Revolutionary Communist Tendency

D A Y S C H O O L

INTERNATIONALISM AND THE DICTATORSHIP OF THE PROLETARIAT

Saturday 5 August 1978
10.00 am - 5.00 pm

During 1978 capital has heightened its offensive on the living standards and democratic rights of the working class. Continuing unemployment, a ten per cent reduction in real wages last year and a succession of bans on recent street marches illustrate the effect of this attack. At British Leyland 12,500 jobs are to be 'phased out' and 40,000 jobs are to go at British Steel. Redundancies, productivity deals and speed-ups have been negotiated throughout industry and worse is to follow.

For three years the official labour movement has accepted the Social Contract, and a fourth year is just around the corner. The failure to prevent massive cuts in social services expenditure has gone hand in hand with the failure to prevent acceptance of the loss of jobs in industry. Even the most militant sections of the working class are in trouble. Having once rejected productivity deals, the miners are now allowing them to go ahead. Today productivity in the mining industry is reaching record levels while the number of fatal accidents has doubled.

These setbacks reflect the political domination of the bourgeoisie over the labour movement. Appeals to nationalism and national sacrifice have not been countered with an independent class perspective. As long as the working class believes that its interests coincide with those of other classes it will accept austerity measures in the interest of the nation. The all-class approach that prevails in the trade union movement means that many workers see the bourgeois state as the means to solve the crisis. The state is seen as a neutral arbiter rather than a class institution for the defence of capital. In this way the interests of the working class are subordinated to the dictates of the bourgeois state.

Support for the attempts of the bourgeois nation state to beat the crisis leads to the acceptance of some form of social contract. The left haggles about the terms of the Social Contract - it demands that the state carries out 'progressive policies' - but as long as it supports a national solution to the crisis bourgeois interests will prevail. The left's radical nationalist views divide the working class in the face of a concerted assault by the ruling class. Thus the Communist Party asks the state to impose import controls on selected foreign goods. Similarly, trade unionists at British Leyland's Speke plant have demanded that the company should close down its factory in Belgium rather than throw British workers out on the dole queues.

The divisive character of national reformism is shown in the British labour movement's attitude to Ireland. There has been little trade union sympathy for the national liberation struggle of the Irish people. The right of the

British state to oppress the Irish has been accepted by all sections of society. For the Revolutionary Communist Tendency the struggle for working class independence must mean attacking British imperialism's domination of Ireland. To give effective solidarity to the Irish people is to challenge the British state. This struggle provides the basis for building an anti-imperialist movement and a politically independent working class leadership.

The success of our perspective depends on ideologically arming the proletariat with Marxism. Marxism must be turned into a living force in the labour movement. An offensive must be waged against the national-reformist views that dominate the working class today. Our dayschool represents an aspect of the struggle to forge an independent current in the working class.

What causes the crisis? How is it that the Social Contract has been accepted for so long? Why has the British left failed to build a movement against British imperialism in Ireland? Is it true that British troops play a peace-keeping role in the Six Counties? How can we build a movement that will challenge the role of the British state in Ireland and at the same time lay the foundations for a revolutionary party in Britain? These are some of the questions that will be discussed. Clarification of such issues is a necessity if revolutionaries are to confront bourgeois ideas in the working class, for Marxist theory is not an optional extra for the labour movement. We urge all those who are serious about constructing a revolutionary party to attend the dayschool and take a full part in the discussion.

The dayschool will be divided into two sessions:

Morning Session 10.00 am - 1.00 pm	Afternoon Session 2.00 pm - 5.00 pm
'The recession and the working class response' - Frank Richards What are the tasks facing revolutionaries in today's conditions?	'British imperialism and the Irish crisis' - Mary Masters Why has there been no effective solidarity movement in Britain? What should British revolutionaries do?

There will be two hours for discussion after each introduction.

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This issue provides the first Marxist analysis of the impact of the world recession on Ireland - North and South. It explains the nature of British oppression today and reaffirms the revolutionary position on national self-determination.

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The Recession and the Working Class Response

This issue examines the unfolding of the crisis in Britain during the past decade. It analyses reformism and shows why the working class has accepted the Social Contract. It explains the failures of the left and points the way forward for a revolutionary working class leadership.

Price: 50p (plus 15p postage)

Make cheques and postal orders payable to RCT Association and send to:

BM RCT
LONDON WC1V 6XX.

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REGISTRATION++++++++++++++++++++++CRECHE++++++++++++++++++ACCOMODATION

The registration fee for the dayschool is £1. Students and non-earners pay 75p. This includes entrance to both morning and afternoon sessions and the evening social.

Creche facilities will be available. If you want to use the creche please contact the dayschool organiser as early as possible. Please ensure that your children bring toys and food.

If you are travelling from outside London we have a limited amount of accomodation to offer. This will be arranged in advance, so please let the organiser know if you want accomodation.

Please send the registration form to the address given below. You will then receive all the details of the dayschool. Make cheques and postal orders payable to RCT Association and send to

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LONDON WC1V 6XX.

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D A Y S C H O O L S O C I A L

7.30 - 11.00

A disco with bar will be held in the evening. This is free to all those who register for the dayschool.

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Detach and complete for registration

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REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST TENDENCY DAYSCHOOL

I enclose £____ to register for____ person(s)*

Name_____ Address_____

_____

I do/do not* wish to use creche facilities. Number and age of children:

I do/do not* wish to have accomodation arranged.

*Delete if not applicable.

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