

REPORT 16

15-30 July 86

The bi-weekly newsletter of the
COMMUNIST PARTY OF IRAN - THE COMMITTEE ABROAD

NEWS FROM IRAN

Successful Protest over Expulsions

Recently the management in Zamyad factory issued a leaflet concerning the expulsion of 2400 excess workforce. The decision was taken on the ground that the production line was going to be automatised and therefore only 800 workers were needed to work on it. The management decided to dismiss the workers gradually over a period of 4 months. All the workers in the factory became worried about their future, since any of them could be on the list of expulsion. They gathered in circles and discussed the matter amongst themselves, and stopped work in protest.

A short time after the issue of the leaflet, 31 workers were sacked. Later some 150 workers were told that they were to be transferred to Pars car company (General Motors). The workers who knew that expulsions were underway in Pars factory itself, considered this as the beginning of their expulsion (some reports indicate that the management in Pars factory had agreed to employ these workers for 3 months and on condition that their wages were paid by Zamyad factory!). So they gathered in front of the factory and protested against their transfer. The other workers joined them in the protest. The solid action of the workers forced the management to retreat temporarily and stop the expulsions. It is interesting to know that the management announced that it did know nothing about the leaflet, and that no worker is expelled under the rule of Islam!

Conscription for War Fronts

- recently the Ministry of Labour issued a circular calling on all cooperatives in factories to hold seminars for the purpose of encouraging the workers to go to the war front and collecting contributions for war expenditures.
- In Butan gas company and Dadash-zadeh shoe factory the forcible dispatch is underway. Those refusing to go will have a wage deduction of 3 days.
- The management in Pars Electric factory deducted a part of the workers' bonuses and spent some of it on building a mosque in the factory, sending the rest to the war budget. Fear from expulsion prevented the workers from united action.
- In mid May, a leaflet signed by the Islamic Societies and sports federation, was distributed in Tehran factories; calling on all the sportsmen and women in the factories to take part in a ceremony held by the Ministry of Labour. Despite the general feeling amongst the workers that the whole thing was a conspiracy, a number of workers involved in sports activities took part.
- As soon as the workers were gathered in the ministry, forms of dispatch to the front were handed out and they were asked to fill them out. Despite threats and pressure, the workers angrily tore the forms up and left the meeting.

- The regime has put pressure on the students to go to the fronts during their summer holidays. One week after the final examinations, all the students in technical schools in Tehran were told that they have to spend 6-weeks' training period in the fronts; this period is to be counted as a part of their course. Following this attempt, some parents protested and the authorities were forced to say that the dispatch is entirely voluntarily and no one is forced to go!

- Some 1000 students in the technical university of Yazd (a city in central Iran) are to be dispatched during the next few months. Almost everyone is upset about this and the 300 students who have refused to go, are subjected threats and intimidation. The authorities have announced that the students will be attending some lectures in the fronts and those not going, will remain behind few terms.

- One of the tactics of the regime is to attack the youths in crowded parts of big cities, arresting and taking away many of them. News from Mashhad (a city in North-Eastern Iran) say that the Pasdars (regime's armed guards) surround a cinema and arrest a number of people coming out and send them to the war fronts.

Also the street peddlers in Gomrok square in Tehran (mostly youngsters) are under everyday attack of the Pasdars. In this way, the regime hunts down the youths who have evaded conscription.

- Extortion from the people for the Iran-Iraq war is expanding in dimensions everyday. Recently all the shopkeepers in Sepah-salar garden in Tehran were invited to a meeting and told to choose between going to the front and losing their licence. Everyone was asked to pay a certain amount of money ranging from a hundred up to tens of thousands of Tomans

Also, the butchers in Shahinshar near Tehran have to pay the regime a certain amount of money in order to receive their supply of meat.

News of Expulsions & Factory Closures

- Khodrosazan (Fiat) company: Falling production in this car company forced the management to announce that those willing to resign voluntarily would receive an annual amount equal to 3 months of their wages as redundancy pay and unemployment benefit. Fear of expulsion and job insecurity forced a number of workers to resign. In another attempt, the management temporarily sent some of the workers to Pars car factory (General Motors); the purpose was to disperse the workers and dismiss them gradually. We have also receive news that the militant workers are under the pressure and threat to resign.
- Tehran offset prints: Following the abolishment of night work in this factory, the management announced that all the workers under 20 years of age were to be made redundant. It was also announced that all the workers with long working experience had to retire. The number of years of experience was not specified.
- Jorab-e-asia (Starlight) factory: Since the beginning of this year there has been the rumour that the management was planning to dismiss 300 working men and women. The fear of expulsion created conservatism amongst the workers and prevented them from taking any action. The management is dismissing the workers in groups of 4 or 5. The exact number of expulsions is not at hand.
- Chit-e-ray factory: There is the rumour that some 600 workers are to be expelled soon.
- Khavar company: Since the beginning of this year production has been stopped in this spring making company and the workers have been laid off.

● Alomizan company: This company which is a producer of aluminium sheets is facing a close down.

● Pasteurised milk company: A large number of workers have been dismissed during the last few months. The exact number of expulsions are not yet known.

News in Brief

● Iranhad gas company: This company with 300 work-force is situated in the East of Iran. Most of the workers belong to national minorities (Kurds, Afghans, etc.) and work at gas pipe-laying. News indicate the non-payment of wages for the last 4 months of last year. The workers have protested and gone on a 4-day strike, but have not managed to obtain their demand.

● In late May the workers in one of the brick-yards in Kurdistan went on strike over the improvement of their work conditions (such as providing electricity, cellophane sheets for covering the bricks, fresh water, etc). The strike lasted 3 days despite the conspiracies of the employer. The workers succeeded in imposing their demands.

Political Prisoners' Families Win their Demand

As reported in report No.5, the families of the women political prisoners in Evin prison protested over the prohibition of visiting their children. Following their protest action, the families succeeded to force the authorities to remove the prohibition. Some news indicate that as a result of the protest the prisoners have been subjected to more torture.

IN REVOLUTIONARY KURDISTAN

During the last few weeks, Komala Peshmargas (armed militants of the Kurdistan Organisation of the Communist Party of Iran-Komala) have had many successful political and military operation in different areas of Kurdistan. In early June, units of Peshmargas entered the city of Bookan and brought under their control the area around the Islamic Republic's base in the city. The Peshmargas then distributed some leaflets and explained the policies and positions of the Communist Party of Iran, exposed the counter-revolutionary policies of the Islamic Republic, and discussed with the people the methods of struggle against regime's policies. In this action which took two hours, more than 10 of the enemy personnel were killed or injured. Similar operations took place in a village 10 kilometre outside the city of Marivan and in the area near the regime's bases in the Bookan-Saghez main road.

The Peshmargas have also had 10 confrontations with the regime's forces in the areas of Marivan, Sanandaj and Bookan in late May and early June. In one major operation in late May, the Peshmargas succeeded in capturing the regime's base in one of the villages in the Saghez area. A number of the re-

gime's personnel were killed or injured and the rest escaped. Three of our comrades were slightly injured and returned to their units after treatment. The Peshmargas removed the ammunitions and put fire on the base. In all other operations our comrades inflicted some casualties on the enemy forces. None of our comrades were hurt.

In continuation of its reactionary policy of forcible deportation of Kurdish people from their villages, recently the regime has put pressure on the people of one of the villages in the Baneh area to leave the village. The people sent their representatives to the authorities in the city of Baneh in protest against this inhuman policy. Also the people in two villages of the Saghez area who were deported from their villages a year ago, continued their struggle and put pressure on the authorities to return to their villages. Under their pressure, the regime has given each family a tent and promised to build houses for them in another area; the people have to accept every area the regime chooses. These people have been wandering in the mountains over the last year.

The regime has been continuing its attempts to forcibly dispatch the Kurdish people to the Iran-Iraq war fronts. Following the regime's pressure on the lorry-drivers in the city of Saghez for going to the fronts, the drivers protested and went on strike. The regime was forced to retreat and announce that every driver could pay 150000 Tomans (\$3000) and not to go to the fronts. The drivers have resisted this new attempt and are still continuing their protest. In other areas of Kurdistan, the efforts of the Islamic Republic to impose its policy on the people have faced a defeat.

In some villages the regime has tried to arme the villagers to stand guard during the night. In few villages in the area of Bookan, the regime's forces leave a weapon (without any bullets) in each house. But the people, except a few, refuse to take them up and march in protest towards the city of Bookan. The forces of the regime succeeded in forcing them to return and dispersed them by threats and intimidation.

Villages in the area of Peerandasht have been constantly under the attack of the Iraqi air-crafts. Many villages are destroyed and reports indicate that the people of 25 villages in this area have left their villages and taken refuge in the surrounding mountains.

We have received news about the attack of the Pasdars on the workers in one of the brick-yards in the area of Bookan. In late May, the oppressive forces of the Islamic Republic raided a brick-yard in the Miandoab-Bookan main road, and, while abusing and attacking the workers, raped a 14-year girl working there. The workers angrily attacked the Pasdars and a conflict started between them. The regime's forces started shooting and as the result two workers lost their lives.

The families of Peshmargas in the area of Bookan have been under constant pressure to force their children to come back to their villages. Otherwise the regime will force them to leave their villages for an unknown area.

In the last few weeks, 5 other KDP (Kurdistan Democratic Party) Peshmargas joined the ranks of Komala Peshmargas. Also in the area of Marivan 6 soldiers left the ranks of the Islamic Republic forces and turned themselves over to Komala.

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