

International Bulletin

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THE WORKING CLASS SHOWS ITS MUSCLES

The one day strike of Feb. 4th was a magnificent demonstration of strength, militancy and discipline from one of the most decisive sections of the British working class. The strike, the biggest industrial action since 1926, has been followed by a whole series of local disputes which are characterised by the offensive spirit of the workers. As one boss bitterly complained 'the stewards are using this issue to enforce 100% trade unionism'. All over the country the tiny number of scabs are being driven out of the factories. Let those, of both left and right, who have been complaining of apathy, etc. ponder; what other working class anywhere in the world could put on a better show?

A whole series of demonstrations in nearly every important town in Britain took place: 4,000 in Sheffield passed a resolution calling for a national stoppage on Feb 19th; 5,000 marched through the streets of Glasgow; 4,000 in Dundee; 2,500 in Birmingham, supported by a jazz band, in the city's biggest post war demonstration; in London, meetings and marches were held in Canning Town, St. Pancras, Willesden, Baling, Finsbury and the East End; The 'best ever' mass march and meeting was held in Ilford; 3,000 marchers, headed by Labour M.P.s Frank Allaun and Will Griffiths, chanted slogans as ^{they} went through the main streets of Manchester; a meeting of over 1200 was held in Coventry which was followed by a march of over 500; in a march from Islington Square to the Pierhead, 3,000 Liverpool workers called for weekly one day strikes; students took part in a march of 2,000 in Newcastle-upon-Tyne carrying banners "students support the workers"; in driving rain, 3,000 marched through Belfast to a mass meeting, the engineer ^{strikers} had been joined by 1,000 workers from the Ulster Transport Authority; meetings were attended by several hundred in towns like Derby, Nottingham, Oxford, Slough, 2,000 marched around the industrial estate at Crawley New Town; and everywhere the scabs amounted to only a tiny percentage of the total labour force. Indeed the biggest complaint of the pickets was the lack of work.

Strikes to enforce the sacking of blacklegs or ~~rising~~ out of the refusal to do 'black' work have broken out at Raleigh Cycles and Ericssons, the two biggest employers of engineers in Nottingham; at Ruston and Hornsby in Lincoln; at Blyth power station, at Jaguars of Coventry and in a whole host of small firms.

The decision to hold another one-day strike and a ballot of the membership for a national stoppage represents a compromise between the desire of the trade union bureaucrats to limit the struggle to that of putting pressure on the Government and the employers to be more 'reasonable', and that of the shop-floor militants to wage the fight to its conclusion.

Revolutionary marxists must support, in a responsible way, every attempt to broaden and deepen the struggle. Taking into account the level of consciousness of the workers we must campaign for (1) a national stoppage (2) the linking of all the struggles of the engineers, the miners, the railwaymen, etc. with the perspective of a one-day national strike (3) a programme of real preparations for these aims, especially building up union membership, shopfloor, and branch organisation. On another level, we must renew our efforts to link the Labour Party, the Young Socialists, students, etc. with the struggles. Through these links we can raise the question of linking the industrial struggle to the political aim of removing first, the Tory Government and ^{the} capitalist system. Millions of workers are coming into action for the first time, they are determined to have a decent standard of living; they now understand that the Tory Government intends to cut their living standards to prop up capitalism. What's more they are prepared to fight this attack and go on the offensive. From amongst these people revolutionary socialism can make many adherents.

WEST GERMANY TOO

Although a long period of 'prosperity' tends to corrode the workers' organisations and entrenches the bureaucrats it also, as a rule, strengthens the working class as a social unit. Then, when the 'prosperity' begins to fade, the workers face the bosses with determination and cohesion. Apart from the British example, we see the same in West Germany. More than 86% of the Metal workers who took part in the ballot voted for strike. The union wants 8½% wage increase the bosses have offered 3%. Recently there have been numerous unofficial strikes (an unusual occurrence) in West German towns. 63 strikers in Nuremberg were fined on Feb 8

SMITH'S INDUSTRIAL DIVISION MACHINE SHOP LOCK-OUT

The following account of the above dispute has been written for us by the Treasurer of the Lock-Out Committee - H. Timms, 4, Birchön Grove, London N.W.9 in response to a request from the editor:

".....This was the first lock-out in our existence as an organised factory, and resulted from the illegal action of the management in insisting upon operating, without prior discussion, major changes in the existing practice relative to the piece-work scheme.

"We were informed on Thursday 28, December, 1961, that the new system, designed primarily to cut piecework prices, was to be operated the following day.

"The setters refused to handle the new paper-work, claiming and quite rightly, that it gave them extra work without extra pay, and the stewards and members made repeated attempts to get a meeting with the Management in order to get some discussion before the operation of the new system.

"By Friday 29th December the situation was developing, and owing to the fact that the setters refused to handle the paper-work, operators were unable to book on to the new work.

"The Management were informed of the situation, and their reply was that no meeting was necessary, and that so far as they were concerned the system was in order and working. They also claimed that our action in trying to get discussion on the matter was "interference in their business."

"A shop meeting held on the same day endorsed the action so far taken by the shop stewards, and the meeting was adjourned till Monday 1st January.

"We were then informed that we could either start work using the new system or leave the premises. We were quite prepared to work using the old system, but as the management had taken away the facilities for us to do that, we had no alternative but to leave, claiming that we had been locked out.

"London North District A.E.U. were informed of the facts and confirmed that the action of the management constituted a Lock-Out, and applied to the E.C. for official backing.

"We resumed work after 3 weeks on a promise of suspension of paper-work for one day and an immediate Local Conference, to be held the same day, and the result of that was a suspension of the system for 7 days and for a further 7 days in case of dead-lock to enable discussions to take place.

"We are now discussing the scheme, and up to the time of posting, have reached no agreement.

"About 200 workers were affected, comprising setters and operators, mostly members of the A.E.U. and the others were members of the General and Municipal Workers Union."

Encouraged by the Governments policies we can expect many more local disputes of the type outlined by our brother above. Moreover, should the dispute break out again we would need to mobilise maximum support for the fight - we do not want any more defeats a la Acton. Comrades are asked to make these facts widely known and to contact comrade Timms for more details should the dispute break out again.

COVENTRY AIRCRAFT WORKERS STAND FIRM IN ANTI-VICTIMISATION FIGHT

After being on strike for a week, the workers at Whitworth Gloster Aircraft (Coventry) Ltd., decided to stand firm by their demand for the reinstatement of the chairman of their negotiating committee. Thus on Tuesday 6th February they rejected the management's offer to withhold his notice. The strike has been declared official by the executive committee of D.A.T.A. (the draughtsmen's union)

"LOCK-OUT" IN SOUTHAMPTON

Sixty men employed by a Southampton construction company, the Hill Construction Company (Engineers) Ltd., have been given notice for refusing to work with non-unionists. The men are members of the Constructional Engineering Union. The firm have declared their intention of advertising for more labour unless the men return and are willing to work with non union labour. The workers have declared their intention of stopping out and are picketing the works gates.

MIDLAND RED BUSMEN FIGHT LOCKOUT

On Saturday the 3rd of February, 300 workers of the platform staff of the Midland Red depot in Worcester went on strike. They have declared intention of striking every Saturday until a settlement is reached in the dispute over eight men who were dismissed for refusing to operate, on union instructions, one man buses in the Worcester area. After a five hour meeting with the management, the G.W.U. district organiser, George Massey, branded the affair as a lock-out.

SCHOOL ON A 'PROGRAMME FOR THE LEFT' PLANNED

The National Association of Labour Student Organisations has decided to appeal to the Young Socialist^{Journal}, Young Guard, and to the Editorial Board of New Left Review, to jointly support a summer school on problems of the left. NALSO has considerable experience of organising large schools of a general propaganda sort, since the spectacular success of the first Kessingland Camp of 1958. That event attracted 120 young people, mainly students, and laid the basis for the considerable expansion of student interest in marxism which has been so noticeable since that date. It is hoped that this year it will be possible to attract a larger audience to a similar camp, because the membership of Nalso has doubled since 1958 and the entire Young Socialist movement has been created since then. Also, NALSO has made very many international contacts since then.

We understand that the New Left Editorial Board has offered assistance with speakers and advertisements, and that Young Guard are actively and sympathetically considering the proposal. A meeting to discuss the programme of the school will take place in early March. It is suggested that the Kessingland Camp, which is a well-appointed holiday camp, with a chalet accomodation for 300, and is situated right on the seashore, 4 miles from Lowestoft on the East Coast, should be booked for the week beginning 7th September. Readers would be advised to book that date, either for the weekend or, if possible, the whole week. Further news will appear in the Bulletin in the next two weeks.

COMMITTEE FOR THE RELIEF OF ALGERIAN PRISONERS TO BE FORMED

Arising out of the appeal of the Committee for Solidarity with Algerian Victims of Imperialist Repression, a local Committee is to be established in Nottingham. The Committee will seek sponsorship from all wings of the labour movement and other bodies and will then appeal to trade union branches, Labour Parties, etc. for financial help to provide food parcels for Algerian prisoners in France. The South Nottinghamshire Federation of Young Socialists has already decided to sponsor the campaign and one Young Socialist on her own initiative collected 14/- from her friends and relatives for this work. We will give more news in further bulletins.

YOUNG SOCIALISTS PLAN MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

At its last meeting the Executive of the South Notts Federation of Young Socialists turned down a suggestion from the Labour Party regional office of trying to build its membership by means of dances and suppers, and instead decided to concentrate on contacting young shop stewards and getting speakers from trade unions. A start has been made by contacting the shop stewards at Raleighs now on strike. The same meeting decided to recommend to all Y.S. branches that they affiliate to Y.C.N.D., one Central Nottingham having already done so. The first of a new series of socials to be held alternate Saturday evenings is on the 10th of February at the Union Stewards Club, Gordon Rd., Off Alfred St. South. The club, interestingly enough, is owned by the Raleigh shop stewards.

LABOUR PARTY CALL FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE REFORM

At its last meeting the Lenton ward Labour Party passed unanimously, the following resolution:

"That the Regional Council establish a working party to consider evidence from local parties and persons active in local government as to how there can be a radical reform of local government finance. That such a working party should collect evidence about the effects of high interest charges and inflated land values on local authorities, with a view to preparing a report for the use of the NEC on framing general election policies, and to assist local parties in local campaigns."

STOP PRESS ITEMS

- (1) 60 Constituency Labour Parties and many A.E.U. branches have protested against the non-endorsement of Ernie Roberts, Assistant General Secretary of the A.E.U.
- (2) The announcement of the resumption of tests by the West had an immediate response: 200 turned up at the House of Commons the same evening, and later there was a demonstration down Soho to the U.S. Embassy. A national lobby of newspapers is planned for the 11th (Sunday)
- (3) The C.P. candidate, John Peck, in the St. Albans by-election (Nottingham) lost votes despite a general swing to the left in which the Labour majority was doubled from 800 odd to 1,528. The liberals who won the seat two years ago slumped to third place.

COMMITTEE OF 100 APPEAL TO TRADE UNIONISTS

We reproduce here the text of a leaflet which the Committee of 100 has produced to explain its aims and objectives to trade unionists. We think it is of interest because it shows the political evolution of the Committee of 100 with both its negative and positive features clearly. The text reads:

DEADLOCK

The Great Powers are caught in a rat race that can only end in atomic war. Working people have nothing to gain from such a conflict. They can be a party no longer to the quarrels of their rulers.

All means whereby we can effectively make our feelings felt are closed. Hundreds of thousands are opposed to the Government's nuclear strategy. But both major parties support the use of the nuclear "deterrent" - sometimes against the wish of their own members. Other political parties support the manufacture and testing of the Russian Bomb, objecting only to British or American ones. None can honestly speak in the name of humanity.

OBJECTIVES

The politicians have no mandate to reduce Britain to a radio-active graveyard. Their bases and rocket sites do not "protect" us. They convert these islands into an enormous target.

The peril is so great that we have initiated a campaign of massive civil disobedience. Our aims are to draw people's attention to the dangers that confront them and to compel the government to abandon its nuclear policy or else to get out.

DIRECT ACTION

You are all familiar with situations of industrial deadlock. The employers will not yield. All the usual channels have been exhausted. What do men then do? How do they act when they feel strongly on the matter? They take their problems into their own hands. They resort to various forms of industrial action.

The struggle against nuclear war should be seen in much the same way. And surely now is the time to act.

THEIR LAWS.....AND OURS

Some will denounce our methods as "undemocratic". We would reply that all our basic rights (to assemble, to organise, trade union rights, rights of free speech) were won by struggle and through direct action, often in the teeth of bitter opposition. Working people need no reminding of this. Even today major gains in industry are often won at job level, by direct action, whether "official" or "unofficial".

The millionaire press will distort our aims or present us as cranks. Mediaeval laws will be used to intimidate us. We will not give in. We refuse to be bound by a legality that has lost all meaning. What is at stake is the future of the human race. This is the only law we recognise.

YOUR SUPPORT NEEDED

The Committee of 100 calls for the support of all workers. We would like you to discuss with us and within your own ranks the aims of the campaign. We would like you to participate in the demonstrations which will take place on an increasing scale. We would like above all for you to consider what YOU can do to develop the campaign along effective lines.

Only when large sections of the working class support our objectives and are prepared to struggle for them will it be possible to avert the threat of war. Workers make the weapons of mass destruction, transport them, handle them, install them. They supply and equip those who use them. When they no longer accept to do so, the politicians will have to fight their own wars.

An effective struggle against the bomb, mobilising thousands of industrial workers, would have immense repercussions. It could challenge and defeat the Establishment. The road would then be open to a just and sane society, in which war would for ever be eliminated.

EAST MIDLANDS COMMITTEE OF 100 TO BE FORMED

Supporters of the Committee of 100 hundred in the East Midlands region are to form a local committee. The founding meeting will be on this Sunday the 11th of February at 6.00 at 54, Park Rd., Lenton, Nottingham. Further details will appear in the next issue of the Bulletin.

THOUSANDS GET C.N.D. LEAFLETS

Cinemagoers were greeted by some 20 C.N.D. supporters giving out leaflets as they left the Odeon cinema, Nottingham on Sunday night. The leaflet, a special one for the film "The Day the Earth Caught Fire", has been given out every night since. The address of the regional official has been duplicated on the back.

We reproduce, in extenso, extracts from reports by our comrades in Ceylon on the situation there. We do this for the information of comrades and because of the decisive intervention our comrades, members of the Lanka Sama Samaja Party, the Ceylon section of the Fourth International, are making. It is unfortunate that much of the information is dated. We hope to give more up to date information of the situation in the next issue of the Bulletin. Extra copies of this supplement can be bought at 2d each.

CEYLON - THE GENERAL STRIKE OF JANUARY 5th

"The general strike of Jan 5th, called in the name of all the union centres as a protest against the use of the armed forces in the port and the failure of the Government to bring about a settlement of the port strike, was the biggest action so far of the organised working class. Despite the complete censorship announced by the Government (there is also a complete ban on meetings Ed. note) and the Government statements that the strike was almost completely a failure, the strike was a big success.

"All the organised workers of the plantations struck, as did the vast majority of the workers in the big workplaces (both Government and private), the vast majority of postal workers, railway workers, organised workers in hotels and the larger shops, practically the entirety of the white collar workers (in the CMAU) and 80% of the Government clerks organised in the GCSU. The majority of the bus workers also struck and the Government was able to run only a partial bus service and that too not everywhere. The train service was completely disorganised and only a few trains were able to run principally because of the strike of the station masters and signalmen. The strike of the Government Technical Officers' Federation disabled Radio Ceylon, overseas cable and wireless services and the radio section of the airports. The military who took charge of the radio damaged the delicate apparatus through carelessness and the short wave system is not yet functioning. (on a false report by the military, however, 8 technical officers who struck have been arrested and are being charged with sabotage)

"Victimisation has followed the strike, with the entire technical staff of Radio Ceylon being served with quit notices, the interdiction of two station masters (who stopped trains at their stations at 12 midnight on the 4th), and arrests of bus workers for sabotage. The trade union organisations which called the strike met on the 7th and have issued a call to their organisations to prepare to fight these victimisations as well as other similar actions which might be taken by the Government in the days ahead. It remains to be seen whether this will dissuade the Government from the course it has been following since the 5th in these matters.

"The false propaganda of the Government regarding the failure of the strike does not appear to have succeeded in the rural areas, where the busstrike was generally more successful than in Colombo and where the radio is not yet functioning (the radius of the present medium wave transmission is only 30 miles). But it has had a certain success in Colombo. However, we are having a three hour debate in Parliament today on the strike situation, and since the parliamentary reports are not censored, we may be able to get the truth across to some extent. (5,000 copies of our paper, produced in disregard of the censor, and distributed through the trade unions and youth leagues are, of course, woefully insufficient).

"Our immediate aims are to fight the victimisation and to obtain a victory in the harbour strike which is still continuing solidly after 24 days (this report was written on the 9th of Jan. our information is that the strike is still continuing: Ed. note.) It is realised, of course, that this strike cannot continue indefinitely, particularly since there is no strike pay).

"The one day action, which was a political action to bring pressure to bear on the Government, appears to just (if only just) correspond to the present level of consciousness of the workers. It seems likely that the next big wave will be on the economic demands of whole sections of workers (e.g., the Government workers and clerks). That is, of course, if continued victimisation or repression does not spark off a big action again.

"The party has been asked to be ready for all possible variants as described in the resolution adopted by the CC. The youth leagues were also alerted and instructed at a conference on the 7th which was attended by representatives from 201 youth leagues. Apart from the special variants which are always possible, the general line for today is, while realising the enormous possibilities, it is necessary to take the masses forward from their present level, and also to avoid all sectarianism in action."

ON THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN CEYLON

The following consists of extracts from a resolution passed by the Working Committee of the L.S.S.P., Ceylonese section of the Fourth International.

"The most important feature in the present political situation in the country is the fact that the working class has begun to enter the political arena as an independent force. The importance of this fact is in no manner minimised by the other fact that the present independent actions of the workers are as yet centred on essentially trade union demands; for it has already become clear that in the present economic and political context these trade union actions have unavoidable political implications.

"The working class thus moving into action has shown two important characteristics. On the one side it has shown a determination to pursue its objectives whatever the difficulties. On the other hand it has shown itself capable of uniting massively in action. Both these factors point to a new level of class consciousness.

"The blows already struck by the workers have transformed the political situation and set it developing in a new direction. No longer is the conducting of the attack upon the Government policy centred within the Right. It is the working class that is increasingly at the centre of the attack on the SLFP Government's policies, inadequacies and incapacities.....

".....In this connection it is essential to realise that in the development of the present situation on, the one hand, extra-parliamentary action can well be carried out successfully by the working class, and on the other, that such extra-parliamentary action may become necessary for the working class independent of its own volition in certain circumstances.

"To begin with there are signs that the SLFP Government and Party are shaken and can be broken up. The cabinet has shown itself uncertain as to the course of action it should take in relation to working class struggles and in this connection it is to be stressed that the zig-zags are not due to any basic division of opinion within the cabinet between Right and Left but primarily to differences of opinion as to the question of how best the Government can survive without major political concessions to the working class.

"The division probably goes deeper in the SLFP Parliamentary Party. There are signs that a leftish moving action is beginning to crystallise within the SLFP Parliamentary Party, and one of the tasks facing us is to assist this differentiation. It should be stressed that the rate of differentiation will depend upon the weight and success of working class direct action.

"Faced with division within its ranks and following, the Government may not only zig-zag but also crack ultimately. Should it crack up by force of primarily its internal development, those in control are likely to turn to the Parliamentary solution of a General Election. Should that indeed eventuate, the electoral tactic of the party in relation to the general left including leftward moving groupings and elements of the SLFP will be of the utmost importance in determining the outcome of the election.

"However, the Party has to aim at a different process of the solution of the crisis, and this aim can begin to be implemented in the present situation itself. The working class cannot aim to solve the crisis through the parliamentary process but must resort to the direct action process. This has to be the guiding line of activity for the Party in the present situation.

"Let it be noted at once that this is a guiding perspective and that the application of the line requires and will require extreme care in the developing situation. Today, for instance, in relation to the strikes that are taking place, it would be a mistake to seek to impose upon them any political objectives. Even the harbour strike is a trade union struggle for economic objectives, and the conduct of the struggle must be related to those objectives. Any attempt to force the development or to divert such struggles from their present objectives would only upset the whole development. The essential task here is to conduct these struggles in such a manner that they can on the one hand be co-ordinated and inter-linked and on the other through the increased understanding and clarification of the political implications the political perspectives can steadily emerge.

In the application of our line we must be constantly prepared for two kinds of direct counter action. The first kind of counter action is repression by the Government. They can move the army and police against the working class and the Left. It will be the task of the Party ^{not only} to keep the masses warned and prepared

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against such eventualities but also to keep the masses warned and prepared for prompt, powerful, united and sustained action in such an event.

"The other type of counter action which can come, not only through a section of the Government but also from outside it, is a Rightist coup. This, as it happens, is a move with the possibility of which the masses have long been familiar, and it should be easier to prepare them against that possibility than against Governmental repression to which they have been in some degree accustomed because of the almost continuous Emergency situation since May 1958. We must make the masses understand the difference between Governmental repression and a Rightist coup and teach them to be as vigilant and active against repression as against a coup. The preparation for the event of a coup must, of course, be for a prompt and massive counter blow. The Party should realise that such a development carries with it the possibilities of leading directly to a struggle for power itself.

"Should neither repression nor coup take place, the development of the essentially trade union action of today into political action, that is, actions with primarily political objectives, will be less rapid and tumultuous but nevertheless along these lines development can open the perspective of a struggle for power. The prospect of this development flows from the fact that the present militancy of the working class in relation to its trade union objectives comes up from the beginning against the obstacle of the deteriorating financial and economic situation which makes it impossible for the Government and the capitalist class to make either timely or sufficient concessions. By reason of this obstacle the working class in struggle for its trade union demands will quickly come up against the need for political action and solutions as the means to their very trade objectives. To assist this development, to provide it with the appropriate slogans at each stage so that the struggle acquires the correct perspective, to prepare the mass actions and to co-ordinate and unify them into mass onslaughts which can be increasingly directed against the centres and citadels of power, these are tasks ^{to} which the Party must bend all its energies in the coming period. The appropriate organs of the Party will, of course, turn immediately to the preparation of the Party organisation.

"Finally what is the over-all slogan which will correctly epitomise the perspectives of this struggle? What is the governmental slogan which we will put forward as the struggle drives towards political objectives?

"The slogan must appear realisable; that is to say, it must stem from today's consciousness of the working class and the general masses. It must attract to itself the progressive forces in and around the SLFP who are moving away from or are dissatisfied with the SLFP Government's policies. It must fit in with the mass action perspective and yet be flexible enough to enable its contents to be adjusted to the situation and the alignment of forces. It must not contrast the mass action process to the parliamentary process in such a manner as will necessitate it being jettisoned in the event of a General Election.

"The slogan which would appear to answer all these requirements and also the requirement that it should not appear sectarian in relation to other Left parties is:

"For a Government of Socialist Concentration"
(A Genuine Socialist Government of all Progressive Forces).....

STOP PRESS ITEMS

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- (3) The C.P. candidate, John Peck, in the St. Albans by-election (Nottingham) lost votes despite a general swing to the left in which the Labour majority was doubled from 800 odd to 1,528. The liberals who won the seat two years ago slumped to third place.

CEYLON COUP D'ETAT

We reproduce herewith a statement sent to the Bulletin by the Ceylon Socialist Students Association in the U.K.:

"We condemn unreservedly the recent attempt by elements in the armed forces and the police to wrest by forceful means political power in the country.

"While constituting an attempt by the capitalist class to stabilise its authority through naked force in the face of mass discontent in the country, it is clear that the immediate opportunity for this threatened action has been provided by the Srima Bandaranaike Government through its continued use of emergency powers, and the virtual handing over of the civil administration to military organisations for a prolonged period.X

"The intransigence of the Government in the face of the present wave of working class struggles for better conditions compels it to rely more and more on the armed forces and paves the way for further military adventures on the part of the capitalist class.

"We send the following demands to the Prime Minister:

- (1) That it withdraw immediately the armed forces from the port of Colombo.
- (2) That it remove forthwith the declared State of Emergency in the country
- (3) That it enter into immediate negotiations with the trade unions of the workers on strike.

"Our Association also pledges its fullest solidarity with the working class of Ceylon and salutes the remarkable unity and sense of determination it continues to demonstrate in the present struggles"

X The Government declared a State of Emergency in April 1961 - to deal with the civil disobedience started by the Tamil speaking Ceylonese who opposed the Sinhala only Language act I. Since then a military officer has been given the post of co-ordinating officer and he is the Boss of the North and Eastern provinces of Ceylon. Radio Ceylon has been handed over to the navy since Jan 5th, 1962 and the army is working full time in the port of Colombo from Dec. 1961, doing the loading and unloading of cargo as the Port Workers have been on strike regarding a demand for a monthly wage system - they are paid daily now. - and for the restoration of their full salaries, which have been cut by 4% under the guise of a National Development Tax. The Bank Employees too have been on strike for the last 7 weeks.

CEYLON - THE LANKA SAMA SAMAJA PARTY AND THE ATTEMPTED COUP

We are informed by the Ceylon Socialists Students Association that our comrades in Ceylon are doing their best to alert the masses against the dangers of a military coup, they have issued a special leaflet in this respect.

Comrade Neil de Alvis, one of the L.S.S.P. M.P.s, was arrested during the coup and held for 9 hours at the police station. This was part of the coup but fortunately it was foiled in Colombo by 4 hours.

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