

The Week

A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS

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The DATA Struggle

THE BUDGET :

"SAFETY FIRST FOR THE £"

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SAFETY FIRST FOR THE POUND

The Budget is little more than a continuation of the Government's general economic policy of putting sterling, that is, British imperialism, as top priority. There is nothing in this Budget for the poor, the homeless, or the unemployed. Mr. Wilson's pragmatism amounts to a system of priorities where the unfortunate become important only in terms of votes. This being case, an increase in the old age pension is almost certain to be postponed until shortly before a general election.

This Budget is so right-wing that even people to the right of centre have been quick to denounce it: Mr. Robert Sheldon and Mr. Joel Barnett, chairman and vice-chairman of the Labour Party's economic study group commented: "A safety-first policy for the pound has been pursued. Nothing has been done to halt the decline in industrial investment, reduce the large-scale unemployment, or promote growth in the economy." The Times business section leader concludes "...we are going to have to live with an overall level of unemployment of around 2% for some little while...." That may be alright for the pound, but it is just too bad for the unemployed.

This Budget is further indication that this Government is viciously anti-working class and must be fought. Surely there can be no one who honestly thinks that the way to fight for socialism in this country is to try and influence it?

D.A.T.A.'S STRUGGLE

One item in this week's issue is entitled "Growing support for D.A.T.A." Whilst this is true, it is to be regretted that the scale of the support is meagre and confined largely to smaller unions. Surely all sections of the movement must realise that the fundamental principle of trade unionism - unity is strength - applies in the case of the shipyard lock out. If this struggle is lost every two-bit employer will be encouraged to follow the example of the shipyard employers. Can even the right-wing of the engineering and shipbuilding unions' leadership be so blind as to realise that their very existence is in danger? A great campaign of solidarity with D.A.T.A. must be organised.

ADEN - THE CAMPAIGN BEGINS

At last the movement is beginning to react on the Aden issue. We are delighted to learn that a demonstration is to be organised on April 22nd to protest against the Government's Aden policy. We understand that the delegates to the Vietnam Solidarity Youth Conference will be asked to march from the conference hall to Trafalgar Square. We ask all readers to watch for details of this demonstration in the left press, and do all they can to mobilise support for them.

D.A.T.A.'S MEMBERS RALLY. by TOM NICHOLLS.

Thousands of D.A.T.A. members in various parts of the country walked out of their offices on Wednesday, March 22nd, to join in demonstrations of protest against the action of the shipbuilding employers in locking out shipbuilding draughtsmen.

Huge demonstrations took place in working hours in London, Glasgow and Belfast. In London some 2,000 to 2,500 members (mainly from engineering firms) converged on 'Speakers Corner', Hyde Park, to show their solidarity with their locked-out colleagues. In what was probably the biggest London demonstration ever organised by D.A.T.A., the great column marched silently behind their divisional banners from Hyde Park to Westminster, holding up London's traffic at several points. More than 1,500 of them went on to a meeting at the Central Hall, Westminster, to hear Mr. R. Whiteley, President, and Mr. George Doughty, General Secretary, describe the background to the lockout.

In opening the meeting Mr. Whiteley thanked the members for their "Massive demonstration through the streets of England's capital". It was, he said, a great gesture for the members in engineering to come out in such numbers to demonstrate on behalf of their colleagues in shipbuilding.

Mr. Whiteley referred to the lockout as a challenging and critical stage in the history of the union. It was a fight forced upon D.A.T.A. by the brutal action of the shipbuilding employers who had violated every normal concept of industrial procedure. D.A.T.A. had pursued a claim for a wage increase at Swan Hunters, Newcastle, because our members there were receiving salaries below the average in shipbuilding; wages in shipbuilding were, in any case, the lowest in any section of industry in which D.A.T.A. members were employed. The offer of the employers at Swan Hunters was insufficient to bring the wages of the members there up to a satisfactory level. D.A.T.A. had taken the claim through every stage of the procedure: agreement and the Shipbuilding Employers' Federation had then threatened that if D.A.T.A. members at Swan Hunters went on strike every member in shipbuilding would be locked out. They had threatened this action in 1965 but at that time the Ministry of Labour had intervened and a subsequent court of enquiry had completely justified D.A.T.A.'s claim.

The employers had anticipated that when faced with this threat D.A.T.A. would order its members at Swan Hunters back to work. The President said he was proud to be able to report, however, that the Executive Committee had decided unanimously that the union could not accede to such a threat. D.A.T.A. was not prepared to see the effective bargaining power of the union sabotaged by the shipbuilding employers. D.A.T.A. was prepared to fight to its utmost capacity to defeat the challenge of the employers.

Mr. Doughty, General Secretary said that when the history of the dispute came to be written-as it would one day-the demonstration in London would occupy a proud place. There was in D.A.T.A., said Mr. Doughty, a strongly held tradition of grass roots democracy and egalitarian control by the members. The annual conference, the supreme policy-making body of the union, had passed a number of resolutions on wages. They had instructed the E.C. to present to the employers claims for increases in the minimum rates; they had declared their complete opposition to the prices and incomes policy

of the Government; and they had affirmed their opposition to any legislation which would seek to limit the rights of trade unionists to bargain collectively.

D.A.T.A. has a reputation, said Mr. Doughty, for observing procedure and the rules of the game and this we had done.

There was no doubt at all, said Mr. Doughty, of the unanimity of view of the E.C. and the members in their determination to win this fight. There had been unanimous votes from every shipyard in the country that the dispute could not be solved until the employers put the matter right and treated our members at Swan Hunters properly.

Following questions and discussions from the floor the meeting passed unanimously a resolution which said:

"This mass meeting of D.A.T.A. members congratulates the Executive Committee on its support for our members in shipbuilding. This meeting further condemns the shipbuilding employers' illegal and unconstitutional lockout of our members as a totally irresponsible act of industrial anarchy."

In the West of Scotland there was a general stoppage of work among D.A.T.A. members, and in Glasgow 1,600 D.A.T.A. members demonstrated their anger at the action of the shipbuilding employers. A meeting at the Govan Town Hall was addressed by Mr. McTurk, Vice-President, Mr. J. Shaw, E.C. member and Mr. F. Stephen, Divisional organiser.

In Northern Ireland every main factory stopped work at about 2.30 p.m. After a demonstration of nearly 1,000 D.A.T.A. members a meeting took place at the Wellington Town Hall, Belfast. Some 500 members attended the meeting which was addressed by D.A.T.A. representatives, by the President of the Northern Ireland district of the Confederation of Shipbuilding Unions and by the District Secretary of the Amalgamated Engineering Union. A district meeting of the Sheet Metal Workers' Union, called for the same day, was abandoned so that the members could join in the demonstration.

Other mass demonstrations have been held in the past two weeks throughout the country. On Saturday, March 18th, more than 800 members marched to St. James Hall to a meeting addressed by Mr. McTurk, Vice-President, Mr. Baxter divisional organiser, and Mr. Albert Booth, D.A.T.A.'s MP.

On Saturday, 18th March, More than 750 D.A.T.A. members took part in a demonstration in Newcastle in support of the locked-out shipbuilding draughtsmen. They marched for about a mile through Newcastle to St. James's Hall where a meeting was addressed by D.A.T.A. Vice-President, Mr. Alex McTurk, Mr. Albert Booth M.P. and Mr. A.M. Baxter, D.A.T.A. divisional organiser. The D.A.T.A. demonstration was the largest trade union demonstration held on Tyneside since the war. Draughtsmen from every shipyard on the Tyne were represented. Each yard had its own banner and posters. A resolution of support for D.A.T.A. was carried unanimously.

On Thursday, 16th March, 400 D.A.T.A. Members attended a meeting in Manchester to hear a report on the lockout of shipbuilding draughtsmen. The Speakers were Mr. E. Halliday of the Executive Committee of D.A.T.A. and Mr. John Forrester, D.A.T.A. divisional organiser. The meeting adopted a resolution commending the Executive Committee for their action in supporting the shipbuilding draughtsmen when faced with a national lockout by the employers. The resolution recognised that the fight in shipbuilding was of direct interest to all D.A.T.A. members.

GROWING SUPPORT FOR D.A.T.A., by an industrial correspondent.

A donation of £200 towards the D.A.T.A. shipbuilding dispute fund has been received from the National Union of Sheet Metal Workers and Copper-smiths. This follows a donation of £500 from A.S.S.E.T.

Full support for the North-East draughtsmen who are affected by a nationwide lock-out of D.A.T.A. members employed in British Shipyards was expressed at the meeting in Newcastle of the emergency committee of the Tyne and Blyth area of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions. Mr. Don Edwards, the Secretary, said: "We expressed our contempt for the shipbuilders' association for their attack on a fully constituted trade union. We are advising our members in the shipbuilding industry not to do any work which involved drawings completed by draughtsmen who are not members of D.A.T.A. in the yards or completed outside the industry."

The annual conference of the Clerical and Administrative Workers' Union, meeting during the Easter holiday, decided to donate £250 to the dispute fund of D.A.T.A. This donation follows donations, reported in earlier issues of DATA News, from A.S.S.E.T. and the National Union of Sheet Metal Workers and Copper-smiths.

A resolution passed by Coventry Trades Council says industrial relations are being disputed by the locking-out of members of D.A.T.A. - the Draughtsmen's and Allied Technicians' Association-Throughout the shipbuilding industry. It asks for a public enquiry into this and wants Coventry M.P.s to ask the appropriate Ministers what action is being taken "about shipbuilding firms reported to have made non-membership of a union a condition of employment-combined with the breaking of employees' contracts of service."

Financial support has been given by other unions to the Scottish district of the Draughtsmen's and Allied Technicians' Association in the dispute that has heard of messages of support from the National Union of Railwaymen, A.E.U. shop stewards in the Glasgow area, the Scottish Commercial Motormen's Union, and the National Union of Mineworkers.

The situation over the lock-out of draughtsmen by member firms of the Shipbuilding employers' Federation is an "extremely grave" one. This warning was given in a statement by the Aberdeen District emergency committee of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineers Unions. The Committee have been given a report on the lock-out by representatives of the Draughtsmen's and Allied Technicians' Association. Eighteen shipyard draughtsmen employed by two Aberdeen firms are affected by the lock-out. The statement also said that the committee felt that the employers - by their action - had widened a local dispute into one affecting every shipbuilding firm in the country. It added that arrangements were being made for the position to be reported to the shop stewards committee in the Aberdeen shipyards.

There has also been a big demand for collection sheets from the Association. Thousands of sheets have been issued and collections are being taken in many factories, shipyards, pits and offices. Collecting sheets can be obtained from: D.A.T.A., ONSLOW HALL, LITTLE GREEN, RICHMOND, SURREY.

THE SOCIALIST MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

The following item is reproduced from the Centre for Socialist Education Bulletin number two, available from 138, Fordwych Rd., London N.W.2.

The Socialist Medical Association was founded in 1930 by a group of socialist doctors who saw clearly the need for a National Health Service. The Association recognised early the need for all health workers to be joined in the campaign for full health services to be freely available when needed. In 1934, the Labour Party Conference accepted a resolution from the Socialist Medical Association which laid the foundation of Labour Party policy in the field of health, culminating in the birth of the N.H.S. in 1948.

The Association has always been affiliated to the Labour Party. In 1949, its constitution was altered to allow organisations connected with the health services to associate with the S.M.A. We particularly value our relationship with the trade unions and have a Trade Union Liaison Committee to further co-operation with them.

The N.H.S. represented a great advance in the social services. But a socialist service is impossible without a socialist society. Since 1948, therefore, the S.M.A. has continued to campaign for health and a better N.H.S., especially for more preventive medicine, leading the struggle against prescription charges, for the development of health centres, a full occupational health service, better hospitals and a more democratic administration. The S.M.A. believes that the health of the people is the responsibility of the people themselves.

The yearly programme includes regular weekend schools, national and regional conferences, lectures and meetings, and publications of pamphlets and leaflets on special medico-political subjects.

The address is : Socialist Medical Association,
13, Prince of Wales Terrace,
London W. 8,
Telephone Western 7770

Membership is open to all health workers, and associate membership to all who support the aims of the S.M.A. Organisations - e.g. trade unions, trade councils, co-operative guilds, Labour Parties, whether local, regional or national, are eligible for association.

The next weekend school of the S.M.A. is being held at the High Stewart Hall of Nottingham University from Friday 21st to Sunday 23rd April. Among the speakers will be Mr. D.C. Davies of the National Union of Mineworkers, Mrs. J. Thomas of the Associations's Social Workers' Group, Miss Nell Dunn (author of Up The Junction) and Mr. John Burrows, staff lecturer in sociology at the University of London. Early application and enquiries are advised.

N.B. Readers of The Week who want further information about the above and publications which the Socialist Medical Association issues should write to S.M.A. The Association is willing to send speakers to organisations on a wide variety of subjects, and will answer specific enquiries on such topics as health in industry.

THE FIFTH NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WORKERS CONTROL from a special correspondent

The Coventry branch of the Centre for Socialist Education has given details of this coming national conference on workers control.

It is sponsored By: "Voice of the Unions", Scunthorpe Society for Industrial Democracy, "Humberside Voice", "Engineering Voice", Bristol Siddeley Shop Stewards Committee, Coventry Radiator Branch T&GWU, Standard Motors Branch No. 2. T&GWU, Coventry Trades Council, Bedworth L.P., and Woodlands L.P.

It is to be held at TRANSPORT HOUSE, (T&GWU Hall), Much Park Street, London Road, (Inner Ring Road,) Coventry, on JUNE 10th and 11th, 1967.

The conference is open to individuals and delegates from all sections of the labour movement. Since the 1st conference of this series, (held in Nottingham in 1964) the movement for industrial democracy and workers' control has gathered great strength and influence. This will be reflected in the fact that this year, the conference will be able to examine important concessions gained - e.g. in steel nationalisation, and on Industrial Democracy in general, TUC evidence to the Royal Commission, etc. The purpose of the conference is to enable trade unionists and their allies to meet together to thrash out a programme for the defence and advance of trade union powers and controls in industry.

The growing support for such demands will we believe also be reflected in the attendance at Conference.

The Chairman of the conference will be Bill Jones - London busmen's leader and vice-president of the Transport & General Workers' Union.

Amongst the speakers who have so far indicated their willingness to participate in the proceedings are : Vic Allen (author of Militant Trade Unionism), Hugh Scanlon (AEU National Executive Committee) Ernie Roberts (AEU Assistant General Secretary) Michael Barratt-Brown, (author of After Imperialism) Jack Ashwell, (T&GWU Hull fishing officer, former busman and author of "Four Steps for Progress") Phil Higgs, (Shop Steward Convenor Hawker Siddeley Aircraft) Walter Kendall (co-editor of Voice of the Unions) Ken Coates (national convenor of C.S.E.) Tony Topham (editorial board of Humberside Voice) Terry Lacey (Student Radical Alliance) Dick Clements (Tribune)

Labour M.P.s and trade unionists in many industries are interested, and we shall announce further lists of participants as we receive them. The conference will consist of plenary sessions on the general problem of Workers' control strategy, and of seminars on a number of industry topics; E.G. Steel, mining, engineering, aircraft, chemicals, public services, docks, and the student movement for democracy in educational institutions. Overnight accommodation in Coventry is available for early applicants. Please stamped addressed envelope for application forms and further details to: WORKERS' CONTROL CONFERENCE, 1 Plantation Drive, HULL.

ADEN - BRITAIN'S LITTLE VIETNAM, by Faris Glubb (Secretary, Committee for the Rights of Oman)

The popular struggle for liberation in occupied South Yemen (Aden and the Protectorates) is daily reaching greater intensity. Even the United Nations mission, which George Brown hoped to use as go-between for some "deal", has been unable to stomach the hypocrisy and inhumanity of the British Government's policy.

This problem is in many ways a miniature Vietnam. From 1838, British imperialism has detached the occupied South from the independent North of Yemen, and has carried out a brutal policy of repression there, with bombing attacks on the North whenever the people there show any sympathy for their southern compatriots' liberation efforts, which are now reaching heroic proportions. There is even a puppet southern regime (the South Arabian Federation) which is to be proclaimed "independent" in January 1968; this consists of feudal rulers, many of them still slave-owners, in alliance with Adeni merchants.

There is no doubt that the vast majority support the resistance, led by FLOSY which is an alliance of urban workers with the rural population. They demand not only independence but the reunification of Yemen, a principle almost universally accepted by the South Yemeni people. The terms and method of this reunification should be decided by plebiscite, as it should be on a progressive, democratic basis. The people in the occupied South did not, for instance, wish to be ruled by the old Yemeni monarchy before the 1962 Revolution: a unified Yemen must be a genuine democratic republic.

The Committee for the Rights of Oman fully supports the courageous struggle of the South Yemeni people and will give full help to their efforts to win a resounding victory over imperialism. We share a common enemy: the British ruling class which is part of the world imperialist alliance led by the Johnson regime which the Vietnamese people oppose so unflinchingly. The only acceptable solution for South Yemen is the triumph of the people's will. We oppose the Federation because it is a Whitehall-imposed scheme designed to perpetuate the imperialist-made division of North and South Yemen. Likewise we should oppose any deals which the British Government may seek to make with other powers over the heads of the South Yemeni people. To this end of supporting the South Yemen struggle, the Committee for the Rights of Oman is planning the following solidarity actions:

- 1) On Saturday 29th. April (Occupied South Yemen Day) from 2.30-5.30 p.m. a picket will take place outside the South Arabian Federation Office, 95 Park Lane, London W.1. Those who wish to do so are invited to start a 24-hour protest fast at 2.30.
- 2) On Sunday 7th. May, the Committee for the Rights of Oman will have a contingent on the London Labour Party's May Day March. Please march with our banners. A representative of our Committee will also speak on occupied South Yemen from "The Week" platform in Hyde Park at the end of the March.
- 3) Also on Sunday 7th. May, at 6.30 p.m. a Protest Meeting will be held in Conway Hall, Red Lion Sq. Speakers include Bob Edwards M.P. and a South Yemen representative. Further details from Committee for the Rights of Oman, 5 Bow Lane, London E.C.4.

BOOK REVIEW: G.I.'S AND THE FIGHT AGAINST WAR by Mary Alice Waters
A Young Socialist pamphlet*

Recent history would appear to show the U.S. ruling class as having moulded for itself a fighting machine as powerful and disciplined as to be almost invincible. Fearsome and terrible as this military potential may be, yet, in so far as the U.S. ruling classes have to call upon the ordinary working man to operate this military monster, in so far does it reveal all the fatal weaknesses to which ruling classes before it, have succumbed. The critical point comes, of course -- seen always at certain decisive moments of history-- when the fighting men, for a variety of reasons, not the least of which is a heightening of political consciousness, see through this war-game, rebel against their officers causing a complete breakdown in discipline.

Outrageous as this observation may appear to the colonial (and ex-colonial) guerrilla fighter it is an observation of crucial importance. Though the U.S. appears today to be able to strike with impunity, crippling blows against the Colonial Revolution, her very increasing involvement does yet again pose questions of genuine internationalist commitments.

For those then who have become accustomed to see the U.S. Military as a compact ruthless fighting machine -- to be contained rather than encountered -- this pamphlet will come as a great surprise. The G.I. is seen here, not only to have rebelled against his officers at various times, but also to have rebelled in such significant numbers after World War II as to effect a "change in a very dangerous American military foreign policy". It is, of course now no longer concealed (notably by Churchill himself) that soon after WWII the capitalist world was preparing for a show-down with the Soviet Union. In Mary-Alice Water's view, such was the opposition to this continued military involvement that the U.S. was in fact forced to demobilize. Remarkably, the revolt appeared on all fronts -- from Paris to the Pacific. In the author's words, "The strength of the revolt, its size and depth, and the massive support it received within the U.S. brought about a near disintegration of the American military machine."

Adequately documented, this timely pamphlet brings to our attention facts which may not be so widely known. More important, the pamphlet successfully shown, with reference to the Vietnamese Revolution, that the U.S. Imperialist have only succeeded in setting up a train of events which it may well be in no position to control.

* Available from Pioneer Book Service, 8, Toynbee St., London E. 1.

GOLDWATER BACKS JOHNSON

from the New York Times

Washington, April 10: Barry M. Goldwater, appearing on the television program "Issues and Answers" yesterday, praised President Johnson's conduct of the Vietnam War and urged him to escalate it further. He urged the bombing of the port city of Haiphong and MIG bases in North Vietnam.

Asked by an interview^{er} to explain the difference between Mr. Johnson's strategy of bringing enough pressure on North Vietnam to force a negotiated settlement and his own concept of using enough force to bring about a military settlement, Mr. Goldwater said: "Well, right now I don't think there is any difference, because I have been convinced for the last two weeks that President Johnson has finally disregarded the words of Bobby Kennedy and Bill Fulbright and others who would pull out at any cost, recognising that Hanoi will not come to the bargaining table..."

MORE ON "THOUGHTS ON THE MARCH" from WILLIE THOMPSON.

Alan Rooney's reply to K. Rintoul's remarks are scarcely any improvement on his original article.

In it he repeats his allegation that, ".... the policies of the British Communist Party, the C.N.D. and the Parliamentary Labour 'Left' have mainly been confined to acting as public relations agents for U. Thant's pontifications...." If Mr. Rooney bothered to check his facts before writing he would know that in regard to the Communist Party this statement is sheer rubbish. The Communist Party has always called for negotiations on the terms laid down by the Vietnamese, and in fact condemned U. Thant's latest peace proposals because they were unsatisfactory in this respect.

Alan Rooney in his original piece also saw fit to sneer at the level of aid supplied to Viet Nam by the Soviet Union. The North Vietnamese assessment is a little different: "....The Vietnamese people constantly feel the sympathy, support and all-sided assistance of the Soviet people. We take this opportunity to express sincere gratitude to the Party, Government and fraternal people of the Soviet Union..." (Ho Chi Minh's message to the 23rd Congress of the C.P.S.U.). We can draw our own conclusions as to whether Ho Chi Minh or Alan Rooney is the best judge of the Soviet Union's role in Vietnam.

As for Mr. Rooney's remarks on the personal motives of people he disagrees with: "comfortable complacent outsiders....", this sort of thing is the stock-in-trade of the Robert Pitman's and their kind, and is best left to them.

There is of course a current of feeling in the peace movement so alarmed at the possible global consequences of the Viet Nam war that it is calling for peace on terms equivalent to surrender by the Vietnamese people. There is nothing objectionable in Alan Rooney attacking this position. What is objectionable is his holier than thou attitude to honest people, who, however mistaken, are nevertheless fighting the same battle as himself.

WHIP WITHDRAWN FOR SUPPORTING LABOUR POLICY

The Labour Group on Glasgow Corporation have withdrawn the Whip from three Labour councillors, Lally, Dynes and Harley who sponsored a letter asking for support for an organisation - the Glasgow Educational Reform Association - Which was calling a meeting to rally support for the City Labour Party policy of the abolition of fee paying and selection in the city's schools. This follows hard upon the failure of Cllr. Moore the convenor of education, to carry out his pledge to the City Labour Party policy making conference, that he would introduce a resolution for their abolition. Glasgow's Labour Group have therefore got themselves into the grotesque situation of taking disciplinary measures against people for following Labour Party policy both local and national. No doubt when (as seems likely) the Labour Party is defeated in the municipal elections these same 'rebels' will receive the blame

V I E T N A M S O L I D A R I T Y C A M P A I G N

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11A Wormwood St., LONDON E.C.2. Tel. 588-1924.

National Youth Conference - Caxton Hall, London - April 22nd 10am - 5pm.

Nearst Tube Station: St. James Park.

It is now less than two weeks to the conference and although a large number of organisations from all over the country have indicated that they will be sending delegates and observers, it is essential in order to make adequate provision for accomodation, etc., that we have an accurate list of those who will be attending. Those who will definitely be participating include L.P.Y.S.Y.C.L., Student Groups, V.S.C. branches and individuals from as far away as Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dublin.

Once again we must stress the importance of co-ordinating protest action on the basis of a firm policy of complete solidarity with the Vietnamese national liberation struggle. The Belgian Jeunes Gardes Socialiste who organised the recent conference of European Youth organisations in Brussels will be publicising our activities in a magazine which will be distributed all over Europe and will be sending a representative to our Youth Conference.

This conference is open to everyone under the age of 28 whether a member of a youth organisation or not. As well as youth organisations such as the Y.S. and Y.C.L., organisations such as local branches of C.N.D. Committee of 100 B.C.P.V. and V.S.C., magazines like Rebel, Challenge, Labour Worker, The Marxist, Workers' Broadsheet and The Week are all invited to send three delegates, and as many observers as they wish. Although preference will be given to delegates in the calling of speakers, individuals attending will also have the chance to participate in discussion. Voting will be confined to delegates. A Sub-Committee of V.S.C. will be elected at the conference.

Those attending from out of London will have their fares subsidised. A delegation fee of 2/6 will be charged for all those attending to help offset this.

The Resolution to be discussed has already been circulated. After the conference has been opened, with fraternal greeting from the foreign observers present - including, if possible, a North Vietnamese journalist - speakers will be called from each of the major groups represented to speak on the resolution. The meeting will then be open for discussion on the resolution and any amendments.

Future Action will be discussed during the afternoon. A number of suggestions have already been received and this promises to be an extremely stimulating session.

The question of volunteers to be sent to Vietnam has often been discussed in the past but usually either in an entirely impractical manner or merely to gain publicity. We will have firm proposals to put forward for sending reconstruction teams to North Vietnam. A call will be made for people skilled in medicine, engineering, architecture, building, etc., to be listed as being willing to go to North Vietnam when asked to do so by the Vietnamese people. Plans are underway for sending people to take part in specific projects, but obviously, they must be skilled in the tasks to be performed. This discussion could well be the highlight of the conference and must be considered as a very serious proposal.

Medical Aid. A number of people have expressed dissatisfaction at the present organisations for sending medical aid to Vietnam. They are often unsure whether their contributions are all sent to North Vietnam and the liberated areas of the south and even when this is the intention there is still doubt as to whether the aid ever arrives at its destination. This is one area of work where our close contacts with the Vietnamese will enable us to guarantee that all money raised for medical aid is spent on materials requested by the Vietnamese people themselves. Only last week we received a list of the medical supplies and equipment most urgently required from a representative of the N.L.F. in Paris.

Collection of Blood Plasma has also been suggested as a practical proposal under the heading of medical aid. We hope to have delegates present with experience of the problems involved in this.

Contingency Planning for the proposed visit to this country by President Johnson. It should be obvious that the recent visit to this country and the rest of Western Europe by Hubert Humphrey was merely a dress rehearsal for the big event which will probably take place later this year. With a few notable exceptions, Humphrey's visit caught us offguard and unprepared. This must not happen again. By co-operating with other organisations we must be able to call out an extremely large number of people at very short notice. We intend to operate a pledge system for an instant demonstration following any extreme escalation of the war or the visit of prominent personalities.

Support for National Liberation Struggles throughout the world. The recent events in Aden have brought home forcibly to us all the fact that the struggle being waged by the Vietnamese people is part of a world-wide attack on imperialism. We must be very careful that in attacking American imperialism we do not overlook the activity of our own government in Aden, Oman and the rest of Southern Arabia. A number of Arab comrades will be taking part in the conference and we have been informed that a mass demonstration against the reactionary role played by the British Labour Government in Southern Arabia will be held on April 22nd a time which will enable those of us at the conference to give our support.

These are only a few of the suggestions for future action which we have received in the last week. The proposers will be called to address the conference on their suggestions and participants will be welcome to put forward further ideas on the day itself. Resolutions on Action will be sent to delegates and observers.

A Social Event has been arranged for the evening and this will take place at a venue to be announced at the conference.

Although there will be no restriction on people attending the conference without prior notification we would like to hear from you beforehand if it is at all possible, this is essential in the case of those requiring accomodation.

Name..... Organisation.....
Address.....

We wish to be represented* at the V.S.C. Youth Conference by.....Delegates/
Participating Observers/Observers.

We require/can provide accommodation for.....persons on Saturday April 22nd

* Individual members are welcome to attend as observers.

(Please delete as applicable)

V.S.C., 11a Wormwood St., London E.C.2., Tel 588-1924.

BRITISH BIG BUSINESS GAINS FROM VIETNAM WAR from an Economics Correspondent

British exports to South Vietnam have increased four-fold in four years, reaching £4,800,000 in 1966 and the rate of increase has been faster than that of the Germans and Italians, French exports have been virtually excluded since 1963.

In addition to the direct export trade from Britain, British firms are benefiting from the business done through Singapore, where merchant houses are handling orders for construction and other materials by United States contractors who find the big warehouses in Singapore conveniently close. Looking ahead towards peace and reconstruction the opportunities for British Business are excellent with banks like the Chartered and the Hongkong and Shanghai, Supplying the essential local knowledge.

There are big sources of foreign purchasing power for the South Vietnamese economy, United States aid, and what might be called the local effort which comes from exports and from services to the enormous American Commitment here. No rice has been exported since 1963 and rubber exports have halved in the same few years. Altogether exports are worth only about \$25m (£9m) a year, but services are worth about \$400m (£141m). So there is no longer a shortage of foreign exchange for imports.

As for the immediate future, the experts here are reasonably optimistic, and Nguyen Hau Hanh, the new Minister of Economy and Finance, is regarded as strong, able and experienced. He remains Governor of the National Bank, and is a sophisticated man with a wide international background which includes a period in the World Bank. He and the Americans have just worked out a new system of joint economic committees covering most subjects and guided by a central committee comprising eight Vietnamese and six Americans. There are expected to end the kind of friction and indecision which have often prevented the best laid plans from doing much good. Strangely, one of the things which economists seem most worried about at the moment is the possibility of a big increase in United States Forces in South Vietnam because this would tend to get inflation going once again.

WEST GERMAN INDUSTRIAL DEMAND SLUMPS. from a German Correspondent

Following a steady shrinking process, the amount of orders booked by West German industry in February was 8.1% lower than that of February, 1966. Manufacturers of capital goods, with a contraction of 13.1% were particularly hard hit and would have been even worse off but for a 6% increase of their export orders.

Home orders for capital goods were down by 20.3% showing that in February the reflationary efforts of the Government and the Bundesbank had had next to no Visible effect. Government deficit spending had (and for that matter has) not really got under way, so that it could not have had more than a psychological effect. But the Discount rate had been cut by half a percentage on January 6 and again on February 17.

The Economics Ministry still lacks most of the economic indicators for March so that it has not yet been in a position to make up its mind what the situation requires. The March unemployment figures, which are available, are certainly not encouraging, since the improvement they showed over February was seasonal rather than cyclical.

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* J u l i e t M i t c h e l l *
* B a r b a r a W i l s o n *
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* THURSDAY, APRIL 20th, 1967. 7.30 p.m. C A X T O N H A L L , S . W . 1 *
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