

# The Week

A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS  
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## NORTH VIETNAM- INVASION?

# LABOUR CAN'T AFFORD WILSON

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Vol. 5, No. 50 - WINTER, 1981

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### LABOUR CANNOT AFFORD WILSON!

It is little more than a year ago that Labour was returned to power in Parliament with a huge majority. At that time the Conservatives were so demoralised that there was speculation about decades of Labour rule. Wilson won his reputation as one of the most clever politicians of the century. Today the situation could hardly be more different: Labour did worse at the polls last week than it has done at any municipal election since the war. Only a handful of cities are now controlled by Labour. Towns which were considered to be Labour bastions now have Tories at the City Hall. Now, on top of this, Wilson has suffered a further blow to his prestige over de Gaulle's attitude towards Britain's application to join the Common Market.

Of course Wilson explains all this by saying that he has taken unpopular measures "for the good of the country". Furthermore, he shows no sign of having learnt anything: his action in sacking the seven PPS's was done in a roughshod manner, devoid of sensitivity. The latest escalation in the Vietnam war has not brought forth a whisper of condemnation from Her Majesty's Government.

Where are the wiseacres, now, who said we must <sup>not</sup> criticise Wilson because he won the election for Labour? Where are those sophisticated "left-wingers" who said it was tactically wrong to criticise or attack Wilson? Where are those who said that at heart Wilson is really a left-winger just playing it cool for electoral reasons? No one can deny that the situation can change; that the famous pendulum swing will mollify the worst aspects of Wilson's electoral unpopularity, but, nevertheless, it is absolutely clear that Labour faces electoral disaster on the present course.

Thus we have the last <sup>discredited</sup> veil of justification of the theory of gradualism to achieve social change; even if gradual electoral methods could bring socialism, we will never have the chance to try them out! The left has been thoroughly vindicated in pointing out that it is Wilson and his policies which threaten Labour, not the criticisms of the left. From Labour's point of view, the Red Guards in Peking were right when they strangled and burnt straw effigies of Wilson.

The only hope for Labour now is the emergence of an alternative within the Labour Party which can be seen to be fighting Wilson and his policies. In the great post mortem (or should it be autopsy?) on Labour's defeat this argument needs to be driven home ruthlessly. It is no use talking about winning back the seats next year, or speculating about the swing of the pendulum - the left must galvanise itself for a fight, and a public fight at that. This may be last time we have a chance to learn this lesson. The alternative may well be a period of political reaction in this country, with a decline of the workers organisations, combined with a reactionary Tory Government using Labour initiated legislation against the working class.

LONDON LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE-SARA'S SECRET SELL-OUT. by Terry Brown

Not content with wrecking Party organisation in London over the past three years (by refusing to allow a Greater London Labour Party to be set up) - and thus contributing to the quite unnecessary loss of ILEA as well as the GLC - Sara Barker is up to her old tricks again.

Forced by the recent electoral rout to accept the principle of an all-London party, Sara has set up an ad hoc working party of Transport House nominees to determine the new structure. This fact came to light when Conference delegates demanded to know who had set up this new body and whom it was supposed to represent. It was clear from Bert Fry's reply that Transport House hoped to decide the future structure in private and then have it approved at Annual Conference in October - without any mandate from Party organisations in London.

Fry, who rules the Transport & General delegation with an iron hand and ensures that its vote is cast for the most reactionary candidates and policies, was unable to prevent Conference unanimously adopting the London Coop demand for an immediate conference of inner and outer London affiliates to formulate rank-and-file policy for the new set-up. Though Fry got the bird, and Roy Jenkins' set speech ended in three minutes of pandemonium when Mellish refused to allow delegates right of reply to his partisan remarks - the biggest row, by all accounts, took place in the Executive meeting immediately after Conference when Mellish, backed up by the Secretary and Fry, refused to take steps to call the special conference demanded unanimously by Conference in the LCS resolution. Sara had given orders that on no account was a representative all-London gathering to be allowed to discuss their own future.

Will London Parties take this rebuff lying down or will they invoke Standing Order 1(c) under which any 10 affiliated organisations can require the Executive to circulate all other member bodies on their behalf. Those E.C. members who oppose the complete rejection of a unanimous Conference decision by Mellish and his supporters should make the facts known by circulating a minority report.

London has entered the era of regional government. Its politics should be conducted openly by the representatives of mass organisations - and not by a secret Party caucus of local bosses whose inadequacies have recently been so painfully revealed.

STOKELY CARMICHAEL ON "NEGOTIATIONS VS WITHDRAWAL"

At the Spring Mobilization in New York City, Stokely Carmichael, leading Black Power advocate, speaking about the war in Vietnam said: "If you were being raped the way Vietnam is, would you be in favour of extended negotiations or immediate withdrawal?"

PENALIZED FOR AWARD

Two student editors of the News-Letter at John Hopkins University were suspended until they expressed "regret!" for a satire they did on LBJ. They had nominated him for "man of the year" along with Charles Whitman, the Texas University tower slayer, and Richard Speck, accused of slaying eight Chicago nurses. The News-Letter article said: "Last year's top mass murderer was a Texas plowboy who has come a long way in the American crime business."

## MORE DELEGATES FOR WORKERS' CONTROL CONFERENCE By Tony Topham.

Support for the conference is now coming in as a quickening flow of applications for credentials. Postal registrations for conference now total over 50, and together with the shop steward and labour movement participation indicated from the Midlands area, the conference already tops the 100 mark. This is extremely encouraging - there are still three weeks to go, and we are confident that the attendance this year will surpass the 200 who came to last year's gathering in Nottingham. Latest registrations include the Humberside Voice delegation, of five people, steel workers delegates, more student delegates and a delegation of three from the N.U.M. West Clayton Branch in Yorkshire.

Standard Motors Joint Shop Stewards' Committee are sending up to 30 delegates. Also from the Midlands come applications from three delegates of 5/156 Branch of the T & GWU. Preston Left Club is sending a delegate, as is the Hull University Socialist Society. In the student democracy seminar, we shall also have David Adelstein, the student president at the L.S.E. whose suspension was the cause of the demonstrations and sit-in there, last term, and John Armstrong from Rochdale. Two delegates from the 1/344 branch of the T & GWU in London are joining the car industry seminar, and there are five delegates from 1/343 and one from 1/385 branches of the T&G in London, joining the bus transport group. The Bristol Siddeley aircraft shop stewards are meeting next week to discuss a 20 page pamphlet on workers' control in aircraft, which they intend to publish in time for conference.

### Conference arrangements.

Will people attending the workers' control conference please note that the number of applications for private accommodation over-night, now exceeds the number of private beds which have been offered. In view of this, the Coventry CSE are making arrangements for overnight accommodation to be provided in the Stoke Guildhouse, a corporation hostel which is, whilst not three star hotel standard, a good, clean, hospitable place, with single bedrooms, washbasins in all rooms etc. Bed and breakfast costs 13/6d. We regret this extra expense for delegates, and we hope that your delegating organisation will meet this cost for you. Application for credentials, fees, etc., should continue to be sent to 1, Plantation Drive, Anlaby Park, Hull, together with your request either for the hotel list, or for private accommodation (which will now be the hostel), or with the information that you are making your own arrangements for accommodation. These requests are being forwarded from Hull to the Coventry CSE. The Coventry CSE will inform all who have been placed in the hostel, before the conference, giving the address, etc. The hotel list of local hotels in Coventry will be sent to those who have requested it, very shortly. Please hurry with your application now, as the organisers have a great many preparatory arrangements to make.

## COMMON MARKET HELPS U.S. PENETRATION from Humberside Voice (May issue)

An important argument against British entry into the Common Market is that British workers will increasingly become the victims of the huge big businesses which already dominate the EEC. The real danger is that the big capitalist combines like Shell, Phillips, Siemens, Courtaulds, I.C.I., Krupps, Thyssen, Bayer and Fiat will have their positions strengthened by British entry and will be more able to play off the interests of one group of their employees at a plant in one country against the interests of some of their other employees in another country. This is already happening. In particular, the biggest American corporations have been using this sort of international capitalist tactics inside and outside the Common Market for years. Imperial Typewriters is a case in point. Imperial was taken over by the American group of Litton Industries a few months ago. Litton Industries is based in California. It started out in 1953 with a capital of about £500,000 in the field of power tools. By 1967 Litton had grown to such an extent that it is now about the thirteenth largest firm in the United States. Litton interests are now on a world-wide basis. A list of their subsidiaries include many in France, Switzerland, Italy, West Germany, Belgium, Holland, Austria and Britain.

The Litton companies have names like Hewitt Robbins, a materials handling company which Litton bought up in 1965 for 30 million dollars. As the "Financial Times" recently commented: "Litton tends to be everywhere. It produces a range of office equipment, from typewriters to 25,000 dollar computers...It has moved beyond cash registers to data registers, machines which will be used in the Mont Blanc tunnel to record the payment of tolls, the measurement of the flow of cars, etc." It now looks as though Littons have got a £5 million-plus deal with London Transport for data machines on tube stations. Other companies under Litton ownership include - Royal McBee, Sweda, Monroe Calculating Machines and West-rex. Mr Roy Ash, the American president of Litton made a brief visit to London in April "to talk to bankers," as the "Financial Times" reports. The newspaper also added "When Litton is mentioned it is usually in connection with buying up some other company. This sometimes annoys Ash...The fact remains that Litton has bought over 50 companies, of ever increasing size; the deal being negotiated this week is worth 100 million dollars while that of two weeks ago, the acquisition of American Book - wanted for its educational expertise-was valued at 60 million dollars."

Litton also admit to keeping a list of 50 companies which it would like to absorb; some have been watched for ten years. Official returns show that Litton Industries' profits increased by 28 per cent in the last six months of 1966. One source of this huge increase was in the form of profits made on supplying equipment to the American Government for its murderous Vietnam war. This is the kind of international company which Leicester's and Hull's typewriter workers on Hedon Road are up against. More and more of Western Europe's workers are finding themselves with similar problems. It seems clear that Britain's trade unions must join forces with brothers and sisters in Western Europe and work out a way of uniting against splitting tactics of international capitalists. There is now a real need for a European conference of trade unionists to come to grips with the workers' common fight. This need exists whether Britain joins the Common Market or not.

HAMMERSMITH VIETNAM SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE SET UP by Dave Windsor.

At a recent meeting of the Fulham and Hammersmith Council for Peace in Vietnam it was decided to disband the Council and form a new committee which would give constructive support to the N.L.F. (Vietcong). The new committee will be associated with the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign,

The first major activity of the Hammersmith Vietnam Solidarity Committee will be the organising of the display of the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation photographic exhibition and a public meeting, sponsoring the above activities extensive circularising of local organisations and activists and the street distribution of leaflets is to start immediately.

Among the supporters of the new committee are:

Alan Breeze: Labour Councillor on London Borough of Hammersmith. Treasurer of Hammersmith North Constituency Labour Party, and a member of the Executive Committee of the Labour Party's Hammersmith Local Government Committee.

Ron Burne: Member of the Executive Committee of Barons Court Labour Party. Secretary of Grove Ward Labour Party and former Vice-President of the Barons Court Constituency Labour Party. Member of the Executive Committee of the Labour Party's Hammersmith Local Government Committee.

Geoff Coggan: Member of the North Hammersmith General Management Committee of the Labour Party. Press officer London office of International War Crimes Tribunal.

George Collinson: Secretary Barons Court Labour Party Young Socialists. Financial Secretary to Barons Court Labour Party and a member of the London Regional Committee of the Labour Party Young Socialists.

Mary Hutchinson: Member of the Executive Committee of the Barons Court Labour Party. Secretary of Avonmore Ward Labour Party, former President of Barons Court Constituency Labour Party.

Pat Jordan: Member of the General Management Committee of the North Hammersmith Constituency Labour Party. Organiser for London office of the International War Crimes Tribunal.

Alan Kinchin: Vice-Chairman of the Labour Party's Hammersmith Local Government Committee. Treasurer of the Barons Court Labour Party and Chairman of Grove Ward Labour Party.

Alan Martin: Member of the Executive Committee of the Labour Party's Hammersmith Local Government Committee and of the Executive Committee of North Hammersmith Labour Party. Secretary of Starch Green Ward Labour Party.

Alan Nielson: Secretary of the West London branch of the A.U.B.T.W. and Divisional Council Member of the A.U.B.T.W.

Melvyn Silverman: Labour Councillor on London Borough of Hammersmith. Member of the Executive Committee of the Hammersmith North Constituency Labour Party and secretary of College Park and Old Oak Ward Labour Party.

Charles Van Gelderen: Labour Councillor on London Borough of Hammersmith. Member of the Executive Committee of North Hammersmith Constituency Labour Party.

Enquiries to: A.Nielson, 11 Challinor Ct., Challinor St., W.14. Tel. FUL 1004.

## BERTRAND RUSSELL'S CLOSING STATEMENT TO THE TRIBUNAL

The following is the text of Bertrand Russell's closing statement to the International War Crimes Tribunal. It was read by Ralph Schoer in the absence of Bertrand Russell. The statement is a useful summary of the Tribunal and its work. Copies of this statement can be obtained on request from: International War Crimes Tribunal, 11a Wormwood Street, London, E. C. 2.

The International War Crimes Tribunal has been subject to abuse from people who have much to hide. It has been said that the conclusions of this Tribunal were known in advance. The conclusions of our Tribunal are built out of the evidence. The evidence is abundant. It is precisely because crimes exist that our investigation has been necessary. It is because the knowledge of crime is a cause for enquiry that we are holding this session. When the evidence on aggression and the systematic bombardment of the entire population of Vietnam becomes known to the public, we are in no doubt that all men of integrity who examine this evidence will be compelled to reach the same conclusions. During recent days the United States has been bombing residential quarters of Hanoi and Haiphong with steel pellet bombs. These facts are reported in newspapers throughout the world. These actions are criminal. They must be investigated because of the evidence that they are occurring and because of their criminality. Those who are prepared to investigate these new crimes against the people of Vietnam will be men of sufficient public spirit, moral concern and personal integrity to be prepared to consider the crimes in Vietnam cause to abandon private work, endure public abuse and risk personal harm.

We have heard evidence for many days on the sustained aggression by a great power against a small, heroic people. A large power has occupied an impoverished nation to subdue a popular movement seeking land, independence and social advance. It is not the evil which is new; nor is it the crisis which has changed. We have celebrated in history the struggles waged by oppressed people against large, cruel and powerful invaders. The sense of identity with the small victim of a cruel and large tormentor touches our deepest impulses and is part of our mythology, religion and literature. The concern for the weak struggling after long suffering against the strong for their simplest rights is the source of our ethics and the great moments in our common history. David and Goliath, the Greeks at Salamis, the Vietnamese and Genghis Khan - the partisans of Vietnam and the United States airforce and mechanised army - are part of a continuous tradition. The International War Crimes Tribunal defies the powerful rulers who bully and butcher with abandon. Who would compare the 100,000 tons of napalm with a peasant holding a rifle. Who can fail to distinguish the power which destroys hospitals and schools of an entire people from the defenders who attack the airplanes carrying napalm and steel fragments.

The difference between the victims and the criminals who oppress them is part of the evidence before us compelling honest men to speak loudly and to risk much. The United States is using fascist states to facilitate its plans for new levels of crime. Each day bombers leave Thailand to saturate Vietnam in steel pellets and liquid fire. Has one American city been attacked? Are Canada and Mexico bases for the destruction of America by a power on the other side of the World? If one American city suffered two hours of bombing such as has been inflicted for two years of Vietnam the world press would inform us rather fully. This imbalance is a clear indication of the great injustice we are investigating. The difference in power is matched by the indifference of the powerful and those who serve them or depend on their favour. During the 1930s when millions of people could see the nature of Adolf Hitler and Nazism, there was too little



understanding and insufficient will to act in time. In Germany there were no great strikes or mass demonstrations. The large political parties opposed only in words but did not mobilise their large support. Even now the great political parties fail to act and the nominal opponents of the aggressive violence of the United States satisfy themselves with pious complaint in institutions dominated by the aggressor.

Nazism emerged from a nation unable to stabilise itself and degenerated to unforeseen limits of depravity. The policy of aggression in Washington has brought a comparable degree of scientific extermination and moral degeneracy. The International War Crimes Tribunal must do for the peoples of Vietnam, Asia, Africa and Latin America what no tribunal did while Nazi crimes were committed and plotted. The napalm and pellet bombs, the systematic destruction of a heroic people are barbarous rehearsal. The starving and the suffering will no longer die in silence. We must discredit the arrogant demand that they protect our comfort with their quiet agony. Our social institutions, impregnated with racism, must be reconstructed. The Tribunal must begin a new morality in the West, in which cold mechanical slaughter will be automatically condemned. The Tribunal must inspire a new understanding that the heroic are the oppressed and the hateful are the arrogant rulers who would bleed them for generations or bomb them into the stone age. The Tribunal must warn of the impending horror in many lands, the new atrocities prepared now in Vietnam and of the global struggle between the poor and the powerful rich. These are themes as old as humanity. The long arduous struggle for decency and for liberation is unending. A Tribunal such as ours will be necessary until the last starving man is fed and a way of life is created which ends exploitation of the many by the few. Vietnam struggles so others may survive. The truths we must declare are simple truths. Great violence menaces our cultural achievements. Starvation and disease can not be tolerated. Resistance at risk of life is noble. But we know this. Western Europe and North America are drenched in the blood of struggle for social change. Feudalism, the reduction of men to starving hulks, the purchase of their minds, the eradication of their spirit - these are blights of human culture. These are vicious forms of aggression at once more fundamental and more pervasive than the crossing of frontiers by foot soldiers. Wherever men struggle against suffering we must be their voice. Whenever they are cruelly attacked for their self-sacrifice we must find our voices. It is easy to pay lip-service to these ideals. We will be judged not by our reputations or our pretences but by our will to act. Against this standard we too will be judged by better men.

BERTRAND RUSSELL

10/5/67.

BRITISH AND U.S. IMPERIALISTS DO WELL OUT OF APARTHEID by Pat Jordan

Britain earned \$173m. and the United States \$101m. from their South African investments in 1965. Together they accounted for about 70 per cent of foreign investment in South Africa in that year, according to a United Nations report released in New York on May 11.

The report was prepared by the apartheid unit of the Political and Security Council. In 1965 the total of foreign assets in the country was estimated at \$4.802m. The report went on: "By the yardstick of earnings on foreign investments, the attraction of South Africa to foreign investors is quite understandable." As an example, it cited the United States as having a steady increase in earnings from South Africa - from \$50m. in 1960 to \$101m. in 1965.

## STRONG POSSIBILITY OF AMERICAN INVASION OF NORTH VIETNAM

Week reader, Willie Thompson of Glasgow writes: Dear Comrade, I am sending on to you this copy of "Strategic Commentary" by Terence Heelas, as no doubt you will be particularly interested in the contents of this issue and might want to use some extracts in 'The Week'.

"There is growing evidence that America may be preparing to invade North Vietnam. This evidence is far from conclusive. The Americans are not going to provide us with conclusive evidence about their plans for the future conduct of the Vietnam war. Nevertheless, sufficient evidence exists (albeit of an inferential kind) to make it worth while to alert world opinion to the possibility. Once the world is alerted the danger may recede. Dangerous and controversial decisions are not so likely to be taken once they are anticipated because opinion can be mobilized against them...

1. President Johnson is faced with a time problem. The U.S. electorate is unlikely to tolerate an indefinite stalemate in Vietnam, with high taxes and casualties bringing no appreciable reward. Johnson must be able to offer victory - or reasonable prospects of victory - before he comes up for re-election next year. Otherwise the pressure will grow to 'bring the boys back home'.

2. The means currently employed (even if considerable stepped up) seem unlikely to produce the desired results in the time available. North Vietnam is probably able to sustain much heavier bombing - even on its major cities - without cutting supplies to the Vietcong. The bombing has not produced the results that were hoped for, and seems unlikely to do so unless it is increased to annihilation level. Breaching the Red River dams remains a possibility, but has been strongly condemned in advance of the act and is now hardly an available option.

3. The only way to subdue the Vietcong is to cut them off from their sources of supply. The only sure way to do this is to put U.S. troops athwart the supply-routes. The only places where this is feasible - short of sealing-off 500 miles of frontier between South Vietnam and its neighbours - are in North Vietnam. Invasion of the North would have the additional merit of tying-up Hanoi's available forces in self defence that the Vietcong would automatically be starved of men.

4. In the last resort, the only way of defeating a determined enemy short of extermination bombing, is to meet and defeat his main forces in the field. The only way to achieve this in Vietnam is to seek and destroy the enemy in the North. Failing this, there is no reason to suppose that the Vietcong could not be kept supplied indefinitely - or at least until support for Johnson's war policy was finally eroded.

5. The recall of General Westmoreland and his unprecedented speech to Congress suggests that something unusual is in the wind. It is reasonable to suppose that a new emphasis on national unity must presage some new departure in the conduct of an already-accepted war.

6. The inspired talk in Washington about an imminent invasion from the North across the 17th Parallel suggests a cover for moves in the other direction. An invasion from the North would make no kind of military sense

whatever: Hamoi's strongest card lies in not subjecting its few regular divisions to the withering fire-power of American troops, dug into defensive positions and with complete control of the air. Hamoi would be insane to risk such an invasion. But an invasion northwards would make sense (as established in points 3 & 4), provided President Johnson was prepared to risk a major extension of the war. The proof of the pudding would lie in whose troops were where within a week of the flare-up. I am ready to bet there would be more U.S. troops north of the Parallel than North Vietnamese troops to the south...probably as the result of an Inchon-type landing many miles up the coast, requiring months of planning.

The U.S. juggernaut has a brake as well as an accelerator: whether it is used or not depends very largely on the state of world opinion - and world opinion needs the clearest possible understanding of what the military possibilities are. An invasion of North Vietnam certainly cannot be ruled out." May 5, 1967

£165,400,000 A WEEK ON VIETNAM WAR from a U. S. correspondent

The certainty of rising expenditure on the Vietnam war and the lack of certainty about the economic outlook at home have caused the U.S. Administration to increase the official estimate of next year's Budget deficit from \$8,000 m. to \$14,000m. This was formally admitted on May 15 by Mr. Henry Fowler, Secretary of the Treasury, and Mr. Charles Schulze, director of the Budget Bureau, in evidence before the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee on behalf of a more liberal statutory limit on the national debt.

The \$3,000m. increase is accounted for by an estimated increase of \$1,500m. in Vietnam costs (bringing them to \$23,900m\* in the 1967-68 fiscal year) an estimated decrease in corporation tax revenues of \$500m., and a full year's effect of restoring the investment tax credit. The estimate is based on two propositions, one dubious and one probable. It is assumed there will be no escalation of the Vietnam war from its present level. Mr. Fowler's comment here was: "I must say frankly that a margin of underestimate or overestimate - but more likely the first - is always a possibility". And Mr. Schulze was careful to state that "if military requirements dictate a significant increase in troop strength or the level of combat operations assumed in the Budget, additional appropriations will clearly be required."

These figures are considerably lower than those produced by the economists of the American Business Council at its semi-annual meeting in Hot Springs, Virginia, last week. There it had been assumed that defence expenditure would rise by \$5,000m., even without escalation in Vietnam while the most conservative estimate of the overall deficit was said to be \$15,000m.

The gloomy conclusion drawn from this at the meeting seems to have been that the present sluggishness of the economy, particularly in consumer spending, was likely to continue as a result of the uncertainties created by the war, but that by the autumn it would be combined with a renewed threat of serious inflation caused by big increases in defence expenditure and by the summer's wage demands.

\*£165,400,000 a week.

## FIDEL CASTRO ON THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN REVOLUTIONARY CUBA

One of the principal gains of the Cuban Revolution is the changes it has achieved in the status of women in that country. The systematic efforts to integrate women into Cuba's productive process, and the beneficial effect this has had in emancipating them from their previous status, was discussed by Fidel Castro. We give extracts from a speech made to the Fifth National Plenary session of the Federation of Cuban Women meeting in Santa Clara on December 9, 1966.

Arriving here this evening, I commented to a comrade that this phenomenon of women's participation in the Revolution was a revolution within a Revolution. And if we were asked what the most revolutionary thing is that the Revolution is doing, we would answer that it is precisely this - the revolution that is occurring among the women of our country! If we were asked what things in the Revolution have been most instructive for us, we would answer that one of the most interesting lessons for revolutionaries is that being offered by our women.

But why is this one of the most interesting lessons? You yourselves may ask why. In reality, the most honest answer that we could give - and I assure you that the person who offers this answer is precisely one who has always believed himself free from prejudice - the answer is, I believe, that in reality all of us were prejudiced in regard to women. And if anyone had ever asked me if I considered myself prejudiced in regard to women, I would have said absolutely not, because I believed myself to be quite the opposite. I believed that an enormous potential force and extraordinary human resources for the Revolution existed in our women. We are finding that in reality, this potential force is superior to any thing that the most optimistic of us ever dreamed of. We say that perhaps at heart unconsciously something of bias or underestimation existed...

This Revolution has really been two revolutions for women; it has meant a double liberation as part of the exploited sector of the country, and, second, as women, who were discriminated not only as workers but also as women, in that society of exploitation. And the support of the popular masses for the Revolution is directly proportionate to what the revolution has meant to them in terms of their liberation...

Discrimination will never be wiped out within the framework of capitalist society. Discrimination with respect to race and sex can only be wiped out through a socialist revolution, which eradicates the exploitation of man by man. Now, does the disappearance of the exploitation of man by man mean that all the conditions are immediately created whereby woman may elevate her position in society? No. The conditions for the liberation of women, for the full development of women in society, for an authentic equality of rights, or for authentic equality of women with men in society require a material base; they require the material foundations of economic and social development. In other words, in order to reach the social goal of liberating woman from all these activities that enslave her and impede her from full incorporation into work outside the home and all these activities she can engage in society, it is necessary to create the necessary material base, to attain the necessary social development... Many of the plans that the Revolution is today drawing up and beginning to carry out could not have been conceived until the great reservoir of human resources that our society possesses in its women was clearly seen for what it was.

## SWAN HUNTERS' STRIKE OVER from an industrial correspondent

Following shortly after the ending of the shipbuilding employers' lockout, an agreement has been reached ending the Swan Hunters' 14-week strike of draughtsmen. After day-long negotiations, the 168 men decided to accept Swan's offer of a pay increase and to march back to work on May 16 behind their strike banner.

Mr. George Daughy, general secretary of the men's union, said that the terms agreed were an increase of 17s to 29s weekly for men aged 21 to 30, according to age, and an increase, proportionately larger, for senior draughtsmen and section leaders. Female tracers would get 10s a week more at 19 years, to 22s at 30 years. The new agreement meant that ordinary draughtsmen would have a minimum of £15.17s. a week at 21 years of age, rising by annual increments to £23.19s. at 30 years. The employers originally offered increases ranging from 15s for men at 21 years, to 22s 6d for men over 30.

Nearly 1,800 locked-out draughtsmen resumed work on May 16 after the lifting of the suspension imposed on March 8 by the shipbuilders and repairers national federation. Throughout the ten weeks of the lockout, the Draughtsmen's and Allied Technicians' Association paid the suspended men a high proportion of the salaries they were losing. It is estimated that the dispute cost the union about £100,000.

## A.S.S.E.T. WINS COURT CASE AGAINST B.E.A. by a London reader

The Association of Supervisory Staffs, Executives and Technicians continues its legal struggle against the Government wage freeze. The latest court battle was won on Monday, May 15, when British European Airways admitted its liability to pay an increase to employees in the Channel Islands due last October under a productivity agreement. This represents a powerful blow against the effects of the Government wage-freeze, which explicitly excludes several thousand workers whose work is wholly or mainly abroad.

Mr. Clive Jenkins, general secretary of the Association of Supervisory Staffs, Executives and Technicians, yesterday said: "This means that the six-month freeze of the increases due last October 18, and which were paid only with effect from April 18, have been thawed and our members will get their rise, which we said had been unlawfully withheld.

"It had always been our contention that the ramshackle and unfair Prices and Incomes Act did not apply to the Channel Islands and this has now been finally established.

"Some hundreds of our members will benefit to the extent of six months back pay ranging upwards from 18s 6d weekly and the Government has no power to issue an order to prevent it."

On previous occasions when it has been defeated in the courts, the Government has "altered the rules" by bringing in new legislation. Such action by A.S.S.E.T. is useful as it can clarify the issues and force the Government to formalise its anti working class stance. However, this form of action needs to be followed by militant action.

MALAYSIA ACCUSES UNITED STATES OF ECONOMIC AGGRESSION by an economics correspondent

No one would accuse the present Government of Malaysia of being left wing. However, even this Government has been moved to denounce the American administration because of its neo-colonialist policies. Speaking on May 11, the Malaysian Minister of Commerce, Dr. Lim Swee Aun, virtually accused the U.S. of economic aggression.

He was commenting on a statement by a U.S. Government official that Malaysia should control her rubber production to improve the weak price of rubber, and denying the charge by the Finance Minister Mr. Tan Siew Sin, that the U.S. rubber stockpile releases were the primary cause of the depression in the rubber market.

Dr. Lim said: "To say there is over production of natural rubber in Malaysia is complete nonsense. If anything, there is excess in production of synthetic rubber by the very rich and highly developed countries. For the United States to suggest that Malaysia should restrict production is tantamount to saying that we should not have economic growth."

The U.S., being the biggest producer of synthetic rubber, should take the lead to stop expanding the capacity of synthetic plants not only in America but also in other countries where she has set up factories. The U.S. Government should also restrict the production of synthetic rubber instead of asking Malaysia to cut down her production.

The chairman of the Rubber Producers' Council, Mr. G. H. Lang, disagreed there was over-production of natural rubber. Past performances had shown that every pound of Malaysian rubber produced had been sold.

JAPAN MAY FACE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS CRISIS from a special correspondent

Despite Japan's booming economy (mostly stimulated in the last few years by the Vietnam war) the Government of that country is beginning to worry about balance of payment trends. A report in Financial Times of May 16 noted:

"The Japanese Government is beginning to take seriously the unfavourable trend which has developed in the nation's international balance of trade. The opinion is that exports are not expanding mainly because of a downtrend in some important overseas markets is combined with too booming a domestic market. Japan's comprehensive international accounts showed a deficit of \$68m. in March. In April the deficit is estimated to have reached about \$70m. The same two months of 1966 showed profits of \$5m. and \$4m. respectively, leading the Finance Ministry to fear that the trend in Japan's international accounts has basically changed.

Current transactions, centred around the trade accounts, resulted in profits each month since June of 1966 of more than \$100m. This March, however, a deficit of approximately \$14m. was noted. April's deficit is estimated at about \$10m. The Finance Ministry and the Ministry of International Trade and Industry have warned the Cabinet several times in recent months that exports must expand to match the growth in imports if trouble is to be avoided in the near future." COMMENT This kind of report shows the futility of Wilson's attempts to solve Britain's economic problems by capitalist methods. Japan's efforts to solve this problem are bound to cut across British efforts, and vice versa.