British Members of Parliament on the Terror in Bulgaria.

Vienna, 29th March 1927.

R. C. Wallhead a member of the British Labour Party and of the British House of Commons who has visited Bulgaria for the purpose of study, writes in today’s number of the “Arbeiter Zeitung”:

I have just come back from a journey to Bulgaria and the proofs that I was able to see there convinced me of the justice and the statesmanlike nature of the protest made by comrade Vandelverde recently in Geneva against the terror in Bulgaria. Sir Austin Chamberlain did not raise the prestige of his government when he prevented the discussion upon this point. He proved by this that he is prepared to support the reaction everywhere and that he has been successful in identifying his country with those elements in Europe whose final aim is the destruction of all civilisation. Fascism seems to exercise an unhealthy influence upon him.

It is, Bulgaria and Hungary are a very unpleasant trio.

As far as I have been able to discover, no one in Bulgaria denies that there is a frightful terror there and that it is supported by the collaboration of highly placed personalities in the closest touch with the government. In an interview which I and my colleague Grenfell, who is also a member of the British House of Commons, had with the Bulgarian Prime Minister Liapitchev, I stressed the urgent necessity of a general political amnesty to remove all traces of political trial by verdicts of all civilisation.

The answer to this was that such an action would bring with it the danger of a recurrence of the acts of violence in a still greater degree. It is generally recognised that this danger exists. Comrade Pastuchov the leader of the Bulgarian social democrats also recognised this, but was prepared to take the risk.

The danger is in the fascist organisations which support themselves upon formations of one-time officers and bourgeois elements. Fascism is the greatest enemy in Bulgaria and I wish nothing more than to see the struggle against fascism in Bulgaria and also in Austria will be successful at the coming elections.

REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENTS IN THE COLONIES

The Continuation of the Morocco-Spanish War.

By J. R. (Madrid).

After Abd-el-Krim's surrender, the Spanish imperialists imagined that the Moroccan problem had been solved entirely according to the idea of the Liga Africana. But subsequent events have shown that the Rifians, as they always were, are still ready to fight for the independence of their country.

The surrender of Abd-el-Krim created a very dangerous situation for the Rifians as it meant the end of a single and centralised leadership carried on with means of which they had accomplished so much since 1921.

Since June 1925, the Rifians have lacked such leadership; nevertheless they are continuing to defend their country, Keriro, one of the more brave and intrepid chiefs, was killed whilst fighting in December last. Since Abd-el-Krim's surrender he was the leader possessing the greatest authority in his tribe. Of late the two brothers Tensamani and some other chiefs have been leading the struggle against the Spanish forces.

Spanish imperialism has not yet secured control over Morocco. There are parts of this country on which the Spanish soldiers have never set foot. Nearly every day the Spanish army has skirmishes with the natives. Of late the Spanish forces have been involved in quite important combats with the Ktama tribe: Mohamed el Fost, leader of the Rifian troops in the Spanish service, was killed in one of these encounters. The Ktama tribe is one of the most active in the fight against Spanish imperialism: it is led by illustrious chiefs, the brothers Tensamani already mentioned, and the chiefs Elia and Hadji, the later from Oromara.
On the 14th of February a Spanish convoy was captured in the territory of the Beni Aros tribe. During the night the convoy was attacked and overwhelmed, and the entire force was captured, together with the supplies it was conveying to the Spanish port. In the territory occupied by the Jebel Habib, a tribe in the extreme West of the Spanish zone, the tribesmen have been attacking posts and making raids into the territory of those inhabitants of the Rif who have submitted to the Spanish authorities.

The tribes in the less accessible mountainous districts of the Rif still refuse to submit to Primo de Rivera, and a certain number of Rifians along with their families have recently migrated into the Jeballa district which is still in revolt.

The actual condition is similar to that prevailing in 1921, previous to the Abd-el-Krim's success. Peaceful tribes who suffered greatly as a result of the war, where French-Spanish troops launched attacks and intensive aerial bombardments were carried out, were forced to submit, but tribes living in the less accessible districts are still carrying on their fight for independence.

Between those tribes who have submitted and those who are still in revolt there exists a close understanding by means of which they are informed of all the plans and movements of the Spanish army. It must be borne in mind that the Rifians who are fighting most obstinately against Spain are those who were formerly in the "Spanish service". The Rifian character is to be very calm and resolute, so that they fight when conditions are favourable, if not they submit and patiently wait until a more suitable opportunity.

At present Spain is employing a considerable number of colonial troops in Morocco. These troops are inspired by just the same legions and are being used against the Spanish army. It must be remembered that most of the Rifians in Abd-el-Krim's army formed part of the Spanish colonial troops in 1921. The defeat of the Spaniards in 1921 was mainly due to those colonial troops who fought on the side of Abd-el-Krim.

Primo de Rivera is very optimistic regarding the Moroccan problem, but the military chiefs have pointed out only recently that the position in Morocco is very serious for Spain. A new rebellion is anticipated which, of course, will prove more dangerous than ever. On the other hand the Moroccan war is costing Spain enormous sums of money. In spite of Primo de Rivera's assertions, the war is at an end, the number of soldiers in Morocco is exactly the same as before the surrender of Abd-el-Krim. If in the very near future the Rifians should find a new chief, equally capable as was Abd-el-Krim to organise the tribesmen, it will mean the end of Spanish military rule in Morocco.

The last speech of the prime minister Bethlen was in the same tone as the utterances of the public prosecutor. He even accuses the executive committees of the Social Democratic Party of high treason on account of its declaration of sympathy for Henderson who had protested against the persecution of workers in Hungary. He appeals for an alliance of all parties, of the whole nation even against the weak protest of Henderson as an action endangering the "Fatherland". Everyone is therefore declared to be a traitor who is not in favour of the extraordinary court and the death sentences for revolutionary workers.

At the same time Bethlen praises British and Italian imperialism like a true servant and offers his reliable services as a hangman against the bolshevist danger.

In this connection the social democratic central organ "Nemzet" declares in a tone of resignation that the protest of the international working class can make no moral impact upon this governing system.

Count Bethlen will probably leave for Italy on the 4th April. In all probability the proceedings before the extraordinary court will commence immediately after his departure. This will give the Prime Minister the possibility of clearing himself of responsibility for the planned murder of socialist and communist workers in the eyes of public opinion and placing the responsibility — as he did in Geneva in connection with the process following upon the box on the ears — upon "subordinate officials". We do not wish to say that the time of the Italian visit has been determined by the beginning of the proceedings before the extraordinary court. Obviously, the opposite is the case. Because Bethlen is going abroad he has probably ordered that the proceedings take place in his absence.

A new and tremendous storm of protest is being raised by millions of indignant workers in all parts of the world against the cruel persecution of workers carried out by the Hungarian reaction. Despite this the government is preparing to carry out an abominable murder upon dozens of revolutionary workers. The workers of the whole world who won a wonderful victory for international class solidarity when they rescued Rakosi and his fellow accused from the gallows will not resign themselves lightly to this mass legal murder as the Hungarian social democracy does. The latter has not raised so much as a finger to save the victims of the Horny-Bethlen reaction. But the international working class will strengthen its protest action in accordance with the acuteness of the danger.

The International Protest Movement against the Persecution of Workers in Hungary.

Vienna, 29th March 1927.

Austrian intellectuals have directed the following telegram of protest to the Hungarian Prime Minister Count Bethlen:

"The undersigned wish to add their voices to the protests which have appeared in the foreign newspapers from the British, French and German intellectuals who have expressed their horror and indignation at the news of renewed maltreatment of political prisoners by the Hungarian police."

"We protest above all against the possibility that these men and women may be placed before an extraordinary court which can only pronounce a sentence of death, although these accused are charged with nothing more than their personal opinions and an attempt to propagate their convictions."

"We feel ourselves at one with millions of men and women when we protest against this terrible inhumanity and demand that the accused be placed before an ordinary court."

"Signed: Privy Councillor Dr. Hans Kamplmeier on behalf of the academic Arbeitsgemeinschaft, "Loge Freiheit" — Christokratische Students union.

B. B. Hoystedt on behalf of the Austrian Reconciliation League.

Dr. Bruno Schoenfeld on behalf of the Austrian Monist League.

The Austrian Peace Society.

THE WHITE TERROR

The Lives of the Arrested Hungarian Workers are in Great Danger.

By L. F. B.

In a few days the execution of Zoltan Szanto and his 52 comrades by the Hungarian police will be ended. The manner in which the execution has been conducted alone shows that the authorities have treated it as the normal fulfillment of a duty incumbent upon them. The statements of the accused cannot alter the intention of the authorities, and that is to place them before an extraordinary court in order that they may be sentenced to death.

This is also proved by the statements of the Public Prosecutor Miskolczy himself to the British member of parliament Grenfell. Grenfell describes his interview with Miskolczy in the "Wiener Arbeiterzeitung" as follows:

"In answer to our criticism of the law which places people before an extraordinary court for no other reason than having formed a new party, the Public Prosecutor expressed the strange opinion that people could be guilty of insurrection for no other reason than that of having joined a party with even limited socialist aims."

The greatness of the danger is however, not only shown by these and similar utterances. The Budapest courts are taking speedy technical and organisational measures for carrying out the proceedings before the extraordinary court and for executing the expected death sentences.