How much this is the immediate result of the economic crisis is shown by the fact that the income tax minus is 61 million Kč, and the special trading tax paid by the trading and industrial complex of Czechoslovakia is 245.5 million Kč, a sum which imports involve a minus of about 30 millions in duties, and the turnover and luxury taxes have fallen off by more than 46 millions. The government has however presented the bankrupt great banks with 300 million Kč, and the big agrarians with 100 million Kč in the form of the import licence bill.

An item of the utmost importance in this connection are the proposals for the development of Czechoslovakian militarism, promoted conjointly by all the government parties. Here the development of the Czechoslovakian air service plays the leading role.

This finds its most ardent advocates among the Czech Social Democrats and National socialists. At the present time the budgets for the coming year are being drawn up in the ministries, and, as the semi-official "Prager Presse" states, the expenditure for both the Ministry for National Defence and that of the Ministry for Public Air Service are being increased. With respect to the total amount of the budget, the expenditure envisaged is reported to exceed, for the coming year, that of the present year by half a milliard Kč.

The whole situation is best characterised by the case of the bonus for Christmas days for civil servants. This caused the premature adjournment of parliament. The civil servants being bitterly discontented, and all the governmental parties having made great promises to the civil servants before the elections, the government brought in a bill which however only very inadequately met the demand of the civil servants for a 13th month's salary.

The great indignation aroused among the state employees by this bill obliged both the Social Fascist parties, and the National Democratic Party of the extreme right wing, to demand an improvement of this bill. Upon this the minister of finance demanded, as prerequisite for the passing of the bill, but in reality for the purpose of covering the deficits and the fresh expenditure, that an increase should be agreed to in the trading tax which would have affected at the same time the manoeuvres to the beer tax.

The Industrialists' Union on the one hand opposed its categoric "No" to the increase of the trading tax, whilst the "left" Social Fascists (the Pilsen wing of Czech Social Democracy), having granted the starvation duties, the import licences, the fresh reparation burdens, and other anti-labour measures, were not willing to agree without considerable manoeuvres to the beer tax.

The growing resistance of the working masses on the one hand, and the resistance of the capitalists against any fresh burdens on the other, rendered the parliament incapable of accomplishing anything, a condition temporarily "solved" by its adjournment.

The clerical " Lidové listy" characterise the present situation as follows:

"The series of proposals for the increase of taxes, including the actual increase of the trading and turnover taxes, that is, of taxes burdening production, and of the beer tax, which raises the price of one of the main foods of the people; further the raising of the railway tariffs: all this has so agitated the public opinion of all the parties, that there is no courage left to put all these plans into practice."

All the coalition parties have at once staged a violent campaign against each other and the finance minister of being to blame that the civil servants receive no Christmas bonus for the present. The press resembles a pre-election press. At the same time efforts are being made in favour of a policy "in the interests of economics", without consideration of party. This agitation is to prepare the soil for solving the difficulties of Czechoslovakian capitalism by means of a dictatorship.

The Communist Party of Czechoslovakia is mobilising the broad masses against the policy of impoverishment pursued by the Social Fascist government, and is organising the united front, including in this the Social Democratic workers. It is drawing the attention of the masses to the danger that the crisis may be solved by a dictatorship, and to the steadily growing war danger, and is preparing for the struggle against the Fascist dictatorship and the threatening war.

Increased Imperialist Repression in India.

By V. Chattopadhyaya.

Even before the publication in India of the Simon Commission's first volume, the "Indian Daily Mail", an organ particularly well-informed regarding the intentions of the British Government, stated in its issue of June 10th. that there were "reasons to anticipate the strengthening of the policy of repression."

The prediction has been speedily realised. The Working Committee which is the "General Staff" of the Indian National Congress has been declared an unlawful association, its President, the seventy year old Pandit Motilal Nehru, has been arrested along with the General Secretary of the Congress, Dr. Syed Mahmud (a Mohammedan) and sentenced to 6 months' imprisonment. Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, the moderate Nationalist leader, calls this measure of the Government "the crowning fact of a policy of repression pursued for two months", and has offered his services as a member of the forbidden Committee to Vallabhai Patel (the leader of the Bardoli peasant movement of 1928), who has been nominated by Nehru to be acting President of the Congress. The Punjab and Andhra Provincial Congress Committees had already been declared illegal, and now a number of other Congress Committees have met with the same fate.

The Naujawan Bharat Sabha (Revolutionary Youth League) has been forbidden in all its branches and anyone suspected of belonging to it is subjected the summary imprisonment and in many cases to torture. The petty-bourgeois youth leagues, that more or less constituted the youth section of the National Congress and that have taken an extremely active part in the anti-imperialist struggle, especially in conjunction with workers' and peasants' organisations have been suppressed.

The press is being increasingly silenced, heavy securities under the new Press Ordinance having been demanded of 70 newspapers and 97 printing presses, leading to the closing down of 67 newspapers and 55 presses.

In addition the Viceroy has just issued his seventh ukase, known as "The Unauthorised News-Sheets and Newspapers Ordinance, 1930". And the reports that appear in these publications more than confirm the reports that reach us from private sources, as to the enormous increase in the frequency and intensity of the torture of political prisoners, and the police under the orders and supervision of British officials.

Much speculation has been aroused as to the real intentions of the Government in arresting Motilal Nehru, about whom it was generally felt both by the British and by the moderate Indian politicians that he was "the last leader left at liberty who could reasonably be regarded as the intermediary who might bring the Congress back to reason" ("Times", July 1st.) In fact, almost on the eve of his arrest, he had indicated that there was still a possibility that the Congress might on conditions participate in the coming Round Table Conference. Nevertheless his arrest was considered necessary to enable the Government to carry out its policy of crushing the growing revolutionary movement of the workers and the peasants, and to dispose of a "Labour" Cabinet, and to demonstrate its" strength "before the Round Table Conference begins, so as to avoid the impression that it had yielded to "force and intimidation."

There are reasons to believe that the crushing of the revolutionary unrest among the peasantry before it has become too dangerous is a policy not entirely unacceptable to certain Congress leaders.

It is fear of the revolution, coupled with the desire to retain their hold on the masses, that constitutes the leftist split of the important Congress leaders, almost without exception, and if they are in goal today — without any of the terrible hardships that working class leaders have to undergo — it is because the Government has
to get them out of the way for carrying out a naked policy of repression and torture, while at the same time it makes them more popular as national heroes so as to add to their prestige and their influence when the inevitable negotiations begin.

In the meanwhile, while the policy of repression is being carried out by the Labour Government, the various political agencies of the Government in India among the so-called minorities are being mobilised to make the Round Table Conference “a success”. The preliminary session of the All-India Moslem Conference was opened on July 4th. In Simla—from where the Viceroy and his staff are at present carrying on the Government of India—and it is sufficient to point out that the special observers, Richard Feetham and David F. Brownlie, Finance Member in the Panjabi Government. The two traitors to the cause of independence, Mohamed Ali and Shaukat Ali, are of course playing an important part at the Conference.

In Burma, which British imperialist interests find it essential to separate from India, the Government is not finding it quite so easy to mobilise political opinion in its favour. The Burmese commercial bourgeoisie and richer intellectuals who had allied themselves with British shipping interests and heavy industry to agitate for the separation of Burma, now find that they are not going to get the “Free State” which they had expected.

As far as the movement itself is concerned, it is certainly growing among the masses, and the arrests of Congress, youth or working class leaders have had no deterrent effect upon them. In the Panjab and elsewhere, even according to enemy reports, “proscribed associations have developed an awkward habit of springing to life under another name”. Revolutionary leaflets have been printed in various Indian languages and systematically distributed among the police and the army, with the result that “sedition” among them has become a source of alarm to the Government, in consequence of which the very severe Police Act of 1922 has now been revived and put into action, without, however, producing any effect.

In Bihar and Orissa where the peasant movement is beginning to cause alarm among the zamindars, the Government has been obliged to increase its police force by 400 new men.

In Calcutta, where military rule during nearly two months had committed sufficient havoc among the workers, martial law has been withdrawn, but the National Congress flag has been prohibited.

In Bombay there have been a number of hartals of protest against the arrest of Motilal Nehru as well as a number of students’ strikes during a students’ procession through Hornby road the police charged them several times with their clubs and wounded a large number. Mrs. Perin Captain, President of the Bombay Provincial Congress Committee, and Mrs. Munshi, Vice-President of the Committee have both been arrested and sentenced to 3 months imprisonment each, while two other Congress officials and the editor of the forbidden “Congress Bulletin” have been sentenced to 5 months’ rigorous imprisonment each.

In the village of Khersal, near the border of the Balasore District a party of police opened fire on the peasants killing one person and wounding several. The police had gone to the village to carry out attachment of property for non-payment of taxes, and were resisted by 2000 peasants who defended themselves with brickbats against the onslaughts of the police.

There have been also hartals in Calcutta and stormy demonstrations in Allahabad, the headquarters of Congress Working Committee.

The revolutionary ferment among the railway workers is becoming extremely intense, and the reformist Labour leader, Giri, General Secretary of the Indian Railwaymen’s Federation, declared that the Federation “may have to decide in favour of a more active participation in the national movement”. The object of the reformists is obvious. The immediate development in India is likely to be a considerable intensification of the revolutionary struggle, accompanied by a regime of imperialist terror.

In the meanwhile the “Modem Government” is contemplating the elevation of the Simon Report into a number of European languages, in order to poison European opinion in favour of its policy of repression.

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**1st AUGUST: INTERNATIONAL FIGHTING DAY AGAINST WAR**

A World Air Fleet against the Soviet Union.

By Nemo.

The threat to the Soviet Union by the swollen air armaments of its neighbouring countries is assuming ever clearer and more dangerous forms. With the assistance of England and France, strong air fleets are being created and at the same time a big aircraft industry is being established in the Border States, in Poland and in the western frontiers of the Soviet Union alone about 2,500 modern war-planes are stationed, consisting for the greater part of offensive formations (bombing and fighting planes), and which can at any time be reinforced by the air fleets of England and France, consisting of 5,000 modern aircraft.

The imperialist war-mongers are quite aware that the centres of production and industry in the Soviet Union can be reached and destroyed most easily by squadrons of bombing planes, and they are therefore already today organising the co-ordination of all the existing air forces in order to be able to carry out a concentrated air attack on the Soviet Union. The purpose is to be replaced in place by the creation of a Special League of Nations Air Fleet, decided by the Security Committee of the League at the beginning of May last.

The idea of creating a world air fleet under the aegis of the League of Nations is not new. Already at the meeting of the League at Lugano the American president of the International Airmen’s League, B. Harmon, submitted to Briand a comprehensive plan for organising a world air fleet. According to this plan, the League of Nations is to set up a world air fleet, at the disposal of which every State belonging to the League of Nations should place a number of its best military and civil airmen, as well as suitable aircraft material. Even in peace time every nation should hold ten per cent. of its most experienced airmen in readiness for „police purposes“ of the League of Nations, such „police purposes“ to include a demonstration of the air police in the event of danger of war threatening, so as to nip any hostility in the bud.

Harmon’s plan, which was inspired by England, was taken up by the French government, who in September 1929 submitted an official decision to the League of Nations, emphasising the necessity of a free uncontrolled air service „for those cases in which the interests of the League of Nations are immediately concerned.‘. A report by the Télunom from Geneva dated 18th September 1929 stated “that in regard to this proposal the French have in mind the possibility of sanctions by the aircraft in the service of the League of Nations“. The Spanish government was also one of the first to declare itself ready to place an aircraft squadron at the disposal of the League of Nations. It must not be forgotten, however, that in this question the social democrat Paul Boncour played a leading role, by energetically supporting the idea of creating a world air fleet.

The last meeting of the Security Committee of the League of Nations has shown that the plan of the French and English imperialists will shortly be fully realised. Under the pretext of security, the air connections of the League of Nations in case of war, the question was debated whether or not the League of Nations should have its own air fleet in the sense of an international air fleet. It became evident that this question always plays a role in connection with the security and sanction measures, from which it is to be clearly seen the aggressive character of the League as the instrument of war, in spite of all the hypocritical declarations. The draft decision submitted by the Security Committee met with the general approval of the meeting, the Polish delegate Sokol energetically advocating the creation of a world air fleet.

As soon as the decision of the Security Committee is confirmed by the next meeting of the League, the general secretary is to adopt all measures for creating a world air