

THE

WEEKLY

A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS

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EDITORS' LETTER

A flood of protests over the vicious sentences on Dr. Allen and his co-defendants has descended on Nigerian High Commissioner's office in London. Our reports are not complete so we have held over an article on this question until next week. If you want to add your voice to protests the address is: Nigerian High Commissioner, Nigeria House, 9, Northumberland Avenue, London W.C.2. - we are sure readers will know how to make their displeasure best known!

As we go to press the vital question of the attitude of the Government towards the export of arms to South Africa has been clarified except on one issue - the Buccaneer bombers. No exception should be made on this point, and the fact that the Government has implemented one part of UNO policy should encourage us to press for complete implementation, i.e., for economic sanctions. But to do this a grass roots pressure must be built up.

DANGEROUS INCENDIARY GIVES REITH LECTURES

Sir Leon Bagrit, chairman of Elliot Automation Ltd., is giving this year's Reith lectures. Since many of our readers will have been converted from addiction to radio to enslavement by tele.: and since many others will be anywhere but by a wireless set on a Sunday night, it is perhaps worthwhile discussing some of the remarkable issues raised by Sir Leon this week. He made a point, first, that the scale of computers is shrinking all the time. In 1950 a computer filled a biggish room; now you can fit one into a suitcase; in ten year's time it will be possible to fit one into a box the size of a packet of 100 cigarettes. This means that it becomes possible to think of individual computers, fitting into people's pockets or handbags, or carried easily in a car. Such personal computers could be plugged into a national or even international grid, providing an instant entry into an almost unlimited bank of information. The possibilities for insightful action which this might open up are almost beyond imagination.

At the simple level, traffic problems could be computed out of existence. With a traffic control computer grid, drivers could be informed in advance of any holdups or road works, and offered alternative routes. They could feed their own intentions into the bank, and allow calculations to be made which would cover the effect of their own activities.

An extension of the principle would allow the creation of an economic grid. This could store a labyrinth of information, from which individuals workers, or firms, could obtain all the necessary facts to allow them to solve a problem or arrive at a decision. At this point of his argument, Sir Leon hit a snag: in a community in which opposed interests did not exist, there would be no incentive for people to withhold information upon which other people's decisions might need to be based. But in our society, riven into opposing classes and fragmented into warring interest-groups, this is simply not true. Sir Leon must have allowed this thought to cross his mind: because he went off his path to make the point that if this grid were to work there would probably have to be a law compelling people who used the computer bank to feed their own decisions back into it, thus keeping it constantly up-to-date. Unfortunately, a law wouldn't be enough. Sir Leon is an eminent businessman. He is successful, respected, and important enough in today's society to be allowed to deliver the Reith lectures. But he is also, in spite, perhaps, of his better judgement, launching revolution on us as fast as his factory can run.

In some fields it is perhaps just possible to imagine computer-grids at work within our present social order. Sir Leon speaks of the possibility of an electronic library of symptoms which could be created for doctors. In hospitals doctors' and nurses' time could be drastically saved by automating the transmission, collection and storage of patients' medical records. Given a huge money infusion, perhaps the health service could begin to use these devices.

But the economy is a completely different story. These magnificent tools would allow us, very easily, to come to grips with the problems of democratic planning. All the key problem areas could be isolated with their help, and the issues easily condensed into choices, into alternative policies upon which popular decisions could be taken, Pigs also could fly, if certain structural modifications were made to them. Capitalism could only use such marvellous achievements if it could jell out a monolithic elite completely separate from the mass of the people in which case there would be two classes: computerised slave-owners and computerless helots. Until then, capitalism demands the restriction of the circulation of information, because other men's ignorance

'LABOUR UNDER A MICROSCOPE' IN NEW LEFT REVIEW 27

The 27th, New Left Review, now on sale, contains a number of important articles which will greatly interest the left wing in their present context. Since the issue was written, the Wilson era has dawned. The scope and content of that era is analysed in some depth by the Review's contributors. Professor Titmuss sketches out "The Limits of the Welfare State" in a perceptive contribution which requires that the Labour Party should rethink its basic orientation, evolving towards an explosion of the scope of the social services calculated to meet the demands of an economy of abundance rather than scarcity. Tom Nairn contributes a perceptive account of the "Anatomy of the Labour Party." And Perry Anderson has written a most valuable "Critique of Wilsonism" which, for its balanced assessment, provides a model for the level. He shows very clearly how ambivalent the Wilsonian programme is, and how it nonetheless offers real scope for the development of an offensive socialist strategy, if the left is mature enough to meet the challenge which is facing it. All socialists, and especially those active in the Labour Party, should read and discuss this piece.

New Left Review is available at 7, Carlisle St., London W.1. costing 3/6.

MOTION CRITICISING COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOLS DEFEATED from Stan Mills

The Observer (15/11/64) reported: "The motion 'That this House deplores current developments in school education in Britain,' debated by the Schools' Debating Association at Grey Coats Hospital, Westminster, on Friday, was defeated by 85 votes to 63, with 12 abstentions. The proposers were Dame Joyce Bishop, former headmistress of Godolphin and Latymer, and Miss Irene Hilton, secretary of the Women's Employment Federation. Mr. Tyrrell Burgess, assistant editor of New Society, and Professor H.C. Dent, London University Institute of Education, opposed the motion. Comprehensive schools became the main issue in the debate, and there were excellent speeches from the floor. Mr. Anthony Wright, the Schools' Debating Association's chairman, presided. The Association's patron, Lord Kilmuir, was represented by the senior treasurer, Mr. J.W. Hunt, City of London School.

Editorial continued/

inevitably brings a cash reward to the man who knows, however hazily. To put the economy on a grid requires not a change in laws, simply, but a change in the social system: and when that is accomplished, undoubtedly Sir Leon's computers will be high-powered weapons in the struggle to change over from the government of men to the 'administration of things.' To step from a world lit by twilights of half-knowledge and obscured by dense foggy areas of dim unthinking ignorance, into one brightly known, self-aware, illuminated, is first to finish with capitalism. Sir Leon Bagrit should stimulate us all to make haste about it.

ADVERTISERS ANNOUNCEMENT

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ONLY 1/4 OF UNIVERSITY STUDENTS WORKING CLASS by Julian Atkinson.

The recently published appendix to the Robbins Report on Higher Education contains several points of interest to socialists. It was found that only a quarter of university students came from working class homes. This proportion is virtually the same now as it was pre-war and indicates that so far educational reforms have not eradicated the class bias in the system. Only 1% of university students have an unskilled manual worker as a father, 6% semi skilled and 18% have skilled manual workers as fathers.

In contrast with this 59% have fathers in professional and managerial jobs. The bias is even more apparent amongst women students, who include only 23% from working class homes in their numbers. Oxford and Cambridge still retain their very exclusive nature. Some 13% of Oxford students and 9% of Cambridge students come from working class homes. It was found that students from the working class, when they got in, did as well as other students academically.

The expansion of university education has had no effect in lowering standards. In the 1950's no decline in the proportion of students who obtained first class honours was recorded, in spite of the vastly increased number of students. It was found that only in day release and evening courses did the proportion of students from working class homes exceed 50%. In teacher training colleges 60% and in technical courses 58% of students were from middle class backgrounds.

The need to provide more university places was underlined by the fact that the proportion of 17-year-old boys at State Schools who gained entrance to University fell from 51% in 1955 to 39% in 1961. The appendix supplies some interesting information on the public schools. "Except for women at London, wastage in all English university groups was considerably higher among students from boarding schools than from other types of school." The figures being:

University	school	% who left without success.
<u>Oxford and Cambridge</u>	local grammar.	3%
	other day schools,	3%
	boarding schools.	6%
<u>London</u>	local grammar.	14%
	other day - schools	9%
	boarding schools.	29%
<u>Civic Universities</u>	local grammar.	10%
	other day schools.	8%
	boarding schools.	25%

Mr. Darich Wigham, chairman of the Headmasters' Conference (the public schools) was reported in the Daily Mail as saying, "We are, of course, concerned about failure - any school is bound to be. But I don't think we have ever had reason to believe that the failure rate was running at any undue level. It may be that because of traditional links between some schools and Oxford and Cambridge Colleges more 'borderline cases' have been admitted to the universities. But I would not wish to comment firmly."

UNITED KINGDOM LOW IN STRIKE LEAGUE

Figures supplied by the International Labour Office on the number of days lost through industrial disputes per 1,000 person employed in various countries show that the U.K. strike rating is low compared with other industrialised countries. The figures for the last 6 years and the average for the last 10 years are as follows:

COUNTRY	NUMBER OF DAYS LOST PER THOUSAND PERSONS EMPLOYED						Average
	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1954-63
Australia (1)	250	200	380	330	280	300	386
Belgium	150	440	210	60	160	140	501
Canada	1,220	310	310	510	580	330	606
Denmark (2)	20	30	100	3,340	30	40	508.5
Finland	60	610	130	50	30	140	188
France	160	280	160	330	220	770	329
Germany (West)	50	-	-	-	30	130	67
India	990	770	770	420	500	220	704
Ireland	360	270	140	590	330	880	375
Italy	470	1,020	540	870	2,270	1,150	818
Japan	520	520	350	440	350	180	412
Netherlands	20	10	260	10	-	20	54
New Zealand	60	90	100	100	250	140	113
Norway	40	80	-	570	130	360	288
Sweden (3)	10	10	10	-	-	10	13.5
Switzerland	-	-	-	-	-	50	7.5
Union of South Africa	-	10	-	40	-	-	7.5
United Kingdom (4)	260	420	240	220	450	140	297
United States (5)	1,030	2,770	750	650	740	620	1,048

Notes: (1) Including Electricity and Gas.

(2) Manufacturing only.

(3) All industries included.

(4) Owing to changes in industrial classification the figures after 1958 are ^{not} strictly comparable with those of earlier years.

(5) Beginning 1960: including Alaska and Hawaii.

It will be observed that only one major industrial country has a lower average than that of the U.K.; West Germany. It may come as a surprise to some readers to see that the United States heads the list, although it seems quite likely, if present trends continue, that Italy will outstrip the U.S. soon. The very low figures for some countries, e.g., Sweden and the Netherlands, are due to the employers and government in those countries successfully imposing an incomes policy. In the Netherlands, however, this has broken down, and in Sweden the incomes policy is under very severe strain. The very low figure for South Africa is due to strikes being illegal for 'native' workers; the largest component of the working class.

STRIKES, SICKNESS AND THE NATIONAL INTEREST by George Eltham

I thought readers of The Week would like to see the results of a little research I have done into days lost through strikes and illness in Britain. So far this year (up to September) the figures for days lost through strikes amount to 1,883,000. On September 15th there were 886,100 workers off ill, and 67,400 off through industrial injuries - this being a typical day. A little calculation shows that there were more days lost through illness in two typical days than in 10 months through strikes! Conclusion?: All this talk about strikes not being in the national interest is bosh - illness costs at least 100 times as much loss.

DOCTOR ALEXANDER'S APPEAL STILL PENDING

by Connie Kirkby*

News has just reached us from South Africa that it is still not possible to give the exact date when Dr. Alexander and his 10 associates can make their appeal against prison sentences for conspiring against the South African Government. It is necessary to get the signatures of all 11 before Counsel can get the date of the appeal fixed. Signatures of the 4 women serving sentences in Worcester jail have been obtained but Counsel has been refused permission to go to Robbens Island, the notorious prison island - South Africa's Alcatraz, where prisoners are assaulted, degraded and humiliated in every way. How long it will be before the seven men are brought from their concentration camp to the mainland so that their signatures can be obtained, remains to be seen.

Meanwhile we must go on getting the maximum financial support so that once their signatures are obtained, there can be no further delay in making their appeal, for financial reasons.

Amounts received to the fund in the last three weeks total over £200. Congratulations to the Nottingham group of readers who raised 11 guineas for the Alexander fund by holding a social. Can other groups of readers living near to each other organise similar events and enjoy a social evening together while at the same time help ^{ing} to swell the funds? Workers at Bristol Aircraft Corporation made a collection of £11.6.0. NALSO students in Durham have been successful in getting a motion through two college JCR's for a 1/6d a head levy (with contracting out). It is symptomatic of the level of feeling about South Africa among Durham students that very few people have contracted out at Hatfield College where £21. 3. 0d has been raised in this way. In addition, this college has sent in a cheque for £5.12.6. collected by two students at the students' union debate on South Africa. The motion calling for 'immediate and drastic action' was carried by 90 votes to 50.

Newcastle student, Rachel Lever, has sent in the magnificent sum of £26. 10.0d on her collection sheets. Labour Party member, Robert Hope, has sent in £10.15.0s for a start and is still taking his collection sheet around. All these and other wonderful responses reflect the very strong feeling that exists against the tyranny of the South African Government. It is well to remember that in South Africa it is not possible to raise money for these purposes - by making every effort we will give encouragement to our fellow socialists in South Africa who are risking their lives, serving long terms of imprisonment and being separated from their families in exile for daring to oppose the fascist measures of the Verwoerd regime. This is not a fight for South Africans alone but one which requires the full support of the socialist movement.

How are the collections going throughout colleges, Labour Parties, trade unions, and other sympathetic organisations? Let's have news about the collections even though you still want to go on collecting.

Over 250 people turned up to the social held in London, November 14th at Africa Unity House. Socialists enjoyed themselves dancing to a non-stop African steel band. A net profit of £50 was raised and has already been handed in to Defence and Aid. Barnei Desai, Chairman of the South African Coloured People's Congress, one of the sponsors of our committee, appealed for additional cash during the evening and a collection of £12 was made.

* Secretary of the Alexander Defence Committee, 27 Thursely Ho., Holmwood Gdns. London SW 2.

A MILESTONE IN POLITICAL TRIALS

by R. Mutch*

Politician: "....and we will form a Department of Shipping."

Member of audience: "But Bechuanaland is landlocked and has no ships."

Politician: "That's O.K., South Africa has a Minister of Justice."

This joke is widely circulated in the African territories adjoining the Union of South Africa.

Political trials are nothing new to South Africa but of late another milestone has been passed. The political "show trial" has made its obscene debut as was to be expected in a racialist, fascist state with its titulary messiah - Dr. Verwoerd. The technique of show trials is, of course, well known in recent political history but it is the trials of Nazi Germany that appear so horrifyingly paralleled by this first South African manifestation. This is to be expected in view of the similarity of beliefs.

The necessary paraphernalia has been in existence, now it has been assembled. The Party judge, the omniscient Special Branch (Political Police) with unlimited powers of arrest and detention without trial in solitary confinement; the technique of brainwashing and torture known and used (the former is in its infancy and may remain so, for "supermen" have never had much use for it); the prisoner held incommunicado as long as the police desire and the deaths of many political prisoners unable to stand up to torture; much of this has been documented but it is doubtful if more than a fraction has been exposed.

Police torture is an accepted part of the scene in South Africa: so much so that when an African was tortured to death, in a case involving £10, the police officer responsible pleaded for leniency when prosecuted. The grounds offered were that torture is used extensively "in every police station in South Africa" and that this death was not exceptional. Torture, indefinite solitary confinement, etc. are known and accepted; what is new is the "Reichstag Fire" type show trial.

This was typified in the trial of John Harris which has just come to an end. John Harris was accused of placing a bomb in Johannesburg station. He has been sentenced to death and will soon be executed. A number of curious circumstances presented themselves in this trial:

- Harris was savagely beaten over a period of two weeks, so badly that another prisoner who had known him before failed to recognise him when they passed one another going to and from the interrogation room. The beatings resulted in concussion, a fractured skull, a broken jaw and, it is said, broken ribs.

- After being kept incommunicado in solitary confinement for some three months a dazed and broken Harris was presented to the white public and court, both thirsty for revenge. His lawyer stated that he was unable at this juncture to plead for Harris as Harris was unable to talk to him and requested a deferment of the trial which was refused. Examination by a panel of competent psychiatrists was refused as was a medical examination of Harris. With obscene haste Harris was condemned to death.

A number of facts have, however, clandestinely emerged from the proceedings. A phone call was received by the police about 15 minutes before the bomb explosion informing them of where and when it would take place. They took no action whatsoever. It is well known in South Africa that the Special Branch harboured great personal animosity for John Harris for his courageous stand on multiracial sport. Some months previously his passport was withdrawn a few hours before he was due to leave for Britain. He was served with the customary order

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* A member of the South African Resistance Group who has recently escaped.

READING UNIVERSITY STUDENTS LAUNCH EMERGENCY FUND FOR LECTURER

A Reading reader reports: Students at Reading University have launched an emergency cash appeal for the defence of an ex-lecturer under arrest in South Africa on charges under the Sabotage Act. The lecturer, 40-year-old Mr. Bertram Hirson, is critically ill in hospital at a Johannesburg gaol, after being kept in solitary confinement for 83 days. Mr. Hirson was a temporary lecturer in the Physics Department from January to December last year. News of him being charged only came through a few weeks ago. According to the student newspaper Shell, Dr. Green of the Physics Dept. to whom he had written said:

"Mr. Hirson wrote to me from hospital. He said that in June he had been returning from a conference at Durban...when he was stopped by police at a road block. He was taken back to his office at the University of Witwatersrand...and arrested under the '90-day' detention law...."

This initiative by the students and staff at Reading is to be commended - anyone who would like more information, etc., should write to Shell, Reading University, Reading, Berks.

BRISTOL LEFT CLUB PUBLIC MEETING ON CHINA from Tom Nicholls

Bristol Left Club is holding a public meeting on Tuesday, 24th November, at the Full Moon Hotel, Stokes Croft, Bristol 1, commencing at 7.30 p.m.. The subject will be: "Two Years in China" and the speaker, Mrs. Virginia Penn. This is the first public meeting of the Left Club since the election. Mrs. Penn travelled widely in China while she was working there (for the New China News Agency). She has been active in the British China Friendship Association, and more recently in the China Policy Study Group.

NOTTINGHAM SOUTH LABOUR PARTY WORRIED ABOUT MALAYSIA CONFLICT

At its November meeting the South Nottingham Constituency Labour Party passed a resolution on the subject of Malaysia. The resolution, which originated in the Lenton ward, led to considerable discussion. It noted that British troops were engaged in the area with Bloodhound missiles; these were there, speakers pointed out, to safeguard tin and rubber interests. The Government should, instead, negotiate a settlement with Indonesia. Eventually the resolution went through by 16 votes to 10.

A milestone....continued/

prohibiting him from attending gatherings, addressing them, fraternising with Africans, etc. He was restricted from travelling beyond the magisterial district of Johannesburg. Lloyd, the principal state witness in the trial, admitted that employment, outside South Africa had been arranged for him by the Special Branch and that he will take this up after the trial. A very curious witness indeed - does he fear ostracism by his friends?

The whole trial bears the mark of the Reichstag Fire Trial, which is not surprising considering the beliefs of the South African Government. The concept of Apartheid and the machinery for its enforcement have been judged by the rest of humanity and found wanting. Are we to stand by and let this milestone in the advance of racial totalitarianism pass unnoticed?

ROW OVER WHARF MECHANISATION IN JAMAICA by Dick Skyers

Although the level of wages in Jamaica is very low and the rate of unemployment very high (the figure has never been published because of government embarrassment) the agricultural industrialists are determined to extract even more profits from an already underemployed and starving people. A typical example is the determination of the industrialists to introduce mechanisation in the wharfs. They argue that failure to mechanise would render export crops uncompetitive in world markets.

That this is absolute nonsense goes without saying, When one looks at the trading surpluses of Tate & Lyle, the Jamaica sugar barons, one gets all the proof one needs. But the determination to mechanise does not lie only with the sugar barons; the United Fruit Company and the Jamaican Banana Producers Assoc. are determined to extract more profits by doing away with as much of the labour force as possible.

Whilst the sugar industry's profits could be swelled considerably by mechanisation it remains somewhat difficult to see how this could be done in the banana industry, since suitable mechanical handling could only take place at wharfs. In addition, the labour force employed in loading bananas is very small, varying ^{from} between two and three thousand workers. They work a 24-hour day on the wharfs, once a week, and for this they are paid £2.10s

The Prime Minister, Mr. Bustamante, in refusing to allow mechanisation, says the employers' arguments are nonsense. What he did not say was that what is needed is land reform, and that the banana exporting industry should be nationalised. Perhaps this is not surprising - he has a big stake in the industry: he is the owner of very large banana plantations.

BUSTAMANTE AND MANLEY ENSURE JAMAICA IS SAFE FOR INVESTORS by Dave Wilcox

In a recent supplement to the Financial Times on Jamaica, Sir Kenneth Blackburne, a former Governor-General of the island, wrote on the country's political set-up. He said that Jamaica is a country "with political stability - stability based on two powerful and democratically elected political parties, and on two fine political leaders, Sir Alexander Bustamante..and Mr. Norman Manley (the present leader of the Opposition). But it is natural for the investor to ask whether this political stability will survive the inevitable stresses and strains of the future..." Sir Kenneth then goes on to give a brief historical outline of politics on the island. His description of the birth of the two party system makes interesting reading:

"Shortly before the first elections under the new constitution in 1944 a split developed between the two leaders, Mr. Bustamante objecting to the socialist doctrines preached by the People's National Party. So, fortunately for Jamaica" (and for British investors?) "he formed his own political organisation - the Jamaica Labour Party, and the two-party system was born."

But investors shouldn't worry about the PNP's socialism: "It is a Socialist Party; but it is not extreme in its views; and, during its 2 periods in office, it showed by its actions that it believes in securing interest from overseas investors..." Elsewhere in the supplement we read: "...the trend in wages has in general not been inflationary and labour could not be called dear in Jamaica.." Hence the true nature of the neo-colonialist set-up in Jamaica is plain for all to see.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN BRITISH GUIANA?

by Pat Jordan

No one would envy the legacy that Anthony Greenwood has inherited at the Colonial Office. 13 years of Tory rule has left a variety of very complicated problems: Malaysia, Aden, British Guiana, etc. Tory policy was determined by their need to manoeuvre between the world-wide pressure of anti-colonialism and their desire to maintain neo-colonialist exploitation together with a system of military bases to underpin that exploitation. A further complicating factor in the case of British Guiana was American pressure arising from the fear of another 'Cuba' in the Western Hemisphere. No doubt the mistakes of Dr. Jagan have added to the mess. However, there is considerable uneasiness in the Labour Party because of reports that the Labour Government intends to continue Tory policy in Guiana. My own disquiet on this question has been reinforced by the two following press reports:

Doctor Jagan denounces British violation of freedom of correspondence

Hsinhua November 15th, "Premier of British Guiana, Cheddi Jagan, yesterday denounced the British authorities for ordering postal officers to seize and open postal packets by invoking emergency powers...The British authorities took this step after an undisclosed London source had published a secret police report on activities of a terrorist organisation operated by the reactionary opposition People's National Congress Party and had mailed copies of the report to thousands of people in Guiana. On November 12th the British Governor promulgated new emergency regulations requiring the surrender of all copies of the report and making possession of any copy a criminal offence.

"Jagan said that the action of the British authorities violated the constitution of British Guiana and the internationally recognised principle of freedom of transit which ensures the inviolability of correspondence. The denunciation was contained in a cable addressed to the director of the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union. In a statement to the press, Jagan disclosed that the opposition's terrorist organisation was financed by the United States."

Journalist hurt as he saves girl from the Daily Worker (November 17th)

Georgetown, November 16th: "Time magazine correspondent M. Garcia suffered a head injury last night as he rescued an 18-year-old People's Progressive Party activist who had been stripped naked and brutally assaulted. The incident took place after a PPP meeting in the heart of the city at the Parade ground was broken up in disorder by opposition terrorists. It happened at 9.45 p.m. in the presence of two police horse guards, who, Garcia says, paid no attention to his pleas for help, and it was only a few yards from the Governor's residence....

"The only other police action involved the arrest and detention at the police station, for three hours, of a PPP member who was picked up for having a toy pistol. The PPP general secretary, Mrs. Janet Jagan, spoke to Garcia while police were searching his room and asked him to help make the true situation known all over the world: that in British Guiana the dice are loaded in the December 7 elections so severely now that PPP women will fear to come out to vote, and that it is impossible to rely on the police, volunteer force or British soldiers for protection."

"No doubt it will be argued that these reports come from a 'suspect' source - but is a member of the staff of Time likely to lie for the PPP? British Labour Party members, without giving uncritical support to Jagan who, after all, brought in British troops, will want to know what's being done in their name in British Guiana.

WORKERS ON THE MOVE IN PAKISTAN

from Abdul Nasser

Workers throughout East Pakistan staged a one-day strike in protest against the killing of several hundred workers in Khulna, which was recently reported in The Week. In most industrial centres processions were held, culminating in meetings, the largest of which was a mass rally of several thousand workers in Dacca.

A new mood of confidence of Pakistani workers is reflected in their decision to set up a Non-official Inquiry Commission to investigate the Khulna massacre. The Government has refused to appoint one. It is significant that the man who will head the Non-official Inquiry Commission is no less a person than Mr. Justice Ibrahim, a retired judge of the Dacca High Court, who was, for a time, Law Minister in the Ayub regime until he resigned as a very disillusioned man. Documents and files showing the connection between the hired thugs who attacked the workers and "certain vested interests" are said to have come into the possession of trade union leaders and will be placed at the disposal of the Non-official Inquiry Commission.

Many trade union leaders have since been arrested. The workers have demanded their immediate release, the removal of officials directly or indirectly implicated in the affair and compensation to be paid to the dependents of the workers who have been killed.

START OF CIVIL WAR IN MALAWI?based on Financial Times report

The Salisbury correspondent reported:

"It is believed here that the Malawi Prime Minister, Dr. Banda, specific purpose in sending troops on November 11th to the Fort Johnson area of Malawi is to track down the missing rebel Minister, Mr. Henry Chipembere, who recently escaped from restriction. The whole area around Fort Johnson is a Chipembere stronghold. A Government spokesman said that troops and police had been sent to Fort Johnson "to restore law and order. Mr. Chipembere recently sent a message saying that he was still in the country and would never leave. In a letter to Dr. Banda, a copy of which was received in Lusaka, this week, he refutes any suggestion that he had fled to Tanzania. Mr. Chipembere said: "I will return to my house and you will be free to come and take me away and do the Lumumba that you have always wanted to do on me. I may go but you will not survive me long."

"Today" (November 12th) "Malawi Radio" said that Dr. Banda had received a letter from Chipembere but it was not believed that he had written it in the country. "Chipembere has run away to Tanzania," said the report. The District Council of Chiradzulu, near Blantyre, was dissolved by the Government today for "disloyalty to Dr. Banda." Four other district councils at Fort Johnson, Kasupe and Nkata Bay were recently dissolved for the same reason. All are strongholds of rebel ministers. Today a roving gang burned down an office and store on a European-owned tea estate at Mlanje, near Blantyre, and beat up African workers. Europeans were unharmed. Gangs put up roadblocks in the area and European cars were stopped but allowed to proceed. A unit of the Malawi mobile police was sent to Mlanje today."

Ed. note: Malawi and Portugal signed an important trade agreement this month - many other African countries have decided to boycott Portugal.

SOVIET LEGAL EXPERT ARGUES FOR "PRESUMPTION OF INNOCENCE"

Professor M. Strogovich put forward a controversial argument in the latest issue of the Literaturnaya Gazeta; to quote: "A person's future, honour and freedom, and sometimes his life, may depend on the verdict of a court. The administration of justice is inextricably linked up with the concept of social justice. Therefore people do not interpret an unjust verdict, a judicial error simply as a mistake by a particular court but as a grave violation of legality, as a drama of the individual and society.. In the period of the cult of the individual, a 'theory' was current among practical workers and theoreticians of law that 'maximum probability' of guilt was sufficient for conviction. Everyone knows the damage this 'theory' did to our society!...

"The law, which is founded upon the human and democratic principle of the 'presumption of innocence', reads: 'No person may be considered guilty of having committed a crime and subject to criminal punishment except by sentence of a court.' Until the court has had its say, until it has finally decided the case, the defendant is not considered guilty, no matter how grave and convincing the evidence against him...Excessive confidence in a confession, reliance on it as though it were the best proof, leads to very grave errors in judicial practice. A conviction should be based on the sum total of the objectively verified evidence and cannot depend solely on whether or not the accused has confessed guilt."

The same issue of the journal carried a reply by the Prosecutor of the Leningrad People's Court.

FRESH ATTACK ON STALIN

On the eve of the arrival of the Chinese delegation to Russian Revolution anniversary celebrations a fresh attack was made on Stalin in the Soviet press. The occasion, so flimsy that it appears to be contrived, was on the awarding of the title hero of the Soviet Union to the spy Sorge. Reuter reported on November 5th:

"...Last September Pravda paid tribute to Richard Sorge, who warned Stalin of German plans to attack the Soviet Union in 1941. Sorge, born of a German father and Russian mother in 1895, went to Japan in 1933 as a newspaper correspondent, and later became the Press attache in the German Embassy. With access to secret documents, he was able to warn Moscow of the German attack on Poland in 1939 and later of German plans to invade Russia. 'Similar information arrived in Moscow by other routes, but Stalin paid no attention to it. How many thousands and millions of lives would have been saved if the information of Richard Sorge and others was not walled up in a safe. Alas we had to pay fully for the disbelief and negligence toward people, which were an indispensable part of the cult of the personality."

BRITISH C.P. THINKS CONFERENCE POSTPONEMENT DESIRABLE: The E.C. of the British C.P. discussed a report from its delegation to the November anniversary celebrations in Moscow. Following this a resolution was passed which, while generally following the line of the new Soviet leaders, said: "...If participation of the Chinese C.P. would be facilitated by a short postponement...we think that this would be desirable..."

Not even the John Birch Society would say that the Institute of Directors is an underground Communist organisation. The standing ovation given to Sir Alec Douglas Home at the Institute's annual dinner recently is a very clear indication of where its sympathies lie. Hence the reader of the latest issue will not suspect any ulterior motive in publishing an article by Emil Rado entitled "Western Capitalists and African Jobs." But most readers, I trust, will be surprised by his conclusion: "that the Western capitalist may hinder stable development in the underdeveloped countries..". Of course Rado argues that this arises from bad investment policy; but for the Western capitalist to pursue a different investment policy from the one described he would have to cease being a capitalist!

Rado poses the problem thus: "In the maelstrom of comment on the economic problems of the underdeveloped countries it is usually assumed that their needs can be summed up in the phrase 'more production'....This is a half-truth and, like all half-truths, potentially dangerous. Much of the remaining half can be summed up in one word: jobs." He points out that the nature of the problem is very different in the advanced countries; there "an annual rise of 4% in national income" (can) "maintain both full employment and.. double per capita incomes in under 25 years." But in, for example, tropical Africa: "With population growth averaging $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ per annum, and production growing only a little faster than that, the growth of employment has been lagging behind both..at present rates of improvement per capita" (it) "may take three generations to double..their present low level." Rado doesn't pose the problem this way but this means, in effect, putting off indefinitely any prospect of the people of these countries reaching any ^{thing} like an adequate standard of living.

What role does the Western businessman play in this process? Rado explains that "Although most African countries are predominantly agricultural, the majority of paid employment is provided by the urban economy: industry, commerce, mining, transport and the public services. In most African countries the majority of these jobs is provided by private foreign (i.e. Western) capital. Furthermore, there can be little doubt that it is these 'urban' activities which will provide a large part of whatever economic growth Africa is going to see over the next generation." Rado does not see a 'back to the land' move as the answer because: "...judging by the experience of the recent past, it takes a 4% annual rise in the national income of the advanced countries simply to maintain their present level of demand for tropical foodstuffs and raw materials."

Rado works out what would be required to maintain the present level of employment: "Given an average income per head in the region of £33 per annum and £1,000 as the average capital requirement per urban job..this means that 30 men's annual production creates one new job. If we combine this with the need to find jobs for the $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ annual increase in working population..the resulting net investment requirement is 30% of the national income" and a further 7% has to be added to wipe out debts. Part of this staggering figure of 37% will have to be foreign investment, says Rado. But because "Production methods of an increasingly capital using and labour-saving nature are being introduced everywhere.." the position is being made worse. For example, "In Uganda..a 3% annual growth of real national product has accompanied by an overall fall of 3% in employment.." and "A large part of it must have been due...to modernisation programmes.." Rado says the businessmen pursue their policy because of "taxation laws", "pressure of trade unions for higher wages", and "minimum wage laws.". He argues that trade unions will have to show "unprecedented restraint" to meet this situation! Does Rado really expect businessmen to invest to make jobs instead of profit? The flaw in his argument is that he forgets the loss of capital through profits going abroad, the squandering of resources to 'police' foreign investment, etc.

from an economics correspondent