

Progressive Worker

DECEMBER 1968 VOL.5 NO.2 TEN CENTS.

**B.C. AND ONT. LABOUR CONVENTIONS ☐
REPORT ON VIETNAM ☐ TOWARDS A M-L
PARTY ☐ IRISH DEMONSTRATIONS ☐ CHINA
AND CANADA ☐ SELLING THE KOOTENAYS
ISRAELIS RENEW AGGRESSION ☐ AND MORE**



Progressive Worker

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READERS PLEASE NOTE!

We apologize to our readers for the delay in publication of the 'December' issue. The next issue will be a combined January-February issue to bring us up to date.

Due to developments in the Irish situation since our cover went to press, the article on Ireland advertised for this issue will appear in an expanded form in the next issue.

* * * *

Progressive Worker is happy to welcome a new addition to the family of workers' journals now being published in many countries. The first issue of People's Voice, official organ of Saor Eire, has just been published in Ireland. The place of publication is: number 9 St. Nicholas Church Place, Cork, Ireland. Best wishes to People's Voice and Saor Eire.

* * * *

We have received many favourable comments on our change in format, although some people have complained that the type was difficult to read in the last issue. This problem has now been solved. We welcome any comments and suggestions from our readers.

* * * *

Finally, we would like to call attention to the item on page 8, which is an appeal for support to Canadians for the Toronto demonstrators unjustly arrested in last October's protest. This incident is part of an ugly pattern of repression all across Canada that is growing and becoming more blatant all the time.

THE S.F.U. OCCUPATION

The incident at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia has dramatized the crisis in education more clearly than any other event in the recent past. It should be emphasized that it was not the action of a part of the student body but the initial inaction and then subsequent reaction of the administration that is responsible for the present situation. The calling of the RCMP and the laying of criminal charges which could bring sentences of up to 15 years in prison was not the last resort self-defence of a harassed and threatened administration: it was the ultimate refusal of that administration (and of the educational and political authorities it represents) to deal with the issues in a fair and rational manner.

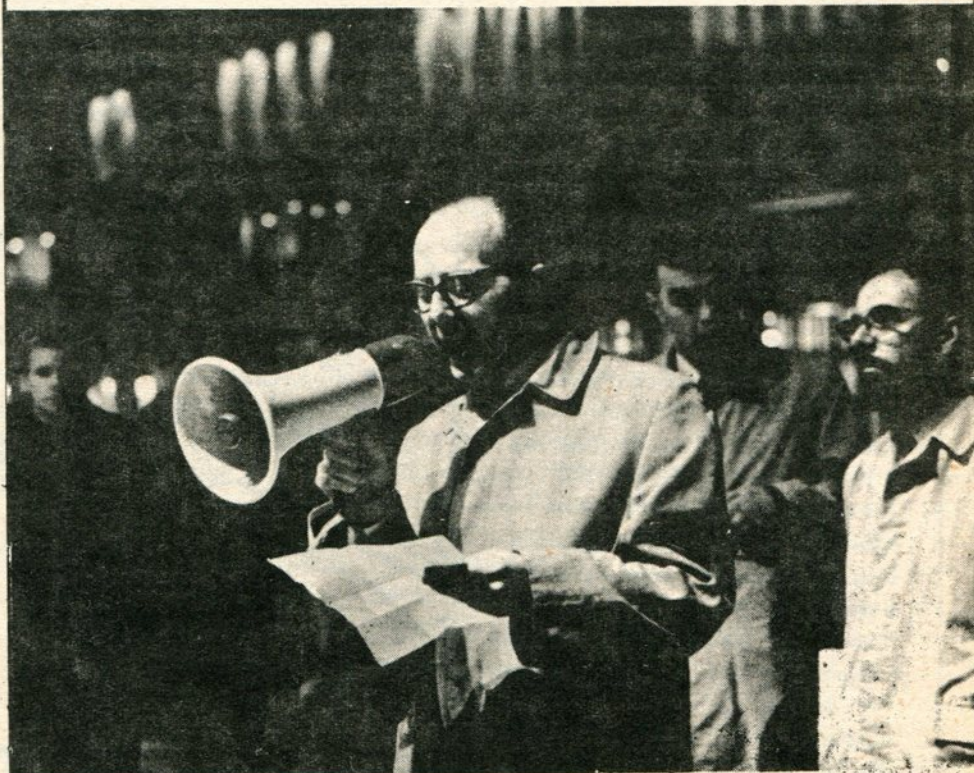
The weight of all the propaganda media is — as is to be expected — directed against the student activists and away from the real culprits, those authorities who instituted and maintained the authoritarian and irrational admissions policies which made militant student action necessary.

We are presently being flooded with propaganda to the effect that the student action was unlawful and a challenge to "law and order." But the workers of this country will know from their own experience that ANY action taken in defence of the rights and interests of the people is unlawful in the eyes of the ruling class, those that control the educational system and the media. Workers have learned from experience, as others have learned from the study of history, that no meaningful change has ever been achieved in society by those who are content to play the game within the "law and order" rules devised by the very people who

profit from and control that society. The rulers are ever ready to engage in "dialogue" just so long as no fundamental challenge to their system develops. The real meaning of "sensible and intelligent dialogue" and "the rule of reason" as opposed to direct action methods are a do-nothing talkathon that costs the rulers nothing at all. The real question to be asked concerning the Simon Fraser crisis is therefore not who broke the law? but what causes and events led up to the occupation of the administration building by the activist students and the subsequent mass arrests by the RCMP.

Ever since its inception, Simon Fraser University has lacked a clearly stated set of criteria governing its admissions policy. Students were admitted or rejected, granted or denied credit, given or refused academic status

completely at the discretion of bureaucratic administrators who were not required to explain the reasons for their often unjust decisions. Frequently students were denied credits for perfectly legitimate courses they had taken at other institutions. One student, for example, finished two years and two courses at UBC, but when he wished to transfer to SFU, was granted credit for less than one year of courses. There were numerous such cases over the years, many of them involving students from Vancouver City College and other regional colleges. In fact, what was happening was that students were enrolling in courses at the regional colleges with the full expectation that their credits would be accepted at SFU only to find at the end of two years that most of their courses were judged to be unacceptable by the SFU bureaucrats. And to make matters worse, SFU even neglected to spell out exactly which courses they would or would not



Simon Fraser President Strand Reads the Ultimatum to the Students Occupying the Administration Building.

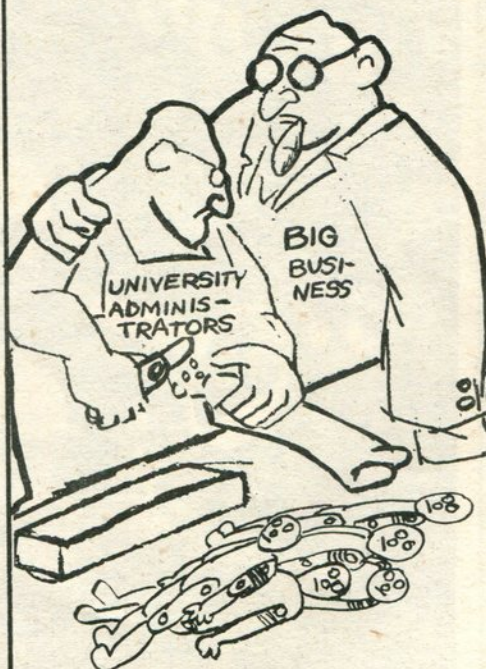
accept from the regional colleges. This very seriously discriminated against the less well-to-do students who went to the regional colleges in the first place because they are not as expensive as the universities, but found at the end of two years that much of their effort and their expenditure of money had been a complete waste from the point of view of being able to continue their studies. Thus the system hurt working class students the most, because they would be the ones who attended the regional colleges in order to avoid paying higher university fees and the over \$1,000 in room and board it costs to live in Vancouver.

There was also evidence, later corroborated by what the occupying students found in the registrar's files, that the administration was using non-academic political criteria in its decisions regarding the admitting of students and the hiring of faculty.

During the occupation President Strand several times admitted that the grievances of the students were indeed justified and that if the students had only refrained from taking such militant action their cause would have been much better advanced. "I am all in favour of a peaceful sit-in," said Strand on the second morning of the occupation, "I am only against disruptive occupations." The only trouble was that there already had been a peaceful sit-in, with absolutely no results. There had also been student rallies, meetings, discussions, complaints -- in fact everything but militant action. The administration chose not to respond to any of the so-called "moderate" tactics. Finally the students posed the following four demands to the administration and to the university's academic senate, which is the body that supposedly sets academic

entrance criteria:

- * Freedom of transfer within the B.C. educational system and automatic acceptance of program and course credits from all B.C. colleges with academic programs and from high schools with a Grade 13 program.
- * The opening of all administration files to a student investigating committee to determine the extent of alleged discrimination and to ensure the redress of all individual grievances.
- * The establishment of an elected student-faculty admissions review board which would hear all appeals, set new academic-only entrance criteria, and make all final admissions decisions.
- * An end to the school construction "freeze", the repeal of Bill 86, and an end to the unequal financing of education which favors upper and middle class sectors of the population.



DON'T THINK I'M TRYING TO INFLUENCE YOUR PRODUCT-- BUT I DO OWN THE KNIFE.

The last demand was important, for it dealt with the argument used by the administration that courses from the regional colleges were not accepted because they were of a lower level than courses at SFU. If this is the case, then surely the solution was more aid to the regional colleges in order to raise their academic standards. Thus the last demand focused attention on the discriminatory education policies of the B.C. government.

Their demands refused, the most militant of the students occupied the administration building. Next day an official meeting of the Simon Fraser Student Society endorsed the four demands and the tactic of the occupation, and even as support for the occupation itself fluctuated from day to day, the four demands were overwhelmingly supported by most of the student body.

What followed, of course, is fairly well known. Two and a half days after the occupation began, President Strand, reportedly under serious pressure from the Board of Governors, called in the RCMP to arrest the occupying students. What is not so generally known, however -- thanks of course to the bourgeois press -- is that all throughout the occupation the students were ready to begin negotiations based on the four demands. It was the administration, then, that refused to submit the issues to rational discussion. The only discussions they were prepared to engage in was on their terms, i.e., that they are and should be in a position of unchallenged power.

What are the lessons of the whole crisis? The failure of so-called "reasonable" tactics to resolve the issue was of course what precipitated the occupation. The bourgeois mono-

poly press again played the role it is accustomed to, that is, the conscious and deliberate distortion of the actions and statements of the radicals. This became so bad that even the general student body refused to allow the establishment media to attend their meetings. The calling in of the RCMP demonstrated once more the real nature of the educational system: power at the top which does not hesitate to use the police force of the state in order to maintain its position.

But if there were students who were surprised about the use of police power, it is only that they held too naive a view to begin with. The real rulers of this country will no more tolerate

their control to be challenged in the university than they will allow it in the factory. What happened to the students was exactly what workers have to face when they seize a factory in order to put force into their demand for higher wages or better working conditions. And if the students made mistakes, it was precisely due to their failure to apply the lessons gained from the long history of the labour movement in this country. For no labour action would have been so loosely led and so without overall strategy as was the occupation. Spontaneity, as the students found, was not an adequate substitute for well-planned and closely-coordinated leadership. And furthermore, no labour ac-

tion would have been accompanied by so little advance preparation and mass education as was this occupation. Much more work should have been done to educate the mass of the students and very importantly, the working people of Vancouver and British Columbia, about the issues, about the events leading up to the crisis, and about the need for some form of direct action. Some work, of course, was done, but not enough. Difficult as this sounds, the bourgeois media could not have successfully distorted the crisis in the eyes of so many workers and other people had the students first expended greater energies in communicating with the public.

CHINA AND CANADA

The U.S.-controlled majority in the United Nations has gone through the annual farce of declaring that Taiwan is the "real" China. Canada's role in this was less than glorious. Despite all Trudeau's talk of wanting closer relations with China, the Canadian delegation gave no support to the legitimate demand that China be given her rightful place at the U.N.

The Canadian delegation only reflects the kind of split personality with which all Canadian governments over the past several decades have developed their foreign policy. Our ruling class and its executive committee, the government is totally subservient to the dominant U.S. monopolies and adopts a foreign policy that serves the fundamental interests of the U.S. imperialists. On the other hand, Canada must find markets for some of the goods which not only do not find a market in the United States but are actually in competition with similar goods being dumped by the U.S. on the world markets.

China, with its 750 million peo-

ple, appears as an attractive prospect for unloading mounting inventories, especially since the U.S. is not competing for that market. Canadian wheat is a case in point. Unsold grain was piling up in the fields, and even yet some 200 million bushels are in imminent danger of destruction from dampness.

To approach China with a plea for wheat purchases while, at the same time, expressing open hostility for People's China, would not be conducive to creating the climate necessary to a successful conclusion to sales negotiations. So Canada's spokesmen declare friendship for People's China but stand in mortal fear of U.S. opposition if real friendship should, in fact, develop.

One of the solutions offered by some politicians is a "two Chinas" policy. Canada would recognize both Taiwan and People's China as separate nations. The theory is that China would reject this proposal as unacceptable and then it could be said that the question can not be settled because China is "unreasonable". This is a bogus

plan designed to cover Canada's international embarrassment.

Taiwan is a province of China. It is not an independent state but a part of Chinese territory occupied by U.S. imperialists who prop up the Chiang Kai-shek reactionaries in an effort to provide cover for their illegal and aggressive actions on a part of China's territory.

The Trudeau government's policy of "two Chinas" is particularly ridiculous in view of the reaction to de Gaulle's cry of "Vive Quebec Libre". Quebec has legitimate claims to self-determination as a nation yet the Canadian government becomes panic-stricken when any foreign politician indicates support for Quebec's separation. Yet the same government, in the case of Taiwan which has no pretensions whatever to national status, adopts precisely the attitude which it so vigorously protests when others adopt it in relation to internal Canadian problems.

This kind of international activity clearly demonstrates Canada's subservience to the U.S. It is time to end this ridiculous situation.

TOWARDS A PARTY

Many changes have taken place within the Progressive Workers Movement during the five years of its existence. Some of the most important and profound changes have been recent ones. For this reason we would like to present to our readers a brief description of the Movement's present situation, and our views on the development of a Marxist-Leninist Party in Canada.

An important reason for making a preliminary statement at this time is that the Toronto-based section of PWM has left because of differences with the Movement's position on Vietnam. Toronto's position, while not clearly stated by them, echoes the line of the Progressive Labour Party in the United States. (For a criticism of this position, see "The PLP and Vietnam" p. 9 of this issue.) The Progressive Workers Movement's position on Vietnam has been spelled out consistently in our paper and is the subject of a forthcoming pamphlet.

While disagreement on the Vietnam question was the immediate cause of the Toronto section leaving, there are also other unresolved questions. The problem of communications in a sparsely populated country such as Canada aggravated the situation by making it difficult to carry on consistent and sharp ideological struggle on all fundamental questions at issue.

This situation has temporarily impeded the growth of the Movement numerically. However, we believe we have learned some lessons from our experiences and can foresee in a general way how a Marxist-Leninist Party will develop in the Canadian conditions.

The PWM does not consider itself to be a Party in the sense of being a nation-wide democratic-centralist organization. We do, however, believe that we are moving in that direction and will ultimately reach our objective of a Marxist-Leninist Party in Canada together with the many groups already showing signs of development across the nation.

We are a relatively small group of Marxist-Leninists based mainly in the province of British Columbia, and we have neither the funds nor the forces at our disposal to accept the responsibility for organization on a national scale. We do, however, consider ourselves to be a very important part of the developing nation-wide movement. For more than four years, we have consistently published and maintained the only national Marxist-Leninist journal in Canada. In carrying out this important task, we have had the help of our many subscribers -- help which we trust will continue and increase in the difficult period which lies ahead.

This task of publishing a newspaper is the number one responsibility of any Marxist-Leninist movement. The necessity of a central organ was one often stressed by Lenin and other great Marxists. It is our present intention to continue the publication and circulation of Progressive Worker as part of our contribution to the building and leadership of a Marxist-Leninist Party in Canada.

We repeat here what we have said before: Progressive Worker is at the disposal of all true Marxist-Leninists and revolutionaries in Canada. We will strive, through the columns of our paper, to promote and prepare the ground for the calling of a national conference with the aim of establishing a party based on Marxism-Leninism and operating as a democratic-centralist organization. However, calling a conference before the necessary groundwork has been done would be premature and produce more difficulties rather than solving present problems.

We invite discussion from our readers on all questions relating to the building of a Marxist-Leninist Party for Canada.

Ma Tse-Tung



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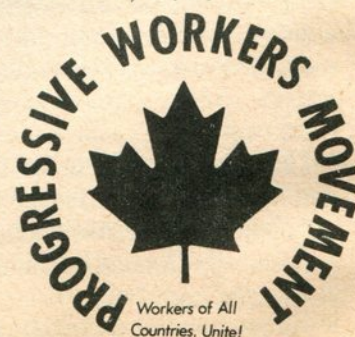
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VIETNAM

REPORT FROM VIETNAM



In an interview in Saigon in mid-November official U.S. military spokesmen told a representative of the New York Times that the National Front has conducted elections for revolutionary administrations in 1,241 villages and hamlets and established higher levels of political administration in 17 provinces, 5 cities, and 38 districts. Knowing the U.S. policy of understating the achievements of the National Front we can be confident that the people in the liberated majority of the territory have accomplished much more than the New York Times story gives them credit for.

Other reports reaching Western Europe by an indirect route claim that many military units nominally in the service of Saigon are, in reality, taking orders from the National Front of Liberation, and will declare themselves when the Front considers the moment to do so has arrived.

In a statement of November 16, 1968, the Foreign Ministry of the DRV took sharp issue with U.S. reports and declared that the DRV does not recognize the Saigon puppet administration and said it is an instrument of the U.S. imperialists for the conduct of their aggressive war and the carrying out of neo-colonialism in Vietnam, and that Saigon does not represent anyone. The Foreign Ministry emphasized that the National Front for Liberation is the organizer and leader of the South Vietnamese people in the struggle against U.S. aggression. It is the genuine

representative of the South Vietnamese people and fully competent to settle all problems concerning South Vietnam.

In reply to U.S. propaganda about a 'deal', the DRV Foreign Ministry categorically stated no deal had been made and that U.S. representatives were finally compelled to admit that the cessation of U.S. bombardment in the North was unconditional.

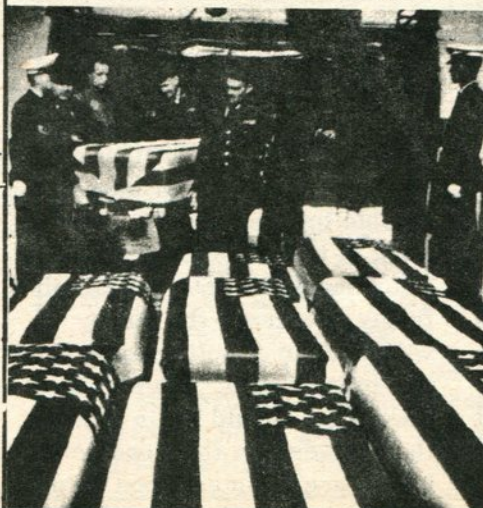
The DRV Ministry declared: "The people and the Liberation Armed Forces of South Vietnam are fiercely fighting against the U.S. imperialist aggressors and have the right to use every means to fight against them anywhere in the territory of South Vietnam. That is the South Vietnamese people's inalienable right to self-defence. The government of the DRV unreservedly supports that sacred right of its countrymen in South Vietnam. So long as the United States persists in its aggression against South Vietnam, the South Vietnamese people will fight on till total victory so as to

achieve an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral and prosperous South Vietnam, advancing towards the peaceful reunification of the Vietnam fatherland."

According to American figures (announced by the U.S. command in Saigon on Dec. 9th), over 30,000 GI's have been killed thus far in the Vietnam war. This compares with the total of 33,629 Americans killed in the Korean war. Nearly half of the American deaths in Vietnam occurred this year.

On November 3-5, 1968, a delegation of the NFL Central Committee met with a similar delegation from the Alliance of National, Democratic, and Peace Forces for the purpose of discussing problems concerning the present stage of the struggle in Vietnam.

They issued a joint communique after the talks. The communique poured scorn on the various Saigon regimes, including the present one, and condemned the U.S. for launching a war of aggression in Indochina and of plotting to turn South Vietnam into a military base. The delegations took note of the heroic victories won by the patriotic forces in South Vietnam. On the subject of the bombing halts, the communique stated: "In the face of the valiant and staunch struggle of the armed forces and people throughout the country... the U.S. recently had to put an unconditional halt to the bombings



and other acts of war on the whole territory of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam. This is a serious setback for the U.S. and a tremendous victory for the people...." Nevertheless, it was pointed out, the U.S. is far from abandoning its designs on Vietnam. "But no brutal force, no perfidious move can make the South Vietnamese people depart from the goal of their struggle

and from their principled stand... the South Vietnamese people are resolved to march steadily forward, and will surely obtain final victory."

A U.S. Air Force RF-4C was brought down over North Vietnam Dec. 9 -- the fourth plane shot down over the North since the Nov. 1 bomb halt. The RF-4C was an unarmed reconnaissance

plane.

The Guardian, an American radical weekly, pointed out that the French press (Le Figaro of November 27th) has revealed that such "reconnaissance" planes are probably being used to trigger bombs dropped over the North before the bomb halt.

AFTERMATH OF TORONTO DEMONSTRATION

In our last issue we mentioned the arrest in Toronto of some 30 demonstrators who were part of the October 26 Protest against U.S. aggression in Vietnam. Below we reprint the text of a pamphlet issued by the Canadian Rights Defence Committee.

On October 26, 1968 about 30 people were arrested during an anti-war demonstration in front of the American Consulate in Toronto. The Canadian Rights Defence Committee has undertaken the defence of 21 of them. (Others are making their own arrangements.) There is an immediate need to raise funds to provide legal counsel.

The Toronto police again denied opponents of the American war in Vietnam their fundamental rights of free speech and assembly, as they did in a similar demonstration last April. Five persons were arrested for attempting to speak in front of the American Consulate, and more than twenty others were arbitrarily arrested as the police broke up the rally.

Professor Peter Rosenthal of the University of Toronto was the first to address the 700 demonstrators. Although ordered by police to desist, he continued to speak on the subject of American aggression in Vietnam, and for this he was arrested. Unintimi-

dated by this attempt to silence protest against the United States, four more persons attempted to speak to the crowd and were also arrested: Danny Drache, Laurel Limpus, Steve Moore, and Garry Jones. These five, who were merely exercising their right of free speech, were hauled in on the charges of impeding pedestrians and obstructing police, despite the fact that the speakers and demonstrators always left a path for passersby. These five now face the possibility of 2½ years in jail and \$500 fine.

When it became apparent that many more would have been willing to risk arrest in order to speak, the police decided to disperse all the demonstrators. They charged the crowd with horses, suddenly and violently driving everyone away from the Consulate. They arrested many demonstrators during this police charge.

We feel that Canadians should be deeply concerned about these manifestations of political censorship. Citizens of Toronto should be able to speak freely, even in front of the American Consulate. They should be able to assemble freely, whatever the issue, without fear of police harassment and intimidation. We feel that Canadians should begin to ask themselves why the Toronto police are so intent upon defend-

ing the American Consulate that they would deny the right of assembly there.

Last April, the Canadian Rights Defence Committee took up the case of six demonstrators who were arrested at the Consulate under similar circumstances. Due to the generous financial support of a great number of Canadians conscious of the necessity of political freedom, we were able to provide excellent legal counsel for the defendants. So far, two of the April defendants have been acquitted, one was given a suspended sentence, another had his conviction overturned on appeal and is being retried, and two others are still facing trial.

We are again faced with the problem of defending the basic rights of free speech and assembly, but on a much larger scale. At least \$9000 will be required to provide an adequate defence. We ask for your generous support for our cause. The rights of Canadians must be defended. Cheques may be made payable to the Canadian Rights Defence Committee and sent to the address below.

CANADIAN RIGHTS DEFENCE
COMMITTEE

c/o Prof. Melville Watkins
Department of Political Economy
University of Toronto
Toronto 5, Ontario

THE PLP AND VIETNAM

For almost two years the Progressive Labour Party (PLP) in New York, which lays claim to a Marxist-Leninist heritage, has been concentrating an attack on alleged traitors in Hanoi and South Vietnam. This slanderous assault on heroic Vietnam reached a new low in the November, 1968, issue of "Challenge" one of the several journals published by PLP. "Challenge" in that issue carried a malicious article from two big business newspapers, the Los Angeles Times and the Washington Post, which essayed a criticism of an alleged betrayal by Hanoi of the anti-imperialist war in Vietnam. Evidently Rosen and his colleagues in PLP consider the capitalist press in the United States to be an authoritative and dependable critic of what constitutes correct tactics and policy in the struggle for national liberation and socialism. Judging by other material published by PLP the leaders of that party must consider the New York Times to be a rich source of correct and authentic information and advice on how to conduct the anti-imperialist struggle.

In the early spring of 1967, when Rosen first began to speculate on betrayal in Vietnam, we here in Canada attempted to initiate a discussion on the question on the correct attitude to adopt in relation to the war in Vietnam. However, the national committee of PLP did not even acknowledge receiving our communications on the subject. It seems that Rosen and company are not going to permit their decisions to be questioned or criticized by anyone. By turning the sharp edge of the struggle away from imperialism and in the direction of an "betrayal" in Vietnam PLP is rendering a service to the U. S. aggressor. In furtherance of this

objective the PLP leaders do not hesitate to resort to falsehood. For example, it is a deliberate lie to state that Hanoi has abandoned the correct demand that the U. S. aggressor must get out of Vietnam when all the most recent statements (published last month in PW) have sharply reiterated that demand. It is also a deliberate lie to claim that Hanoi was prepared to enter "negotiations" without the NLF. Such lies can only be of service to the imperialist aggressor.

The Tet offensive in Vietnam was acclaimed around the world as a brilliant and heroic effort on the part of the Vietnamese people. But it was accorded a much different reception in the New York offices of PLP. Editorializing in PL Milt Rosen described the magnificent offensive against imperialist aggression as just another move in the conspiratorial game of power politics. Here is how the PL editorial phrased it:

"... Battlefield action by the NLF, while still successful and daring, seems designed more to influence the negotiations than to pursue a protracted People's War. Only People's War is capable of driving the U. S. out of Vietnam. Looking back, the Tet offensive itself, as spectacular as it was, may be aimed more at forcing negotiations than pursuing the strategy of Peoples' War." (PL Oct, 1968, page 5)

We must draw our readers attention to the fact that the Tet offensive was a joint effort of the NLF and the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces. Thus PLP views the Tet offensive and similar heroic battles as just a gigantic conspiracy of Hanoi, the NLF, the

Alliance, Moscow and the U. S. aggressors, designed to betray the people of Vietnam and prepare war on China. That kind of so-called "analytical conclusion" is more likely to be arrived at as the result of smoking opium than from a political analysis of the situation.

What is the reality of the world situation today?

The reality of today's world is the all-embracing presence of U. S. imperialists aggression menacing the life and liberty of people everywhere. That aggression is most evident in Vietnam now, as it has been for some 14 years, and especially for the past 4 years during which the U. S. imperialists have daily intensified their genocidal war against the people of Vietnam. Napalm, poisonous gases, chemicals, and every other weapon of modern warfare short of nuclear weapons, have been used against a peaceful and hard-working people whose only crime has been a love of liberty and a burning desire for national independence. The armies of U. S. imperialism and its puppets stand poised and ready around the world to drown in blood any attempt by people anywhere to liberate themselves from bondage.

That is the reality of today's world!

Confronted with that reality what is the main task of revolutionaries everywhere?

The primary task of revolutionaries, and especially of revolutionaries in the United States and North America generally, is to strive for the broadest possible unity of all anti-war and anti-imperialist forces for the purpose of harassing the imperialist aggressors and impeding their

war. Anyone claiming to be a revolutionary must be judged first of all on the contribution they make to this primary task. How do the activities of PLP measure up, in the light of this understanding?

Over the period of the two years PLP has been pursuing their present divisive policy they have approached every major demonstration and anti-war struggle with a message of alleged "betrayal" in Vietnam. Standing on the periphery of the struggle rather than in the midst of it, they hurl jibes and insults at the Vietnamese leaders and at the participants, making "betrayal" and revisionism in Moscow the issue rather than aiming their blows at the enemy within reach—the U. S. aggressors. As an example of their position we have the following from a recent issue of Challenge:

"By abandoning their correct position of U. S. Get Out of Vietnam Now, the North Vietnamese are simply reduced to haggling over the terms of their surrender. All their efforts are tailored to 'what kind of a deal can we get at Paris?'"

"... What is being negotiated is not the liberation of the Vietnamese people, but the terms whereby they are to remain enslaved to the U. S. exploiters." (Nov 1968, page 24)

This is no mere expression of a difference of opinion over a tactic expressed in a comradely way. It is a direct accusation of treachery aimed at those who have led the bitter struggle in Vietnam for many years. Furthermore, on the basis of the known record it is a deliberate lie. Can this making of an alleged and unproven "betrayal" rather than imperialism the main issue be considered in the nature of a sin-

cere effort to unite the people against imperialist aggression? Does it rather not confuse and demoralize the movement, turn attention away from the fundamental fact of U. S. aggression, thus rendering a signal service to imperialism?

The task of the Vietnamese is to unite the nation for struggle against imperialism and to expel the U. S. aggressor from the territory of Vietnam. In this regard the Vietnamese people, for many years now, have been honourably and heroically discharging their responsibility. They are still discharging that responsibility by all means which appear to them to be correct and acceptable.

It is also the particular and immediate task of PLP to struggle for the unity of the people of the United States in anti-imperialist struggle. This is not just a question of solidarity and support for Vietnam, but is linked directly to the struggle for the liberation of the people of the United States from the yoke of capitalist exploitation. It can scarcely be claimed that the PLP critics of Vietnam are discharging their responsibilities as honourably and heroically as the Vietnamese.

At the great Chicago demonstration organized in protest against the convention of the Democratic Party war-makers, the sole contribution of PLP was the distribution of 30,000 circulars quoting the New York Times and I. F. Stone as reliable witnesses to the preparation of "betrayal" in Vietnam and also putting a damper on all such demonstrations. One passage barely stopped short of labelling anti-war demonstrations as an exercise in futility.

"... despite the enormous parades and protests that have so far characterized the movement, the government is unmoved and the war is growing." (Chicago circular)

The circular did speak of the need for clarity and a program in general terms but offered no concrete leadership or guidance in this respect unless a final passage can be considered to be for this purpose. The circular says:

"Unless there is a revolutionary movement whose goal is clearly state power for the working class (dictatorship of the proletariat); unless that goal is consciously understood and always kept in the forefront in all planning, we cannot win." (Chicago circular)

As an objective for Marxist-Leninist revolutionaries this clearly and correctly states the case. But presented as a program to the diverse anti-war elements mobilized at Chicago it is divisive and destructive to the building of a broad people's anti-imperialist front.

Talk, as they say, is cheap. Action comes a little dearer. When faced with the opportunity for practical action PLP is not quite so fast on the draw.

During a warehouse strike in the San Francisco Bay area last year a caucus led by PLP members made a loud noise about a "bureaucratic sell-out" for a contract five cents per hour below the minimum demanded by the members. (The "sell-out" did not, in fact, take place). Completely ignored by the caucus and the PLP was a guarantee issued by these same union bureaucrats that shipments to Vietnam would not be held up due to the strike. A possible "nickel sell-out", it seems, is more important than

a demonstration of support for Vietnam--also much safer to fight about.

By pushing to the forefront of the struggle the question of revisionist treachery in Moscow, (and there is lots of treachery in Moscow) and also by giving priority to accusations of betrayal in Vietnam PLP is able to SOUND very revolutionary while actually engaging in activities that are essentially counter-revolutionary in that they take the heat and pressure off the U. S. imperialist aggressors.

Of course, when one is living in New York it is much safer and more comfortable to attack Moscow and Hanoi than to attack the closer, more immediate and primary enemy, U. S. imperialism. The plain fact is, no matter what happens in Moscow or Hanoi our number one task is to step up the struggle against U. S. imperialist aggression and not against some enemy remote from us and our immediate reach. Moscow's influence in North America is negligible and rapidly approaching the minus zero. But U. S. imperialist aggression is very real and close at hand. Revisionist ideology in its North American form will be taken care of in the struggle against imperialism, not by endless, even though correct, condemnation of Moscow's perfidious role in international affairs. When PLP aims its blows at Moscow and Hanoi they are only seeking to avoid coming to grips with real problem--U. S. imperialist aggression. Certainly it is necessary to expose Moscow's treachery but it is incorrect to substitute the struggle against Soviet revisionism for the fight against U. S. imperialism as PLP does.

In line with their self-appointed role of mentors of the world rev-



In the Mire of Vietnam by Ali Frzat of Syria

olutionary movement the national leaders of PLP have been guilty of gross interference in Canadian affairs. Some months ago we publicly protested PLP's support for the policy of the U. S. union bureaucracy negotiating wages and working conditions for Canadian workers, the negotiations being conducted with U. S. companies on U. S. territory. To date the PLP national committee has failed to answer our protest and given every indication of proceeding with this wrong policy.

Still another flagrant interference in our affairs is the way in which PLP directs and subsidizes the activities of certain of their members temporarily residing in Canada for the purpose of importing into Canada their counter-revolutionary line on Vietnam and the anti-imperialist struggle. We strongly protest this type of "left-wing imperialism" and demand the PLP cease and desist forthwith. We have no intention of serving as a colonial appendage to the PLP national committee in New York.

LEXICON OF U.S. IMPERIALISM

For those of us who have trouble recognizing the word "murder" when, in the U. S. press, it is written as "pacification" and so on, the following lexicon is being compiled.

Dove: Yankee politician who figures he can get more votes by hiding his war-like ideas behind a mask of reasonableness than by displaying them openly.

Good Neighbour Policy: Long term policy of U. S., especially toward

Latin America. From observation of Policy in practice, wording obviously means that inhabitants of Latin American nations should behave like good neighbours as their countries are looted by Yankee industrialists and financiers.

Special, or Roving Ambassador: Especially vicious type of goon employed by U. S. government as diplomat. His job resembles that of a gangland "enforcer", in "persuading" the unconvinced that Uncle Sam knows best

canadian worker

B.C. AND ONT. LABOUR CONVENTIONS

Nothing of any real significance came out of the B. C. Federation of Labour convention held in Vancouver from Nov 4-8, 1968. There weren't even any militant sounding speeches from anyone there this time. There were a lot of pious resolutions about such things as housing and Bill 33 but nothing with any teeth in it.

The B. C. Fed's position on Bill 33 at the convention was "non-co-operation" with the mediation tribunal. The day after that the Fed changed its position to that of negotiating certain clauses in the Bill and also their discontentment of the appointment of one of the tribunal members. Almost immediately after this E. C. Sims (president of the Vancouver and District Labour Council) was appointed as a mediator by the tribunal which is comprised of Pen Baskin, a well known local labour faker and sell out artist, Judge Parker (no explanation required) and David Blair, the representative of big business in B. C.

(Since this article was written, David Blair resigned from the Bill 33 Tribunal here in B. C. This would seem to show a crisis inside the commission, the cause of which is not yet known.)

There were many comments made from different labour leaders and many of them very favourable. One example in Paddy Neale, secretary of the Vancouver and District Labour Council who stated that "this is fine and its good to see the tribunal appoint some good people."

Now it appears as though the Fed doesn't mind co-operating so long as they get some of the pork chops. Sims' salary will be \$20,000 a year and paid from workers' tax money.

Another little surprise was the announcement that Charles Stewart--Business agent for the Amalgamated Transit Workers here in Vancouver and surrounding area, was also appointed to the mediation commission at 20 grand a year. Stewart was added to the executive of the B. C. Fed on an anti-establishment slate and this was hailed as a great victory by the Barker--I. W. A. paper--the Fisherman--the fishermen's paper--and the Pacific Tribune--a social democratic paper in Vancouver. (With victories like this who needs defeats). Charles background is one of many lengthy militant sounding speeches in favour of labour and against appointments of any kind. By the way, all one has to do is jump on a bus in the surrounding area and talk to a bus driver about conditions of transit workers and see how poor they are.

A small footnote should be added concerning Stewart. It was reported that Stewart was seen going into the Vancouver Club here during the B. C. Fed convention. Stewart was looking both ways as he went into the club thinking no one saw him. (Better luck next time, Charles.)

One other interesting point is that well over half of the applications made to the tribunal were made from prominent labour fakers here. You can take your

pick at who they were.

The only conclusion that could be made here is that the B. C. Fed is willing to co-operate with the tribunal provided they get their share of the wealth. This clearly indicates that the so-called trade union leaders are mere scabs and renegades.

Much the same thing came out of the Ontario Fed. Convention held in London, Ontario, on Nov. 4-8, 1968--nothing. The only other interesting thing is that when the Rand Report (Ontario "Bill 33") came up for discussion at the convention, there was a strong feeling in favour of a General Strike. But like in the B. C. Fed., the Ontario Fed. too has its labour fakers, and David Archer, President of the Ontario Fed., is no exception. He told the 1200 delegates that "the decision of a General Strike is one that only the unions themselves can take," thereby passing the buck to each individual union and hoping that the feeling will become watered down at the different union meetings. Archer knows only too well that a general strike cannot be called by any local union, only a head labour organization such as the Ontario Federation of Labour or the Canadian Labour Congress. He also assured them that a conference of ranking officers of the unions to discuss a course of action would be held soon. This conference would probably be much the same as the B. C. Fed's little gathering to discuss how to negotiate with Bill 33. Every effort is being made by Archer and his ilk to water down any militant and effective way to

stop this sort of fascist legislation from going through.

CONCLUSIONS

Now more than ever is there a need for Canadian rank and file workers to control their own destiny in a Canadian union movement—controlled by workers in Canada. If the destiny of

workers whose interests are threatened by such bills as Bill 33 and the Rand Report is left up to pork choppers as cited above, then working people can look to a dismal future of being sold out at every turn. Only when these points are fully realized can the job be done of workers control-

ling their own interests.

It's the same old story—Yankee union bureaucrats are in control of the interests of Canadian workers to protect the interests of American monopolies, which control Canada's economy and Canada's government.

LABOUR ROUNDUP

CEW CONVENTION

The second annual convention of the Canadian Electrical Workers Union was held October 19 at a Burnaby hotel. The convention dealt mainly with constitutional amendments to speed up the process of certification at newly-organized plants.

George Brown gave the organizer's report and stated the activities of the union during the past year, highlighted by the successful conclusion of negotiations at Phillips Cables in Vancouver despite the effort of two opponents, the IBEW (American) and the UE (Revisionist-dominated). The Canadian Electrical Workers Union managed to set the pattern in electrical manufacturing negotiations in B.C. which their two opponents followed.

Brown then outlined how the CEWU had gone to Alberta and organized Phillips Cables at Blairmore, Alberta, plus more than 200 electricians at Edmonton, and how application had been made from these two areas to the Alberta labor relations board but had been turned down on the flimsiest technicality. Both of these locals are now well established and prepared to make fresh applications.

The organizer also pointed out that the CEWU believes in keeping its membership well-informed and that local no. 1 Vancouver, no. 2 Blairmore, no. 3 Edmonton, no. 4 Calgary, along with the national union are all publishing

newsletters. We say good luck CEWU in your efforts to establish a democratic Canadian union in the electrical field.

COUNCIL OF CANADIAN UNIONS

The newly-formed Council of Canadian Unions, that was organized in opposition to the U.S.-dominated CLC has run into some early setbacks when the Pulp and Paper Workers of Canada voted at their last convention not to affiliate with them. The PPWC have led many successful struggles against American domination of Canadian workers in B.C. and are now doing some organizing in Alberta.

We hope they will in the future see the necessity of a national organization to fight U.S. domination of our trade unions and vote to affiliate with the council.

VANCOUVER TEAMSTERS

In the large Cartage Local of the Teamsters' Union here in Vancouver there is increasing turmoil as the end of a four-year agreement approaches. Negotiations have been going on for some months with the more than fifty employees. It has become evident after lengthy bargaining with the employers that they were prepared to make some concessions on wages but were firm in their opposition

to conditions or security.

The membership has been united in their demands for a two-year agreement and has rejected the employers' offer of a three-year package. As it stands, a referendum is being sent out urging acceptance of a 60¢ raise over two years (30¢ and 30¢), which falls short of the issues that count.

The entire negotiations period has been marked by repeated dodging and maneuvers by the union negotiating committee, made up of the Local executive. This of course has been common practice in the past, but due to the negotiations, several elections for the executive, plus the attempted expulsion of a leading member of the opposition, there has been an awakening interest by the membership at large. At Present the opposition is not too well organized, but appear to be prepared to conduct a fight around the basic issues of democracy, decent wages, and decent working conditions. A real challenge faces them and we are confident that if a correct fight is carried on by arousing the membership, victory can be attained.

PORKCHOPPERS

John McNiven, long-time pork chopper with the B.C. Federation of Labor has been shipped off to Alberta to take charge of the Alberta Federation of Labor. We wonder if this has anything to do

with the recent successes of the Canadian Electrical Workers and the Pulp and Paper Workers of Canada in that province? His job will not be easy, selling reactionary Yankee unions to an awakening Alberta working class.

On the subject of por...-choppers, it seems long-time labour fakers, Ed Sims of the Brewery Workers and Charlie Stewart of the Street Railwaymen's Union have finally showed their real colours by accepting appointments on the reactionary Mediation Commission, which in reality is a compulsory arbitration board, despite the fact that organized labour went on record as boycotting the Commission.

Could it be that the revisionist Communist Party of which Charlie Stewart is well-acquainted have some illusions of changing the Commission to something good for the workers?

DOMTAR STRIKE

On July 18, 1968, pulpworkers struck the Domtar Pulp and

Paper Co mills in Windsor and East Angus, Quebec, for better conditions and higher wages. The employers played it real tough and bargaining was producing no results. The striking workers decided they'd had enough, so a few weeks ago, after months on strike, they took over the mills. The latest report is that the employers have resumed negotiation in good faith.

STUDENT/LABOUR SOLIDARITY

Students at Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario, joined striking members of the Newspaper Guild on a picket line around the Peterborough Examiner, once owned by the family of Robertson Davies, was absorbed into the Thompson newspaper empire, and has been struck for a number of weeks. Thompson has imported professional strike breakers in an effort to smash the union.

The Lakehead district of Ontario was the scene of yet another display of Labour-student solidarity when a large body of

students from Lakehead University at Port Arthur joined members of the Retail Clerks picketing two department store chains --Metropolitan and Chapples. The store employees have been on strike for six weeks.

UNEMPLOYMENT IN TRAIL

Over 1100 jobs in the giant Cominco operation at Trail B.C. are about to disappear. That's what the company told the union bargaining committee during the recent contract negotiations. This will affect approximately one worker in every four in the Trail smelter (and there will inevitably be a corresponding decline in employment in the service industries around Trail). The cut-back has already begun in the ammonia plant and the foundry -- total in ammonia and near-total in the foundry.

While some of the losses in employment are undoubtedly due to a general recession, most jobs have been eliminated as a result of changes in production methods, automating, etc.

THE DODGE REBELLION

Last year, Chrysler was calling the world to join the "Dodge Rebellion." In the past few months a group of militant Black workers have been struck with "Dodge Fever" and have decided on a belated acceptance of the Chrysler invitation.

In the main assembly plant at Hamtramck (a Chrysler-dominated city inside the Detroit city area) young, militant Blacks, who helped organize and lead a wildcat strike last spring, have reduced the Reuther U. A. W. bureaucracy and the company to a state of near panic, by organizing themselves into the Dodge Revolutionary Union Movement (DRUM). DRUM has active and

influential groups at both the main plant and the nearby Huber Foundry, both of which are represented by Local 3 of the United Auto Workers.

The main short-range objectives of DRUM are full equity for Black workers in the union structure and an end to racism in the plant. Both union bureaucrat and company official join in keeping the Blacks out of union office and out of the better jobs.

Choice for job promotion is frankly based on racism and not on seniority or ability. Even in the Huber Foundry, which has 90% Black workers, all the best and easiest jobs go to whites and Blacks cannot get into the skilled

trades. The union led by the highly touted democrat and fighter for human rights, Walter Reuther, co-operates with Chrysler in maintaining these conditions and relies on police terror to keep the militants in line when all else fails.

The action of the Black militants is having an influence on some white workers who are coming to the realization that racism injures white as well as Black. Some young militant whites in Chrysler have formed the Committee for a Real Union (CRU) with the immediate aim of fighting racism and organizing white workers around DRUM demands concerning job conditions. Other groups inspired by DRUM are forming in plants around Detroit.

SELLING THE KOOTENAYS

The Bennett government of British Columbia, with an assist from the Trudeau administration in Ottawa, has sold, at the high price of ten cents per ton, the East Kootenay area of the Canadian Rockies to the Kaiser company of the United States. Kaiser will strip the top soil off the entire region to get at the rich coal deposits below, which will then be mined by strip methods and shipped to Japan. Out of the deal, the Kaiser interests will reap enormous profits and Canada will be left with unsightly holes in the ground where previously there had been beauty and grandeur.

Canadians have an opportunity to observe exactly what kind of derelict area they are to be left after Kaiser's appetite for gigantic profits has been partially satisfied. Areas in the United States, particularly in Minnesota, Kentucky and West Virginia have been mined by similar methods and what has been left resembles more craters on the moon than anything on earth. A recent CBC television programme has dramatically underlined the fact that neither governments, provincial or federal, have taken any steps to protect the interests of the Canadian people. The Kaiser company is left to do exactly as it pleases, and it pleases to adopt a policy that will guarantee the highest profit level and that means leaving Canada with a hopelessly devastated area.

A recent development directly connected with Kaiser's rape of the Kootenay's further emphasizes the need for building an independent Canadian union movement. Kaiser needs a long period of labour peace and a docile working force to ensure uninterrupted operations and a

steady flow of profits over the years it will take to remove the coal. Canadian workers, on the other hand, have a vital interest in protecting their nation's heritage, fighting for better living and working conditions and in standing guard against the depredations of the imperialist spoiler of our resources.

However, Canadian coal miners are held in bondage to U.S. union bureaucrats who impede the ability of the workers to fight for their fundamental interests. These U.S. bureaucrats are labour lieutenants of the U.S. imperialist bourgeoisie and view their own interests as being linked to those of the imperialists. It follows that these bureaucrats will do nothing to impede the imperialist monopolies in exploiting workers in other lands. In consequence of their economic and political interests, the U.S.-dominated unions conclude agreements that serve the basic interests of the foreign monopolies in Canada.

And so it is in the Kootenays where the United Mine Workers of America have reached an agreement guaranteeing five years of labour peace while the U.S. coal monopolies devastate the area in their drive for profits.

These conditions are by no means confined to the Kootenay coal fields or to British Columbia. They are common to all areas of Canada -- oil in Alberta, potash in Saskatchewan, rich ore bodies stretching across the length and breadth of the land and the harnessing of our rivers to supply power for United States industrial plants. There is hardly a corner of our land left free from exploitation at the hands of the U.S. monopolists.

The time for putting an end to this intolerable situation is long overdue and it will not be done by governments, federal or provincial. People will need to take their own action and labour must take the lead in promoting such action. But to do that, labour must first free itself from U.S. domination.



ISRAELI AGGRESSION

Any doubts as to the real nature of the Israel-Arab conflict must have been dispelled with the recent announcement by Israel that she plans to settle about 15-20,000 of her citizens on territory seized from Syria during the 1967 June War.

Thousands of Israelis have already settled in occupied Arab territory on the West bank of the Jordan River, and Israel has established several "experimental agricultural settlements" in the Sinai, seized from Egypt during the war. In addition, Israeli businessmen continue to establish enterprises throughout the occupied territories. Israel's battle of "self-defence" has clearly revealed itself to be a brutal war of conquest, pure and simple.

Ever since the war, Israel has protested her eagerness to come to peace terms with her Arab neighbours and to terminate the occupation. But behind this smokescreen of diplomatic doubletalk her every action has been calculated to prolong the state of war and to strengthen her grip on the seized territories. From the beginning she has carried out a conscious policy of expelling the Arab inhabitants and thus clearing the land for Jewish settlement. In the first few weeks following the lightning-quick Israeli victory over two-hundred thousand Arab men, women, and children were forcibly evicted from the formerly Jordanian area on the West bank. Since then they have been followed by fifty thousand Bedouin Arabs who had previously roamed the Sinai desert, many tens of thousands of refugees from the Gaza Strip, and over one hundred thousand Syrians. The total number of refugees uprooted from their

previous areas of residence since the war has now reached almost four-hundred and fifty thousand. As a sop to world opinion Israel has allowed about fifteen-thousand of these people return to their homes.

The economic benefits of the occupation are vital to the Israeli state which had faced a crippling recession in the months immediately preceding the June War. In the West bank of the Jordan River Israel has acquired some of the best agricultural land in the Middle East which before the war accounted for most of Jordan's food production and much of her industry as well. In the Sinai desert Israel found the answer to her oil problems; she no longer has to spend her precious foreign currency on oil: her needs are taken care of by the oil wells stolen from Egypt as a result of the War. From Syria Israel seized good agricultural land as well as the headwaters of the Jordan River, an important economic asset in a water-starved area. Even before the war the tourist industry accounted for much of Israel's foreign currency income—this has increased considerably due to her possession of the formerly Jordanian-held Holy places in Old Jerusalem and elsewhere. The crisis atmosphere that has existed in the Middle East since the war (and which has been quite deliberately fostered by Israel) has resulted in a greatly increased inflow of Jewish contributions from the United States. And finally, in the many hundreds of thousands of Arabs now living under Israeli rule Israeli business has found a cheap source of labour. Israeli unions have complained that cheap Arab labour is depressing

the living standards of Israeli workers.

What has been the Arab response to the occupation? From the people of the occupied territories has come determined resistance. The resistance has followed the pattern of the Algerian War of Liberation with military and terrorist activities carried out against both the Israeli army and, unfortunately, the Israeli population. Just recently eleven Israeli civilians were killed and many more wounded when a bomb exploded in a Jerusalem market-place. Scores of Israeli soldiers have been killed and wounded by Palestinian Arab commandoes since the war, and the scope of underground military activity is ever-increasing, despite some heavy losses and a ruthless Israeli policy of retaliation against the civilian populations of the occupied territories and the neighbouring Arab states. Over forty Arab villagers were killed in a massive Israeli raid on the Jordanian village of Karameh—every dead Arab, according to the Israelis, was a guerrilla. But the ferocity of Israeli retaliations merely hardens the determination of the Arab people to liberate their Palestinian homeland. Every new Israeli raid gains new opponents for the Zionist state, and ten recruits stand ready to take the place of every Arab resistance fighter killed by the Israelis. The Palestinian people's resistance organizations, particularly the El Fatah, are growing rapidly in numbers and strength this according to the pro-Israel Western press.

In contrast to these efforts of the people of Palestine, the Arab governments have hidden behind volumes of brave speeches and thunderous declarations as to their unshakeable determina-



Arab Workers Protest against Israeli Aggression and U.S. Imperialism during General Strike, June 5, 1968.

tion to defeat the Israeli aggression, but have done very little to really come to the aid of the dispossessed and tyrannized Palestinians. The Jordanian government has even made serious attempts to shackle the people's attempts at self-liberation. Jordanian authorities have seized supplies of weapons and ammunitions from the guerrilla organisations and a few weeks ago King Hussein's troops fought a furious battle against one of the Palestinian commando groups. In Egypt recently there were violent student demonstrations against President Nasser's all-talk and no-action policy towards Israel. Why is the militancy of the Arab peoples coming into conflict with the policies of the Arab governments? This is a result

of the fact that in the Middle East today there is no genuine people's government in any of the Arab countries.

No Arab government, whether it calls itself monarchical or socialist, reflects the genuine aspirations of the Arab peoples. Rather, all Arab governments carry out policies which are in the interests of the various Arab ruling classes and their foreign imperialist allies. Thus King Hussein of Jordan is totally dependent on Western aid and uses American and British weapons to murder his own people. Nasser of Egypt on the other hand is increasingly a tool of Soviet imperialism.

What both American and Soviet imperialism desire in the Middle East is a strong and dominant

Israel. For the Americans Israel represents the most dependable "stabilizing influence" in the area, that is, the most potent weapon against the Arab peoples' struggles for independence. For the Russians the continuing menace of Israel represents their opportunity to enter the arena of Middle Eastern politics, decked out in the guise of the protectors of the Arabs against Israel and the West. But the collusion between the U.S. imperialists and the Soviet imperialists in the Middle East has been evident ever since the Greensborough Conference between Johnson and Kosygin shortly after the June War. The Americans don't even deny that they expect Russia to keep Egypt on leash for them.

Thus while both the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. seek to support Arab governments friendly to them in the various Arab states, and while both seek to use these Arab governments against each-other and against their own peoples, they want to be very sure that the basic power-relationships between Israel and the Arabs do not change. On the one hand, the Russians maintain very strict control of the military aid they provide to the Arabs. On the other, the U.S. continues to arm Israel. Said President-elect Nixon during the U.S. election campaign:

Israel must possess sufficient military power to deter an attack... and sufficient power means the balance must be tipped in Israel's favour.

Tipping the balance in Israel's favour means of course an excuse for continuing the arms race in the Middle East, so profitable to both the Americans and the Soviets. From the U.S. it means a continued flow of Zionist dollars to Israel, which in effect amounts to hundreds of millions of dollars of government aid because the American government considers contributions to Israel as tax-deductible donations to charity; it means further sales of sophisticated weaponry to aid the militaristic policies of the Zionist ruling class, as the re-

cent promise to sell Israel fifty-eight Phantom F-4 jets; and it means continued U.S. aid to King Hussein and those other pro-Western Arab leaders who would sooner fight their own peoples than the Israeli aggressors. It is enlightening to note that the U.S. had suspended military aid to Hussein after the June War, but has resumed it now that Hussein is in danger of being overthrown by his own people. And, according to News-week,

... the spectacle of unrest in Amman might invite Israeli intervention. The Israelis have repeatedly warned that the fall of the moderate Hussein could not be tolerated.

Meanwhile in Egypt, the Russians pour in weapons and men in order to prop up a government which is also growing increasingly unpopular with its own people. The recent student riots had wide spread support and the situation promises to deteriorate.

And thus the opposing yet collusionary imperialisms of the U.S. and the USSR continue to increase their control over the government and resources of this oil-rich and strategically vital area of the world. The so-called stability of the Middle East in fact represents the continued ability of the West-

ern, chiefly American, oil companies to derive huge profits from resources that should rightly belong to the Arab peoples, and the continued opportunity for the Soviets to spread their influence in the Middle East.

But as elsewhere in the world, it is the peoples of the Middle Eastern countries that must suffer the consequences of their governments' subservience to foreign imperialism. For the Israelis it means constant killing, an eternal state of warfare, and an artificial economy that survives only through militaristic conquests and Western aid. For the Arab peoples it means eternal poverty and exploitation at the hands of their own ruling classes and foreign imperialism, and the eternal threat of renewed Israeli aggression.

But just as Japanese aggression in China roused the Chinese people to struggle against both the Japanese imperialists and their own corrupt government, so now Israeli aggression in the Middle East is rousing more and more of the Arabs to fight both foreign imperialism and their own corrupt ruling classes. Each new Israeli aggressive act hastens the process of revolution among the Arab masses, and thus hastens the downfall of the Zionist ruling classes and foreign imperialism in the Middle East.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Jack Scott,
Dear Comrade:

Re the articles in the October issue of the P.W., I feel I must take strong exception to those views of condemnation of the Soviet Union for the occupation of Czechoslovakia, also by the various scribes in the Peking Review, especially when a comparison is drawn to the Yankee aggression in

Viet Nam which I think is monstrous. There is a vast difference between a slaughter of a nation by an Imperialist Power of the U.S. and its allies, and in the other case of the Soviet Union policing a country and making sure another blood bath is not brought about in the future in Europe by the evil forces of the Bonn government backed to the hilt by the U.S. and

other capitalist collaborators. I don't doubt that there are revisionists in the Soviet Union as there are in all socialist states, and they will continue to operate for a long time to come, for a perfect socialist state is something to dream about. In the meantime, it behooves us to try and root out the greater of the two evils, namely a foothold by the capitalist powers led by Nazi warlords of West Germany and the U.S., with many of their blood brothers in Czechoslovakia. We must not lose sight

of the fact that the Soviet Union not only brought about the deliverance of the Czechs from the Hitlerites, but the whole of Europe, and any fair-minded person in my opinion should agree that the Soviet Union has every right in the world in cleaning out those capitalist saboteurs in Czechoslovakia who would constitute a dire threat to the socialist world. The Czechs in the first instance after World War II agreed to, and were helped in many ways especially in economics by the then-Soviet Union government, so now if it is in their gratitude to turn their backs on the Soviets and go their merry way of a marriage with the Imperialists, then they must reap what they have sown. If many of the Czechs chose to forget the slaughter of their people in 'Lidice' and the good Soviet lives that were lost in driving out the Hitlerites to free their country, then they cannot blame the occupation by the USSR of their country at this time. It is my opinion that nothing would serve the interest of the wamongers of the U.S. better at this time than to add fuel to the fires of bickering that is going on at present between 'People's China' and the USSR. How gleefully they must feel to know the heat is being taken off them while they keep on killing in Viet Nam. One wonders when the progressives in the socialist world outside China and the USSR are going to reason things out and arrive at the conclusion that the real enemies of mankind are the capitalist powers and it is high time we turned our attentions to the more important job of fighting the enemies within our gates, only then will those enemies lose the power of fomenting trouble in other countries, and we will have a socialist united front in return.

Comradely Yours,
J.H.
Vancouver Island

The Progressive Worker's position on Czechoslovakia has been spelled out in the last two issues of PW. We condemned the Russian aggression and pointed out that the Dubec clique was unable to offer real resistance because it did not represent the Czechoslovakian people. Rather than rehashing our position here, we offer for our critic's consideration the following excerpts from a Soviet source.

Stephan Molodtsov, a Soviet specialist on International Law, regular delegate to numerous international gatherings and leading spokesman on the Soviet policy of peaceful co-existence wrote a pamphlet under the title 'Peace to Frontiers' (price 10¢). This pamphlet was published in Moscow by Novosti Press in 1965.

"Peaceful co-existence primarily presupposes settlement of international disputes by peaceful means... It also implies... non-interference in one another's domestic affairs, the right to national self-determination, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity..." (page 4).

"Some Western jurists affirm that the use of force without any intention to violate territorial integrity or political independence is not contrary to the U.N. Charter. That is a clear distortion of facts, for the Charter prohibits the use of force whatever the intentions of the state perpetrating violence." (page 16)

"The principle of territorial integrity extends to all countries... big and small, socialist and capitalist. The U.N. Charter enjoins the states to refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity of political independence of ANY STATE." (page 17, emphasis by Molodtsov)

"The Soviet proposal envisages a firm declaration that neither differences in social or state systems, nor denial of recognition or the absence of diplomatic rel-

ations, nor any other pretexts can serve as a justification for the violation by one state of the territorial integrity of another." (page 18)

"To prevent abuse of armed force it would be very useful to elaborate an international law which would categorically prohibit states to invade alien territory or to turn in into an object of military occupation ON ANY PRETEXT WHATSOEVER." (pages 19-20, emphasis Molodtsov)

"A state... cannot be deprived of an attribute of sovereignty... on all or part of its territory, even if this is attended by an international treaty. A deal of this sort would deprive one of the parties of the possibility of exercising its sovereign rights on its territory and would be wholly at variance both with the principle of respect for state sovereignty and with the principle of equality of states. That is why such an 'agreement' would be invalid." (pages 20-21)

"The existence of military bases cannot be justified by assertions that they are 'defence' facilities. Powerful missiles make it senseless to maintain bases for defence purposes on foreign territory." (page 22)

"... The Soviet government has proposed that such an agreement should envisage recognition that the territory of states should not, even temporarily, be the object of invasion, attack, military occupation or any other forcible measures directly or indirectly undertaken by other states for whatever political, economic, strategic, frontier or any other considerations." (p. 23)

"Demands for the withdrawal of foreign troops occupying territory which is a component part of a state which has won freedom and independence are just and legitimate. They must be satisfied unconditionally." (page 25)

It looks like Moscow will have to rewrite the thesis on peaceful co-existence in the light of the Czechoslovak events.

REVOLUTIONARY IRISH POETRY

The following is a poem and a section of a longer poem by Padriac Pearse. The first poem, The Mother, was written at the request of his mother just before Pearse and his brother went out to fight in the Rising of 1916. The second selection is the last verse of his poem, The Rebel.

Padriac Pearse was born in Dublin in 1879. He was Commander in Chief of the Volunteers and President of the Provisional Government during Easter Week, 1916. He was executed by order of the British authorities on May 3, 1916.

The poetry of Padriac Pearse is a part of an Irish revolutionary tradition that extends back to the first recorded verses and forward to our own day.

'the mother'

I do not grudge them; Lord, I do not grudge
My two strong sons that I have seen go out
To break their strength and die, they and a few,
In bloody protest for a glorious thing.
They shall be spoken of among their people,
The generations shall remember them,
And call them blessed;
But I will speak their names to my own heart
In the long nights;
The little names that were familiar once
Round my dead hearth.
Lord, thou art hard on mothers:
We suffer in their coming and their going;
And tho' I grudge them not, I weary, weary
Of the long sorrow--And yet I have my joy:
My sons were faithful. and they fought.

from 'the rebel'

And I say to my people's masters: Beware,
Beware of the thing that is coming, beware of the risen people,
Who shall take what ye would not give. Did ye think to conquer the people,
Or that Law is stronger than life and than men's desire to be free?
We will try it out with you, ye that have harried and held,
Ye that have bullied and bribed, tyrants, hypocrites, liars!