

What we think

Lying eulogy of Voroshilov

The British Communist Party's response to the death of Voroshilov was in the real Stalin tradition.

Beneath a picture of the old Stalinist butcher and bungler (peering out from behind a stockade of medals and gold braid), yesterday's mourning 'Star' headlined the following lie: 'Voroshilov, top Communist and Soldier, dead! 1917 on only the first and last words are correct. Sam Russell's Stalinist tribute gives an accurate guide to the way the wind is blowing in King Street, headquarters of the British Communist Party: 'One of the most famous leaders of the Red Army from the early years after the Russian Revolution in 1917 to World War II, Marshal Voroshilov died in Moscow yesterday at the age of 88. . . . In London (in 1907) he first met Stalin, with whom he worked very closely until Stalin's death. But what was this work that Voroshilov carried out 'very closely' with Stalin? Everybody knows, most of all Russell, that Voroshilov helped Stalin to murder three of the Red Army's five Marshals, and with them around 80 per cent of top military command in the Soviet Armed forces. Yesterday we reproduced a section of a speech at the 22nd Congress of the CPSU which gave details of the murder of Yakir, in which not only Stalin, but Voroshilov, was complicit. Russell, as Foreign Editor of the 'Star', also knows that it was Voroshilov who headed the court martial which 'tried' and executed Yakir, Tukhachevsky and the other Red Army leaders shot in June 1937 on trumped-up charges of conspiring with Hitler to restore capitalism in the Soviet Union. He also knows that it was Voroshilov who signed the death warrants of the murdered Red Army men. Russell was Foreign Editor of the 'Daily Worker' (the forerunner of the present Stalinist daily the 'Morning Star') at the time of the 22nd Congress of the CPSU in 1961. At this Congress, Khrushchev made the following comment on the Red Army purges: 'Such prominent army leaders as Tukhachevsky, Yakir, Uborevich, Kork, Yegorov, Eideman and others were victims of the repressions. They were military men who had had great services to their credit. . . . ('Documents of the 22nd Congress of the CPSU', p. 346.) Despite their 'great services', Russell's hero had them all shot for treason. Perhaps Russell has also conveniently forgotten another section of the same Khrushchev speech, where he refers to the activities of the 'anti-Party group' during the purges: 'Comrade delegates, I wish to inform the Congress of the reaction of the anti-Party group to the proposal to discuss at the 20th Congress the question of the abuses of power in the period of the personality cult. . . . Molotov, Kaganovich, Malenkov, Voroshilov and others raised categorical objections. . . . they did their utmost to hamper an investigation of the abuses of power, fearing that their role as accomplices in mass repressions would be revealed.' (Ibid, pp. 342-343. Emphasis added.) In the same speech, Khrushchev includes Voroshilov in the conspiracy that surrounded the death of Kirov in December 1934, the assassination that provided the pretext for the subsequent purges and the three 'Moscow Trials': 'There is another very strange fact. When the chief of Kirov's bodyguard was being taken for interrogation said, by those who should have taken the guard chief for interrogation. . . . They then reported that the

Second firm threatens to pull out

ANOTHER TILBURY CONTAINER BLUFF?

A SECOND cargo-handling consortium yesterday threatened to pull out of Tilbury docks in London.

This was announced as London's other port employers got down to considering new union proposals for ending the ban there on working new unit-load and containership berths.

Like OCL-ACT, Seaboard Pioneer Terminals—a partnership of Seaboard Shipping Services and the Reed paper group—has invested £2.5 million at Tilbury, but has been unable to use its berth since February because of the Transport and General Workers' No. 1 docks group's ban.

'The ban', said a spokesman yesterday, 'has forced us to start thinking about alternative arrangements.'

Since February, Seaboard has been using a nearby Tilbury berth and other ports to bring in its bulk pulp, paper, timber and plywood supplies.

Its highly-mechanized Tilbury berth was specially designed to carry out this work with the minimum amount of labour.

Many dockers will regard Seaboard's statement, like that of OCL-ACT, as an obvious bluff.

Anxious

However T&GWU negotiators do not think the same way. They are more and more anxious to get the ban lifted. During Wednesday's meeting of the enclosed docks modernization committee, officials apparently spent their time advising the employers how to make terms for the second phase of Lord Devlin's key docks 'modernization' look more acceptable.

Since it is thought that much of the opposition to Phase Two comes from London's higher-paid dockers, they are believed to have asked the employers to consider increasing the bonus element of the offer so as to give the appearance that some differentials were being maintained.

It is this which the employers are now thinking over. These proposals must be rejected by dockers with the same contempt they reserve for the threats of the employers.

A campaign to build up support around the policies advocated by the Workers Press and the All Trades Unions Alliance is now an urgent question.

- Unity of all ports against the Devlin scheme!
- For an immediate and substantial increase in pay without 'strings'!
- No redundancies!
- No collaboration without full nationalization of the docks under the control of those who work in them. No compensation to the old owners!

STOP WILSON'S WASHINGTON VISIT!

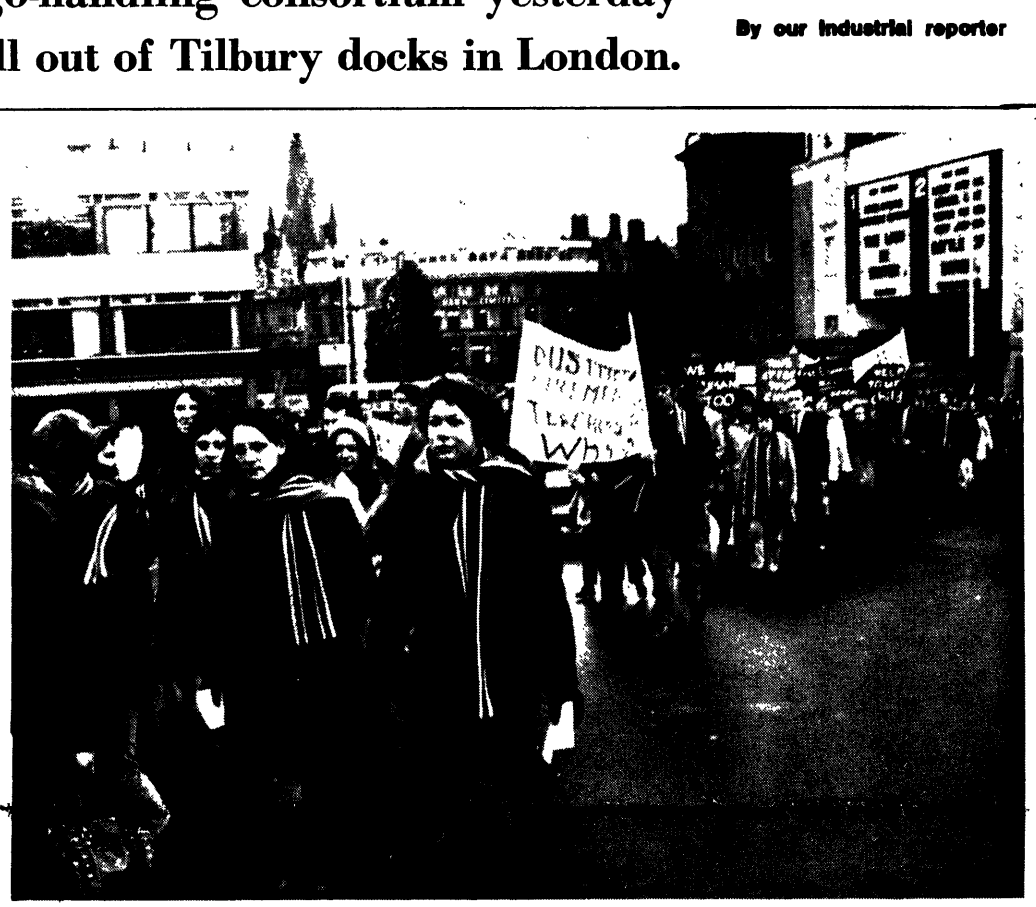
FOR THE DEFEAT OF US IMPERIALISM IN VIETNAM!

DEMONSTRATION SUNDAY JAN. 11

ASSEMBLE: Speakers' Corner (Marble Arch), 2 P.M.

MARCH: via Oxford Street, Regent Street, Trafalgar Square past Downing Street.

MEETING: Lyceum Ballroom, near Aldwych, 4 P.M.



Students out in Sheffield in support of the teachers—see page four story.

Teachers blast back at Powell

ANOTHER union officially joined the teachers' strikes yesterday as teachers replied angrily to Enoch Powell's widely-publicized attack on their action. The executive committee of the Association of Teachers in Technical Institutions has given branches the go-ahead to join in local half-day and one-day strikes in support of the campaign for a £135-a-year increase in pay. A national ballot showed more than 150 branches in favour of this action. More than 5,000 members

of the union, from assistant lecturers right up to college principals, have already been involved in action of one kind or another. Leaders of all three unions have attacked Powell's claim, made at a Tory banquet on Wednesday night, that by striking the teachers had deliberately undertaken to set an example of lawlessness, ill-faith and indifference to duty.

Tube men stay out

LONDON trade unionists have been invited to a rally at Westminster's Central Halls on Monday in support of the ten-week-old strike of maintenance engineers from the Acton railway workshops. The strikers yesterday voted overwhelmingly to continue their action until the London Transport Board agrees to reinstate an 11-year-old agreement about the recruitment of craftsmen.

Bring Gaullist thugs to justice

—say French workers

AT A packed Paris meeting on Wednesday night, Gérard Bloch of the Trotskyist Organization for the Reconstruction of the Fourth International told 5,000 workers and students 'the fight for justice, the fight for liberty, is inseparable from the fight for socialism'.

The meeting in the Mutualité was part of a campaign initiated by the French Trotskyists to demand the trial of the Gaullist thugs who brutally attacked Jean-Pierre Speller and two other young trade unionists on the night of April 26, 1969, the eve of the referendum which defeated de Gaulle. Witnesses have stated that two of the 20 attackers were sons of a Gaullist Cabinet Minister. Comrade Speller, a 23-year-old printer, was beaten with iron pipes, and attacked by a police dog.

Nothing done In an open letter to the Minister of Justice he said that as 'the son of a militant worker who has fought for 30 years for respect for liberties and justice, for the liberation of the working class, I hate fascism!'

The only answer Comrade Miller received to his letter was that the case was being investigated. Seven months have gone by and nothing has been done. Comrade Speller spent a month in hospital after the attack and lost the sight of his left eye. He has been unable to return to his printing job because of his physical and psychological injuries. He told the Workers Press that the bourgeoisie resorts to fascist methods of this kind in dealing with workers when the traditional Stalinist and reformist bureaucracies can no longer control the working class. 'The only answer to these methods', he said, 'is a mass answer like that which defeated de Gaulle in the referendum.'

Stop Wilson's visit to Nixon campaign

Off to a good start

THE CAMPAIGN to stop Wilson's visit to Washington has got off to a very encouraging start—in fact it has proved to be one of the most popular campaigns we have launched.

Dozens of resolutions have been passed by many union branches and thousands of signatures have been collected on petition forms already.

Wilson and Brown are hoping that people will soon forget about the atrocities and that the anger at the war will be dissipated by the phoney investigations and the 'soul-searching' going on within capitalist-class circles in the US.

They are helped as usual by the silence and inactivity of the Stalinists and revisionists who, together with the 'lefts' in parliament, give aid and comfort to Nixon and his war by their refusal to fight Wilson.

Big Lucas-C.A.V. petition signed

SIXTY-FIVE workers at the Liverpool CAV factory, including 17 shop stewards, three senior stewards and three members of the AEF district committee, have signed the following petition: 'WE, the undersigned trade unionists, employed in Lucas-CAV factories in Fazakerley, Liverpool, express our anger and disgust in condemnation of the atrocities committed by American troops in Vietnam. We demand the withdrawal of all US troops now. We demand that the Labour gov-

ernment break with American policy in Vietnam and that the visit of Wilson to Washington be cancelled. We call on the Labour MP for this constituency—Eric Heffer—to demand in the Parliamentary Labour Party the removal of Wilson and Brown and all leaders who support the American government in their brutal and vicious war against the Vietnamese people. A copy of the following resolution passed by Bexley Trades Council is being sent to Harold Wilson: 'THE Bexley Trades Council condemns US imperialism's brutal war against the Vietnamese people. We demand that the Prime Minister Harold Wilson cancel his intended visit to Washington in January, which we feel would be an act of association with the alleged atrocities.'

Thirteen workers on the day shift at Steyne Power Station have signed a petition urging the leaderships of the trade unions and the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party to demand that Wilson's visit to Washington should not take place and calling on the Labour cabinet to cancel Wilson's visit immediately.

Because this is the most important aspect of the war. We refer to the opposition and dissent among US forces in Vietnam which is growing daily. Let us quote one example. According to 'Newsweek' (December 8, 1969) 100 officers and GIs at the 71st Evacuation Hospital at Pleiku refused the traditional turkey dinner on Thanksgiving Day and instead went on a silent fast. Their real feelings were expressed by Capt. Donald Van Nieuwen, a doctor: '... after days and days of seeing men with arms and

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N.L.F. denounces Nixon

DINH BA THI, acting leader of the National Liberation Front delegation at the Paris Vietnam talks charged yesterday that Nixon was stepping up the 'burn all, kill all, destroy all policy' started by the Johnson administration in South Vietnam. He said: 'The Son My mass slaughter is neither an isolated event nor a case of alleged violation of US rules of war by some US servicemen. It is but one among thousands of barbarous crimes.'

WEATHER

Outlook for Saturday and Sunday: Continuing rather cold with wintry showers in eastern districts. TODAY: London area, SE, and central southern England, E Midlands: Dry with frost at first. Becoming cloudy with rain spreading from the NW perhaps falling as snow over high ground at first. Clearer weather will spread to all areas by midnight. Wind NW, moderate. Maximum 8C (46F). Channel Islands: Dry and bright at first, a little rain later. Moderate NW wind. Maximum 10C (50F).

W. Midlands, SW, NW and central Northern England: Cloudy with some rain and drizzle, clearing from the north during the afternoon, followed by clear periods and scattered showers. Moderate or fresh NW winds. Maximum 8C (46F). Edinburgh and Glasgow area, N. Ireland: Cloudy with rain at first and snow over hills, clearing from the north, followed by bright periods and occasional showers, falling as snow over high ground. Moderate or fresh NW winds. Maximum 7C (45F).

Stewards retreat, but . . .

Stokes keeps up the attack

BY DAVID MAUDE

DISGUST and confusion was expressed by many British-Leyland workers yesterday at the outcome of Wednesday's Birmingham one-day conference of senior shop stewards. There was disgust at their failure to carry two important resolutions.

As reported in yesterday's Workers Press, proposals for a permanent strike fund were rejected and a resolution condemning the lack of official support for Merseyside's Standard-Triumph strikers was withdrawn from the agenda.

Confusion was created by the reports of the meeting given out on television and in most of the press. Wednesday's meeting took place in an atmosphere of considerable tension.

Militants bitterly criticized the retreats of Stalinist and right-wing Labour stewards in the face of attacks from the employers. And these attacks continued even as the meeting took place.

Speaking to the Institute of Production Engineers on Wednesday night British-Leyland chairman Lord Stokes directed heavy fire against the lack of government action on trade union reform, unofficial strikes and restrictive practices.

'Are we going to run the industrial activities of the country like a business or like a circus-cum-charity—and, if the latter, who is going to pay?' he asked.

Operating the old maxim that charity—or rather, business—begins at home, British-Leyland tried to make certain that it would be their workers who would pay by making new proposals for a job-valuation scheme at BMC Service, Oxford.

Wider pattern Although this was immediately rejected by the stewards, it forms only part of a much wider pattern. We have already reported attempts to introduce job-valuation at Birmingham's Longbridge Austin plant and Oxford's Morris Motors.

What is the reply of the Communist Party and their friends of the Labour right-wing to this challenge? The recent announcement that Amalgamated Engineers and Foundryworkers president Hugh Scanlon is to chair Mrs Barbara Castle's brainchild—national union-employer council to prevent motor industry strikes—jointly with Leyland's Lord Stokes did not prevent

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Briefly

VIETNAM TRUCES: President Thieu announced yesterday that South Vietnam would observe two 24-hour truces for humanitarian purposes—one at Christmas and the other at the New Year. The truces will also be observed by the US forces in Vietnam.

BLACK PANTHER ARRESTED: David Hilliard, the Black Panther leader, was arrested yesterday on charges of threatening the life of President Nixon.

Secret service agents made the arrest after a Federal Grand Jury met in secret session and indicted him.

The charges against Hilliard stem from a speech he made three weeks ago to more than 100,000 anti-Vietnam-war demonstrators in California.

A conviction could mean up to five years in prison and a \$400 fine.

US VIETNAM CASUALTIES: Since January 1, 1961, there have been 300,829 US casualties—39,642 killed, 259,828 wounded and 1,359 reported missing or captured in Vietnam, the US military command announced yesterday.

70 US soldiers were killed last week, the lowest figure for two months and 60 fewer than the previous week.

ITALIAN STRIKES: Traffic in Rome was brought to a halt yesterday by a demonstration of 2,000 bank workers through the city to mark the start of their 48-hour strike for a new contract.

In Milan thousands of metal workers marched to the city centre. Yesterday was also the last day of the 24-hour strike by half a million public employees.

NATO CONFERENCE: Foreign and Defence ministers from the 15 NATO countries are today attending the second day of their two-day meeting in Brussels which is discussing the Kremlin proposal for a European 'security organization'.

The Kremlin-suggested security conference in Helsinki during the first half of next year will mark a further stage in the ever more open co-operation of the Soviet bureaucracy with imperialism against the resurgence of the working class both in eastern and western Europe.

BOEING 707 CRASH: All 62 people on board an Air France Boeing 707 were killed yesterday morning when their aircraft exploded just after take-off from Caracas, Venezuela.

The wreckage fell into the sea five miles off the Venezuelan coast, but rescue teams found no survivors amongst the floating debris.

The airliner had made a stop-over in Caracas during a flight from Santiago in Chile to Paris.

GREET WORKERS PRESS



at public meetings See the film of the first issue being prepared and printed and the film 'Young Socialists, 1969'

CANTERBURY

Sunday, December 8, 8 p.m. The Cornwallis Building University of Canterbury

LIVERPOOL

Sunday, December 14, 7.30 p.m. Shaftesbury Hotel, Mount Pleasant

Speakers at Liverpool and Canterbury will be: MIKE BANDA (Editor of Workers Press) SHEILA TORRANCE (National Secretary of the Young Socialists)

