



INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY

Workers of all Lands, Unite on May Day!

MAY DAY IS THE DAY OF INTERNATIONAL WORKING CLASS SOLIDARITY. IT IS THE DAY ON WHICH THE WORKERS OF ALL LANDS GATHER TOGETHER AND DEMONSTRATE THE FACT THAT THEIR STRUGGLE IS ONE; THAT THEY ARE JOINED TOGETHER ACROSS FRONTIERS IN STRUGGLE AGAINST THE COMMON ENEMY - THE CAPITALIST CLASS OF ALL LANDS.

FOURTH INTERNATIONAL HOLDS WORLD CONGRESS

During the first three days of April nearly two score delegates from national sections of the Fourth International met in International Conference in a Belgian city. Comrades from Holland, France, Spain, Switzerland, Germany, Britain, from Palestine, Ireland and Canada, from the Western Hemisphere and from the colonies came together under the most difficult conditions to deliberate and decide upon questions of policy and to re-elect and centralise the leadership of our international movement.

Several leading members of the Fourth International participated in this Conference, among them Comrade Jock Haston, General Secretary of the British Section, Comrade Pierre Frank, Comrades Bleibtaen, Demaziere and Beaufreire, leading members of the French Section, etc. A large proportion of the delegates had been in Hitler's concentration camps. One Comrade Beaufreire— for publishing a German underground paper for German soldiers "Arbeiter und Soldat". Others had been in Allied prisons—like Comrade P. Frank who was interned in this country during the war.

If one thinks only in terms of numbers and not of ideas and historical perspective, this gathering was a small one. But it was the most significant historical international meeting of workers' representatives since the founding Conference in 1938.

What gives us the right to make this claim? Because only those parties which the delegates represented, and those unable to be present because of the impossibility of reaching the Conference for purely physical reasons—only those parties carry aloft the banner of International Socialism, and fight for the programme of World Socialist Revolution. In this Conference lived the true internationalism of Marx, of Lenin, and Trotsky. It is this fact which gives us the right to say that this was the most important assembly of workers' delegates since the outbreak of the third imperialist war.

The Conference lasted three days and discussed: a report of the activity of the European Secretariat of the Fourth International; a political report on the International situation and the tasks of the Fourth International. It elected a new International Executive Committee and a new International Secretariat. It addressed a Manifesto to the workers, to the exploited and colonial peoples of the entire world.

Revolutionary Call to the Workers of the World

In the Manifesto (published in full in the May issue of "Workers International News", extracts reproduced elsewhere in this issue of "Socialist Appeal") the Conference makes the balance sheet of the Second Imperialist war and demonstrates that the capitalist world has resolved none of its fundamental contradictions by the war and is now passing through a period of severe economic and political crisis, dominated by the fundamental antagonisms between the Soviet Union and Anglo-Saxon imperialism which must inevitably lead if capitalism continues to a Third World massacre. The Conference lays it down that only the development of the revolutionary movement of the world working class can prevent a new blood-bath which can be fatal for the future of humanity.

The Manifesto appeals to the exploited masses of Europe and of the world to struggle under the banner of the Fourth International in order to realise the economic unification of the world in the United Socialist States of Europe and the World.

To the traitors and lackeys of the ruling class, its stirring internationalist message will be looked upon with hatred. To the jaded and cynical fellow-travellers of the revolutionary movement who look for miracles and are disappointed with set-backs in the struggle of the working class, the Manifesto will arouse a wry smile. But to the oppressed workers of the European nations, to the oppressed masses of the colonial East, it will resound as clear as the early socialist clarion sounded to the pioneers of the Labour movement.

Only a few thousands will hear the message of the Fourth International today, but tomorrow it will ring in the ears of millions. When that day dawns will come the reckoning not only for the crimes of the capitalists, but also for their agents within the Labour movement who have betrayed the working class.

What Has Happened to the Other Internationals

During the First World War Lenin explained that the capitalists had at their service the International of Social Democracy—the International of Labour. In opposition to the MacDonalds and Hendersons and their blood brothers on the Continent of Europe, the Third International was organised to carry on the struggle for socialism. But in this war the capitalists had both "Internationals" at their disposal, the Stalinist Third International more shameless in its betrayal than the older harlot.

(Continued on page 4.)

The Will To Struggle is There

All attempts of capitalist reaction to drag on and enslave the masses, first on the part of the fascist powers, then on the part of the so-called "democracies", have failed to prevent a resurgence of the Labour movement in Europe and the world. Electoral victories of the Socialists and Communists in Europe, the election of the Labour Government in Britain are indications of the tremendous upsurge taking place within the world working class. The revolutionary struggle of the colonial people in Indo-China and Indonesia, in India, and in Africa, represents a desperate endeavour of the colonial masses to free themselves from the chains of their age-old slavery. They will fight for their freedom is there. All that the workers need is a fighting socialist leadership.

War Was Fought In Vain

This is the first May Day since the terrible world slaughter ended. Instead of the honeyed promises of "freedom and liberation" for all, the victory of the Allies has brought in its train famine and desolation in Europe and Asia. As a result of the criminal war of capitalism, for which all the capitalist powers were jointly responsible, the world has been laid in ruins. The peoples of Asia, Africa and Europe are racked with the agonies of intensified toil on hunger rations. And the sacrifices exacted from the masses have been in vain.

The defeat of the criminal gangsters of German and Italian Fascism and Japanese militarism has not brought peace to the world. On the contrary, no sooner have they been routed, than the Anglo-American imperialists are already plotting and preparing the next blood bath in the years that lie ahead.

Produce For The Masses—Not For Profit

At home the Labour and Stalinist leaders point to the anarchy and chaos of capitalism, to the ruin and destruction, to the need for restoration of the productive forces; yet they refuse to take action against the criminals responsible: the capitalist class of the country and the world. Production, production, they cry, echoing the appeals of the capitalist class. But their method of increasing production acts, not in the interests of the toiling masses, but of the class which brought about the chaos. A capitalist solution to the problems of production will not solve the contradictions of the system, but will only aggravate them. Intensified toil and strain under the present system will produce increased profits for the capitalists... and later... mass unemployment for the working class! Under the capitalist system, increased production will inevitably lead to a new slump.

Our Duties to the German Workers

It is the duty above all of the advanced workers in Britain to show their solidarity with the Italian, with the German, the French and the Spanish workers. To fight against the national oppression and dismemberment of Germany, to fight against the separation of the Prisoners of War from their people at home. To fight against the use of prisoners of war as cheap labour in the interests of the capitalist class. The shameful betrayals of reformism and Stalinism in favour of repression and enslavement of German workers as prisoners is a crime against all the traditions of the internationalist working class. A ruined Germany will be a favourable breeding ground for new Hitlers. Germany still remains the heart of Europe. A ruined...

(Continued on page 4.)

CHILD MINERS EARN 6^d. A DAY

Revolted Conditions in Indian Mica Mines

Enormous profits are being reaped by Indian Mica Mine owners, exporters and dealers through the vicious exploitation of children and women working underground under horrible conditions.

Revolted facts about the industry are revealed in a report issued by an Investigating Committee set up by the Government of India, and reported in the "News Chronicle" on 23rd April by Norman Cliff.

4d. a Day

This, despite the fact that Indian workers are so skilled that sheet mica is sent here from Brazil, the United States and Canada to be split.

Eighty per cent. of the world's better quality mica comes from India, and the industry boasts probably the lowest wage level in the world. Miners climb up and down wooden ladders to ply heavy hammers in the fume-laden air by the dimlight of naked lamps or candles. If a candle blows out after dynamiting there is no escape. No housing, water, sanitation, hospital, feeding, or welfare facilities are provided. On three days a week the shifts are 16 hours out of 24, with no extra pay for compulsory overtime. The conditions of the overwhelming majority of workers are... that is why the struggle for independence from British rule is assuming mass dimensions. British workers have the duty to support the colonial workers in their demand for British imperialism to get out of India.

Disease Rampant

"The foulest conditions prevail with silicosis, tuberculous and venereal disease rampant among the illiterate, debt-ridden workers, who are too poor to be able to pay even pence to a trade union to defend them."

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Smithfield Workers' Victory

BY J. JOHNS

With a feeling of confidence and solidarity 500 Smithfield provision workers returned to work on Tuesday, 16th April. Their week-old strike ended in a clear victory because of the excellent spontaneous solidarity of 3,000 meat porters, butchers and market workers.

An assurance has been given that the demands of the provision workers for 2s. a week increase and a special Negotiation Council, to be composed of rank and file delegates, will be considered immediately.

3/- Instead Of 5/-

The provision workers struck work on April 9th, because the Joint Industrial Council granted them 3s. a week increase instead of the 5s. granted in other areas. The workers considered that if the J.I.C. could get away with this, it would begin an attack upon wages, and reduce them to the lowest minimum.

Demand Rank And File Delegates

The market workers claim, quite correctly, that the J.I.C., which is composed of employers, Government officials and a union official, is not in a position to consider their claims, because such a body is nothing but a stooge outfit for the bosses. Quite correctly too, they claim that the officials of the T. & G.W.U. cannot represent and fight for the market workers, because of the complex nature of the trade. The provision workers want a return to the pre-1941 negotiation machinery, when they had rank and file delegates upon the Conciliation Council. Only the men on the job, who know the conditions, can present wage claims successfully.

Troops Brought In

On Monday, April 15th, 800 troops were brought in to scab upon the striking workers. As the military lorries rolled in, without a word, 3,000 market workers stopped work immediately, and swore that they would remain out until the troops were withdrawn.

Within a few hours of this excellent demonstration an order was issued to withdraw the troops.

"All A Mistake"

Faced with the increasing indignation of the workers, the War Office, in an effort to pass the buck, is conducting an investigation to establish who ordered the troops into Smithfield market. The War Office is to blame. (Continued on page 4.)

Thorez Echoes Clemenceau

They would have died in vain if we were not to make France definitely secure from a new aggression. We cannot permit that France, three invaded in three-quarters of a century, should once again see her security threatened. We must obtain reparations, and that will be no more than strict justice. Germany, who has looted our national riches, deported our man-power, taken away our cattle, must return what she has stolen. She must provide us with coal, wood, horses, give us the necessary man-power to restore the ruins she has multiplied upon our soil. We have the right to demand the necessary guarantees on our Eastern frontier, so that the era of invasions be closed, once and for all.

Speech made at La Braconne by Maurice Thorez, Minister of State, 13.1.38. "We demand an absolute guarantee for our Eastern frontier. We demand the legitimate reparations to which we are entitled. We have always distinguished between Hitler and German people, BUT THE GERMAN PEOPLE BEAR THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIS ACTS. Germany must restore to us what she has stolen, she must contribute to the rehabilitation of our ruins, and provide us with man-power." (Speech made at Nantes by M. Thorez, Vice-President of the Council of Ministers, 12.3.46.)

OUR STRENGTH LIES IN UNITY; OUR METHOD IS UNITED, STUBBORN RESISTANCE AGAINST THE BOSSES.

LENIN, FIRST MAY DAY 1896

HOW THE BUDGET AFFECTS THE WORKERS

BY AJIT ROY

The first post-war Budget of the Labour Government was awaited with intense interest and eagerness by the working class. The workers wanted to see if any real change would be initiated by the Labour Government. However, any illusions on this score were doomed to disappointment. Apart from a few paltry concessions to the workers, the main beneficiaries of the Budget remain, as under a Tory Budget, the capitalist class.

£500,000,000 On War Preparations

Estimated expenditure is £3,837 millions. The amount spent for "defence"—defence of India, Indonesia, Africa and the colonies in the interests of British imperialism will amount to £1,667 millions! The "Socialist" Government proposes to spend on armaments and the forces, i.e., in preparation for the next war—below £500,000,000 a year—Compare this to the 1938 figure of £248 millions, when rearmament was already in full swing.

£80,000,000 To Occupy Germany

The occupation of Germany has cost Britain £80 millions. Instead of assisting the restoration of German economy, as a genuine socialist government would do, and thus lift the standard of life of the whole of Europe; instead of withdrawing the troops, the "socialist" budget allows for millions of pounds to be spent out of the pockets of the working class to oppress the German workers. And Dalton remarks cynically that the British are paying "reparations to Germany".

Capitalists Pleased

The real nature of the Budget can best be judged by the reactions of the City and the Stock Market. On April 15th, the Financial Times reported: "The behaviour of the Stock Market last week left no doubt of the City's relief at the absence of any dividend limitation tax on the budget and reflected general satisfaction with the Chancellor's proposals, specially the repeal of the Excess Profits Tax."



H. DALTON LABOUR CHANCELLOR PRODUCES A CAPITALIST BUDGET

By April 16th, the revival in Stock Exchange was carried a stage further with both prices and volume of business making new records. So far as the working class was concerned there was little cause for jubilation. The crushing burden of taxation imposed on them during the war has been very little alleviated.

What The Workers Gain

The earned income allowance has been raised from 1/10th to 1/8th, and the additional allowance to married working women increased from £80 to £100. The purchase tax has been abolished on a limited number of goods and reduced on some others. Entertainment tax on sport has been cut down and workers' contribution to national insurance exempted from income tax. These almost exhaust the limits of the...

(Continued on page 4.)

4th International Holds World Congress

Look, Fellow Workers, look at the world Labour movement as it is today. True, millions have joined the reformist Social Democratic Labour Parties and Stalinist Parties;

Stalinism Bartered the Comintern

In response to the needs of the working class and in reply to the treachery of the Social Reformists, the Third International rose out of the ashes of a ruined Europe.

The despicable role of the Third International in the course of the Second World War is well known to readers of the "Socialist Appeal". But even after the end of the war we can still see the situation where the French Communist Party—a Government Party—participates in the brutal suppression of the Indo-Chinese Republicans;

4th International alone Stood the Test

Both these internationals were at the service of Allied imperialism during the Second World War. The International of "Squeezed Lemons"—composed of the I.L.P. and its brother organisations was shattered by the war, the national sections spitting in a dozen different directions, the majority of its adherents in Europe going over to the imperialists and supporting the Allied war aims.

War is the test for the programmes and parties that claim to stand for socialism and internationalism. It separates the internationalists from the capitulators as nothing else.

Persecuted by the Nazi gangsters and by the Allied imperialists alike, their leaderships massacred by the Nazis—not once but many times—our comrades in Europe reorganised themselves anew to carry on the struggle for communism.

The capitalists failed to solve a single important problem by the Second World War. On the contrary, they have piled up even greater contradictions. Openly, blatantly, the publicists of the ruling class are already talking about the preparations for the Third World War.

In these conditions the struggle for world communism and for the unity of the workers of all countries into an International Party of socialism must become part of the moral fibre of every worker who believes in the emancipation of the working class through the Socialist Revolution.

C.P. AFFILIATION

(Continued from Front Page.) The C.P. today have nothing in common with the methods and policies of Lenin and Trotsky. Why We Support Affiliation The programme of the so-called Communist Party is essentially the same as that of the Labour Party.

MAY DAY

(Continued from page 1.) Germany spells ruin for all Europe. A Socialist Germany in a Socialist United States of Europe would mean the fraternal co-operation and work of the German and European people to build a new society.

For A World Revolution Against Capitalism

For a militant internationalist socialist programme at home and abroad. That is the only programme capable of serving the interests of the working class. The continuation of capitalism offers an unending nightmare of atom war, fascism, unemployment, starvation and insecurity.

Lenin and Trotsky blazed the path in leading the Russian workers to a victorious revolution in 1917. Had Stalin pursued the internationalist policy of Lenin and Trotsky of appealing to the German and European workers to take control into their own hands, we would have a Socialist Europe and a Socialist Asia.

Workers of the world unite, you have nothing to lose but your chains, you have a world to gain! For the international solidarity of the workers of all countries! Down with capitalism-imperialism! Long live the Fourth International!

"SOCIALIST APPEAL" is on sale at Weightman's, Newsagent, Station Road, Wallsend, Tyne, (opposite Station) and also at 7, High Street East, Wallsend, Tyne.

Enthusiastic Meeting On Nuremberg

Under the heading: "Leon Trotsky—NOT GUILTY! Nuremberg Trial exposes Moscow frame-ups!" the London District held one of its most successful Public Meetings on April 10th.

Among those arrested in recent raids are Youssef el Mandarek and his fellow delegates to the world trade union conference last year as well as the well-known socialist leader Salama Mousa.

T.U. RESOLUTIONS ON NUREMBERG

The campaign on the Nuremberg Trial in relation to the exposure of the Moscow Trials is proceeding successfully. The statement "Nuremberg and the Moscow Trials" which is being widely distributed, and the general campaign is provoking widespread discussions in the working class movement.

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STALIN REVERTS TO "MINISTER"

"That is Repulsive"—Lenin

"A lighter touch was introduced into the session by the decision of the Supreme Soviet to abolish the title of Peoples' Commissar and to transform the commissariats and Councils of the Peoples' Commissars into 'bourgeois' ministries. The title of Peoples' Commissar was associated with the early days of the Revolution and Civil war, and with the atmosphere of revolutionary folly which the ruling group, now accustomed to the sweets of absolute power, have come to forget, and perhaps even to despise.

This comment of the Economist reveals the delight with which the capitalists regard the transformation taking place in the Soviet Union. Even in the smaller things, step by step, Stalin is destroying the heritage of the Russian Revolution. This change is symptomatic of the changed outlook of the ruling Stalinist bureaucracy, which more and more models itself on the ruling class of the West, and seeks to obliterate the last traces of the revolutionary origin of the Russian regime.

Activities of Egyptian Trotskyists

Paris, March 21.—According to a feature article by E. Sablier in to-day's "Monde", the Egyptian Government has announced that those involved in mass arrests at the beginning of the year for "communist propaganda" were Trotskyists. Furthermore, the announcement declares the government had discovered a secret printshop of the latter in which the two illegal revolutionary communist newspapers "Truth" and "Revolutionary Opinion" were published.

The author of the article reveals that, in line with the great strides towards industrialization made by Egypt during the war, a full fledged native workers movement is in the process of rapid development. Early in January the first great strike in the history of the country took place. It was a two weeks' strike of 15,000 textile workers which completely shut down 25 mills in the Cairo area.

The Egyptian Government's announcement, according to the Monde writer, came as a result of its fear of pressure from Moscow. The Stalinist M.P. Piratin had protested in the House of Commons against the arrests. The announcement was made to appease and reassure these circles. Sablier further comments:

that the trial of the Nazi leaders at Nuremberg affords exceptional opportunities for a check on the charges made against Leon Trotsky and the Old Bolsheviks in the Moscow Trials, that they conspired and collaborated with the Nazis against the Soviet Union. In view of the repercussions which the Moscow Trials have had on the working class movement in every country, and the widespread discussion they caused, particularly among the organised working class, this Branch is of the opinion that an investigation along the lines suggested by the signatories (some Labour M.P.s, H. G. Wells and others) to the document entitled 'NUREMBERG AND THE MOSCOW TRIALS' will be of great assistance in furthering the cause of justice and historical truth.

The Budget

(Continued from page 1.) concessions made to the working class. In the course of his speech Dr. Dalton boasted that after these concessions, a single worker earning less than 48/- per week would no longer be liable for income tax, nor would a married couple earning less than 79/- a week. Is this something to boast about? With prices as they are how can any worker live even moderately well on such wages even without income tax, especially when he is paying indirectly all the time whenever he buys a packet of cigarettes or a glass of beer?

Injustice Of Indirect Taxes

The main burden of indirect taxes falls primarily on the working class. In his book "Public Finance" written years ago, when the prospect of office seemed far away, Dalton had stressed heavily the social injustice of indirect taxes. And yet today, when he has the power to remedy this injustice, the burden of indirect taxation remains as heavy as ever. Glensville Hall, replying to the debate, admitted slyly that it was against the "canons of our Labour forefathers" to do this.

£150,000,000 Yearly For Boses

The modest concessions to the workers are matched by lavish concessions to Big Business and Finance. Having reduced the E.P.T. to 60% in his interim budget in October, the Chancellor has now gone a step forward and abolished the Excess Profits Tax altogether. This amounts to a gift of £150 millions in one year, which is more than the estimated increases of the Social Services which is only £145 millions.

At a period when the earnings of the workers are being systematically reduced by the employers, when the demand for higher wages figures on the agenda of almost every union in the country, this gift of £150 millions to the capitalists is a slap in the face for the working class. There is nothing to justify it. It has been said that industry needs "incentive", and that E.P.T. was a drag on incentive. But an examination of the profits and dividend distribution of capitalist enterprises, show that what the capitalists are demanding is not "incentive" but "super incentive". On April 10th, the Financial Times published a list of 19 firms paying E.P.T. Of these, only one has paid less than 6% dividend in the previous year, while some were paying as high as 30% to 50%. On an average these 19 firms were paying more than 20% in the way of dividends.

Warning To The Workers

If the capitalists can extract such great favours out of the Labour Government in a period when they have an almost limitless market at their disposal, when there is a shortage of goods every-

Revolutionary Communist Programme

- 1. Nationalisation of the Bank of England, the Big Five Banks and land, the mines, transport and all big industry without compensation; and the operation of these enterprises under the control of workers' committees. 2. Confiscation of all war profits; all company books to be open to inspection by trade unions and workers' committees to counter the financial and economic sabotage of Big Business. 3. Distribution of food, clothes, fuel and other consumers' goods in short supply under the control of committees elected from the co-ops, distributive trades, factories, housewives and small shopkeepers. 4. The control and allocation of existing housing space in the hands of tenants' committees; a state financial national house-

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