

BULLETIN

OF THE

COMMUNIST PARTY OF BRITAIN (MARXIST-LENINIST)

NO. 4.

Karl Marx: born May 5, 1818.
We join revolutionary Marxists all over the world in celebrating the 150th anniversary of the great founder whose life was devoted not just to interpreting the world but to changing it.

ANNOUNCEMENT

On Sunday April 14, 1968; the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) came into being. This was the concluding act of a three-day Congress of some seventy delegates held at the Party centre.

Much of the work of Congress was concerned with a detailed consideration of the draft Programme and draft Constitution submitted by the Secretariat for discussion by delegates. With the addition of agreed amendments and corrections both documents were unanimously adopted by Congress.

On the final day a Central Committee of 25 members was elected and Comrade R. Birch was made the Party's first Chairman.

This Party Congress was the culmination of seven month's work, dating from September 17th, 1967, when Comrade Birch called a meeting at Conway Hall of British Marxist-Leninists. At that meeting a Provisional Committee was set up for the purpose of launching a Communist Party in Britain - a vanguard workers party established on the revolutionary principles formulated and tested in practice by Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and Mao Tse-tung.

The Provisional Committee brought together militant workers with experience of class struggle and, in most cases, of inner-party struggle as well, representatives from many parts of the neo-colonial Commonwealth and individuals who had been associated with various anti-revisionist groups.

On the basis of theoretical and practical work it was possible for the Provisional Committee to call the Easter Congress and dissolve itself, its task of launching the Communist Party of Britain (ML) having been completed.

A public meeting has been arranged on Saturday, June 15th, 7 p.m. at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, W.C.1. At this meeting the Communist Party of Britain (ML) will present its Political Programme and declare its position on the major issues in Britain today.

During Congress two comrades were moved to express their revolutionary sentiments poetically.

THE CLENCHED FIST - '68

From a city rich in struggle the call went out,
Comrades rally!
And from the serried ranks of the working class they came.
None was deemed friend, and none deemed foe;
None was told stay, none was told go.
The task at hand was clear:
The birth of a Marxist-Leninist Party was near.
The battle of ideas raged
But from the confusion emerged

A unit of revolutionary thought --
A provisional Committee.

Some there were who said it shouldn't be done
And some who said it couldn't be done.
Too small, too soon, not enough cadres
Reasoned many to cover their fears.
Some fell by the wayside
Some with integrity withdrew
Some, the rogues and charlatans, stayed to wreck
Were exposed and departed, to pursue
Their paths of self-profit and self-glory elsewhere
Exposed and discredited.

Six months of toil,
of battles for clarity and unity joined,
'Til in April '68 to London once more came -
To found a Party, a Congress to hold,
The weapons to forge; Revolution their cause -
The workers.
Long hours they sat
Debated and drafted, unused to such labours,
And from this collective effort there came:
Their Programme, their Party
Their symbol and flag,
Their revolutionary unity.

To the far corners of Britain the comrades scattered,
Their job not done but well started.
The revolution to make
The old system smashed, a new one to create;
Weapons to be tried, tempered and tested.
The long overdue vanguard has formed the symbol,
the rising star of Marxism-Leninism
And the clenched fist of working class power.
Comrades united in revolution,
In serving the people, the first step taken.

BIRTH OF A NEW BABY

Friday the twelfth of April
The day was bright
But it was cold.
Nonetheless, the comrades were bold.
The clock struck three
And we were all there
To lay the foundation
in Britain of a great revolution.
Evening came quietly -
Spreading her dark veil
And comrades a little tired
Went home to rest.
To meet again on Saturday morning.
The day started with a bang.
Comrades breaking their heads
Trying to aid, alter and amend
The programme and the Constitution.

Amendments came like summer rain
And happy were we all
For the birth of a new revolutionary baby
With a clenched fist in a five point star,
Bringing the message of a new red dawn
And freedom for workers through the barrel of a gun -
That day is not far !

Let's stop now
And join the social at the "Boston",
Over a glass of beer, pale or bitter.
And sandwiches, ham or egg,
To refresh ourselves
For another revolutionary day -
Tomorrow, Sunday, the call goes out
Workers of Britain unite !
We have nothing to lose but our chains !!!

RACIALISM AND CLASS STRUGGLE

Racialism did not suddenly burst on the British scene with Enoch Powell's Birmingham speech. Official Government policy has been racialist - from the Tory Commonwealth Immigrants Act of 1962, through the Labour Government's complete reversal of principle in ratifying and strengthening this Act and its publication of the notorious White Paper on Immigration of 1965, down to the recent ban on the entry of Asians from Kenya abrogating solemn pledges made to these British citizens. "Keep Britain White" was once the cry of disreputable fascist groups on the lunatic fringe of political life. It has become the professed policy of H.M.G.

Racialism is a product of imperialism. The ruling British imperialist class has always tried to justify the slave conditions imposed on colonial workers and peasants by arguing that they are racially inferior. It has also tried to win British workers for an imperialist outlook. The economic basis of the attempt to associate workers in an imperialist ideology is that concessions made to working class militancy have been largely paid out of the super-profits reaped from overseas exploitation.

Now that the workers and peasants of the colonial and semi-colonial territories - India, Burma, Malaya, Zimbabwe, Southern Arabia etc. - are caught up in the world-wide revolutionary struggle against imperialism, the British ruling class is in trouble. The deteriorating balance of payments and successive devaluations of the pound are the financial symptoms of the crisis of British imperialism.

Capitalism with its back to the wall turns fascistic. It happened to Germany between the wars. It's happening to Britain today. As the ruling capitalist class finds its profits from abroad shrinking, it can only maintain the general level of profits by an all-out attack on the standard of living of British workers at home. Hence the wages freeze and rocketing prices, the intensification of exploitation through productivity agreements, the creation by mergers and 'rationalisation' of an enormous reserve army of unemployed, the drive against the unions etc. The

political form of this attack on the working class is a repressive corporate state in which the force behind the old trappings of bourgeois democracy comes out into the open.

Fascism can only succeed when the resistance of the working class is broken. The ruling capitalist class through its governmental agents, whether Tory or Labour, attempts in every way possible to split, confuse and weaken the working class in order to make its resistance ineffective. These divisive tactics include the effort to set skilled workers against unskilled, men against women, young against old, employed against unemployed. But the most dangerous of these assaults on working class unity is racialism - the attempt to pit white workers against black.

As Mao Tse-tung has pointed out in his statements on the Afro-American struggle of 1963 and 1968, racial questions, like national questions, are ultimately questions of class. The contradiction between black workers in Britain and the monopoly capitalist ruling class, like the contradiction between national liberation movements in the colonial territories and the British ruling class, is a class contradiction - precisely the same sort of class contradiction as between British workers and the monopoly capitalist ruling class. The common factor in all these class contradictions is the British monopoly capitalist ruling class. Black and white workers in Britain and the national liberation movements all have the same class enemy - the British ruling class and its imperialist policy of exploiting workers at home and abroad. Black and white workers in Britain and the colonial peoples have common class interests and a common objective to struggle for - the overthrow of British imperialism.

But having stated the class basis of racialism it is not enough simply to leave it at that as the revisionist C.P.G.B. does on the assumption that racialism will automatically disappear in a classless society of the future.

Every attempt by the ruling class to divide workers, if correctly countered by workers under a revolutionary leadership, can be turned against the ruling class and used as a weapon in its overthrow. The militancy of black workers, as in the USA, subjected to special forms of discrimination and oppression, becomes an important part of the total revolutionary force the united working class can bring to bear against its enemy. White workers standing shoulder to shoulder with their black brothers under attack are launching their own class counter-attack in the most telling way.

This militant class solidarity of black and white workers can have nothing to do with phoney arguments about how many black immigrants ought still to be admitted or whether its a good thing that those already here are doing the dirtier and lower paid jobs. Workers are workers, whatever their origin, and the more class conscious workers there are to join in the fray the better.

The ruling class tries to blame the shortage of housing, jobs, schools, hospitals etc., all a result of its own deliberate policy, on black immigrants. Unemployment, bad housing, appalling conditions have been the plight of British workers throughout the era of capitalism - long before any black workers appeared on the scene. Class conscious workers see through this shabby trick and welcome with open arms their brothers from the grossly exploited colonial territories to wage common class war against the exploiters right here in the homeland of British imperialism.

Class conscious British workers with a revolutionary perspective will never allow the repressive organs of the ruling class to intimidate, arrest and beat up their black comrades - as the Birmingham police did to the leaders of the Indian workers on the May 5th demonstration. (See statement in this Bulletin.) They will not let the police get away with harassing West Indians and framing them on dope charges with planted evidence. They will lend their full support to the steps immigrant workers have to take in their own defence like the Black Peoples Alliance uniting Indian, Pakistani, African and West Indian militants.

"Black and white unite and fight" must not remain just a slogan. It must represent a real united force in revolt against the class enemy.

All power to the workers of Britain, black and white, in their united struggle !

LEAFLET AGAINST RACIALISM ISSUED BY THE
COMMUNIST PARTY OF BRITAIN (ML)

STOP RACIALISM
DON'T DIVIDE THE WORKING CLASS

Black workers in Britain are discriminated against in jobs and housing and subjected to special forms of exploitation. Both black and white have to fight wage cuts, high rents, unemployment and the high cost of living. White workers have to fight the exploitation of black workers in fighting their own exploitation, because white and black have the same class enemy.

Powell and the Labour Government as instruments of the capitalist class wish to exploit all workers, black and white and prevent united action by the working class against their exploiters.

British imperialism is facing a severe crisis. The attacks on the working class will get tougher as British workers rise in protest at these attacks on their fundamental rights. The ruling class will resort to naked fascist intimidation.

Racialism is a major weapon in the hands of the ruling class. Workers must not be deceived by the poisonous thinking of racialists. Such poison brought

about the attacks on Jews in Germany, six million deaths in concentration camps and the Second World War.

The present Labour Government is guilty of the grossest hypocrisy in introducing the Race Relations Bill and raising a false alarm on immigration. These are merely devices to poison the minds of British workers with racialist ideas. So by pitting white workers against black the ruling class can continue to exploit both more ruthlessly.

The organised working class does not accept and must never accept racialism. The A.E.F. National Committee representing over a million engineers has unanimously adopted a policy of complete equality. Their resolution states: "It is a basic principle of this Union that there can be no discrimination on the grounds of race, religion or colour and we call upon the membership to give the fullest support to this principle."

British workers will not tolerate acts of discrimination and repression against their black brothers. They will give active support to the organisations of black workers.

ALL WORKERS MUST FIGHT THE COMMON ENEMY CAPITALISM.

PRESS STATEMENT

The Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) condemns the action of the Birmingham police in arresting the leaders of the Indian Workers Association and others after Sunday's demonstration (May 5th) organised by the Birmingham branch of the I.W.A.

Determined to show their opposition to the racialist policies of the Labour Government as exemplified in the White Paper on Immigration of 1965 and the recent refusal to admit Kenyan Asians who are British citizens, the IWA organised a very good demonstration. They had given the police prior notification of their plans and had been given permission to march to the Town Hall where the Prime Minister was to address the Birmingham Labour Party. However, on Sunday, the police refused to permit the demonstrators to confront the Prime Minister while permitting fascists like Colin Jordan and his ilk to roam at will, shouting racialist abuse.

Although frustrated in their perfectly legitimate plans, the I.W.A. organisers were most reasonable and conducted their demonstration with the utmost sense of responsibility. When the demonstration was over and the leaders were going home they were pounced on by the police in a side street. Mr. Jagmohan Joshi, the General Secretary of the national IWA, was severely manhandled by some policeman who began twisting his fingers. He was bodily lifted into a police van, taken to the police station and detained there for several hours. He was finally allowed to go home with the warning that the police could recall him whenever they chose. Mr. Autar Jouhl, the secretary of the Birmingham branch of the IWA, and the main organiser of Sunday's demonstration, was also arrested. His case was tried on Monday and, despite police allegations that he had behaved in a rowdy and disorderly way, he was acquitted by the stipendiary magistrate who commented on Mr. Jouhl's responsible leadership throughout the demonstration.

The Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) draws the attention of the British public to this latest manifestation of police brutality against those who dare to express their opposition to the government. Once again the so-called impartiality of the British police has been exposed. Racialism is now being combined with brutality to intimidate people who refuse to accept the Labour Government's hypocrisy. Our Party does not cherish any illusions about the British police having seen them in action against workers on many occasions. As the crisis confronting British imperialism deepens with every blow struck against it by national liberation struggles overseas and by the rising militancy of workers inside Britain, so will the efforts to gag all opposition be intensified. When the Birmingham police permit free speech for the fascists while arresting those who speak out against government policy on Vietnam, Southern Rhodesia and immigration, it seems that Britain can go the way of Germany between the wars. This must be resisted now.

Issued by the Secretariat of the Communist Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist), 155 Fortess Road, London, N.W.5.

LEAFLET DISTRIBUTED BY THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF BRITAIN (ML)
IN CONNECTION WITH THE ENGINEERING WORKERS ONE-DAY STRIKE
ON MAY 15.

THE FIGHT IS ON

One day of strike will not secure Engineering Workers their just demands or break the pernicious Government Incomes Policy.

It is a declaration and a beginning and struggle must go on until Government interference and legislation is broken.

The Employer's reject just demands for higher wages, holidays, sick-pay, pensions and equal pay. Encouraged by Labour Government Policy and legislation go further. They offer "concessions" which are worthless and demand in return the handing over in every factory all those things which have been won in past struggles, - industrial democracy, local bargaining etc. In unity Engineering workers have the strength to defeat both Employers and Government. Justifiable anger at betrayal must not divert us or confuse us. We make no advance by rejecting a Wilson and embracing a Powell, they both represent the Employers.

Our struggle, the struggle of all workers, will triumph. We will overcome all devices to divert or divide us. All workers are involved, all must struggle. Our united strength is our guarantee of success. It must not be weakened by divisions deliberately created by politicians to ensure that the employers overcome the crisis they have made at the workers expense.

"NO NATIONAL INTERFERENCE IN LOCAL BARGAINING BY T.U.C.,
NATIONAL LEADERS OR GOVERNMENT."

"UNITED IN STRUGGLE WE MUST WIN".

Communist Party of Britain
(MARXIST-LENINIST)