

UNITES ALL YOUNG WORKERS, STUDENTS, APPRENTICES
UNEMPLOYED, IMMIGRANT AND SCHOOL YOUTH

KEEP LEFT

OFFICIAL WEEKLY PAPER OF THE
YOUNG SOCIALISTS YOUTH
SECTION OF THE WORKERS
REVOLUTIONARY PARTY



SATURDAY MAY 10, 1975
Vol 24 No 19 • PRICE 3p



Vietnam today—Britain tomorrow

Above: Young NLF guerrillas taking over Da Nang, on the way to Saigon. Below: Young Socialists on their May Day march last Thursday, shouting 'Vietnam Today—Britain Tomorrow!'



NO TO THE COMMON MARKET! FOR A SOCIALIST UNITED STATES OF EUROPE!

SPECIAL YOUNG SOCIALISTS SUPPLEMENT PAGES 3, 4, 5, 6

VIETNAM: the tasks ahead

THE triumph of the National Liberation Front in Vietnam is a decisive victory for the world revolution.

It is the highest point of the world-wide revolutionary movement being thrown forward by the economic crisis of capitalism. It is a blow from which the imperialists will never recover.

The fall of the Saigon regime took place after 30 years of armed struggle, during which the US employed the most brutal methods of warfare ever devised.

The Americans dropped 3½ times more bombs on Vietnam than the total bombing during World War Two. They used napalm, chemical defoliants, nerve gases, asphyxiant bombs, and pellet bombs. They have used horrific methods of destruction from which it will take the country years to recover.

Refusal

The heroic struggle of the Vietnamese workers, peasants and youth, and their refusal to capitulate, is an inspiration to youth everywhere.

Their courage was highlighted by a news agency reporter who described the Jeeploads of barefooted, teenage guerrillas marching victoriously into Saigon two weeks ago:

'The Vietcong guerrillas I tried to speak to,' he said, 'were sometimes only 14 and 15 and included girls with bandannas on their heads and bandoliers about their waists. The regular troops were a little older though the majority also seemed only teenagers.'

It is these young people who have defeated the military power of the United States.

While workers all over the world celebrate the Vietnamese victory, there will be no cheers from the Stalinists in Moscow and Peking. Their 'peaceful co-existence' with imperialism thrives not on the strength of the working class but its defeats. That is how they maintain their bureaucratic privileges.

Hold back

From the beginning, the Stalinists have attempted to hold back the Vietnamese revolution. At two points when the imperialists were being decisively beaten—1954 and 1972—they signed 'peace' agreements which included the existence of a US-backed capitalist puppet regime in South Vietnam.

The Chinese and Russians have also refused to provide sufficient arms for the NLF while the US has poured \$150 billion into Vietnam.

The victory in Vietnam demonstrates the weakness of imperialism and the strength of the



NLF tanks roll into Da Nang.

international working class.

It explodes the Stalinist theories of 'peaceful co-existence' and the 'peaceful road to socialism'.

It opens the door for the workers of Eastern Europe, Russia and China to carry out a political revolution and overthrow the parasitic bureaucracy once and for all.

All Young Socialists must be quite clear that socialism cannot be achieved in Vietnam alone, any more than it could have been achieved in Russia or China.

Taken over

For society to go forward under a socialist system, all the means of production—the technology, science and industry—developed by capitalism internationally must be taken over by the working class.

The revolution in backward semi-colonial

nations such as Vietnam is therefore inseparably linked to the revolution in Britain, America, Germany, Japan, Portugal, Greece, etc. etc.

The Vietnamese victory places an urgent task before the working class in the major capitalist countries.

Vast wealth

In order to come to the aid of the Vietnamese revolution, we have to take over the vast wealth and resources built up by capitalism and put them at the disposal of the international working class.

The economic and political crisis which drove forward the Vietnamese revolution is hitting Britain. Workers are being driven out of their jobs and thousands of youth face mass unemployment. Uncontrollable inflation is making it impossible for families to live.

The Labour government is preparing to use any means—the army if

necessary as in the case of the Glasgow dustmen—to stop workers from fighting for their standard of living.

In this explosive situation, it is possible and necessary to build a revolutionary leadership to prepare to take power. The Young Socialists and Workers Revolutionary Party devote all their energies to building that party.

We say to all young people therefore that the meaning of the Vietnamese victory is this:

Build the Young Socialists and Workers Revolutionary Party, recruiting thousands of members in the coming period.

Build the International Committee of the Fourth International. Prepare for the international conference of revolutionary youth later this year.

Forward to the world socialist revolution!

WITHOUT TRIAL' FOR YOUTH—MP

A total of 4,645 boys and girls were sent to British prisons awaiting trial in 1974 in what amounted to 'internment without trial', said a Labour MP last week.

Some 'remand-happy' magistrates, claimed Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk (Lab, Ormskirk) were far more concerned with what they thought was their role in protecting the public than the needs of the children, who needed social support rather than penalties.

Children, he said, were effectively being interned without trial. Most of the 4,645 boys and girls in prisons had not been convicted and were all innocents in law.

Nearly 50 per cent of the boys and 75 per cent of the girls were either found not guilty or were given non-custodial sentences and should never have been in the prisons at all, he said.

'We would not dream of putting a convicted 14-year-old boy in prison,' Mr Kilroy-Silk added. 'There would be a tremendous outcry if this became policy, yet as a matter of administrative convenience, we get away with imprisoning unconvicted children.'

And he claimed that 'remand-happy' magistrates were creating the criminals of the future.

Many social workers, he said, were unduly happy about obtaining 'unruly certificates', perhaps because they were glad to get unco-operative children off their hands.

The burden, he said, lay squarely on the shoulders of the government.

POST BAG



The Greek Cypriots will never accept Turkish rule!

WE HAVE not read or heard any news lately about Cyprus.

This might give the impression that the Greek Cypriots have accepted the Turkish terms.

This is far away from the Greek nature. We will never accept today's situation in Cyprus.

We will fight for the enforcement of the

Turkish rule!

United Nations resolutions. In this fight we are sure we will have the support of all unbound and progressive nations all over the world.

The Cyprus problem has an international nature. If it is allowed by means of violence to break the independence

of Cyprus, this will put into danger the independence of other small countries and undermine the existence of the UN.

We are not prepared to give in our fight for liberation under any conditions.

With your support and with the support of all liberty loving people we will continue to fight for the re-establishment of the independence and sovereignty of our small island and the withdrawal of all foreign troops, Turkish-Greek-British, including UN troops who give the impression that they are in Cyprus for holidays.

- Down with American rule!
- Death to American imperialism!
- Smash the CIA!
- Smash NATO!
- Support independent Cyprus!

Tommys Karavis, Charles Keene YSSS Leicester.

The fight for a disco

LAST Thursday I went to the YS disco in Willesden. After the disco we noticed that one of the panels on the back door was slightly dented.

The vicar's wife complained about it and has now stopped us using the hall. We offered to repair the door but she said no because it might start more trouble.

Now the youth in that area have nothing really to do so we are trying to

find another place for the disco.

According to the vicar's wife, the neighbours as well complain about the noise and youth staying up so late (10.30 p.m.)

It was most probably an excuse to get us out because she doesn't like people enjoying themselves while young. Also she doesn't agree with the Young Socialists.

Michelle Heinz, Willesden YS.

YOUR VIEWS ON THE MAY DAY DEMONSTRATION from London Young Socialists members

LAST Thursday Young Socialists from all over London celebrated May Day with a march through the West End.

On the day after the victory of the Vietnamese revolutionary forces this was one of the main celebrations of the march.

Marchers explained why they came.

Glynis Keville, Putney YS and Tracy Nillsley from Wandsworth said: 'We came on this march to build a future for ourselves as the young Vietnamese revolutionaries have done. The ruling class are launching new attacks on workers and youth.'

'We must fight to build the YS and Workers Revolutionary Party. Our only defence against these attacks.'

Chris Tresh from Hayes, said: 'I joined the march to mobilize the working class to fight against capitalism under a leadership of the YS and WRP.'

Mark Bearham also from Hayes explained: 'May Day is international workers day. All over the world workers have made great gains, as in Portugal and in Vietnam. We in Britain must do the same by building the



YS members on the May Day march.

revolutionary leadership.'

John Deakon from Shepherds Bush told me: 'The march is celebrating great gains by the international working class, and fighting for the greatest gain of all—world socialism.'

Alan Edwards of East Ham YS said: 'Everything is going wrong because of the capitalist crisis. We must fight it by going forward to the international workers revolution.'

Nick Day who had travelled from Colchester told us: 'A lot of my friends are in the YS and they per-

ton YS said: 'The chant "Vietnam today; Britain tomorrow; Socialism now!" is right. This must be our battle cry as we take the power with workers and youth all over the world.'

Vic Lewis also from Acton explained: 'I came on the march to mobilize support for the mass class action for a General Strike to free the Shrewsbury Two. The only way to get this General Strike is to build the mass Young Socialists and WRP.'

Andy Harris from Hackney told me: 'A march like this is a show of strength for the British working class. Make no mistake the working class is so strong that with a revolutionary leadership it will take the power and end capitalism for good.'

CAN YOUR BRANCH write the letter of the week? Send your views to Post-bag, 186a Clapham High St, London, SW4 7UG, or phone 01-720 5661-2.

SPECIAL KEEP LEFT SUPPLEMENT

YOUNG SOCIALISTS SAY

NO

TO THE COMMON MARKET

FOR THE SOCIALIST UNITED STATES OF EUROPE!



Young Socialists and Workers Revolutionary Party float on May Day

THE Young Socialists calls on all young people in the factories, schools, colleges and on the dole queues to vote 'NO' to the Common Market in the referendum on June 5.

We urge all youth to join us in a mass campaign to defeat the Labour Cabinet right wing and the Tories and to secure an overwhelming mandate for withdrawal from the capitalist-conspiracy of the European Economic Community.

At our 15th Annual Conference in Scarborough on April 12 and 13, the Young

Socialists unanimously passed the following resolution:

'The Young Socialists 15th Annual Conference calls on the whole working class to vote 'NO' to the Common Market in the coming referendum.

'The Common Market is a capitalist alliance to try and strengthen the big monopolies. For the working class it means even greater price increases and growing unemployment in this crisis situation.

'We stand with the labour movement which has time and time again in the Labour Party and trade unions voted against the Common Market.

'We condemn the right-wing minority of Labour leaders who

support the EEC and who vote with the Tories against the interests of the working class. We condemn the sacking of Eric Heffer because he dared to speak up for Labour Party policy.

● *The Labour Party National Executive Committee must carry out its mandate and mobilize all the resources of the Labour Party to fight for a 'NO' vote.*

● *Immediate withdrawal from the EEC.*

● *Expel the right-wing Labour traitors from the Labour Party.*

● *No support for the fascist and nationalist opposition to the EEC.*

● *For a United Socialist States of Europe!*

● *Build the Young Socialists and Workers Revolutionary Party and all sections of the International Committee of the Fourth International.'*

It is on this policy that the YS will campaign nationally in the coming weeks before the referendum for a class vote against remaining in the Common Market.

We call on all our members, supporters and young people who agree with this policy to join us now in this vital campaign. We have no time to lose—join the Young Socialists, the Workers Revolutionary Party and build a mass party to take state power and end capitalism for ever.

VOTE NO TO THE C

THE Common Market is a grouping of nine capitalist states — France, West Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Ireland, Denmark and the United Kingdom — working in the interests of the big European firms and international monopolies.

It began in March 1957 when the original 'six' signed the Treaty of Rome formally founding the European Economic Community. On January 1, 1973 the UK, Ireland and Denmark joined after signing an accession treaty in Brussels the year before.

In spite of all its claims to create a 'united' Europe, the Common Market represents no such thing. It preserves all the divisions and contradictions of outdated European capitalism.

Within this so-called 'united' Europe, there remain nine nation states with different currencies, banking systems, passport and tax regulations and nine standing armies.

The Common Market is an imperialist trading block maintained by tariffs and administered by a huge bureaucratic apparatus based in Brussels.

This bureaucracy is chosen and appointed by the big banks, steel corporations and industrialists to safeguard their interests against the European working class.

Faced with the domination — economically, politically and militarily — of the United States, the European capitalists try to find agreement between themselves within the framework of the Common Market. But the national boundaries, private ownership and uneven development of industries and countries remain and are intensified in the EEC.

The contradictions between the capitalist member states retain all their force.

Military bastion

Since it was founded, with the support and encouragement of US imperialism, the EEC has been a military bastion against the Soviet Union and a haven for American investment.

In spite of being named an 'Economic Community', the Common Market is as much a political weapon, directed against the Soviet Union. As one of its former Presidents, Dr Walter Hallstein, said, 'We are not in business at all; we are in politics.'

The policy of the Labour government on the Common Market is based entirely on the needs of British capitalism. British industry, outdated and outmoded, is totally unable to stand up to the trade war from the US, Japan and overseas without the protectionism and tariff barriers of the Common Market.

The Labour Cabinet's decision to recommend a 'Yes' vote in the referendum is in total opposition to the wishes of the Labour Party conference, the vast majority of trade unions and the Labour Party Young Socialists who have all called for a 'No' vote.

The group of pro-Market right-wingers like Roy Jenkins, the Home Secretary, have consistently flouted the policies of the Labour movement in opposition to the EEC. On October 28, 1971, Jenkins led 68 Labour MPs across the House of Commons to vote with the Tories for entry. In doing so they helped keep the hated Heath government in power and gave them the majority they needed to join the Common Market.

Today the Labour Party national executive has capitulated to these same



Last month's special Labour Party conference votes overwhelmingly against the Common Market—but the right-wing have neutralized the par

right wingers who are a small minority in the Labour Party.

They have decided to 'neutralize' the Party election machine and therefore organize no national campaign for the policy voted overwhelmingly at the special conference in April for opposition to the EEC.

The fact that the 'lefts' on the NEC — Foot, Benn, etc. — have allowed this to go ahead reveals their complete bankruptcy. They are unable to organize the slightest struggle against the domination of the pro-Market minority in the Labour leadership.

Complete fraud

The 'renegotiation' of terms by Harold Wilson and James Callaghan is a complete fraud. The miserable concessions which Wilson claimed were a great victory are

nothing of the sort. They do nothing to change the fundamental nature of the EEC or the position of British capitalism within this European conspiracy of monopolies.

There is no future for young people in the Common Market.

The Labour pro-Marketees claimed the EEC would solve British export problems, safeguard jobs and improve living standards. This is a blatant lie from start to finish.

British capitalism is already running a large and widening trade deficit with the Common Market — estimated at over £2,000m a year.

There has been no protection against unemployment in the EEC. As the world slump develops unemployment in Britain is now nearly a million. Over 21,000 young people are on the dole queues.

Unemployment in the Common Market stands at a record 4,300,000 — 40 per cent higher than a year ago. West Germany

leads the unemployment table with 1,080,000 jobless and 90,000 on short-time, followed by Italy with 1.2m out of work while France has over 600,000 people without jobs.

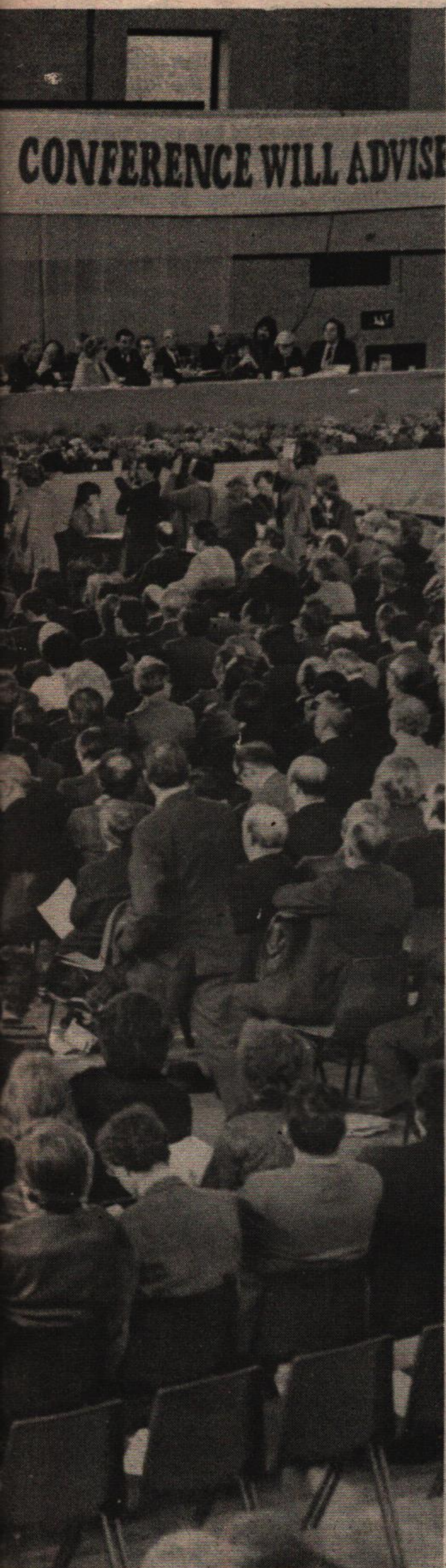
Inflation continues

In the US — Europe's biggest market, the slump is hitting even harder. The gross national product is declining at an annual rate of 10 per cent — over eight million people are jobless and trade union leaders estimate the figure is nearer 12 million. In the big car producing cities like Detroit, unemployment among minority youth is as high as 45 per cent.

And in spite of the fall in commodity prices resulting from the slump and the drop in demand, price inflation continues at an enormous rate in the main industrial countries.

YES TO A SOCIALIST UN

COMMON MARKET



election machine



All sections of the trade union movement have rejected the Common Market



Jenkins

Consumer prices rose 14 per cent on average throughout Europe last year. Living standards throughout the EEC are falling, particularly in Britain.

But worse is yet to come. To remain in the Common Market means that the working class and youth will be forced to pay even higher sums in taxation to finance the British contribution to the EEC budget.

It will also be used to subsidize the pricey and backward systems of agricultural production in Europe imposed under the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP).

Eventually Britain is supposed to pay 20 per cent of this budget total. This means that the Value Added Tax already introduced is only the beginning of what is to come.

The CAP, originally designed to protect French agricultural production while opening French markets to German

industrial produce, is now a monstrous imposition on the working class of every EEC country.

Cuts out cheaper food

It cuts out all cheaper food imports from outside the Common Market by a system of import duties and levies. To maintain the agricultural policy, food is stockpiled and destroyed to ensure an artificially high price.

In the first year of EEC entry, the British Intervention Board spent £19m on food stockpiles to keep prices high and a further £17m making two million tons of wheat unfit for human consumption.

Another example is the 'mountain' of skimmed milk amounting to 360,841 tons, of which 28,935 tons are in Britain. This valuable protein food has been deliberately allowed to rot, so that it is now

unsuitable even for animal fodder.

Every British housewife has already experienced the swingeing inflationary increases since entry into the EEC—under decimalization and the massive round after round of price rises which have followed since 1973.

In the first year alone of British entry, food prices rose 50 per cent. One example is butter. In 1973 it was £250 a ton; within a year it had risen to £410 and the intention is to raise it to £826 a ton!

Entry into the Common Market has marked the end of the 'cheap food' era in Britain.

Workers and their families now face huge price increases demanded by the Common Market under conditions of growing slump and the onset of mass unemployment, not seen since the 1930s.

The Common Market has not and cannot solve a single one of the problems facing the working class in this period.

But the Young Socialists opposition to the Common Market has nothing in common with the campaign of reactionary patriotism in which the Communist Party has lined up with the National Front; and Labour MPs and trade union leaders are sharing platforms with Tories and ultra-right wingers like Enoch Powell.

CONTINUED ON P.6

UNITED STATES OF EUROPE



CONTINUED FROM P.5

The Communist Party and Labour 'lefts' reactionary talk of defending 'British sovereignty' means upholding the institutions of the capitalist state — the monarchy, parliament, the House of Lords, the army and the civil service — all the instruments of capitalist oppression over the working class.

Marx and Engels wrote in the *Communist Manifesto*: 'The working men have no country.'

The Young Socialists base their campaign on the unity of the international working class in the struggle against capitalism.

Enemy

Our enemies are not French, German, American or Japanese youth and workers. Our main enemy is at home—it is the British ruling class, the Tory party, the representatives of a bankrupt, parasitic and decadent capitalist system.

The nationalistic campaign being carried on by the Stalinists and trade union leaders is a betrayal of the working class and reflects the needs of the most reactionary sections of British capital.

We will have nothing to do with bureaucratic patriots. Against them we raise the slogan of the Socialist United States of Europe.

We fight to unite the whole youth and working class of Europe in the common struggle for the overthrow of capitalism and for the establishment of socialism throughout Europe.

It is precisely for this reason that our 15th Annual Conference in Scarborough last month took the decision to prepare for the founding of a revolutionary youth international later in the year.

It is for the same reason that we fight alongside our sister organizations in Europe for the building of revolutionary

youth movements dedicated to building the leadership to overthrow this system once and for all.

For the Young Socialists and our comrades internationally the greatest inspiration in our struggle has been the enormous victory of the Vietnamese youth over the mightiest imperialist army of the world—the US.

Inspiration

From the youth of Vietnam who have overcome every obstacle to win victory over these brutal and murderous forces we take our inspiration — they have proved that the mightiest can be brought down and defeated.

Our task is to carry forward the struggle for socialism in the metropolitan capitalist countries. This is the only internationalism for the working class — the internationalism of class struggle against

our common enemy—the capitalist class of every country.

Again we say, with the words of Lenin: 'The main enemy is at home.'

Thus either the nation states are overthrown by the working class and replaced with a planned socialist system — or the European capitalist class will launch the working class into another era of militarism, fascism, dictatorship and war.

The men who set up and run the Common Market in their interests are the same class who have organized two world wars and massacred millions of workers and youth.

They are the people who today threaten to condemn the youth of Europe to a future of mass unemployment, poverty and destruction.

The Young Socialists say categorically we will not let them! With Vietnam as our inspiration we will now carry forward this fight for the biggest possible vote for withdrawal from the Common Market on June 5.

Our fight is the start of the battle for the British and European socialist revolution.

We appeal again to all young people — join us now!

We demand:

- Vote 'NO' in the referendum and fight with the Young Socialists and Workers Revolutionary Party for the building of a revolutionary party to lead the working class to take state power.
- Immediate withdrawal from the Common Market.
- No support for the nationalist and fascist opposition to the Common Market.
- Build the Young Socialists, the Workers Revolutionary Party and the International Committee of the Fourth International.
- As an integral part of the struggle for the Socialist United States of Europe build the revolutionary youth international of the International Committee of the Fourth International in all the countries of Europe.

May 5, 1975



The 'national sovereignty' campaign has Labour right-winger Prentice and Tories like Heath — The YS fights for a class vote to come out of the Common Market

JOIN THE YS CAMPAIGN FOR A NO VOTE IN THE COMMON MARKET REFERENDUM

For details of local meetings, activities and headquarters write to Young Socialists, 186a Clapham High Street, London, SW4 7UG or phone 01-622 7029.



THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS!

THE YOUTH MOVEMENT THAT LEADS THE FIGHT FOR SOCIALIST POLICIES.

SUBSCRIBE TO KEEP LEFT!

SEND OFF NOW!



Please send copies of each issue.

To Keep Left subs, 186a Clapham High Street, London SW4 7UG. I wish to subscribe to Keep Left for months. (Postal subscription: 78p for 3 months, £1.56 for 6 months, £3.00 for a year. Delivery by local YS branch: 36p for three months, 72p for six months).

NAME

ADDRESS

Money enclosed

NAME

ADDRESS

I AM INTERESTED IN (tick where applicable):

- DISCOS
- ATHLETICS
- FOOTBALL
- NETBALL
- MEETINGS
- CRICKET
- SWIMMING
- COACH TRIPS

Post to: YS national secretary, 186a Clapham High St, London SW4 7UG

400 stable lads on strike at Newmarket

Class battle lines firmly drawn

OVER 400 Newmarket stable lads on strike in support of their fight for a decent wage have stated their determination to continue in spite of 13 arrests last weekend.

The strike at Newmarket has drawn class lines clearly.

As the lads—many in their teens and early 20s picket coaches arriving for the big race last Saturday—the rich drank cocktails and ate smoked salmon in their exclusive club beside the main stand.

Stable lads get a miserly £23.50 for a basic 40-hour week. With threshold payments and weekend overtime they could make £32. But after deductions, many lads are only taking home £26 for a seven-day working week.

Rates

The strikers are demanding 20 per cent on the basic rates. Some trainers have offered nothing, and some have said they will pay £2 or £3 a week more.

But the lads have refused to accept this pittance offer.

Stable lads are the most exploited section of an industry which is exclusive to the very rich—the training and



Stable lads defy police to march on the course at Newmarket.



The members' enclosure—the gentry at play.

breeding of racehorses which change hands for hundreds of thousands of pounds.

The Newmarket course is heavily subsidized by the Betting Levy Board which makes millions of pounds.

After the 2,000 guineas race at Newmarket last Saturday, 200 lads defied mounted police sent from London and local police with dogs to march down the course past the stands singing, cheering and clapping.

The heavy force of police

had dispersed the lads and arrested a number of them when they sat down on the course before the race was due to start.

The lads' pickets received big support from workers who had travelled from the Midlands for the race.

A coach load of workers on an outing from Coventry decided to boycott the races when they met the pickets. In spite of having paid £20 a head for the trip, the workers turned away and before

leaving handed bottles of beer round to the stable lads.

One young picket who spoke to 'Workers Press' said, 'We've quickly found out who our friends are. Among the best are workers we've never met before but have expressed support when they've turned up for a day at the races.'

'Some of the trainers have threatened to take our rooms off us. The people who attacked us when we sat on the race-course weren't workers. They were from the privileged class, our so-called betters.'

'Well we don't think you should respect someone just because they've more money than you. We've got no respect for those people who jumped over the rails and tried to go for us. They are the same kind of people who used

to keep most of the stable lads in a hostel in Newmarket.'

The capitalist Press was extremely enthusiastic about the attack on the lads by the gents who patronise Newmarket. The so-called 'workers' paper', the 'Sun' said:

Military-style

'Dressed in military-style overcoats, trilby hats, cavalry twill trousers and suede boots, the angry race-goers cleared the track with well-aimed shooting sticks, swinging binoculars and occasionally putting in a well-aimed boot.'

A very different response is reserved for scuffles on picket lines when workers are defending their hard-earned living standards!

The lads on strike have already been faced with al-

legations of violence after they were physically attacked by owners, trainers and race-goers.

But the stable lads are determined that they will defend their unity against the trainers and owners.

Said one picket in his 60s who has worked in stables around Newmarket all his life, 'All these lads are stickers. They'll not go back until they win.'

CORRECTION

Keep Left stated last week that Maureen Bambrick, retiring YS National Secretary, received a presentation for 'two years of work in building the YS'. This should of course read two years of work as national secretary. Comrade Maureen has fought consistently since she joined the YS in 1966 to build the revolutionary youth movement.

Hunger strike by Iranian students against arrests



ABOUT 20 Iranian students staged a hunger strike last weekend in protest against the imprisonment of 21 of their comrades on charges of conspiracy to trespass.

The 21 were arrested last Monday on a demonstration inside the Iranian embassy. They were conducting a sit-in at the embassy against the murder of nine political prisoners by the Shah's torture regime in Iran.

Last Thursday, the 21 were remanded in custody and are now being held in Brixton prison where they have gone on hunger strike.

They were due to appear in court on May 8. The charges against the 21 students carry an indefinite sentence which could include deportation.

Police have searched the homes of four of the arrested students, claiming they were given permission to do so. But students have denied giving any such 'permission'.

The Confederation of Iranian students has written a letter of protest to Prime Minister Wilson calling on him to release the 21 immediately.

The letter also drew attention to the ferocious repression in Iran where there have been mass demonstrations by students and workers against the murder of nine political prisoners. Hundreds of people have been arrested in clashes with the police.

The Shah has ordered the closure of all universities in Iran.

KEEP LEFT £200 MONTHLY FUND

OUR fund this month so far stands at only £10.43. We appeal to all our readers and Young Socialist members to organize big collections immediately for the fund.

Following our highly successful May Day demonstrations in celebration of the Vic-

tory of the Vietnamese Revolution we must take forward the biggest fight to meet our £200 target.

There is no time to waste. Post all donations immediately to:

Keep Left Fund
186a Clapham High St
London, SW4 7UG.

May Day march celebrates victory of Vietnamese revolution

BY JULIAN LEACH

MORE than 1,500 workers and youth celebrated the victory in Vietnam on the Young Socialists Workers Revolutionary Party May Day march through London's West End.

Fifty members of the Young Socialists waving red flags led the march down Oxford Street. The column of marchers, over half a mile long, chanted 'Vietnam today—Britain tomorrow—Socialism now' and 'Common Market out—Socialist Europe in—Labour traitors out'.

Spaced out along the march were eight floats spelling out the policies of the Young Socialists for 1975.



Vietnam float on May Day march

He added: 'Following our most successful YS conference we are preparing for the building of the international revolutionary youth movement.'

'This will be a historic step forward for the Trotskyist movement and the working class. This is how we can give the greatest assistance to the Vietnamese workers.'

Gerry Healy, general Secretary of the Workers Revolutionary Party, said that the greatest impact of the victory in Vietnam would be inside the United States and in the metropolitan capitalist countries.

Crawl

'The working class in America has been shown that its own ruling class is a reactionary giant with feet of clay that can be brought to its knees and made to crawl on its belly by the working class and the peasantry.'

'As the NLF and the North Vietnamese forces gathered around the gates of Saigon over 100,000 workers entered the struggle in America by marching on Washington to demand the right to work.'

'The Vietnamese people have done it, they have cleared the imperialists out but now they need our assistance.'

'The key question all round the world is to make a successful revolution in great capitalist countries.'

'On this historic May Day the one lesson is that we must finish them here as well. This is the challenge we ask you to answer—what has been done in Vietnam will be done in Britain.'

The packed audience warmly applauded members of the entertainments section of the All Trades Unions Alliance who sang a specially written song to commemorate the victory in Vietnam.

The meeting ended with the singing of the International.

Campaign

The floats depicted the campaign to get Britain out of the Common Market and for a Socialist United States of Europe, the call for a General Strike to release the Shrewsbury Two, Victory to the Vietnamese and Portuguese revolutions, 'Defend the Right to Work', 'Expel the CIA' and more.

The first banner on the march was the Workers Revolutionary Party banner, followed by London Boroughs NALGO Joint Computers branch.

All along the march there were YS branch banners as well as trade union banners including Portsmouth COHSE, the T&GWU 1/496 branch milkman's section and the Southgate Tech Students Union.

The marchers were never silent from the start of the march to the very end and when the column reached the massive bourgeois mansions in the most expensive parts of the West End, a spontaneous

shout of 'Capitalists out—Socialism in' went up from the youth.

Many people who had travelled in from the outskirts of London joined the march along the route and the meeting in the Porchester Hall was packed out.

Mike Banda, central committee member of the Workers Revolutionary Party, opened the meeting by saluting the Vietnamese workers and peasants.

Homage

He said: 'We are not just here to celebrate the victory, but to pay homage to thousands who died in the struggle against Japanese, French and US imperialism in South East Asia in order to take this step forward along the road to workers' power.'

'This victory proves the strength of the international

working class and the weakness of imperialism.'

Banda said that the blow was not only against imperialism but against Stalinist and Socialist Democratic bureaucracies all over the world who preached peaceful co-existence with capitalism and spread the myth that there was a peaceful road to socialism.

Bill Coles, Ford's Dagenham body plant shop steward, speaking in a personal capacity, said the NLF victory in Vietnam could only bring new confidence to the working class internationally.

'This confidence will be vital in countries like Britain that face the worst economic crisis in the history of capitalism,' he said.

'I doubt if there is another industry in the country more symptomatic of this than the car industry. Fords is forced to take back every gain and

more that Ford workers have won in struggle.'

'Our struggle at Dagenham has shown that a new leadership has to be built in the trade unions to meet the will of workers to fight.'

Shatter

Vanessa Redgrave, WRP central committee member, said the lesson of the Vietnamese revolution was that there was no peaceful road to socialism.

'The tasks now posed as a result of these victories is to shatter the reformist and Fabian policies which have held the British working class back for 100 years.'

Simon Pirani, national secretary of the Young Socialists said that youth were in the forefront of the struggle in Vietnam.

'These young people have, with unparalleled revolutionary courage and

determination, humiliated the American warmongers who have poured nearly \$150 billion into the Vietnam war.'

'The imperialists have used the most sophisticated and brutal methods of warfare known to man in order to try to crush the Vietnamese workers and peasants.'

'The Young Socialists throughout our 15-year history have clearly separated ourselves from the protesters and the pacifists on the question of Vietnam.'

'We refused to join in the protest demonstrations that made crawling appeals to the Americans to stop the bombing. We said that you cannot substitute middle-class publicity seeking stuntmen for the mass action of the working class.'

'We built the Young Socialists on a firmly international basis. We have turned consistently to youth as the most revolutionary section of the working class.'

YS NEWS + + + YS NEWS + + + YS NEWS + + + YS NEWS + + + YS NEWS + + +

Western region coach trip — big success

SUCCESS

NEARLY 200 Young Socialists and supporters from the Western Region travelled to Bath and Bristol for a coach outing last weekend.

Youth from Reading, Swindon, Bristol, Oxford, Portsmouth, Southampton, Bath and Exeter took part in a five-a-side football competition in Bath.

The Bristol team emerged winners in the afternoon's competition. Another section of the party went on to Bristol for ice-skating.

In the evening everyone met together again for a disco in Dolmans Club, next to Bristol City football ground.

The day was voted a great success by everyone and the region are planning more trips throughout the summer.



Above: Five-a-side football on the outing. Right: On the coach again!

