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## Revolutionary Communist League of Britain

### Editorial [on the role of a political paper]

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## EDITORIAL

'Class Struggle' is the monthly, political paper of the Revolutionary Communist League. It carries reports and analysis on events in this country and internationally. It takes a stand with the oppressed and exploited people of the world and aims to be a weapon in their struggle for change.

### AGAINST IMPERIALISM AND HEGEMONISM

While recognising that our main enemy in the struggle for revolutionary change in this country is British imperialism, 'Class Struggle' supports the struggles of the peoples and nations of the Third World against imperialism, especially the two superpowers. It recognises that the USSR is again a prison house of nations, based on a class system and a superpower aggressor contending with the USA for world domination. We also have a particular responsibility to give unconditional support to those fighting British imperialism from Azania to Ireland.

We do not preach to the liberation movements, tell them their alleged shortcomings, pick and choose between them, or qualify our solidarity. As much as possible in our small number of pages, we attempt to give them a platform to speak, reprinting articles, press releases and speeches, or using their sources for our reports.

### NATIONAL OPPRESSION

Similarly, within this country we recognise the importance of the national oppression of black and Irish people and their struggles against it. We try to support their struggles and given them a platform. We recognise that British imperialism has been built on both national and class exploitation and oppression, and support the struggles of

the people of Wales and Scotland for national freedom as well as the many forms of struggle by the working class and progressive people in this country.

### CENTRAL ROLE OF PAPER

'Class Struggle' also tries to do more than report on progressive and revolutionary struggles, important as this is. It is the paper of a communist organisation and aims to spread the ideas of Marxism-Leninism Mao Zedong Thought and apply them to the concrete conditions in the world today, particularly to the task of developing a revolutionary strategy for this country.

It attempts to show the inter-relationship between different struggles and to put the particular struggles in the more general context of the crisis of British and the world imperialist system today.

In this way, it has a key role to play in all our political work. The League organises round it, puts over its views and policies in its pages and seeks to pose an alternative to social-democratic and other trends which offer no real way out of the present system.

The paper has an important role to play as a collective organiser, bringing together people from different areas of struggle with a common general perspective and aim. It has a central role to play in the task of rebuilding a genuine communist party which can act as a centre of leadership for the working class and progressive people in this country. The fact that so many "revolutionary" groups have set themselves up in a sectarian way, isolated from the masses and claiming to provide all the answers, does not negate the need to build a genuine party.

'Class Struggle' can act as a scaffolding for this party-building work, and play a part in bringing together different forces with this common aim. It can begin to give a lead to draw in new forces. In its reporting, analysis and debates, it can play a part in the process of uniting theory and practice, so that the everyday realities can be seen as part of a general perspective. In giving a platform to oppressed people it applies the mass line - from the masses to the masses. In the debate and arguments in its pages, it can struggle for the policies which can take use forward. With an honest and open self-critical approach, we can build on what is right in our work and correct our mistakes.

The work of the monthly paper has to be complemented by other publications. In particular, after a long gap, our theoretical and political journal 'October' will be published again this summer. At a time when much of the left has shown itself confused or on a wrong track and yet the demands of the real world are more pressing than ever, the need for theoretical clarity should be obvious to all. The work of the journal will strengthen that of the paper.

The League is a relatively small organisation whose influence and resources are limited. Our stress on solidarity with the liberation struggles around the world, on support for the national minorities oppressed within Britain; our solidarity with the Republican Movement in Ireland; our refusal to romanticise the struggles of the working class, while supporting them; our insistence on an independent, revolutionary position, unaligned with either superpower and free of illusions about the character of the Labour Party, all set us apart from nearly all the

rest of the left. The very fact that our position is so distinct means that it will take a lot of effort to win many people to it, going as it does against much of what is taken for granted on the left.

#### SUPPORT 'CLASS STRUGGLE'

'Class Struggle' has made a small beginning in carrying out these tasks but has a long way to go. In order to achieve its aims, it needs the support of its readers. We call on all readers to support the paper in whatever way you can:

\* We welcome your comments and criticisms of the paper. We will only be able to improve 'Class Struggle' and make it a stronger weapon in the struggle for change, if we can strengthen it through practicing the mass line. We welcome contributed articles as well as printing those that reflect League policy.

\* We need your support to sell the paper more widely and spread its ideas and influence among more people.

\* We need money. We put our price up at the beginning of the year to offset rising expenses. But we still need donations and subscriptions to help us hold down the price, and produce the paper regularly and efficiently. New production and research materials are always needed. Our only sources of finance are our sales and money given by readers and League members. It has been a principle for us that we should never compromise our independence by relying on outside sources of finance.

We appeal to all readers who want to work with us to order extra copies of the paper, to sell it, to write for it, to join the League in its political work and collect donations for the paper. There is much to be done!