



SOCIALIST APPEAL

Organ of the
Revolutionary
Communist Party
BRITISH SECTION of the
4th INTERNATIONAL

No. 24.

MID - MAY, 1946.

Price 2d.

STOP VICTIMISATION IN THE R.A.F.

Airmen Angry—Demand Release of Militants

FOLLOWING ON THE SENTENCE ON L.A.C. CYMBALIST, REPORTS ARE COMING IN FROM BOMBAY OF A NUMBER OF FURTHER COURT MARTIALS BEING HELD IN CONNECTION WITH THE RECENT STRIKES OF R.A.F. MEN IN INDIA. L.A.C. ARTHUR ATTWOOD IS BEING COURT MARTIALED ON A CHARGE OF "INCITEMENT TO MUTINY" AT THE R.A.F. STATION AT DRIGH ROAD, KARACHI. 20 OTHER MEN FROM THIS AND OTHER R.A.F. STATIONS ARE ALSO UNDER ARREST AND MAY FACE SIMILAR CHARGES.

At one stage it had appeared that Attwood's defence would be crippled by lack of money to pay the civilian lawyers. A minimum of £250 was needed. Immediately this became known there was a rapid response from airmen in India and over £300 was subscribed in 48 hours.

Foul Method Against Cymbalist

In the case of Cymbalist, there is widespread resentment and indignation among servicemen at home and abroad.

We quote from a letter received from a comrade in India:

"At the meeting addressed by Cymbalist, I am told, an officer stamped and raged telling the men they were a lot of sh... for striking and being led by a dirty Jew! I am told that a large number of the men have complained to their M.P.'s on the arrest."

The newspaper, S.E.A.C., Forces paper in the Far East, attempted to smear and discredit Cymbalist by blazoning in one of its issues that at one time he was a convicted thief.

To what disgusting lengths these labour baiting militarists go, in their haste to stamp out any organised attempts on the part of the rank and file to voice demands for better treatment and conditions.

The legal advisers for Cymbalist have been refused permission to appear on his behalf before the Air Council. Further, the reason given why his lawyers had been refused a copy of the proceedings of the court-martial was that there is only one copy in this country!

Political Victimization

From a recent edition of Reynolds News we quote: "Statements from the men concerned declare that at one camp although definite pledges that there would be no victimisation were given by an Air Commodore and a Group Captain, investigations have been going on which appear to be directed at ascertaining men's political views rather than the part they played in the incidents."

It is said that the investigators started their work by asking the padre to provide a list of the names of all Communists. Secondly, all Trade Unionists were called to attend for interview.

BY JOHN SMITH

There was a long inquiry into the activities of the discussion group at the particular station and lists of speakers as far back as the mock General Election of last summer were examined."

A Challenge

This is a CHALLENGE to organised labour by the reactionary military caste!

We CANNOT and MUST NOT allow this deliberate anti-labour victimisation of fellow-workers in the forces to continue!

It is a shameful fact that a Labour Government in power allows the potentates of reactionary capitalist militarism to vent their hatred and spleen against justified attempts of the rank and file to voice demands against intolerable conditions of service.

We must not remain silent! The workers in England have a class duty to their victimised fellow-comrades. A storm of protest against this capitalist-class frame-up of militants must be roused. A campaign, organised throughout the Labour movement here, in Labour Party, Co-op, and T.U. branches and all other working-class organisations, must be waged, demanding that these and other militants be set free!

But by itself, a campaign of this character is not sufficient. It is necessary to also understand the more fundamental implications of the victimisations. The capitalist class, operating through its reactionary, anti-labour military caste, are free to hound and penalise workers in uniform for voicing legitimate demands through democratic means. This gives freedom to the capitalist class to strengthen itself in its attacks against the working-class in Britain.

We must demand that the Labour Government clears out the reactionary military caste. That officers be elected from the ranks. That full democratic rights be accorded to all in the Forces. That the present King's Regulations be swept away and replaced by a democratic code drawn up by elected rank and file committees of the Forces.

Further, we must demand that point 8 of the Revolutionary Communist programme be immediately put into practice:

"8. Abolish conscription; for the dissolution of the (Continued Col. 5.)

DEATH MARCH from Lodz in Poland ended in this tragic scene outside Berlin



In October, 150 German women and children set out from Lodz, hoping to find refuge in the British zone of Berlin. They had no supplies of food except what they could beg from the hostile Poles and Russians along the route that they travelled. All died on the road except this small band.



One 3-year-old boy survived the 270-mile journey, only to die in his mother's arms as she carried him down the railroad tracks into Berlin.



She lays his body on the tracks while another mother and child weep beside her. The survivors reached the British zone of Berlin but found it stripped almost bare of food by the horde of refugees which has poured in from the east.

Mass Deportations Creates Basis for Reaction

The pictures above are a graphic illustration of the misery which the Allies have imposed upon the German people. They are an indictment of the policy of the Stalinist bureaucracy, which has supported the expulsion of millions of Germans who have lived in these territories for centuries.

This policy has no more to do with democracy and socialism than the uprooting and expulsion of populations by the Nazis.

It can only help reaction and fascist. It can only foster hatred and breed the desire for revenge on the part of these helpless and innocent victims of power politics. Thus the seeds for a new reactionary nationalism and a new war are being sown in Germany. And the responsibility is with the Allies.

This policy is criminal from the point of view of Socialism. The German workers would be only too willing to collaborate in restoring Europe

if it was coupled with the restoration and building of a Socialist Germany. The tremendous industrial potential and the science and skill of the German people could have been used for the benefit of all.

It is not only the Allied capitalists who were terrified at this prospect; it is the Stalinist bureaucracy as well. Only this can explain their inhuman and brutal expulsion measures in the East.

The way out of this nightmare lies in working class internationalism and solidarity. The workers of the world will find this only in the programme of the Fourth International.

RELEASE DR. MAY

R.C.P. RESOLUTION SENT TO HOME SECRETARY

The following resolution has been passed by the Political Bureau of the Revolutionary Communist Party and sent to the Home Secretary:

"The Revolutionary Communist Party considers that the benefits of scientific research should be made available to mankind as a whole and not retained as the secret and monopoly of any nation, group of nations, or group of private individuals.

"The process is being kept secret primarily because the capitalist powers are interested in developing atomic knowledge as a means of making war, which is inevitable if capitalism continues to exist.

In consequence the skill of the greatest scientists of our day is organised, not for the purpose of introducing scientific advances which could lighten the burden and labour for the working class and introduce a world of plenty, but to create weapons of destruction more horrible than were used on the populations of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The Revolutionary Communist Party therefore demands that all restrictions on international publication of scientific research be immediately removed and all research into the production of atomic energy be carried out under the direct control and supervision of the scientists and workers engaged therein through their Trade Unions and Factory Committees.

The Revolutionary Communist Party demands that Dr. Alan Nunn May who gave information to representatives of Russia, for which he was sentenced to 10 years imprisonment, be immediately and unconditionally released and that the organised Labour movement be mobilised to bring about his release.

(Continued from Column 2)

standing army and its substitution by a workers' militia organised under control of workers' committees; for the establishment of military school by the Trade Unions at the expense of the State for the training of worker officers."

Only along these lines can the working-class in and out of uniform defend its interests against the vicious attacks and victimisations of a reactionary ruling military caste.

Demand the immediate Release of Cymbalist and the other R.A.F. Militants!

EGYPT: New Imperialist Strategy

The announcement of the British Government's willingness to withdraw troops from Egypt comes at a time when Anglo-Egyptian relations had reached the point of an explosion. During the last three months, it has become abundantly clear that the Egyptian people are in no mood to tolerate the continued presence of British troops in their country.

Unfortunately, the announcement in itself, of the Labour Government's willingness to withdraw forces from Egypt is not sufficient to satisfy Egyptian national aspirations. Nor does it give an answer to the equally strong desires entertained by the Arab masses in Iraq, Palestine, Transjordan and other Arab countries. As it is, the announcement to withdraw the troops is hedged round with so many conditions and contingencies, that it could not but arouse the strongest suspicions in the minds of the Egyptian masses.

In the first place, the troops are not to be withdrawn immediately but in the course of years. In the meantime, the presence of British troops could be used as a pressure on the Egyptian Government to agree to a new treaty, favourable to British imperialism. Realising this, the Egyptians are already demanding that the troops be withdrawn in months and not years.

Morrison stated in the House of Commons that if a satisfactory treaty could not be concluded then British troops could once more enter Egypt under the provisions of the old Treaty. It is no wonder that Churchill replied with satisfaction 'I am bound to admit that this relieves my anxiety to some extent.'

The truth of the matter is that on this issue, the Labour leaders have been guided not by socialist principles but by mere expediency. They were afraid that under the existing conditions any attempt to maintain British troops in Egypt would result in a revolution, which would be very difficult to combat. Morrison openly said they would be faced with revolution and that they were forced 'reluctantly' to adjust themselves. It is not only the Egyptians they are afraid of. They are well aware that the British soldiers in their present mood would not be too willing to shoot down Egyptians in the interest of British capitalism.

The Associated Press reported on May 12th. that while the British members of the treaty delegation were having tea in a park, British troops on leave in Cairo were shooting at them. WE SAID 'NO GO HOME!'

Herbert Morrison made it quite clear that the policy of the Government is based not on considerations of democracy but only on the necessity of adjusting the old imperialist policy to the requirements of the new situation in Egypt and the Middle East.

Troops Transferred

The troops that are to be evacuated from Egypt are not to be brought home and allowed to return to civilian life. They are simply to be transferred to Palestine and other strategic areas near at hand. The Arab masses in these areas are just as eager for national independence as their brothers in Egypt. Seen in this light, the action of the Labour Government appears in its true colours.

British imperialism has not melted in thin air. The Labour leaders can pretend to the workers that they have adopted an anti-imperialist attitude in their week-end speeches in the country. But as the speeches of Attlee and Morrison in Parliament show, this is not really so. British imperialism is holding on desperately to what it has got, and tries to maintain itself by concessions to the colonial capitalists.

The Middle East to-day is a seething cauldron of inter-imperialist rivalries and power-politics. It threatens to become the cockpit for a new world war. Both Russia and America are feverishly competing with Britain for power and privilege in this area.

The Labour Government has the opportunity of making a great contribution to world peace, and can set an example to the rest of the Powers by making a (Continued on page 4.)

Italian C.P. Attacks French C.P.

BY CARLO BIVANCHO

In preparation for the Constituent Assembly elections and plebiscite fixed for June 2nd, the Monarchist and neo-Fascist elements are preparing for an offensive against the Italian masses.

The first move of the new king has been to demand an amnesty for all political prisoners. If this is granted it will mean that all fascists at present in goal or awaiting investigation by the Epuration Commissions, will be released. They will form the spearhead of a new terrorist movement directed against the working class and its organisations.

This new threat of the reaction, which comes as the culmination of a series of increasingly provocative attacks on working class organisations, has acted as a spur to the militancy of the workers and peasants. There is a revival of the revolutionary fervour of '43 which toppled Mussolini from his perch and made things hot for the Nazis in Northern Italy.

The workers are ready to meet violence with violence and to resist to the uttermost any assaults on the positions which they have succeeded in reconquering with so much sacrifice.

Monarchy versus Republic

The issue of Monarchy versus Republic is an important one in the eyes of the workers and peasants of Italy. They have not forgotten that it was Victor Emmanuel who handed all power over Italy's destiny into the hands of Benito Mussolini. They know

that for two decades the House of Savoy served as a pillar of the Fascist regime. Today they see the throne as a rallying point for all the forces of reaction. By chalked slogans on the walls of every street in every town and village of Italy, through monster demonstrations, the workers and peasants have left no doubt that they mean to put an end to the obsolete monarchy.

Pressure from the masses has compelled all except the extreme right-wing parties, to write the Republic into their programmes. The Socialist and Communist parties, more subject than the rest to pressure from below, have long ago attacked the monarchy in their propaganda.

Signor de Gasperi, leader of the Christian Democrats (Catholics) and head of the Provisional Government, has now given his blessing to the Republic. This means that even the Vatican can (Continued on page 4.)

MAY DAY DEMO. R.C.P. CONTINGENT

BY NORA KING

On May 5th, 1946, the London comrades marched in the May Day demonstration organised by the London Trades Council.

At 1.30 p.m. we assembled outside our headquarters in Harrow Road, W. and marched in formation to join the North West contingent at the Prince of Wales. As we swung round the corner, our huge red standard (almost the largest in the contingent) announced in letters of white to the hundreds of workers already assembled, that this was the Revolutionary Communist Party, British Section of the Fourth International.

In answer to the slanderous accusations of "Fascists" and "Hitler's Agents" etc., so often flung at us by the leadership of the Communist Party as well as the Capitalist Press, came our banners bearing such slogans as "Socialist United States of Europe", "Free the Colonies", "Withdraw the Armies of Occupation", "Nationalisation Without Compensation", "Workers' Control of Production" and "To Smash Fascism, Smash Capitalism", and pictures of the great revolutionary leaders, Marx, Engels, Lenin, Trotsky, Connolly and MacLean.

There was a complete absence of any sign of hostility from the rank and file workers assembled, although the Stalinist stewards approached us as we took our place at the rear of the contingent, stating that we had no right to take part in the demonstration. When we made it clear to them that whatever happened, we were fully determined to march, they attempted to split us from the demonstration by putting a car in front of our contingent. When they saw, however, that we were ready to resist such an attempt with force, if necessary, they reluctantly resigned themselves to our presence.

"Solidarity with the German Workers", "Socialist United States of Europe"

"States of Europe", "Long Live World Revolution", "Long Live the Fourth International" were some of the huge slogans white-washed on the roads along the route taken by the demonstration. Each one was accompanied by the Party symbol; and not one worker in the demonstration could have missed them.

As the demonstration got under way, the comrades in our contingent added emphasis to their slogans, by singing revolutionary songs. The "Internationale" carried us through the gates of Hyde Park and many of the crowd lining the route joined in heartily as we moved towards the horse and cart, which, in accordance with all the traditions of May Day, was to serve as a platform for our meeting. The banners and slogans soon transformed the cart into a vital and attractive spot in the Park and workers soon gathered to hear our policy. We had a large and attentive audience.

Amongst the speakers were HAROLD ATKINSON, editor of Workers' International News, the theoretical organ of the Party; GERRY HEALY, well known member of the R.C.P.; a Greek comrade, ex-member of the Greek Communist Party; and of special interest to the Communist Party members present, JOCK BRYCE, ex-member of the Communist Party of Britain (for 16 years) and secretary of the Building Workers' Campaign Committee.

Each speaker dealt with different aspects of our policy and the meeting was only terminated by the intervention of the police, who were anxious to get home.

May Day was a great success for our London organisation. It imbued the comrades with added confidence and vigour for the future.