

THE

Week

A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS

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Editors: Ken Coates and Robin Blackburn.

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EDITORS' LETTER

During the months of July and August we will be going over to a 10-day schedule. We thought this better than missing issues because it would maintain the continuity. Correspondents should note the dates of publication and that we require copy 3 days prior. The dates in July will be: 10th, 20th and 30th; and those for August: 10th, 20th and 31st (the 30th being a Sunday.)

We are little worried because we haven't had the number of notifications of vacation addresses from students that we expected. Could we take this opportunity to remind all our student subscribers to tell us if the journal should go to a different address during the summer vacation?

Another reminder: please don't leave it too long before you renew your subscription. During the difficult months of July and August we are relying on renewals to carry us through because new subscriptions will be a bit thin.

It is always very good to receive thanks, but it doubly good when one receives a thankyou from people engaged in real life and death struggle with reaction. That is why we were happy to see a note in the latest issue of Revolutionary Venezuela thanking us for assistance we have given. We wish we could do more and echo the hope expressed by the journal that collaboration will increase in the future.

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THAT 'DEMONSTRATION' OUTSIDE TRANSPORT HOUSE by Chris Arthur

In the demonstration by Young Socialists outside Transport House on June 24th, The Times reports, Mrs. Braddock was lifted off her feet, Miss Alice Bacon hit, Mr. Greenwood pushed into a line of scooters, falling to the ground, and many members of the NEC arrived "white and shaken". No doubt it made young demonstrators feel good to rough up NEC members, but this is serious because what is at stake is the whole future of Socialist youth. The Young Socialists could not have done anything more likely to get the whole movement closed down. No one on the left has any sympathy for (ex-Communist) Mrs. Braddock but to mete out such treatment to Greenwood, one of the few friends the youth movement has on the NEC is disgusting.

Such behaviour should be reserved for the class enemy. By engaging in it a certain group have reached a new low in what can only be described as the pre-war Stalinist 'social-fascist' tactic. That is, they consider anyone in the Labour movement not in their own camp, as bad as the Tories. The right-wing has always held that followers of Keep Left were out to smash the Young Socialists and the Labour Party so that they could pick up some of the pieces. The left has always rejected this as a smear, but need certain Young Socialists continue to act so as to confirm the right wing's claims?

Of course the Young Socialists have suffered from the attacks of Transport House which expelled two of its leaders on the day of the demonstration. Again there was no need to close down the Streatham branch for publishing their leaflet (admittedly stupid and opportunistic) about mods and rockers. Nevertheless, if one demonstrates it is not for the good of one's soul but to get something done. This latest episode will merely isolate the Y.S. further from the Labour movement and therefore cut it off from the only allies it can have. In other words by such ultra-left tactics the people concerned play right into the hands of Transport House.

A great reservoir of revolutionary energy is at present frittered away in useless battles in the Young Socialists. Only a very small proportion of Young Socialists take part in the Labour Party, and when they do they are mostly like fish out of water. If this reservoir of left wing enthusiasm could be brought into the Labour Party an organic link with the Labour left it could change drastically the whole situation in the constituencies. Your Transport House official knows this very well and he is pleased to keep such a lot of lefts tied up in the Young Socialists where they can run riot without harming anyone but themselves. The Keep Left simpletons fall for this strategy by responding to the needling of the bureaucracy by further isolating themselves.

However, now it has come to a public scandal for the Labour Party and Mr. Williams is hinting that the situation will have to be reviewed after election.

We must not let Transport House and Keep Left pull the youth movement to pieces. The adult left must insist that the NEC stop expelling Young Socialists, and appeal to the ultra-lefts to give up their sterile sectarianism and work together with the left as a whole.

Trade union platform



A DEMAND FOR MEAL TIME PAYMENT

from Platform (July, 1964)

The following letter was published from Conductor Dougal of Sidcup:

Some three months ago, one of our women conductors came off a bus at the proper relief point for her meal-break, and, during the three-minute walk to the garage canteen, she tripped over a rough pavement, injuring her leg and hand. First-aid in the garage was followed by a trip to the local hospital where she was promptly certified unfit for work. The certificate was duly handed, with a claim under the Industrial Injuries Act, to the London Transport Board, who passed it down the official pipe-line resulting in the applicant receiving a letter rejecting the claim and explaining that the accident did not occur whilst she was at work and being paid. She was informed that she could appeal to the local tribunal if she was not satisfied.

In due course the appeals court was held consisting of six, including the National Health Officer, who appeared for the Crown against the appeal. The result of all this was that the Tribunal unhesitatingly and unanimously agreed that the claim should be met on the following grounds:

1. That at all times during her duty she has the responsibility of the safety of the Gibson machine, box, money and lost property, as there are no lockers provided for conductors.

2. She has to write down ticket numbers during her mealbreak.

3. Reading notices in the garage has to be done in staff's time.

4. Washing and toilets are provided only in the garage.

They also expressed surprise that the trade union allows conductors to do this work and carry this responsibility in their meal times.

This report, when submitted to Sidcup 1/339 branch resulted in complete approval for a claim to be lodged through our union for payment for all meal times, irrespective of length, for Conductors only. Even the drivers present agreed that the conductors have a strong officially backed ^{case}, which, if successful would go some way towards lessening the pay differential between back and front.....

COMMENT: an interesting point is raised here, we wonder if any other section of workers face a similar situation?

ROW OVER COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION

from Tom Nicholls

A major rumpus has been caused in Bristol by the disclosure by a Citizen (Tory) member of the council of what is alleged to be part of the Labour Group's plans for extending comprehensive education. This is that the local authority should not take any free places in the city's seven direct grant grammar schools after this year. The result would be that these fee paying schools would feel the pinch, and some of them might even be forced to close after a time.

Bristol has a good record on comprehensive education and when Labour regained control two years ago the Education Committee was given the job of drawing up plans for the extension of comprehensive education to cover practically the whole of secondary education in Bristol. These plans were due to be made public in September, but following the present disclosures the remaining stages of discussion are bound to take place in the full glare of publicity, and the Labour Group will be subjected to strong pressure from a number of directions. The local Evening Post, following its self-styled policy of impartiality, has already come out strongly on the side of the Tories. One can only hope that the forces of the Left will rally to meet this challenge. One big mistake of Labour Councillors in all this seems to be that they regarded their Citizen opponents as gentlemen to be trusted.

IT CAN NEVER HAPPEN - OR CAN IT?

from Campaign '64*

A few months ago a rash of denials broke out on conscription. Suddenly all the politicians were saying that we should not have it. It was never quite clear who was saying we should.

The Youth Campaign and C.N.D. issued statements and these were discussed by supporters and finally endorsed, expressing our opposition.

More recently, with the air of those who study these things, Campaigners have been assuring me that the issue is dead and that there will be no conscription, and that no one will raise it 'at least until after the election'.

Well, read this:

'If we propose to play the role in the world which I personally would like to see, I do not think it could be done without National Service.

'We in this House should accept the responsibility, and the courage to say so. This is more important than the question of votes in an election. More important than winning an election at any time, is governing the nation.'

No, not Monty having one of his periodic outbursts in the Upper Chamber but Desmond Donnelly (Labour, Penbroke) in the House of Commons on 17th June. I understand that our Youth Campaign in Huyton have one or two interesting questions that they want to ask their M.P. about this statement, which appears to have sneaked through without arousing much comment.

*C.N.D., N.W. Region, service for Group Secretaries.

YOUNG GUARD ISSUES STATEMENT ON NATIONAL COMMITTEE

The Young Guard E.B. has sent the following statement for publication:

RECONVENE THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE!

FIGHT ON THE POLITICAL ISSUES!!

On June 6 the National Committee of the Young Socialists was adjourned by Reg. Underhill before it was due to close: Streatham Y.S. had been suspended by Streatham CLP for issuing a leaflet calling on mods and rockers to unite against police violence, conscription, etc., In the National Committee Sheila Torrance moved an emergency resolution calling for the reconstitution of Streatham Y.S. This was carried 9-3. She then demanded that a member of the Committee should report to some 40 people lobbying outside. Anthony Wedgwood Benn asked the Chairman to rule whether this was constitutional. Chairman Ashby ruled that it was unconstitutional and a vote was forced, resulting in a 6-6 tie. Ashby then voted against his own ruling in favour of going outside. Reg Underhill ruled the decision unconstitutional and closed the meeting.

This is the issue in all its triviality; the Young Socialists silenced nationally because of 180 minutes - the time it would have taken before the decision became known. We deplore the suspension of Streatham Y.S. and all other branches closed in the last four years - East Islington, Eltham, Glasgow Federation, etc. The futile actions of these comrades in the National Committee only helped the right wing and alienated those in broad agreement with them.

We believe the real fight facing the Young Socialists is on the following issues:

- 1) Overthrow of the Tory Government and return of a Labour Government;
- 2) Opposition to the betrayal of socialist principles and the shabby manoeuvrings of the Labour leadership in supporting imperialism in Malaysia, Aden and Cyprus.

We demand a Labour Party conference to determine policy on these issues.

We condemn those sections of the Y.S. and Labour Party who fight on procedure and organisation instead of policy.

Bans and proscriptions are inimical to the growth of a democratic socialist party and are singularly reserved for use against the left.

MANCHESTER APPRENTICES GAINING SUPPORT FOR CHARTER DEMANDS by Alan Rooney

Over 50 apprentices took part in a meeting to discuss the demands of the AEU Youth Conference (see Week No. 25) held in Manchester on June 18th. The meeting took the form of a very well informed discussion on extending the campaign. The movement is very militant and is certainly better organised than the 1959 apprentices' action. There is to be another meeting at the Crown and Anchor, Stevenson Square, Manchester on July 9th.

TWO BUSLOADS OF YCND SUPPORTERS GO TO GLASGOW FROM NORTH WEST

The high degree of organisation and enthusiasm in the North West among YCND circles is shown by the report sent to us by a correspondent that one coachload of supporters went from Liverpool to Faslane and another from Manchester. Who said "CND is dead"?

BRITAIN'S 100 MOST VALUABLE FIRMS

based upon Stock Exchange report

We give below the London Stock Exchange list of the 100 largest U.K. firms based on size of market value of quoted equity capital at March 31, 1964 as per Financial Times report. The figure in the bracket is last year's rating:

1 (1)	Shell.....	£m.1,063	51 (59)	Scot. & Newcastle£m.83
2 (2)	I.C.I.....	896	52 (63)	Thorn Elec. Ind.....	83
3 (3)	Brit. Petroleum Co.....	849	53 (74)	English Elec. Co.....	82
4 (4)	Woolworth & Co.....	539	54 (34)	Eagle Star Insurance Co..	81
5 (5)	Marks & Spencer.....	460	55 (31)	Assoc. British Foods.....	80
6 (6)	Distillers Co.....	378	56 (62)	Charrington United Brew..	79
7 (11)	Burmah Oil Co.....	322	57 (38)	Westminster Bank.....	79
8 (8)	Great Universal Stores.	313	58 (56)	British Shoe Corp.....	78
9 (10)	Courtaulds.....	309	59 (--)	Delta Metal.....	77
10 (9)	Unilever.....	303	60 (47)	Debenhams.....	73
11 (7)	Brit. Amer. Tobacco Co.	288	61 (69)	Whitbread & Co.....	73
12 (12)	Royal Insurance Co.....	200	62 (58)	Brit. Elec. Traction Co..	73
13 (13)	Imperial Tobacco Co.....	174	63 (40)	Gallaher.....	72
14 (16)	Guest Keen & Nettlefolds	171	64 (89)	Dickinson (John) & Co....	71
15 (15)	Prudential Assurance Co.	157	65 (66)	Hudson Bay Co.....	69
16 (14)	Barclays Bank.....	156	66 (72)	Butlin's.....	69
17 (39)	Plessey Co.....	151	67 (68)	United Steel Companies...	69
18 (27)	Assocd. Portland Cement	146	68 (43)	Northern Employers Assur.	68
19 (18)	Midland Bank.....	146	69 (82)	Stewart & Lloyds.....	67
20 (24)	Brit. Motor Corp.....	137	70 (80)	Elliott Automation,.....	61
21 (30)	Turner & Newall.....	135	71 (75)	Hawker Siddeley Group....	61
22 (25)	J & P Coates, etc.....	133	72 (49)	Sun Alliance Insurance...	60
23 (29)	Allied Breweries.....	133	73 (71)	Alliance Trust Co.....	60
24 (26)	United Drapery Stores..	132	74 (70)	Spillers.....	60
25 (17)	General Accident etc...	127	75 (60)	House of Fraser.....	59
26 (19)	Legal & General Assur..	120	76 (--)	Albright & Wilson.....	58
27 (35)	International publish..	120	77 (65)	Vickers.....	57
28 (22)	Lloyds Bank.....	119	78 (64)	City of London Real Prop.	56
29 (45)	Brit. Ins. Call. Cables	118	79 (77)	Tate & Lyle.....	56
30 (36)	Tube Investments.....	115	80 (54)	Guardian Assurance Co....	56
31 (23)	Boots Pure Drug Co.....	110	81 (87)	Cable & Wireless (Holding)	56
32 (28)	Rank Hovis McDougall...	109	82 (--)	Wiggins Teape & Co.....	54
33 (21)	Commercial Union Insur.	109	83 (57)	Glaxo Group.....	54
34 (20)	National Prov. Bank....	104	84 (96)	Brit. South Africa Co....	53
35 (42)	Dunlop Rubber Co.....	100	85 (67)	Royal Exchange Assur.....	53
36 (50)	Leyland Motors.....	97	86 (94)	Courage Barclay & Simonds.	52
37 (55)	Reed Paper Group.....	97	87 (--)	Consolidated Gold Fields.	52
38 (32)	Metal Box Company.....	95	88 (--)	P. & O. S.N. Co.....	52
39 (61)	Rio Tinto-Zinc Corp....	93	89 (90)	Industrial & General Trust	51
40 (44)	A. Guinness Son & Co....	92	90 (76)	Unigate.....	51
41 (33)	Reckitt & Colman etc...	92	91 (99)	English China Clays.....	50
42 (52)	Bowater Paper Corp.....	91	92 (--)	John Summers & Sons.....	49
43 (48)	Beecham Group.....	89	93 (81)	Grattan Warehouses.....	49
44 (51)	Bass Mitchells & Butlers	89	94 (79)	Pearl Assurance Co.....	49
45 (37)	Sears Holdings.....	89	95 (86)	Elec. & Musical Ind.....	49
46 (--)	Rank Organisation.....	88	96 (97)	Mercantile Invest. Trust.	49
47 (46)	Brit. Oxygen Co.....	88	97 (83)	Joseph Lucas Industries..	48
48 (41)	Assoc. Elec. Indust	84	98 (85)	Brit. Cocoa & Chocolate..	48
49 (53)	Watney Mann.....	84	99 (--)	E.S. & A. Robinson.....	48
50 (78)	General Elec. Co.....	84	100 (--)	Land Securites Inv. Trust	47

Ed. Note: next week we shall comment on these figures.

70% OF POPULATION OPPOSE FOREIGN NUCLEAR BASES IN BRITAIN

During the last few months CND Groups in the North West have been polling public opinion about aspects of CND policy. The main conclusions drawn are that 34% of the population are in favour of unilateral nuclear disarmament by Britain; and that 70% are opposed to foreign nuclear bases in this country.

The poll was carefully conducted using accepted polling techniques, the aim being to obtain accurate information for our own use. The report has been shown to Professor W.J.M. Mackenzie, Professor of Government at Manchester University, whose comments were: (1) The sampling technique was as good as possible in the circumstances. (2) The phrasing of the questions should have been pre-tested more carefully to ensure that they were not accidentally loaded.

It is evident that the issues raised by the poll are of considerable public concern, but they are issues which are not being discussed by the major political parties, and which may not be raised by them at the General Election.

Ed. Note: the above was sent in by a CND correspondent, the full results of the poll are in the July issue of Sanity, the CND paper.

PROTEST OVER VIC ALLEN ARREST from Tom Nicholls

The last meeting of Bristol Left Club (23/6/64) passed a resolution expressing concern at the arrest of Dr. V. L. Allen in Nigeria and calling for his speedy release. The meeting also passed a resolution which was forwarded to the Lord Mayor calling for a municipal boycott of all South African goods.

ED. NOTE: We would be pleased to hear of all action taken on the Vic Allen case.

BRISTOL MOVE SOUTH AFRICAN GOODS BOYCOTT from a Bristol correspondent

It is expected that the July meeting of the Bristol Trades Council will discuss the question of a general boycott of South African goods. A resolution on this matter has been passed by the Bristol DATA branch for consideration by the Trades Council.

ED. NOTE: Next issue of the Week will include a full-length article dealing the international repercussions of the boycott campaign, complete with facts and figures and a summary of the position taken by various countries. Reprints of page 7 are available at the cost of 5/- per 100 post paid.

C.L.R. JAMES TO SPEAK AT NALSO SCHOOL

C.L.R. James, the famous Trinidadian writer and socialist, has accepted an invitation to speak at the NALSO camp to be held ^{at} Seven Oaks. As well as being well-known for his writings on cricket, he has written such books as "World Revolution - the Rise and Fall of the Comintern", "Black Jacobins" soon to be published as a paperback, and the first call for West Indian self-government: "The Life of Captain Kipriani". Full details of the NALSO camp (which is open to all) from Bill Vester, 13, Keynsham Gdns, London SE 9.

DON'T BUY SOUTH AFRICAN -- watch the label

Canned and bottled fruit and vegetables (including dried, bottled and preserved fruit)

ARMOUR	EPICURE	<u>KOO</u>	SAFARI
ASHTON		KLOOF	SILVER LEAF
ASSEGAI	FARM PRIDE		SOLEX
AVALON	FAIREST CAPE	LE	SOUTHERN CHOICE
	FIRGROVE	LKB	SOUTHERN PRIDE
BB(Brink Bros.)	FOUR MAIDS	LEBEL	<u>ST.MICHAEL</u>
BENEDICT	3 FEATHERS	<u>LIBBY</u>	SIR MONTAGU
BEAUTIFUL ISLE	<u>FROPAX</u>	LOCKWOODS	SUNNY SOUTH
BEULAHS			SOUTHCLIFFE
BLOSSOM VALLEY	G(Gants Food)	MAGNET	SURF MAID
CAPE HILL	GOLDEN CAPE	MOIRS	SUMMIT
CAPEHILL	GOLDEN GLORY	MOUNTAIN VIEW	SUMMERGLOW
CAPE PRIDE	GOLDEN GLEAM	<u>MACONOCHE</u>	SOUTHERN HILLS
CASCADE	GOLDEN HAWK		SPRINGBOK
CERAMIN	GOLD REEF	NORJAX	
CERES	GOLDEN ROUND HOUSE	NORTHCLIFFE	TARTAN
CIVIS	GOLDEN CUCKOO	NYALA	TANTALUS
CUBITTS			TROPICGOLD
	HAMLET	PATOMA	
D.C.	HARDINGS DELIGHT	PAARL CHOICE	VALORANGE
DIVEC	<u>HEINZ</u>	PEARL REEF	VALOR
DIAMOND	HELEN MACGREGOR	PX(Par Excellence)	*****
DOMINGO	HEX RIVER	<u>PRINCES</u>	*also: many goods sold by *
DONALD COOKE PINEAPPLE	HOLCO		*Fine Fare food stores. *
DOWNLANDER	HUGO	RFF	*****
DWARS RIVER		RARE DEW	WESTERN PRIDE
	IMCO	RED ROBIN	WINRAY
	IXL	ROCKHILL	WOLSELY PRIDE
	JAX	ROSE BRAND	ZFP
		ZENITH	ZULU GOLD
			ZIP PRODUCTS

Fresh Fruit

CAPE FRUIT	OUTSPAN
GOLDEN JUBILEE	IMPI

Pipe Tobaccos

- BARNEY'S
- ERINMORE MIXTURE
- MICK MACQUAID SQUARE CUT
- MURRAY'S MELLOW MIXTURE
- PARSON'S PLEASURE
- PUNCHBOWLE

CANNED FISH (including crayfish and pilchards)

ATLANTIS	<u>JOLLY ROGER</u>
<u>CARNATION</u>	SIREN
CALMEX	STORMY PETREL
CAPE PRIDE	TWINFISH
CORSAIR	WINGED WHEEL
GLENRYCK	WINRAY

Cigarettes

AFTON MAJOR	PETER STUYVESANT KING SIZE
CARROLLS NO.1	PICCADILLY FILTER DE LUXE
CONSULATE MENTHOL FILTER	PICCADILLY NO.1
CRAVEN 'A' CORK	ROTHMANS KING SIZE
GUARDS NO.1	SWEET AFTON
PALL MALL FILTER	

CANNED MEATS

APEX	<u>MACONOCHE</u>
ARMOUR STAR	ORYNX
BEE	PRIMA
BAYNESFIELD	PRELS
CYMRO	RANCH
CHAMP	STORMY PETREL
DOUBLE CROWN	UNION
ESKORT	WINRAY
GLENRYCK	
HONEYCURE	
HENNY'S	
JONGEBURG	

HIRE PURCHASE DEBT OVER £1,000,000,000 from Stan Mills

The Railway Review of 19/6/64 carried the following item:

Car business was mainly responsible for a further jump of £18 million in the hire purchase debt in April to a total of £1,003 million at the end of the month. This was £122 million (14%) more than a year ago. After allowing for seasonal influences, new hire purchase and other instalment credit business of both household goods shops and finance houses remained at much the same level in April as in earlier months this year. Compared with a year ago new credit extended in April was about one-third higher. In March the rise was about one-quarter but differing dates for Easter may have affected the figures.

Credit for new cars was around 30% higher in April than a year earlier. Credit for commercial vehicles showed a similar rise, while for used cars the rise was about 40%. Direct debt owed to finance houses increased by a further £20 million in April to a total of £668 million at the end of the month. Compared with a year ago, sales by household goods shops as a whole were up by about one-tenth in April against rather larger rises in January and February, when the comparisons were with periods affected by the severe weather in the early part of 1963, and an increase of only about 5% in March.

The increase in sales in April, compared with a year earlier was rather higher for hardware, radio and electrical, etc, group of shops, at just over 10% than for furniture and furnishing group, where the rise was about 7%. Hire purchase and other instalment credit sales in the household goods departments of stores were about 5% higher in April than a year earlier. Debt outstanding to household goods shops as a whole decreased slightly in April to a total of £335 million at the end of the month.

PEOPLE'S SOCIALIST PARTY OF ADEN ACTIVE IN LONDON

In addition to issuing a weekly bulletin, the London Office of the People's Socialist Party of Aden is, among other things, sending speakers to meetings, etc. On 15th June, Mr. M.S. Basendwah, member of the Presidential Council of the party, spoke to the West London Young Socialist; the following day, the leader of the party Abdulla Al-Asnag spoke at a meeting in the House of Commons, organised by the MCF; another leader of the party, Mr. A.A. Turkey, spoke at the MCF London Area Council on June 23rd, to the Surbiton Young Socialists on June 25th, and to the Orpington CND on the following day. Anyone who would like to make enquiries about speakers should write to: P.S.P. (London Office), 68, Alie St., London E.1.

14 ARRESTED AT END OF ANTI-POLARIS DEMONSTRATION by Rod Kreizman

Last week end up to 500 young people took part in the Glasgow-Faslane march. London Region CND, N.W. Region CND, Midland Region CND, Committee of 100, Scottish Peace Committee, and Young Socialists were amongst the main participants. The march ended at approx. 4.30 on the Sunday afternoon and police arrested 14 demonstrators after an attempt had been made to climb the wire to enter the premises.

A REMINDER: The index to the first volume of The Week will be a valuable aid in using the the journal as a reference. Send your 2/6 now to 54, Park Rd., Lenton, Nottingham



THIRD WORLD WEEK

NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR AMNESTY IN VENEZUELA from Revolutionary Venezuela

On July the 3rd, 1964, the National Conference for Amnesty will open in Caracas, under the chairmanship of Senator Miguel Acosta Saignes who heads the National Committee for the Release of Political Prisoners. Senator Acosta Saignes is also Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, Central University. The Conference has received support from many political and intellectual sectors, including ex-President Larrazabal and Senator Pietri. International solidarity is needed for the Conference to achieve its aim: the release of more than a thousand political prisoners.

We call upon all British democratic institutions and personalities to express their support for the Conference. Messages from trade unions, students' organisations and political organisations as well as from individuals will result in a great deal of strength for the Conference, which in this way will carry out its duties in a more effective way.

Messages can be sent to:

Dr. Miguel Acosta Saignes,
Comite Nacional de Amnistia,
Asociacion de Escritores, Casa del Escritor,
Miseria a Velasquez,
Caracas - Venezuela.

Ed. note: unfortunately this item was received only in time to go in this issue. Therefore the only messages that could be sent would be telegrams.

DEVELOPMENTS IN BRITAIN'S ARAB WARS

by Pat Jordan

Whilst the struggle in Southern Yemen (Aden and the 'Protectorates') has received most publicity in recent months, the other field of operations - Oman - should not be forgotten. The scale of operations there is indicated by a statement issued in Cairo by the Omani Liberation Movement. This states that "the British colonial authorities in Oman burned down more than 10,000 houses in different parts of Oman in May in a terror campaign to subdue the independence movement..." The statement concludes with an appeal to all progressives to oppose this terror campaign. The latest issue of the P.S.P. Bulletin reports trouble in the Lower Aulaqi State, where the sheiks of the Al-Shammah tribes are on hunger strike, in protest against various repressive measures; mass arrests in the Lahej State; widespread unrest in Hadhramout, etc. It is clear that the struggle is going to be protracted one of very wide scope. The Wilson concept of 'police action' is way off the mark. Middle East News (Sana) reported on June 22nd that fighting continued in the Radfan region; British camps had been attacked in the Fim Valley - 3 officers and 12 soldiers being killed. The Labour movement should act fast to end this senseless slaughter.

WHY TOGLIATTI PUBLISHED GRAMSCI'S LETTER

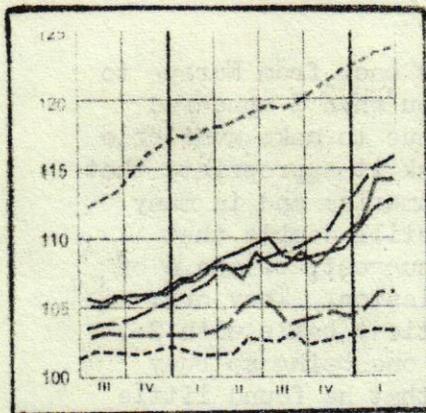
from Dave Windsor

K.S. Karol's article in a recent issue of the New Statesman concerning Gramsci's attitude towards the crisis in the Bolshevik party after the death of Lenin has created wide interest. I think readers of the Week will be interested to note what Livio Maitan wrote in World Outlook (a labour press service published in Paris). Maitan is a well-known Italian Trotskyist and the author of several books on Trotsky. He writes:

"...the Italian Communist weekly Rinascita published the complete text of a letter which Antonio Gramsci, one of the founders of the party and without doubt one of the leaders of greatest stature in the history of the Italian workers' movement, sent to the leaders of the Soviet Communist party in the name of the Political Bureau of the Italian party in 1926....while not sharing the political orientation of the Opposition, Gramsci in no way associated himself with the campaign of denigration then under way and even recalled the revolutionary merits of leaders like Trotsky, Zinoviev and Kamenev. He took a stand against any measures that might lead to a split...Rinascita, after recalling that upon receiving this letter the International centre decided to send its representative J.H. Droz to Italy, also published Togliatti's reply to Gramsci, a reply that showed Togliatti was already on the side of the Russian majority...Gramsci replied with another letter that rejected the arguments of Togliatti. But, according to Togliatti, this second letter has been lost.

"K.S. Karol, commenting on the publication of Gramsci's letter, states that its text was not previously known and that "some of Gramsci's companionsbecoming Trotskyists....solemnly testified that this missive...had most certainly been sent to Togliatti...But none of them having a copy of the document, they could not furnish irrefutable proof of its existence or reveal its contents." Referring to the silence with which Togliatti had met the questions on this subject pressed by Trotsky's biographer, Isaac Deutscher,... Karol adds: "Everyone came to the conclusion that he would take the explosive secret of this correspondence with him to the other world."...Karol does not seem to know that the text of the letter was..brought to light by Tasca, a former leader of the C.P. and a member of the Comintern, who broke to the right even before 1930. After a later political evolution that was altogether lamentable, Tasca, published the letter in France by 1938. After the end of the war he circulated copies of it in restricted circles in Italy around 1950. In January 1956, the complete text was published by the Italian Trotskyist paper Bandiera Rossa and was then reprinted by other opposition publications...

"In fact, an Italian publisher has just brought out a thick book of Gramsci's writings, including the letter. It was precisely on the occasion of the publication of this book that Rinascita published Gramsci's letter a few days in advance...The truth is first of all that Togliatti could not take the secret with him to the other world. The letter was already published and available to anyone interested. Secondly, he could not even hope that its circulation would remain limited..because it was included in a book that would have wide circulation. It was not Gramsci's letter but Togliatti's reply that had not yet been published. The question posed then is rather: why did Togliatti publish his own letter, which shows him to have supported the hard Stalinist core..it must not be forgotten first of all that if Togliatti was not entirely on the line this was because he was Bukharinist (at that time Bukharin was with Stalin). In the second place, Togliatti is desirous today of playing the role..of someone who is concerned about historic truth...As for the consequences of publishing...it will increase the number of those who believe that the official Soviet attitude toward not only Trotsky but also Zinoviev and Kamenev is becoming more and more untenable....."



ECONOMIC OUTLOOK — THE WEEK

GENEVA: A NEW BEGINNING IN WORLD AFFAIRS?

by Robert Q. Gray

The "Geneva Charter", which emerged from the U.N. Conference on World Trade and Development, may prove to be a turning-point in world affairs: the hopes of the masses of the Third World, and of fighters against war and poverty everywhere may turn upon the effective implementation of this so-called "Magna Carta" of the poor nations. Colin Legum (writing in the Scotsman, 20th June) suggests that the outcome has a three-fold significance: 1) Both blocs at last responded to the rise of the new nations by avoiding dogmatic, Cold War approaches; the realisation seems to be percolating through - even to Sir Alec! - that the decisive and dangerous confrontation now lies in the poverty-stricken, ex-colonial areas. 2) A new U.N. organ was set up "to create jointly new trade and new wealth, so as to share a common prosperity"; thus, the tendency for the U.N. to become a platform for the under-privileged in their fight for social justice grows. 3) The Afro-Asians achieved a link-up with Latin-America, to form "the 75" - "a trade union of the poor nations"; it is, of course, upon this effective unity that the other positive achievements really depended, and upon its continuation that the realisation of the rather vague proposals and general hopes of the Charter will depend.

The Charter will confirm the view of those who believed that the U.N. can become a positive instrument of social justice on a world scale, and that, given the right attitudes, we can break down the terrible divisions in the world peacefully and constructively. Whether the unity of the "75" can be the basis for a safer world will depend on attitudes in the "over-developed" areas. The left in Western countries has a vital role in building unity with the Third World in its struggle for a decent living standard, and in pressing for new attitudes and policies. Meanwhile affluent Britain remains frozen in a provocative Cold War alliance; spends £2000million on arms; and carries on an imperial frontier-war of the classic type in Arabia while the annual model change in affluent Detroit costs as much as India's total investment programme.

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MARK LANE'S STATEMENT TO THE WARREN COMMISSION

I am here in response to your request that I fly back from Europe to appear before you today. As I indicated clearly to you when I appeared before your Commission on March 4, 1964, I will continue to make available to you all the information in my possession.....I think it appropriate that I inform you of the questions being asked throughout America and in many areas of Europe....In meeting your responsibility to still doubts that persist and grow in America and abroad you should, I suggest, be aware of the questions most frequently being asked of the Commission. They are:

- 1) Why has the Commission been chosen on a political basis with 2 Republicans and 2 Democrats (both Southern Democrats, one being so busy leading the filibuster against the Civil Rights Bill that he found little time for Commission work)?
- 2) Why has a 7-man Commission been chosen that is comprised of 6 men without any judicial experience and a majority without judicial temperament..
- 3) Why has the Commission labelled as "TOP SECRET", (the Government's highest secret classification) all the material secured by it? And in that light why has the Commission publicly announced or secretly leaked information tending to show Oswald's guilt while suppressing all information, testimony and documents tending to show Oswald's innocence?
- 4) Why has the Commission denied to the Defendant, Lee Oswald, the right to counsel chosen to represent him by his family? Why has it been necessary to conduct hearings behind closed doors with the right of confrontation, cross examination..the presentation of defence witnesses..obliterated?
- 5) Why has a Commission been chosen of men all with important Governmental connection, men who would be ineligible under American law to serve upon a jury were Oswald alive and being tried?
- 6) Why has the Commission prejudged this case by establishing, before it took one word of testimony, six panels that presumed Oswald's guilt?...
- 7) How is it possible that the "Oswald Diary" given to the Commission with guarantees of confidence and marked "TOP SECRET"...is being printed throughout the United States on the eve of the Commission's final report?
- 8) Was not the Chairman of the Commission, Justice Warren, accurate when he stated some weeks ago: "You may never get the facts.." if you rely on the Commission?
- 9) Why has the Commission permitted witnesses to be held "in protective custody" and incommunicado for long periods of time before testifying before the Commission? Why has the Commission permitted the FBI, the Dallas police and the Secret Service to frighten and intimidate witnesses and order them not to speak about the case?
- 10) Why did the Commission state that it would not conduct its own investigation but it would "rely upon the existing governmental investigatory agencies", meaning the Dallas Police, the FBI and the Secret Service, when it is clear that (they) have a vital stake in the...myth that Oswald was the "lone assassin"?
- 11) A member of the French House of Deputies (asked the following) during the Dreyfus case. It might well be addressed to the U.S. Government now. ..."If the Government has nothing to hide, why has the testimony in this case been secured in camera, behind closed doors?"