Builders Of United Front. Cop Against Communism, They Can't Unite Themselves

From C. UNNIRAJA

TRIVANDRUM, December 29

MAR 1 3 1959

With the postponement of the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee meeting fixed for December 30 and of the election of the Pradesh Congress President, the crisis in Kerala Congress which has been simmering for long has burst out into the open with fisticuffs, breaking of locks and public statements.

THE Returning Officer of the Pradesh Congress; postponing the meeting called to elect the President, said this had been necessitated by the disputes which had arisen regarding some of the elections to the lower Congress Committees in the State. A decision on the dispute referred to the AICC, he added, would have a vital bearing on the meeting of the newly-elected Pradesh Congress Committee.

Not even a month has passed since Congress Opposition Leader P. T. Chacko announced with great fanfare in Trivandrum the formation of a united front of the Congress and Praja Sodialists, with the Muslim League expected to join in, to fight and defeat the Communists in the coming elections to the Panchayats and Municipalities. It was hailed as the beginning of the end of the Communists in office in Kerala. But the Congress leaders who talk so much about uniting others cannot, it seems, agree among themselves.

The Kottayam Factions

It is in Kottayam District, considered to be a Congress fort, that this factional struggle came out in the most bitter form when election to the Presidentship of the District Congress Committee took place last week.

place last week. There were two candidates in the field—Sri P. C. Cheriyan, MLA, till recently Secretary of the District Congress Committee, and the second, a nominee of Opposition leader P. T. Chacko.



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The Chacko group had prepared well to ensure the victory of its nominee. In view of this, Sri Cheriyan and his group demanded postponement of the election. When the District Returning Officer turned down this demand, the Cheriyan group walked out of the meeting. The Chacko group nominee was thus elected. Sri Cheriyan had with

lected. Sri Cheriyan had with great care locked the office of the District Congress Committee before he walked out. The newly-elected President of the Chacko group broke open the lock and took possession of the office. When the rival group heard about it, they came back in force. A free fight between the two groups ensued.

the two groups ensued. Former President K. T. Thomas and Secretary Cheriyan of the Kottayam DCC, both Congress MLAs, have jointly issued a statement saying that the election of the new President was illegal since the Pradesh Returning Officer had given a definite directive to postpone the elections.

Neither the Pradesh Returning Officer nor the Pradesh Congress Committee has accepted the election. In fact they condemned the forcible and unauthorised occupation of the Congress Committee office by some people. The result is that today two District Congress Committees are functioning in Kottayam. This is the background against which the PCC President's election was to take place and has now been postponed.

Three Stalwarts

What has burst into the open is just the old rivalries inside the Kerala Congress leadership between factional groups based on communities and regions—between Hindu and Christian leaders, between leaders from Malabar and Travancore and between Panampilly Govinda Menon and P. T. Chacko. All of them, of course, try to give a political colour to this internecine quarrel.

. . .

Sri Chacko in a talk to newspaper Correspondents last week said that a section of the Congress leadership was opposing the united front of "demooratic parties," while a majority of the Congress leaders and workers welcomed it. The leaders of this section, he said, are afraid that they will lose their high positions in the Congress, if a demoeratic united front is formed. They had tried to mislead the Congress High Command regarding the united front; but the all-India Congress leaders had also realised the meed for united front, Sri Chacko added. He said it was meaningless to keep the Muslim League away from a united front dubbing it a communal organisation. According to Sri Chacko, the present President of the EPCC, Sri K. A. Damodara

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COMMUNIST PARTY WEEKLY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 1959

According to Sri Chacko, the present President of the KPCC, Sri K. A. Damodara Menon, is a person sincerely trying to build the united front in Kerala; if he is not elected President again, that will be calamitous—for Sri. Chacko and the Congress. If the trend is against Sri Damodara Menon, Sri Chacko threatened, he himself would stand as a candidate for Pradesh Congress Committee. Presidentship. The only difficulty in the situation is that according to the Congress Constitution, Sri Damodara Menon cannot be elected President for a third term.

Menon cannot be elected in the sident for a third term. Sri Chacko is convinced, though belatedly, that the present Kerala Government cannot be overthrown so easily, and hence he has begun to feel that control over the Congress organisation is today more-important than Assembly Party leadership. He is reportedly ready to hand over the leadership of the Assembly Party to Sri Ummer Koya, at present Deputy Leader who hails from Malabar. The proposal has more to it than meets the eye. And that is Sri Chacko's condition: the Malabar leaders should support his candidature for PCC Presidentship:

candidature for PCC Frestdentship: The Panampilly Govinda Menon group's nominee for presidentship is Sri K. P. Madhavan Nair, till recently one of the General Secretaries of the All-India Congress Committee. He has the support of the Cheriyan group from Kottayam. One of the reasons nothing new.

why Sri Chacko was so determined to defeat Sri Cheriyan for Kottayam DCC Presidentship was because he stood for bringing the Panampilly group back to power in the Kerala-Congress.

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Another aspirant is R. Sankar, President of the Ezhava. communal organisation, SNDP, hero of many defeats in elections and a notorious anti-Communist. His claim is that the KPCC must this time have as President an Ezhava who can win back the Ezhava masses from Communist influence.

Sri Chacko has weighty claims of past service and present achievements for being chosen as President of the KPCC--at least this is what his followers think and say. He has stood firm in the Congress from the very beginning and was always sacrificed for the sake of some careerist Congress leaders: He has incurred debts to the extent of Rs. 25,060 as a result of his Congress activities. But for the manoeuvres of the Panampilly-

NEW AGE

Greets All Its Readers And Friends on the NEW YEAR

Madhavan Nair clique, Sri Chacko would have been in a very high position by now. It is the tactics evolved by him that have so far succeeded in building the united front of all Opposition parties in Kerala against the Communist Government.

Communist Government. And since the Kottayam DCC Presidentship has assumed vital importance, Sri Chacko's followers say that if this election is invalidated, it would be better for Chacko to resign from the Congress and set up practice as a lawyer so that he can at least pay back his debts. This resignation threat is their trump card. This three giants have en-

Integrat is their trump card. Thus three giants have entered the fray in full array not to speak of the lesser ones. —in the battle for KPCC Presidentship. Sri Damodara Menon is trying to sneak in despite the insistence of the Congress High Command that the Congress Constitution should be observed. Once for all, the hope that the Congress High Command will cement the unity to strengthen the Congress organisation in Kerala has been smashed. The common people in Kerala are not worried nor surprised over these developments; they are nothing new.

GHANA'S PRIME MINISTER IN THE CAPITAL



AT THE CIVIC RECEPTION IN DELHI'S RED FORT—The Ghana Prime Minister, Dr. Kwame Nkrumah receiving a silver vase from Mayor Aruna Asaf Ali, as Prime Minister Nehru looks on. The reception was accorded to the visiting Premier on December 27 last.

ANDHRA CONGRESS RULERS SHOW

The winter session of the Andhra Pradesh legislature, which concluded on December 20, is significant for at least revealing that the Congress is more and more relying on the bureaucracy and officialdom. The Congress rulers patent mistrust of the people and their representatives was exposed so thoroughly that even Congress benches had to protest in such vehement words as "Ayub tendency" and Digging the grave of the Congress.

T HE pattern of the new brand of Congress "democracy" is that of nominating persons to bodies which have hitherto been elected and retaining powers of interference at every stage. It began with the University' Bills and was carried a step further in the res had been allotted for edu-Zilla Parishad and Panchayat Samiti Bill.

It may be recalled that the Andhra, Venkateswara and Osmania Universities Bills had their origin in the agitation against the nomination last year of the present Vice-Chancellor for the Osmania University. The agitation was with-drawn only when Mr. K. V. Ranga Reddy, Minister for Home Affairs, gave the assurance that the Osmania University charter would be replaced by a Bill, where the same med of appointing the Vice Chancellor would be followed as obtains in the other two Uni-versities of the State, namely election.

Uniformity -But How?

In the present Bills uniis maintained **no** doubt, but only the previous election of the Vice-Chancellor in the other two Universities has now been replaced by nomination. This is the Congress way of keeping promises! It may be mentioned that the Senates of the two Universities have opposed the new procedure. But the Conoress and more so, its Edu- ment is necessary beyond a few

Morning breaksbustle in home. the kitchen fire is lit, children are dressed $\langle \mathbb{A} \rangle$ for school. the tiffin box for the office is prepared, bustle ends, now the housewife can relax over her cup of refreshing tea! lam lea

I am the friend of th

or man there exception will be wisty increased

PAGE TWO

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cation Minister, has never been known to be very receptive to public opinion or to the opinion of people who know what they are talking about

Incidentally, it may be mentioned that while Rs. 12.88 crocation in the Second Five-Year Plan, only Rs. 3,22 crores have been spent in the first three years. The Education Minister had some time ago promised on the floor of the Assembly that free education up to the Third

Telengana (it already obtains

in Andhra). The Chief Minis-

ter, however, said that nobody

can promise anything without

prior consultation in the Cabi-

net and thus let down the poor

Let us take now the Zilla

Parishad and Panchayat Samiti

Bill. Sri V. B. Raju, the Min-

ister for Planning and Infor-mation; who introduced this

Bill is always harping on the

tune of the democracy, but it

seems to have been given the

go-bye as far as the present

Bills are concerned. No' com-

gentleman.

LITTLE

specimen extracts from the speeches of Congress MLAs. "Insulting the collective

intelligence of the Samiti nembers", "Shirking responsibility of trusting the people even after forty years of locall self-Government," "Going back to pre-1930 days"; Worse than district boards"; the bill is like making the "Chief Secretary the Chief Minister"; "A stone in a mad man's hand"; "Ayub Khan tendency"; etc., etc.

What brought forth these comments were the clauses relating to the Block Development Officers who have the right to refuse to show papers and documents to the Panchayat Samitis; the Collector being made the ex-officio President of the Zilla Parishads; and the method is indirect election to the Pan-

FOR DEMOCRACY

folk in self-Government.

The secret behind drafting

such a reactionary and bureau-

cratic Bill was let out when in

an unguarded moment the Chief Minister said that it is

"better to have the horse and

the reins in the same hands."

He was answering criticism re-

where the Public Service Com-

Sri A. Bhagavantharao, the

unior-most Minister who is in

charge of Small-Scale Indus-

mission has been ignored.

garding official

appointments

protest against the unduly long delay in being provided with information which they wish to The elicit through questions. Leader of the Opposition stated that a question which he had sent a year ago had not seen the light of the day yet. If this the attitude to the Leader of the Opposition, the plight of other members can be imagined.

A comment in this context is necessary on the particular manner of answering questions by the Ministers, the Education and the Labour Ministers specially. The former specialise language which is intended to belittle the questioner and not provide answers. One can perhaps understand his annoyance and anger at the members who seem to be able all too easily to show up his ignorance of the

Ministry can be asked to furnish the necessary information The Ministry does not seem to be aware of things fully."

Another point on which the Speaker had to uphold the rights of the members was when he said that he would not allow any Bill to be discussed if Telugu copies of the same were not made available to members.

This statement of the Speaker should be seen in the back-ground of the Andhra Ministry's attitude towards Telugu. A Committee was appointed some time ago with a Minister as Chairman to make recommendations on a Telugu type-writer and script. It is months since it submitted the report but the report has not been published vet.

Similarly it is learnt that the Chief Minister objected to al--lotting funds for the glossary committee over which the Speaker presides and consequently the old committee had to be scrapped and a new one appointed with far less members.

On the high prices of foodains, the Minister for Food, Sri P. Thimmareddy unabashedly came out with the plea that the present prices are, if anything, low! He said that millers and traders are much maligned and the poor gentlemen require more sympathy. Only one must know that, thanks to them, the price in the city is at least Rs. 20 more per bag of rice than in the countryside.

There were two measur first, the Bhoodan and Gramdan Bill and secondly, the Land Assignment Rules which need to be noted. The former makes it free for the Government to allot land to their friends and supporters by nominating their men to the committee of distribution of lands donated by the people.

The latter helps to evict the present cultivating occupants since under the assignment rules, ten per cent of Government cultivable waste land is reserved for grazing lands. It must be mentioned that there are no separate pasture lands most of the villages and all of them are under occupation.

As a parting kick to the members, the Finance Minister introduced the Bill amending the Sales-Tax Act which seeks to raise the present tax by one naya paisa on foodgrains.

The Revenue Minister also had put his shoulder to the wheel to help squeeze the Beople. He had amended the Indian Stamp Act in its extension and application to the State. The simple object is to convert the existing duties into decimal coinage and to bring uniformity between the Telengana and former Andhra areas. The result s that after changing the present rates into nave paise the fraction will be converted to the next highest multiple of five.

The uniformity is that in Telengana the poor people have to pay the higher rates of former Andhra for Rs. 500 and less denomination, while the Andhra rich will pay the lower rates of Telengana on stamps of higher denominations than Rs. 500!

The whole guiding motif of the last session can perhaps be put in Sri Thimma Reddy's ned and the ter can write back saying that words: "Pandit Nehru is a Speaker directed that the Gov- , we are getting information re- good man and gives advice at

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MONETARY HIDE-AND-SEEK IN EUROPE

F by simultaneously announcing what the Reuter has called a series of "structural changes" in in their monetary systems the countries of Western Europe had hoped to convince the outside world about their resolve to revert to old-time virtues of amity and concord in their economic relations, their game. we are afraid, is already up. For, not even their most ardent ' sympathisers have been persuaded to put much credence in their pronouncements. On the contrary, if Press comments are any indication of their views, they find little in them that is new. Thus, to the Hindustan Times, "the latest British move towards sterling convertibility substitutes a formal obligation for a market practice." In other words what the Bank of England had so far been sanctifying through "an unstated

and informal commitment" only, now been blessed has with official sanction. LITTLE MORE THAN A FORMALITY

Otherwise, the facility to freely convert the sterling into any currency was already available to nonresidents at least since 1955. It is also borne out by the Statesman to which unification of the official and transferable account rates would be little more than a formality". Shorn of the spectacular,

therefore, the hullabaloo about the "convertibility" of the sterling does not amount to much. especially for a country like ours, whose Government has not shown any volition to walk out of the sterling bloc. True to its tradition of

part of the story, though it is a part which affects us vitally. As it is, even the official circles have not been completely unaware of its implications, for they too have conscientiously re-

ferred to the "indivisibility of the prosperity and stability of the world's eco my and pleaded for a greater interest on that basis on the part of the western Powers in the problems of less-developed countries. Apart from this, however



ginning of the last month,

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tries, does not appear to be novice when it comes to getting his men nominated to inential bodies. He had introduced a Bill to constitute a statutory board to dispense the funds allotted by the All-India Khadi and Village Industries But he has a crude way of doing things. Just a few days before the convening of the Assembly, he had an ordinance issued wherein he constituted the board and later had the Bill brought before the Assembly which was asked to merely rub-ber-stamp his decisions. Speaker Pulls Them Up The Congress Ministers do not believe in doing things in halves. If in administra-tion they have shown scant

respect for democratic norms, they have not exhibited any greater enthusiasm for parliamentary democracy and all that it stands for. In fact, on more than one. occasion they had to be pulled up by

ernment moved in the matter. garding all other Ministries and, times, sound advice, but all of The members had again to therefore, the concerned Union it may not be implemented."

NEW AGE

subject he handles. Form would be introduced in chayat Samitis and Zilla Pari-The Speaker had to sternly shads where the primary electell this Minister that it is the tions in most of the panchayats duty of the Minister to give are held by show of hands. as much information as avai-These are the new bodies that lable and not just parry quesare to dispense democracy in rural areas and train the rural

RESPECT

tions. The second Minister, Sri Sanjeeviah, thinks he is cleverer and hardly says anything more than than "yes" or "no". He too has had to hear some harsh criticism from the Speaker.

FROM D. NARASIMHARAO

If not anything else, the Chief Minister, Sri Sanjeeva Reddy is very frank. He plainly displayed the attitude of most Congress Ministers to all the rigmarole" of Parliamentary bate and other procedures like short notice questions, halfhour debates, etc., which lesser beings regard as essential safeguards of parliamentary demo-

cracy He remarked on the Speaker's suggestion that Ministers should answer questions adequately and be patient with entaries, that he would supplem not mind all the time in the world being given for the members to put questions if only a few minutes were allotted for the Government to transact bu-

siness every day. A point of all-India significance had come up for the Speaker's ruling when the Minister ications stated that for Comm he could not reply about the Vishakhapatnam drydock to a Communist member's question, since the concerned Ministry in the Centre refused to make available the necessary information on the ground that it was

a Central subject. Important

Ruling

dure of both Parliament

The Speaker ruled that according to the rules of proce-

State Legislature, questions re-It is the normal procedure lating to purely either the Centhat when the Assembly meets tre or the State should not be all the rules framed under various Acts and ordinances that to the subject matter of correshave been issued while it was pondence between the Centre in recess should be laid on the and the State, the Speaker said: table. But it is only when the "It is all in order. The Minis-



never questioning the wisdom of the Treasury in London, it has rushed in with a hasty though unofficial "welcome" this time as well. And why, one might ask? Because "as a mem-ber of the sterling area it is deeply interested in the stability of the sterling and in measures which make it freely convertible"-even when the "free convertibility" does not apply to sterling which it earns through the export of it valu-

AT WHOSE EXPENSE ?

able products.

In spite of lack of novelty in the British measure, i will be wrong to dismiss it as merely fortuitous. For, even to lift the curbs on the sterling's convertibility to the extent it has done, the United Kingdom needed to have a certain accretion to its reserves. This it did at the expense of the underdeveloped primary producing countries like ours, the slump in whose export prices contributed to the accumulation of the trade surpluses by it and its other partners in the Organisation for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC.)

This, however, is only a

there is another aspect of

this monetary upheaval, which concerns the relationship between the eleven countries of the OEECoutside the Common Market, and the six-primarily France-which comprise it. "Quite possibly" as the Hindustan Times said, "Britain's failure to get an agreement in respect of the free trade area set the time-table for the actual event". Rather significantly, it continued, "financial commentators in Britain lately been referring to convertibility being timed or taken as an act of retaliation against the Common Market.'

But France has not been found wanting in inge-nuous devices either. In its economy streamlining to meet this offensive bet ter it has devalued the franc and taken a number of ancillary steps to tighten belt. Naturally, as the Hindustan Standard has said, "the British attempt to humble France into sub mission has misfired." however, has its own Frankenstein — the colonialist war against the Algerian people—which cannot but upset before long all its plans to put the economy on an even keel.

ROLE OF USA AND W. GERMANY

Two countries whose role n this game of monetary hide-and-seek in Western Europe offers rather an in teresting study are West USA. Germany and the Both of them had been tomtommed as the haven of free enterprise—with the genius of an Anderson in one and an Erhard in the other, having ushered in a veritable millenium. The truth, however, was not so



PROFITABLE OUTLET

West Germany though fit to follow the British example and make its currency ireely convertible while the only way which the USA could visualisein keeping with the rapacious coaracter of its capital-was that of exporting its surplus to countries where it could earn a better profit. Its blessings to the creation of an economic grouping like the Common Market, which seemed to go counter to its professed objective of building a united Europe, had. erefore, a basis and a rationale

As the Economic Weekly's London Correspondent observed, its belief that the formation of the market "unencumbered by tariff and exchange controls would provide the most profitable outlet for international private investment" persuaded it not only

to countenance but to inspire the formation of this restrictive grouping.

NOTES

INSIDE OUR NEWS &

ECONOMY

REACTION HERE

Moreover, since the Market provided "a firmer basis for cartels and other quasiopolistic arrangements the Correspondent added its attraction to the U.S capitalists was irresistible Hence, by devaluing their currencies and making them convertible primarily into dollars the countries within the Market or. outside it have only made it easier for U.S. capital to make deeper inroads into their econon

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Taking the cue from them certain circles in our country have also begun for resort to to clamour steps which might equally facilitate the creation of newer foreign vested inter-ests here. "Underdeveloped ountries like ours ought to appreciate this." says the Hindustan Times. To beat their game and save the country from going the way which the Hindustan Times and its patrons want it to go, it is imperative that the truth behind the high-sounding assertions of the imperialists is unmask. d. And the truth is that howsoever tall be their talk about "breaking through economic barriers the they do not at all intend to loosen their grip on the underdeveloped nations of the world. • 1

-ESSEN December 29, 1958

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NEW AGE

Political Monthly of the Communist Party of India

January 1959 issue contains :

- B. T. RANADIVE: The Ideology of Jaya Prakash
- M. BASAVAPUNIAH : Congress Dissensions in Andhra
- CENTRAL COMMITTEE, COMMUNIST PARTY OF CHINA: Resolution on People's Communes (Full text)
- J. M. KAUL : Problems of Refugee Rehabilitation in West Bengal
- PLUS Book Reviews
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T. Madhavan, NEW AGE (Monthly), 74 Asaf Ali Road. New Delhi-1.

PAGE THREE

A view of the plenary session of the All-African People's Conference held at the be--Photo by Chi Lien-po (Hsinhua) editorial

BREAK UP BILINGUAL THE

I N Bombay last week Sri Pant had an opportunity to assuage the feelings of Maharashtrians whose demand for Samyukta Maharashtra has been completely denied by the Nehru Government. No one expected Sri Pant to make an outright announcement accepting the formation of Samyukta Maharashtra. But nothing would have been lost if the Home Minister had uttered a soothing word or two, showing respect for popular opinion. But instead Sri Pant addressed homilies on eradication of poverty and want and praising the bilingual State as a great progressive achievement. He said that the reorganised State of Bombay came into being with the support of people's representatives and all efforts should, therefore, be made to see that it was

It would have been better had Sri Pant not refer-red to the so-called support of the representatives of the people. Every one knows that the Congress High Command conspired to see that its followers in Parliament voted for the bilingual State which no one in Maharashtra and in Gujarat wanted. And why has Sri Pant stopped with the voting in Parliament? After the formation of the bilingual State, there has been a general election in the country-in Maharashtra and Gujarat-and the result of that election, the verdict of the people, has gone against the Congress.

The Congress was routed in Maharashtra; not one of the M.P.s from the old Maharashtra area, who voted for the bilingual State in the pre-election Parliament was returned by the people. In Gujarat also on the same issue a number of Congress stalwarts including State and Central Ministers were defeated.

If people's representatives in Parliament supported the bilingual State, their masters outside have de-

feated it—Sri Pant at least ought to know it. Pandit Nehru is very fond of telling the people that they must express their will through democratic forms. The people of Maharashtra expressed their will decisively in the elections and told the Congress that the bilingual State must go. Since then every bye-election has seen the further rout of the Congress. Seats won by the Congress in the general elections have been won by the Samiti in the bye-elections. A bye-election in the minority area of Bombay was decisively won by the Samiti, thus shattering Congress claim to speak on behalf of the minorities. The Congress lost innumerable municipal, local board and other elections.

Why is the Nehru Government so impervious to public opinion? Because it is unable to resist the pressure of Bombay's Big Business interests; because the prestige of Sri Morarji Desai is linked with the maintenance of the bilingual State. There is no principle involved except that of appeasing Big Business. All talk of a national experiment is pure moonshine.

In these circumstances, popular opinion in the country must see that the bilingual State is broken up and the Congress Government is compelled to obey the people's verdict, in favour of Samyukta Maharashtra and Maha Gujarat.

The refusal of the Nehru Government to accept the electoral verdict of the people leaves them with only one alternative-forging new mass sanction to enforce their demand. The Congress Government had perhaps thought of playing the Maharashtrians and Gujaratis against each other. The Samiti and Parishad have foiled the game by bringing the people to-

gether for common struggle. Let a joint call go from the two organisations and let preparations be made for joint direct action. Such a call will rouse tens of thousands and will be supported by the entire people. If the Congress Government does not relent in time before the joint challenge, the force of popular struggle will shatter the bilingual State and along with it the Congress organisation in Maharashtra and Gujarat. Nothing, not all the police of the Congress Government, will save the bilingual

State The Congress High Command also sees the w on the wall. It is aware that it cannot resist the de- change position, which is almand for long. It is, therefore, utilising the intervening period to see if the power of the Samiti can be reduced by creating dissensions; if people can be fool-ed and it can get their votes by a promise of reconsi-deration of the issue after the next election. Let them not have the time for creating dissensions in popular ranks.

December 30.

************ PAGE FOUR

Kerala Communists Discuss Land Bill Amendments

A joint meeting of the Kerala State Committee of the Communist Party and the Communist Legislature Party held at Trivandrum last month gave final shape to the amendments to be made in the Agrarian Relations Bill now under consideration by a Select Committee. Three representatives from each District Committee also attendof the meeting.

meeting for regulating the reationship between small landholders and the tenants under

A small landholder was defined as one owning not more than five acres of double-crop wet land and having a nonagricultural income of not more than Rs. 150 per month. The tenants under such

small-holders can either surpossession and get full ownership of the remaining half: or enjoy permanent fixity of tenure paying 75 per cent of the rent that he is paying toland by paying a lump sum compensation of 12 times the existing rent.

For those classes of tenants who enjoy no fixity of tenure ing.

lopment of the Petroleum

Resources in Asia" held in

the Indian Capital recently,

though they had coated

their nefarious design to

grab the oil resources of

the region with the kindly

concern for the peoples of

The Americans, in their

paper, are said to have stron-

gly pleaded for the handing

over of oil prospecting and oil production to the oil com-

panies of the West. This pro-

posal had the active support of the British oil interests

on two grounds.

costly failures.

grow worse.

The proposal was advocated

FIRST, the underdeveloped

countries of the region, being short of capital, trained per-

sonnel and foreign exchange,

should not stake their puny

resources on oil exploration

and prospecting as they more

otten than not resulted in

SECONDLY, as huge funds

are sure to be spent on this "gamble" of finding oil, the

devilopmental plans. so essen-

tations of the newly libeca-

this area.

T ENTATIVE recommenda-tions were accepted by the tor regulating the re-tor regulating the re-tor regulating the reunder any of the existing laws given the choice of resuming half the land from the tenant. For the other half, the tenant

has to pay compensation or fair rent as suggested above. The meeting discussed the question of linking income from each land to fixing a ceiling. But this will necessitate a comprehensive land survey, which day; or purchase the entire graded system linked to the pre-

The meeting also considered the question of land owned by temples and other religious institutions. About 25 per cent of the total land in Malabar and Cochin areas are owned by such institutions.

The attitude of the Government of India and the Planning Commission is that any land reform legislation should not reduce the present incomes of the temples and other religious institutions. The meeting emphatically protested against this attitude, characterising it as unjust and illogical.

The meeting's suggestion was prehensive land survey which that provision may be included might take several years, thus in the Kerala Bill with regard render half of the land in his defeating the very purpose of to these institutions on the same ceiling. The proposal, there- lines as the Mysore Bill-con-fore, was to retain the acreage ferring full proprietorship on basis as at present in the Bill, the tenants who possess land As for compensation, the rate owned by the temples and other suggested by the meeting is a religious institutions by paying compensation at the rate of 16 sent market value of the land, times the annual income from the highest slab being 50 per such lands as non-negotiable cent of the market value for the irredeemable bonds. The instifirst five acres above the ceil- tutions will only get interest permanently.

A Snub For The FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

the ECAFE region.

He pointed out that the Anglo - American proposal was meant to increase their stranglehold on one of the most vital sectors of the region's economy. If it were accepted, it would lead to the reintroduction of im-perialist. domination from the backdoor, instead of accelerating the socio-econo-mic development in this region.

As for the cost of exploration, the Indian representatives are said to have pointed out that sizeable oilfields and gas reserves have been found in Assam, Cambay, Lunej and Jwalamukhi at a nominal "risk capital" of about 2.5 million pound sterling.

Drawing the attention of the delegates to the question of foreign risk capital, Sri K. D. Malaviya, Minister for Oil and Mines, Government of India, in his speech also stated that after all a country will have to pay heavily to the foreign private capital for their risks, if oil is found. tial to meet the rising expanted peoples of this region, would be greatly hampered. oil in the interests of one's economy ready not very happy, will and welfare"

The Anglo-American sug-gestion is reported to have The Indonesian representathe representative of the World Federation of Trade

most impossible for them to proceed against the oil comanies if they fail to honour the terms of the contract. The Soviet representative said the foreign exchange component could be sup-plied, as it was already be-

ing supplied, by the coun-tries of the Socialist camp on a long-term credit basis. was therefore, in the mutual interest of the peoples of the ECAFE region as well as those of the rest of the world, that oil which the imperialist war-maniacs of the West needed so desperately should not be allowed to fall in their

The underdeveloped countries participating in the symposium were able to wring two major concessions.

ONE, the symposium reommended to the "Committee on Industry and Natural Resources" to undertake a study of the possibility of establishing an institute for conducting research . and training technical personnel in the ECAFE region.

TWO, it recommended to the Committee to study the possibility of manufacturing industrial equipment in the region itself for the use of the oil industry.

These two proposals were carried through in spite of the earlier opposition of the U.S. and U.K. delegates who strongly pleaded for the post-

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STATE TRADING IN FOOD GRAINS

The Central Kisan Council, which met in Delhi recently, considered the various proposals for State trading and suggested the following measures:

Fixing wholesale prices for guard against these pitfalls. Government purchase from wholesalers is not enough: it would leave the traders free to purchase at low prices from the peasants. Hence minimum prices for major foodgrains at past. production site should be fix-

Retail prices also should be fixed; which in no case should exceed by 15 per cent the producers' price. All wholesalers should be

made agents of the Gov- keep the State in their hold, if ernment and all purchases no effective checks are put on made by traders should be them. Just licensing them, under the strict control and checking their records off and supervision of the Government. Government should not give licences to wholesalers who have been convicted for hoarding or blackmarketing or were suspected of indulging in such malpractices. Also a limit for volume of trade which a wholesaler can do in foodgrains been man-made, to use the should be fixed so that one or few of them will not be able to control the entire local mar-

 Wherever cooperative societies, including credit societies, exist and are prepared to take up foodgrains trade, they should be given sole charge of purchasing and supplying the State with foodgrains.

Government should liberally give taccavi loans and should recover them in foodgrains if the cultivators prefer to pay in kind. This will be an ditional source of procuring foodgrains by the State and does not involve any financia outlay.

down.

Aim

Limited

In order to check rise in retail prices in the free market, Government should open retail shops in all towns and big villages and sell foodgrains at the controlled prices. Prices of essential industrial goods required by the peasants should be brought

The Central Kisan Coun-

cil's resolution does not mean

that even if these steps are

taken, trade in foodgrains

would be socialised. Far from

it. Socialisation of trade in

foodgrains can be achieved

when cooperative marketing

we

envelops all phases of the

speaking about today is of checking speculation, hoard-

ing, blackmarketing and such

other evil practices which

have crept into the food trade

Some Congressite newspapers

try to make out that the pre-

sent scheme of licensing whole-

food trade. What

recent times.

tal rationing and other

JANUARY 4, 1959

controls were lifted in 1952.

trading in foodgrains should

of the Council session was elcoming "the decision of the Central Government to introduce State trading in food- not. grains" and considering "it a victory of the kisan movement which has been campaigning for a long time for the elimination of speculation and monopoly trade and for intro-

recent times-

keting." But the Council felt that mere licensing of wholesalers and purchasing some stocks from them would not be enough and cannot be deemed as State trading and put forward a number of proposals to make State trading successful. (See General Secretary N. Prasada Rao's article on this page)

Distressing Trend

salers and the State purchasing The Council expressed its their requirements from these distress at the recent trend of licencees is itself socialisation of food trade. If that is so, we had more of socialist trade in foodgrains during the war period when procurement, requisitioning, commandeering, fixland reforms. ing of prices at all stages, to-

such controls were introduced. But we know where that scheme led us. The whole country heaved a sigh of relief when these The present scheme of State

discussions in the meeting of the All-India Congress Committee and the reported decisions of the Congress Working Committee on the question of According to the Council.

the foreign ex-

NEW AGE

Hence, he added that the fact "that we are emphasising more on the public sector so far as oil is concerned is mainly because we are convinced there is no other way and

tive was constrained to reveal been vehemently opposed by the unsavoury fact that the oil companies working in Indoneisa have persistently re-Unions. Echoing the senti- fused to share the geophysical ments of the newly liberated and geological data and rele-countries of Asia, he exposed vant know-how with the peo-of these issues.



From the experience we have gained, we should adopt measures to plug the loopholes in these schemes which led to several malpractices in the

The Government has no machinery for itself purchasing and distributing all the marketable surplus. It has to make use of the trading interests. And this provides the biggest opportunity to the traders to on, and purchasing a part of their stocks, will not do; for, the major part will be left with

the traders and they can do anything they like with it. We know that all big famines in luding the Bengal famine of 1943 - have term of the Woodhead Commission. The suggestions made by the Central Kisan Council will help in preventing such

developments again. First of all, Government should be in a strong position to keep the market under its control. Mere orders or ordinances will not help. They will only result in hoarding and blackmarketing. If the Government possesses suffiSOME PROPOSALS TO MAKE IT A SUCCESS

control.

The total cereal production more stocks into its hands. this year may be about 60 million tons and the marketable surplus about 20 million tons large-scale purchases. (32 per cent of rice and 35 per cent of wheat and so on). Pur-chasing a mere two million \$,000 million as the amount tons from this marketable sur- that is likely to be necessary.

cient stocks, then only can it Council that repayment of tac- The only question that arises keep the market under its cavi loans may be in kind will also help the Government to get

It is being said that financial considerations preclude such The Economic Review of the AICC

by N. PRASADA RAO GENERAL SECRETARY, ALL-INDIA KISAN SABHA

olus, leaving 90 per cent of it This is not correct. If the busiin the hands of the traders cannot give the Government the whiphand in the matter. We do not know how much imports there would be next year. Even assuming that it will e three million tons, the total stocks at Government disposal will be too small to control the market. Hence the Central Kisan Council has suggested that Government purchases should be more than just two million tons.

The suggestion made by the

ness turn-over is quick and if wagon supply is adequate and timely, the State need not invest more than about Rs. 800 million at any time in the whole of the country.

Similarly storage difficulties, which are already there, do not increase. There are several Government godowns whose full capacity is not being utilised today and since Government will be purchasing from the traders, the godowns of the traders can also be used.

CENTRAL KISAN COUNCIL MEETS

THE Central Kisan Council met in New Delhi from December 20 to 22 with A. K. Gopalan, M.P., President of the All-India Kisan Sabha, in the chair. Thirteen members and invitees attended the meeting. One of the main resolutions duction of cooperative mar-

thing but

evictions under any pretext will be completely stopped or not, whether transfers and partitions made among minors would be disregarded or not, whether enough surplus land would be acquired for distribution or the landlords would be allowed to get away with all their lands under various devices, and whether the price to be paid by the beneficiary would be within his reach or

Viewed from this angle, the decisions of the Congress Working Committee prove useless to solve the land question and leave things as they are or at best encourage landlords to take to capitalist cultivation.

Protest Against Discrimination

The Central Kisan Council hence requested the Government of India to reconsider its agrarian policy and accept the suggestions put forward by the All-India Kisan Sabha. The Council also protested emphatically against the cir-cular of the Union Home Min-

istry listing some democratic organisations including the All-India Kisan Sabha with which Ministers have been asked not to associate.

It is strange to find even Prime Minister Nehru arguing that these organisations, including the Kisan Sabha are spurious, organistions.

dilatory tactics and giving The All-India Kisan Sabha, more time to the landlords to as the Prime Minister knows The All-India Kisan Sabha, set their house in order. very well, was founded in 1935 The acid test of any land by leaders of the Congress, the reform is whether the evicted Communist Party, the Con-tenants would be restored to gress Socialist Party and number of organisational de-their lands or not, whether others and has remained a cisions.

NEW AGE

mass organisation ever since drawing lakhs of kisans belonging to all shades of political opinion.

Prime Minister Nehru when he was the President of the Congress had welcomed the formation and work of the Sabha as an independent mass kisan organisation and had defended that position many a time.

Withdraw The

Circular

To put such an organisa tion with such a long history and a membership of over a million outside the pale of association by Ministers is contrary to all principles of democracy and fair play. It amounts to giving official patronage only to organisations run by the ruling party.

Union Home Ministry circular also means that Min-isters would be debarred from attending rallies and conferences where kisans and their representatives come in their thousands, thus preventing them from feeling the pul of the masses. Such an attitude is very unhealthy and unhelpful, especially at a time when the entire country needs increased food production and needs to enlist the active and enthusiastic cooperation of all organisations and all kisans.

The Central Kisan Council requested the Government of India to withdraw the circular forthwith and give all national polishing has got other organisations the same treatsponsored by the Congress.

is, whether the stocks would be despatched quickly to deficit areas.

A very important question that has been raised by the Central Kisan Council is that of prices. So far, the various State Governments have fixed prices for only wholesale trade. We do not know whether prices will be fixed at both the producers' end as well as the consumers' end.

If this is not done, the traders will be in a position to purchase at any price, even at rock-bottom prices from the producers, and sell at high prices, making profits at both ends. This will make the producers as well as the consumers revolt against State trading. Hence, the prices to be paid to the producers at production site as well as the prices for retail sales should be fixed.

Just as mere formulation of scheme and licensing of holesalers cannot check hoarding and blackmarketing, similarly fixing of retail prices alone cannot stop blackmarketing. This can be effectively checked only when the Government can make sure whatever the traders do, the consumers get foodgrains at fixed prices and this is possible only when the Government opens retail shops or uses coope-rative societies for retail sales, at least in all towns and big villages. Just as the stocks in Government hands keep the market under check, similarly Government shops or cooperafive stores can keep the retail trade in check.

Prices Within Zones

Similarly it is not known whether for transactions made between the States within the zones, the same prices apply or the respective States can bargain and arrive at a lower or higher price. If the State Governments are given freedom in this sphere. the surplus State would hold the deficit States to ransom and get from them any price they want. If sufficien chases are made on Central Government account, then this profiteering can also be checked

The war-time practice of prohibiting double polishing is worth reintroducing. Data obtained from over 6.000 mills in the composite Madras State every month over a period of four years disclose that the increase in output averages 2.3 ner cent with normal single polishing as compared to double and triple polishing.

When the country is facing a serious food shortage, we cannot allow the luxury of double and triple polishing.

Hand pounding and single fits, too, Apart from the bigger ment as is given to those outturn, the rice will be more nutritive since all the bran is The Council also took a not lost. The Government should seriously consider prohlbiting more than one polishing

This is the second of the two articles on the remarkable success achieved in agriculture by China this year. In the previous article "Food for One Quarter of Mankind," published in New Age last week, the author described how China has in one year solved a centuries-old problem, that of food; in the present one he deals with the significance of this success for agricultural science and political economy.-Editor

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min 🙀

T HE record harvest in China in 1958 estimated at upwards of 350 million tons or nearly 100 per cent over the 1957 total has fundamentally solved the food problem in this country with the biggest population on earth and started a veritable revolution in things agricultural. Long accepted theories and ideas are, for the first time, openly questioned or thrown overboard. It has opened the eyes of many reople to new and unlimited possibilities hitherto regarded as unattainable.

Aside from demolishing the Malthusian "theory" on food and population, it has also sounded the death-knell for the related concept of "diminishing returns of the land." The "law", which says that every successive investment in labour and capital will bring about a smaller yield from the land cultivated, has become a standing joke in China be-cause the more the investment the greater the returns -as proved by the 1958 harvest.

Highest

Yields

The strongest refutation of these ideas is found in the numerous experimental plots and farms in China. These are land where the heaviest investment was made and the yields have been the highest in the world.

The highest yields per mou (one-fifteenth of a hectare or roughly one-sixth of an acre) so far reported are: winter wheat 3,660 kilogrammes 'rom the Hoping Cooperative of Honan Province in North China, spring wheat 4,292 kilogrammes from the Saishike State Farm of Chinghai Province in the Northwest, early rice 8,100 kilogrammes from the Chingping No. 2 Cooperative of Hupeh Province in Central China, semi-late rice 21,934 kilogrammes from the Changchun Cooperatice of Hupeh Province, and late rice 80,000 kilogrammes from the Chaomei (or Overtake America) People's Commune of Kiangsi Province in South

China. transplanting growing By shoots from other plots, another close planting method developed by the peasants in 1958 and recom nended as a possible means to save both time and land for the next crop in threecrop areas, yields of 68,000 kilogrammes of semi-late rice per mou were obtained. Similar super-high yields have been obtained by the peasants in other crops. The highest yield in cotton is 2,215 kilogrammes (ginned) report-



Members of the Hsinhsin Agricultural Co-op in Yenshih working on the threshing ground after bringing in a bumper

. by CHIM FU-JEN

wait for the machinery.

b

The Chinese peasa

the main, have relied on their own initiative, the

traditional methods of in-

tensive farming and the ad-

vanced techniques evolved

on that basis. The methods

were recently summed up

of the Communist Party

into seven measures which

the peasants call the "Se-

ven-Point Charter." They

are: capital construction (the building of irrigation

and drainage projects, soil

conservation and improve-ment and afforestation),

compost, animal manure

and green manure), soil, selected seeds, close plant-

ing and post-sowing care. On the basis of this year's

experience, the same mea-

sures plus improvement of

farm tools and pest control

are recommended for next

year's harvest which is ex-

pected to register a similar

spectacular increase. So far,

many provinces have plan-ned increases of up to 100

These measures are a revo-

lution. Some of them cannot

be found in agricultural ma-

nuals. Take soil, which the

Central Committee decision

points to as the core of the

tists in China were formerly

convinced by research and

general practice that plough-

ing deeper than 15.2 centi-

metres (six inches) was a

seven-point measures.

per cent or more.

Measures Not

Found In Manuals

water, fertiliser

the Central Committee

nts, in

(mainly

CHINA'S FOOD HARVEST THAT STARTS A CHAIN REACTION

ed from Kiangsi Province with the North China province of Shantung offering the stiffest competition so far. Shantung, which is still harvesting its crop. estimates that its highest cotton yield may possibly exceed 2,500 kilogrammes per

These yields, many of which were harvested on formerly poor and unproductive land, are won by pioneering peasants, especially Secretaries of the local committees of the Communist Party. By pooling the rich experience of the Chinese peasants and using such agricultural techniques such as deep ploughing, heavy dressing of fertiliser and close planting, they have virtually transformed the very nature of the soil and shattered long accepted ideas about how much a mou of land can yield. The significance of this

experiment is that people's minds are freed of outmoded and agricultural concepts practices. In China today the peasants are able to tell

the sceptics, not a few agricultural scientists included: "There are no low-yield crops, only low-yield think-

Formerly, wheat was, for instance, regarded as a low-yield crop. A hundred kilogrammes was regarded as the highest possible from a mou of relatively good soil. This year the highest is 40 times that amount

Not Yet Upper Limit

These high yields are not regarded as the upper limit, but are pointers to a far greater expansion and almost limitless production possibilities in the coming yearswithout expanding acreage. In fact, existing crop acreage is going to be cut in China. Chairman Mao Tse-tung recently proposed a "three-three system" after touring the rural areas. Under this system one-

1944 C

A farm has been set up by the Tangchuang People's Commune in Honan Province for the 100-odd boys and girls in the commune. Children of the Red Youth Farm have already gathered their first rich crops and are working for higher yields. Photo shows young worker Hsiao Liu-ni carrying big sweet potatoes.

NEW AGE

third of the arable land will be allotted to crops, one- third for afforestation and the re-nisation in farming, does not mainder will lie fallow. Even before the lowest

of these super-high yields has been attained, the nation's per capita output had already come up to over 500 kilogrammes. In China a person consumes, according to the present diet require ments, at most 25 kilogrammes or less than half of this amount. By growing only one crop of rice, instead of the two or three at present, on, say, an 80,000 kilogramme mou, the per capita supply will go up over 160 times. Even if a quarter, let alone half, of this is consumed, there is sufficient grain from one single crop for as many as 80 whole years! This is the simple arithemetic behind this revolutionary, yet realistic "threethree" concept for a so-called over-populated country

like China. In passing, this gives the lie to the malicious slander by the imperialists and their paid propagandists that China inevitably would have to expand and invade the territories of her neighbouring countries-due to "population pressure." The effect of this year's re-

cord harvest on agricultura science is seen from what some of the experts have to say. Tsai Pan-hwa, Vice-Director of the Institute of Entomological Research of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and former Dean of the Chekiang University College of Agriculture, wrote recently:

"Some time ago the Secretary-General of the All-China Federation of Scientists asked me to estimate the highest quantity that could be grown on a mou of land. I really did not know what to answer. I can no longer accept the records so far achieved as the maximum possible, nor can I view existing theoretical knowledge without reservation."

Seven-Point Charter

Mechanised farming was formerly thought the prime requisite for any substantial agricultural development. In other words, without industrialisation "poor, under-deve-loped countries" would have to remain so agriculturally before they were industrialis-

1998 - 1998 - 1997 - 1998 - 1998 - 1998 - 1998 - 1998 - 1998 - 1998 - 1998 - 1998 - 1998 - 1998 - 1998 - 1998 -

hazard. In no foreign techni-

Scien-

cal literature was ploughing. deeper than 25-30 centimetres (8.8-11.8 inches) recommended. The reason given for this is that there is too little organic matter needed by plant life below this depth in the But the peasants have plou-

ghed much deeper. Some exnerimental plots th were ploughed one metre deep. This year's autumn ploughing in preparation for next year's bigger wheat harvest, calls for upwards of 35 centimetres (1.2 feet). Many districts have ploughed many times * SEE PAGE 12

JANUARY 4, 1959

PUNJAB Behind The Controversy Over The Gurudwara Bill

12.5

Communists fight for a democratic set-up

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

CHANDIGARH, December 27 T HE Shiromani Gurudwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC) occupies a key position in the life of

the Sikhs. In the early twenties, the religious institutions of the Sikhs were dominated by the pro-princely and pro-imperialist Mahants and the Sikh masses of the Punjab had to build up the heroic Akali movement to throw these elements out from their positions of power. The Sikh Gurudwara Act. of 1925 came nto being as a result, providing for the election of the SGPC on the basis of Sikh adult franchise to manage the affairs of Sikh Gurudwaras.

Of late, a new type of Mahants had captured this Committee and started using the Gurudwaras for their narrow political interests. At one stage, a faction of the Punjab Congress had ruled the roost, later the Committee had pass ed into the hands of Master Tara Singh.

When Master Tara Singh and Giani Kartar Singh were together, both of them sought to deprive the Sikh masses of their democratic control over the religious institutions.

Undemocratic amendments: were moved to the parent Act to impose restrictions on the right to vote and also on those who are eligible to contest elections

The Communist Party in this State has always exposed these moves and on many occasions defeated this game. Recently also when some such amendments were sought to be moved it was the firm stand. Communists that of the forced the Government to retreat.

Only a few weeks ago; the Desh Bhagat Board—which consists of vteran Babas and those Akali leaders and workers who carry the banner of unity and democracy-put up a principled fight at the annual meeting of the SGPC and succeeded, along with pro-Congress wing of the the SGPC, in dislodging Master Tara Singh from the key post uhich he has been for the last four years.

Undemocratic Amendments

After this defeat inflicted on Masterji, both the wings of the State Congress-one led by Chief Minister Kairon and the other by Giani Kartar Extension Of Singh-decided on certain unnocratic amendments to the Gurudwara Act.

This is the background of these moves: the Act. only applies to the former Punjab areas and an amending Bill was introduced to extend the Act to PEPSU also. This was a welcome step. What was not so welcome was the manner in which representation was sought to be given to the Sikhs of PEPSU in the Com-

mittee.

T HE firings indulged in by Pakistani border forces at different places in the Assam-East Pakistan border, while they cause anxiety to the whole of the people have become a serious problem for Assam's economy, specially in the areas adjacent to the border. As a result of the Pakistani

shooting early this year, culti-vation was abandoned in a number of areas in Cachar and the Khasi-Jaintia Hills. Now in certain other areas where cultivation had not been affected, harvesting has been given up because of the renewed firing. There are frequent reports of

ASSAM =

stealing of paddy and forest products like bamboo and timber by Pakistanis under armed protection of their border forces Moreover, even the restricted border trade between the Khasi

Hills in Assam and Sylhet in East Pakistan has come to a complete standstill after the recent firings. The military dictatorships of Pakistan seems to be taking full advantage of the cease-fire

Pak Firing

which the Indian side, on its

never been any dispute. Even

of the paddy cultivated by

settelment of disputes if any,

part, is scrupulously observing.



Motivated by narrow interests of gaining control over the SGPC, the Congress rulers suggested that the PEPSU Interim Gurudwara Board, which also is a nominated body, should be merged with the SGPC and the 13 members of this Board along with 12 coopted members of the SGPC should nominate another 35 members to the SGPC from the PEPSU area.

Equally undemocratic 100 the proposal put forward by Master Tara Singh. He demanded that the General Body of the SGPC should nominate the 35 members.

The underlying idea of both the proposals were the same: domination over the SGPC through undemocratic me-

Before the Bill was introduced in the Punjab Assembly, Master Tara Singh held his

convention at Amritsar and both the wings of the State Congress held another convention at Patiala on the same day-December 21.

When Giani Kartar Singh and the Kairon-Rarewala group found their position shaky they retreated even further and, on the eve of the special session of the Puniah Assembly, they decided to amend the Bill in such a manner as to empower the 15-member Executive Committee of the SGPC to nominate the 35 members from PEPSU

Congress Rulers See Sense

Communist legislators and the Leftist Desh Bhagat Board came out firmly against this move, pointing out that it was against the spirit of the Gurudwara would give Act and that it

NEWS FROM STATES.

a handle to Master Tara Singh to mislead the Sikh masses. The Communist Group made it clear to the Congress leaders that it would fight this move to the last in the Assembly and the Desh Bhagat Board decided to launch a powerful campaign against it.

Right at the beginning the Congress rulers tried to ignore all this and tried to placate the Desh Bhagat Board bypromising it some seats on the SGPC. But the Board was not available to be thus bought with a few seats. it stuck to its principles.

Congress leaders at this stage decided that discretion was the better part of valour and expressed readiness to open negotiations with the Communists and the Desh Bhagat Board. It is this development that led to the abrupt djournment . of the Punjab Assembly on December 22.

Prolonged discussions between the Communist leaders ed by Harkishen Singh Suriit and the Desh Bhagat Board on the one side and spokesmen of the Government on the other led to agreement Akali Congress on a common formula. According to this formula,

the 35 Sikh representatives

would gladly undertake the task

are not getting permits. Permits

have only been granted to 15

trucks because certain Congress-

men had just that number of

trucks and did not want more

would lead to competition.

permits to be given as that

Earlier, following partition,

the Government had for some

months arranged the air-lifting

of these goods. Even if that is

restored, it will to some extent

Thus, deprived of all means to

sell their produce, the Khasi

peasants are now left to live on

in the border area can restore

normalcy, the conditions of the

While only secure conditions

Committee of the Communist

Party as well as by a section

demand some urgent

ease the situation.

beople

stens.

wild roots and grass.

from PEPSU will be elected by an electoral college consisting of Sikh members of Parliament and the Punjab Legislature, Sikh members of Municipal Committees, Presidents and Chairmen of Sikh. Sabhas, managers of Sikh educational institutions and Sikh sarpanches and Nyaypradhans of panchavats.

Since this election is only for a period of one year-the SGPC elections are to take place next year-this formula will satisfy the Sikh masses of PEPSU.

State Saved

From Tension

The principled fight of the Communist Group in the Punjab Vidhan Sabha and the Desh Bhagat Board has thus saved the Punjab from serious communal tension. If the Government had refused to change its position, it would have provided Master Tara Singh with a weapon to fan. communalism in the Sikh masses. Now Masterji will find. it difficult to rouse passions on this issue. In fact. some legislators who had supported Master Tara Singh are already shifting their position.

BORDER TENSION PLAYS HAVOC PEOPLE'S LIVES WITH

From Madhusudan Bhattacharyya

like grange, potato, etc. But it has not found favour with the Government.

Generally the Congress Ministry's attitude has not been very helpful. When the Chief Minister recently convened a meeting to discuss the border problem and evolve a policy that would command the faith and allegiance of the people, the Communist Party was carefully kept out of it.

The Cachar District Committee of the Communist Party (Cachar is a border district) said about this in a recent re "This exclusion in solution: connection with a national issue which demands the utmost national unity and solidarity seems strange · and inexplica ble

This is not a problem which One such suggestion that concerns Assam alone. If the was made-by the Shillong people on our border are not helped to get out of the economic difficulties created by borof Congressmen — was for der tensions, it is our national State trading in produce security that will suffer.



PAGE SEVEN

preposterous demands. Political circles here believe that the Pakistani authorities have been pursuing these tactics

have scarcely been reciproca-

ted. On the contrary, such

gestures are met with further

with a view to establishing their de facto possession of these Indian territories now so that they will get a chance later to put forward their claims.

Adverse Effect On Economy

This border tension is causing suffering and misery not only to the people on this side but also to those on the other side of the border who are equally ndent on the border trade And the Pakistani authorities are exploiting their suffernigs to rouse them against India.

What is happening today in the Khasi-Jainitia Hills is an instance of the serious problem created by this continuing ten-

The oranges are ripe but the growers show no interest in plucking them. Where is the narket, they ask. In remote villages, it is said, they will not get a buyer even if they offer a hundred oranges for an anna.

No prospective purchaser is forthcoming for the simple reaon that there is hardly any A special feature of the re- means by which he can transcent Pakistani provocations is port the goods. The roads which the extension of firing to were included in the First Fiveareas over which there has Year Plan are yet to be completed while the survey work is still going on for the roads to such gestures of goodwill on the part of the Assam Gov- be constructed under the Se-

ernment as surrendering half ' cond Plan. The State Transport does not of the putty cannot be undertake to carry these goods Indian peasants in what is undertake to carry these goods clearly Indian soil pending for fear of incurring losses, undertake to carry these goods

WINTER SESSION OF PARLIAMENT

COMMUNISTS HIGHLIGHT DANGER FROM THE USA, FIGHT FREE ENTERPRISE LOBBY

The Session of Parliament just ended began under the sinister shadow of the military dictatorships enveloping India's neighbouring countries. Hovering above them all was Pakistan's military dictator General Ayub Khan who soon after he usurped power proclaimed that he would settle issues with India only on his terms failing which he threatened to "adopt extreme measures" including war. Backed as he was by the might of U.S. imperialism, supported by a number of war pacts, with a generous supply of U.S. arms, Ayub Khan's threats could not be taken lightly.

our borders immediate- behind that martial law and ly preceding the Session and during the Session, the reported new arms pact between the USA and Pakistan, the lack of democratic checks to the actions of the dictator, 'the impossibility of saner elements asserting their opinion in Indo-Pakistan disputes, the arrest of leaders of democratic and progressive opinion, etc., had brought home to all parties and people the necessity of taking stock of the situation.

The Real Culprits

> But very few people knew where to search for the where source of our discomfort. As usual when Parliament began, adjournment motions there-most of them directed against the obviou -Ayub Khan and the border violations. It was left to the Communist Party to focus attention on the real culprit behind the depredations of military dictators

The motion moved by Comrades S. A. Dange, A. K. Go-Hiren Mukerjee palan and sought to discuss the serious situation caused by "the and increasing continued arms supply by the USA to Pakistan which in the context of the recent declarations of General Ayub Khan adds to the threat to the ecurity of India."

Communist members made it clear that it was not their intention to raise a hate campaign against Pakistan. "But surely the immediate proments have been ag- Developments nounce ainst India." The U.S. Secretary of Defence when he visited Karachi discussed question of arms supply and a new pact of defence Pakistan. Therefore, with Comrade Dange pointed out, "such a build-up is bound to hit us first before anybody

This American threat to our security and peace in the area was brought out clearly in the foreign affairs debate, too. In the Lok Sabha, Comrade Dange pin-pointed the issue question of what is happening to had come down. Wonderful! these Governments but who is behind it.... Who supplies arms to Pakistan and tries to create an atmosphere of unfriendliness between the countries? Who landed troops in the Lebanon? Who tried to for us." invade Egypt? Who supplied the military coup in Thailand with all the forces that were WHO?' and then let us see regimes that are springing Governments. "A submerged

THE series of violations of around us, but also on the gun

power.' In the Rajya Sabha, Comrade Bhupesh Gupta posed the problem thus : "Behind all this is American military aid. -that I want to make quite clear." He pointed out, quoting American 'Press revarious ports, how the American ruling circles welcomed the rise of these military regimes in Thailand. Burma and Pakistan.

Refuting the propaganda of reactionaries about the failure of democracy in Pakistan, Comrade Bhupesh Gupta said : "The Western Press is trying to make out that democracy has failed in Pakistan. Thanks to their interference and intrigue, democracy was never given a fair trial there; it was always under manacles all the time. What has failed in Pakistan really is the policy of the Pakistan ruling clique to carry on in the normal constitutional and if you like, parliamentary way, relying on American military assistance and economic aid and suppressing or attacking democratic rights and

Communist M.P.s drew pointed attention to reports about stationing of the American Fifth Fleet in the Indian Ocean and the threat such an action would pose to the secu-rity of India. "A fleet stationed in the Indian Ocean by a country which has nothing to do with the Indian Ocean is going to be dangerous," warned Dange.

Undesirable

But apart from this, Communist members drew the attention of Parliament and the country to certain undesirable developments in the country in connection with certain of the actions of the military dictatorship in Pakistan. Certain people--good people, well-meaning, but gullible all the same thought that the military junta was doing very well. They had doing very well. caught an ex-Minister blackmarketing in cars, they had whipped a few hoarders. Prices Comrade Dange pointed out, "a lurking sympathy with all these methods is being expressed... A sort of comparison is being drawn, which comparison is very dangerous

Therefore, the remedy lies in educating the people, in fighting the causes of such required? Let us answer that lurking sympathy - causes which arise from the corrupthat we keep an eye not only tion, inefficiency and undemo-on these military martial law cratic practices of our own

into sympathy for a vicious. dollars. becomes a danger to our country."

Communist M.P.s, at the same time, warned against any panic, either on account of external attack or internal difficulties. While we should not be complacent, there is no question of a counter-build-up of military strength-an arms race. Bu we have to take stock of certain forces within and without who are working against our country's inter-

U. S. Imperialist Complicity

For example, Comrade Bhush Gupta dispelled any doubts as to the complicity of U.S.imperialism in the internal affairs of our country. In this connection, he pointed out to the Press build-up given to Sri Morarji Desai in the West. "He stands on the Congress Right and the Government under his control would presumably concentrate on strengthening India's present economy not on moving in Socialist direction," commented one paper. Quoting the Time magazine, "In Washing-ton next week, U.S. officials would be meeting the man whose name most often tops the list of possibilities (as successor to Mr. Nehru)."

"My fear is that the moment you start settling successors in this manner, we have to be on guard. We have to take precautions and we should know what is what," warned Comrade Bhupesh against the king-makers in Britain and the United States.

The intensity of feeling in the country on the issue of American aid to Pakistan and the importance given to that by the Communist Group in Parliament almost shut the mouth of the American Lobby. It will be remembered that the last session of Parliament showed considerable activity in the open by the American Lobby and a concentrated aton the policy of pea and non-alignment pursued by Prime Minister Nehru, No doubt the jingle of dollars in Washington to help us 'tide over our difficulties' over the Second Plan had emboldened

Plight Of

American Lobby

However, this time it was no eosy sailing for habitual denigrators of the Socialist countries and the help they give us to industrialise our country, did not have the courage to show up. Ayub Khan had upset their applecart. And we saw, contrary to the experience of the monsoon session of Parliament. a number of Congressmen ranging on the side of progressive forces in attacking U.S. imperialism and its diabolic game in our part of the world. This time there was no hallelujahs

discontent, to be converted to the bounty of 'democratic' raised the issue also and dears. However, this Session saw

the emergence in the open of another determined and sinister and powerful force in Parliament. That is the "Free Enterprise" Lobby. The Session was remarkable for the unending fight between the forces of the reactionary vested interests and those who stand for the extension of State ownership over the

country's resources. The Session also revealed the considerable strength of the vested interests within Congress fold. Whilethe Right-wing elements were very active, the Government divided, the progressive elements in the Congress were disarrayed and lacked effective leadership. This is one of the results of the crisis facing the economy and the Plan.

eaking on the Reappraisal of the Second Plan during the Monsoon Session of Parliament on September 24, Comrade Bhupesh Gupta had pointed out in the Rajya Sabha : "The crisis of the Second Plan is not a foreign exchange crisis only or even a crisis of resources.... these are only the manifestations of the deeper underlying crisis through which the Second Plan is passing.... In other words, the symptoms of the crisis which the capitalist economy in the present phase of decline is suffering are before us in full operation

Economic Situation

The present session of Parliament saw the further substantiation of this overall estimation of the direction of our economy through concrete stances in specific sectors of the economy. Take for example, the debate on the trends in our export trade and the crisis of our textile industry. The spokesmen of the vested interests tried to make out that the trouble with our texindustry was high taxatile tion, defective export policies of the Government and competition from China.

Comrade Dange in his comprehensive survey of the situation, showed how capitalism was facing a crisis of overproduction, how it was inevitable that the very nature of our economic system precluded any possibility of sustained and continuous economic development without ups and downs. While in a Socialist economy, higher production means higher standard of living for the people, better wages for the worker and more prosperity for the nation, in the capitalist way of development more production results in slump, closures and throwing out of workers from

employment. This was again illustrated in the crisis facing the jutegrowers. While raw jute pro-duction has already attained the Second Five-Year Plan targets, the producers find themselves faced with ruin due to the precipitous fall in prices. The Communist Group

manded fixation of minimum. prices for raw jute.

The Government tied as it is to the will of the powerful Jute Mills Association pleaded helplessness. This situation in our economy is in direct contrast to the unprecedented growth of Chinese production and no amount of talk about methods and means could cover up the bankruptcy of the capitalist way of development.

Exposure Of **Private Sector**

The Free Enterprise Lobby came in for a severe drubbing again during the rest vealing exposure of our 'patriotic' industrialists rob. bing the nation through defence contracts for trucks and in the game undermining the security of the country in an especially danger-ous international situation ous international situation. The Parliament Prevention Disqualification Bill gav rise to a major policy contro versy involving the Free En terprise Lobby. The Join Select Committee proposed to bring under disqualification the office of Chairman, Direc tor and the membership of number of statutory and no statutory bodies (named in Part I and II of the Schedul of the Bill).

This would have prevent

ed members of Parliament from getting anywhere near effective control over a large number of statutory and non-statutory bodies in the public sector, while these would remain exclusively open to the vested interests and bureaucrats. Communist members fought these disqualifications so that it would become possible for members of Parliament to participate in such bodies and for good non-official elements from such bodies seeking election to Parliament.

The vested interests, who want all these bodies kept open only to them but closed to popular representatives, resorted to demagogy. They said that these disqualifications necessary in the interests of ensuring the "indece of members of Parliament," etc. Communists countered their contention and exposed their demagogy.

As a result of the debate in the Lok Sabha, the Bill was amended in the direction of the Communist standpoint. Directorships or memberships of statutory and non-statutory odies named in Part I of the Schedule will not be regarded as disqualification for membership of Parliament. That is, members of Parliament can be sent as directors and mem- of the House or leader of the bers of these bodies, only majority party in this House Chairmanship carrying dis- to tell them what they should

executive committees. Underlying the debate and controversy over this Bill was the fight betewen the public sector and the private sector, the latter striving its hardest to keep these bodies inaccessible to members of Parlia ment. The Communist ap-

proach attracted considerable support from all sections of House and even the Law Minister could not defend the position of the Government Treasury Benches were forced to at least modify their stand

An important issue which came up during this session of Parliament was the privilege notion against Comrade E. M. S. Namboodiripad carried over from the last session. The discussion on the motion and the voting on it showed how unprincipled the behaviour of the Congress leadership has been on the issue. While expressing eulogie

for constitutional propriety and democratic ideals. Prim Minister Nehru, the Leader of the Congress Party, left the matter "for each individual to decide. as indeed it is. and it is not for me as a Leader

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RACKET

HERE cannot be a great er scandal than the manner in which the country's foreign exchange re sources are being handled by this Government. said Bhupesh Gupta speaking of the Foreign Exchange Begulations (Amendment) Bill in the Rajya Sabha on December 23.

While the so-called apprehensions of foreign in vestors were sought to be allayed through the amen ing Bill, the people had their own apprehensions, said Bhupesh Gupta. H referred to the S. P. Jain episode : "You have seen how a gentleman goes there with Rs. 11,000 in his pocket and comes back with more money, leaving a discovered amount of Rs. 19 lakhs in another bank."

"I think the discovery at Palam should have obliged the Government to come with a comprehensive measure," said Bhupesh Gupta spotlighting' the incompetence, and helplessn which Government showed in the affair.

"You could not do anything; you cannot even launch a prosecution. The gentleman who gets caught, gets away. First of all, he

that the foreign creditors tore certain papers. You did not prosecute him. He could of these firms are generally the creditors of their subhave been as well prosecuted on a charge of causing sidiaries. Here are firms under their influence of obstruction to a public serunder certain monopolist concerns. That is how the vant in the discharge of his official duties, which is al-ways done in the case of others. You do not prose cute him. You serve a notice. :.. How generous, how lenient (the Government) is when it comes to the Tatas, Birlas, Dalmias and

Calling for a comprehen sive review of the entire Foreign Exchange Regulation Act and demanding that the Government bring' comprehensive Bill at least in the next session Bhupesh Gupta expos how the country's foreign exchange resources were being drained away with the connivance and help of existing laws.

Jains

He drew attention to the fact that an overwhelming majority-90 to 95 per cent -of higher salaried officers in the foreign controlled firms were foreigners and there was no restriction or sending money their abroad.

"What is important in this connection is to note

foreign sector gets linked up with the Indian sector and this becomes a source of draining out our foreign exchange resources from the country. "I know the World Bank has made a suggestion of this kind. Can you deny it? I know, when negotiations went on abroad—in Britain -the City of London made the suggestion that their apprehension should be removed. By such a sugges tion they always seek to remove whatever little scope

for restraint and restriction or supervision remains in the hands of the Governent so that they can freely operate, and take money abroad. This is the policy which is embodied in this particular generous ro which the Governmeas ment has brought before

us. . . "Already we are sending" 30 crores of rapees annually abroad by way of interest charges and profits on the money invested in India.



manship and Secretaryship members of their standing and

qualification. As for Part II of decide in this matter." If only the Schedule, only the Chair- he had left Congressmen to manship and Secretaryship decide likewise on issues like the break-up of the bilingual carry disqualification, mem-bers of Parliament can be State of Bombay and other popular issues

Isolation Of

Masani & Co.

During the discussion on the motion, a welcome development was that Sri M. R. Masani and his PSP friends -ad hoc Congressmen as Comrade Dange called them -were almost isolated. Most of the speakers on the motion from other parties were against pursuing the matter and for dropping it. It is significant that in a House of 500, only 138 members voted—the hard core of confirmed anti-Commu -for the motion while 32 voted against the motion including the 24 Communist members who were present. It would thus be seen n that the vast majority of M.P.s were more or less neutral and preferred to move out before the voting rather

than take part in it. The question hour during this Session was a very fruit ful occasion. A number of exposures were made of the working of Government, its tie-up with Big Business, corruption and malpractices. Communist members pursu-

ed the foreign exchange swin-

• REVIEW BY K. P. SUBRAMANYA MENON

the Government to hush it up. The issue of unauthorised licences for import of dyestuffs to Fedco and Wakefield & Co. was also admitted by the Government and the Minister gave an undertaking that the persons responsible for the misdeed would be suitably dealt with

In the Rajya Sabha, Comrade Bhupesh Gupta got Prime Minister Nehru to refute the insinuations of Mr. Dulles that India was neutral only in name and that she was committed to fighting Commun-

Again through a short-noquestion, Comrade Bhupesh Gupta brought up the issue of Home Minister Pant's remarks unveiling the portrait of former Finance Minister T. T. Krishnamachari who was forced to resign as a sequel to the LIC-Mundhra deal scandal.

The Communist Group got the Government committed to the publication of the Second Commission's Report by Pay February 1959. ilarly, through persistent questioning an assurance was extracted from the Government that bonus would be given to the employees of the Life Insurance Corporation on an exgratia basis.

The discrimination against the Kerala Government resorted to by the Centre in the matter of supply of rice was accinctly brought out by a nalf-hour discussion on the last day of the Session raised by Comrade P. K. Vasudevan Nair.

Communist spokesmen rais-

dle by S. P. Jain in great detail ; ed a number of other issues and have made it difficult for a during the session. Through a non-official resolution. fairly exhaustive discussion was developed on the operation of monopolies.

A discussion on the sugarcane prices took place in the Lok Sabha in raising which the Communist Group ioined M.P.S with other Opposition and received considerable support from all sections of the House. But the Government remained adamant.

The Banaras Hindu University issue was pursued in both the Houses.

The following topical issues were pressed through halfhour discussions : (a) the problems of the film industry, especially in respect of import of raw film and export promotion; (b) the Tungabhadra High Level Canal; (c) Procurement of rice in Andhra for Kerala; (d)_Closure of the Kulti Blast Furnaces: (e) The proposal to close down refugee camps in West Bengal by July 1959.

Crisis Of The

Second Plan

This Session also illustrated the flasco of the Second Five-Year Plan through two nonofficial motions, both touching on the lives of millions of our

One was a non-official reso--lution on unemployment moved by Dr. Diwan Chand Sharma, Congress member from Punjab, during the debate on which Communist speakers spotlighted the utter failure of all the estimates on employment targets of the Second Five-Year Plan. Here was an eloquent proof of failure of Government's economic policies and the bankruptcy of our 'socialist pattern of society.'

The feeling on the issue was so intense that Government was forced to announce its decision to set up a committee to go into the matter, though as earlier pointed out by us, the solution lies only in the wholesale reorientation of the economic and social fabric of society.

Another issue on which the minist Group was able to spotlight interest was the question of land reforms. Comrade Chintamani Panigrahi (Orissa) moved a resolution on the progress of land reforms and out of ten speakers on the resolution, five were Communist M.P.s. It was a measure of the diffidence of Congressmen that apart from the Planning Minister only one Congressman participated in the discussion. The Minister in his intervention promised to set up a committee to review the progress of land reforms.

Thus while the Winter sion of Parliament was not particularly remarkable, it provided ample opportunity the Government in various spheres, in sharply demarcating the two ways of economic development — the Socialist and the capitalist-and in focussing attention on the danger to India's security and peace from the American imperialist manoeuvres. It also saw the emergence in the open of the powerful Free Enterprise Lobby—a portent of things to come.

Even this figure is an underestimation and does not include many items of payment. This figure will naturally increase. But then there are other methods of manipulation.

"Thus, first, the foreigners will be able to send more money abroad. Secondly, our Indian nationals, our monopolists, some of them would be in a position to send money abroad, to foreign banks and so on, under different covers... Now there is no remedy, neither is the Government suggesting any.

"Government should make public the names of the monopolists ' who indulge in all sorts of manipulations. I should like the Government at least in the next budget session, if not today, to come forward and table of the House. We do not like this hush-hush business that goes on behind the walls of the Reserve Bank or in the Commerce and Industry Ministry or in the Finance Minstry...

"It is estimated by some Congressman_I won't him-that according

to their computation. foreign exchange held by some Indian monopol abroad would be of the order of not less than Rs. 50 erores or 60...

"Why, on earth, can't appear before the Court and after administering them an oath make them disclose as to what their foreign exchange held in different countries is? We can do so. It lies within the power of Parliament to elicit a statement of this kind, but you are not doing anything; you do not even hold an investigation....

"Now the entire department is lacking in imagination, lacking in courage and is lacking in everything demanded of them and even in the matter sound policy, for the simple reason that our Finance Ministry and the Ministry of Commerce and Industry remain much under th clouds and influence of the big vested interests and monopolists and tricksters who are dealing in this manner with our foreign exchange resources.'



TEXTILE SHYLOCKS DEMAND THEIR POUND OF FLESH

1950

1951

1952

1953

1954

1955

1956

T HE Union Labour Min- tile Commissioner, in his arti-December 22 a conference for consultation on automatic looms. S. A. Dange M.P., General Secretary of the All-India Trade Union Congress (AITUC), in a note submitted to the Labour Year Minister and meant for circulation at the conference. made it clear that "to allow automatic looms to replace the existing looms is to allow the massacre of employed workers, to add to unemployment and retrenchment and to create unrest."

The AITUC wants that the 15th Indian Labour Conference (Delhi-1957) agreement on rationalisation be strictly adhered to as a national agreement between the Government, the employers' organisations and the trade-union centres. The agreement makes Why The Drop binding on the employers that rationalisation would be resorted to only when found necessary for the unit to survive: that such rationalisation would not lead to any retrenchment and that the increased income from such rationalisation would be shared by workmen, too.

That is why S. A. Dange in his note rejects the idea of replacement of existing looms by "automatic looms" and suggests that if necessary the Government should start textile units instal automatic looms itself and organise production and export in the State sector-

acceptable, "the AITUC should in some countries including, of be taken as not having agreed late, the Middle East have had to the introduction of auto- serious repurcussions in the matic looms as envisaged by external trade in Indian cotthe Government and the employers."

Real Nature Of The Crisis

The textile industry is India's biggets industry with a paid-up capital of Rs. 115 crores and employing eight lakhs of workers. On January 1, 1958, there were 175 spinning and 295 compos units in the industry with 13,054,098 spindles and 201,-280 looms

The industry was born and bred in the country by the patriotic sacrifice of the Indian people who boycotted foreign cloth and nursed this industry not withstanding the high price they were called on to pay

And it is this textile industry that has now got into a mess a mess that is the creation of the textile magnates, and tile magnates refuse to budge their greed to grab profits at

They seek to create panic by crying hoarse about falling Allow us automation, rationaid stock accur tion. Textiles are in crisis, the Throw workers out of employwhole nation should come to ment. Freeze wages and slash its rescue-is what they say. bonus and dearness allowance.

employment. What is the truth about the

export market? A study of figures furnished Indonesia no doubt. But China

PAGE TEN

ister convened on cle in the special number of the Bombay magazine Dipika shows the following trend of international trade in cotton textiles:

> International Trade in Cotton Textiles International Exports -Trade in Cotton textiles. India (In million vards) 6450 1109 5595 732 5440 543 4560 593 5170 898 4556 815 **4400**

·利利和自我的权利的。

It will be seen that there is a general decline in the international trade itself in cotton textiles. In fact it should be noted that India has remarkably maintained its share in the world export of textiles.

In Off Take

According to Sri D. S. Joshi (who headed the recent Textile Enquiry Committee), there has been a steep decline of exports in the first quarter of 1958 as compared with that in the first quarter of 1957.

The reason is that there is "a sudden drop in the off-take by Asian countries, principally, Burma, Indonesia, Malaya and Singapore. Increasing compe-tition from Japan and China, the possibility of Singapore having to lose its entire textile trade with Indonesia, in view of the reparations treaty signed between Indonesia and If these proposals are not Japan, political disturbances ton textiles." (Industry and Tradè, October 1958, emphasis

added) There you are. In the immediate postwar years Indian textiles found a ready market in Southeast Asia as Japan was out of commission due to war damages.

Since then the position is changing. Japan has revived its textile industry. Asian countries themselves, having come out of the clutches of imperialism, are trying to build up their own economy. They will, as Sri Kanungo told the Rajya Sabha on December 11 participating in the debate on the Textile Enquiry Committee Report, restrict their imports as we do ourselves. They are also facing foreign exchange difficulties as we They are also eager to build up their own consumer industry as we are.

The situation is new and dynamic. But the Indian texfrom the old grooves and seek solutions on old lines.

Their solution is simple. The trick is to win public Then we can compete in the sympathy and attack the Southeast Asian market. And workers' living standards and the Government says thay. employment. fic looms.

But what is the reality? China is exporting cloth to by Sri V. Nanjappa, the Tex- is also building textile mills in

NEW AGE

LABOUR NOTES BY RAI BAHADUR GOUR, M.P.

SECRETARY, ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

Cambodia, in the Southeast and in Yemen in West Asia.

Percentage of our exports to total world trade in textiles 17.30 13.00 12.00 13.00 17.36 17.89 744 16.91 China offers ten years loan to

Indonesia in order to assist Indonesia to overcome the difficulties created by the U. S.-engineered internecine trouble. China offers a falling clause in the trade contract by which if the prices go down. the importer can quote the lower prices and revise the contract

And Sri Kanungo helplessly declares, "it is not possible for us to adopt those lines." For Sri Kanun go capitalism is the rule and capitalist market is the guide. "We have to take squarely the international prices as they rule in the normal producing countries (read capitalist countries-R.B.G.), which have had the experience of trading; and fix our prices accordingly."

Thus capitalist prices and profits govern the policies of the Government

No Magic Solution

But can installation of automatic looms be the magic

solution? Dange exposed the game in his speech on the discussion on Trends in India's Foreign Trade in the Lok Sabha on December 4, 1958. He said that there was a good market for Indian prints

in Southeast Asia. But Indian textile millowners were not inclined to produce them Automatic looms can produce not prints and 'chint' but only simple khaki or lawa cloth. Obviously this is not in any big demand.

Then the argument trotted out is that automatic looms will give faultless cloth that could compete in the export market. Dange countered this by asking whether when we were exporting peak quantities of cloth it was all faulty. Do conventional looms produce only faulty cloth?

The cat jumped out of the bag when Sri Kanungo blurted out that "automatic loom ... is not the magic solution for all the problems... it is not going to reduce the cost of production very much; it is only a tool by which you can have faultless cloth."

Why then these automatic looms-3,000 of them in the private sector—to replace the existing conventional looms?

Capitalism as usual wants automation for more profits, for intensified exploitation of labour and for the increased robbery of the consumer. India's textile magnates

bring their costing before the Tariff Board and the Board "We had helplessly declares, to start on a basis given by the Bombay millowners which we cannot test." When Excise Duty was im-

have consistently refused to

posed, they planlessly and recklessly switched over to coarse variety. The production of coarse cloth increased from 599 million yards in 1953 (12.3 per cent of total) to 1,163 million yards in 1957 (21.9 per cent of total). Even the 16th Indian Lab-

our Conference noted that the so-called crisis in the textile industry was due to planless switchover to coarse variety when people's tastes had changed, mismanagement and lack of renewal of machinery and balancing equipment, etc.

Planlessness And Mismanagement .

We, therefore, find that it is the planlessness and mismanagement of years that are now bursting out in the shape f closing down of units.

The 1953 enquiry into the India United Groups of Mills in Bombay "revealed every conceivable fraud such as fictitious additions to the purchases, deflation and suppression of figures of sales, obtaining of supplies of cotton and stores at prices higher than the market prices and pocketing by the agents the difference between the supply prices and the current prices, collection of the money in sale transactions on control prices by the agents through their nominees at prices even lower than market prices in mills' books and the collection of the difference in cash and its' pocketing by the agents, charging of personal expenses to the accounts of the mills, setting up of bogus purchasing or sales agencies to bestow favours on relations and manipulation friends, · of accounts, etc., etc." (ATTUC

Labour Ministry) Huge Arrears

Of Taxes

S. M. Banerji, Communist member from Kanpur, told the Lok Sabha on the basis information supplied to him by the Government that the Kanpur millowners were in huge arrears of incometax. Up to the end of October. 1958, Rs. 5,520,486 had been collected and Rs 2425438 have still to be realised. Workers' Provident Fund amount of Rs. 1.575.000 was vet to be paid. Sales-tax arrears ran into lakhs. Electricity charges up to Rs. two lakhs and water had to be paid to the State Government. Lay-off compensation was not paid. Such are the textile barons

of Kanpur. And ever since the Textile Wage Board has been ap-pointed in 1956; the textile millowners' offensive of closures and lay-off has only intensified. Even according to the data furnished by the

Textile Enquiry Committee, 1958 (Joshi Committee), the number of textile mills remaining closed at the end of 1956 were 19 while those at the end of 1957 were 25 and those at the end of May 1958 were 28.

The number of workers affected in 1957 was 10,852 while those affected up to May 1958 were 17.000.

In Madras itself, due to complete closure of nine units and the closure of third shift in one mill, 6,800 workers were affected during the period between July 7, 1957 and August 13. 1958

Thus this closure and layoff offensive is a combination of chronic mismanagement and merciless exploitation and a war of nerves to force the Government to yield concessions and make the workers submit to wage-freeze, cut in dearness allowance and bonus and rationalisation and re-

Such is the stark reality. What is, therefore, required are bold measures to reorganise the industry and fight mismanagement and plunder

What Is Now Needed

What is needed is a radical reorientation in the foreign trade in textiles complete change in the old methods and adoption of mutually beneficial methods. Why does Government insist on American cotton under P. L. 480 when America does not import our cloth? Why does not the Government enter into contract with Egypt to import cotton and export cloth? Why not advance and develop mutually-beneficial trade with Asian countries on the basis of long-term credits and adjustable prices as is done by China?

But for the capitalists and the Government this path is unknown.

path of capitalist automation and massacre of employed workmen is unacceptable

Khrushchov report on Soviet agriculture

ed

tion:

Serious

Russia.

to 3,495 poods.

farm products.

production front,

A T the plenary meeting group to key undertakings of the Central Com- which the Party had slated mittee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union held on December 15, 1958, N. S. Khrushchov made a report on the situation and and company were ignorant of tasks of the development agriculture and wrongly treatof agriculture in the Soviet ed the peasantry, regarding it Union.

He began with a description of the situation prior to 1953. "It must be stated plainly that agriculture at that time was in a grave state....Owing to big shortcomings in the direction of the collective farms and State farms, and to certain distortions of the Leninist policy in collective farm development, the growth of agricultural production was retarded.... There arose a certain discrepancy in the development of agriculture and industry, in the State's real requirements of grain and other products and their actual production. This discrepancy was fraught with

dangerous consequences." The September 1953 Plenum of the Central Committee chalked out a bold programme rise in of ensuring a rapid agricultural production in the shortest possible time.

It restored the principle of material incentives for the and 7.7 in 1949-53; in gross collective farmers, reinforced the collective farms and State farms with leading cadres as 4,942 in 1949-53. well as agricultural specialists, ensured the supply of hunof tractors dreds of thousand and millions of diverse machines, allotted huge sums for development, adopted new planning procedures and ini- population, especially of the tiated a vast programme of industrial centres and cities, ploughing up tens of millions had considerably increased of hectares of virgin lands. and the State's grain require-

Enormous Successes

Enormous success ensued. Grain procurement went up from 1,830 million poo in 1953 to 3,495 million poods in 1958; sugar beet from 22.8 million tons to 50.9 million tons; vegetables from 2.2 uillion tons to four million tons; meat from 3,307 thousand tons to 5,343 thousand tons; milk from 10.4 million tons to 21.4 million tons; butter from 350 thousand tons to 622 thousand tons; eggs from 2,499 million to 4.405 million.

Khrushchov went on to state: "when we now analyse agricultural development over the past five years we ought again to speak about the anti-Party group of Malenkov, Kaganovitch, Molotov, Bulganin and Shepilov. One cannot simply get oneself to call comrades, even who held the highest Party such men though they have, remained and Government posts? Party members, when one stops to think where they were a whole series of measures, pushing the Party by their factionalism. .

"The anti-Party group fought, as you know, against the 21,300,000 tons or 58 per cent; Party's virgin land reclama- wool by 86,000 tons or 37 per policy.... opposed the cent; eggs by 7,400 million or system of planning in 46 per cent. tion new tried to muffle agriculture... the patriotic movement the foremost collective farms and State farms had started to husbandry as anima fast as possible....was against freeing the private holdings of the collective farmers, and the factory and office workers from obligatory deliveries." "The He further declared: opposition of the anti-Party

JANUARY 4, 1959

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and tons more bu

Memorandum to the Union

Editorial Board AJOY GHOSH BHUPESH GUPTA P. C. JOSHI (Editor)

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in order to strengthen the collective farms and promote the well-being of the collective farmers shows that Molotov, Kaganovitch, Malenkov as a force resisting the building of Socialism. This false line...., a line contrary to the views of Lenin, led in practice to that difficult position we had in agriculture by 1953.

"Today all can see how miserably the contemptible group of despicable factionalists, whom the Central Committee exposed and smashed and whom the Party and people have chucked aside, fail-How serious the situation

had become is underlined when we consider the grain the backbone of agricultural produc-

Situation Was

The average per annun grain area in million hectares in 1910-14 was 102.5, and in 1949-53, 105.2; in per hectare crop in centners 7.0 in 1910-14 grain returns in million of poods 4,380 in 1910-14, and

"As you see in sown areas, crop yields, and grain returns the country remained, in practice, on the same level as be fore the Revolution, though in numerical strength the and the State's grain require-ments were immeasurably

ture

State.

cause of the anti-people poli-cies pursued by the Congress greater than those of tsarist continuously losing ground. Wherever the democratic Now a radical turn has been made on this front Wherever the democratic during the 1953-58 period. { forces are weak, communalists. area has incréased ments were taking advantage

million poods; grain procured from 1,899 million poods

A similar picture could be drawn of the situation in the production of industrial crops, potatoes, vegetables and other

At its September 1953 Plenum the Central Committee admitted that animal husbandry was the most neglected branch of agriculture.

"Our animal husbandry had been lagging for a long time. Though this fact was obvious, the lag....was hushed up by many officials, including those Due to energetic efforts and

compared with 1953 meat production increased by 2,100,000 tons or 35 per cent; milk by

> As a result Already in 1957 we produced production in our country has exceeded that of the United States by 2.3 times. politically." The USSR has now advan-



General Secretary Ajoy Ghosh addressing the public rally at the conclusion of the Madhya Pradesh State Conference of the Communist Party.

Madhya Pradesh Communists In Conference

O NE hundred and fortyare gaining ground creating a nse of frustration seven delegates from

The people have more and more begun to look to the Communist Party with expectations as is evidenced by the Party's victories in a number of municipal and other elections.

Reviewing the major struggles conducted by the Partymain among them the struggle for the withdrawal of multipoint sales-tax, against highprices and for relief to people in the famine-stricken areas, the report noted with satisfaction that these struggles had succeeded in bringing some relief to the people.

With this picture in front of it, the Conference called for the broadest united frontof democratic forces to fight the anti-people policies of the Government and at the same time check the growth of reactionary elements.

Dealing with the situation on the trade-union front, the report exposed the anti-labour and discriminatory policies of the State Government, reviewed the working-class gross grain returns from the Congress, these elements and appealed to the workers 5,036 million poods to 8,508

to unite and intensify their struggle and mobilise support of other sections of the people to ensure success.

The most important feature of the report and of the conference was the evolving of immediate tasks on the kisan front and the decision to give priority attention to building up the kisan organisation.

On Party organisation, the report noted that the mem-bership of the Party had increased three-fold. But the Party still does not have enough cadres to fulfil the increased responsibilities in the present situation. The conerence, therefore, placed the utmost emphasis on training up a sufficient number of efficient cadres.

The conference decided to raise a Rs. 10,000 fund to set up a press for the Party which become urgently neceshas sary to coordinate and guide the people's movements in the State:

51-member State Council A was elected by the conference elected a 17-member which State -Executive Committee. Comrade L. R. Khandkar has been re-elected Secretary.

and is second in the world, next to Australia, in wool production."

31 districts, among them

three members of the State

Legislature, assembled in

the Madhya Pradesh Con-

ference of the Communist

Party from December 11 to

14 discussed the political

situation in the State and

decided on the immediate

tasks before the Party.

Comrade Ajoy Ghosh, Ge-

neral Secretary, and Dr.

Z. A. Ahmad, member of the

Secretariat of the Party,

The report presented to the

Conference by the Secretary

of the State Committee of the

Party gave the following pic-

The report noted that be-

Government, the Congress is

and other reactionary

of the situation in the

attended the Conference.

All these achievements have led to a considerable increase in collective farm incomes. The total sum of cash incomes on the collective farms, which amounted to 42,800 million rubles in 1952, reached 95,200 million rubles in 1957. The total sum of payments of work-day units rose in comparable prices, from 47,500 million rubles in 1952 83,800 million rubles in 1957. The farmers' real income, per worker, will increase 1.6-fold in 1958 compared with 1952.

The future prospects, too, are bright. "The time has come for the collective farms have, like in the cities, their own bakeries and laundries, and in the near future their "in 1958 we own public dining establishwill produce as much and a ments apart from hospitals, little more milk than the schools, kindergartens and United States did last year. nurseries.

"The question of releasing farmers, espeive the United States did. Wool cially the women, from household drudgery is important, not only economically but also Further, "the development

ced to first place in the of the collective farm system

NEW AGE

world in the total volume of is now characterised by such milk and butter production, a new progressive phenomenon as the extension of intercollective farm production ties Such pooling of efforts is helping the collective farms to solve many important production and social problems. At the same time it raises Socialist collective farm property to a still higher level of ocialiastion, binds it closely to the property belonging to the whole people....Our coun-try is confidently marching to the practical solution of a major problem of building Communism-the elimination of existing distinction between town and country."

On the basis of this advance, the target figures for the new Seven-Year Plan agricultural production in production. 1965, 1.7 times as compared with 1958.

The grain harvest is to increase to 10,000 to 11,000 milto 147 million tons; meat to 16 million tons; milk to 100-105 million tons; eggs to 37,-000 million.

collective farms is to double, and in the State farms to rise by 55-60 per cent.

The real incomes of the collective farmers will increase by 40 per cent, chiefly through the growth of the commonly owned production of the collective farms. The total capital invest-

ments by the State and collective farms in agriculture will be around 500,000 million rubles in 1959-65. almost double the actual investments made in 1952-58.

Great attention is to be paid to raising the level of labour productivity. "One must the level of realise that in labour productivity in agriculture, our country is still seriously behind the United States."

The main thing is the further electrification and mecall for increasing total chanisation of agricultural

In conclusion; Comrade Khrushchov said: "To ensure success we must raise still higher the role of Party orgalion poods; raw cotton to 5.7 nisations of collective farms to 6.1 million tons; sugar beet and State farms....The main to 70-80 million tons; potatoes thing in Party work is concreteness of guidance, a knowledge of technique, of the n 100 million. Labour productivity in the influence on the masses, educate them and lead them forward under the banner of the Party."

PAGE ELEVEN

2,000 Million Dollars Are Spent Every Year To Organise Propaganda And Coups

USA'S SUBVERSION DEPT. AT WORK

The American imperialists have earned for themselves the unenviable position of having to go down in history as the most implacable of aggressors of all

is heightened by the fact that never before has there been so vigilant and organised a world public opinion as now. For instance, take the question of the definition of aggression. In August 1953 the Soviet Union submitted a traft for an extended definition. laving particular emphasis on indirect forms :

The encouragement of A) subversive activity, directed against another country:

B) Assistance in the most in ment of civil war in another country;

The promotion of inter-**C**) nal coup de'tats in another country, or of policy changes to the advantage of the aggressor.

Rehind Their **Opposition**

Easy enough for anybody to accept, provided there was a clear conscience and no lurking ambitions. It was supported by many countries but oped by the U.S. and U.K. On July 31 last, the U.S. Secretary of State declared in a fit of pique that it was undesirable to draw up such a definition. Then again in December 1957 the Soviet delegation ed the adoption of the Peaceful and Good-Neighbourly Relations Resolution underlining the duty of States to observe the principle of non-intervention in each other's internal affairs. The U.S. Government just flatly refused to subscribe' to this

and

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PAGE TWELVE

ULTURE

AND the tragedy for them if we just itemise the activities of "indirect aggression" indulged in by the U.S. imperialists. leaving aside for the moment the more flagrant and direct aggression.

Various Voices

Western subversive propaganda is carried on against the UAR and other Arab countries not only by Voice of America, B.B.C. and Radio Amman, but also by secret stations which describe them. selves as Voice of Truth. Voice of Freedom, Voice of Purity, Recently a new Voice of Iraq came on the air.

These stations openly indulge in vicious attacks on leaders of the free Arab States and call for sabotage and overthrow of the UAR and Iraq_Governments.

The Egyptian monitoring service has discovered that the most powerful of the secret transmitters beamed to Egypt are in Cyprus, Aden and on board a shin ernising in the Eastern Mediterranean, where the American Sixth Fleet is also based. From radio propaganda it is a short step to coups, political assassinations and government changes During 1951 there were five cha Government in Syria thanks to the imperialists. Mossadio's fall was clearly engineered by the U.S. and shamelessly admitted as such. In the autumn of 1957 the

State Department and U.S. intelligence agencies organised a plot to overthrow the legitimate Syrian Government All this is quite explicable and on failure of the scheme

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In April 1957, the Sixth U.S. internal subversion were used to overthrow the nationalist Government of Nabulsi in Jordan and have it replaced by a pro-imperialist Govern-

President Nasser told Newsweek in November 1957: "There is pressure to change our line of policy and tie it all up to the United States... Then there is your propaganda war. Your secret broadcasting stations have the object of undermining our Government, of setting our people against the Government. Then there are conspiracies against the Government and against me." Subsequent events have con-

firmed Nasser. There was the monarchist plot of Mahmoud Namuk late in 1957, and early in 1958 the attempt to bribe Colonel Saraj of Syria to organise a coup and assassingte The treason trials which

were conducted in Baghdad after the revolution showed clearly how the leaders of the old regime received instructions and assistance from certain groups in the USA and U.K. to carry on extensive subversive activiagainst neighbouring Arab countries. If we touch briefly upon

CHINA'S

*** FROM PAGE 6**

ing of organic compost. This year's experience shows that the peasants are supplying it expertly, not only to topsoil but subsoil, not only with the right quantity but also at the right time for the different stages of the growth of the plants. What they have done has dispelled the scientists' fear of lodging, the growth of useless stalks and reduction of grain formation.

Close

Planting

A complementary revolutionary measure is close planting: Before liberation rice, for instance, was planted generally at about 9.00 clusters per mou, Advocated soon after liberation, close planting grew. closer year after year, and by this year the number of clusters has gone up to from 20.000 to 0,000 (as against the 15,000 to 20.000 practised in Japan formerly the world's highest in rice yields per mou.) There are fields planted with 800,000 clusters, and in experimental plots yielding upwards of 30.000 kilogrammes (30 tons) per mou, rice grew so thick that they top of the ripened grain and eggs could be rolled on the through

But are high yields possible on large tracts or is such in-. the list is growing.

NEW AGE

other areas of Asia we have only to think of Pakistan and the preesnce of Murphy during the October coup. Or Indonesia, it is not merely odd that the Sumatra rebellion Fleet, economic pressure and was armed with American weapons.

The brunt of these subversive activities is, of course, aimed at the Socialist countries. As far ago as 1951, by special amendment to the Mutual Security Act, 100 million dollars were earmarked to finance selected persons resident in the Soviet Union. Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria and Albania. This amendment has been annually reaffirmed by the American Congress.

Actually, more funds than this are available through all sorts of private agencies The New York Times wrote in 1954 that the U.S. spent a total of 2000 million dol. lars a year on subversive activitie

Numerous agencies like 'Crusade for Freedom" and the American Committee for Liberation from Bolshevism have been set up, with the personal participation of Einhower, General Lucius Clay and Holman, a top Standard oil boss

Subversive and vicious broadcasts beamed to the Soviet Union and People's Democracies have assumed mons trous proportion. One of the heads of the almost 100 radio transmitter stations declared in an interview to the New York Herald Tribune that the broad aim of these programmes is to "deepen and widen the gulf between the peoples of the Soviet Union and their

1.5°

1.5.

Communist rulers." Bedell Smith, the former head of U.S. intelligence, acknowledged to the New York Times that the aim of Radio Free Europe was "to fight Communism by fire and sword.

In addition to this, recourse is made in great measure to propaganda balloons Between mid-1954 and 1956 the York Times reported that 400,000 balloons had been launched with 250 million leaflets and newspapers.

In Number 8 of 1957, the semi-official NATO General Military Review published an article by Captain Goodspeed entitled "The Secret Army. The article openly calls coups, political assassination. and large-scale terror.

The Neues Deutschland of Democratic Germany reported recently that it had been able to track down 400 espionage and sabotage centres, including 186 set up by the Americans, in West Germany and West Berlin alone.

We can, for the present purpose, leave out China—which Ike-Dulles clique refuses to recognise—which is the centre of American hatred. Such is the character of the U.S. imperialists Before we venture too far into their narlour let us remember their activities. The facts are there as also the experience of all countries who value their freedom. With the clinking of the dollars and the shine of their pornographic magazines. we cannot afford to be lulled into somnolence. We have been warned and we must act by vigilance and protest.

tensive cultivation practical be asked. In South China's Kwangsi Chuang Auious Region, an experiment on a 9.6 mon tract of ricefield, ten times the size of the usual experimental plots; was made by the Red Sun People's Commune. It averaged 8,500 kilogrammes per

soon after the harvest. It shows: upwards of 5.000 kilogrammes per mou were har-vested on 300 mou, 2,500 to 5,000 kilogrammes per mou on 25.000 mou. 1.500 to 2.500 kilogrammes per mou on 140,000 mon. and upwards of 500 kilogrammes per mou on 15 mil-

Even the formerly low-vield wheat registered over two million mou in the 500-kilogram-

List

It is estimated that high yields in excess of 500 kilogrammes per mou had, up to September 30. been gathered on 100 million mou of the national total of 1.800 million mou of food crops. Many provinces, some with an area as could sustain the weight of large as Italy or France, have ing is now being brought to a a dozen people standing on this year become "1.000-catties close. -per-mou" areas. Honan, Anhwei, Kiangsu, Hupeh, surface without falling Kansu and Shantung are among them. With the progress of the autumn harvest

This is regarded as highly significant because there was only one or two provinces with this distinction barely a year ago

On the basis of this achie vement, the Chinese peasants are drawing up much bigger plans for next year. Bigh-yield acreage will be far greater and the per unit area yields are set at many times the 1.000 mark.

Revolution In **Agricolture**

Ankuo county of Hopei Province, for instance, plans to reach 5,000 cattles on each of its 400,000 mou of wheatland This is about ten times the verage yield of Denmark, formerly the highest in the world in wheat yield per unit area. This county has also set aside 180,000 mon on which it expects to harvest 40,000 to 50,000 kilogrammes per mou, and 80,000 mou where it expects to harvest 100,000 kilogrammes per mou.

Other districts in the province and other provinces in the wheat belt have similar or even bolder targets. Deep ploughing, the most important of the high yield measures, has been completed in most of these areas and sow-

Such revolutionary measures and pioneering peasants are daily setting the pace for the giant stride forward. Through them a revolution is being made in agriculture

JANUARY 4, 1959

KERALA NOTE-BOOK

of bonus.

judication?

putes.

figures?

ALL ABOUT MAN-DAYS

HEN Labour Minister T. V. Thomas, replying to a question in the Kerala mbly, recently said that since the present Communist Government assumed office, 2,021,000 man-days had been lost due to strikes, the Congressite Weekly Kerala commented :

"For a population of 13,-551.529 and a factory labour of 100,285 this is not a bad record. On an average every month we have lost one lakh man-days and each worker seems to have struck work for 20 days in these 20 months.

Wouldn't you think that this was a damning indictment of a Government led by the Party of the working class? To make things crystal clear; the commentator ascribed this huge loss to the policies of the Govern-

I have quite a lot to say about the Kerala Government's policies, but before that this gentleman's statistics and calculations have to be given a quick go-over

The population of Kerala in 1958 is 152.3 lakhs. But the Weekly Kerala commentator sticks to the 1951 Census figure of 135.5 lakhs. That, perhaps, suits his calulations better, as I don't think he could have been ignorant of the later figure. There are 1,613 registered factories in Kerala, employing nearly two lakhs of workers. In addition there are more than three lakh

workers in the estates. But our commentator is prepared to take only the figure of one lakh of low the labour force in factories which sent returns to the Government. As if strikes took place in the innumerable unregistered factories and the estates. Why did the commentator stick to the lower figures? For the simple reathat if he had taken mentioning the higher population and labour force figures, the average will work out only to one worker going on strike for four days in 20 nonths-for one day once in five months. That would not look so terrible as "20

to say about them. days in 20 months," would RSP leader N. Srikantan One additional fact to be Nair, as quoted by the remembered is that out of Commission, reads : the twenty lakh man-days lost, ten lakhs, just half, E. M. S. Namboodiripad. due to two big strikes in the cashew industry and

firing.

who was in Quilon on that the estates-both for bonus..

ANYTHING BETTER? Now a bit about the Ke-

rala Government's labour policy. I will begin with the ca-

shew industry itself. The five-day strike in this industry in 1957 made big contribution to the total man-days lost. It was settled when the employers agreed to pay a higher

This year there was no strike in cashew factories for bonus. And why? Because of the three prolonged tripartite negotiations initiated by the Labour Minister by which the em-

day, permitted the Hindustan Cashew Products (Pri-vate) Ltd. to lock out the Chandanathope factory. He also directed the authorities to provide police help in removing all the goods in the factory. The Chief Minister gave them a free hand in using all forms of force including firing. On 26.7.58, the employer was induced by the Government to remove the kernels from the factory and Reserve Police and the R.D.O. were direct-

ed to the spot to order fir-ing if and when opportunity occurred." And what has the Com-

mission found? "Undoubtedly, these allerations are very grave ones

JANUARY 4, 1959

me bracket. A Growing

lion mou

Earlier, a count of the early rice yield acreage was made by the Ministry of Agriculture



ployers were persuaded to give a still greater quantum

This is just one instance. Can the Weekly Kerala commentator show a single example from among so many of his Congress-ruled States where the Government has encouraged tlement of disputes by mutual consultation between parties and minimised re-

ference of disputes to ad-And with such good results. During the one year from April 1, 1957, to March 31, 1958, 6,285 dispute arose (including 499 pending at the beginning of this period). Of these 4,834 were settled and the Labour Department intiated three tripartite negotiations. Only 101 disputes had to be referred to adjudication, about 1.6 per cent of the total, 99 with the consent of the parties to the dis-

When these are the facts, and with no Congress Ministry providing him with a better record which he can flaunt before the Kerala people, what could the poor mentator of Weekly Kerala do but juggle with

DISCOMFITURE

THE report of the oneman enquiry commission into the police firing Chandanathope found some mention in the national Press. But what has been quoted has generally been that portion of the report which makes the recommendation that powers to grant pardon, should be taken away from State Governments.

But in its objectivity our bourgeois Press forgot all the other portions particularly those regarding the allegations made by leaders of the Revolutionary Socialist Party against the Kerala Government, and the Chief Minister and Labour Minister specially. I am this because the Press had made a lot of these charges in the days immediately following the

Let us see what these allegations are and what the enquiry commission has The charges made by "The Chief Minister, Sri

Cane-Growers Fight For Prices Increased The fifteen-man Executive Committee of the ing notices of adjournment U.P. Cane-Growers' Cooperative Federation meeting

on December 29-30 in Lucknow is reported to have reversed the decision a unanimously taken a week earlier by the Conference of the chairmen of the Federation's 119 constituent cooperatives calling upon the growers to stop supplies to the mills from January 14 in an indefinite strike.

LTHOUGH the conference Assembly despite ministerial opposition. The Bihar Assem-A had authorised the Exe-cutive Committee to negotiate bly, too, adopted a similar re-solution unanimously raising with the Government and the same demand. decide upon any other course of action if necessary it is too The question was then brought before the Union Parliaearly to say how the Execument on December 2 when tive's decision will be received Minister Jain refused to conby the growers. The Governsider the demand and the ment has only given an assu-Hon'ble Speaker disallowed rance that a tripartite conferthe adjournment motion. The ence of Government, millgrowers had no alternative but owners and growers' represento prepare for action and the tatives will be called to "con-Executive of the Cane-Growsider" the demands of the ers' Cooperative Unions' Fedegrowers including the demand ration met in Lucknow for a share in profits made by three days-from December the millowners. There is no to 11. It decided to call in conmention in the Executive's ference the Chairmen of the resolution of the Government 119 constituent cooperatives, even considering the main defixing December 23 as the date mand for the enhancement for the Conference. of price from Rs. 1.44 a ma-

und to Rs. 1.75 a maund. ous regions have gone ahead There has been no dearth of indications to gauge the strength of feeling over the issue some other Western districts and the vast support the cane-growers enjoy in their demand. Speaking only of after this strike had started this year, it was a resolution moved by the munist member of the State Legislature, Comrade Bheekha Lal, demanding the increase

that was adopted by the U.P.

and one would naturally expect an earnest attempt to substantiate them by reliable evidence. It is strange to note that the allegations are left as they are without any evidence to support them."

Another RSP leader, Sri T. K. Divakaran, had given statement that on the day previous to the firing, the representatives of the Cashew Manufacturers' Association had met the Chief Minister and that the Chief Minister had told them to lock out the Chandanathope factory and the Government would take drastic steps (against the strikers). And the Commission's

fiindings?

"When he (Sri Divakaran) was confornted with the statement, he had to admit that he had no direct knowledge, about the aver-ments made by him, but that he believed them to be true. When the matter was further pursued, he said that he had gathered this information direct from the representatives of the Ca-shew Manufacturers' Association who were alleged to have met the Chief Minis ter at the Government House in the night of 25th July 1958. At the same time, Sri Divakaran refused to disclose the names of those representatives.

"He has made a further allegation that the very same representatives had gone to Trivandrum and the Labour Minister and had represented to him that the Association had resolved to close down all the factories unless sufficient protection was given to them by the Government

NEW AGE

"So long as Sri Divakaran has refused to disclose the names of his alleged informants, his statements regarding the alleged information received from them can only be discarded as statement responsible the truth of which is not possible to be verified."

Meanwhile, growers in vari-

with their preparations and a

strike started in Meerut and

of U.P. on December 15. Only

Sabha agree to have a two-

hour debate in the House on

did the Speaker of the

The Commission made the final remark on these allegations :

"Thus the evidence ad duced at this enquiry is clearly against the imputamade against tions Chief Minister and the Labour Minister in statements filed by Sri T. K. Divakaran and Sri N. Srikantan Nair and the allegations have not been substantiated by any evidence, direct or circums-tantial.

"It is also clear that the quesiton of adopting suitable measures for tackling the situation at Chandanathope was left to the dis-trict officers themselves and that the Ministers had not issued any specific instructions to these officers about sending a police party to Chandanathope or as the manner in which the situation was to be tackled."

I can certainly understand the discomfiture of: the RSP leaders and of the Press which gave such a boost to their irresponsible statements.

A PREVIEW

HE Congress, PSP, Mus-lim League and all anti-Communists will give a united battle to the Communists and will defeat

motions almost every day. The demand for revising the prices, the Speaker said, came not from the Opposition groups alone, members of the Government Party too were interested in a discussion.

> There was an uproar in the House when the Minister continued to oppose the proposal for a discussion by saying, "If an awkward situation has arisen now, it is because of the action of certain political parties." Prof. N. G. Ranga of the Congress retorted that it was not Opposition members alone who were interested and Sri Singhasan Singh also of the Congress Party said that Congress Governments were in power both in Bihar and U.P. and resolutions demanding price revision had been passed by the Legislatures of both States unanimously.

Meanwhile, the U.P. Government had resorted to repressive measures in Meerut and other centres of the strike

Despite some Congressmen trying, on instructions from the PCC, to act as blacklegs, not one piece of sugar-cane was supplied to the mills for one whole week in Meerut District. In the rather conservative and comparatively pros_ perous Western districts of U.P., the strike occasioned a

* SEE OVERLEAF

them at the poll. Kerala will be re-won for the Congress (what happens to all the others in the alliance?) Communism will be wiped off the face of this country.

Before they could go further in elaborating these enticing prospects, the daydreamers were faced with four panchayat bye-election results:

Congress leaders consider Kottayam as their stronghold and in Kottavam, Pala is the "strongest hold". And the bye-eletcions took place just there.

In Karur, the Commun. ist candidate won by 23 votes. The bye-election was caused by the resignation of the sitting Congress member.

🚳 In Mutholi, in two wards, Communist candidates won with majorities of 101 votes and 201 votes. One of the seats had been won by the Congress unopposed last time.

🗿 In Ramapuram, the Communist candidate polled 67 votes more than the Congress candidate.

This is a preview of the fate which awaits the anti-Communist united front.

request to Congress My and PSP leaders is that they should think twice before they begin drawing pictures of how olowing they will bring Kerala back into their "democratic" fold and before they begin ging the Cor ists to face the voters. Of course, they never do this in Kerala, they fly to Bombay or Delhi for that.

-OBSERVER

PAGE THIRTEEN

December 18. He overruled Minister Jain's arguments and said that he had been receiv

Lok

Democratic Viet Nam's New Peace Initiative

As 1958 turns itself into the New Year, the peace offensive of the Socialist camp continues its relentless pursuit of the imperialists.

THE latest sector of the So- friendly proposals as these cialist camp to go into re-newed activity is the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam. The the Amrita Bazar Patrika of Indian Press has taken all too scant notice of the letter sent by Sham Van Dong to the South Viet Nam authorities on December 26. Yet we need to keep ourselves fully informed, not only because Viet Nam is a fellow Asian country, but even more because India heads the International Commission of Supervision and Control of Viet Nam set up by the 1955 Geneva Confere

Pham Van Dong's letter is one a series addressed to the South Viet Nam authorities. who have—one fears under American pressure-chosen to ignore the notes.

The December 26 letter outlines four main proposals, simple and flexible, which could form the basis for discussion. FIRST, with regard to military affairs it suggests a policy of non-alignment with any military bloc, the giving up of the use of foreign military personnel, no further expansion or new construction of military bases and reduction of armed forces and military expenditure in order to improve the living standards of the people in the two zones

SECONDLY, in the sphere of conomic relations the letter proposes increased trade, exchange of products indigeneously produced, to help speed independent economic development

THIRDLY, it seeks to get an undertaking that both sides would not indulge in any war propaganda of any kind, but would spread the ideas of peace, national unity, national reunification, and against the partition of the country. FOURTHLY, it wants the

promotion of communications between the two zones. The ex- ter provides us an excellent change of cultural, scientific and economic delegations, the sending of teams for study of ex- get the representatives of the rience of work. It wants the freedom of postal relations and table. Our adherence to Panch for women and children to visit Shila demands it, no less than relatives in the two zones.

A SHORT SELECTION

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famous culinary of China) 2.00 PEOPLE'S PUBLISHING HOUSE (P) LTD. Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi.

******** PAGE FOURTEEN

could hardly be misunderstood, least of all in our country. But December 28, has though fit to bring in the "two Power blocks" tune into the discussion

It is time we got things straight. Our national foreign policy of peace, non-align ment and coexistence does not-and should not-mean that we sit on the fence and dispense Olympian pronouncements. It does, and should, mean that we study the sitution and examine every proposal and see if it aids peace and coexistence. From this standpoint it is

clear enough that a proposa for the two zones of Viet Nam to discuss their mutual problems merits our full support. It is obvious that Pham Van Dong's letter expresses the aspirations of Vietnamese in both zones, who want a relaxation and then a peaceful ending of the abnormal situation of partition

Moreover, independent and far from Communist observers have remarked on the increasing grip of the American imperialists on the political and economic life of South Viet Nam. Not only are democratic freedoms severely curtailed and the economy ruined, but plans are proceeding for speeding up the building of military bases and airfields, for drawing South Viet Nam closer into SEATO.

These American plans encounter the resistance not only of the masses but also of the national capitalists and patriotic sections of South Viet Nam officialdom. And sure enough, they consitute a grave menace to the peace of Southeast Asia, in which we are so vitally interested.

Surely, Pham Van Dong's letopportunity to use our influence and good offices to help two zones round the discussion Batives in the two zones. Clear-cut, constructive and independence for all Asia.

1.40

THE FOUR-TON HOAX

O N December 19 an artificial satelite of the tainers with instruments, earth with a payload of 67.5 just as has been done in the kilograms was launched in the United States with the. help of an "Atlas" rocket. The perigee of the orbit is about 184 kilometres and the period of the existence of the satellite, according to American scientists' estimates, is about 20 days.

This is, no doubt, a great success in the American programme of the development of space flight as compared with the previous launching of American satellites of the "Vanguard" and "Explorer systems with payloads ranging from 1.5 to 17 kg.

American scientists have to be congratulated on the progress attained.

But the claim that the new American satellite is the biggest in the world, three times heavier than the third Soviet Sputnik is baseless.

There is no question of the weight superiority of the new American satellite over any of the three Soviet Sputniks. It should be recalled that the payload of the first Soviet Sputnik was 83.6 kg., the second 508.3 kg., and the third 1,327 kg., while the payload of the American satellite is just 67.5 kg.

To build up the hullabaloo, what is being done is to include the weight of the carrier rocket that has been orbited, which constitutes four tons.

Specialists and laymen both know that during the launching of Soviet Sputniks, the carrier rockets, too, were orbited and existed for a long time, there being no Second Sputnik between the of existence.

Cane-Growers' Struggle

* FROM PAGE 13

really unprecedented upsurge in which Congress attempts at blacklegging and the Government stand in Parliament and the U. P. Vidhan Parishad helped the peasants to see better the real face of the Congress and its Government.

Following the Lok Sabha discussion on December 18, the strike was withdrawn to await the Federation's decision. The Federation which is a semiofficial organisation having a Government official as its Chairman enjoys unique prestige among the cane-growers. It unites the 17 lakh growers who supply cane to the 67 sugar mills of the State. Among its constituent member cooperatives, a larger number is controlled by Congressmen.

The meeting on December U.P. 23 revealed the measure of anger and indignation felt demanded the resignation or about agriculture and about crores annually in U.P. alone.

NEW AGE

carrier rocket and the containers with instruments, United States now. In the American satellite. the weight of the carrier rocket that has been put in orbit is 57 times greater than the pauload.

The weight of carrier rockets is not indicative of the research possibilities of the container with scientifi instruments and the payload which the rocket can carry. Therefore, the weight of the carrier rockets of the Soviet Sputniks was not published in the Press.

If the proportion of the payload to the weight of the carrier rocket is adopted as 1:57, as is the case with the American satellite, then the weight of the last stage of the carrier rocket of the third Soviet Sputnik, which

circled around the earth for six months, must be more than 75 tons as compared with the four tons indicated for the American satellite. Speaking of the weight

of Soviet carrier rockets, although their orbited weight is less than 75 tons, still it considerably greater than four tons, which holds good for the carrier rocket of not only Sputnik III, but also the first and second Sput-

At the same time, it should stressed that the height of the orbit and the period. of the existence of a satellite are the most important indices. It should be recalled that the perigee of the first Soviet Sputnik was 226 kilometres and that it existed for three months, which exceeds the perigee of the latest satellite launched in the

It is of interest to note in this connection that reports have appeared in American papers themselves questioning the original claims that the United States satellite orbited on December 19 outweighed the heaviest of Soviet Sputniks.

Thus the NEW YORK TIMES Correspondent Raymond, in a dispatch from Washington, writes that in the opinion of American specialists "the United Staes Atlas is much lighter" than the Soviet rocket which pushed the third Soviet Sputnik into orbit and "itself continued to orbit for seven months". "In addi-tion," Raymond points out, Atlas instruments weighing 150 pounds weighed substantially less than the Soviet instrument package of 2,133.

The Washington News vrites editorially that it would be a mistake to conclude from the launching of Atlas that America has surpassed the Soviet Union. Specifically, in comparing the weight of the new American Sputnik with Russian Sputnik III, account should be taken of the weight of the Soviet Sputnik's rocket and nose cone.

Another important element of any comparison is payload. Sputnik III carries 2,919 pounds of instrur while the Atlas carries 150.

It seems that some American newspapers are more cautious than some of our own-especially the Hindustan Times which carried ecstatic and provocative banner headings on the latdivision in the case of the United States and its period hope it has sobered up by now

Danger Signal From West Asia

torically asked.

length.

Out For

Revenge

where

of tomorrow.

same imperialists.

the Soviet

retreat.

GYPT and Iraq have haps showed that Kassem's leapt into the news again. Rountree of the U.S. State Department was cordially received in Cairo but in Baghdad "there had been only shouts, stones and vulgar slogans, and the unusual spectacle of a high U.S. official conducted about Middle Eastern country like a hunted criminal. JIS. officials in Baghdad swallowed their anger as best as they could." (Time of December 29, 1958).

President Nasser spoke out angrily against the Syrian Communists on December 23 at the Port Said anniversary of the defeat of the 1956 imperialist attack and closed aown the Damascus Com mounist daily, Al Nour, on December 25.

Simultaneously reports appeared that the Communists had "taken over" in Iraq, that a plot had been unearthed of Communist scheme for a People's Democratic Republic of Iraq, Syria and Jordan." The intention was obvious raise the Communist scare, split the unity of Iraq and the United Arab Republic,

nove deeper into the West Asian oil-rich region. To serve this aim, the imperialists, especially the Americans, are naturally going to exaggerate differences, look out for the slightest fissure, woo one Arab State and attack other and plug the line that Arab neutralism so bitterly anti-West must now, right

the balance by being anti-East. The outlines of this new policy are quite discernible already. The U.S. has released 26 million dollars of blocked Egyptian funds, revived the relief programme in Egypt, resumed the 13.5 million dollar U.S.-Egypt rural improvement service and leased dredgers for the Suez Canal. West German and American tenders are being discussed for the second stage of the Aswan Dam Prolect. The British were chided as reported by the London Observer of December 22, for

"Suez-blind."

Offensive Against Iraq

Simultaneously proceeds the angry offensive against Iraq. Typical of much American newspaper comment was the one made on December 11 by the Christian Science Monitor: "Events in Baghdad may shortly confront the United with a fundamental decision in the Middle Eastpossibly as grave as that which casioned the sending of American troops to Lebanon last summer." The bilateral military treaty with Iran recently concluded also points very clearly in the same anti-Iragi direction.

To make the distinction between the two countries-Iraq and the UAR-very sharp has come the clearly inspired stories of the Communists in Iraq dominating Kassem and of the defeat of the recent conspiracy in Iraq as a great Communist victory. The Lon-don Economist of December 20 made the sly insinuation that the anti-Rountree rlots per- been repeated references to

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Similarly, on the side of Iraq -both in the radio and Press comments as well as Government statements-there have

the cultivators' problems. According to the Hindustan Times report, "some delegates even criticised Mr. Nehru for allegedly making a 'partisan' statement in Parliament 'without trying to comprehend the problems of the growers and the fairness of their demand'."

The resolution of the meeting pointed out among other things to the fact that both the Government and millowners had done "limitless injustice" to the growers. The argument that any enhancement in price would divert land from food grains to cash crops was characterised as baseless by the resolution. Sugarcane, the Conference asserted, was grown on four lakh acres which is five per cent of the cultivated land in

The resolution said any rise by the cane-growers when it or fall in cane price affected small growers deeply. The redismissal of the Food Min- duction in price by seven anister, Sri A. P. Jain, declar- nas that was made some years tions to support the just cause

-52

The resolution charged the Government and the millowners of exploiting the growers' helplessness.

During the last few years, U.P.'s production of sugar has almost doubled. From 560,000 tons in 1953-54 it has risen to 1,080,000 tons in 1955-56. The profits of the millowners are also registering unprecedented rise. It is only the cane-growers whose produce is statutorily pegged to an artificially reduced level since 1952

The U.P. Kisan Sabha meeting in an extraordinary Conference at Sultanpur from December 25 has called upon all its units to wholeheartedly support the canegrowers

The All-India Kisan Sabha's General Secretary in a statement has called upon all other ing that he knew nothing ago was costing them Rs. two of the cane-growers and help them in all possible ways.

JANUARY 4, 1959



INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

writ did not run in Baghdad --- "who is in control?" it rhe-

Parenthetically, let it be said that the New Statesman of December 27 scotched these rumours by stating about Rashid Ali and others who were arrested in Irao that they 'appeared to be working in the interests of certain middle-class landowners and land syndicates, who object to the proposed agricultural reforms. Most of the scare stories have been put out by the Ba'athists in Lebanon

Syria, who are anxious to discredit the Kassem regime. With an unusually honest flair Time of December 22 showed what the Americans were up to: "A crack is showing in those Arab nationalist forces which were formerly united by the simple desire to expel the West. .. Precisely at this moment e of Washington's Middle Eastern experts (Rountree)

arrived on the scene:... Nasser and the United States may yet find themselves making common cause together, even if at arm's

West. Asia is no marginal area for the imperialists. Oil and military strategy make this part of their very heartland. It is also an area where recently they have suffered most calamitous and humiliating set-backs and equally growing unity and friendship are being established between the Arab nationalist forces and the Socialist countries. They are out for Their open aggression defeated, the imperialists may

well lay aside this particular weapon temporarily. Their main strategy-while continuing armed pressure against particular Arab States-may well be for the present period to "soften up" the UAR, disrupt Arab unity and weaken the ties between the Socialist camp and Arab nationalism. Infiltration tactics now may prepare the blitzkrieg, the open attack

It is this new variant of the plan of domination that must engage the attention not only of our Arab brothers, but equally of ourselves who are fully in the battle against the

It would be absurd to imagine that this scheme has already succeeded, that Presi-Nasser's moves against the Syrian Communists already spell his passage to the American camp, or that Iraq and the UAR now glower angrily at one another. In this very period there

have been the exchange of the friendliest of messages between the two Arab leaders and in the same Port Said speech Nasser lashed out at the imperialists and drew pointed attention to the role played by

ber 1956 in compelling their

the united character of the Arab struggle and the conti-nued need for this unity.

Equally Khaled Baghdash, leader of the Syrian Communists, stressed recently in an interview to Al Akhbar of Beirut on December 15 : "As long as imperialism exists, the fraternity, collaboration and solidarity of all Arab ranks remained the princi-pal point that should be stressed in the present stage of the Arab unity movement.

There Are Differences

At the same time it would be unwise, to say the least, to overlook the differences that do exist in the Arab liberation

movement. For instance, with regard to the Rountree tour, Cairo radio on December 19 stated : "People can say that the U.S. State Department seemed to be prepared to adopt a realistic policy toward the Middle Eastern countries... It is regrettable that Rountree en countered an unfriendly demonstration in Baghdad. Though the Arab people oppose all imperialist intervention they should give this friendly visit a cordial reception.'

It was a diametrically oppo-site line that the Baghdad Radio took in its broadcast of December 24 : "The imperialist bloc had resorted to various tactics to mislead people into believing that it had changed its attitude towards them. The bloc had made friendly gestures to help the newly estab-

lished Arab countries into changing their firm stand against imperialism."

And on the Rountree visit itself an Iraqi Government spokesman said on December 19 : "We believe in democracy and freedom of speech. Therefore, our people and Press have expressed their true sentiments at the time of Rountree's visit."

The second point of difference appears to be on the question of the set-up of the Arab States. While Nasser has strictly banned all political parties, has closed down the Communist daily in Damascus and arrested trade-unionists. in Iraq only recently four parties—the Communist, Na-tional Democratic Party, the Ba'ath Socialists and Istiqlal -have come together in a National Front based on a joint charter, which lays emphasis on the need for a democratic political life,.

The Iraq Radio has often pointed out that the Arab struggle "was based on the dependence on the people' will and the establishment of a regime to solve the problems in a democratic way, i.e., the way of self-determination by 'the people." One does seem to. see here the play of different concepts, divergent paths of political development.

All one can say on this controversy is that while it is true that anti-imperialism in the situation of West Asia is itself of profound democratic significance and content, the development of the fullest possible democracyparticularly in relation to the democratic mass organisations and political parties

-as early as expedient, is equally necessary to broad-base and consolidate antiimperialism and national independence.

= by MOHIT SEN ===

The two are part of a single process-the development of the national-democratic revolution. And certainly this much is clear in the closing years of the fifth decade of our century. that anti-Communism, abroad or at home, cannot help national independence movements but only weaken and even derail them

Unity To Meet

Imperialism

Finally, some difference may exist-one cannot be absolutely sure of this-on the form and tempo of the unity of the Arab States. On the unity of the Arab movement there can be no two opinions, but there is room for discussion on whether at present the relationship between Iraq and the UAR should be unitary, federal, confederal or even simply that of a firm alliance of two independent States. This is the internal and exclusive concern of the Arabs themselves. All one can be anxious about is that the difference over form and tempo should not endanger unity itself.

These differences outlined above cannot be allowed to blur the danger that imperialism is again on the offensive in West Asia. Earlier they came with the sword, they come more insidiously to disrupt, as a prelude to destroy. Before this menace the differences must be mitigated and the ranks kept close-knit.

The '58 Contrast

S 1958 passes into recorded time, one looks back on many upsetting, inspiring and controversial trends in international events. But one dominant and his-

tory-shaping fact has compietely overwhelmed and stamped the year. 1958 was the year of the "great leap forward" in the Soviet Union no less than in China. 1958 was also the year of the Ame rican recession and the spread of dictatorship to Western Europe. Time has aptly chosen the grave-digger of French democracy as its man of the vear.

Take a few Chinese figures Steel jumped from 5.35 million tons to 11 million, coal from 130 million tons to 270 million tons, grain from 185 million tons to 375 million tons.

New Soviet Budget

Or take the Soviet budget for 1959. Gross industrial output is scheduled to go up by 7.7 per cent, the na-. jump by on science will reach the neuromenal ngure-of 27,300 tars. Onemployment topped change and advance. As Mao million roubles or an in- the five million mark. Tse-tung said in another crease of 20,00 roubles. De- And as for 1959 in America, context: "Raise both your fence spending is to be cut the December 20 issue of the handst The new world is from 96,300 million to 96,100. London: Economist, wrote: ours."

NEW AGE

million roubles. We say nothing of the truly breathtaking figures of the Seven-Year Plan; at the end of which period the Socialist camp will produce 51 per cent of the total world industrial production. And it is not a matter of

sheer economic growth alone. In social engineering, in throwing up new and more democratic, more integrated forms of social organisation, the Socialist system has shown feats of creativity. The communes of China, the agricultural reorganisation in the Soviet Union, the educational reforms which unites closer hand and brain, the reform of the penal code—we have here all the signs of a resurgent society.

The other side presents a very different picture. Time on December 29 wrote: "In the sense that the drop was the fastest and deepest the (1958) recession was the worst since World War II. The gross national product dropped 19.8 billion dollars in six months!" Plant expansion dropped from 37.8 billion dollars in 1957, to eight per cent, expenditure 29.8 billion dollars, inventories history has made to a point of

"Official obsession with inflation comes, oddly enough, at a time when the economy is still far from booming, when four million people are still unemployed, and when a fairly large body of forecasters expect the rate of recovery from the recession to slow down markedly next year." It goes on to proclaim that for the U.K. and USA "some of the long-heralded 'automation unemployment has now at last begun to appear.'

"New World

Is Ours"

And as far as social development goes all the capitalist West has been able to show is the rise of de Gaulle's dictatorship in the country which was the classical land of their type of democracy. Nor is de Gaulle an isolated phenomenon, it is a portent of what the highpriests of the West intend to in the countries under

their sway. 1958 revealed in its twelve months the whole shift that were slashed by 5.5 billion dol- impending world socialist phenomenal figure of 27,300 lars. Unemployment topped change and advance. As Mao

PAGE FIFTEEN

BEGD. NO. D597 in

TRIBUTE TO SOVIET ASSISTANCE

THERE are 60,000 people, labour, officers, engi-neers, masons and supervi-sors working round the sors working round the clock. Bhilai is a joint Indo-Soviet venture. What are we soviet venture. What are we getting from the Soviet Union? First of all the en-tire blueprint of the scheme, drawings (about 65,000) of working parts, etc. Then there is the supply of the main plant and equipment, technical supervision of the construction, and erection of the plant. Assistance in training Indian personnel in the USSR is also agreed upon. USSR is guaranteeing the performance of the plant and the machinery supplied.

In Rourkela and Durga-In Rourkela and Durga-pur, which have been cons-tructed with assistance from Germany and the United Kingdom, every bit of equipment down to the last nail is bought from these countries, and as-sembled here under the direct supervision of their own technicians. This cer-tainly has its advantages. own technicians. This cer-tainly has its advantages. The technicians are fami-liar with their equipment and can with comparative ease set up the works. In Bhilai the civil engi-

neering in the main plant has been given to Indian firms. Anciliary work is carried out by smaller con-tractors. The structural steel framework has also been introvid to V-dibeen entrusted to Indian firms. The erection itself firms will be done by Indian engi-neers with the assistance of their Soviet counterparts. At the moment, there are 110 experts loaned to India from the Soviet Ministry of Iron and Steel. As against this figure, the number of Indian engineers gazetted and non-gazetted is 600.

> (From YOJNA, Weekly published by the Publi-cations Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting)

理论

A VIEW OF THE CONSTRUCTION WORK AT BHILAL

BHILAI'S FIRST FURNACE TO GO INTO OPERATION REPUBLIC ()

The first blast furnace of the Bhilai Steel Works will be commissioned on Republic Day, January 26, according to information.

Within twenty-four hours of its operation thousand tons of pig iron will be produced daily in the public sector—thus opening a new chapter in the history of industrialisation of our country.

BY mid-next year, the Bhilai Works will start producing steel. There will be in all three blast furnaces at the one-million steel works. The cons-

will mark the completion of the first phase of the entire the first phase of the entire project. By now the main sec-tions of the Works completed include steel structure shop, engineering shops, electric re-pair shops, oxygen shops, re-pair shops connected with the blast furnace, railway shops, garages and coke oven battery. The huge 24,000 K.W. power generation station is nearing completion. completion.

Engineers Confident

The tempo of work is stea-dily rising. This month seven thousand tons of steel structure were erected, while last January it was only one thousand tons. Engineers, both Russian and Indian are confident that this will be further raised soon to twelve thousand tons. At present sixty thousand

workers are engaged at the works.

The colossal project involves the erection of one lakh ton of iron structure, fifty lakh cubic meters of earth-work and more than five lakh cubic metres of concrete work.

The Soviet Union has prac tically sent all its share of equipment, which is about five lakh tons of steel structure, mechanical equipment. and electrical

Schedule Will Be Kept

Despite difficulties and bot-tienecks-which led to initial delays-the available indica-tions suggest that the Works tions suggest that the Works will be completed within the scheduled time. The recent correspondence between the Soviet and Indian Prime Min-isters regarding delay in pro-gress of the work has produ-ced a good effect. The people at the helm of the construc-tion are now eager to speed up the pace of work and finish it within 1959. within 1959.



NEW AGE

The supply position of the works is satisfactory. It is daily receiving, 1,500 tons of iron ores from the Rajara fields. All the canals to the pump house have also been completed completed.

·····KERALA······

By the end of 1959, it is hoped that all the shops will be manned by Indians. The few remaining Soviet special-ists will be just helping Indians to master the tech-nique nique.

Another Industrial **Peace Agreement**

TBE three-year industrial The three-year industrial peace agreement signed on December 20 between the representatives of the managements of private motor transport services operating in three districts of World State and new services of Kerala State and repre-sentatives of employees of all categories in this industry numbering about 10,000 constitutes a significant step in the State Govern-ment's policy of ensuring industrial peace in the State. The agreement which is

applicable to the three dis-tricts of Cannanore, Kozhi-kode and Palghat provides for revising, upgrading and fixing the pay scales of the operating staff and those in the workshops

fixing the pay scale operating staff and those in the workshops. Drivers, checking inspec-tors, fitters, electricians, blacksmiths, welders, paint-vulcanisers, ers, turners, vulcanisers, carpenters and sinkers will start on a wage of Rs. 45 in the grade of Rs. 45-3-4-80; mechanics and chief fitters: Rs. 50-4-70-5-100; conduc-tors: Rs. 35-2-45-3-65; clea-ners and other unskilled workers: Rs. 25-13-40. Dearness allowance will be at the rate of Rs. 25 for these who receive a hose

those who receive a basic wage up to Rs. 30 a month, Rs. 30 for basic wage of Rs. 31 to 49 and Rs. 35 for Rs. 50 and above. Working hours are nine per day limited to 54 a Week For the running tag

Working hours are nine per day limited to 54 a week. For the running staff, from the starting point to destination, the time will be treated as overall duty hours subject to the condi-tion that any interval at the destination of 20 min-mers and above at a stretch utes and above at a stretch

will be considered as rest time.

me. Bonus will be paid ac-ording to the following cording to the following schedule: all managements who own one to five buses will pay ten per cent of the annual total emoluments (basic pay plus dearness allowance), owners of six to ten buses will pay 123 per cent, 11 to 15 buses 15 per cent and over that 173 per cent. who own one to five buses cent. The

The employees will get Seven festival holidays, se-ven days' sick leave on production of medical cer-tificate and one day with wage for every 20 days of attendance, eveluding the attendance, excluding the weekly off. All employees who have

All employees who have put in continuous service of one year will be treated as permanent except those engaged in work of a casual nature.

nature. Thus, when the agree-ment came into force on January 1, 1959, the ten thousand motor transport employees in the three dis-tricts began enjoying higher wage-scales, reduced hours of work, guaranteed bonus and security of service

vice. This is the fifth long-term industrial peace agreement that has been signed in Kerala since the new Government came to office. It is the declared policy of the Kerala Gov-ernment and the Commun-ist Party to establish indus-trial peace through such trial peace through such mutual agreements, not only factory to factory, nor industry by industry, but also, if possible, on an all-State basis.