

THE

Week

**A news analysis for socialists 9d.**



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A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS

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## EDITORS' LETTER

Last week's edition with its special emphasis on the Young Socialists and youth issues was quite successful. A good number were sold at the Young Socialist rally in London and many useful contacts were made during the course of the demonstration.

Our next effort will be the sample printed edition which we are to bring out for Easter. With the Easter anti-bomb demonstrations, the Young Socialist Annual Conference and many other events, our supporters will have a good opportunity to sell a large number which will enable us to print without risking to great a financial loss. Of course the basis of our journal is subscriptions and even a large sale, as we anticipate, will only be of significance if it leads to a good number of new subscribers. So once again we emphasise - all our supporters should try to their utmost to win subscribers to get us over that magic number when printing will be more economical than duplicating.



LABOUR'S LEFT MUST ORGANISE-NOW

Talk of a General Election is in the air - indeed, the trade figures just issued for January may expedite matters. The Labour Party left must prepare now for both the situation leading up to the election and the post-election period. This is not the place to exhort left wing members of the Labour Party to work hard to defeat the Tories. They know, only too well already, that the extent to which they are taken seriously inside the Labour movement will be largely determined by how hard they work in the election. But the left has other tasks, too.

The period leading up to the election will be one of heightened political interest by large sections of the population, especially the young, and in particular, those voting for the first time. It is imperative that the left uses this heightened interest to get across basic socialist ideas. Any argument that this amounts to splitting the party, rocking the election boat, etc. must be countered. There is more than one <sup>way</sup> to propagandize socialist ideas, and we are not suggesting the strident slogan shouting so current in certain circles. Instead we need to take people at the level of consciousness we find them and work in such a way that our socialist propaganda consolidates our links with the mass of the Labour Party workers and supporters. Basic education work of a non-sectarian nature is a priority and must be started now.

Assuming the most likely variant of the General Election, the great debate which will dominate British politics, is whether the Labour Government will attempt to implement socialist measures, or whether it will try to run British capitalism more efficiently than the Tories. Either way there will be an ideological conflict between left and right. In the event of Wilson being pressurised into taking any far-reaching measures the fury of the Tories and the capitalist press will (just as it did in the steel nationalisation debate) bring the right wing of the Labour Party right out into the open. In the event of Wilson and Co. carrying out a right wing policy the left will be duty-bound to fight, tooth and nail, from the very start, against every aspect of this policy. Either way, too, the left must organise. Too many times in the past after putting up a terrific fight on a particular issue - German Rearmament, unilateralism, etc. - the left has disintegrated. In fact, the biggest single weakness of the left has been the absence of a left-wing organising centre to coordinate its forces.

The creation of such a left wing organising centre is no easy matter. Avoiding sterile dogmatism on the one side, and the quagmire of opportunist adaption on the other (to be as broad as possible) is a highly skilled political operation. We offer no easy remedies. What we can suggest, concretely, is that Labour Party members support a set of people who are beginning to face up to the problems we have outlined.

Two events will be taking place this week end which deserve the support of all sections of the left: a Unity National Conveners meeting, Sat., starting 3 p.m. at 21, Drayton Gardens, (South Kensington Tube) London SW 10; theme: the victory of socialist ideals must be organised; and a Voice day school at the Mostyn Hotel, Portman St., London W.1. from 10.30 to 4.30. <sup>Sunday</sup> Speakers John Hughes and Stephen Swingler. Any person who has not notified the organisers that they wish to attend should contact Richard Fletcher, 21, Drayton Gardens, London S.W. 10. telephone FRE 1686.





# INDUSTRIAL week

SUPPORT THE RALEIGH STRIKERS

by Pat Jordan.

The national importance of the Raleigh strike is underlined by the fact that the Financial Times of February 18th chose to devote its second editorial to the matter. In doing so it takes a swipe at the unions in general, of course, but it devotes a considerable amount of space to supporting the stand of the Tube Investments' management. The facts of the Raleigh strike have been stated more than once in this journal but it is necessary to emphasise the extremely radical nature of the stand the men are taking. If we understand this, we understand why the management is being so pig-headed. To strike to impose work-sharing instead of sacking is to strike to take away the right of the employers to hire and fire at will. The latter is one of the fundamental "rights" of the employers in their one-sided contract with the workers. What is more, in a period when large-scale rationalisation is taking place the right to hire and fire becomes paramount. This is why the article ends: "...economic expansion requires mobility. The unions, like the rest of us, must accept change."

The strike itself is a heroic one - 300 of the men who normally earn £16 a week upwards (with commitments to match) have existed for well over a month on 55s. a week. They are not striking for more money - but to save the jobs of their fellow-workers. The other A.E.U. members (those not employed in the tool-room) are not striking about an issue which directly affects them, but are striking out of loyalty to their union. Inter-union rivalry has created many problems, which are complicated by the fact that the local A.E.U. leadership did not combat redundancy in departments where its membership is in the minority. The management have not been slow to point this out.

Thus the stage is set for a drawn-out struggle. The latest attempt to end the dispute, namely, the appeal by the A.E.U. Executive for the Ministry of Labour to intervene, seems unlikely to bring about a speedy solution unless one side or the other makes substantial concessions. The Raleigh workers are fighting the huge Tube Investments combine which can 'afford' to suffer some loss to 'establish a principle'. Defeat for the strikers would have repercussions for union organisation and for the fight against redundancy in general. Every class-conscious militant and Labour Party worker should take sides - the elementary step is to get their organisation(s) to go on record in support of the strikers. This is extremely important for the real solution: that of bringing all the workers at all the Tube Investment factories into the struggle.

## WEST NOTTINGHAM C.L.P. SUPPORTS RALEIGH STRIKERS

At its February meeting the West Nottm. C.L.P. passed a resolution expressing "...its admiration and support for the strikers...We condemn the action of T.I. Ltd. of provoking the strike by refusing the reasonable demand for the shorter working week...and we congratulate our brothers on their T.U. spirit." A collection was taken at the meeting for the strike fund.



C.N.D. FIRM AGAINST CONSCRIPTION

At its last meeting the Executive Committee of C.N.D. adopted a statement on conscription which emphatically opposed its reintroduction. After stating that it was deeply concerned at the frequency with which arguments were being advanced for the reintroduction of conscription, the statement dealt with the argument that conscription was an alternative to an independent deterrent. It pointed out that the Labour Party was committed to upgrading Britain's conventional arm as an alternative defence policy to reliance on nuclear weapons. Drawing attention to the fact that this argument ignores McNamara's statement that Western forces were already well ahead of those of the Soviet Union, it went to demonstrate that this policy too is a variant of the 'deterrent' theory of keeping peace. The statement reiterates that the C.E.C of C.N.D. will oppose any attempt to reintroduce any kind of conscription - total or selective.

SWEDISH SOCIAL DEMOCRAT M.P.S REVOLTbased on Peace News report

A group of 31 Swedish social democrat M.P.s have flouted their own party whips and refused to sanction the planned increase of 15lm. kroner (nearly £10.5m.) in the 1964-65 defence budget. The increase is in accordance with the current defence agreement between the Government and the non-socialist opposition parties, which allow for an annual increase of 2.5% for technical development plus an automatic increment to cover the cost of increases for wages and materials.

The 31 social democrat M.P.s say that it is an anomaly for a peaceful country like Sweden to increase its defence expenditure when the major powers are reducing theirs. Their motion opposing the increase will be taken up in the spring session of Parliament. A further motion by a small group of pacifist M.P.s urging that Sweden say no to atomic weapons and urging a reduction of the defence budget will not be in a much stronger position.

WHAT C.N.D. IS DOING

The C.N.D. February Notes gives some facts and figures about C.N.D. activities and makes a comparison with the Labour Party.

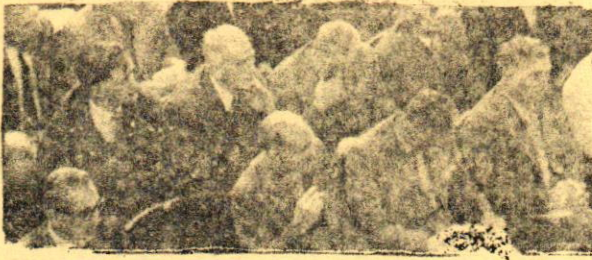
"...Our monthly newspaper Sanity (35,000 copies)....Nearly 500 adult C.N.D. groups, 250 youth groups, 150 student groups....£26,833 worth of literature ..over the last 18 months.." and compared with Labour "The Labour Party has 640 Constituency Labour Parties, plus Young Socialist branches.....According to the latest audited statements, the Labour Party sold £34,772 worth of literature in 12 months, C.N.D sold £17,888. But the L.P. in the same period spent £98,015 on head office staff, compared with C.N.D.'s £6,000; and £30.910 on rent and office expenses compared with C.N.D.'s £5,334."

LIVERPOOL SAYS C.D. NO DEFENCE

from Alan Rooney

The Liverpool Echo, Feb. 6th reported:"Insisting on a rejection of the word "defence" in the Civil Defence Organisation, Coun. Dr. Barnett obtained a vote of 71 against 50 in favour of an amendment to this effect, which he moved...at Liverpool City Council yesterday."





## Trade union week

### "TRAINING" SHOP STEWARDS

by P. Jones

An article in the February issue of the Manager, the journal of the British Institute of Management, should warn us of a device that is likely to become increasingly popular among employers - namely "training" shop stewards. The article is written by the head of the department of "Commerce and Professional Studies" at Thurrock Technical College. He notes that day-release or residential week-end training courses for shop stewards are becoming more common at universities and technical colleges. Among those to have run such courses are Birmingham C.A.T., Slough College of Further Education, Luton Technical College, and others. The writer suggests that these courses are probably superior to those run by "interested parties", i.e., by the unions themselves. However this pseudo-objectivity scarcely succeeds in concealing the very "interested" nature of the courses offered. But this time the "interests" catered for are not those of the working class. Of his own courses at Thurrock the writer says: "They have been supported by local firms including Mobil Oil, Teleflex products, London and Thames Haven Oil Wharves, Grays Co-operative Society and Esso. Several other companies in the college's catchment area, including Shell Refining, have reserved places for future courses."

When the author quotes the syllabus of the course offered one is not surprised by this support. Section 4 reads:

#### "Making Money Work.

"Definition of productivity - The ordinary man's hopes and expectations of industry - profits and their importance - the demands on company profits - industry's contribution to the welfare state - how industry is financed - shares and dividends - the importance of savings."

This is clearly a brazen incitement to class collaboration, a "training" in hoary capitalist myths about "money" working; "just" profit levels; "industry's contribution", etc. Other sections of the course have such odorous titles as "The value of sound objectives"; "Handling people", etc. The union movement must protect itself from these encroachments by expanding its own educational facilities and ensuring that "academic" objectivity is not used to cloak capitalist apologetics.

### FORDS ANNOUNCE REDUNDANCY - BUT WANT MORE OVERTIME

The Ford Motor Company warned unions at the February 17th meeting of National Joint Negotiating Committee (this covers all the Ford's works in the country) that redundancies are likely towards the end of the year at the Dagenham plant. At the same meeting the unions rejected a demand that a 'specific guarantee' of working up to 40 hours a month overtime be a condition of employment; this was to be one of the conditions for introducing a third week's holiday in stages by 1967.





# LIFE'S BETTER WITH THE CONSERVATIVE

## FORDS TO HAVE OWN VOICE

In May the first edition of Ford Workers' Voice will appear. It will be a factory edition of Voice having two pages of material provided and edited by the Fords Joint Shop Stewards Committee. The first edition will have a run-off of 2,000 copies. An appeal has been made by the editor of Voice for other groups of supporters of the paper to make it a matter of priority to set about establishing factory editions in their area.

## LEFT CO-OPERATORS TO MEET

Co-operative Advance, the organisation of the left wing in the Royal Arsenal Co-operative Society, the third largest in the country, is holding a conference on Sunday, February 23rd at Lambeth Town Hall (small hall, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.). The conference will review the first five months of the organisation, and members will be able to meet candidates for the Society's forthcoming elections for committees and delegations. Membership of Co-operative Advance is now several hundreds. Finance is on an even keel, monthly committee meetings have been held, and the second issue of the organisation's publication, Co-operative Advance has appeared. The interim secretary is Dave Coates, 24, Parkdale Rd., Plumstead, London S.E. 18.

## STEPS TO FORM SOCIETY OF LABOUR SCIENTISTS

Because many Labour Party members are concerned at the apparently bureaucratic approach of the powers-that-be to the formulation of scientific and technical policy (Fuel & Power, Atomic Energy, Offshore Oil & Gas, Aviation, etc.) the possibility of establishing a "Society of Labour Scientists" is being explored. Anyone interested, or with the names of others who might be interested, should write to Martin Lam, 21, Drayton Gardens, London S.W. 10.

## NOTTINGHAM ANTI-APARTHEID GROUP FORMED from Mrs. S. Whawell

A local group of the Anti-Apartheid Movement has recently been formed in Nottingham. Its aim is to help the non-whites of South Africa by bringing to the notice of the people the true facts of the conditions at present prevailing in that country. It also wants to bring pressure forward for the boycott of South African goods. Most Nottingham stores are heavily stocked with South African goods and it feels that a grave injustice is being done by allowing this to continue. Anyone who is prepared to help should contact me: Mrs. S. Whawell, 78, Orston Drive, Wollaton Park, Nottingham. Financial help would also be very helpful.





HIGHER PRODUCTION - HIGHER UNEMPLOYMENT by Peter Wilkins (London)

According to figures issued by the U.S. Labor Department the number of unemployed in America was 700,000 higher in January than in December: there are now 4.6 million registered unemployed or 5.6% of the work force. Other statistics show that the U.S. economy is still on the upswing of a boom; outlays on new plant and equipment are expected by McGraw-Hill to rise by 9% in 1964 over the previous year. The persistence of high unemployment at this time thus confirms its structural, in-built nature in contemporary American society.

\$10,000 AN HOUR PROFITS Reuter report

Broadway impresario Billy Rose says he has been making about \$10,000 every hour that the New York Stock Exchange has been open since October 15 last year. Rose, the largest individual stockholder in American Telephone and Telegraph, has huge holdings in the New York Central and Pennsylvania Railroads. His holdings have risen \$4 million in value in recent months. His long-term profits in A.T. and T. total more than \$8 million.

Note: \$10,000 is approx. £3,570.

AMERICAN BIG BUSINESS DOING WELL from a financial correspondent

When allowance is made for the effects of changes in the way of listing depreciation, U.S. big business has increased its profits by no less than 40% in the last two years. The figures for the last quarter of 1963 were issued last week and these brought the earnings for the whole of 1963 to an unprecedented level of \$28,000 million or so, compared with \$24,645 million in 1962 and only \$21,770 million in 1961, a two-year gain of nearly 30%. However, the figures for 1961 and 1963 are not directly comparable because figures since 1962 have been adjusted to allow for the effects of the enactment of new depreciation guide lines. 20 of the 21 industrial groups register gains leaving only electrical-equipment electronics with a fall. This too is not typical - the fall was mainly accounted for by the bad performance of one firm, Westinghouse. The top profit makers for the quarter were General Motors \$506m. (17% up); Standard Oil of N.J. \$242m. (21% up); Texaco \$161m. (1963 figure n.a.); Du Pont \$152m. (9% up); Ford \$141m. (8½% up); Gulf Oil \$101m. (1% down); I.B.M. \$83m. (approx 20% up); Standard Oil of Calif. \$77m. (2½% down); and U.S. Steel \$53m. (30% up).

U.S. SENATOR ADMITS C.I.A. EMPLOYS ASSASSINS based on I.F. Stone report

Senator Eugene McCarthy writing in the Saturday Evening Post (Jan. 4-11) wrote that the C.I.A. has on its payroll, "specialists in intelligence, analysis and espionage, U-2 pilots and assassins."



# THIRD WORLD WEEK



## CONGO REVOLUTION FLARES AGAIN

by Chris Arthur (Oxford)

According to press reports, General Mobuto has sealed off Congo's rebellious Kwilu Province. "He wants no witnesses to the terrible campaign of reprisal now under way to smash the Communist-inspired guerilla warfare," says the Daily Mail. Journalists have been forbidden; Europeans flown out; and 1,000 heavily armed paracommandos flown in from Katanga. What is known of the planned operation here indicates that villages will be burned down and executions carried out as necessary." Western embassies "grimly approve" this. It is not difficult to see why. The British-Dutch Unilever rich palm oil plantations are in the area and the leader of the revolt is the Lumumba minister, Pierre Mulele who has spent 18 months in Moscow and Peking.

The revolt has had initial success. In clashes the guerillas "have shown a fanatical disregard for their lives in swarming ant-like attacks reminiscent of Chinese actions in Korea...." Four white missionaries have been killed despite orders by Mulele that Europeans were only to be roughed up and driven out. Economic damage caused by the fighting is reported to be considerable. One question mark over the outcome of the Government extermination campaign is the unreliability of the army. (Ed. note: see page 9)

## ZANZIBAR CLAMPS DOWN ON MONEY LENDERS

based on Zanews report

The Revolutionary Council of Zanzibar has ordered free redemption of goods pawned by ordinary people. Since the beginning of February when the order was made people have been queuing outside Government offices every morning to hand their pawn tickets to officials. In return they are given vouchers which enable them to redeem pawned articles without further payment.

## IRANIAN STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE AGAINST THE SHAH

from Hsinhua

Iranian students from Florence University held a demonstration on February 10th outside the hotel where the Shah of Iran was staying on his way home from the winter Olympics in Innsbruck. The students, supported by many of their fellow-Italian students, carried posters protesting against atrocities committed by the Iranian Government. They also expressed their solidarity with the struggle of the Iranian workers and intellectuals fighting for freedom. Italian police broke up the demonstration and arrested 12 demonstrators, 11 of whom were Iranian and one Italian. On February 14th, 1,500 students and young workers demonstrated against the continued stay of the Shah in Florence and for the release of the Iranian students.



PERENNIAL CRISIS BUT NO REAL CHANGE IN SIGHT

by Alberto Ciria

Reports from Buenos Aires inform us of possible measures to be taken by the Confederacion General de Trabajo (C.G.T., General Confederation of Labour) against the cruel rises in the cost of living, the freezing of workers' wages and the inflation that has afflicted the economy for a decade and now accelerates its tempo. The Government of Arturo Illia, the slightly left of centre Premier, is now faced with its most serious challenge so far. Illia and the ruling party (the Union Civica Radical del Pueblo) achieved power in elections in which they only received a minority vote and in which Communist and Peronist candidates were banned. Illia bases his Government on the support of the strongest section of the armed forces (centred on the army), and also the support of certain industrial interests and the traditional cattle-breeding and landowning strata. These latter have been strengthened by record crops of cereals, in contrast to most other producer countries.

The C.G.T. has threatened strong action in the event of the Government refusing their demands. The General Secretary has talked of a general strike to be accompanied by the occupation of factories. The occupation of factories has not been uncommon in Argentina's recent history; for example, the workers took over the U.S. Kaiser plant for several days not long ago. The C.G.T. has also called for the support of the political parties and other groupings, in particular, the student unions. The militant words of the union leaders reflect pressures from the rank and file. Unfortunately the consciousness of the mass of the organised workers remains at the purely industrial level, giving rise to hyper-militant activity which, because it does not go beyond syndicalism, is all too likely to end in demoralising failures. If the events of the past are repeated the C.G.T. leadership, which is mainly composed of "soft" Peronistas and some old-fashioned social-democrat leaders of the pre-Peron era, will reach a compromise with the Government. The real demands of the working class will not be met because they will not have received adequate political expression.

The Peronista movement is still the backbone of the organised working class. This is so despite the senility of the movement's grand old man, Juan D. Peron, and despite the heterogeneity of the movement itself. Fortunately some of the "new" Peronistas recognise that the return of the leader will not solve Argentina's problems. On the other hand, some Peronista union leaders have been as venal and corrupt as the equivalent politicians. As a real force the unions date from the regime of Peron, under whom they made truly startling gains of an economic character. However the source of the power of the dominant classes was not abolished so that these gains have been largely liquidated in the post-Peron period of "white" terror. The masses are slowly but firmly beginning to understand the situation and will surely acquire the leadership they deserve. But the process will take a long time if the left remains split into small "principist" groups which debate doctrinal issues among themselves instead of first joining forces in the facts with the Peronist workers, the true majority of the working class, and helping them to confront successfully their masters.



UNIONS BOYCOTT FRANCO

from Stan Mills

The Railway Review of February 7th carried the following item:

"Trade union delegates to the trade union committee of the O.E.C.D. are to refuse to attend any meeting where delegates from the so-called trade unions in Spain are present. They say that as long as Spain is under the dictatorship of General Franco and trade union freedom and basic workers' rights are denied they will boycott the meetings. That trade unionists - the genuine ones - have a lean time of it in Franco's Spain is shown by the treatment meted out for what would be regarded in Britain as quite usual conduct.

"54 trade unionists are standing trial accused of conspiring to reorganise the General Workers' Union in Spain on the instigation of the exiled U.G.T. members and Spanish socialists in France, as well as providing the families of the detainees with money..."

BELGIAN STUDENTS SUPPORT CONGO FREEDOM FIGHTERS

In Belgium, the left-wing Federation of Brussels Socialist Students has come out in support of the Congolese freedom fighters. On January 29 they distributed a leaflet on a wide scale appealing for solidarity with the guerilla forces. The leaflet declared:

"...The whole Belgian press, from the Libre Belgique to Drapeau Rouge (journal of the Communist Party) characterise these guerilla fighters as "gangs" of "terrorists". While recalling that Marxists have always been opposed to the use of individual terror and gratuitous violence, we believe that before discrediting a movement by characterising it as a terrorist gang, it is necessary to make a precise analysis of it and of the social conditions of the country involved. With regard to this...according to the latest letter of an American woman missionary, "young African villagers sought refuge with her and with another missionary out of fear of the soldiers." (La Libre Belgique, Jan. 28)..

"....This does not astonish us. Faced with the loss of its social base, the Government of Adoula is forced more and more to seek support in a military caste of privileged and uncontrollable praetorians. This tendency has been particularly noticeable since the months of September (banning of the Lumumbist parties) and October (proclamation of a state of emergency). Moreover, the student leaders of the Union Generale des Etudiants Congolais have been subjected to police persecution....Why the unpopularity of the Adoula government? Because it is the instrument of neo-colonialism in the Congo. It has become the puppet of Belgian-American financial interests since the rapprochement between the financial groups of these two countries following their agreement to absorb Tshombism, in a 'gentle' way to 'limit the damage.'

"...It was only natural that a government of neocolonialist violence would arouse violence in kind. The parliamentary road being closed, only direct action could obtain results....The Belgian progressives must therefore carry out their most elementary duty in face of a situation that can lead to big developments...The colonial revolution is spreading, and from Algeria to Zanzibar, from the Congo to the Cape, it can only be socialist if real independence is to be won."



LETTER FROM CUBA

by Syd Williamson (Havana)

This letter will be a round-up of this month's news. I don't know how people felt over the Leyland bus contract in Britain but it went over big here. The Cubans like our buses very much and politically this was a tremendous blow to the U.S.A. -- keep up the pressure!

Since the brutal assassination of the Panamanians there have been quite a few meetings of solidarity with Panama which culminated with:

- (a) A speech by Fidel in which he stated that the governments of the Latin American countries should come to the aid of Panama by giving Panama a loan of between \$8 and \$10 million (this is the amount which the U.S.A. threatens to withdraw), but if they didn't Cuba alone would lend Panama this amount without any conditions of any kind. This of course signifies what in reality American aid amounts to; if a small country like Cuba can do this after only 5 (difficult) years of socialism; and
- (b) A huge demonstrator in front of the old government building.

An important meeting is taking place in Brazil of trade unions from Brazil, Cuba, Panama, Uruguay, Venezuela, Argentina, Bolivia and Chile to discuss the possibility of a united trade union organisation called C.U.T.A.L. (Congress of Unity of the workers of Latin America). Already they have formed the Permanent Trade Union Council of Latin America. Among the things the latter has agreed to are:

- (a) solidarity with the Cuban revolution not because of sentimental reasons but ones of self-interest;
- (b) a call to the workers of the Americas to demonstrate against U.S. plans of aggression against Cuba and for the re-establishment of diplomatic and commercial relations with Cuba;
- (c) solidarity with the peoples of Spain and Portugal;
- (d) to establish committees of solidarity with the people of Venezuela in their fight for freedom.

NEW PHASE IN VIETNAM WAR

by Paul Weston (London)

Reports from Vietnam in recent weeks indicate that a qualitatively new phase in the guerilla struggle is being reached. Harassing tactics are giving way to full scale pitched battles involving troops on both sides of battalion strength or more. Last week alone two major engagements occurred in the critical Mekong Delta area south of Saigon. The National Liberation Front forces overran a Government battalion headquarters and occupied six villages inflicting casualties which now run at a rate three or four times as high as in the comparable period last year. Commando raids have also taken place against the compounds of U.S. military personnel.

NATION-WIDE STRIKE IN PANAMA

based on Panama Radio report

A 15-minute suspension of work was observed at noon on February 14th in factories and commercial offices throughout Panama to demonstrate to the delegation of the Organisation of American States (O.A.S.) the unity of the Panamanian people. The delegation of the O.A.S., composed of delegates of Brazil, Costa Rica, Mexico, Paraguay and Uruguay was visiting the country to 'investigate' the background to the dispute between Panama and the United States.



A LONG TERM LOOK AT AUTOMATION (part two) by Julian Atkinson

The National Economic Development Council has taken an interest in automation, having delivered its 4% growth per annum report it has now singled out several areas for long term examination. It has set up economic development committees for a number of industries to investigate the factors that affect the industry's rate of growth. Professor Richard Stone, of the Department of Applied Economics at Cambridge, has constructed a mathematical model of the British economy to assist N.E.D.C. He has concluded that if the target of an expansion of 4% per annum is continued until 1970, the nation will need 1,350,000 fewer unskilled workers and 1,395,000 less craftsmen than at present.

Automation is going to displace many people from their jobs and the 1970's promise to be really turbulent ones for the British workers unless a socialist solution has been found. By then, the techniques of automation and, particularly, their adaptation to the special problems of each industry will have advanced considerably and the unskilled will certainly not be the only sufferers. The assumption that technicians and other qualified personnel will be in greater demand is sadly mistaken. The step from a machine that can control its own actions to one that can locate and repair a fault in its functioning, and even reproduce itself, is not very great. That is why any boom in the demand for technicians is likely to be a short one.

On the other hand those jobs which are monotonous by nature - assembly jobs, many clerical operations, bus conducting, ticket collecting, and even farm labouring, will begin to disappear. Shop assistants who even now face the pressure from supermarkets, will find their jobs under threat too. Computer-controlled warehouses, linked with mail-order systems of distribution will become the order of the day.

Coal mining is an example of the pattern to come. In 1956, mechanical methods of retrieving coal accounted for 5% of the coal mined. By 1961, the figure was 48%, and by 1962, it had risen to 60%. The net result is that now takes 75 miners to retrieve the same tonnage of coal as it took 100 in 1957.

A writer in New Scientist suggested that the idea promoted by Dr. Michael Young, namely, that there be a general increase in the importance of personal service, might provide the solution to finding jobs for those displaced. He said that the crudest solution, that of accepting a steady increase in the number of people reckoned to be "unemployable" was hardly likely to gain general acceptance.

This writer also posed another social effect of automation: the disappearance of small firms. These survive by exploiting the inefficiencies of larger firms which become manifest as they grow. However, if the large firms become fully automated this factor disappears and all the advantages of large-scale production will operate. He ended by raising the question of "how two computer-run and fully optimised organisations" could compete in business? I would pose the question more broadly: how, in view of all the social upsurge and disturbance which large-scale automation will bring, can capitalist methods of production continue as we know them? Its up to us to see they don't.



BACKGROUND TO THE CYPRUS CRISIS

by Takis Tsioupra

We reproduce here an article (somewhat shortened) which appeared in the February issue of Colonial Freedom News for background information to the Cyprus crisis. We shall be commenting editorially on the crisis in the next issue.

"...The London-Zurich Agreement had many clauses that made it virtually impossible for it to work satisfactorily for all parties concerned. Under the constitution it is the Speaker of the House of Representatives that represents the President in his absence, and not the Vice-President (Dr. Kutchuk) who is the official Turkish Cypriot leader. Therefore this creates the impression among the Turkish community that their leader cannot represent the President of the Republic.

"As it is stated in the Constitution, the House of Representatives must be composed of 35 Greek and 15 Turkish members. All legislation concerning taxation or duties, and for all municipalities and elections a separate majority of the Greek and Turkish members of the House of Representatives is required. For example, if 35 Greek members and 7 Turkish members vote for a Bill, which means 42 Members of the House, and 8 Turkish members vote against it, the Bill is rejected. It is obvious that this provision prevents the passing of vital legislation (as it has already in preventing the passing of Income Tax legislation) in Cyprus. The Constitution further provides that 70% of the Civil Services are composed of Greek Cypriots and 30% Turkish. This same ratio applies to the Security Forces. The Army, however, consists of 60% Greek and 40% Turks.

"As the population is 81.14% Greek-speaking and 18.86% Turkish, these proportions do not correspond to the composition of the populations. Further, it does not make for the efficiency required in these departments when a certain number of each community has to be taken, whether competent or not. For example, if a position becomes vacant in the Civil Service and 2 applications are made, 1 Greek and the other Turkish, having lived in the same village or town they know each other's qualifications, one is much more suitable for the vacancy than the other, but cannot be accepted - the ratio for his particular community is up to full percentage. This sort of situation must and has, caused bitterness between the people...

"The Treaty of Guarantee and Alliance on the other hand ..has been used as a threat and intervention from powers in the internal affairs of Cyprus. All this, far from helping to unite the Greek and Turkish people in Cyprus to live together peacefully as they have done for years, has been food for the old imperialist slogan "Divide and Rule."

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