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Mertens, Jouhaux and Oudegeest may adopt resolutions that the trade union movement is independent, but in spite of this the trade union blockade will be removed. The English proletariat has made itself effectively heard. The time is approaching when the proletariat of other countries will join its voice with that of the English.

The blind hatred against the communists is everywhere disappearing, where it has not yet already disappeared. The fight against imperialism is impossible without an alliance with the working class of the Soviet Union and without the unity of the trade union movement.

The spirit of the hypocritical resolutions of Amsterdam, Unity is marching on.

IN THE COLONIES

The New Stage in the Political Developments in Egypt.

By A. R. (Cairo).

Since the last English ultimatum to Egypt and the overthrow of the National government of Zagul Pasha, English diplomacy has made many experiments.

The most important and decisive of these experiments are the following:

1. The final and permanent seizure of possession of the Sudan and the creation of a special Sudanese army under the exclusive command of English officers.
2. The retention of almost all European officials (the majority of them English) at their posts in the various ministries.
3. The creation of a monarchist Party, "Itchad" (Unity).
4. The organization of the parliamentary elections in such a manner that the majority is assured beforehand for all the opposition anti-Zagul) Parties.
5. The liquidation of the European, chiefly the French, influence upon the political life of the country.

These five items, which of course form part of an inseparable whole, are not only an expression of that general line of the English Foreign Office which is called a "firm Continental policy", but are an expression or a reflection of that crisis in the national movement, the issue of which it is at present difficult to predict.

The seizure of possession of the Sudan, that is, the exclusive exploitation of that country by British imperialism, represents nothing new. The so-called "Condominium" (joint rule) of England and Egypt in the Sudan, which consisted in Egypt mainaining an army which enabled the English cotton syndicate to plunder the country "peacefully", was, of course, always a farce. This farce nevertheless had a certain importance for Egypt. Before all, the Condominium always allowed Egypt the legal right to demand a control over the inner life of the country and also over the budget. At the same time this Condominium, shadowy as it was, nevertheless held England back to some extent with regard to the question of the water supply: as a rule every conflict regarding the division of the water supply of the blue Nile between Egypt and the Sudan (for the latter read the "English cotton planters") was not settled without incidents.

As a matter of fact, the Sudan question is not merely a question of water. For the Egyptian trading bourgeoisie, it is also a question of markets. Hitherto the Sudan, not only politically but also economically, has represented a colony of a sort. As it had no immediate trade connections of its own with the outer world, it constituted an important factor for the middle-men operations of the Egyptian trading bourgeoisie. The legal separation of the Sudan from Egypt means the setting up of a foreign customs, which, of course, will not please the Egyptian bourgeoisie. The administrative separation of the Sudan from Egypt means a blow into the lace of this bourgeoisie, and will be no less disastrous than the blow to the peasantry.

The withdrawal of the Egyptian troops, as well as the approaching removal of the Egyptian officials, means the complete liquidation of the "Condominium" which had already long become impossible.

The conclusion of a new Treaty, lasting for four years, with all European (English) officials, secures the complete carrying out of the ultimatum. Not satisfied with this, England is insatiable, not only because it delivers the entire interior administration over to England, but that it means a direct and serious blow against the Egyptian intelligenzia, who will not find suitable employment, either in the state apparatus or in industry.

The creation of a monarchist Party is the most striking expression of the crisis which the national movement is undergoing. If one accepts as the alleged reason for the founding of this Party the accusation that Zagul is disloyal to the throne, an accusation which has frightened some of his not very staunch followers, then the whole of this step has long been developing within the Zagul Party. Right since the day of its existence the Zagul movement bore within it the elements of its own destruction. Its first appearance in the political arena was so violent, that it attracted whole groups which, in their very nature, had to be hostile to the Zagul movement (big landowners and aristocratic intellectuals).

Nevertheless, these elements did not immediately decide to leave the Zagul Party. They remained in Zagul's camp until recent events demonstrated to them that there existed a stronger one. Hence there set in, at first gradually but becoming ever more rapid, the desertion of prominent members of the old (the national Party of Zagul Pasha) to a secure place, thereby showing their devotion to the throne. Of course, all this did not take place without the "help" of England. The English press endeavoured to prepare the way for a "conspiracy" against the Egyptian throne, which was alleged to be instigated by Zagul.

As regards the "Unity" Party, it is most probable that it will amalgamate with the Constitutional Democrats (the right).

The parliamentary "elections" literary beat all records in the way of terror. Space does not permit us to enumerate all the measures which have been adopted by the government (read England) and which aim at securing for it a majority.

We will mention the most interesting of these measures.

1. Every candidate had to deposit 150 pounds, and in the event of his obtaining less than a tenth of the number of votes received by his opponent, his money flows into the coffers of the government.
2. Only the candidates are permitted to convene meetings. Speeches are not allowed at the meetings convened by the candidates. The candidate brings forward his programme and there the matter ends.
3. It is not allowed to conduct election propaganda in the press.
4. It is not allowed to print appeals, to arrange demonstrations etc.
5. The students are entirely prohibited from taking any part in the election campaign. Only on the day of the election can those students who are old enough to exercise the vote, go to the school for an hour in order to fulfil their duty as citizens.

In addition to this, there take place mass arrests and the flogging of all those who are in the least suspected of spreading proclamations. Persecution is specially directed against a manifesto of the Committee for the Protection of the Workers and Peasants, because the ruling Party is more fiercely criticised in this than are the other Parties.

English imperialism in Egypt and in the whole Arabian East, in spite of its apparent consolidation, is losing more and more ground under its feet, and is before all losing the support it enjoyed among the working peasantry. If the peasantry has not up to now turned against the revolution, this was owing to two factors: first, as a result of the "cultural" rôle which a rising imperialism at first plays in the occupied colonies, and secondly, as a result of the profound political and cultural backwardness of the Egyptian peasant.

The first factor has long ceased to be of any effect (since the beginning of the war, when the English showed their "culture"
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These five items, which of course form part of an inseparable whole, are now represented in the general line of the English Foreign Office which is called a "firm Continental policy", but are an expression or a reflection of that crisis in the national movement, the issue of which it is at present difficult to predict.

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The conclusion of a new Treaty, lasting for four years, with all Egyptian (English) officials secures the complete carrying out of the ultimatum. Nevertheless, this is not unimportant, not only because it delivers the entire interior administration over to England, but that it means a direct and serious blow against the Egyptian intelligenzia, who will not find suitable employment, either in the state apparatus or in industry.

The creation of a monarchist Party is the most striking expression of the crisis which the national movement is undergoing. If one accepts as the alleged reason for the founding of this Party the accusation that Zagul is disloyal to the throne, an accusation which has frightened some of his not very staunch followers, the underlying reason for the step has long been developing within the Zagul Party. Right from the very beginning of its existence the Zagul movement bore within it the elements of its own destruction. Its first appearance in the political arena was so violent, that it attracted whole groups which, in their very nature, had to be hostile to the Zagul movement (big landowners and aristocratic intellectuals).

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English imperialism in Egypt and in the whole Arabian East, in spite of its apparent consolidation, is losing more and more ground under its feet, and is before all losing the support it enjoyed among the working peasant. If the revolution has so far not been able to play the leading role, this was owing to two factors: first, as a result of the "cultural" role which a rising imperialism at first plays in the occupied colonies, and secondly, as a result of the profound political and cultural backwardness of the Egyptian peasant.

The first factor has long ceased to be of any effect (since the beginning of the war, when the English showed their "culture"
to the Egyptian peasant), the second factor is being removed, in
spite of its far-reaching roots, by the mere passage of events.
The Egyptian peasantry is taking its place in the political life
of the country. From an object it is changing into an active
subject, and will sooner or later have a word to say.

Syria under the Rule of the French Left Bloc.

By J. B. (Jerusalem).

France has no luck in its policy in the Orient. The great aspirations for supremacy in the Mediterranean, which French imperialism had never abandoned since Napoleon's expedition to Egypt, seemed to be approaching realisation after the defeat of
Germany in the world war and the dividing up of conquered
Turkey. But the seven years' "war". French imperialism in Syria
proved only too clearly the opposite, that France is no longer a
decisive factor in the East. Oriental policy is the chief source of
worry to the French Foreign Ministry.

France's share of the booty in the Near East yielded at first
little enough. Of the rich morsel which, according to the Sykes-
Picot agreement of 1915 was to fall to the lot of France, only a
small part was distributed. French occupation of the oil-rich
area bearded Mossul in the Middle East (the future Beqdad Oil
East to England) for a 25% share in the production of the forma-
tum wells. Cilicia in the North had to be returned to Turkey as
a pledge of the Franco-Turkish "friendship", in order to restrain
the Turkish Irredenta in Syria, which is still very strong. In the
South the English, under various pretexts, pushed the frontier of
Palestine as far as possible into Syrian territory. What remained
of Syria was a helpless trunk, strategically hard to hold, politically
a centre of unrest, economically non-viable. The Syrian people had
become a victim of imperialistic greed.

First of all experiments were made in the administration of
the country. General Gouraud, the first supreme Commissary,
is described, even by many Frenchmen, as a model of political
stupidity. He combined ruthless oppression with a degree of sup-
pression of a movement for freedom, with despicable irresolution,
when it was a case of carrying through economic reforms, even
such as were absolutely necessary to the country (re-establishment
of industry, improvement of the trade balance, agrarian reform).
It was Poincare's government which recalled Gouraud who was
thoroughly incapable and, at the end of 1923, sent a new High
Commissioner into the country; no one less than general Weygand,
the famous saviour of European civilisation from the Bolshevist
danger, the victor of Warsaw and organiser of the Polish White
Army.

Weygand did full credit to his famous energy. He understood
how to create order. Weygand administered the country in a
proper and approved manner: the last organs of the opposition
Press were suppressed; the Court sentenced revolutionaries to
penal servitude. On the other hand the French capitalists were
favoured. The silk weavers of Lyons put the silk industry once
more on its feet. The Bekaa however (in Central Syria) was by
extensive planting of cotton to become to the French textile
industry, what the Sudan is to the English textile industry of
Lancashire.

Since May 11th 1924, Weygand has been the representative
of the French Left Block in Syria. As long as it was a case of
opposing Poincare, Herriot was an enthusiastic advocate of
autonomy, even of the evacuation of Syria by the French troops.
Herriot was the idol of many Syrian nationalists. The Blum
Socialists had also repeatedly declared in favour of self-deter-
nation for Syria. Herriot and Blum formed a government.
Weygand remained in Beyrout.

The Left Block did not depart from Poincare's Oriental
policy one jot. In the discussion as to the ratification of the
Lausanne Treaty, the Communists were the only ones to demand
the evacuation of Syria. The Left Block and the National Block
joined hands in a brooding way by voting for the budget for the
occupation of Syria. Weygand was allowed for a full six months
to continue to hold the mandate over Syria in the name of
Edouard Herriot, the democrat. The misery increased, the
number of emigrants from Syria did not decrease. The trade
balance continued to be an enemy. A large number of the intelligenze
who had been in favour of the French, turned to the anti-French
camp, when they saw how thoroughly Herriot the Democrat had
received them. It was only then that Herriot decided to recall
Weygand.

The general then completed his last act: he visited Sir
Herbert Samuel in Palestine and prepared the way for Anglo-
French co-operation against the revolutionary, and especially the
Bolshevist peril, in the East. Weygand who, in addition to all the
other good qualities of the man who had blessed Syria, had made
himself particularly unpopular with the mainly Moham-
medan population by attending masses for hours at a time and
kissing the hands of Jesuit and Capuchin fathers as often as
possible — the Catholic General Weygand had found a language
in common with the convert of the Jewish banker in Palestine,
the Zionist and pious frequenter of church and synagogue and
Sir Herbert Samuel. The free-thinker Herriot and the Socialist MacDonald
came to an understanding through their worthy representatives
against the Bolshevist machinations!

Weygand departed at last. The French Press indulged in
interminable psalms of praise for the General. The population is
said to have parted from its beloved High Commissioner, with
great regret. What was the actual state of affairs? A group of
paid students from the Beyrout Jesuit College accompanied
the general to the harbour. There the dignitaries of Church and
State awaited him. The streets were fairly empty. The shouts of
"Long live Weygand!", "Hurrah for France!", which the poor
students were obliged to shout at the top of their voices in order
to earn their pay, met with no response. Not a hand was waved,
but a murmur arose which expressed anything but sympathy.
As the ship departed with the general on board, the general
atmosphere was one of relief combined with an anxious
anticipation of the arrival of a successor.

The new High Commissioner is Serral and is a friend of
Herriot's. Soon after his arrival he let the Syrian people know
that he did not intend to change the main lines of policy, and
the working masses of Syria who have seen Weygand for the
last six months representing the Left Block, know now what they
have to expect. Thus the right of self-determination for Syria,
in order to gain the favour of the aristocracy in the Lebanon district,
will appoint a governor from their circle, does not alter the
situation.

It is especially in the colonies that the Left Block shows its
true reactionary character.

UNION OF SOVIET REPUBLICS.

The New Chairman of the Revolutionary
Military Council, Comrade Frunze.

Biography of Comrade F r u n z e.

The new People's Commissar for Military and Naval Affairs
and Chairman of the Revolutionary Military Council of the
Soviet Union, Michael Vassilyevich Frunze, was born in 1885,
in Pischpek in Turkestan, and is the son of a Moldavian peasant.
On leaving school he attended the technical college in St. Peters-
burg from 1904 onwards. Even before leaving school he joined
the revolutionary self-education clubs. In the first year of his
University studies he became a member of the Social Democratic
party organisation and immediately showed his sympathies with
the Bolshevist tendency. Since the end of 1904 he has taken an
active part in various Bolshevist activities. In 1905 he was one of
the organisers and leaders of the famous textile worker's strike
in Ivanovo-Voznesensk. The Ivanovo-Voznesensk committee
sent him as a delegate to the 3rd and 4th party conference of the
Russian Social Democratic Labour Party.

From 1904 onwards Comrade Frunze was repeatedly ar-
rested by the Czarist police. At the beginning of 1907 he was
sentenced to four years hard labour on account of his Bolshevist
activities. While serving his sentence, he was again brought
before the Court for armed resistance to the police and con-
demned to death. The death sentence was however commuted to
10 years hard labour. In 1914 he was released, but again
arrested in the summer of 1915. He soon escaped from prison
and carried on illegal work in the Transbaikalian district under
the name of Vassilenko where, with a few other comrades, he
published a large weekly journal. Here however he was soon
discovered by the police and fled to West Russia. He drifted to
the West front and worked at the creation of an illegal revolu-
tionary organisation in the army. In February 1917, Comrade