

LISTEN Mr. BOWLES

This Is Voice Of India

OPEN LETTER FROM NEW AGE TO U. S. AMBASSADOR

DEAR MR. CHESTER BOWLES,

LAST WEEK, ON JULY 25, YOU ADDRESSED A PRESS CONFERENCE IN NEW DELHI. PATRIOTIC INDIAN OPINION TAKES STRONG EXCEPTION TO CERTAIN REMARKS MADE BY YOU DURING THIS CONFERENCE.

You had no business, as a foreigner, a guest on our soil, an Ambassador accredited to our country, to express the hope that the VOA-AIR "agreement would be carried through"—at a moment when you knew full well that PRIME MINISTER NEHRU himself had declared that the agreement was under reconsideration.

YOU yourself were, at the time you made this declaration, negotiating with our External Affairs Ministry this very reconsideration. You knew well the misgivings expressed regarding the agreement, not only by the Indian people, but also by the head of the government, to which you are accredited.

Abuse Of Hospitality

How then did you use our soil, the hospitality of our capital, to tell us that the VOA deal is "a good and helpful arrangement for both countries"? Did you think that the Voice of America must make itself heard, through you, in opposition to India, even before the dirty

deal is implemented, and the transmitter is installed?

The columns of the monopoly press in India are, of course, always open to US propaganda, and, presumably, the owners of the newspapers concerned are well compensated by the dollar lords for the space they receive for their cold-war activities.

But since when has a U.S. ambassador in our country—whose duty is to build friendship with India—thought it necessary to carry out an anti-Indian crusade himself?

Bypassing Government

What sort of diplomacy is this, which makes you seek Indian public support over the

heads of our government, in favour of an agreement, whose reconsideration you yourself are at the very same time negotiating on behalf of your government? Did you hold the press conference in order to give a sort of ultimatum to India that you were in no mood to agree to the Indian insistence that the VOA should not be granted any facilities for broadcasting from Indian soil?

MR. BOWLES, INDIA IS NOT AN AMERICAN COLONY, AND THE US AMBASSADOR IS NOT THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL.

Five days after you spoke here, Prime Minister Nehru's daughter and personal emissary, addressed a press conference in Moscow and said in reference to the VOA controversy:

"We need powerful transmitters. But we are not going to allow foreign countries to use them. We shall not take the equipment otherwise..."

What have you to say to this, Ambassador Bowles? Or are you going to start now a debate with the Prime Minister on what is good for India and what is not?

Delhi Youth demonstrating before Prime Minister's residence protesting against AIR-VOA deal and joint Air Exercises on July 29.
See Report Page 15

S. A. DANGE IN MOSCOW

S. A. DANGE, Chairman of the Communist Party of India, arrived in Moscow on July 30, at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee. At Sheremetyevo airport he was met by secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, BORIS PONOMAREV, secretary of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Union, VASILY PROKHOROV, secretary of the Moscow City Committee of the CPSU, VICTOR TUROVTSEV, and other officials of the Central Committee.



NEW AGE

* COMMUNIST PARTY WEEKLY *

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Your confidence in making your press statement on the VOA contract, in the face of India's opposition, probably arises from the fact that you suffer from the usual disease of the US imperialists of believing that your dollars can buy anything.

There is one thing your dollars cannot buy: and that is the Indian people's

honour. It is time you heard the voice of India, of the real India—and not of the little men in high places, who signed away India's honour, when they made the VOA agreement with you.

The real India is not composed of the kowtowing officials or of dubious deputy

* ON PAGE THIRTEEN

COLOMBO POWERS MUST ACT

Editorial

THERE IS GRAVE concern among all sections of our people at the news of a Chinese military build up on our

borders. Anxiety is heightened by the aggressive army manoeuvres and threats by the Pakistan Government, which is obviously acting now in close collusion with the Chinese Government.

The Government of India has drawn the attention of the Six Colombo powers and other governments of the world to the dangerous situation arising from the intrusion at some places of Chinese forces into the demilitarised zones and from the offensive postures and provocative acts of the Chinese Government.

Recent bellicose writings in the Chinese press and statements by Chinese leaders will fill all peace-loving mankind with serious apprehensions. The brazen manner in which the Chinese leaders are attacking the test ban agreement reached at Moscow is comparable only to the attitude taken by the extreme war-maniacs in the USA. It is no accident that the Chinese press is today lauding the opposition to the test ban of the government of General de Gaulle and of the West German militarists and revanchists.

Again, the Chinese press has launched a new round of abuse and slander against India and its policies. Its writings indicate that it is determined to "prove" that India is already aligned with the West. It does not seem to care very much what means are used to make this wish of the Chinese leaders come true.

All this provides the menacing background to the present Chinese military build-up, which is actively backed by Pakistani forces. There is, therefore, justified uneasiness in all patriotic circles in the country.

It is the most reactionary sections inside the country, and their imperialist masters, who gain the maximum from the Chinese threats and aggressive postures.

The Rightist parties and forces are once more on the offensive against the basic policies, openly demanding a line-up with the West, and the resignation of the Prime Minister. The Right within the Congress openly and unashamedly helps the Right outside the Congress.

The danger for our country of the continuing

* ON PAGE THIRTEEN

Goa Popular Front Programme Finalised

VOICE OF ALL DEMOCRATIC FORCES

★ From Our Correspondent

PANJIM, July 26: A meeting of representatives of mass organisations and leaders of trade unions and kisan organisations in Goa was held at Panjim on July 21 to finalise a programme of the FRENTE POPULAR (Popular Front) as an all-Goa organisation to represent the democratic forces in Goa.

THE Frente Popular has Bertal Menezes Braganza as its chairman. Among other office-bearers of the Front are: George Vas, a member of the present Informal Consultative Council, Gerald Ferreira, general secretary of the Marmagao Port, Dock and Transport Workers Union, Narayan Desai of the Goa Kisan Sangh, Divakar Kakodkar, President of the Goa State Trade Union Council, Dr. Eduardo Das, editor of the Portuguese weekly LUTA, Narayan Palekar, Dattaram

Desai, J. B. S. D'Cruz and others.

The Frente Popular has welcomed the enactment of the Union Territories Act which opens a new chapter in liberated Goa's existence as an integral part of the sovereign democratic Republic of India.

The election in Goa will give the Goan people the opportunity for the first time to further develop and strengthen the democratic rights achieved by them and to usher in a genuine democratic re-

gime through their elected representatives in the Assembly and Parliament.

The need of the moment is, therefore, for all who stand for the democratic rights of the people to forge a broad united front to resist the reactionary forces in the country interested in maintaining the old semi-feudal colonial structure in Goa.

The Frente Popular is an organisation of different classes and social groups carrying on mass work.

The Chairman of the Frente Popular addressed a press conference at the Vasco da Gama Club on July 25 when the Programme of the Front was released to press.

and the laissez faire attitude of the administration, allowing profiteering to flourish unhampered.

As in the old regime, arbitrariness, nepotism and corruption seem to be the hall-mark of the new bureaucratic set-up. And dissatisfaction reigns among all sections of the people.

Development schemes remain on paper. Only agrarian reforms there is of a make-show in the form of arbitrary orders by the Governor, which can be revoked by equally arbitrary counter-orders, and with no machinery for their implementation.

Panchayats elected with great enthusiasm by the people, exercising their full franchise rights brought to them for the first time by the liberation, remain paralysed for the absence of the means to function.

The Indian Labour Laws enforced in Goa as a result of the tenacious fight put up for them by the Goan workers, exercising their right to organise themselves in trade unions—and announced with great fanfare on the first anniversary of Liberation—still remain inadequately implemented.

The people look on this sorry state of affairs with dismay and indignation. They wonder what has become of the rights and benefits that the Indian Constitution has extended to them. They wonder what has become of the Indian Government's policies of economic and social welfare of the people, the "socialist pattern of society", the basic principle of India's economic policy.

A change in the prevailing conditions is imperative. And the time has come for the Goan people to set about bringing in that change. The enactment of the Union Territories Act opens a new chapter in liberated Goa's existence as an integral part of the Sovereign Democratic Republic of India!

With an elected representation in Parliament, an elected Legislative Assembly and a Council of Ministers respon-

BERTA BRAGANZA'S STATEMENT

The enactment of the Union Territories Act opens a new phase in the life of liberated Goa as an integral part and parcel of the Sovereign Democratic Republic of India. It marks the coming end of the bureaucratic regime under which Goa has been living since its liberation from colonial domination: a regime which has discredited liberation, discredited the Indian government and discredited Indian democracy; a regime in which the people of Goa had no voice.

THE very restriction, the very limitation of rights—compared with the rights enjoyed by the peoples of the other States in India—which the Act entails points to what it means for the Goan people not to have had in Parliament, when the Union Territories Bill was being discussed, genuine representatives, capable of defending and safeguarding the rights and interests of the people.

But in spite of these restrictions and limitations, the Act is welcome for the opportunity it provides to bring about its own amendment and revision. If it curtails the rights of the Legislative Assembly it does not tamper with the right of the people of Goa to have its elected representatives in Parliament.

The main issue facing us today is to bring about a speedy economic development which alone can provide full employment and a dignified life for every Goan. And the only way of bringing this about is by a radical change in the present semi-feudal, colonial social and economic set-up. Towards that end it is necessary that all who stand for the democratic rights of the people rally together to resist the reactionary forces interested in maintaining the status quo. The FRENTE POPULAR aims just at that unity.

The FRENTE POPULAR is open to all Goans willing to co-operate with its programme.

It shall work for the full utilization of the resources of Goa in benefit of its people. It shall work for the introduction of agrarian, industrial, judicial, social and educational reforms which will raise the economic, social and cultural level of the people as a whole.

It shall work for a clean and efficient administration. The FRENTE POPULAR stands for full democratic rights and against all forms of human exploitation.

able to the Legislature, we are now equipped to further develop and strengthen the democratic rights achieved by us to usher in the genuine democratic regime such as our liberation from colonial domination must imply: a regime of equality of opportunities and economic welfare of all.

The need of the moment is, therefore, for all those who stand for the democratic rights of the people to forge a broad, united front to resist the reactionary forces in the country interested in maintaining the status quo, that is, the semi-feudal colonial conditions still prevailing and undermining the political, social, economic and cultural advancement of the Goan people as a whole.

Such a front already exists but needs to be further strengthened and expanded. That front is the "FRENTE POPULAR" (JANATA AGHADI).

The FRENTE POPULAR is an organization of different classes and social groups of the people and enjoying the support of the most representative trade unions and kisan organisations.

It has to its credit several agitations launched to safeguard the interests of the people. Rallies and demonstrations against price increase and black-marketeering were organised by the FRENTE POPULAR and as a result, fair-price shops were opened by the government. Particularly in Vasco da Gama, Marmagao Harbour, Sanvordem-Curchorem, Assonora, Sanquelim, Bicholim and other places. It also organized agitation for obtaining democratic rights and in support of the just demands of the workers and peasants.

The FRENTE POPULAR stands for:

★ ON PAGE 14

GREAT PETITION TO PARLIAMENT

Quotas Exceed One Crore Signatures

* The signature quotas undertaken by the State units now exceed one crore.

* Andhra has accepted a quota of collecting 20 lakh signatures.

* 2,000 signature-collecting squads have already been formed. Many more are under formation.

* 20 lakh signatures have already been collected.

* 50 lakh people have already been covered by meetings and demonstrations.

* Two lakh workers of Bombay went on pay-strike on July 10.

* 50,000 signatures were collected in one day on July 14 in Cannanore.

* 50,000 strong demonstration took place on July 14 at Quilon.

20 LAKH SIGNATURES ALREADY COLLECTED

Right: Women workers of Clive Jute Mills (near Calcutta) putting signatures on the Great Petition. — PHOTO: ABANI GUHA

Below: An old lady of a weaver family in Delhi putting her thumb impression on the Petition.



Peasants And Workers' Support

THE Kerala State Trade Union Council as well as the Kerala Karshaka Sangham meeting at Trichur on July 26 have endorsed the proposal to organise collection of signatures from all the members and sympathisers on the Great Petition to Parliament.

The constituent units of both the Trade Union Council and the Karshaka Sangham have been directed to take quotas for collection and complete it by third week of August.

— PHOTOS: VIRENDRA KUMAR

Kerala ★ From S. SHARMA

HALT SCRAPPING OF AGRARIAN RELATIONS ACT

Call for Statewide Movement

TRIVANDRUM: The stage is being set for the great betrayal of Kerala's poor peasants by the Congress Ministry in the state through its move to scrap the Kerala Agrarian Relations Act and bring in a new legislation designed to safeguard the interests of big landlords.

THE discussions that have been going on at Cabinet level have resulted in the decision to draft a new Bill and bury in its entirety the present Act, first passed during the tenure of the Communist Ministry and vehemently opposed by the most reactionary landed interests in the state.

Towards this end, the pressure brought to bear on the Union Government both by the present Ministry and big landlords in Kerala is reported to have yielded results—the Union Government is reported to have agreed to drop the move to include the Kerala Agrarian Relations Act in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution.

It will be recalled that the Constitution (Seventeenth) Amendment Bill, now before Parliament, seeks to protect land reform legislations in the states and particularly Kerala Agrarian Relations Act, some of the whose provisions were struck down by successive Supreme Court and High Court judgments.

Landlords' Opposition

The landlords in Kerala and the Kerala Government had come out strongly against this welcome measure introduced by the Union Government in the last session of Parliament. The state government resisted the idea of including the Kerala Agrarian Relations Act in the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution and thus revalidating it. It wanted a free hand to introduce a new legislation more to the liking of landed interests in the state.

He is reported to have added that as far as he was concerned this was a "prestige" issue, meaning thereby that he would not hesitate to resign, if the Union Government went ahead with their Amendment unmindful of the opinions of the state government.

All this pressure seems to have succeeded and the Centre yielded to the state government. The story of this betrayal of peasant interests is a long one and shows the collusion of the Congress Ministry with the vested landed interests in Kerala.

The Agrarian Relations Act which was brought on the anvil by the Communist Ministry was passed after a discussion lasting forty full days. As many as 2,000 amendments were moved to the

Bill under the stewardship of the then Opposition Leader Chacko and these were discussed threadbare. The provisions of the Bill were universally acclaimed as just with the result that Chacko or the Congress dared not oppose its basic propositions.

But the first blow against this Bill was the "Operation Overthrow" of the Communist regime by the Triple Alliance backed by Mannom, the spokesman of the landed interests and all the reactionary forces in the state.

Pressure Of Movement

A big powerful movement of the kisans was necessary to get the assent of the Governor and of the President later to the Act. Despite all the pressure of the vested interests, both the Law Ministry and the Planning Commission at the Centre blessed this Act fully, for the Act was in consonance with social justice and the principles laid down by the Planning Commission.

The landed interests sought to disrupt the implementation of the Act by challenging certain provisions of it pertaining to definition of "estate" etc. in the Kerala High Court. The Kerala High Court struck down certain provisions as unconstitutional, and utilising this situation, the Kerala Government, egged on by landed interests, suspended the entire Act.

This opened the floodgates of landlord pressure on both the Kerala Government and the Union Government. The landlords wanted that the Magna Carta of the peasants formulated and enacted during the Communist Ministry should be buried fathoms deep and a new bill to protect their rights and

interests formulated. Mannom warned the Congress that he would withdraw his support to them if they went ahead with the present Act.

On the other hand, the entire democratic movement in the country, all the Kisans organised under the Kisan Sabha, the Kisan Panchayat and the Peasant & Labour Party, demanded with one voice that the Act be revalidated by the Union Government bringing in necessary amendments to the Constitution.

The present amendments to the Constitution pending before the Lok Sabha denote this advance of the awakened peasantry. It is interesting to note that the Swatantra Party, through its press, has also mounted a strong attack against the Constitution (Seventeenth) Amendment.

It is learnt that the new Bill being drafted by the Kerala Government will radically differ from the old Act on such vital aspects as (1) the extent of ceiling (2) fixation of fair rent (3) compensation and (4) the right of the landlord to evict. On all these, the vital interests of the overwhelming mass of peasantry are to be sacrificed at the altar of Mannom and his followers.

The move of the Kerala Congress Government is nothing short of open flouting of the declared principles of the Planning Commission on agrarian reforms. It is an open invitation to the landlords to reinstall their rule over the millions of peasants.

All the Kisan organisations have sounded the call to the peasantry to meet the challenge of the landlords and their henchmen.

Already streams of telegrams, letters and postcards are flowing to Delhi, to the Prime Minister and the Planning Commission de-

manding that the Kerala Agrarian Relations Act be included in the 9th Schedule of the Constitution. This movement to preserve the gains of the democratic and agrarian movements is bound to grow in strength in the coming months.

The Executive Committee of the Kerala Karshaka Sangham meeting on July 26 at Trichur expressed grave concern and protest against the reported decision of the Kerala Government to bury the Agrarian Relations Act and bring in a new bill.

The Committee appealed to the Union Government not to yield to the pressure of reactionary interests but to go ahead with the Constitution Amendment Bill designed to revalidate the Agrarian Relations Act.

Defend Kisan Interests

The Committee also appealed to all the Kisan organisations and friends of the Kisan movement to help organise a statewide movement to defend the interests of the Kisans.

The Committee has directed its units to ensure that as many as 50,000 postcards are sent to Nanda, the Union Minister for Planning demanding the enactment of the Constitution Amendment Bill.

The Executive Committee also decided that a deputation led by A. K. Gopalan, MP, President of the All India Kisan Sabha and consisting of V. R. Krishna Iyer, M.L.A., A. V. Raghavan, MP, C. H. Kanaran and P. Pandolam, P. R. should proceed to Delhi to wait on the Central Ministers and present the point of view of the Kisan Sabha.

*By ROMESH CHANDRA

Patil & People's Food

S. K. PATIL must go! Now and without further delay. He has publicly declared that the Defence of India Rules would not be used against profiteering and blackmarketing traders, as long as he is Food Minister. He has equally strongly stated that under his regime, there would be no question of controls or of the State entering the foodgrains trade.

THESE statements are in total contravention of the declared Central Government policies. How does Patil dare to mock at the decisions of the Cabinet, of which he is supposed to be a member?

Patil's food stewardship has been disastrous, precisely because of his failure to act against the sharks responsible for the food crisis.

What are the facts—the very latest available today, as we go to press? The office of the Economic Adviser to the Government of India, has released its statistics on index numbers of wholesale prices for the week ending July 6).

Food articles index jumped in one week from 136.95 to 138.0. And compare this 138 with 133.6 a month ago and 126.6 a year ago. There is a steady rise in cereals, pulses, milk and ghee, etc. Potatoes rose by 12 per cent, rice at Jayanagar by 5 per cent during one week. Price rises are also indicated in pulses, bajra, wheat, jowar, barley, ragi, gur—the people's food.

But the *ann-data* is not worried. Let the food racketeers collect their ill-gotten gain. They can be sure that as long as Patil stays, he has given them his word: no D.I.R., no controls, no State-trading in food.

But must Patil stay? The answer lies with the Indian people. Food demonstrations, meetings in connection with the Great Petition Campaign, hunger marches, all over the country are demanding the resignation of the Profiteer's Minister. S. K. Patil must go!

VICIOUS FABRICATION

The Central Secretariat of the Communist Party of India issued a statement on July 31 describing as of vicious fabrication the report published in certain newspapers on July 30, that the Jails Minister of West Bengal had "revealed" that Communist leader Bhupesh Gupta has written a letter to Prime Minister Nehru, urging the release of some 15 West Bengal detainees, who are supposedly "anti-Chinese". The Minister is reported to have said that the list did not contain the names of such top leaders of the Party as Comrades Muzaffar Ahmad and Jyoti Basu.

THE Communist Party statement says: "The entire story is a complete fabrication, without an iota of truth. The Communist Party strongly condemns the lies and slanders which have accompanied the reports of the fictitious letter."

Further, the statement points out: "The Communist Party and its leaders, including leader of our Party in Parliament, Comrade Bhupesh Gupta, have been repeatedly demanding and making representations for the release of all Communist detainees. Unable to justify continued imprisonment of Communist detainees, interested circles now attempt to spread the suggestion that the Party's leaders are seeking the release only of some detainees."

"The Central Secretariat of the Communist Party of India wishes to repudiate publicly this absolutely false and baseless suggestion."

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happened to reverse this decision?

Have we exchanged the VOA for Bokaro? Have we bartered away a steel mill for the joy of hearing the sound of US super-sonic planes whizzing over our heads?

Bokaro has become a symbol of the complete fiasco of the policy of pushing India into the arms of the imperialist West—so energetically being pursued by a band of anti-national gentlemen, some holding high offices, some at lower rungs, and the rest providing the applause-gangs outside.

The Indian people demand that Subramaniam's pledge is not broken. Let us go ahead with Bokaro—without the dollars.

Bokaro's Challenge

THE sickening story of Bokaro has reached yet another stage. All honest and decent, self-respecting Indians thought the cup of our humiliation had overflowed long ago. But some people evidently enjoy seeing our country spat upon by the dollar lords, for they continue to wait for the crumbs.

The latest announcement of the US A.I.D. chief David Bell simply tells us that the question of aid for Bokaro will not be taken up this year. Lovers of the American "way of life" are taking consolation in the fact that the US House of Representative Foreign Affairs Committee defeated by a narrow majority of 17 to 15 a move to block aid for Bokaro.

But the fact remains that the US announcement of still further delay till next year (at least) of any decision on Bokaro completely dislocates our plans.

The Deputy Steel Minister is reported to have now stated that Bokaro will be pushed off to the Fourth Plan.
Why? Only a few days ago Steel Minister Subramaniam firmly declared that we would go ahead with Bokaro, with or without the USA, What has

VOA: End Mystery

THE mystery of the VOA deal seems to get thicker with everyday. INDIRA GANDHI makes the welcome statement in Moscow that we shall not allow any

foreign power to broadcast from our soil. But no categorical official declaration has yet been made. "Negotiations" continue. We hear again and again that the deal is being "reconsidered," that it is not yet "ratified."

The question is: When will the deal be repudiated finally and for all time?

Demonstrations against the VOA are taking place, but no straight official statement is made which would relieve the anxiety of the

Indian people and of our friends abroad.

On the other hand, the manner in which the Congress Party's student organisation attacked the anti-VOA students' demonstration in Calcutta gives rise to the apprehension that there are influential and powerful Rightwing circles in the ruling party, which are determined to see that the VOA deal goes through.

It is time for an official statement on the VOA which is clear and unambiguous. Till then, the battle against VOA must go on, without false complacency.

(August 1)

WHISPERING GALLERY.....*by Vijayan.....

BELL, BOKARO & BIRLA

AT last the bell has tolled for our Bokaro. DAVID BELL has tolled the bell. He is the A.I.D. chief, a limb of the US Administration and, to boot, a trusted lieutenant of President KENNEDY.

Now read what TTK told the Congress Parliamentary Party Executive Committee on June 17 on US commitment on Bokaro. I am quoting from a P.T.I. message:

"Shri T. T. Krishnamachari, Union Minister for Economic & Defence Co-ordination, is understood to have told the Executive... that the US Administration was 'completely committed' to aid the Bokaro steel plant."

Mark the words completely committed which, according to the P.T.I. were used by TTK himself. Now here comes David Bell and calls TTK, in so many words, a liar. He says there is going to be no decision on Bokaro this year.

MORE sensational is the revelation that accompanies the sad tidings. A gentleman called WILLIAM BROOMFIELD has brandished a broom to tidy up the socialistic mess in our backyard.

Says this representative: "I have evidence from a reliable person in India that it (Bokaro) could be financed from the private sector without help from the US Government." Broomfield declined to name the Indian. But who in India does not know whom he had in mind?

back a blank cheque to finance the Congress and started the spiral of political corruption?

It is an open secret that BIRLAJI has been trying his damnest to snatch away the proposed steel plant from the public sector to his own sector with the help of KAISERS and KOPPERS of the United States.

In the P.T.I. message from which I have quoted, there is a passage which provides the key to this supposed mystery. It reads:

"Shri C. SUBRAMANIAM, Minister for Steel & Heavy Industries, it is learnt, pointed out to the members (of the Congress Executive) that industrialists had told the Americans that it would be in the interest of the country that Bokaro was taken up by the public sector."

We already know that J. R. D. TATA and BHARAT RAM, President of the FICCI, have publicly stated that they had no objection to Bokaro being in the public sector.

The other week Minister Subramaniam entertained newsmen, especially American, at his residence. He treated them with *idlis* and after the treat he gave them a bit of his mind about American prevarication on Bokaro.

On that occasion when he was handing out *chilli powder* to go with the *idlis* he also darkly hinted at the Marwadi tycoon who was troubling the waters for his ministry.

Ordinarily this kind of thing should be dealt with under the Defence of India Act. But I am certainly not saying that GHANASHYAM-DASJI is going to keep company with brother Seth RAM-KRISHNA DALMIA. He is a patriot *par excellence*. Hadn't he given to GANDHIJI way

THERE is a spate of indignant protests against the publication of the lurid details of the KEELER case in the Indian press. And rightly so.

I&B Minister, GOPAL REDDY set the ball rolling. It came up in the West Bengal legislature. The Chairman told a member not to raise it at all lest the papers publish more of this sordid stuff. And later we read that some of the Gujarat papers had the good sense to take the British sex dolls off their pages.

Well done! But I also wish that some one in authority had taken note of what Air Vice-Marshal HARJINDER SINGH has been saying these days during his rounds of farewell trips.

Harjinder Singh is the builder of the AVRO. On July 22 he said at Allahabad (he had said it earlier at several other places) certain things about our press. Let me quote him:

"When AVRO 'Subroto' was on a demonstration flight in Cambodia, PRINCE NORODOM SIHANOUK, Cambodian head of State, had confronted us with an editorial of a leading Indian newspaper containing derogatory remarks about the AVRO and asked me if it was worth importing."

Harjinder Singh added: "This tendency is irresponsible, mischievous and TRAITOROUS." I know the team immediately on its return reported to the Government of India that the editorial that was brandished by the Prince was from the HINDUSTAN TIMES. But in the government who bothers about traitors?

Stop L.I.C. Investment In Stock Exchange

The government says it wants money for development and for defence. So, it wants you to save, even if you are poor, even if your salary is below the living wage. Save and give it to them.

* By S. A. DANGE

IN order to cultivate in you the habit to save, government wants to use compulsion. Hence the Compulsory Deposit Scheme. You must be compelled, otherwise, you citizens of India, you workers, you peasants and middle class men, you have no sense to live economically within Rs. 125 per month.

Even if prices rise, you must save. Even if the speculators, financiers, wholesalers or shopkeepers board things and raise prices, you must learn to save. Starve and die, if you like, but save, so that the nation may develop for your sons and daughters, for your posterity.

So bring the COMPULSORY deposits WILLINGLY. Compulsion is democracy and freedom. Give the government Rs. 60 crores.

May we ask a question to the government and to Morarjibhai particularly, who

believes in compulsions as the greatest form of democracy?

What do you do with the money which people already save and give into your charge? Is that used for development and defence, when you are so much in need? Which money are we referring to?

Thousands of people insure their lives and future for the sake of their family in the Life Insurance Corporation. In 1961 the number of policies issued was 14,61,608. People insure their lives, they take annuities of various kinds. They put in money in the salary savings scheme with the LIC.

How much money people gave to the LIC in 1961? They gave Rs. 112.30 crores.

What did the LIC, that is the government which owns and runs the LIC, do with this money?

You would think that as the government is so much in

need of money, it must have taken over these Rs. 112 crores and put it to the use of the state.

Yes, they took 78 per cent of this money for their own schemes. Well and good.

But what did they do with the rest? You would be surprised to know that the LIC every year takes your savings and goes into the speculative stock market to buy and sell shares. Every year, out of the savings of the people given to the LIC and the government, about 25 to 30 crores are invested in the stock exchange operations. Do they do it for national development? Nothing of the kind.

Whenever the stock exchange markets get into a crisis due to the activities of the big hardened speculators, the LIC goes there to

save them and uses your money for that purpose. What business has the government to use our savings to save the speculators? If they collapse, neither industry nor development will collapse.

Help To Speculators

See the report of the Reserve Bank. There you will read how every time the speculators were in trouble, the LIC entered the market to save them. The markets were falling in December due to rumours of higher taxation for defence. Speculators were in trouble and the LIC entered the market to save it (page 60, see also page 62).

So, if our savings are to be used to save the speculators, why should we save and give to the government? What moral right has the government to compel us to save so that they can put Rs. 30 crores on the stock-exchange to save the big sharks of capitalist speculators?

Please, Mr. Finance Minister, answer this and then ask us to save more and give our poor man's money into your hands. Is not your slogan of development and defence a smoke-screen to enrich your class brothers, the big monopolists and speculators?

Otherwise, why do you allow Rs. 30 crores every year to be put in speculators' den of the stock exchange?

We, therefore, ask you to take away that 30 crores of rupees from the speculators' den.

the dearness allowances which are linked to the Index be raised and paid with retrospective effect from March 1963.

2 We request that government should call a conference of the representatives of all the trade unions in the city of Bombay and in Maharashtra and of all the major employers to discuss the question of revision of dearness allowance and compensation for loss in real wages.

3 This conference should discuss ways and means of effective control of prices and distribution.

4 We also wish to point out that your predecessor, when confronted with the problem of bonus in the textile industry which was in arrears for three years and which could not be resolved through the usual processes of law and bargaining between the recognised union under the BIR and the employees gave an award. This award in effect comes to an average of Rs. 3.60 crores for each year as bonus to the textile workers.

Now the last year's bonus is due to the textile workers. The year is already over. It is our proposal that the bonus for this year should not be subjected to the usual dilatory process. The government should move in the matter and see that the bonus this year is paid within about a month's time.

It is possible, if all the three parties, that is workers, employers and government agree, to come to the decision to give the workers immediately an ad hoc bonus as was the average of the previous three years that is Rs. 3.60 crores. If, however, a demand is to be formulated by the union and they and the industry are to agree to the case, this proposal of ad hoc quick settlement will be ruled out. Then

the workers claim will be of a higher order, (i.e. Rs. 4½ crores or so) with all the consequences that follow.

Ad Hoc Bonus

It is said that the employees may like to wait for the Bonus Commission. Such waiting will not cure matters, as delay in paying bonus will lead to another ground for unrest and even strike struggles. The Bonus Commission's recommendations will surely take time to become effective.

Hence to pay on the basis of the three years average is the best solution.

Though the Bombay Girmi Kamgar Union is not recognised under the BIR, it played a decisive role in the last settlement. Hence that union is writing to the employers and to the Sangh also on these lines. So along with the problem of all the workers and people in general, we have also placed before you the textile workers' problem as they constitute the largest part of the industry in the city.

5 Our proposal is that government and employers should move in these matters without raising any questions of prestige or pre-conditions or technical objections. Because the situation affects the lives of millions of toiling people.

markets and their shares and put them to government's use. Take those Rs. 30 crores and leave the peasants free from the compulsory surcharge on the land revenue for the Compulsory Deposit Scheme. Throw out the speculators and save the peasant from the surcharge. Throw out the speculators and save the workers from paying the Compulsory Deposit.

Collusion with Monopolists

Otherwise, we charge you that in the name of Emergency, Development and Defence, you are using the patriotism of the people to take money from the poor to save the speculators and enrich the big monopolists. Will you stop the investing of crores of the LIC in the stock exchange, in the shares of the already running industries and take the money for the use of the government?

DOWN WITH YOUR STOCK EXCHANGE INVESTMENT AT THE COST OF PEOPLE'S SAVINGS IN THE LIC!

DOWN WITH YOUR CDS!

SAVINGS FOR THE NATION—YES.

SAVINGS FOR THE SPECULATORS AND THE EXPLOITERS' GANG—NO.

6 Finally, we request you to immediately release all the political prisoners detained under the Defence of India Act, most of whom are active trade union functionaries.

We have put our programme of the Great Petition and Morcha at the end of the month of August.

But if government and the employers do not show any signs of negotiating, consulting and conceding the legitimate demands, the question before us and the whole trade union movement and people is—what next? And how long to wait for you to act effectively against the vested interests and in favour of the people?

Is it to be an inevitable practice that government and employers will not move unless a strike takes place and that they will first move only with repressive steps? We do not think you should follow such a course.

As far as we are concerned, we have put the matter before you. We have suggested steps that you should take. We have also told you what the situation is and what our programme is.

If after all this, no concessions come to the people, a protest strike will become inevitable. We may have to take recourse to it just to impress upon all concerned the acuteness of suffering and the necessity of real relief and not mere promises and pious orders, of which we have had many.

We hope you will agree to our proposals.

Letter To Maharashtra Chief Minister

Protest Strike If Conditions Don't Improve

* From Our Correspondent

BOMBAY: S. A. Dange, general secretary, AITUC; R. N. JOGLEKAR, president, Maharashtra Rajya TUC and S. G. PATKAR, secretary, Bombay workers' action committee against high prices, increased taxes etc., wrote a letter to M. S. KANNAMWAR, Chief Minister of Maharashtra, on July 22 drawing his attention to the acute problems from which the people and particularly the workers are suffering in Maharashtra.

The letter calls upon the Chief Minister to accept certain proposals which it outlined. Following are relevant portions of the letter:

WE are approaching you with this letter to invite your government's attention to the acute problems from which all the people and particularly the workers and fixed salaried employees are suffering in this state, as everywhere else. These problems in the main today are high prices and cost of living, the failure of the government and employers to control them, or give adequate dearness allowance to neutralise them.

As you are aware we have launched a Great Petition to Parliament and a March to Delhi to present it, on behalf of the people throughout the country, as the problem of prices, taxes, Compulsory Deposit Scheme, surcharges and nationalisation is an all-India problem.

But there is something which concerns the Maharashtra government and the employers here, though the problem is an all-India one. You are perfectly aware that in spite of government's very threatening orders and speeches, prices are not coming down nor are the employers ready to concede larger dearness allowance. The deliberations at the Indian Labour Conference held recently in Delhi also showed that the situation is grave and has to be remedied quickly by giving relief to the mass of workers and salaried employees.

With this view, we are approaching you with the following proposals:

It is well-known that the cost of living index does not reflect the actual state of prices. The shopkeepers give to your Labour Office the figures of prices as enjoined in government orders. But in reality the overwhelming majority of supplies have to be bought not at declared and controlled prices but at black prices. Hence since March, when the Budget came in with the new taxes, the cost of living for the workers rose high. But it was not reflected in the index. The result is that those whose dearness allowance is linked to cost of living in some form or another are getting less dearness allowance and have thus suffered a wage-cut and to that extent the employers have made larger profits.

In view of this, you should take steps to see that the index is revised retrospectively on the basis of actual prices and direct that

SHADOW OF FAMINE LOOMS LARGE

JAIPUR: Rajasthan is facing a severe draught with almost complete failure of the monsoon for the major part of the state and the prospects of one of the severest famines is looming large.

THE average rainfall in the middle and western part of the state is about 12 to 20 inches a year. This year however there is hardly any rain at all. In some places there have been some showers but the average rain is almost 25 per cent of the normal.

In major parts however there has been complete failure of monsoon. For the whole of July the poor kisans have every day and night been watching the sky, trying to follow the least speck hoping that it would swell into a regular cloud and give some rains. But in vain. The rains have, it seems, completely "forgotten" this state this year.

This has naturally created a grave situation. Despite many small and medium irrigation works and the completion of the Bhakra and Chambal projects, the total percentage of arable land which receives irrigation facilities is only 16. This means that for almost 85 per cent of the arable land, agriculture is a real gamble with the monsoon.

The result is that not only there is an almost complete failure of the Rabi crops, but there is even a greater scarcity of fodder and drinking water. The scarcity of fodder has already started its ravages. People have started migrating with their cattle to the adjoining areas of Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. But not all are able to complete the journey. Hundreds of cattle die on the way; their carcass

scattered on the fields. Fodder has become a rare thing. The rates of fodder have shot up to the abnormal level of Rs. 8 to Rs. 10 per maund.

Food Prices Increase

The famine situation has started affecting the food prices too. Already during the last ten days prices of food grains have increased considerably. Wheat which was selling just a few days back at Rs. 16 per maund has shot up to Rs. 18.50 to Rs. 19 per maund. And this is only the beginning. Hoarding has begun and dangers are there that in the coming months the state would be faced with a serious food problem.

From all reports and accounts, it is obvious that Rajasthan is facing a famine, the dangerous prospects of which would be far worse than even the 1951-52 famine.

The state government has formally admitted the seriousness of the situation. But this admission too has come much after it was due and what is worse is that the measures that have been decided are being taken are too half-hearted and inadequate.

Government, it seems, has decided to mobilise fodder from the Suratgarh farm. However the total fodder available at the farm is just 1,000 maunds or so. Government

has decided to try to secure fodder from the U.P. But so far only the administrative decision has been taken, the whole problem of the quantity to be purchased, the places where depots will be opened, etc., have yet to be finalised. At the present speed of work the fodder supply would commence possibly after a month. In the meantime the migrating cattle face the danger of extinction.

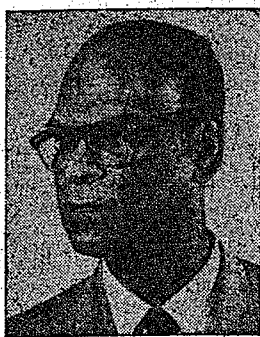
The state government has probably decided to give some taccavi and start some relief work on pinda and such schemes. But the total provision for all these relief measures so far allotted is only Rs. one crore. It may be recalled that even in the old feudal days, during famine years this much amount used to be the provision for famine relief for one of the states. Now for the whole Rajasthan this amount is too paltry and inadequate.

The worst aspect of the situation is that a major part of these decisions are still only on paper. The administrative machinery is behaving in the most callous manner. The Cabinet asked for reports from the collectors. Only FOUR collectors were able to send their reports. This shows how the machinery is moving. It is clear that the gravity of the situation is not being realised and the measures are being taken too slowly.

The demand therefore is rising from all quarters that the government should immediately wake up; make immediate arrangements for cheap fodder for the cattle; ensure foodgrain stocks and open cheap grain shops and take strong action against hoarders, and increase the quantum for relief measures.

AJOY GHOSH MEMORIAL FUND

I HAVE received a letter from Damodar Pillay, Ahmedabad, who has sent Rs. 5 to this Fund and added that he will be collecting more. We are indeed thankful to you, Damodar Pillay and are confident that you will fulfil your promise of more collections towards this Fund.



Here is another Rs. 5 from V. Ganpati of Kollipatti collected from Vallinayagam on the occasion of his marriage with Parvati.

There is another amount of Rs. 12.00 collected at the meeting by the Modak District Council members at Siddipet, and sent by Bal Reddy. Among some of other donations received during this period are the following:

Chandanmal of Sadulpur Rs. 2.00; A. C. Choudhury from Dumka Rs. 11; Sukhendu from Bombay has collected Rs. 2 from Mrs. Prema Oak; Jayant Ebbat from Ahmedabad has sent his personal contribution of Rs. 5. There is another amount of Rs. 20 collected by Kannan of PPL M. T. Karai from Nasik has sent

us Rs. 24 being the amount collected by him.

Then there is Rs. 4 from H. N. Patwari of Rohtak who says in his letter "May Ajoy Ghosh's noble example inspire the whole working class and our student community".

From Saurashtra, V. G. Gandhi, while sending Rs. 10 has asked me to "accept this paltry amount as first instalment of my humble contribution." Thanks, dear friend, it is these contributions that make up a big total.

Send your contributions speedily.

S. V. GHATE
July 29

The Kerala government has been forced to retreat before the mounting public agitation against the enhanced bus fares which it had imposed on the travelling public about a month ago.

On July 1, when the new fares come into force, the government had to exempt the entire student community from the effects of the increase in minimum fares by directing the issue of concessional tickets to students on the old rates.

Three weeks later the government admitted that various anomalies had been reported regarding fixation of the fare stages and that these were being looked into.

The Cabinet that met on July 24 and 25 decided to make a reduction in the fares of the fast passenger service which, the experience of three weeks showed, were running almost empty and on a colossal loss.

In spite of all these hesitations, second thoughts and retreats, the state government seems to still cling to a sense of false prestige. The government had realised that the policy of increase of bus fares, apart from inflicting untold hardships on the public, is killing the goose that lays the golden egg.

But instead of squarely facing this fact and taking bold decisions to remedy the mistakes, the government would still want to wait and watch. It has therefore announced a three-man committee headed by a retired district judge to study the cost and fare structure of the transport industry in the

state. The committee is to submit its report within three months.

The announcement of this decision, the personnel and the time given to the committee have further exposed the intentions of the government. The reaction of a common man to this announcement was that if the government were sincere about its intentions, it should go back to the old fares till the expert committee makes its recommendations.

Spokesmen of the opposition parties are categorical that unless the enhanced minimum fares are brought back to the old rates, there could be no question of suspending the agitation and waiting for three long months for the decision of the committee.

July 21 had witnessed demonstrations of unprecedented unity in all important towns and cities where people demanded that the bus fare increases should be cancelled. In all centres leaders of all opposition parties and prominent citizens came together to voice their demand from one platform.

Trivandrum witnessed one of the biggest gatherings in recent times which was preceded by a militant demonstration parading the streets. C. NARAYANA PILLAI, former Congress MP, now an indepen-

Bus Fare Agitation To Be Intensified State Govt. Has Second Thoughts

ment, called on the government not to stand on false prestige, but respond to the will of the people and reconsider the fare increases. He stated that in such sectors of public utility concerns, it was not the statistical and

arithmetic calculations of profit and loss that should finally decide the policy but the question of what the people feel about it.

Pillai challenged the State Transport Minister or the Chief Minister to resign and

who have demanded revision of the enhanced bus fares.

The Chairman of the PSP has in the meantime called for a signature campaign against the fare increases.

Meeting at Trichur on July 23 and 24 the Kerala Council of the Communist Party has decided that the present agitation against increased bus fares should be intensified and extended with the active cooperation of all political parties and citizens interested in the issue.

A resolution adopted by the Council, while welcoming the growing unity among various political parties, student bodies and other organisations and civic bodies behind the demand for cancellation of increased bus fares, called upon all these organisations to come together and formulate a united plan of action to take the movement to a higher level and ultimate victory.

By another resolution, the Council, while welcoming the handed police action against peaceful satyagrahis of the KPAC in Trivandrum and noted with alarm the increasing reports of police repression against innocent individuals in police lock-ups.

Meanwhile, there have been protests all over the state against the police attack on KPAC satyagrahis in Trivandrum on July 21.

Police Attack Students

On July 22, mounted police was used to disperse a student demonstration in the state capital. Students of several high schools and a few colleges in the capital abstained as a protest against police repression and government's policy on bus fares.

The police took over the main thoroughfares of the city and the gates of all colleges and schools were heavily guarded by steel helmeted police. Departmental instructions were issued to heads of educational institutions to lock-up the gates of schools after admitting bona fide students and teachers and not open the gates till evening.

The government secretariat and premises were guarded by a large police force. Besides steel-helmeted police at every few yards of the main road, mounted police and police parties in vans and jeeps were patrolling the city throughout the day. In short, the government was showing its police strength to the public demanding a revision in bus fare.

This elaborate police ban-dobust was followed by an order of the Commissioner of Police prohibiting processions or assembly of people on the main road in front of the government secretariat from 8 AM to 8 PM. The police have launched a case against 23 of the KPAC satyagrahis arrested on July 21.

One Day Protest Strike

THE Kerala State Trade Union Council meeting at Trichur has warned the government that unless they retreated from the policy of bus fare increase by August 15, and give relief to the workers and common people, the organised working class will be constrained to stage a one day protest strike against the government's policy.

The Trade Union Council greeted the peaceful protest movement against the increases, wherein workers' squads are also participating in larger and larger numbers.

The Executive authorised a sub-committee consisting of T. V. Thomas, P. Balachandra Menon, K. P. Gopalan, Chittaranjan, K. A. Rajan, Kallat Krishnan and Surendranath to contact other trade union organisations with a view to evolving a joint movement and ensure the victory of the statewide protest strike, should it be forced upon the workers by the government's intransigence.

Spotlight

BY GARUDA

KRIPALANI'S "MAXIMUM"

ACHARYA KRIPALANI "got his best press" in the Swatantra Party. The SWARAJYA gave full prominence to his "Minimum Programme" article and devoted three of its issues to publicise it.

The "minimum programme" is a complete denunciation of socialism. The wizened Acharya adduces several solid — and stolid — reasons for throwing socialism overboard. Some of these are:

- 1 Socialism has come to be identified with the nationalisation of industry;
- 2 Socialism has come to be associated with mechanised and centralised big industry;
- 3 Socialism has come to be identified with planning.

How and why are these weighty reasons? As Acharyaji pleads, nationalisation of industry leads to statism; nationalised big industry "degenerates into monopoly of the State", and planning kills the individual's initiative.

Thus, no words are minced in the advocacy of capitalism and retention of exploitation. The veteran free-enterpriser, in fact, openly states his preference. Private economic monopoly is preferable to socialism, he asserts.

It is clear that good-bye-to-socialism is not the Acharya's minimum but his maximum programme.

It is also clear that all barriers — if there ever were any — between the old Acharya and the Swatantra Party — have now fallen.

The Faizbaraz mouthpiece of the American lobby has confessed.



THEIR MASTER'S VOICE

[WITH PLOLOGUES TO HIS MASTERS VOICE.]

Jan Sangh, mouthpiece ORGANISER. It had welcomed the decision of the Indian government to have Voice of America transmitter and had certified that the deal "is good for us." But now when the question of re-opening the matter has arisen, it has begun calling Nehru government "senile", "Impervious alike to feelings of shame or honour".

In its vituperation ORGANISER is pouring forth all its accumulated hatred. It says that the matter is between the minister and the secretary of the I&B Ministry and between I&B Ministry and Prime Minister. "How do the red rats come into the picture?" Good show, ORGANISER. We are glad that you call all the sensible persons "red rats" but since the deal is exclusively a matter concerning government, how is it that you are poking your nose into it? By some power of attorney executed by VOA?

CURRENT says that Nehru himself "played a vital part in sabotaging the most fundamental principle of his own foreign policy, namely non-

—S. M.

YELLOW

HOWLERS FOR VOA

THE all-out opposition that has grown in the country, barring a few of course, against the ignominious AIR-VOA deal has unnerved a number of journals whose avowed policy is to shamelessly chant hymns of American bounty and peans to American way of life.

They are furious because the "good intentions" of their benefactor have been questioned by Indian people. Naturally, it is evident from their outpourings that they even failed to keep up minimum logic in their macabre arguments.

The INDIAN EXPRESS is particularly angry. It implies in an editorial on July 29 that those who oppose the deal are "Peking patriots", trying to "raise their shrill small voices in an effort to clutch at any passing straw which might help to rehabilitate them."

It has taken former Defence Minister Krishna Menon also to task because he dared to raise his voice against the deal. Equating him with those whom it describes as "Peking patriots", the paper says that Menon having "heaped humiliation on the country and its armed forces proclaims with renewed

bravado that he regards the VOA agreements as a "piece of national humiliation."

This paper asserts "there is nothing" in the deal "which impinges or offends against New Delhi's policy of friendliness to Moscow", as if the question of India's basic policy of nonalignment is determined just by the fact whether we are keeping Moscow in good humour!

Trotting out the Yankee doodle it says: "It is time India knew her real friends from her professed well-wishers...." and warns that should there be a fresh attack on our northern borders, of which there is imminent danger, it will be the "real friends" who will come to our rescue. "It is no use pretending that we are not receiving aid, military or otherwise from quarters from which we palpably are receiving it."

Finally, the paper threatens: "Any renegeing on our part on the VOA agreement at this juncture cannot but be construed by the general American public as a hostile gesture and might have serious repercussions on future aid extended to us." Since it is "hypocritical" not to recognise this reality, the paper indirectly suggests that we join the American bandwagon with all our bag and baggage. That's the cat

hidden in the bag of INDIAN EXPRESS.

THOUGHT vehemently disputes the arguments of the critics of the AIR-VOA deal (July 27). It says that the criticisms are not correct. The objections are not based on "facts"; they are made because of "prejudices" and so on. Obviously, no patriotic Indian can be so much in the know of the working of the American mind as the scribes of THOUGHT are.

THOUGHT says that even Radio Moscow dabbles in the internal affairs of India because Radio Moscow is supposed to have said that America is trying to make capital out of present situation and using the Indian reactionaries to further its designs. THOUGHT says that VOA is "never" guilty of "such blatantly partisan interference". THOUGHT clean forgets the Voice of America's performance during Goa liberation and scores of similar occasions.

THOUGHT, of course, added a very ingenious argument in favour of VOA. It says VOA can easily find out another place for its transmitter, it will be only India's publicity that will suffer, and the shouting and clamour should not result in the scrapping of the deal but "an improvement on the functioning of Mr. Nehru's cabinet". Most piteous wall comes from

MAGNIFICENT RESPONSE TO PETITION MOVEMENT

Andhra Pradesh

★ From Mohit Sen

MOVEMENT GROWS IN ALL DIRECTIONS SIGNATURE TARGET DOUBLED TO 20 LAKH

"The response of all sections of the people to the Great Petition has been so overwhelming that I feel Andhra can confidently issue a challenge to our comrades in other states that it shall collect the greatest number of signatures", said RAJSEKHAR REDDY in an interview after the conclusion of the meeting of the secretariat of the Andhra Pradesh Council of the Communist Party of India.

He said that the National Secretariat had fixed a provisional target of five lakhs for Andhra. Then came the state council meeting where the leaders from the different districts raised this at one jump to double that figure—10 lakhs.

The State Executive is also meeting in the third week of August to map out the future course of action. The secretariat has also appealed to all Party units to organise huge demonstrations on September 2 in all towns, taluq and district headquarters and send a jatha of 1000 participants in the Delhi demonstration.

The district leaders in turn had found that their respective district councils felt that the targets set for them were too low. The reports that had already come in showed that the Andhra quota would now be, at least, 20 lakhs. Rajasekhar Reddy cited a few examples.

Nalgonda had fixed one lakh and now their target is one lakh seventy-five thousand. Anantapur had fixed 30,000 which has been pushed

up to 75,000. Nellore (south) had fixed 25,000 but now it is 75,000. Hyderabad had said 20,000 would be their contribution but now Hyderabad's target is one lakh.

It is a notable feature of the campaign that smaller and relatively weaker districts like Srikakulam (one lakh target), Karimnagar (one lakh target), and Vishakhapatnam (one lakh target), have moved quickly and splendidly. They deserve particular congratulations.

Vijayawada town with a total population of 2,30,000 has taken a target of 50,000 and in just one day has collected 10,000 signatures. It also needs to be pointed to as an example. Khammam has taken a quota of 1.25 lakhs, Nalgonda 1.50 lakhs and Warangal 1.15 lakhs.

Guntur district has taken a target of three lakh signatures.

Reports up to July 28 show that three lakhs signatures have already been collected in the state.

GOVT. EMPLOYEES OPPOSE C. D. S.

The National Executive of the Confederation of Central Government Employees and Workers has emphatically protested against the imposition of the Compulsory Deposit Scheme on Central Government employees and workers who have no capacity to pay.

A MEETING of the Executive held on July 21 in New Delhi recalled the earlier resolution adopted by the Executive on March 24 this year when it had appealed to the government to exempt Central Government employees from the operation of CDS. Expressing its regret that the government did not consider this very legitimate demand, the Executive said in a resolution:

"The Central Government employees are today facing acute economic hardships and the situation has assumed very serious proportions. It is impossible for them to effect any savings and the burden of indebtedness is growing day by day. Despite this, the employees are subscribing 6% of their pay towards the CDF which

Once the campaign gains full momentum in the larger and relatively stronger districts like Krishna, Guntur and the two Godavaris, it is more than likely that many of these targets may have to be revised upwards again. Rajasekhar Reddy said:

"I may put it this way—the lower you go the higher the targets go. Comrades from all over the state have had the same experience. The people are not only signing no sooner they are approached but so many come forward to say that they themselves would conduct the campaign—the leaders need not bother.

"It is perfectly obvious that the masses have given their weighty opinion that the communists have taken a good initiative and found a good form of action by which to move in the direction of compelling the government to revise its anti-popular policies and move against the vested interests."

Rajasekhar Reddy went out of his way to emphasise the point that our alternative path of raising resources through the three slogans of nationalisation has evoked great response. It is quite wrong to believe that people will welcome only a negative approach of denouncing the government.

He also said that in the towns and villages at the

local levels many Congressmen and very many more Congress supporters were coming forward not only to sign the Great Petition but also to help in collecting signatures from others.

It is another notable feature of the campaign that all sections of the people—peasants, workers, intellectuals, traders, shopkeepers—were among the signatories. In Hyderabad, for example, some of the very well-known shops along Abid Road (the main thoroughfare) had not only signed but affixed their seals, feeling that this might convey better their feelings to the Lok Sabha.

In some places like Vijayawada, the signature campaign was assuming the form of organising polling booths with long queues of people waiting their turn to sign just like they do at the time of elections.

Funds Collected

Rajasekhar Reddy specially mentioned a particular feature of the campaign in Andhra. The Party leadership here had given the call that along with a signature each person approached should be asked to contribute one naya paise. This has proved very successful in many districts, he said and added.

"In Anantapur for instance, the average collection per signature comes to two naya paise. In this way the campaign not only pays for itself but gives a reserve fund to the Party units as well. Besides, when shall we collect from the people if not at the time of such a campaign?"

Nothing is being given free by the state centre to the different units. The petition forms and leaflets have to be paid for—of course, at the minimum possible price. Incomplete reports indicate that till a week ago 28,000 petition forms and over one lakh leaflets have been purchased by different party units.

It was with great confidence and hope that Rajasekhar Reddy concluded his interview: "The hopes of the reactionaries that the Communist Party was finished or, as the Congress President said here, become irrelevant, have all turned out to be false. The masses are with the Party and the Party with the masses. Anti-Communism has just not struck any roots."

"This is the biggest campaign and with the widest mass response that the Party has run since the general elections. It will not only help to give confidence to the masses but further vitalise the Party itself."

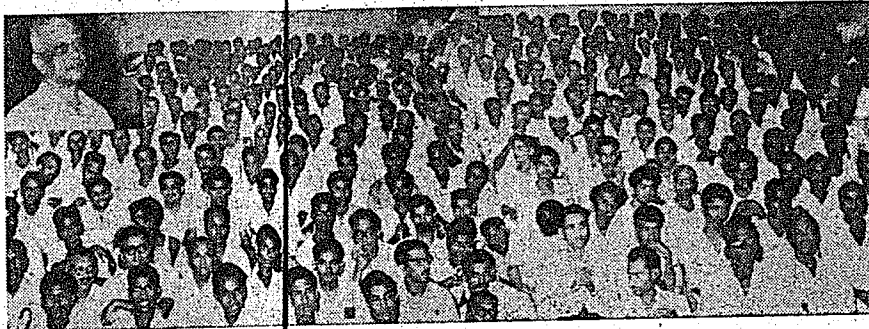
"There can be no doubt about the mass mood. Let there be no hesitation about approaching the masses. All party members and units need now to go ahead with all their strength and in an organised way. Seldom have they had such an opportunity to take the message and the image of the Party to the people."

Harihar Taluk : 5,000 Signatures

THE Harihar Taluk Committee of the Communist Party had met recently and decided to collect over 5,000 signatures on the Great Petition.

Already more than half of this quota of signatures have been filled within a short period.

The meeting of the Taluk Committee also planned to organise group meetings and public meetings, and decided to send one comrade to participate in the March to Delhi. The District Secretary of the Communist Party S. Hanamant Reddy, attended the meeting.



S. A. Dange addressing a meeting of workers in Bombay on July 21.

Karnatak

Good Progress In Signature Collection

The Karnatak Provincial Council of the Communist Party of India which met in Bangalore on July 12 and 13 decided to collect two lakh signatures on the Great Petition to Parliament and to send 60 persons to Delhi for the demonstration.

THE Council meeting was attended by M. N. Govindan Nair, member of the Central Secretariat who reported on the decisions of the last National Council meeting. He stressed the need of the campaign and explained the manner in which the campaign should be conducted.

The Provincial Council discussed at length the programme for the Great Petition campaign in the state. Comrades who attended the meeting from various parts of the state reported on the good response from all sections of people to the Petition campaign. Launched by the Party, they were confident that their quotas will be overfulfilled.

The Council called upon all party members to intensify the campaign and reach out to the largest sections of the public through squads. The Council emphasised the political and economic significance of the demands raised in the Petition.

Recently, representatives of trade unions from both public and private sector industries, excepting the HMS and INTUC, met in Bangalore and adopted resolutions condemning

Rajasthan

★ From Our Correspondent

MEETINGS AND RALLIES HELD ALL OVER STATE

JAIPUR, July 28: The movement for signatures on the Great Petition and the preparations for the march to Parliament are in full stride in the state.

A SPECIAL meeting of the state council of the CPI was held at Jaipur in the middle of this month to plan out this campaign. All the district committees had the copies of the Great Petition printed, some had issued special appeals for the signature campaign

and a series of meetings had been planned in some districts. In Alwar, three meetings in the tahsil headquarters had already been held by that time. In Sikar Trilok Singh had, in a special drive, visited more than 30 important villages where the cam-

paign had been planned out. In Beawar, squads had been formed with mohallas allotted to each and also villages allotted for the trade union militants who hailed from the nearby villages.

Thus when comrades came for the council meeting, they came with reports of preparatory work already done and with plans for speeding up the movement.

Even in the town of Ajmer, where the Party unit is not very strong, a set of enthusiastic local unions were in a period of two weeks, able to collect more than 10,000 signatures.

Reports from other districts also indicated that signature campaign had got going, and by the time of the meeting of the State Council, about 40,000 signatures had already been collected.

The State Council drew up a detailed plan both for intensifying the signature campaign as also for mobilising the largest number for the march to Delhi. It decided that the first week of August should be observed as a Signature Week all over the state for taking

a quota of 50,000 signatures for the city, over ten thousand have already been collected. The response from people of all walks of life has been extremely heartening in this multi-lingual industrial town.

Only in one area, Mallewar, in three Corporation divisions, seven thousand signatures have already been collected. There are fifty such Corporation divisions. There is every possibility that Bangalore will overfulfil its quota.

By the end of last month meetings had been held under the auspices of the CPI to explain to members and sympathisers of the Party the purpose and significance of the Great Petition campaign. Later, area branch meetings were held to chalk out the programme of the campaign. The Bangalore District Council of the CPI has printed Petition forms in Kannada, Tamil, Urdu, English and Telugu.

Singanallur: 5,000 Signatures

THE general body of the Singanallur branch of the Communist Party of India met on July 4 and decided to collect 5,000 signatures on the Great Petition to Parliament.

T. Arumugham, member of the Coimbatore District Council of the Party reported on the significance of the campaign.

The general body decided to organise group meetings, and public meetings in the Textile gates.

The industrial labour of Singanallur has enthusiastically responded to the Great Petition campaign and the collection of signatures is making good progress.

West Bengal

★ From Ajoy Das Gupta

Petition Campaign Gathers Momentum

CALCUTTA, July 28: From factory areas to mohallas, everywhere there is good response to the Petition. Students are also participating in large number.

AT Gardenreach, an industrial suburb of Calcutta, competition has grown between jute and cotton textile workers. There are two jute mills in the area employing 3,500 workers. But the militants of the union besides collection of signatures from mill workers are also collecting signatures in the workers' mohallas. Thereby the jute workers have already collected 3,800 signatures and are still collecting.

The cotton textile workers have so far collected 3,000 signatures, but hope to eventually beat the jute workers. The engineering workers of the area will soon join in the competition. The jute workers' union has announced a prize for the highest individual collector. Altogether more than 7,500 signatures have been collected in this area.

From Hugli district has come the welcome news of collection of more than six thousand signatures within the first week of the campaign. The workers of the Lachminarayan Jute Mill at Konnagar have already overfulfilled their quota of one thousand. The workers of Sri Durga Cotton Mills, Bengal Fine Spinning Mills, Hoyle

out squads and collecting signatures en-masse. It was also decided that a booklet should also be brought out, which should explain the meaning of the campaign and should be sold along with the signature campaign.

Reports coming from various places indicate that, the campaign is in full swing.

In Alwar, the series of meetings planned are continuing and already about 12 meetings have completed. The signatures so far collected are approximately 8,000, and the tempo of work is growing.

Target Reached

In Ganganagar, two huge rallies have been held, one at Hindumalkot and one at Suratgarh, where thousands attended and the district has also reached the signature target of about 8000.

A public meeting held in Jodhpur on July 25 was addressed by Communist leaders H. K. Vyas and Poonamiya, who had been released from detention on the same day. Squads are going round collecting signatures.

In Beawar, the signature campaign has reached practically every mohalla and the nearby villages and the total signatures collected exceed 500.

From incomplete reports it is clear that the total signatures collected have reached the figure of about 70,000 and work is still continuing in full trim.

In Pali, a mammoth meeting was held on July 26 to give a rousing reception to Communist leader Poonamiya on his release from jail. The meeting responded admirably to the call for signature campaign.

Preparations For March

The preparations for mobilising people to join the march to Delhi are also under way. Collections are being made at each centre from the persons who agree to join the demonstration.

Though the major part of such collections would be made in the beginning of August, reports from the various districts indicate that in a majority of places, the quota fixed for them will be achieved and Rajasthan would be able to mobilise its quota of marchers to Delhi.

In the meantime failure of rains in the State and the prospects of severe famine have added a certain grimness to the situation and the campaign for signatures is receiving still greater response. This is specially so in the peasant areas where the problem of CDS is linked with the land revenue.

The imminent famine conditions would necessitate the remission of even the land revenue. The question of collection of the CDS would therefore be a far cry in the state. This situation is making people even more restive about the burden that have been placed on them.

were workers from Basanti Cotton Mill, Bengal Waterproof Works and refugee colonies and middle class areas in Sukchar and Agarpara also.

Collection in Calcutta was conducted at street corners on July 28 also. In the Bhowanipore-Kalighat area collections were made at four spots and the total number was above a thousand in the morning hours. Collection continued at the Shyambazar and Gariahat crossings with encouraging response from the people.

In the industrial area of East Calcutta campaign has begun and in the Pottery factory area 125 signatures were collected in a day. At Dhakuria, in place of one squad last week two squads came out this week. Collections are going on in Cossipore, Khidderpore, Behala, Tiljala and other areas.

The concerted activities of the Communists and the widespread response of the people have infuriated the reactionaries. ANANDABAZAR PATRIKA in an editorial captioned "Smash them" has instigated people to attack the signature collecting squads. Attempts to that effect have also been made at the Hazra Road crossing on July 21 and at the crossing of Cornwallis Street and Vivekananda Road on July 28.

In 24 Parganas

In the 24 Parganas district at Titagarh fifteen hundred signatures were collected on July 21. Of these, nearly half were of workers belonging to various language groups, particularly Oriya and Telegu. Two squads operating in the middle class areas of Barackpore and Manirampur also collected more than five hundred signatures. At Panihat nearly fifteen hundred signatures were collected on July 21, among whom

TEST BAN

Victory For Years Of Struggle For Peace

★ by ZIAUL HAQ

The partial test ban agreed upon in Moscow between the US, UK and USSR on July 25 has come as a result of many years of strenuous struggle by fighters for peace all over the world, by the socialist countries headed by the USSR and by the ever-growing group of nonaligned independent countries in the United Nations.

It has been achieved in spite of and in the face of dogged opposition from US and British imperialism, an opposition which has been increasingly condemned by peoples all over the world, including those of the heartlands of imperialism, bringing ever greater isolation for opponents of the test ban. Over a period of years, the rabid imperialists and warmongers have had to modify their position under pressure of world public opinion and ultimately agree at last to a substantial ban which comprises all tests except those underground.

It is necessary at this stage to recall that it was years ago and quite early in the history of the development of thermonuclear weapons that banning of tests acquired an independent and important position in the demands of the world peace forces.

It was during 1952-54 that rapid advances took place in the development of the thermonuclear weapons. The US exploded its first hydrogen bomb in November, 1952, the Soviet Union its first in August 1953.

In March 1954 the United States tested hydrogen weapons on the Marshall Islands in the Pacific Ocean which produced explosions described by the then US Secretary of Defence as "unbelievable", being several hundred times more powerful than those used against Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

It was as a result of these explosions that a number of Japanese fishermen received radioactive fall-out injuries and a wave of horror and consternation swept the world. The Japanese Parliament on April 1, 1954 passed a resolution demanding international control of arms and testing.

Afro-Asian Demand

The demand for prohibition of tests arose from all corners of the world. Jawaharlal Nehru in a statement to the Indian Parliament on April 2, 1954 stated:

"We have maintained that nuclear (including thermonuclear) chemical and biological (bacterial) knowledge and power should not be used to forge these weapons of mass destruction. We have advocated the prohibition of such weapons by common consent and immediately by agreement among those concerned...."

"I have stated publicly as our view that these experiments, which may have served one and only useful purpose, namely to expose the horror and the tragedy, even though only partly, should cease. I repeat that to be our considered position."

The same position was taken a year later by the 29 Afro-Asian nations assembled at their historic Conference at Bandung. The final communiqué issued on April 24, 1955 in its section dealing with Promotion of World Peace and Co-operation said:

"Pending the total prohibition of nuclear and thermo-nuclear weapons, this conference appealed to the powers concerned to reach agreement to suspend experiments with such weapons."

The People's Republic of China was also a signatory to this communiqué.

Soviet Stand

A fortnight later—on May 10, 1955—the Soviet government submitted comprehensive proposals to the UN on disarmament. Among proposals for the first stage was one which stated:

"All states possessing atomic and hydrogen weapons would undertake to discontinue tests."

It was the view of the Soviet government, in common with all peace-loving forces all over the world, that banning of nuclear and thermonuclear tests was "one of the first measures for the execution of the programme for the reduction of armaments."

This view was then supported by the Government of the People's Republic of China through various declarations.

Discontinuance of nuclear testing was proposed by the USSR as a measure to be taken independently of agreements on other problems of disarmament and the Soviet Premier, writing to the US President on October 17, 1956 said:

"We have also noted your statement to the effect that the question of prohibiting the testing of atomic weapons can be decided only by concluding an agreement on the programme of disarmament as a whole. It would, of course, be well if such an agreement on disarmament could be reached in the very near future. But it is a well-known fact that such an agreement is not within sight at present. This is attested by the fact that the United States as well as certain other participants in negotiations on disarmament, renounces its own proposals as soon as the Soviet Union accepts these proposals...."

"Since this is the situation, it is our deep conviction that the solution of the problem of testing atomic weapons should not be made contingent on an agreement concerning the problem of disarmament as a whole."

West Opposed

"As far as the Soviet Government is concerned, it is prepared to conclude an agreement with the United States of America immediately for discontinuing atomic weapon tests. We proceed, of course, on the assumption that other states having the atomic weapon at their disposal will likewise adhere to such an agreement."

Did the Western imperialists take kindly to this proposal? Did

they react favourably to the universal demand for an agreement on stopping of nuclear tests?

Nothing of the kind. The West was firmly opposed to any such agreement.

In July 1956, Krishna Menon requested a hearing before the Disarmament Commission. He presented detailed evidence of harmful effects from nuclear testing and urged an agreement on cessation. He was treated politely but found no support except from the Soviet delegate.

The joint communiqué of the US President and the British Prime Minister issued in March 1957 after their meeting in Bermuda declared:

"In the absence of such an agreement (i.e. agreement on disarmament—Z.H.) the security of the free world must continue to depend to a marked degree upon the nuclear deterrent. To maintain this effectively, continued nuclear testing is required, certainly for the present."

At the 12th session of the UN General Assembly in 1957, the Indian delegation presented a resolution appealing to "the States concerned to agree without delay to suspend tests of nuclear and thermo-nuclear weapons."

The US, Britain and the NATO bloc managed to manipulate the voting machine and defeated the resolution by 34 votes to 24 with 24 abstentions. The Socialist and the Afro-Asian countries and six others from Latin America favoured the resolution.

Changed Balance

Since then the world has advanced very far. New groups outside the organised world peace movement arose in United States and Britain opposing the war threat in general and in particular the policy of keeping the testing issue tied into the general disarmament deadlock. Their increasing influence and activity combined with the fact that more and more Afro-Asian and Latin American countries took an independent stand and asserted themselves helped to change the situation.

Furthermore, since the successful launching of the first Sputnik in October 1957, the fact has been increasingly brought home to the American people that they, too, now lived within the range of nuclear weapons. The Cuban crisis of last year made this realization acute and no administration could indefinitely remain indifferent to this popular realization.

In the intervening period, the Soviet Union twice suspended nuclear tests on its own without any matching response from the other side. It was forced in 1958 by resumption of US and British testing and in 1961 by the intensified Western war preparations over the Berlin crisis to resume its own tests. But it never gave up the effort for achieving a ban on nuclear tests independently of progress on the banning of the use of those weapons as such or of progress on general and complete disarmament.

The last General Assembly session, on November 6, 1962 passed a resolution calling for cessation of tests and in contrast with what had happened in 1957, the US found itself in a minority of 10 with 84 in favour and 8 abstentions.

This was followed by the Soviet call to stop all tests from January 1, 1963.

The Western powers still persisted in their manoeuvre of avoiding an agreement because of the supposed difficulty over the detection of underground tests without a wide range of on-site inspections giving them opportunity for locating Soviet targets for nuclear bombing.

The Soviet Union by agreeing to a partial test ban has cut the knot of Western evasions.

The text of the treaty agreed upon in Moscow on July 25 specifically commits all signatories to "seeking to achieve the discontinuance of all test explosions of nuclear weapons for all time" and "to continue negotiations to this end." It is entered into "without prejudice to the conclusion of a treaty resulting in the permanent banning of all nuclear test explosions, including explosions underground."

Not only do the three signatories undertake to desist from carrying out "any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion in the atmosphere, in the outer space and under water including territorial waters or high seas"; the agreement also binds the three signatories to "refrain from causing, encouraging or in any way participating in the carrying out of any nuclear weapon test explosion, or in any other nuclear explosion."

The signatories thus undertake not to help other countries explode nuclear weapons for testing purposes or otherwise, that is, for actually launching a nuclear war.

If any of the parties to the treaty feels that "extraordinary events related to the subject matter of this treaty have jeopardised the supreme interests of its country", it will be free to withdraw from it, giving a notice of three months for such withdrawal. The treaty is open to all states for signature and any state may accede to it at any time.

The positive advance this step signifies towards securing a total ban on all tests by all countries cannot be underestimated. In itself, by putting a stop to pollution of the atmosphere, the space and the seas with nuclear fallout, it is a great boon to humanity. It will also

serve as a moral damper for all enthusiasts of intensifying the nuclear armaments race.

While the American people through a recent poll showed themselves 73 per cent in favour of the agreement, the opposition to it led by Nixon, Goldwater, Strom Thurmond and Co. is preparing to defeat and sabotage it. The Joint Chiefs of Staff in a secret testimony which has been deliberately leaked out have voiced violent opposition to the agreement. They are alarmed, above all, because they feel that the agreement might lead to a lessening of tension and slowing down of the cold war.

American Ultras

An outspoken exposition of this viewpoint was carried on July 22 by the US News and World Report. A certain retired Major-General Max S. Johnson, former Commandant of the Army War College writes disdainfully of the Kennedy Administration's "obsession with fear of war". According to him, "this raises again the issue of the kind of war our strategy contemplates—a nuclear war to be fought only when forced upon us by enemy attacks and even then to be as closely controlled, and carefully restrained as possible, with the purpose of bringing the war to a halt, not winning it."

He indicates that among the top US military brass there are "those who feel present world conditions justify our adoption of more forward looking strategy, meaning an aggressive nuclear war against the Soviet Union."

The danger of these mad men plunging the world in a nuclear catastrophe continues to be very real.

At this moment, when it should have been the task of all peace forces all over the world to secure and consolidate the Moscow victory and to make it the basis for further struggle for relaxation of tension, leading to complete and general disarmament, the Chinese Government and leadership have taken upon themselves the task of spreading

* ON FACING PAGE

MOSCOW, July 30: The joyous news that agreement has been reached on a nuclear test ban between the USSR, USA and Britain at the Moscow talks has been received with relief and satisfaction all over the world.

This was the most eagerly awaited announcement of the best news for many years and the messages which come pouring in from all continents, from Presidents and Prime Ministers, statesmen and intellectuals and just rank and file human beings show enthusiastic approval of this victory of sanity and goodwill and good reason over suspicion, madness and war.

The agreement to stop all those nuclear tests which pollute and contaminate the atmosphere around the earth and cause radio-active fallout is a major achievement of all those millions of peace-fighters who for years patiently and even against tremendous odds carried on the fight for banning all tests, for disarmament, for a settlement of all problems by discussion in a manner which would correspond to civilised human dealings and behaviour.

This is the first important victory in the struggle of the peoples against nuclear weapons and will certainly inspire mankind to still greater endeavour and bigger united action to carry forward the struggle for complete disarmament and secure peace.

The messages which come pouring in congratulating the Soviet government and people, and above all, NIKHITA KHRUSHCHOV, show that this victory is also the result of the long and patient efforts of the Soviet Union, its fertile and rational approach which meant never giving up the search for an area of agreement and for new ways and means which could lead to the ultimate goal.

It meant keeping faith in human reason and the peace forces of the world which, in

united and concerted action, are far stronger today than the forces of war.

The Soviet Premier in an interview to Pravda and Izvestia published here on Saturday called the successful termination of the Moscow talks "an event of important international significance," and "a good beginning."

But like a good realist, he also warned against too much optimism too soon. He said that an agreement to stop nuclear tests still did not mean an end to the arms race and did not reduce the colossal burden of armaments that people had to carry.

Main Task Remains

The main task—disarmament—remained, he said. The test ban agreement opened up favourable possibilities for this purpose. Fresh efforts would be required to go step by step towards strengthening peace and achieving disarmament.

Useful exchange of ideas among the three powers also took place on the Soviet Union's proposal to conclude a non-aggression pact between the two sides—NATO and Warsaw Pact Powers. Such a pact, Khrushchov said, would include all those states which possess nuclear weapons.

If the same goodwill were displayed while considering the non-aggression pact as was shown during talks on test ban, such a pact could be concluded soon. "As far as the Soviet Union is concerned," Khrushchov said, "there will be no lack of goodwill on our side."

PARTIAL TEST BAN : A GOOD BEGINNING

★ From Masood Ali Khan

The Soviet Premier also mentioned the other proposals put forward by the Soviet Union for a relaxation of international tension:

- The proposal to freeze and reduce war budgets;
- Measures to prevent sudden attack;
- Reduction of foreign forces stationed in West Germany and the German Democratic Republic;
- The posting of Soviet representatives with Western forces in West Germany and of Western representatives with Soviet forces in the GDR.

The Soviet leader made a moving appeal to the Western Powers to consider these steps and to go forward from the good beginning made by the test ban agreement. The above measures could, by reducing tension, open the way to the settlement of the basic question—general and complete disarmament.

The Soviet press gave prominence to the statement of Prime Minister Nehru calling the agreement "a turning point in recent human history, opening the way to disarmament and to secure peace all over the world," and to the readiness of the Government of India to sign the treaty.

Izvestia's headline said "The compass points to common sense" and the paper wrote editorially: "Millions of people regard this event, as a good omen. The roar of nuclear explosions would no longer be heard over the continents and

the seas. The mushroom clouds would no longer cast their sinister shadow on the earth. Radio-active fallout would no more poison the air.

"The Moscow Treaty has made a good start and the Soviet Union hopes that the opportunities opened up shall not be missed."

The world would take this chance—is the substance of comments from many lands published here. Indeed, it has been pointed out that Khrushchov is ready to negotiate with the West over the entire range of cold-war problems. The peace forces of the world have to make a grand effort to keep up the momentum of improvement in East-West relations.

But, of course, there are those opposed to this relaxation and the test ban agreement. From Bonn and Paris and the ultra reactionaries and warmongers of the West to the diehard dogmatists of Peking this indeed is a strange line-up of forces against the treaty.

The self-styled arch anti-imperialists here speak the same language as the most rabid ultras and extreme rightwing reactionaries of the USA, France and Germany. However much they abuse each other, objectively and in fact they attack the same thing—this relaxation and improvement in relations between the two camps.

Under a general caption "Revolutionary theory—Guide to Action" Izvestia published an article by Doctor of History I. Lenin entitled "Historic Mission of Communism." It strongly criticised the modern dogmatists and sectarians from the Communist Party of China.

The author emphasises that in their direction of attack, these dogmatists "coincide in a striking way with the line of the ultra-reactionary bellicose aggressive circles," such as the atomist Professor Teller and the billionaire Nelson Rockefeller of the USA.

Pravda today published an article by its observer Yuri Zhukov entitled "Who is for and who is against" in which he points out that the mad men of USA, Goldwater, Nixon, Teller, Jackson and others are opposed to this treaty. So are the mad men from West Germany. Sullen grumbling is heard from Paris, calling the Moscow agreement an attempt to continue the atomic monopoly of some States.

"I am surprised by another thing: how can our colleagues from People's Daily and even some responsible officials of the Chinese People's Republic repeat and unabashedly come out at one with the French exponents of continuing nuclear weapons tests and thermonuclear arms race? They are not disturbed at all by such company. They brazenly copy the demagogic argumentation of the French bourgeois propaganda and repeat it word for word."

La Monde wrote on July 27: "In Paris they believe they must take up restrained posi-

tion and oppose the agreement under the pretext that it sows illusions...."

Using the same argument, People's Daily on July 19 said that an ending of tests "would create among the peoples a false feeling of security, would lull their vigilance."

A Chinese trade union official Chao Chiang declared in Tokyo on July 25 that the Moscow three-power talks were "a plot of American imperialism 'and that' any nuclear agreement if it does not ensure destruction of the existing nuclear weapons and the ending of their production would only be a deceit of the public."

Zhukov says that this argument too has been borrowed from de Gaulle. Five days earlier Agence France Presse (AFP) declared that since the ending of tests is not a disarmament measure and is not combined with the ending of production of nuclear weapons and destruction of existing stockpiles, France will boycott this agreement.

"To put it in a nutshell, here and there we have the same position—the same tactics: Under the hypocritical slogan 'All or nothing' to ignore and wreck the agreement banning nuclear tests. The Chinese comrades are indeed in an unenviable company if they are towed behind de Gaulle in defiance of the clearly expressed will of the people of the world."

"Sooner or later the mad men will have to shut up and accept the authoritative verdict of the people who passionately long for peace and actively fight for peace," the article concludes.

Sunday's Pravda published a long article by N. Inozentsev entitled "Peaceful Co-existence and World Revolutionary Process" which also criticises the Chinese position in detail.

It declares that peaceful co-existence and competition of the two systems and active struggle of the Communists for peace help the anti-monopoly front and the anti-imperialist unity. On the other hand, sharpening of international tension and war psychosis has the most harmful effect on internal conditions and the political struggle of the masses.

Using the bugbear of war danger and inflaming national prejudice and chauvinism, the ruling classes try to undermine the international solidarity of the proletariat and try to isolate its leading forces. In the atmosphere of war hysteria, the forces of reaction can easily attack the democratic forces and carry out repression against the Communists.

Further, the author says that the reactionary circles in India are trying to use the complex situation arising out of the armed conflict on the India-China border to organise an offensive against the progressive forces of the country and first of all against Indian Communists.



CHINESE STAND AGAINST TEST BAN AGREEMENT

* FROM FACING PAGE

demoralisation among the world peace forces by throwing mud at the Moscow agreement. They have expressed themselves as fundamentally opposed to any test ban agreement. For they say that unless there is a ban on nuclear warfare itself, a ban on testing is worse than useless, because it prevents "other Socialist countries, besides the Soviet Union" (meaning China) from developing their independent nuclear weapons to meet the US imperialists' nuclear blackmail.

"This is a total negation of the stand taken so far on the question of nuclear tests by all Socialist countries and by all Afro-Asian countries, including China herself. It is tearing apart the Bandung Declaration which the Chinese Government signed and by which it continues to swear."

Even while the talks in Moscow were on, the Chinese leadership made this somersault of theirs clear to the world through a People's Daily editorial on July 19. Through distortions, misstatements and misrepresentations which have become the stock-in-trade of the Chinese leadership, they have tried to make-out that the primary purpose of the proposed test ban agreement is to make it difficult for China to

develop nuclear capability. There is not a word about the worldwide campaign which went on for years to secure a test ban and of the persistent struggle of the Socialist and Afro-Asian countries for it. The idea of a test ban, according to the People's Daily, has been put forward by US imperialism and not by the peoples of the world. It is not a people's demand but a US trap.

"The cessation of nuclear tests would have significance only when it forms a component part of the programme for general disarmament and total prohibition of nuclear weapons. If one undertakes to stop nuclear testing as a separate measure, it would be playing right into the hands of the United States and running counter to the aspirations of world people for a total prohibition of nuclear weapons and for the prevention of nuclear war." Thus writes the People's Daily.

Apart from the fact that once general disarmament and total prohibition of nuclear weapons are achieved a ban on nuclear weapons tests will be superfluous and meaningless, the Chinese leadership have repeatedly made it clear in recent times that they do not consider general disarmament to be an attainable proposition. One wonders then what meaning

to attach to this rignarole except that the Chinese, like those at the other pole, believe that the only way to end the threat of nuclear war is to intensify the nuclear arms race with as intense and as feverish a madness as possible.

With such an objective obviously cessation of nuclear tests must be opposed tooth and nail and the maximum of confusion must be sown in people's ranks. Instead of regarding the Moscow agreement as a step forward and being enthused by it and pressing still more powerfully for further measures in that direction, the people must be made to regard it as having a "negative effect" so that they become demoralised and immobilised.

How is this game different from that of the most rabid imperialist warmongers?

People all over the world are soberly evaluating the Moscow agreement. They are not to be diverted from the goal of achieving complete and general disarmament and all the measures that lead up to it. For that is the only way of eliminating nuclear weapons and the threat of nuclear war. Intensification of the nuclear arms race, whoever may advocate it and with whatever arguments, is most decidedly not the way to eliminate nuclear weapons and the threat of nuclear war.

TEST BAN TREATY NEW HOPE FOR PEACE

CPI Central Secretariat Statement

New hope for peace has been born in the hearts of millions in all countries, following the three-nation agreement at Moscow on a ban on nuclear tests in the atmosphere, in space and under water. This agreement, though limited by the fact that underground tests are still not prohibited, must be made the starting point for still greater efforts to bring about total universal disarmament—the goal to which all peace-loving mankind is pledged.

THIS nuclear test ban accord has been reached primarily due to the painstaking and persistent efforts of the Soviet Union and its Prime Minister Nikita Khrushchev. Supported in its unrelenting struggle for disarmament by India and other nonaligned countries, by the Socialist countries and by people in all continents devoted to peace, the Soviet Union has again and again made proposals for a total nuclear test ban.

One of the key demands of the world movement for peace has been for the banning of nuclear tests; and hundreds of millions have gone on record in support of this demand.

Though faced by the intransigence of the imperialist powers at every turn, the Soviet Union had never allowed itself to be provoked into giving up the efforts to reach agreements, which may lessen international tension. While standing firmly by principles,

the Soviet government has made repeated offers of compromise, in the true interests of humanity.

The Communist Party of India resolutely condemns the efforts of the most reactionary sections in the imperialist countries and of militarists and dogmatist adventurers to oppose and ridicule the test ban agreement and to seek to make it virtually ineffective. The three-power agreement must be signed by all countries of the world; there must be a universal ban on all nuclear tests.

The Moscow test ban agreement must be followed by further steps towards the banning of armaments and the spectre of a world war. The Communist Party urges the Government of India to

extend its full support to the proposal for the signing of a non-aggression treaty between the NATO and Warsaw Pact countries. Such a treaty would reduce tension considerably and could help to create the atmosphere for agreement for a comprehensive disarmament accord. It is also vital to prohibit the stationing of foreign troops and to put an end to all foreign military bases on the soil of any country.

The Central Secretariat of the Communist Party of India appeals to all members of the Party, to all its supporters and sympathisers to join hands with all other Indians who stand for peace, in demanding that the Moscow agreement be followed by further positive steps towards disarmament and peace.

The struggle for world disarmament is inextricably linked with our people's struggle to defend the sovereignty and integrity of our Motherland against aggression, and with our efforts to preserve our policy of non-alignment against the imperialists and their Right reactionary allies inside this country.

(July 27)

AIPC STATEMENT

Peace workers, belonging to all organisations in India, will warmly welcome the initiative of the test ban agreement by the representatives of the governments of the USA, USSR and Britain. This is the first victory of the peace movement in its worldwide struggle to bring about complete and general disarmament.

ALREADY the sinister forces opposed to disarmament and peace are hurling abuse at the test ban agreement, and are threatening to nullify it by refusing to make the pact universal and of application to all countries.

The All India Peace Council is pledged to work for the banning of all tests by all countries, and will do all in its power to see that the present test ban agreement initiated in Moscow is made binding on all countries.

The present agreement must be carried forward in such a way that the path to a world war is totally closed. Along the road to complete

and general disarmament and the ending of the cold war, the next step of significance would be a non-aggression pact between the NATO and Warsaw Pact powers, as suggested by Premier Khrushchev.

Indian peace workers congratulate all the world's peace movement, whose tireless work has at last yielded the first fruit.

This victory will inspire us all to work even harder, without complacency and with ever greater vigilance, till we have brought into being the world without arms, of which all mankind dreams.

(July 27)

well-known lawyer Nafi Yunis and the physician Mohammed al-Chelabi causes serious apprehensions.

Then the author of the letter describes how Salam Adil, the hero of the Iraqi people, First Secretary of the Communist Party of Iraq, was killed by the reactionaries on March 7, 1963.

"The murderers first gouged out Salam Adil's eyes, then cut the muscles on his legs, salted the wounds heavily, poured acid into them and threw the hero under a steam-roller. They treated Mohammed Abu al-Is and Hassan Uveini exactly the same way (both were militant Party comrades of Salam Adil—Ed.)."

Here is what Dr. Salah Halis, representative of the Supreme Committee for the Defence of the Iraqi People, added:

"The number of crimes per-

petrated is tremendous. According to information available at our committee, more than 10,000 people have been murdered and 100,000 innocent men, women and children have been thrown into prisons and concentration camps in Iraq during the last four and a half months.

"The bloody war unleashed by the Iraqi rulers against the Kurds is a continuation of the same criminal anti-democratic policy. The people of Iraq entertain a deep feeling of sympathy towards the just struggle of our brothers, the Kurds. For us, ordinary people of Iraq, the Kurds have always been and will remain brothers. We have grown up on the same land, under the same sky. We are united in the struggle against reactionaries and imperialists.

"Let the world know the truth about what is going on in Iraq!"

Book Review

WHAT HAPPENED AT MOSHI: 56 pp, published by Indian Association for Afro-Asian Solidarity, 14-B Janpath Barracks, Janpath, New Delhi 1. Price 50 nP.

THE Third Conference for Afro-Asian People's Solidarity, held at Moshi in Tanganyika last February, aroused widespread interest all over the world. In our own country, it was big news for several days, and was commented upon in Parliament several times.

The Indian Association for Afro-Asian Solidarity has done a valuable service in publishing this handy booklet giving answers to all the questions raised by friends and enemies alike.

Detailed accounts of the

Conference by Diwan Chaman Lal, MP who led the Indian delegation, and the report by Romesh Chandra, who was one of the delegates, are full of information and facts, many of which were deliberately hidden from the public by the monopoly press.

The texts of all the most significant resolutions of the Conference are given in the pamphlet, as well as the Indian delegation leader's speech.

Rameshwari Nehru contributes a short preface to the booklet.

AUGUST 4, 1963

Editorial From Front Page COLOMBO POWERS MUST ACT

India-China tension, is highlighted by the recent agreement on joint air exercises with the USA and Britain and in the consent given (and not yet categorically repudiated despite repeated assurances of "reconsideration") to the notorious Voice of America to broadcast from Indian soil—which seriously weakened the nation's policy of non-alignment.

Aided by the provocations, threats and military build up of the Chinese leaders, the imperialists and the worst reactionaries are seeking to dig themselves in more firmly on our soil.

The Chinese threat adds strength to the reactionaries' offensive against progressive forces. It provides a cover for the Right reactionaries inside the Congress and government to make new attacks and impose new burdens on the people, and to curb still further fundamental rights and democratic liberties.

The US-stooge Government of Pakistan is a willing partner in the Chinese leaders' conspiracy. Allied with the Chinese Government in its hatred for India, the dictatorship of Marshal Ayub helps the imperialists to turn the screw on the Indian Government, to blackmail it with a view to making it surrender its sovereignty little by little to US-British interests, and to abandon the policy of nonalignment in all but name.

The Indian people are determined to resist any attack on their independence and sovereignty from wherever it may come. They are determined to defend the policy of nonalignment against the onslaughts being made on it.

It is good to hear emphatic reaffirmation of our policy of nonalignment from the Prime Minister. But words sound sometimes a little feeble in the context of the blare of the VOA and the roar of the joint air exercises.

The truth today is that it is the democratic masses of our country who are taking the defence of nonalignment into their own hands. It is the people's vigilance which has shamed the powers—that be into declaring at least that they are "reconsidering" the VOA contract. It is the people's vigilance which has brought about the modifications, however slight, in the obnoxious joint exercises deal, and which is now acting to ensure that the deal is cancelled.

The need of the hour is unity of all patriotic forces to defend our Motherland against any renewed aggression; unity to resist the attacks on those basic policies which alone can guarantee that our liberty is not destroyed by the imperialists, monopolists and all the Right gangs; unity against the imposition of fresh burdens on the working masses, and the securing of resources for defence and development from the rich, who have fattened at the expense of the common man during the emergency.

At this moment, patriotic and peace-loving Indians, ever prepared to defend their Motherland with their lives, at the same time in the interest of peace, turn towards the friendly nonaligned Colombo Powers.

It is no longer possible for the Colombo Six to remain aloof, while the situation deteriorates. India has again indicated its total acceptance of the Colombo proposals. It reiterates this acceptance now, more firmly than ever.

But India's acceptance becomes of little value in the face of Chinese refusal to accept the proposals. China's intransigence can be fought only by the might of world public opinion.

It is for the Colombo Powers to exert themselves at this moment in whatever ways they can, to prevent any increase in tension on our borders, to avert the possibilities of a single clash. This is an urgent and immediate task.

The Colombo Powers must also take steps so that world opinion is brought into action to see that the atmosphere is created, as suggested by them for the starting of negotiations for a settlement of the India-China dispute.

Mankind has already recorded with gratitude the remarkable initiative of the Colombo Six. But let history not record failure. For failure would be disastrous for the world, for Asia, for India itself.

The Colombo Powers must act now, for the sake of world peace, of Afro-Asian solidarity, of the defence of nonalignment itself.

(July 31)

AUGUST 4, 1963

MR. BOWLES, HEED THE VOICE OF INDIA

* FROM FRONT PAGE

ministers. Hear the Voice of India, on the streets and in the villages of this country, denouncing the Voice of America deal, and you will know what the Voice of India sounds like.

Permit us also, Mr. Bowles, to say a word about Bokaro. We are writing at a moment when US Aid Administrator David Bell has categorically told the world that consideration of US assistance for Bokaro is off at least for this year.

Why did you and the US Government leaders keep us waiting all this while under false promises? You said in your press conference that it was not a question of capitalism and socialism, but is it not a fact that the US Government has all along been insisting that Bokaro should be in the private sector? And is this "delay" not intended to pressurise the Indian government into changing its policy decision in regard to Bokaro being in the public sector?

We know well, Mr. Bowles, that you and your fellow US government leaders are confident that with the joint air exercises and VOA agreements in your pocket, India is already aligned with you.

"Almost Aligned"

The latest (August 5) issue of Newsweek, a journal said to reflect the views of some of the topmost US leaders, has these interesting comments to make on India's nonalignment.

"... the vast sub-continent of India is undergoing a subtle change, the outlines of which are now becoming visible. Though Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru still preaches his credo of nonalignment, some Indians regard it as a credo of 'double-speak', for the fact is that India is now almost aligned with the West."

Referring to the joint exercises agreement, Newsweek says:

"This is the closest that India has come to a defence agreement with the West and it represents a historic turning point in her foreign policy. But Nehru still clings to the nonalignment label—though more out of political expediency than self-delusion."

And then it goes on to comment on the VOA deal, as a result of which, it says: "Nehru's nonalignment appears to have undergone further revamping."

Admitting that there has been popular opposition, the Newsweek, however, like you, Mr. Bowles, concludes by saying that "the agreement will go through."

Wishful thinking is a pleasant pastime. But you, as the interpreter of India to the USA, as the one who briefs the US newsmen in New Delhi, who send out the kind of stuff we have quoted above—you should know better and should give wiser guidance.

You see, the little men in

our country who may tell you that nonalignment is gone are men, who reckon without the Indian people. It is the Indian masses, who have taken up the banner of the defence of nonalignment and India's sovereignty—and they will never allow it to be snatched away from them, come what may.

It is time, Mr. Ambassador, that you wrote home the truth about the Voice of India, which will never allow the Voice of America to be

relayed from our soil, never allow the use of our territory for US bases and the stationing of US troops, never allow nonalignment to be bartered away... The truth may hurt, but you had better face it: the little men in the corridors of Central Government offices notwithstanding.

INDIA IS NOT FOR SALE.

Editor, NEW AGE

July 31.

U. P. Petition Targets Moving Upwards

* From Ramesh Sinha

LUCKNOW, July 29: The peasantry and people of the state seem to have caught up with the spirit and significance of the Great Petition and "DILLI CHALO" movement. There is already a competition, to push the targets upwards.

THE Ballia comrades, when they came here for the CPI State Council meeting, took the quota of collecting 50,000 signatures and sending 50 representatives to Delhi to join the Great March. When their local Council met to consider the question, it raised the quota of signatures to 1,00,000 and decided to send 100 men and women to Delhi.

Nearly 25,000 signatures have already been collected and about 25 of the 100 public meetings which they decided to hold, have been successfully concluded. SARJU PANDEY, MP has been touring the district along with local leaders of the Party and the Kisan Sabha.

Over A Million

Aligarh is collecting 50,000 signatures, Agra 40,000, Unnao 50,000, Fyzabad 25,000, Jaunpur 50,000, Sitapur 25,000, Nainital, 25,000, Bijnor 1,00,000, Etawah 20,000, Basti 50,000, Meerut and Muzaffarnagar 1,00,000 each, Garhwal 10,000, Moradabad 25,000, Fatehpur, 25,000, Jhansi, 20,000, Pilibhit, Allahabad, Barabanki, 10,000 each and so on. The total adds up to nearly a million and a quarter.

Even Deoria, eternally in the grip of one affliction or another, is from all accounts, battling heroically to fulfil its quota of 40,000 signatures.

In Gorakhpur, the work of collecting signatures is being combined with the work of organising succour to the flood-stricken people of the district. Rapti, Gandak, Rohini and Narayani (big Gandak) are playing havoc with the lives of lakhs of people in this district at this time. In the city alone Gorakhpur comrades expect to collect some 25,000 signatures.

20,000 or so signatures have been collected and the work to fulfil the quota of one lakh is going on briskly.

After the announcement of our campaign, the Jan Sangh which is the first party in this state's legislature and the main Opposition Party, tried to steal a march over us at least in this state. Hurdled they met and announced a movement against price rise, taxes, CDS, etc. They further announced that they would hold statewide demonstrations on July 1 in support of their demands.

But the programme of 1st July meetings and demonstrations has proved such a terrible fiasco for them that they did not dare to mention it even in their own press. The local press of course completely ignored it.

The next immediate target of the movement in UP is AUGUST 9. On that day demonstrations and meetings will be held in all tehsil and district headquarters. This will be a sort of rehearsal for the great demonstration at Delhi.

10,000 Single Handed

A measure of the response that the Petition movement is receiving, can perhaps be had best from the success achieved by SHYAM NARAIN of Basti. Working in only Harriyatya tehsil, he has single-handedly collected 10,000 signatures over the last few days. This must also be a record for any single collector.

In Varanasi, the work of collecting 1,00,000 signatures is being carried out with enthusiasm. Nearly 30,000 signatures have been collected. A few days back, Kali Shankar Shukla, secretary of the state Party addressed

NEW AGE

PAGE THIRTEEN

Horror in Iraq

DR. SALAH HALIS, a well-known Iraqi philologist and author, former Secretary-General of the Union of Writers of Iraq, member of the National Peace Council, acquainted N. Mar, a Literaturnaya Gazeta correspondent, with new documents testifying to the crimes perpetrated by the rulers of Baghdad. The photographs and the letter were sent recently by one of the prisoners of the Baghdad dungeons.

Here is the letter: "OUR groups of our fighters, courageous Iraqi patriots, were executed here, in the Rehab Palace, recently. Each group consisted of no less than 20 people. The names of those killed are known to no one in the world but us. And I consider it my duty to tell you about them. Friends, remember these names! Adnan al-Barrak. You, probably, have read the books



Devastation in Skopje: Photo shows the ruins of a hotel building

CPI SYMPATHY WITH YUGOSLAV PEOPLE

THE Central Secretariat of the Communist Party of India has sent a message of "warm fraternal sympathy to the relatives of all those who have lost their lives in the terrible earthquake in Skopje." In a letter to the League of Communists of Yugoslavia the Secretariat says: "We express our deep solidarity in your national calamity."

PAGE TWELVE

NEW AGE

CRISIS IN ECUADOR

by Lajpat Rai

An army coup d'etat has succeeded in toppling the government of President Carlos Julio Arosmena Monroy. The deposed President is now a refugee in Panama, while the army junta led by the Chief-of-staff has taken over the government. The first decree passed after the junta took over, was the formal banning of the Communist Party of Ecuador. This was just to please the Government of the United States, as the Communist Party could not function freely even during the regime of President Arosmena and was virtually an illegal party.

President Arosmena's drunkenness is not the cause but the pretext for overthrowing his government by the army, which has been the most important factor in the political life of Ecuador since independence from Spain. There has been recently much criticism of President's drunken behaviour in public, in the local press, to which his candid reply was that drinking was a manly vice for which no gentleman owed any apology to anyone.

What then is the reality behind this present crisis in Ecuador? What are the factors which have led up to the present coup, and what are the prospects for the future for this little country of Latin America?

Ecuador is the smallest but one country of the South American Republics with an area of 111,168 sq. miles and a population of 3.3 million, over

half of which are Indians and people with mixed blood. It is one of the poorest and the most illiterate countries of Latin America with a per capita income of Rs. 260 and an illiteracy rate of 49 per cent.

It is known as the country of contrasts having both the hot torrid coastal regions as well as the high mountain range of the Andes. Quito, its capital, lies at a height of 9,500 feet above sea level, while its greatest port city Guayaquil is situated at sea level.

Military coups and putsches are not an uncommon occurrence in this country. During the preceding seventy-five years, Ecuador had been governed by forty Presidents, dictators or juntas with none except one President completing his full four-year term.

Lillo Linke in his recent book entitled "Ecuador—The Coun-

try of Contrasts"—comments: "It is impossible to compute the number of Cabinet Ministers—some lasted less than a week—or of revolutions, street fights, putsches and coups d'etat, either successful or attempted, which took place in Ecuador. For half a century, Ecuador never had anything like a stable government." This past tradition of Ecuador continues to the present day.

As has been said before, the army is the greatest factor in the Ecuadorian political life and its leadership is composed of the famous Troika of Latin American society, namely the landed aristocracy, hereditary military caste and the city bourgeoisie.

On April 3, 1962, President Carlos Arosmena was pressured by the military junta and broke diplomatic relations with Cuba, Czechoslovakia and Poland. Other pressures working on him were the economic pressure of denial of aid through the Alliance for Progress. After the Punta del Este Conference in 1962, President Arosmena declared that the rupture of relations with Cuba was "due to economic pressure from outside."

As in other Latin American countries the grip of US imperialism lies heavily on Ecuador, determining its policies, upsetting its governments.

Fidel Castro, commenting on this unprovoked and unilateral breach of diplomatic relations had said that "this drunkard and cowardly President would meet the same fate that was met by President Frondizi of Argentina." Castro's words have come true.

Ecuadorian politics has been determined by the features of her economy which are common with many countries of Latin America.

Ecuador is a country of contrast not only in respect of its climate, but also with regard to ownership of wealth of the nation. Its more than half Indian and mestizo (mixed) population lives in such abject poverty, the like of which is not to be seen even in Latin America.

Condition of Sierra Indians

Describing the conditions of Sierra Indians, the well-known American journalist Robert Alexander writes:

"Indeed, Ecuador has been less affected by modern white man civilisation than any other country in South America. The greater part of the population is composed of Indians tilling the soil in the valleys and plateaus of the Andes... They are still living under the yoke of the white landlords which was riveted on their necks by the Spanish conquistadors."

Describing the untouched slums of Quito and Guayaquil, Richard Eder, New York Times correspondent in Latin

America, sent a despatch which partly reads thus:

"The houses are thin-walled and unpainted bamboo structures that give the unstable effect of a play-card house. About 60 per cent of the population of these cities lives in these shacks set in a most distressing background with no sewage, no water, no electricity or any other amenities."

"They live like animals here", he concluded.

The economy of the country hinges on two crops, banana and cocoa. These two products constitute 72 per cent of the country's exports, 67 per cent of which goes to the United States. United States, therefore, is the country which determines the prices of these commodities and is known to the Ecuadorians as "the arbitrator of their fate."

The shadow of Uncle Sam darkens the face of Ecuador always.

The great banana and cocoa plantations which comprise 70 per cent of the land on the coast and the Selra, are owned by three per cent of the people—mainly by a few old Spanish aristocratic families and US companies. No wonder Ecuador is known as "a land of people dispossessed" and "a country which is step-mother of its own people."

Distressing Conditions of Farm Workers

The conditions of farm workers who work on these plantations is most distressing. According to American writer John Donovan (The Red Machete):

"The wages of the Indians working in the cocoa plantations in the Sierra region come to 15 cents a day, while on the coastal banana plantations, they come to 1.4 dollars a week. The working hours in the mountains are from sun rise to sun set, and in the coastal areas always more than ten hours."

With such conditions prevailing in the country, the Leftist movement in Ecuador has always been strong. A small but well organised Communist Party led by Dr. Ricardo Parado has existed since 1931. In the larger Socialist Party, the Left-wing which wants joint action with the Communists, has also been strong. Since the Cuban revolution, this left-wing has been reinforced by the Fidelista elements in the Republic—a section of people, especially intellectuals and students, who draw inspiration from the Cuban revolution and its leader Fidel Castro.

In the Andes mountains a guerrilla movement, based on landless Indian farm labourers, has existed for sometime now. In the cities, the students of the University of Quito, Guayaquil and Cuenca have been actively associated with "Cuba Si, Yankee No." movement.

Recently, the Arosmena Government appointed a committee to investigate the "spread of Communism among the student community at university level." It led to nothing except the dismissal of the rector of Guayaquil University, Senor Antonio Parra Velasco, on grounds that "his views are not conducive" for the healthy development of student mind.

After the diplomatic rupture with Cuba, Czechoslo-

vakia and Poland, President Arosmena's role has been one of an army stooge. It became so particularly when the Army Commander of Cuenca region, himself a great banana planter, threatened to bombard the Presidential Palace if diplomatic relations with Cuba were not broken.

Opposition to Arosmena

President Arosmena in the earlier days of his Presidency had resisted the pressure of the army, had called for progressive reform, brought in a legislation for minimum wages for Indian labour and talked of social security for Ecuadorian labour. The Left-wing in the country, however, did not lend him any support, keeping in view his opportunist past.

Unable to achieve anything in the face of opposition from the army, clergy and US companies and isolated from the progressive sections, the frustrated President took to the bottle—his old love—and became a dissipated, almost a tragic figure.

In 1962, his government financially broke as a result of falling prices both of banana and the cocoa crops for the last three years. For full five months, the government employees received no salary which is in arrears up to this day.

In 1963, the prospects turned out to be no better and there was widespread agitation and discontent in the country. In the Andes, the peasant movement and the guerrilla activity increased causing alarm in the ruling circles, particularly the army chief's shadow junta. Fearing the outbreak of a popular revolution, the army has now moved in and the sham President has come to an end.

That no army junta can solve the problems of Ecuador is clear for the fact that during the past fifty years scores of such juntas and dictatorships have ruled the country, leaving it in a worse condition than when they took over.

Ecuador, like the rest of Latin America, can achieve political stability and economic well-being only by tackling its basic problems such as break up of the latifundia and large plantations, diversification of agriculture, development of industry, a progressive social legislation, curbing of foreign capital.

Above all, as everywhere else, the economic independence from the stranglehold of the USA is the urgent and immediate necessity.

The All-India Youth Federation celebrated the National Day of Cuba on July 27 at the Constantia Hall in New Delhi in a largely-attended meeting.

The Ambassador of Cuba, Manuel Stolk Novyrod, members of the Cuban Embassy, A.S.R. Chari an eminent advocate of the Supreme Court and several other lead-

ing figures were present in the meeting. The Cuban guests were accorded reception in Indian style: they were garlanded and 'tilak' was put on their foreheads. Sarada Mitra, general secretary of the Federation welcomed the Cuban guests and in course of his address emphasised the significance of the Cuban revolution. He pointed out the commonness

of objectives that exists between India and Cuba, and the aims both countries are striving to realise.

Replying to the address, the Cuban ambassador said that the tremendous public support for the cause of Cuba proved to be a decisive factor in halting the imperialist designs on Cuba. Cuba and India, he said, shared common ideals in the fight for peace.

Speaking on the occasion, A. S. R. Chari said that the test of socialism can be seen in the measures the Cuban government has taken for the development of its people, particularly the women and children. In face of difficulties, socialist Cuba is marching towards its objectives and the enthusiasm and spirit of freedom which the people of Cuba exhibit prove that only socialism can bring about such a development in a country.

An exhibition of Cuban books and posters, and cultural performances by the cultural wing of the Federation and the Delhi branch of IPTA were also arranged on this occasion.

Protest Against VOA

STUDENTS PROCESSION ATTACKED IN CALCUTTA

The manner in which the demonstration of students led by West Bengal unit of Students Federation was attacked in Calcutta by a gang of hooligans on July 26 is not only shocking but also a grim pointer to the way things are moving. Known leaders of Congress-led Chatra Parishad took active part in the attack and directed it.

The students' demonstration was organised to register protest against the AIR-Voice of America deal and "Joint air exercises". Though the public opinion is against these agreements and

most all newspapers have come out sharply against them, it was probably too much for the state Congress to allow peaceful demonstrators to voice their protest against the deals.

WOMEN FEDERATION PROTESTS AGAINST AIR-VOA DEAL

Protesting against the AIR-VOA deal and the agreement on "Joint air exercises", KAPILA KHANDWALA, President of the National Federation of Indian Women, issued a statement on July 29. The statement says:

WE women have been deeply perturbed by the news that propaganda will be permitted to be broadcast by foreign government from our soil. This surely is a clear example where our nonalignment policy is being jeopardised since radio broadcasts are a powerful weapon in the arsenal of cold war.

We are also deeply concerned over the proposal of joint air exercises on Indian soil of Indian Air Force and US-Commonwealth countries' jet fighters. To allow foreign air squadrons on Indian soil even temporarily in the name of joint exercises will undermine our basic policy

of nonalignment and having no military pacts with any country.

At the moment when suspicions are being cast on our policies, such agreements give a handle to those who say we are "pretending nonalignment". They will sow even greater confusion among our friends all over the world especially the Afro-Asian countries whom we want as our closest friends.

We therefore would urge the government to cancel both the agreements which are against the declared policies of our country as well as the dignity and sovereignty of India.

Youth Federation Celebrates Cuban National Day

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The Ambassador of Cuba, Manuel Stolk Novyrod, members of the Cuban Embassy, A.S.R. Chari an eminent advocate of the Supreme Court and several other lead-

ing figures were present in the meeting. The Cuban guests were accorded reception in Indian style: they were garlanded and 'tilak' was put on their foreheads.

Sarada Mitra, general secretary of the Federation welcomed the Cuban guests and in course of his address emphasised the significance of the Cuban revolution. He pointed out the commonness

The intolerance of the Congress and the slogans welcoming the VOA and 'air exercises' which the miscreants shouted after the attack, are of course understandable but what explanation can police give of its complete inactivity during the attack although its officers and truck loads of constables were present at the spot?

According to reports available, it is quite clear that when the first part of the demonstration reached the crossing of Nirmal Chander Street and Ganesh Avenue, the hooligans led by Chatra Parishad suddenly attacked them. Simultaneously, other batches of hooligans who were waiting nearby jumped upon the students at the end of the demonstration.

A Calcutta daily—JUGANTAR—carried the news that a group of hooligans chased the girl students in the demonstration to quite some distance and hurled most vulgar epithets against them.

The state unit of the Students Federation in a statement on July 27 condemned the attack and protested against police inactivity. But the hooliganism organised by the Congress-led Chatra Parishad was not restricted only to attacking the demonstration. Next day when the Students Federation was holding a meeting in the campus of Calcutta University, a group of students belonging to Chatra Parishad crashed into the meeting and took over the dias and the microphones by force.

The leaders of the Students Federation in order to avoid a clash and further deterioration in the situation, left the meeting place and lodged a protest with the acting Vice-Chancellor of the University. The Vice-Chancellor promised to enquire into the matter and raise it in the meeting of the Senate.

Help Barauni Workers: AITUC Appeal for Fund

NEW DELHI, July 25: The Secretariat of the AITUC has appealed to all unions and workers to contribute liberally for the legal defence of Barauni workers. The text of the appeal follows:

THE workers of Barauni refinery were forced to go on strike in pursuance of their legitimate demands. The struggle led to firing on the workers in which two persons lost their lives. Now cases under various sections of the Penal Code are pending against 275 workers for such offences as attempt to murder, loot, arson, etc. Important leaders like CHANDRASEKHAR SINGH, M.L.A., Dy. President; DEORINANDAN SINGH, General Secretary; SURAJNARAIN SINGH, Vice President; RAMSAGAR SINGH and RAMBINOD SINGH, Assistant Secretaries of the Barauni Teishodhak Mazdoor Union are involved in these cases. One hundred workers and leaders are in jail.

These comrades have to be defended. Legal defence means expenditure of large sums of money. The workers at Barauni are in urgent need of help.

The Secretariat of the All-India Trade Union Congress appeals to all unions and workers to contribute liberally to the Defence Fund for Barauni workers.

All contributions may be sent to:
GENERAL SECRETARY,
BIHAR STATE TRADE UNION CONGRESS,
LANGERTOLI, PATNA 4.

Delhi Youth Demonstrate

ON July 29, several hundred youth in the Capital marched from the centre of the city to Prime Minister's residence to submit a memorandum on AIR-VOA deal and on the agreement for "joint air exercises" with USA, UK, Canada and Australia.

The demonstration, which was organised by the Delhi unit of All-India Youth Federation, carried banners and placards demanding scrapping of the VOA deal and joint air exercises with USA, etc. This was the first demonstration in the Capital on this issue.

After the demonstration reached Prime Minister's house, the Principal Private Secretary to the Prime

Minister told the leaders of the deputation that no agreement with the Voice of America had yet been signed and that the proposal was being reconsidered. In regard to the agreement on joint air exercises with USA, UK and others he said that government had already signed it and had explained its position through the press. He added that the Prime Minister had received the memorandum and would look into it.

The demonstrators held a meeting in front of the Prime Minister's residence and passed a resolution condemning the goonda attack on the demonstration of Calcutta students brought out to protest against the deal with VOA and for joint air exercise.

PROGRAMME OF POPULAR FRONT

*FROM PAGE 2

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT:

- Opening of a steel plant and a pig-iron factory in Goa;
- Starting a ship building yard to take full advantage of the Marmagao bay;
- Development of hydro-electric power.

DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL INDUSTRIES:

- Loans and aid for coir, canning, cashew-nut, matches and other factories;
- Developing the fishing industry; financial aid to fishermen to introduce modern mechanized methods for deep sea fishing and for forming co-operatives;
- Aid to goldsmiths rendered unemployed by the Congress gold policy;
- Facilities for small traders and small mine-owners.

JUDICIARY REFORMS:

- Introduction of the Indian criminal, civil and other laws.
- Reform of jails organised on fascist basis.

SOCIAL, EDUCATION AND CULTURAL REFORMS:

- Harijan and backward classes to be provided with social and financial aid for their quick development and welfare;
- Free medical centres in all villages and towns for lower income groups;
- Subsidies for housing schemes for lower income groups;
- Free secondary education for all children;
- Scholarships for capable students from the lower income groups for higher education;
- The establishment of a University with all faculties;
- Encouragement of all cultural talent with generous grants and subsidies;
- Development of the Music Academy in Panjim into an all-India Music Centre.

Further, the FRENTE POPULAR (Janata Aghadi) will work for the establishment of a clean and efficient administration rid of red-tape, arbitrariness, corruption and nepotism.

The FRENTE POPULAR rejects the Congress policy of prohibition and will fight against its introduction in Goa.

The FRENTE POPULAR opens its doors to all sections of the Goan people. It stands for full democratic rights, for a society based on high social and moral standards, for no interference in religious affairs and respect for all religious creeds.

The FRENTE POPULAR stands for secularism, democracy and socialism, for the end of all exploitation of man by man.

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COMMUNIST PARTY (INDIA)

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A section of the gathering at the Constantia Hall. Inset: Cuban Ambassador addressing the gathering



Dr. Zakir Husain, Vice-President of India with the Cuban Ambassador at the reception held at the Cuban Embassy on July 26 on the occasion of Cuban National Day

NO COMPROMISE ON NON-ALIGNMENT

—INDIRA GANDHI

★ From Masood Ali Khan

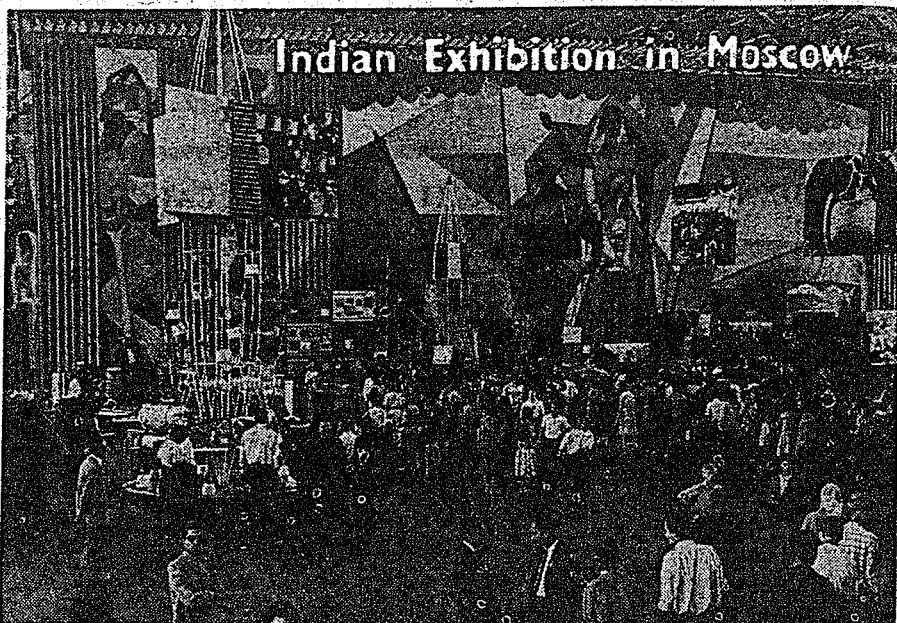
MOSCOW, July 30: Indira Gandhi, at a Press Conference in Moscow today, expressed satisfaction at the growing ties of friendship and cooperation between India and the Soviet Union. She declared that India will continue to follow her policy of economic cooperation and nonalignment in the international field.

SHE had an interesting meeting with Premier Khrushchov and discussed many matters concerning India. Khrushchov, she said, had a good knowledge of the problems India was facing.

Answering a question by New Age correspondent whether the proposed joint air

governed all relations between the two countries.

The accent of all economic and other assistance that India received was to strengthen her economy, raise her standard of living and defend the country, without compromising in the slightest our policy of



Indira Gandhi and Nina Khrushchova at the Indian Exhibition in Moscow.

exercises with western air forces figured in the talks, Indira Gandhi said:

"We explained the situation in India. We have been subjected to invasion and we have to take help from wherever we can get it. But the exercises will be under the aegis of the Indian Air Force, India's sovereignty will not be impinged upon.

"There was no question of building foreign bases or footholds on our soil. The exercises will not be held near the border but in Delhi and Calcutta area and they are temporary, their purpose being to train our people in the use of radar air defence."

A question was asked about the prospects of military assistance from the Soviet Union. Answering, Indian Ambassador T. N. Kaul said that the common aim of the Soviet Union and India was to maintain peace and that

nonalignment and peaceful coexistence. India's aim, he said was to strengthen peace in Asia and everywhere else.

Oiga Chechyotkina, the Pravda Observer, expressed satisfaction at the reiteration of India's policy of non-alignment and asked about the Voice of America deal. Mrs. Gandhi said:

"We need powerful transmitters. But we are not going to allow foreign countries to use them. We shall not take the equipment otherwise. The matter is being looked into."

WE WON'T ALLOW

T. N. Kaul added that India was willing to accept transmitters without any conditions from any country, including the Soviet Union. Asked by your correspondent whether the Soviet Union was asked to give us a transmitter and whether the Soviet side put any conditions, the Ambassador said:

"Judging from the economic assistance given by the Soviet Union to India, we can say that if they supply a transmitter, it would be without conditions."

Earlier Indira Gandhi said that the Indian Exhibition will give some idea of India's progress since independence, but India had many problems in her way even today. India supported disarmament and peace not only as a good end, but also as something essential for her development.

VOA, Joint Exercises Cause Worry

The reception accorded to Indira Gandhi here (she was received by Khrushchov and he, along with his wife and other Ministers, attended a lunch given in Indira's honour by the Indian Ambassador) is an indication of the respect of Soviet Union entertains for Nehru and the policies his name is associated with.

BUT there has been increasing awareness of the fact here that these policies are under constant attack in India. The Voice of America deal and the joint air exercises with Western air forces have caused anxiety here and are described as moves away from non-alignment, endangering it.

The newspaper RED STAR in an article entitled "Western Trap for India" mentioned Western attempts to push India away from neutrality and to subordinate her to their own interests.

Referring to Western proposals of joint air defence, the

paper said that they aroused wrath and resolute protests of peace-loving public inasmuch as they envisage "the establishment of American and British bases on Indian territory, the stationing of US, British, Canadian and Australian Air Force units there and the factual subordination of India's Armed Forces to American and British military."

"All this is fraught with grave consequences for the cause of peace in South East Asia and the security of India herself," the paper declares.

CAPITAL TALK ———★ By Diarist

BEHIND CHINESE BUILD-UP

THE appearance of the Chinese troops once again on the McMahon Line and inside the demilitarised sector in Ladakh has touched off a new wave of alertness in New Delhi. Naturally, the last year's harrowing experiences are recalled and nobody is in a mood to take any risk and be again caught by surprises as in October last.

The arrival of the Chinese on the border is not a mere defence problem. It has also posed a political question and observers are watching the development with utmost anxiety. Many explanations are current in the capital about the Chinese motives in sending troops once again on our frontier:

● The first suggests that, after having turned down the Colombo proposals, Peking tried very hard to force India to come to the Conference table on its terms. It is suggested that when that did not succeed, this new pressure move on the military plane is being sought to force a new situation of tension, hoping that the Colombo Powers will then put pressure on New Delhi to agree to the opening of talks at least to ward off the prospects of another first-class crisis: a sort of brinkman diplomacy.

● Another explanation of the Chinese move current in capital circles is that Peking wants to force the hands of

Moscow by working up a new crisis on the frontier, banking on the assumption that if another armed clash takes place, the Soviet Government will have no option but to come out criticising India, because in the event of a military showdown, the West may come out more openly in support of the Government of India.

● A third interpretation, which is very widely held in the capital is that the entire move is to step up a tension in collusion with Pakistan, so that by a massive pressure tactic, both Peking and Rawalpindi may force India to a position of compromise. Recent bellicose postures of the Pakistani leaders lend weight to this point of view.

★

THERE is speculation in the capital about the present Soviet appraisal of the Indian situation. This has arisen because of several factors. First came the unconcealed Soviet misgivings—both in the press and through diplomatic channels—about the AIR-VOA deal and the joint air exercises.

Once the enormity of critical reaction was realised in New Delhi, there was worry that this might affect our standing both among the Afro-Asian and the socialist countries, only helping China to

plug in hard its anti-Indian line.

Then came the reports of the good results of the Boothalingam Mission. The reported Soviet offer of radar installations, missiles and transport aircraft are considered to have both military and political implications. For it is stressed in the capital that these will not only reinforce our defence but will also help to stabilise our policy of non-alignment, so much under fire from the West and its Indian lobby. The prospect of getting more MIGs, in contrast to the West's refusal to part with supersonic jet fighters has improved the chances of strengthening the IAF.

The latest in New Delhi's speculation about Soviet view of India today has been provided by KHRUSHCHOV'S warm tributes to India at the Indian Industries Fair at Moscow and subsequently, at the Indian Embassy luncheon in honour of INDIRA GANDHI, which the Soviet Premier attended setting new precedents in protocol. This has brought a sense of relief here that we have not lost the friendship of Moscow, despite the indiscretions of those who are in a hurry to fall in line with Washington.

In this context, Indira Gandhi's assertion in Moscow that India would not permit foreign governments to broadcast from transmitters on Indian soil is regarded as significant for it denotes that government has woken up to the damage done to the country's position by this deal and is anxious to repair the damage.

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