

GREECE—LABOUR LEADERS SUPPORTED CHURCHILL

It is in Greece that the policy of the Labour leaders is shown to be fundamentally the same as that of the Tories.

Before the outbreak of the war, the Greek working class were living under the Metaxas dictatorship—as brutal and vicious as that of Mussolini and Hitler. This dictatorship was called into being by the Greek King and capitalist class. Its job was to crush the Trade Union and Labour movement, to massacre and imprison its leading militants and to make the position of the Greek capitalists and their property secure.

This dictatorship was given every financial and moral help that the British capitalists could give it. It is to keep these same Greek capitalists in power that the British troops are now sent to Greece as an army of intervention.

The slaughter of the Greek workers and peasants by specially picked troops is a real demonstration of the policy of Churchill and his class in Britain. Here is a test of their democracy. They turn up with tanks and planes on the side of the monarchists, fascists and military anti-labour gangsters.

When Greece was invaded at the beginning of the war, the Greek King and some of his friends cleared out but others remained to look after his interests, and became Quislings for the Nazis. The King was thus ensured, no matter who won the war—the Nazis or the British imperialists. But the workers could not clear out. They had to stay. For years they conducted a valiant guerilla

warfare against the German army. Thousands of the best working class and peasant militants—among whom were many revolutionary communists—were shot and tortured by the Gestapo. Largely as the result of their fight, the Nazis never fully controlled Greece, and indeed were forced to get out of Greece long before the British came in.

The people whom Churchill now foists into power by British bayonets have no such proud record of struggle. Under the Nazis they lived well while the masses starved. The Nazis armed the so-called "Security Battalions" to keep the Greek workers and peasants down. Churchill wants to use them for the same purpose. Colonel Zervas, who has a great record of fighting against the Greek workers but not against the Nazis, was armed by Churchill and still receives his full support. It was revealed in the Greek debate in the House of Commons that

Plastiras, a military gangster who has been foisted into power by Churchill, was negotiating with the Nazis as late as 1942 to act as a Quisling!

Churchill revealed in his two speeches on Greece that he had long been plotting to destroy the Greek workers' movement.

These plans of counter-revolution—so blatantly revealed, show clearly that the Tory-Labour coalition will protect the interests of the capitalists and slaughter thousands of workers when it is necessary to do so as a means of protecting the capitalists.

Churchill's lies were exposed by Aneurhan Bevan in the House of Commons when he quoted from a Government circular issued to the B.B.C.

This showed that Churchill and his Labour lackeys in the Government were preparing to lie to the workers of the world and suppress the truth about the role of the Greek working class organisations. This is what the circular said:

"The Prime Minister has ruled that in principle no credit of any kind is to be given to ELAS or EAM on the BBC. In any case, where it is thought desirable to make exception his personal approval should first be obtained. This instruction has been given to Cairo and will apply to British official communiques or hand-outs."

But instead of decisively breaking with Churchill's policy of counter-revolution, the Labour leaders helped him to put his policy over and keep this government in being.

At the Labour Party Conference, Ernest Bevin, speaking on behalf of the Labour Ministers, made a speech which would have disgraced Ramsay MacDonald. He revealed that the criminal intervention in Greece had the full support of the Labour members in the Cabinet, and in defiance of working class opinion throughout the whole of Britain, said that in a similar situation, he would behave in the same way again.

"Anything I say will be with deliberation," he said, "because it must have an effect on our attitude to other countries besides Greece. I took part with my socialist colleagues in the whole of these discussions going over nearly four years, trying to work out the best way to handle these terrible

problems that would arise at the end of the war."

The terrible problems, of course, are the revolutionary movements of the working class, seeking to establish Soviet power, and the effort by Bevin and the Labour leaders to keep the capitalist counter-revolution in power.

Blatantly and unashamedly, Bevin promises the working class that what happened in Greece will happen in the rest of Europe, with the full and unqualified support of the Labour leaders.

Churchill could not carry out his present policy of counter-revolution in Greece without the full and active support of the Labour and Trade Union leaders and without the reactionary coalition which undermines the class consciousness and solidarity of the working class.

There is no need to tell the worker of South Wales that Churchill is an arch enemy of the working class and counter-revolutionist No. 1. Every militant worker in South Wales knows this. It is burnt into his bones. But there is the need to say that the Labour Party, through its leaders, are supporting this arch counter-revolutionist and his policy in Greece. Churchill correctly attacked the revolutionary Greek working class striving for workers' power as "Trotskyist". The Greek workers will look to Neath and demand from you, their class brothers, a sign of solidarity. Let the Neath workers demonstrate their solidarity with the workers of Greece—by voting Trotskyist when the election takes place.

VOTE FOR A FREE INDIA

In India the policy of the Labour leaders and the Tory Government is exposed with particular harshness. In this country, with a population of 400,000,000, the British impose conditions equal to anything carried out by the Nazis in Europe.

Look at the photographs on this page. THESE PEOPLE ARE DYING OF HUNGER. They are not German slaves in some part of Europe—they are the "citizens of the British Empire", of the "Brightest Jewel in the Imperial crown."

These photographs are taken from the famous Calcutta newspaper "The Statesman".

It was officially stated by the British

Government that 2,000,000 Indian workers and peasants—men, women and children—died in the autumn of 1943 in the Eastern provinces of India as a result of the famine that raged. Statisticians of the Calcutta university, however, estimated that 5,000,000 died in this famine. An artificial famine directly attributed to the British Government and its agents in India for political ends.

The Indian people cry out for national freedom and for some of this democracy which Churchill prattles so much about in the House of Commons. But they are treated as brutally as the Nazis treated the peoples of Europe.

The only political parties of the working class which are legal are those which are subsidised by the British Government as Quisling parties. 100,000 leaders of the Indian and other organisations were arrested in 1943. 7,000 National Congress members are still in jail.

The official Government estimate was that 8,000 Indians were shot during these "disturbances", that is, for their struggle for freedom. "The Calcutta Statesman", a British owned paper, estimates it at 20,000.

The Trotskyists are in jail, or hounded as the Gestapo hounded our comrades in Germany, France and the rest of Europe.

It is a patent lie to say that the Government is fighting for democracy in the Far East. Thousands of British workers are dying and thousands more will die under the lying slogan of "war for democracy"—but in reality so that the capitalists of this country can once again control the territories of the East Indies and reap huge profits out of the blood and sweat of the toilers.

But there is no need to endlessly repeat the brutality which the British Government practices against the Indian workers and peasants. The workers of Wales know that these

brutalities are facts. It is necessary, however, to ask the workers of Neath: What are you prepared to do about it? The Labour-Tory coalition intends to carry on with this policy in India.

Imagine the feelings of the Indian worker, trade unionist and peasant towards the British worker when he sees the Labour movement making no real move to free him from this terror and exploitation. He naturally identifies the workers with Churchill and his class.

The workers of Britain have a strong bond of sympathy for the Indian masses. Their policy is not the same as that of Churchill at all—no more than the policy of the German workers is the same as Hitler's. They want a free India, a socialist India, united with a Socialist Britain.

The R.C.P. stands for the complete and unconditional granting of freedom to the Indian people. We stand for giving all the necessary assistance to the Indian workers in their struggle for power.

There would be no need for a single British working man to go to the Far East in battle dress if this policy was pursued. Assisted and armed by a Socialist workers' Britain the Indian people could well defend themselves and undoubtedly destroy Japanese imperialism.

The policy of Tory-Labour coalition means the slaughter of thousands of British worker-soldiers to defend the capitalist empire. It means the maintenance of an army of many thousands in India and Burma to suppress the native populations after they have been "liberated" and start demanding a little of the "democracy" which they have been promised.

Workers of Neath Demonstrate your class solidarity and anti-imperialist aims by supporting the revolutionary communist candidate, who alone stands for the granting of complete, immediate and unconditional freedom for the Indian people.

OUR PROGRAMME FOR POWER

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

INDUSTRIAL AND ECONOMIC POLICY

1. Nationalisation of the land, mines, banks, transport and all big industry without compensation, as the prerequisite for a planned economy and the only means of ensuring full employment with adequate standards of living for the workers, and the operation of the means of production under control of workers' committees.
2. Confiscation of all war profits, all company books to be open for trade union inspection, control of production through workers' committees to end the chaos and mismanagement.
3. Distribution of food, clothes and other consumers commodities under the control of committees of workers elected from the Co-ops, distributive trades, factories, housewives' committees, and small shopkeepers, and allocation of housing under the control of tenants' committees.
4. Share out the working hours without a decrease in wages to absorb the unemployed. A rising scale of wages to meet the increased cost of living with a guaranteed minimum; the rate for the job.

DEMOCRATIC DEMANDS

5. Repeal of the Essential Works Order, 1A(a), the Emergency Powers Act and all other anti-working class and strike-breaking legislation.
6. Full electoral and democratic rights for all persons from the age of 18 years. Full democratic and political rights for the men and women in uniform.
7. Immediate freedom and unconditional independence for India, Ireland and all the colonies of Britain; immediate withdrawal of British armed forces from those countries; full economic and military assistance to the Indian and colonial peoples to maintain their independence against all imperialist attack.

MILITARY POLICY

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

INTERNATIONAL POLICY

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

DOWN WITH Anti-Labour Laws

What have the Labour leaders achieved in the Coalition Government at home?

The workers are conscripted into the forces and factories, deprived of their hard won rights. They are tied to their jobs as slaves with the threat of imprisonment constantly over their heads. Wages and conditions are fixed by compulsory arbitration boards which are heavily loaded in favour of the boss class.

Anti-Labour legislation, which is more vicious than anything in its strictures and penalties since the Combination Laws. The much hated Trade Disputes Act which has been fought by the whole Labour movement since it was imposed as the result of the defeat of the General Strike, has been used for the first time in history and by a Labour Minister in the Tory-Labour coalition.

Since the outbreak of the war, 23,517 workers have been prosecuted under anti-Labour legislation. But not one single boss has gone to prison under these same laws. The few who were found guilty received only nominal fines; while 1,807 workers have gone to prison.

Any worker who stops to think will immediately agree that tremendous attacks have been made against organised Labour. He will agree that the capitalists could not have made these attacks without the full assistance of the Labour leaders. No Tory Minister could have used the Trade Disputes Act without widespread strikes; no Tory Minister could have introduced 1A(a) without the threat of a general strike.

In June 1942, Ernest Bevin boasted in the House of Commons that in the previous six months "I have transferred at great loss of wages to themselves, over 36,000 men from munition factories to the mines."

These workers lost from £1. 0. 0. to £2 10s. 6d. a week in their wages and their conditions of work made

very much harder. Bevin could do this to the workers, but not to his capitalist masters. For this is the only reason why he and the other Labour leaders are kept in the cabinet at the present time.

It is disgraceful to see leaders of the Labour and Trade Union movement fawning upon Churchill and his class of capitalist parasites. The representatives of the mightiest organised working class force in the world—these leaders should be campaigning to sweep Tory reaction and the parasitic capitalist forces it protects, into the dustbin of history.

If the Labour and Trade Union leaders were to come to the workers and say: We have had enough of this. Only the workers have sacrificed in the course of the war and now their sacrifices are being used to hold down the European people. We are going to break the coalition with the Tories and are going to fight for power on a socialist programme, they could sweep the Tories out of Parliament in the greatest debacle in parliamentary history. Every worker feels this. Every worker wants this. But the leaders of our movement continue with the coalition and allow the Tories to choose the field of battle in their own good time and on their own terms.

Support the policy of the R.C.P. Strike a blow at the capitulation and treachery of the Labour leaders. Demonstrate to the whole British working class that now is the time to take the gloves off against the boss class and their Labour lackeys as well.



These people are dying of hunger. They are not slaves of the Nazis. They are citizens of the British Empire in India. These pictures were taken from the famous Calcutta newspaper "The Statesman" and they show men and women—one clasping her baby—collapsed and dying for want of food—in the streets of the city.

