

The Newsletter

WEEKLY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

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BEGINNING THIS WEEK
ON PAGE TWO

The first of a series of
articles by G. Healy,
secretary of the Socialist
Labour League on

PROBLEMS OF
THE FOURTH
INTERNATIONAL

MARCH WITH THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS

Brighton Oct. 2: Demonstrate 'against
THE WAGE FREEZE, UNEMPLOYMENT
AND THE VIETNAM WAR

on the eve of the Labour Party Conference
Demonstration assembles 1.30 p.m. and will go from the
Palace Pier, Grand Junction Road, Kings Road, Preston
Street, Western Road along West Street past the Conference
Hall, returning to Palace Pier for a
BEACH MEETING: FISH MARKET BEACH 3.30 p.m.

VIETNAM

B/O SL FILE

U.S. PREPARING AN ALL-OUT WAR

NEWSLETTER REPORTER

American imperialism is preparing for an all-out war in Vietnam. The bombing of Hanoi and the demilitarised zones shows that the Americans are preparing now to completely throw aside protocol and march against the north.

This warning was issued last week-end by Michael Banda, Editor of The Newsletter, at a meeting called by the Vietnam Solidarity Committee. The meeting was attended by nearly 400 people, including Young Socialists and Socialist Labour League members who later marched over 300-strong on a torchlight procession to the U.S. Embassy.

The following day there was talk from the Pentagon of the need to step up the number of U.S. troops in Vietnam to 750,000 and threatening talk: 'We've already outbid the Vietcong. We can and will outbid the North Vietnamese!'

At Sunday's meeting, Banda said the Socialist Labour League and Newsletter had been warning about an all-out war for over a year.

Never betray

But, he added, 'American imperialism can be defeated, must be defeated and will be defeated, as was French imperialism at Dien Bien Phu.'

'Even if the war goes on for another 10 years, our organisation will never betray the Vietnamese people, but will do everything possible to see that they win.'

The SLL and Newsletter had been waging a campaign ever since troops were first sent to Vietnam. He spoke as a participant, not as a commentator.

'Our movement was the only movement in 1950 to speak up in the Labour Party and say: "Down with American imperialism and the United Nations in Korea."

'It is the same spirit which animates us today against the same enemy,' he said.

The colonial peoples possessed one right—to rise up against their oppressors and it was the duty of British socialists to give them every conceivable support. 'Every blow we strike against capitalism in Britain is also support,' said Banda.

A defeat for the Vietnamese people would be an enormous defeat for the international working class.

'We know what happened in Spain in 1936 and how that contributed to the development of fascism throughout the whole of Europe. Johnson's policy is very little different from that of Hitler's. Hitler's policy was for Germany to conquer, to rule and exploit.'

Domination

Fascism and war was the only solution for imperialism's problems. But Johnson, unlike Hitler, did not intend to share the world with anybody. He wanted to dominate the entire globe, Banda said.

He was not surprised that MPs had declined to attend the meeting—'it is possible that they are too busy abstaining in parliament to come?'

'However, let us not worry, because the matter will not be settled inside parliament, but outside it. If anyone thinks that by appealing to the moral susceptibilities of Harold Wilson they will get him to change his mind, they are living in a cloud-cuckoo land,' he stressed.

The SLL and Newsletter were for peace in Vietnam—but not the peace which sanctions misery, slavery and aggression, and which forces whole sub-continents like India to live in semi-starvation.

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European youth will march against war

BY NEWSLETTER REPORTERS

YOUNG Socialists from Britain will be going to Liege in Belgium on October 15 to meet Young Socialists from all over Europe, who will be protesting against the war in Vietnam and against NATO.

The visit marks an important step in the building of a socialist youth movement. Both the Young Socialists and the Belgian youth share a common policy of complete opposition to the war in Vietnam and to NATO, the imperialist war organisation which has its headquarters in Belgium.

Already over 100 have enrolled to go and there will be hundreds more. Young Socialists are campaigning to take a big contingent over.

Young Socialists National Committee extends an invitation to all youth who are opposed to the American aggression in Vietnam and imperialist war—young workers, apprentices, students and school-leavers—and especially to adult trade unionists who wish to join in this visit.

Go to Liege

We urge all our readers to consider going to Liege with the Young Socialists, who have taken the lead with the Socialist Labour League in this country in campaigning against U.S. imperialist aggression in Vietnam and for the Victory of the National Liberation Front.

The full cost of the round trip to Dover-Ostend and Liege is £8 10s, which includes a free meal at Liege and dancing on board the ship there and back.

For further information readers should write to Dany Sylviere, Liege Organiser, at 186a Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4.



Another section of the torchlight demonstration to Grosvenor Square

PILOT TRIALS SORT OUT THE REAL 'FRIENDS' OF VIETNAM

BY MICHAEL BANDA

The war of imperialist aggression waged by America against the Vietnamese people is one of the bloodiest and cruellest ever. No one can calculate the immense amount of suffering, grief and misery which the U.S. forces—particularly the air force—has caused in this country.

The imperialist planners have exploited every possible technique of mass murder. The more fiendish the device the better it serves them.

The pilots who fly the B-52s, the Thunderchiefs and the Phantoms are not ordinary Americans impressed into a thankless job by the government.

VOLUNTEERS

On the contrary many—the vast majority—of them are volunteers who take immense pride in watching villages being consumed by napalm and get a big kick out of strafing hapless peasants working their paddies.

It is a special type of war and it requires a special type of animal to conduct it.

So when the North Vietnamese began to talk about putting U.S. pilots on trial they had every justification to do so. The judicious hanging of a few U.S. pilots would no doubt have had a sobering

influence on the Pentagon.

Of course, it would have provoked a wild outburst of 'anti-communism' and war hysteria in the U.S. But that is something we have come to expect.

If the American capitalists and their middle-class hangers-on did not have a pretext for going to war they usually invent one anyway.

They have really no cause to complain. S.S. men in the German army when captured by the Russians were summarily executed and they did less damage to civilian life and property than the U.S. pilots.

CHARLATANS

In fact the question of putting the pilots on trial has done more to sort out the real friends of the Vietnamese people from their false allies than any other issue.

Amongst those whose charlatany has been exposed compare

Mr. Sidney Bidwell M.P.

It is reported in the 'Daily Telegraph', Thursday, August 11, that Mr. Sidney Bidwell, Member of Parliament for Southall, voted with the government on the Prices and Incomes Bill.

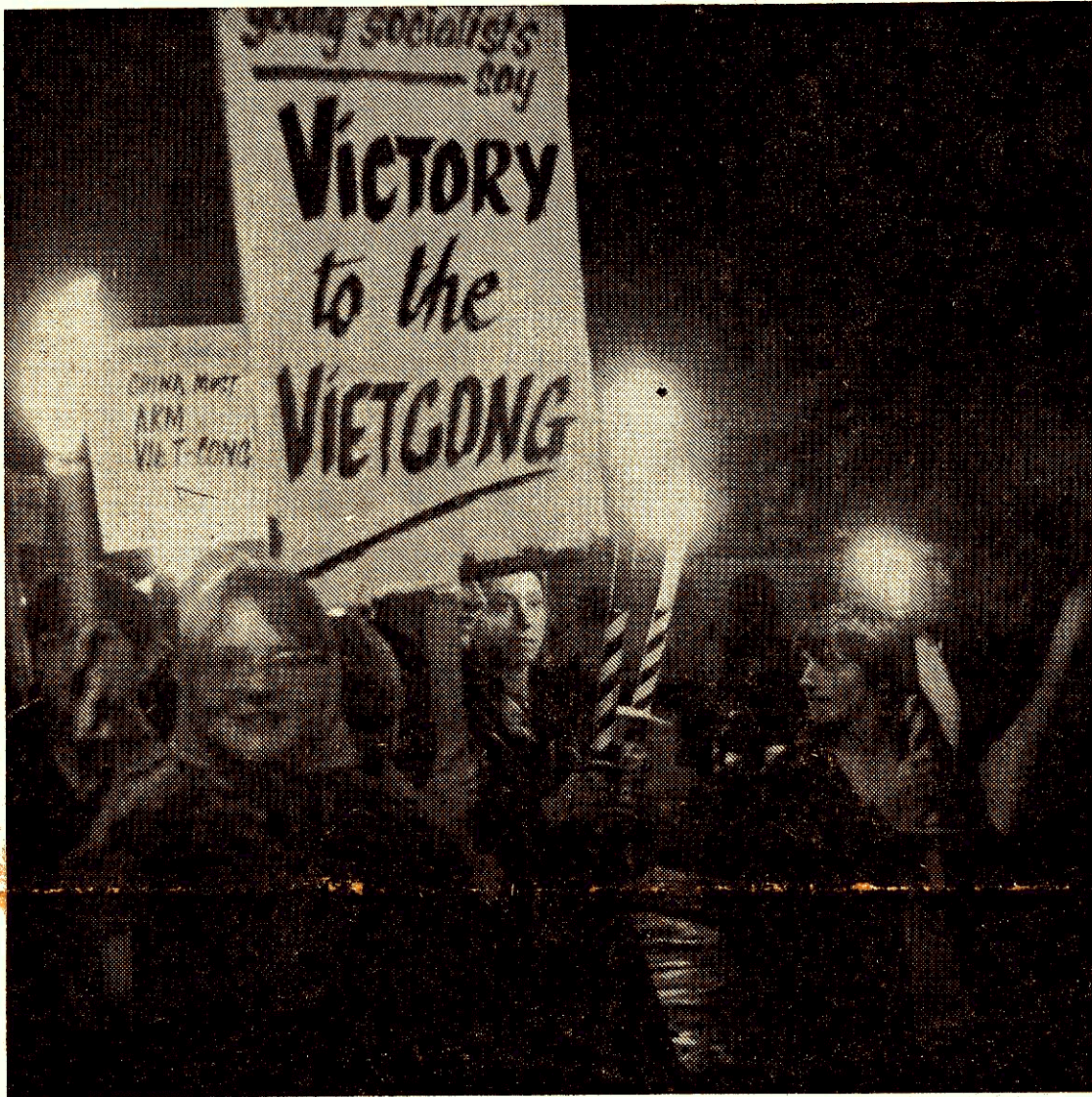
Mr. Bidwell is well known to the British Trotskyist movement when before, during and after the Second World War, he was one of its leading members active in the National Union of Railwaymen.

Haston associate

During these years Mr. Bidwell was a close associate of Jock Haston, who was until the time of its dissolution in 1949 General Secretary of the Revolutionary Communist Party.

Recently during the seamen's strike, Mr. Bidwell spoke at a rally of seamen at Trafalgar Square. He supported the seamen whose main struggle as everyone knows was against the terms of the Prices and Incomes Bill.

If what the 'Daily Telegraph' Political Correspondent reports about Mr. Bidwell voting for the Bill in Parliament is true, there is no further need for us to comment about the role of this MP who is described as a Labour 'left'. It speaks for itself.



Crisis worsens as government sells out

By Cliff Slaughter

POWERS to imprison trade unionists are the answer proposed by Wilson's 'Labour' government to the growing economic crisis.

When Wilson visited President Johnson in Washington he went out of his way to insist that the powers taken by the government in the Prices and Incomes Bill, now going through its last stages in Westminster, were without precedent in 'democratic' societies, even in wartime.

Wilson's method for taking these powers is also 'unprecedented'.

Young Socialists and Socialist Labour League members were told on various lobbies of parliament that 'left' MPs intended to amend the projected Bill so thoroughly that it would be toothless and harmless. What happened was something quite different.

The powers taken by the government have been introduced after the debates in parliament, during the 'committee stage', in such a way that ordinary 'democratic' procedure is dispensed with.

It was not a matter of everything being done by the traditional rules of democracy, as the reformists always told us things could be put right, but of the economic requirements of international finance capital insisting on a change in the law.

No Pretence

Wilson and his Cabinet now serve these banking interests directly, and have dropped all pretences of gradually wearing down capitalism by reforms. They are tied hand and foot to the banks.

The old democratic forms become an obstacle to the continued exploitation of labour.

The seamen's strike increased the determination of the ruling class to discipline the working class.

What is urgent now is that the working class prepares for

The message of the Young Socialists on last Saturday's torchlight demonstration is quite plain. It echoed the speech of Newsletter Editor, Michael Banda (below), reported here.



STATEMENT

AT A MEETING called by the Vietnam Solidarity Committee on Saturday, August 6, the impression was created that the Socialist Labour League is a party to a united front agreement which formulates the policy of this committee.

The Socialist Labour League is not in any way connected with this united front agreement. It supports the Solidarity Committee insofar as an effective campaign is waged for the victory of the National Liberation Front and the complete withdrawal of all U.S. armed forces from Vietnam.

Spokesmen for the Socialist Labour League will, when they think it is necessary, criticise any tendency within the labour movement, which, by its actions, weakens the struggle for these aims.

This especially applies to the role of the Labour 'lefts' in Parliament, the Communist Party, and the bureaucratic leaders of the Soviet and Chinese Communist Parties.

London Area Committee, Socialist Labour League.

the critical struggles ahead as thoroughly as the enemy.

In the first place the depth of the crisis must be understood. There will be no quick or easy solution. The six-month wage freeze is only the beginning.

The new Bill actually gives power to cut wages.

In June, according to government figures published this week, retail trading and hire-purchase was already on the decline in a serious way, i.e., before the new measures announced by Callaghan.

There was a fall from 138 to 126 points in the level of new hire-purchase credit, and HP sales fell from 87 to 80 points.

Shops selling durable goods had a decline of £8 millions to £301 millions.

New credit extended in the second quarter of 1966 was 11 per cent lower than the same quarter of 1965.

All these are signs that the economy was in decline well before Callaghan took his steps in July. It is therefore only to be expected that the 2 per cent unemployment which Wilson says will be 'not unacceptable' is a laughable underestimation.

The process of large-scale attack on the working class has already begun with the wage freeze. All the big capitalist newspapers admit that it is entirely a question of wage control and not price control.

Continued page 2, column 3

