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ONE MONTH WITHOUT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

AS THIS WEEK ENDS, INDIA WILL HAVE BEEN ONE MONTH WITHOUT THE TOWERING FIGURE OF JAWAHARLAL NEHRU STANDING AT THE HELM OF AFFAIRS, AS HE HAD STOOD SINCE THAT FATEFUL DAY IN AUGUST 1947 WHEN OUR PEOPLE PROCLAIMED THEIR INDEPENDENCE.

IT is obviously too early to make any overall assessment of the state of the nation without Nehru. The memory of the late Prime Minister is still too green; and, in a way, the impetus he gave the country still keeps it moving broadly in the direction it was moving before.

Indeed it would be impossible for anyone to succeed in giving a twist to the Nehru policies all of a sudden, the people would not tolerate it.

It can perhaps be said that the nation moves today on the energy and the power which Nehru had given it while he lived; the energy and the power which was renewed during the unforgettable days of mourning and reeducation. And yet the events have moved so fast, that it is necessary to stop a moment and ask oneself: how has our India dealt with the problems it has faced, and how would Nehru have dealt with them?

The answers may not be as clear cut as one would like them to be, but it is as well to ponder over them, for this would help us to be vigilant against those who are making a bid to disrupt the positive policies, while swearing by Nehru.

KAIRON AFFAIR

THE Kairon story has occupied the centre of the stage for several days. And the reactionary gangs

have not been slow to put in malicious reminders that it was Nehru who had himself defended Kairon for a long, long while. From this the conclusion is sought to be drawn that the firmness with which the centre has acted in relieving Kairon of his office was possible only because Nehru is no longer with us.

It is, of course, true that Pandit Nehru was in a large measure responsible for the delay in acting against Kairon. Nehru hesitated because he mistakenly believed that Punjab's secularism and stability depended only on Kairon's continuing as Chief Minister.

But in the end, it was Nehru who had the Commission of Inquiry appointed. And one can have no doubt that he would have insisted on its findings being acted upon, with as much expedition as the government has shown now.

VITAL QUESTIONS

But the vital questions which are being asked regarding the Kairon affair and the Das Commission are these:

★ Will the new government be strong enough to learn the real lessons of the Punjab events?

★ Will the new government take steps to see that charges of corruption against the highest—ministers and officials and their monopolist and big business backers—are

investigated thoroughly in all cases?

★ Will government show that it means business by ensuring that Kairon and his accomplices are removed from the political life of the state?

REAL TEST

THE rise in food prices has created a situation unprecedented in our country. The Prime Minister, addressing the Chief Ministers conference, put the facts in a nutshell when he said:

"Wholesale prices in India are now at the highest level ever reached, and we are entering the difficult lean season when prices normally rise further. . . . Our entire developmental effort, for which we have toiled all these years and sacrificed so much, is in danger."

This is the real test of the new government. The universal demand is for state trading in foodgrains. A few weeks ago Finance Minister T. T. Krishnamachari made a statement indicating that government would have to resort to state trading if it wanted to solve the food problems.

But as we go to press, it is clear that this essential, key measure is being shelved under one excuse or the other. It is argued that state trading cannot begin at a moment when the harvest has already been sold to the traders; but even if it is to begin with the next harvest, the detailed organisational steps must be taken now.

As NEW AGE goes to press, the Chief Ministers are debating this very question. But the food hoarders lobby has been moving heaven and earth to prevent state trading. The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry is using all the influence it commands to blow up the proposal. The food-grain merchants are campaigning vigorously, threatening to "strike" publicly, privately blackmailing the Congress leaders by warning them that the fat donations the trade has been giving the ruling party will disappear, if state trading comes.

Behind all the hesitations and vacillations on state trading are visible the glaring weaknesses of the government. Instead of mobilising public opinion through all-party vigilance committees to catch the hoarders and profi-



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teers, the government continues to tinker with the problem.

While at this moment, the complete plans of the government are not clear (beyond their intention to build up stocks with the help of PL 480 imports), it is apparent that the Chief Ministers are subject to all types of pressures which prevent them from taking resolute measures which alone can solve the present crisis.

The decisions of the Chief Ministers conference, their implementation and their results will enable the Indian people to judge the new government and its declarations and professions, better perhaps than anything else.

FOREIGN POLICY

IN the field of foreign policy, there have been moments during the last month when the world must have assuredly missed the intervention of a Nehru. This has been particularly so in regard to the events in Indo-China which are today the source of the gravest peril for world peace.

Would Nehru have remained silent in the face of the open threats by the US imperialists to carry the war to North Vietnam and China—threats which, if carried out, would lead to a global catastrophe?

Would Nehru have remained silent today when the US air force is carrying out bombing raids on the Pathet Lao forces? Would he not have denounced the brinkmanship in which the Johnson administration is indulging in South Vietnam, which has virtually been taken over by the US armed forces with the notorious General Maxwell Taylor as US "Ambassador" (and virtual ruler)?

And who in the world must not have missed the ringing tones of Jawaharlal Nehru at the moment when Nelson Mandela and his colleagues were sentenced to life imprisonment by the racist demons of South Africa?

All this is not to suggest that there has been any marked shift in our foreign policy.

The cordiality with which the Soviet Vice-Premier, Anastas Mikoyan was received in New Delhi last weekend was proof enough of the government's determination to continue its policy of friendship and cooperation with the socialist countries.

Again, in the councils of the world, in the Security Council, in the Disarmament Committee, in the Trade and Development Conference, in the UN Committee on Colonialism—everywhere, Indian representatives have, during this month, spoken and acted in the best traditions of non-aligned, anti-imperialist India.

Nevertheless, the fact that Nehru is no longer with us strikes all mankind with a bang at every turn.

AMERICAN DESIRE

THE imperialists hope desperately that there will be a shift in the direction they desire in Indian policies. Typical of imperialist wishful thinking is the latest comment in the American magazine NEWSWEEK.

With obvious satisfaction, this organ of US imperialist interests says that despite his newness to the office, there were signs that Prime Minister Shastri would use his strength to "pursue policies that are more than mere echoes of Mr. Nehru's policies".

What this sinister phrase means is apparent when NEWSWEEK gives as an example, the story that the new Prime Minister had told a correspondent that he might be inclined to rely more heavily than Mr. Nehru did on private enterprise in coping with India's economic problems.

The Prime Minister is quoted, with glee, as having said: "Our objective—socialism—is clear, but we must not be dogmatic."

In regard to Kashmir, NEWSWEEK makes no bones about US imperialism's hope

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NATIONWIDE ACTION FOR PEOPLE'S FOOD

* FOR EFFECTIVE PRICE CONTROL

* FOR NATIONALISATION OF BANKS

* FOR STATE TRADING IN FOOD-GRAINS

* FOR IMMEDIATE FOOD SUPPLY TO SCARCITY AREAS

—AGAINST HOARDERS AND PROFITTEERS

—AGAINST PRO-HOARDER POLICIES OF GOVERNMENT

Forward To Seventh Congress Of CPI

New Initiatives By Colombo Powers?

Minister of State for External Affairs Lakshmi Menon is reported to have urged the Colombo Powers to "take the next step to break the stalemate now". Addressing an informal press conference in Colombo on June 22, the Minister said that "unless a new step was taken, it was difficult to break the stalemate".

PATRIOTIC opinion in the country, which earnestly desires a peaceful solution of the India-China dispute, will welcome Lakshmi Menon's bold appeal. A government which earnestly desires peace cannot be satisfied with the present impasse, and that is why New Delhi has again and again made it clear that it will not take a rigid position.

The acceptance of the Colombo proposals was a positive gesture by the Government of India, which was instrumental in winning for us the goodwill of a large number of governments and peace-loving people everywhere.

A concrete result of this step, and of the painstaking explanatory work by democratic forces, was the isolation of the Chinese leaders on this issue in important international bodies like the World Council of Peace and the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organisation.

The Chinese refusal to accept the Colombo proposals, it was stated, was largely due to their opposition to the establishment of Indian posts in the demilitarised zone in the western sector. The Government of India was sounded by Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike regarding the possibility of our agreeing to start negotiations, on the basis of the withdrawal of Chinese posts from this zone (thus

leaving the zone completely free of any posts—Indian or Chinese).

After considering all aspects of the question, the Government of India agreed to the suggestion, which had been made by the Ceylon Prime Minister presumably on the understanding that the Chinese leaders would be prepared to withdraw their posts from the demilitarised zone, if India agreed to accept that withdrawal as meeting the terms of the Colombo proposals (which had provided for both Indian and Chinese posts in the zone in equal numbers).

Unfortunately, no initiative has yet been taken by the Chinese leaders, despite India's acceptance of the Ceylon Prime Minister's suggestion in regard to the posts in the demilitarised zone.

In these circumstances, the stalemate remains, and the India-China tension continues, to provide a happy hunting ground for the imperialists and reactionaries to pressurise India to weaken its policy of nonalignment.

It is for the Government of India not merely to suggest to the Colombo Powers to take new initiatives, but to make bold suggestions in this direction itself.

Any proposals, consistent with our honour and integrity, will find support among the vast mass of our people.

Reactionary pro-imperialist forces are always anxious to prevent any settlement of the India China dispute, but their intransigence has hardly any support in the country.

India's Security And Arms Smuggling

WALLCOTT has done it again. The editorials shriek in agony: where is our security apparatus? How does it happen that two foreigners can land illegally on our territory, then calmly take a bus to Bombay and make their get-away quite openly from Santa Cruz airport? How does it happen that a proclaimed offender like Wallcott can come into India, incognito of course, stay at a hotel for several weeks and then slip out without a finger being raised to stop him?

The whole affair is alarming and disgusting. But it is not only the question of how all this happened, which needs investigation. What is far more important is to find out what these foreigners were doing in India.

There is plenty to support the theory that Wallcott and his gang are engaged in arms smuggling. Arms for whom? Arms for what purpose?

When Wallcott escaped on the last occasion, plenty of facts were placed before Parliament of this desperate criminal's connections with cer-

Comment

tain princely houses associated with reactionary parties.

It is quite obvious that these arms are being brought into India for purposes other than royal shikar. It is here that our security forces must make their closest investigations.

It must not be forgotten that imperialist, subversive agencies like the CIA use precisely adventurers of the Wallcott type for their most sinister conspiracies. It is possible that the Wallcott gang is just a bunch of professional gun-runners, with no connection with imperialist conspiracies. But the other possibility cannot be ruled out and needs the most thorough enquiry.

Michael Scott And The Nagas

TALKING of security and of imperialist agents, one of the most amazing examples of governmental incompetence has been the manner in which the avowed advocate of the Naga rebel leader Phizo has been allowed the free run of Nagaland.

Rev. Michael Scott's views on the Naga problem are well known. His articles criticising India's policy and slandering Indian leaders are also well known. And yet he was allowed to take part in the so-called peace mission, and "negotiate" with Phizo's followers.

The Government of India is now horrified at the results of its "liberal" and "generous" attitude. But it is probably already too late. Michael

Scott continues his activities in Nagaland. And evidently the Government of India is unable to take any steps to remove him from Nagaland—despite the obvious dangers to our security.

How long will this incompetence be allowed to sully India's fair name?

Abdullah Stays At Home

SHEIKH Abdullah has announced that he is not going to London as originally planned. He will thus not be on hand for the Shastri-Ayub talks during the Commonwealth Conference.

It is necessary to make it clear to Sheikh Abdullah that India does not recognise the existence of three parties to the negotiations, as the Sheikh evidently sought to create such an impression by his presence in London. Moreover, it has also to be clearly stated that though the first Ayub-Shastri meeting may take place in London, India has no intention of allowing any interference in our internal affairs by the British government or the Commonwealth.

Apprehensions still continue, despite the halt which has been put to the Sheikh's foreign yatra, about the Indo-Pak negotiations. The nation still awaits a clear-cut pronouncement that the government has no intention of discussing the question of Kashmir's accession, which it considers, as before, final and irrevocable.

—Ramesh Chandra



Mikoyan being received at Palam airport.



With Prime Minister Shastri.

MIKOYAN'S VISIT CEMENTS SOLIDARITY

The short halt in New Delhi of the Soviet Parliamentary delegation to Indonesia was like a fresh breeze of friendship which blew over us for 36 hours. The fact that the delegation was led by as eminent a Soviet leader as A. I. Mikoyan, First Vice Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, lent a special importance to this impromptu visit.

MIKOYAN'S talks with Prime Minister Shastri, and other government leaders, his statements and speeches, all went to emphasise the continued solidarity of the Soviet Union with India in our efforts to maintain and strengthen the positive policies associated with the name of Prime Minister Nehru.

★ Indian public opinion was especially grateful for the clearcut pronouncement in regard to Kashmir made by the Soviet Vice-Premier.

The knowledge that the Soviet Union would continue, as always, to support India against the imperialist conspiracy on Kashmir will stand our government and people in good stead at this time when a new offensive has begun to compel India to surrender to imperialist blackmail.

★ The assurance that the MIG factory will be speeded up is also welcome, and a good augury for the coming visit to the Soviet Union of Defence Minister Chavan.

It is no secret that the US imperialists refused to supply India with the modern supersonic planes, which our Defence Mission sought during its stay in Washington. The Indian people are learning from bitter experience that the loud pretensions of friendship of the imperialists are not worth the paper on which they are written.

★ The biggest gain of the visit was undoubtedly in the exchange of opinions on the urgent problems facing Asia and the world today. The personal contacts between the Prime Minister and the Soviet leader will be cemented further, when the former's promised visit to Moscow actually takes place.

Mikoyan's appreciation of India's foreign policy was open-hearted and fulsome. In his speech at the dinner given in his honour by Finance Minister T. T. Krishnamachari, Mikoyan said:

"After the grievous loss suffered by India, her new government and all those who guide her policy have declared that they would follow the cause of the late Jawaharlal Nehru... the policy of nonalignment, of

★ ON PAGE 6

COLLECTIVE DISCUSSION: COMMUNIST WAY

Editorial

NEARLY EVERY Communist Party in the world has expressed its opinion on the question of convening another international meeting of the Communist and Workers' Parties. The overwhelming majority of the parties desire that the meeting should take place without delay. There are a few parties, which, while supporting the proposal to convene the conference, are not clear as to the appropriate time for holding it, in view of the recalcitrant attitude adopted by the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

The Communist Party of India stands wholeheartedly with the vast majority. It has reiterated this belief in a special resolution adopted by the National Council at its last session.

Indian Communists believe that in order to overcome the difficulties and differences within the international Communist movement, there is only one way—the tried and tested Marxist-Leninist way—of collective discussions and collective efforts.

The Communist Party of India has given the most careful attention to the position taken by the leadership of the Communist Party of China in regard to the question of convening the world conference. The Chinese leaders in their letter of May 7 to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU), propose the postponement of the conference for "four or five years or more", and declare also that "it would even be better, not to convene it than to convene it".

Why do the Chinese leaders now take this position? It is necessary to recall that only a short while ago, the same Chinese leaders were resolute supporters of the proposal for an early conference.

In the winter of 1962, when the Communist Parties of New Zealand, Vietnam and Indonesia proposed the convening of a world conference, the CPC leadership supported their proposal and stated on April 7, 1962 that a conference would be of "topical, positive significance in overcoming the differences existing between fraternal parties today". At the Party Congresses in Hungary and Czechoslovakia at the end of 1962, Chinese fraternal delegates openly declared once again their opinion that a world conference be convened. This opinion was reiterated in the letters of the Chinese leaders to the Central Committee of the CPSU dated March 9, 1963 and June 14, 1963.

Even in their letter of February 29, 1964 to the Central Committee of the CPSU, the Chinese leaders stated: "The Communist Party of China invariably favours a conference of representatives of the Communist and Workers' Parties of all countries, and actively supports it."

It is clear that the Chinese leaders were only paying lip service to the proposal for a world conference, while in actual fact they are stubbornly opposed to such a conference. This opposition has grown, as the Chinese leaders have under-

stood more and more clearly that they will not find support for their wrong and dogmatic adventurist ideological and political views, in such a world conference.

The truth must be faced: the Chinese leadership opposes the convening of a world conference because it refuses to take part in collective efforts to solve the differences which exist; the Chinese leadership seeks to prevent such collective discussions precisely because it wishes to remain completely free to continue its disruptive, splitting activities.

The Chinese leaders threaten that the world conference will "end in a quarrel and in all parties going away without achieving any results"; they argue that "there will be an open split and everyone will go his way".

A few Communist Parties are evidently sincerely alarmed at the prospect of the Chinese leaders carrying out this threat; they are, therefore, hesitant to join the vast majority of parties in urging an early date for the proposed conference.

But there is no reason for any delay, except that which is unavoidable in order to allow adequate preparations. The conference is not meant to condemn anyone, it is not being called to damn or fling unsubstantiated charges or abuses against any Party. The object is the promotion of the unity of the international Communist movement; and there is no other method to do this than to meet and discuss points of agreement and difference together.

Even from the point of view of the common struggle against imperialism, for peace, national independence and democracy, for hastening the march towards socialism and communism, a world conference is essential. It is almost four years since the 81 Parties met in Moscow in 1960. A collective examination of new political and economic developments is urgently necessary, so that the Communist movement can go forward from the gains already recorded following the 1957 and 1960 meetings to new successes, on the basis of further elaboration of the ideas contained in the documents of 1957 and 1960.

Further delay in starting preparations for the world conference means further disruption; it means giving a free hand to those who are determined to split the movement; it means allowing the imperialists more time to attempt to make use of the differences in the international Communist movement for their own ends; it means failure to arm the Communist Parties of the world with that common understanding and appreciation of new developments, which is so vital for the progress of all humanity.

The blackmailing tactics of those who seek to avoid collective discussions in order to continue on their dangerous isolated path must be defeated.

Collective discussion is the Communist way to solve differences; to abandon it is to betray the Communist cause.

RAJHARA WORKERS TO GO ON TOKEN STRIKE

Management Turns Down All Demands

The workers of the Rajhara mines under the Bhilai steel plant have been compelled to take the path of struggle. All their attempts for a peaceful settlement of the demands have failed. They have now decided to go on a one-day protest strike on June 29.

THE Samyukta Khadan Mazdoor Sangh tried to persuade the management to accept the demands put forward by the workers and with this view held a bipartite discussion on May 29 with the general manager of the BSP. But the general manager declined to accept any of the demands.

On June 6 and 9, the Regional Labour Commissioner (Central), Jabalpur, intervened and tried to bring about a settlement but without any result.

No further step was taken by government to settle the dispute and hence the union decided on June 19 to hold a strike ballot on June 22 and a one-day strike on June 29 to press for the demands. The

response to the strike ballot has been very good. The demands of the workers are:

★ Absorption of the N. M. R. workers in regular rolls, and fixation of pay-scale at Rs. 70-1-85 with all other allowances;

★ Minimum wages and interim relief to all workers under the contractors as per the recommendations of the Wage Board and other facilities as granted under the Mines Act. Abolition of Contract labour system;

★ Production bonus to ministerial staff, manual mining, prospecting, public health, medical staff truck drivers, workers engaged in pumping installations and

implementation of industrial tribunal award;

★ Categorisation of employees as per standing orders.

★ Formation of grievance committee;

★ Absorption of expansion workers in the mines department.

★ Accommodation to all workers;

★ Agreed procedure for promotion and trade training;

★ 25 per cent dearness allowance increase at all levels with retrospective effect;

★ Guaranteed bonus to all workers as per recommendations of the Bonus Commission;

★ Introduction of gratuity scheme, and

★ Recognition of Samyukta Khadan Mazdoor Sangh.

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Vijayawada Fires

Congress—Under world Collusion Suspected

From MOHIT SEN

HYDERABAD: Only a few minor fires in scattered places marred the slow return to calm in Vijayawada. The pelting rains, in any event, helped to literally dampen the atmosphere for any would-be arsonists or for the accidental spark. It would, however, be outrageous complacency to conclude that Vijayawada will not blaze again or that the people are now free of fear.

VIGILANCE squads have spontaneously sprung up and patrol the various localities. As dusk falls anybody found loitering in the streets is likely to be immediately approached by one of these squads and asked his identity and business. This splendid popular initiative is not only a testimony to the vitality of Vijayawada but is something of a guarantee to ensure security. The authorities have also become more alert but, as Rajasekhar Reddi told NEW AGE, they were certainly not up to the mark. They could easily have rounded up all the notorious row-

and underworld gang leaders at the very first sign of trouble. This would have been far better than picking up political leaders, both those of the CPI and the splitters. Reddy felt that it was utterly wrong to keep these leaders in jail and not to let them out even on bail. The Secretary of the Andhra Pradesh Council of the CPI had returned to Hyderabad on June 17 after three days in Vijayawada. His balanced, objective and forthright press statement had considerably helped to alleviate the critical situation.

He repeatedly emphasised that the main point to realise was the terrible distress of the five victims and the need to restore completely the sense of security. The overwhelming bulk of them belonged to the poorest sections of society and a few to the lower middle class. Many of them had lost everything and recouping would be an almost impossible task.

Need For Relief

The CPI was going all out organising relief and rehabilitation. He appealed to friends throughout the country for money and clothes which could be sent to the VISALAANDHRA office at Vijayawada. Such help would not only bring material relief but help restore the morale of the victims. He stressed again the need for a public enquiry by a commission of officials and non-officials. In this connection he referred to the talks he had with a broad cross section of the people. Almost everybody has become increasingly suspicious of the manner in which some

ATMARAM SHINDE

THE National Council of the Communist Party of India pays its homage to Comrade Atmaram Shinde, a valiant fighter in the cause of the peasants and agricultural workers, who met with a martyr's death at Yeotmal in Maharashtra while on a hunger-strike to protest against rising prices and for the distribution of land to the landless labourers.

A member of the Communist Party, Comrade Atmaram Shinde came from a poor family and was a zealous Party worker. The hungerstrike came as a culmination of a districtwide mass campaign against rising prices and for securing land for the landless. The National Council sends its condolences to the bereaved family and dips the Red Banner in the memory of our departed comrade.

local Congress bigwigs, headed by G. S. Raju, have gone about slandering the Communists.

It was this section of the Congress that prevented the possibility of a joint appeal and a joint tour of prominent personalities of all shades of opinion. It was this section that was also trying to play partisan politics in the matter of relief.

In this situation it was only natural that wide sections of the population were not at all sure that mere police investigations would bring all the facts to light, especially as G. S. Raju has powerful connections with police officials as also with the ruling Congress group. His power to influence officials and ministers is proverbial.

Apart from what Rajasekhar Reddi said, NEW AGE was told by several knowledgeable and responsible persons that the underworld in Vijayawada has quite a few patrons among the local Congress leaders. They also emphasised that one of the great services that the CPI rendered Vijayawada was to rouse the people and break the tyranny of many underworld gangs.

Naturally, these gangs and their leaders have a deep hatred for the CPI. They would not let go of any opportunity to damage its political prestige and mass base. The splitters activities and provocation made them bolder. It is not at all ruled out that these lumpen elements felt that their day had dawned as the fire raged in Krishna Lanka or may be even before the very first blaze on June 10.

Many people are asking the question as to what was the role of these underworld elements in the fires, and of their local Congress patrons? They are certainly not above suspicion, considering their past record and their fanatical fear of the increasing power of the CPI.

Enquiry By Journalists

In this connection, an interesting suggestion came from the veteran progressive journalist, K. A. Abbas, who was here in connection with the release of Shekar Aur Shapna. He felt that the working journalists could send a team to make an independent enquiry. NEW AGE warmly supported the suggestion.

When told about the suggestion, Rajasekhar Reddi said that the CPI would be very glad if such an enquiry was made, as it had nothing to hide and was only anxious that the ruling party should not try to make political propaganda out of the suffering of the people.

It is not known what the official reaction to such a move would be.

Rajasekhar Reddi said that as soon as the arrests were made, as well as in a statement few days later, the CPI asked for

the release of all political workers, including those of the splitters.

He said that fires which burnt the homes of people were not a matter of ideology or politics and it was wrong of the Congress government to inject partisanship into the issue of these arrests. It was still worse of local Congress leaders to go about publicly slandering both the CPI and the splitters.

This stand has not been fully reciprocated by the splitters. They have also called for a public enquiry and warned the government not to play politics at this juncture. But in P. Sundaraya's signed article in the JANASAKTI one does not find the name of C. Venkatratnam (CPI councillor from Krishna Lanka) among those whose release is demanded.

Janasakti's Implication

What is worse is that in that very issue of JANASAKTI there is a long rignarole of a report the whole intent of which is to implicate this popular leader in the blaze at Krishna Lanka. This has shocked many among the followers of the splitters, to say nothing of general democratic opinion.

It is being recalled by many that C. Venkatratnam was the leader of the struggle of the inhabitants of Krishna Lanka to put down the rowdies of that locality. He has been frequently threatened, even with murder by these gangsters. But his popularity and courage has withstood all such threats.

His steadfast adherence to the CPI at the time of the split enraged the splitters, especially the splitters' city secretary Potharaju. Now it is the splitters who have taken up the slogan of the rowdies that Venkatratnam and the CPI must be pushed out of Krishna Lanka.

It is the very depth of degeneration at this moment when both the CPI and the splitters are under attack that JANASAKTI should play the game of reaction by this invidious attack on Venkatratnam. One can only hope that saner counsels will prevail with the splitters even at this late hour.

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Following is the text of the resolution on "Progressive Forces and the Congress" adopted by the National Council of the Communist Party of India which concluded its ten-day meeting on June 17.

WITH the passing away of Pandit Nehru, the danger has grown in India of Right reactionary forces stepping up their activities, with a view to coming to power. Even while Nehru was at the helm of affairs, reaction made powerful attacks on the progressive aspects of government policies—such as the pursuit of peace, nonalignment, secularism and independent economic development. However, despite certain compromises and vacillations, the government resisted these attacks and continued its pursuit of certain positive basic policies.

The millions who paid homage to Pandit Nehru on

his death, were expressing in their anguish their tributes to his patriotism and anti-imperialism, to his sacrifices for the country and to his integrity. The main concern of the people at that moment arose from the fact that with the passing away of Nehru, there was no other person of his national and international stature in the ruling party who could hold the people and the country together, as he had done.

It was in the context of this anxiety regarding the fate of the country in the days immediately after the death of Pandit Nehru, that some well-intentioned friends pla-

PROGRESSIVE FORCES AND THE CONGRESS

ced before all democrats the suggestion that, in order to fight the Right reactionaries inside the Congress, it would be helpful if all progressive, democratic and socialist-minded people joined the Congress. In the appeals made by these friends, it is virtually suggested that the Congress Party can be transformed into what could be an organ of the united front of all democratic and socialist forces for

the realisation of their common aims.

The National Council of the Communist Party of India shares the anxiety of all democrats and progressives regarding the situation in the country and the growing peril from Right reactionary forces. The Communist Party is in complete sympathy with all those who are today appealing for the coming together of democratic and socialist forces so as to carry the country forward along the democratic path for the realisation of socialist objectives.

The National Council, however, considers as totally wrong and dangerous the suggestion that the Congress Party can become a platform for such unity of democratic and socialist forces. The National Council warns against any illusion that the entry into the Congress of socialist-minded persons can convert the ruling party into any sort of united front for national advance.

The Congress, as a political party, has certainly declared at the Bhubaneswar session that its objective is socialism.

But it is not by its declarations, but by its performance and practice that the ruling party must be judged. The fact is that the Congress has not even carried out such essential prerequisites for weakening reaction and strengthening democracy and the people as the nationalisation of banking to break the power of big money and the taking over of wholesale trade in foodgrains in order to break the power of monopoly over people's food.

The class character of the ruling party and the policies flowing from it cannot be changed by the merging of groups and parties of progressive and socialist-minded people with the Congress.

Although the Congress has a large mass following and a big section of the democratic-minded people are under its

influence, yet it would be self-deception to close one's eyes to the existence of strong reactionary forces entrenched in the Congress, who, in league with their counterparts outside, are trying to shift government policies further to the Right and weaken the positive aspects of these policies.

The Communist Party has always recognised the importance for the nation of certain progressive policies of the government, such as those of peace and nonalignment, of friendship with socialist countries, of secularism and insistence on the building of an independent economy.

All socialists and democrats, whether inside or outside the Congress, must resist the reactionary, anti-people policies of the government, particularly those which are increasing the menace of foreign imperialist capital coming into our country and those which are resulting in the growth of monopolistic power in our economy and in greater attacks on the living standards of the working class, the peasantry and the middle classes.

An important and special duty rests on the shoulders of the democratic and genuinely socialist-minded elements inside the Congress. They must translate their opinions and their faith in democracy and socialism into concrete measures and action, and defend and strengthen progressive policies, the democratic rights of the people and the toilers' struggles against exploitation and for a just share in the fruits of their toil.

It is the common united struggle of democrats and socialists, whether inside or outside the Congress, which can weaken reaction and strengthen the progressive forces in the country.

The Communist Party pledges itself to take an active part in this common struggle of all democrats and socialists in the country.

SOCIALIST UNITY

The following resolution was adopted on June 17 by the National Council of the Communist Party of India on Socialist Unity.

THE necessity of uniting the socialist and democratic forces in the country has grown in recent years. With the increasing offensive of reactionary, communal and monopolist forces against democracy, secularism and popular movements, those who stand for socialism and progress have been realising that they cannot defeat reaction if their own forces are divided.

With the death of Pandit Nehru the danger of Indian reaction inside and outside the Congress intensifying its attacks against the people and the progressive values of our national life has clearly increased. The urgency of the task of forging socialist and democratic unity has grown in the same measure.

emergence of the Samyukta Samajwadi Party (SSP) achieved through the merger of the PSP and the SP is a significant development.

This merger has come as a result of a certain sequence of events. The Bhopal conference of the PSP accepted the policy of opposing any alliance with the Swatantra Party and communal parties like the Jan Sangh and Muslim League and of organising mass movements against the anti-people policies of the Congress governments. This sharpened the conflict of policies inside the PSP.

Simultaneously the desire for unity in the ranks of the two parties and the urge for united

A PATRIOT'S NOTEBOOK

Common Their Approach Highnesses

A friend has sent me inside information on the discussions now going on in high places regarding government's attitude to the privileges of the "princes". These discussions which were put into cold storage following Pandit Nehru's death, have been resumed, and the powers-that-be have decided that there is NO case for abolishing the princes' privileges.

Please remember that these privileges are over and above their privy purses—those fat unearned sums, which keep their highnesses on the top of the world, while India's poor get poorer....

The bureaucrats have argued on the files concerned that the privileges are far too small to merit attention, just a flea-bite. Let's have a look at part at least of the flea-bite. The privileges include:

- ★ free medical treatment and hospital facilities for themselves and their families;
- ★ armed guards at their palaces (how else would the people allow them to retain their privileges!);
- ★ right to import goods from abroad free of customs duty for their personal use (who said, smuggling!);

And, in addition, in certain cases:

- ★ shikar privileges in selected areas (remember Queen Elizabeth and the Jaipur?);
- ★ free supply of electricity, water and telephone facilities;
- ★ free haulage of saloons and maintenance of sidings.

I am not surprised that the gentlemen in high places are not anxious to abolish these privileges... after all, there are many among them, who have had occasion to share the crumbs of these privileges—a short holiday in a prince-

ly palace, a dinner party or two, shikar—and above all, the gracious company of their highnesses.

And it is but natural that birds of a feather should flock together.....

More On Ten MPs

A correspondent has sent me more materials on the so-called "Asian People's Anti-Communist League", which is sponsoring the high jinks of the ten-member "parliamentary delegation" in the USA's Asian empire... about which I wrote last week.

Among these materials are not only the usual American propaganda filth about the socialist countries and hymns of praise to the lords of the Dollar.

There is in addition, for example, a statement by the President of the "League", which openly supports the demand that the US imperialists carry their war against the people of South Vietnam into North Vietnam—a demand which is so obviously fraught with danger to all mankind, as it could kindle a third world war, that sober sections of opinion inside the USA itself are vigorously opposing it.

This is a sample of the dirty politics which is peddled by the "Anti-Communist League", under whose financial auspices the Swatantra Jan Sangh MPs are beating it up in the hot spots of Saigon, Taipei, Seoul and the rest.

There is plenty to show that the "league" is an agency of the notorious American Central Intelligence Agency and the most dangerous brand of Dulles-inheritors.... But there is little hope of the dopey gentlemen in charge of our security waking up to the perils and taking action against this "league", whose main task is the subversion of the independence of Asian countries....

—Romesh Chandra

Fathers and Sons

KAIRON bewails he has been ruined by his sons but consoles himself by the comfortable thought that there were historic parallels to his downfall.

Insider cannot offhand recall any historic parallel unless he is referring to the pre-historic episode of Dhritarashtra of Mahabharat fame. He was ruined by his sons. But then Pratap Singh Kairon is not the modern Dhritarashtra; he cannot claim any of his virtues.

If he is thinking of post-independent history of India, then there are no examples one could compare. Nobody bore the cross in such splendid isolation as Kairon.

C. D. Deshmukh after resigning from the government on the Samyukta Maharashtra issue had worked up to a situation in which a Central VIP was about to be involved on account of his son who was holding two cushy jobs in two Marwadi business houses at the same time. But the attempt fizzled out.

Again, during the last budget session Kureel of the Lohia Socialist Party started airing his grievances against Morarji Desai's son but the presiding lady of the Rajya Sabha cut him short.

Unlike Kairon, Morarji has only one son but I should say he is more than a match to the two of Punjab from the point of view of wealth concentration. Kanti Desai is director in ten joint stock companies and certainly he was not born with a silver spoon in his mouth.

Whispering Gallery

son report is made a starting point for forewarning all VIPs with sons like Surinder and Guminder.

If the authorities like, they can include VIPs with brothers as in Kashmir. If he had behaved like a good boy, the Das Commission report would not have fared any better than the Vivian Bose Commission report. Nobody talks about it now. Of course, we might continue to hear a lot of noise in Parliament to keep the MPs in good humour.

Otherwise, the Jains and Dalmas are going scotfree as the Birlas have gone in respect of the insurance fraud. The government did not even publish the reports about the Ruby and New Asiatic Insurance companies.

Akashvani's Phobia

JUDGING by what All India Radio, the Film Division and allied organisations have done after the passing of Jawaharlal Nehru, Insider is convinced that non-official organisations have to take up the Nehru banner.

I have gone through most of the scripts of the features and commentaries put out by AIR. Nehru's role as a socialist is conspicuously absent.

The nearest they came to mentioning that Nehru was a socialist was when they quoted a passage from his foreword to a book, presumably that of Sriman Narayan.

In that, the broadcast quoted Nehru as saying that socialism is vague and has

Whispering Gallery

many meanings but what is important is that we should aim at an all-round development where every individual must have a concept of dharma.

Again, it was not accidental that the documentary they produced on the funeral did not contain a single shot of any VIP from socialist and Afro-Asian countries. I understand that some still pictures of some of the VIPs have now been drafted as they had no cine shots.

In fact, Nehru was murdered soon after his death when a sacred thread was put around his neck at the insistence of purohitis from the Birla Mandir. Till it was worn they were on strike.

If Nehru's ideas are to be kept alive none of these people could be trusted.

—Insider

SCANDAL IN A PUBLIC UNDERTAKING SHOCKING IRREGULARITIES IN ASSAM CEMENT FACTORY

From M. BHATTACHARYYA

SHILLONG: Some shocking irregularities and disquieting facts about the working of Assam Cement, public sector concern erecting the cement factory at Cherrapunji, has come to light.

THE Assam Cement was floated in the private sector nearly five years back, but the private company made no progress during the whole period.

Consequently, when the Assam government decided to construct the cement factory at Cherrapunji in the public sector, the private sector company was turned into a public sector one.

It was, however, not stated that the government would be guided by the commitments of the private company, nor was there any justification for the government undertaking such an obligation.

But the facts show that the government, for reasons known to it alone, has been carrying on the legacy of the private company which during its whole period of existence did nothing more than carry a signboard.

The private company had appointed a chief engineer at the monthly salary of Rs. 2,250 besides providing him a free furnished residence at a monthly rent of Rs. 500.

Even in Shillong there are very few bungalows which would fetch Rs. 500 a month as rent. At Cherrapunji, house rents are not half as high as in Shillong, and

MIKOYAN ASSURES SOVIET SUPPORT

* FROM PAGE THREE

peace and disarmament, against colonialism and for the liberation of all peoples who still remain in colonial bondage. All this is gratifying to hear. The pursuit of such a policy gives us deep satisfaction, because our policies on these questions run on similar lines. This view was clearly expressed in N. S. Khrushchov's message to Prime Minister Shastri.

After his visit to Rajghat and Shantighat, Mikoyan again stressed the importance of the new government's declaration that it would continue to adhere to Nehru's foreign policy. The Soviet leader went on to assure India that the Soviet Union would do "everything in its power" to help India continue and strengthen this policy.

The Parliamentary delegation was received by representatives of several public organisations, apart from Ministers and officials. Aruna Asaf Ali headed the welcoming group of the Indo-Soviet Cultural Society and the All India Peace Council.

Thirty-six hours of friendship... the Mikoyan visit has given new strength to the rosbush of solidarity between India and the Soviet Union.

PAGE SIX

He and his family members are provided with dunlopillow beds at government cost. Two personal attendants, on salaries equal to that of office peons, are also provided.

The chief engineer is given a project allowance besides his above-mentioned salary and his medical bills are also taken care of by the government.

The chief engineer of Assam Cement gets a daily allowance

WORKERS PROTEST

STRIKE AGAINST RISING PRICES

MANGALORE: About 25,000 workers employed in tile, cashew and beedi factories, saw mills, coffee works, printing presses and other industrial concerns in and around the city stayed away from work on June 22 in protest against the rise in prices of food-grains.

THE call for the hartal was given by the South Canara District units of the Communist Party and the AITUC-led Trade Union Council and the Kisan Sabha.

The organisers of the "protest hartal" demanded fair price shops for distribution of rice at fifty Paise per kilo and supply of rice to industrial workers in factories employing more than 100 workmen. Rice is at present selling at 85 Paise per kilo in the district.

Workers from various factories and industrial establishments took out a procession which converged at a public meeting.

A resolution demanding immediate despatch of ten thousand tons of rice to the district for distribution to factory workers through fair price shops was adopted at the meeting which was presided over by A. Shantharam Pal, president of the South Canara Trade Union Council.

TU Conference Demands Urgent Step To Stop Price-Rise In Kerala

From S. SHARMA

A conference of over 400 representatives of various trade unions affiliated to AITUC and UTUC in Quilon district has demanded urgent and effective steps to stop the spiralling prices of rice and other essential commodities and warned the government that the workers will be forced to resort to organised protest action including hartal and general strike if the situation is not remedied immediately.

THE conference met in the background of fast rising prices of food grains and all other essential commodities throughout the state and consequent growing mass discontent against an unbearable situation. The Quilon conference urged the government to adopt state trading, set up more fair price shops, issue four measures of rice per week per card holder and issue cards to all deserving units.

A nineteen-man committee with T. K. Divakaran, Municipal Chairman and UTUC leader, was elected by the conference to organise a broad-based movement to bring down prices.

Following this conference, the state centres of AITUC, UTUC and HMS are expected to join hands for a state-wide agitation against price increase. The general secretary of the state PSP has already called for a campaign to arrest prices.

Meanwhile, the panchayat presidents of Ernakulam district

of Rs. 30 when he is staying at the Gauhati rest house, and when outside the state on duty, he draws a daily allowance of Rs. 60. Against this a Class I officer of the Assam government draws only Rs. 10.50 when he stays at Gauhati rest house and gets an allowance of Rs. 21 a day when outside the state on duty.

It might be that the private company had made this contract with the engineer, but there is no reason why the government should continue to treat him in VIP fashion like this when its own engineers draw much less salary. For example, the chief engineer of the Assam State Electricity Board gets a salary of only Rs. 1,700.

DISCRIMINATION IN WAGES

Again, while the superintending engineer of the ASEB has a salary scale of Rs. 800-1,250, his counterpart in the Assam Cement gets Rs. 1,500. The maximum of scale is not shown. And this superintending engineer was appointed without the vacancy being advertised.

Considering the high rate of unemployment in Assam, it was natural to expect that Assamese people would get preference for jobs in the factory. But even in the case of unskilled labour, the company shows favour to outsiders.

Such unskilled labour as Khalasis have been recruited on a large scale from outside. Those from outside get a wage of Rs. 7 to 12 a day, while those recruited

locally are paid only Rs. 2.50 to 5 a day.

Khalasis recruited from outside are paid travelling allowance, while those from the state itself are not. Those from outside are also provided with quarters, a facility denied to those recruited from Assam itself.

FAVOUR TO OUTSIDERS

Only three out of eleven engineers in Assam Cement are from within the state. This despite the fact that there are many experienced engineers in state government service who would have liked to work in the factory.

The scale of pay in the Assam Cement for overseers is Rs. 100-300 while it is Rs. 100-275 in the state public works department. Some of the overseers in the PWD offered to join the cement company provided they got a higher initial pay, but they were turned down. Outsiders were, however, appointed on higher initial salaries.

The management's attitude to workers and employees has also come in for criticism. It is reported that even elementary facilities like first aid are not provided in the project, thus endangering the lives of the workers.

If the good name of the public sector is not to be tarnished, it is imperative that an enquiry should be undertaken immediately to the functioning of Assam Cement and things set in order.

Resentment Against Pay Committee's Report

SHILLONG: The Assam government is reported to have accepted with certain minor modifications the recommendations of the pay committee constituted by it about two years ago.

THE report of the committee has not yet been released officially, but a section of the press has published what they claim to be the report. It seems what has come out in the press is substantially correct.

Taking the press reports as correct the various sections of government employees, who have been waiting for two years to see the report, have expressed very adverse reactions to it.

The joint council of action of six associations of Class III and Class IV employees waited upon the Chief Minister to apprise him of the employees' views. They expressed resentment at the report which did not do any justice to the employees in the lower rungs.

The joint council of action pointed out that while certain sections of employees in the upper category would receive benefit to the extent of Rs. 325, some of the employees in the lower rungs would get a benefit of only Rs. 3.

No Benefit To Most Employees

For the bulk of the employees there would be no benefit at all, according to the recommendations of the pay committee. And this when the employees had demanded the appointment of a pay committee to revise their wages upward to neutralise the impact of the mounting prices.

The joint council of action pointed out that the pay committee ignored the fundamental principle of linking the pay of the employees to the actual cost of living.

Even official sources indicated that the cost of living has increased by 23.4 per cent since

1959, the year when the employees had demanded a pay committee. But the pay committee has completely ignored this, though the official figures are on the lower side.

JCA Protests

The joint council of action also alleged that the pay committee was not guided by article 43 of the Constitution in making its recommendations: this has resulted in upper class employees getting the benefit of its recommendations.

Even Class II employees are expressing their resentment over the reported recommendations of the pay committee.

The only benefit which the employees get out of the recommendations is the long-term one of merging the allowances in the basic pay.

The employees point out that, however welcome it might be, this would not help them in the immediate necessity of meeting the ever-mounting prices, which have been corroding into their real income.

Reports from the districts indicate that employees stationed there also strongly resent the recommendations. In some districts employees are reported to have decided not to accept the report if the government did not revise it to give immediate benefits to the employees.

Whether the government would take such a step is yet to be seen. But if the government did not revise it and gave some relief to the employees at the lower rungs, it would be inviting a fresh agitation of the employees.

The Central Secretariat of the Community Party of India issued the following statement on June 23 on Das Commission report.

THERE is widespread appreciation among all democratic sections of the people for the prompt manner in which the Das Commission Report has been published and acted upon. The speedy removal of Sardar Pratap Singh Kairon from the Chief Ministership and the clear indication that his chief lieutenants will be kept out of the new Ministry are also welcome.

While the Communist Party hopes that the actions following the Das Commission Report will be a precursor of further resolute steps against corruption, it cannot but recall the delay and procrastination which had earlier characterised the Centre's policy in regard to the charges made against the Kairon family.

With the publication of the report, it is no longer possible for the Centre to condone the corrupt practices which have been condemned so severely in the report.

The first steps have been taken and the nation awaits the next.

The Communist Party urges the Government of India to take all necessary measures to ensure that Kairon and his accomplices are kept out of any position of authority or influence in the political life of the state. The maintenance of clean standards of public

conduct demands that Kairon and those of his colleagues who have been found culpable by the Commission, resign their seats in the legislature immediately.

The Congress, if it wishes to begin the process of removing the black stains which the years of Kairon regime have given it must debar these men from any elective positions in the party organisation.

It is also necessary that steps are taken to see that the wealth derived by the Kairon family through corrupt practices and questionable methods is confiscated and handed over to the nation's funds. This would set an example right at the top levels of authority, which could be followed with considerable benefit, in other cases.

Firm Rejection Of Governor's Rule

The Communist Party is opposed to the proposal that Governor's rule should be imposed on the state. Our Party is confident that the people of Punjab can and will learn the lessons of Kairon misrule and ensure for themselves an administration from which all remnants of the old corrupt group are removed.

The Communist Party is of the opinion that the Das

Other Glaring Cases Of Corruption Must Be Enquired

Commission's report must open the way to the establishment of clearcut principles on the basis of which corruption can be fought, not only in the Punjab, but throughout the country.

Corruption can be effectively fought by starting at the highest rungs of power, demonstrating determination and courage to act without fear in all cases. It is necessary to investigate in particular the grip which the big monopolists exercise over Ministers and officials—which is the worst source of corruption.

The Government of India must make a categorical declaration here and now that it is prepared to appoint commissions of inquiry into all charges of corruption against ministers and other leading Congressmen and to act on the reports of such commissions.

The Communist Party had proposed that all ministers and leading members of the ruling party, should make

periodical declaration of the property acquired by them or their near relatives and that vigorous enquiries should be made into such acquisitions. It is wellknown that it is not only Kairon's sons who have acquired property, but also sons of other Congress ministers and ex-ministers. Our Party demands that all such property acquired through corrupt use of power, should be confiscated.

The Government of India has for too long turned a deaf ear to the mass accusations of corruption against men in positions of authority. Pledges have repeatedly been made by government leaders to take decisive action to root out corruption. These have remained on paper, while the monster of corruption has continued to grow.

The Das Commission's report must not remain an isolated event; it must be followed by resolute action

of a similar nature in other glaring cases of corruption.

The Communist Party appeals to all democrats in all parties including the democrats inside the Congress itself, to join hands to demand that such resolute action against corruption is taken in all cases. It has to be remembered that the Government of India agreed to appoint the Das Commission only after the public protests against the allegations of corrupt practices by the Kairon family reached great heights and after some Congressmen themselves resigned from their party to express their dissatisfaction with the failure of the Government of India to deal with the situation.

A united campaign for resolute and immediate action against corruption, starting with complaints against those at the highest levels of authority, is the urgent need of the hour.

ON THE SEVENTH CONGRESS OF THE CPI

Having considered the demand from various states to extend the date of the Party Congress, the National Council resolves to hold the 7th Party Congress in Bombay in the last week of November, 1964, the exact dates to be decided by the Central secretariat in consultation with the Maharashtra state council of the Party.

THE National Council adopts the following agenda for the Party Congress:

- ★ Report on ideological controversies in the international Communist movement;
- ★ Programme of the Communist Party of India;
- ★ Political Resolution;
- ★ Review Report since Vijaywada Congress of the Party;
- ★ Amendments to the the Party Constitution;
- ★ Organisational Report; and
- ★ Election of the central organs of the Party.

The National Council decides the following basis of representation at the Party Congress.

- The Party membership of 1962 which closed on June 30, 1963 with additions in terms of the National Council resolution of 1964 but excluding such Party members who join

the rival Party will form the basis of electing delegates to the Party Congress and Party conferences at various levels.

Delegates to the Party Congress will be elected on the basis of one delegate for every 200 Party members or a major fraction of it with a minimum of five delegates to every state. The Central Party Headquarters branch will also elect five delegates to the Party Congress.

The National Council decides to set up a sub-committee to scrutinise and formulate amendments to the Party Constitution for being placed before the next meeting of the Council. The sub-committee will consist of (1) Bhupesh Gupta, (2) Bhowani Sen, (3) Avtar Singh Malhotra, (4) Sohan Singh Josh and (5) Unni Raja.

The National Council shall meet in August for five days to discuss and adopt the draft Political Resolution and amendments to the Party Constitution for being placed before the Party Congress.

NATIONAL COUNCIL RESOLUTION ON WEST BENGAL PARTY CENTRE

FOLLOWING is the text of a resolution adopted on June 17 by the National Council on the Party Centre in West Bengal.

THE National Council of the Communist Party of India takes note of the fact that the West Bengal state council as a unit has refused to abide by the discipline of the Party.

Five members of the state secretariat, including the secretary of the state council who were suspended by the National Council, together with other 27 members of the National Council, continue to remain in their positions and the state council has refused to implement the decision of the National Council.

The state council has endorsed the anti-Party statement of the 32 suspended members and continues to function as a body subordinate to the parallel centre run by the 32 suspended members.

It has publicly disowned the National Council.

The National Council also notes that the secretariat of the National Council addressed a letter to all members of the West Bengal state council informing them of this state of affairs and calling upon them

to give their suggestions as to the means for the restoration of the functioning of the Party Centre in West Bengal. The majority have sent no reply. Meanwhile, the Party Centre in West Bengal is functioning as a body subordinate to the rival, all-India Centre.

No Further Delay

The National Council is of the opinion that any further delay in the proper functioning of the Party in West Bengal as a loyal unit under the National Council is fraught with the danger of West Bengal Party being disorganised and disintegrated and paralysed. It can neither carry out the decisions of the National Council nor discharge its responsibilities to the people who are facing the gravest ever food crisis, rising prices which urgently require the Communist Party to lead the mass movement. Such a state of affairs of drift and inaction can have only one effect—to help the "rival centre" and to strengthen Right reactionary forces.

The National Council, therefore, directs the Central Secretariat to convene a meeting of those members of the West Bengal state council who accept the authority of the National Council. The meeting must be convened within 15 days after the end of this session of the National Council. The agenda for the meeting shall be:

- (i) Organisational measures necessary for functioning as the State Party Centre;
- (ii) Preparation for the Party Congress.

For Party Members Only

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AND SOCIALISM**

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Is Congress The Main Enemy?

Q. How can it be denied that it is the Congress government which is responsible for the misery of the people? Naturally it is the main enemy of the people today. (P. G. Nair, Ernakulam)

A. Nobody, least of all the CPI, denies the misery of the people. Only the other day the Reserve Bank of India published a study which showed that the real wages of the workers had fallen over the period of the Second Plan.

Earlier official studies had shown that the agricultural labourers' utterly miserable living standards had further deteriorated. Another survey showed that the overwhelming bulk of the middle classes in the towns were compelled to spend well beyond their earnings. Unemployment is the increasing scourge of our society.

Then again long range perspective plan projections give no hope that, if the present policies and set-up continues, the overwhelming bulk of the people will not be able to cross the poverty barrier even by the end of this century. In the meantime, the alarming rise of prices further robs the poor and goes to expedite the process of the primary accumulation of Indian capitalism. This terrible suffering of the people has gone on during the period when the Congress has had a monopoly of political power, when it had all the possibilities of rapidly developing the country and considerably alleviating popular distress.

The lack of rapid growth and the people's misery is the measure of the failure of the Congress. Certainly, the Congress is the culprit and has to be put in the dock to face the charges of the people and their just anger.

This is the reason why the CPI has taken up a stand of uncompromising opposition to the anti-people and reactionary policies of the Congress. That is why it has organised various forms of struggle against the Congress. That is why it has proclaimed the ending or weakening of the Congress monopoly of power as one of its central guiding slogans.

Some Good Done

At the same time the Congress government, under the leadership of Pandit Nehru, has also done some good to the country. It has adopted the foreign policy of non-alignment and anti-colonialism. It has introduced some partial planning. It has developed the public sector and built up some heavy industries. It has turned to the socialist countries for economic aid and trade. It has maintained a secular, parliamentary democracy. And so on.

These progressive aspects of Congress policy did not come automatically. They were the result of the objective interests of the national bourgeoisie, whose organ the Congress is and due to the pressure and movement of the masses.

The CPI played a vanguard role in the movement demanding that the Congress government adopt these policies. It continues to play a vanguard role in defending these policies against Right reaction, including its representatives in the Congress.

The Congress and the Congress government as a whole is not the main enemy of the Indian people. The Rightwing of the Congress, representing the class interests of the monopolists who are increasingly collaborating with imperialism, and the other forces of Right reaction, represented by the Swatantra, Jan Sangh, Akalis, DMK, etc.—this is the main enemy of the Indian people.

Other Sections

There are other sections in the Congress and in the Congress government, representatives of the non-monopoly patriotic bourgeoisie, of the rich peasants and petty bourgeoisie, who are not the enemies of the Indian people but their allies though vacillating ones, with a dual character, and who have not broken from their Rightwing.

To put it more concretely, Pandit Nehru was certainly constitutionally as responsible for all aspects of Congress policy as, say, S. K. Patil and Morarji Desai. So also were Krishna Menon and K. D. Malaviya. They were all, to varying degrees leaders of the Congress and members of the Central Government. But was Pandit Nehru the main enemy of the Indian people? Or Krishna Menon and K. D. Malaviya? Are they in the same position vis-a-vis national and popular interests as S. K. Patil and Morarji Desai?

Those who say that the Congress as a whole is the main enemy of the people have logically to agree that Pandit Nehru was the chief champion of this main enemy. Then how does one explain the tremendous love and veneration in which he was held? Then are we to take all the tributes paid to him as so much hypocrisy?

Certainly, he was loved for his role in the freedom struggle and for the unique character and personality he possessed. But there was also the factor that he was responsible, more than anyone else, for the progressive features of Congress policy which reflected the interests of the nation and of the people.

Hence, the fury of Right reaction against him and those closely identified with his policies. Hence, the drive to remove his close associates and the mounting campaign to try to force him to quit. Hence the thoroughly obnoxious comment about him by TIME magazine, even as his body was being

cremated. Hence, the high hopes of Right reaction that they will now, at last, get their way since he is no longer there.

Those who say that the Congress as a whole is the main enemy of the Indian people not only overlook the vast mass base of the Congress but fail to realise the differentiated class character of the Congress, and its leadership.

The monopolists and landlords are represented at all levels of the Congress and hold strategic positions therein. They have a strong grip on the party machinery as well as on the government.

But they have not yet managed to establish their exclusive control either of the party or of the government. And on many occasions when they tried to so establish their exclusive leadership and rule they have been rebuffed by other forces in the Congress and by the people.

If the monopolists and land-

lords succeed in converting the Congress and its governments into instruments exclusively representing their interests, then certainly the Congress will become the main enemy of the Indian people.

But that is not the position today. The Congress is led by a coalition, in which the non-monopoly patriotic bourgeoisie is also represented. Hence, the CPI and those others leading the movement of the people to alleviate their distress and to improve their position

gress including sections in the Congress leadership.

This struggle will achieve substantial success only if the masses following these two biggest segments of national-democratic leadership in India come together and undertake united or convergent action.

Such unity and action can only become a reality if the members of the CPI eschew all sectarianism and give up damning everybody and anybody in the Congress, and if the Congress left sheds its

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

adopt a dual approach to the Congress as a whole. That is why the CPI concentrates fire on the Rightwing of the Congress and its allies outside.

In the struggle to defend the progressive policies of the Congress, to oppose its reactionary anti-people policies and to shift the country and the government to the left, the CPI extends the hand of friendship and of alliance to the democrats inside the Con-

fears and inhibitions about the CPI and gives up the notion that the Congress by itself and as it is can deliver the goods.

This is a difficult and complicated course of action. It is far easier to shout that Congress is the main enemy, and build opportunistic anti-Congress alliances. But this is the only path to protect the people and the nation and to impel it to the left.

—MOHIT SEN

SEVENTH FLEET

U.S. BIG STICK POLICY—Seventh Fleet in Indian Ocean by L. Natarajan; Perspective Publications (Pvt.) Ltd., New Delhi. Pp. 20 Price 30 P.

THIS is an article which originally appeared in the weekly MAINSTREAM, of the same publishers. When the article appeared we were promised an enlarged edition in pamphlet form. It has now appeared without any enlargement, but that does not belittle its effectiveness or usefulness.

Even as recently as last week we had occasion to see the US Fleet in action. Jet planes taking off from its aircraft carrier, Kitty Hawk, stationed off the coast of South Vietnam, bombed the Pathet Lao headquarters in Laos, escalating the tension in that country.

And such an action was nothing new for the Seventh Fleet. The sole purpose of its maintenance is to quell any progressive movement rising in South East and Far East Asia, to provide

NEO-COLONIALISM

THE CHALLENGE OF U.S. NEOCOLONIALISM by Henry Winston; Peace and Socialism Publishers, Prague; 32 pages; Price 12 paise.

THE phenomenon of neo-colonialism, how it arose and how it is to be fought, is the theme of this little book. The author is one of the leaders of the Communist Party of the USA, a Negro with direct experience of racial oppression.

Neocolonialism, the author tells us, is the pursuit of colonial policy in the new setting, where the socialist camp headed by the USSR has become a world force and the colonial system has collapsed. "We cannot always impose our will on the other 94 per cent of mankind", said the late President Kennedy, defining the limitations set by the new situation for imperialism. "The goal of world domination has not been re-

sion to think that the big stick has been discarded. Under certain circumstances, US imperialism does not of course hesitate to send out the Marines in a modern variant of gunboat diplomacy.

"At the same time", says Winston, "new or relatively



BOOK REVIEW

new methods are used more and more often.

"Together with some of the old methods that have not yet become completely bankrupt they add up to what is often called the policy of neocolonialism." Anti-Communism is its main ideological weapon. US economic aid, Winston shows, is above all "aid to the US monopolies" quoting Rostow to the effect that in one year, fiscal 1961-62, "79 per cent of the aid appropriations were spent in the USA."

"Not a single country in Asia, Africa or Latin America has achieved economic prosperity through US aid", says Henry Winston, proving it with telling examples like that of Turkey. The sorry mess of the Alliance for Progress is recounted and the story of US aid to the newly free countries of Africa is told and we come upon the following passage:

"US private investments in Africa increased from \$287,000,000 in 1950 to \$925,000,000 in 1960, mainly due to investment in South Africa... "This important detail" says Winston, "makes it possible to foresee what US long-range policy will be in this continent."

"US investments in the Re-

* ON PAGE 13

Four weeks have passed since "the light" went out, and Jawaharlal Nehru's ashes have mingled with the rivers and the soil of India to become an indistinguishable part of India and of the universe. So also are his ideals of freedom, peace and the brotherhood of man today the ideals of all India and all humanity.

THE national mourning became a national re-dedication to the farsighted policies of the late Prime Minister. In these days of mourning, every party and every individual who valued his leadership tried to reassess and realise anew the significance of Nehru's policies for the future of India's development and their own role in the new situation.

It has been a period of intense heartsearching for the progressive forces who have now to carry out the unfinished tasks of national advance under conditions which would be far more difficult than when Nehru was at the helm. The people too would be more vigilant and more demanding in the new set-up.

Happily, Lal Bahadur Shastri and the Congress top-rung have set about cautiously in their new roles. After the inevitable horse trading and intrigues in the selection of the new leader, Lal Bahadur Shastri who was dealt the winning hand by the astute

Congress President Kamaraj has proceeded to make look the transition as smooth as possible.

He has categorically assured the people that his government would follow the same policies of the late Prime Minister Nehru. His first broadcast after assuming office was a careful restatement of Nehru's policies of socialist democracy, planning, nonalignment, anti-colonialism, Afro-Asian solidarity, peace etc.

This is as it should be. For the millions who cried "Jawaharlal Nehru Amar Rahe" when Jawaharlal Nehru died were not shouting that the individual is immortal—which is impossible—but that his policies and his achievements are immortal.

But not so with the reactionaries who were his bitter opponents and denigrators while he lived, who sought to change his policies and demanded that he quit the government so that they could have a free run. Their per-

NEW SITUATION—NEW DANGERS

Swatantra Schemes For Subversion

By K. U. WARIER

functory praise for Jawaharlal Nehru's achievements and qualities of leadership and their display of grief at his demise have now turned to a cry for reversal of his policies and repudiation of his behests.

This is the "benediction" which the high priest of Swatantra, C. Rajagopalachari gives to the new Shastri Cabinet in the latest issue of SWARAJYA. "My benediction may be worth but little; it is however given wholeheartedly to the new Cabinet and to the people" (sic), he writes.

In putting across his ideas on what the new government should do in the realms of foreign and internal policies, Rajaji obviously draws comfort from the thought that the personality of Nehru is no longer there

to block the path of reaction. He says:

"The era of a dominating hero is gone. There is no scope hereafter for driving things through national hypothesis. Problems will have to be tackled in purely democratic and common sense ways."

An elucidation of what according to Swatantra is democracy and common sense is provided towards the end of the article: "The new PM is one who cannot ignore the displeasure or annoyance of men that count or the protests of the press. And that is real democracy."

So democracy means the opinion of "men that count", the industrial tycoons, monopolists, the landlords, the maharajas and the jute press. And Rajaji hopes that the "annoyance" of the vested interests if sufficiently worked up and pressure by them exerted on the government, the policies can be changed.

"India is now a different India by reason of the passing away of Nehru", he has profoundly and no doubt truly observed. And what is the outlook in this changed India? Rajaji gives this advice to the "people": "Now that the Government of the country has fallen into a more common type, and the Prime Minister is a person more amenable to the pressure of public opinion, the people should drop all hesitation and fear in expressing their real feelings."

These "real feelings" are of course well known to require any detailed recounting here. A capitalist free enterprise economy, scrapping of the Plan, alliance with US imperialists, rejection of nonalignment and Afro-Asian solidarity, Indo-Pak joint defence, secession of Kashmir from India to please the imperialists and Pakistan—these are some of the "changes" which the Swatantra is asking for.

AFTER NEHRU WHAT?

Discussing "After Nehru-What?", in the June 13 issue of SWARAJYA, Rajagopalachari wrote:

"Put in general terms, the greatest danger now would be the failure of the new Government to realize the need for a change of policy in spite of admiration and worship paid to the memory of the late Prime Minister". On Nehru was bitterly opposed by the Swatantra and other reactionary groups in the country while he was supported by all progressive elements.

With the passing away of Nehru, Reaction now hopes to subvert his progressive policies by pressure upon the new government. Rajaji's from Chinese aggression is not possible by self-reliance. "It ought not to take much

time for us to realize that there is no sense in attempting to go it alone, and face the peril in an independent way with credit-bought hardware, holding on dogmatically to the creed of no-alliance rendered sacred by the pronouncements of the late Prime Minister. That way lies national bankruptcy. We must recognize the need for cooperative resistance on behalf of the free way of life (sic) and for coping with the expansionism of Communist China. Alone, we are far weaker than the potential aggressor. Things are fortunately moving in the right direction and the change is pretty obvious."

ADVICE GALORE

To praise Shastri for his "humility" and "gentle spirit" and to suggest that he will be amenable to "public opinion" which Nehru was not and that he will therefore discard the Nehru policies is the strategy and line of reasoning the Swatantra leader adopts. There are blandishments held out to others also.

For instance, about TTK, Rajaji hopes that he will realize "his new responsibility after Nehru's passing out of the stage". "He has a chance to make history by throwing his talents on the right side", TTK is told.

And then the attack is mounted on proposals for state trading, the demand is put forth for changes in the last budget and tax reduction (of course for the monopolists).

On Kashmir and Pakistan, the Swatantra position is cent per cent with imperialists and totally opposed to national interests: Under the plea that friendship with Pakistan is the most urgent need of the hour the reactionaries demand that we give up Kashmir. It is fit to recall here what Rajaji wrote in the April 11 issue of SWARAJYA immediately after the release of Sheikh Abdullah:

"There is no way of establishing peace and good neighbourly feeling between India and Pakistan except by making Kashmir an independent and friendly State."

Such is the dangerous path of national ruin and surrender to imperialism that Reaction today wants to drag the country into, after the demise of Jawaharlal Nehru. It should be obvious why Nehru was bitterly opposed by the Swatantra and other reactionary groups in the country while he was supported by all progressive elements.

With the passing away of Nehru, Reaction now hopes to subvert his progressive policies by pressure upon the new government. Rajaji's from Chinese aggression is not possible by self-reliance. "It ought not to take much

When Dog Eats Dog

BOMBAY has two disreputable tabloids having anti-communism as their stock in trade. It is most amusing to watch them vie with one another in selling carrion.

One of them flashed in its issue of May 16 a special piece (about a letter allegedly written by a foreign Communist leader to an Indian) as a first page story. Seeing this other felt badly let down in business. Not knowing how to improve upon the performance it produced the next week the same piece as its front page story adding the following chagrined comment: "Some youngsters in journalism used this press release as an exclusive front page story of their own."

We are more normal, it claimed, averring that it was publishing the press release as a press release received from an agency. (The "agency" mentioned, by the way is one which few have heard of and is presumably as shady and disreputable as its patrons).

The "junior" was quick to hit back. It came out on page 30, with the following dig: "The highbrow editor of a weekly has gone off the deep end because a press release which he missed making use of was front-paged by us... He believes that news becomes current after the Nation has had it."

The drama had an interesting denouement. Anti-Communist rag No. 1 announced on May 30, that the story given out in the press release was a forgery!

Now what will you make of these monkey-trickers. Both these weeklies have the tallest foreign and Indian money bags as their patrons. Their pages are full of advertisements from the choicest parties in big business. On the matter side, the tallest anti-Communist dope fills the bulk of the paper. The patronage is thus extended and received for solid consi-

deration.

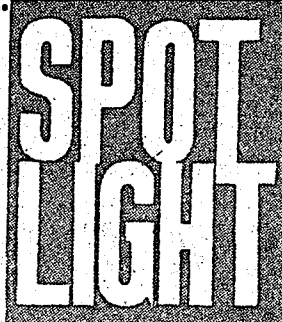
This lucrative arrangement was at one time the monopoly of the "senior" which the "junior" broke when it appeared carrying the big advertiser's patronage from its very first issue, (a thing impossible and unthinkable in honest Indian journalistic enterprise). The "senior" has not concealed its unhappiness over this. Thus "business" rivalry is behind the above dig and counter dig.

We look forward to more of such fencing between the two. Their present tiff has been not only amusing but illuminating too. In it we got, from the horse's own mouth, how they compete not only in distortions and half-truths but even in downright forgery to keep their anti-Communist trade going.

Communalists' Identical Thought

THE Hindu and Muslim communalists had an interesting argument over Nehru's "religious faith." Daily DAWAT published by the Jama'at-e-Islami, seems to think that Nehru's last wish of having part of his ashes immersed in the Ganga has shown that his fight against "traditionalism and reaction" was a fake.

The DAWAT has come to the conclusion: "In fact, he was a true Hindu of the orthodox order and believed, by conviction, in those customs which even the Arya Samaj refused to accept." (June 10)



plaint, "these Muslims want Hindus to cease to be a Hindu!"

But RSS has gone on to confirm the Jama'at's conclusion. It has weightily advanced the evidence of the head priest of Birla Mandir to prove that "Mr. Nehru did believe in Hindu Dharma."

Incidentally, the same impression was conveyed by an ineptly produced AIR feature of interview from members of the late PM's household, the substance of which was later contradicted.

The RSS wishes to build the case that not only did Nehru believe in "Hindu Dharma," he had faith in all its religious rituals too. So interesting, to be sure.

The testament was a big blow to the obscurantists shoddy cause. That is why they—both the Muslim and Hindu partners in it—seek to eclipse it. Both are wrestlers from the same wing and the boxing bout they stage is no more than a show. Their interests as always are in perfect accord.

—Garuda

FOOD PRICES TOUCH ALL TIME HIGH MARK

MASSIVE AGITATION PLANNED TO ARREST FOOD PRICES

From JNAN BIKASH MOITRA

CALCUTTA: For the last two months West Bengal has been passing through an acute food crisis. The situation has become alarming in the course of the past fortnight. Rice has completely disappeared from the open market. Mustard oil, the chief cooking medium in all Bengali homes, is not available in any shop at the controlled rate of Rs 3 per kg. Prices of all essential commodities have shot up to dizzy heights. Even match-boxes are being sold at the black market rate of 7 Paise.

All grocers in Calcutta, over 3,000 in number, decided on June 14 to stop selling rice and mustard oil for three days from June 19 in protest against the malpractices of the wholesalers. The grocers' token strike was also in protest against the policy of the state government which caused unnecessary harassment to them while giving a free hand to the big hoarders and traders.

It is now admitted by the spokesmen of the government and some members of the business community that there is no reason for the present shortage of rice and mustard oil and the abnormally high prices of other essential commodities, like fish, vegetables, pulses, etc. No less a person than Chief Minister P. C. Sen told newsmen on June 19 that "considering the rice pro-

duction this year (in West Bengal) there is no reason for shortage, particularly at this time of the year."

In a memorandum to the Chief Minister on June 17, one of the associations of grocers gave figures of the total quantity of mustard oil hoarded by wholesalers. It said that the stocks lying with them, if released now, could feed Calcutta for at least a month (Calcutta needs about 2,000 maunds of mustard oil a day). The stocks, the association pointed out, had been imported from Agra and Kanpur at a price not exceeding Rs. 2.90 per kg. Had these stocks been released to the retail market, mustard oil could have been sold at the controlled rate of Rs. 3 a kg.

It is now abundantly clear that big hoarders and traders are holding the people to ransom. Even the Chief Min-

ister, who is never tired of flaunting his pet "theory" that scarcity of rice is caused by "hoarding" by the masses of primary producers, appealed to the people not to pay more than the controlled prices so that "unscrupulous traders or producers are not able to profit from seasonal shortages and cause hardship to people of limited resources". On June 19, he again told pressmen that he was confident that if the people cooperated with the government, big hoarders and producers could be forced to sell their hoarded stocks.

GOVERNMENT'S APATHY

But instead of either enlisting the cooperation of the people or taking effective measures against the hoarders, government completely knuckled under their pressure. The Chief Minister tried to explain away his government's reluctance to unearth hoarded stocks of rice and paddy by trotting out the specious plea that "it is difficult to locate stocks maintained by big producers in districts."

But when the people of West Bengal observed a statewide general strike and hartal on May 20 to protest against the intolerable food situation created by the government's pro-hoarder food policy, it mobilised the entire police force and arrested over 2,000 political workers and trade unionists in a vain attempt to smash the general strike!

The government could have easily seized the huge hoarded stocks of mustard oil, to

which its attention had been drawn by the grocer's association. But instead of taking this step, government yielded to the pressure of the wholesalers. The retail controlled price of mustard oil was raised from Rs. 3 to Rs. 3.25 a kg. This was exactly what the profiteers had demanded before they cut off all supplies to the retail market.

Meanwhile, consumers' resistance to the nefarious activities of profiteers and the government's policy of inaction began to develop. In some places, consumers forced shopowners to sell mustard oil at the controlled rate. They, however, took care to inform the police.

The business community, which has caused untold sufferings to the people, promptly took note of this development and expressed its "concern" over the possibility of consumers embarking on collective action to bring down the prices of essential commodities.

As pointed out above, the grocers also had decided to go on a three-day protest strike. The situation was rapidly becoming explosive. It was in this background that the government announced its "new" food policy.

This policy envisages no action whatsoever against the hoarders of rice and paddy. But from June 22, rice is proposed to be supplied from modified ration shops to about 60 lakh people in the greater Calcutta area. Each adult will be entitled to draw one kilogram and each child half a kilogram of rice per week.

against family identity cards, provided a similar quantity of wheat or atta is also bought. The Chief Minister claimed that the government had sufficient stocks to meet requirements during the lean months.

The shape which the food situation takes during the next two weeks is yet to be seen. But in view of the state government's performance in the past, there is no reason to be optimistic about the new food scheme.

No provision, however, has been made to extend modified rationing to the mofussil districts and rural areas. The reason is not far to seek. On June 15, the Chief Minister made the astounding claim that "reports available from the districts indicate that conditions there are fairly satisfactory and supplies of rice and paddy are generally available at the government's fixed prices."

This is a gross distortion of realities. All non-official reports from reliable sources show that acute distress prevails in the rural areas, particularly among the poorer sections of the people.

Government's decision to feed only the Greater Calcutta area is obviously motivated by political reasons. It is the area where the largest numbers of organised industrial workers, poor and lower middle class people are concentrated. It has always been the centre of glorious struggles of the people for food, livelihood and democratic rights.

Seven left parties—CPI, RSP

RCPI, Marxist F.B., Workers Party, Socialist Unity Centre and Bolshevik Party—have given the call for the observance of "All Bengal Day" on June 29 to protest against the anti-people food policy of the government. Meetings and demonstrations will be organised all over the state on that day. A central demonstration will be held in Calcutta. Local and district food conventions will be organised, and an All-Bengal Food Convention will be held in Calcutta in the third week of July.

"ALL-BENGAL DAY"

The left parties have submitted a memorandum to the Chief Minister demanding immediate and effective action to relieve the present food situation.

Leader of these left parties met the Chief Minister on June 17 to discuss the critical food situation. The Chief Minister was stated to have admitted that hoarders possessed surplus rice and paddy stocks, but that it was difficult to unearth the stocks as they had kept their stocks in small quantities at different places.

After the meeting, the deputations said in a statement "we are of the opinion that only a mass movement can compel the government to change its attitude. We therefore seek the cooperation of all sections of the suffering people in organising such a movement."

BIHAR GOVT. REFUSES TO TAKE STRONG STEPS

Demonstration Before Assembly Planned

From K. GOPALAN

PATNA: Dark shadows of a food crisis are looming over Bihar. While prices of all essential commodities are shooting up, the food supply in the state has virtually collapsed.

The Supply Minister of Bihar Mungeri Lal, while admitting the seriousness of the situation said that "it might become acute if supplies did not reach in time" from the central government.

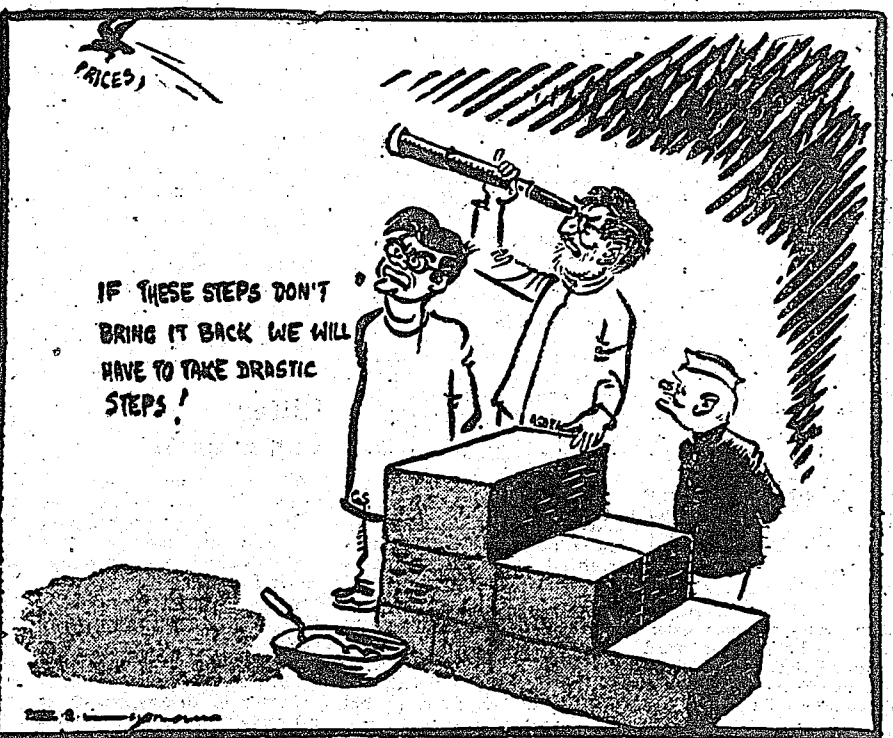
The state government has not only failed to hold the price line and guarantee adequate food supply on fair prices, but bluntly refused to take any effective step to improve the food situation.

It is now officially admitted that stock position in the state is very precarious. Government godowns all over the state are almost empty. Entire fair price shops in the state are running without wheat and rice since last one month.

Prices of all essential commodities which have been steadily rising since last few months, have got a spurt as a result of the breakdown of supply, through the fair price shops. Prices of rice, wheat, pulses mustard oil and sugar have recorded a steep rise in open market. Officially quoted prices, though fair below the actual prices prevailing in the market, admitted this abnormal rise. According to official figures the prices have recorded the following rise between June 1963 and June 1964: (per quintal). (Chart alongside)

	June 1963	January 1964	June 1964
Rice	49.66	78.02	89.50
Wheat	53.59	64.30	75.02
Arhar Dal	80.38	91.09	107.17
Gram	34.20	58.94	62.25
Mustard Oil	218.75	280.62	312.47
Sugar	112.25	120.50	129.00

CONCRETE STEPS



(Courtesy: THE TIMES OF INDIA)

INORDINATE PRICE RISE IN BOMBAY CITY

Free Press Journal's Survey

THE sky seems to be the limit for the rising food prices in Greater Bombay.

A survey conducted by FREE PRESS JOURNAL has revealed that the cost of living in the city, which had shown a slight downward trend for the last four months of the year 1962, started the ascent in May of the following year.

The rise continues unchecked. The main reason for the rise has been the continued increase in food prices, as food, according to official sources, accounts for over 55 per cent of the average family expenditure in the city.

Among the lower middle classes, particularly in the fixed income categories, the percentage of expenditure on food goes even higher up to 70 to 75 per cent. According to the statistics available in the Labour Commissioner's office, the index number for cost of living has been increasing after April last year.

In October 1963, there was a drop in the number by one, from 454 to 453. In December the increase was very conspicuous from 454 to 483—a rise of 29 points as a sequel to the correction of the index by the Lakdawala Committee. Within four months thereafter there was a further rise by 13 points to 496.

The index number for food has registered a steep rise from June 1963 onwards. It was 521 in May last year, and in March this year it stood at 584. During the last three months, it has obviously moved further up, considering the spurt in prices.

The market price of good quality rice, which was 87

Paise per kg, at this time last year, has moved up between Re. 1 and Re. 1.20 at present.

PRICE OF WHEAT

The increase in rice price is however far less than that in the case of wheat, the prices of which have doubled or more during the year.

The Punjab variety which used to sell at 41 Paise per kg, in June last year, now costs even up to Re. 1.20. There has been a 20 per cent rise in wheat prices in the last two months. Jowar, another staple food in the state, which sold at 56 Paise a year ago, registered a rise of only 4 Paise till two months ago, and is now quoted at 68 to 70 Paise a kilo.

The increase in the case of pulses is of the order of 15 per cent during the last two months, and the rise over the year is about 30 per cent. The consumer has to pay Re. 1.20 for a kilogramme of tur dal which cost only 95 Paise a year ago.

It is the same story in the case of almost every other food article, like vanaspati, ghee and edible oils, dry chillies, tea and coffee, although the margin of price increase is not as big as in cereals.

The index numbers and prices quoted above for the period up to March this year are based on the Labour Gazette and other figures available in the Labour Commissioner's office, while the current rates are collected and tallied from the fair price shops, private grocers and stores run by cooperative societies in different localities.

The rice prices are those quoted

in non-fair price shops, because habitual rice-eaters do not go in for the government rice. The latest reports about the release by the Centre of huge quantities of rice and wheat for Maharashtra, have not yet had any considerable effect on the existing prices.

Wholesale prices of wheat are on the decline, but the retailers have not reduced their prices. The argument advanced is that the purchase price of their stocks was higher than the present market price. It will take a few days more for the consumer to derive any benefit from the latest developments.

"INADEQUATE"

Consumers contacted during the present survey generally were vocal about the "inadequate" steps taken by the government against hoarding and blackmarketing.

They pointed out the example of sugar which was being sold in the blackmarket at between Rs. 2.50 and Rs. 4 per kg, while the consumers' quota on sugar cards had been considerably slashed during the last three months.

The question was often posed as to how, if sugar was in short supply, it was available in any quantity in the blackmarket, and how at all such huge quantity could go underground. According to the lay consumer, the order, issued under the DIR a few days ago, prescribing what he called "the permissible ceiling for hoarding sugar", would only encourage unnecessary storage of sugar by those who would not have otherwise resorted to it. Fear was expressed that this

might result in the "blackmarket sugar price" shooting up further.

Enquiries revealed that the Punjab variety of wheat which costs the consumer here up to Re. 1.20 per kilo, is purchased by the retailers from wholesalers at about Rs. 111 per 100 kg. A retailer said that his profit margin on wheat was between 5 to 7 per cent, and that the bulk of profit went to the wholesalers.

It was gathered that the market rate of the same quality wheat in Punjab was between Rs. 45 and Rs. 50 per 100 kgs, which means that the wholesale price in Bombay is more than double the purchase price in Punjab.

The retailer suggested that this profiteering by wholesalers could be overcome, if the government allowed the retailers to import wheat from Punjab on their own, instead of restricting the issue of permits to the "big, authorised grain dealers."

In effect, it means de-zonalisation which is to be considered at the forthcoming Chief Ministers' conference.

On the problem of sugar prices, the common man seems to share the opinion of Chief Minister Naik in favour of decontrol.

One consumer even added that in the light of the revised prohibition policy of the state government, if the sugar factories in Maharashtra are allowed to utilise the huge quantities of molasses now going waste for liquor production, "the sugar prices are bound to come down."

ASSAM FACES A FOOD CRISIS

From M. BHATTACHARYYA

SHILLONG: Contrary to government's "hope" of improvement of the supply position of rice following the revision of its procurement policy, giving the rice mill-owners licence to procure the supply position has alarmingly deteriorated in Assam.

LAST week Gauhati felt the scarcity most acutely. For days together not a grain of rice could be had in Gauhati market. While the daily requirement of rice, the government-appointed Apex Marketing Cooperative supply only 34 quintals daily.

The rice millowners and other big traders who had been permitted by the government to enter the market could not or did not supply any rice at all. However, as it happens always when there is an acute scarcity, a black market in rice operated in Gauhati also where rice could be had at an exorbitant rate.

Here in Shillong for the last few days rice supply is erratic. Fair price shops and other cooperative stores complain that they are not getting any steady supply from the government authorised wholesale dealers. However, here also rice is available in the open market at Rs. 1.25 to Rs. 1.50 a kg. How this "open market" can

steadily rising, flood, the chronic, annual malady of the state—for all the tall talks about flood control "plans" and "schemes"—has already appeared. Quite a large part of Cachar district was inundated. About 75 per cent of the standing crop in Karimganj subdivision was submerged in flood water.

FLOODS TAKE A HAND

There is reasonable apprehension that in the coming weeks several other places will face the fury of flood; communication and transport will be disrupted and not a few places will become cut off from the rest of the state. This will render movement of food-stuff and other articles difficult, if not impossible. How this will affect the prices can easily be guessed.

In Shillong, the citizens, irrespective of political affiliation, have been organising themselves into a citizens' committee which, among other things, will also function as a vigilance committee to put pressure upon the government to maintain a steady supply of rice and other edibles and will maintain a check on the anti-social elements among the trading community who have been trying to fleece the consumers by artificially creating scarcity and raising prices.

POLISH PARTY CONGRESS CONCLUDES

NEW PROGRAMME OF ACTION ADOPTED

Gomulka Re-elected First Secretary

From MASOOD ALI KHAN

The Fourth Congress of Polish United Workers' Party came to an end on June 20 evening after six days of deliberations amid scenes of unity and solidarity behind the leadership as 1,600 delegates and fraternal representatives sang the International and cheered. Wladyslaw Gomulka was re-elected first secretary and as this was announced the whole audience rose and sang "Sto lat" (live hundred years) and rushed to greet him.

THE Congress elected the leading organs of the Party, central committee with 85 members and the central control commission. It adopted certain changes in the rules of Party and a main document which will be published later.

The central committee elected the Polit Bureau of twelve members and three alternate members. The PB includes Gomulka, Cyrankiewicz, Rapacki, Ochab, Zawadzki, Kliszko, Gierek, Jedrychowski, Loga-Sowinski, Spychalski, Szyr, Waniołka. All the elections were unanimous.

Summing up the results, Gomulka declared that the Congress had done useful work and held creative and fruitful discussion. It



Wladyslaw Gomulka

adopted a programme of future action and plan of development of national economy in 1966-70. Gomulka expressed confidence that the programme adopted by the Congress will be fulfilled. "We have a powerful base of production; the people, experienced cadres and intelligentsia and heroic youth. We have to bring into motion the great creative forces latent in the millions. Qualitative changes had to be made in structure and organisation of industry for further advance."

Main Task

Gomulka said this was the first five-year plan of young generation which did not see capitalism in prewar bourgeois Poland or horrors of war. The main task was the economic development and extension of socialist revolution.

"The ranks of our Party are united", Gomulka declared amid cheers. "We have no place for people ideologically alien to our Party. We shall continue to contribute to the victory of peace and socialism all over the world. We shall be faithful to Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism and shall always stand for unity of international Communist movement and unity of great commonwealth of socialist lands."

Party which is organisationally efficient, capable of action and struggle. Leaders in this respect are large workers' organisations which have proved that they are capable of assuring active participation of all members in struggle

Earlier Zanon Kliszko, member of the Polit Bureau and secretary of CC, in a long speech dealt with ideological questions and growth of the Party. While tackling tasks of socialist reconstruction, the Party had developed and grown stronger, ideologically and organisationally, Kliszko said. Today PUWP numbers nearly 1,600,000. Since the Third Congress six years ago, the ranks of the Party had grown by over half a million.

Along with this dynamic growth of Party, there had been qualitative changes within it; of new members and candidates, about four lakhs were workers, and one lakh peasants. A characteristic feature of the growth of the Party had been the great influx of youth, which was an extremely positive development, Kliszko said.

The strength of Party depended to a decisive degree on the ideological cohesion, discipline of its members in daily activity. "Our Party has built and consolidated its ideological unity. It is a

Chinese Leaders Castigated

Criticism of Chinese leadership was voiced at the fourth Congress of the Polish United Workers' Party by the delegates and the representatives of fraternal European Parties present here.

REFERRING to Chinese insistence that violent revolution was the only path to socialism open to Afro-Asian countries, Gomulka said, "There is nothing to indicate that in our epoch of transition from capitalism to socialism life must always stick to these of oft-repeated schemes of the CPC. It is highly probable, particularly in many newly-liberated countries whose leaders at the outset did not set socialist goals for national revolution, that life itself will push patriotic forces to combine national revival with socialist transformations in now hitherto unknown forms. Chance of such course of events is inseparably bound with prospects of world peace."

As reported earlier Gomulka and the Soviet leader Podgorny declared that it was essential that preparations for world conference of Communist Parties began soon. Delay of four or five years proposed by the Chinese could not be contemplated. Podgorny declared that it was of utmost importance that ideological differences must

Bitter Experience

The Hungarian representative declared that his Party knew how to fight splitters and their harmful ideas and had bitter experience that showed what results followed from departure from Marxism-Leninism. Dogmatism, sectarianism and "Left" policies had again become the main danger, he said. Fraternal delegations from all socialist countries empha-

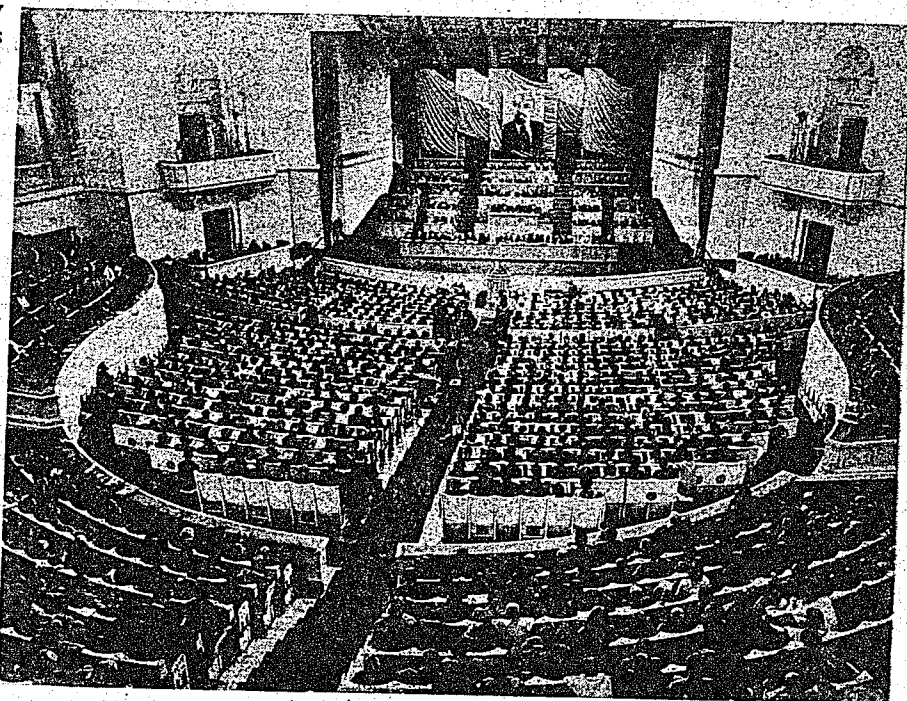
for fulfilment of political line of the Party."

Klisko expressed deepest anxiety of Party at the ideological dissensions aggravated by CPC in international movement. The CPC was violating organisational principles. One fundamental principle of Leninist Party is the struggle against factionalism and adherence to democratic centralism, which makes cohesion of ranks and effective action possible. The CPC leaders were not only tampering with the unity of world Communist movement and counterposing the CPC to other Communist Parties but, to secure hegemony, they professed factionalism and encouraged splits in other parties.

"We reject fatalist idea of

split", Kliszko said. "Historic interests of working class and peoples fighting for freedom, and building of socialism are one. Struggle can and must be waged against factionalism for restoration and consolidation of unity of world army Communists" Kliszko said.

Herta Kuusinen, member of the PB of the Communist Party of Finland also expressed profound anxiety. Today danger of split had increased, but a well-prepared conference which majority of Parties favour could prevent the widening of this split, she said. Objective and serious discussion could appreciably strengthen—and in any case could not weaken—unity of international Communist movement.



A view of the Fourth Congress of P.U.W.P. in session.

sised importance of mutual economic cooperation, coordination and international division of labour. Czechoslovak representative Lastovicka said, they fully supported the higher form of cooperation although this path was not simple or easy and one had to act carefully.

The Rumanian representative Bodnarus declared strongly in favour of strengthening this economic cooperation between socialist countries as members of the Comecon through coordination of plans and international division of labour. He called for extension of this to whole socialist economic system. Successes achieved by Rumania like other Socialist countries had been largely due to mutual cooperation based on full equality, respect for sovereignty and national interests, mutual advantage and fraternal assistance he said.

Rumanian delegate expressed confidence that the differences in the Communist movement could be solved by discussion in a spirit of mutual respect, through patient efforts and understanding in accordance with decisions of Moscow conferences and principles of relations within the Communist movement unanimously agreed upon.

Delegations of Parties from Czechoslovakia, Hungary, GDR, Bulgaria, France supported the proposal for the international conference of Communist and Workers' Parties in near future and said that preparations for it must begin soon.

Representative of Italian

Party Pajetta sharply criticised the Chinese splitting activity and said that because the Italian Communists believed in true unity, they firmly rejected the Chinese viewpoint. He spoke of the great force of socialism's peaceful challenge. Everything that is conservative, dogmatic and ossified brought harm to a revolutionary Party, he said. To make true unity really effective, discussion, even heated, must continue and made more profound with greater emphasis on its contents, Pajetta said.

All fraternal delegates expressed their great admiration for successes achieved by Poland under the leadership of the PUWP which had transformed a backward land into a new country of highly developed industry and agriculture and where production potential was nine times more than in capitalist Poland.

The League of Yugoslav Communists took part for the first time at the Congress of the PUWP and it was represented by Ivan Gosnjak. He said that conservative forces within international Communist movement led by the CPC were objectively strengthening those reactionary quarters which cling to cold war positions fiercely resisting inevitable emancipation of all nations. It is particularly necessary for every Communist Party to struggle against these negative tendencies. Only under conditions of peace could we achieve liquidation of colonialism and imperialism, and all forms of inequality, he said.

Socialist World

A nation's biggest asset is the health of the population and no wonder in the socialist countries the question of improving people's health is given top-most priority. Under no other social system the people are guaranteed so much attention and facility for improving their health and living standards as under the socialist system.

FOR example, in the USSR there are 22 doctors for every 10,000 of population—a figure which is considerably higher than even USA and U.K.

Along with providing medical and prophylactic measures for treatment and prevention of diseases among the population, the socialist countries have generally improved the nutritive standards of foods partaken. Thus, not only there is less of diseases, but also a general improvement in the health of the people.

In 1964, the Soviet Union will spend 7,800 million

roubles, almost four times more than in 1953, on public health services, physical culture and social maintenance.

The measures taken by the socialist countries have very substantially changed the general health standards of the people. In Soviet Union, diseases such as cholera, plague, small pox, typhus etc., are diseases of the past; malaria and trachoma have been almost eliminated, and other diseases' incidence rates are sharply on the decline.

T.B. is a particularly sensitive index of the health of

Book Review — From Page 8

public of South Africa are considerably greater than in any other African country. Most of this money is in gold and diamond mines, but lately increased activity has been shown by the 160 American firms entrenched in the RSA. Among them are General Motors, Ford, General Electric, Procter and Gamble, Westinghouse and other well-known monopolies. They are pocketing a profit of 27 per cent annually. Keith Funston, President of the New York Stock Exchange, was no doubt expressing the sentiments of these companies when he declared: "The entire Western world and all the free nations, whose outstanding leaders are South Africa and the United States, must in future work closer together."

Export of US capital brings colossal profits and at the same time helps the US monopolies establish "a network of corruption" in the country concerned. The US trade unions and organisations like the Peace Corps further help to extend this network.

Weapons Of Domination

In a chapter titled "Bases, Blocs, Wars", Winston shows how vital these weapons are to the arsenal of US neocolonialism. He quotes a US military expert as saying: "Bases are absolutely essential in stopping local wars or 'wars of national liberation', and refers to the CIA as the instrument assigned "the dirtiest work".

Summing up the methods of US neocolonialism, Winston says these might be grouped according to where the emphasis lies in each given case. That gives us four groups:

1. Coercion (armed intervention, military blocs, military bases)
 2. Colonial exploitation (export of capital, non-equivalent exchange, etc.)
 3. Use of stooges, placemen and puppet regimes
 4. Infiltration and demagoguery (aid, Peace Corps, etc.)
- The final chapter of this little book dealing with "Ways of Struggle" is very topical

and interesting in the light of current controversies. Winston passionately argues for the urgency of the struggle for peaceful coexistence, world peace and disarmament in order to deal with imperialism and neocolonialism in the present situation.

Similarly, Winston insists that the various democratic movements are allies of the national liberation movement. He makes a powerful plea for better understanding and closer liaison between the democratic movement in the United States and what has been called the "Third World". "United Fruit is not the whole of United States", he says. "In the USA there are considerable democratic, non-fascist, non-imperialist, non-monopoly forces".

He also draws attention to the fact that there are considerable contradictions and clashes of opinions within the camp of US monopolists. "I doubt if anybody will argue that there is no difference between the political philosophy of Johnson and the political philosophy of Goldwater..."

Pleading for the unity of all the different anti-imperialist forces—"primarily, the socialist countries, the international working class and democratic movement and the national liberation movement"—Winston warns against racism and narrow nationalism. The neocolonialism of the USA and other imperialist powers cannot be successfully combated without uniting with all the anti-imperialist forces active in the present-day world.

Posing the question of the "Morning After", Winston says that the national liberation struggle is not completed with the winning of political independence; it goes forward for the winning of economic independence. He defines among the criteria of a revolutionary "his willingness to exchange the somewhat romantic rifle for the more prosaic spade".

"This is a fairly steep turn", says Winston, "and many people find themselves thrown off balance. Those who regard armed

TOWARD BETTER TOMORROW

the people and in all the socialist countries, this index has sharply fallen. For example in Hungary, there were only 26 deaths per one lakh of population last year.

Another index is infant mortality: a study in this regard showed that the average number of deaths has come down to less than ten per thousand in the socialist countries. The average infant mortality rate in European non-socialist countries varies between 44 and 48 per thousand.

The efforts of the socialist

states to improve the health of the people, provide them with better living standards have brought about signal achievements. The average expectation of life has shown a sharp increase in these countries.

In Soviet Union, the average span has gone up to 70, in Hungary, it is 65 for men and 69 for women; in Yugoslavia, it is 63—which is five years longer than the estimate three years ago. One can compare the average life expectancy in India which is about 40 years against the spans stated above.

The result: the people in the socialist countries are today healthier than they were even a few years ago and they outpace peoples of many countries in terms of health, social amenities, recreation and in general enjoy a better life.

Workers' Rights

Capitalist press never tires of trotting out that in the socialist countries every thing is regimented; there is no democracy, and no personal freedom. Trade unions are supposed to be agencies of coercion, their membership compulsory and there is no remedy against any wrong done to the workers. The workers are just instruments

of production and they have no rights. But what are the facts?

Here is an interesting case that can be taken as an example. The bulletin of the Supreme Court of USSR 1962 No. 6 reported this case and throws considerable light on the right of workmen under socialist dispensation of justice.

The case concerns one woman worker who worked as a translator and sub-editor in a newspaper office. She was dismissed by management in consultation with the local trade union on the ground of "unsatisfactory work". The lower court upheld the dismissal but on appeal the Supreme Court ruled in favour of the worker.

The Supreme Court upheld both the contentions of the appellant that: 1) the dismissal was not justified, and 2) the consent of the local trade union was invalid since three out of seven members of the executive body were absent. (Article 19 of the Rules of Trade Unions of the USSR requires a quorum of two-thirds majority of the deciding body).

The Supreme Court upheld the petitioner's case and ordered reinstatement with full back wages.

Does this show that the workers have no means to defend their rights?

—Sadhan Mukherjee

New Indo-Polish Trade Agreement

A new trade agreement has been signed between India and Poland on June 18 for trade between the two countries during 1965 and 1966.

As a result of the agreement the volume of trade between the two countries is envisaged to be of the order of Rs. 38 crores both ways in 1966.

Bulgarian Art Exhibition

PAINTINGS by three famous Bulgarian painters are on exhibition at the AIFACS hall in New Delhi till May 25. It was opened on June 16 by Humayun Kabir, Union Minister for Petroleum and Chemicals.

The Bulgarian art exhibition consists of the paintings of Zlatyu Boyadjev, Ivan Hristov and Georgi Bayev. These paintings reflect the works of top Bulgarian artists whose talents have been already recognised the world over. In style, colour scheme and realistic portrayal, these paintings bring to us the artistic creations of the highest order.

The present exhibition has been organised in reciprocation of the Indian art exhibition held in Sofia some time

Bridges Of Amity

back. Humayun Kabir rightly pointed out in his inaugural address at the AIFACS hall, that "with the growing knowledge and understanding of each other's cultural heritage, the bond of friendship would be strengthened."

Bairam Khan's Poems

A unique book of poems by the great Bairam Khan, who is known in India more as a General and a Minister who practically controlled the Moghul empire in the early years of Akbar's reign, than as a poet, was recently found by G. Y. Aliev, staff member of the Institute of Asian Peoples of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

Bairam Khan, a Turkman by birth, wrote his poems in the Turki and Persian languages. The collection features, in the main, themes of humanism, patriotism, philosophical contemplations and lyricism.

Soviet Thesis On Punjabi Literature

A thesis recently presented by Igor Serebryakov, a noted Soviet

Indologist, has won a Master's degree in philology at the Institute of Peoples of Asia, USSR Academy of Sciences.

Igor Serebryakov is not a new name in Soviet Indology, but a scholar who has devoted no less than twenty-nine years to the study of ancient Indian and Punjabi literature. He was one of the compilers of the first Punjabi-Russian Dictionary published in 1961. This dictionary won high praise both in the Indian and Soviet press.

Noteworthy is the highly original conclusion drawn by the author to the effect that the positions of democratic literature were considerably strengthened in the Middle Ages under the impact of the Bhakti and Sikh movements. These people's movements helped to draw writers from the lower castes into Punjabi literature to which they brought a new vision of the world.

It was the upsurge of the national-liberation movement of the peoples of India in 1919-1922 that brought to life modern Punjabi literature. The author, points out the progressive role of advanced Punjabi magazines, such as "Ghadar di Gooni", "Pritam", "Phulwari", and others which gave impetus to the development of revolutionary poetry and the reflection in literature of the political struggle waged by the people of Punjab.

Kairon Quits

THE CRASH AND AFTER

Pratap Singh Kairon of Punjab has a colourful personality, tremendous drive, lots of initiative and a singular lack of appreciation for the finer points of administrative red tapism. He has also a wife and two sons who are very much bent upon furthering their personal interests utilising his position as the Chief Minister.

NOTHING more is needed, as has been proved, to make the man one of the most controversial public figures of the times. Even in his farewell to government Kairon has kicked up enough dust as would take some time to settle down.

With few exceptions newspapers in the country have commented on Kairon and his exit, as a result of the findings of the Das Commission which enquired into alleged corrupt practices against him.

Divergent Views

The newspapers reflected the people's attitude towards the man and his activities: some were jubilant over the victorious conclusion of their battle, some regretful that a man with such a fund of drive and personality should fall prey to such evil influences, some

fighting for him even after his downfall.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES was unrelenting in its attack even after Kairon's exit became certain. On June 16 it said: "that Mr. Kairon was allowed to continue to office after the Dhebar verdict (in 1958 a Congress enquiry commission headed by U. N. Dhebar looked into charges of corruption against Kairon) was a tragedy of the highest order".

On June 26, the paper went in for the final kill: "There is no remorse in him for his lapses, no recognition that he owes an apology to the people for betraying their interests."

"The least that the Congress can do to demonstrate that it is sensitive to the new demands that are going to be made on it by public opinion is to expel Mr. Kairon from the party", it declared.

This confidence was not

shared by many others. THE TIMES OF INDIA for example, said on June 16 that "any jubilation over Mr. Kairon's exit will perhaps be dampened when Mr. Shastri, Mr. Kamaraj and other members of the party's Parliamentary Board come to grips with the question of finding a replacement in Chandigarh".

There was little evidence, the paper said, to suggest that Kairon has lost any of

the press

the support which he enjoyed in the Congress Legislature Party and so, "it might not be possible to ensure ministerial stability in the Punjab without his sincere cooperation."

THE STATESMAN said on the same day: "Nothing that Mr. Kairon has done in recent years because him so well as the manner of his going; of little else could a man like Mr. Shastri have said that it was 'something honourable'."

However it wanted "a much cleaner break with the past" than what "can be provided by those who are too closely identified with Mr. Kairon or

too dependent upon his political patronage".

Defence of Kairon

Among the dailies in the capital PATRIOT was the only one to go all out to defend Kairon. "Gifted with great stamina", "unswerving in loyalty to Jawaharlal Nehru", he is "not likely to be overwhelmed by what has happened and may decide to fight back", it said.

The paper feared that by his exit, "a fairly long period of political stability may come to an end in Punjab." It wanted the Congress High Command to give a free hand to the Congress Legislature Party to elect its new leader or in other words instal someone nominated by Kairon as his successor.

This is exactly what some others opposed with all their might.

THE INDIAN EXPRESS (June 16) feared that Kairon

THE NATIONAL HERALD felt (June 17) that Kairon has "not shown dignity in resigning" by ascribing it to reports in a news agency, for, he had a copy of the report with him even before the news appeared in the press.

It also felt that the "opposition demand that he should have been dismissed and not merely allowed to resign is not without point", though it also saw his good qualities going to waste.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA was more concerned with the publication of the Das Commission report than Kairon's fate. On June 16 it said that "governmental action on the Das report, however, adequate, cannot dispense with the necessity for publishing the report" and that it "cannot be withheld without damaging the Indian government's own position".

No Clinging To Office

Commenting on the fact that Kairon resigned even before the Das commission report was officially released, FREE PRESS JOURNAL said that it suggested that "he has no desire to cling to office."

"His political enemies should resist the temptation of counting the eggs before they are hatched", it warned pointing to the solid support which Kairon enjoys in the Congress Legislature Party.

THE HINDU said on June 16: "Punjab needs must have a strong government especially with the Chinese menace across the border, and it is undeniable Mr. Kairon, however debatable his methods, might have been, gave it just that. The hands of whoever is going to succeed him as Chief Minister will be strengthened by his cooperation."

-PARAKAL

Readers' Letters

GRAIN DEALERS HOLDING PEOPLE TO RANSOM

IT is adding insult to injury; that is what the grain dealers have done by alleging that it is the states which are responsible for pushing up grain prices by "hoarding" them. Of course, they were referring to the buffer stocks which the state governments have built up.

The fact remains that the grain dealers are holding the people to ransom, connived at by an indulgent government. It has been disclosed that large quantities of foodgrains have been released from the buffer stocks during the last four months. And yet, the prices are moving up.

Also, the lame excuse that there might be one or two per hundred among them who indulge in anti-social practices. If only two or three indulged in such activities, how is it that the prices go up? Only when the grain dealers as a whole raise their prices, the prices move up in the market.

In the face of this, the government is still going easy despite the big noise which Finance

Minister Krishnamachari's "state trade only" speech made. We see reports of Food Minister Subramanian advising the trade "to play fair".

It is high time that the government took over the grain trade. All fear of crash in the market is bunk; only through state wholesale trade and rigorous control over retail market can the prices be held, not to speak of their being brought down.

K. SANTOSH KUMAR
New Delhi

SHEIKH'S ABORTIVE PLAN TO VISIT UK

SHEIKH Abdullah has cancelled his proposed London visit which was to have coincided with the Shastri-Ayub meeting at the time of the Commonwealth Prime Ministers Conference. According to the Sheikh himself, the visit has been cancelled because it "would have served no purpose."

If it would not have served any purpose, then why was such a visit planned in the first place at all? Will the Sheikh explain whether something happened in between, announc-

ing the visit and its cancellation?

One can understand the Sheikh's anxiety to be in the limelight and pose himself as a mediator between India and Pakistan and what not. What is not understood is the over-readiness which some of the so-called nationalist papers in the country show to boost that man and his plans. Do these newspapers bear loyalty to this country or somewhere else?

Lucknow S. N. SINHA

WHAT ABOUT ENQUIRY AGAINST SHANKAR AND TARAKESWARI?

KAIRON is gone, and Home Minister Nanda claims it to be partial victory of his efforts to clear up the administration. Nanda, if he is sincere in his professions, should now order some more enquiries. To begin with, he can start with Tarakeswari Sinha and Kerala Chief Minister R. Shankar.

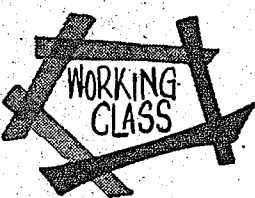
There is no reason to be optimistic about it, though. For, Sanjiva Reddy quit the Andhra Chief Ministership due to a Supreme Court verdict, and now has got promoted to the centre. Where is Kairon going to be promoted to?

New Delhi V. S. SETHI

Steps have been initiated to convene the 22nd Indian Labour Conference. The Union Labour Ministry has invited suggestions from the central trade union organisations for items to be included in the agenda for the conference. The conference is expected to be held late in July or early August.

THE trade union organisations have been pressing for early holding of the conference to discuss outstanding issues before the workers which have of late become acute and are causing widespread discontent among them.

It is understood that the workers organisations will demand high priority for discussion on the failure of the government to implement the Bonus Commission's report. The AITUC has already formally represented to the Labour Ministry on this point. Other issues that are bound to figure in the conference are the rising prices and linking of DA with the cost of living and the rectification of consumer price index.



Chandrashekhar To Go On Hunger-Strike

The workers of Barauni oil refinery have given notice to the management that if by June 26 their demands are not met, they would be compelled to take recourse of direct action.

A MEETING of the workers held under the auspices of the Barauni Telsodhak Mazdoor Union on June 16 decided that the vice-president of the union Chandrashekhar Singh MLA would resort to hunger-strike after June 26 for an indefinite period to press for the demands of the workers.

Among the demands, for fulfilment of which the workers are agitating, are including important issues concerning payment of construction allowance, overtime wages, fair price foodgrains shop, reduction in bus fares, withdrawal of criminal cases against the leaders of the union etc.

Pimpri Workers' Strike Called Off

The seven-day strike of the workers of the Hindustan Antibiotics at Pimpri was called off on June 18 following the intervention of the government.

IT may be recalled that the Meher Tribunal had awarded Rs. 135 as minimum wages in this factory and the management appealed to the Supreme Court against this award. Later, it agreed to pay Rs. 125 as interim payment till the appeal is decided by the Supreme Court.

But even this amount was not paid by the management on the

plea that no base date had been agreed upon.

The management has now agreed to accept January 1, 1963 as the base for calculation of interim payment of wages.

This arrangement, it is reported, is not acceptable to the workers and though they have gone back to work, no payment has been accepted so far.

Miners To Observe Token Strike

THE mine workers in Keonjhar district of Orissa have decided to go on a one-day token strike demanding immediate lowering of prices of foodgrains, increase in wages, implementation of Iron Ore Wage Board recommendations, abolition of contract system, opening of fair price shops etc.

The annual conference of the Keonjhar Mines and Forest Workers' Union held at Barbil on June 7 and 8, formulated the demands which were later ratified by the workers.

The annual conference planned for a phased campaign for achieving the demands. It decided that the workers would undertake a mass signature campaign, hold a protest day and then resort to one-day token general strike.

Cement Workers Observe Wage Board Day

At the call of the All-India Cement Workers' Federation, the workers of the Bhubendra Cement Works (Surajpur, Punjab) observed the Second Wage Board Demand Day on June 15.

THE workers wore badges, held processions and meetings demanding the early setting up of a second Wage Board for the cement industry. It was demanded that pending this there

should be an immediate increase of 25 per cent in wages. The resolution adopted in the meeting also demanded that the Federation must be given representation on the second Wage Board.

The president of the union, K. G. Haritash welcomed the members and invitees and requested the cooperation of all

INDIAN LABOUR CONFERENCE TO MEET SHORTLY

D.A. AND BONUS—MAIN ISSUES NOW

The AITUC, HMS and UTUC will also raise the issue of implementation of the Industrial Truce Resolution. Both AITUC and HMS have already proclaimed their withdrawal from obligations under the truce resolution on the ground that the employers and the government have not honoured their commitments under it.

The labour situation in the country is already becoming explosive because of the rising prices. It will further worsen

when the bonus disputes begin to be actively contested in the later half of this year. Traditionally bonus disputes are pressed before the Puja and Diwali festivals. According to TU circles, the question of immediate relief in terms of lump-sum bonus has become a matter of urgency for the working class because of price spiral.

It is therefore considered essential that the government should take an immediate decision on the Bonus Commission's

recommendations. This has now become also necessary because the employers do not appear to have any intention to withdraw their reservations with regard to the major recommendations of the Commission and the prospect of an agreed tripartite decision on them are very remote.

In the event of the government failing to take a firm decision on bonus issue, the coming conference is bound to be stormy.—IPA

DASTARDLY ATTACK ON TRADE UNION LEADER

A dastardly attack was made on the life of S. K. Sanyal, general secretary of the Samyukta Khadan Mazdoor Sangh, and Durgaya, an active member of the union, on May 23 by two henchmen of the manager of the Majri colliery.

Singh who was named as assailant.

This is the second attack on trade union leaders in this area. The previous one was carried out when the union held a meeting in November 1962 to appeal for contributions to the national defence fund. This colliery belongs to the notorious, New Satragroup of collieries in the Raniganj coalfields and its management is known for frequently using goonda gangs to deal with the trade union movement.

Important in this connection is to note that the Majri colliery was not closed by its management on May 27 and 28 to mourn the death of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

The matter was reported to police the same night but police turned up for enquiry only the next day. The Deputy Superintendent of Police also turned up and later he gave a long lecture to Sanyal and "advised" him to leave the mines area. But he took no steps against the culprits, nor did he arrest Duniya

assistant and soon overpowered and seriously beat them up.

P.P.H. EMPLOYEES' ANNUAL DAY

The People's Publishing House Employees' Union celebrated its annual day on June 22 at the N.M. Joshi Hall, New Delhi. This was the first anniversary of the union.

BESIDES the employees and representatives of the management, the celebration was attended by the workers of the New Age Printing Press, members of the central office of the AITUC, editor and the editorial staff of the NEW AGE weekly and representatives of several fraternal trade union organisations.

Fraternal Greetings

The annual gathering was addressed by N. Fisharodi, general manager of the PPH, D. P. Sinha, manager of the New Age Printing Press, Zia-ul-Haq of the NEW AGE weekly, D. D. Singh of the Hotel Workers' Union, S. N. Sharma of the Petroleum Workers Union, Inder Singh of New Age Press Workers' Committee, A. C. Nanda, general secretary of the Delhi Committee of the AITUC and others.

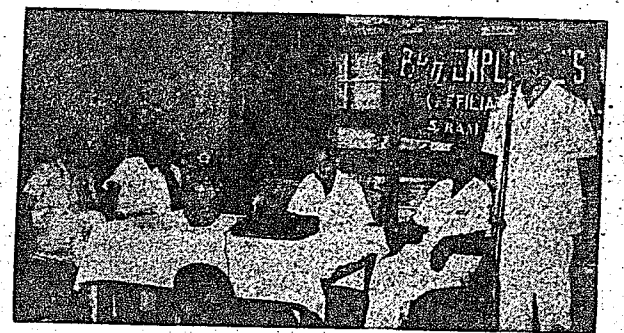
The president of the union, K. G. Haritash welcomed the members and invitees and requested the cooperation of all

sation where the business carried on was not motivated by the desire of profit-making. The PPH stands for dissemination of progressive thoughts among the people and to this end both the management and the employees jointly strive.

Some cultural items were presented in the gathering and the session concluded with a tea party.

Office-Bearers

The office-bearers of the union are: K. G. Haritash—president; B. P. Mista—secretary; Ranjit Singh—cashier; R. S. Tiwari—acting secretary; and S. K. Yadav, R. S. Gupta and R. B. Shukla—members of the executive.



A. C. Nanda addressing the annual day function of the PPH Employees' Union. Dr. M. K. Pandey is presiding

FROM PAGE 5

SOCIALIST UNITY

working-class and trade union activity on the part of the TU activists of the PSP and SP, which had been growing for a long time in Bombay and other industrial centres also, helped the process of the PSP-SP merger.

The National Council of the CPI will strive to build relations of fraternal cooperation with the SSP for the adoption and implementation of progressive policies, and particularly in the sphere of mass struggles of the workers, peasantry, the intelligentsia and students. The National Coun-

cil hopes that the SSP will also see the vital need of such cooperation if the people are to struggle effectively against the anti-people policies of the ruling party and the attacks of Right reaction.

The National Council however desires to stress that the road to democratic unity and far more socialist unity cannot lie through a policy of anti-communism. Anti-communism is the ideological spearhead of reaction against all progressive and democratic forces and movements. Its purpose is to prejudice the people against the ideas of scientific socialism and to disrupt the unity of the forces of socialism and democracy.

As such, any concession by the SSP to anti-communism will not only defeat its declared aim of helping to unite the socialist forces in India. It will also disrupt mass movements and struggles.

The unity of the working class in action irrespective of trade union and political affiliations is a vital necessity for building socialist unity. The unity of the peasant movement is also similarly needed.

Socialist unity, in our country has to emerge as the result of a prolonged exchange of ideas and experience, and above all, of common united struggles against the vested interests by all those who sincerely believe in socialism, democracy and progress whatever their theories of socialism may be. The CPI will continue to exert itself for strengthening the forces of socialist unity.

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THE BRAZILIAN SCENE

REVOLUTION OF "CANNIBALS"

By LAJPAT RAI

"Revolutions usually devour their children, and barely two months after its birth, Brazil's right-wing revolution is no exception", thus commented the American magazine Newsweek in its issue of June 15.

THE magazine gave the following facts to support its observation.

★ The generals who really rule the country have become so intolerant of their critics that their main preoccupation seems to be conducting purges—even among those who supported their new regime.

★ Last week, the generals insisted on renegeing the now notorious Institutional Act which cancelled constitutional guarantees on the ground of fight against and purging the Communists.

★ The new list of "purge victims" which is now to be "handled" by the generals, runs to 500 names which include six former cabinet ministers, ten congressmen, two supreme court judges and former President Juscelino Kubitschek who had recently declared that he will run for the presidential elections whenever they take place.

★ Corruption and graft has increased tremendously while newspapers are not permitted to criticize the junta, which is arresting and persecuting people on the charges of corruption or communism.

After a recent visit to the country David Nasser, a veteran political commentator for the United States who had at first favoured the military takeover, now declared:

"We are faced with a revolution of the cannibals."

Even New York Times and Chicago Tribune, two of the most influential newspapers in the United States, who had readily supported the ousting of President Goulart's government now seem to be having second thoughts. Writing from Rio de Janeiro, June 10, 1964 New York Times correspondent informs:

"There are no ways of discriminating between a Communist and a Liberal, between a Conservative and a Radical. All those who are 'listed' are being arrested, sometimes including those who had supported the new regime."

The Chicago Tribune editorial asks for stopping the purges and appeals to the US President to reconsider the situation—"fast going out of hand in Brazil."

Change In Tune

Thus, the so-called April revolution in Brazil which was hailed by President Johnson with such "satisfaction", is now being called "the revolution of the cannibals", by eminent American columnists, and criticized by the leading American newspapers.

Commenting on the generals' attitude the Newsweek quotes a US official thus:

"The generals seem to think that what the US wants to hear is that everyone of those thousands still in jail was a Communist. They think they are

doing us a big favour and in exchange, of course, they want us to do them a big favour—allow Brazil to postpone paying its debts, both private and public which add up to almost \$2 billions."

A regime of terror is let loose on the people. Thousands have been arrested without charge and are given no trial, not even a pretence of it. Even the Time magazine, that mouth-piece of the American big business, comments thus on the activities of the Right wing generals whose rule was so happily hailed by the US President:

"The National Security Council, composed of the cabinet ministers and key military leaders employ methods which are alarming. It denies suspects the right of defence, the right to know the specific charges, even the right to know that they are on trial; it deliberates in secret then simply publishes its black list. So far, 167 politicians and government officials have lost their rights in this way." (June 12, 1964)

Kubitschek's Warning

Last week Juscelino Kubitschek, ex-president of Brazil and the man who built the new capital of Brasilia for the nation, developed its industry, steel production and automobiles, raised farm output by initiating irrigation schemes, faced charges of graft, corruption and supporting communism in the meeting of the National Security Council. His name was included in the list of those whose political rights are to be annulled, including the right of citizenship, which will debar him for contesting the 1965 presidential elections.

In a press statement issued from Rio de Janeiro on May 30 (New York Times, June 2, 1964) Kubitschek said:

"The revolution has turned against the most sacred concepts of law. This tyrannical act, banishing me from public life, is staining and marring a revolution undertaken to save us from communism. The seeds of injustice, of arbitrary action, of ill-will will take root. The blow they want to strike against me will strike instead at our democratic life."

Such are the achievements of the American supported coup d'etat during its first three months of operation. Bolivar, the great leader of the Latin American peoples once said: "Our revolutions are like monsters, they devour everything that comes in their way". The present revolution in Brazil is one of the type which Bolivar had in mind.

While the army generals are busy destroying liberties of the people, preparing lists of purges, black-listing politicians and government officials who shall be

deprived of their political rights the bewildered people of Brazil are asking "what about our problems?"

President Franklin D. Roosevelt once described Brazil as a vast country with vast problems. There is the problem of inflation, of industrialization and foreign capital, of drought in the north-east and floods in the north-west, of illiteracy, disease and low expectancy of life, of prostitution, of graft, corruption and militarism and finally, the most important of them all the land problem which was described by Prof. Nash, an authority on Latin American agriculture, as "the touchstone of Brazilian life and politics".

Brazil is the largest country of Latin America, almost half of the total area of the southern



continent. It is equal to the size of United States minus Alaska, and has abundant economic resources both agricultural and mineral, including large deposits of oil. It has a Portuguese background, a large Negro and mixed population and some of the best agricultural lands in the world. It has been ruled by a narrow class of landed aristocracy which has supplied the country with its leadership since independence.

This landed class monopolises the land on which millions of peasants work in the conditions of open slavery. In his recent book *Wine is Bitter* (1963) Milton S. Eisenhower, who spent eight years studying the conditions in Latin America as a special representative of President Eisenhower, his brother, writes:

Latent Fire

"Brazil drags and stumbles under the force of the narrow controlling class, the landed aristocracy—Northeast Brazil is a tinderbox that could ignite into a fiery rebellion at any minute. There seven states form an area larger than Venezuela and twice as large as the combined area of the five republics in Central America. More than 75% of the people in the northeast work on land—as crudely as their ancient ancestors did. Nearly one half of the land is owned by 2% of the people and even where smaller plots exist the holder often do not have clear title and must pay rent to the rich landowners."

"The people are among the poorest in the hemisphere, earning less than 100 dollars per

annum—and the expectancy of life in the state of Parah is thirtyone years."

Describing the latifundios of Brazil, Milton Eisenhower says: "The latifundios of 'fazendas' have remained empires within empire; they are outposts of regionalism which have been capable of resisting changes threatened by the Central Government."

Milton described a Fazenda where one thousand families worked for one owner and another where five thousand families serviced one landlord. Here is what he writes:

"We had driven to one of the largest Fazendas (farms) in Brazil. It was truly an empire owned by a tremendous fellow. He was handsome, jovial, even exuberant. Like a feudal lord, he owned all that he could see. Five thousand families lived on his land, and all of them worked for him—Then he led us to a beautiful spot in a fruit orchard where a massive dinner (midday meal) had been prepared for us—we were all hungry and turned to our meal with delight. But as we ate, I noticed the peons labouring in the fields a short distance away. They were thin ragged people, older than their years. They already seemed exhausted, but they had many more hours to toil under the broiling sun. They had probably a handful of beans for breakfast—I found that I was no longer hungry for the sumptuous feast before me." (Pp. 198-99)

Foreign Stranglehold

This investment in and control of Brazilian industry goes the US corporations great power, both economic and political, in Brazilian social and political life, which they have never failed to utilise to the detriment of the country's interests.

These foreign monopolies earn huge profits, by utilizing the cheap labour and the national resources of the country, while paying the minimum of taxes. In 1960, Brazil's total income from direct and corporate taxes was only 20% of the national budget, while the figure for the United States was 81%.

The foreign companies have also taken advantage of the continuously rising inflationary trend in the country. Between 1958 and 1962, prices in Brazil rose by 85%. This has caused widespread misery for the mass of the people. Inflation still remains, along with the problems of land reform and control of foreign capital, one of the knottiest problems of the country.

All these problems are not the concern of the generals who now rule the country. They hardly know anything about them, much less their solutions. Backed by the United States government, they are running amok, arresting people en masse, filling jails, suspending constitutional rights of the people, creating political vendetta on leftists, liberals and democrats, all in the name of fighting communism.

The reign of terror which has been let loose in Brazil by the generals after the April coup is now frightening even their American friends.

Coming mainly from the class of corrupt and degenerate landed aristocracy, their sole aim is to suppress all progressive trends in political life of the country, which grew during President Goulart's regime, and which threatened their vested interests. They have broken diplomatic relations with Cuba and have assured foreign capital of protection, thus satisfying their Northern Big Brother, for whom rest matters little.

It is, however, certain that these generals will soon be ousted from power by the people whose innumerable problems they can neither understand nor solve. President Johnson's hasty hailing of the "revolution" in Brazil in April was the first laugh, the last laugh will be from the people of Brazil.

Poverty Unlimited

Describing the condition of Brazilian people in general Milton Eisenhower writes:

"More than 60% of the population is engaged in agriculture, but only 2% of this immense land is under cultivation. As it is, life expectancy in Brazil (as a whole) is between 35 and 40 years. Malnutrition takes a heavy toll. The 65 million Brazilians, save for the well to do, live on a grossly inadequate diet, heavy with bread, rice, corn, beans etc. Except for chicken now and then and dried beef there is no meat. To buy the food, which gives him some 1800 calories and leaves him weak, the Brazilian spends most of his pitiful income. In the settled rural areas hundred and thousands of farm labourers are leaving the land and hastening to the cities—They find there quite likely living in wretched slums. As farm labour is siphoned off, food production declines" (Pp. 112-113)

Milton Eisenhower ends by calling the land relations in Brazil as in most of Latin America, as one based on baron-and-serf relationship that forces workers to live in poverty and impedes national economic growth.

But, it was for the fact, that the government of President Goulart wanted to change its serf-and-baron relationship on land, that the army generals coming from the same landlord families, overthrew him. His proposed bill for land reforms was the signal for the army coup d'etat.

The other pressing problem which requires immediate attention and which unfortunately Milton Eisenhower does not even touch in his book of 350 pages, is the exploitation of the Brazilian people and her natural resources by foreign capital from nearby North America.

Last year President Goulart declared that due to the operation of foreign capital in the country there was a net outflow of capital from Brazil. He said that foreign companies operating in the country took away more

British troops armed with the most modern weapons, from their bases in Aden, are continuing their punitive attacks against native tribes in Radfan province, north of the Federation of South Arabia bordering Yemen.

HE progressive opinion of the world has repeatedly condemned the British colonisers who are trying through force suppression of the lawful aspirations of the people for freedom and independence. Nevertheless officials in London have remained deaf to the voice of reason and justice.

British generals are continuing their destructive colonial war, which has been condemned time and again in different resolutions adopted by the United Nations. And their diplomats are urgently seeking "legal ways" for perpetuating British rule in South Arabia.

The so-called constitutional conference on Aden, held in London on June 10, served this very purpose. To guarantee a "favourable" outcome, London saw to it that the conference was made up of South Arabian ministers and representatives of feudal lords loyal to the colonisers.

Smug Plans Upset

The only thing that darkened the bright prospects for an "agreement", the British papers claimed, was the arrival in London of Abdullah al Asmag, the well-known leader of the national-liberation movement of South Arabia, president of the People's Socialist Party and general secretary of the Trade Unions Congress of Aden. A few hours after his arrival in London Abdullah al Asmag,

only recently out of colonial torture chambers, made a statement in which he said:

"I came to London," he said, "to tell the British people and the whole world the truth about what is going on in South Arabia. In the hundred and twentyfive years of colonial power the British have brought my people nothing but the yoke of colonialism under the flag of British Protectorate. All these years progress was held up on purpose; illiteracy, ignorance and disease have flourished and still do. National economy is practically non-existent. The natives were for many years deprived of political rights whatsoever."

In 1959 under the pressure of the national liberation movement, the British, who up to then had ruled on the basis of agreements entered into with the shahs and emirs of sixteen local principalities, united thirteen of them into the so-called Federation of South Arabia. That was to give the impression that independence and self-government had been gained by South Arabia.

In reality it was nothing but a remodelling of the British-colonial rule. If formerly London had to send a viceroy to every one of the 13 principalities, now one colonial official was enough to dictate London's will to all of them. Not a single member of the Federal Council is elected by vote, every one of the 84 members is appointed by the local aristocracy or the British colonial administration.

Banner of Freedom Over Radfan

"Three of the oil-rich Arabian principalities were kept out of the Federation at the insistence of the American oil magnates who feared that forced union might lead to disturbances among the natives and endanger the colonialists. Nevertheless disturbances began. The people in the vicinity of Aden, where the largest British military base is found, are the most active fighters."

"In 1954 the British held a ludicrous election in Aden. Seventy-six per cent of the population refused to take part, but despite the fact a so-called legislative council was 'elected.' However it has long since lost its spectral authority. Sensing public feeling the British are afraid to hold another election."

Protest Continues

"Meanwhile the people are continuing to protest. Marches and strikes are going on constantly despite the cruelest possible police terrorism and the state of emergency reigning there over the last six months. The Trade Unions and the People's Socialist Party of Aden in these difficult conditions are continuing to direct the fight of the people regardless of persecutions and mass arrests."

"The colonial authorities have closed down all the progressive papers and repeatedly arrested and imprisoned leaders of the national liberation movement. And this last led to the armed conflict in Radfan which is still

going on. Independent tribes protested against the neo-colonial venture that the Federation meant and refused to join it."

Then the British colonisers arrested seven tribal leaders and decided to make short work of the unsubmitive through armed force. Some 8,000 soldiers of the so-called Federal troops were sent to Radfan. But the basic punitive action against the defenceless native inhabitants is carried on by British troops equipped with artillery, aviation, rockets and bombs.

"And this state of affairs is what the London conference referred to as 'defence measures against local insurgents.'"

"The London conference," Abdullah al Asmag said further, "made up of hirelings and obedient servants, entitled ministers and sultans, was called by the British lord to weave a new neo-colonial cover for the preservation of British power. It is illegal in form and essence. The people gathered there, who do not represent the

people of South Arabia, will discuss every possible means for preserving the neo-colonial state of affairs and only at the very end touch on the possibility of granting independence in the future."

But "the destiny of South Arabia must be decided in the country itself and not thousands of kilometres away in London. The talk must be carried on differently, it must deal with independence and the closing down of the military base in Aden."

Abdullah al Asmag has sent a letter to the UN Secretary General in New York, in which he says: "The exclusion of the nation's progressive forces from decision of questions concerning its destiny is illegal. We repeat, illegal, and our people will not accept the decisions of such a conference. We shall fight them by every possible means. We trust in our people and the righteousness of our cause, and neither bullets nor constitutional conferences will stop us on the road to complete freedom."

CORRECTION

JAY WORKERS' STRUGGLE

In last week's NEW AGE, there are some paragraphs missing from the article of Indrajit Gupta on Jay workers strike, in the part which overflows from page 5 to page 15. From the last paragraph on page 5 it should read:

"The company announced its proposed resumption of work from May 7 with the full support and cooperation of the government. For four days, prominent notices appeared in the press inviting all 'willing' workers to resume their duties, assuring them of full police protection, and announcing various assembly points from where they would be picked up in trucks and buses and brought to the factories under escort. Earlier, the Labour Minister had stated that if the workers did not return to work, the 'law would take its own course.'"

"This plan was reduced to utter fiasco by the magnificent unity of the workers and their unshakable loyalty to the union. Despite over 4½ months of privation and suffering and three weeks of

continuous police harassment, not more than 150 workers could be found to go to work out of a total of 6,000. There was no picketing, no violence, no obstruction of any kind."

"The police rushed around madly in trucks 'arresting' whoever they could find in the vicinity of the factories (including a number of innocent folks like rickshaw pullers and tea-stall owners!) and taking them by force—not to the thana, but into the factory! There could be no more, smashing refutation of the management's propaganda that the majority of workers were now against the strike and were being coerced by a violent minority."

We regret the omission.

—Editor

Australian Party Congress Isolates Chinese Splitters

SYDNEY: The 20th Congress of the Communist Party of Australia concluded its work on June 16. R. Dixon, the Chairman of the Party's Central Committee, devoted his speech to the struggle for peace. He stressed that one should in no way underestimate the war danger. The leaders of the Communist Party of China are playing with a nuclear catastrophe. They have come out against the Moscow partial test-ban treaty. The Chinese leaders regard the wide peace movement as a pacifist movement.

THE peace movement, R. Dixon pointed out, is not a pacifist movement but a major integral part of the people's struggle for removing the thermo-nuclear threat. The working class movement is an enormous source of strength for the peace movement. It is just as important as the struggle for increasing wages and improving the living standard.

Communist author Frank Hardy in his speech dealt with the movement for an independent Australia. This is a struggle not only against foreign monopolies but also for the preservation of Australian democratic traditions in literature, art and the cinema, he said.

John Sandy, the Chairman of the Victoria state Party organisation, devoted his speech to the struggle against the Hill splinter group. The state party conference which was held last month, he said, unanimously came out in support of the general political line and tactics as presented in the Congress draft resolution.

After Hill's expulsion from the Party, matters in the state Party organisation im-

proved His followers, Sandy further pointed out, distribute CPC materials attempting to find new recruits. The splitters spend enormous sums on a slander campaign against our Party and the international Communist movement.

Citing convincing examples, he exposed the slanderous statements of the CPC leaders alleging that the Communist Party of Great Britain does not wage the struggle against imperialism. We shall allow no one, he said amidst stormy applause, drive a wedge between the socialist countries, the working class of the capitalist countries and the great national liberation movement.

The Congress adopted a number of resolutions for the withdrawal of Australian troops from South Vietnam, against apartheid in South Africa, on the struggle for an increase in wages and against anti-labour legislation, etc.

The Congress in principle approved the drafts of the Congress resolution, the Party programme, the agrarian programme, the programme of struggle for the rights of the aborigines, amendments to the Party rules and directed the newly-elected Central Committee to take into account all the remarks and proposals made during the discussion of these documents both before the Congress and at the Congress proper.

At a meeting of the Central Committee on June 16 L. Sharkey was unanimously elected General Secretary. R. Dixon, Chairman, and L. Aarons Vice-Chairman of the Party.

No Appeal For Masses

However, the political line of the Hill group contains nothing for the masses, Sandy stressed. This is a small group and without the support of the CPC leadership it would in general be nil.

The delegates were addressed by John Gollan, the General Secretary of the Communist Party of Great Britain, and Tim Buck, the Chairman of the Communist Party of Canada.

John Gollan made a profound analysis of the situation in West Europe. "We highly appreciate the role of the Soviet Union and that played by N. S. Khrushchov personally in achieving a relaxation of international tension", Gollan said. He pointed out that the

COALITION GOVT. IN CEYLON

A new coalition government, composed of the previously ruling Sri Lanka Freedom Party and the Leftist Lanka Sama Samaj Party, has taken office in Ceylon. The coalition is the first result of the negotiations which had been taking place between the democratic forces in the SLFP and the United Left Front.

The question democrats in Ceylon are asking is this: can this coalition be the first step towards building a real united front government of all democratic forces, pledged to fight imperialism and reaction?

It would be blindness not to take careful note of the fact that the reactionary, pro-imperialist UNP and the Rightists inside the SLFP itself have succeeded in preventing, for the moment at least, a coalition between the SLFP and the ULF as a whole.

These reactionaries, by raising the Communist bogey, have prevented the formation of a really effective anti-Right coalition, by keeping out of the present coalition the powerful

Communist Party as well as Philip Gunawardhana's militant group—both constituents with the LSSP of the ULF.

The decision of the LSSP to go it alone is sought to be made the starting point of the weakening of the ULF itself.

The left adventurist groups are opposed to any coalition of the ULF with the SLFP, as are the Right pro-imperialists in the SLFP itself. In practice, as always, the ultra-Right and the ultra-Lefts end up together.

The Ceylon Communist Party had rightly pointed out that the need of the hour is an SLFP-ULF coalition government which includes representatives of ALL the constituent parties of the ULF. Any other basis, such as the present, would tend to weaken the ULF and result in a government that cannot adequately solve in the short period available to it (in 14 months the term of the government will be over) the enormous economic problems facing Ceylon today nor fight back the threats posed to Ceylon's independence by the imperialists and

their reactionary hangers-on.

Nevertheless, it should be clear that the Right forces have won only a temporary victory in keeping the Communist Party and Philip Gunawardhana out of the coalition. If the Left parties and the progressive forces in the SLFP maintain their unity, this temporary victory of the Right could be turned into the stepping stone towards a really effective anti-Right coalition in which all the parties in the ULF are represented.

Southern Rhodesia Volcano

THE Government of India has done well to take up in right earnest the case of the fighting liberation movement of Southern Rhodesia.

The danger of the white minority government declaring itself "independent" and thus creating another South Africa, cannot be underestimated.

The attempt by the British government to pretend that it has no say in the administration in Southern Rhodesia will convince no one. Recently the Govern-

AFRO-ASIA In The Headlines

ment of India approached the British government with a request that it use its good offices to secure the release of Joshua Nkomo and other leaders of the liberation movement. Whitehall calmly turned down the Indian plea, declared it could not "interfere" and advised our government to act through the Indian Commission in Salisbury.

Incidentally, this raises the question whether it would not be advisable to break off all relations with the white racist government of Southern Rhodesia and close down the Indian Mission there.

African nationalists have urged that this would be a powerful gesture in support of their cause and would strengthen the liberation movement.

Malaysia: Rocket Bases

THE news that Britain has decided to build rocket pads at Butterworth in Malaya underlines once again the fact that Malaysia is sought to be used by imperialism as a base for its at-

tack on the independence of the peoples of this region.

It is imperialist interference in this part of Asia, which is behind the tensions in this region, which, despite repeated summit negotiations between the heads of governments of Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines, still remain unsolved.

Terror In Basutoland

NATIONALIST leaders in Basutoland are being subjected to terror and provocations, in a vain bid by the imperialists and racialists to halt the march to freedom.

The latest news is of attempts made on the lives of the General Secretary of the Communist Party, John Motlohelon, and the trade union leader Ntso Mstare.

Protests are being made all over the world and demands that the terror and provocations be stopped without delay are reaching the Basutoland authorities in large numbers.

(June 22, 1964)

WORLD  **By Zia-ul Haq**

From Blind Alley To Brinkmanship In S-E Asia

HERE is talk of carrying the war to North Vietnam and to People's China from the US hotheads. It is followed with disavowals from the Secretary of State who is no less keen at the same time to impress the world with America's determination to get tough. The developing crisis of US policies in South Vietnam and Laos is compared to the crisis over Cuba in October 1962 and US resolve to meet it with the same determination is voiced.

sidetrack the attention of the American people and of the rest of the world from the injustice and futility of that war.

CIA USES CUBAN EXILES AGAINST CONGO

THE T-28 American bombers operating in Laos made their simultaneous appearance on the African continent too, piloted again by American pilots; they were carrying out bombing missions against Congolese freedom-fighters there. A NEW YORK TIMES editorial makes the following interesting revelations and confessions in this regard:

All these brave words fail to have any marked effect on the situation. Because in the end, everyone knows that the positions of the so-called Viet Cong in South Vietnam and of the Pathet Lao in Laos are so strong and impregnable thanks to the solid popular support they enjoy that so much sound and fury is not going to have any effect.

From all evidence it would seem that so far as the US is concerned Laos is more of a diversion to cover up its failure in South Vietnam. This is not to suggest that developments in Laos are not serious and important in themselves, but the heart of the US dilemma still lies in South Vietnam. No victory is in sight and they all know that no victory will ever be achieved by the US in South Vietnam, because the US war pursues totally unjust, immoral and illegal objectives. The US position in South Vietnam constantly goes from bad to worse and there is no means of salvaging it. Hence the need for new adventures.

The State Department has been showing a salutary sense of shock over the news—which curiously it was among the last to know—that American civilians were flying combat missions for the Congolese Government against rebels in Kivu province. It looks like one of those cases where the left hand did not know what the right was doing.

T-28s Again

The situation is that some United States civilian pilots have a contractual agreement with the Congolese Government to train pilots to fly T-28 planes the United States gave to Leopoldville. The technicians were not ever supposed to take part in combat themselves, but when the capital of Kivu province, Bukavu, was threatened last week they did so. The understanding now is they will not be called upon to carry out any more operational missions for the Aoula Government.

The Committee is made up of Patrice Lumumba's and Antoine Gizenga's comrades-in-arms and its programme is similar to the Lumumba Government's: complete national liberation, abolition of foreign domination in all spheres of Congolese life, the establishment of law and order. The East Congo section is headed by patriots like Soumailot, Ramazani, Ruzagana and Kasongo, who is a cousin of Lumumba.

"Pincer Squeeze"

Kivu is not the only province where the Leopoldville authorities are hard-pressed. For several months now the detachments of the Jeunesse (Youth) organisation have been engaging government troops in Kivu province, in the immediate vicinity of Leopoldville.

According to the NEW YORK TIMES, "there is a definite connection between the 'Soumailot Revolutionary Government of the Eastern Congo' and the leftist 'Committee of National Liberation' led by Christopher Gbenye and operating in Brazzaville in the (former French) Congo Republic, across the river from Leopoldville."

"What is feared, therefore," says the TIMES, "is a pincer squeeze against the Leopoldville regime."

RESUMPTION AT GENEVA

THE prospects for the current disarmament talks that resumed in Geneva on June 12 are considered to be more hopeful than before. Given

the background of the partial nuclear test ban treaty and the US-Soviet understanding to cut off stockpiling of fissionable materials, it is possible that some other modest step in that direction might be agreed upon.

The joint Soviet-Danish communique issued in Copenhagen at the conclusion of Premier Khrushchov's visit to Denmark also expresses the hope that the current 18-nation committee meeting in Geneva "would help to work out and implement concrete disarmament measures and partial agreements, so as to proceed with practical disarmament".

It is a good augury that the committee was able to approve a schedule of its programme jointly presented by its Soviet and US cochairmen.

SCRANTON: HOW FAR AGAINST ULTRAS

THE emergence of William Scranton as a moderate Republican candidate for nomination as against Barry Goldwater, the passage of the Civil Rights Bill despite the negative vote and opposition of Goldwater and his ilk have certainly been developments of international significance on the US scene. This is quite a different picture from that immediately following the California primaries.

It must be noted at the same time that Goldwater continues to pile up delegates pledged to support him at the Republican Party convention scheduled for July 13. According to Associated Press Goldwater now has 618 delegates pledged or otherwise expected to support him. He is expected to pick up another 70 in course of the remaining few weeks. That would give him 688 delegates which is 33 more than the number required for nomination.

While it is true that a great majority of the Republican Party voters oppose Goldwater and it is their sentiment that has brought on the belated Scranton effort, it remains the greater truth that the struggle within the Republican Party is a struggle between different monopoly interests. It is a struggle for the control of the GOP (Grand Old Party), i.e. the Republican Party and the government of the wealthiest and the most powerful capitalist state. And it is for the first time that a determined ultra-Rightist faction has ganged up to make a bid for this control, advancing

Goldwater as their nominee.

Even if they fail to achieve their objectives, they would have thoroughly muddied the waters in the process. Already, Scranton while standing up to oppose Goldwater has declared his loyalty to GOP and to any candidate that it would nominate, including Goldwater. The hopefuls of the Democratic Party too have to a considerable extent adapted themselves to the ultra-Rightist tune.

WHERE EXTREMES MEET

THE so-called Critical Issues Council of the Republican Party, which should be considered as representing the common viewpoint of both its factions has come out with a report which reveals its line of thinking towards countries like ours. It has taken the Democratic Party administration to task for the latter's failure, while giving aid at the time of China's attack, to "extract from India a settlement of its dispute with Pakistan over

In bringing this charge against the Democrats, the Republican Council is indulging in a certain amount of electioneering which should be considered normal. For, the fact remains that such attempts were made and a joint mission composed of USA's Averell Harriman and UK's Duncan Sandys did descend on India and with its persistence made itself thoroughly obnoxious. The attempt nevertheless failed and had to be given up and given a totally different form than that of public pressure and "extraction" as advised by the Republican Council.

To Unsettle Kashmir

The very fact that the Council has made such a suggestion is highly instructive. What the ultra-Rightists of the worst imperialist state want to be extracted from India can in no case be in the interests of democracy and peace in the world. They want a settlement of the "dispute over Kashmir" to unsettle what is already well-settled, that is Kashmir's accession to India.

And in this they and the leaders of the People's Republic of China are fully at one. It is for the leaders of the People's Republic of China to ponder how it is that they are to be found in the company of the US ultras. It is for all friends of the People's Republic of China to ask its leaders why it is so. (June 23)

DIMITROV BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

June 18, 1964 was the 82nd anniversary of the birth of Bulgaria's great son Georgi Dimitrov.

GEORGI DIMITROV took part in the first Balkan Social-Democratic Conference in 1910, whose purpose was to unite the socially conscious proletariat of the Balkan countries in a struggle against the war which was being prepared by the bourgeoisie of these countries. After the national catastrophe in which the war ended for Bulgaria, Georgi Dimitrov, as a member of Parliament demanded severe punishment for the culprits. In 1918 Georgi Dimitrov was imprisoned for his agitation among the soldiers against the war.

In September 1923, together with Vassil Kolarov, he stood at the head of the people's masses who revolted against the fascist government. After the defeat of the uprising, he worked actively at the Executive Committee of the

Communist International for the unification of the proletarian forces and the other progressive forces in the world, against fascist aggression, against the preparation of another world holocaust.

In 1935, at the 7th Congress of the Communist International, Georgi Dimitrov, as its general secretary, addressed an ardent appeal to these forces, urging them to rally around their Communist Parties in the struggle against fascism, against war.

During the Second World War Georgi Dimitrov worked tirelessly for the unification and organisation of all patriotic forces, for the routing of the fascist invaders. Under his leadership a united front of the patriotic and democratic forces was built up in Bulgaria to fight against the monarcho-

fascist government and the Nazi invaders. It was that front which organised the victorious people's uprising of September 9, 1944.

Georgi Dimitrov is a typical proletarian revolutionary of Lenin's phalanx of loyal fighters. Citing the great German poet Goethe, Dimitrov declared before the Leipzig court where he was tried in connection with Reichstag fire: "Yes, he who does not want to become an anvil, must be a hammer." This idea, which was a guiding principle in the great proletarian worker's whole conscious activity, explains his attitude towards the problems of peace: "It is not enough to desire peace. One must fight for it."

Georgi Dimitrov left us an example of a truly Marxist dialectical analysis of the problem of peace in the interim period between the two world wars. He showed us, that even under those conditions powerful factors were at work for the preservation of peace—the Soviet Union with its consistent and decisive policy of peace, the proletariat in the capitalist countries, the peasant masses, all working people in the capitalist countries, and finally, a number of capitalist countries interested in the preservation of peace.

Until the end of his life Georgi Dimitrov stood at the helm of the government in his own country, directed the building up of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, which, from a backward country, the prey of imperialism, was transformed into a free and independent country, marching rapidly towards economic and cultural progress, a firm stronghold of Balkan peace.

Linked in fraternal unity with the countries of the powerful camp of socialism, Bulgaria is today standing guard over peace and fighting for peaceful coexistence.

"I LIKE INTERNATIONAL TENSION"

—Said Mao Tse-Tung

"I like international tension," Chairman Mao Tse-tung is reported to have told leading Communists from Latin America five years ago.

The account of the conversation which took place between the Chairman of the Chinese Communist Party and a group of leaders of Latin American Communist Parties has been published now by the Prague journal, Peace, Freedom and Socialism. Eduard Mora Valverde, one of the leaders of the People's Vanguard Party of Costa Rica in course of an article narrates the conversation.

"I BELIEVE THAT NONE OF YOU SHOULD FEAR INTERNATIONAL TENSION. AS TO ME, I LIKE INTERNATIONAL TENSION."

"The United States will understand that the tension of its own making is not favourable for the US, because it may make peace champions and working people throughout the world think, and will bring a greater number of people to the Communist Parties."

Mao Tse-tung devoted most of his talk to the presentation of a thesis, which he developed later, Mora Valverde said. The Chinese leader contended that Marxism today should deal only with the problems of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

"We want no reconciliation with the US. The United States must obey us. Otherwise we do not want to enter into negotiations with it."

"If the US does not restore Taiwan to us for another 100 years, it is of no importance. If the US does not recognise us, we also

BIHAR FOOD SITUATION

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agitation will culminate into a satyagraha before the state Assembly.

Instead of taking effective steps to avert the food crisis the state government is sitting tight. They are depending entirely on the Central government supplies and trying to create the impression that it was the responsibility of the Union government to feed the people of the state. It is widely felt that foodgrains hoarded by the traders and big cultivators, if taken over by the government, would be enough to feed the people of the state. But the state government appears to be determined not to take any initiative.

The Bihar Cabinet at its

meeting on June 16, firmly rejected the idea of entering in the food trade or enforcing price control of foodgrains.

The Cabinet expressed the opinion that "any attempt for strategic control of prices would do more harm than good."

The cabinet was aware of the fact that an effective price control would mean that the government would have to arrange controlled distribution of foodgrains to the consumers, which would practically imply total state trading as well as rationing. The cabinet is firmly opposed to taking this responsibility. It only decided to persuade the centre to accelerate the supply of foodgrains to the state.

IN AHMEDABAD

TEXTILE WORKERS VOTE FOR A STRIKE

New Stage of Movement Reached

Majority of the textile workers in Ahmedabad have given their verdict in favour of the strike in a strike ballot held by Mahagujarat Mill Kamdar Union on June 16 and 17.

THE issues involved in the strike-call are: rise in the wages, adequate bonus and cent per cent dearness allowance.

Indulal Yagnik, president of the Mahagujarat Mill Kamdar Union, gave a call for such a ballot in the

May Day rally this year. Since then scores of gate meetings were held to popularise the slogan of strike. However, due to the passing away of Jawaharlal Nehru the campaign was postponed.

The response of the workers

to the strike ballot shows not only growing discontent among the workers but also the growing influence of Sangram Samiti and Mahagujarat Mill Kamdar Union.

The expert committee on consumer price index for Ahmedabad after rectification of the index numbers awarded Rs. 7.89 rise in D.A. which was accepted under protest by the managements. The textile workers were also entitled to another rise of Rs. seven as a

result of rectification in the linking factor between the old series and the new series compiled by the Labour Bureau. The refusal of the employers to make any payment on that account added to the unrest among the workers.

More than 63,700 workers participated in the strike ballot in Ahmedabad, among whom about 3,000 only voted against the strike. In 20 mills in Rakhial Saraspur area 93 per cent of the workers participated in the strike ballot and gave their verdict in favour of the strike, while in 15 mills of Baroda 98 per cent voted in favour of strike.

The campaign in Ahmedabad

had its repercussions in other centres also because the DA in those textile centres is linked up with the DA quantum in Ahmedabad. Baroda Kamdar Federation in its special meeting on June 14 and 15 unanimously decided to organise strike ballot among textile workers in Baroda. Preparations for similar action are being made in Bhavnagar, Kalol and other centres also.

The INTUC leadership is perturbed over the situation. It is understood to be planning similar action under its own auspices on workers' demands, with a view to maintaining its traditional hold in Ahmedabad. (IPA)

Hungerstrike Against Bus Fare Increase in Madras

MADRAS: With the launching of the hungerstrike by K. Baladandayutham and Murugesan on June 22 before the Madras Law College, the agitation against the bus fare increase in the city has entered a new stage.

THE hungerstrike has been started after a month-long campaign conducted by the Communist Party and trade unions against the fare increase.

More than two million signatures have been collected so far protesting against the fare increase in the government-owned transport undertaking.

The bus fare increase had come as the proverbial last straw on the camel's back to the people who have already been hardpressed by the abnormal rise in prices of all essential commodities.

Only last year the state government has been claiming that the bus services owned by it were running on profits. It has come as a surprise that suddenly it should have turned into a loss.

Nobody is prepared to believe that the bus services are run on a loss, and the government has not cared to

substantiate its claim with any facts.

If at all the state transport undertaking is incurring a loss, the government has only itself and its bureaucrats to blame for it, according to the fasting Communist leaders.

It has been a long-standing demand of the trade unions and the democratic-minded people that the trade unions be associated with the functioning of the undertaking.

But the government has not bothered to listen to them. On the other hand, it has left the undertaking entirely in the hands of the bureaucrats in the administration.

The result has been corrupt practices, fraud and wholly unnecessary expenses, which are now sought to be transferred to the already overburdened shoulders of the people.

The people are putting up stiff resistance to this attempt to add to their burdens.

Madhya Pradesh :

Scarcity and High Prices of Food In Surplus State

BHOPAL: There are attempts in many quarters to show that the rise in prices is the result of deficit in foodgrains production. The instance of Madhya Pradesh will prove that it is not so.

MADHYA PRADESH, a surplus state, is in the throes of acute scarcity and high prices of foodgrains. Prices of wheat, rice and other cereals have skyrocketed and in many areas they are not available to the consumers.

Wheat prices have registered an increase of over Rs. 12 a quintal within the last fortnight. Prices of rice and other cereals have also made a similar spurt.

Stocks of foodgrains are not coming to the mandis because the traders are bent on creating artificial scarcity conditions with the aim of reaping huge profits.

The supply of foodgrains at the government fair price shops is very inadequate and irregular with the result that hundreds of people have to return from these shops daily empty-handed.

In certain areas of the state like Katni, Rewa, Shahdol and Panna, scarcity conditions are prevailing. Quite a number of people, especially the tribals in these areas are living on leaves and other forest products.

The surprising thing is that the prices are rising when the

export of wheat and gram is totally banned and production is enough to meet the requirements of the people in the state.

The indirect ban put on rice movement to Maharashtra and Gujarat has been slightly relaxed only after the meeting of the Western Zone Food Ministers. Even then, the supply of rice is made on a government to government basis.

The argument that the production of foodgrains this year has been very low due to weather conditions is also not fully true. Compared to the 21.2 lakhs tons of wheat produced in 1962-63 production this year has been estimated at 18 lakh tons.

This small shortfall has been more than made up by the big rise in the production of rice. Against 23.1 lakh tons in 1962-63, the state produced 32.3 lakh tons of rice this year.

Some quarters have suggested that large scale smuggling of foodgrains into Pakistan was responsible for the scarcity in the state and the high prices. The smugglers are reported to enjoy patronage of some ministers and high officials.

Whatever that be, faced with such a critical food situation the state government has not done much to meet it. The measures taken by it are halfhearted and hesitant.

It has opened some fair price shops in the scarcity areas, but the supply of grains from these shops is very erratic. Some relief works have also been started in badly affected areas, but it touches only the fringe of the problem.

As far as its efforts at regulating the distribution of the foodgrains, they were more aimed at harassing the rice kings than bringing benefit to the people. Their motives in this have been suspect, for, it is known the rice kings are supporters of the anti-ministerial group in the state Congress.

The state government is now reported to have requested the centre to allot 35,000 tons of imported wheat to Madhya Pradesh to meet the scarcity conditions and arrest the price spiral.

Whether this would bring down prices is a thing yet to be seen. All indications are that it would not affect the prices in any manner.

COAL MAGNATE CLOSES IMPORTANT COLLIERY

Workers Demand A Probe

The country is facing an acute shortage of coal, especially metallurgical coal needed to keep our big steel plants and other industrial units running. But that is of no concern to the coal magnates.

ONE of the biggest coal-mine owners in the country, the Karam Chand Thapars have announced that the Begonia mines run by their Oriental Coal Company would be closed down from July 1, though it is still productive.

The patent absurdity of this decision will be revealed when it is known that the mine has still a deposit of four to five million tonnes of metallurgical coal underground. This can keep the colliery running for another 40 to 50 years.

Moreover, there is an unworked plot attached to this colliery under the same lease where nearly nine million tonnes of proved

solid metallurgical coal is lying awaiting the picks of miners.

The Raniganj coalfields have a total of 260 collieries but only ten or twelve of them bear metallurgical coal. Begonia colliery is one which produces metallurgical coal.

The decision of the management will not only thus affect the coal production, but also throw about a thousand workers out of their employment. That means five thousand people left to the fate of starvation.

The Bengal-Bihar Colliery Staff Association has already represented to the government against the unjust closure of the Begonia

colliery and demanded immediate government intervention in the matter.

They have demanded that the management should be compelled to run the mine till it is exhausted. If the management refuses the colliery should be taken over by the National Coal Development Corporation.

Before the colliery is declared exhausted and closed, experts from the Department of Mines and the NCDC should check the mine thoroughly, the Association has demanded.

It is now upto the government to respond to this demand and save a thousand workers from the grim prospects of unemployment and a fall in the production of the vital metallurgical coal in the country.

Without Nehru . . .

* From Front Page

that the new government would find a solution to what it describes as "one of Mr. Nehru's great failures of political judgment".

There is no ground yet for NEWSWEEK's counting its chickens. But the month that has gone by has made it increasingly clear that the greatest vigilance must be exercised by the people at every turn, to ensure that there is no sabotage of the

progressive policies to which the nation is pledged.

The sabotage will not come openly and brazenly. It cannot, so soon after Nehru's passing away. But it can come by the back door, bit by bit, stealthily.

THE EVENTS OF THE MONTHS WITHOUT NEHRU HAVE CONFIRMED THE NECESSITY FOR THE PEOPLE TO REMAIN EVER ON GUARD AGAINST THE CONSPIRACIES OF IMPERIALIST REACTION.