

# The Seventh National Congress of the Socialist Labour League

## The Newsletter

WEEKLY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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### TOWARDS OUR DAILY NEWSPAPER

**D**URING his report to the Seventh National Congress of the Socialist Labour League, G. Healy, the National Secretary, outlined some of the technical arrangements which the printers of The Newsletter are now making in preparation for the daily paper.

#### The Newsletter

The typesetting on the daily paper would be carried out on a number of automated machines, manufactured by Linotype & Machinery Limited. The machine is known as the Elektron and was first manufactured by the Mergenthaler Corporation of the United States. Each of these machines would handle the output of two perforated

keyboards at a speed of 15 standard newspaper lines a minute.

#### The Newsletter

The first of these machines was being installed next month and would be in operation in early August.

The printing of the paper would be done by Web Offset and our printers, said G. Healy, were now studying the best type of press for installation.

'We are aiming,' he said, 'to produce a daily paper on the most modern equipment available and we feel certain we will get as much finance from the labour movement as is needed to do this.'

**T**HE Seventh National Congress of the Socialist Labour League was held in London on June 5, 6 and 7. It was by far the most successful conference which the Socialist Labour League has had since its inauguration.

Not only has the membership of the League increased, but a considerable number of young people who recently joined the League are now playing a leading part in building the revolutionary party.

The Congress was opened by Comrade Cliff Slaughter, who outlined the terms of the International Resolution, entitled 'Rebuilding the Fourth International'. The first two paragraphs of this resolution say:

# of the Socialist Labour League meets

#### VIETNAM

## Labour must act now

by MICHAEL BANDA

**T**HE decision of the State Department authorising U.S. troops to give 'combat support' to South Vietnamese forces, as well as the massive airlift of another 20,000 troops to South Vietnam, should, despite Wednesday's contradictory statement from Washington, leave no doubts in anybody's mind that U.S. imperialism is preparing for an all-out war in South-east Asia.

Such a decision not only shows the determination of the imperialist murderers, but it also makes a mockery of pacifists such as Lord Brockway and Eric Heffer, whose opposition to the war has been confined to idiotic and plaintive appeals for summit diplomacy, and a negotiated settlement leading to a 'neutral' Vietnam.

The centrists, the pacifists, and the Stalinists, all stand exposed by the actions of U.S. imperialism. Their monumental cowardice and treachery towards the Vietnamese people will not easily, or soon be forgotten.

#### DEMAND ACTION

Months ago, The Newsletter demanded that the 'left-wing' MPs should stop talking and do something about the war by voting against the Wilson government. It was the only paper to do so.

Today, however, hundreds and

thousands of workers are beginning to realise the correctness and justice of our demand.

Wilson's support for Johnson's war—a war which is widely hated, even in the United States—shows that the 'Labour' government is not only a reactionary government, but a counter-revolutionary one as well.

#### CONFERENCE NOW!

No socialist worthy of the name can or will support the foreign policy of the Wilson government. Only traitors to the working class do.

To Messrs. Mikardo, Foot, Heffer, Silverman, and all, we say: Either resign your seats or vote against Wilson before it is too late.

To the great mass of trade unionists and Labour Party members, we make this appeal: Call your traitorous leaders to order and replace them by demanding an immediate conference of the Labour Party.

Hands off Vietnam!



## Gunter and Morals

**MR. RAY GUNTER**, the Labour government's Minister of Labour, is quite the man for making reactionary statements. Following his attack on the BEA strikers (reported on this page), he went on to the Co-operative Congress in Edinburgh to talk of 'far too much indiscipline in every part of this nation'.

He went on: 'It is only when the nation realises and understands that there are underlying moral standards to which we should be obedient, that the labour movement is going to achieve everything it wants to achieve, or we will perish as a Labour Party.'

What he means is that the working class is morally wrong to press for wage claims, which the Wilson government is desperately trying to crush.

But is it moral for the Labour government to cut down the workers' standard of living? Is it moral for them to let hundreds of old people die for the sake of a few shillings? Is it moral for them to support the liquidation of thousands of Vietnamese people?

Gunter went on to say that if there were no morals, then 'how different are we from the Tories, or anyone else?'... Quite!

## MORE ATTACKS ON YOUTH

**T**HE deepening crisis of capitalism again expressed itself after last week-end with vicious fines and sentences on youths, following disturbances in seaside towns.

It is significant that the seaside towns on the East Coast are chosen for the main onslaught of £25 fines and six month sentences. Great Yarmouth and Skegness are traditional holiday centres for Midland workers and, at the present time, there are a number of industrial struggles arising in what was considered a 'prosperous, contented area'.

Not only does the capitalist state hope its courts will tame the militancy amongst youth, but they use their press, once again, in an attempt to divide the youth.

Last year it was 'Mods' and 'Rockers'. This year the new names that the press play on are 'Greasers', 'Thunderbirds' and 'Trots'.

As stated at the Congress of the Socialist Labour League, it is this kind of youth which is attracted to, and is uniting with the Socialist Labour League in action against the capitalist set-up.

## BEA porters determined to fight

### Expose role of bureaucrats

Newsletter Reporter

**P**OOERER paid workers in the air industry have shown their determination to win higher wages and better conditions in the strike which almost paralysed London airport and air terminal over Whitsun.

The strike of British European Airways' baggage porters and other workers, which began as a 48-hour token stoppage before the week-end and is to be discussed at a meeting of the National Joint Council for the air industry on Thursday, has also exposed, once again, the role of the bosses, the Labour government and trade union leaders.

Stranded for a time at the airport last Friday, Ray Gunter, Minister of Labour shamefully condemned the strike, which had, by that time, spread to apron loaders at Heathrow.

The class struggle is international. World capitalism has long since played out its historical role of laying down the objective bases for socialism; the struggles of the workers of all countries have meaning only in terms of the world socialist revolution which began in October 1917 in Russia, as part of the world proletarian revolution. The Third (Communist) International was set up to answer the needs of the working class in this epoch of wars and revolutions. Following the betrayals of social democracy after 1918, the degeneration of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Comintern led eventually to the defeats in Britain and China in 1926-27 and the victory of fascism in Italy, Germany and Spain. Between 1933 and 1938 Trotsky and the

Bolshevik opposition prepared to establish a Fourth International in response to the needs of the working class in a period of defeats, when Stalinism passed definitely to the side of counter-revolution.

The history of the class struggle since 1938 has proved correct the basic starting point of Trotsky and the founders of the Fourth International: the working class remains oppressed by capitalism because of the betrayals of the working-class leadership, particularly by the Stalinist bureaucracy in the USSR; our epoch is the epoch of crisis of working-class leadership. All the economic and political developments since then have shown the correctness of insisting that the development of imperialism constantly deepens

the contradiction between the productive forces and capitalist social relations. But at every critical stage in the development of this contradiction, the traitorous social-democratic and Stalinist leaderships and the Soviet bureaucracy have misled the workers; these petty-bourgeois formations have divided the workers along national and sectional lines and held back the development of a revolutionary consciousness. The post-war economic and political crisis in the advanced countries, the breakdown of capitalist rule in Eastern Europe, the victorious revolution in China, the mass struggles in the colonial countries—all of these international capitalism has survived because of the treachery of these misleaders who disarmed the working class.

THIS resolution will be submitted to the next Congress of the Fourth International, which will take place at the end of January 1966. The draft of this resolution is presently being discussed inside the Socialist Labour League.

A resolution on building the revolutionary party in Britain was moved by G. Healy, the National Secretary of the League and carried unanimously. A considerable number of delegates took part in this discussion.

This resolution called for an all-out struggle against the right-wing leadership of Harold Wilson. It pledged its support to all sections of the labour movement who fight for their replacement by a genuine socialist leadership, which will fight for the nationalization of all the major industries, and the establishment of socialist planning under workers' control.

It declared its all-out opposition to the policy of the Wilson government in its support for President Johnson and his policy of sending American troops to Vietnam.

The Congress decided to do everything possible to expose the role of American imperialism in South Vietnam. The Congress declared its fullest support for the struggle of the Vietcong and sent its warmest greetings for a successful victory against the United States' intervention.

Against wage freeze

A further resolution by Congress declared its intention of fighting for the victory of the South African people. It called for the release of Dr. Alexander and all those now imprisoned in South Africa by the semi-fascist regime which enjoys the tacit support of the Labour government.

Congress declared its opposition to the Incomes Commission and its fullest support for all those fighting for more wages and improved working conditions.

Several delegates referred to

the strikes now taking place at Foyle's and at London Airport. Congress demanded the fullest support by the entire labour movement for all those workers who are fighting for an improvement in wages.

A highlight of the congress was a collection which reached the all-time high of £200. Delegate after delegate pledged to do everything possible to help launch the daily paper and to constantly fight for an increased circulation of the weekly Newsletter.

**Turning point**

Congress marked a big turning point from any other similar congress of the Trotskyist movement in Britain. Seventy-five per cent of the delegates consisted of young people below the age of 20 years, all of whom were members of trade unions, and active workers within most of the important industries.

In the course of some eight hours' discussion on international and British affairs, delegate after delegate expressed their determination about the possibility of rebuilding the Fourth International at the same time as they fought for the mass revolutionary party in Britain.

This was truly a historic occasion. British Trotskyism is now the most powerful organisation within the Fourth International. We are sure that in the months to come, thousands of revolutionaries will join in support of the International Committee of the Fourth International and its forthcoming International Congress.

A report on the discussion of perspectives for the Socialist Labour League appears on pages 2 and 3

## Second Alexander Appeal quashed

**T**HE South African Supreme Court has again quashed an appeal by the 'Alexander 11' who were jailed in late 1963 for periods of five to ten years for alleged sabotage.

A previous appeal was dismissed on March 2 this year. The 11, Dr. Neville Alexander, Dorothy Alexander, Filkele Bam, Lionel Davis, Dulcie September, Doris, Elizabeth and Leslie Van der Heyden, the Rev. Don Davis, Marcus Solomons and Gordon Hendricks, were arrested in July 1963 without charges under the 90-day detention law and charged in November with violations of the Suppression of Communism Act and the General Law Amendment Act. A number of further requests for assistance to South African political prisoners now have been received by

the British Alexander Committee.

A statement issued by the All-African Convention (AAC) and Unity Movement, from their Lusaka headquarters informs us that former Unity president, Leo Linda Sihlali and Louis Leo Mtshizana of East London, have now been arrested by the South African government.

#### HOUSE ARREST

Sihlali was forced to resign as the Unity Movement president when the government slapped a five-year ban on him. He was placed under house-arrest; prohibited from membership of any of the

affiliates of the Unity Movement; not allowed to receive visitors and compelled to make regular reports to the police.

Mtshizana, ex-chairman of the East London branch of the Society of Young Africa, one of the organisations affiliated to the Unity Movement, is a lawyer.

#### DEFENDER

His real crime is the prominent role that he has played in the defence of the victims of racial terror.

Readers prepared to help with the work of the committee, should write to: The Secretary, Alexander Committee, 27 Thursley House, Holmewood Gardens, S.W.2.

Further details of Sihlali and Mtshizana will be printed in next week's Newsletter.







