

The Week

A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS
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SUPPORT THE R.S.A.

which way peace in Vietnam?

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Vol. 7 No. 22 June 23rd 1961

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THE WAY TO PEACE IN VIETNAM

This is Vietnam Week, all over the country groups of people have been hard at work involved in a variety of activities designed to draw attention to the terrible war in Vietnam. These activities are, in themselves, very commendable and deserve support. However, we have to introduce a rather sombre note: the movement in this country has been carrying out similar activities over a period of years and the effect of all this on Government policy has been negligible.

The Week believes that the supporters of the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign (and other groupings with a similar political line) are correct when they point out that support for the negotiations' line has confused the movement in this country and made it easy for Wilson and Johnson to use the phoney peace initiatives to cover their tracks. Supporters of the softer line always claim that it is more effective because it is broader - the reverse would seem to be the case. Thus not only is the solidarity line morally correct, it is at least as effective as that of the negotiations line and probably more so. The Week believes that the question of negotiations in Vietnam is one for the Vietnamese people and their leaders to decide. If they stipulate, as they do at the present stage, that withdrawal of American troops must precede negotiations, it is pure hypocrisy for Britishers, far away from the fighting to call upon those who are fighting to compromise because they are frightened of a third world war.

But there is another and even more complete argument for the solidarity line. Even if another compromise peace were negotiated, unless the Americans and their stooges were completely removed from the scene the fighting would break out again. The only sure and permanent peace in Vietnam is one which gives the Vietnamese self-determination and social advance. We have used these arguments many times before and we apologise for repeating them but apparently it is still necessary.

SUPPORT RADICAL STUDENT ALLIANCE, JULY 1

On Saturday afternoon, July 1, (2.30) the Radical Students Alliance take over Trafalgar Square for the first time. They are protesting against increases in fees for overseas students due to take effect this October. Speakers include David Adelstein, until recently president of L.S.E. Union, and Terry Lacey, chairman of the Union of Liberal Students, B.Persad, West Indian students' president and N.Lemunge, president of the Tanzanian Students Association. In their personal capacities, two people recently elected to the N.U.S. executive will be speaking; they are Linda Tinckham and Jack Straw, Leeds University Union president. The whole left should support R.S.A. in this campaign. It is a very fine thing that these students should make a stand on an issue which does not directly affect them. The development of the R.S.A. could mark the beginning of a new radicalisation of the students which would bring Britain into line with other advanced capitalist countries. It is very clear that this would introduce a very positive new feature into British politics.

Barbara Castle is one of those members on the N.E.C. of the Labour Party who still postures as a left-winger and yet, in practice, does some of Wilson's dirtiest work. Her attitude towards the rail strike as Minister of Transport is typical. Having succeeded in getting the National Union of Railwaymen to climb down on the liner train issue, she now apparently hopes to get them to do the same over the manning of the new terminals.

The issue in this strike is very clear: the railwaymen are fighting both to preserve their jobs and to stop a process of creeping denationalisation. The Railway Board want to have the right to make available to private enterprise all the facilities of the new freight depots built by the nationalized concern. They want to do this without regard at all for the effect it will have on the jobs of railwaymen. This is the thanks that the railwaymen get for their co-operation in rationalising the industry. Moreover, this is done without any consultation with men concerned: according to the Sunday Times of June 25.

Bowers was present at the meeting of the Eastern Region sectional council in the spring of 1965 when the management informally told the union side that they proposed to allow shipping agents to hire their own staff to load and unload wagons. Bowers told the management, equally informally, that his men were not interested. Since then the subject has never been formally discussed at local level. The talks moved to national level, where they dragged on fitfully, completely overshadowed by the argument about liner trains. The Railways Board believed that the two cases were complementary... The two cases are different, Bowers explains. "We were arguing about letting private enterprise into liner train terminals," he says, "but we've never argued about that at the new freight terminal. We were willing to have them in, but weren't willing to let them do railwaymen's work."

How does this tie in with Barbara Castle's statement in the House of Commons on Tuesday that she had no doubt that the board had done their utmost to meet the legitimate interests of the railwaymen? Barbara Castle said that the House should send a message stating its intention of having a stable and thriving railway system. Compare this with a story that the railwaymen told the Sunday Times (quoted in same issue). "The men of N U R Branch 128 - the Bethnal Green Branch of which Bowers is secretary - are engagingly anxious not to appear destructive. 'This German, very smartly dressed, came to our strike meeting last Tuesday', says Bowers. 'He told us that he had four cases of machinery at Lea Bridge which had to be exhibited at Olympia this week. It would be irrevocable, he told us, if it didn't get there. When we found his story was true we asked for volunteers to move his stuff, and we got them. Then the German went to ask management if it was all right. Their reply was 'yes' but they said we could only do this bloke a favour if we first checked on at the new terminal.' " (Thus breaking the strike - P.J.)

Certain questions arise out of this affair: (1) can anyone in their right mind continue to believe that by voting for Barbara Castle for the N.E.C. of the Labour Party they are helping the fight for left-wing policies? ; and (2) what happened in the House of Commons to the N U R sponsored M.P.s? Surely here was a time, above all, when they should have defended their union against a completely unfair and misleading attack?

It is a long time until the October Labour Party conference but this affair should be remembered when the voting takes place.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED AT SQUARE GRIP? From a Glasgow T. & G.W.U. member

Readers will remember previous articles outlining the strike at the Square Grip Reinforcement Company's factory at Newhouse in Lanarkshire. For over a year 33 strikers have been striking for recognition of their right to be represented by a trade union. For a large part of that time they have been unable to picket because of the interpretation of an interim injunction on picketing against six named individuals granted to the company by the courts in April 1966. The men gritted their teeth, and decided to stick it out till the final decision, to be in May this year.

However, after over a year on strike, the strikers were advised by the local area official of the TGWU to seek other jobs, at a time when a pamphlet outlining the strikers' case, on the lines of "No Bus Today" had been prepared for publication by the strikers in conjunction with some Glasgow socialists.

The men are finding it very difficult to get other jobs, and 18 are still unemployed. Not only is work hard to come by in Lanarkshire, but local employers will not employ men they regard as "troublemakers".

Why were the men advised to pack in the strike, two months before the court hearing on the interdict was due to be heard? If there was no reason for the strike, why weren't they advised to get other jobs a year ago, when work was more plentiful in the area? What ever the court judgement now (although the case has been heard, the judgement has been deferred until August) the company has in fact won - workers who strike for trade union recognition can be sacked with impunity - and the great Transport and General Workers Union has suffered an ignominious defeat at the hands of a small and reactionary company. All T&GWU members must search their consciences at this result. It is to be hoped that they will press for a full enquiry into the circumstances of the affair. Meanwhile the men still unemployed, entering into their 16th month on strike, deserve all our sympathy and support.

ANNOUNCEMENT

DEFEND TRADE UNION DEMOCRACY

The General Council which is the highest body of the A.S.W., meets on the 5th July 1967, at this meeting appeals will be heard of members affected by the witch-hunting and discriminatory actions of the Executive Council. Bro. Jack Rusca is appealing against his dismissal as London District Secretary by the Executive Council, without being given a reason for their decision.

Three Management Committee members, Bro John Smith, Bro Taffy Evans and Bro Charlie Thompson are appealing against a 3 year suspension from office for giving a hardship grant from Management Committee funds to A.S.W., members in dispute on the Myton's and Sunley sites. Bro Lou Lewis and Bro Rolph Langdon are appealing against expulsion from membership of the A.S.W. The Executive Council claimed that they were acting against the interests of the Union by continuing to picket the Myton's, Barbican Site.

WE CALL ON EVERY SITE, SHOP AND BRANCH TO GIVE THEIR FULLEST SUPPORT FOR A LOBBY OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL ON WEDNESDAY JULY 5TH (Assemble at 1-15 pm. Clapham Common Tube Station).

Send Resolutions and Telegrams to the Chairman of the General Council. Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers, 9-11 Macaulay Rd, London S.W.4.

CONTAINERS THREATEN DOCKERS JOBS. by David Robinson.

If containerisation were adopted for all deep-sea general cargo trade in this country, nine out of ten jobs in British docks would be unnecessary.

The British Transport Docks Board has just published a report based on a survey prepared by McKinsey and Co., the American management consultants. On a continental scale, 25 specialised container ships could handle the entire Europe-North America trade. As well as the drastic cuts in the number of dockers needed to handle the containers there would be a 70% cut in ship requirements and hence in crews. This in turn would increase the moves towards monopoly control of British shipping. It would make good business sense for the 20 or so existing operators on the Europe - North America run to be rationalised to two or three consortia. The first services from U.K. ports are scheduled to start operating in 1968 - 69, and development thereafter will depend on the availability of capital.

As well as a reduction in the number of dockers required to service these ships the report forecasts a reduction in the number of ports. It was calculated that about 25 fully equipped container berths would be all that was necessary to handle this country's deep-sea trade. Small ports would naturally find their competitive position increasingly difficult when containerisation becomes widespread and a large number could be expected to cease operations. At those ports remaining it was estimated that the productivity of each docker still employed would increase 24-fold. The report made no mention of any proposal to increase his wages by a similar amount. It was expected, however, that the probable reduction in transport costs would have a major impact on manufacturing companies whose products contain a significant transportation cost element.

The report admits the prospect of redundancy on a vast scale which is implied in the introduction of containers. It continues to say that this threat would not, in practice, be insuperable by pointing out that there has been a 20% reduction in the labour force in British docks in the last ten years. A further cut of 20% each five years until the required streamlining is reached is suggested. Presumably this would coincide with the rate at which containerisation could be brought into service.

The report, which cost £50,000 to produce, is claimed to be the first publicly available to set forth the widespread ramifications of a move to containerisation, both in ports and in the transport system generally. It is being closely studied by the Docks Board and copies have been sent to the Minister of Transport and the National Ports Council, as well as to ship-owners, port authorities, trade unions and other interested bodies. The Docks Board has already been making preparations for container operations and expects Southampton to become a major container port.

These plans dovetail very neatly into the concentration of British Rail's resources towards the establishment of an efficient liner-train system with minimum staffing. The dockworkers' and seamen's unions must demand full consultation on any plans for the docks before their implementation. Otherwise they face the prospect of a nationalised dock industry run on the same lines as the proposed liner-train terminals with the expensive capital equipment provided by the Government for the use of private employers.

INDUSTRIAL NOTES from John Leonard.

TGWU Industrial Charter calls for Workers' Control.

A further step has been taken in the campaign for workers' control in the publication of the 1966 report of the TGWU which is to be presented to their biennial conference in Blackpool next month. One of the seven proposals for major industrial change to be presented to employers and the Government emphasises the importance of democratic election of workers' representatives; it reads as follows.

The extension of industrial democracy based initially on new negotiating procedures but including the election of direct workers' representatives on many managerial bodies.

Lighthousemen Penalised for NOT Striking.

When the seamen went on strike Trinity House promised to pay the lighthouse keepers and lightship men similar increases to those obtained by the seamen, provided the lighthouse keepers did not join the strike.

Last January, after a joint overture from Trinity House, the TGWU and the NUS, the Government agreed that the men should get a 5% increase in July, backdated to January 2. The lighthouse men claimed they were entitled to the increase as from July, 1966 - the same date as the seamen's increase operated from. Ray Gunter, Minister of Labour, has acknowledged that "an assurance was given in May, 1966, that any improvement in the wages structure arising from current negotiations on seamen would be implemented by Trinity House." But because of the prices and incomes policy this could not be done. Jack Jones, TGWU assistant secretary, said last week: "This treatment is taking advantage of the loyalty of the men, many of whom are ex-seamen, who would not put their comrades at sea at hazard by striking." A sub-committee of union officials has been set up to pursue the matter.

Support the Blind Workers Demonstration: July 8.

The National League of the Blind is taking increasingly militant action against employers "for their unilateral decision" to break the practice of paying blind workshop workers on a scale of pay linked to sighted workers. It wants this "link" restored and retrospective payment paid.

All the branches of the blind throughout Britain are organising a demonstration for Saturday, July 8 at 2.30 in TRAFALGAR SQUARE.

Join the demonstration and send messages of solidarity to:

National League of Blind, 262, Langham Rd., LONDON, N.15.

Watch BBC-1, July 5th.

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Wednesday Play is a repeat of Jim Allen's brilliant play about a militant building worker: 'THE LUMP'

JOHN HUGHES SLAMS PENSIONS' INCREASE "MIRAGE" from Alan Rooney

In a letter to The Times, published on June 24, John Hughes effectively demolished the myth of Labour's generosity to the pensioners:

"In reporting the Government's proposals for increased state benefits (June 22) you state that Ministers were arguing that the increases "more than counteract the rise in the cost of living since pensions were last increased in March, 1965".

"Their argument is that the pension of a single person will rise 10s. whereas 'on the basis of the index of retail prices' only an extra 6s.11d. would be needed to counteract the price rise since the last pension increase. This is a false argument, and the Ministers who used it were either displaying surprising naivety on the subject of measurement of the cost of living, or were creating a misleading impression.

"The case has long been argued for the publication of a separate 'pensioner households' cost of living index, because of the entire unsuitability of the Retail Price Index for measuring the effect of price changes on such households. Their expenditure pattern is quite different from the 'weights' used in calculating the official index. (Thus in 1966 the official index used a 'weight' of 83/1,000 for expenditure on motoring; the Family Expenditure Survey for that year shows that an appropriate 'weight' for pensioner households' expenditure on motoring would be 3/1,000). It is beyond the bounds of possibility that the Ministry of Social Security does not know this, and does not calculate for itself a 'shadow' (but unpublished) pensioner index.

"Using the expenditure pattern for pensioner households revealed by the latest Family Expenditure Survey, my own calculation is that the cost of living of pensioner households rose more rapidly than the official Retail Price Index would suggest. This is not surprising; it has been notoriously true for more than a decade. Approximately, the cost of living rise from March, 1965, to April, 1967, is just under 10 per cent for pensioners - or a little less than 8s. on the £4 benefit of a single person, if I may adopt the Ministerial style of calculation.

"However, the benefit increase is not to operate till the end of October. On the average over the past three years the official Retail Price Index has risen by 2 per cent from April to November. If this occurs again, the purchasing power of the increased pension will from the outset be no more than restored to its March, 1965, level; by this time next year it would be surprising if it had not begun to fall below the March, 1965, level.

Thus Ministerial suggestions of generosity appear to be misplaced."

NOTE: In the same announcement on pensions, Mrs. Herbison, Minister of Social Security, made clear that the Labour Government will certainly be adding to the cost of living in the autumn when insurance stamps per worker increase by 2s. a week.

For a number of years the Mechanics Arms, a Davenport pub in Nottingham, has operated a colour bar. This has taken various forms, the present one being that Indians and Pakistanis can be served, but only in a small back room, while West Indians are not served at all. In February of this year two Jamaicans, who had been refused drinks there, wrote to the brewery, the local MP and to the Nottingham & District Trades Council. The brewery denied that there was a colour bar, and the matter was widely publicised in the local press with the help of the Trades Council. The case was referred to the Race Relations Board by the MP.

The conciliation process laid down in the Race Relations Act was set in motion by the Regional Conciliation Committee, and the licensee and his wife were interviewed. They admitted to the Conciliation Officer that they practised a colour bar and, eventually, on June 1st the licensee signed an agreement stating that he would not allow racial discrimination in the pub. On June 2nd the two Jamaicans who had first reported the case went to the pub with another Jamaican and an English woman. The licensee refused to serve them and they immediately left the pub. They reported this incident to the Conciliation Committee at a meeting on June 15th, and written statements were made by the two witnesses a few days later.

It is obvious that the Race Relations Act is too weak to deal with cases of racial discrimination if an agreement can be signed one day and broken the next.

On Sunday June 18th, at 9.30 pm, over a dozen people, West Indian and English, went to the pub. The West Indians attempted to buy drinks for the others, but were refused. One asked if the reason for this was that they would not serve black men, and the answer was 'Yes'. Eventually an Englishman was allowed by the licensee's wife to buy a drink for a Jamaican of Chinese extraction, but was told that 'the others' could not drink. One of the 'other' Jamaicans then argued that a coloured man should not drink unless he was able to buy the drink himself. At this point the licensee's wife called the 'other' Jamaican a 'dirty black bastard nigger'. The said gentleman then emptied the disputed pint of beer onto the floor. Immediately a barman jumped over the counter and demanded that the beer be cleaned up by the man who spilt it. He refused and, after a fierce argument, the barman was left to clear up the beer himself.

Because of this incident it was decided that a larger mixed group should demonstrate inside the pub on the following Saturday, June 24th. The intention was again that the Jamaicans should buy for the others. When they were refused, leaflets explaining the situation were given to everyone in the pub, including some Indians in the back room, who left the pub immediately after reading about the colour bar and its nature. A number of English people walked out at about the same time. The demonstrators, a group of about 20, decided to stay until the Jamaicans were served. After almost an hour, which is a long time to stand in a pub without a drink, the police were called by the licensee, but did not interfere or take any action. By now the English demonstrators were ordering drinks and being refused. The licensee told them all to leave and appealed to the two constables. Unsure what to do, the two policemen then sent for an Inspector who refused to take any action and took his men outside onto the street, where they remained. Eventually the thirsty demonstrators left and went to another pub where they could drink together and discuss the course of future action.

HOW THE COMMON MARKET OPERATES AGAINST PRIMARY PRODUCERS by an Economist

There is profound disillusion among the associated states of the E.E.C. with the results of the Younde convention signed on July 20, 1963. They thought that they were going to find a broader range of outlets for their products and the opportunity of stabilizing their prices, but according to a bulletin issued by the Centre d'Information du Niger they have found that "their hopes were ill-founded", and the terms of trade had moved unchecked against them. The O.C.A.M. states are particularly disappointed. They include most of France's former African colonies and embrace Cameroun, Republique Centr'Africaine, Congo Brazzaville, Congo Kinshasa, Ivory Coast, Dahomey, Gabon, Senegal, Chad, Togo, Mali (which has rejoined the franc zone), Mauritania and Somalia.

The bulletin states that the annual growth rate since 1958 of exports from Latin American countries to the Six is 8.1 per cent and from Asian countries 5.7 per cent, compared with 3 per cent for O.C.A.M. countries. "Bananas provide a typical example", notes the bulletin. Between 1964 and 1966 E.E.C. imports of bananas from Latin America shot up in value by 61.69 per cent, while sales of African bananas increased by only 10.97 per cent". It is pointed out that Article 1 of the Younde convention stipulates that its main objective is to stimulate trade between the Six and the associate members. Prices of tropical produce have fallen by between 55 and 22 per cent since 1958, as the result of the drop in world prices, in spite of the guarantees and privileges enjoyed on the French market.

The Africans attack the concept of a world market in these terms because the price of European wheat in the E.E.C. area is 50 per cent above world market prices:- "The Six are taking effective world market prices, at the same time wanting their partners, however weak they may be, to be bound to them... the ones who suffer from all this are the peasants of the O.C.A.M. metres. The aid of \$730m. paid the associate states in the past five years "is far from sufficient to make up for the losses brought about by the drop in selling prices". The bulletin demands a complete reassessment of E.E.C. relations with the associate countries.

A N N O U N C E M E N T

Public Meeting

Tuesday 4th July 1967 at 7 p.m. at the

Arab Students Union

4, CHESTERFIELD GARDENS, W.1.

Speakers: FARIS GLUBBS
DR. ALEX TUDOR HERT
DR. NORONHA - RODRIGUES
and an M.P.

P O R T U G U E S E D I C T A T O R I A L A N D
C O L O N I A L P O L I C Y

A Message from Bertrand Russell will be read at
the meeting

BERTRAND RUSSELL CALLS FOR BANNING OF NAPALM

The following statement by Lord Russell was issued to the press on June 27th.

There is now extensive evidence that Israel used large quantities of napalm in its recent blitzkrieg against its Arab neighbours. U Thant announced on June 9 that the United Nations' representatives on the spot had reported to him that Israeli aircraft were "continuously bombing, napalming and strafing" Syrian positions. The Washington Post has reported Syrian hills "covered with burned and blackened fields, silent testimony to the liberal use of napalm." The Beirut correspondent of the Economist has reported that in Jordan the informed estimate is "between 14,000 and 18,000 people killed, of whom maybe almost half were civilian. The main cause of death was napalm bombing. Eye-witness reports from Lebanese doctors speak of continuous napalm bombing of roads where civilians were fleeing from the West Bank. Ambulances and medical units were bombed. Three hospitals were totally destroyed. Refugees in and around Amman are estimated by UNWRA (the UN relief and works agency) and others at 100,000, of whom 60,000 were already refugees living in the camps near Jericho which were bombed....The estimates of Egyptian casualties are still very rough. It is feared that there may be as many as 20,000, some of them military..." The Times published a report from Cairo on June 19 of its correspondent's visit to victims of napalm in hospital.

Napalm causes third degree burns which destroy the whole thickness of the skin, and frequently destroy the underlying muscles and even the bones. If the wounds remain open for long, keloids (or hypertrophic scars) occur on the scars. There is also the danger of fibrosis and contraction of the scars which usually leads to pronounced disability and disfigurement, The keloid formations can become cancerous.

It is abundantly clear that napalm is an anti-personnel weapon which has no place in any civilised community. Whether it is used in Syria or Vietnam, the Andes or Iraq, it is intolerable in its fiendishness. Napalm must be banned in the same way as dum dum bullets and gas chambers.

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A LETTER FROM THE COMMITTEE FOR SOLIDARITY WITH THE VICTIMS OF REPRESSION
IN PERU

This Committee is holding two jumble sales, one in July and one in August. The first is on Saturday, the 8th July, at 2.30 p.m. at Greenwood House, 446 Uxbridge Road, London, W.12. (North Hammersmith Labour Party Rooms). I wonder if you would give us some publicity in The Week in the next two issues. We would be very grateful for some assistance from anyone who can come say an hour or so before the sale starts. Also of course for any jumble which we will gladly pick up at agreed times, if they will telephone me 743 - 5791. Anything will do - clothes, books, furniture, toys, etc.

The reason we are trying to raise money is because we have promised Human Rights in Peru to send some money to Hugo Blanco's family (two small children) and also for his defence, and as you may know, the next trial is due any day now. Our initial target is for £50.

IRANIAN STUDENTS IN BRITAIN PROTEST

from an Iranian student

The recent visit of the Shah to West Germany coincided with massive demonstrations and protest marches by the Iranian and German students against this visit. According to reliable sources and the International news agencies the West German police and security forces have confronted the students' demonstrations with brutal suppression and extreme severity. Before the arrival of the Shah so-called precautionary measures were taken: several Iranian students were compelled by the police to remain all day in their lodgings, many others were arrested. This unlawful confinement and suppression of the Iranian students did not however prevent other Iranian students and their German friends from massive demonstrations and protest marches demanding freedom and democracy for Iran.

The huge demonstration of protest against the Shah's visit culminated in the death of a German student who was shot dead on Friday June 2nd by the police in West Berlin. The anti-democratic measures undertaken by West German police to suppress the Iranian and German students is condemned by all freedom loving people - inside and outside of Germany.

Iranian students in Britain, as a sign of their solidarity and comradeship with the Iranian students in West Germany, strongly condemn the suppressive measures against their friends. We demand that those responsible for the death of the German student be put on trial and justly punished. We also demand the total abandonment by West German authorities of any threat of arrest or deportation of Iranian students in West Germany.

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NORTH VIETNAM CRITICISES MAO

from Dave Windsor

North Vietnam has issued a thinly-veiled rebuke to Communist China and Mao Tse-tung's turbulent Cultural Revolution. It appeared in the form of an editorial in the May issue of North Vietnam's leading theoretical journal "Hoc Tap". The editorial, a commentary on President Ho Chi Minh's 77th birthday, amounted to a lecture on the topic, "Leaders and the Masses." Without directly mentioning China, or Mr. Mao, the commentary made clear its target by branding the "deification of a leader" as an "erroneous tendency". "We respect and love our leader (Mr. Ho), but we do not deify him", "Hoc Tap" said pointedly.

The editorial said: "If a certain leader, at a certain time, regardless of the objective rules and the objective situation, acts in accordance with his subjective wishes, he will not be able to avoid all failing or falling into a situation in which every move will be in vain, like Don Quixote struggling against the windmill". Another comment with direct bearing on the chaos inside China, where the Red Guard was turned loose to tear down much of the existing Communist party structure, was: "A leader of the working class does not separate the working class from its vanguard, the Communist party. To insure correct leadership and prevent and restrict errors, the Marxist-Leninist parties set forth the principle of collective leadership... If a leader commits errors, yet refuses to correct them and insistently maintains them, he cannot keep his leadership role forever."

JERUSALEM UNDER ISRAEL: STARVATION AND LOOTING

The Times of JUNE 24 had a despatch, it said:

A Lebanese doctor, who has just returned from Jerusalem, said today that the people in the Holy City would begin to starve unless something was done for them immediately.

Dr. Usama Khalidi, an associate professor of biochemistry, told a press conference here that the situation was most desperate inside the walled city, but the entire Jordan side was affected. "The people have no work, there is no transport in and out of the city, there is no food in Jerusalem", he said. "Prices are up 50 per cent. People who had 10 dinars are down to two."

The doctor said looting was still going on when he and a colleague, Dr. Najib Abu Haydar, left Jerusalem for Amman two days ago. They were telling ordinary people whom they found begging in the streets that there was plenty of food in Amman and were providing five, six or seven buses a day to take these people to the River Jordan, from where they crossed into Jordan.

He estimated that between 3,000 and 3,500 people had been evicted from their homes in the old city. Some 200 families were given three hours to leave their homes in the Moroccan quarter near the Wailing Wall, after which bulldozers moved in and flattened everything. Those living in the Jewish quarter, which he emphasized was not owned by Jews, were given a little longer - 12 hours - to leave.

The doctors said they did not know of a single shop which Israel troops had not tried to loot, or a single car they had not tried to drive away. He thought about 70 per cent of shops had been looted, some more completely than others.

* * * * *

"SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT EXIST" WITHOUT U.S. SUPPORT

R. W. Apple Junior reported in the New York Times of June 21:

The United States will spend in South Vietnam this year the equivalent of more than \$1,500 for every man, woman and child in the country. The South Vietnamese Air Force could not fight without American bombs. The South Vietnamese Army could not be paid without American dollars. The South Vietnamese economy could not survive without American aid. The South Vietnamese government, in other words, would not exist without the support of the United States government.

* * * * *

PROFITS UP 10% FOR LEADING 500 U.S. FIRMS

Sales of the 500 biggest U.S. companies grew 12 per cent last year and their profits by 10 percent, "Fortune" magazine reported today. The number of workers employed by the 500 grew 9 percent to total 12,307,222. Eighty companies had sales of more than \$1 billion last year, as compared with 60 in 1965. The same companies occupied the top ten positions as in 1965 although their standing shifted a little with Texaco moving up to seventh place and U.S. Steel dropping to eighth.

In last week's Peace News Mrs. L. Zuntz reiterates the standard cliches of Zionist propaganda stating, among other things the following: "About 600,000 Jews in Arab lands were expelled. They arrived destitute in Israel. Have you ever heard the Jews complaining about them or refusing to settle them or treating them as something to bargain about?" Does Mrs. Zuntz read Hebrew? If so may I recommend that she read Israel's most popular weekly paper Haolem Hazeh (This World) of April 20, 1966, pp 12/13, and of June 1, 1966, pp 12/13. She will find there a fully documented report, with photographs, names, dates and eye witness reports, that has never been contested.

Shortly after the state of Israel was founded, Zionist agents were sent to various countries in order to convince the local Jewish communities that their proper place was in the Jewish state. They were active in Iraq early in 1950 and found the Jewish community, numbering some 130,000, well integrated into the fabric of the Iraqi social and economic structure, and rather reluctant to emigrate. The Iraqi Jews had prospered in Iraq for many centuries and while sympathising with the creation of Israel had never aspired to emigrate to Israel. Faced with this reality, the Zionist agents employed somewhat unusual methods. They threw bombs into synagogues and Jewish meeting places thus creating panic among the Iraqi Jews who were led to believe that this was an outburst of anti-Jewish feeling among the local population. In little more than a year, after other well-timed "outrages", most of the 130,000 emigrated to Israel. This all sounds unbelievable, like bad propaganda, but some of the bomb throwers were caught, tried, imprisoned, eventually released and heralded as heroes when they reached Israel. They never made their acts a secret; quite the contrary, they considered this as a necessary if extreme measure. In Israel this is known as "Cruel Zionism".

This news may shock Mrs. Zuntz and perhaps even some other readers, but unfortunately the facts, names, dates, pictures are incontestable. Some of the Iraqi Jews now in Israel who were wounded in these bomb incidents sued the Israeli government for damages. Thus, from Mrs. Zuntz's claim that 600,000 Jews were "expelled" from Arab lands one must deduct at least 130,000 Iraqi Jews.

MIDDLE EAST ARMS: U.S. MAIN SUPPLIER TO ARABS from a Leeds reader

Since the outbreak of the recent crisis in the Middle East, Western commentators have peddled a line that the Russians were responsible for the arms build-up by supplying huge quantities of arms to the Arabs. This is far from the truth as was demonstrated by a speech in the U.S. Senate on June 26th by Senator Frank Church, Democrat, of Idaho. He said: "It is time for us to end the 'arsenal diplomacy' which for years has vitiated and distorted our foreign policy".

"Today, the federal government is the principle arms dispenser of the world, giving away, advancing credit, and promoting the sale of a volume of arms over six times that of our nearest rival, the Soviet Union," he continued. Sen. Church said the United States, since the end of World War II, has doled out \$322 million in military aid to the Arab nations which attacked Israel while Israel got only \$28 million worth of U.S. arms.

DEMONSTRATE

Your solidarity with the anti-imperialist fighters of VIETNAM

As you will know, the British Council for Peace in Vietnam is holding the "Vietnam Week" starting on Saturday June 24th, and culminating on Sunday July 2nd. The national council of the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign has taken the decision to mobilise full support for this final demonstration on JULY 2ND, and we are calling all our supporters and members to join with us under the banner of solidarity! The fighting in the Middle East has come to a halt, but the aggression in Vietnam continues to escalate, and it is up to us, the Vanguard of the anti-war movement, to escalate our activities in defense of the Vietnamese Revolution!

If you wish to help in making banners for July 2nd, ring 588 1924.
WE SHALL ASSEMBLE AT CHARING CROSS STATION (opposite Trafalgar Sq) AT
2P.M. ON SUNDAY JULY 2ND.

V.S.C. NEW ADDRESS

49 RIVINGTON ST LONDON E.C.2.

There will be pickets outside the U.S. embassy from monday June 26 th until friday June 30th, every day at the following times:

8.45am-10.00am, 12.00-2pm, 4.45pm-7pm.

(helpers are wanted for selling and distributing literature at B.C.P.V. conference at L.S.E. on saturday July 1st. Please contact us at 588 1924.)

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If you wish to help in making banners for July 2nd, ring 288 1934.
 WE SHALL ASSEMBLE AT CHANNING CROSS STATION (opposite Trafalgar Sq) AT 2P.M. ON SUNDAY JULY 2ND.

V.S.C. NEW ADDRESS ***** 43 RIVINGTON ST LONDON E.C.2.

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(Persons are wanted for rallies and distributing literature at E.C.2.V. conference at 1.30 on Saturday July 1st. Contact us at 288 1934.)