# OUR COMRADES RELEASED!

Fourth International.

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# GREAT WIGTORY FOR THE WORKING GLASS

Three Judges Quash Convictions in Appeal Court

# CAPITALISTS FEA ROUTED IN FRANCE. BUT MOST SIGNIFICANT HAS BEEN THE MASS MOVE-MENT OF THE FRENCH WORKERS IN PARIS AND THROUGHOUT FRANCE, IN TAKING UP ARMS AGAINST THE NAZI OPPRESSOR. WORKERS IN PARIS AND

THE NAZI OPPRESSOR. the French workers, peasants and middle class which has forced the retreat of the German army. The culminating point which has marked the entry of the French masses once again the cost of many more workers' lives. onto the arena of history, was the in-surrection of the workers of Paris.

Despite the capitalist censorship of the news from Europe and the meagre reports that have been allowed to come through, it is possible to piece to-gether the chain of events. As the Allied armies marched towards Paris, on August 13th the workers in the industrial suburbs began demonstrations which rapidly developed into armed insuraction despite the little equipment possessed by the workers. broke out throughout the Paris area which brought the life of the capital completely of a stand-still. The strike involved the French railwaymen, thus preventing the Nazis from moving troops and supplies to and from the capita). So powerful was the move-ment and so intense the feeling of the masses that two days after the insurrection had broken out, even the Paris police came out on strike and joined the insurrectionaries. Barricades were set up in all the working class districts of Paris and tens of thousands, armed with revolvers, sticks and rifles were joined on the barricade by hundreds of thousands without arms.

Thus, within a few days, despite the who had placed themselves at the head of the movement with the assistance of the Stalinists and reformists, quickly made a truce with the Nazi generals at a time when the movement was developing successfully. The Nazi troops were to be allowed to withdraw from Paris within 48 hours of the

agreement which had been signed. The reason for this is not hard to find. It was not tender humanitarianism but fear for their property which

Thus the Nazis were enabled to gain time, draw in reserves, and continue the struggle for several more days at

In 1940 the French capitalists sold Paris to Hitler without a struggle for the same reason-fear of the destruction of their property. But also be-cause of their fear of an armed working class which could see their degeneration and corruption clearly, and which might take control of Paris and then the whole of France. The nightmare of a new and more permanent occupation of the factories as in the great stay-in strikes of 1936 obsessed them. Then they had been saved by the workers' leaders through the policy of Popular Frontism. But they were not sure it would suffice them now!

#### CAPITALISTS FEAR ARMED WORKERS

The de Gaullist leadership was com-pelled to place itself at the head of the present uprising for fear that the movement would get out of control and also to demonstrate to Anglo-American imperialism that they were the only force in France with whom the Allies could deal. Thus they issued the call to insurrection.

But immediately the Nazis were driven from Paris, the main pre-occupation of the capitalist forces has been the disarming of the Parisian workfact that the Nazis possessed many ers. The entire capitalist press has tanks and other heavy equipment, they reported this as one of the "major" tanks and other heavy equipment, they were completely defeated. It is note-problems with which the de Gaullist worthy that the capitalist de Gaullists, government is faced. The "Herald" of 29th August says:
"But another problem facing Gen-

eral Koenig, new commandant of Paris, will be to get the Maquis underground and demobilised soldiers of the French Force of the Interior to lay down their arms.

To wean the high-spirited youths, who are still racing through the city in their small cars, waving flags and brandishing weapons, back to the hum-drum existence of labour and RELEASED. THE CONVICTION AGAINST THEM THAT THEY EACH DID ACTS IN FURTHERANCE" OF THE TYNESIDE APPRENTICES' STRIKE, AND THAT THEY EACH AIDED AND ABETTED COMRADE BILL DAVY "IN FURTHERANCE" OF AN ILLEGAL STRIKE - HAS BEEN QUASHED BY THE COURT OF CRIMINAL The organised working class has thus gained one of the most important legal victories in the

· COMRADES ROY TEARSE, HEATON LEE AND JOCK HASTON HAVE BEEN

struggle against anti-labour legislation. The ruling class has suffered a severe defeat in its first attempt to use the Tory Trade Disputes Act of 1927.

We are very proud of the fact that | it was our Party—the Revolutionary Commist Party—aided by the Anti-Labour Laws Victims Defence Com-mittee together with its legal advisers. which has been responsible for this great labour victory.

The Defence Committee was inaugurated under the chairmanship of Jimmy Maxton, M.P., and the legal advisers were energetically and ably represented by Ernest Silverman, brother of Sliney Silverman, M.P.

The prosecution of our comrades was the most important anti-labour crimthe most important anti-last by inal prosecution to be undertaken by the ruling class for many years. was closely followed by workers—not only in all parts of Britain, but in other parts of the world. Preceded and accompanied as it was by a reactionary campaign of unprecedented ferocity, the arrest and prosecution of our comrades was obviously carried out as the result of direct instructions from the Cabinet. It was not only a pro-

ROY TEARSE

The Judges who quashed the conviction: Humphreys, Wrottesley, and

Counsel for the Director of Public Prosecutions:

Tucker.

H. Paley Scott, K.C., and Dr. J. Charlesworth.

Counsel for the Defence: James Burge-briefed by Smithdale, Rutledge & Co.

secution of the arrested comrades, it was in reality a prosecution of our party the Revolutionary Communist Party. Apart from striking a blow at the Revolutionary Communist Party which alone among the organised

The original charges against our comrades were: that they had con-spired to further and had each furthered a strike declared illegal under the Trade Disputes Act.

Later, the prosecution added further charges of aiding and abetting, "inciting, and conspiracy to incite." It was the conspiracy and incitment charges parties of the working class fights with and for the militant workers at every step, the purpose of the arrests was to intimidate organised labour. The Trotskyists were to be the scapegoats for the introduction of the anti-labour

Regulation 1A(a). which afterwards became the real basis of the attempted frame-up in the Court of Assizes.

From the outset of the trial we stamped it as a political frame-up and anti-labour conspiracy on the part of the state. In a written statement handed to the police when the charge incite others to take part in' can be was made, Comrade Haston branded acts before or after the commencement the arrets as a frame-up and as the victimisation of our Party by the State.

by our comrades.

in the Labour and Communist Parties. Newcastle, said Counsel, was based on the deliberations at the Appeal Court have established with absolute clarity

that the arrests and trial at Newcastle was an attempted frame-up.

On behalf of our comrades, Counsel James Burge, instructed by the firm of Solicitors Messrs. Smithdale, Rut ledge & Co., put up a magnificent fight. Even had the Judgment gone against him, the weight of his arguments would undoubtedly have forced the Court of Criminal Appeal to explain the terms of Section I (2) of the Trade Disputes Act and thus for the first time, would have established the rights-or more accurately, lack of rights—which or-ganised labour has within the limits of the Trade Disputes Act.

#### WHAT THE APPEAL ESTABLISHED

In stating the argument for the de-fence, Mr. Burge said that his case would hinge around the clear definition of the terms and words of section I,
(2) of the Trade Disputes Act. This
rends as follows:

"If any person declares, instigates, incites others to take part in or otherwise acts in furtherance of a Strike or lock-out, declared by this Act to be illegal, he shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding ten pounds or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three months, or on conviction on indictment to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years.'

In the submission of the defence, Judge Cassels had misdirected the Jury when he gave the following direction:

"It is not necessary that an act in furtherance of an illegal strike should be during the actual time of the strike; it may be an act which could reasonably be regarded upon the evidence, as an act in preparation for the strike and that that

strike was an illegal one. "To declare," said Mr. Burge, is an act that begins the actual strike; "To of the strike; "to instigate" was an act committed before the strike, at the On every possible occasion, this beginning of its preparation. But a was publicly repeated from the dock strike must be in existence before an

act can take place in "furtherance" And whatever doubts may have of it.

Existed in the minds of the weaklings

The whole case of the prosecution a

Continued on back page.

ALBION STRIKE

rebuilding, will be one of his weight-

30th reports an even more far-fetched

excuse for the disarming of the work-

"News Chronicle" of August

"To organise the legions of armed

French youths now wearing the arm-

band of the F.F.I. and training them

into a disciplined force, General

Koenig will first of all disarm those

not at the moment authorised to

In this way the attempts of Dar-

nand's militia and German soldiers

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iest problems.

ers who freed Paris;

carry arms.

Supported by Glasgow A.E.U. District Committee

1,600 Workers Out

BY BOB ALLEN

On Tuesday, August 29th, Albion Works on the Clyde downed tools in a strike which may have great significance for all engineering workers.

At a meeting the following day, the Glasgow District Committee of the A.E.U., whose members form the overwhelming majority of the affected works, formally supported the demands of the strikers, and endorsed the strike.

The Shop Committee is leading the Strike. The immediate cause of the August, a further mass meeting was strike was the employment of a man at a skilled trade who was incapable decision of the stewards on such matters, they now have attempted to force the employment of a man unsatisfactory to the workers and the stewards.

The "evidence" as to the man's level of skill was a scrap of paper signed by some individual out of the

The stewards demanded the remova of the man. This was apparently agreed to by the Management, but the next day the man was found to be still at work in the Repair Shop. On that day, Tuesday 29th August, the Repair Shop men downed tools. A mass meeting of the whole factory decided to follow suit at the midday break, the same day.

WAGE DEMAND ADDED TO STRIKE AIM-

4d. per Hour ON BONUS RATE AND BONUS FOR TIMEWORKERS

called, which demanded a settlement of the wage negotiations started with of supplying any evidence as to his the Albion Management on May 26th skill. Whereas in the past the Management have agreed to accept the the strike aims was for 4d. per hour all round increase in bonus rate, and a timeworkers bonus equal to the average shop percentage.

Although the demand for the removal of the unskilled man formed the immediate cause of the strike, there is no doubt that the wage demand forms the main issue. The negotiations with the Management on this question over the last few months have exhausted the patience of the Shop Committee and workers alike, and led to an explosive situation in the factory. Four months ago an application for a Works Conference was made, the subject being the wage inreases which are now in dispute. The Works Conference was held on 26th May after weeks of delaying tactics on the part of the Management. At the Conference the Shop Stewards based their wage demand on Sir Alex-

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under the Trade Disputes Act is an historic victory for organised Labour. Labour's rights were defended. ruling class have been forced to halt, and explain the terms of this reactionary Act.

Apart from a few outstanding leaders who formed the workers' Defence Committee and appealed for funds and support, the official leadership of the Labour and Trade Union movement supported the prosecution and the use of the Trade Disputes Act in the Tyne strike case.

But all over the country the rank and file sprang into the breach. Local defence committees were set up and funds collected to carry on the fight Thanks to the national and local committees it was possible to raise the cost of the original hearing of the the appeal. The funds collected came exclusively from the pockets of organ-

glow into bright flames.

Once again we appeal to trade union branches, shop stewards' committees and factory collectors: the cost of the defence has not been covered; another £500 at least is needed. Make sure that your union contributes and that your factory adds its quota.

Send all donations to: W. G. COVE, Treasurer, Anti-Labour Laws' Victims' Defence Committee, 318, Regents Park Road, London, N.3.

RUMANIA CHANGES SIDES

clared war on Germany! As King Michael, with unconscious humour broadcast, she has remained true to her national traditions! In the last war too Rumania began as an ally of Germany, then declared war upon her. Thus history has repeated itself.

In yet another graphic incident is revealed the mockery and pretence that this war is a "war against fascism" on the part of the capitalist "democracies" any more than the last war was a crusade to defend democracy The small powers are only counters to be played with by the giants. Their

choice in the struggle is only; which great power is to be their master. It is not a question of "democracy" or "fasciem". 'fascism', but spheres of interests markets, raw materials for which all

the capitalist powers are fighting.

After the deal with the fascist Badoglio and the royal sponsor of fascism in Italy. This splendid response showed that class solidarity still lives and only news stoking to bring out the dull power in Rumania which began the turned towards Germany when Hitler was winning, and participated with Hitler in the invasion of the Soviet Union. Michael was king while the gangster dictatorship persecuted the Jews, murdered trade unionists and smashed all the workers' organisations, and cruelly exploited the workers and peasants of Rumania for the benefit

of the landowners and capitalists. The war on the Soviet Union has cost the lives of 500,000 Rumanian peasants, three times that number of casualties probably, and an equal number of deaths and casualties on

the Rumanian generals and the Rumanian fascists on Soviet soil have been denounced by Stalin's mouth-pieces as being as barbarous and crim-inal as those of the S.S. and Gestapo. Yet we notice that while pretending the ordinary German workers and peasants are responsible for the crimes of the Nazis, and holding them responsible for their misdeeds, Stalin is quite prepared to come to terms with the Rumanian gentry genuinely responsible for atrocities and crimes.

Antonescu was not removed because Stalin refused to come to an agree-ment with him but because Antonescu refused to come to an agreement with Stalin! If it suited the policy of the Kremlin, it is clear that Stalin would be quite prepared to come to an agree-ment with the Nazis themselves, as he has done in the past. Through so-called Free German Committee, Stalin has already collaborated with Nazi generals and junkers responsible for the crimes and atrocities in Russia.

The allies and the Kremin are tryng to persuade all the Balkan satellites of Hitler to follow the example of Rumania and do a Badoglio or a Darlan, and in Churchill's elegant phrase "work their passage home." The fact that the rulers of these countries are guilty of crimes as barbarous and foul as Hitler's, weighs no more than air on the elastic consciences of these gentlemen. Here in its nakedness is revealed the aims and methods of capitalist diplomacy, which has now

been adopted by Stalin as well. To the Rumanian workers and peasants Stalin has nothing to offer except the continuation of their slavery. The Soviet Government has guaranteed that there will be no "interference" with the social and political conditions

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#### FROM 3 WELSH MINERS

We are members of a lodge whose prestige of militancy is second to none in the South Wales coalfield. Working in one of the pits of the Amalgamated Anthracite Company we have contracted during the course of employment the dreaded disease of Pneumoconiosis. But the pain of this deadly scourge is nothing compared to the pain we feel when we see how the collaboration policy of the S.W.M.F. leadership has shattered the faith of the miners in their organisation.

#### WAGES

At the end of 1943, the Executive of £6 for underground workers, and £5 10. 0 for surface workers. What we actually got was the Porter Award. £5 (less 1/6d. for domestic coal) for underground workers, and £4 10. 0 (less 1/6d.) for surface workers.

The publication of the Award was followed by a spontaneous rising of 100,000 South Wales miners, who went on strike without the support of and against their official leadership. Because of this stoppage and only because of this-the piece-workers received a substantial rise in wages. But as in the previous agreements (like the Greene Award) the owners did not pay a nickel. All the money came

from the coal charges fund.

Mr. W. Paynter, an official of the
SWMF has stated in a letter to the
Western Mail that "two thirds of South Wales miners have only received 10d. a week increase since the Greene We do not know just how members have to exist on the minimum of £4. 10. 0 less deductions—a weekly wage of £4. 4. 0! Surely, with the coal-owners' profits soaring, these men at least deserve their original demand of £5. 10. 0-even if, for once,

demand of £5. 10. 0—even if, for once, the coal-owners have to pay it from their own pockets!

Non-piece workers in particular have a very real grievance today. They say terrible and violent things about the "leadership", who have the nerve to talk about mining prosperity in relation to wages! Complete non-confidence in the leadership axists—expecially among the leadership exists-especially among the surface workers—and it is not only in our area that this dissatisfaction prevails. So much for the wages question. Now let us look at the problem of production.

#### PRODUCTION

The bureaucratic leadership of the SWMF howls like Oliver Twist for miners, the object of these tactics is decisions.
to demonstrate the imposibility of the
miners' demand for the Nationalisation of the Mining Industry. Every hitch in production is met by the manage-ment with the attitude of "I blame the workers". On the slightest pre-ally. the workers. On the sightest pretext men are reported to the Regional
Investigation Officer for impeding production. Our Pit Production Committee has sent resolutions to the Chief

When the time came for the next
meeting one comrade walked, or was
about to walk, in when he was stopped
at the door by a local leading Stalinist

I try to act like a man without runditions in which the prisoners are
forced to exist and which merit the
widest exposure. Permit me to quote
go the whole hog and that means real
punishment. Fuel Officer asking that action be taken who drew his attention to a large against this managerial attitude—but nothing whatever has been done. Here read: "The C.P. Reserve the right to is a typical example.

task of the deputies to book every day the amount of time the colliers have been idle through no fault of their discussions at Teheran is own. At the pit in question, they refused to do this because, they said, ""the colliers were uncivil to them in disputing their weekly guaranteed wage assessment!" The pit lost one whole shift-that is, 500 tons-because of this entirely avoidable dispute. But the workers know very well who is responsible. The dispute was eventu-ally settled with a complete capitulation on the part of the management who admitted they had been in error. But no action was taken against them for their deliberate impeding of production. Yet miners are prosecuted every day for absenteeism etc., which is supposed to hold up production.

This incident shows that the present "dual" control in the mines is a farce. The coal-owners deliberately impede production in order to discredit the miners. No action is taken against them by the Ministry of Fuel and Power. As for the Pit Production Committees, the power of the workers representatives is absolutely nil.

To achieve a real harmony in the pits and prosperity for the miners, it is necessary to overthrow the present system of private ownership and establish a genuine Workers' Control of a Nationalised Mining Industry. Today we are strong enough to enforce this demand. We have no mass unemployment to drag us back. Let us reply to the howls of the miners' leaders for more production by demanding that they wage a struggle for these just demands:—

A weekly wage of £6 for underground workers—£5 10s. for surface-

A five-day week, Repeal of regulation 1A(a). Nationalisation of the Mining Industry and its operation under workers'

End the collaboration with the colliery owners and British Imperialism. Liverpool, 8

"Socialist Appeal", Dear Comrade.

The attitude of certain so-called "Communist" Party members towards militant workers on the Merseyside, deserves some degree of exposure.

C.P. ON MERSEYSIDE

The role of Stalinism in the sphere of the international class struggle and its abject pandering to the Anglo-American imperialists, is we hope, too well known to your readers, to be commented upon in this letter. But when one is confronted with the spectacle of demanded a National Minimum Wage ordinary rank and file Stalinists acting as agent provocateurs for the bosses, and ultimately the police, it is time something was done to damp their reactionary enthusiasm.

A short while ago, during a dinner hour meeting held by the Stalinists on the Liverpool Dock Road, I de-cided to have a go at one of the speakers during question time. My first question, which dealt with the Stalin-Hitler non-agression pact was not answered to my satisfaction, nor apparently to that of a large section of the audience. On trying to further question the speaker on the sub-ject a "stooge" in the audience inquired of the speaker whether I was on his "list". The speaker knew me and the answer was in the affirmative.

This little "incident" was characteristic of the Stalinist treachery during the Spanish Civil War. Members of the Revolutionary Communist Party true this is, but at any rate in the group of three pits which comprises posing these "stool-pigeons" to the our lodge, 400 to 500 of our 1,700 misled rank and file who in joining the "Communist" Party believe it to be a genuine communist organisation.

Congratulations on the "Socialist Appeal". It is an excellent job of work. May the circulation soar. Appeal".

Yours fraternally, "A Liverpool Docker."

#### "DEMOCRATIC" DISCUSSION IN C.P. MEETINGS

Waterloo. Liverpool 22.

Socialist Appeal" Dear Comrade,

A little item which might interest the "Socialist Appeal" is that the MORE COAL. But how does this square with our experiences actually a series of meetings on the working underground? With the decisions of the Teheran Conferchange in the military situation the ence." The fact that no-one has any miners have been subjected to vigorous idea of what has actually been deattacks from the coalowners. Provocation and intimidation is now freely practised. In the opinion of a lot of to be no bar to discussing the to be no bar to discussing the

> Two comrades attended the first lecture of the series, and asked a few questions regarding the role of the Stalinists nationally and internation-

refuse admission."

In one pit in West Wales, the Guaranteed Weekly Wage was withheld for two weeks. Since the introduction of the guaranteed wage, it has been the would be allowed to attend the discussion. cussion.

> So the air of secrecy surrounding the loyally adhered to by the C.P. in Wallasev!

raternal greetings,

# Glass House Conditions We print below a copy of the letter | Sweet, unless the rice which is lumped to be committee | Sweet, unless the rice which is lumped to be committee | Sweet, unless the rice which is lumped to be committee | Sweet, unless the rice which is lumped to be committee | Sweet, unless the rice which is lumped to be committee | Sweet, unless the rice which is lumped to be committee | Sweet, unless the rice which is lumped to be committee | Sweet, unless the rice which is lumped to be committee | Sweet, unless the rice which is lumped to be committee | Sweet, unless the rice which is lumped to be committee | Sweet, unless the rice which is lumped to be committee | Sweet, unless the rice which is lumped to be committee | Sweet, unless the rice which is lumped to be committee | Sweet, unless the rice which is lumped to be committee | Sweet, unless the rice which is lumped to be committee | Sweet, unless the rice which is lumped to be committee | Sweet, unless the rice which is lumped to be committee | Sweet, unless the rice which is lumped to be committee | Sweet, unless the rice which is lumped to be committee | Sweet, unless the rice which is lumped to be committee | Sweet, unless the rice which is lumped to be committee | Sweet, unless the rice which is lumped to be committee | Sweet, unless the rice which is lumped to be committee | Sweet, unless the rice which is lumped to be committee | Sweet, unless the rice which is lumped to be committee | Sweet, unless the rice which is lumped to be committee | Sweet, unless the rice which is lumped to be committee | Sweet, unless the rice which is lumped to be committee | Sweet, unless the rice which is lumped to be committee | Sweet, unless the rice which is lumped to be committee | Sweet, unless the rice which is lumped to be committee | Sweet, unless the rice which is lumped to be committee | Sweet, unless the rice which is lumped to be committee | Sweet, unless the rice which is lumped to be committee | Sweet, unless the rice which is lumped to be c

circulated to Members of Parliament by the wife of a British soldier, Dvr. dish out a plate of unsweetened por-John Williams, who is serving a totally ridge, a lump of bread and butter and unjustified sentence of six month's detention. The conditions described here dinner time the dinner I have describconditions are basically imporved after swill, has been devised by these scoundthe enquiry into the death of Rifleman rels in order to smash the men's morale. You can imagine hungry men

From the Labour movement must come a determined struggle on behalf of the workers in uniform. M.P.'s claim to be the "friends of the serving man and his family." It will be a real test of their sincerity to see which M.P.'s are, in fact, prepared to raise this issue and fight to remove these barbaric institutions.

> 19, Quinton Parade, Cheylesmore, Coventry. 7th August, 1944.

I am writing to you in order to bring to your notice some idea of the actual conditions under which British soldiers detained in detention camps are forced to exist. I hope that after reading this letter you will be moved to give this matter as great a degree publicity as you can and that you will exert whatever influence you possess in an endeavour to ameliorate the unhappy lot of the prisoners.

My husband, Driver J. Williams, Service No. 14529500, applied for compassionate leave at the time of the birth of my second child. He was granted leave for 7 days, but as this was inadequate, we appealed for an extension of a further three weeks as I expected to be in hospital for two weeks at least and there was nobody to take care of the first child. This request was refused and on the 4th June the police called to arrest my husband. Since he had the two year old child on his

hands and nobody to whom he could entrust her, he left the house and so avoided arrest. When at length the return

time came for the hospital he visited me to make arrangements for my home and arrested.

After a court-martial lasting three days, during which my husband conducted his own defence, he was finally sentenced to four months detention, a sentence which I learned later was to be served in Darland detention camp, Gillingham, Kent. This, you will doubtless recall, was the camp at which the unfortunate Private Clayton died in rather questionable circumstances. I have since received a letter from my husband describing the con-

John Williams.

. Since Clayton's death these people have soft pedalled a lot as far as open brutality is concerned. Though the place is still run by a gang who bully and drive the men like slaves. While as I say open brutality is no longer practiced, nevertheless they practice tricks which have the same offences. Surely, sir, that such offences. Surely, sir, that such offences. Surely, sir, that such offences exist and are tolerated in matter calling for urgent redress, is with this object that I have write the such of the surely. aim, which is to humiliate, crush and degrade the men. For instance, the dinners pever vary. They consist of potatoes (not washed or peeled), lumped with cooked rice and inedible should you require them. cabbage—all slapped on a plate, and a bowl of so-called "soup". This dinner never varies; there is never a

some undrinkable "cocoa" which has neither milk or sugar in it. Then at -fully substantiated by other victims ed, and at tea time a lump of bread, -blast wide open the pretence that 4 ozs. and butter with unsweetened Clayton, which shocked the nation all the time drilling and rushing about, having to live on this heartbreaking swill. As I say, it never alters day in and day out. Another instance of the devillsh tricks they perpetrate upon the men is that one razor blade has to last one man twelve days, this with cold water for shaving. If the men break the blades trying to sharpen them they lose two days remission which means they come out two days later than they would have done.

Once again, on a Sunday the men do not do the normal drill etc. They are brought out for exercise and this is turned into torture by the guards. In the morning the men spend two hours continuous marching, never stopping, up and down the huge square. In the afternoon they are marching continuously round this huge place for another two hours. In effect the "exercise" is turned into a grueling punishment. Further we have one wash day and bath day every week. On this day we get one piece of ersatz soap  $2\frac{1}{2}$  x 2 x  $\frac{1}{8}$ in, thick. With this you are to wash one shirt, one pair of pants, one pair of socks, denim trous-ers and a towel. Incidentally to wash these articles two men share one bucketful of hot water-no more. That is, ten articles are washed in a bucketful of water. Then having washed your clothes with this piece of soap, you have to bath in a bowlful of water and this is supposed to last you all the week and yet they will not allow the men to have proper washing soap sent in from outside . . .

"... I would like to bring to the notice of Members of Parliament details of some of the savage sentences imposed upon youths of twenty-one years of two years sentences for one and two days absences . . . The air is often tense with hatred against the guards, though of course the men tolerate otherwise intolerable insults in order to avoid reprisals such as bread and water punishments and loss of remission-even so there are brave men who fight just the same, a number are usually on hunger strike . forgot to mention that they make us bath in the water bowls in the wash-house. These bowls come up to our waists. We all stand around naked on a cold wet concrete floor, trying to push in somewhere, and we bathe by lifting our legs into the bowl one at a time. They can't kick you in the teeth these days so they indulge in pleasantries like these. Another trick is to wake us up in the middle of the night, every night, and make us dress under the pretext that it is part of ARP against rockets etc., but the whole place is kept locked up, and if the place was hit it would be too late to do anything . . . I am greatly en-couraged to receive the letters that you sent, the pressure is terrific of course.

I try to act like a man without runpunishment . . . "

When reading these extracts from my husband's letter I would urge you to remember that these prisoners are guilty of no heinious crime or grave offences. Surely, sir, that such conditions exist and are tolerated is a is with this object that I have written you and would be glad if you were able Yours sincerely,

(signed) Sheila Williams. tradiction in rule 2.

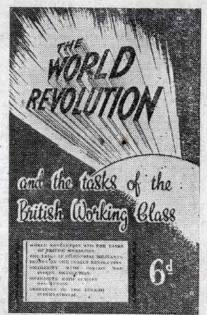
# **FORMED**

Concern is being felt among South London A.E.U. branches over recent developments inside the union

Many members were worried by the action of the Executive Council in deoffice after he had taken a militant stand during the Belfast Shipyards dispute. Following this, another prominent member who has taken up a militant attitude, Bro. Hallett, has been removed from office as South London District Secretary, after having been advised by Executive Council to take up office, on the grounds that there were "irregularities" in the ballot for this office.

These South London branches have formed a "Vigilance Committee" and at a Special Meeting attended by delegates from Deptford, Battersea, Wandsworth, Plumstead, Wimbledon, and Dulwich, discussed the position of Bro. Hallett.

It was pointed out that the "irregularity" in the ballot was that one member (a supporter incidentally of Bro. Hallett's opponent) had voted for another branch member by proxy, and that this only came to light after Bro. Hallett had been declared elected to office. In view of this the suspicion of positive "frame-up" had to be con-



sidered. In order that any such suggestion should be overcome, and 'so that an official should not be elected on a minority vote, a new ballot should be conducted

Under Rule 2 it is stated that "if an official is removed by death or otherwise" a new ballot must take

The committee drew up a resolution be moved at the branches as follows:

"This branch, having heard of the action of the Executive Council in cancelling the vote of Deptford 2 Branch are of the opinion that this action which removed Bro. Hallett from the position of District Secretary, was unwarranted. It is said that members cast votes by proxy on the E.C. has put this Bro. into office. This branch therefore calls upon E.C. to allow Deptford 2 to take the vote again in a constitu-tional manner in accordance with rule 2, clause 2 last paragraph: 'That any official removed by death or otherwise, another election shall take place'. This would mean a new ballot being taken and would be fair to the membership and the candi-

The Vigilance Committee is continuing its work, in spite of difficulties created by the Flying bombs, and is taking steps to have rectified the con-

AN END TO THE COALITION WITH THE BOSSES. LABOUR AND TRADE UNION LEADERS MUST. BREAK WITH THE CAPITALIST GOVERNMENT AND WAGE A CAMPAIGN FOR POWER ON THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMME:-

Industrial and Economic Policy.

- Nationalisation of the land, mines, banks, transport and all big industry without compensation, as the prerequisite for a planned economy and the only means of ensuring full employment with adequate standards of living for the workers, and the operation of the means of production under control of workers committees.
- Confiscation of all war profits, all company books to be open for trade union inspection, control of production through workers' committees to end the chaos and mismanagement.
- Distribution of food, clothes and other consumers commodities under the control of committees of workers elected from the Co-ops, distributive trades, factories, house-wives' committees, and small shop-keepers, and allocation of housing under the control of tenants' committees.
- A rising scale of wages to meet the increased cost of living with a guaranteed minimum; the rate for the job; and industrial rates for all members of the armed forces.

**Democratic Demands** 

- Repeal of the Essential Works Order, the Emeregency Powers Act and all other anti-working class and strike-breaking legislation.
- 6. Full electoral and democratic rights for all persons from the age of 18 years. Full democratic and political rights for the men and women in
- Immediate freedom and unconditional independence for India, Ireland and all the colonies of Brit-ain; immediate withdrawal of British armed forces from these countries; full economic and military assistance to the Indian and colonial peoples to maintain their independence against all imperialist attack.

Military Policy

- 8. Clear out the reactionary, profascist, and anti-labour officer caste in the armed forces and Home Guard; election of officers by the ranks.
- Establishment of military schools by the Trade Unions at the expense of the state for the training of workerofficers; arming of the workers under the control of workers' committees elected in the factories, unions and in the streets for the defence of the democratic rights of the workers from reactionary attacks by the enemies of the working class at home and abroad.

International Policy

- 0. Against race hatred and discrimination of all forms (Vansittartism, Anti-Semitism, and the Colour Bar); for the fraternisation and co-operation of workers and soldiers of all countries.
- 1. Unconditional defence of the Soviet against all imperialist powers; despatch of arms, food and essential materials to the Soviet der the control of the Trade Unions and factory committees.
- 2. A Socialist appeal to the workers of Germany, Europe, Japan, and the rest of the world, on the basis of this programme in Britain, to join the socialist struggle against Nazism, Fascism and all forms of capitalist oppression and for a Soc-ialist United States of Europe and a Federation of Asiatic Soviet Socialist Republics.

#### "Socialist Appeal" Fighting Fund

The working class press has alway had great difficulty in keeping going financially. We have not got the big advertising revenue of the Capitalist press or the "Million sales" to offset the heavy costs of production.

The "Socialist Appeal" relies on the solidarity of the workers who, in steadily increasing numbers, begin to realise that our paper reflects their

In the present difficult times we ask our readers to co-operate with the Party in order to maintain our Press. You can help in many ways, for

1. Pass the "S.A." around and get

fresh readers.

2. Pay for your copy promptly and see that others do the same.

3. If you are a subscriber or agentclear your account periodically. (we cannot afford a big staff of book-

keepers to keep sending reminders). 4. Make a sacrifice-give, collect and send in donations to our "Fighting Fund". We need an extra £50 per month to keep things steady.

The "Socialist Appeal" has no other purpose than to serve the interests of the working class in their struggle for

KEEP THE PRESS GOING! ASK FOR COLLECTING CARDS!

Business Manager.

VICTORY MEETINGS

National Tour of Released Comrades

SOUTH WALES.

Anti-Labour Laws Victims' Defence Committee. Public Meeting.

Miners' Hall, Merthyr. Release of Haston, Tearse and Lee and its significance to the working

Demand the repeal of the Trade Disputes Act and Regulation 1A(a). Speakers

Rhys Davies, M.P. Jock Haston, General Secretary, Revolutionary Communist Party. Sunday, October 1st, 1944 at 7 p.m.

EDINBURGH. Revolutionary Communist Party, Edinburgh Branch.

Public Meeting. The release of the Trotskyists and the victory for the working class. Melbourne Hall, Edinburgh. October 15th, 1944, at 7 p.m.

Speakers: Jock Haston Roy Tearse

LIVERPOOL. Anti-Labour Laws Victims' Defence Committee.

The release of Haston, Tearse and Lee and its significance to the working Speakers:

Rhys Davies, M.P. S. Silverman, M.P. Jock Haston, R.C.P. Bill Davy, Tyne Apprentice leader. Engineer's Hall, Liverpool.

GLASGOW.

September 24th, 1944 at 7 p.m.

Anti-Labour Laws' Victims Defence Committee. Meeting at St. Andrews Halls, Sunday, 17th September at 7 p.m.

Roy Tearse, Heaton Lee, Jock Haston. The Release of the Three and Its Meaning

Committee.

Anti-Labour Laws Victims' Defence Meeting will be held on Thursday,

September 21st 1944. Watch for the time and place in the next issue. Speakers:

Jock Haston and Roy Tearse.

NOTTINGHAM.

Anti-Labour Laws Victims' Defence Committee.

Public Meeting, Sunday, 8th October. Speakers: Jock, Haston, Roy Tearse. The Release of the Three and its meaning for the workers.

Meetings will also be held in London, Coventry, Birmingham, etc.

WORKERS! RALLY TO THE MEETING IN YOUR DISTRICT  |後期||日本||日期|

Organ of the Revolutionary Communist Party, British Section of the Fourth International. 256 HARROW ROAD, LONDON, W.2 Phone: CUN 2526

EDITOR: E. Grant. BUSINESS MANAGER: J. Graham.

## EDITORIAL Five Years of War

Five years of war! - Five years of unparalleled destruction, slaughter, starvation and disease - of blood, sweat and tears. The massacre of the masses, the impoverishment of the toilers of the world. Meanwhile the enriching of the few has proceeded apace.

Ism, the root cause of hunger and starvation in India, that the Indian masses waged a struggle in 1942. All this is elementary A.B.C. to serious Socialist workers all over the world. But it is important to restate them, has been exploited by the employers; there is a document issued by the last nothing is to be secured from

Five years of war! Over the bones of the masses the pendulum swings back. Nazism-yesterday triumphant, brutal, boastful, is shattered to-day. Its Far Eastern Ally trembles at the writing on

No need to tell the organised workers of the world that the victory of the forces of Nazism would have led to world-wide class role of the C.P. The American is so breath-taking that his words are reaction and an epoch of human decay.

Victory is for the Anglo-American "democracies" and for Stalinism—but demccracy is not ensured. No less surely than the Nazis, will their programme lead to an epoch of social decay. Stalin appeals, not to the German proletariat but to the German Generals; Churchill and Roosevelt to the Quisling Kings and "noble" families, flunkeys of the capitalist class.

the Versailles Treaty created by the victors led direct to the Second World War. And to-day, openly the prospective victors promise dockyards and goodsyards in the train dockyards and goodsyards and go to impose a super-Verszilles on Germany which in turn must tries on strike; workers in organised industries on strike." inevitably lead to a third world blood bath. Already behind the scenes, the carve up of all Europe is almost completed. Cynical, secret diplomatic horse deals are being negotiated behind the backs of the working classes of the world in which Cain Stalin plays his part.

In preparation for the "peace" a hate campaign is under way in the capitalist and Stalinist press unequalled in this war. The adds later: "The workers were per-test against these? This C.P. hack criminal characteristics of Nazism are painted as the character of the German people as a whole.

Race and social oppression, the destruction of Labour's rightsthese are not peculiar to the fascists. In "democratic" Africa, Churchill and Smuts oppress the black masses as viciously as Hitler does the Jews. In America the Ghetto of the Nazis finds parallel in the Ghettoes of the negroes. In India, 400,000,000 people are starved and denied the most elementary democratic rights by the cynical "democratic" British capitalists. But this foul oppression is no more characteristic of the British masses than are the foul deeds of the Nazis, a characteristic of the German workers and sympathisers of the R.C.P.—also repeasants.

Those who create illusions in the programme of Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin either do not understand the lessons of history, or in the case of the workers' leaders, are out and out the growing fear amongst the ruling classes of the whole world, at the traitors to the working class.

Capitalism is an outlived social system, in its fascist or democratic political form. Only class victories in Europe can lead to a new future for humanity. The task of genuine leaders of the working class is to break through the hate campaign against the German people, demonstrate a class solidarity with the German working class, and fraternise with the defeated German soldiers.

In five years of war, the Fourth International has consistently striven to break through the barriers of censorship to bring the message of international socialism to the masses of the world.

Against the new Versailles of Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin, the programme of the Fourth International is for the Socialist United States of Europe, and a socialist world.

## TROTSKY MEMORIAL MEETING

versary of the assassination of Leon Trotsky, a packed meeting of London workers was held at the Conway Hall to pay tribute to his memory and to the strength of the ideas with which he armed the revolutionary vanguard of the working class.

The meeting was held despite the interruption of the drone of buzzbombs overhead, as if to make open challenge on behalf of the Old Man to these latest foul excrescences of the decaying Imperialist system against which he fought for over 40 years.

On the platform were comrades

David James, Ajit Roy, Millie Lee and

Ted Grant, the chair being ably taken
by comrade Gerry Healy.

Comrade James of the London District Committee dealt with Trotsky's struggle against the betrayals of Stalmism. Comrade Roy dealt with Trotsky and the colonial workers. While Comrade Lee gave conclusive proof of the responsibility of Stalin's G.P.U. murder machine, for the

assassination of the Old Man and again warned the working class against this terroristic and monstrous weapon of the Soviet bureaucracy. Comrade Grant dealt with Trotsky's monumental contributions to Marxian theory, the theory of Permanent Revolution; the analysis of the German defeat of 1923, the growth of Stalinism, the nature of Fascism, as well as his searching analysis of every victory and defeat of the working class over the last decades. But Trotsky's greatest contribution to the world working class was the found-

ing of the Fourth International. The hall was decorated with revolutionary slogans and banners. A collection produced £12, while sales of

our literature went well. In many ways this was the most enthusiastic and successful Trotsky Memorial meeting held in London, with an audience composed mainly of sympathisers and contacts. After the meeting a group of worker-members of the Communist Party made application to join the R.C.P. as they were it an attack on the whole Fourth Interdisgusted with the crawling policy of national.

# STALINIST QUISLINGS

Already epidemics resulting from dreadful sanitary conditions and malnutrition are taking a heavy toll. Inflation and mounting prices have forced down the standards of living to subhuman levels. Unable to bear their suaded to go back without any change has no word of protest against the monstrous conditions, in an attempt to for the better.' maintain even the low standards from falling lower, the workers have repeatedly resorted to strikes.

The present chaos and misery are the result of two hundred years of exploitation by British Imperialism. It is to overthrow British Imperialism, the root cause of hunger and makes no mention of these facts. The document is called Working Class and National Defence. Submitted by B. T. his rights." Randive and adopted by the Congress of the Communist Party of India on 28th May, 1943.

The British Workers have experiworkers have seen the dissolution of the C.P., and heard Browder advocating a stabilisation of Capitalism in the post-war period. But no-where the supreme cynicism on the part of C.P. been so manifest, alongside the lowest depths of misery to which the vorkers have been reduced, as in India, Ranadive, the renegade, starts off ith an accurate description of what is aking place in India:

services. Workers in backward indus-

What did the Communist Party of ndia do? Did it lead the workers to a victorious end? Did it inspire the workers with a will to power? Rana-dive answers: "We prevented strikes from spreading or intervened in spontaneous strikes and speedily settled

This energetic intervention of the C.P., it seems, is not appreciated by the workers. They had genuine grievances. They had a bitter experience in the past. Persuasion of the C.P. through its paid propagandists and its Government rag "Peoples War", made no impression on the workers. Ranadive himself admits:

because a document issued by the Indian C.P. which has just reached us employers without a fight; that Gov-

The result is that the C.P. could not prevent strikes. Ranadive is quite self-critical. This state of affairs he attributes to a failure of the Communworth quoting.

"WE failed to whip up anti-Japanese hatred, failed to whip up antifascist hatred, even though a bald account of the atrocities committed by the Axis Powers would have roused the hatred of any man.'

Leaving aside the stupid "anti-Japanese" chauvinism without an atnoble "families, flunkeys of the capitalist class.

"There were strikes for food and for dearness allowances. There were strikes in railway workshops producing for war: in textile factories, in engintempt to explain the difference between where in Europe occupied by Germany, or in those parts of Asia occupied by Japan. The very benevolent British Imperialists whom you want us to support, shot down unarmed people like dogs. We have witnessed the atrocities of Sholapur and Chittagong. A Whipping Act is still in force. Villages have been razed to the ground; witness the village of Chimur. Host-ages have been shot. Bombs are dropped from the air and the machine gun-Lest any one may misunderstand ning of unarmed crowds is a common

atrocities committed by British Imperialism in a pamphlet of 34 pages, produced to whip up support for British Imperialism.

Apparently the members of the Indian C.P. itself could not grasp the full significance of this ban on strikes. Some of them felt that, after all, increased production should result in increased wages. Vice versa, higher wages and better conditions would increase production. This deviation from the Party line of unconditional This deviation support to the bosses and the British Imperialists receives an admonition

from Ranadive:
"Gradually, step by step, economic demands are put forward as conditions of increasing production. Not that our comrades crudely formulate them as conditions . . . The result is that economic demands do operate as conditions.

"This," he concludes sternly, "is not patriotism; it is the same wrong policy of the national leadership, which landed our country in this crisis."

For the crisis, economic, political and ocial, the responsibility is placed on the shoulders of the national leaders of Congress. Not a word about British Imperialism and its exploitation of India. Not a mention of the deliberate policy of inflation and exports of foodstuffs resulting in mass hunger and millions of deaths from starvation. Don't even ask for increased wages for intensified exploitation resulting in greater production: this is the counsel

of betrayal that Ranadive offers.

Some of the members of the C.P.,
some of the old militants dazed by this policy, seemed to have expressed dissatisfaction with giving up the right to strike. Even though strikes are banned, can't we keep it as a last reserve weapon, as an instrument of threat against the boss class? Ranadive thinks of every cause which might contain the danger of strike and proceeds sternly:

"They (Party members) think that by banning strikes we are removing our only sanction to enforce economic demands. They would like at least the threat of a strike to be kept to hold production for ransom." Here is a gem of wisdom as a reply to these Party members.

duction why should there be such con-fusion?"

Of course, none of these pep talks to Party members stop the strikes. The Indian workers have struggled heroically in the past and will continue to do so. Ranadive, having failed in his mission to bolster up the rotten structure of British Imperialsm, turns sternly to the Indian workers and says it is necessary to issue:

"A clear warning to the workers that immediate demands cannot be won through strikes; that strikes only disrupt their unity and strength and make them helpless before the employers and bureaucracy; a straight appeal to them in the name of the soldiers, their brothers . . . (more rhetoric

not worth quoting).
Ranadive does not forget to bemirch the heroic masses who attempted to deal a death blow to British Imperialism in 1942. More than 15,000 them were shot in a few days. Thousands of them were whipped and flung into the concentration camps. He reserves his choice adjectives for them as "the Fifth Column," "the advanced guard of the Japanese militarists.'

"On the political front we defeated the fifth column and foiled its game of sabotage and anarchy".

No wonder the enraged workers burnt down the C.P. offices and pelted stones at their speakers and broke up their meetings. No wonder some of their leaders were murdered by the their leaders were murdered by the workers in Bengal where the C.P. con-cluded an agreement with the riff-raff to create strike-breaking, black-leg organisations.

In the coming period, the Indian masses will face stern struggles. In the last twenty-five years, repeatedly, they have displayed magnificent courage and fighting qualities. Once again in the near future they will prepare to overthrow the monstrous regime of Imperialism which reduces them to physical starvation, mental stagnation, and spiritual degradation. In those struggles, these renegades who are agents of the enemy will be thrust into the dust heap of history. In the meanwhile, closing their ranks, with a fighting programme, purging the movement of such treacherous elements, they should go forward, ready for future battles. The Indian Bolshevik-Leninists, Indian section of the Fourth International, operating illegally, per-secuted by British imperialism, present such a fighting programme

# INTERNATIONAL

From two South American Republics, Uruguay and Paraguay, come reports of sweeping Labour struggles and-of particular significance to members and ports of the active participation in these struggles by the national sections of the Fourth International. These reports show not only the growing re-

sistance of the Latin American work ers to the dictators and quislings of Wall-Street, but are also indicative of spread of Trotskyist influence in the working class movement.

A campaign of fierce attacks and slanders led by the Minister of the Interior has been launched against the Uruguayan Trotskyists and against the Fourth International as a whole-making particular reference to the police raids on the British section, the R.C.P.

The attack was launched in the Chamber of Deputies during the four day debate on the reactionary anti-labour policy of the Government in recent strikes. There are many strikng resemblances to the method which Ernest Bevin used in this country to introduce anti-Labour measures.

There had been a strike in the Nat ional Frigorifico, the large Swift meat-packing plant. However, instead of introducing legislation equivalent to Bevin's reactionary IA(a), the Government took the step of extending by decree, the status of a "public service" to this undertaking, with the implied threat of doing this in every strike. Under the Penal Code, striking in any "public service" becomes a criminal offence punishable with 3 to 18 months imprisonment. 'Thus as with 1A(a) here almost all strikes become potentially illegal. The only "left" elements to support this reactionary measure were the two Stalinist deputies.

During the debate, early last June, the decree was attacked by the Social-Democrat, Cardozo who condemned it as a reactionary attack on the elementary democratic rights of the workers.

The Minister of the Interior led off a violent attack on the Trotskyists which in its content is identical with that of Bevin's speech in the House of

Carefully clearing the Uruguayan Stalinists and reformists of responsibility-(they had been slavishly carrying out their international policy of betrayal of the workers and support for the bosses)-the Minister of the Interior tried to place the responsi-

By Frank Ward ain, the United States, South Africa and our country."

He then referred to the police raids and arrests of the comrades of the R.C.P., and lyingly stated that the British Police "were able to establish the existence of an organisation to instigate strikes in order to impede the second front of the Allied Nations. . ."

The victory of our struggle here and the release of our comrades is a stinging reply to the slanders of the reactionaries not only at home but in far away Uruguay!

The Minister then excitedly brandshed copies of the Uruguayan Trotskyist paper "Contra la Corriente" (Against the Stream) and shouted: These people are amongst us. They say that this is actually an Imperialist war; that the working class must not believe in the vote".

Yes we do say that this is an imperialist war, and in so doing we strip the false mask of "democratic" and "freedom-loving" phrases from the rapacious Allied Imperialisms and their no less rapacious hangers-on. It is for speaking the truth that the Trotskyspeaking the truth that the Irotssy-ists, as the most vigilant defenders of working class rights, are being attack-ed by the Uruguayan ruling class. Their attempt to strike at the ideas and cadres of the world revolutionary movement must be met with determined resistance by the workers of Uruguay and the whole world.

#### ARRESTED IN ALGERIA.

ALGERIA, May 31-A number of Jewish refugees from Austria have been arrested in Algeria and Morocco for organizing Trotskyist cells in cooperation with the Arabs, in various

(From special dispatch to the "Jew-ish Morning Journal.")

#### GERMANY.

According to the "New York Times" "Following earlier reports of organised Communist activity in Germany, stories of the first underground Communist convention 'somewhere in Ger-many' have been heard.

"The convention's aim was to estabish a Communist trade union central body. This is reported to have been Communist 'cells' have been formed in many German industrial centres . . . the German Communists centres . . . the German Communists are said to be internationalists, or as they would be called in Moscow, Trotskyists."

#### FRANCE

a reference to "a little sheet called 'Le Stalinism and looked to the Trotskyists as the continuers of the old revolutionary traditions of the Communist international.

"This group which has appeared in Soviet', which carries at its masthead the line 'Long Live Trotsky and Lenin! Down with Stalin, grave-digger of the International.

"It reference to a fittle sheet caned the Soviet', which carries at its masthead the line 'Long Live Trotsky and Lenin! Down with Stalin, grave-digger of the Third International!"

"Le Soviet" has been appearing at have demonstrated a spirit which will more or less regular intervals during lead ultimately to the removal of the the past two years, perhaps longer It is the organ of the Parti Ouvier Internationaliste (Workers' Internat-ionalist Party), French section of the Fourth International.

Early this year Paraguay was paralysed by a general strike of the work ers in industry, transport and public utilities. The workers were demanding the restoration of democratic rights, the removal of fascists from public office, restoration of the right to strike, repeal of a decree disbanding their trade unions and for wage increases to meet the soaring cost of living. By using troops to establish a brutal reign of terror the Government defeated the workers after a four week struggle. No word of the strike was reported in the "free" press of the Allies.

Paraguay with a population of little more than one million, entered the "democratic" camp of the competing Imperialists and broke relations with the Axis in January 1942. To show its love for "democracy" the reaction-ary dictatorship of Morinigo, a puppet Government of Wall Street, ordered the disbandment of the trade unions and the suppression of all other democratic rights.

On February 14th last, the workers fought back against these reactionary decrees and against the starvation level at which wages were being kept.

puppet-dictator-quisling of Wall Street from the backs of the South American workers and peasants.

All transport was halted-printing workers struck; industry was at a standstill.

Despite magnificent solidarity the werkers were eventually beaten back to work some three to four weeks later. The use of troops, the threats of punitive action against strikers' wives and the arresting and herding into concentration camps of more than 600 workers and union officials-and hunger, eventually defeated the Paraguayan working class.

The American "Militant" reports on the activities of the Paraguayan section of the Fourth International in this struggle

"During the strike, members . . . issued several leaflets and participated as delegates in the strike committees at Asuncion and Pilar. Two members of the International Communists of Germany, now in exile, were arrested while collecting contributions for the strike fund."

The ruling class of Paraguay may congratulate themselves on having secured a victory over the workers but the rising tide of revolt against Allied and Axis Imperialists will make their victory empty and uneasy. By the magnificent solidarity in this gen-eral strike the Paraguayan workers have demonstrated a spirit which will

JUST OFF THE PRESS

# CLASS JUSTICE

THE CASE OF JOCK HASTON, ROY TEARSE, HEATON LEE AND ANN KEEN

By V. SASTRY

INTRODUCTION by JOHN McNAIR

Published by:

THE ANTI-LABOUR LAWS VICTIMS' DEFENCE COMMITTEE

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318, Regents Park Road, London, N.3.

# Lessons of the Victory PARIS UPRISING

# New Labour Defence Organisation Needed

to incite an illegal strike. The pro-secution had persistently tried to hold the defendants up as people who went about the country causing strikes. This was the atmosphere in which the trial took place. Despite this, the Jury had thrown out all the charges of conspiracy and of incitement.

To emphasise his argument that the Judge had misdirected the Jury in Judge had misdirected the Jury in law, Mr. Burge quoted from a case in 1909 which came before the House of Lords on appeal. In this case, five judges, including the Lord Chancellor, had given a perfectly clear definition of the merits of the word "furthering" (from the Trade Disputes Act 1907) in civil law. This definition laid it down that acts committed in furtherit down that acts committed in furtherance of a dispute must be acts com-mitted when the dispute is already in existence. Any other interpretation of "furtherance" would not only be of furtherance would not only be contrary to that already given by the House of Lords, but would make the other words of the section superfluous. "Incite", "instigate" and "declares", would all be covered in Judge Cassels' definition of "furtherance".

Mr. Burge said it was admitted by the defence that Lee, Tearse and Haston had helped the apprentices. But it was denied that this aid constituted a criminal offence. In the case of Lee and Tearse, it was admit-ted—if the decision in law was against the defence that there might be a basis for a conviction. But in the case of Haston it was impossible, no matter how the imagination was stretched, to say that his propaganda aid and activities had "furthered" an illegal strike. Burge argued that within the frame-

work of the Trade Disputes Act, organised labour had certain definite rights which must be clearly estab-lished, and defended; but these rights would be gravely endangered if the conception of "furthering" a strike can be broadened to include almost any type of propaganda activity which might precede a strke. It was necessary to clearly differentiate between "propaganda for a cause", and direct "incitement to strike" or "acts furthering a strike." Haston, for instance, had helped the apprentice Davy to draw up the outline of a propaganda organisation and policy campaign directed, against the Bevin Pit Ballot Scheme. The apprentices had a grievance. They believed that it was possible to put forward a coal scheme. sible to put forward a coal scheme which would get the necessary produc-tion of coal without the burden resting on their shoulders. They were quite entitled to this belief and to act accordingly in turning out propaganda

the allegation of a sinister conspiracy to incite an illegal strike. The prothe workers carry out propaganda when they want something, he said. Take the case of the Social Insurance Scheme put forward by the Government. The big insurance companies don't like itnor do a section of the doctors. They put forward all kinds of propaganda against it in the press and in public speeches; and by more sinister means. Under the laws of the country they are quite entitled to so propagandise their cause. So also the apprentices were entitled to put forward propaganda against the Bevin Ballot Scheme. They used the strike only as their ultimate weapon. He pointed out that if the definition of "furthering" a strike could be broadened to include such propaganda, any politician who went outside a factory, on his soapbox, where there was a grievance would be in danger of arrest and imprisonment if, some months later, a strike broke out in the plant.
Such a decision would seriously en-

danger the democratic right to pro-

pagandise a cause.

The strike weapon was a fundamental and ultimate weapon of the working class, Burge argued. The workers had a right to use it and this

right must be protected.

It was the workers who were being prosecuted under the Trade Disputes Act today, said Burge. But tomorrow, when the conditions were not so favourable for other sections of the community the Government (he warned by implication a Labour Govern-ment!) might use the decision in this court against the employers, in the event that Cassels' definition of "fur-thering" is upheld by this court.

#### PROSECUTION'S CASE

Paley-Scott, for the prosecution, argued that acts in furtherance of a strike were not only acts committed after the outbreak of a strike, but also before a strike broke out-in preparation for one.

The judgment referred to by Burge was not adequate for the purpose of this prosecution. The wording of the Trade Disputes Act 1927 had qualified the words in the earlier act of It was the case of the proseeution that it was intended from the earliest days of January that an illegal strike should be launched. All the help and assistance, he alleged, given to the apprentices by the three defendants in the setting up of committees, and con-ducting propaganda was for the purpose of bringing about an illegal strike.

#### CONVICTIONS QUASHED

But this was something entirely different from "furthering" a strike, far less an illegal strike. All the apprentices had stated from the witness box during the trial that they wanted to their judgment in writing later.

Hable to two years imprisonment,

and Bevin have promised that many

of the war-time arbitration methods

are here to stay. Workers who strike

against arbitration decisions which are

against the interests of trade union

conditions are liable to be prosecuted

under this vicious Act. Any demand

placed upon the Government by

striking workers can place them out-

side the Law and inside jail for a

It can be seen from such a cursory

examination as is given above, that

the Trade Disputes Act is much more

dangerous to Labour than is generally

Unionist is duty bound to raise a tre-

forefront of Labour's battle against

the Trade Disputes Act. Quislings Pollitt. Dutt and Gallacher demanded

its repeal until the war was launched

against the Soviet Union. Since that time however, they have been open agents and cynical lickspittles of Churchill and his Tory coalition: Tory

finger-men in the ranks of Labour.

Had it been left to these gentlemen the organised working class would

have suffered a defeat instead of win-

When the rolling class launched their open front against the work-ing class, it was Bevin and Mor-

rison who fired the big guns. It was Pollitt and his miserable fellow hacks who gave moral and practical support;

who did their best to ensure that the ruling class were successful in using

These latter gentlemen have also

given, be it noted, verbal opposition

the infamous Act against Labour.

ning a magnificent victory.

Every serious Trade

couple of years.

believed.

consequence thereof."

## Forward for the Repeal of 1A(a)

labour in a capitalist court of law. It will be quoted for years—as long as capitalist "democracy" lasts—until declared illegal under the Trade Dis-Labour rights are swept away by putes Act! The Government has the right to draft workers from one induced and strengthened by a workers' dustry into another at lower rates and

But only a small number of the acknowledged leaders of the working class can claim to have participated in this victory. The overwhelming majority were silent or in the camp of reaction when the test came.

For many years the organised working class has believed the Trade Disputes Act to be a reserve weapon of the ruling class only in the case of a General Strike. This naive belief has been rudely shattered as the result of the attempted frame-up of our comrades. It is of the utmost significance that serious workers study this case. For it contains plenty of evidence to show the dangers to Labour of this vicious anti-Lebour Law.

It is laid down in the Trade Disputes Act Section I, (1) that:

"It is hereby declared-

(a) that any strike is illegal if it-(i) has any object other than or in addition to the furtherence of trade dispute within a trade or industry in which the strikers are caraged; and

(ii) is a strike designed or calculated to corree the Government either directly or by inflicting hardship on the community. . . .

This section is qualified or modified later in the Act where in Section 8, (2), the following is to be found:

(c) a strike or lock-out shall not he doesned to be calculated to corree the Government unless such coercion

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Apart from making any strike in "essential work" illegal and increasing the imprisonment penalties to 5 years and £500 fine, the wording of 1A(a) is the same as in the Trade Disputes Act. It reads as follows:

REGULATION 1A(a)

"No person shall declare, instigate or incite any other person to take part in, or shall otherwise act in furtherance of any strike among persons engaged in the performance of essential services or any lock-out of persons so engaged."

The judgment given in the case of

The name of Comrade Ann Keen was inadvertently om'tted from the Application to Appeal at the Court of Criminal Appeal. Comrade Keen was found guilty of furthering an illegal strike at the Newcastle trial and was sentenced to 13 days' imprisonment after having spent 5 weeks in Durham Prison on remand.

Spe lal application is being made to the Home Secretary to have the conviction against her quashed.

the Trotskyists will therefore apply to all cases under the Trade Disputes Act as well as under Regulation IA(a).

When 1A(a) was pushed through Parliament, Bevin specifically stated that it was aimed at "outside agitators' specifically pointing to the Trotskyists, who he alleged were strike agitators'. He falsely argued that the wave of strikes arose because of premeditated acts on the part of these "outsiders". The whole basis of his plea was that he needed powers to break up a "conspiracy" to disrupt British industry on the eve of the Second Front, and even hinted that this "conspiracy" might be part of the Nazi machinations. The trial at Newcastle Assizes shattered this falsehood once and for all. At least it shattered it for every honest representative of the working class. Despite the bias displayed by Judge Cassels, the jury threw out all charges of con-spiracy and incitement. It is now lear that this Regulation was aimed not at the Trotskyists, but at the whole organised working class, and in particular against the Shop Stewards' movend militant worker must take up the challenge and throw it back into the Every Executive of the trade unions must be forced to demand its im-

### Labour Defence Organisation **Needed Immediately**

In the coming days the Law Courts are going to be used extensively by the ruling class to try and intimidate militant Labour. Already victimisation of militant shop stewards is taking place in one part of the country after another. Threatened arrests and prosecutions under Regulation I A(a) have already been made against miners in the Lanarkshire district, who were recently on strike. Prosecutions, for "absenteeism", for minor strikes, and a hundred and one questions associated with so-called national service are taking place. Worker-soldiers are being rail-roaded to the Glasshouse for fighting in the forces for better conditions, demanding political activity!

prison and the frame-up passed off as stood by the best workers.

on strike against these dictates are of the organised trade union masses. Regulation I A(a). The capitalists, through Churchill Disputes Act would have resulted in to protect the militants of our class.

a defeat for the Trade Union and Labour movement. They took up the struggle at the call of the Revolution-ary Communist Party and raised the necessary campaign for funds to carry

Whatever criticisms we have of the political programme of the different groups who participated in this Defence Committee the A.L L V.D.C.) and we have many on the ssue of fighting for organised Labour's rights these comrades showed that they were fighters. The limited unity won on I labour victory. It this issue won a labour victory. It raises the question of maintaining that unity at least in the defence of lab-

democratic right, or taking part in ties, the Stalinist stooge organisation which evaded the fight on this issue, The attack against the Trotskyists has long been a fake, whose real role was designed to cut off the spearhead was the support of the Tory coalition. of class conscious labour and strike Experience has shown that the workers fear into the hearts of the working can't use this outfit in the defence of class. Had it succeeded, many more civil liberties or democratic rights. workers would have been quickly rail- A new Labour Defence Committee roaded to jail and victimised by class is necessary for the protection of hard

justice. But the Tyne Strike prose- won democratic rights. In the cution was like the alleged flying A.L.L.V.D.C.-the nucleus exists for bomb that returned to its base. It such a committee, although it is still hasn't made the Government happy only partly formed. But the response and it has caused no little consterna-tion at Scotland Yard. But this stewards' committees to the defence of victory for Lebour could very easily the victims of the Trade Disputes Act have had different results. Innocent was a clear demonstration that the workers could still be locked-up in n ed for such a committee is under-Locally and nationally this should be

Had it not been for a few honest one of Labour's immediate tasks.

Had it not been for a few honest one of Labour's immediate tasks.

Repeal all anti-Labour Legisation masses see the real programme of Decrease staling and the programme of the p

Form Labour Defence Committees

# the appeal.

The National Council of Civil Liber-

worse conditions. But workers who go and the support of widespread sections inc'uding the Trade Disputes A t and

be Frenchmen? They would give themselves away immediately. In addition to which, according to the reports of the correspondents. the only German troops in Paris are prisoners. Their captors would have to be very obliging to allow them to change into civilian clothes and enter the Maquis. So far as the fascists are concerned, those of Darnand's militia who have not been dealt with or arrested by the armed workers would be only too glad to skulk into some corner where they would not be recognised.

the F.F.I. will be largely defeated."

That the ostensible reason for disarming the French workers is false, is shown by an article in the Manchester Guardian of 31st August by their Military Correspondent, headed:

#### DEMOBILISING THE GUERIL

LAS". In this the anxiety of the ruling class at the possibility of an armed people in Europe is revealed frankly

"It would be dangerous sentiment to feel that because a man has been a hero in battle he can be excused if he shows signs of anti-social behaviour when the battle is over." It is control of the arms for their

own ends that the capitalists are after They are deadly afraid of the armed workers, who have especially bitter memories of the collaboration of the French bankers and trust magnates with their Nazi colleagues in the exploitation and repression of the French masses. They have many scores to settle with the capitalists who made agreements with Hitler. But apart from a handful of capitalists who they will have to sacrifice as scapegoats, the de Gaullists represent precisely the in-terests of the big capitalists, despite their demagogic programme. As in Italy, so in France, the Allies will protect them.

#### SWING TO THE LEFT Already the masses have begun re-

volutionary seizures. The Paris press, which functioned as an instrument of Nazi propaganda has been seized by the armed legions of the underground than the rest of the press put to-gether! "L'Humanite" Communist Party organ, has a circulation of 200,000. "Populaire" organ of the Socialist Party has a circulation of 160,000, and twelve capitalist papers together, only 120,000! These figures indicate the revolutionary movement of the French masses, which the Stalinists and reformists will not hold back for long. Before the war in all France the circulation of "Populaire" was only 60,000! The tremendous increase in its circulation in the Paris area alone, where formerly the Stalinists were completely dominant, shows the swing to the left of the masses. Socialist Party policy has been more "Left" than that of the Stalinists, so the workers have swing towards them. This position in the first hours of liberation, indicates the beginning of the revolutionary wave which can only the revolutionary wave which was also well as the revolutionary wave which was a superior which was a superior wave whi the real programm Gaulle and Anglo-American Imperialism in action. Workers, peasants and middle class will all be driven on the road of social revolution. The demonstrating crowds are demonstrating for socialism and freedom—even if this is not clearly expressed. That the capit-alists realise this is shown by the haste with which they are raising the problem of disarming the workers.

#### THEY REMEMBER THE COMMUNE

It is the memory of French history too, which they fear. Paris is a city of revolution. In 1789, 1830, 1848 and of revolution. In 1789, 1830, 1848 and in 1871 the Parisians rose in insur-rection. For the first time in history the Paris workers seized power in 1871 and organised the glorious Paris Commune. The capitalists have not for-gotten that this took place after the lefeat of France in the Franco-Prussian war when the Paris workers organised the armed National Guard— at a time when the Prussian army was at the gates of Paris and when the corruption and degeneracy of French capitalists was manifest to the workers. But they should remember too, that what caused the complete overthrow of the capitalist Government in Paris was the attempt of Thiers to disarm the Paris workers.

Then, as now, in order to retain control, the capitalists had to destroy any independent armed organisation of the masses. This fear of the revenge of the people is also shown by the attempts to divert the anger of the French masses from the real criminals this is seen by the treatment of women who have had relations with

German soldiers. Hooligans have been photographed shaving off the hair of their heads in public, and women have been forced to march through the streets unclothed.

That this will not be successful is indicated by the report of one correspondent who reports the disapproval of this practice by a small woman shop-keeper. He reports that she suggested instead, the punishment of

in civilian uniform to infiltrate into ated with the Nazis. What she no doubt expressed was that the real This is so much balderdash. It is trusts and combines who notoriously

obviously ridiculous to suggest that the fascists, especially the German troops, could enter the F.F.I. How many German soldiers can speak French sufficiently well to pretend to the French sufficiently well to the Gaulle and others. That the sufficient is the sufficient of the sufficient s masses are overjoyed at the defeat of the Nazi oppressor after four years of occupation, is clear enough. That because of the foul propaganda of the Communist Party and Socialist Party, the workers do not clearly differentiate between the Nazis and the German workers, is probably to a great extent true. But how long will this last?

Anglo-American imperialism will hold France and all Europe in slavery to their financial dictatorship. The awakening after the first joy of liberation will be rapid and profound.

The ruling class will tremble for the

coming period. Paris has spoken! In the coming days the full meaning of the uprising of the Paris workers will become clear. They threw out the Maz's; they can just as easily throw

out the French capitalists too.

Paris and France will yet present their reckoning for the crimes of French imperialism. Red Paris has spoken, but it has not yet said its final word. The French Trotskyists will play their part in the coming days. Events will show the Paris workers oon enough who are their real enemies and who are their real friends. They will spurn the treacherous class collaborationist policy of the Stalinists and reformists. After Rome and Warsaw comes Paris. These are just the beginnings of the revolutionary movement which will sweep all Europe. Paris workers will remain true to socialism and internationalism!

The workers of France will fight for a Soviet France together with a Socialist United States of Europe!

### RUMANIA Changes Sides

(Continued from page 1)

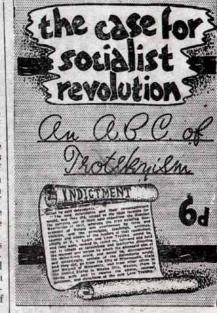
in Rumania, i.e. with the control o Nazi propaganda has been the armed legions of the underground movement. This act alone, which violates the sacred rights of private property, must have sent shivers of fear down the spines of the capitalists. The "Daily Worker" reports that the circulation of the workers' papers now circula minus a few figureheads, which made war on Russia as Hitler's puppet. What the Stalinist bureaucracy desire is not a socialist Rumania. It is the preservation of capitalism and feudal landlordism so as not to arouse the antagonism of Anglo- American imper--but a Rumania as satellite of the Kremlin instead of Germany. On this condition all the crimes of the Rumanian rulers will be forgotten.

The Stalinists, mortally afraid of the revolution in Europe, participate in the deadly game of power politics. While compelled to defend the borders of the Soviet Union and thus playing a relatively progressive role, at the same time the methods of Stalinist diplomacy inevitably place in jeopardy the last conquests of the October Re-

volution.

The Imperialists are temporarily

same side of the barricades so far as the rest of the world is concerned as they do themselves. succeeding in their efforts all these gentlemen are miscalculating. No more than in the rest of Europe will they decide the future of the Balkans. In their schemes they are dividing up the small powers to be satellites of one great power or the other. But the Balkan peoples who have endured the horrors of landlordism and capitalism in a particularly barbarous and burdensome form for generations, will inevitably be affected by developments in Western and Central Europe. Revol-ution in the West will lead to revolt in the East of Europe as well. The fate and rights of small nations as well as big for that matter will be decided by the world working class, not by the secret diplomatic deals of the capitalist giants, or even the



(Continued from page 1)

ander Ramsay's own figures which he gave to the Employers' Federation.

Negotiations dragged on for weeks with no sign of any settlement. Ac-cordingly, on Friday August 11th, the union branch for its immediate repeal. Since it was first introduced to have Since it was first introduced to ham-string Labour, after the defeat of the make up its mind, failing which a Mass Meeting of the whole works was con-General Strike of 1926, the masses of vened for August 30th. As events organised workers have fought for the turned out, the strike began on the repeal of this vicious anti-Labour day before the projected mass meeting, legisla ion. Outstanding bureaucrats which was held as scheduled. As a service for its repeal. In its time the Stalinist party—now His Majesty's Loyal "Communists"—were in the mand was placed as one of the objec-

#### WATCH REGULATION 1A(a)

The Albion workers have been warned to expect a hard struggle. But the spirit of both workers and Committee are very high. This strike, however, is taking place under the shadow of Regulation 1A(a). That fact gives added significance to the action of the Glasgow District Committee in officially supporting the strike. It is clear that this courageous step of the D.C. will have deep repercussions on the progress of the struggle. For the first time since the Barrow strike, the official local machinery of the A.E.U. has lined up in support of a strike. A.E.U. members remember that in September 1943 the reactionary and Stalinist leaders of the A.E.U. spent their time fighting the Barrow D.C. instead of fighting Vickers' management.

In the event of similar action on the Clyde by the E.C., it is the clear duty of militants nationally to resist and to against the repressive regulation of militants nationally to resist and to take a stand with the Glasgow D.C. the sincerity of their words by their Through the branches and official

# machinery of the A.E.U. the demands

of the members must be heard.

#### ALBION STRIKE SHOWS RISING SPIRIT IN INDUSTRY

The set-back in the tempo of the British workers' struggle shows signs of ending. The forces are gathering which will break out of the straightjacket which Regulation 1A(a) and the Trade Union bosses have tried to im-

The Glasgow D.C. now handling the Albion strike is a different D.C. in personnel and ideas from the one of only a few months ago. By its action, a blow has been struck against the moods of disillusionment which have d ve bied on the Clyde.

When the workers see the official machinery used on their behalf instead of against them, these moods of apathy ceed inside the Union as well as in the Shop Committees. Full use of the Branches and official machinery of the Union can protect the Glasgow milltants from victimisation by the bosses and the trade union bureaucrats.

The Albion strike is a test case for militants and will be carefully watched by all workers irrespective of trade or union.

STOP PRESS: The man about whom the dispute originally arose, has now been withdrawn by the National Service Officer. But at a mass meeting

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