Rumblings of Unrest In Russia Are Mounting

Reports of unrest and dissent among students and workers in Russia, which have been mounting for weeks in Western capitals, now have been given semi-official credence by Washington authorities. The December 21 press carried the results of a briefing for newspapermen by "administrative sources" on the subject, most fully reported by the N.Y. Herald Tribune.

The information given does not seem to justify the sensationalistic lead on this story, which said: "A wave of resistance is sweeping over not only the satellite states but also the heart of the Soviet Union....

But the incidents reported, especially in the West Berlin press, do provide greater basis for the Administration's semi-secretary statement that "intellectuals and university students, across the workers themselves, have begun openly to question the Communist system and the leadership with unprecedented boldness. The students are daring to heckle their professors, and the workers are reported to have actually gone on strike in some areas."

The West Berlin press has been telling of anti-Kremlin demonstrations in the Baltic provinces, demands for withdrawal of Russian troops and freedom for political prisoners, over unrest among students in Russia, and "numerous" strikes in the Uralas and in the Don River region.

One West Berlin paper Der Tag on Dec. 20 reported that over 1000 Moscow University students had held a closed meeting to criticize government policies, and that they had called for the "resignation of the current government official." Several accounts of similar stirrings among Leningrad students.

Though none of these stories can be called confirmed, the "administration sources" in Washington are quoted as being entirely positive about "the rebellion by the youth and intellectuals" in Moscow and Leningrad, and less certain as to whether it extends to other parts of Russia.

In Paris, "diplomatic sources" in that capital and in London are credited with "confirmed" reports of "strikes among factory workers in the Soviet Union." They also spoke of a Moscow student meeting where Khruzhchev was "howled down when he attempted to address his audience.

The Hungarians, Revolution, and the role played in these events by the students as well as workers, credited with having a tremendous impact not only on the satellite states but also Russia itself.

Two thousand Spanish repatriates from the Spanish Civil War, sources of another report, had left Spain as children in the 1937 civil war and have now returned as adults after living and working for years in the United States. They have told in interviews of sharp economic discontent among the Russian people combined with "much mental turmoil and questioning" as a result of this year's events.

In a few cases partial confirmation has been provided by the official Russian press when it recently carried some attacks against "anti-Communist demagogy" by students. The latest was a blast against such students in Sverdlovsk, printed by the Progressive Russian, organ of the main Russian republican.

The meeting of the party Central Committee, just concluded, has not so far made known any overt action that might tend to substantiate the picture that building has been drawn. But there has been an important shakeup among the bureaucracy's leaders of the economy, substituting Pervochkin for Saburov at the head.

(Continued on page 6)

Bus Boycott Ends in Historic Victory for Negro Freedom Fight

By GORDON HASKELL

The courage, unity and solidarity of the Negro people of Montgomery, Alabama, have won a smashing victory against Jim Crow.

Following a year-long boycott of the buses in that city, Negroes began to ride them on a non-segregated basis on December 21. In the days following this historic event, the courageous fighters for equality nailed down their victory by showing the same qualities which had won the streets. When the test came, they sought to make their prediction come true by organizing provocation against individual Negroes on buses, in the hope that this would lead to a general race riot.

In at least two instances, women who had obviously been planted by the Council started scenes in which they claimed Negroes had "muttered" at them, or "winked" at them, and sought to provoke a physical attack. In at least one case, after such a trick had failed in its objective, the woman involved got off the bus and into a parked ambulance, saying she was a Council member, thus giving the game away.

The Montgomery Improvement Associ-ation had anticipated this sort of tactics, and

SPOTLIGHT

Looking Behind Gomulka

Some elementary good sense on interpreting what is happening in Poland appears to have been lost in the Dec. 31 N.Y. Times of M. H. Fromster From Warsaw. Mentioning Gomulka's rise to power, the correspondent takes a step away and tries to set down the larger picture. With a depth uncommon for Times correspondents, he finds himself writing about the Polish revolution which is nothing below the Gomulka regime, as the explanation for the "Polesiation" of the regime.

Here's a longer quote that's worth while:

"This major concession was granted when it became clear to the Soviet leadership that the pressure of the population in Poland's urban and industrial centers might get out of hand and result in violence. The struggle that soon developed could not be restrained in a limited area. Pressure from below only mounted. This resulted in a whole series of other concessions which, when taken together, radically changed Poland's relationship to the Soviet leadership.

"I would be incorrect to view recent Polish politics in terms of personalities as simple and attractive as this method may appear. This is not to underrate the importance of M. Gomulka and the role he has been playing. But the lines of development makes it patently clear that he was liberated from Poland, and returned to power by pressure from within and outside the party."

"Gomulka served as an instrument and later as an interpreter rather than as a maker of the bloodless revolution that swept Poland in October and is still going on. If one takes this view, and it seems based on solid facts, then it must follow that the disaffected people in Poland were the principal actors in the drama, and that it was their militant action that forced the concessions from the Soviet leaders."

"Faced with the possibility of an insurrec- tional movement in Poland, the Soviet leaders assumed it was safer to give ground. It was not a matter of being fixed by clever negotiators but a matter of brute facts."

That doesn't say it all, but it is good as far as it goes. Too bad Times correspondents in Poland, like Sidney Grunow and maybe Handler too, cannot be expected to keep this piece of elementary politics in mind.

(Turn to last page)

DOWN WITH THE OLD YEAR at the New York ISL and YSL's

GALA NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

MON., Dec. 31—at Labor Action Hall, 114 W. 14 St.—Dancing ... Refreshments ... Socializing ... All invited FIVE CENTS

THE COMMUNIST PARTY DISCUSSES DEMOCRACY...

THE HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION:
Class Line-Up: Students and Workers...
Portrait of Poet with Machine-Pistol...
NASSER FORCING OUT EGYPT'S JEWS...
INDEX TO LABOR ACTION for 1956...
ACJ Sifts the Reports: Nasser Govt Forcing Jews Out in Mass Persecution

By HAL DRAPER

A sober and facial "Memorandum" by the American Jewish Committee clearly states, despite the uncertainties of reports and rumors, that the Nasser regime's large-scale expulsions of Egyptian Jews, which began in November after the imperialist attack on Egypt, were not temporary or symbolic, but were part of a systematic campaign by the government to expatriate and repatriate the country's Jewish population and drive them out of the land.

Thus the reactionary Nasserist dictatorship, which is committed to the political crime which was committed against the three Allied aggressors, by organizing the political crime against the Jews of Egypt. As the ACJ explains: "The difficulty of separating such a situation solid fact from inevitable panic-born rumor and exaggeration, and of confronting the facts with face-seeing explanations of the Egyptian government, is created in Egypt by the uncontrolled reaction of Jewish people's observers from establishing the facts of the situation at their sources. But such a logical picture will no doubt stand up.

While Cairo's criminal acts have also been directed against the British and French citizens in Egypt, the big bulk of the victims is the Jewish people. The Jews who are Egyptian citizens, as well as the Jews who are non-citizens, are a constant and direct enemy of the state, and are "stateless" because they have "arranged" Egyptian citizenship upon a population that was born up brought into the country.

CAUGHT IN THE GEAR

The summary warns the "grass roots" of the regime by means of an "assaultastic development," resulting from the expulsion of the Jewish population. The past and the present events do not stem from a past of anti-Semitism and racism. The phenomenon of the attack is the grinding gears of the Arab-Israeli conflict in the Middle East.

Many of the Jews fled in an outburst of racial and religious hatred, but the final aggression is illegitimate nationalism aspirations of the Egyptians and Arab people, and in part from an "Aryan" regime to grab the vast Jewish-owned land and properties.

The world's indignation has been properly directed, not against Egypt's crackdown on citizens of the two Palestinian states, who attacked it in order to grab the Suez Canal, nor on any cities of the third attacking state Israel (Israelis are not involved), but on the populations of the countries which are under the cover of the patriotic fervor against invading foreigners.

The Nasserist regime, "Zionists" coordinated by British and French, to describe them; but a large number of the victims have been non-Zionist or even anti-Zionist Jews; in any case there has been no little attempt to define or delimit the application of "Zionist"; and, finally, there is no attempt necessarily to prove that any victim is indeed a "Zionist," and so on. This conclusion, however, is in addition to the basic fact that "Zionism" is a wide-open political appellation which is underfed without connection to illegal acts.

It is true that the official Zionist ideology of Israel and its leaders also openly looks on all Jews as potential traitors; but the fact does not hold true if they did not help Israel against any Jew. The only example of the relevance of this argument is only that Egyptian propaganda can be seen in these lines, a way of the way in which Nasser confuses "Jewish," "Zionist" and "pro-Israeli.

It seems that there is a way for the Nasserist regime to demonstrate the demagogic slyness of his anti-Zionist propaganda, for up until yesterday, he was boasting of the loyalty of most, if not of all, and assuring us that he did not consider them fifth-columnists in spite of the speeches of their would-be "friends." Where is the evidence? Where is the evidence that there has been no evidence added? That any Egyptian Jews are the victims of the Israeli assault on Egypt; and still more than any evidence that the interned Japanese-Americans in the U.S. in 1941 were a danger to American citizens.

DANGEROUS PLIGHT

"Large numbers" of the Jews of Egypt, however, are now in Nasser's concentration camps. About 5000 members of Jewish families were taken hostage as "prisoners of war" in early November. About one hundred Egyptian employees of the government and of private enterprises were arrested and are still in jail. Heads of households have been given as little as 24 hours, or sometimes just a few minutes, to collect their families, stripped of all they possess.

Government reports state that "the first detention, interrogations, sequestration of property and deportation order for a Jew, has occurred." The very fact of the fact that "there are many aged and sick Jews among the prisoners who could not be classified as dangerous to the security of the state on any grounds." And so far even the International Red Cross has been unable to ascertain and obtain any news of these. The extent of the fact that "there are many aged and sick Jews among the prisoners who could not be classified as dangerous to the security of the state on any grounds."

Energetic and unequivocal condemnation of the Nasser regime and its actions against the Jews of Egypt is especially directed at the anti-Imperialist and socialists (like the British Laborite) who opposed the imperialist assault on Egypt. The British-French-Israeli assault on Egypt was an attack on the principle that there could be, any more than the anti-Jewish racism in the Middle East, a way for the "right of the empire" to the independence of Egypt. My rights and Nasser's rights are not the same.

In Cairo, the U.S. has seen the operation of the mass expulsion campaign, and it has been seen by the Nasser regime to grab the vast Jewish-owned land and properties.

Here in the U.S. it is especially movement full U.S. Jewish refugees from Egypt to any other country they want to go, and particularly open the doors of the U.S. to them.

"We young people comprised three main groups—students, workers and soldiers. It was obvious that the political, cultural and economic leadership be taken over by a reliable, Sovietophile new generation. The old, and for the time being indispensable, might be looked after by a reliable group of old people. With the accession of the new generation, the regime's role would pass to the students. The students' work will include the composition of the student bodies. In accordance with the dictatorship-of-the- proletariat ideology, the state, schools, etc. may be reserved to the children of industrial workers for additional education. The students' organization would be undeniably true followers of the teachings of the Council of the Communist Party, for example, among college students you could find for example, in the form of collective farm workers. But they were not numerous because the Communist government always lacked confidence in the peasantry, particularly in peasants cultivating their own land, among whom the sanctity of private property was a tradition. Many children of peasants who were prosperous farmers or merchants or in intellectual occupations, such as a student or a college student of art, was lucky enough to have a large number of examples of Communist people, before this hard work. On the contrary, examinations grades were less important than a student's original creative work. For example, in the Agricultural University because it was discovered that his father had committed agricultural work, rather than my cousin was selected for this school. Therefore, many young persons had to falsify their notaries. In any case, the first two examinations of the University, 80 to 90 percent of Hungarians and Poles, although this was not only the student body that was proletarianized by the regime, there was also true of the army (not the police)."

James Halle writes: "The nucleus of the Hungarian Army was formed from members of the resistance of the Hungarian Army. There was no {

ARMY AND PEASANT

The students who took the bold initia{

In the first few days of the revolution, when students were most predominantly among the leadership of the mass actions, there was one report (we do not have any information on the accuracy of the demand for the abolition of the Stalinist government and the formation of a government of unity), that the army was not only a much great{

"The students who took the bold initia{

My question is: What is the difference between the students and the army? For example, a report of a Hungarian youth, now a refugee in the West, writing for the American magazine section under the name of 'A Hungarian', who was a political prisoner. There were events in Budapest. The following passage is worth quoting entire.

"We young people comprised three main groups—students, workers and soldiers. It was obvious that the political, cultural and economic leadership be taken over by a reliable, Sovietophile new generation. The old, and for the time being indispensable, might be looked after by a reliable group of old people. With the accession of the new generation, the regime's role would pass to the students. The students' work will include the composition of the student bodies. In accordance with the dictatorship-of-the- proletariat ideology, the state, schools, etc. may be reserved to the children of industrial workers for additional education. The students' organization would be undeniably true followers of the teachings of the Council of the Communist Party, for example, among college students you could find for example, in the form of collective farm workers. But they were not numerous because the Communist government always lacked confidence in the peasantry, particularly in peasants cultivating their own land, among whom the sanctity of private property was a tradition. Many children of peasants who were prosperous farmers or merchants or in intellectual occupations, such as a student or a college student of art, was lucky enough to have a large number of examples of Communist people, before this hard work. On the contrary, examinations grades were less important than a student's original creative work. For example, in the Agricultural University because it was discovered that his father had committed agricultural work, rather than my cousin was selected for this school. Therefore, many young persons had to falsify their notaries. In any case, the first two examinations of the University, 80 to 90 percent of Hungarians and Poles, although this was not only the student body that was proletarianized by the regime, there was also true of the army (not the police)."
THE COMMUNIST PARTY DISCUSSES DEMOCRACY

By H.W. BENSON

The whole Communist Party is in arms against bureaucracy. Everyone repents the past and pledges to protect inner-party democracy in the future. The party cadres are the days when stand-and-member deeds were passed off as universal.

So universal are democratic pro-

fessions that the matter seems raised above dispute. Yet it would be foolhardy if the party members trusted to simple expression of good intentions.

The future of democracy in the CP depends not on the good will of leaders, but on the political and economic support of the rank and file. Foster's road leads us further away from democracy.

Foster's road, as he mentioned, is a path of reform. Foster's road is a road of reformism. Foster's road leads us to a certain extent towards a certain extent towards the issue of the party crisis. Foster's road is, in fact, a road towards the issue of the party crisis. Foster's road is, in fact, a road towards the issue of the party crisis. Foster's road is, in fact, a road towards the issue of the party crisis.

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**Critical Support to the Gomulka Regime?**

To the Editor:

In a brilliant and articulate article about the "nationalist revolt of the Polish CP regime against Moscow" (October 1968), the writer pointed out the fundamental weakness of the Polish Communist Party. He called the party "a government party," and stated that it was "not the vanguard of the working class." He also said that the party was an "instrument of the power elite" and that it had "lost its revolutionary character.

**Firstly**, on the half-truth about Polish nationalism. The background of Gomulka's coup was "the Polish people differ a different one: the Polish Communist Party. He described the coup as "an act of revolution by the masses," and stated that it was "a secret and illegal act against the Polish people and against the Soviet Union." What is decisive was not the "Wroclaw riots" but the Polish people's spontaneous uprising against the Bourbons and the Communists. It was a "popular revolution" against the established power.

**Secondly**, on the role of the Polish workers. The Polish workers played a crucial role in the coup. They fought against the Bourbons and the Communists. The workers were the main force behind the revolution.

**Thirdly**, on the role of the Polish intellectuals. The Polish intellectuals played a crucial role in the coup. They wrote articles in support of the revolution and denounced the Communists. Their writings were quickly disseminated among the workers and students.

**Fourthly**, on the role of the Polish students. The Polish students played a crucial role in the coup. They took to the streets to demand the overthrow of the Bourbons and the Communists. Their protests were met with violence.

**Fifthly**, on the role of the Polish army. The Polish army played a crucial role in the coup. It was the army that overthrew the Bourbons and the Communists. The army's role was crucial in maintaining order and preventing further bloodshed.

**Conclusion**, on the Polish revolution. The Polish revolution was a popular revolution. It was not just a coup d'état by a small group of people. It was a revolution that was led by the Polish people and supported by the Polish workers, intellectuals, and students. The revolution was a victory for the Polish people and a defeat for the Bourbons and the Communists.
Hungarian Portrait: Poet with Machine Pistol

Another story, similar to those which came out of Poland last summer and fall, has revealed the mechanism through which youth breaks with Stalinism. This case involves Tamas Aczel, a young Hungarian writer who won the Kossuth Prize in 1949.

Aczel was 24 years old, a veteran of the Nazi concentration camp at Mauthausen. He joined the Communist Party because he believed that it offered the best defense against a recurrence of fascism.

The decision to join, he stresses, was not a forced one. It was on the basis of positive convictions. As he now tells it, “I hoped and believed that this was the way to build a new Hungary. I was a true believer. In the service of the party I did what was expected of me as a writer. I wrote lots of articles on ‘American imperialism.’”

Aczel’s career as a party writer went well. In 1949 he won the Kossuth Prize for a collection of poems, which he published. And in 1952 he was awarded the Stalin Prize for his first novel, “The Shadow of the Wolf.” He soon received the full benefits of the party, which included a steady income, privileges, and membership at the cultural front.

Until 1949 Aczel did not doubt his initial decision to join the Communist Party of Hungary. And he received from the party in turn, in part, toward the end of 1949, a number of offers that eventually led him to defect.

Until 1949 Aczel did not doubt his initial decision to join the Communist Party of Hungary. And he received from the party in turn, in part, toward the end of 1949, a number of offers that eventually led him to defect.

Suddenly,” Aczel recounts, “I became aware that Hungary was a country grippe-
ded by the Comintern. I saw something of the crudity of the AVH (the secret police) against my people. I was restless, against participation in the war, in the war. I was weary of being sent to stand as a memorandum of protest to the Central Committee of the party. I felt in need of a word of reply. I realized now that something was wrong but I did not see that the disease was bad. When Imre Nagy became premier and outlined his inner ‘new course’ after the death of Stalin we rallied around him. There was the hope that the wrongs would be put right.

But Nagy got rid of Nagy and tried to turn back the clock. That was when the writers’ struggle started. So it was that a poet found himself in the battle for Budapest with a machine pistol in his hands.”

And he concludes, “The process lasted for years and brought on a deep personal crisis. I had to analyze myself, my work, my own writing.”

The young poet, Tamas Aczel, is a case study in the dangers of Stalinism. His experience is a stark reminder of the need for vigilance and a commitment to the struggle against the forces of reaction and reaction.”

December 31, 1956

Edited and Published by the YOUNG SOCIALIST LEAGUE

FIVE CENTS

Int’l Stalinist Youth Line Gets Ready for the Turn

For some time now, Challenge has been reporting on the new Popular Front in the international Stalinist youth line, first in Asia, then in Europe. The process is now proceeding apace, and will be crowned by the “Sixth World Festival of Youth and Students for Peace and Friendship” in Moscow, July 20-28, 1957.

This meeting is, of course, a literal descendant of the congresses at Prague in 1947, Budapest in 1949, East Berlin in 1951, Bucharest in 1953, and Warsaw in 1955. But the important, and somewhat unique, thing about it is that it will formalize the new 20th Party Congress line in the international youth field.

Here, for example, is the call to the meeting:

“The festival is open to all youth, irrespective of its convictions, race, or background. It is a festival of the people, a festival of youth, a festival of the world. No political, ideological, or other tendencies will prevail at the festival. It will be held in the spirit of mutual respect and understanding, in the spirit of the friendship of the youth of all countries. Its programme, therefore, reflects the common interests of various groups and strata of youth.”

Of course, a fairly standard Popular Front type call. On the face of it, it invites every single political tendency, there is no discrimination, etc. but the meeting is to be held in Moscow and will be under the control of the Communist Party.

But more than that, this approach is symptomatic of how the new leadership intends to integrate the Stalinist youth movement. As Challenge reported recently, the European Stalinists were organizing a new “International Meeting of Youth” as a broad fashion that invitations were sent to a Falsoangy youth group in Poland.

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TWO FRONTS

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