

# NEW AGE

COMMUNIST LEAFLET WEEKLY

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## WAS NEHRU MISLED, OR

Prime Minister Nehru, in the Lok Sabha on Monday last, gave out three names as specific instances of Indian Communists carrying on pro-Chinese propaganda on the border problem.

Two of the names were those of Satyendra Narain Mazumdar, a former Member of Parliament and now a Member of the West Bengal Legislative Assembly, and of Kameshwar Pandit, Secretary of the Himachal Pradesh Committee of the Communist Party of India—neither of them “odd individuals” as the Prime Minister said. They are both responsible members and functionaries of the Communist Party.

The third name the Prime Minister gave was of one Krishan Bhat to whom we will come later.

The Prime Minister said he was “rather reluctant” about giving these names and that he was not used to baiting the Communist Party.

It is good the Prime Minister gave these names. So far it has been a case of general accusations and wild charges. Time and again we had challenged the Prime Minister to give us specific instances. Now that the Prime Minister has given the names, we can lay this ghost once for all.

## Was It Deliberate Communist-Baiting

● The Prime Minister's charge against Kameshwar Pandit was regarding a meeting held in Simla on September 14.

Kameshwar Pandit himself has answered the “charge”. In a letter to the Prime Minister on November 22, a copy of which he has sent to us, he writes:

“Actually on that day I was down with fever and for the whole of the day I took rest at my home in Simla. No meeting of any kind whatsoever was held that day...”

“I can assure you that if you institute a proper enquiry into the matter, truth will come to light...”

“I expect you, the Prime Minister of India, to act in far more responsible manner and hope that truth will not be murdered in this summary fashion by your responsible Government officials.”

### Mazumdar's Statement

● Against S. N. Mazumdar, the charge was in relation to a speech he made at the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Darjeeling District Council of the Party.

In a Press statement, S. N. Mazumdar has said:

“I like to categorically state that the allegations made against me are totally

unfounded and are nothing but most blatant fabrications.... Obviously allegations made by the Prime Minister are based on fabricated reports of the Central or State Intelligence branch. How could the police report on what transpired in the meeting of the District Executive Committee where none but members can be present. I can definitely state that the border issue was not at all discussed in the said meeting. As for my stand on the border issue it is entirely guided by the Meerut Resolution of the National Council of the Party which stands for peaceful and honourable settlement of the dispute.

“I have expressed my views on these lines not only in numerous public meetings all over West Bengal but also in this Assembly last year. I think the said Intelligence report is actuated by the pernicious motive of discrediting me in particular because I happen to enjoy wide popularity and respect in all sections of public including many Congressmen in Darjeeling District...”

S. N. Mazumdar made a similar statement in the Assembly (see page 13).

● The Press has reported the third name the Prime Minister gave as that of Krishan Bhat in connection with a meeting he addressed in Garhwal.

We had never heard of a Communist of that name in Garhwal. K. C. Dhulliya, a leading comrade of ours in the District, also does not know any one of that name. Dhulliya writes to us:

“There is a man Sri Krishan Bhat (not Krishna Bhat) a shopkeeper at Karnaprayag. He is not a Communist. We can place the register of our Party Members from Garhwal on the table of the Lok Sabha for this purpose. Sri Bhat is a rebel Congressman who opposed the Congress candidate in the last election in that area. He has not addressed any meeting as such and not at all from the Communist platform. On 18-11-1959 a meeting was held at Gaucha, addressed by me and Ashok Bose. Since then (that is, for about a year) no meeting under the auspices of the Garhwal Party Unit has taken place.”

So, these are the facts. In one specific instance which the Prime Minister gave, the person was ill and there was no meeting. In the second case, the India-China problem was not discussed at all, in the third case, the person concerned is not even a Communist.

These are facts which do not enhance the prestige of the Prime Minister. He can plead that he had

\* SEE PAGE 4

## LEAK TO THE WEST

### Border Survey Photographs

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The INDIA PRESS AGENCY has done signal service by revealing the following in its news-release on November 16.

At Bangdogra airport, Darjeeling, the security staff of the Government of India sealed a plane belonging to Airways India Ltd., a private concern. The pilot was British, one captain Long.

### Pilot Interrogated

The plane had been chartered by the Bhutan Government for an aerial survey of the State.

The Indian security staff had information that the foreign pilot had handed over to a foreign Power a big part of the survey report and a copy of the survey map. The pilot was duly interrogated. Thereafter the security men had long telephonic conversation with New Delhi authorities and then the plane was sealed.

On November 10, the twin-engined dakota was brought to Dum Dum airport with all its instruments on board and in the sealed condition.

It is also reported that the Chinese Government had complained to the External Affairs Ministry of aerial intrusion of their space from the direction of Bhutan at about the same time when their plane was engaged in “survey” work. The resulting investigation very likely gave the cue and this British-piloted privately-owned plane was bagged and very valuable evidence secured about the illegal and dangerous activities of alien elements on our borders and about the foreign Powers behind them.

### Not First Incident

The above is not the first incident of its kind.

On May 23 the City Edition of the Anand Bazar Patrika, the oldest but now very Right-wing Bengali daily headlined its staff reporter's big exposure story as “Important Aerial Survey Documents Missing”, “Photo negatives of Indo-Pak Boarder in Possession of Another Country.”

That time, too, the guilty air company was privately owned. The Anand Bazar did not name it. We can. It was the “Air Survey Company of India Private Ltd.”

The men in key positions in the private company in- too, were foreigners. They misused their Muslim employees for the dirty job,

and made big money for themselves and passed on useful strategic information to Pakistan and U.S. agencies. After the exposure, one employee was summarily dismissed just to save the keymen in the racket.

### A Few Questions

The trade union leadership gave useful information to the Government at the time but obviously the corrupt and unpatriotic officers did not use it for a thorough investigation and a clean-up. The guilty men went on merrily with their criminal but very paying activity. They felt bold enough to try the same game once again, when they got the chance to do the Bhutan survey.

The questions that urgently arise are the following:

- How does the Government of India permit strategic survey work to be done by private companies? What is our own IAF for?
- Why does the Government of India permit the private companies to employ foreign pilots to cover survey assignments on our borders? Does India lack qualified pilots, mechanics and photographers?

NEW AGE has done its bit in exposing the illegal and undesirable activities of these private air companies mostly manned and run by the foreign elements. Whenever the Government of India makes up its mind to conduct serious investigation we will be happy to cooperate.

### Direct Link With West

How loudly the monopoly-controlled Indian papers shriek about dangerous activities on our borders? How significant that not one of the New Delhi dailies has published the story of the British-piloted plane that had to be sealed by the Indian security staff?

How often do the PSP, Jan Sangh, Swatantra and Right-wing Congress M.P.s rant about the anti-national activities of the Indian Communists on India's border. The actual men, however, who get caught by India's security men whenever they go about the job in a business-like manner, belong to sources very dear to the brand of India's anti-Communist public men. More, the links lead straight to the Western Powers in alliance with whom India's anti-Communists seek to strengthen India's “defence.”



The Hindustan Times specialises in manufacturing and propagandising anti-Communist stories. It gets them from abroad, ready-made, from the columnists and the correspondents of the most diehard British and American papers. It also takes great pains to train up its own team of reporters and columnists in the ways of anti-Communism.

DURING the last Parliamentary session, it made big capital out of the Prime Minister's unwarranted statements about the activities of Communists on the border.

## Tehri District Conference

When the District Conference of the Communist Party was held in Tehri and it became known that Comrade P. C. Joshi was scheduled to inaugurate it, the Hindustan Times thought it was its golden chance to manufacture a real big hair-raising story. P. C. Joshi is the Editor of New Age which the Prime Minister had denounced, Tehri was a border district and the Prime Minister had cast aspersions on the activities of the Indian Communists in the border areas.

It sent its hand-picked Staff Correspondent from New Delhi to cover the Tehri Conference and he produced a report in complete variance with the local weeklies, both nationalist and independent, and also radically different from the reports that appeared in the New Delhi Right-wing dailies themselves.

On September 28 the Hindustan Times headlined its reports as "CPI Leader Discounts 'Noise' over Chinese". Next day it published a leading editorial entitled "Unmasked", its running theme that the Communists pooked the border problem with the Chinese and played up the national sentiment by making the big argument that Joshi thought that India was safe because of Chinese "magnanimity" and not Indian strength!

## Report Contradicted

This report caused widespread indignation in Tehri and not only among Communists. The Communists are no cowards nor double-talkers. Comrade Joshi answered the Hindustan Times' trickery the same week in the columns of New Age.

G. S. Negi, President of the public rally which Comrade Joshi addressed, sent a detailed letter to the Editor of the Hindustan Times against the "entirely incorrect and distorted report of the speech" and called for "rectification of this grave misreporting".

The Editor of the Hindustan Times, however, stuck to his empty guns and wrote the following: "We believe that our Staff Reporter who was present at the meeting accurately reported statements made by Mr. Joshi to which it is necessary in the national interest of the Government and public as we have attempted to do in our editorial of September 26."

Since the Hindustan Times, like its patron saint, President Eisenhower of the USA, refuses to tread the

ported the foreign policy of Pandit Nehru." (September 25, 1960)

After the local Press, let us sample the evidence of the New Delhi daily Press itself:

## In The Delhi Press

● The Times of India News Service carried a report from Tehri in its September 29 issue: "Communist leader Mr. P. C. Joshi said here early this week that certain parties were raising the border issue for political ends. He declared that the Communist Party would make every effort to maintain peace. War, he warned, would ruin the Five-Year Plan. At the same time he declared that his Party would resist aggression from any quarter."

● Similarly the Correspondent of the Indian Express writing from Tehri in its September 29 issue reported, "A categorical declaration that the Communist Party of India stood for the territorial integrity of the country was made by Mr. P. C. Joshi, a former General Secretary of the Party, at the First District Party Conference which concluded here on Sunday last. Mr. Joshi told the Conference

path of honourable retreat, we have to unmask it still further and put it in its right place as the most impudent daily of our country which respects the truth the least. The evidence that we quote is all from non-Communist and even anti-Communist sources.

## Local Press Version

● Uttarkhand is a local weekly edited by Sri Hiralal Badola, Chairman of the Notified Area Committee, Munkireti. This paper has always been critical of our stand on the India-China dispute. Its banner headline reporting Comrade Joshi's speech was: "Communists will resist foreign invasion."

● The Karmabhoomi is the oldest and most respected nationalist weekly of Garhwal. The report in its October 18 issue stated: "Sri Joshi said that if China raised even its little finger against India, they will face it and protect their own country. Sri Joshi praised the foreign policy of Pandit Nehru."

● The Vanguard is an independent paper published from Dehradun. It has also been critical of the Communists on various issues. Its headline was "Communists will resist aggression from China—P. C. Joshi's Address at Communist Conference".

Its report stated: "Mr. P. C. Joshi, former General Secretary of the CPI, was perhaps the first Communist leader to declare in unequivocal terms the policy of the Party to resist any foreign aggression, including any from Red China... Mr. Joshi declared that his Party held the country's interest above everything else. Disruptive forces and opportunists, he said, did mischievous propaganda against the Communists and by raising the border issue, they were trying to blackmail the CPI to achieve their political ends in the ensuing elections." (October 2, 1960)

● Naya Zamana is another independent Hindi weekly from Dehradun. Under the banner headline "We shall resolutely resist any foreign aggression—Communist leader P. C. Joshi's Declaration", it reported:

"Speaking in the big meeting Sri Joshi said: 'I have come to Tehri to learn about the propaganda regarding Communist activities on the border. I have found all the propaganda to be baseless. This (propaganda) is only an election stunt of the Congress to cover its own crimes. The Congress has started calling us Chinese agents!'

"Further, Sri Joshi said: 'I can say with confidence: if any country in the world dares to attack our country, we shall defend it resolutely.' He said China and India are both adherents of Pancheel and need peace. There can be no war between them. He supported the foreign policy of Pandit Nehru."

"The local Press circles pressed the organisers of the Conference not to accept him as a Press Correspondent on the ground that he was more likely to be a special agent of the Intelligence Department than a bona fide correspondent. We, however, assured them that we could not go by rumours or suspicions and supplied him with the agenda of the Conference, copies of the resolutions and a seat in the Press gallery, although there were protests from other Pressmen who sincerely believed that he was an Intelligence man.

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Their suspicion went so far that one leading local journalist, also a PSP leader, refused this Hindustan Times Correspondent the use of the typewriter and the folks in the hills are by tradition very hospitable.

Another thing that struck the local journalists was the abysmal ignorance of this "Special". Representative of the Hindustan Times about the area. He did not know that Uttarkhand had actually been formed. He expected delegates to come from Sikkim for this Conference and wanted to meet them! Despite all the White Papers, he was fanatically convinced that the Chinese had claimed territory up to Uttarkashi.

A Little Background

In the minds of our readers, the question will naturally arise: How did the smart guys of the Hindustan Times slip so badly? A little background will help.

When it became known that Comrade Joshi, a leading Communist and himself hailing from the hill districts, was going to Tehri, the anti-Communist camp plotted a big hostile demonstration and raised a scaremongering campaign. The chief agency for organising all anti-Communist stunts is the Jan Sangh in this region.

One Shastri, the organiser of the Jan Sangh in this district and districts around, issued a statement which stated, "since China has grabbed a part of Uttarkhand division of the border with its bloody claws, the Communist fifth columnists have also made Garhwal their centre of activities so as

to deceive simple people into supporting China. Salaried Communists from all over India have been deployed all over the borders.

"These Chinese agents have planned to hold a conference of the whole Uttarakhand division in Tehri. It is the duty of the U. P. Government and especially the District Magistrate of Uttarakhand to keep strict vigilance on the Communists' activities..."

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## Martial That Didn't Come Off

During the days of the Conference, CID concentration was an unbelievable sight. There were scores and scores of them. There were Intelligence men from Tehri and, of course, Intelligence men from New Delhi, from Lucknow, from Uttarkashi, from Garhwal, from Nainital, from Almora, from Dehradun. No VIP could boast of receiving the attention of the Intelligence men as P. C. Joshi did in Tehri in those days.

The Jan Sangh leaders had promised a big hostile black flag demonstration to break up our conference.

Two Jan Sangh organisers who came to Tehri from Dehradun to organise the anti-Communist show found

## Abysmal Ignorance

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# AND THE BORDER COMMUNISTS

that the Party would resist aggression against India by any foreign Power, including China."

S. P. Jain's Times of India and Goenka's Indian Express are no less anti-Communist than Bhabha's Hindustan Times. How then does this difference arise? The Correspondents of the Times of India and the Indian Express were local folks. They could not report lies and keep face with the local people and continue to live among them with self-respect intact. The Hindustan Times, however, sent a Special Representative from New Delhi despite having a local correspondent there because obviously the bosses of the Hindustan Times had pre-planned their story and their chosen news-boys who would dutifully write it out.

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## Strange Reporter

The Hindustan Times sent one of their so-called Staff Correspondents two days before the Conference, began and another turned up on the last day of the public rally. The movements of the Hindustan Times' Correspondent evoked real suspicion among the local people and caused a lot of amusement as well.

Almost all the time he was seen either in the local police headquarters or moving about the town with the Intelligence

men. He did not care to meet or fraternise with the local journalists, including the representative of its own Hindustan Times or the Times of India or the Indian Express.

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to deceive simple people into supporting China. Salaried Communists from all over India have been deployed all over the borders.

# REAL FACE OF BRITISH PHILANTHROPY

THE British Information Service (BIS) has never been a somnolent organisation as far as the publicity of British achievements is concerned, and understandably, too, for that precisely is its raison d'être. Lately, however, it has stepped up publicity of the British "philanthropy" presumably to prepare the ground for a warm popular reception for the Queen.

In Economic Record, a survey of what it calls the "U.K.-Indian Economic Affairs", brought out this month, it has listed the various tokens of Britain's "continuing interest in India's development plans" and has grandiloquently declared that these together amount to something like Rs. 147.33 crores (exclusive of the British private investments which stood at Rs. 398 crores at the end of 1958).

India has always been cognisant of the enormous amounts of private British investments in her industries, since the heavy drain they cause on her resources disrupt her payments position year after year, but the other tokens of Britain's continuing interest we had surely not cared much to take note of. The BIS has probably sought to rectify this error by bringing them into sharp focus, but in doing so it has also unwittingly given a clue to the reasons which have held India back from showing much enthusiasm for them.

For, as a break-up of the aid shows, out of Rs. 147.33 crores advanced in seven instalments, only Rs. 64 crores were, or can be, meant for any basic construction (Rs. 20 crores for the Durgapur steel works, Rs. four crores for the Assam pipeline and Rs. 40 crores as initial assistance for the Third Plan), while the rest Rs. 83.33 crores were earmarked to pay for general imports from the United Kingdom, that is, to help the U. K. Government meet its commitments to its own exporters whose exports it had undertaken under the Export Guarantee Scheme.

## 'Aid' To Aid Self

British "aid" has thus largely been "aid" to aid herself out of her own export difficulties. In this sense it has strictly been a piece with the U.S. "aid", which, too, has quite often been meant to help Washington to get rid of unwanted goods. Surely, the BIS does not expect India to sing Hallelujahs to this type of "aid" which helps the giver more than the receiver.

Britain is otherwise, too, in need of pushing up her exports. "One Chairman after another of companies covering most of the industrial range," wrote the London Correspondent of the Statesman this week, "reports to deterioration in trading conditions—reduced profit margins, if not reduced turn-over in his company's current trading year." Obviously, the pros-

pects of "a recession at home" in 1961 will not let Britain be a major aid-giver in the near future, but then why should the BIS not be content with popularising the visit of their Queen on other more solid attributes of her Kingdom?

## Sell-Out To U.S.

One such attribute which they could probably exhibit with profit is the tendency of the British ruling circles to toe the line of Washington even to the point of making their country and its economy a veritable appendage of the U. S. They allowed the Ford to establish a subsidiary on their soil, in which the latter had a controlling share. Now all the other shares, too, are being bought by the Ford to make of the so-far-jointly-owned subsidiary a wholly-owned one. If the plan is carried out, says a Ford statement, "the American company's stake in the English company would far exceed its interests in all other operations outside the USA combined."

"If Ford becomes a wholly-owned subsidiary of the American parent," says the Statesman (November 21), "then half of this vital industry will be American-owned." British public opinion is aghast at this sell-out. "Some of the national gallies," writes Hindu's K. S. Shevankar from London, "have thought it opportune to print tabulated statements of the extent to which America already 'owns' Britain." "The British Empire comes before the Ford empire", laments the Daily

Express and adds that "there is no stock exchange quotation for 'Independence'". The BIS will not let us see this other side of the British medal, but it is very necessary that we see it, for we, too, have our independence to guard from being put on sale in the stock exchange. The British example should be a warning to our own ruling circles who indiscriminately invite foreign private investors into our industries either on their own or in partnership with Indian capitalists.

The latest of such invitations has been extended by B. K. Nehru, Morarji Desai's Economic Affairs Commissioner-General in America, who in a speech at the New York Economic Club last week expressed his "disappointment" at the U. S. capitalists' inability to take advantage of investment opportunities in India.

About collaboration agreements the Lok Sabha was told last week by the Minister of Industry, Manubhai Shah, that 228 such agreements were approved by the Government from April to October this year. (EPA, November 16)

B. K. Nehru's lament and Manubhai Shah's information point to a course, which, when adopted by the industrially advanced country like the U. K., led her to such a sorry pass. What will be the fate of an industrially weak country like ours if we too let our rulers tread the same disastrous path?

Desai listed the aid already committed or indicated for the Third Plan and said it amounted to about Rs. 750 crores. This estimate is, however, somewhat tentative because "some of the indications... are at present purely verbal." He, therefore, envisaged for the nation a "continuing and difficult quest" over the Plan period so that "requisite external resources would be forthcoming".

Desai had gone with high hopes of getting assistance for the Third Plan. He had also interpreted our economic policies in a way that the "misconceptions and misapprehensions, which were very much in evidence in the United States" during

# INSIDE OUR NEWS & ECONOMY NOTES

## Fondness For Private Enterprise

NEW Delhi, it seems, has lately become even more fond of private enterprise than it was hitherto. It had been so far resisting the private sector's demand for permission to work coal mines in areas contiguous to its own as a price for its agreeing to work the latter optimally. It was a sort of blackmail which the public opinion had termed as such. Even the Minister concerned, Swaran Singh, had castigated the private mine-owners for their intransigence, and declared that "coal was too vital an industry to be left to the private sector to exploit."

How, however, he has staged a volte face. In a statement in the Lok Sabha on Thursday he said that in the interests of increasing coal production he had allowed the private owners to work not only the contiguous areas but new or non-contiguous areas as well. He has also accepted the mine-owners' demand that they should be allowed a subsidy on account of adverse factors as well as an increased storage subsidy which will now be 100 per cent instead of the present 75 to 85 per cent.

The Minister stoutly defended the new policy as being in conformity with the Industrial Policy Resolution. That resolution, however, being categorical in earmarking all new workings for the public sector, he took shelter behind a clause in it which allows a certain deviation at times in "national interests".

Sardar Swaran Singh wants us to believe that the exploitation of new coal resources by the private sector will be more in national interests than by the public sector. This, however, is a statement which the people can never accept, for they know that the mine-owners would not have relentlessly kept up the pressure to secure the new lease if they had not seen in them a virtual goldmine for themselves rather than for the nation.

The Minister should, however, be made to answer to the nation as to why the facilities, which would now enable the private owners to exploit these mines, could not as well be available to the National Coal Development Corporation.

## THE POLICY THAT SUCCEEDS

INDIA'S oil policy has had a new success this week. The Standard Vacuum, one of the two recalcitrant companies which had refused to surrender duty protection on all petroleum products, has now decided to fall in line with the Burmah Shell which had given it up last year.

The Stanvac has also been split into two companies which

had joined to form it in 1933. Its interests in India will be owned now by the Standard Oil Company, New Jersey, under the name of ESSO Standard Eastern. Reports are current that the new owners will gradually transform the company into a rupee venture with a view to softening the Government's attitude vis-a-vis their expansion schemes.

Minister Malaviya has, however, declared that his Ministry would be guided in this behalf by the Industrial Policy Resolution. Moreover, the capacity of the public sector refineries (which surely can be expanded without much difficulty) would also be borne in mind in taking a decision.

Malaviya's chief, Swaran Singh, has set a very bad precedent in interpreting the said Resolution in favour of the private coal interests. He will, therefore, have to be extra zealous in sticking to the policy by pursuing which so far his Ministry has been able to hold its own against the powerful international oil cartels. ESSO's previous history in Cuba, where Fidel Castro had to literally force it out because it refused to follow the national oil law, should also point to the Minister the extent to which the companies might force him to go if he really means business.

PROFITS

THE Jay Engineering Works, Calcutta (Chairman: Lala Sri Ram) has increased its profit from Rs. 14.18 lakhs in the year ended March 1959 to Rs. 25.44 lakhs in the year ended March, 1960. A taxable ordinary dividend of 17.15 per cent has been declared. This is covered more than thrice, and offers an yield of six per cent at a price of Rs. 28.37 a share. (Capital, November 10)

## Without Comment

THE National Insulated Cable Co. of India Ltd. has increased its profit to Rs. 70.74 lakhs in the year ended March 1960 from Rs. 30.78 lakhs in the previous year. A taxable ordinary dividend of 2 per cent has been declared. It is covered more than thrice and offers an yield of 7.9 per cent at a price of Rs. 21.75 a share. (Capital, November 10)

## Without Comment

"It was wrong for businessmen or industrialists to cry that they have not received much help from the Government. Since 1947, in mere depreciation and development aid subsidy alone, the Central Government had paid to the industrial sector not less than Rs. 880 crores"—Mr. Ramana-Charan Chetiar, M.P., inaugurating the South Indian Businessmen's Convention at Madurai on November 19. (Deccan Herald, November 20)

—ESSEN



# BILL TO CONTINUE BLACK ACT

On November 18, in the Lok Sabha, the Home Minister moved for leave to introduce the Preventive Detention (Continuance) Bill: "That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to continue the Preventive Detention Act, 1950, for a further period."

THE strong feelings of the entire Opposition on this measure found reflection in the fact that all of them insisted on opposing it even at the introduction stage, in spite of a generally observed convention which Mahabir Tyagi dug out against doing so.

Only one member being allowed to do so, A. K. Gopalan yielded the floor to Braj Raj Singh of the Socialist Party and the latter pointed out that the hated law of detention without trial had now continued on the Statute Book for ten years. It was sought to be extended now for another three years. It had become a "permanent law".

The manner also in which the Government wanted to continue this law was objectionable, Braj Raj Singh said. "We will not be allowed to move amendments to the body of the law."

## Pant On Wrong Track

Pandit Pant, apart from his totally uncalculated and utterly irrelevant attack on the Socialist Party, preferred to stoop to the level of ascribing the constantly growing unrest in all the various parts of the

country and all the diverse forms of protest that this unrest acquires to the behaviour of the Opposition parties, without even in the least manifesting any consciousness of the fact that Government policies could be the real source of trouble. In the grand style of all renowned strong men who tumble down like tin-gods when the time comes, he declared:

"Members will see that this state of normalcy is maintained and improved upon. It is for them to so regulate their own affairs so far as those who are inclined to break the law are concerned, that the occasion for the application of the provisions of this Preventive Detention Act or any other does never arise."

The great mercy of the present contemplated extension of the hated Act being "only for three years", Pantji claimed, was proof enough to show that "we are not anxious to maintain such laws."

Whatever else might have been proved or not proved, that short debate did certainly prove convincingly enough that those who wield real power in Government today are too dangerously drunk with it to be able to think of sober remedies for the serious ills that are assailing the country.

It was not a bad show at all that the Opposition made by mustering 58 votes against Government's 175 in the division that followed.

# BEHIND MASANI'S THUNDER, FREE ENTERPRISE ADVOCACY

The Companies (Amendment) Bill now being discussed by Parliament is certainly of great importance, not merely because, as one member representing business interests, Morarka, tried to make out, it seeks to "control" the working of 30,000 companies in the private sector with more than a thousand crores of rupees.

The Bill over which a Joint Select Committee spent more than a year is a barometer of Government policies so far as the claim for arresting the growth of economic disparity is concerned. Many Congress members themselves drew attention to this fact.

## Masani's Tactics

The tactics adopted by M. R. Masani, both in the Select Committee and in the Lok Sabha, were aimed at stealing the thunder and diverting attention. He made the maximum noise and got the maximum publicity over his opposition to companies' contributions to political parties. But the real points he made which the Press that fully agrees with his

viewpoint cleverly kept out of its reports is really the maddest advocacy of free hand to Big Business to carry on as they like.

The Amendment Bill, according to Masani, had been brought up to advance the "doctrinaire" approach which the Government is alleged to have. "The philosophy," Masani declared, "without realising his pomposity, on which I, therefore, proceed is that the shareholders of a company are full-grown citizens of our country, knowing what they are about... therefore, control of their activities under Company Law should be the minimum control, as little control as possible and, as much freedom for them to function as possible... the Bill unnecessarily over-regulates and interferes in matters with which the Government of our country and law should have no concern."

Further ahead, with greater force he declared: "This Bill is about the private companies and I am saying that it is not the business of Government to interfere with how I administer my property or my affairs or my land." "This is the thin end of the

totalitarian wedge which lays down the principle that Government knows better what you should be doing with your money. It is a highly objectionable principle in any free society."

## "People's Capitalism"

The future, according to him, was going that way, the way of unchecked free enterprise. He chided his friend Asoka Mehta for not being up-to-date and asked everyone to read Ludwig Erhard, "the man who is responsible for the German miracle."

As for Asoka Mehta himself, his objection to Masani's viewpoint was not that he advocated "capitalism" but that he (Masani) did not sponsor "people's capitalism". He drew attention to the fact that due to "a kind of sponsored scarcity", "those industrialists or those business houses which are permitted to set up industrial enterprises in India are able to make larger profits." Large profits, he said, had become inevitable.

"Any student of the stock exchange," said Asoka Mehta, "knows how certain companies are able to make, even before their shares are made available to the public, even before the companies have started working, even before a single sod of earth has been turned, large amounts of extra profits."

He wistfully pointed out that if these large profits could be made to accrue to millions of small people, instead of the handful as at present, the situation would be changed into the paradise of "people's capitalism." Like so many other members from both sides of the House, he also pointed out the grossest malpractices indulged in by the companies and how they were condoned by Government and when he called for some loopholes, at least to be plugged in, Nausher Bharucha intervened to say it was just not possible. That underlined the helplessness to which the State apparatus is reduced so effectively by Big Business as and when they want.

Contributions To Parties Prof. Hiren Mukerjee, welcomed certain improvements that had been brought about in the Bill by the Joint Committee, particularly in the matter of special audit of refractory companies. On the whole, however, the Committee had watered down the original amendment or given them such bewilderingly complicated forms that they had been made ineffective.

When the Companies Act was passed in 1956, big monied interests had shouted that it would hamper growth of joint-stock enterprises. It had failed to do anything of that sort because there were now as many as 3,944 managing agencies managing 5,055 joint-stock companies whose aggregate capital amounted to 48 per cent of the paid-up capital of the entire corporate sector.

Referring to permitting contributions to political parties, Hiren Mukerjee said: "Some time ago, in this House there was produced a certain book published by the Tata Iron and Steel Company

which showed that in the election year 1957, the Tatas paid Rs. 1,030,000 to the Congress Party—Rs. 800,000 to the All-India Congress Committee, Rs. 300,000 to the Bihar Provincial Congress Committee and Rs. 130,000 to the Orissa Provincial Congress Committee.

"We know also how Chief Justice Chagla in Bombay had referred not only to a certain uneasiness but also to what he called 'a sinking feeling in the heart' when this question of contribution of companies to political parties came before him. He called it 'this evil'. He said also that it was likely to 'strangle democracy almost in its cradle'."

Prabhat Kar said that the conception of "production for

profit" did not fit in a planned economy. He pointed out that it was not Masani alone who suggested that provisions included in the Amending Bill would create complications in working of joint-stock companies and retard their progress and, therefore, they should be left alone. Three members of the Congress Party, Sri Somani, Babubhai Chinai and P. D. Himmat-singha had also taken the same line in the Select Committee.

In his reply, Minister for Commerce and Industry Lal Bahadur Shastri avoided taking up the question of companies' contribution to political parties and postponed it for the stage of clause-by-clause reading of the Bill.

# PRIVATE SECTOR IN COAL

Another important question reflecting on changing complexion of Government policies was the Minister for Steel, Mines and Fuel Sardar Swaran Singh's statement on coal.

He claimed that allowing private sector to further enlarge their existing coal mines and seeking participation in establishing new units was within the 1956 Industrial Policy Resolution. That resolution had clearly stated that all new units in the coal industry will be established in the public sector.

The Minister's long statement was far from convincing. What Braj Raj Singh's calling attention motion had stipulated, that there was a change being brought about slowly and on the sly, was more convincing even after the Government statement. The Speaker announced that he would allow a discussion on the subject later.

The Time Correspondent's explanation and apology for the story published in that

magazine's issue of September 26 purporting that the Speaker of India's House of People had been influenced by Air India International bosses was found adequate by the Speaker. The mover of the motion of privilege and many members along with him, however, felt that since the magazine had a worldwide circulation, it was necessary that the detraction and apology should appear in print in that magazine itself; otherwise the slander against India and its Parliament and the Speaker of its Parliament would remain in the minds of readers of that magazine all over the world.

Hiren Mukerjee pointed out that if any Indian journalist had defaulted in that way, he would have surely had to publish the apology in his own paper and till that was done, some action would have been taken against him.

The Speaker, however, preferred to declare the matter closed.

# SIX COLLECTIONS OF EXCERPTS FROM LENIN'S WRITINGS & SPEECHES

To commemorate the 90th anniversary of the birth of Lenin and for the extensive propaganda of Leninism, the Foreign Languages Press of China has published six collections of excerpts, arranged by subjects from Lenin's works. The booklets are entitled:

- LENIN ON IMPERIALISM, THE EVE OF THE PROLETARIAN SOCIAL REVOLUTION ... 0.75
- LENIN ON PROLETARIAN REVOLUTION AND PROLETARIAN DICTATORSHIP ... 0.75
- LENIN ON THE NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT ... 0.55
- LENIN ON WAR AND PEACE ... 0.60
- LENIN ON THE STRUGGLE AGAINST REVISIONISM ... 0.85
- LENIN ON THE REVOLUTIONARY PROLETARIAN PARTY OF A NEW TYPE ... 0.75

General Distributor: GUOZI SHUDIAN Exporters & Importers of Books & Periodicals P.O. Box 399, Peking, China

Local Agent: PEOPLE'S PUBLISHING HOUSE (P) LTD., Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi

# FOREIGN AFFAIRS DEBATE

## week in parliament

In the two-day debate on the international situation which the Lok Sabha has just concluded, despite all the diversionary tricks of the Indian survivors of the dying Dulles and McCarthy breed, the mind and conscience of India did assert itself. It spoke up with clarity and firmness on issues that trouble the world today, refusing to be taken in by the tale that what goes on in the world is none of India's business, that India should concern herself only with what is of "direct interest" to her.

WE are very much and very directly interested in disarmament, in a world without arms free from the threat of war, because we are very much a part of this world which is threatened with being blown up, the Prime Minister told the House admonishing those who pooch-pooched India's efforts in this direction. He pointedly referred to the tragic fact that here in this country it was possible to talk in this illiterate and ill-conceived manner because we had never experienced a modern war. We were attached to peace in a distant and far-removed way but the intensity of emotion was lacking.

What modern war means; and what it means today was graphically portrayed by the much-hated and much maligned Defence Minister of India, V. K. Krishna Menon. He reviewed India's efforts leading up to the latest 12-nation resolution and said the deadly power of destruction that the bombs dropped on Nagasaki and Hiroshima carried in them was now carried by the mere trigger of a thermo-nuclear bomb.

The chagrin of the confirmed and consistent opponents of India's foreign policy reached the dizzy heights achieved so far. One of them, from the Opposition benches, Sri Supakar of the Ganatantra Parishad shamelessly defended

on the floor of India's Parliament the Australian amendment and Menzies' role at the U.N. General Assembly in relation to the five non-aligned nations' resolution calling for renewal of contacts between the highest leaders of the USA and the USSR. He criticised Nehru for the sharp words Nehru had used in that connection in the General Assembly.

## U.N. Stand Defended

The Prime Minister firmly stood by the resolution and the fight he had put up in championing it. He reminded the House that that resolution had got a majority of votes despite all the underhand manoeuvres and the violent opposition with which it had been met. Only the majority fell short of the requisite two-thirds.

Of immediate significance was the Prime Minister's sharp opposition in his first day's speech to nuclear weapons being distributed to NATO members. Again and again he called for steps to halt and reverse this process before the world reached the point of No Return.

The reply speech focussed the attention on developments in the Congo as the first day's speech had done. In the light of the latest developments when the "so-called Congolese Army" had taken to violence against Indian and other U.N. personnel and when the Kasavubu delegation had been seated in the U.N. on the strength of Western votes and in the teeth of opposition from African and Asian States making it impossible for Guinea and Mali to serve on the proposed delegation to the Congo, Nehru sounded the most serious warning so far—questioning whether this U.N. operation could continue any longer, implying that if the Western Powers persisted in their present line of disregarding the non-aligned Afro-Asian nations' considered views on the Congo, these nations will have no alternative left except to dissociate themselves completely from this U.N. operation.

## Support To Policy

He also questioned the capacity of the U.N. to undertake such operations in future if the present trends continued.

There was a lot of delicacy in the first day's speech of the Prime Minister when he would not name the U.S. or NATO as the culprit in the Congo. But he spoke spiritedly in defence and commendation of the Dayal Report in face of declared U.S. opposition to it. He read out passages from the Report to show the massive nature of the Belgian come-back in the Congo.

On the need for changing the structure of the U.N. except for the lunatic fringe, who can see nothing else happening in the world except "Chinese aggression", the House gave full support to the Prime Minister.

The debate was mainly concerned with the international situation in reference particularly to the U.N. General Assembly. The Speaker, as Nehru said in his opening speech, had in his discretion allowed the India-China border issue also to be raised in course of it. Those who are obsessed by this issue would in any case have done so. But the constant harping by Acharya Kripalani on "the enemy inside and outside" along with the concerted attempt of the entire non-Communist opposition and Congress members like Sri Ram Subhag Singh blew up the issue out of all proportion even from the Government point of view.

Very appropriately the Prime Minister once again reiterated India's support for the Prime Minister of Laos, Prince Souvanna Phouma and commended his attempts to form a national Government.

Many members both from Opposition and Government benches pointed out to the need for a stronger anti-colonial stand. In this connection they called for recognition of the Provisional National Government of Algeria. Among others Sri Khadilkar strongly pleaded for immediate action to liberate Goa.

## Answer To Critics

The logic of this morbid outlook inevitably led all of them into the out-and-out anti-national position of belittling and decrying Nehru's participation and India's role and opposing the steps India had taken and was taking in the U.N. and its General Assembly.

Far from feeling proud for any of the things done—the rallying of Asia-Africa, the kindling of hope even in peoples of the Western countries as a result, the strengthening of liberation struggles and the checkmating and obstructing to some extent of imperialist intrigue and offensive everywhere—for all this they were bitter and angry and ashamed of India.

India's strong stand at the U.N. General Assembly had made Ayub's masters pull his strings again to make him deliver new threats against India. The downing of the U-3 plane by the Soviet Union which had taken off from Peshwar was due to the fact that there must be lots of such planes flying over India's northern border too, Sri Tariq reminded the House.

## Second Bandung

Hiren Mukerjee called upon India to prepare the ground for convening of the Second Bandung Conference. Significantly enough the anti-Communist opposition is not only left cold by such suggestions. Its response is only one of malingering Asian leaders like U Nu. Equally interesting was their failure to bring up their second pet issue, of joint Indo-Pakistan defence.

However much the monopoly press may extoll the "achievements" of the anti-Communists, however much they may themselves feel puffed up because of that, this latest foreign affairs debate has shown them up as the real anti-national elements who are resentful because India helped strike some hard anti-imperialist blows at the U.N. and refuses to be deflected into the often-tried and now utterly played-out anti-Communist paths in its foreign policy.

Nevertheless the debate has also shown their utter despatchedness. The people must take a hand now to put them in their proper place. Otherwise India's name outside will be in the mud and all its achievements in the sphere of foreign policy will be shattered and destroyed.

# Communist-Baiting

\* FROM FRONT PAGE

given the names in good faith basing himself on reports sent to him—but can that absolve him of responsibility?

It was the Prime Minister of the country speaking, and he was doing it in the Parliament of the land. His own high office, the place where he was speaking and the occasion demanded that he at least make statements which had been verified and found to be true. The irresponsible manner in which the Prime Minister has made the present statement lays him bare to the charge of baiting which he says he does not want to indulge in.

## WHO GAINS?

Worse still is the fact that by making such patently false statements, the Prime Minister, in fact, plays into the hands of the PSP and Jan Sangh leaders and some in his own party who are the ones really out to oppose his foreign policy and even the policy of negotiations with China on the border dispute.

To condemn us for saying that the India-China border problem should be settled through negotiations—which we think is the policy of the Prime Minister himself—is to encourage those who want to create a war psychosis on this issue. It is such statements that embolden the PSP-Jan Sangh leaders to say that talking to the Chinese is useless, other methods should be employed to settle the problem.

They are the people whom the Prime Minister makes happy, those who really wish for a peaceful and honourable settlement of our border problem with China—and they are the majority — feel unhappy

—RANJISS



# PORTUGUESE AFRICA

The people of Portugal are not alone in their fight against Salazar's totalitarian rule, they have strong allies in the people of Portuguese Africa—the hitherto untouched slave colonies of Portugal on whose door today, is knocking loudly the militant nationalism of African people.

**PORTUGUESE AFRICA** is a real iron curtain and comprises three main land colonies: Mosambique, Angola and Portuguese Guinea and two groups of islands: Cabo Verde Islands and San Tome and Principe.

The authorities seldom permit any outsider to enter these territories. No non-Portuguese has ever been able to go deeper in the country side, and hence, the world knows little about this silence-zone of the world. Only recently, with the emergence of the African Personality, the national awakening has sealed this last bastion of the old colonial system and gleamed into its dark and sordid affairs.

## 500 Years Of Enslavement

Portuguese possessions in Africa are a classical example of what colonialism could mean to the people and the country. It is almost close to 500 years since the Portuguese came in contact with Africa, but there is hardly any improvement worth the name, in the areas under them.

They came in search of gold and silver. They were disappointed, but they did find rich deposits of diamonds, copper, lignite and asphalt. The only development activity of the colonialists has been in the field of mining. Primary industries have not even been thought of, because the colonialists wanted to keep their possessions underdeveloped and thus a profitable dumping ground for goods manufactured in Portugal.

## CABO VERDE ISLANDS:

There are six uninhabited and nine inhabited islands in this group which were discovered in 1460 by the Portuguese. The area is 4,033 sq. km. with a population of 172,000. The island of Sal of this archipelago is chosen by Salazar for the concentration camp of his opponents where they are taken and left to die a slow death. In the same island is situated the international airport of Sao Vicente constructed by the Americans in 1949.

## PORTUGUESE GUINEA:

Not far away, on the African coast, there is Portuguese Guinea with an area of 36,125 sq. km. and a population of 503,935 Africans and 2,263 Europeans. Although the Portuguese are there since 1442 A.D. the illiteracy rate is 99.7 per cent among the indigenous population, this being the highest illiteracy rate in the world (U.N. Statistical Year Book). The place is full of diseases like filariasis, elephantiasis, yaw and leprosy. Although Portuguese Guinea is the oldest European colony in Africa, it was one of the last to be subjugated: the tribes of the interior were "pacified" in 1915 and the Bissagos were finally subdued only in 1936.

## SAN TOME AND PRINCIPE:

These two tiny islands (area: 964 sq. km. and population 60,159) are situated in the

middle of the Gulf of Guinea, and are under the Portuguese since 1471 A.D.

These islands are notorious for the savage treatment meted out to the labourers forcibly brought from other colonies and put to work in the coffee and cocoa plantations. In February 1953, a revolt against the system of slave labour took place in the island, which was ruthlessly crushed by the colonialists. Another recent agitation, demanding bread, remunerative work and the end of the rule of terror, was suppressed with the use of machine-guns. Even the Governor, Carlos Gorguiho, handled one of the machine-guns. Three hundred demonstrators fell to the bullets.

Agitation continued. More troops and police reinforcements were brought in; arms were distributed among the white population and a reign of terror was imposed in the islands. Houses and even villages, like Folha Fedi, were looted and burnt. Besides unascertainable number of casualties, 1,000 persons were thrown in dungeons. On

the other side of Africa facing the Atlantic, there sprawls a huge territory—1,246,000 sq. km., fourteen times bigger than Portugal, and roughly the size of Spain, France and Italy put together—called Angola. Its population is only 4,280,000 besides 80,000 Europeans. The main reason of this depopulation is the slave traffic of previous centuries and the still prevailing recruitment of forced labour which is exported to other parts of the country through Government agency.

It is an agricultural country but thanks to the dictators of colonial economy, only one per cent of the cultivable land is under plough today and that, too, of the most primitive type of plough.

## Mineral Deposits

The country has large deposits of diamonds, asphalt, bitumen, manganese, copper and gold, which are exploited, especially diamond and manganese deposits, by American companies and yet in the words of John Gunther, "the chief problems of the country are labour shortage and lack of food. One large district is known proverbially as 'the hungry country'... In the whole of Angola there are exactly 68 high school students

His owner prefers him to remain as fit as a horse, an ox. Yet here the native is not bought—he is hired from the State... And his employer cares little if he sickens or dies... because when he sickens or dies, his employer asks the State for another... I maintain that health services for natives... are, with rare exception, non-existent."

Such are the scandalous and ugly practices in Portuguese Africa in the present age of Sputniks and space ships, and the era of Socialism and Communism.

But, as always, Africa is a land of surprises. In 1958 there was a surprise over the discovery of oil in Angola, this was followed by last year's surprise—even panic—over the discovery of African politics in the Silence Zone of Portuguese empire.

Despite Salazar's stranglehold on the life and thoughts of its subjects, more and more Africans are understanding that their lives need not be as they are now. They are finding new links with a different future and new friends who may help them to achieve it.

They are organising themselves on sound political lines and fighting Portuguese colonialism with their backs to the wall. They have established a net-work of underground fighting units and have forged

## Protest Against Prison Torture

The illegal Communist Party of Portugal has called on democrats throughout the world to defend Portuguese political prisoners, according to a TASS report from Rome quoting a Lisbon dispatch to L'Unita.

In an appeal, the Party has enumerated facts of ruthless persecution of democrats by Salazar's secret agents. For example, Durio Fogas, member of the Party's Central Committee, who had been kept in prison for more than ten years doing fascist forced labour, was rearrested recently.

Another member of the Party's Central Committee, Francisco Miguel, was also imprisoned in Salazar's torture chamber. He was even prohibited to receive gifts sent to him.

Noted social activist Kandida Ventura, was persecuted for seventeen years. She was seriously ill but the authorities still refused to allow any of her relatives to see her in jail.

# Liberation Struggle Envelops Hitherto Silent Zone

February 5, 1959, out of 47 persons incarcerated in a small cell, 30 died, overnight, because of asphyxiation.

## MOSAMBIQUE & ANGOLA:

These two immensely large chunks of African land are sprawling on the two coasts of lower Africa. Mosambique is on the Indian Ocean and Angola on the Atlantic. These two African territories are twenty times the size of metropolitan Portugal, and hold some of the key ports in the whole of Africa besides both the ends of the most strategic railway line linking the Atlantic with the Indian Ocean.

## Daily Wage Of 47 nP.

Mosambique has an area of 771,125 sq. km. and a population of 5,732,317. It was discovered in 1446, and ever since is ruled by the Portuguese. The colony possesses the largest groves of coconut palms in the world. American oil interests are active in the area and there have been recent reports of strikes and demonstrations against their exploitation.

The average wage of a Mosambique worker is about nine pence a day (about 47 nP). There is only one high school in the colony and the tuition fee is over £10 per year. The illiteracy rate can be imagined for obvious reasons, no figures are available. Mosambique lives on sugar, cotton, tea and most of all, on the export of black labour.

"(Inside Africa) The worst aspect of the ignobly sordid and inhumanly avaricious Portuguese rule in Africa is the system under which the administration sells the African labour to the Union of South Africa and to other white customers. It is said that the African labour is the chief export of Portuguese "overseas provinces" of Africa. Over 80,000 Africans are forced every year to leave their home and hearth and to go to work in South Africa's Rand Gold Mines under vile sub-human conditions.

Forced labour is an essential part of the economic system of these colonies. Under Portuguese law, any adult, male or female may be compelled to work for a white master, under the threat of severe punishment. More than 380,000 Africans work as forced labour in Angola in circumstances of the utmost wretchedness and poverty. The railway, the mines, the big plantation-owners, all get labour from the Government. A European merchant can even ask the Government for a gardener or a cook, who is then obliged to work for him at a wage unbelievably low, whether he wants the job or not.

According to the report submitted by Senhor Henrique Galvao to Salazar: "The worst aspect of the African forced labour is the attitude of the State to the recruitment of labour for private employers. In some ways this situation is worse than simple slavery. Under slavery, after all the native is bought as an animal

links with other forces having similar aims in other parts of Africa as well as Asia.

The Movimento Popular de Angola (MPLA), the Partido Africano de Independencia de Guinea (PAIG), the Unio des Populacoes de Angola (UPA), the Movimento de Libertacao dos Territorios Africanos Sob Dominacao Colonial Portuguesa (MLTADCP) and the Movimento Anti-Colonialista (MAC).

## Popular Parties

This last group, as a coordinating organisation made way for the creation of the Frente Revolucionaria Para a Independencia Nacional das Colonias Portuguesas (KRAN) at the Second All-African Peoples Conference held in Tunis in January 1960 which was attended clandestinely by the delegates belonging to the underground organisations in Portuguese Africa.

The fighting forces in Portuguese colonies have recently established their offices—as General Headquarters—in Conakry (Guinea) and Congo—the next door neighbours who succeeded in overthrowing their foreign yoke. The tempo of the struggle can be gauged easily by the efforts of the Portuguese to curb it, reports of which sometimes trickle out to the world Press.

According to some English and American papers, confirmed by African leaders, two hundred people have been arrested from Cabinda District alone; out of whom six mem-

bers of the UPA are reported "missing." Since March 1959 more than a hundred persons have been arrested in Portuguese colonies. More than a thousand Africans have been killed in S. Tome, and more than fifty in Guinea (August 1959). Six Europeans have been arrested for helping Africans.

A further wave of arrests has been sweeping across Angola. During June 1960, 1,052 people were arrested in Central Angola along with mostly civil and railway employees.

Hard on the heels of these proceedings comes news of guerrilla companies gathering in some parts of Angola and in the densely forested enclave of Cabinda—a slip of land to the north of the Congo estuary. It is further reliably learnt that the various underground organisations represented by the frente are growing fast in popular support and are poised for a final showdown.

Salazar, on the other hand, is also straining hard. He is reinforcing, with his limited means, the garrisons of his "overseas provinces" with more and more airborne, naval and other troops, while the official press (the only one in existence) fills itself with eager editorials about the "tremendous fire power" that is now available through the courtesy of NATO and SEATO friendly Powers to obliterate the "agents of international Communism."

And thus, the decks are being cleared for a final round between the age-old exploiter and the age-old exploited.

# CULTURAL NEWS FROM CALCUTTA

## SALOJ MUKHERJEE'S ART

THE death in Delhi of Saloj Mukherjee has brought gloom in the art circles of Calcutta for, here was an artist whom Abanindranath greeted as a truly modern Indian, in spite of passing glimpses of Van Gogh and Matisse.

He had, while in Europe, been associated closely with the great French masters and a persistent influence can be traced in his works by contours, to us laymen, Saloj's canvas captures the tradition of Kangra and various other regional forms of our country.

Further, his subjects have almost always been common men and women in the bazar or in the village. A strange optimism and joy infect his pictures for, the figures defy staidity and seem to dance a festival quadrille. The Sehnaai players on his canvas somehow manage to make us listen as well as observe.

## Three Young Artistes

After the rather disappointing solo exhibitions of Meera Devi and Santosh Rohatgi recently, a pleasant surprise was the one at Artistry House that opened on October 6. It featured the works of three youngsters—Atin Mitra, Pranab Mukherjee and Ila Roychowdhury.

By far the best, though my opinion clashes with that of the leading critics, is Mukherjee. Let us not sit down to a quibble over tone and line and compare Mitra's finish with the still unpolished, sometimes vaguely unripe, Mukherjee. Let us look at the face of a school teacher (Mukherjee's "He builds the nation") and of a street juggler and feel the working of an independent mind.

True, he has not the discipline of Mitra's oils; nor has he the feeling for nature that one finds in Mitra's "Monsoon." But I feel he has something greater. He has a feeling for human beings. As for Ila Roychowdhury's Indianism, one can only prescribe her more training and practice.

## Foreign Films

THE Calcutta Film Society has been doing valuable work in introducing to serious foreign films that have little chance of getting past those august fellows in charge of our morals and politics—the censors. You can go on heaping Bombay rubbish and the

legs of Madhubala on the poor people of India and morals are not outraged. But a strong word necessitated by the class character of the speaker is taboo. (And of course, any reference to exploiter-exploited relationship sends them into fits).

We can only thank our lucky stars that the righteousness of our censors is rivalled only by their ignorance of English or else much of Olivier's Richard III and Yutkevich's Othello would have been excised.

## Akashvans Vandalism

While we are still on the subject of censorship, let us talk about that concentration camp, the Akashvani, Calcutta. Would you believe it—they rejected, the other day, all the plays of Michael Madhusudan and Dinabandhu Mitra on grounds of obscenity? They preferred Shakespeare instead, and when one who knows poured at them a bit of Hamlet's filthy language in the Play-scene, they frankly admitted they did not understand what Hamlet was talking about. Thereafter, they must have listed Shakespeare as well in their dossier of obscene authors, for, before, broadcasting Othello in Bengali they vandalised whole pages out of the text!

To return to the Film Society, they arranged a showing of The Young Chopin a few days ago.

This is the first film on Chopin made in his own country, and I have rarely seen a more stirring biographical. We were taken through the great composer's life from his tempestuous Conservatoire days, his irresistible urge to create great music for the piano, his participation in the revolutionary struggle against tsarist butchers, the beginning of his tour and his life in Paris while refugees pour in from Poland after the defeat of the insurrection.

## A Great Film

Chopin, the revolutionary and Chopin the composer of the beautiful are interwoven so brilliantly together that one realises the inseparable nature of political struggle and culture. The one complements the other and is in turn beautified by it.

The director seems to have breathed into the film the rhythm of Chopin's Etude Revolutionnaire. The camera refuses to follow the traditionality of establishing the locale and the situation; it cuts

straight from a close-up of Chopin at a concert to one of Lelewel at a meeting of revolutionaries and so right through.

The director has strung his shots together in a chromatic scale and with Chopin's fierceness strikes at the chord he wants, without caring to consider how Mozart would have rephased it. The camera is used like a grand piano; the rhythm is one of bars, not frames; the nuance is of value, not of visual chiaroscuro.

A most inspiring montage interprets the great Etude. Chopin is driving back to his country and wants to go faster, faster, because Warsaw has risen and he wants to join the fight. The postillion blows his horn and Chopin hears in his heart the Etude Revolutionnaire.

## Visual Music

The scene dissolves into a desolate field near Warsaw where the insurrectionists are making a last stand. Shots of men falling, of shells exploding, of tsarist guns belching destruction follow one another to the strains of the Allegro portion of the Etude; then the piano dies away in the celebrated Rubinstein cadenza. A pause. The insistent, challenging Scherzo bit begins to roll like a drum, and over a hill appears the mangled flag of Poland, mangled but proud, like Christ on the Cross, like a martyr before a firing squad.

Cut back to Chopin—unconscious in the carriage, a relapse of consumption. This is not just film interpreting music; this is visual music. This summarises the structure of the entire film, a film that speaks of Chopin in terms of his own creations.

Paris appears before us with a shot of Rue St. Antoine, the storm centre of both revolutions—1789 and 1830—and thousands of French workers turn out to cheer the refugees from Poland and pledge support to the great struggle for liberation. Chopin, sick, frail, stooping, has a strange gleam in his eyes while he marches with his friends. Somebody says, "We have suffered for so long a time!" Somebody answers, "the struggle is only beginning."

Chopin hears music. These words become music to film. They become to him the notes of a piano with which he gave to the world a glimpse of the passion of a great country and its great, unconquerable people.

—UTPAL DUTT

# SCRAP-BOOK

## VIJAYALAKSHMI'S TOUR

IT seems the External Affairs Ministry has decided at last to take notice of the wicked rumours about Vijayalakshmi Pandit, which we had noted in these columns some weeks ago. A member of the Lok Sabha had sent up a question, it appears. The question has not been allowed but he has received, we are told a smartly written answer.

There is no denial of the fact that our High Commissioner in London went trotting off on a lecture tour of the United States some time last year. This was because she could not refuse the requests of the many intimate friends she had acquired during her term of office in the U.S.

But it is not made absolutely clear as to whether she received (or asked for) permission prior to the tour. The M.P. is reported to have said that the answer to his query only states that the good lady talked on culture and did not make any use of what she might have picked up through her official work.

The answer, it appears, is also rather vague about the large sum of money she is reported to have received. It appears the External Affairs Ministry sanctioned her acceptance of whatever was offered. I have been told that the sum came to about Rs. 1½ lakhs, of which Rs. 50,000 went to some hospital and the rest went to add to her private fortunes.

If all that I have heard is true it is a very poor show indeed. Why couldn't the question have been publicly asked and publicly answered in Parliament. A few supplementaries could have been asked and we would have known the whole truth and not had to remain contented with equivocal rumours.

## LUNATIC AT LARGE

INDIA has its lunatic fringe as does most other countries but among our tribe of journalists the lunatics seem to merge with the dollar-lovers. The latest example has been provided by the doughty commentator on international affairs in that great paper known for its lack of wit of any kind—The Hindustan Times.

You will remember that a day or two after the U.S. election results had been announced, Chester Bowles had stated his solution for the problem of China's representation in U.N.O.: "In the long run we can only solve this situation in China through some kind of two-China policy—that is, an independent Formosa and an independent China."

Leaping along where the Almighty himself would fear to tread R.S. on November 19.

ember 1, hailed this statement as the very latest in wisdom—the jump from Nixon-loving to Kennedy-admiring was a worthy feat. This sycophancy is quite understandable. But he does not stop there.

The lunacy comes in when R.S. added his own bright suggestion: "In the context of the universally recognised undesirability of the use of force for the liberation of Formosa by Peking and of the liberation of the mainland by Taipei, international guarantees (emphasis added) in both the mainland and Formosa could bring about conditions for a peaceful reunification of the two... Realistically there is, however, very little chance of this approach being accepted by Peking. The Chinese Communist regime would have all or nothing. But then this approach would have the merit of showing convincingly whether it were the Communists or the Nationalists who trusted their people."

Poor R.S.! I doubt if the Yanks are likely to patronise somebody who makes such outrageous nonsensical suggestions with all solemnity. Dollars may flow to a bootlicker but scarcely to a lunatic at large.

## MANY VOICES

LAKSHMI MENON somehow finds it difficult to remember that she is a Deputy Minister of External Affairs and should, therefore, not make policy declarations on foreign affairs which are not Government's.

Some time ago in Bombay she flatly contradicted the oft-repeated views of the Prime Minister and the GOI. She gushed at a meeting that an international militia under the United Nations was necessary for peace. Just about that time our delegation in the United Nations was vehemently opposing exactly such a proposal.

This time she chose Patna as her venue and the veto-right of the permanent members of the Security Council as her theme. Working herself up, it is reported, she declared that this veto was a "negation of the very object for which the United Nations was set up" and she would like a position where "no Power has the right of veto."

And, again, just a bare few weeks earlier Pandit Nehru at his Press Conference had stressed the absolute necessity of great Power unanimity if the U.N. was to function—and what is the veto power but a recognition of this fact?

We would like to be informed if any action will be taken to make Lakshmi Menon repudiate her contradiction of declared Government policies.

—Onlooker



# FACTS Vs SLANDER—BORDER DISTRICTS' REPORTS

## ALMORA: The Story Of A Play And The Jan Sangh's Fury

★ From NANDAN SINGH BISHT

THE Prime Minister included the Almora Communists in his diatribe during the last session of Parliament. His statement surprised us Communists but it shocked Pandit Nehru's best supporters in the Congress here. Worse still, it helped the common enemies of the Congress and the Communists. As a result, Pandit Nehru fell somewhat in the esteem of the local inhabitants who are familiar with the facts and the political set-up here and know what is what.

### Clean Record

Let me first recount our activities on the China-India border problem. First, we held a public meeting in Almora town in November 1959 to explain our Party's stand-point on the India-China dispute in terms of the Meerut Resolution of our Party, which neither the Congress nor the Prime Minister has ever assailed as being unpatriotic. We held a few more public meetings in the interior and the biggest one was in the historic Winter Fair at Bageshwar during January 1960. In all these meetings we earnestly demanded a peaceful and just settlement

of the border problem. Congressmen of various levels attended these meetings and know all about them. Not one responsible Congressman of the district has gone on record about our activities being unpatriotic. The source of anti-Communist slanders in our district is not Congressmen but Jan Sanghis and PSPers. The Communist bogey was raised for the first time not within the district but at Lucknow. In his speech in the U. P. Assembly the Jan Sangh MLA from Almora District characterised the Lok Kalakar Sangh of Almora as "Communist sponsored" and stated that it had staged a drama in which the Chinese were depicted as "the liberation army".

First, the Lok Kalakar Sangh is an independent non-party organisation and does not indulge in any controversial politics.

Secondly, the Lok Kalakar Sangh never enacted any such drama and everybody in Almora knows this.

What really happened was that a drama called Geedar Ki Maut was staged by the local Students' Federation during their annual conference in October 1959. The original script is yet safe in the organisers' hands and anyone can examine whether there is anything anti-Indian or pro-Chinese in this drama. Hundreds of local citizens saw the

drama. Their evidence would be readily available.

What really upset the Jan Sangh Chief was that this skit made big fun of the reactionary leaders who exploit the innocent village youth for their nefarious political ends. The cap fitted their own head and that made them rave with rage.

In return, the local reactionaries organised Ladakh Day on behalf of the "Vidya-thi Samaj". The demonstrators not only raised slogans but the speakers openly denounced the independent foreign policy of Pandit Nehru, demanded the dismissal of his Defence Minister and a ban on the Communist Party. The Jan Sangh MLA praised the organisers for having done their "national duty" with honour!

Acharya Kripalani was here in October last year for a holiday at Kausani. He did not move beyond Kausani nor did he care to meet the local people. There is no unit of his party in this district. There are a few frustrated individuals who are known as PSPers. The Acharya did not meet any Communists but after he left this place, he issued a Press statement charging us Communists with carrying on pro-Chinese propaganda. The Acharya is obviously in touch with some invisible power that supplies him with all such information!

The PSP and Jan Sangh leaders of Almora and Nainital some time gang up and tour the newly-created border district of Pithauragarh and they openly denounce India's policy of peace and non-alignment and demand its change, they create panic and seek to demoralise the people. If some local people argue with them against their hypocrisy and lies, they answer back that to propagate anti-Communism is the best and easiest method to get State and Central Government aid for development activities in our long-neglected economically backward region!

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### A Challenge To The P.M.

The Prime Minister had stated on the floor of the Lok Sabha that he can give the names of the Communists roaming around and doing anti-Indian propaganda in the border areas. In all seriousness I challenge this statement and request him to give out the names and hold a public investigation. I know all our Party members and I state with full knowledge of the facts that none of our Party members has ever gone beyond Askote, which is 50 miles below the actual border, during the last two or three years.

At present, there is no Party unit in the border district of

Pithauragarh but earlier there were a few Party members there but they were inactive for a long time and did not renew their Party cards, and they were automatically dropped from Party membership according to the Constitution of our Party.

Let me now quote responsible Congress and official sources and they should carry conviction with the Prime Minister and all honest men.

The anti-Communist campaign of the Jan Sangh and PSP is now over a year old. The Indian Express, July 17, quoting the Congress Deputy Minister, Narendra Singh Bisht, who represents Pithauragarh in the Vidhan Sabha stated, "He was not aware of any Communist activity in his constituency."

In the U.P. Assembly, Home Minister Kamalapati Tripathi answering a question by Swa-

tantra leader S. K. D. Paliwal, stated that "the Government had no information that pro-Chinese and anti-national literature was being circulated on Indo-Tibet border in the State, particularly in the Uttarakhand Division."

"There was, however, another kind of propaganda there. Giving details of it would not be in public interest," he stated. (Indian Express, August 7, 1960).

In the District Conference of the Party through a resolution, we named the elements who were engaged in hostile anti-Indian propaganda on the border, as the Christian Missions, Jan Sanghi and Praja Socialist leaders and we called upon the Government to hold proper investigations. There are numerous U. S.-financed Mission Centres in the district, both the American

and their hired Indian agents go round the border villages under the cover of distributing medicine and spread panicky propaganda that the Chinese were coming but we are your friends. We are from America, and so on.

Last December, after the panicky Jan Sangh propaganda had begun, the District Magistrate went out to tour the border areas and held a Press Conference on return where he stated that there was perfect peace in the border patts and there was no danger of the Chinese coming.

The Shakti is the oldest Congress weekly of Almora. Its patron is Pandit Govinda Ballabh Pant himself. On October 8, it wrote, "In the border areas there is peace everywhere. The propaganda that the Communists are active (in the area) is wholly

baseless. In this region, the officials have become too many and their jobs are not getting done. Many do not even know what they have to do."

The week after, the weekly stated, "News just received from Takalakat, from the border, states that the Chinese Government has put no impediments in the way of Indian traders but declared that trade should go on undisturbed as ever before. Enough wool has come in the market for sale. Trade now is in cash, not in terms of barter. . . . In the Indian border district of Pithauragarh there are no Communist activities. All such news are untrue and deceptive." (Shakti, October 15)

Such are the true facts of the situation in our district. It is not we Communists who are upset or panicky but there is every reason for elderly national leaders like Pandit

Nehru and also Pandit Pant who hails from this very district to feel upset.

Are they going to let themselves be beguiled by false reports or boldly check up all their sources of information and organise a clean-up of the administration?

Are they going to function in a petty partisan manner, with winning the next General Elections as the sole aim or would they uphold high standards of public behaviour and not slander a patriotic brother party?

Would they carry on a petty unprincipled vendetta against our Party or take prompt measures to responsibly investigate into the nefarious activities of the really anti-national elements in our district, inside the Jan Sangh, the PSP and the American Missions?

## HIMACHAL PRADESH

### "SILENT BORDER"

—Says Congress President

Congress President Sanjeeva Reddy extensively toured Kinnaur, the newly-formed border district of Himachal Pradesh from September 17 to 30. After his return he met the Press in Simla.

The weekly Challenge is published from Simla and edited by J. N. Kaul, the local Secretary of the Tibetan Committee and champion organiser of all anti-Communist campaigns in the area. The Challenge is thus rabidly anti-Communist. It, however, reported Sanjeeva Reddy as stating, "This border is not a live border."

Goenka's Sunday Standard, on October 2, carried the following despatch on its front page: "To a question by our Correspondent whether he had noticed any Communist propaganda or activities of the members of the Communist Party along the border Mr. Reddy

said there were no political activities on either side of the border."

When the Congress President reached New Delhi he met newsmen again about his visit to the Indo-Tibetan border areas and unequivocally stated, "He found a silent border. There appeared to be no troops concentration on either side of this section of the border." (India Press Agency, October 5)

Sanjeeva Reddy had gone right-up to Shikpi La Pass on the border and enjoyed every conceivable facility to see things for himself. He found no shred of any material evidence to substantiate the case for anti-Communism. On the other hand, what he himself has stated helps to prove that all the propaganda stories about anti-national activities of the Communists on the Himachal border are a pack of lies.

## TEHRI: Official Refutation

★ From V. S. NAUTIAL

EARLY this month the daily Press reported a Press Conference of the District Magistrate of Uttarkashi announcing impressive allotments and target for the Third Five-Year Plan in this border district, just above Tehri.

Uttarkashi is on the bank of the Ganges, 50 miles below Gangotri. It is a small town, with hardly a few hundred population. It was formerly a small tehsil centre. It is now being brushed and dressed up to assume the role of a full-fledged district centre and that too on the border. The District Magistrate is all-in-all, in charge of everything. His Press Conferences are, therefore, important about the state of affairs in the border area.

monstration is as follows: When Uttarkashi was fixed up to become the new district headquarters, a Town Planner was summoned from Lucknow. He came and sitting in the office he produced a "master plan" which implied that the inhabitants of Barahat, a suburban village of Uttarkashi, had to vacate all their lands for building the office and residential quarters for the hakim logs.

The Town Planner never met the representatives of the local people. If he had he would have easily found out that the lands of Barahat are the most fertile in the area and it is a crime to requisition them for building purposes, that during the Second Five-Year Plan Rs. one-and-a-half lakhs have been spent to build an irrigation channel to water its fields, that on both sides of Uttarkashi there was plenty

of land available and more useful for residential and office purposes than the fertile fields of Barahat. However, planning in the hands of the bureaucrats often becomes its opposite and this is just what happened in Uttarkashi.

Again it is instructive that neither the District Magistrate himself nor any anti-Communist politician dare denounce the demonstrators as Communists or Communist-

inspired! The District Magistrate, Ushapati Bhatt, is known to command the confidence of U. P. Chief Minister Sampurnanand and also of Union Home Minister Pant. His evidence should be decisive so far as the Government at least is concerned. The anti-Communists have only one way out left and that is to denounce the District Magistrate himself as having gone Communist!

## GARHWAL: Congressite Press Testimony

★ From S. P. DHONDIAL

THE Prime Minister's unwarranted statements in the last session of Parliament about the activities of Communists in the border districts gave new courage and confidence to the Jan Sanghis, PSPers and the most reactionary Congressmen of our district but they have upset all serious and patriotic people including Congressmen themselves and above all the local nationalist weeklies.

They cannot very well tell the Prime Minister in plain and blunt words that he is all wrong but in their own way, they can to prevent the Prime Minister's baseless statements being used by the reactionary elements for their own nefarious ends.

The Hindustan Times and its Hindi counter-part, the Hindustan of October 18, 1960, published the sensational news from Delhi that in Garhwal the Communists are supporting the Chinese claims against what is rightfully Indian territory.

### Deceptive Propaganda

The Karmabhoomi is the oldest and most respected nationalist weekly of Garhwal. Its Editor, Sri Dhulia, is an old Congress veteran, well known to Pandit Nehru, Pant

and all the old Congress leaders of U. P. He was most upset and in an editorial entitled, "Yeh Bhramatmak Prachar Kyon" (Why this deceptive propaganda), in the issue of October 22, protested strongly against the false propaganda of the Hindustan Times and called upon the Government to hold investigations and find out if such news was correct and then prosecute the Communists.

and the people in the dark and putting them in a dilemma and are managing to keep themselves alive."

Finally, the Karmabhoomi, referring to the proposed Bill about the border areas, expressed the fear that if such a legislation was enacted, then it would not only be the Communists but everyone who boldly criticised the administration that would be victimised under it and thus corruption and nepotism would be strengthened in the district. The Karmabhoomi earnestly pleads that the Government should not form its opinion on the basis of reports from tainted newspapers, that the Prime Minister's statements should be hundred per cent correct and should not be based on false reports, otherwise the feelings of frustration got intensified among the people and their faith in the leadership gets shaken.

The editorial also makes some revelations: "We have also come to know that in the name of the liberation of Tibet, some weekly papers are being given Rs. 3,000 or more each per month from foreign sources. These newspapers by spreading false news about the border areas are keeping the Government

and the people in the dark and putting them in a dilemma and are managing to keep themselves alive."

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any terror of Chinese attack nor any shadow of dirty and poisonous atmosphere against border security, national independence and integrity, nor are any kind of anti-national activities going on here."

### Visit By Chief Secretary

Chamoli is just above Garhwal, it is the new border district. The Chief Secretary of U. P., Govinda Narain, is also the Commissioner for the newly-formed border districts. He recently toured the whole district and when he met the Advisory Committee of Chamoli Border District on September 17, he expressed his pleasure that he did not see any Communists locally nor did he find the Communist Party and its activities here. This was duly reported in the independent nationalist weekly of Chamoli, the Deva Bhoomi, October 17.

Actually what is happening here is as follows. Whenever and wherever the people raise their voice for their burning demands which are not to the liking of the local big-wigs of the administration, they are immediately branded as Communist propaganda and made the excuse for doing nothing.

For example, once there was a demonstration of landless

peasants at Pauri. After some time, the U. P. State Minister Acharya came to Garhwal and he outright damned the demand of the landless for land as Communist and that was that. Similarly, last summer the public of Lansdowne and Pauri raised the demand for drinking water, this too was condemned as Communist propaganda. All such experience has made the people wiser. They can no more be misguided by anti-Communist propaganda.

### Contradiction By Local Press

The local weekly papers of Garhwal which are normally critical of the Communists had to come out and contradict the false slanders against the local Communists spread by the capitalist Press of the Capital. The local Press is answerable to the local people and cannot survive without contradicting patent and well-known falsehoods. Besides, they are not controlled by the monopoly groups. They have a nationalist past and a patriotic conscience. They can see things more realistically than the top leaders sitting on high in New Delhi, and eating from the hands of others, they can see that if the older Congressmen be-

gin attacking the patriotic bona fides of the younger Communists, it is the Congress that will fare worse ultimately.

All this came to a focal point during the Rashtrapati's visit to our district this October. He went to Badrinath and Pauri raised the demand for drinking water, this too was condemned as Communist propaganda. All such experience has made the people wiser. They can no more be misguided by anti-Communist propaganda.

### Rashtrapati's Speeches

The Rashtrapati, spoke in two public meetings, at Badrinath and Joshi Math. In his speeches, he assured the people that the Government will do its best to ensure the progress of this backward region. Nowhere did he mention the Communists or their activities. The Congress leaders whom we met assure us that the Rashtrapati has seen with his own eyes the falsity of the propaganda which is kicked up against us in New Delhi and Lucknow and which does not go down at all in Garhwal.

## NAINITAL: Men Behind The Campaign

★ by H. C. DHONDIAL

NAINITAL is not directly a border district, part of it is in the plains and part in the hills. The Congressmen here, are generally sober. The District Congress Committee has never issued a statement on the border problem against the local Communists.

It is the Praja Socialist Party that is the source of all the mischief in the district. It has taken initiative to form a "Border Districts' MLAs Association" with the local PSP MLA Pratap Singh as its Secretary. He is not known for any practical work which will be of direct service to his constituents or the people of the district. He has, however, made himself notorious by touring the border districts and after each tour, making irresponsible anti-Communist statements and statements against China. Many a time his statements have been contradicted by the U. P. Congress leaders themselves.

Once he made a statement about the border Communists' anti-Indian and pro-China propaganda. He was, however, contradicted by no less a person than the State Chief Minister himself who after touring the new border districts of Chamoli and Pithauragarh stated that he did not see any Communist propaganda during his whole tour nor could he get any such leaflet or paper.

The local PSP has a weekly and in it they print plenty of scare-raising but false stories but nobody takes them seriously in Nainital.

The local PSP leaders surpass the local Jan Sanghis in their anti-Communist campaign and this damns them all the more in the eyes of the local patriotic people who once respected them because of their nationalist past. Their false propaganda has no effect locally. It gives them publicity in the bourgeois Press outside.



# PUNJAB'S THIRD PLAN

Punjab's Third Plan outlay proposes an allocation of Rs. 287.42 crores as against the Second Plan original provision of Rs. 162.68 crores and expected performance of Rs. 149.72 crores. The distribution of this outlay is more or less in the same percentage ratio as in the Second Plan, except that allocation for industries rises from 5.7 to 7.5 per cent.

**THE** distribution of the outlay headwise is: Agriculture and Community Development—Rs. 55.96 crores (19.5 per cent), Irrigation and Power—Rs. 121.16 crores (42.1 per cent), Industries—Rs. 21.55 crores (7.5 per cent), Transport and Communications—Rs. 18.06 crores (6.4 per cent), Social Services—Rs. 60.73 crores (21.1 per cent) and Miscellaneous—Rs. 9.95 crores (3.4 per cent).

The State Third Plan is an integral part of the all-India Third Plan. The policies underlying the Second Plan are to be continued in the Third.

It cannot be claimed that stable foundations have been laid for further development by the Second Plan.

## Second Plan Balance-Sheet

Foodgrain production jumped to over 60 lakh tons in 1958-59 from 55 lakh tons in 1957-58 but again fell to 53 lakh tons in 1959-60 and is not likely to rise to the anticipated 60 lakh tons in 1960-61 because of the huge loss of crops due to heavy rains and floods and in some parts drought.

While canal-and tube-well-irrigated area is said to have increased from 60.75 lakh to 79.50 lakh acres, net irrigated area has declined in the period 1953-54 to 1956-57.

In the same period water-logging has brought considerable damage—nearly lakh acres are affected in various ways.

Under the tenancy acts, more land is being taken away from tenants in the name of reservation than is being declared surplus. Large sums have been given to landlords and rich peasants to develop capitalist farming. The Community Development programme and cooperatives have benefited only a handful of upper class of the rural population. On the other hand, unemployment has grown among agricultural workers, artisans and poor peasants.

The Second Plan made a small allocation of Rs. 9.2 crores for industry, but of even that only Rs. 4.84 crores are being spent. Small-scale industry has undoubtedly made some headway, but no large-scale industrial unit had been set up in the public sector except the Nangal Fertilisers. Cottage industry has been on the decline.

## Objectives Unfulfilled

Prospecting for oil and natural gas in the Jwainmukh area seems to have come to a dead end, the public has not been taken into confidence as to its future.

The Second Plan had set before itself the objective of raising the living standards of the masses, increasing employ-

ment opportunities and lessening income disparities. But the rich have grown richer and the poor poorer. The backlog of unemployment has increased. The building of a Socialist pattern of economy has proved a hoax on the masses.

Therefore, unless the policies of the Second Plan to finance and implement development programmes are reversed, the objectives of the Third Plan will not be realised.

Nevertheless, the Communist Party would support all positive features of the State's Third Plan, oppose all that is detrimental to the interests of the masses and make constructive suggestions to improve the draft Plan.

The proposed allocation of Rs. 287.42 crores is the irreducible minimum.

Power is said to be the main plank on which the Third Plan rests. Outlay for generation and distribution of electricity is proposed at Rs. 73.92 crores

In the agricultural field, it may not be possible with the present agrarian policies of the Government which stand in the way of full utilisation of land and man-power resources of the State, to attain targets of agricultural production on a stable basis.

## For Improving Agriculture

But the State's agriculture has the potentiality to achieve and even surpass the targets set, provided the following measures are adopted:

- 20-standard-acre-celling on all family holdings of landlords without exemptions, invalidation of all mala fide transfers since 1953, distribution to agricultural workers and poor peasants of all surplus lands together with all cultivable lands with the Government and adequate material and technical assistance to them.

- Top priority to anti-logging measures.

- Technical and financial aid to peasants to reclaim cultivable wastelands.

itting Chandigarh on the main line to assist its industrialisation, construction of new railway lines in the backward areas, Central quota of steel and iron for further development of engineering industries, liberal financial aid to small-scale industries and protection to them from competition from large-scale industry, full utilisation for industrial purposes of mineral resources like slate and limestone, vigorous steps to explore and utilise untapped mineral resources, implementation of the recommendations made in the Industrial Survey of Punjab for the setting up of various industries, establishment of textile, sugar and leather mills to utilise the raw material which is now exported to Madras, planting of mulberry and willow plants to supply wood to the sports industry which is earning valuable foreign exchange, increased allocation for generation of electricity, protection to cottage industry, etc.

To enlist the enthusiastic participation of the working class and to protect the interests of the consumers, profits must be regulated, fair prices fixed and demands of workers regarding wages, bonus, dearness allowance, housing and

# Communist Party's Criticism & Proposals

of which Rs. 49.74 crores will be the cost of generation. Foodgrain production target has been set at 84 lakh tons. Canal-irrigated area will be increased by 15.3 lakh acres and total irrigated area by 17.33 lakh acres.

In the field of industry, a new cement factory will be set up in Kangra; 118 industrial estates and 30 industrial areas will be established; 3,425 villages will be electrified, 1,635 miles of roads built.

To increase irrigation and power potential, the Beas Project will be launched.

## Potentialities Unutilised

While these and similar schemes are welcome, if properly implemented, the Plan would yet fail to utilise the inherent potentialities of the State for economic development.

The major problem of waterlogging will only be tinkered with and might even grow worse. There is no promise of installation of all-India large-scale industries in the public sector. Rural unemployment and underemployment among the educated youth will worsen. The working masses will mainly bear the brunt of additional taxation of Rs. 35.36 crores. There is no proposal to enlist cooperation of all parties for Plan implementation.

- Extension of irrigation facilities, reduction of water and electricity charges and abolition of betterment levy.
- Fertilisers, seeds and improved tools at subsidised rates.
- Abundant cheap credit and curbing of usury. Effective implementation of minimum wage rates for agricultural workers.

## In The Field Of Industries

The allocation for industries of Rs. 2156.7 lakhs or 7.5 per cent is too inadequate. A cement factory and newsprint factory in Kangra, conversion of the Nangal workshop to produce steel structurals and machine-tools, two additional textile mills in the cooperative sector, four new cooperative sugar mills, Rs. 355 lakhs of financial assistance to small-scale industries, the setting up of a Small-Scale Industries Corporation, rebates and subsidies to cottage industries, etc., are all welcome proposals as far as they go but they alone are quite inadequate to cope with the requirements of Punjab's industrial development.

An overall Plan for the State's industrial development should include: heavy industry projects started by the Central Government, put-

ting Chandigarh on the main line to assist its industrialisation, construction of new railway lines in the backward areas, Central quota of steel and iron for further development of engineering industries, liberal financial aid to small-scale industries and protection to them from competition from large-scale industry, full utilisation for industrial purposes of mineral resources like slate and limestone, vigorous steps to explore and utilise untapped mineral resources, implementation of the recommendations made in the Industrial Survey of Punjab for the setting up of various industries, establishment of textile, sugar and leather mills to utilise the raw material which is now exported to Madras, planting of mulberry and willow plants to supply wood to the sports industry which is earning valuable foreign exchange, increased allocation for generation of electricity, protection to cottage industry, etc.

In the field of social service, more stress should be laid on technical education, improvement of general education and steps to make the mother-tongue the medium of instruction up to the highest stage, improvement of the teachers' living and service conditions, accelerated health measures to eradicate common diseases and epidemics and opening of more dispensaries, development of indigenous systems of medicine and preparation of cheap medicines from local sources; economic upliftment of Scheduled Castes by re-settlement on land, development of cottage industry, technical training, free legal aid, etc.; more work and maternity centres for women and acceleration of the pace of girls' education; provision for maintenance of the aged, disabled, orphans and widows lacking means; open air theatres in each district, financial aid without discrimination to all cultural organisations and a State Academy to impart training in music, dance, etc.

## Backward Areas

It is a welcome feature that the Draft Plan makes a special allocation for hilly areas but this allocation has to be increased and special emphasis laid on industries based on local raw material,

A summarised version of the resolution adopted by the Sixth Punjab Provincial Conference of the Communist Party held at Nangal from October 12 to 16, 1960.

orchards and small hydro-electric projects. Special funds should similarly be earmarked to overcome the backwardness of the Harijans areas and certain areas of the former PEPSU.

The Plan outline does not indicate the extent of fresh employment opportunities to be created in the public and private sectors. But from indications given by the all-India Plan outline and from experience, backlog of unemployment will increase at the end of the Second Plan and still more at the end of the Third Plan.

## Resources -From Where?

A most crucial question is that of resources for the Plan. It is expected that the State Government will levy additional taxes to the extent of Rs. 35 crores in the Plan period to be raised by means of indirect taxes.

The State Government is refusing to publish the report of the Resources and Retrenchment Committee. The Finance Minister has said that taxation in the State has already reached the saturation point. Additional taxation on the labouring masses will, therefore, meet with their stout opposition.

The Communist Party in cooperation with other democratic elements will press for—

- Reduction in high salaries of Ministers and officials;
- Direct taxes on income, wealth and property of the rich;
- Postponement of non-productive schemes and decrease in non-developmental expenditures;
- Abolition of allowances to ex-Princes;
- Greater share of grants from the Centre;
- End to corruption and extravagance in public expenditure.

## Popular Committees

The Communist Party emphasises once more that even good development projects do not yield the desired results and benefit the common people unless their enthusiastic participation is ensured in its execution. It is essential, therefore, to set up committees representing all political parties and mass organisations at various levels, which will also exercise a healthy check against corruption, nepotism, waste and extravagance.

# TIMES OF INDIA EMPLOYEES' VICTORY

by OUR CORRESPONDENT

Here we print the story of the Times of India employees' struggle and victory in Delhi. The report came too late for inclusion in last week's issue.

Ten days of resolute struggle by the employees of the Times of India and Nav Bharat Times, backed by trade unions in Delhi, specially of the newspaper employees; averted the closure of the Job Department of the Bennett Coleman and Company and saved the employment of about 300 employees. These employees were, in fact, retrenched and later on reinstated by the management as a result of the strength of the movement.

The Bennett Coleman and Company, originally a British-owned concern, was acquired by Seth Ramakrishna Dalmia about 13 years ago and transferred to his son-in-law Shanti Prasad Jain some four years ago.

## Explanation And Profits

From the Times of India, Evening News and Illustrated Weekly which the company was publishing from Bombay, it has enormously expanded and is now publishing the Times of India, Femina, Illustrated Weekly, Filmfare, Nav Bharat Times, Parag and Diarmayug from Bombay and The Times of India and Nav Bharat Times from Delhi.

The company is planning publication from the New Year Financial Times, a daily entirely devoted to financial news—on which incidentally it is reportedly prepared to lose a lakh of rupees every month for a full year—and a Hindi monthly magazine for women. Both in Bombay and Delhi the company runs huge job presses.

After paying Rs. seven lakhs as bonus, the profit figure of the Bennett Coleman and Company for 1959 was still of the order of Rs. 35 lakhs.

Till 1955, the employees in the Delhi office were not paid any bonus, though the company had been earning handsome profits. Their wages and service conditions were also far below those of their counterparts in the Bombay head office.

## Union Wins Demands

In 1956, the Delhi employees organised themselves into a trade union and won their first bonus. Since then the Bennett Coleman and Company Employees' Union has been fighting to improve the employees' service conditions.

The union, in 1959, began agitating for demands among which was the one for increasing dearness allowance from Rs. 36 to Rs. 60 per month. After six months of this agitation the employees won some benefits. The management agreed to raise the dearness allowance by Rs. eight on January 1, 1959, and Rs. three from January 1, 1960, and another Rs. three from January 1, 1961.

The union demanded extension to the Delhi office of the service conditions available to workmen in the head office. Except for wages, the union won this demand in 1960.

Encouraged by the anti-labour policies of the Government the management went to the extent of violating the provisions of the law governing service conditions. The Establishment Officer, notorious for his unfair labour practices, kept himself busy till late at night issuing charge-sheets and threats to the workers. Lawyers were engaged by the company to put through its evil designs.

## Union Prepares For Action

The union, at an extraordinary general meeting on October 21, reviewed the whole situation and decided to counter the closure of the Job Department with an indefinite strike. Strike notice was served on the company on October 24.

The same day, in reply to the union's letters, the management admitted for the first time its plan to close the Job Department. The company's General Manager J. C. Jain flew in from Bombay. The management expressed a

question of any "heavy traffic" was rejected. Due to Section 144 Cr. P.C. no meetings could also be held.

The Government was harping too much on the employers' right to close their business and the compensation payable to the workers under the Industrial Disputes Act of 1947.

Some local Congressmen suddenly became active. It was made known that S. P. Jain could be persuaded to separate the Job Department from the rest of the company and take it directly under the Sahu-Jain industries—such a settlement would have compelled the workers to accept retrograde service conditions. Still these Congressmen put forward such a feeble in their eagerness to serve the employer.

The management, in its turn, agreed to run the department if the workers were agreeable to increased hours of work, curtailment of leave facilities, no bonus, no increase in existing emoluments, re-employment of some workers, no strike in future, etc.

trying to back out, they came out of their shifts and staged a powerful demonstration. A sharp dagger was thrown into the midst of the workers, and though the police were told about the suspicious moves of the Security Officer and the Establishment Officer, they would not even make a search of these two "gentlemen". In fact during this whole period the police had been only too ready to be re-quisitioned by the management. Armed policemen and officers, magistrates were all present on the company's premises anytime the management wanted them.

Aruna Asaf Ali, President of the All-India Newspaper Employees' Federation, visited this scene which gave the appearance of a battlefield on November 2 and lodged a strong protest with the Government against police interference in an industrial dispute.

The workers went on a

# FULL STORY OF THE STRUGGLE

desire for negotiations to avert the strike and at the same time went ahead with its preparations to suppress the strike.

Posters were put up against the strike, reports were lodged with the police against the union leaders and activists. An ex-serviceman was employed as Security Officer and he began going round the office with a loaded pistol. Some Gurkhas were recruited as part of the security arrangements.

The union was also going ahead with its strike preparations. Besides the Central Action Committee, strike committees were set up in all the departments, a strong volunteer corps was organised and the workers decided to contribute a day's wages to the strike fund.

## Government's Attitude

The union wrote to the Home Minister, Chief Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and Inspector-General of Police, pointing out the management's moves to create an atmosphere of terror and implicate union leaders in cases.

The union's letters seem to have been treated as so much of scrap paper. Repeated requests to the Deputy Commissioner for permission to take out processions to present memoranda to the Prime Minister and the Union Labour Minister, were refused on one pretext or another. Even permission for a procession on 7 a.m. when there was no

acceptable to the workers. They began mobilising opinion behind their strike decision. Local trade unions, came to their support. Newspaper hawkers saw the justice of their demands and told the management they would fully support the workers when they went on strike. The Gurkhas who had been recruited by the management left their jobs saying they were not prepared to be used against the workers.

## Terms Of The Agreement

After long discussions the agreement was signed at 11 p.m. on November 2. The management promised that it would not close the Job Department for at least two years. All the retrenched employees were reinstated, bonus was increased from two months' to three months' wages, dearness allowance was increased by Rs. eight with retrospective effect from January 1960, to be raised again by another Rs. three from next January. The union did not accept the condition that it would not resort to strike in future. The stay-in strike was called off at midnight.

## Police Help To Employer

On October 31, the management expressed its desire to resume negotiations and put a poster withdrawing all service-termination notices pending agreement. Knowing the management's tactics, the union called on its members to keep the powder dry and went into the negotiations.

On November 1, at 7-30 p.m., the terms of the agreement were finalised but the management would not sign it on the plea that the draft agreement had to get the approval of the General Manager from Bom-

When the workers heard that the management was

successful stay-in strike. Their comrades in other newspapers were preparing for sympathetic strikes. The management realised that the struggle would envelop the Bombay headquarters also and again resumed negotiations.

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About 2,000 local newspaper employees belonging to all the dailies, who came to demonstrate in the Times of India office on November 3 in support of the strike, celebrated the occasion as a great victory.

This victory will further strengthen the unity of the newspaper employees and under the leadership of the Delhi Newspaper Employees' Federation, they are now carrying on their agitation for fulfilment of their demands in the different newspaper establishments.



# LAOS: ISOLATION OF RIGHT WING

THE crisis in Laos is sharpening with a more clear-cut confrontation of opposing forces.

Prince Souvanna Phouma, the Laotian Premier, has made his choice after a great deal of hesitation and as a result of the skilful tactics and mass mobilisation of the Neo Lao Haksat forces led by Prince Souphanavong. He has announced on November 16 the agreement between his Government and the Neo Lao Haksat on all points and simultaneously has announced his break with the Rightist forces, led by Phoumi Nosavan, who had staged a coup at the royal capital of Luang Prabang on November 11.

The crisis in Laos actually has not abated since the August 9 coup d'etat which ousted the Rightists. It placed Souvanna Phouma at the head of a new Government pledged to carry out a policy of national concord, of genuine peace and neutrality, of respect for the 1954 Geneva Agreements and for the strengthening of friendly relations with neighbouring countries and with all countries willing to have good relations with the Kingdom of Laos.

The new Prime Minister had, however, still to make up his mind. He announced that he was anxious to reach an agreement with the Neo Lao Haksat, which had been forced by the Rightist elements to adopt the sharpest forms of military and underground struggle. But simultaneously he announced that he would continue to retain these very Rightist elements headed by Phoumi Nosavan, in strategic posts, especially in the army.

He announced that he was anxious to reopen diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and would welcome economic aid from it. At the same time he did not clarify his position towards the American financing of the Laotian army nor did he indicate what he was going to do about diplomatic relations with China and the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

## U. S. Aid To Right

The U. S. imperialists at once made their stand clear. They started handing over dollars directly to the army bypassing the Prime Minister, after an initial period when they had announced the stoppage of all military aid. Later they sent a top State Department official called Parsons to pressurise Souvanna Phouma, warning him that any leaning towards neutrality would bring down U. S. wrath on his head. Side by side Phoumi Nosavan and a section of the top army command began independent military operations against

the Pathet Lao and other armed forces loyal to the new regime.

From the outset the Neo Lao Haksat had tabulated a clear-cut programme for the next steps forward. It had warned that the situation was extremely serious and that Laos was in grave danger. It called for the formation of a coalition Government of all those who adhered to the policies of establishing democratic liberties, of national economic development and of peace and neutrality. It called on the Premier to break with the Rightist elements and to integrate all the patriotic armed forces under a new unified command.

The Neo Lao Haksat entered into serious and friendly negotiations with the new regime, offering it its full cooperation in safeguarding Laotian unity and ridding the country of the U. S. agents. At the same time, the Pathet Lao armed forces gave a thorough rebuff to the offensive of the Phoumi Nosavan-led armed units and consolidated its positions in the northern areas of Laos.

## Urge For Unity

Early in November a committee was set up in Vientiane, the Laotian capital, to unite all forces who stood for peace, neutrality, national harmony and national unification. This committee appealed to the Prime Minister and to the Neo Lao Haksat leader Souphanavong to join it and work for the establishment of a coalition Government. The latter immediately responded and welcomed the establishment of the committee.

Seeing this growing isolation of the Rightists, the increasingly clear urge for national-progressive unity and the growing inclination of Souvanna Phouma to unite with the Neo Lao Haksat, the U. S. imperialists stepped up their offensive. The Thai Government and SEATO armed forces were now assigned a major role. Indicative of this was the statement in Bangkok on November 12 of Admiral Felt, the Commander-in-Chief of the U. S. forces in the Pacific and Far East, on the eve of the SEATO meeting that "Laos plays a large part in our defence plans."

He was followed up by the Thai Vice-Premier and Defence Minister Kittikachorn who ranted on November 16 at the SEATO meeting that "should the alarming events in Laos continue to spread, the armed forces of Thailand will be ready for prompt action to the utmost of its capabilities and according to its obligations to and the decision of SEATO."

As a last desperate measure to pressurise the Prime Minister came the Luang

Prabang coup. It is welcome indeed that Souvanna Phouma's reply was to announce his break with the Right and his rapprochement with the Neo Lao Haksat. The Government has now decided, among other things, to send goodwill delegations to Peking and Hanoi.

It is quite obvious that the U. S. imperialists, their SEATO satellites and the Laotian Rightists are not going to just give up the fight. There is every likelihood that the U. S. will counsel the Rightists in control of Luang Prabang to send out an appeal in the king's name to the Thai and other SEATO armed forces and, thus, make a bid to break the Vientiane Government. Should this open intervention occur it will mark the gravest possible menace to the peace and security of Southeast Asia, to say nothing of the independence of Laos.

However, now that a welcome measure of unity has been established between the democratic forces in Laos there is equally good reason for hope that the Rightists will have to pack up. They, and their U. S. masters know that independent Laos has the powerful friendship of the Socialist camp and the active sympathy of the neutral nations.

# Italy-Communists Increase Vote In Municipal Elections

THE details of the elections to the 6,900 Municipal Councils and 77 Provincial Councils in Italy held on November 6 and 7 have now become available.

The Communist Party of Italy won 6,080,000 votes (a gain of 105,000 votes over the 1958 general elections) increasing from 23 to 24.5 per cent of the poll, the biggest percentage increase of any party. These gains were made among other places, in the industrial centres of the North, where salaries are highest and the employers have tried a policy of paternalism.

## Socialist Loss-Why?

The Christian Democrats, on the other hand, lost about a million votes since 1958 while their percentage dropped from 42.4 to 40.3.

The Socialist Party of Italy, led by Nenni, lost some 226,000 votes, compared with 1958, and dropped from 14.7 to 14.4 per cent. Commenting on this loss Togliatti, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Italy, stated: "The loss sustained by the Socialist Party is due to a policy of aiming to strengthen itself at the expense of the Communists rather than the Christian Democrats or Social Democrats." Despite these

# CUBA INSPIRES LATIN AMERICA U. S. Plot Continues

CUBA has receded somewhat from the headline in the past few days but there is no telling when it will be back again with a bang. The U. S. plot against this Isle of Freedom in the Caribbean continues unabated.

Dr. Ronald Hilton, the director of the Spanish-American Institute of the U. S. Stanford University, announced on November 10 that the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency had acquired a large tract of land in Guatemala for one million dollars and this is being used to train anti-Castro Cubans.

On November 13, armed operations began in Guatemala against the tyrannical Ydigoras Government. The very next day the U. S. summoned an emergency meeting in Washington of the Organisation of American States (OAS). It was decided to rush at once to the "aid" of Guatemala and the U. S. naval forces were duly despatched. At the same time the slander was put out that Cuba was to "blame" and that Castro was stepping up "subversion."

A few days later came the turn of a big popular up-

surge in Nicaragua, where again a dictatorial regime compelled the people to stage armed attacks in order to struggle for their elementary rights. Once again the bogey of Cuba was raised.

There is, it is true, some reason for U. S. panic. The spectacle of Cuba standing up to the U. S. and going ahead with its radical reforms has fired the Latin American imagination. In the first weeks of this month there was a crescendo of strike actions of tremendous scope: Three million workers came out on November 7 in Argentina; nearly two million workers went on strike (and won after three days) in Brazil on November 8; 600,000 workers in Chile (representing one-sixth of the population) stopped work on November 7 as a protest against police atrocities; on November 17, over one million workers in Mexico went into united action.

Faced with this simmering discontent the U. S. might attempt a surprise blow at Cuba in the vain attempt to obliterate the focal point of Latin American hope today.

# NEHRU'S STATEMENT CHALLENGED IN WEST BENGAL ASSEMBLY

BY WIRE FROM JNAN BIKASH MOITRA

There was uproar in the West Bengal Assembly on November 23 when immediately after the House met, Jyoti Basu, Leader of the Opposition, sought to move an adjournment motion to discuss the "grave statement of the Prime Minister in the Lok Sabha on November 21 with particular reference to the alleged anti-Indian activities of alleged Communists in India-China border areas including Kalimpong and the alleged speech of Satyendra Narayan Mazumdar, MLA, in an Executive meeting of the Darjeeling District Council of the Communist Party sent to the Prime Minister by the Secret Police of West Bengal."

The Speaker had earlier disallowed the motion and had allowed Basu to read out the text. While reading, Basu said that it was unfortunate that the Prime Minister should have made such a slanderous statement on the basis of false police report.

Pointing out that the Prime Minister had attacked the Communist Party in a surreptitious manner he demanded that everything must be made public because it concerned not only the Communist Party but the entire country.

Emphasising that the charges levelled against the Communist Party were utterly baseless, he described the Prime Minister's state-

ment as "untrue and unheard of in parliamentary history." He demanded that if there were charges against the Communist Party they must be brought before the House and the Party would give a fitting reply.

Then Satyen Mazumdar sought permission to offer a personal explanation before the House and the Speaker refused permission. After some time Jyoti Basu again rose and referred to an Assembly Rule which allowed a member to put questions to another member if the Speaker permitted. Basu wanted to ask Mazumdar about the allegations made against him by the Prime Minister. For the first time in West Bengal Assembly's history, the Speaker permitted Mazumdar to speak in reply to Basu's question.

## Unprecedented Procedure

Mazumdar said that Nehru's statement was not merely based on a false police report. It was also unprecedented. Nehru did not like any references to Central Government officials in Parliament but he has made a statement against a person who was not present in the House and had no opportunity to defend himself.

He emphatically denied having ever discussed the border issue at the meeting referred to by Nehru. He said he was in full agreement with the Communist Party's Meerut resolution which advocated peaceful settlement of the dispute by negotiations. He concluded by characterising Nehru's statement as utterly irresponsible and untrue which had been made to discredit him.

Earlier in the day he had sent a telegram to Nehru repudiating his statement as slanderous and untrue. Copies were sent to the Speaker of Lok Sabha and Biren Mukerjee. In the evening, he issued the following Press statement:

"I like to categorically state that the allegations made by the Prime Minister against me are totally unfounded and are nothing but most blatant fabrications.

"The procedure adopted by him is also unprecedented and is in violation of convention followed in the Lok Sabha that a person who is not present in the House to defend himself won't be referred to. He made the statement in the Lok Sabha knowing well that he is fully protected and I can't legally proceed against him.

## Fabricated Report

"Obviously the allegations made by the Prime Minister are based on fabricated reports of the Central or State Intelligence branches. How could the police report on what transpired in the meeting of the District Executive Committee where none but members can be present? I can definitely

# Communists Charged With Murder Of Man Still Alive

From V. HANUMANTHA RAO

STRANGE things happen in Congress-ruled States. In Andhra itself we have had plenty of them. If, for instance, Communists are murdered, the long arm of the law becomes short. And if Congressmen are responsible for crimes, the long arm disappears altogether. But stranger than all this is what has happened in Mahabubnagar District.

A party-burnt dead body was recently found in the fields in Nakkalappalle village in Nagarkurnool taluk of Mahabubnagar District.

The Congress leaders of this district, Ramachandra Reddi, MLA and Chairman of the Zilla Parishad, and his brother Janardan Reddi, MLA, are both pledged to crush the Communist Party and they decided the dead body gave them an opportunity which they should not miss. And this is how they set about doing it.

A Congress worker Peda Krishna Reddi was asked to go into hiding. Rumours were then spread that the dead body found in the fields was that of Krishna Reddi and that he had been killed by the Communists because he had worked for the Congress in the General Elections. Some Communists were also named as responsible for the murder.

To make the whole show look real beyond any dispute, Congressmen in the taluk were mobilised, donations were collected and it was announced that a memorial would be put up to the "dead" Congress worker.

Even Krishna Reddy's wife was made to go round clothed as a widow, and his brothers performed all the final rites.

The next step was to get some Communist sympathisers arrested after which they were approached and told that they would be released if they dissociated

themselves with the Communist Party. Such apology letters were taken from them and they were let off.

High police officials and the Congress leaders then camped in the village for four days and conducted enquiries. Their finding was that the dead body was that of Krishna Reddy, and that six Communists of the village were responsible for the murder. The necessary "evidence" was also collected.

The whole village had been terrorised by these police enquiries and there was no difficulty in getting an eye-witness who deposed that he and Krishna Reddy, while proceeding to Nakkalappalle village, were waylaid by the six Communists, that Krishna Reddy was stoned to death and his dead body had been placed in a hut and set on fire.

The six Communists were kept in custody, the body was sent for post-mortem examination, the post-mortem report was obtained after which the body was cremated. A charge sheet was filed in the court and a date fixed for recording evidence.

Just then a man was caught in a small, dilapidated temple among the huts inhabited by Chenchu tribals in a place not connected by roads, ten miles off the main road in the Macherala forests of Guntur District and the man was found to be none other than Krishna Reddy for whose murder six Communists were about to be tried.

Thus was foiled a vile plot. But a number of questions remain: Whose was the dead body? Who was responsible for the murder? How were the Congressmen interested in foisting the crime on the Communists? Why did the police behave in this criminal fashion? Will the Andhra Government hold an enquiry even now to find answers to these questions?

state the border issue was not at all discussed in the said meeting. As for my stand on the border issue it is entirely guided by the Meerut resolution of the National Council of our Party which stands for peaceful and honourable settlement of the dispute. I have expressed my views on these lines not only in numerous public meetings all over West Bengal but also in this Assembly last year.

"I think the said intelligence report is actuated by the pernicious motive of dis-

crediting me in particular because I happen to enjoy wide popularity and respect among all sections of the public including many Congressmen in Darjeeling District.

"May I ask in all humility of the Prime Minister who places so much reliance on intelligence reports and uses them in a manner which smacks of McCarthyism what were his intelligence men and he himself doing when large-scale attacks on the Bengali community were being planned and organised in the border State of Assam."

# 'HELP US TO HELP YOU'

"Cleanliness is next to Godliness", according to an old adage. Clean surroundings radiate joy. More than that they help in controlling diseases. On Railway Platforms, in Waiting Rooms and in Carriages, etc., where people gather it is of paramount importance to maintain proper hygienic conditions, to preserve the health of the passengers. You can help the Railways in this fight against diseases by:

- EXTENDING YOUR CO-OPERATION FOR KEEPING THE SURROUNDINGS CLEAN AND BY AVAILING OF THE SERVICES OF SANITARY STAFF PROVIDED AT STATIONS WHENEVER REQUIRED.

## NORTHERN RAILWAY







# GREAT BATTLE FOR PEACE & FREEDOM

● By cable from MASOOD ALI KHAN

MOSCOW, November 23

THE eyes of the world are fixed on Moscow this week, and Moscow has been following the international scene with great attention.

The chains of bondage give way at all points as hitherto submissive people stir and lift their heads and become conscious of their own dormant strength.

Bare muscles of resurgent defiant peoples prove stronger than the steel chains forged in imperialist foundries and their broken links cannot be soldered again.

Moscow papers have been full of news of the heroic struggle of the peoples—the battles fought on the streets of Saigon, the revolts on the other side of planet in Guatemala and Nicaragua, U. S. Ambassador stoned in Bolivia, U. S. fleet sent to the Caribbean Sea to threaten the brave people of Cuba, British planes bomb defenceless villagers in Yemen, U. S. threatens to cut off economic aid to Laos and thus tries to bring her back to submission and prevent formation of a Government of national unity, more intrigues in Congo taking advantage of Dayal's absence.

The great battle for peace, justice and freedom goes on. People see clearly who are their friends and who their real foe in spite of all sweet promises and seductive smiles. The representatives of the Cuban people call Khrushchov their national hero and Ferhat Abbas declares the Socialist camp to be the real friend and ally of Algerian peoples.

Pravda today, reviewing the international scene, declares that the events of the week reflect the essence of our epoch, the process of further liberation of peoples from imperialist slavery begun by the October Revolution. This process cannot be held back, it widens and spreads with

every day that passes. Life confirms the great wisdom and truth of the declaration of colonial freedom proposed by Soviet Union in the United Nations.

"Imperialism still throws aeroplanes and warships against patriots. Last events in the Caribbean Sea prove this. But open military actions and suppression of national liberation movements have become risky

affairs for imperialism. This epoch of collapse of colonialism forces them to seek new methods."

Now the imperialists want to "internationalise the conflict," the paper declares. In simple language this means covering the aggression with the flag of some international organisation or other be it the U.N. or the Organisation of American States.

## Friendship Varsity Inauguration

THE formal inauguration ceremony of the Friendship University took place in the stately Hall of Columns of the House of Trade-Union in Moscow on November 17.

Young boys and girls from 59 countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America filled the hall in gay colourful costumes of all descriptions. Here were representatives of the lands which gained freedom only a few weeks ago and of peoples still fighting for freedom. They were all conscious of the fact that they were lucky to be here as the first students of this noble university dedicated by the Soviet people to the cause of service to the underdeveloped nations of the world.

Messages of goodwill had been received from Prime Minister Nehru, Indonesia's Soekarno, Guinea's Sekou Toure, Ceylon's Mrs. Bandaranaike and many others.

In the brilliantly lit white marble hall many foreign guests, foreign students of the Moscow University and Soviet boys and girls had gathered on this happy occasion. There were many educationists from Indonesia, Ghana, Cuba and other lands. From India the pro-Rector of the Bombay University, Khanolkar, had especially arrived to attend the opening ceremony. The Indian Ambassador and lea-

ders of the Communist Party of India were also present.

After the opening speech of Professor Rumantsev, Rector of the new University, foreign guests and Soviet representatives of different organisations greeted the meeting.

The Soviet Premier in his speech spoke of the fall of the last bastions of the colonial system and the emergence of new free nations in the world. The people of these countries realise from their own experience that they cannot develop their economy and culture without their own national cadres of specialists.

In the capitalist countries some would like to represent even the inauguration of the Friendship University as some new intrigue on the part of the Soviet Union, Khrushchov said. But all honest people know that it has only noble and humane objects before it.

"We shall not impose our viewpoint or ideology on any of the students. The matter of world outlook is a voluntary affair. We shall not be disappointed if you don't become Communists but always remain honest, if you gain knowledge and dedicate your lives to loyal service of your own people and not serve the moneybags. By selfless service to your people you shall justify the

## Pravda Editorial On Moscow Declaration Anniversary

BY CABLE

MOSCOW, November 23.

INTERESTS of Communism demand from the Communist Parties and all Communists that even in the future they continue the resolute struggle both against revisionism and against dogmatism and sectarianism, for the purity of the principles of Marxist-Leninist teaching, for the unity and solidarity of the international Communist movement," declares Pravda in an important editorial published today under title "Unity under Flag of Marxism-Leninism."

The editorial, which marks the Third Anniversary of publication in Pravda of documents of the Conference of Communist and Workers' Parties held in Moscow in 1957, the famous Moscow Declaration

and Peace Manifesto, says that the Moscow Declaration ideologically armed the Communists in their struggle against revisionism, dogmatism and sectarianism.

"It emphasised the necessity of strengthening the struggle against opportunist tendencies in the international Communist movement, against revisionism, which in contemporary conditions is the main danger, and against dogmatism and sectarianism which can also become a basic danger for one Party or another at particular stages of its development."

The editorial says that the last three years have confirmed their correctness. During this period the forces of the world system of Socialism have been further strengthened and the colonial and capitalist system has continued to disintegrate.

The article confirms that the general line of foreign policy of the Soviet Union was and remains the principle of peaceful coexistence but explains that it does not deny class struggle and does not mean reconciliation of Socialism with capitalism. On the contrary it presupposes the intensification of struggle for the victory of Socialism. The article declares that the principle of peaceful coexistence is the only right principle of international relations when the world is divided between two systems of Socialism and capitalism.

The Pravda editorial declares that the CPSU stands firmly on the principles of creative Marxism-Leninism and, guided by it, the Party has made important theoretical conclusions and generalisations.

The question of preservation and strengthening of peace is the centre of interest of the whole of humanity and referring to this problem, the article declares that even today the real possibility exists of opposing the threat of imperialist war with the mighty peace forces. The forces of the people determined to prevent war are even today mightier than the forces of war and shall grow in future.

The article declares that the Communist Party of the Soviet Union basing itself on the interests of the working class and the great cause of Communism shall work tirelessly even in future for the solidarity and unity of the Socialist camp and the whole of the Communist movement along with all Marxist-Leninist Parties. The CPSU sees in this its international duty and responsibility. The article concludes that further unity of the Communist Parties under the flag of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism is a guarantee of new victories of the world Communism movement and the triumph of Communism.

hopes of your parents and the nations that have sent you here for studies?"

Khrushchov added amidst laughter, "If anyone of you is infected by 'germs' of Communism, please don't blame us for that." He asked the students not to waste their time, to use all possibilities available to them to acquire knowledge and master science and the new technique. Let the university establish its own good traditions and help to establish friendship between the peoples, he concluded and was again given a long ovation.

## Tolstoy Anniversary

THE fiftieth anniversary of the death of the great writer, Leo Tolstoy, was observed in a big way all over the Soviet Union this weekend.

A big meeting attended by Soviet leaders was held in Moscow's Bolshoi Theatre where Soviet writer, Leonid Leonov, spoke on the great heritage of Tolstoy and extracts from his works were presented on the stage.

The famous American painter, Rockwell Kent, also paid tributes to the great prophet of peace and brotherhood of man.

The American artist has presented to the Soviet Union 80 of his paintings and over 800 sketches, estimated at more than \$250,000. Earlier at a Press Conference, the 78-year-old painter said that his gift "was a token of my deep respect for the Soviet people." He wanted his works to be in good hands, he said.

Seven years ago, Rockwell Kent had offered his work to an American Museum and his gift had been accepted with pleasure. But after the artist had been victimised by McCarthy's Un-American Activities Committee, the museum authorities refused to accept the collection of valuable paintings. Last Saturday, the exhibition of paintings opened in Moscow and is drawing great crowds.

## a remarkable film

A remarkable film. The Silent Planet, jointly produced by the DEFA Film Studios of the German Democratic Republic and the Film Polski Studios, Poland, has recently been shown to groups of invitees at the local GDE Trade Representation.

The events depicted in the film are supposed to take place in the year 1970 when the world has become free of the threat of atomic war and man has firmly set his foot on the moon.

A mysterious coil found in the Gobi desert is found to have come from the planet Venus when a space-ship from there had crashed in the Gobi in 1908. Unable to decipher its meaning, an international team of space explorers set out on the space-ship Cosmocrator I to explore the Silent Planet.

Captained by a Soviet physicist the crew of Cosmocrator I includes an ingenious Indian mathemati-

cian having the queer name of Sikarna, an American nuclear physicist, a Chinese linguist-cum-biologist, a Pole as the chief engineer and a German as the pilot. An African, Talna, is in charge of the television and radar appliances and a Japanese, the only woman in the expedition, Dr. Omigura, is the physician looking after the health of the crew.

Besides these eight humans aboard the space ship is Omega, the robot, who beats everybody, at chest-till Omigura tells its creator, the Polish engineer, that a "little soul" in the robot would have been a useful element.

The exciting flight through space with many breath-taking encounters with celestial bodies and the final landing on Venus leading to the ultimate discovery that the planet had at one time been inhabited by highly developed beings

who had only discovered the energy of the atom but harnessed it only for war-like purposes leading to their own destruction as a species—all this not only keeps one spell-bound but the moral for the human species inhabiting our own planet is brought home with telling effect without anyone having to spell it out. The effect somewhat resembles that of the other remarkable anti-nuclear war film, On the Beach.

The Cosmocrator I returns to earth with three members of the expedition having sacrificed themselves on Venus to enable the rest to escape high radiation and other hazards. The message of universal brotherhood in the service of science is brought home in many ways.

Superb photography and music add to the powerful effect of the film.

—Z. H.