power in a Workers' Republic of Scotland would enable genuine local democracy based on local factory and residential committees to flourish. In place of the present local authorities as agencies of capitalism there will be new proletarian local authorities run by and for the working class as AGENCIES OF THE WORKING PEOPLE. (D.O.C.)

ALBANIA: Thirty Years of People's Power! (29th Nov. 1944 - 29th Nov. 1974)

It is 30 years since the Albanian people, arms in hand and led by their vanguard Party headed by the outstanding Marxist-Leninist comrade ENVER HOXHA, crushed the Italian & German fascist invaders of their national territory, repulsed the interference of British imperialism and established the Dictatorship of the Proletariat. They have gone on to build a great SELF-RELIANT SOCIALIST PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC with collectivised agriculture, developed industry and a fine class-conscious people's culture.

Scorning the blackmail & sabotage of Kruschev-Brezhnev & Co. Ltd., they have upheld Marxism-Leninism against revisionism and given firm and unyielding support to the struggles of the exploited peoples and nations of the world. Albania is a tremendous example for the workers of Scotland of what can be achieved by taking their destiny into their own hands, overthrowing monopoly capitalism and establishing their own class rule!

Unemployment -

7.

FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND CAPITALIST 'NATIONALISATION' SERVE TO AGGRAVATE UNEMPLOYMENT WHICH CAN ONLY BE PERMANENTLY ABOLISHED IN A SELF-RELIANT SOCIALIST REPUBLIC.

The fresh wave of closures, redundancies, lay-offs and part-time working at the branch plants of the foreign-based monopolies is exposing the hypocrisy of the Labour government's threats of reduced real wages or unemployment. The general tendency of capitalist production is to give rise to both. On top of the closures and cut-backs by the big concerns, there is the escalating number of bankruptcies of the smaller firms under the impact of the developing crisis.

The U.S. Honeywell Incorporated, in the usual brutal fashion, suddenly announced that they were sacking 1,170 workers at the three plants in the west of Scotland although, as shop stewards pointed out, there is no shortage of orders. Hundreds of workers have been declared "redundant" and the remaining ones put on a reduced working week by the U.S. concerns Singers (Clydebank), Hoovers (Cambuslang) and Chryslers (Linwood) who have "given" their 1,000 workers four days extra unpaid "holidays". Nor are such developments confined to Scotland - they are affecting the whole of the capitalist world with the car industry being particularly hard hit; Chryslers, for instance, are sacking 700 workers at their Scottish and English plants and, in the U.S.A., 70,000 of their 86,700 workers have been laid off either temporarily or indefinitely, due to "a slump in demand" for their products.

Better Sound Reproduction (BSR) have sacked 900 workers at their East Kilbride factory, having earlier thrown 1,000 workers on the dole by closing down their two Birmingham factories (five years ago this company conducted a brutal and vicious campaign against the workers' attempts to unionise). Earlier British Carpets at Ayr and Robertsons Jam (formerly 'of Paisley') had announced that they were closing down their factories in Scotland - just as, earlier, Beaverbrooks, purveyors of reactionary muck masquerading as "news", had closed down their Glasgow operations (although the workers are saving some of the jobs by establishing a co-operative to produce "the Scottish Daily News"). The 'nationalised' British Steel Corporation intends to cut its workforce including 4,200 to 7,500 lost jobs in Scotland by 1977; they excuse themselves by saying that this will be done "mainly by natural wastage" - i.e. natural for capitalism. The knitwear firm Pringles have sacked 700 at their Hawick factory and put the rest on 'part-time working'.

In response to justified wage demands from their workers companies such as Rolls Royce have directly or indirectly threatened

to curtail or close their operations - thus trying to make out that closures and 'redundancies' are caused by the working class and not by the capitalist crisis of "over-production" (i.e. they cannot sell at a big enough profit). This is an old propaganda tactic of the bosses, particularly the U.S. ones, when faced with a strike - as the workers are perfectly well aware. Instead of exposing and denouncing this deception and blackmail Jack Jones, together with Wilson & Co. Ltd., goes along with it and advises (at this year's Scottish conference of the Transport & General Workers' Union) - "It is simply no use pressing actions that lead to the closure of the firms we work for". He needs more than a sharp reminder that he is meant to be working for the union members and not the parasites who employ them.

About the only industry which is unlikely to contract is that connected with offshore oil which at the moment, and notwithstanding the Scottish National Party's wishful thinking about its "Scottishness", belongs to the international oil monopolies and will so continue until the workers of Scotland take it from them - although the SNP are opposed to its nationalisation by any future Scottish government - just as they will continue to welcome foreign imperialist investment to exploit the workers here and allow Scottish capitalists to invest their ill-gotten gains abroad to exploit the workers there.

WHO BENEFITS?

Foreign companies (& Scottish ones) set up in business (at comparatively little expense due to massive government grants, 'employment premiums' etc.) purely in order to extract profits and super-profits from the labour of the working class (the foreign firms often buying up and later closing down already existing ones) and not, as claimed by the apologists of capitalism, out of some altruistic desire to "provide employment" and "make Scotland prosperous". As soon as it becomes unprofitable for them to remain because of "a slump in the market" (i.e. they cannot sell at a big enough profit) or due to better prospects (mainly cheaper labour) elsewhere they pull out, literally overnight, leaving the workers to fall back on "welfare state benefits" supplemented by derisory "redundancy payments" - all intended to avert working class revolt by keeping them on the bread-line.

Faced with this utterly selfish and "socially irresponsible" (a term the bosses are fond of applying to wage demands) be

four, workers are completely justified in fighting to save their jobs whether through occupations, seizure of plant, 'work-ins', formation of co-operatives or anything else they find necessary. But the working class must and will see further than such limited and temporary expedients for A PROBLEM WHICH ADMITS OF NO PERMANENT SOLUTION UNDER CAPITALISM.

The workers of Scotland and elsewhere have no need for "outside investment" which, far from 'solving' any problems such as unemployment, serves to make them worse and which takes out in super-profits far more than it puts in - that is the only reason it comes in the first place (just as many Scottish capitalists invest abroad for bigger profits). Scotland's annual gross national product of about £6,000 million, if retained in Scotland, would form an ample basis from which to develop a socialist national economic plan without imperialist "assistance" - but only when the working class has SEIZED POLITICAL POWER and taken over the means of production, distribution and exchange. The development of the productive forces under capitalism leads only to "over-production" and unemployment whereas, under socialism such new developments, made possible by the physical and mental labour of the working people in the first place, could lead to great advances in the people's welfare through reduced working hours without loss of earnings. At the moment, despite a lot of publicity about "reduced hours", many workers do a considerable amount of overtime (an average of 6 hours a week for all male manual workers) for wages decimated by taxation and constantly devalued by inflation.

CAPITALIST 'NATIONALISATION'.

For decades now the capitalist 'Labour' Party (parroted by the revisionist 'Communist' Party and the Trotskyites) have been trying to make out that when the capitalist state takes over certain key industries - e.g. coal, steel, railways etc. - in the interests of the capitalist class as a whole (ie. state monopoly capitalism) that this is some kind of "socialist" measure. Wedgewood Benn is the public relations figurehead in pushing this big lie, and the very latest idea is the National Enterprises Board (with leading monopolist Ryder as its "unpaid" chief) and the 'nationalisation' of ship-building and the land related to oil development. The only reason that monopoly capitalism makes a big hue and cry against 'nationalisation' is to reinforce the idea that it is "socialism" and to make sure that the Labour puppets do not overstep the mark and 'nationalise' anything unnecessarily.

Past history shows conclusively that capitalist 'nationalisation' is applied to industries which are too important to be

left to individual capitalists and groups of capitalists and which are "not profitable" in the conventional sense. After they are 'nationalised' they are made to appear even "less profitable" because they are used to subsidise "private enterprise" - as well as having to pay staggering "compensation" to the original owners. Nor, as the history of the coal, steel and railway industries shows, does such 'nationalisation' avert unemployment. One of the reasons 'nationalisation' takes place is to make "rationalisation", including massive redundancies, possible. It is to be expected that ship-building and British Leyland are about to come in for the same treatment (just as thousands were paid off when Benn first "created" Upper Clyde Shipbuilders in 1968); to adapt the words of the man himself at the recent Labour Party conference - "Wedgewood Benn plus nationalisation does not equal socialism" and never will.

SOCIALISM & SELF-RELIANCE.

It is also noteworthy that the government does not intend to nationalise the U.S. Marathon, builders of oil-rigs at Clydebank (nor any other U.S. concerns - just as they have no intention of throwing the U.S. bases out of our country). This reveals British imperialism's subservience to U.S. imperialism - which, if anything, is even worse under a Labour government. They even condemn those developing countries of the Third World who set us a very fine example by seizing the assets and operations of the U.S., British and other imperialist marauders. The workers of Scotland, as well as welcoming the seizure of foreign (including Scottish) investment by the developing countries, will undoubtedly follow their example by doing likewise here in Scotland (with the U.S. concerns at the top of the list) and establishing A SELF-RELIANT SOCIALIST REPUBLIC - the only and sure foundation for ensuring "full employment" and political, economic, social and cultural progress and well-being for the masses of our people. (D.T.)

NOTE: Those who confuse the correct principle of 'self-reliance' with the bogus and impossible notion of "general & complete self-sufficiency" (autarchy) are directed to the words of John MacLean that, in a Workers' Republic of Scotland, it will be quite necessary and desirable to "export all surplus goods for those of other lands needs by us in Scotland". The great People's Republics of Albania and China, much less industrially developed countries than Scotland, are living proof of the correctness of this approach - as even bourgeois economic "experts" have been forced to admit, generally as "exceptions" to their gloomy neo-Malthusian (a bourgeois economist who gibbered that popul-

MARXIST-LENINIST PARTY OF THE NETHERLANDS.

The MLPN has since July 1973 provided very useful English translations of some of the main articles in its paper 'De Kommunist! Space does not allow us to reproduce these at present but readers can apply to Vanguard Books for copies of these translations, the most recent of which is entitled "RUSSIAN SOCIAL-IMPERIALISM NOW THREATENS WESTERN EUROPEAN PEOPLE", analysing the contention of the 2 super-powers over Europe and the position of the bourgeois governments of western Europe, particularly that of the social-democratic government of Den Uyl in the Netherlands. In its August issue 'De Kommunist' published an article entitled "ZELFBESCHIKKING EN SOCIALISME VOOR SCHOTLAND!" (Self-determination & Socialism for Scotland) which translated 4 WPS(ML) leaflets into Dutch.

Throughout the capitalist world (and the neo-capitalist Soviet camp) the Marxist-Leninists are active in the forefront of the developing revolutionary struggles of the working people. The capitalist media who give great publicity to reactionary 'rebels' like Solzhenitsyn are silent about the role of the Marxist-Leninists for fear of advertising their revolutionary line. Ever since Marx & Engels published the Communist Manifesto in 1848 the workers of the world have increasingly overcome the obstacles erected by the bourgeoisie as well as differences of language etc. in order to build a steel-like international unity.

INTERNATIONAL SITUATION.

The imperialists, particularly the U.S. & Soviet imperialists, would be quite willing, given favourable circumstances, to unleash war on the world and each other. World War will not be averted by agreement between the imperialist war-mongers themselves but by the people of the world overthrowing them:-

"COUNTRIES WANT INDEPENDENCE" - We see in the movement of the Third World developing countries for economic and political freedom a mighty and progressive movement against imperialist exploitation & interference, a powerful force for peace and part of the irresistible historical process whereby the people of the world take back possession of the world from the imperialist usurpers. This healthy situation has been increasingly reflected in the United Nations Organisation much to the chagrin of the imperialists.

"NATIONS WANT LIBERATION" - The persistent armed struggle of the freedom fighters of Palestine & Zimbabwe ('Rhodesia') has severely weakened the Zionist & racist enemies and exacerbated the contradictions between them and their imperialist backers.

"THE PEOPLE WANT REVOLUTION" - With the final destruction of capitalism the world will enter the era of peace and plenty.

ation always outgrows food supply) prognostications about "overpopulation", "mass starvation" and "world-wide collapse" - all of which pessimistic ideas simply reflect the accelerating decline and imminent doom of imperialism itself at the hands of the world's people, the precondition for the solution of all those problems which these "experts" blow up to "insoluble" proportions - "to the bourgeois the disappearance of class property is the disappearance of production itself" (Marx & Engels, Communist Manifesto)

BRIEF NEWS.

DUKE OF ROXBURGH who died recently left £2 $\frac{1}{2}$ million to his 20 year old son - a typical example of the rewards of hard work and enterprise in Scotland today!

RECENT PROFITS of some Scottish registered companies:-

Burmah - £28 million ($\frac{1}{2}$ year to June 1974), (about £10 million more than last year).

Distillers - £44 million ($\frac{1}{2}$ yr to Sept '74) (about £7 million more than in Sept 1973).

Royal Bank of Scotland - £30 million for 1974 (£8 million more than 1973).

House of Fraser - £10,500,000 to Oct. 1974 (a drop of £800,000 on last year which is expected to be recouped with the ending of price restrictions in the coming year).

Scottish & Universal Investments Ltd. - £4 million to March 1974 (an increase of £1 million over 1973).

Yarrows - £7.65 million for the past year.

While Andrew Rintoul, chairman of the Scottish National Trust Co. Ltd., assuring his shareholders that "difficult times do not last forever" reminisces that "since 1924 the company has seen the boom of the 20's, the slump of the 30's, near disaster in the early years of the war, the post-war recovery, the prosperous years of the 50's & 60's, and now in its 50th year another slump has occurred....A world recession is likely of differing severity in different parts....Of the various countries in the world in which your company has money invested, it is Britain which gives us most cause for concern....We do not think that the capitalist system is at an end".

SCOTS TRADE MISSION including representatives of Brown Bros., British Leyland, Anderson Mavor, Proctor Dalgleish, Bertrams, Prestcold, Wellmans, Clydesdale Bank, Eadie Bros. and Gullick Dobson recently visited Indonesia to "study the market". Total foreign investment in Indonesia to Sept. 1974 amounted to 3,778 million US dollars.

L'HUMANITÉ, newspaper of the revisionist French 'Communist' Party, is to receive a £300,000 grant next year from the capitalist French government - the job of misleading the workers has to be made profitable.

Jenkins' 'Draconian Measures' --

SOCIAL-FASCISM IN ACTION!

"Before the establishment of a fascist dictatorship, bourgeois governments usually pass through a number of preliminary stages and adopt a number of reactionary measures which directly facilitate the accession to power of fascism." (G.Dimitrov at the 7th Congress of the Communist International 1935)

The recent "Prevention of Terrorism Act" (as well as other measures such as the continued detention of the 2 Shrewsbury building workers) has torn another big strip off what remains of the 'left-wing' mask of the Labour gang and provided further confirmation of the correct characterisation of the social-democratic leaders as social-fascists preparing the ground for fascism itself. As well as these "new" powers the police force is being strengthened - all on the convenient excuse of "preventing terrorism" when, in fact, British imperialism is one of the biggest terrorists that ever roamed the world.

Faced with threats to bourgeois 'democracy' from the left and the right as the crisis develops, the social-democratic chiefs always crack down on the revolutionary and progressive forces leaving the way open for the fascists and thus ensuring the continued survival of capitalism for the time being. This was how they behaved in Weimar Germany where they preferred anti-communism to anti-fascism and refused to unite with the communists against Hitler (and the present-day revisionist 'communists' who are merely the 'left-wing' of social-democracy are playing the same game).

Instead of withdrawing the British army from Ireland (which was sent in while they were in office) and recognising the democratic right of the Irish people to national self-determination, this government has stepped up repressive measures in both Ireland & Britain. Such decisions are not really theirs to make anyway - they are the helpless if willing tools of the British ruling class and always have been.

The rise of fascism "on the one hand, bears witness to the weakness of the proletariat, disorganised and paralysed by the disruptive Social-Democratic policy of class-collaboration with the bourgeoisie, and, on the other, expresses the weakness of the bourgeoisie itself, afraid of the realisation of a united struggle of the working class, afraid of revolution, and no longer in a position to maintain its dictatorship over the masses by the old methods of bourgeois democracy and parliamentarism" - "Whoever does not fight the reactionary measures of the bourgeoisie and the growth of fascism at these preparatory stages is not in a position to prevent the victory of fascism, but, on the contrary, facilitates that victory".

THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT TODAY. (T.M.)

What a spectacle the Westminster scene presents as 1974 nears its end!

The Tories are biting each other over leadership failures with third-rate Heath jumping up and down to impress his mediocre followers in face of a crafty and opportunistic Wilson.

The Labour M.P.'s - a disunited bunch of mere chatterers, political illiterates & 'main-chance' watchers.

The Scottish National Party - split down the middle on matters of principle such as imperialist demands to execute the Irish and saddled with Winnie's 'pro-European' embarrassment.

Whilst the Liberals bleat away on the sidelines.

These parliamentary sham fighters are now hoping for a coalition answer to the problems their partisan governments have failed to solve, and are to receive state subsidies "to make them more effective".

But, outside Westminster Palace, the cry of the financiers and the industrial profiteers grows louder and more insistent for more shackles to be placed on the workers to ensure continued theft of the wealth produced entirely by the workers. Encouraged by the more far-seeing, clever and ruthless of the wealthy minority and in the dark recesses, lurk their depraved fascist allies waiting for the critical moment of the collapse of parliament, as Hitler did, when the call will come, possibly from Buckingham Palace, for 'National Salvation' from the "greed" of the workers for the preservation and rehabilitation of their GREAT GOD PROFIT.

WORKERS' PARTY OF SCOTLAND (MARXIST-LENINIST)

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