

AN EXPLANATION TO OUR READERS

The appearance of any new publication, even as humble as this one, requires an explanation. This is all the more the case because of the proliferation of journals on the marxist left. Anyone who has taken part in the mass rallies in London will remember their successive feelings of bewilderment, amusement, anger and then sadness, as they surveyed the various brands of marxist truth offered for sale. But do not worry, this bulletin is not going to enter that market. On the contrary our declared aim is end this confusing state of affairs as rapidly as possible.

There are in Britain today numerous comrades, sometimes in isolation, sometimes in groups brought together by the necessity to organise against the right wing, who have no confidence in any of the existing marxist sects. Not the least of their criticisms of the sects is the latter's attitude towards the only genuine international marxist party - the Fourth International. The sects are also characterised by their wrong approach to the problems of building a mass left tendency in the workers' movements. Some of the comrades who share these two major criticisms of existing groups met in Nottingham last weekend, as reported elsewhere in this bulletin. One of the results of the meeting is this bulletin.

The two major tasks facing the comrades who want to build a viable marxist organisation in this country are: firstly, to initiate the political, ideological and organisational preparations for such an organisation; secondly, to have the ways and means available for comrades to coordinate their work during this transitional period. The first task is absolutely essential to avoid a new round of splits, the second is essential if we are to intervene at all in the major struggles which are taking place. It is the nature of these tasks which will decide the nature of this bulletin.

The bulletin, which will appear weekly, will be on the one hand, an instrument for the preparatory work to be done in building a marxist organisation and on the other, be a means of coordinating and initiating joint activity in the day to day struggle. The bulletin will used, too, to disseminate all kinds of information which is of use to the comrades in their work. Not the least important of its functions will be that of helping to integrate the various currents, each with its different experiences and history, within the movement which we are trying to regroup.

But you, comrade reader, have a part to play in all this. If you agree with our aims and wish to help this bulletin to play its part as outlined above, there are many things you can do. First of all, we need information and especially news of what is happening in the workers movement. Send in all you can about resolutions passed, local struggles and the like. Secondly, we need you ideas and opinions of this bulletin. Only in this way can we constantly seek to improve it and widen its scope. Lastly, we will need financial assistance - the exact form this will take will be determined at the first meeting of the bulletin's steering committee.

One final note, we are well aware of the deficiencies and inadequacies of a publication of this sort. Obviously something much better is needed both technically and from the point of view of distribution. That is why this is the only journal which has as a immediate objective its own demise. That is because the achievement of our aims will on the one hand, end the conditions which demand this kind of bulletin, and on the other, will enable us to replace it with something much more effective.

NATALIA'S LETTER TO THE LEADERSHIP OF THE CPSU

The text reads: "You have just unmasked the provocation against the Old Bolsheviks by Stalin, committed under cover of Kirov's assassination. I request you to proceed to a total and public revision of the Moscow trials in which the first accused were Leon Trotsky and my son Leon Sedov.

I demand a complete investigation of the methods employed against Trotsky by the OGPU, his assassination in Mexico, and the inspirers and executors of this crime. I ask you to inform me of the fate of my other son, Serge Sedov, arrested in 1935, whose only crime was to be the son of Leon Trotsky.

I ask you for an edition in Russia of the complete works of Leon Trotsky begun in Lenin's time, of which 22 volumes had been published before the prohibition and falsifications of Stalin intervened"

The recall conference of the comrades who organised the Nottingham Cadres' School took place last weekend, the 11th and 12th of November. Altogether some 40 people attended from Derby, Liverpool, London, Nottingham and area, Long Eaton and Wolverhampton. Again, as at the school, there was a good number of Young Socialists and several West Indian workers. This time there was the welcome addition of two very active CND and Committee of 100 supporters. One or two of those who attended the school unfortunately could not attend owing to other commitments. The discussions were: Saturday afternoon, a member of the International Secretariat of the Fourth International spoke on the international situation and the role and history of the international marxist party; first discussion Sunday was on the situation of British capitalism and the tasks of revolutionaries in this situation; next came a discussion on the Government's colour bar bill; lastly, the member of the I.S. spoke on the Common Market.

Arising out of the discussion on Britain the following resolution was passed unanimously:

"That within the framework of all work being carried out as part of our general strategy by the comrades individually and in groups, in their localities and mass organisations, we:

(a) Start a weekly bulletin of news, information and guidance for coordinating the work of the comrades. This to be on the lines of the I.F. Bulletin but somewhat broadened out. Its distribution to be limited to people owing allegiance to our ideas and a small periphery. It should also go to groups and individuals whom we wish to draw into the work of building the transitional organisation. To be called the International Bulletin. People to take on the responsibility for being local correspondents and giving news of their organisations.

(b) Continue a broad system of education. To include wider schools on specific subjects, e.g. Stalinism, the colonial revolution, common market etc. The distribution of discussion material and the starting of classes in localities.

(c) Publication work to include pamphlets by Trotsky and perhaps, as our resources allow, pamphlets on specific subjects. We should use what contacts we have to try to get Trotsky's books published commercially.

(d) Regular conferences say at three monthly intervals.

(e) Organised sales of literature of the International.

(f) The election of a committee to carry out the above.

(g) The collection of finances to carry out the above.

(h) Organised work through left journals and organisations.

(i) The distribution of a resolution as a basis for discussion.

The report on the fight against the colour bar immigration Bill, which was accepted without a vote, included the following propositions:

(a) To give maximum support to colonial workers' organisations and especially the Afro Asian West Indian Union.

(b) To work for a conference of workers' organisations to discuss the ways and means of conducting a class fight against the Bill.

(c) To assist our <sup>colonial</sup> comrades to organise a conference of colonial workers' organisations around a class fight against the Bill.

Other decisions included the election of the steering committee and the fixing of the next conference so as to coincide with the presence in Britain of members of the I.S.

Future issues of the bulletin will contain concrete proposals from the steering committee to give effect to the above.

#### FOURTH INTERNATIONAL TO PUBLISH TROTSKY'S WORKS IN RUSSIAN

The International Secretariat of the Fourth International has made all necessary preparations to reproduce the most important of Trotsky's works in the Russian language. The most important problem to be faced will<sup>be</sup> that of finance. In the coming discussion in the Soviet Union there will be a very favourable basis for acceptance of Trotsky's ideas and an inestimable contribution to this will be made by the appearance of these publications.

#### "I STAKE MY LIFE" STILL AVAILABLE

In view of the interest created by Krushchev's reference to an investigation of Kirov's murder, and the implied repudiation of the Moscow trials, comrades may want to have copies of Trotsky's "I Stake My Life". This costs 9d (plus postage) and contains Trotsky's devastating analysis of the trials and the bureaucracy's roots and methods.

At a meeting of the Executive of C.P.G.B., which heard reports from the British delegates to the 22nd. Congress of the C.P.S.U., a resolution was passed which backed completely the new Khrushchov line. After praising the new programme of the C.P.S.U. it goes on:

"The cult of the individual which developed in the later years of Stalin's life took place on the background of extreme difficulties in which socialism had to be constructed in the U.S.S.R., the capitalist encirclement, the fascist threat of the '30s and the consequent world war."

Going on to say that the 20th Congress opened up a new period with the full restoration of democracy and collective leadership and the ending of the abuses of the Stalin era it says:

"The main opponents of all this after 1956 were Molotov, Malenkov and Kaganovich. They not only bore a personal responsibility for the crimes committed they bitterly opposed all the vital political measures. They opposed the 20th Congress and afterwards tried to reverse its decisions. Their political defeat and the political successes of the C.P.S.U. since were the basis for the triumph which the 22nd Congress was able to record."

Later in the resolution the Khrushchov line on Albania is faithfully repeated:

"The executive committee regrets that the leadership of the Albanian Party of Labour, however, has departed from the political decisions of the 1960 world meeting of the Communist Parties, particularly on the attitude to peaceful co-existence and the possibility of preventing war and to the cult of the individual."

One wonders what would have been said about Khrushchov had the so-called anti-party group ousted him. It is clear that the British C.P. leadership intends to continue with the policy of automatically support which ever faction is in power in Moscow. However, 1961 is not 1931 and no doubt the rank and file of the Communist Party will have something to say in this matter.

#### ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY IN TURMOIL AFTER 22nd CONGRESS

The Italian Communist Party has been badly shaken by the disclosures of the 22nd Congress of the CPSU. In the freer atmosphere of discussion which exists in the Italian C.P. than most communist parties, especially the French, many voices have come forward to say that the errors of the cult of the individual must have a social base. L'Unita the party's newspaper has reported these opinions as being expressed at regional conferences even by middle cadres. Younger members of the party are reported to have demanded a complete critical historical analysis of the whole period of Stalin leading if necessary to the rehabilitation of Trotsky. The problems of Togliatti and co. are much complicated by Nenni who, for his own reasons, is conducting a theoretical argument rejecting the explanations of the cult of the individual.

#### WHAT MALENKOV IS ACCUSED OF DOING IN ARMENIA

At a meeting this week in Yerevan, capital of Armenia, the Armenian security chief G. Bardanyants and the Armenian Communist Party leaders Y.A. Zarobyan claimed that in 1937, Malenkov, one of the leaders of the so-called anti-Party group, arrested over 3,500 prominent Armenians, many of whom were shot without trial or investigation. The huge scale of this repression is illustrated when one remembers that the present population of Armenia is only 1,600,000.

It appears very likely, in view of reports like this, that the dominant faction in the Soviet Union is clearing the way for putting the members of the anti-Party group on trial. We must press, and ensure that rank and file members of the C.P. do the same, for fair trials for Molotov and co. with a public hearing of their point of view and defence.

#### PUBLISH CHINESE HOXHA'S ATTACK ON KHRUSHCHOV

After a delay of ten days, the Peking "People's Daily" published, on November 17th, the full text of Hoxha's outspoken attack on Khrushchov. This speech the text of which appeared in last Sunday's 'Observer', accuses Khrushchov of being an opportunist, of deviating from the positions of Marxism-Leninism, of interfering in the affairs of other parties, of dethroning Leninism, of revisionism, of intrigues to gain a victory at the 1957 Plenum of the C.P.S.U. C.C. (where the anti-Party group were beaten) and of economic pressure on Albania. This move, and especially after the delay, indicates that relations between the Russian leadership and the Chinese are more strained than ever.

CUBAN GOVERNMENT GUARANTEES NO INTERFERENCE WITH PUBLICATION OF VOZ PROLETARIA

We are informed that the Cuban Government has given a guarantee that there will be no further interference with the publication of "Voz Proletaria", paper of the P.O.R., the Cuban section of the Fourth International. On the orders of a local official, a member of the Cuban Communist Party, the paper had been seized earlier this year. The first issue since the guarantee was given has come out.

ADEN - REPRESSION AGAINST TRADE UNIONISTS

The Aden Government have imprisoned the General Secretary of the Technical Workers' Union and charged him with sedition. It has also deported 19 Yemeni workers, fined 10 strikers and charged four members of the Technical Workers' Union E.C. with participating in a strike.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC - FIRST STRIKE FOR MANY YEARS

As we go to press, there are reports that units of the U.S. Navy are off the coast of the Dominican Republic because of the danger of supporters of Trujillo family attempting to regain control. We wonder if the real explanation is not the fear of U.S. Government of the emergence of a second Cuba. The workers movement is on the upsurge and for the first time for many years strikes have taken place. Workers employed by a factory in Los Minas, near Ciudad Trujillo, the capital of the country struck on October 30th. Two days later, workers in another factory in the same region also stopped work in support of a wage claim.

WEST GERMANY - POLITICAL TRIALS INCREASE

The number of political arrests, trials and prison sentences has increased sharply since the recent elections. In less than one month, more than 50 people were tried and over 20 arrested for "contacts with trade unionists in the East", "Communist activities", etc. Peter Umland and Artur Hoppe, both 66 and old-age pensioners, received sentences of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  and 3 years respectively and 3 of their associates got 18 and 30 months imprisonment. Hermann Weidlich, a young miner, was sentenced to 18 months and Rudolf Blum, owner of a small printing plant, was sentenced to 16 months in prison for printing leaflets protesting against atomic armaments in West Germany.

THREE BY-ELECTIONS - SOME FIGURES

The Moss Side, Oswestry and East Fife by-elections were crushing defeats for both the Tories and Gaitskell's argument that once the Scarborough decision on defence was reversed the Labour Party's election position would improve. At Oswestry and East Fife 40% of the people who voted Tory at the General Election did not do so at the by-election, for Moss Side the figure was 57%. Labour's loss was 19% at Oswestry, 22% at East Fife and 55% at Moss Side. As it usual for a much smaller number of people to vote at by-elections than at General Elections, perhaps a clearer position is given by comparing the changes in share of poll:

	<u>CHANGES IN PER CENT SHARE OF POLL</u>			
	Tory	Labour	Liberal	rest
Moss Side	-21.2	-11.9	up27.9X	up5.2X
Oswestry	-15.1	nil	up12.3	up2.8X
East Fife	-22.4	- 3.7	up26.1X	---

X No candidate in General Election so figures represents share in poll

MEETING OF CARRON'S A.B.U. CRITICS.

On Sunday 19th November, there will be a report back from a deputation of local A.B.U. leaders who have seen Carron to present their criticism of his leadership of the A.B.U.. The meeting will be held at Addlestone, Surrey and officials from Weybridge, Southall and Harlington branches will be reporting. They have had, so far, support from 84 branches in various parts of the country. Much to the fore in their criticism is Carron's strikebreaking activities in relation to the Acton Strike. The critics are calling for the resignation of the whole E.C.

THIS AFFLUENT SOCIETY

Over 300 girls at two North East quilt factories, the Tyneside Durrell and Maurice concern and the C.W.S. Pelaw, County Durham factory, are on strike. They receive 2s10gd per hour as compared with the London rate of 5shillings. The management have offered a 1d an hour extra.

## IS THE COLOUR BAR IMMIGRATION BILL AN ELECTION MANOEUVRE?

Now that the Tories have, in practice, dropped all pretence about the <sup>wealth</sup> Common Immigration Bill being anything other than a piece of race discrimination legislation, there is considerable speculation about their reasons for bringing in the Bill. The lobby correspondent of the Nottingham Evening News, a syndicated column, writes:

"Although the Government is already in hot water over the Bill, there are those who think in the end it will help to win the next General Election for the Conservatives. They believe, moreover, that Mr. Iain Macleod, the new leader of the House and chairman of the Conservative Party, has this week made an adroit political move that will do much to bring this about."

He then explains that Macleod agreed, after Labour protests, to have the committee stage of the Bill on the floor of the House instead of in the relative obscurity of a standing committee. And goes on:

"But many Government supporters regard that as a supremely clever move ... because now, day after day in committee, Labour will be arguing that the Bill is a colour-conscious one and that Britain ought to keep her doors wide open...."

"This Labour attitude, though it may be high-principled.....is in the opinion of the Conservatives, unpopular in the country which.....agrees with the Government....."

"Mr. Macleod.....has ensured a long period of what will amount to anti-Labour propaganda at a critical time when the General Election is approaching"

As this seems a most feasible explanation of the various Government moves and would help to explain the indecent haste with which the Bill was brought forward (without even consulting certain commonwealth Governments) it is more important than ever that we redouble our efforts against the Bill. We are confronted with a situation where the Tories seem to be decided to use racialism as a diversion from growing dissatisfaction with their policies. This means the Immigration Bill could be only one of a whole series of moves that will make on these lines. Again, in this situation there will be many voices in the labour movement which want to drop opposition to the Bill and other measures because of the fear of losing votes.

### FACTS AGAINST THE COLOUR BAR BILL

ONE: Speaking in the House of Commons H.E. Gurden, Tory member for Selly Oaks, Birmingham, said that in Birmingham slum clearance was in sight, but as a result of immigration hopes of clearing the slums seemed to have disappeared. Thus he tried to put the blame on the immigrants for the terrible housing shortage in Birmingham. What are the facts? The very same day, Alderman Grogan, chairman of the housebuilding committee in Birmingham stated that his city's housing development was being severely hindered by shortage of bricks and men. One project had been, for these reasons, delayed six months in starting. In another the private contractor was getting less than half the bricks he needed and consequently had sacked half his men. The corporation had kept 4,000 to 5,000 houses under contract but had been unable to complete more than 2,000 to 2,500 a year. It had now out its target to 2,250 this year. He attributed the shortages to the volume of commercial building being done.

TWO: One of the most common arguments used against immigration is that Britain is an overcrowded island, etc. etc. Butler, when pressed to give figures comparing immigration with emigration, hedged and claimed they were not available. No wonder he did not want to release these figures before the debate. They show that emigration accounted for nearly twice as many people as immigration in the years 1952-1959. The figures are (all for 1952-1959, the latest available) the number of emigrants to all countries was 1,046,170; the number of immigrants from all countries was 542,036. The figures for the Commonwealth only were 911,880 and 481,710 respectively.

THREE: In a letter to the Economist, Cyril Osbourne, arch-racialist in the Tory party, stung by that journal's attack upon him, wrote asking 'How soon will it be before there are more coloured than white people in England....?'. The Economist, in its reply, calculated, that at the present rate of increase, some time around the 2480. This kind of argument, whilst not being serious in itself, demonstrates on the one hand, Osbourne's racialism, and on the other the insignificance, in real terms, of immigration as against the total population

FOUR: Another argument we hear often is that immigrants live off the state by going on National Assistance etc. Of the 113,000 who came last year, over 95% have now got jobs. Nearly all the remaining are housewives.

Young Socialist Protest against Bill

The North Nottingham branch of the Young Socialist has passed a resolution of protest against the Government's colour bar immigration Bill. The resolution has been forwarded to the North Nottingham constituency Labour Party and copies were sent to the local press.

Musicians' Union, students and Trades Council condemn Bradford Dance Hall.

In a statement issued Friday 17th, November, the Musicians' Union compared the Mecca-owned Locarno ballroom's action in refusing admittance to coloured males unless they bring partners with the policies of Verwoerd and Hitler. The bar has also been condemned by the city's Trades Council. A meeting has been organised against the colour bar immigration Bill for Sunday 19th, and no doubt this question too will be well to the fore.

The Leeds University Anti-Racial Committee is sponsoring a demonstration on Saturday the 25th. At a recent vote the students reaffirmed their opposition to racial discrimination by 230 votes to 4.

50 Midlanders lobby their M.P.s

50 West Indian, Pakistani, Indian and British people lobbied their M.P.s when the colour bar Bill was discussed in Parliament. The lobby was organised by three coloured workers organisations based upon Birmingham. The lobbyists perhaps learnt something about the role of parliamentary democracy because they described their interviews with the Labour M.P.s as 'unsatisfactory' and the remarks of the Tory M.P.s as 'disgusting.'

A.E.U. move against Bill.

The London (South) District Committee of the A.E.U. has passed a resolution strongly protesting against the colour bar Bill and calling upon the A.E.U. executive to press for the policy of full equality and to resist all forms of colour discrimination.

UNITY IN REDUNDANCY STRUGGLE AT EVER-READY

When about half of the 50 odd men sacked from the Ever-Ready Company's Pogonoid Works, Edmonton, demonstrated outside the company's head office, West Indian and Pakistanis were among the demonstrators.

The sacked men claim that the sackings are directed against union organisation. The factory is the only 100% trade union plant in the company.

ROOTES WORKERS STILL SOLID AFTER TWELVE WEEKS

Once again, at a mass meeting attended by some 600 workers, the Acton British Light Steel Pressing men and women reaffirmed their determination to stay out "until such time as a fair and honourable settlement is agreed". Only one went up against a resolution putting this position and another three abstained. This despite terrible hardship which is being endured. The main problem facing the strikers is the number of rent demands, court orders and notices of eviction that the strikers are receiving. Most of the financial support they are receiving is used for this purpose. Solidarity from other workers is helping them in other ways too. One worker, whose wife is expecting her second child, was evicted. An appeal from the dispute committee produced three offers of accommodation.

The Acton strikers' morale is high, all the more because there are a number of indications that the gamble that Rootes took in starting production at Coventry, has failed to come off. They have been forced to lay off again many of those re-engaged at the Humber Siddalay workshilist at the Ryton and Stoke works the 1500 who were restarted are only working a two day week. The number of sets of 'cross members' produced now is less than 200 as compared with 3,000 normally produced. Shop Stewards from the British Oxygen Company, who have blacked the Acton factory, angry because supplies are coming from elsewhere are considering blacking supplies to all Rootes factories.

As explained elsewhere, this strike has become a trial of strength and is of decisive importance. If you have not already done so please send some kind of message of support to the strikers, especially from your organisation. The resolutions, finance, etc should be sent to F.Cole, 160, East Acton Lane, London N.3.