

THE

WEEK

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EDITORS' LETTER

Just as we go to press we have received several items of importance (no doubt staff difficulties are responsible for some of the delays in the post these days) which we will feature next week, but need mentioning now. NALSO have come out against the sentences on Vic Allen and the three Nigerian trade unionists. It has also congratulated the Government on its decision over arms to South Africa but asked for (1) cancellation of the Buccaneer contract; and (2) urgent consideration of wider sanctions. We have had reports of activities on the Vic Allen question from Newcastle, Leicester, Hull, etc. Discussions are afoot to establish a Vic Allen Defence Committee.

COLOUR DISCRIMINATION IN SMETHVICKAND THE CONGO

Every step the Government takes to outlaw and oppose racial discrimination in Britain will be heartily supported by all sections of the left, and progressive people all over the world. It is a long time since a Prime Minister has been as forthright as Wilson on such an issue. But every bit of good this stand (and the promise to bring in Fenner Brockway's Bill) ^{has done} is in danger of being negated. Whatever goodwill the new Labour Government has won in the third world over its stand against internal racial discrimination has been put in jeopardy by its decision to allow Belgium to use Ascension Island as a base for paratroopers.

No doubt, by the time readers receive this issue they will have read of the 'dreadful massacre of whites in Stanleyville.' The full apparatus of the 'popular', i.e., capitalist, press is being mobilised to paint a picture of arson, rape and bloody murder by savage blackmen. What the truth of these stories is we are in no position to say, but what we can say is that the whole affair is marked by shocking hypocrisy. There has been a massacre going on for months, nay years, in the Congo - massacre waged by Tshombe, and before him Kasavubu et al, against the people who want genuine independence for the Congo. Yet the same papers which will have pages and pages (illustrated by gory pictures) about the 'slaughter of whites' have hardly noticed it.

However they could hardly ignore such sensational copy as that of a British lad who had fought as a mercenary in Tshombe's forces deserting. The Sunday Telegraph, October 15th, found space to report his desertion (together with others) because of "disgust at the senseless slaughter". The Daily Express followed with an 'exclusive interview' and we quote what Geoffrey Munn of Crawley had to say: "as a mercenary I found myself taking part in the indiscriminate slaughter of innocent women and children." After an ambush "As a respisal we simply went to the nearest village where we were ordered to kill every man, woman and child, and then to set fire to everything." Has any British Government felt obliged to take action on this? Are we to conclude that when 'blacks' are being slaughtered it is a matter of indifference, but when 'whites' are in danger military action from British bases automatically follows?

This is how the whole of African opinion will see this affair. This is a form of racial discrimination far worse than stopping a man having a drink in a pub! African opinion will also regard it as more than a coincidence that Tshombe's forces entered Stanleyville at precisely the time the paratroopers arrived. Who can blame them?(or us if we conclude that this is old-fashioned naked imperialist intervention to bolster up a stooge regime?) The fact that whole affair has been covered with a smoke screen of imaginary or real threats to white people makes no difference. In fact there would be no danger at all to Europeans it weren't for the cruelties afflicted on Africans, in the name of civilisation; but actually to defend investment. Labour is involved in this because Wilson did what no African Government would have done - allowed the Belgians a base.

This is not a very good augury for a Government which pledges itself to use the United Nations as a cornerstone in its foreign policy. Can anyone doubt what the result of a vote in UNO would be on Belgian and US action - those two countries would be the lepers! To protest may not be popular but to keep quiet would be to betray Labour's principles. Tom Driberg deserves full praise for having spoken out.

PRESCRIPTION CHARGES TO CONTINUE IN THE ISLE OF MAN

There are a number of vestigial remnants of Britain's former colonial empire dotted around the globe. Surprisingly a number of these are in Europe. Most people have vaguely heard of the semi-feudal regimes in the Channel Islands; recent publicity over corporal punishment has highlighted them. Not so many people seem to be aware of the set-up in the Isle of Man. This has a two-chamber legislature: one of which is elected but the other entirely appointed. We have been promised an article on the many undemocratic features of this system, but in the meantime two items came our way which illustrate how things work out in practice:

On November 17th, the Lieut.-Governor of the Isle of Man, Sir Ronald Garvey, announced in the Tynwald (the Manx Parliament) that though in general the British autumn budget would be followed certain measures would not be implemented. Prescription charges would remain. Although the 6d increase on petrol would be immediately implemented, it was intended to increase the rebate which road service operators already enjoyed - at present 6d - by a further sixpence. Thus the Manx Government would be subsidising business interests to the tune of £4,500 a year. Neither would the Corporation tax and capital gains tax envisaged in Callaghan's budget be followed in the Isle of Man.

The next day the Tynwald ratified by a large majority the concession to the Isle of Man Broadcasting Company to operate Manx radio as a commercial broadcasting station. This is the first commercial radio station to be legalised within the British Isles.

However, there is a bright spot; The Manx Co-operative Society has decided to affiliate to the Co-operative Party. This affiliation will introduce a new factor in politics on the island.

93 COMPANY DIRECTORS ON BOARDS OF NATIONALISED INDUSTRIES by Dave Windsor

There is a polemic going on just now in the columns of the Financial Times on the question of steel nationalisation. Among those advocating nationalisation is one Donald Bruce of 19, Blandford Place, London W.1. He drew attention to some interesting facts about the compensation of the nationalised boards in a letter on November 20th:

"An examination of the List of Members of Public Boards of a Commercial Character as at November 1, 1963...which covers all the present nationalised industries except those, like the Post Office, under direct Ministerial control, reveals that of the 180 members of the national public boards - that is, excluding the area boards - no less than 93 are directors of other public companies in the private sector, and that they share between them 467 directorships in that sector. At least 22 of them are members of that distinguished body, the Institute of Directors.

"Furthermore, in the case of most public boards (the NCB being one important exception) both the chairmen and the vice-chairmen comprise gentlemen occupying responsible directorial positions in the private sector of industry or commerce.." (my emphasis - D.W.)

It seems to me that Mr. Bruce has drawn our attention a very bad state of affairs (although he thinks this an argument for nationalisation). When steel is nationalised is the same kind of set-up going to apply?

A UNION MERGER

from a special correspondent

The 1,000 members of the Hinckley and District Hosiery Men's Association have agreed to merge with the National Union of Hosiery Workers. The President of the Hosiery Workers' union said on November 16th that he expected the amalgamation - the first under the Trade Union Amalgamation Act, 1964 - to take effect from the beginning of January.

LANCASHIRE CHIEF CONSTABLE APOLOGISES FOR DOGS AT STRIKE MEETING

Striking apprentices in Manchester had occasion to complain to the Manchester and Salford Trades Council about the use by the police of dogs at their meetings and picket lines. After receiving the complaint the Trades Council wrote to the Chief Constable of Lancashire and protested. They described the action of the police as "a violation of civic rights" and "an interference with the freedom of public assemblies". The Chief Constable replied that "it was not the policy of his force to have dogs at strike meetings." He assured the Trades Council that this wouldn't happen again and made the rather weak-sounding excuse that in "this instance a dog handler had gone to Trafford Park on relief duty; he should have left his dogs at the police station."

TED HILL ON INCOMES POLICY DISCUSSIONS

Writing in the November issue of the Journal of Boilermakers' Union, Ted Hill, the union's president, had this to say about the discussions between the TUC and Cabinet Ministers on an incomes policy:

"..As indicated in the press, the TUC General Council have had a meeting with Cabinet Ministers to discuss the question of the National Economic Development Council, also the question of prices and an incomes policy. These matters will be carefully considered by the TUC in the very near future. Whilst the economic situation is very grave, the Government have no intention of asking for a wage freeze, but they do desire some cooperation in developing an incomes policy in keeping with our economy, together with price control. Many times over recent years I have written articles and made speeches in favour of price control instead of fighting wage claims to keep pace with the increasing cost of living. Over the past 15 years wages been doubled, but the standard of living in this period has only improved between 15% and 20%.

"Wage increases that have an inflationary tendency mitigate against the low income groups, the old age pensioners, the sick and the unemployed, and the first thing we ought to press for is price control, together with wage increases that will give us a real increase in our standard of living. If the Labour Government will change the trend of taxation by reducing indirect taxation and increasing direct taxation, especially Profits Tax and Surtax, also a policy of price control, then there is no reason why we should not consider wage increases on a basis that will avoid inflationary tendencies. We will have to make up our minds in the near future whether we desire inflationary wage increase or whether we desire wage increases that will mean real increases in our living standards. Let us hope that wise counsel will prevail in the future and that our movement will pursue a policy that will give best results to the huge majority of people we represent."

LIVERPOOL HAS LESSONS

by Peter Price*

Liverpool exports more than Beatles and Merseybeat. From this Labour stronghold comes news of an Education Committee which has a perspective of democratic education.

In July 1955 they passed a resolution instructing their Director of Education to draw up a scheme for comprehensive education in the city. In 1958 their first comprehensive school, Gateacre, was opened, and the committee's plans surged forward. In 1961, however, the Tories gained control of the council and, knowing the political value to conservatism of a segregated educational system, they set to work to reverse the programme.

As in Nottingham, Labour regained control two years later and in July 1963 the Council passed this resolution: "That this Education Committee, believing that Comprehensive Schools afford the greatest possible opportunities to boys and girls of all degrees of ability, affirms that it is its intention that a comprehensive system of secondary education shall be established in Liverpool.....and as a consequence, the 11 plus examination shall be abolished; and instructs the Secondary Education Sub-Committee, as a matter of urgency, to prepare a scheme directed towards these ends after consultation with the teachers." In November 1963 the Education Committee and teachers met and working parties were set up,

In September 1964, after three remodelled comprehensive schools had been opened, nine teacher members of the working party were given a month's leave-of-absence on full pay, provided with an office in the Education Dept. and access to the Director and all relevant files.

Goaded by the opening of two more comprehensive schools and the rapid erosion of educational privilege for the few, the Tories struck back. Protest meetings were held and petition forms circulated. The Liverpool Conservatives fought the 1964 May elections on the slogan S.O.S. - Save Our Schools. They lost eight seats to a Labour Party which stuck to its political principles and attempted to give equal educational opportunities to all children.

* P. Price is Vice-Chairman of Nottingham City Labour Party.

SUPPORT STILL NEEDED IN LIVERPOOL

Mrs. Wormald, Chairman of the Education C'ttee, and Brian Simon will be addressing an important meeting at the Central Hall, Liverpool on November 27th at 7.30pm. It is important that there should be a good attendance, as the C'ttee for the Promotion of Comprehensive Education needs all possible support.

THE SOCIALIST EDUCATION ASSOCIATION MEETS IN NOTTINGHAM

The greatest ally any progressive Education Committee can have is an informed body of socialist teachers in their own authority. Nottingham now has such a body and they held their first public meeting on 18th November. They discussed the campaign for comprehensive education in the city of Bristol and the announcement by Nottingham's Roland Green that that city's bilateral scheme was here to stay. One Training College lecturer commented caustically that it would not be so bad if the city's schools were at least truly bilateral. Bristol maintained Grammar Schools fought comprehensive education on the basis of "Freedom of Choice". Bristol parents however quickly realised that this freedom only embraced those with the long purse, and that the children of common mortals went where the 11 plus results sent them.

SOME NOTES ON THE APPRENTICES' STRIKE by Peter Smith (Labour's Northern Voice)

Manchester and Stockport apprentices decided at a meeting on November 18 to return to work on Monday 23rd. The National Apprentices Wages and Conditions Campaign, which called the strike, demanded that there must not be any victimisation and that the AEU Executive should press the employers to agree to concede T.U. negotiating rights for apprentices. The committee decided to back any future strike called for by the Executive if the reasonable demands of apprentices were not met. Unfortunately, it seems that the very considerable response of Clydeside apprentices came too late to boost the morale of other apprentices. Thus the strike of over 1,000 apprentices has failed to achieve its aims: the implementation of the AEU Youth Charter.

Most of the support for the strike has been in its place of origin, Manchester and Stockport. But over 350 apprentices from AEI Trafford Park have gone back to work, leaving a disheartened, dwindling number still out from a few of the largest factories. Response in the rest of the country has been very poor indeed. The strike has been badly organised and strategy poorly conceived. This point of criticism has been about the only contribution to the apprentices cause made by the Manchester Direct Action Committee which broke with the majority of the early leaders of the strike. This committee with Mike Hughes as secretary, consists of supporters of alleged Keep Left members of the Young Socialists, and has attempted to secure the leadership of the campaign and turn it to their own political ends. This Direct Action Committee convened a conference in Manchester on October 31st, the "delegates" who attended almost solely consisted of Keep Left activists, a large proportion of which are not apprentices (for example, one "delegate" was a non-apprenticed building worker from Salford). The Young Socialists who called this conference then suggested that the decisions taken should be binding on the apprentices.

Apart from the demoralising effect of this disruption, there was another factor which succeeded in shaking some of the lads from their early determination. Most of them had heard conflicting reports of the attitude of the major union concerned, the AEU. Late in the day, it drifted through to the lads that the AEU Executive had asked them to return to work, and that the lads' points would be raised during the "package deal" negotiations. Very few heard that it took the casting vote of the President to pass that decision. Many convenors who had up until that time unofficially encouraged the apprentices began to change their advice - a committee member was disturbed to learn that communist convenors told lads to go back to work in Sheffield. In addition, in the Stockport area there have been cases reported of employers who offered cheap meals to apprentices who stayed in the factories. Also cases of employers sending letters to the homes of some of the lads (an impertinence which is on the increase!). Although this influenced some waiverers it also served to strengthen the determination of many of the others.

The publicity given to the strike has, as usual, been designed to weaken the actions by the lads. Even so, it has shown the engineering employers and the unions that apprentices are fed up with their present treatment. The lessons learnt during this strike should be valuable ones. It is clear that apprentices need to organise nationally and that they need to set up, in this sort of situation, a body which can be democratically elected and free of any form of takeover by any group with differing aims to apprentices. More than anything else, the unions must recognise that they should immediately press for trade union negotiating rights for their junior workers and encourage them to play a full part in the trade union movement.

Ed. note: see elsewhere for other reports on this strike.

GROSS PROFITS UP 15%, DIVIDENDS UP 16% from an Economics correspondent

The November issue of the Stationery Office publication, Financial Statistics reveals some telling facts which are of especial interest in view of the discussions around an incomes policy. Company income before tax and depreciation, in the first half of this year amounted to £3,201,000,000 (roughly 15% more than the same period last year). Ordinary and Preference dividends went ahead at a slightly faster pace and were 16% up on last year at £781,000,000.

FARMERS DON'T LIKE NEW BILL'S EFFECT ON TIED COTTAGES from a Lincs reader

The National Farmers' Union has sent a statement to all M.P.s taking "strong exception" to the manner in which the Protection from Eviction Bill prevents them from taking immediate possession of 'tied cottages.' They claim that the provision that a farmer must get a County Court Order, which may be suspended for 12 months, "arbitrarily singles out agriculture as the only industry or business in respect of which this restriction on the right of re-possession of service houses is to apply." Trade unionists who have for years been fighting the iniquitous 'tied-cottage' system will no doubt express another opinion.

5,000 APPRENTICES STRIKE ON CLYDESIDE by a Glasgow reader

By Friday last week, some 5,000 apprentices from nearly 60 firms were on strike in support of their charter of demands. This was the climax to a fantastic 1,000 march that went through the huge Hillington industrial estate. At the giant Rolls-Royce factory the marchers waited outside as a delegation approached the gates to seek permission to speak to the apprentices. A mass meeting followed outside the Remington Rand factory where committee members gave details of meetings to be held on the Sunday and the Monday. At the meeting on Sunday, 70 delegates discussed plans to spread the strike to Paisley, Johnstone and Greenock.

By Monday, some of the lads had returned and others were considering following suit. They believed that the main aim of the operation had been achieved, i.e., to draw attention to the fact that apprentices were no longer prepared to wait indefinitely for an answer to their claims. Another factor was the report that the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions is to meet representatives of the engineering employers' federation on December 1st to "review replies" on part of the apprentices' claims - after a wait of several years. The talks will be around the issue of negotiating rights for all apprentices, four weeks annual holiday for junior workers and the abolition of night work for under 21s. Apprentices on the Clydeside will await the outcome of these talks but they are likely to take action again if there is any more prevarication.

C.N.D. ANNUAL CONFERENCE PROTESTS OVER USE OF ASCENSION ISLAND

Meeting last week end for its annual conference, CND heard the news of the decision by the Government to allow Belgian paratroopers to use Ascension Island in the South Atlantic as a base. There was spontaneous opposition to this move and a resolution to this effect was passed unanimously.

"FURTHER INVESTIGATIONS" INTO THAELMANN'S DEATH from Julian Atkinson

According to the Soviet journal New Times there are to be further investigations into the death of Ernst Thaelmann, one of the leaders of the pre-war German Communist Party. The Nazis always maintained that he had been killed in an air-raid on a concentration camp where he was prisoner. The New Times report reads:

"The West German Central Office of enquiries into National Socialist Crimes has announced that it is to undertake "further investigations" into the circumstances of Ernst Thaelmann's murder....Two of his murderers - Wolfgang Otto and Werner Berger - live in the Federal Republic...In April, 1962, Rosa Thaelmann and Ludwig Landwehr, an anti-fascist inmate of Buchenwald, where Thaelmann was killed in August, 1944, submitted irrefutable evidence of Otto's and Berger's guilt to the Central Office and demanded their trial. The Cologne Procurator's Office spent almost 2 years in investigations. How it went about them may be judged by the fact that it arrested Landwehr instead of the murderers. His home was searched and the documents and letters exposing the murderers disappeared.

"In the course of the enquiry, Cologne Procurator Korsch questioned one of the leading witnesses, Marian Zgoda, as though he were a hardened criminal and not a man helping the investigators. Korsch shouted at him and threatened to jail him unless he withdrew his evidence...On March 17 this year the Cologne Procurators Office suspended investigations on the grounds that it was impossible "to establish with sufficient authenticity who were Thaelmann's murderers....and who the accomplice " And yet the authenticity of the documents submitted by Rosa Thaelmann and Ludwig Landwehr was sufficient enough for the same procurator's office to admit that "Gestapo officials and camp warders, probably including Otto and Berger, were present when Thaelmann was murdered."

PROSECUTION OF WAR CRIMINALS IN WEST GERMANY TO END NEXT YEAR from Mrs. Dales

In the Federal Republic all persecutions for war crimes will end on May 8th, 1965, in accordance with the 20 year rule. The West German authorities have refused to make special exceptions for nazi crimes, in spite of the fact that nazi crimes fall in quite a different category from "ordinary crimes", for which the 20-year rule would apply. The London Agreement of August 1945, and other International Agreements had made nazi crimes a subject of International Law, and National Law could not apply. It is to be regretted that there has been no comment in the British press on this issue. Recently Dr. Kempner, deputy US prosecutor at the Nuremberg Trial, stated that only about one-seventh of the war criminals had hitherto been dealt with; the other six-sevenths, including many major war criminals, were just waiting for the 20-year rule to come into force.

Madame Pierie Pador, a lawyer at the Paris bar and the chairman of the French Survivors from Ravensbruck, has approached my committee* asking for support and assistance to stage an exhibition "The French Women in Ravensbruck" in London. We feel that such an exhibition would not only demonstrate our debt to courageous women of France, but it would focus attention on the serious situation arising out of the West German Government's decision. We appeal to all for help in staging the exhibition - particularly financial help. If we are able to raise sufficient funds to hire a hall in London, the exhibition will be staged the first two weeks in February.

*Defence Committee for Victims of Nazi Persecution, 12, First Ave. Gillingham.

DATA ON THE DIRTY WAR IN SOUTH VIETNAM

The Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation is to be congratulated on producing "Extract of Data compiled on War in Vietnam"*. This 6-page dossier of facts and figures will prove a powerful weapon in the hands of those who want to get across what terrible crimes are being committed, in the name of the free world, in South Vietnam. We in Britain are involved because of this country's membership of SEATO, and the failure by any significant section of opinion to denounce U.S. activities in that part of the world. We have extracted some of the most telling figures from the dossier:

"The following figures are conservative as they were compiled before mid-1963.

"Number dead in 1962 alone: 40,000. Source: General Paul D. Harkins, Chief of U.S. military operations in Vietnam. Quoted in Sword of Free Vietnam. Note: The Sword of Free Vietnam is the official organ of the Democratic Party of Vietnam (DPV). The DPV is a virulent anti-Communist party composed of former officials and sympathisers of Governments prior to that of Diem. The motto of this party is: "For the Defeat of Communism in the interests of Free Men EVERYWHERE" (capitals in original).

Numbers killed by late 1962: 100,000. Source: 1963 White Paper of DPV.

Numbers held in camps designated "concentration camps". Over 5,000,000 by mid-1962. Source: DPV White Paper. Quoted in Los Angeles Times, 19 Oct 62.

Number of "anti-Communist nationalists" held in camps designated "concentration camps" estimated at 100,000. Source: DPV White Paper.

Number of students only held in "concentration camps" by late 1962: 45,000 Source: Student Peace Union of the United States Bulletin, April, 1963.

Number of Secret Police: 300,000 by mid-1963. Source: DPV White Paper.

Number estimated held in strategic Hamlets: Over half the rural population by mid-1962. Source: DPV White Paper.

Use of U.S. Aid: U.K. Ambassador from Vietnam spent 40,000,000 francs on house furnishings. Source DPV White Paper.

Number of people in Strategic Hamlets by mid-1963: Over six million. Described as concentration camps with spikes, moats, machine-gun turrets, forced labour and patrols. Source: DPV report for June 1963.

40% of "enemy" casualties claimed estimated to be guerillas;
60% of "enemy" casualties claimed estimated to be uninvolved peasants.
Source: DPV report for September 1963.

Review of Strategic Hamlet programme by DPV through on the spot investigation:
"Strategic hamlets mean forced labour under 300,000 secret police. The programme is planned for 15 million people. ^{one's} It is the only conflict on record in which every means used to destroy own people...More severe and brutal than entire French colonial period...Series of barbaric attacks on unarmed peasant villages with American arms and assistance..."

Note: Vietcong is a slang term which means Vietnamese Communist. It is comparable to "Commie". No organisation calls itself by this name..."

* Obtainable from: The Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation, 3/4 Shavers Place, Haymarket, London S.W. 1.

READING CUBAN LITERATURE A CRIME IN JAMAICA from Right to Work(Jamaica)

On Monday, October 26, the Daily Gleaner published that sixteen Cuban publications are added to the list of prohibited literature; citizens found reading or having any of these publications in their possession will be faced with a penalty of £50 fine or six months imprisonment; and for importing, distributing or republishing, a fine of £100 or one-year imprisonment. Over the years the JLP-PNP (Jamaica Labour Party and the People's National Party) administration have acted as willing servants of British and United States imperialism, suppressing the right of the Jamaican people to read of the politics and history of struggle of the liberated peoples and of the current liberation struggle waged by oppressed peoples the world over.

They know that if our people, particularly our youth, are taught of the revolutionary struggle and of the courage of the victorious people, we too will be courageous and wage revolutionary struggle against their treacherous rule and for our own liberation from imperialist enslavement. That is why they have placed a ban on such literature and are flooding the country with comic books and other obscene magazines and films which depict crime and sex and the degenerate culture of the imperialist nations to corrupt our people and divert them from the path of struggle. The recent ban imposed upon Cuban publications is obviously directed by United States imperialism in keeping with its policy of bullying small and weaker nations to sever ties with the Cuban people in the vain hope of isolating the Cuban Revolution.

No appeal will therefore halt the reactionary JLP-PNP administration in their service to imperialism; they will continue in their suppression of the freedom and rights of the Jamaican people until they are crushed by the people. The Jamaican people must therefore wage resolute struggle in defence of their freedom and rights. We must demand our right to read of the struggle and history of our brothers throughout the world, for our struggle is against one enemy - imperialism - headed by United States imperialism, and together we will win. The Cuban Revolution is a component of the world liberation struggle; the Jamaican people must therefore struggle in its defence, heightening our own struggle against imperialism and the treacherous JLP-PNP clique.

U.S. MAINTAIN ENORMOUS REPRESSIVE APPARATUS IN PUERTO RICO from Hsinhua

Manrique Cabrera, Director-General of the Movement for Puerto Rican Independence held a press conference in Georgetown, British Guiana on Nov. 19. The leader of the liberation forces in the U.S. colony described the massive forces the U.S. has in Puerto Rico: "The combined forces of the U.S. FBI, the CIA and the Agency for Internal Security amount to more than 1,500 men. The U.S. National Guard and the National Air Guard have a force of more than 15,000 in Puerto Rico..The U.S. maintains units of the reserve corps..amounting to some 20,000 soldiers, and over and above this there are 50,000 soldiers, marines and military personnel stationed at the military bases throughout our soil. This gives a total of 100,000 agents of repression for a population of 2,400,000 with an area of less than 9,000 square kilometres (under 3,500 sq. miles). 13% of the best arable land of Puerto Rico has been converted into large U.S. military bases. The U.S. army annually carries out manoeuvres with ..more than 100 warships and..80,000 men..." He concluded "I am in no doubt that ultimately we will succeed in winning our freedom."

"ZIK" CAUSES SENSATION IN PRESS INTERVIEW from a Lagos correspondent

When giving an interview to the editor of the mass-circulation Daily Times, President Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe (known as "ZIK") spoke of the possible disintegration of Nigeria. Mr. Peter Enaharo - brother of the jailed action group leader, Chief Anthony Enaharo - quoted Zik as saying: "What is happening in Nigeria today does not inspire me to be optimistic that we shall survive as one nation." And further, "It is possible that Nigeria will disintegrate because I cannot conceive of a united country where the citizens of one region regard their compatriots as interlopers. If we ultimately survive as one nation, then I would be too old and can only play whatever role is destined for me, provided seven things are done." These seven points included the formation of a socialist front.

Zik continued: "If we fail to heed the signs of the times and continue to play the old game of power politics, then we are fertilising the soil of Nigerian society for an unparalleled social upheaval the like of which we may not comprehend now." Speaking of his attitude to a plan for the federation of Africa he said: "In Nigeria, where it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for some opposing political parties to campaign and have the right of audience in the territories of the opponents during the crucial election that is supposedly democratic, the existence of a Federation rests on creaky props. How much more, then, the establishment of an African Continental Federation...."

This incident, together with many others, shows just how far the process of social disintegration has gone in Nigeria. Tribalism, which is what Zik is hitting at, has been deliberately sponsored in all the countries of Africa by imperialism as a counter to unified national struggles.

STRIKE CRIPPLES PAKISTAN JUTE INDUSTRY based on Financial Times report (Nov 18)

"Pakistan, the second largest exporter of jute and jute manufactures in the world, is facing a serious crisis in the industry as a result of a jute workers' strike that has lasted over a month. The strike has completely paralysed the industry in East Pakistan, where, except for five mills in Khulna, there has been a complete lock-out since October 12. The strike, involving some 90,000 employees, has already caused between 40 and 50 deaths in violent clashes between various sections of the workers" (See previous issues of The Week, for a more adequate report on this aspect) "According to the Commerce Minister, Mr. Wahiduzzaman, the strike is causing a loss of production of jute goods of 850 tons a day....The present deadlock is the result of negotiations which failed when the jute mill owners informed workers that they could not pay more than 81 Rupees" (just over £6, not about £9 as the Financial Times said: ed. note) "a month as a minimum wage. This is the current minimum in India. The workers, who earlier demanded a minimum wage of 115 Rupees (£8.12.6), refused the offer. The present minimum pay of a Pakistan jute worker is 65 Rupees (£4. 17. 6) a month."

THE TRUTH ABOUT ETHIOPIA

From Eric Ernstzen (Algiers)

The Ethiopian Peoples' Movement Council has published a document entitled "The Truth about Ethiopia". This gives details of the state of oppression in that country. It consists of: background information, the 1960 revolt, Haile Selassie and African Unity, and information about the EPMC. Two appendices deal ^{with} collaboration between Israel and Haile Sellasie, and world press comment on the set up in the country. This is essential reading for anyone who want be informed about African affairs. Available from EPMC, 15, Chemin Rue, Geneva.

PROMINENT INDIAN COMMUNIST WANTS "ASSESSMENT OF KOSYGIN AND BREZHNEV"

Writing in the New Delhi left weekly Mainstream (October 31), one of the prominent leaders of the CPI (right wing), Mohan Kumaramangalam, has questioned the credentials of the new Soviet leaders. He calls for "an authoritative assessment of the roles of all Soviet leaders and in particular the two most important leaders, comrades Kosygin and Brezhnev, during the period of Stalin's rule." He recalls that Khrushchov was one of Stalin's closest colleagues during Stalin's rule and quotes what Khrushchov said "at the time, referring to the verdict in the trial of Trotsky's followers":

"These infamous nonentities wanted to break up the unity of the Party and the Soviet power...They raised their murderous hands against Comrade Stalin. Stalin - our hope, Stalin - our expectation, Stalin - the beacon of progressive mankind, Stalin - our banner, Stalin - our will, Stalin - our victory."

"Comrades like myself," continues Kumaramangalam, "did not forget that Khrushchov also was a party to the excessive adulation of Stalin and therefore necessarily also has to bear a share of the responsibility for the crimes committed in the latter period of Stalin's rule. Referring to the alleged "charge sheet" prepared against Khrushchov by his successors, Kumaramangalam asks: "If Khrushchov had been guilty of all these mistakes then what was the collective leadership, including the Central Committee, doing when he committing these mistakes? What attempts were made to correct him..If adequate answers were given to these questions, then perhaps there would not be this disturbing phenomenon of praising highly the merits of a leader of the Party one day and then immediately criticising him for committing serious mistakes - so characteristic of the Stalinist method of dealing with individuals."

The CPI leader has demanded that the proceedings of the Presidium and the Central Committee of the CPSU be placed before the people of the Soviet Union and the world "so that all of us can judge what exactly were the mistakes of Comrade Khrushchov..." The "secret Stalinist manner" in which Khrushchov was removed, according to him has greatly "impaired the prestige of the Soviet Union." "It is the duty of all Communists," he says, "to raise their voice of protest against the method adopted by the Central Committee of the CPSU...and demand that this method be abandoned, never to be resorted to again."

He then raises several pertinent questions for the Soviet leaders who claim that they oppose the practice of the personality cult:

"Have you Soviet Communists taken steps to uncover and tear up the roots of this personality cult? Have you brought to life again the Leninist institutions and practices destroyed by Stalin and his colleagues? Have you established the collective leadership of Lenin's days about which you write so much but of which little evidence is seen in the Khrushchov affair? Otherwise how could the cult of Khrushchov's personality rise in these short nine years? If these questions are not answered," warns Kumaramangalam, "then can we be sure that 5 or 10 year's hence, we shall not be faced with the cult of Kosygin's personality and his removal and denunciation by Pravda? For we must remember that Comrade Kosygin was a member of the Stalin leadership (prior to 1953), a member of Stalin's Politburo!..." Then follows the call for an assessment of the new Soviet leaders.

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST JOURNAL 5-6 NOW OUT* from a student of politics

The latest issue of International Socialist Journal contains several articles which are very timely; in particular the one by Tony Topham - "Package Deals in British Collective Bargaining". I think it worth quoting in extenso the conclusion of Tony's article because of the relevance it has for all the discussions now taking place about an incomes policy and the relationship between the trade unions and the Labour Government:

"...it should now be clear that saying "Yes" to a national incomes policy would involve the trade union and labour movement in endorsement of a total strategy which runs from the national level to the shop steward at the point of production. The logic of the situation demands that, if national policies are to succeed, local working class power must be curbed. The object of the long term wage contract is to achieve this latter purpose. At the level of national, industry-wide bargaining, the employers are finding difficulties in superimposing the long term contract on top of a complex, inter-related wage structure...This is because the unions must - in response to their members' pressures - reserve the right to reopen a long term contract as other groups around them move their relative positions..the advocates of incomes policy are driven to bring in the law..to achieve the desired result - the break-through of the wages rounds.

"...From this point of view, Fawley had one special feature - the exclusively plant-level nature of the bargain. This meant that when the management thought it had succeeded by the productivity deal in undermining the role of the stewards, the latter immediately found that "outlet" they were bound to seek, in controlling the application of the agreement, and in basic wage changes themselves. Their relationship with the district union officials developed correspondingly: instead of handling a separate area (overtime, etc.), they came to share,..with the officials in handling the main negotiations,...Where however we have the more usual national industry agreement..this re-drawing of the front will not be so easy for the steward. Indeed the Engineering Employers' Federation is seeking explicitly to obtain union agreement to a freeze of local negotiations as part of the long term deal. But the shop stewards, we can safely predict, will seek their "outlets" - they too have been through the school of partial control. The union leadership's attitude towards these applications is therefore crucial. If they sign contracts,..they are on a slippery slope which leads towards legal and disciplinary attempts to curb stewards' activity...

"The only way out of this dilemma for a trade union leadership which does not consciously seek the authoritarian consequences of these developments, is to shift the whole quality of its response to the long term contract..on to ground which will at the least preserve the steward's role as a representative of workers' aspirations. And in fact such ground will be found..in offensive demands which centre around workers' control...The only alternative which can succeed is for the left-union shop steward bargaining power..to shift from accommodation to attack. This means - not saying "NO" to the new strategies but posing the alternative in terms of control. Thus, just as we should pose the overall demand "No incomes policy without workers' control," so we should elaborate this to argue for "No change in labour practices without workers' control," and also "No productivity deal without the opening of the books."...And..we must draw attention to the objective of the package deal - the restoration or increasing of the rate of profit. This strategy brings the local struggle into an organic relationship with the national one...."

* Available from 19, Greenfield Street, Dunkirk, Nottingham, 4/6 post paid, We shall be summarising other articles in the journal in our next issue.

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Vol.2. No.12	October 8th	Portugal's growing stake in Angola.
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Vol.2. No.14	October 22nd	<u>La Gauche</u> says open the books.
Vol.2. No.15	October 29th	Mark Lane Slams Warren report.
Vol.2. No.16	November 5th	Nationalisation "almost a blessing in disguise" for shareholders.
		Articles on details of General Election results.
		Swedish and Danish election results.
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