

COUNTRY-WIDE MASS PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS

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The country-wide campaign against the imposition of new taxes reached its first stage in numerous assemblies, demonstrations and expressions of other forms of protest on June 16 and 17, in accordance with the call of the Communist Party of India.

A mass meeting was held in Calcutta on June 16 under the joint auspices of eight Left parties, (CPI, FB, RSP, Marxist FB, RCPI, Socialist Unity Centre, Bolshevik Party and Workers' Party) to protest against the anti-people policies of the Government, as a result of which the economic conditions of the people of West Bengal have been steadily deteriorating over the past six years.

Rising prices of all essential commodities, mounting taxation, enhanced charges for civic amenities etc., have imposed heavy burdens on them.

Meetings and demonstrations were also held in

other parts of the State. These constitute the first step of a mass movement, which is being organised all over West Bengal to compel the Government to concede the minimum demands of different sections of the people in regard to prices and supplies of essential commodities, taxation, arrears of loans and rent, work and employment in rural areas and civic amenities, etc.

The meeting held in Calcutta was addressed by Jyoti Basu, Leader of the Opposition, Hemarta Basu, MLA (F.B.) and the leaders of other left parties. The resolution adopted at the meeting put forward 16 demands, which had been made in the memorandum submitted jointly by the eight left parties to

whatsoever regarding the most important ones.

The resolution, therefore, called upon all sections of the people to unite their ranks and to take an active part in the Statewide movement for realising the demands submitted to the Government.

A series of mass meetings and demonstrations were held in various parts of Kerala on June 16 and 17 to protest against increased taxation. Thousands of people took

Palluruthi and Alwaye respectively.

Protest meeting was also held in Puzhavangadi on June 17, which was presided over by Aravindan.

Among the main speakers were P. Gopala Kurup, K. Damodaran and Aniruddhan.

A mass demonstration on June 16, jointly organised by the Meerut units of the CPI and the AIKS, submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh through the Additional Dis-

MORARJI'S POLICY OF FLEECING THE POOR

Editorial

FINANCE MINISTER

Morarji Desai made it clear in Parliament that he or his Government does not propose to accede to the demands made by the various sections of the House for a radical revision of the economic and financial policies pursued by him.

He rejected the demand that the privy purses paid to the princes should be stopped. To accede to this demand, he contended, would mean going back on the solemn pledge given to the former rulers.

He also rejected other demands calculated to harness the resources of the nation but remaining unutilised since they are lying in the coffers of a handful of the rich (such as gold hoardings). To attempt to gather the gold hoarded by the rich, he argued, would mean labours disproportionate to the gains arising therefrom.

He also rejected such concrete proposals as the nationalisation of banking and insurance which would enable the Government to exercise control over economic activities. These and other measures demanded by the Communist opposition would, in his opinion, be tantamount to 'killing the rich' which he, as a true Gandhite, cannot reconcile himself to.

He, however, has no qualms of Gandhian conscience when it comes to squeezing the last naya Paisa out of the meagre incomes of the poor. His answer to the criticism that the indirect taxes imposed by him at the Centre and by his counterparts in the State Governments forced the common people to reduce their essential consumption was a lecture to the common people that they should stay away from luxurious living. Even such an article of everyday consumption of the poor as tobacco is, in his opinion, a luxury that its use by the poor should be discouraged.

Even while lecturing to the poor against luxury, Morarji Desai has no hesitation to save the rich from the Expenditure Tax. Defending the withdrawal of this tax, he pointed out that the income realised by the Government through this source was so meagre that it was not worth all the trouble to levy and collect. Furthermore, the imposition and collection of this tax was according to him, corrupting public morality, making the people as it did to keep false accounts.

If he were really sincere in advancing this argument, the first step he should have taken was to advise the State Governments to scrap prohibition. For, it is acknowledged by even the most ardent advocates of the policy of prohibition that the introduction of prohibition has led to an enormous increase in illicit distillation.

Desai, it seems, is prepared to give up a few lakhs of rupees which admittedly can be collected through the Expenditure Tax on the ground that it is leading people to the maintenance of false accounts. How then could he justify the continuance of prohibition which is fostering

Against Increased Tax Burdens

the Chief Minister on May 22 (see New Age, June 10).

The resolution took note of the fact that the leaders of the left parties, who had met the Chief Minister on the previous day (June 15), to discuss the questions of price increase, taxation, etc., on the basis of their memorandum, were not satisfied with the Government's explanation.

While agreeing to consider a few of the demands made in the memorandum the Government gave no assurance

part in these protest meetings.

P. K. Sridharan and B. Rajan, among others, attended the meeting at Kulathumanur, while P. K. Ramakrishna, P. Gangadharan, M. K. Lawrence, P. M. Abu attended the mass rallies at Thripunithara, Mattanchari,

strict Magistrate and called upon the State as well as Central Governments to withdraw the new taxes which imposed greater burden on the working people.

A huge mass rally was held in Lucknow on June 16, which was addressed by Md. Elias, M.P.

Two public meetings were held in Nagpur on June 17, which were addressed by Dr. Udayakar Misra, M.P., to register the protest of Nagpur citizens against the new taxes.

The Communist members of the Parliament went round the country on this occasion and explained to the masses the harmful taxation policy of the Government.

Renu Chakravarty attended the demonstration and meeting at Jullunder, P. K. Vasudevan Nair attended the Bharatpur rally, K. K. War-

illicit manufacture and consumption of alcohol and, at the same time, incurring losses to the States several crores of rupees every year?

Morarji Desai has proved himself absolutely incapable of considering any measure from any other point of view than whether it will cut into the profits of the rich.

It is against this basic approach of the Government, whose spokesman, Morarji Desai is, that the Communist Party and other sections of democratic public opinion in the country are raising their voice of protest. What they are demanding is not an indiscriminate abandonment of all taxation measures, but such a reorientation of the taxation policy of the Government as will enable it to implement all its developmental activities but will save the common people from the huge burdens that are imposed on them.

The observance of the Anti-Taxation Day as decided by the Central Secretariat of the Communist Party is only a beginning in this direction. It is bound to be and will be carried forward in the coming weeks by a continuous campaign explaining to the people how the measures proposed by the Communist Party will help the Government to implement its developmental activities.

It is a matter of satisfaction that, apart from the Communist Party, other parties and sections of public opinion have also taken up the campaign against the new taxation measures of the Government. While many of them differ from the Communist Party with regard to certain important points, there is no doubt that once the people are moved into action, a common basis will emerge on which a united movement can be built—a movement which will force Morarji Desai's hands.

The Kerala, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh State Councils of the CPI, further to the steps taken in regard to campaign against increased tax burden, have decided to hold protest demonstrations in important railway stations on July 1, to express mass protest at the increase in railway fares.

rior of Benaras, Homi Dajl of Bhopal, Niren Ghosh and Dinen Bhattacharya of Gwalior, S. M. Banerjee of Patna etc.

As we go to the press details of the meetings etc., are not available. It is hoped that further details will be available for our next issue.

INCREASE IN LAND REVENUE

* From Our Correspondent

HYDERABAD
A hundred percent increase in the rates of land revenue on the peasantry—this is the first post-election gift of the ruling party to the Andhra people.

A NET increase of land revenue from Rs. 12 crores to over Rs. 20 crores—this is how the ruling Congress Party is expressing its gratitude to the people, for having returned it with comfortable majority during the recent general elections.

"This is the reward for putting the Congress back in power" as N. Prasadarao, Joint Secretary, All-India Kisan Sabha put it.

Staggering Increase

Consequent to a Bill gazetted on June 8, by State government, the land revenue of two annas per acre on dry lands will shoot up to a minimum of one rupee. It is not cent per cent, but eight hundred per cent increase on the peasants in dry areas, who depend on "rain-god" for production.

In wet areas, the land revenue for single crop per acre goes up from Rs. 13.50 nP to anywhere between Rs. 20 to Rs. 28. Similarly for double crop, the increase will be from Rs. 22.52 nP to anywhere between Rs. 30 to Rs. 42.

These rates are with regard to lands which have water supply from government sources for more than eight months.

As regards lands with supply of water for less than eight months, the increase would be from the present Rs. 5 for single crop to anywhere between Rs. 9 to Rs. 15.

In Bihar

Swatantrites Fall Out

Group rivalry inside the Bihar Swatantra Party, which was patched up during the General Elections, has again come to the fore.

RECENT measures taken by the Bihar Swatantra Party chief Rajabhadur K. N. Singh have indicated that he was not prepared to tolerate any kind of opposition inside the party.

Some top leaders of the Party, including the former General Secretary Janaki Nandan Singh; former Vice-President Jaishwar Prasad, Pandit Punyanand Jha and their main supporters have been excluded from the Executive Committee of the Bihar Party, which has been nominated by Rajabhadur.

Forced by circumstances, Janaki Nandan Singh is understood to have decided to resign from the Party with his supporters.

The former General Secretary is stated to have told his followers that absence of internal democracy and freedom of opinion inside the party made it impossible for him to come to terms with the Rajabhadur.

Conflict between the Raja-

In addition to these rates, local cess of five annas in a rupee per acre in Telangana area and eight annas in a rupee in Andhra area would have to be paid by the peasantry.

Such is the staggering picture of a comparison between the present and proposed rates of land revenue. All cesses and surcharges are to be withdrawn.

The reasons given by the Government in the Objects and Reasons of the Bill are, to say the least, fallacious.

It said that the "existing rates of land revenue assessment which were settled 30 or 40 years ago are outmoded". Yes, possibly. They may need a revision. But, how and in what manner?

Secondly, it stated that this outmoded assessment of land revenue "bear little relation to the productivity of the land and price which landlords are getting for their produce", meaning thereby that prosperity of the peasantry has increased as a result of increased prices.

This kind of statement is only a crude attempt to hide real facts. While, it is true that prices of agricultural produce has increased, the cost of living index increased, the cost of agriculture has increased, the cost of the peasant's daily necessities have also increased.

Rise In Prices

To talk in terms of figures, the cost of paddy, say in 1919-20 was Rs. 530 per 89.53 Imperial maunds and it rose to Rs. 1,252 in 1956-57 (source: Report of Land Revenue Reforms Committee of Andhra Pradesh Government), which is a little over cent per cent. It is also a patent and accepted fact the poor and

middle peasants get very little benefit out of the increase in prices of agricultural products, for, by the time prices increase, his produce has already gone out of his hands, and the trader and the exploiter are reaping a rich harvest.

Then, the items of expenditure usually included in the cost of cultivation, i.e., cost of ploughing cattle, cost of agricultural implements, seed, manure, wages for labour—none of these are what they were thirty or forty years ago.

For instance the cost of a pair of bullocks of small size ranges from Rs. 200 to Rs. 1,000 and of large size from Rs. 500 to Rs. 3,000. But, what was the cost forty years ago? It would have been better if the Government gave comparative statistics of the increase in prices of agricultural produce as also of increase in cost of living and cost of agriculture and then defend-

ed this increase.

Another argument of the Government in its bill was that "the value of the land has also increased and the proportion of standard assessment or land revenue now payable is very low when compared to the market value of land".

This is equally fallacious argument. For what is the composition of the peasantry? Seventyfive per cent of them are poor and the income from their land is quite insufficient for them to keep the body and soul together.

For them, the rise in land value has no meaning. They are not going to speculate in land sales and are stuck to the land, more firmly than ever before.

A deliberate attempt is being made by government to create an impression that since 30-40 years, there has been no increase in land revenue assessment. This is a downright lie.

Not to speak of what happened before 1954, there have been various cesses, surcharges, special assessments on commercial crop and so on, which are certainly part and parcel of land revenue.

This increase would prove catastrophic for peasants especially in dry areas, for their production, which is little is dependent on whether nature smiles on them or not.

The off shoots of this increase are many.
● It means increased tax burden on the peasantry and poor peasants may have to leave their land and swell the number of landless labourers.

● It means a possible appreciation of the prices of agricultural commodities, either by the landlords or by the middle-men, in the name of this increase.

● It means this increase in prices of agricultural commodities will have a chain reaction, leading to increase in prices of other daily necessities, ultimately resulting in an increased cost of living.

Whether this increase will increase the initiative of the peasant or kill the initiative for increased production, is yet to be seen.

In September 1952, I had the privilege of attending the All-India Peace Conference held in Jullundur.

AMONG the leading participants of that conference and the activists of the Peace Council formed at that conference were some of the best-known national leaders of our country.

Dr. Kitchlew, Pandit Sundaral and several others who had actively participated in non-cooperation movement of 1920-21 were to be seen in the peace movement. Rajaji, who had once been known as 'Gandhiji's conscience-keeper', also gave it his blessings and personally participated in some of its activities.

That peace movement, however, was considered by the Congress leaders as a 'Communist manoeuvre'. The All-India Congress Committee put a ban on Congressmen participating in it.

Eminent Congress leaders ridiculed such forms of its activities as the collection of signatures to the Stockholm Peace Appeal. Vulgarising the participation of the Indian peace movement in international gatherings, they cracked jokes on "joining the peace movement and seeing the world."

Ten Years After

Nearly 10 years after that first meeting for peace which I have had the privilege to attend, I participated in the Anti-nuclear Arms Convention organised by the Gandhi Peace Foundation.

As I sat through the three days of the convention—divided into the inaugural session on June 16 afternoon, the delegates' session on the morning and afternoon of June 17 and on the morning of June 18 and the concluding session on the afternoon same day—I was overwhelmed by a sense of satisfaction that the ideas for which the so-called "Communist Front" organisation has been fighting ever since 1951-52, have become the common ideas of the ruling and opposition parties of the country.

For, here was a convention called to discuss the same problems which are ordinarily discussed in the so-called Communist-sponsored gatherings of the peace movement. But, far from being denounced as Communist-sponsored, and banned by the AICC, I found among its leading organisers U. N. Dhebar who, as is well-known, belongs to the 'brains-trust' of the Congress organisation. On the dias were sitting the President, Vice-President and Prime Minister of India.

Array Of Dignitaries

The inaugural function was performed by Dr. Rajendra Prasad who gave up the presidential gaddi only a month ago. On the platform and among the delegates were a large number of former Chief Ministers, present members of the Congress Working Committee and other leading personalities belonging to the Congress organisation.

From the ranks of the opposition parties were to be seen leaders of the Swatantra Party, Praja Socialist Party, etc. They all came together

Some Aspects of

in order that that they might give expression to the common sentiments and ideas of the people of India.

The sentiments given expression to at the convention were of course, nothing new. They have very often been expressed on behalf of the Government by the President, the Prime Minister and their colleagues. They have found a place in the official policy declaration of the Congress Party. They have also been voiced by the leaders of the opposition parties in their own pronouncements.

This, however, was the first time when all of them have come together on one common platform to declare to the world that the Government and the people

noted. These fallings relate both to the manner in which the Convention was organised as well as the basic approach to the problem of peace and disarmament which ran like a red thread throughout the consensus of views expressed at the convention and finally summed up in the Statement adopted by it.

While one might warmly applaud the initiative taken by the Gandhi Peace Foundation for calling such a Convention, one could not regret its sectarian approach towards other organisations, particularly towards the All-India Peace Council. After all, the Council has been functioning for more than a decade in our country.

There was probably a lurking fear in the minds of the organisers of this convention that if the political parties and mass organisations were asked to send their representatives, if they decided to send such of their leaders and members as they themselves select rather than being selected by the Gandhi Peace Foundation, the ideological basis of the Conference—adherence to Gandhian principles—would be undermined.

This led to a great deal of sectarianism in the way in

These warnings and criticisms had their effect. The statement finally adopted did not take the stand adopted by many of those who spoke in the name of Gandhian outlook and made suggestions on those lines.

★ It did not, for example, adopt the suggestion made by Rajen Babu in his inaugural speech that India should declare its adherence to the Gandhian concept of unilateral disarmament.

★ Nor did it adopt the suggestion made by Kaka

Delhi

Anti-nuclear Arms Convention

of India were at one in demanding that there should be no testing, production, stockpiling or use of nuclear bombs and other weapons of mass destruction.

This was the first time when a convention participated by persons drawn from all political parties, decided to send a deputation of eminent persons to Moscow, Washington, London and Paris "to appeal to the heads of Government of these nuclear powers to give up not only the testing of nuclear weapons but also their further production and the destruction of existing stocks, as well as "to meet representatives of various nations of the United Nations and the members of the Geneva Disarmament Conference."

It was a matter of satisfaction that the Convention decided to consult and collaborate with "all peace organisations in the world, all those who share its concern", to take certain simple steps in which the common people can participate, such as

★ "a campaign for obtaining signatures from people all over the world demanding banning of test and use of nuclear arms to be sent to the UNO";

★ "Observance of an anti-nuclear war vigil" on a particular day to be fixed later on which millions of people will be rallied all over the world through mass meetings, prayers, fasts and other means to express their protests against nuclear explosions."

The Government of India was assured by the convention of the full support of the Indian people, and the representatives of peace movement throughout the world who had attended it as guests, in any initiative which it takes, in collaboration with other member nations, "in renewing in the General Assembly of the United Nations efforts to secure an immediate and permanent ban on all nuclear tests as also a ban on transfer and traffic in nuclear explosion."

While expressing satisfaction at these positive achievements of the Convention, certain fallings should also be

Whether the leaders of the Gandhi Peace Foundation and of the ruling Party liked it or not, that Council has had some experience of discussing the very questions that were being discussed by the present convention.

It has been carrying on the very type of activities which have now been decided upon by this Convention, such as, the campaign for obtaining mass signatures etc.

Would it not have been of use to the delegates of this Convention if the active participants of that movement had shared with them the experiences that they have gathered, the difficulties that they had to overcome and the tasks as they saw them?

Selected Audience

It was true that some of the eminent personalities who have associated themselves with the All-India Peace Council and its activities were invited to this Convention. It was, however, equally true that the delegates and invitees to this convention were so selected as to exclude from it the authoritative spokesmen of a movement which the ruling party has been pleased to call "Communist Front" organisation but which has done yeoman service to the cause of peace by rallying lakhs of people in every State of India.

Another disappointing aspect of the convention was that every delegate was selected in his individual capacity. While the leaders of political parties were invited, they were invited in their individual capacity.

As for the mass organisations of the working people like Trade Unions, Kisan Sabhas, etc., they were not invited at all. Contrast this with the way in which the All-India Peace Council invite other organisations in their collective capacity.

which discussions went on at the Convention. The statement adopted was not entirely free from this sectarianism of the Gandhians. More than one speaker at the delegates' session had to draw attention to this.

Prof. Hiren Mukerjee appealed to the delegates to take account of the enormous growth of the forces of peace throughout the world.

Pointing out the growth of the socialist countries, the

Kalelkar that the Indian defence forces should have a non-violent wing.

★ Even the suggestion made by Rajaji that the powers that resort to nuclear testing should be subjected to economic sanctions (including India's refusal to accept aid from such powers) did not find favour with the delegates.

As a matter of fact, the immediate measures suggested by the Convention were

by E.M.S. Namboodiripad

emergence of the Afro-Asian nations who have taken a positive stand against the war threat and armaments, the development of peace movement in all countries of the world etc., he suggested that whatever decisions are arrived at and whatever measures are suggested at this Conference should be such as to help these forces of peace including our own Government and the Governments of other Bandung powers

He cautioned the delegates against taking rigid attitudes on first principles and in the process failing to utilise the big possibilities favourable for successful endeavour.

The representative of the Arab League, Dr. Clovis Maqsood, also expressed the same feeling. He warned the organisers of the Convention that it would be wrong for them to ignore the existence of other organisations and movements throughout the world.

Rajaji himself intervened at the delegates' session to point out that the Convention was not a gathering of pacifists. He wanted them to take into account the mixed character of the participants and take decisions accordingly.

such as might not be objected to by those who did not accept the Gandhian philosophy but yet who wanted to collaborate with all champions of peace, including the Gandhians, in doing something concrete to save humanity from the present threats to its life and safety.

It was when the statement dealt with what it called "the larger problem of war and violence" that one felt the inadequacy of the Gandhian approach.

The statement traced the roots of war into "an ageing human tradition of settling conflict by resort to violence, economic and other vested interests and the cultures and even the religions of the people."

"The achievement of a world free from war", it added, "would, therefore, entail radical changes in human attitude and in the pattern of society."

From this fatalistic approach to human attitude it drew the conclusion that what was required now was "the development of new broad-based education of the peoples of all nations".

This approach to the pro-

*SEE PAGE FIFTEEN

Spotlight

Swatantra To Sell The Pass

MERE sniping does not seem to satisfy our Swatantra warriors any more. Rajaji has come out in the open to fire broadsides against our "non-alignment absolutism" and insist on India getting under the American defence umbrella.

India must get into the anti-Communist world camp, Rajaji openly pleaded. "Old and firm (!) friends with an interest clearly adverse to Communist nations are the safer quarters to look up to in such difficulties," he writes. (Swarajya, May 28, 1962).

"The Government of the U.S. is perhaps more intelligently concerned in our defence strength than some of our own cabinet ministers," he goes on to declare. (Swarajya, June 9, 1962).

I do not remember the Swatantra Party having ever made so categorical a demand for India becoming Marshal Ayub's chela in foreign policy. The direction, indeed, was clearly laid at the Swatantra's very birth when the demand was made at its inaugural convention in Patna that India should enter a defence pact with Pakistan.

No one had any doubt then that this was a call for climbing the SEATO bandwagon. The bulk of Indian opinion is intelligent enough, notwithstanding Rajaji's jibe that it was yielding to criteria— to see that the clamour, whether from the Swatantra and the Jan Sangh or the PSP, against the present policy, is designed to lead Indian policy precisely to such a consummation.

But if one waited for a clearer and opener stand, the Swatantra leader's lat-

est has given him what he wished. Even Goa which had mightily displeased Swatantrites, because it had displeased the West had not been the occasion for such an open-throated cry.

They had opposed the liberation action but not avowed then that they regarded it as wrong because it ran counter to their scheme of nesting in the West's lap.

So Rajaji has demanded India's open alignment with the West. India should get into the vult's boots is the Swatantrites decree.

And he is not bothered. I am sure, if all the premises are wrong. What are the "difficulties" he has talked of? Why should India need MIG's? One has not to delve far into history to find the reasons. The difficulties started precisely because the neighbour, with whom we are asked to tie ourselves in a "defence pact", decided to become the West's stooge.

Political Fanaticism

It did not believe in our traditions of anti-colonialism and peace. It plumped for the West's protegeship. So far has it been carried by the logic of its evil action that it refuses even to subscribe to a no-war declaration.

There is talk there these days, of bombing Indian cities and reducing these to dust. No one can be so naive as to see that behind this drunken call is the influence of the spirituous liquor poured generously down the throat by the same "old and firm friends with an interest clearly adverse to Communist nations" whom Rajaji wishes us to invite.

—GARUDA

Duncan Sandys' Delhi Talks

Editorial

THE BRITISH COMMONWEALTH Secretary Duncan Sandys came to New Delhi not for any honourable talks. He came here to make yet another attempt to get India to line up behind Britain in the European Common Market issue and to scuttle the negotiations for the purchase of MIGs. The whole purpose of his visit was so unholily and contrary to our national interests that even the Finance Minister, Morarji Desai with all his deep attachment for the West, found it difficult to swallow Duncan Sandys' baits over the ECM.

Now the Indian Finance Minister will go round the Capitals of the ECM countries to beg for small mercies. But here again, as Duncan Sandys plainly told, Britain alone and not India would have any right to negotiate with the Common Market bosses. It should be obvious by now that what the British Government really wants is to use India in its bargainings with West Germany and France to secure for British monopoly capital some concessions.

Let alone India, even Britain's larger national interests are ignored by the British Government. That is why powerful sections of British public opinion and more particularly the British labour movement are frontally opposing the move to push Britain into the Common Market.

The European Economic Community is an international combine of State-Monopoly capital and it is equally an appendage of the NATO. The ECM is of course directed against the Socialist Camp. But at the same time it is also designed to intensify exploitation of the working people of the member countries, their colonial possessions and control and further exploit the underdeveloped nations.

Thus, European Common Market is every bit a foul contrivance for furthering Western imperialism's economic and political ends. With the support of the USA and indeed literally prodded by it, Britain proposes to join it not only to share the spoils of the Common Market but, also to strengthen this alignment. The USA is not of course a member of the ECM but the U. S. imperialists think that once Britain joins up, they would be able to establish an effective grip over it.

To expect any fair or reasonable deal for India from the European Common Market would be the height of absurdity. If ever there was a thieves' kitchen, it is this European Economic Community.

India's exports to the six ECM countries remain stagnant at 7% of her total overseas sales. Whereas in 1950 India had a surplus trade balance of Rs. 5 crores with these countries, in 1960, our trade deficits came to Rs. 137 crores. In the last decade Indian imports from West Germany amounted to Rs. 536 crores as against our exports to that country of the order of only Rs. 92 crores. ECM tariffs, quota-restrictions and high prices of things we buy from the ECM countries are responsible for this wholly unequal pattern of our trade relations. Britain's entry into the ECM will further aggravate the situation.

One quarter of our exports goes to Britain and it is estimated that 90% of such exports will be adversely affected as a result of Britain's participation in the ECM. Already a loser on account of the existing unequal trade relations with Britain and other Western countries, India is now faced with still greater restrictions on her exports which again we will have to sell to the ECM countries at the dictated prices.

Further there will be intensified competition not only from the ECM countries (like Italy in the case of textiles) but also from their associates (French colonies in Africa). While our exports will be faced with such a "body-blow", to quote Prime Minister Nehru's words, the prices of our imports will also at the same time go up. Remem-

ber 40 per cent of India's imports to-day come from Britain and the other six ECM countries.

It is surprising that in its Memorandum to the European Economic Community, the Government of India should have given a certificate to the European Common Market and the Treaty of Rome, which gave birth to it. Believe it or not, when the working people of Britain, Italy, France and other ECM countries are fighting with their backs to the wall against the Common Market, the Memorandum of the Government of India calls implementation of the Treaty of Rome a "historic movement towards close economic integration...fostering their capacity both at home and abroad" (emphasis ours).

The Government of India praises the ECM by discovering in it "significant prospects not only for the prosperity of its own people but also for the expansion of international trade and for the acceleration of economic growth and social progress in developing economies." Such dishonourable flattery would seem incomprehensible on the part of any country which is wedded to peace and anti-colonialism.

It is high time the Government of India met the situation by getting out of the old rut of India's unequal economic relations with Britain and other Western countries—a legacy of the colonial past. The first and foremost thing to do in this connection is to re-organise the pattern and direction of our foreign trade and rapidly expand our trade and general economic cooperation with the Socialist countries as well as with other newly-liberated non-aligned Afro-Asian nations. Foreign trade must be taken over to the maximum possible extent in the State sector and remittance of profits, dividends and interests by foreign exploiters must at least be drastically curbed. With such a radical change in our foreign economic relations, there need be no panic or helplessness. India can well stand up to the challenge.

A word or two about what Duncan Sandys has had to say on the MIG issue. He claimed "it has been a regular practice" for the Government of India and Britain to hold "close consultations" regarding any new requirements and he added: "From my talks with Mr. Nehru I am satisfied that before any decision is reached, the India Government intends, in accordance with the practice, to discuss with the British Government its requirements for fighter jet aircrafts."

According to Duncan Sandys India cannot take any decision without consulting the British Government. Our people will be shocked to hear that India's defence matters are not only discussed with the British Government but in some respect at least, are also subject to its pressures. Ours is a free government in a free country. Why then should there be this practice of consultation with Britain about our defence affairs?

Moreover, after his talks with Duncan Sandys, Prime Minister Nehru seems to have already begun to soften the attitude he has so far taken and has now developed somewhat different accents. What he has said in Rajya Sabha on June 20, on the subject would clearly suggest this and Duncan Sandys' influence as well.

Much water has flown down the bridge and any attempt to modify India's stand now to suit the U. S.-British convenience would be nothing short of national humiliation. There is no scope for any tight rope-walk at all. The U. S. and the British Governments must be bluntly told that they must not interfere in our internal affairs or with our sovereign rights. If they offer us jet fighters now, it only further exposes their bad faith and evil designs.

India's public opinion has reacted magnificently over both the ECM issue and MIG negotiations. But the people must continue to be vigilant and assert themselves strongly enough so that the Government of India takes the right stand in defence of India's vital interests and of her national honour.

200 Join Party In Meerut

Nearly two hundred important social and political workers of Meerut have decided to join the Communist Party and have applied for its membership.

THIS decision was taken by them in a meeting specially held for this purpose in Meerut recently. Prolonged discussions and consultations had preceded the meeting. Acharya Deepankar, ex-leader of the Socialist Unity group in the last Assembly, played a leading part in these discussions.

Fair Cross-Section

Among those who attended this important meeting were: Harbir Singh, Baljit Singh Sharma (Station Master, Simla and an important leader of the Railway Workers' Union), Om Prakash Mudgal (Guard, Shahadara-Simla Railway), Sukhbir Singh (Secretary, Baghat Cooperative Sugar Mill), Dharam Singh (Fradhan of Wajldpur Gram Sabha), Rissal Singh Pahalwan, Pt. Tara Chand, Principal Mahabir Singh, Ch. Ajab Singh Bavle (veteran Congress leader of the district), Lala Jia Lal (who joined the Congress-led independence struggle in 1921), Kishori Lal (leader of the U.P. Bank Employees' Union), Lala (Pradhan of Ghanaura village), Brij Raj Kishore (Secretary PWD Union), Acharya Deepankar and other representatives of various sections of the people of Baghat and Sardhana Tehsil of Meerut district.

The meeting was also attended by the leaders of the Meerut District Council of the Communist Party. Kall Shankar Shukla, Secretary of the U.P. State Council of the CPI was present by special invitation.

Mahashay Preetam Singh Rana, respected leader of the district, presided over the gathering. The discussion in the gathering was started by Acharya Deepankar. The discussion was summarised in the resolution that was later adopted by the meeting.

Decision To Join

At the end of the discussion, Deepankar announced his decision to apply for membership of the Communist Party. His announcement was greeted by the entire gathering. Then all the other members of the gathering also announced their desire to join and work in the Communist Party.

Following the decision of this meeting, hundreds of other workers of the Meerut and Saharanpur districts are also expected to join the Communist Party.

Assam Assembly Debate Ominous Shadows Of Another Fratricide?

SHILLONG: Though inconclusive till the time of writing this, the debate in the Assam Assembly on the inaugural address of the Governor has spotlighted the current political alignment in the State.

By and large the entire debate hinges on one issue and that is the problem of "Pakistani infiltration" into Assam. The full-scale Budget session of the State Assembly began here on June-5. It is now admitted on all hands that there has been some infiltration. But few seem to know the actual magnitude of the problem. Recently the Union Home Minister is reported to have admitted that there has been "large-scale" infiltration of Pakistanis in Assam. But beyond that the Home Minister also did not or could not go. Thus the position remains where it was before the reported statement of the Union Home Minister.

Random Survey!

It is understood from a dependable source that the Union Government has tentatively fixed the number of illegal infiltrants in Assam at 2 lakhs 88 thousand. This figure is said to have been arrived at not by any physical verification, but by calculating the "excess" Muslim population said to have been recorded in the 1961 census. This "excess" is over what is believed to be the normal growth of population.

But the Union Government themselves, perhaps, realise the unsure basis of this calculation. Hence, it is understood, they have ordered a random survey of population in certain areas which are said to be "occupied" by the infiltrants. Pending the result of that survey, the Union Government would not make any public disclosure about the number of infiltrants. The State Government obviously is not in possession of any material evidence to state the number of infiltrants, the existence of which, however, is not denied by them. They are awaiting the findings of the Union Government before they could make any statement.

Small Problem?

Meanwhile, the newly elected President of the Assam PCC in an interview with the Calcutta daily "Hindustan Standard" is reported to have stated that the problem was not as big as was made out by certain people.

This view of the PCC President is shared by many in the Government and the ruling party. Some impartial observers also share this view, but few could muster courage to say so openly lest they should become "unpopular".

The debate on the Governor's address that already continued for three days hardly touched any other point than this question of Pakistani infiltration. Even the escape of the Naga rebels which no doubt came up for discussion and took considerable time of the House receded to the background. Those who spoke on it, used it as another weapon in their anti-Muslim crusade.

The line of the debate, it is significant to note, was set by one senior Congress member, a former Minister, who is identified by political circles as one of the stalwarts of the anti-Ministerial group.

He made a "sensational" disclosure in the House that he had information that an organisation had been formed in Pakistan with branch in Assam to sponsor this infiltration. He brought very serious charges against the Government. According to him some officers had a feeling that if they would detect Pakistani infiltrants they would suffer.

He alleged that there were secret agents who reported to the Government the names of officers who took initiative in detecting Pakistani infiltrants and their names were recorded for future action. In other words, it was a charge of abetment in this infiltration by the Government; nay more, it amounted to saying that it was the Government itself that was wilfully bringing these infiltrants into Assam.

Rival Factions

To the discerning observers, these charges are the result of the factional struggle inside the ruling party of Assam and it is aimed at discrediting, and if possible, dislodging the present ruling faction which has so far been able to outbalance its rival faction because apart from other things, of the solid support of the so called "Muslim bloc" in the Congress. His fire was directed, by implication, against the Finance Minister and the Agriculture Minister both of whom are Muslims.

Some have inferred from his speech that he wanted to point an accusing finger to the Chief Secretary to the State Government and the I.G. of Police, both of whom happen to be Muslims. That is the meaning of his allegations that some high-ups in the administration were standing in the way of detection and deportation of Pakistani infiltrants, according to these observers.

Following him, and taking the cue from him, some of the PSP members, some Independents and some other Congress members harped on the same tune. One of the Congress members, a former Deputy Minister, quoted a British census Superintendent of Assam to show that even since 1911 there had been an

"invasion" of Assam by people from East Bengal.

Incidentally, the Chief Minister himself quoted this once before the last election, perhaps, little knowing that this would be now used against him. This Congress member, as also most of the others who spoke on this issue, in fact they found little time to speak on anything else, held the local Muslims guilty of offering shelter to the infiltrants and wanted action against these "fifth columns".

They held that this infiltration was the result of a "conspiracy" with a political

from..... Madhusudan Bhattacharyya

motive and not out of economic compulsion as the Chief Minister once stated. Some suggested that the Intelligence branch should be modelled like the "Gestapo" to "eradicate" the Pakistani infiltrants. Some again suggested that all the Muslims of the State should be "screened" to find out who were genuine residents of the State.

One Congress member suggested that any Muslim who would fail to produce documentary proof about his bonafide citizenship should be considered a Pakistani and should be deported. Quite a few of the Members, including some of the Congress party itself, threatened that this would make the life of the minority community unsafe.

One Congress member ominously indicated that the people would take upon themselves the task of weeding out the Pakistani infiltrants unless the Government would give a better account of itself in detecting and driving out the infiltrants. One Independent member put the number of infiltrants at 3.50 lakhs, while a Congress member thought that the number would be in the neighbourhood of 5 lakhs.

Unholy Coterie

All the hitherto incompatibles found a common ground on this issue. The anti-Ministerialists of the Congress, the PSP-ites, those who are supposed to be followers of Banga Bhasa Bhasi Samiti that stands for the recognition of Bengali as the second State language of Assam, which demand is opposed by all the rest, and some Independents whom the followers of Banga Bhasa Bhasi Samiti and that section of Calcutta Press which backs the demand for the recognition of Bengali as the second State language of Assam, accuse of being responsible for engineering the anti-Bengali riot of 1961 joined hands together and spoke in the same voice.

If there was any difference in their tune, it was only in vehemence of expression. The Congress members who took up this issue to assail the Government, however, tried to present their points "politically" while their non-Congress comrades, because of their lack of knowledge of parliamentary debate, put it rather bluntly.

What reply the Chief Minister will give to the debate is still a matter of conjecture. But the impact of these speeches, characterised by impartial observers as "tirade against the Muslims", though some of the Congress members, perhaps, felt a sting of their conscience and added some modifying epithets as "there are nationalist Muslims among us also", on the members belonging to the minority community could be felt from the speeches of them, irrespective of their party affiliation.

As one of the Congress members, a former Deputy Minister had been thundering against the "fifth columns" and demanding a "gestapo" like police organisation, a Muslim lady member belonging to the Congress was seen staring at him with a fixed look. Deep concern was writ large on her face.

When a member belonging to the Banga Bhasa Samiti group was advising the government not to worry about the Hindu minority in Pakistan while dealing with these infiltrants, he went so far as to say that the day some of the Hindus in Pakistan had accepted citizenship of that country they had been taken as dead. There was a general feeling of consternation among many observers here.

A Rehearsal

One local Congress leader felt much concern and told me that he apprehended that these speeches were "preparations" for the election of the APCC President by the end of this year when the anti-Ministerial group would again measure their strength.

These cry of combating Pak infiltrants is the sole plank of the anti-Ministerial group of Assam Congress in its struggle against the Ministerial group. The said Congress leader told me that he apprehended a flare up by about October next.

One Muslim member of the ruling party made bold to tell the House the feeling of the Muslims about these speeches in the House. He had to face heckling from some members when he said that some of the leaders had been adding a new problem by vitiating the atmosphere by creating distrust. He felt that even old nationalist Muslims were now suspicious. He demanded strong action against all infiltrants and suggested some concrete steps

in the border to check illegal immigrants. He pointed out that one could buy his entry to either country by paying a small amount at the border outpost on either side.

There might also be some "agents", he conceded. But he stated that the situation had become such that all the Muslim inhabitants of the State felt insecure. He also pointed out that while infiltrants went scot-free, innocent Muslims were harassed.

Other very pressing problems of the State like soaring prices, growing unemployment, very serious threat to industrial development of the State, the restlessness among State Government employees who have already served an "ultimatum" to the Government and the like found little expression in the speeches of members.

A Lone Voice

Only one Congress member found time to point out that land reforms Acts were not being implemented. And another Congress member, a former Deputy Minister, who would not accept the offer of Deputy Ministership this time unless a Muslim Minister would be removed from the cabinet, as he himself disclosed in a public statement after the formation of the cabinet, however, went a little beyond the infiltration question.

He said that there was growing discontent among the rural people and unless that had been removed, our democracy would have a vulnerable point and he apprehended that this discontent might give rise to a situation in which democracy collapsed in some of our neighbouring countries.

And A Flutter

He asked where was "democratic socialism" when "seven young girls had to sell their chastity" for a paltry job? He accused the Government of smashing co-operative movement in the name of State Trading. His speech created a flutter in the Congress benches.

The Governor has made an appeal to the members "to rise above their differences of language, religion, culture and caste" and "devote all their energies in an atmosphere of national brotherhood". He reminded the members of the "question of National Integration" and bringing about "emotional integration".

If the debate on the Governor's address is any indication, all these lofty ideals are being thrown over board and the main responsibility for this must be owned by the ruling party itself.

Danger Ahead

It is this party that has allowed the tension to grow on the score of Pakistani infiltration and again it is this party that for its factional struggle for power has seized upon this issue to vitiate the atmosphere of this State and has created an atmosphere of distrust so much so that there is now fear of another round of fratricide in this border State which has already paid heavily on this score.

(June 11)

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Trade Union Round-Up

BUILDING WORKERS STRIKE

One of the most interesting strike that took place in Delhi currently was that of the building workers.

The strike started on June 1 and continued till June 13. About 35,000 workers engaged in the construction work in the southern part of Delhi—where there is hectic construction work going on—took part in this strike.

In all, there are about 70,000 building workers employed in various parts of Delhi but this strike did not affect any other area except the southern part. Among the affected organisations and individuals were the nine embassies whose buildings are currently under construction in the Chanakya Puri.

The strike had some unique features. Though these workers are organised in a union—Delhi Building, Karamchari Union, affiliated to All-India Trade Union Congress—they did not follow the usual pattern of strike struggles.

They had their own methods which, in a way, were quite effective. They have not only won all their demands, but also compelled the Delhi Administration to reconstitute the minimum wages committee much ahead of schedule. The last committee had fixed wages in 1960.

Most of the building workers belong to Rajasthan and among them, there are those people whose shanties were demolished by Delhi Administration a few months back and who were given profuse promises for resettlement by the Congress Candidate during the General Elections.

These workers decided to demand increase in wages since it became more and more difficult for them to meet both ends in view of the soaring prices. The current cost of living index in Delhi, according to the Delhi Ad-

ministration, is 443, which the trade union circles are convinced, is a direct result of the Budget.

A printed notice was issued by Chowdhury Baldev Singh, President of the Building Karamchari Union giving details of the increase of wages demanded and also informing the contractors that no worker would work from June 1, if this wage-rise was not granted.

An action committee of 101 members was formed and these workers improvised an old mousolem into the union office. This mousolem being in the midst of a posh residential colony—Defence Colony—was in itself a striking contrast and during the days of the strike one could see huge limousines parked around it when the contractors came there to settle their disputes.

The Demands

The demand for increase in wages per day for various categories of workmen was as follows:

Mazdoors—from Rs. 2 to Rs. 2.50; Women Mazdoors—from Rs. 1.75 to Rs. 2.25; Visti—from Rs. 2 to Rs. 3; Mason—

Madurai Textile Workers Token Strike

IN response to a call given by the General Workers' Union and United Weavers' Union, more than 5,000 workers engaged in about 200 factories struck work on June 1, as a mark of protest against the imposition of new taxes affecting the handloom.

These workers, who work small factories under master weavers, are badly affected

due to the prices of yarn having gone up.

Following the strike, these workers went in a procession to the houses of the legislators and the District Collector. They also handed over a memorandum to the Assistant Textile Control Officer. A public meeting was later on held under the chairmanship of M. S. Adinarayanan. Among others, V. Karmegam, Secretary, Textile Workers Union and S. Karupplah Municipal Councillor, addressed the gathering.

KERALA TILE WORKERS STRUGGLE

MORE than 8,000 tile workers in the Trichur district of Kerala are on strike since May 2, demanding implementation of the statutorily-fixed minimum wages.

Although in other parts of Kerala, minimum wages have been granted to the tile workers, the employers in the Trichur district persistently refused to do so. The struggle is led jointly by all the central trade union organisations.

At present, there is a boom in the tile industry and sale price of tiles is between Rs. 130 to 150 per thousand. The cost of production for per thousand tiles is only Rs. 85.

Despite the margin between cost of production and rate of sales, the employers claim that they are not in a position to pay minimum wages to the workers.

The struggle concerning implementation of minimum

wages in the tile industry in Kerala has a long history. In 1958 when the Communist Government was in power in Kerala, tile industry, for the first time, was included in the schedule of the Minimum Wages Act.

Protesting against this, the employers locked out their establishments. The dispute, it may be recalled, was a protracted one and the issue of lock-out was referred to a tribunal for adjudication.

In 1960, the Congress government in Kerala effected a settlement to the dispute by compelling the workers to accept lower wages than what was awarded. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court while deciding the application of the employers seeking to quash the statutorily-fixed minimum wages, severely criticised the Government for having become a party in accepting the settlement which enjoined lesser wages for the workers.

from Rs. 5 to Rs. 7; Carpenter—from Rs. 5 to Rs. 7. For certain other categories, for whom no specific rates were fixed, such as Sarang, Floor Polisher, Painter, etc., demand for Rs. 3, 4 and 5 respectively was made.

A demand for labour-commission for the Jamaders at the rate of 13 MP per rupee was also made.

The building work having come to a stand still on June 1 completely, the contractors started accepting the demands from the next day. In this, the small contractors, and individual builders were the first to negotiate.

Of course, the negotiation or the settlement was not that what usually happens. There was no so-called tripartite agreement full of legal and complicated terms. These contractors and others just wrote on the back of the union notice that they would agree to the terms. And that was all.

Within seven days of the strike, about 200 contractors employing nearly 25,000 workers had agreed to the terms and these workers rejoined their work as soon as the contractors settled the issue.

By Sadhan Mukherjee

Union that they were proposing to reconstitute the Minimum Wages Committee to reconsider the question of wages.

Immediately, those contractors who had not settled the demands, sought to argue that since the Administration proposed to consider the matter, the workers should go back to work. This, of course, did not bear any result.

On June 13, a huge demonstration was organised by the union near the construction site of the American Embassy where Sardar Mohan Singh has the contract. After about three hours of the demonstration, Sardarji caved in and agreed to the terms, which was followed by the rest immediately.

MICA WORKERS STRIKE

TWELVE thousand workers employed in ten mica factories in the Hazaribagh district of Bihar are currently on strike.

The strike was resorted to on the demand for restoration of dearness allowance and bonus which the employers had cut down recently.

The action of the employers was a counter-blast to the enforcement of the Payment of Wages Act in the mica industry which enjoined upon the employers payment for the weekly rest day of the workers. The trade unions in the

area sought to impress upon the management the unjustifiability of their action but they did not restore the cut. Following this, the AITUC and HMS unions gave a joint call for a strike which started on June 5.

The trade unions have made it clear that if the dispute was not settled immediately, they would have no other alternative but to call for a general strike of the mica workers.

Meanwhile, it is learnt that the State Government have advised the employers to restore the cut, to which they have not yet agreed.

INTUC FACING CRISES

INDIAN National Trade Union Congress (INTUC) is currently riddled with groupism and rivalry.

Internal group rivalry has reached such intensity that normal functioning of the organisation has become nearly impossible, according to INTUC circles themselves. Acute tension prevails in the key industrial centres of Bihar, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Delhi and other states.

Even the central office of the INTUC in Delhi is not free from rivalry.

In Jamshedpur, where the INTUC claim to be the strongest, the conflict between Michael John and his deputy R. L. Verma over the control of the Tata Workers Union, had reached such an unseemly length that it led to physical clashes between the rival groups and the dispute was dragged to the courts.

In Dhanbad, physical clashes occurred between the rivals over election of office-bearers and police had to be called in. 75 persons were reported to have been arrested in this connection.

In Delhi also, police intervened and averted a clash between the INTUC rivals in the Delhi power house a few days ago.

This internecine warfare in the INTUC only reflected the extent of interference in the trade union field by the powerful forces inside the Congress party in the various states.

The factionalism came out in the open during the 1957 session of the INTUC in Madurai and since then the si-

tuation had been continuously deteriorating.

In many states, particularly in Delhi, rivals in the INTUC went to the extent of forming parallel unions in the same establishments.

In Delhi, already rival unions are functioning in the textiles, electricity, engineering and other industries.

Here in Delhi, the rival groups have their separate state branch offices too. One of these groups is led by Chowdhury Bramh Prakash, Brij Mohan and the newly-convert Mir Mushtaq, while the other group has the leadership of M. L. Mittal, Mukhija and K. P. Shankar.

The rivalry in Delhi went up to such a pitch that the INTUC working committee in its last meeting held in Delhi abolished the State Committee and in place of that set up an ad hoc committee of five persons, with Mir Mushtaq as Organiser.

Incidentally, this Mir Mushtaq is the guy who claimed that he would not only settle accounts with the rival group, but also "crush even the AITUC unions within six months". His performance is yet to be seen.

Strangely enough, Delhi Administration recognised both the rival groups in the INTUC and in many tripartite committees, representatives from both the groups were taken. The reason for this was stated to be the fact that the official group was weaker than the rivals and therefore both had to be accommodated. Otherwise, if a direct election was held, the official group might just get eliminated.

In Bombay

Anti-University Conference

★ From OUR CORRESPONDENT

SPEAKING at the open session of the Anti-university Conference held here on June 2, Dr. Ganga-dhar Adhikari warned the people of the threat to the fundamental right to education posed by the latest move of the Bombay university.

"The Bombay University", he said, "has no right to deprive a large section of the students of getting education".

With the decision of the university authorities to stop the "non-collegiate course" which was being imparted in the working session of various colleges in the city, as many as 28,000 students would be forced to undergo unbearable hardships. In spite of the agitation by the students since last one year, G. D. Parikh, Rector of the university, has announced his decision to go ahead with the new scheme.

In this connection Dr. Adhikari stressed the importance of the two-day Anti-university conference.

"The deliberations of the Conference reflect the fears and resentment of the majority of the parents and students," he added.

Referring to criticism that politicians and political parties were "muddling in academic affairs", Dr. Adhikari said, "by their unwise decision, the university authorities themselves were imparting political meaning".

"The closure of morning colleges", he said, "affects almost all the families of the toiling masses".

This, in fact, was encroachment on the fundamental rights of the people to educate their children. The decision of the universities, Dr. Adhikari said, also deprived the "thousands of office-goers and employed".

MAHARASHTRA, STATE CONVENTION ON DISARMAMENT AND PEACE

★ From Our Correspondent

Preparations are afoot for the Maharashtra State Disarmament and Peace Convention to be held here by the end of this month. A preparatory committee headed by Bombay university Vice-Chancellor Dr. V. R. Khanolkar has been formed in this connection.

ALREADY mass signatures on a printed appeal to "the people of all lands to unitedly raise their voices in support of humanity's demand for a final end to nuclear tests as the first step towards general and total disarmament", are being collected. Prominent among the first signatories to appeal is the first citizen of Bombay Dr. N. N. Shah, the Mayor.

Speaking about "the efforts of the preparatory committee to enlist support from all section of the people and political parties including the Congress", S. S. Mirajkar, one of the mem-

bers of the committee, said, "till now the response has been very good."

The composition of the preparatory committee itself was an indicator he said. Prominent among them are Dr. A. V. Baliga, the well-known surgeon and social worker, Prof. N. R. Phatak, the noted educationist and author like Dr. Mukh Raj Anand, P. K. Atre, and R. K. Karanjia. The well-known film director K. A. Abbas is the General Secretary of the committee.

Efforts are also being made to get Prof. J. B. Haldane, the eminent scientist and world known peace-fighter Mr. Bertrand Russel attend the convention.

The two-day Maharashtra State Disarmament and Peace Convention will be attended by nearly 200 delegates from the 25 districts of the State. Prominent film artists and other cultural organisations in the city will present cultural programme on the concluding day of the convention.

people who are affected.

Earlier Prabhakar Vaidya, the Secretary of City Committee of the CPI and the General Secretary of the Bombay unit of the Samyukta Maharashtra Samiti, extended his full support to the decisions of the Conference.

"Like the agitation by the landless peasants in Maharashtra two years ago, the present agitation against the high-handed attitude of the authorities will prove a historical one. Parties in the Samiti like the RPI, the CPI are not alone in the struggle. The socialist party has also extended its full support", Vaidya said.

Among others who addressed the open session were included Aylya Ragnekar, R. D. Bhandare, R. B. Khotragade (General Secretary RPI), V. Nayaka Kahahade of the Bombay students union, D. V. Deshpande of the Socialist Party, and Dinkar Sakalkar.

Three resolutions were passed in the meeting. The first one demanded the university authorities and the Government "to desist from implementing" the arbitrary move

Delhi Citizens Mourn Dr. Ashraf's Death

Following is the text of a resolution adopted at Delhi citizens' meeting held in the Delhi Town Hall on June 2 to mourn the death of Dr. K. M. Ashraf.

THIS meeting of the Citizens of Delhi expresses its sense of shock and sorrow over the untimely demise in Berlin of Dr. K. M. Ashraf. The meeting conveys its feeling of deep sympathy to his wife and children.

Dr. Ashraf made an outstanding contribution to the national liberation struggle of the Indian people. He joined

of the university. In the second resolution the increase in fees in the colleges was deprecated.

"By this increase in fees," the resolution said, "the university wanted on one hand to make up the deficit caused due to closure of morning colleges and on the other to further restrict the day-college education and monopolise the same for the privileged classes of the society". The resolution called upon "parents

and students" to launch a struggle against the rise in fees.

In the last and main resolution the conference appointed an "Action Committee" consisting of 21 members including prominent educationists, political leaders and public figures "to take step such as taking out a morcha, starting of Satyagrahas etc., to get the decision of the university reversed".

Delhi Restaurant-Owners Attempt To Harass Workers

THE Delhi Restaurant and Hotel owners, who had recently faced the strike, did not seem to have learnt the lesson properly. Not only that they cared very little for the Code of Discipline, but they also attempted to flout the specific terms of settlement.

When the strike of the hotel workers was called off on June 6, it was agreed that there would be no victimisation and that all the workers would be taken back.

The managements of the three establishments, the Alps and Wengers Restaurants and the Hotel Claridge refused to allow all their workmen to rejoin.

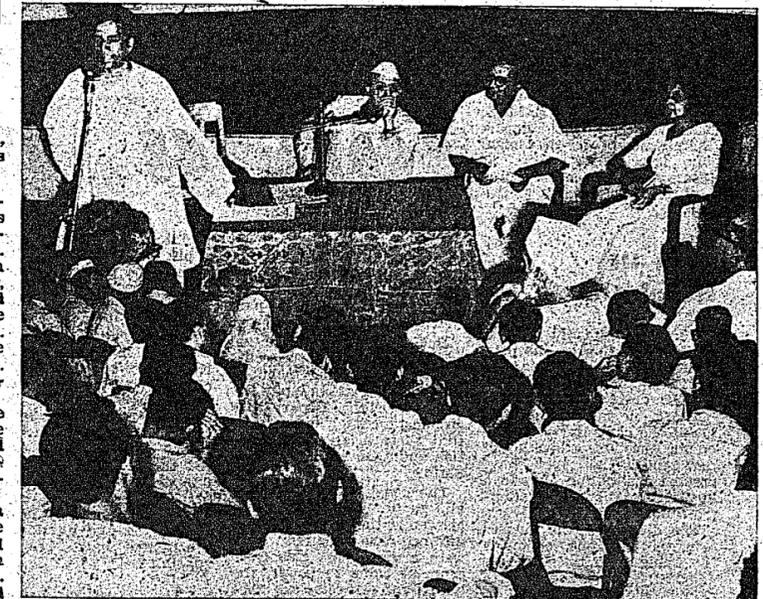
They also tried to take undertakings from the workers to the effect that they would not resort to strike in future.

Protesting against this high-handedness of the managements, the workers of the concerned establishments once again walked out on June 7 from the premises.

But very soon good sense prevailed and the owners called back the workers to work after a few minutes. The Claridge Hotel management who had employed blacklegs during the strike wanted to keep one of them even after the settlement. But in the face of workers' opposition, they had to fire this faithful servant too.

Dr. Ashraf was an eminent scholar-historian. He was an authority on the sultanate period in the Indian history. He joined the Delhi University a few years back and recently went to Berlin as a visiting Professor of Indian history in the world-famous Humboldt University of Berlin.

Death suddenly overtook him and he passed away in Berlin on the 7th of June. In his death India has lost a staunch patriot and scholar-historian.



Bhupesh Gupta addressing the condolence meeting at the Delhi Town Hall. Sitting on his left are Nuruddin Ahmed, Mayor of Delhi; Y. D. Sharma, Member, National Council of the CPI and Aruna Asaf Ali.

In place of the hope of "food for the hungry mouths", people are faced with the spiralling rise in price of their daily necessities and growing tax burdens. Instead of the promise of jobs for the jobless getting implemented, unemployment is on the increase and the workers are forced to take to the path of struggle and sacrifice to defend their wages and rights.

Instead of the rights of the peasants getting safeguarded, efforts from various quarters are afoot to amend and implement the Agrarian Relations Act in favour of the Landlord interests. The peasants are forced to organise struggles and undergo great sufferings to defeat such efforts and prevent mass eviction offensive unleashed by landlords and in this struggle, they are united more than ever before and this movement cuts across differences of communities and religions.

The Kerala State Council of the Communist Party of India, which met in Alwaye from June 11 to 14 has adopted a resolution calling on the people of the State to build up a mass movement of the democratic and progressive forces against the present Congress-PSP Coalition Ministry.

E. M. S. Namboodripad, General Secretary of the Communist Party of India attended the Council meeting and the Executive meeting which preceded it. He reported the decisions of the recent National Council meeting and touched upon the ideological, political and organisational weaknesses that gripped the Party today.

The Council discussed the draft organisational resolution prepared by the Executive and decided to organise a discussion on the same at all levels as part of preparation for the next Party Conference.

The Council adopted two resolutions of condolences on the passing away of Mian Iftikharuddin and K. M. Ashraf, two veterans who had contributed to the progressive and democratic movement of the country for over two decades and more.

The Council also elected C. Achutha Menon as Secretary of the Kerala unit of the Party in place of E. M. S. Namboodripad and during the absence of Achutha Menon who is currently away at Moscow, S. Kumaran was authorised to officiate as Secretary.

Text Of Resolution

The following is the full text of the resolution on the political situation in Kerala:

The developments of the last one month that followed the controversy raised on the question of opening of new schools this year have created a situation akin to a virtual break down of administration in the State.

The difference and clashes of views that appeared inside the Cabinet, in the Congress and PSP parties—the partners in the Coalition and in the Congress party have resulted in the Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister making contradictory statements regarding decisions of the State Cabinet and

taking opposite stands in public, and have led up to Congress Legislature Party and the Executive of the Pradesh Congress Committee, the Congress Party and the PSP Executive openly denouncing each other in public.

The conflicts between the Ministers inside the Cabinet and between the leadership of the ruling partners have reached such a crucial stage that they have ceased to have either the time nor the mind to attend to the problems of administration or the crying needs of the people.

Both the groups went up to the High Command and the Centre with the hope of winning their support, had discussions with them and have now returned to the State without any change in their respective points of view. Now it is said that Union Home Minister Lal Bahadur

Shastri is expected to visit the State in the last week of this month and find out amicable solution to the problem that confronts the ruling parties.

But the open denunciation of each other and the criticisms of each other in public continue unabated despite the visit to Delhi. Under these circumstances, who can say that there is an administration and a Government in our State?

The people of our State of all parties and views are grieved at the present state of affairs. The promises that were made when this Government came to power, the hopes and expectations that were raised in the minds of the people by them, have all been shattered to ground during these months.

People have begun to seriously analyse and ponder

COALITION MUST QUIT OFFICE IN KERALA

over the twenty-seven months and more of the rule of the Congress-PSP coalition, their policies and performance and the results thereof.

In place of the hope of "food for the hungry mouths" people are faced with the spiralling rise in prices of their daily necessities and growing tax burdens. Instead of the promise of jobs for the jobless getting implemented, unemployment is on the increase and the workers are forced to take to the path of struggle and sacrifice to defend their wages and rights.

Instead of the rights of the peasants getting safeguarded, efforts from various quarters are afoot to amend and implement the Agrarian Relations Act in favour of the Landlord interests.

The peasants are forced to organise struggles and undergo great sufferings to defeat such efforts and prevent mass eviction offensive unleashed by landlords and in this struggle, they are united more than ever before and this movement cuts across differ-

call to people

ences of communities and religions.

People who expected a stable Government from the coalition of three parties together enjoying a huge majority in the Legislature are disillusioned by the spectacle

The Ministry and Ministers who came to power crying hoarse to communal amity and accord, are today fanning the flames of communal hatred by their naked attempts to appease vested interests and their unashamed quar-

...analysis of the kerala state council of the communist party of india...

rels for the division of spoils of power.

It is put across that the immediate cause of the present crisis and conflict is the difference whether lower than ever before and this movement cuts across differ-

private sector or not. Those who argue for and against the issue claim that they are fighting for a high and sacred principle involving democracy and fundamental rights of the individual. But it has become crystal

schools based on the needs of the region and other accepted scientific criteria—all these principles have been thrown to winds by the leaders of the present Government.

Not only that; they went further and got the Educa-

tion Act amended to achieve some of the aforesaid nefarious ends.

None will consider it wrong if certain more Lower Primary Schools are permitted to be opened in private sector on the basis of restoration of

the above principles and legal and legislative guarantees for the protection of the rights of teachers.

The crux of the present crisis is obviously not the school issue. The roots of the present crisis were present in

A coalition that will survive the present crisis will be a more willing tool in their hands—they know. That is why these interests are out to stake everything for the continuance of the coalition.

And that is why the Communist Party also wants to sharply point out that the continuance of the coalition is fraught with perilous possibilities as far as the people are concerned.

Another solution is that the present Ministers should all resign and a new set of Ministers belonging to both Congress and PSP should come to office. There is also a strong view that the present ills are due to the continuance of the Coalition and the way out is the ending of the coalition and the Congress taking over alone and singly.

The advocates of either of the solutions do not accept the misdeeds and failures of the 27 months old rule of the Coalition; neither do they put forward a positive and clear programme for the elimination of the rule of corruption and nepotism, for the defence of the interests of the overwhelming majority of the people of the State and for the all-round advance of the State. This posture of these friends is significant.

A section of those who understand the antipeople policies of the present regime and reject all solutions amounting to a patchwork of one sort or the other and demand that the present Government should go, are of opinion that a way out is the mobilisation of all the backward communities against the present combination and rule of the forward communities.

It is Mannath Padmanabhan, the Nair Service Society headed by him, the big landlords and their spokesmen who stand for the continuance of the present Coalition. They hope that they could, through the agency of the Coalition, get the Agrarian

Relations Act amended suitably.

They have declared a war against the Agrarian Relations Act and are organising conferences and campaign against it. They have been able to get the support of eleven Legislators belonging to the ruling parties to back their sinister move.

The Nair Service Society has nominated the Secretaries of the Legislature Parties of the Congress and the PSP to the Board of Directors of the Society with the same purpose.

They are confident that a Ministry which willingly permitted the lease of thousands of acres of lands in possession of tenants to landlords and other agents, could be made to initiate drastic amendments to the Agrarian Relations Act.

That is why the Communist Party warns any attempt to seek a solution for the present crisis by the mobilisation of certain communities against certain others is likely to lead our people and State to a serious danger, deepen the present crisis and will amount to playing into the hands of the very vested interests who are behind and responsible for the crisis.

Patriotic-minded political workers and people belonging to the Congress and PSP affiliation as well as grieved at the record of failure of the Coalition Ministry and in their hearts are aware of this.

Some of them are openly and strongly giving expression to their feelings. Had they taken a stronger and clearer stand against these trends in right time, things would not have reached such a pass. They could not actively intervene in the situation so far.

Anti Communist Bias

The Communist Party desires to point out that what is holding them away from actively intervening in the situation is their deep-rooted anti-Communism. They and also a section of those who have broken away from the Congress and PSP, out of sheer disgust, still are thinking in terms of a way out based on anti-Communism.

The experience of the last 27 months has proved that no real and lasting solution of the problems facing our State can be found on the basis of opposing and trying to destroy the Communist Party, which is the single biggest party—the first party with the biggest mass backing in the State.

The problem of the day is not Communism or anti-Communism. The problem is how the present misrule could be ended and good Government ushered in which will solve the problems facing the State in a democratic way.

In this task, Communists, as well as anti-Communists and also those who belong to

neither camp are vitally interested, and they have a role and responsibility.

The Communists are fully conscious of this. What is needed and expected from others is that they should approach this problem in the same democratic spirit and be prepared for common united activity.

Present Coalition Harmful

The Communist Party believes that no useful purpose is being served by the present purposeless and harmful coalition continuing in office. The sooner they resign and quit office, the better for the State, the people and for themselves.

But that alone will not solve

HALDANE RESIGNS IN PROTEST

★ From JNAN BIKASH MOITRA

CALCUTTA:

Prof. J. B. S. Haldane, world-renowned scientist who has made India his home, has resigned from the service of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) protesting against the "false statements" made about him by Humayun Kabir, Union Minister for Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs, in the Lok Sabha on June 12.

In a statement issued to the Press next day (June 13), Prof. Haldane said: "It is not right that Rs. 1,800 a month of the tax-payers' money should be spent on my salary if those who pay it are misinformed."

Criticising two points from Humayun Kabir's Lok Sabha statement, he further said: "I cannot do research work under such conditions, and if I continued to draw my salary I should be cheating the taxpayers. I could give many other examples of the unreliability of statements made by the CSIR (which is under the Ministry of Scientific Research and Cultural Affairs—JEM). But these may suffice to justify my resignation."

As regards Humayun Kabir's statement that repairs of the house acquired by the Union Government for setting up the Genetics and Biometry unit "were being carried out himself according to the desire of Prof. Haldane", he observed: "Five of the rooms are being repaired, and sanitary fittings installed. But the architects concerned are not willing to carry out my desires on points of detail. Nothing is being done about the other rooms in the north-wing, which are now rapidly deteriorating, as such rain comes in through a hole in the roof."

"As the CSIR is well aware, the five rooms, which may or may not be available next month, will be needed for a library, office and a store room. No laboratory work can start till the northwing is available; and I cannot even secure a plan for its repair,

the problem. Our State is faced with many burning problems. They cry for urgent

the defeat of all attempts to amend the present Agrarian Relations Act and for the expeditious implementation of the Act;

immediate and urgent relief to people who are hit by spiralling rise in prices of foodstuffs;

protection to teachers and those belonging to backward communities and scheduled castes;

short-term and long-term solution for the problem of growing unemployment;

the defeat of all the nefarious games of communal vested interests, who fan the flames of communal passion and advance their narrow interests;

the solution of the many burning problems facing the State.

The Communist Party is confident that out of these mass struggles and mass campaign will emerge a united democratic force which will rise above blind anti-Communism and foil the game of reactionary communal vested interests and finally lead Kerala to democracy and prosperity.

much less a statement as to when repairs will begin." Regarding Humayun Kabir's statement that "office accommodation is available," Prof. Haldane pointed out: "The accommodation provided consists of half a small table in the Indian Institute of Bio-Chemistry and Experimental Medicine for Mr. Gokhale, the administrative officer attached to the unit."

"No accommodation of any kind has been provided for my scientific colleagues or myself. My Office is the converted spare bedroom of my private flat. It is at the request of Dr. M. S. Thacker, head of the CSIR, that I use the address of my private flat for correspondence with him and with foreign scientists."

Prof. Haldane concluded: "I do not wish to criticise Mr. Kabir further than to remark that it only took me three months to discover that statements made by officials of the CSIR were not always true. It seems to be taking him some what longer."

The resignation of this great scientist has once again pinpointed the wooden-headedness of the puny bureaucrats and the pathetic dependence of our ministers on these gentlemen.

The public would like to know what Humayun Kabir has to say in reply to Prof. Haldane's statement. They would expect the Union Government to persuade Prof. Haldane to withdraw his resignation, and to meet his wishes in regard to his research work.

(June 16)

for a powerful mass movement

Question Of National Integration

★ From Our Correspondent

Following is the text of a memorandum submitted to the Chief Minister of Assam by the Assam State Council of the CPI on June 9, concerning question of national integration in Assam.

THERE had been a National Integration conference at New Delhi held under the chairmanship of the Prime Minister from September 28 to October 1, 1961. That was a unique gathering of the prominent people belonging to different political parties and individuals of different shades of views and opinions.

Perhaps after the independence of India, it was the most representative national platform brought into being to discuss the burning problem of the day—the threat to national unity and to find out the ways and means to combat it.

However, many things since then have happened in our country during the course of last few months and the threat to the national unity, threat to the democratic advancement has grown alarmingly and the need and urgency to combat it has become all the more pressing before the entire nation and the democratic and progressive patriots belonging to all walks of life must unite and stand together and rise up to the occasion.

As a part of the entire country—India, we in Assam have to specifically deal with the problem of national integration and do everything possible to help it and fight squarely the threats held and posed against it at our state level. We, the Communists in Assam view with grave concern the growing deterioration of the situation in our state due to the increasing growth of communal feelings and heightening of the tension amongst the two religious communities apart from other things.

Of late, this feeling is running high and the tension is daily mounting. Never before such a situation developed in Assam as it has happened to be now. Therefore, it should be a matter of grave concern for all who want national integration and secular democratic life to continue and grow stronger.

Menacing Growth Of Communalism

In our State the issue of communalism of all brands has grown to a menacing proportion and specially the Hindu communalism has grown alarmingly in the recent months. Muslim communalism, casteism, parochialism etc., also have grown disturbingly only to add to the threat to national integration. As a matter of fact, these

have grown in the course of the last general elections and thereafter as a harmful consequence of the opportunist alliances of the secular parties and individuals with communal and casteist parties and forces and also as a result of the activities carried on by them for their immediate election gains.

We know that the roots of all these forces of communalism and casteism etc., are there and in the final analysis these can be removed only through radical socio-economic transformation of our present society and such a transformation can take place only when sharp and sustained struggles against the vested interests are waged for it.

Resolute Struggle—Supreme Task

Yet, we consider, the task of fighting for national integration as a supreme task of all the secular and progressive people in order to go ahead for the fundamental social transformation, otherwise all the tendencies or parochial lines, will only be taken advantage of by the dark forces of the vested interests to divide the masses on wrong and false issues.

Therefore we consider that a resolute struggle against the threats to our national integration has become the supreme need of the day on a political plane.

In our State this threat has come first and foremost from communalism. Illegal entry of Pak nationals, reported increase of the Muslim population in an unprecedented manner in the 1961 census etc., are being used by the communal forces like the 'Jana Sangh' and also many others in the secular parties to

BANK EMPLOYEES DEMAND IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION OF TRIBUNAL AWARD

★ From Our Correspondent

BOMBAY: THE delay in the publication of the one-man (Justice K. T. Desai) National Tribunal award has caused widespread discontent among the Bank employees in the Maharashtra State.

The Maharashtra State Bank Employees Federation in its thirteenth annual meeting held here on June 2, viewed with concern the delay and has requested its all-India body to adopt agitation measures in case the Award was not published early.

The Tribunal, appointed 26 months ago, has completed the hearing in respect of the issues referred. According to a resolution passed in the conference the "bank employees have stoically suffered the rejection of the application for Interim Relief and noted

foment Hindu communalism in our State, thereby helping consolidation of the Muslim communalism at the same time.

Secondly, the issue of the separate Hills state and agitation on it has posed another threat to the national integration. We do not however, denounce a demand for self-rule by our brothers and sisters of the Hills; but when the struggle for attainment of some rightful status and for the fulfilment of the legitimate rights and privileges is directed against some other people of the same country, it obviously carries with it and constitutes a threat to national integration.

Thirdly, the numerous disabilities from which the backward caste, tribal and backward communities' people suffer, and more particularly in the backward areas, also subscribe considerably to national disintegration and keeps its pot boiling.

Madhya Pradesh Congress

Leadership Issue Unresolved

★ From Our Correspondent

BHOPAL

The leadership tangle in Madhya Pradesh Congress remains unresolved and is becoming only more complex.

THERE were high hopes that after the AICC session some sort of solution of this vexed problem would come out. But surprisingly enough, the AICC did not discuss the uncertainty which looms large than ever before the political horizon of this State.

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We consider that in spite of the differences, among the secular parties in Assam, there is largely common ground of agreement in the State and it is necessary to stress on this common ground and work on it.

Under the circumstances, the Government of Assam headed by you should, we feel it strongly, convene a conference of all the secular democratic and progressive parties and individuals of our State to discuss the issue of national integration and the threat that is there against it and how to combat it.

We are confident that if such a conference is organised and held with the people who are really interested to fight communalism, casteism, linguism and other reactionary trends developing in our public life, it would be possible to evolve a common code of conduct, a common approach to problems that have

threatened national integration and have helped the dark forces of reaction and disruption to utilise them.

We are also confident that united efforts and actions against the dark forces of reaction and disruption can be made and organised if the Government of Assam came forward to take the initiative for it.

So far we the Communists are concerned, it will be our earnest endeavour to fully carry forward such a struggle against communalism, casteism, etc., in defence of national integration and secularism in cooperation with everybody who is interested in it including the Government.

Our Party hopes that the Government of Assam will convene such a conference in consultation with the progressive parties at an appropriate time and place without delay.

at New Delhi that he was obliged to declare that there would be no expansion at present.

Despite these developments, which are obviously discouraging for Mandliol's supporters, the Pradesh Congress leadership seems firm in its conviction that coming back of Dr. Katju would not benefit the State in any way and that in any case it was not going to happen.

A top FCC source, who also attended the AICC session even claimed that Dr. Katju was advised by some top Congress leaders not to go to Madhya Pradesh again.

Undemocratic Challenge!

The Pradesh Congress Chief, Deshlehra has clearly and sharply proclaimed that "to challenge the leadership of a unanimously elected leader was unjustified and undemocratic". He has affirmed that there was perfect coordination between the Chief Minister, Mandliol and the Pradesh Congress.

This alliance described as Deshlehra-Mandliol alliance, he now stresses, is not a temporary phase. Its harmony would not be allowed to be disturbed in the larger interests of the State and the Party.

No Return For Dr. Katju

It is also because of this, it is stated, that the proposed expansion of the Ministry here had to be postponed till word was received from the High Command. Mandliol, it is understood, had a talk about his Ministry expansion with the Union Home Minister, Lal Bahadur Shastri. It was only after these parleys

ASTURIA—Banner Of Freedom

By DOLORES IBARRURI,
Chairman, Communist Party Of Spain.

Striking Austria is calling to the conscience of Spain, and Spain is bravely and firmly answering the call.

AS in the days of the Reconquista and the creation of the Spanish state after the Arabian invasion, all of Spain which is fighting today for its freedom, life and human dignity is Asturia. Guipuzcoa, and Vizcaya, Pannaroya and Jaen, Cuidad-Real and Teruel, Catalonia and Madrid, the Spain of laobr, culture and science, everything that is noblest and worthiest in our country is Asturia.

The Spanish fields stolen from their true masters.

Heading the list of outstanding exponents of literature and the theatre, of the world politics and with the silent support of thousands of other honest representatives of the intelligentsia, Menen-



Dolores Ibaruri

For Asturia is the symbol today of a people and country who refuse to languish any longer in the chains of Francoism.

It is the symbol of the Spain which refuses to live on its knees, a Spain which is striving to regain its national dignity and the grandeur of the nation in a just, free and democratic system.

Answering the call sent out by fighting Asturia, the Spanish intelligentsia are resurrecting their finest traditions.

The dean of Spanish literature and world famous scholar of the Cid, the President of the Academy of Linguistics, Menendez Pidal has added his voice to the voices that rise from the depths of our mines, that come from the factories and mills, that echo in the University lecture halls, the voices that cry out over

deaz Pidal demands an end to the crimes of the dictatorship and respect for Man and Justice.

Spain has been set in motion; on the road to tomorrow which its struggle today is blazing, people and political forces which were still divided and even hostile yesterday are now drawing together and marching side by side.

They are brought together if not by common views then by the identity of their aspirations.

born in the common resistance to everything hateful and anti-Spanish that the Franco dictatorship stands for.

That identity may become the ground for the merger of good will and political programmes in a common effort to build a homeland for all Spaniards, Spain "where wealth without parasitism, ideas without prejudices, words without bans, laws without lies, brotherhood without Gains will be possible and there will be work and education for all."

The hardships and suffering of the war and repression through which our country has passed have had painful effects on the life and liberty of Spain and held back progress.

Our hangmen were misled by the slow pace at which our forces recovered; they thought that along with the dead they had buried the striving for justice even of those who had survived the Franco holocaust.

Blinded by their Cain-like hatred and inability to understand Spanish social realities, they miscalculated. One man or a million can be killed, but it is impossible to kill a whole nation, or bury forever the ideas that constitute the meaning of its life and existence, that inspire it to mass heroism in the struggle against the enemy, that engender a spirit of self-sacrifice in the plain people.

Spain is rising again from blood and ashes. And it is rising again with a new aspect, a new awareness. Its solidarity with those who are



A mine in Catalonia

waging a struggle and who express the hopes of all the Spanish working people is eloquent proof of the resurrection of Spain purified by suffering and pain.

May the concord that has been now achieved, and has violently shaken the foundations of the dictatorship, prevail! May the human soli-

darity forged in the bitter struggle of the best people for bread and justice prove the beginning of the national understanding for which Spain and the Spanish people are calling and without which it is impossible to put an end to the dictatorship or set up a lasting and just social system in our country.

For Asturia and for Spain, for all those who have known hunger and the craving for bread and justice, let us create an active and militant unity of those who want to live in a free, prosperous and happy country.

Let us forge the weapon that can smash the hateful edifice of Francoism to smithereens, and open the way for Spain to a peaceful life in the country, to security and national independence.



A group of workers of Asturia

MOBILIZATION OF ITALIAN MASSES

★ From S. BENSASSON

THE month of May has been characterized by a serious mobilization of the Italian masses on account of two fundamental questions concerning international policy: the resumption of nuclear explosions by the United States, together with the whole question of the struggle for disarmament and peace, and the solidarity with the struggle of the Iberian countries against the remnants of fascism in Europe and of the French and Algerian people against OAS.

These two questions are, however, tied to each other, as fascism and war have always marched in step.

"Don't count on us for a nuclear war", hundreds of students cried in Turin on May 5. "There must never be another Hiroshima" said one of the placards they carried as they marched along the streets of the city. Other placards denounced the rebirth of militarism in Western Germany and the survival of colonialism.

On the same day, at the other extremity of the country, at Ragusa, in Sicily, students rallied for the same reason, protesting against the crimes committed by OAS.

Immediately after the beginning of the great working class and student struggles in Spain and Portugal, the Executive Committee of the Italian General Confederation of Labour (CGL) addressed an appeal to all the workers ask-

ing them to express their solidarity towards the Iberian peoples.

The appeal stressed the international value of their struggle and the necessity for a greater unity of all the anti-fascist forces in the world against the international coordination of the reactionary and fascist forces, from Algeria to Spain and Portugal, to France and to Western Germany.

A group of communist leaders, all Spanish war-veterans amongst whom were Palmiro Togliatti, Luigi Longo, Vittorio Vidali, Giuliano Ferrara, Vello Spano and others, also addressed a message of solidarity and their wishes for a speedy victory to the Central Committee of the Spanish brother party.

Meanwhile, the struggle for peace developed further with a series of "marches" in different cities. In Venice three

thousand people marched through the streets on the May 12, and many foreign tourists joined them. Another "peace march" took place on the same day at Parma, while various other peace rallies had taken place in Florence, at Castel Maggiore (Bologna), at Meldola (Forlì) and at Ferrara.

On May 13 more than ten thousand people marched for peace at Cagliari, capital city of Sardinia, and other thousands at an analogous rally at Avezzano (Aquila).

On the May 15, twelve Youth organizations, amongst which the communist, socialist, social-democrat, radical, republican Youth, the Youth Commission of the CGIL and of the UIL (the trade-union organization of the third force), and the National Representative Union of University students, expressed in a document their full solidarity with the Spanish people and demanded that the government break every sort of relation with the Franco government.

Rallies of solidarity towards the Iberian peoples took place, during the following days in Naples, Rome, Milan, Mantua, Savona, Modena, Parma and in other cities. The National Committee of the Italian Women's Union (UDI), ad-

ressed a message of solidarity and encouragement to the Spanish women and called Italian public opinion to support the struggle for freedom in Spain.

At the same time, a subscription campaign was launched amongst the intellectuals in the course of commemoration of the Spanish peasant poet Miguel Hernandez, killed by the fascists in 1942.

On May 22, a huge assembly, attended by many eminent intellectuals, was held at the Culture House in Milan and it condemned the Franco dictatorship. The following day a meeting of several thousands of people, was held in Leghorn and it expressed solidarity of the Italian working-class towards the Spanish and Portuguese people.

The same day an assembly of Roman students manifested its solidarity towards the Portuguese students of Coimbra, while other meetings were held at Cagliari, Bari and other cities.

The mobilization against nuclear explosions and in favour of peace, was meanwhile, further intensified. On May 20, thousands of people, from every corner of Abruzzi took part in a peace march at Bussi (Pescara), where eleven partisans were killed by the Nazis, and demanded the liquidation of American missile bases in Italy.

The same day, this same demand was made by "peace marchers" at Bagnoli di Sopra (Padua). In the evening of May 25 more than

thirty thousand people took part in a peace march at Bologna, holding flaming torches and demanding the end of nuclear explosions. Another meeting was held at the same day at Alfonsine (Ravenna).

On May 27, more than ten thousand people marched for peace in the streets of Florence and expressed their solidarity towards the Spanish and Portuguese people.

Meanwhile, a delegation presented the mayor, Giorgio La Pira, with the conclusive motion of a Conference on disarmament which had been held in the city under the auspices of the Italian Peace Council, which coordinate the struggle for peace of the Italian different movements and organizations.

The Conference had unanimously demanded the removal of all foreign military bases from Italian soil, the reduction of armaments and armies on a world basis, the creation of a "nuclear weapons free area" of European countries from the USSR to the Atlantic, and the strengthening of the United Nations through the admission of People's China. A meeting for peace was held in the Uffizi Square in the evening.

These rallies, and naturally we have only mentioned the principal ones, are the proof that the Italian people are concerned about the international situation and that they wished to actively participate in the creation of a free and peaceful world.

Save Gizenga

It has been announced in Cairo on June 13 by the International Committee of Aid for the Congo and Algeria that a collegium of lawyers of Afro-Asian countries has been set up to defend Antoine Gizenga at the court trial that would be staged in Leopoldville this month. Lawyers from the UAR, Mali, India, Japan, Cuba and Guinea will be members of this collegium.

THE statement of the International Committee of Aid for the Congo and Algeria on this question says in particular: "Recently, being under strong pressure by imperialists and the Adoula Government, the Congolese Parliament deprived Gizenga of parliamentary immunity so as to put him on trial on charges of attempted coup d'etat, and asked the Belgian Government to send three Belgian judges to conduct the trial.

Colonialist Trial

"At the same time it denied entry visas to lawyers who wanted to defend Gizenga and who support the independence and the unity of the Congo. This only shows that the trial of Gizenga will be by its nature a colonialist trial."

The International Committee of Aid for the Congo and Algeria urges the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America, the governments and freedom-loving peoples of all the world to support the Afro-Asian collegium of lawyers in the defence of Gizenga.

The Committee urges to

launch a protest campaign, to organise mass meetings, collect signatures and donations to help Antoine Gizenga, send telegrams to the Congolese Government and the United Nations protesting against the unlawful arrest of Gizenga and also to demand the issue of entrance visas to lawyers from the collegium who will defend Gizenga.

Meanwhile, for over a week rumours are circulating in Leopoldville that on the island of Bolabemba a clash took place between soldiers guarding the leader of the Congolese patriots, Antoine Gizenga, who is languishing there, and a group of soldiers that came there allegedly to take Gizenga to Leopoldville on orders of the Chief of the Security Agency. According to these rumours, so far not refuted by anyone, some were wounded as a result of the clash.

Condition Unknown

Relatives, friends and supporters of Antoine Gizenga, alarmed by these rumours, made several attempts to find out the actual state of affairs in order to make sure that

the life of Gizenga is beyond danger.

However, the attempts of Gizenga's mother and friends to find out the truth about the condition of Gizenga and to receive permission to visit him ended in failure. They met with refusals at the Ministries of the Interior and Justice. And when Gizenga's mother tried to arrange a meeting with Adoula, so as to get permission to visit her son, he refused to receive her.

UN Responsibility

Alarmed by the fate of their leader, the leaders of the African Solidarity Party sent a telegram to the UN Secretary-General calling upon him to come out in defence of Antoine Gizenga.

The telegram appeals to him to press the Congolese Government to allow Gizenga to face judiciary organs on legal grounds and in conformity with the existing norms.

Letter To UN

The leaders of the African Solidarity Party sent another letter on June 12 to the UN Secretary-General asking him not to permit the attempt to do away with Gizenga, by the judicial means.

"The government," the letter says, "is doing everything to prevent the hearing of

our alarm and apprehensions for his life."

Mukuidi, Member of Parliament, told a TASS correspondent: "One cannot speak about the attitude of the authorities to the case of Gizenga without indignation and alarm. I have visited the Ministers of the Interior and of Justice together with Gizenga's mother to find out the truth about these rumours, circulated in the capital and to allay his mother's fears.

"However, we failed to receive an answer. The arbitrariness meted out to Gizenga is especially glaring against the background of the mild treatment of the criminal Kalonji who, despite the fact that he was sentenced to prison, is freely driving about the town in a luxurious car. I have seen this myself."

—TASS

Our London Letter

From Omeo Gooptu

Popular demonstrations against the American Polaris submarine base at the Holy Loch, Scotland, in spite of official persecutions, fines and imprisonments continue as vigorously as ever.

FEW days ago, at one such demonstration organised by the Scottish Committee of 100, over 500 people sat down on the road to block Ardnadam pier which the crews of the American depot Proteus and the submarines use. By a brutal show of force, the police arrested nearly 150 demonstrators.

These new American submarines are repaired and overhauled in this base at Holy Loch and then, according to pre-arranged schedule, quietly disappear in the depths of the ocean. They are capable of launching rockets with great accuracy with their nuclear war-heads.

It is an open secret that these dangerous weapon-carriers are constantly patrolling the north seas near the Soviet coast and are said to be capable of hitting their targets from a distance of 1,500 miles.

Real Satanic Threat

No wonder that these submarines (and the Holy Loch base) are regarded by the peace-loving forces of both Britain and the Soviet Union as a real common satanic threat to their very existence and that of the world as a whole.

"The base is being created to serve as a point of departure of American atomic submarines with nuclear 'missiles,'" said Mr. Koslov, the Vice-Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, as soon as the base was handed over to the American government by the Tories.

"The American military command" continued Mr. Koslov, "plan to send those submarines to prow near the

sea boundaries of the Soviet Union. Who will fail to see that this is a case of a most dangerous adventure — an adventure designed to worsen the international situation sharply and fraught with dangerous consequences to the American sponsors and their British allies."

In spite of this and other protests, the piling up of more and more of Polaris submarines goes on at a steady rate. The Americans are placing eight of them at the disposal of NATO.

It may be mentioned in this connection that before entering into the agreement with President Kennedy to base the submarines at Holy Loch, Mr. Macmillan didn't find it obligatory on his part to consult the Parliament. In fact, the agreement remains unratified even to this day.

What the British peace movement is trying to do is to nullify it completely for the future safety of mankind.

Honoured Lordship

THE Queen's Birthday Honours List has the unique reputation of bestowing honours on those who are associated with strange and sinister schemes and purposes, to say the least.

In the List, published at the beginning of June, Air Commodore Magill was awarded a C.B.E. What do we know of this gentleman?

At the now famous Official Secrets Acts Trial at the Old Bailey, where the Crown was successfully prosecuting leading members of the Committee of 100 (President: Lord Bertrand Russell) for activities near an American military base, Mr. Pat Pottle of the Committee was cross-examining the Air Commodore:

Pottle: Would you press the button you know is going to annihilate millions of people?

Air Commodore Magill: If the circumstances demanded it, I would.

A serious situation is developing in Kanpur. In expectation of the award of the Sampurnanand Committee, the employers have launched a broad offensive against the workers.

ONLY in the very recent past, nearly 3,000 workers have been thrown out—retrenched—in the Swadeshi Cotton Mills, the J. K. Manufacturing Company, the Victoria Mills, and other pampered concerns of U.P.'s largest industrial centre.

The bulk of the retrenched workers consists of old and sick men. The employers have claimed that their freedom to retrench them was unfettered, because the rule against retrenchment did not protect sick workers.

Though, as is obvious, their right to retrench them under the present dispensation did seem to be unrestricted, legally this claim was unsustainable.

The High Court has laid down that only "surplus hands" could be retrenched. But like in everything else, in this respect also they are defying all rules and rulings of the State's highest Court with complete impunity.

Delayed Award

Some two years back when the dispute regarding rationalisation, retrenchment, bonus, etc., was by agreement between the representatives of the employers and workers, referred to Dr. Sampurnanand, it was clearly laid down that, pending the award, status quo would be maintained; particularly there would be no rationalisation and no retrenchment.

The award, which might have given some relief and protection to workers, has unfortunately been delayed. Meanwhile, the employers have gone on merrily doing what they liked and now that Dr. Sampurnanand, who has

become the Governor of Rajasthan, has been persuaded to hurry up with his award, the employers have become restless and are hitting out with all their fury.

Despite all provisions and agreements, they have refused to give proper bonus to the workers. There are many mills which have given no bonus.

For example, the Swadeshi Cotton Mills, the Muir Mills and the Victoria Mills have not given bonus even for the year 1960-61, although their profits, like those of others, have touched new heights.

Profits Mount-Up

The Swadeshi Cotton Mills has made a profit of 80 lakhs, the Muir-Mills of 39 lakhs and the Victoria Mills of 29 lakhs this year. But they are not prepared to give even the due share of their workers and the government is looking at the whole thing with benevolent neutrality.

Otherwise also the condition of the Kanpur worker is perhaps the worst of all the country's bigger industrial centres. If in Bombay the ever rising cost of living is covered by nearly 90 per cent dearness allowance, in Kanpur the worker is not compensated by it to the tune of even 50 per cent.

The average wage of an U.P. worker, including that of Kanpur, is, after Kerala, the lowest in the country. Bombay, Madras, Bihar workers—all get more than the workers of Uttar Pradesh.

The slums of Kanpur are so indescribably uninhabitable that even Pandit Nehru was once provoked to declare that fire should be set to them all. But precious little has been done either to eliminate those plague spots, or to provide cheap housing accommodation to the tens of thousands of its houseless workers. During the British period,

Kanpur Workers Prepare To Resist Employers Offensive

★ From Ramesh Sinha

the employers of Kanpur had established a "Hallet Nagar" with cheap quarters for the workers. They were then prepared to contribute from 25 to 50 per cent of the cost of such quarters.

Sheer Chicanery

But today neither they nor the State government care to do anything in the matter. Only in the name of building such quarters at some unspecified time they have acquired great areas of land from the City's Corporation at the throw-away price of 10 annas or 11 annas per yard.

This profiteering is not confined to the employers alone, unfortunately. The Central government has granted some big sums as grants for building cheap houses for the workers—these grants cover 50 per cent of their cost.

To cover the remaining 50 per cent of the cost the Central government has granted loans, which have to be repaid in instalments over a period of 35 years.

For the quarters built with the help of these moneys, such high rents have been fixed by the State government that they have stayed beyond the reach of a majority of the workers.

For example, a worker who gets barely Rs. 45 per

month is required to pay for such a quarter a total rent of Rs. 15 per month: Rent Rs. 10, Water charges Rs. 2 and Electricity charges Rs. 3. It is not surprising that quite a few of them are lying untenanted.

On May 30, before the last session of the U. P. Vidhan Sabha was adjourned, Maulana S. S. Yusuf, veteran leader of Kanpur, tried to persuade the government to look into some of these problems of the Kanpur workers.

Words Of Warning

With his unmatched knowledge of the situation, he described what was happening in Kanpur and in the heart of its battle-tested worker.

Even with all its persuasiveness, all its constructiveness, Yusuf's speech became a great indictment of the policies of the government. It was a speech piled with most telling facts and full of passionate appeal.

He said: "Fourteen years back the worker in Kanpur was the highest-paid in the country. But now in the years since Independence he has become the lowest in India."

He added: "I have worked among workers for some 25 or 30 years... Not in the form of

any threat but in the form of giving information, I want to tell the government that today there is greater restlessness among the workers than there was even in 1947..."

Yusuf asked for immediate steps to be taken to remedy this situation, otherwise, he indicated, a big struggle was inevitable.

The pro-employer government has not only disregarded the patriotic advice given by S. S. Yusuf but has pledged further reliefs and concessions to the capitalists like Ram Ratan Guptas and Modis of the State in a so-called Conference of industrialists just concluded at Nainital.

And so, just as Yusuf had warned, the Kanpur worker has begun to move into action. The united Kanpur Sooti Mill Mazdur Sabha has decided to take a strike ballot in the J. K. Cotton Manufacturing Company.

The strike ballot in this concern will inevitably be followed by similar tests, which are also the pledges of the workers in the other mills and enterprises of Kanpur.

If not avoided by the government, the next step will be the unleashing of a mighty struggle, which will be, as Yusuf has said, much bigger than that of 1948.

Calcutta Bank Employees Demonstrate

Calcutta, June 17:

OVER 10,000 employees of 30 banks in Calcutta demonstrated outside their respective establishments on June 15, in protest against the Government's inordinate delay in publishing the award of the National Industrial Tribunal (Bank Disputes).

The Tribunal was set up on March 21, 1960, with Justice K. T. Desai of Gujarat High Court as its Chairman. Hearings concluded in October, 1961.

In December, 1960 the Tribunal turned down the employees' demand for interim relief on the ground that the Tribunal would give its Award within three months. The Union Labour Minister stated in the Lok Sabha on April 27 last that the Award would be published by June 15.

But it is now learnt that that Tribunal's Award has not yet been received by the Labour Ministry!

"As we go to press, we learn that the Award has been received by the Ministry and it will be gazetted in about two weeks time.—Ed.

FASCIST TRIAL IN USA

FOR the third time in six months the dragnet of the McCarran Act has been spread out in the U.S.: ten more human beings are its newest haul. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy has formally requested the Subversive Activities Control Board (SACB) to label them as Communists, so that they may be ordered to register under the 1950 Internal Security Act.

charge: failure to register with the Attorney General as a Communist-action organization.

Second, on March 15, 1962, came the indictment of Gus Hall and Benjamin J. Davis. The charge: failure to register. And now the Attorney General's application to the SACB asking for an order for the ten alleged members to register—with indictment is in.

There is indecent haste in this latest move by the Attorney General.

With the constitutionality of the McCarran Act yet to be decided, with Gus Hall and Ben Davis out on bail and preparing a defence that is far more than the defence of their own liberties, why the rush to add to the list of victims?

Kennedy's Bluff

Robert Kennedy says: "I would like again to make it clear that the registration requirements do not outlaw the party. They do not forbid anything. They simply require the party to register—make public the identity of its officers and members, the sources of its finances..."

But the truth is: To agree to register under the terms of the McCarran Act is to subscribe to the lie that the Com-

munist Party of the USA is an agent of a foreign power, pledged to overthrowing our Government by force and violence.

Protesting against these fascist-like proceedings and urging upon all public-spirited citizens to demand a stop to them, the Gus Hall-Benjamin J. Davis Defence Committee has issued a statement which reads as follows:

The Indictment

First, on December 1, 1961, there was the indictment of the Communist Party. The

ROURKELA and BHILAI

Rourkela's "teething troubles" are likely to be subjected to yet another enquiry.

THE report of the six-member West German expert team led by W. Solveen of the Bonn Ministry of Economics, recently received by the Steel Ministry has been found to be "unsatisfactory", it is stated.

It is felt that a panel of Indian experts "from among independent technical consultants" should be appointed to critically and thoroughly examine the Rourkela project. In the light of the findings and the advice tendered by such a panel, necessary and efficacious steps could be taken to overcome the problems of running the plant.

The report of the West German team, it is learnt, does little more than give a "clean chit" to the companies which supplied equipment and technical know-how for the plant. The report reiterates what has always been contended by the West German side, that the equipment and machinery for Rourkela were designed and manufactured in conformity with the best and up-to-date technological know-how.

According to the West German experts, difficulties dur-

ing the running-in periods of any such complicated and large units were quite normal, but the production achievement and economy of the plant would have been more impressive if operational personnel were sufficiently experienced. Thus the West Germans lay the blame for Rourkela mishaps on the Indians working there.

Solveen's team has maintained, it is understood, that the West German side had done even more for the Indian side than it was obliged to do. West German industry, he is reported to have claimed, had placed at the disposal of the HSL a supervisory team of experts for the plant's operation and maintenance, even though this was not stipulated under the original contracts between the parties.

Following the study of West German experts' report, it is felt that dependence on advice from West Germans or from officials directly connected with the plant would not be helpful. A more objective study of the problems and advice based on such a study alone would help straighten things out at Rourkela.

—IPA

MOSCOW

"The citizens of India, like the Soviet people, consider Bhilai a symbol of friendship of the peoples, a symbol of a new era", Vasil Sergeev, Vice-Chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, said in a TASS interview.

VASIL Sergeev, who returned recently from India, said that the Bhilai Plant has become of great importance to the country. It has, as Indians told him, "paved a broad way of Indo-Soviet co-operation in industrial construction".

Thirty industrial enterprises and other projects are now being built in India with Soviet assistance. The Soviet Union has extended long-term credits to India at 2.5 per cent annual interest. India repays these credits with deliveries of wool, hides, vegetable oil, and tea.

Vasil Sergeev recalled that as early as January 1962 the plant which was one of the first-steel works of India's public sector (two other enterprises are being built with the participation of British and West German firms), exceeded the designed capacity of one million tons of steel a year.

"The Soviet people," Vasil Sergeev emphasised, "rejoice at the success of Indian friends. They would never forget the day the Indians and Russians set up on the red, sun-scorched earth of Madhya Pradesh a small poster with the inscription: 'Here will be the first blast furnace,' he added.

This was in 1956, and in 1966, when India fulfils her Third Five-Year Plan, the Bhilai plant will have become the biggest iron and steel plant in India, producing 25 per cent of all national steel.

"There is yet much to be done at Bhilai in the nearest future", Sergeev pointed out. He mentioned the construction of two large blast furnaces, four open-hearth furnaces and several coking batteries.

"But neither we nor Indians have any doubt that this large-scale programme will be fulfilled successfully", Vasil Sergeev emphasised.

Comradely help and striving to pass on one's skill and experience—these principles were for Soviet engineers and workers, as Sergeev put it, "a law at Bhilai". "They did not give advice but said: let's do it together", he added.

Cooperation For Prosperity

By Cable From Masood Ali Khan

Moscow, June 18

Important top level decisions of great significance have been taken in Moscow at a meeting of the representatives of the Communist and Workers Parties of countries which are members of the Council of Mutual Economic Assistance.

The meeting was a big event in the life of the brother parties and of the socialist commonwealth and is destined to play a major role in the economic development of Socialist system.

Sunday's Pravda published a major document, "The Basic Principles of the International Socialist Division of Labour", which could be called the Charter of economic cooperation between the socialist countries. This document consisted of seven parts and occupied about two pages of the paper.

It has been put forward by the meeting as the foundation of a long range programme of economic cooperation among the member countries on principles of full equality, mutual respect for independence and sovereign mutual assistance and mutual advantage.

In the camp of socialism no one had any special rights or privileges and observance of principles of Marxism-Leninism and socialist internationalism was an indispensable condition for the successful advance of the world socialist system, the document declared.

Coordination Of Economy

A new stage has been reached in the coordination of the economy of the world socialist system and the way to further advancement remained in a combination of efforts of each socialist country with the common effort of the whole system.

"Coordination of the national economic plans is the principal means of the successful development and growth of the international socialist division of labour", the document declared and mapped out the main directions of the rational division of labour in the key branches of production—power metallurgy, chemistry, machine building and consumer industries.

It pointed out the ways for the most efficient rational proportionate and all round development of the economy of the socialist countries with minimum of waste, repetition of efforts and uneconomic production. Full development was possible if international division of labour was combined with international specialisation of production.

It has been emphasised that

the international specialisation and the development of national economic units in the individual socialist countries were mutually interdependent. "Only by combining them harmoniously can the fullest and the most economical utilisation of the productive forces of each socialist country and the entire camp in general be ensured.

"A trend towards the establishment of an isolated economic complex to the detriment of a rational international division of labour, or conversely one-sided international specialisation of economy, can reduce the efficiency and slow down the rates of economic development of both individual socialist states and the entire system as a whole".

Principal Way To Overcome Lag

One section of the document indicated the means of overcoming the historically determined differences in the levels of economic development of socialist countries and emphasised that socialist industrialisation was the principal way of overcoming the technical and economic lag.

The importance of this for countries like Mongolia which has just joined the Council of Mutual Economic Assistance was self evident.

It has been pointed out that the integration of the Socialist economic system and development of internal socialist trade did not mean a closed shop for the outsiders. The document pointed out that the international socialist division of labour was being built with account taken of the world division of labour.

And the fact that the member countries of the COMECON (Abbreviation of the Council) in their conference discussed the establishment of an international trade organisation enriching all peoples and countries without any discrimination was another proof of the above mentioned policy of the socialist countries.

An important place was given to the economic cooperation between socialist countries and those of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Planning For More Help

Over all planning by the Council was bound to result in more help for underdeveloped countries as better use of its economic possibilities and resources for the purposes of help will be planned by the COMECON countries.

The meeting of the representatives of the Communist and Workers' Parties of COMECON member countries noted that the socialist countries were firmly holding the lead in the rate of develop-

ment of economy over the capitalist countries.

For the four years, 1958 to 1961, average industrial growth of socialist countries was nearly 13 per cent, almost three times that of the capitalist countries and socialist share of world industrial output rose from 27 per cent in 1955 to 37 per cent today.

This progress has been the result of economic cooperation and coordination which has developed all the time. Since the last conference which was held in May 1958, economic cooperation between member countries developed at a fast rate.

National economic plans were coordinated for periods of five years and more and specialisation and cooperation were further developed in engineering and chemical industries, the raw material base was expanded and work was begun to unite the power system of member countries.

Scientific and technical cooperation became more effective and the rate of trade growth between member countries rose from 8.5 in 1956-58 to 14.2 per cent in 1959 to 1961.

New Stage Reached

But now a new stage has been reached when this coordination has to be made more scientific and efficient. The objective economic laws of socialism which operate on the national plane began to appear more and more in the whole socialist system and demanded further harmonious and scientific integration which was of mutual benefit to all the world socialist system, had now reached a stage when a simple addition of the national possibilities of all countries was not enough.

If the old way of development was to be kept intact, it would be like keeping old methods of private agriculture after the establishment of collective farms.

A qualitatively new organisational approach was needed which would increase the productivity of labour on the basis of fullest scientific cooperation and nationalisation between the socialist countries.

It has been pointed out in the basic document that this strengthening of economic relations between socialist countries would help to develop that objective tendency for the creation in future of world Communist economy regulated by one plan which was indicated by Lenin.

National specialisation of production would be further developed. It was not of mutual advantage to duplicate the production of aircraft or high power generators or to develop metallurgy far from ores and fuel resources.

One power-grid would

Again A Murder!

From JNAN BIKASH MOITRA

Calcutta, Sudhin Chakravarty, a Communist worker, died on June 16 as a result of a brutal attack by hired goondas of the employers.

He was employed as a worker in Bharat Electrical Industries Ltd., in Behala, a suburb of Calcutta, and was the Assistant Secretary of the Workers' Union.

When Sudhin was returning home after factory hours on June 15, he was attacked on the public thoroughfare in broad daylight. He sustained severe injuries on the head and was removed in an unconscious state to hospital, where he died next day.

He was one of the leaders of the strike, which took place in the concern last month. Shortly after the dispute was settled,

he was brutally done to death.

Only three weeks ago, on May 28, another popular Communist worker, Motilal Keot (Chowdhury), was stabbed to death in broad day-light in Behala. He was a leading figure in the movement of bustee residents and had been Assistant Secretary of Russa Distillery Workers' Union.

The leaders of ten trade unions of Behala in a statement strongly condemned the murder and demanded the arrest and exemplary punishment of the culprits.

Since the last general elections, four Communist workers have fallen at the hands of assassins. The first victim was Aftab Ali of 24-Parganas. Then came the turn of Motilal. Moni Kayal was murdered on June 5. The latest victim is Sudhin Chakravarty.

mean that electric energy would flow from one country to another and as the peak hours of consumption came at different hours due to the time difference in different countries, a better use of the power resources would be made.

Some such lines were already in operation and work on the projects of the unification of the whole power system of member countries has been completed.

Now a coordinate plan for the period of twenty years was being worked out and it would be ready by 1963. This plan would concretise the new stage of development and will lay down the distribution of capital investment now for the productive effort of the next 20 years.

Special Attention

Special attention would be devoted to the development of the raw material base. Attention was being paid to standardisation, coordination of research and statistics and a Standards Institute would be established.

An executive committee of the Council has been established comprised of the Deputies of the Heads of Governments. This is an international organ and its members have been freed from all national duties. The Executive Committee would meet regularly every two months.

The rules of the organisation have been changed and now European countries which shared the aims and principles of the Council could join it and Mongolia which came as an observer had already become a full member.

It was an interesting fact that this meeting was called at the initiative of Poland. It was thoroughly prepared for a long time and the main documents were prepared by

the Polish Party. Gomulka made the speech on the main tasks and future work of the COMECON.

This, by the way, refuted the bourgeois charge that everything was dominated by the Soviets inside this organisation. The meeting decided everything in two days and there were no differences, difficulties and bickerings predicted by the bourgeois press which were really characteristic of negotiations between capitalist countries.

It has been decided that regular exchange of views would take place on the level of First Secretaries of Parties and Prime Ministers. Thus the whole organisation of planning and cooperation has been put on a higher footing for tackling the great tasks ahead.

It was bound to result in a new economic upsurge and unprecedented prosperity. The socialist system has trimmed and toned up its organisation to defeat capitalism in open world competition.

NEW AGE

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Medical Students Strike Called-Off

★ From Jnan Bikash Moitra

THE dispute between medical students and Calcutta University authorities was finally settled on June 16, but not before the deadlock was made to drag on unnecessarily for 26 days.

The students repeatedly expressed their sincere regret for certain undesirable incidents which had happened on May 22, when they were squatting peacefully in the university premises demanding postponement of the first and the final MBBS examinations for ten days.

But the members of the Syndicate would not be satisfied with anything short of an unconditional surrender. The least one expected of these elderly people, who claim themselves to be educationists, was that they would show some measure of magnanimity in their dealings with the students. Unfortunately, however, their attitude smacked of vengeance.

The attitude of the vice-Chancellor, too, was one of sitting on the fence. He had called in the police, who savagely beat up the students. Subsequently, he cancelled the MBBS Examinations.

But he tried to shirk his responsibility in the matter of ending the stalemate on the plea that he had no powers to hold the cancelled examinations and that the dispute was no longer an academic issue!

Untiring Efforts

If the deadlock was ultimately resolved, it was due to the untiring efforts of the students themselves, and also of Jyoti Basu and other public men.

The leaders of medical students met the Chief Minister, Dr. B. C. Roy, on June 3 to place their viewpoints and demands before him. Two days later, they submitted a memorandum to him.

While reiterating the demands of medical students, the memorandum denounced certain unfortunate incidents of May 22 and expressed deep sorrow and regret for them.

"The student community of Bengal with their glorious traditions never supported such incidents and faults and even today do not support them to the slightest extent," the memorandum added.

Yet, strangely enough, the Syndicate was not satisfied with this unequivocal condemnation and expression of regret! They demanded an "unconditional apology" from the students.

This attitude of the Syndicate was totally incomprehensible to many people here. In these circumstances the medical students had no other alternative but to continue their just movement and to go on hungerstrike for 24 hours from 11 am on June 14.

Over 150 students, including a dozen girl students, took part in the hunger-strike. Besides this, no food

was cooked in the medical students hostels in the city, where the inmates number about 1,100.

Shortly after the hunger-strike was withdrawn on June 15, the Chief Minister sent two officials of the Indian Medical Association to invite the student leaders for discussions with him. A settlement was finally arrived at this meeting.

The Presidents of the Students' Unions of four Medical Colleges in the City handed over to the Chief Minister a written statement to the effect that they "sincerely express regret to the Vice-Chancellor and the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine for the incidents which happened on 22nd May, 1962, in the University premises."

Assurances

The Chief Minister then gave the following assurances to the student leaders:-

● Cancelled MBBS Examinations would be held in the fourth week of July.

● Students arrested in connection with the incident would be released unconditionally and all cases pending against them would be withdrawn.

● No student would be victimised in any manner.

● A commission would be set up to enquire into the longstanding grievances of medical students regarding irregularities in the present system of medical education (Dr. Roy himself intended to be a member of the Commission).

A big public meeting was held in the afternoon at the University Institute, where Jyoti Basu, Mira Dutta-Gupta, Vice-Principal of a Women's College in Calcutta, Sudhansu Basu, Editor of Hindustan Standard, Dr. Amiya Basu, eminent cardiologist and Vivekananda Mukherjee, Editor of Yugantar, condemned in one voice the brutal police attack on students in the night of May 22.

Deadlock Ends

A resolution passed at the meeting urged upon the Syndicate of Calcutta University to end the deadlock by accepting the terms of settlement agreed to by the Chief Minister earlier in the day.

The Syndicate at its meeting on June 18, accepted the medical students' statement and the Chief Minister's proposals and decided to hold the cancelled examination on July 23.

It did not, however, discuss the request made by the students that the Syndicate should condemn the police action.

The Calcutta University Students' Union convened an emergency meeting of the Students' Unions of different colleges in the City. The meeting condemned the police action and decided to carry on a campaign against it.

Calcutta High Court Reject State Appeal

The application for leave to appeal to the Supreme Court against the acquittal of Kansari Haldar by the Government of West Bengal was rejected by Justices S. K. Sen and Amarendra Roy of the Calcutta High Court on June 15.

BE recalled here that the appeal of Kansari Haldar against his life imprisonment was filed in the Calcutta High Court several months back and in a judgment delivered on April 15 Justices B. K. Bhattacharya and K. C. Sen acquitted him and ordered for his release.

In 1950, thirty peasant leaders, including Gajen Mall, were arrested in connection with the so-called Kankarpur conspiracy case and they were proceeded against in the Court of special judge constituted under the Special Courts Act. Later on, the Calcutta High Court declared the provisions of the Special Courts Act as ultra vires and quashed the trial. Again the trial was restarted in 1952 in the court of R. K. Das, a Special Tribunal constituted under the Tribunals of Criminal Jurisdiction Act.

Following the evidence of prosecution witnesses, three accused were discharged and sentences were awarded against Gajen Mall and others.

Kansari Haldar, who was among the six declared absconders in this case was elected to the Lok Sabha in 1957 and in the same year he was arrested in Delhi and brought to trial before

Report from West Bengal

this Tribunal at Alipur. Jogen Guria, another alleged absconder was also arrested.

When charges were framed against them, they moved the High Court to quash these charges but their application was dismissed. The Supreme Court also rejected their prayer. Afterwards the trial continued for six months and the Tribunal in its verdict sentenced Kansari Haldar for life imprisonment and acquitted Jogen Guria.

Against this conviction, Kansari Haldar had appealed to the High Court and he was acquitted on April 15, 1962.

Medical Men Confer For Peace

A convention of prominent medical practitioners of Calcutta, many of whom are internationally known, against a nuclear war and for complete disarmament was held in Calcutta on June 17.

THE convention was organised by the medical practitioners themselves. Vivekananda Mukherjee, Editor of Yugantar and President of West Bengal Peace Council, was the chief guest.

Speaking at the Convention, Dr. K. K. Sen Gupta said that underdeveloped countries were like the "Blood Bank". They were being forced to supply blood for the aggressive bloodthirsty designs of the imperialists.

He further pointed out that about Rs. 60,000 crores were being spent in different countries for the manufacture of weapons of mass destruction. As a result, the progress of underdeveloped countries was at stake.

Vivekananda Mukherjee said that the world peace movement today had become a very powerful movement. Yet, the people in India did not know much about it. This was because the newspapers in the country, which were controlled by the capitalists, did not publish news about the peace movement.

Pointing out that 300 million dollars were being spent daily on war preparations, he observed that internationally renowned economists were of the opinion that even if only 20 per cent of this sum was utilised for the development of all the underdeveloped countries in the world, their socio-economic conditions would have been radically changed.

Other speakers included Dr. Amiya Basu, Dr. K. K. Ghose, Dr. Eudendra Kumal Pal and Dr. A. M. O. Gani, M.L.A. The resolution unanimously passed at the convention said that from immemorial times the science and practice of medicine had played an outstanding role in the ceaseless battle against disease and death.

The ideal of medical profession was opposed to all kinds of aggressive wars; it stood for peace. The threat of war, and the actual continuation of war in some areas were undermining peace and happiness in human society.

Pointing out that nuclear explosions for purposes of war preparations had astounded the peoples of the world, the resolution further said that atomic power could help in the progress of different nations especially in diagnosing and curing incurable diseases. But the effects of nuclear explosions for war preparations would be the death and permanent invalidity of millions of people.

Anti-Nuclear Arms Convention...

*FROM PAGE THREE

blem of war and human nature in general stood in marked contrast to the approach contained in, say, a significant passage in the speech delivered by Rajaji at the opening session of the Convention.

"There are several people", he said, "who, when it is a question of choice between Communist aggression and the danger to human life which is even present when nuclear testing goes on prefer the latter in order to save themselves from the former".

This was the crucial feature of the situation today; and it was this that was totally missed in the Statement which called for a revival of the Gandhian traditions of "self-purification, self-suffering and evolution of peaceful approaches in dealing with domestic problems as well as those that have arisen with her neighbours".

Whether the leaders of the Gandhi Peace Foundation liked it or not, the fact remained that the present-day world was witnessing historic changes.

Two social systems—those of capitalism and socialism—are competing with each other in the economic, ideological and political spheres. The champions of each believe that the future of humanity rests with the system which they represent.

Should they be allowed to settle this question by use of state power; should they, in other words, be allowed to use their arms and armies to settle the conflict; or should the competition between them be severely restricted to the economic, ideological and political spheres; should the common people in every country be allowed to see for themselves and decide for themselves as to which system was better?

Having taken this first step towards building a broad movement for disarmament, one hopes, they would also shed their sectarian approach to the peace movement which has already got going and has to its credit some remarkable achievements.

No Subterfuge

This is the crucial question which cannot be evaded when one discusses questions of war and peace today. It was, however, precisely this question that the Gandhians wanted to avoid by talking of "age-long human tradition of settling conflicts by resort to violence".

One hopes that the two streams of the Indian peace movement—one which has been functioning for over a decade and one which got itself formed last week—will be joined together into one great river and water our natural soil with the inspiring message of a new world without arms, a world which settles all questions of dispute between nations through peaceful and civilised ways.

American Attempt To Take Aerial-Photo Of Greater Calcutta

Communist daily Swadhinata on June 15 published a sensational report exposing the attempts of U.S. experts to get aerial photos of Greater Calcutta and to take them to USA.

SOME months ago, the West Bengal Government set up the Calcutta Metropolitan Planning Organisation (CMPO) under the advice of the experts of the Ford Foundation for the development of Greater Calcutta.

The region, which falls within the jurisdiction of two corporations (including Calcutta corporation), 30 municipalities and one non-municipal town, covers an area of over 270 sq. miles in and around Calcutta city proper.

In The Name Of Loans For Development

The total cost of the development is estimated at Rs. 400 crores, major portion of which is expected to be advanced as loans by the Ford

Foundation and other U.S. imperialist agencies. A team of Ford Foundation experts are now in Calcutta, working, it is claimed, on different aspects of a "Master Plan" for Greater Calcutta.

It is now learnt on the highest authority that these experts commissioned a private airline company to take aerial photos of the entire region, for which they were promised all necessary equipments and other facilities. It was further settled that the photos would be taken to USA for "expert examination."

Proposal Turned-down

It is reported that Chief Minister Dr. B. C. Roy at first gave his consent to the proposal. But subsequently, on the ad-

vice of a certain Indian officer, he sought the opinion of the Defence Department of the Union Government. The Department categorically turned down the proposal.

Worried over this decision, the head of the U. S. experts in Calcutta repeatedly pressed Dr. Roy for permission to take away the aerial photos to USA. But he firmly supported the views of the Defence Department.

IAF Does The Job

The Indian Air Force personnel then took aerial photographs under the supervision of the Defence Department.

The U. S. experts thereafter insisted on taking these photos to USA. Unable to persuade Dr. Roy, they tried to convince the Union Defence Department, that it was necessary to take the photos to USA for a "proper study", because "technical" facilities for the purpose were not avail-

able in India. They even threatened to stop their work in connection with the CMPO.

But the Government did not budge an inch. So the attempts of the "experts" to use the photos for their Government's war conspiracies were frustrated for the time being. But the need for constant vigilance remains as urgent as before.

The photos, it is reported, have now been handed over to a team of the Union Government's Survey of India for study. They are being kept in the "strong room" of the CMPO.

What About Safe-Custody?

Knowledgeable circles here are, however, of the opinion that the photos should be kept in Fort William, Calcutta, or any other safe place. They should be taken to the CMPO office when needed for work, but should be again removed to the "strong room."

It should be remembered in this connection that the Communist Party had repeatedly warned

the Government, both inside and outside the State Legislature, that there were sinister designs behind the "magnanimous" offer of technical help and loans by the Ford Foundation and other U. S. imperialist agencies for the development of Greater Calcutta. But the Government paid no heed to these warnings. Even now, the U. S. experts continue to wield considerable influence in the CMPO.

Tape-Recorder Mania

According to a latest information received, it is learnt that the Americans in the CMPO have developed a "tape-recorder-fobia".

This could be only discovered when the West Bengal Government wanted to install a tape recorder in the conference room of the CMPO. It is reported that the American experts raised vehement objections to this installation and therefore for the time being the proposal has been shelved. The reason for this 'objection' is only too obvious.

Recognise Algerian Government

YAKER APPEALS TO INDIA

Importance of explaining to the European population of Algeria "the guarantees contained in the Evian Agreements" was raised by Layashi Yaker, Representative of the Provisional Government of the Algerian Republic in India, at a meeting in Delhi on June 18.

LAYASHI Yaker, who was speaking at a meeting organised by the Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee,

said that "it became evident that the Europeans had not even read the Evian Agreements. The Algerian Press which is controlled by the O.A.S. had not given the Europeans necessary explanations regarding the safeguard of their rights."

He observed that the OAS realising that "the independence of Algeria on the basis of the Evian Agreements could no more be tampered with nor could it be delayed" has gone in for "a policy of systematic destruction of all that could be of some use to

the Algerian State, a policy of economic and administrative sabotage."

Mr. Yaker however warned that "it is too early to give credence to the bona fides of the OAS" and hence, "public opinion should not be allowed to slacken its vigilance".

Giving details of OAS atrocities, Mr. Yaker said that more than five thousand Algerians had been killed in the last three months since the

signing of the Evian Agreements on March 18, while several enterprises, Government buildings, hospitals, schools and the Algiers University with its famous library had been destroyed.

He disclosed that three lakh refugees had begun re-entering Algeria while twenty lakh

Algerians had been placed in regrouping camps in Algeria.

Appealing for material aid "besides political and diplomatic support", he made a special reference to the National Committee for aid to Algeria, which pressed for immediate recognition of the Algerian Government by the Government of India and for the condemnation of the OAS.

The Committee has also appealed to the Indian public for material aid particularly, textile, medicines and the dispatch of a medical mission.

AMERICAN AUDACITY!

CALCUTTA The audacity of American employers seem to have reached dangerous heights.

IT is reported that the management of Ludlow Jute Mills (managed by Americans) refused to allow the Jute Wage Board to visit their mills. Not only that, they did not even send answers to many points of the questionnaire issued by the Wage Board.

The members of the Wage Board, in their sit-

ting in Calcutta on June 15, are reported to have taken strong exception to this attitude of the American management and termed this behaviour as one amounting to non-cooperation with the Jute Wage Board.

The Chairman of the Wage Board once again directed the management of the Mill to come before the Wage Board and explain the position, but the Managing Director refused to come on the plea that he was 'busy'.

Fraternal Help?

JAMSHEDPUR, June 19

THE Tata Iron and Steel Company has released its Blast furnace Superintendent at Jamshedpur for urgent assignment at Rourkela, it is learnt.

This gesture by the Tatas—coming to the rescue of the public sector—is being characterised here as the private sector's spectacular move "to earn the goodwill of the nation". The TISCO blast furnace Superintendent, Dr. K. Majumdar, in an engineer with a long experience of service and excellent record at Jamshedpur. (IPA)

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