

SOCIALIST APPEAL

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TWOPENCE

20,000 CLYDE SHIP WORKERS Demonstrate for Higher Wages

ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH, A DEMONSTRATION OF SOME 20,000 WORKERS FROM MORE THAN EIGHT SHIPYARDS WAS HELD IN GLASGOW. THE DEMONSTRATION HAD BEEN CALLED BY THE JOINT SHOP STEWARDS COMMITTEES OF FAIRFIELD'S AND JOHN BROWN'S YARDS IN SUPPORT OF THE CONFEDERATION OF ENGINEERING AND SHIPBUILDING TRADES UNIONS' DEMAND FOR A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN WAGES.

Permission to hold the demonstration in Whiteinch Park had been refused by the Labour dominated Council, on the grounds of adherence to IA(a)! Nevertheless, this did not deter the workers, and the demonstration was held on some waste ground adjacent to the park.

In recent months there has been a sharp discontent manifesting itself among the workers, particularly those in the shipbuilding industry. With the reduction, and in many cases, the elimination of overtime, without any wage increases to compensate, the average pay packet of the worker has been brought down to £4 17s. 0d. before the deduction of income tax. With income tax deductions, and bearing in mind the increased cost of living, it can be readily seen that these workers are having a tough time.

There has to be demands for increases in wages emanating from the boiler-makers and other sections of the industry. But on each occasion the workers' conditions have remained unchanged, and the attitude of the workers at this

POST-WAR CHARTER", the key to their false policy is seen in this central idea:

"Realising that the shipbuilding industry depends largely on the state of foreign trade we should support every effort to promote international co-operation, economic and political, AS LAID DOWN AT THE TEHERAN CONFERENCE." (our emphasis).

This contention and hope in the ability of the Shipping bosses to solve the problems of the workers, will not deceive any politically conscious worker. Facts about the economic position of post-war shipping will dispel any such illusions. Out of a total world tonnage of 72,000,000, Britain owned 21,000,000 before the war. In the post-war period, the present estimates show that it will be halved. Correspondingly, American ships will dominate the world, with a tonnage of 30,000,000.

These facts clearly demonstrate the inability of British capitalism to provide, even the pre-war standards of living for the workers. They will have to face bitter struggles ahead,

atives will not fight on their behalf, they must replace them with militants who will. At the same time, efforts should be made to link the demands of the Clyde Shipyard workers with those of the workers on Tyneside, Merseyside, and all other shipbuilding centres in order that the whole trade union rank and file throughout the country be mobilised in the struggle.

CRIMEA DECISIONS KEPT FROM MASSES

AN AVALANCHE OF PROPAGANDA WAS LET LOOSE AFTER THE CRIMEA CONFERENCE. CAPITALIST, LABOUR AND STALINIST PRESS ALL OVER THE WORLD LAUDED THE DECISIONS.

The "Daily Worker" announced straight from the horse's mouth that all future wars are ended by the decisions at Crimea. To add colour and drama to the situation, all the puppet states rattled their swords, sounded the bugles of battle, and declared war on Germany and Japan.

Concretely, what has been achieved? An announcement to destroy Germany. But this is a repetition of old statements poured through press and radio for five years. Stalin is to have his way in Poland and the London puppets are to be liquidated in favour of the Lublin puppets. This is an accomplished fact known for months.

No one will shed tears over the liquidation of London Polish except the Anti-Soviet diehards. No one gloats over the success of the Lublin Government except the Stalinists. To the Polish masses, as revealed in the betrayal of Warsaw, both are criminals. Fundamentally, they offer only the continuation of capitalist regime in Poland, with all the pre-1939 spectres of horror. Once again the Polish masses will have to renew their struggles, and look beyond Lublin: beyond Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt to the working classes abroad for solidarity and assistance. Crimea has not solved one single problem of the Polish workers and the peasants.

Churchill made one of his purple speeches in the House of Commons. Following a tourist guide, he described the places he visited, the luncheons he attended, the banquets he gave,

and conveyed the generally prevalent atmosphere after a good dinner, plenty of wine and expensive cigars. At the end of all this, he concluded his speech with a peroration that "far reaching decisions" had been taken.

That is the crux of the matter. "Far reaching" decisions were taken, but they are secret decisions on which the working classes are not to express its opinions.

Remember the flamboyant announcement of the Atlantic Charter and the Teheran Conference. Later when the question became more concrete, Churchill revealed that the Charter did not apply to India or British colonies. It did not apply even to the enemy countries. In fact, it did not apply to anyone at all. Surpassing this cynicism, Roosevelt said that it will find a good place in historical archives, and in any case it was not signed by anybody and committed no one to the policy. But one concrete point which did remain a secret — a point on which Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill agreed — that was a Greek revolution. Churchill chartered the course of action British Imperialism would take and received the approval of Roosevelt and Stalin.

To get a correct picture of the Crimea Conference, similarly, it is necessary not to merely examine the platitudes uttered by Churchill, echoed by the "Daily Worker" — but to examine what he failed to mention. What is the attitude of Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt to the coming European revolutions? Surely, if the Greek situation seemed explosive at Teheran and decisions were made to put the revolution down — although not revealed until 12 months later — the whole of Europe is a volcano today? The economic chaos is deepening, starvation is on the order of the day. The destruction of the German military machine will unleash the working class of Germany and Europe for the seizure of power. Did the "Big Three" arrange their plans to deal with the situation? It is obvious that this item must have been a major problem on the agenda. It is obvious what plans were devised and plotted against the working class. But these

the reaction of the British workers? That is not all. It is obvious that some of the French colonies will be taken away. How are these colonies — mandated territories taken from France and Japan — to be disposed of? By giving them freedom. The American Wall Street Journal, "Capital", revealed some time ago that Britain was forced to agree to an American seizure of the Japanese colonies. Stalin also must have put forward his claims in the Far East. How were they settled at Crimea? Or was all this merely discussed and the three

Ceylon Trotskyist Dying in Prison

From Ceylon, we learn that Comrade Philip Guarawardhane is critically ill in a prison hospital. His present illness is due to starvation in prison ever since he was arrested in Bombay, betrayed by a Stalinist, in 1943.

Many a revolutionary has been physically broken in the torture houses called "prisons" in India and Ceylon. In spite of the prison conditions, our Cingalese comrades are determined to carry on the struggle till imperialism and capitalism are wiped off the earth. We send our message of fraternal greetings and sympathy to Comrade Philip Guarawardhane.

Resolutions of protest should be sent to the Colonial Office, demanding his immediate release.

agreed to settle their claims at a future date at the point of a bayonet? Churchill did not utter a word on this question.

For some time now a conflict has been going on in the Middle East. Britain demanded oil concessions in Iraq; the Americans put forward the same demand. Britain also spoke: Roosevelt said, "The A-50 chiefs — apparently Churchill issued some after reaching Yalta. Fearing to lose the British imperialist grip in the

"This Cook will serve us with a Peppery Dish"

LENIN ON STALIN, suggesting he be removed from post of General Secretary in his last letter to the Central Committee of a C.C.

demands for increases in wages emanating from the boilermakers and other sections of the industry. But on each occasion the workers' conditions have remained unchanged, and the attitude of the workers at this meeting was such that it is clear they are in no mood to be trifled with. At the meeting, however, the organisers and speakers demonstrated that they had no intention of carrying out a militant struggle. So far, this movement is largely under the domination of local Stalinists, who are sowing all the illusions associated with their policy of post-war capital-labour collaboration, and who are beheading any attempt at militant action.

In a Manifesto issued in the name of Stalinist-controlled John Brown's Shop Stewards' Association headed "THE SHIPBUILDING WORKERS

These facts clearly demonstrate the inability of British capitalism to provide, even the pre-war standards of living for the workers. They will have to face bitter struggles ahead, and only such struggles, leading ultimately to workers' power, will solve their problems, provide full employment and a higher standard of living.

The workers, backing the demands on which the trade union leaders are proceeding, must see to it that they force these people to wage a real struggle to obtain them. As an essential step towards their achievement, they must assert the independence of their Factory and Trade Union organisations from the employers and the state machine. They must demand an immediate end to the industrial truce, and if their present represent-

'DEMOCRACY'

As Seen by Colonial Workers

BY M. NAIDU

THE BRITISH WORKERS HAVE BEEN TOLD A GREAT DEAL RECENTLY ABOUT THE ATROCIOUS CONDITIONS IN THE GERMAN AND JAPANESE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. BUT THE PRESS CAREFULLY EXCLUDES ALL NEWS OF THE INDIGNITIES AND SUFFERINGS IMPOSED UPON THE COLONIAL MASSES BY BRITISH IMPERIALISM.

The following facts from the Bulletin of the I.F.T.U. reveals the conditions in Nigeria, which is typical of British imperialist exploitation in the African colonies.

With a superfluity of natural and mineral resources, Nigeria is one of the largest and wealthiest of the British colonies. Social conditions are probably more drastically revealed by the following instances than by anything else: Child labour is not unusual, even in tin and coal mines. Children are employed for 12 hours at 2/- a day. Enquiries made by the Works Committees have shown that children between the ages of 9 and 12 frequently have to carry heavy loads weighing up to 65 lbs.

Wages of coloured bus drivers and conductors vary between 2/6 and 6/6 per day, whereas no European employee is employed at less than £350 per annum.

Nigerian workers had to wage a bitter struggle to get legal recognition of their trade unions. Until 1938, the Unions in Nigeria were illegal. Since then they have grown so rapidly that the membership now stands at 400,000, with a national trade union centre, and 34 affiliated organisations.

Persecution of militant workers proceeds unabated, and elementary democratic rights are denied the workers. The militant president of the Railwaymen is still in prison and the Nigerian Trade Union Congress adopted a unanimous resolution demanding his release.

Wallace Johnson, the West African delegate to the World Trade Union Conference held in London last month, came straight to the Conference from prison. He was sentenced in 1936 and remained in prison till a few weeks ago.

In 1936, Johnson published the case of a Negro who was tied and flogged till he died. The facts were clearly established and were not denied by the Government. But to publish them was sedition, and so Wallace Johnson was put behind bars.

He had been sentenced to a term of one year. But in the colonial countries, once a man is imprisoned for a political offence, whatever the term of

(Continued on page 4.)

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from post of General Secretary in his last letter to the Central Committee.



**CRIMEA CONFERENCE—
Witches' Brew to Crush Workers' Revolutions.**

Reprinted from the American Trotskyist "Militant."

5 NURSES CHARGED Kindness to German Prisoners

The "Daily Herald" of Feb. 26th, reports that five young nurses of the Florence Nightingale Hospital, Bury, Lancs., were to appear in court a few days later.

These nurses were to be charged under the Prisoners of War and Internees Access and Communications Order and the alleged crime: giving cigarettes, scarves and socks to German prisoners of war undergoing treatment at the hospital—a simple, humanitarian act.

At the top, the ruling class are able to fraternise with leaders of the "enemy nations", as has been reported on many occasions in the capitalist press. Nazi officers are shown every consideration and the "Daily Express" now publishes the "inside dope" given by the notorious fascist, Count Grandi for which we have no doubt he was

well paid. But the poor little nurse cannot give a packet of fags to plain "Fritz Schmidt" without being hauled up in court as a criminal.

In Germany we have no doubt, that the German nurses, who are no different from the British nurses, are also being hauled up in court for giving the British Tommies little comforts of a similar kind.

In face of the violent anti-German—Vansittart, race hate campaign, this gesture of fraternisation, not conscious socialist fraternisation but humanitarian fraternisation, should be welcomed by the Labour movement. The local Trades and Labour councils should defend these nurses, take their action to heart and seek to establish a conscious organised contact between the local workers' movement and the German prisoners of war.

ing, starvation is on the order of the day. The destruction of the German military machine will unleash the working class of Germany and Europe for the seizure of power. Did the "Big Three" arrange their plans to deal with the situation? It is obvious that this item must have been a major problem on the agenda. It is obvious what plans were devised and plotted against the working class. But these "far reaching" decisions were not revealed to the masses.

The Stalinists would cynically say that the Conference decided to support the democratic demands of the masses. If so, why the secrecy? If Churchill would have announced after Teheran that the Greek revolution would be crushed, and Stalin had sanctioned it's crushing, as he did after the event, what would have been

question. For some time now a conflict has been going on in the Middle East. Britain demanded oil concessions in Iraq; the Americans put forward the same demand. Churchill also spoke: Roosevelt and his staff also spoke—apparently Churchill learned about it after reaching Yalta. Fearing to lose the British imperialist grip in the Middle East, he decided to entertain the Arab chiefs. Once again, what was decided over the Middle East? Was the fate of Palestine discussed? Who is to get the oil concessions? Churchill is silent.

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U.S. TROTSKYIST LEADERS RELEASED

ON JANUARY 24TH, 1945, 12 OF THE 18 LEADERS OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS' PARTY OF AMERICA WERE RELEASED FROM PRISON. THE OTHER SIX CAME OUT OF PRISON IN OCTOBER LAST.

These 18 leaders of the Socialist Workers' Party and members of the Minneapolis Truck Drivers' Union, were railroaded to jail on December 31st, 1943, under the Smith Gag Act, which is universally recognised as a violation of the Bill of Rights.

The "crime" these class war prisoners were convicted on was that they "... did accept as the ideal formula for the carrying out of their said objectives, the Russian Revolution of 1917, whereby the then existing Government of Russia was overthrown by force and violence." In other words, their crime consisted in that they were striving to establish in the United States a Government of the working class in accordance with the ideas and principles of Lenin and the Bolsheviks in the Russian Revolution.

The principal witness for the accused was Comrade J. P. Cannon, who was a founder of the Communist Party of America. The Counsel for the Defence was Comrade Albert Goldman, also one of the accused and a leading member of the American Trotskyist Party. Together, one questioning, the other answering, in their evidence in court, they traced the entire case for socialism and the method of achieving it. This cross examination by Goldman and the answers by Cannon, which has been published in this country under the title "A.B.C. OF TROTSKYISM" will go down in history as classic presentation of the case for socialism in a class trial.

By imprisoning the Trotskyists, the American capitalists hoped to terrorise the movement and arrest its develop-

ment. But the signal growth of the American Party eloquently testifies that revolutionary ideas and the revolutionary party cannot be intimidated.

After the imprisonment of the 18, scores of American Trade Unions passed resolutions protesting against the convictions and demanding their release. 12,000 people signed a petition to the President demanding the unconditional pardon of the prisoners. The Defence Committee received the support of more than 400 Trade Union, Negro, and fraternal organisations representing more than 4,000,000 workers.

But the petition was flatly turned down by the Department of Justice.

In December, the Supreme Court refused to review the case, although this was the first case under the infamous "Smith Gag" Act. At the same time, the Supreme Court, demonstrating its class basis, reversed the conviction of Hartzel and B two avowed Hitlerite propagandists.

We add our voice to the welcome given to our released comrades by their comrades in the Socialist Workers' Party and the advanced workers in the U.S.A. Their imprisonment, the most significant anti-labour action of the American capitalist class during the second world war, has added to the prestige of our American brother Party, as the militant revolutionary socialist party of the working class.

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EDITORIAL

Pollitt Prepares for Right Turn

The summary of a report by Harry Pollitt to the Executive Committee of the National Communist Party of Great Britain, is printed in the February 24th, 1945, issue of "World News and Views." In this report Pollitt makes some points which we wish to draw to the attention of C.P. members and sympathisers in this editorial column.

Hailing the decisions of the Crimea Conference, Pollitt states that "these decisions are of a character which profoundly effects the whole future of mankind. . . . Particular attention must be called to the close and continuing collaboration of all peace loving people as essential 'TO REMOVE THE POLITICAL CAUSES OF WAR'."

Now, the "political, economic and social causes of war", as every socialist or communist schoolboy knows, are the imperialist antagonisms which arise out of the capitalist system of production and empire expansion. Pollitt knows this. He has written and spoken it thousands of times in the past.

To remove the causes of war, capitalism must be destroyed. Lenin and Trotsky, the greatest Marxists of their day, taught this to communist workers from the outbreak of the last imperialist war until the day of their deaths. But Pollitt now tells the workers that the capitalist politicians and imperialist representatives, Churchill and Roosevelt, can end imperialist war, simply because they arrive at a secret agreement with Joseph Stalin.

The decisions arrived at in Yalta, were decisions to parcel out Europe into spheres of influence between Stalin and the bureaucracy he represents on the one hand, and Churchill and Roosevelt representing the most rapacious world imperialists on the other hand. They were decisions to maintain capitalism, by force of arms, throughout Europe, and to parcel out the world between Anglo-American imperialism and their satellite states.

High up on the agenda at Yalta was the suppression of any revolutionary movement of the European working class and peasant masses which would be aimed at the overthrow of the existing capitalist regimes and the establishment of socialism. And the overthrow of capitalism and the establishment of socialism in Europe and throughout the world is the only possible step which will "remove the political, economic and social causes of war". Pollitt knows this. He has written and spoken it thousands of

THE RED ARMY UNDER TROTSKY

By ERIC WOLLENBURG



TROTSKY

The military oath taken by the men of the Red Army was in its first form as follows:

"In entering hereby into the community of the Red Army of workers and peasants, and taking upon myself deliberately and of my own free will the duty of giving aid in the hard and holy wars of the oppressed peoples, I swear to my brothers in arms, to the whole nation of workers and to my own revolutionary conscience that I am ready to fight worthily and without fear, treachery or misgiving for the great cause for which the children of the best families of workers and peasants have already given their lives, for the victory of the Soviet power and the triumph of socialism."

On taking over the War Commissariat, Trotsky devised a new form of military oath, which bound the soldiers of the Red Army to serve not merely Soviet Russia and the Russian workers, but the proletariat of the whole world:

"(1) I, son of working-class parents and a citizen of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, assume the title of a soldier in the Army of Workers and Peasants.

"(2) Before the workers of the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics and the whole world I pledge myself to bear this title in honour, to learn the art of war conscientiously and to cherish as the apple of my eye the property of the people and protect it against all robbery and destruction.

"(3) I pledge myself to observe revolutionary discipline strictly and resolutely and to obey without demur all orders given me by the commanders set over me by the government of workers and peasants.

"(4) I pledge myself to abstain from all actions derogatory to the dignity of a citizen of the Soviet Union and to restrain my comrades from such actions, and to direct my every action

and thought towards the freeing of all workers.
"(5) I pledge myself to respond to the first call from the government of workers and peasants by placing myself at its disposal for the defence of the republic of workers and peasants against any attack and peril from any enemy, and to spare neither my strength nor my life in battle for the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics and for the cause of socialism and the fraternization of all races.
"(6) May the scorn of all be my lot and may the hard hand of the revolutionary law punish me, if ever with evil intent I break this my solemn oath!"

Eric Wollenburg was a German Officer who came over to the Bolsheviks in the Russian Revolution, and was intimately connected with the building of the Red Army in the early days. This section republished here from his book "The Red Army" (Secker and Warburg) throws a light on the differences between the revolutionary conception of a Workers Army and the Stalinists Bureaucratic conception. Wollenburg's conclusions on the nature of the Soviet Union are false, but the book contains a wealth of factual material on the role of Trotsky in building the Red Army. — Ed.

ants constituted far the greater part of the army. But, as Gussov wrote in 1921, "If the Tsar's barracks, schools and press were able to turn the peasants into soldiers capable of shooting down their fathers and brothers, why should not we accomplish the task of creating from those same peasants an army that would give assistance to the World Revolution?"

The leadership of the army was undertaken by the threefold authority of commander, commissar and political administrator. The military leadership devolved on the commander. The office of commissar was created in order to keep the commanders under political observation. Additional to these was the 'Political Administration' of the Army, which was a component part of the War Commissariat (later known as the Defence Commissariat); this was an institution of some importance, subject, however, to the immediate control of the Party. The first chief of the Political Administration was Gussov his successor was Bubnov, who gave way in turn to Gamarnik, the last-named holding office until May 1937. All three were members of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

The entire political educational work in the ranks of the Red Army was permeated at first by this spirit of internationalism. The magnitude of the mission it set itself becomes apparent when we realize that the peas-

The Political Administration worked through the instrumentality of the Party Cells, which existed in every unit from the general staff down to the companies. As long as Lenin's Party principles that "every member of the Party is responsible for the whole Party, and the Party is responsible for every individual," held good, these Party cells were able to deal with every political question arising within the army, and took a hand in shaping the Party policy on the basis of democratic centralism. Moreover, they exercised a political and moral control over both their own members and non-party officers and soldiers.

Finally, the Political Administration organized and directed the whole of the vast cultural and political educational work within the army by means

In 1924 the pay of a corps-commander was 150 roubles a month, corresponding roughly to that earned by a well-paid metal workers. It was thus 25 roubles a month below the 'Party maximum,' i.e. the largest monthly salary that a Party member was allowed to accept in those days. The commander of a division received 100 roubles a month, and a company-commander 43 roubles. A group-leader (non-commissioned officer) received only 15 roubles a month.

There was at that time no special officers' mess. The meals of officers and men were prepared in the same kitchens. Communist officers seldom wore the badges of their rank when off duty, and frequently dispensed with them even when on duty. At that time the Red Army acknowledged a relationship of superior and subordinate only during the performance of military duty, and in any case every soldier knew his commanding officer with or without badges of rank.

Officers' servants were abolished. The officers had therefore to clean their own boots: I remember another incident in 1925, which took place at a summer camp in the Volga district. While the troops were on duty, a private, who happened to be a peasant from the German Volga settlements, was sent to his company-commander's tent to fetch a map. Happening to notice that his commanding officer's boots were dirty, he sat down outside the tent and began to clean them. The consequence of his action was a complaint against both the officer in question and the secretary of the company's Party cell.

The officer was able to prove himself innocent of this 'relapse into Tsarist abuses,' but the cell secretary was reprimanded for failing to give the soldier sufficient instruction in proletarian class-consciousness. Thereafter the regimental dramatic society produced a number of scenes of barrack-room life in Tsarist days, in which officers' servants and boot-polishing were the principal themes.

The 'basic mission' of the political educational work was, as Gussov wrote in 1921 when head of the Political Administration, "to turn a large proportion of the peasants into international communists and the rest—or, at least, the younger generation—into sympathetic supporters of the idea of a revolutionary war of aggression, because the idea of a revolutionary war of defence was one which the peasant could grasp comparatively easily." Gussov also gave the following practical hints for the performance of this international educational work:

"Education in the spirit of internationalism naturally presupposes in the first place that the Red Army man will be familiar with the A.B.C. of communism. Without this theoretical basis we can make no progress. The crux of the matter is not, however, to be found in an abstract internationalism, but in the daily initiation of the

RED ARMY UNDER STALIN



brought all the old titles and Czarist decorations back again. This is an act of counter-revolution.

This picture of a Russian Marshal — Zhukov — is eloquent testimony of the degeneration. With all the decorations including diamond studded gold stars, he could well be taken for an understudy of a capitalist general instead of a leading fighter of a workers state.

Under Trotsky the Corps Commander of a Division received 150 roubles a month—corresponding roughly to the same earnings of a metal worker—today the differentiation between the Russian officers and men is greater than that in capitalist Britain.

