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THE GLARING CONTRAST

MINISTRY MAKING THEN AND NOW



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On February 22 morning when I got down from the plane at the Trivandrum airport I was told that the new Congress-PSP Ministry would be sworn in at 12 o'clock. My informant who happened to be my colleague in the outgoing as well as newly constituted State Legislature belonging to the Muslim League could not give me the name of the ministers which he said had not yet been finally decided.

A FEW minutes later my comrades from the Party office came to take me home. They too gave the same information and added that about an hour ago there was a phone call from the Chief Secretary saying that swearing-in will take place at 11 o'clock and asking us to be present. No written invitations were issued.

I was then reminded of the way in which our Ministry was sworn-in nearly three years ago. The names of all the ministers had been announced a couple of days before the swearing-in took place. Formal invitations had been sent to the leading citizens of Trivandrum. Everybody in the State knew beforehand that at such and such a time the ceremony would take place. There were meetings and demonstrations in the evening in various towns and villages of the State to mark the occasion.

Behind this contrast between the two ways of Ministries being sworn-in lies the contrast between the composition of the two Ministries and the way in which they were formed. Ours was a Ministry named by a Party with a unity of political outlook, that is singularly absent in the combination which well deserves the title given by the Prime Minister in Parliament to the combination

of PSP, Swatantra Party, Jan Sangh, etc., etc., which according to him was a motley crowd.

Our Party elected its leader within five days of the announcement of the final results of the elections. He had the first interview with the Governor in another three days. Five days later he had his second interview with the Governor at which the names

and jeeps.

During the election campaign one of their all India leader Sri S. K. Patil had no hesitation in telling the voters of Kerala on the eve of polling that a composite Ministry including a representative of the League would be formed after the elections (although for obvious reasons, he had added that it was his personal opinion).

All this had created in the minds of the Triple Alliance supporters the impression that the Congress would not stand in the way of a really and fully joint government, composed of the representatives of the Congress, PSP and the Muslim League.

by E. M. S. NAMBUODIRIPAD

of would-be Ministers were submitted and two days later the swearing-in took place. There was no hitch at any stage and everything was smooth and natural.

In the present case, however, the Ministry was finally fixed up after a full fortnight's war of nerves. Back and forth they flew—the all-India and Kerala leaders of the Congress and the PSP—from Delhi to Trivandrum, from Trivandrum to Delhi, again to Trivandrum, again to Delhi. As for the leaders of the Muslim League Sri Dhebar said, he did not want to trouble those friends in the first flight of the Kerala Congress and PSP leaders from here to Delhi.

But when after their return from Delhi they had once again to fly back to Delhi, Mr. Mohammed Koya, the Deputy leader of the Muslim League Party in the Legislature was also put to the trouble of flying!

While these flights were going on, continuous reports appeared in the Press of unanimous decisions, revisions of unanimous decisions, difficulties in the implementation of decisions, solution for difficulties, fresh difficulties, and so on. All this culminated in the release of Sanjiva Reddy-Asoka Mehta correspondence in Delhi and the final decision of the Congress to go it alone and form its own one-party Government.

How tense the situation then was could be gathered from the remark made by Sri Pattom Thanu Pillai on alighting from the plane along with Mr. Dhebar on the 20th. Asked by the pressmen as to what was going to happen, he said: God alone knows and I do not know whether even God knows it!

These continuous troubles arising out of negotiations within the Triple Alliance had their basis in the question as to whether the Muslim League could be given an equal place (along with the Congress and the PSP) in the Ministry. The Congress as is well known had no scruples about forging an electoral alliance with the Muslim League nor in using its flag along with their own and PSP flags in their propaganda cars

After the elections, however, the Congress could not continue to be vague as it used to be during the election campaign. It had to decide one way or the other. Immense pressure was put on it by the nationalist-minded sections of Congressmen in the rest of the country against the formation of a Coalition Ministry including the League. This was further fortified by the fact that the Congress on its own was in a position to form a single-party Government even if the PSP and the League refused to offer cooperation.

The Congress Parliamentary Board, therefore, took the decision that it cannot afford to smear itself with collaboration with the Muslim League. It told its own and the Muslim League's electoral ally, the PSP,

that the outlook of the Congress organisation not now but from its inception has been one of discouraging any tendency towards limited, sectarian, approaches and that, therefore, it cannot agree to include a League representative in the Cabinet.

The PSP is supposed to have opposed this stand of the Congress and defended the right of the Muslim League as a political party to a proper place in the political set-up of the country.

Actually, however, the PSP was only making an exception in the case of Kerala as Asoka Mehta told Sanjiva Reddy in his letter: "We understand and share your attitude towards communal parties. However, special conditions of Kerala brought the League and both our parties together. We are convinced that these conditions necessitated the maintenance of that close understanding and, therefore, pleaded with you that the local committee of the League be so maintained as to be of maximum service to the State. The Muslim League is aware of our position in other parts of the country. The Congress too agrees that the State of Kerala stands on a different footing and that it requires special treatment." Sanjiva Reddy told Asoka Mehta in his letter: "In view of the situation obtaining in Kerala and having regard to

the fact that the Muslim League had worked earnestly in the elections, I suggested that we should require its free and willing cooperation to the maximum extent possible and for that purpose we were prepared to go as far as we could consistently with our basic all-India approach to all communal organisations."

This exchange of views on the evil of communalism and the necessity of giving special treatment to Kerala in that regard reminds one of the justifications made by Sri Asoka Mehta's predecessor Acharya Kripalani who said in justification of the PSP having allied itself with the Communist Party in the 1954 elections in the then Travancore-Cochin State: "The Sanyasi takes aims from both the Brahmins and Chandalas. But after receiving the aims the Sanyasi goes his own way."

The aims of the Muslim League CHANDALA were necessary for both the Congress and the PSP at the time of elections in the form of votes. Even today these aims are necessary for the PSP in order to secure for itself a place in the Ministry. The Congress, however, is today in such a position that it can go its own way disregarding the Muslim League CHANDALA.

* SEE BACK PAGE

CONGRATULATIONS CHANDRANAGORE!

February 22

IT has now been officially announced that out of the total of 22 seats for the Chandranagore Corporation, as many as 19 have been won by the Citizens Association, sponsored by the Communist Party.

The Congress has had a shattering defeat and been able to secure only three seats. This is the second time that, on the basis of adult suffrage, the Citizens Association has been able to win so thumping a victory. In the previous election also the Congress had to rest content with only three seats.

The Congress had gone flat out with venomous anti-Communist propaganda and its leader Atulya Ghose had waxed eloquent about making "a Kerala out of Chandranagore. But to no avail.

The people of Chandranagore deserve hearty congratulations on their great triumph and all good wishes go out to the members, workers and leaders of the Citizens Association for their devoted service and splendid achievement.

PRIME MINISTER ON KERALA

The Prime Minister's Press Conference has brought forth a whole series of the most amazing statements on election results, the electoral alliance and the ministry formation in Kerala.

He expects people to believe that he and the rest of the Congress High Command were blissfully ignorant of the programme of the Muslim League till they—long after the election battle was over—took the trouble of actually acquainting themselves with the League's election manifesto.

Only when the question of sharing power was posed the top Congress leaders decided to display "great surprise" over the League's platform, realising for the first time that, "it is more or less a repetition of the programme of the old Muslim League." Roused in holy indignation at this late stage Pandit Nehru declares, "If that is the open policy of a party, well, however much we may otherwise

try to cooperate, we could not share a government with that party in the slightest degree."

The situation is made still more amazing when the Prime Minister declares that the Congress had offered support to a PSP ministry knowing full well that the PSP would take Leaguers in its cabinet.

The Prime Minister has also hazarded his "personal view" that "if the Congress had contested every seat, we would have won many more seats." It is for the partners of the Congress in the Grand Alliance to concur in that view or to dispute it.

The people are well aware that till only the other day avoiding three-cornered fights was considered the key to which all principles had to be sacrificed. It was announced as the main reason for each of the three parties getting as many seats as they have done.

Keeping principles in cold storage when it suits your convenience and parading them when it is safe and profitable to do so is in common parlance described as "opportunism". The high-falutin talk of principles at this stage, far from deceiving anybody, is only sure to make a laughing stock of the Congress leadership.

(February 24)

Editorial

net. Thus in fact the offer amounted to asking the PSP to go ahead with a PSP-League coalition which the Congress would support.

Still Nehru insists that after the High Command had acquainted themselves with the League's platform and realised that it was a repetition of the programme of the old Muslim League they were fully roused to the danger and were not prepared to touch the League with a barge-pole.

Desperate Move Against India-China Settlement

—From Jnan Bikash Moitra

While all peace-loving people have welcomed Prime Minister Nehru's invitation to Premier Chou En-lai to come to Delhi for direct talks on the border dispute, certain reactionary circles here are panicky over the prospects of a peaceful settlement.

THE PSP and its fellow-travellers on the specific issue of the border organised an "All-Bengal Chinese Aggression Resistance Convention" in Calcutta on February 20 and 21.

Inaugurating the show, the redoubtable PSP leader, Acharya Kripalani, thundered against Prime Minister Nehru's policy towards China as "weak and vacillating", "a betrayal", and so on. He declared that it had not been wise on the part of Pandit Nehru to invite the Chinese Premier.

Attacking the Defence Minister he said that people feared

against India. "It was an act of betrayal on his part," he said.

One of the resolutions adopted at the Convention stated that "there should be no negotiations with the Government of China till she vacated the aggression" and further pointed out that "the invitation of the Prime Minister of China constitutes a departure from this policy and cannot but be regarded as humiliating to India and derogatory to her national honour and prestige."

Divergent Reactions

Generally speaking, the attitude of the daily press here on the border question has been very much the same as that of the PSP. It has naturally given

a good deal of publicity boost to the "Chinese Aggression Resistance Convention".

But despite this, certain differences in approach are noticeable in the editorial comments in various papers regarding Pandit Nehru's invitation to the Chinese Premier. We shall give only two samples.

Ananda Bazar Patrika on February 17 wrote: "The Prime Minister's decision to invite Mr. Chou En-lai is so sudden and unexpected that it has left us dumfounded. We are yet unable to understand whether Mr. Nehru is really determined to free Indian soil of foreign occupation or he is preparing the ground to retrace his steps. 'The people of our country had suspicions in this regard. We too had expressed our apprehensions about the possible outcome of Mr. Nehru's vacillating policy....'

"The dominant impression in the minds of the people is that Mr. Nehru has gone back on his previous stand and has surrendered to China...."

On the other hand we have the editorial Yugantar on February 16: "Although this news was not expected at the moment, it is good news. This is so because the border dispute between India and China may be very much tragic and bitter; but in today's conditions, no State, generally speaking, regards a flourish of the sword as the only path for settlement."

"Indian foreign policy, in particular, has shunned the method of using force and has adopted the ideal of peaceful settlement. Viewed from this standpoint, we knew that whatever opportunities Prime Minister Nehru might give to create confusion on the border dispute, he would move towards a peaceful settlement with China after the elections in Kerala were over...."

"It (Pandit Nehru's invitation) is a golden opportunity for Mr. Chou En-lai to re-establish bonds of friendship with India. The acceptance of the invitation will be an indication of good sense and practical politics."

Securely in possession of the stocks, the hoarders have started pushing up the prices by creating conditions of scarcity.

Large quantities of Orissa rice also are being diverted into the blackmarket. The Balasore (Orissa) correspondent of the Statesman reported on February 9: "Last night an indication of how huge stocks of paddy and rice from Orissa go underground in West Bengal was received when 240 maunds of paddy addressed to the fictitious people were seized from the goods office of Balasore station."

As regards the internal production of rice this year, the State Government not only tried to hide the reality from the people; it also supplied wrong figures to the Centre.

It was claimed ad nauseam that there would be a good crop in the current year and as such, the deficit would be much smaller than in previous years. But according to the Government's latest crop-cutting estimation the deficit will now come to 14 lakh tons, the highest since 1947!

The Centre, it appears, has been taken by surprise. The Statesman of February 17 reported: "The Union Food Minister Mr. S. K. Patil, has written to the West Bengal Government criticising the State's Food Production and Agriculture Minister, Mr. Tarun Kanti Ghose's statements about rice production in 1959. He thinks that these statements which have proved misleading, could have been avoided."

But the West Bengal Government has not learnt the lesson. It still goes on claiming that the shortfall will be no more than 600,000 tons as against 750,000 tons in 1958 and 800,000 in 1959!

These agonising tales of human suffering make it abundantly clear that the present food position in West Bengal is quite serious. The main paddy crop has just been harvested but rice prices are already beyond the reach of vast masses of the people.

Medium rice is nowhere available at less than Rs. 26 to Rs. 28 a maund. If the present situation is allowed to drift, there is little doubt that prices will climb to dizzy heights during the lean months of May-July.

The people are naturally alarmed at this grim prospect. Although the conditions are not

yet the same, they are haunted by the nightmarish memories of the devastating famine of 1943, which claimed 35 lakhs of lives.

Apart from the prevailing high prices of rice, what has further added to the sufferings of the people is the lack of purchasing power.

The policies of Dr. B. C. Roy's Government in the past 12 years have been such that unemployment and poverty have steadily grown. Today, large sections of people have very little purchasing power and several lakhs have to depend, year after year, on state relief works and doles.

Writing in the Statesman of February 16, about acute scarcity conditions in the Sunderbans area, a special correspondent of the paper, emphasised: "The real problem today, as in previous years, is lack of purchasing power. Unless this is bettered, the position, it is feared, will not improve."

Hoarders Active

The hoarders have been quick to take full advantage of these opportunities. They have already cornered the bulk of the new crop in West Bengal.

Commenting on the food position in 24 Parganas district, even the Statesman of February 15 pointed out: "It is widely believed in the interior of the district that most of the harvested paddy has by now found its way into hoarders' godowns, generally situated in and around Calcutta."

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HE BROUGHT US THE MESSAGE OF PEACE AND ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE

—By AJOY GHOSH

For five days our country had the good fortune to have on our soil the leader of the premier Socialist State in the world, the vanguard fighter for world peace and people's happiness.

It was no ordinary reception that was accorded to N. S. Khrushchov. The President, Prime Minister and other leading personalities of our country greeted him with warmth in the spirit of genuine friendship. The people of our country—in Delhi, Calcutta, Suratgarh and Bhillai—responded with rare enthusiasm in mammoth crowds and by lining the streets for miles together wherever the Soviet Premier went. And in places where he could not go the mass interest was no less intense, no less burning.

These feelings and scenes have been succinctly summarised in the Joint Communiqué: "In Delhi and in the other places which he visited, N. S. Khrushchov was accorded by the public a warm and friendly reception, which was impressive for the degree of popular enthusiasm which it displayed."

Why this upsurge of affection, why this truly national reception? What does it signify and what will be its impact?

In the first place, this was a manifestation of the sincere feeling of appreciation of our entire country for the role that Khrushchov and the Soviet Government which he heads, are playing for world peace.

As the Joint Communiqué states, this popular enthusiasm was "a tribute to a world statesman who is devotedly working for the cause of peace."

In that communiqué as elsewhere, the welcome and support of the Government of India and the people to the Soviet proposals for disarmament and the unilateral reduction of its armed forces, was made abundantly clear.

Pandit Nehru put it pithily in his speech at the Civic Reception in Delhi: "There cannot be a greater problem before the world today than the problem of banishing fear, stopping of armaments and utilisation of this new power for the welfare of humanity. This is the message which Mr. Khrush-

chov brings. We welcome him today with love because he is the leader of a great country. He is a friend of our country. But besides these there is a new thing which he is expounding today and for which he is working—so that the world may progress towards peace and there may be disarmament."

The power of the Soviet Union is well known. Its military capacity and its superiority in weapons over the mightiest capitalist State is acknowledged by all. Yet, it is this power and its leader which crusades so passionately for peace, for a world without arms and armies—this striking fact has impressed all decent people in India. There has never been a previous example in history of this kind, hence the unique welcome.

Secondly, it has to be emphasised that the four years which have passed since Khrushchov first came to India have been marked by a deepening and extension of the friendship between our country and the Soviet Union, so beneficial to both countries and the world. Nor is this a transient phase in Indo-Soviet relations. It is based on the permanently operating and cementing factors of a unity of interest and a unity of outlook on world problems.

The Joint Communiqué truly states: "As regards India and the Soviet Union, at no time have their mutual relations rested on a firmer basis of friendship and understanding than now."

"Their common allegiance to the principles of peaceful co-existence and their common determination to assist towards the establishment of lasting peace have brought them closer together and have progressively enlarged the area of beneficial co-operation between them in the United Nations and elsewhere."

Wherever the Soviet Prime Minister went he dwelt at length at this unity of interest and paid full tribute to the great role that India was

playing in the world-wide struggle for peace. Time and again he pointed out how our country and Nehru personally have strengthened greatly the forces working for a relaxation of international tension.

In his speech at the banquet given by the Rashtrapati, Khrushchov declared: "The people of our country highly value India's role in the struggle for peace, the role of the Government of India and, especially of its head, the Prime Minister of India, Mr. Nehru."

with different countries, enabled us to make notable contributions to world peace and also helped us to strengthen our national economy.

Thirdly, and above, all the visit of Khrushchov has highlighted the significance and potentialities of Indo-Soviet cooperation in the economic sphere. It would be wrong and one-sided too look upon this as a matter of economic aid, on mutually beneficial terms, alone. It is much more than a question of credits and technical assistance, important though these are.

Indo-Soviet economic co-operation is, as a matter of fact, a matter of practical collaboration between our country and the first Socialist State in the task of national reconstruction. It is a matter of practical collaboration in the task of laying the sure foundations of our country's economic independence.

In our arduous struggle for Independence against British imperialism, the Soviet Union and its leaders rendered us every type of moral and political support. The example of the Soviet Union in rapidly wiping out the backwardness it inherited as a legacy from centuries of Tsarist oppression, was a constant inspiration to us. Many resolutions of the National Congress, the writings of Rabindranath Tagore and Jawaharlal Nehru are a few of the many witnesses to this fact.

But in the years after we won our freedom, a new phenomenon has made its appearance. Thanks to the tremendous growth of the Socialist world—in the first place, the Soviet Union—we were able to receive not only moral and material support as previously, but material aid as well. This represents a radical change in the prospects of independent economic development for the underdeveloped countries which have recently gained independence.

Quite apart from the quantity of Soviet aid—al-

ready massive and steadily growing—what has particularly to be understood is its character, its impact on the growth-potential of our economy. Bhillai, Suratgarh, Cambay are already there to remind us of this. But now the new agreement brings heavy machine-building plants, coal-washing machinery, oil refineries, drugs factories, expansion of Bhillai and the like.

On top of all this is the fraternal assistance provided for technical training both in the Soviet Union and by establishing Technical Institutes in our country. It is this that enables us to look forward to a growth of our own technical cadre, so essential for economic advance.

This is economic co-operation—at remarkably low rates of interest and with easy repayment terms—which will considerably help our economy to reach the stage of independent development.

An important feature of this economic co-operation is the friendly and equal manner in which it is carried out. All those who have been to Bhillai have remarked on the truly brotherly relations that exist between the personnel there, who come from different countries and live under different social systems. This is a model of relations between countries at different stages of economic development and building different social systems.

What is more, Soviet economic aid has also resulted in the Western countries being compelled grudgingly to provide some economic assistance, although with high rates of interest and difficult terms of payment and with the aim of re-establishing their domination. It is no accident that Rourkela and Durgapur followed the Bhillai agreement.

Pointing out that "the mobilisation of internal potentialities and resources

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PAGE THREE



The two Prime Ministers greet each other after the signing of the new agreement between India and the Soviet Union.

Source of Growing Prestige

Earlier, in his address to the Members of Parliament he had emphasised: "The enhanced prestige of the Republic of India and the prestige of the Prime Minister of India, Mr. Nehru, spring from the policy of neutrality pursued by the Indian Government, from the policy of non-participation in military blocs. This is a source of wisdom and strength."

It is necessary to underline and stress these words at the present time when in Parliament and outside, discordant voices have been raised in fury and frustration against our national policy of Panch Shila, against our accepted method of settling all disputes through negotiations and not by force or by joining one or another military grouping.

From Right-wing quarters the cry has gone up that our policy of non-alignment had better be described as a policy of alienating everybody. Pandit Nehru has vigorously answered these critics and denounced them as having a vested interest in stoking up the cold war.

There can be no doubt that our foreign policy has not only served the cause of world peace but furthered immensely our own national interests. It has raised our stature, established bonds

with different countries, enabled us to make notable contributions to world peace and also helped us to strengthen our national economy.

Thirdly, and above, all the visit of Khrushchov has highlighted the significance and potentialities of Indo-Soviet cooperation in the economic sphere. It would be wrong and one-sided too look upon this as a matter of economic aid, on mutually beneficial terms, alone. It is much more than a question of credits and technical assistance, important though these are.

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SECOND PHASE

On October 1, 1958, Metric weights were introduced in selected areas and regulated markets in all States and Union Territories with a two-year time-limit for complete change-over.

THIS TWO-YEAR PERIOD WILL END ON SEPTEMBER 30, 1960, AFTER WHICH USE OF METRIC WEIGHTS WILL BE COMPULSORY IN THESE AREAS.

Plans are under way to launch the second phase of the reform and extend the use of Metric weights to the remaining areas in the country. - Already Metric weights have been introduced in the whole of Kerala. Other States will follow suit soon.

CHANGE TO

METRIC SYSTEM

FOR SIMPLICITY & UNIFORMITY
ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

The debate in the two Houses of Parliament on the President's Address concluded on February 22. Important policy statements were made by the leaders of India's major political parties.

CRUCIAL national-political issues came up for discussion and the Prime Minister's replies in the Rajya and Lok Sabhas gave a broad indication of the attitude of the Government towards them. It is necessary, therefore, that attention be focused on this debate and certain tentative observations made.

There is no doubt that by the time the debate was approaching its climax in the Lok Sabha Nehru's disclosure of his invitation to Chou En-lai took it on to a rather different plane. Following the placing of the latest Indian Note and letter to China, it was this issue—already looming large—which dominated the proceedings.

Significantly Nehru's speech on February 22 was almost entirely devoted to the Indo-China dispute and what he considered was the correct attitude to adopt towards it.

In the Rajya Sabha where the debate began, as well as in the Lok Sabha, two dominant trends, ensuing from the Indo-China problem, could be discerned.

FIRST, there was near unanimity on the stand that negotiations—later direct meeting—was the only possible and suitable method to adopt.

It is true that Nehru declared in the Rajya Sabha that there was "nothing to negotiate at present," "that he saw no bridge" between the Chinese position and India's. But even in that same speech he stated: "We should always aim at peaceful settlement."

PSP Arguments Demolished

In setting the correct tone to the debate on this point P. N. Saprui's speech in the Rajya Sabha will long be remembered. He ably countered the so-called arguments of the PSP's Ganga Saran Sinha and answered devastatingly the plea for a "South-East Asia Alliance"—which he called the return of the subsidiary alliance of Lord Wellesley's days.

Another courageous and wise speech was made by Akbar Ali Khan who stoutly defended the Government's

foreign policy and wisely said: "The time will come again when we will say Hind-Chini bhai bhai!"

In the Lok Sabha Tridib Choudhury welcomed the approach of negotiations and hit out hard against the use of the China problem by reaction as a handy weapon against popular struggles. R. K. Khadilkar also made a strong case for negotiations and warned of the dangers of using the "war scare" as a morale-booster and urged that the best outcome would be "if China and we can accommodate each other without dishonour to the other party."

Brajeswar Prasad's rather aphoristic speech was also healthier than most, while A. M. Tariq cogently argued that the recent happy turn in Indo-Pak relations highlighted the importance of negotiations at the highest possible level.

The Communist Party's attitude had been made clear by Bhupesh Gupta's speech early in the debate and reiterated by Hiren Mukherji in the Lok Sabha.

Asking Nehru to shed his allergy to negotiations and to abjure the use of unnecessarily offensive language—charging China with "breach of faith"—Professor Mukherji passionately pleaded: "Now that the Congress has garnered the gains of the Kerala elections is it so very necessary to keep alive China's spectre in the old way or is it being done in order to have an instrument handy to keep down the working people?"

Leaving aside the inevitable Ram Subhag Singh, there was not a single Congress speaker who opposed either the policy of negotiations or Nehru's latest letter. This unenviable task was left to the lunatic fringe of the PSP, Jan Sangh and Swatantra Party. At least in public expression the Congress benches seemed practically unanimous that the two Premiers should meet.

Nehru, therefore, had it all his way in the reply to the Lok Sabha debate. He copiously quoted from his previous letters and speeches to make the point that he had never ruled out the possi-

HUGE SUPPORT FOR NEHRU-CHOU MEETING

Parliament Debate On President's Address

—REVIEWED BY MOHIT SEN

lity of a meeting with Chou En-lai.

Significantly enough he also went on to add: "My letter does not commit him (Chou) to anything, that is our case, just as his letter has not committed me"—a meeting, therefore, without commitments on either side.

"Vested Interests"

He lashed out at "certain vested interests opposing any settlement between India and China" and at those who are "passionately committed to the cold war attitude"—which hit the PSP, in particular, where it hurts.

It was also refreshing to bear him ridicule the idea of a South-East Asia alliance. He declared further that "we must never speak ill of a people as a whole. So also we must not speak ill of leaders who represent those people"—a contrast to talk of inherent Chinese expansionism.

The second dominant trend was the bitterness towards China which seemed to pour forth from speaker after speaker. The PSP and its aged Acharya, of course, went through the usual performance of anti-Chinese tirades and calling for an "independent" Tibet. Jan Sangh's Vajpayee made dark hints about a rift between Nehru and the President and felt that the ground was being prepared to hand over Indian territory.

Excelling them all was the amazing antics of Dr. Raghunath Vira who misquoted with rare ineptness from Mao Tse-tung to "prove" that China was now about to pounce. He bemoaned the fact that we have no "military allies" and called for the "re-establishment of Tibet as a sovereign State."

Jaswant Singh, Surendra Mohan Ghose, Dr. A. N. Bose were among those who ran

him a close second. It was rather odd to find Sibban Lal Saksena in this unhealthy company.

But there was not a single Congress speaker who did not pour out venom against China as an "aggressor," as having "stabbed India in the back." Very many among them joined the PSP-Jan Sangh-Swatantra trio's song that Tibet should be snatched away from China and maintained as a buffer State.

More than a few—notably Sucheta Kripalani and Sushila Nayyar—wanted negotiations to be conducted with an aggressive attitude that was bound to ensure its failure. Negotiations but no friendship seemed to be the plea.

As part of the ritual the Communist Party of India came in for its share of abuse with a good dose of fascinating fairy-tales about our so-called subversive activity in the border areas. Managan from Darjeeling, however, rather gave the game away when he coupled his juicy stories with the demand for more funds for the area where his constituency is situated!

Unhelpful Remarks

In this connection Nehru's remarks were also far from helpful. He did not say anything about Tibet. He brought in his favourite theme that the border issue apart, India and China had come face to face, in a posture of hostile confrontation.

He added that the conflict with China "may not be a matter of weeks or months but may be a matter of years and generations, if necessary."

To balance his attack on the PSP he also had a fling at the Communist Party which, it appears, does not understand a national upsurge, has no roots and the rest. He was also upset by the fact that our Party had consistently championed and campaigned for a meeting of the two Premiers.

He declared: "The Communist Party had been carrying on a big propaganda that the two Prime Ministers must meet. If there is anything which would prevent any meeting it is that propaganda of theirs...."

"They are trying to hide, if I may use the word without disrespect, their feelings and opinions on that subject, not to express them clearly enough—some of them, not all—by shouting 'let the two Prime Ministers meet.'"

Yet it is not unknown to Nehru that the Communist Party has long ago made clear its stand on the border problem, postulated certain principles and suggested the method to get out of the impasse.

Apart from the Indo-China dispute the other big theme of the debate was the issue of corruption. It was a significant fact that

the Communist MPs right from the start focussed the attention of Parliament on this issue.

Bhupesh Gupta, Hiren Mukherji and Raj Bahadur Gour made it abundantly clear that C. D. Deshmukh's charges were far too serious to be ignored, especially as they were believed to be made against those at the highest echelons of Government. They made the telling point that the danger to democracy came precisely from the existence of corruption and the feeling of outrage that nothing seemed to be done about it.

In their demand that something should be done about corruption, the Communist MP's found a wide measure of agreement. Many Congressmen expressed their apprehensions, while the PSP and Swatantraites were quite vociferous.

Nehru seized on the point, made earlier by P. N. Saprui and Sardar Panikkar, that the setting up of a tribunal to look into the cases of corruption would short-circuit the procedures of parliamentary democracy.

In this connection he was also very indignant about "charges" and "witch-hunt" and rather incongruously dragged in the ridiculous and fantastic charge of dishonesty made against him by an obscure Delhi paper.

Actually, the Communist MP's had themselves taken into consideration the apprehensions about a permanent tribunal. They had suggested that the tribunal could be an ad hoc one or could be substituted by a permanent standing committee of Parliament itself—with which one of the chief opponents of a permanent tribunal, Panikkar, expressed his agreement. On this point Nehru did not say anything definitive but stated that he was still in correspondence with Deshmukh.

It was quite clear that as far as the issue of corruption went the Opposition, joined somewhat timidly by many Congressmen, was able to reflect the general discontent and disgust. The impression that it was able to make on the mind of the Government was not clear, however.

Another national problem on which the Communist MP's were able to get discussion going was Kerala. N. C. Sekhar in the Rajya Sabha and A. K. Gopalan in the Lok Sabha made a powerful indictment of the conduct of the elections in Kerala and instanced case after case of violence, arson and murder indulged in by the triple alliance.

They outlined graphically the manner in which Central Cabinet Ministers had conducted themselves during the election campaign and the undue pressure they had brought to bear upon the officials as well as the voters.

Another point on which

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MOMENTOUS SESSION OF AITUC GENERAL COUNCIL CALLS—

DEFEND REAL WAGES

From RAJ BAHADUR GOUR

A country-wide campaign among the workers in support of universal disarmament which opens up prospects of a world without wars and without arms and the rapid development of underdeveloped countries; a nation-wide trade union agitation for the protection of real wages now under heavy attack and to press the demand for linking the Dearness Allowance (D.A.) with the cost of living index everywhere; and an all-India working class mobilisation in defence of the 15th and 16th Tripartite recommendations concerning wage norms and rationalisation which are in the process of being reversed—such are the triple slogans of working class action that have emerged from the discussions and the resolutions of the AITUC General Council that met in Delhi from February 13 to 16, 1960.

195 out of the 155 members attended this important session of the General Council of the All-India Trade Union Congress along with some special invitees and guests notable among them being Prabhakar Kar, M.P., and H. L. Parvans of the All-India Bank Employees' Association and S. M. Bannerji, M.P. and Renu Chakravarty M.P.

The tone of the discussions was set by S. S. Mirajkar, who in his brief but pregnant opening, presidential remarks called on the Council to take note of the alarming rise in prices leading to the fall in real earnings and the Second Pay Commission Report generating widespread dissatisfaction and agitation.

The Council mourned the death of P. C. Bose, a former Vice-President of the AITUC; Badal Dev, leader of the Jamshepur steel workers; M. V. Wadhavkar, leader of Engineering workers of Bombay and a member of the General Council, and Dr. M. T. Joseph of the Agricultural Institute.

The General Council condemned the firing resorted to in West Bengal during the Food Agitation, in Mysore on the students, in Kanpur and the repression let loose on the students of certain universities in U.P.

S. A. Dange's Report

S. A. Dange, General Secretary of the AITUC made a report "On the Economic and Trade Union Developments in 1959 and the Tasks in 1960."

Dwelling on the significant developments in the international field Dange said that the new phenomenon that has to be reckoned with in all calculations is the emergence of the Socialist camp as an equal to the capitalist camp not only in the matter of rendering assistance to the underdeveloped countries where the socialist initiative and approach has upset the capitalist world, but also in the matter of competing with it on its own terms in industrial production.

It has already left capitalism far behind in scientific and technological advance.

Furious Competition

With regard to the developments in the world capitalist economy, Dange pointed out

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workers, outlaw strikes and seriously weaken the bargaining power of the British trade union and working class movement.

The Indian economy showed a continued development and growth. The rate of growth of our economy every year over the previous year has been 3.6 per cent in 1952, 1.9 per cent in 1953, 6.9 per cent in 1954, 8.4 per cent in 1955, 8.3 per cent in 1956, 3.5 per cent in 1957 and 1.7 per cent in 1958 and is likely to be 7 per cent at the end of 1959.

It is evident that ours is a developing economy and there has never been an absolute fall in the rate of growth.

But it is equally true that the growth is uneven and zigzag—typical of capitalism and could go down to the alarming level of 1.7 per cent in 1958 to the recession in the world capitalist camp.

State Of Indian Economy

Another notable feature of the growth of our economy was that heavy industry and engineering—vital sectors of our economy—were developing rapidly. With 1951 as the base year (=100) the index of production of iron and steel stood at 155.1 in June 1959, that of general engineering was 208, and of chemicals was 216.3. The index of electricity output was 246.8 in July 1959 and that of cement stood at 208.0 in the same month.

"This showed," said S. A. Dange, "that the direction of the growth of our economy was essentially correct. But the tempo was uneven and the development was halting because it was capitalism that was being developed and it was under the auspices of the capitalist class that the planning was done."

"Only under Socialism and planned economic development under working class power could the tempo of growth be high, even and ever rising."

The most obvious recovery during 1959 was to be noticed in the cotton textiles. They were the most hit and are now booming. Textile exports had gone up to 70 crore yards in 1959. "This," Dange asserted, "proved to the hilt the AITUC contention that automatic looms were not necessary for promoting exports."

After all the Government wanted automatic looms to produce 'faultless' cloth for export market and the exports had gone up even before the automatic looms were actually installed in most cases."

Building Capitalism

In the name of planned development of our economy, they were developing capitalism in our country and strengthening the monopolies in that framework, Dange asserted. The fixed asset formation during 1951-55 was of an order of 406 crores whereas that in the single years of 1956, 1957 and 1958 was as high as 178 crores, 231 crores and 180 crores respectively.

British capital, encouraged by successive victories of Tories at the polls—something unknown in the history of British elections—has intensified its attacks on the shop steward base and the very life of British trade union movement, in its efforts to curtail the trade union rights of



Recent strike of Burmah Shell Refinery workers in Trombay brought out the workers' wives and mothers in a magnificent demonstration on February 8.

During this same period of 1948-57 the role and strength of private foreign capital has also increased in our economy. Foreign investments in non-banking sector increased from 255 crores in 1948 to 555 crores in 1957. About 80 per cent of this increased investment is merely capitalisation of profits earned in our country.

The foreign monopolies were earning profits in our country by exploiting our resources and our labour, re-investing part of these profits to their own countries and re-investing the rest in our economy. Net import of foreign capital was only Rs. 231 crores during this period, part of which came from the World Bank.

The quantum of foreign capital in relation to the entire capital formation in the country may not appear to be much and serious.

But when assessed qualitatively due to its functioning in strategic sectors of our economy such as coal, it is dangerous and has alarming implications.

Stagnating Agriculture

The agricultural sector of our economy was stagnating and the agrarian relations were dragging. It has been claimed that the total food production in our country had increased from 6,25,11,000 tons in 1957-58 to 7,35,03,000 tons in 1958-59. But the area of cultivation of food crops had also increased from 26,86,11,000 acres in 1957-58 to 27,86,03,000 acres in 1958-59.

And the prices were continually rising irrespective of the rise or fall in food production. In 1957-58 the food production was less than that of 1956-57 by 72,37,000 tons. And the price index rose (base 1952-53=100) from 102.2 in 1956-57 to 106.4 in 1957-58. But now that the food production is up in 1958-59 by 1,09,92,000 tons over 1957-58 the wholesale price index is also up from 106.4 in 1957-58 to 115.2 in 1958-59. The index of wholesale price of food articles stood at 121.5 in November 1959.

The all-India consumer price index stood at 126 in November 1959 when compared to the 1949 base, and was 449 in the same month with 1939 as the base year.

Such was the continued and the staggering rise in

consumer prices. "All the prophecies and forecasts of the experts of Government of India with regard to the prices stabilising at some level or other had fallen to pieces."

"And the prospects in the Third Plan would only be worse with increased resort to inflation," said S. A. Dange. He therefore, called upon the working class to launch a concerted movement for price control, cheap grain shops and linking of the D.A. with the cost of living index.

Dwelling on the wages situation in the country, Dange said that with growing divergence in wages and prices there had been a fall in real earnings of workers and employed classes. And on the whole not much advance was made during 1959 on the wages front."

But the biggest and the most dastardly attack came from the Second Pay Commission, which, while admitting a case for wage rise had granted only a paltry sum of Rs. 10/- including the Rs. 5/- interim relief granted earlier and had attacked the very theoretical foundations of wage norms arrived at unanimously at the 1957 Indian Labour Conference.

● The Second Pay Commission had upset the good work done by the First Pay Commission ten years earlier.

● The Second Pay Commission was a prey, by implication, of the discredited wage-price spiral theory.

● The Second Pay Commission had advanced faulty theory concerning the calorific requirements of our diet and smashed the basis arrived at by Dr. Ackroyd long before independence.

● The Second Pay Commission has done the greatest disservice to the Indian working class in glaring contrast to the service done by the First Pay Commission.

Concentrated Attack

"The recommendations of the Second Pay Commission represented," Dange declared, "the concentrated expression of the attempts at hardening up the labour policy and attacking the trade union achievements of the 15th and 16th Tripartites." The working class had therefore to launch a united countrywide agitation to restore the ear-

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NEW AGE

PAGE FIVE

New Look! New Grace!

she found the soap she wanted

Kerala Rose Toilet Soap

KERALA SOAP INSTITUTE CALCUTTA (A Kerala Government Concern)

PAGE FOUR

NEW AGE

FEBRUARY 28, 1960

FRIENDSHIP STRONGER THAN EVER

Text Of Joint Indo-Soviet Communique

At the invitation of the Government of India, N. S. Khrushchov, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, paid a visit to India from February 11 to 16, 1960.

He was accompanied by A. A. Gromyko, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR, N. A. Mikhailov, Minister of Culture of the USSR, G. A. Zhukov, Chairman of the State Committee of the USSR Council of Ministers for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, S. A. Skachkov, Chairman of the State Committee of the USSR Council of Ministers for External Economic Relations, T. U. Ujabayev, Deputy to the USSR Supreme Soviet, T. A. Tairova, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Azerbaijan Soviet Socialist Republic, A. M. Markov, Member of the Board of the Ministry of Public Health of the USSR, and I. A. Benediktov, Ambassador of the USSR in India.

In Delhi and in the other places which he visited, N. S. Khrushchov was accorded by the public a warm and friendly reception, which was impressive for the degree of popular enthusiasm which it displayed.

These manifestations of goodwill were alike a tribute to a world statesman who is devotedly working for the cause of peace and an expression of the happy relations that exist between India and the Soviet Union and the peoples of the two countries.

During his stay in Delhi N. S. Khrushchov addressed Members of the Indian Parliament, visited the World Agriculture Fair, attended a Civic Reception held in his honour by the residents of Delhi, and fulfilled other public engagements.

He later visited Suratgarh and Bhilal, both symbols of Indo-Soviet cooperation, one in the agricultural and the other in the industrial field. The success of these two enterprises has been a source of gratification to both countries, and augurs well for the future of economic cooperation between the two countries.

His visits to these two centres gave N. S. Khrushchov a vivid impression both of the magnitude of the task upon which India is engaged and of the pace at which she is moving forward to the attainment of the immediate objectives of her developmental plans.

N. S. Khrushchov met and conferred with the President, the Vice-President, the Prime Minister and other members of the Government of India. His talks with Prime Minister, held in a friendly and cordial atmosphere, covered a wide range of subjects in the international sphere as well as specific matters of mutual concern to the two countries.

The two Prime Ministers noted with much satisfaction the recent favourable trends in world affairs leading to a marked lessening of international tensions. This improvement is due in no small measure to the personal initiative and coordinated effort of the leaders of the Great Powers, notably N. S. Khrushchov, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, and Mr. Dwight D. Eisenhower, President of the USA.

The direct contacts which have been established between them and are being developed through interchange of visits have been a valuable factor in promoting international understanding, and have facilitated the welcome agreement to hold a meeting, at the highest level, of the leaders of the USSR, USA, UK and France in May next.

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For Summit's Success

The hopes of all men of peace are centred on this and similar meetings, and it is the ardent wish of all men that

the efforts of the leaders of the Great Powers will meet with a full measure of success. For her part, India gladly pledges her goodwill and moral support for these continuing and sustained efforts towards peace.

The Prime Minister of India repeated his appreciation of N. S. Khrushchov's proposal for total disarmament. In Indian eyes they were, in essence, a call for the application of the principle of non-violence to the solution of international problems.

The interest which these proposals roused in all countries, and particularly in the United Nations, was a reflection not merely of man's moral sense but his acute awareness of the dangers of a nuclear war.

Disarmament And Nuclear Ban

The two Prime Ministers reaffirmed their stand regarding the prohibition of thermonuclear weapons and other means of mass destruction. They also expressed the hope that the first step, namely, the cessation of nuclear tests, would be taken by the Great Powers in the spirit, and on the lines, of the resolution which it was India's privilege to introduce at the last session of the U. N. General Assembly.

Not only nuclear weapons, but conventional armaments too are a heavy drain on human progress. The latest reduction of armed forces in the Soviet Union, following similar reductions in the recent past, was recognised by India as a notable contribution towards the fulfilment of the age-old dream of turning swords into ploughshares.

In his talk with Prime Minister Sri Jawaharlal Nehru and other Indian statesmen, N. S. Khrushchov, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of

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PRESIDENT'S TRIBUTE

Speaking at the State banquet held in honour of Nikita Sergeyevich Khrushchov, at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, on February 11, the President of India, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, said:

It is a matter of great pleasure for us to welcome in our midst this evening His Excellency Mr. Nikita S. Khrushchov, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union. We recollect with great satisfaction the deep impression which your visit to our country four years ago made on our people. As a result of that visit and our Prime Minister's visit to your country, India and the Soviet Union have ever tended to come closer to each other.

It is indeed gratifying to see the feeling of understanding and mutual appreciation of each other's ideals, aspirations and requirements grow with the passage of time.

Our mutual exchanges have not been confined to the economic and industrial field only. Our two countries have exchanged several cultural delegations as well.

Monuments Of Modern Era

Time was when it was customary to raise monuments in stone or brick and mortar to keep the memory of big events alive. Valuable as those monuments are in their own way, it seems to me that the real monuments of the modern era are going to be the new industries and the progress made in economic and other spheres of human endeavour among nations on the basis of collaboration, goodwill and mutual help.

The far-reaching discoveries of science and the modern inventions will go down in history only as a one-sided development of man unless these developments bring home to human society the fact that the world is, after all, one family of which the various nations are members. For ages thinkers and idealists have dwelt on this concept. But what has so far been said figuratively now holds good realistically.

The conquest of distance and the availability of better and quicker means of communications have led to closer contacts among the peoples of various nations. This development must be followed by greater understanding and tolerance among nations, so that all differences and disputes among them can be settled through negotiations and

any resort to force is outlawed.

May I on this occasion felicitate Your Excellency for your efforts which have so greatly contributed to the relaxation in world tensions and which have led in no inconsiderable measure to the holding of high-level meetings of the Heads of Governments for the promotion of world disarmament and peace?

We Feel Assured And Inspired

We have said it earlier and I would like to reiterate it tonight that the people of our country appreciate your initiative in this direction. We welcome these trends and the direct contacts between the leaders of the Great Powers and wish success to their efforts, which, we feel assured, are inspired by the sincere desire to halt the armament race and strengthen the forces of world peace.

We are thankful to Your Excellency for having come here in response to our invitation and it gives me great pleasure to welcome you in the name of the people of this country and on behalf of our Government.

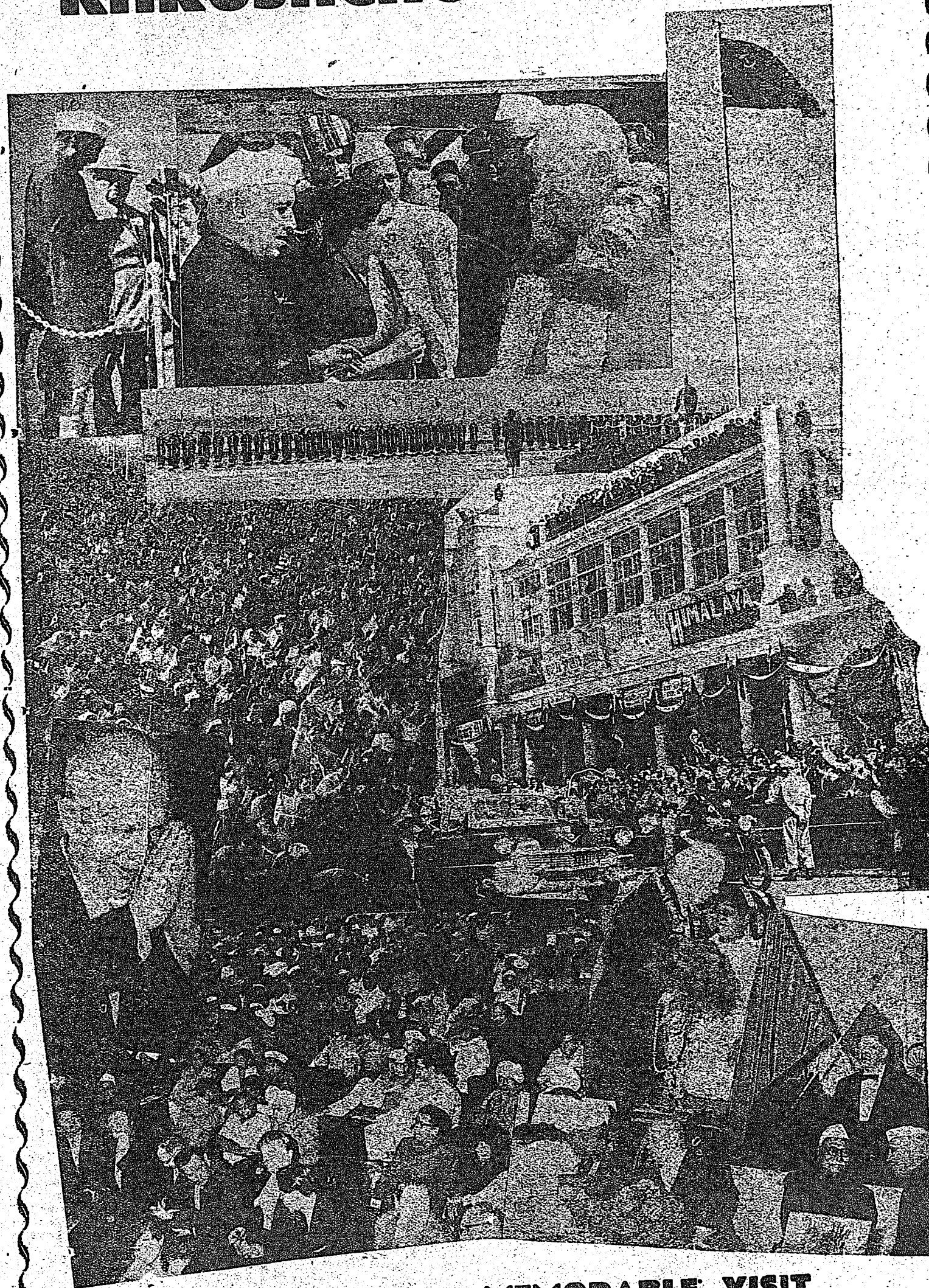
May your efforts for better understanding among nations and for the establishment of enduring peace in the world bear fruit and may the great advances made in recent years in science and technology prove to be for the happiness and the prosperity of man and the human society. This is our wish and prayer.

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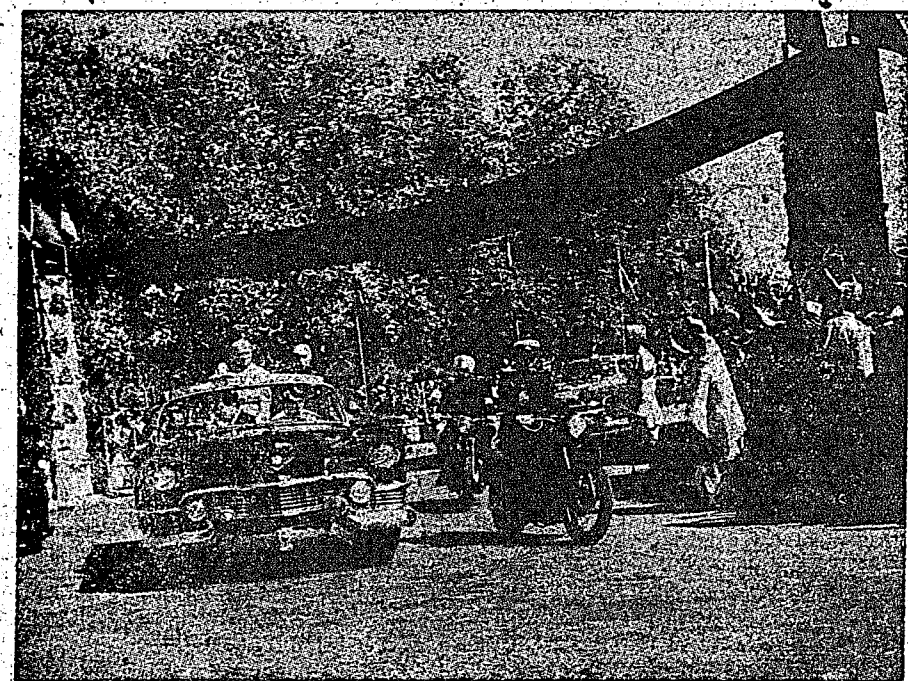
(From Top-Left to Right)

- (1) President making his welcome speech at Palam.
- (2) With Nehru, Indira Gandhi and President Prasad.
- (3) At the saluting base as the two national anthems are played.
- (4) Flag-waving crowds at Ramlika Groups.
- (5) Motorcade passing through Connaught Place.
- (6) The endearing Namaste.
- (7) Mrs. in Central Hall just before K's arrival.
- (8) Child greeting at Agriculture Fair.
- (9) At the Soviet Ambassador's reception at the Ashoka Hotel.

KHRUSHCHOV IN DELHI



GLIMPSES OF A MEMORABLE VISIT



Khrushchov drives through roads lined by Delhi's cheering citizens.

DELHI'S MAMMOTH CIVIC RECEPTION

KHRUSHCHOV SPEAKS

ADDRESSING a mammoth gathering of several lakhs of people on February 12 in Delhi, amidst repeated applause, N. S. Khrushchov surveyed the international scene, the advance and perspective of Soviet economy, and the progress made in four years—since his last visit—in the development of Indo-Soviet cooperation in various fields. The following is the text of his speech:

Esteemed Mr. Prime Minister! Esteemed Mr. Mayor of the City of Delhi!

Dear citizens of the glorious capital of the Republic of India!

When we were leaving Moscow it was very cold and there was snow all around. But the freezing cold could not cool the warmth of the hearty greetings which the Muscovites asked me to convey to you.

Fulfilling this request I convey to you, the citizens of the wonderful city of Delhi, the warmest greetings from the Muscovites.

It is gratifying to note that during the four years that

have elapsed since my first visit to your hospitable country, the friendship between our two nations has further gained in strength. This is quite natural.

The great force cementing the friendship between our peoples lies in our common interest in the struggle for the attainment of a noble goal: the consolidation of world peace and the development of co-operation between States on the basis of the principles of peaceful co-existence. We wish that war be eliminated forever from the life of human society.

From the very first days of its existence the Soviet state, following the behests of the great Lenin, has invariably come out for peace and friendship among nations. Our enemies sought to strangle the Young Soviet State in its cradle and to deprive our people of the freedom and independence won by them. More than once had the Soviet people to interrupt their peaceful labour and to take up arms in order to defend their Motherland from aggression.

But even when we were fighting, our banners bore the inscription: "Peace to the nations".

Pursuing consistently its peaceful policy, the Soviet Union does its utmost to strengthen friendship among peoples. Our people highly appreciate the great contribution made by the Republic of India to the cause of struggle for peace and peaceful co-existence.

The efforts of all peace-loving States are already bearing fruit. The sinister clouds of the "cold war" and international tensions, which had for a long time cast overhead, began to disperse little by little. The first dents have appeared in these clouds and the sun rays of peace are forcing their way through them.

Now the idea of peaceful co-existence is gaining ground even among the advocates of the "cold war". They have come to understand that if a war were unleashed by them, its instigators and inspirers would be the first to perish in its flames.



Waving to the crowd.

The Soviet Union considers that the main prerequisite for securing peace and peaceful co-existence on the globe is general and complete disarmament. The Soviet Union put forward its concrete proposals on this problem before the General Assembly of the United Nations. Our programme provides for the solution of the disarmament problem within four years.

The reason why the Soviet Government put forward its proposal on disarmament is not that our country is militarily weak. Far from that. We submitted our proposal under the conditions when the Soviet Union achieved outstanding successes in the development of nuclear and rocket weapons.

The Soviet Union is at present the strongest military power. But we do not want to take advantage of this superiority. We are prepared at any moment to destroy all our armaments if the Western powers do the same.

The peaceful initiative of the Soviet Government has won the most enthusiastic support and approval of all peace-loving nations. It is gratifying to note that the Soviet proposals on disarmament meet with approval and full support on the part of the Indian people and their Government.

The Soviet people received with satisfaction the state-

ment of the Prime Minister, Mr. Nehru, to the effect that the Soviet proposals are precisely such a reasonable step as the world, the common people of the world, need nowadays.

To prove in practice its desire for disarmament, to create an even more favourable climate for the acceptance of our proposals, the Soviet Union has recently taken an important and concrete decision on another unilateral reduction of its armed forces by 1,200,000 men, i.e. by one third. This peaceable action of the Soviet Union has been approved by all nations; it stimulates a similar concrete approach to the disarmament problem on the part of other states, and we hope that they will follow our example.



Presenting the moon pennant to Nehru.

We have turned backward Russia into a great advanced power with highly developed industry and agriculture, into a country with the highest level of education, science and culture. At present, in the Soviet Union industrial production of nine days equals to that of a whole year in pre-revolutionary Russia.

Now the Soviet people have set themselves the task to surpass the United States of America and to become, within the next few years, the first country in the world in per capita production. This will enable us to have the highest living standards in the world and at the same time the shortest working day.

In 1960 itself, we shall complete the introduction of 6- and 7-hour working day for all the workers and employees, along with a further rise in salaries and wages. In the next few years we shall start introducing 5- and 6-hour working day for all workers and employees, or 6- and 7-hour working day with two days-off a week.

cedented progress in science and technology. The achievements of science and technology have opened up boundless horizons before mankind. It would not be an exaggeration to say that science and technology have now reached such a level of development where their possibilities have become practically unlimited.

In such circumstances, the most significant is the question which direction the research of scientists will take: the way of increasing material and spiritual wealth for mankind or the way of creating lethal weapons of destruction and annihilation.

If science serves peace, it will bring enormous benefits to humanity. But if science is subjected to the interests of preparations for a new war, it can cause humanity untold harm.

Soviet Science For Peace

We are proud that our science serves the cause of peace and progress, that Soviet scientists, engineers, workers have succeeded in creating and successfully launching the first sputniks in the world. Our space rocket has brought a Soviet pennant to the moon.

Dear friends! Our extensive development of friendly political, economic and cultural relations between the Soviet Union and the Republic of India notwithstanding the differences in the social systems of our States shows once again to the whole world the possibility of a fruitful and beneficial co-operation between all States. Our friendship is based on the common struggle for consolidating peace.

Today an agreement on the realization of the credit to the sum of one and a half billion roubles granted by the Soviet Government to the Republic of India was signed.

This agreement which provides for an all-round technical assistance by the Soviet Union in the construction and extension of ten major industrial enterprises in India is of great importance in the industrialization of your country and the fulfilment of India's Third Five-Year Plan.

The agreement provides for co-operation in the extension of the Bhilai Iron and Steel Plant, of two major machine-building plants, for the construction of other large plants and power stations, for technical co-operation in the exploration of oil and gas.

We are gratified to note the successful development of economic co-operation between our countries which serves the interests of the people of our countries and the interests of the strengthening of peace in the world.

An agreement on cultural and scientific co-operation between the Soviet Union and the Republic of India was also signed today.

The rich and diverse culture of the talented Indian people is highly appreciated and loved in our country. The Soviet people are also proud of their own great scientific and cultural achievements. May this agreement enrich our two peoples spiritually and lead them to cultural progress and prosperity.

Consolidate Independence

Dear friends! Having won your independence, you are directing your efforts at the speediest development of your national economy, science and culture, and you have already achieved definite successes. The Republic of India has learnt by her own experience that the consolidation of her economic independence is possible only through building her national heavy industry.

As we know very well, there will certainly be quite a number of obstacles and difficulties on the road of industrialization. But we are sure that the industrious and talented Indian people will be able to cope with this task, that the Five-Year Plans of your country on which great hopes are pinned will be fulfilled.

The Soviet people in all sincerity acclaim your successes and rejoice in your accomplishments in the economic development. We are very happy that the extensive economic co-operation established between our countries helps you to develop your industry more rapidly.

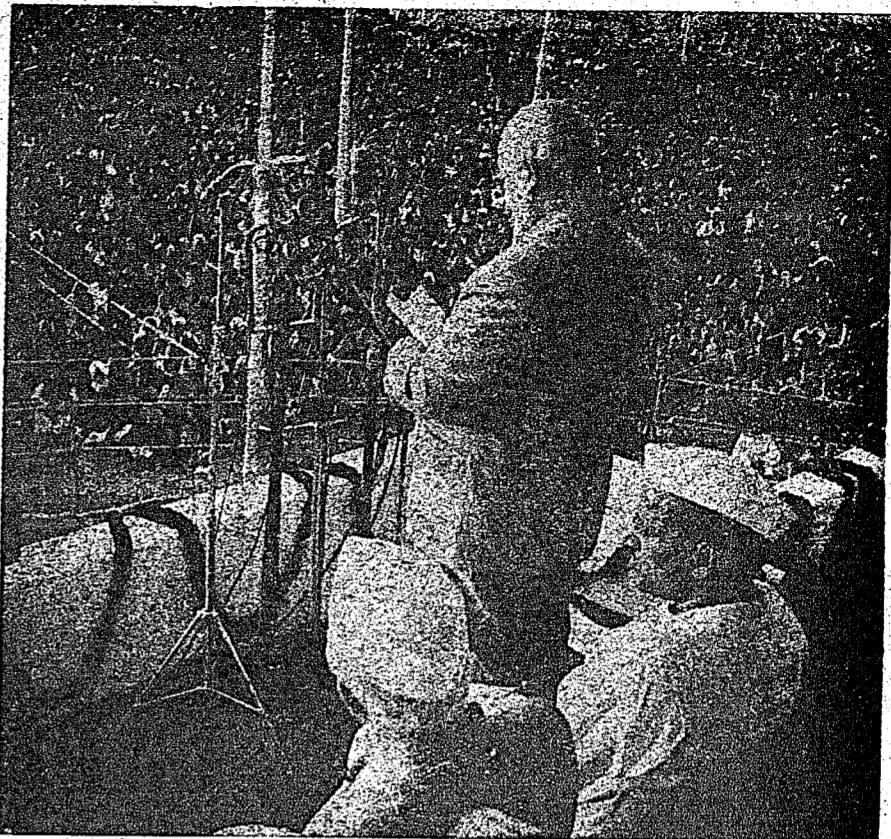
The iron and steel plant in Bhilai as well as other projects which are being constructed with the assistance of the Soviet Union are an important step along the road of your country's industrial development.

Faithful To Lenin's Behests

In assisting the countries which embarked upon the road of independent development, we do not put forward any political demands infringing upon the sovereignty and offensive to the dignity of the peoples of those countries. As you know we give loans on most favourable terms. The Soviet Union renders assistance not for the sake of profits.

Faithful to the behests of our teacher, Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, the peoples of the Soviet Union are not only striving for a better life for themselves, but also wish to see that all other nations live better.

The Soviet people concentrate their efforts on the development of their national economy, science and culture. In a little more than twenty years (I am not counting the years spent on wars and consequent rehabilitation of national economy) our country has changed radically.



Khrushchov reading out his reply to the Civic Address.

May our friendship gain in scope and strength for the benefit of the peoples of our countries, for the benefit of the cause of peace and peaceful co-existence!

Long live peace throughout the world!

Long live inviolable friendship between the peoples of the Soviet Union and India!

Long live the industrious people of India!

Jai Hind!

Present To Nehru

It gives me great pleasure to present to our friend, the

Prime Minister Nehru, a replica of the pennant which was delivered by the Soviet space rocket to the Moon. I present this pennant—an exact copy of which is now on the Moon—to Prime Minister Nehru, as I did yesterday to President Prasad I say once again: this shows how much man of labour and science can achieve in the 20th century.

Let this pennant serve as one more token of good friendship between our two great nations.

Hindi-Russi Bhai-Bhai!



Delhi's Mayor presents the Civic Address to Khrushchov.



A partial view of the gigantic crowd which greeted Khrushchov at the Ramilla Grounds.



In animated conversation with Soviet children at Dum Dum airport just before take off for Bangoon on February 16.



Signing of the latest Indo-Soviet economic agreement in the presence of the two Premiers.

180 CRORES FOR TEN PROJECTS

THE Prime Minister of India and the U.S.S.R. were present at the signing on February 12 of the agreement between the two Governments covering the new credit of 1,500 million roubles (Rupees 180 crores) which was recently offered by the USSR and accepted by the Government of India.

The agreement sets out the list of projects and the details of the technical collaboration covering these projects.

The two Governments have agreed that the new credit shall be utilised for the expansion of the following enterprises:

- Expansion of the Bhilai Steel Works and its ancillary facilities, so as to increase its capacity to 2.5 million tons of steel per year.
- Expansion of the Heavy Machinery Plant at Ranchi (Bihar) to its design capacity of 80,000 tons per year.
- Mining machinery plant; expansion and diversification.
- Completion of the oil refinery at Barauni (Bihar).
- Manufacture of heavy electrical equipment.
- Manufacture of precision instruments.

- Exploration, development and production of oil and gas by the Oil & Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) in Bombay and in other areas.

- Expansion of the capacity of the Neyveli Power Plant (Madras) from 250,000 K. W. to 400,000 K. W.

- Expansion of the Korba Thermal Power Station (Madhya Pradesh) by the addition of 200,000 K. W. installed capacity.

- A new thermal power station at Singrauli (Uttar Pradesh) with a capacity of 250,000 K. W.

Growing Scope

The scope and volume of technical assistance rendered to India by the Government of USSR upto now have been as follows:

In February 1955, an agreement was concluded for the establishment of an integrated iron and steel works at Bhilai (Madhya Pradesh).

In 1955-56 a team of Soviet experts drew up a scheme for oil exploration in India; with equipment and technical personnel obtained from the USSR as well as from Rumania; the ONGC has been exploring for oil during the Se-

cond Plan with the help of that scheme.

In November 1957 another agreement was concluded between the two Governments by which a credit of 500 million roubles (equivalent to Rs. 60 crores in foreign exchange) became available; the projects taken up against that credit include - a Heavy Machinery Building Plant (at Ranchi), a Coal Mining Machinery Plant (at Durgapur), a Thermal Power Station (at Neyveli) based on lignite and development of the Korba Coalfields.

To discuss the possibilities of further collaboration in connection with the Third Five Year Plan, an Indian delegation led by Sardar Swaran Singh, Minister for Steel, Mines & Fuel, and including Manubhai Shah, Minister for Industry, visited the Soviet Union in May 1959.

The same month, a new agreement was concluded for the manufacture of drugs in India, and, in September, another agreement for the establishment of a major oil refinery at Barauni; also in September, an agreement was concluded at Moscow by which the Government of the U.S.S.R. made available a further credit of 1,500 million roubles for schemes to be taken up in the Third Five Year Plan.

In 1955-56 a team of Soviet experts drew up a scheme for oil exploration in India; with equipment and technical personnel obtained from the USSR as well as from Rumania; the ONGC has been exploring for oil during the Se-

JOINT COMMUNIQUE

* FROM PAGE 6

the USSR, expressed his high appreciation of India's policy of non-alignment and non-participation in military alliances.

He stressed the fact that this policy was greatly respected in the Soviet Union. The Soviet Government is convinced that by pursuing this policy India and her Prime Minister personally are making a substantial contribution to the maintenance and consolidation of world peace.

N. S. Khrushchov wished the Government and the people of India success in pursuing this policy and emphasised the fact that joint efforts by the Soviet Union and India in defence of peace would continue to be an important factor contributing to the lessening of international tension and the development of international cooperation.

As between India and the Soviet Union, at no time have their mutual relations rested on a firmer basis of friendship and understanding than now.

Their common allegiance to the principles of peaceful co-existence and their common determination to assist towards the establishment of lasting peace have brought them closer together and have progressively enlarged the area of beneficent cooperation between them in the United Nations and elsewhere.

The two countries share the conviction that the remarkable advance now being made in science and technology, in which the Soviet Union has taken a leading part, would little serve the cause of humanity unless the world were rid of the haunting spectre of war and the foundations were laid of an enduring peace.

Together For Peace

Disarmament, amity between nations, the rapid development of those regions of the world which have long endured poverty and neglect—these alone are the true deterrents to war. The Prime Ministers expressed their faith that to the creation of these conditions, upon which depended to so great an extent the prospects of the peaceful progress of mankind, it would be the endeavour of both their countries to make their fullest contribution.

The Prime Ministers were glad to observe that the relations between the two countries were no less close in the economic and cultural spheres.

Economic and technical collaboration between India and the Soviet Union embraces a wide variety of projects: the Bhilai Steel Plant, which has gone into production and whose original capacity is now being more than doubled; the Korba coal project; the two million ton refinery at Barauni; oil exploration, and others.

Economic Cooperation

To the credits already granted, the Soviet Union has recently added a new one of 1,500 million roubles. An agreement was signed during N. S. Khrushchov's stay in Delhi as to the utilisation of this credit for major projects to be included in the Third Plan. So was also, for the first time, a cultural, scientific and technological agreement between the two countries.

N. S. Khrushchov was last in India in December 1955. Since then much has happened affecting the Indian as well as the world scene. His present visit has afforded N. S. Khrushchov an opportunity of seeing for himself, of obtaining first-hand information on the results of the efforts which India is making, in all spheres of developmental activity, to improve the lot of the Indian people and ensure for them a higher and ever increasing standard of living.

The visit has also given the two Prime Ministers the opportunity, to which they have long looked forward, of renewing their friendship and for personal discussions on the many matters that claim their common interest.

The meeting between the heads of Government of India and the USSR and the talks they have had, more particularly those on a personal level, have been useful for both countries; and to the new chapter in Indo-Soviet relations which opened with the visit of the Prime Minister of India to the Soviet Union in June 1955 has been added a significant page, recording a notable step forward in the consolidation of the cordial and friendly relations between the two countries.

New Delhi, February 16, 1960.

FIRST INDO-SOVIET CULTURAL ACCORD

THE Cultural Agreement signed between India and the Soviet Union on February 12 aims at strengthening ties of existing friendship and promoting further understanding and closer co-operation in the fields of culture, science, education, art and technology.

It consists of eight Articles and will come into force on the date of exchange of the Instruments of Ratification.

Under the Agreement, the two Governments desire to promote mutual cultural exchange, stimulate co-operation and support the development of relations between the educational, scientific, technological, cultural, sporting, athletic and research institutions; mutual visits and parti-

cipation in congresses and conferences organised by the parties, reciprocal visits of specialists, educationists, artists, scientists; research workers, athletes, coaches and sportsmen; exchange of professors, teachers of institutes and universities, scientists, workers of art; organising lectures and lecture courses; exchange of students on scholarship basis; carrying out joint research work in the fields representing mutual interests; promoting mutual exchange of tourists; exchange of cultural, educational, scientific and technical experiences; arranging educational, art, scientific and technological exhibitions and expositions etc; showing documentary films and newsreels and promoting mutual purchases

and demonstrations of feature films; exchange of radio and TV programmes; exchange of books and translations; exchange of educational, cultural, scientific and technical documents; providing facilities for training, study, carrying out research work and specialisation in the educational, cultural and technical institutions of the two countries; recognition of diplomas and degrees.

The Agreement also envisages the setting up of a Joint Indo-Soviet Committee for co-ordinating and implementation of the provisions of the Agreement and shall meet alternately at New Delhi and Moscow at least once a year.

COMING MARCH 8—A HISTORIC DATE

FIFTY YEARS OF STRUGGLE FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS

THE proclamation of March 8 as International Women's Day is directly linked with the struggle of Women for their political rights.

On the eve of the proclamation of International Women's Day in 1910, only three countries had granted women the right to vote and to stand for office: New Zealand in 1893; Australia in 1902 (limited) and Finland in 1906.

The beginning of the 20th century was marked by an awakening of women's consciousness. They were struggling to obtain the right to decide the fate of their countries on an equal footing with men.

In many countries, the women already represented a considerable part of the labour force, thus taking a direct part in production. This tendency for an increasing participation of women in production was particularly evident in the industrialised countries. However the women were deprived of all rights and thereby were victims of fierce exploitation.

It is no accident that a new movement for the granting of political rights to women was born among the working women. They saw in the winning of these rights a means of defending their interests.

A Women's Day was organised in the United States for the first time on February 27, 1909. On this day, in numerous cities, from the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic, Socialist women organised demonstrations and meetings, where they demanded political rights for women. Women belonging to all social strata and the militants of the feminist movement participated in these demonstrations.

Thus at a meeting of 3,000 in New York, the yellow flag of the American feminists waved among the other flags in the hall. The meeting adopted a special resolution protesting against the non-recognition of women's right to vote.

In 1910, the second International Conference of Socialist Women was held in Copenhagen. About 100 women from 17 countries took part in this meeting. Not only trade unions and Socialist Parties were represented there, but also other unions and associations as well as working women's clubs.

The first three women elected to the Finnish Parliament, Porsyinen, Alla and Silampal also took part in this Conference.

The delegates examined the lead given by the American women and Clara Zetkin proposed the organisation of an International Day each year.

A resolution was adopted at the conclusion of the meeting to turn this Day to account by demanding the right to vote for all adult women, irrespective of property, taxes, education or of electoral census.

The question of the extension of the right to vote was a current question at that time. It was an important step toward the democratisation of the electoral system and for the accession of women to public life. This accession would help the struggle for their other demands.

It was decided to celebrate the first International Women's Day on March 19, 1911. This date was chosen on the recommendation of the German women. On March 19, 1848, during the German Revolution, the King of Prussia, yielding to the pressure of the people, formulated many promises including the promise to give women the right to vote—a promise which was never kept.

However, for various reasons, this day was celebrated until 1914 in several countries on various dates in March.

In 1911, meetings attended by men and women marking International Women's Day were held in Germany, Austria, Denmark, etc.

In Germany a million leaflets calling for action on the right to vote were dis-



Soviet leader E. A. Furtseva addressing a meeting of Calcutta women, February 2, 1960.

tributed before the day. In Austria, in addition to the meetings a mass assembly attended by 30,000 people was held.

In 1914, meetings and demonstrations were organised by the women of Austria, Hungary, Germany, Holland, Russia, the United States and other countries. For the first time the women of these different countries celebrated this day on the same date, March 8.

The tradition of March 8 was born.

In Austria 300 meetings took place on this day, in Holland 70, in Switzerland 30, Bulgaria and France joining these countries. In Paris, an assembly organised for this occasion was addressed by German, English and Spanish representatives in addition to French speakers.

Although the celebration of this Women's Day has, through the years, assumed a specific character in the different countries according to the particular conditions in each of them, the principal demand was always the right to vote. But the women also called for equality of all rights and struggled for their particular interests.

As the consciousness of women developed, the content of the slogans launched by the women for March 8 became broader and more varied. Thus the women passed gradually from demanding the right to vote to demanding the creation of conditions guaranteeing the exercise of this right.

They also demanded access to professional training. In these years the women raised the different aspects of the problem of their equality; equal pay for equal work, access to all professions and public offices, etc.

However, in the course of the annual March 8 celebrations they did not isolate

themselves from the general concerns of society, nor limit themselves to their specific demands; these were closely tied to the internal situation in their countries and to the international situation in general.

Since the first world war, they have resolutely called for disarmament and demilitarisation, linking their demands to the defence of peace.

Today, International Women's Day is celebrated in every country of the world. On this day women of countries with the most different social systems, regardless of political and religious convictions, demonstrate their desire for solidarity with women of the whole world, in the common struggle for their complete equality on the political, economic and social levels.

In spite of the specific and particular content of the slogans launched by the women on March 8 in their respective countries, all contain the same affirmation of the role played by women in society as mothers, workers and citizens.

In the Socialist countries where women have already obtained equality of rights in every sphere of life, they make on this day an analysis of their activity, set the tasks of active participation in the setting up and development of their State, and in the consolidation of peace in the world.

Since its foundation the Women's International Democratic Federation has always called on its national organisations to celebrate March 8 on the basis of concrete demands corresponding to the aspirations of women in each country and linking them to the great problem of peace and disarmament, indispensable conditions for the lasting achievement of all their rights.

THE HISTORIC DOCUMENTS

of the most outstanding and fruitful visit of Prime Minister NIKITA KHRUSHCHOV to the United States of America—his journey across the land, his speeches and interviews, his clear-cut exposition of Soviet policy of peace and friendship—are gathered in this important publication. This book is a true testament of peace, friendship and constructive endeavour of Soviet people.

Available with:

PFH Ltd., M. M. Road, New Delhi; NBA, 12, Bankim Chatterjee Street, Calcutta; PFH Bookstall, Bombay 4; NCBH Private Ltd., 6, Nallathambi Chetty Street, Madras 2; Visalaandhra Publishing House, Vijayawada.

Bitter Factionalism In Assam Ruling Parties

From Madhusudan Bhattacharyya

The Budget Session of the Assam Assembly begins on February 26. Just on its eve both the ruling parties of Assam—the Congress and the Eastern India Tribal Union (EITU)—are deep in bitter factional fights.

The same policy of an utterly unprincipled alliance that has driven the wedge inside the Congress seems to be responsible for the factional struggle inside the EITU also.

The new turn in the factional fight in the Assam Congress came to light recently when the Assam Provincial Congress Committee (APCC) elected its 11 member election committee. This committee will be entrusted with nominating Congress candidates for the 1952 general election as also any other by-election that may fall due in the interim period.

In view of the importance of this committee both the rival groups—the ministerial group led by the Chief Minister and the anti-ministerial group led by the APCC chief—began to mobilise forces long time ago to capture this committee.

It was a bitterly fought election in which all possible tricks were applied freely and canvassing continued till late in the evening on the day of election, which was by secret ballot. The Marwari big business community of Assam and the tea planters who are known as the real "king makers" are also divided into two groups—each group backing one of the contending factions of Congress. It is learnt that these "king makers" opened their purses generously, in support of their respective faction. It was, thus, a battle royal.

Ten of the eleven members were elected. The eleventh member is the APCC chief himself who will be the ex-officio chairman of the committee. Of the ten elected members both groups bagged five each. But of the five members of the Chief Minister's faction the allegiance of at least two members is uncertain. One of them is reported to have already pledged his support to the APCC chief.

Thus, though three of the five members of the Chief Minister's faction are cabinet members (including himself), the balance definitely tilts in favour of the anti-ministerial group. It looks as if it is well-nigh impossible for the Chief Minister to get his followers nominated for the next general election.

Political observers think that this possibility may affect the Congress Assembly Party, causing some change in loyalties. In that case the very stability of the Chaliha cabinet till the next election will become uncertain. Uptil now the Chief Minister carried the majority in the Congress Assembly Party, but this is now in jeopardy.

One of the most interesting features of this election was the fact that the largest number of votes was secured by Deveswar Sharma, who was forced out of the cabinet only in January. Sharma was

held responsible for the Congress defeat in the Nowgong by-election.

It was reported that even a police report was called for against him and on the strength of it he was asked either to resign from the cabinet or face expulsion from Congress. Even the Prime Minister was reported to have exercised his authority over the APCC chief to make him agree to vindicate the Chief Minister's prestige.

The largest number of votes for Sharma only highlights the extent of the rift inside the Congress in Assam.

The Chief Minister is reported to have decided to include two more members in

his cabinet. One of them, it is understood, will be a Bengali Hindu. The only Bengali Minister in the present cabinet is a Muslim—Moinul Haq Choudhury—a leading light in the so-called "Muslim bloc" in the Assam Congress.

The inclusion of a Bengali Hindu in the cabinet will, perhaps, win the support of the Congressmen of Cachar—a Bengali speaking district—for the Chief Minister to hold the balance against the anti-ministerial group, which consists chiefly of Assamese Congressmen.

Moreover, it is almost certain that the Chief Minister cannot get himself elected from any Assam valley constituency. He will, therefore, have to stand for election from a Cachar constituency. So, he badly needs the support of the Congressmen of Cachar.

The other minister to be included is reported to be Mahendramohan Choudhury,

who is the present Speaker of the State Assembly. Once an aspirant for chief minister-ship, he led the anti-ministerial faction until recently. But he was eventually isolated even in that faction, because of his role in ousting the former Mehdi cabinet, most of the members of which are now the leaders of the anti-ministerial group. He was roped in by the Chief Minister and made the Speaker last December.

The EITU which is a partner in Assam's coalition ministry is also faced with severe factional fight. A determined anti-ministerial group seems to be emerging in that party as well.

The EITU is a political platform of a number of political parties in three of the four Autonomous Hill districts of Assam. It was formed with the slogan for a Hills State. Subsequently, when the Chaliha cabinet was formed, they became "associate mem-

bers of the Congress in the parliamentary sphere" and got a good share in the Government, though it never renounced the demand for a Hills State.

The anti-ministerial group inside the EITU has seized upon the opportunist nature of the Congress-EITU alliance. This group maintains that championing the cause of a Hills State and sharing governmental power with the Congress as a junior partner goes ill together.

Recently, the EITU has been considerably cornered in the Mizo (Lushai) Hills where the Mizo Union (the rival of the EITU which does not support the demand for a Hills State and which controls the Mizo district Council) exposed this opportunism of the EITU.

Faced with this offensive, the Mizo wing of the EITU has recently demanded that the EITU must withdraw from the alliance with the Congress. A majority of the Khasi wing of the party are also opposed to this alliance and has threatened that it would expel those Khasi EITU leaders who support the alliance. Observers forecast that the EITU will very soon split, since the cleavage seems to be widening.

BUILD UNITY IN ACTION

* FROM PAGE 5

lier gains and defeat these attempts.

Speaking on the position of trade union unity as it obtained in 1950 or was likely to develop during 1950, Dange said that serious attempts were made during 1950 to divide the united organisations of workers under the pretext of India-China border dispute. The aim was not politicalising the working class but to divide it politically. The aim was to weaken the base of the AITUC and isolate it.

"However," said S. A. Dange "the AITUC has preserved its base successfully and it could not be disrupted."

The prospects in 1950 were that these efforts would continue and the capitalist and landlord circles would try to utilise the political discussion to attack the wage standards of workers and deny wage demands in the name of "national defence."

The workers should continue to see that their organisation is not divided on an issue "which is not the central issue even though it is made out to be so."

The chances of understanding at the top in order to build united action of workers have receded and would stand frozen for some time. The task in 1950 is to be enforced only against the workers.

The General Council called on the trade unions to launch an agitation in defence of the achievements of Tripartite meetings and observe a protest week from April 3 to 10 by holding meetings and demonstrations.

The resolution on the Second Pay Commission characterised the Report as "utterly unsatisfactory in its recommendations and reactionary in its approach."

The General Council called on the "entire trade union movement to mobilise united-

Soviet proposals for disarmament. The General Council called on the trade unions to campaign in support of these proposals, pass resolutions and send them to UNO on the occasion of the convening of the disarmament conference in March this year and to the embassies of the big powers in New Delhi on the occasion of the Summit meeting in May.

By another resolution the AITUC condemned the French explosion of atomic bomb in Sahara in defiance of world opinion and fully supported the action of the Ghana Government in freezing the French assets.

Stabilise Prices

The resolution on prices called on the trade unions to demand a policy that would stabilise prices and agitate for 1) cheap grain shops in urban and rural areas, 2) control of prices of essential commodities and 3) linking of D.A. with the cost of living index.

The resolution on the Tripartite decisions expressed deep concern that various decisions taken by the Tripartite Labour Conference concerning wage norms, rationalisation and appointment of Wage Boards were not being implemented and the Code of Discipline was sought to be enforced only against the workers.

The General Council called on the trade unions to launch an agitation in defence of the achievements of Tripartite meetings and observe a protest week from April 3 to 10 by holding meetings and demonstrations.

The resolution on the situation facing the trade unions in Kerala expressed anxiety on the attacks on trade union activists, particularly agricultural labour in that State. The resolution warned, "It is likely that policies vigorously opposed to the

unity and interests of the working people and their organisations shall be adopted and the gains made during the last 2½ years will be attacked."

The Council, therefore, called on the trade unions in Kerala "to hold on firmly and build unity from below to defend their previous gains and make further advances."

By another resolution the General Council demanded immediate publication of the Reports of the Central Wage Boards for Cement and Cotton Textiles.

The General Council demanded a second interim relief for the sugar workers in view of the likely delay in the submission of the report of the Wage Board for sugar industry.

By a resolution the General Council asked the Government to expedite the formation of a wage board for Jute and Plantations and appoint Wage Boards for Iron and Steel Engineering and Chemical Industries.

The General Council demanded of the Central Government to immediately bring forward the legislation promised long ago regulating the working hours etc., for the Motor Transport Workers.

Bank Employees Must Unite

By another resolution the General Council supported the demands of the Bank Employees, and of the State Bank of India and the Reserve Bank of India staff. The resolution said that the pressure from the Union Finance Ministry was such that united action on the part of all the three organisations, the AIBEA, the All-India State Bank of India Staff Federation and the All-India Reserve Bank Employees' Association had become essential.

Support For Kerala Workers

The resolution on the situation facing the trade unions in Kerala expressed anxiety on the attacks on trade union activists, particularly agricultural labour in that State. The resolution warned, "It is likely that policies vigorously opposed to the

BANKER WHO SERVED HITLER

INSTRUCTIVE LIFE-STORY

After the recent visit of Krupp India now has the distinction of playing host to another big gun of West German monopoly capital in the person of Herr Hermann Joseph Abs.

LIKE Krupp, Abs had played a distinguished role in building up Hitler's war machine and plundering the Nazi-occupied countries. Like Krupp again Abs was declared a war criminal after the end of the last war and escaped just punishment. Since the Western powers embarked on the policy of rebuilding the German Wehrmacht and German monopoly capital in the Western part of that country, Abs like Krupp has once again been playing a big role in the life of West Germany.

According to press reports the World Bank Mission now in India on a three-week "study tour" is here to assess our requirements of external resources to enable "friendly" Western Governments and the World Bank to formulate and coordinate measures of economic cooperation. It is also expected to "survey the scope for and possibilities of foreign private investments."

The three members of the mission represent the Big Three of Western finance capital who are joining up their efforts to give a "desirable" direction to Indian economy. They are: Sir Oliver Franks, Chairman of the Lloyds Bank (U.K.), Mr. Allan Sproul, a former president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (U.S.A.) and Dr. Hermann Joseph Abs, Chairman of the Deutsche Bank (West Germany).

The revealing life history of the Herr Abs is instructive not only of the character of West German monopoly capital that is now on the prowl all over the world and spreading its tentacles to our country too in the process, but also for the close relationship that U.S. and British imperialism have established with West German capital in seeking new forms to maintain the colonial stranglehold on the newly independent countries.

HERMANN Josef Abs, starting as a student of law in his birthplace Bonn, had turned over early in his life to banking. Having been a long time in foreign countries—in London, Amsterdam, Paris, and in the United States—he became an "expert" in this field.

In 1929, at the age of 28, he entered the banking house of Delbruck, Schickler & Co., Berlin, entering into partnership with that bank in 1935.

Two years later, under Hitler, he was appointed member of the Board of Management and Director of the foreign department of the Deutsche Bank in Berlin. Thus he was offered the possibility of establishing wide relations in the field of international high finance and of becoming member of several boards of management and boards of directors of industrial enterprises and companies in Germany and abroad.

He became the financial adviser of Hitler and rendered valuable services to him in financing armament and preparing World War II.

A statement by the U. S. Department of Justice referring to this matter, published at the time of the Second World War, says that Abs is one of the eight giants of finance and industry having the biggest influence on the reconstruction of the German economy and on orienting Hitler's policy on totalitarianism.

During the war he took a leading part in the plundering of the countries overrun and occupied by the German fascists. The Office of Military Government of the U.S. (OMGUS) in its report of November 1946 characterized H. J. Abs as the spiritus rector of the infamous Deutsche Bank, which was combining an unusual concentration of economic power with active partnership in the criminal policy of the Nazi regime. The Deutsche Bank of Hermann Abs had been acting like a top institution of the Nazi German Government and had been contributing to the economic penetration of the satellite states and the occupied European countries.

Abs had answered the advantages he and his bank enjoyed with active participation in various organisations and economic committees founded by the Nazis. Abs had mustered all his powers for the extension of German rule over Europe.

When Hitler's war of conquest reached its climax in 1942, Abs held 40 posts in leading enterprises in Germany and in other countries. For example, he was member of the board of directors of the IG-Farben concern which made enormous profits on the production of poison-gases, by means of which millions of people were murdered in the Nazi concentration camps.

Thanks to all these posts millions of marks went into the pockets of H. J. Abs. In the pamphlet 31/110 A of the U.S. Defence Department of March 1945 he is characterized as war profiteer, and it is said that Abs belonged to the leading German financiers who were enriching themselves beyond all bounds during the period of national socialism.

Documentary evidence further shows that Abs cooperated with the Nazis not only as a financial expert. He was also working as an agent of the fascist secret service.

In 1945, two days before the taking of Berlin, Abs managed to disappear in the British-occupied zone with some million marks in his pocket. In 1946 the American authorities put his name on the list of war criminals, and he was searched for by them.

But at that time he was already working as financial adviser of the British commander, Sir Sholto Douglas, who refused to hand him over. Thus, thanks to his connections with the international finance capital, Abs, although one of the main figures responsible for the fascist crimes, was sheltered from just punishment.

On the occasion of a visit of Abs to the United States

the Washington correspondent and former head of the information bureau at the financial department of the Allied Control Commission in Germany, Richard Sasuly, wrote in 1950 that it would have been necessary to sentence the Deutsche Bank and its directors, as it was proved that this Bank had been an important part of the system which had brought about the gas chambers of Majdanek.

After 1945, more especially after the foundation of the Federal Republic, Herr Abs once more steeply rose upwards. As early as 1948 he can be found again on the boards of directors of the Shell and Siemens concerns and of other big enterprises.

In the same year he entered the board of directors of the Bank for Reconstruction and finally becomes its president. This bank was founded to administer and distribute the Marshall Plan funds and the American credits.

For the first time after the war Abs established relations with American financial circles in New York in 1949. There he led the first talks on the redemption of the German foreign debts and the preparation of the Schuman

Plan aiming at the rearmament of West Germany. In 1951 Abs becomes member of the board of management of the Sueddeutsche Bank, Munich the successor Institute of the former Deutsche Bank.

At the same time he was appointed by Adenauer the head of the German delegation to London to negotiate the German debts, and among other things recognized pre-war debts amounting to 14 thousand million marks.

Subsequently he was repeatedly charged with the representation of West Germany at international financial negotiations. As early as 1953 his "merits" were honoured by awarding him the Great Federal Distinguished Service Cross with Star.

But Abs does not always employ fair methods to attain his aims. Thus under instructions from Adenauer, he led negotiations in Washington in February 1955 on the release of German property confiscated by the Americans, and by bribing middlemen he tried to get his aims through.

In spite of these and other well-known facts, in spite of his active support of the Nazi regime H. J. Abs is one of the most intimate friends of Federal Chancellor Adenauer.

Evidently Adenauer wanted to demonstrate his authority to the foreign capital interests in West Germany. This

was characterized by the newspaper "Parlamentarische Wochenzeitung" Cologne, on June 30, 1954, in the following words:

"One should see that the Federal Chancellor and the big banker H. J. Abs... are as thick as thieves."

Not even 15 years have passed since the day when the British chief commander took Abs under his protection, and today we find that the name of Abs occurs more than 30 times in the list of boards of management and of the boards of directors of important enterprises.

WE REGRET

We apologise to our readers for the delay this week, due to the Press holiday on February 25.

As we go to press on Thursday (25th) we note with satisfaction that having taken its own time and allowed for Herr Von Brentano's safe departure from India, the Times of India at long last printed today Dr J. J. Stepanovsky's letter of February 13. We had meanwhile printed the letter in an earlier form of this issue (see Page 15). A good cause is thus doubly served.—Editor.

KERALA ALLIANCE ASSAILED

* FROM PAGE 4

they hammered with devastating effect was the nature of the alliance into which the Congress had entered in Kerala. Not an ideal, not a principle, remained which the Congress had not violated. This was going to do incalculable harm to the cause of democracy and secularism, to which the nation was pledged.

Except for some feeble attempts on the part of a foolhardy Congress MP, the only reaction to this powerful challenge seemed to be a guilty silence. The Communist case against communal alliances was supported by Akbar Ali Khan who voiced grave fears about this "unhealthy and undesirable" development. Dr. Aney also vigorously opposed the link-up with the Muslim League.

Remarkably effective points in this regard were made by R. K. Khadilkar. He quoted Nehru with deadly precision against opportunism in politics, especially as evinced in any tendency to compromise with communalism.

It was a watertight case and obviously the Prime Minister thought discretion the better part of valour by choosing not to inform the sovereign Parliament about his attitude to this extraordinarily crucial problem confronting our nascent democracy.

Thanks to a skilful division of labour the Communist MPs were also able to force into the arena questions of economic policy and of national development. Both Blupesh Gupta and Hiren Mukherjee punctured the complacency about our economic position, which stamped the President's Address.

Through their speeches and amendments they brought to the fore the basic issues of land reforms, pricing policy, public sector growth, the principles of taxation for a developing

economy, unemployment, attitude to foreign private capital and the like.

In the speeches of Raj Bahadur Gour and K. T. K. Thangamanni, more particularly, the sliding down of the labour policy was sharply assailed. The flouting of Tripartite decisions, the Pay Commission's infliction of injustice, the unsavoury role of the Finance Ministry came in for well-directed attack.

The Independent MP S. M. Bannerjee brought out effectively the growing dimensions of unemployment and the utter failure of Government efforts. An effective point he made was that the slogans given as long ago as 1947 by the Defence employees were now being at last implemented by the Defence Ministry. He pledged all support to put "more shakti" into the Shaktiman.

Another useful effort on the part of the Communist MPs was to raise in correct perspective the problem of education and the recent troubles in the different University centres. In this connection a valuable contribution came from Sardar Panikkar—this nominated member also made a tremendous onslaught on foreign oil monopolies and warned about handing over oil extraction rights to them.

Economic Policies

As far as the debate went on economic policies, three significant facts been stressing.

First, there was hardly any controversy on the need for industrialisation and the building of heavy industries. The Swatantrites pushed the case of "free enterprise" as the best method of industrialisation but they, too, did not oppose a big plan with an industrial emphasis.

Second, the complacency in the President's Address was not backed even by any significant number of Con-

gress MPs. There was almost universal concern at the food problem, the rise in prices and at the stark poverty which scars the vast majority of Indians.

Third, the Prime Minister hardly touched upon all these problems in either of his two long replies. Only at the end he mentioned the target figures of the likely investment in the Third Plan and mentioned a five per cent growth rate for the national income. About basic policies, socialist pattern, method of raising resources, there was a silence, which looked menacing.

All this despite the fact that many members of his own party, leave alone the Opposition, had raised the alarm about there being "no bold policies; no clear-cut policies"—a quotation from the Congress MP S. D. Patil, which is fairly representative.

Finally, another remarkable feature of the debate in both Houses was the calm way in which the bifurcation of bilingual Bombay was treated—except for Dr. Aney's plea for a separate Vidarbha State. Anyone with a memory would have recalled the authoritarian manner in which the demand of the people had been brushed aside by lobby manoeuvres and party whips.

Yet Parliament heard from the Government not a word of apology to the masses or a mention of sympathy for all the martyrs, whose sacrifices alone have compelled the reversal.

The dominant impression left by the days of discussion is precisely this: Parliament has within it the popular voice and the breeze of the real world does blow in, but it is the power of the masses which can give strength to their representatives, not only to air issues, but to force changes in the direction of progress and advance.

AGAINST EDUCATIONAL CHAOS AND REDUCED ALLOCATIONS

Bengal Students Confer

THE sixteenth annual conference of the Bengal Provincial Students' Federation (BPSF) which was held in Calcutta from February 19 to 22, was an important event in the life of the student community in this State.

The Conference discussed in detail the many problems confronting the student community as a whole as well as different categories of students such as medical, women and refugee students.

Over 550 delegates from almost all the districts in the State attended the Conference, many among them taking an active part in its deliberations.

The Mayor of Calcutta, who is a Congressman, inaugurated the Conference at the big hall of the University Institute, which was packed with delegates and visitors.

His inaugural speech was repeatedly greeted with thunderous acclamation. Extending a hearty welcome to the delegates and visitors as the Mayor and also personally, he said that it was the chief duty of the Government to create all the conditions for the physical and mental development of the students.

"Our students are as intelligent and talented as their counterparts in any other country," he emphasised. "If they were now faced with the problems of food and clothing these must be solved without any delay. No plan can lead the country to economic regeneration if serious attempts are not made to improve the condition of the students."

He further declared emphatically: "If I am accused of indulging in politics for raising issues facing the student community, let me be accused a



Part of the colourful students' procession in Calcutta on February 19 to greet the Students' Federation Conference.

hundred times."

Messages wishing success to the Conference were received from Dr. S. Radhakrishnan; the All-China Students' Federation; the International Union of Students; Prof. N. K. Siddhanta, Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University; the Coordinating Secretariat of National Unions of Students, Netherlands; the National Federation of Indian Women; Pabitra Gangopadhyaya, writer; and others.

Prof. M. N. Basu of the Anthropology Department of Calcutta University and a member of the Senate, Mira Dutta-Gupta, Vice-Principal of Surendranath College (Women's Section) and Hiren Das Gupta, General Secretary of the All India Students' Federation addressed the delegates.

Earlier in the day, over 2,000 students took out a colourful procession and paraded several main streets, shouting the slogans: "Increase expenditure on education; cut it down under the police head." "Demand for

education is a national demand." "Withdraw the Black Bill." "Success to Nehru-Chou meeting" etc.

On the second day, four sectional conferences of women, medical and refugee students and the workers of the SF in the college unions were held. These conferences adopted a number of important resolutions regarding proper educational facilities for women students as well as equal opportunities for them in the economic sphere, adequate facilities for medical students and the Government's decision to curtail drastically the benefits enjoyed so long by refugee students.

The conference of SF workers which was attended by the representatives of 65 college unions from all districts except Purulia, discussed how to improve the functioning and work of the unions.

The Plenary session of the Conference on the third day adopted the General Secretary's Report and the Draft Constitution of the BPSF with minor amendments. It also passed a number of resolutions.

The resolution on education expressed grave concern at the

utter chaos in the present educational system and pointed out that the eleven-year higher secondary and the three-year degree courses were being introduced without any plan and without the necessary prerequisites.

As a result of the introduction of this new system, the possibility of a further increase in school and college tuition fees had arisen. Without increasing the number of colleges, the strength of existing colleges was being reduced.

The conference appealed to the authorities concerned to take immediate steps to remedy this situation.

Welcome Nehru's Proposal

By another resolution the conference expressed its deep concern at the proposal to reduce financial allocations for education under the Third Plan.

The Conference also adopted resolutions appealing to the students to extend their full cooperation to the Students'

Health Home for building a hospital, protesting against the recent increase in tram and bus fares, welcoming Prime Minister Nehru's invitation to the Chinese Prime Minister, wishing success to the Summit Conference of the Big Powers, condemning the recent atomic bomb test in the Sahara and urging the students to extend their cooperation for celebrating the Tagore Centenary in a fitting manner.

The Conference demanded the immediate withdrawal of the West Bengal Government's Bill, which seeks to control meetings and processions throughout the State.

Resolutions passed at the Sectional Conferences of medical women and refugees students on the previous day were approved.

Dr. Amiya Basu, one of the leading physicians of the city and President of the Students' Health Home, was specially invited to address the delegates. A General Council of 125 members was elected on the basis of the newly adopted constitution.

—J. B. Moitra

Patil In The Dumps

WE have written some time ago about the progress made by the cocky S. K. Patil in the rat race for Premiership, where Morarjibhai also pants along. Both of course, were ghoulishly waiting for Nehru's demise.

But Sadoba has now suffered a setback. He had returned from Kerala all puffed-up that his 1957 plan for an alliance with the Muslim League had been accepted—and vindicated, the results seemed to say. While electioneering, he had emphatically proclaimed that the League would be included in the Coalition Government.

When negotiations were going on in the capital, he had pressed on with his idea and thrown out prophesies of woe if the League was now abandoned.

Morarjibhai, on the other hand, claimed that the Kerala victory was peculiarly his own. Had he not sent the lieutenant Dhebar to do the organising and personally done some tough talking to his old police pals in Kerala? He claimed that the League had served its purpose and,

in any event, Sadoba should just step aside and let Dhebar handle the show.

Heated words—not parliamentary either—were freely used and at one stage, it is reported that Morarji threatened to reduce his calorific intake if Patil was going to be allowed to come in at the kill. He won the day only when Pant uttered the word "Jan Sangh"—Kerala had been won, U.P., Rajasthan, Punjab and Bihar were due for election in less than two years.

Patil is down in the dumps, while Morarji feels he is now closer to breasting the tape. Sadoba is, however, looking forward, it is rumoured, to the Bombay bifurcation to get to work in Gujarat and crack the Finance Minister's base.

Bengal Fuehrer

ATULYA GHOSH, West Bengal's Congress Chief and foremost exponent of strong-arm methods, had managed to shove out neatly all the rival faction's candi-

dates in the Pradesh Committee elections last year. He thought his grip on the Tammany Hall machine was complete.

But alas! Sankaradas Bannerjee, despite Atulya's banerji diktat, managed to get elected as Calcutta's Mayor. The Congress boss had earlier thoughtfully arranged for his political demise by putting him up as the candidate against Siddhartha Sankar Roy in a by-election, which the latter won with a crushing majority.

But Bannerjee bobbed up again. What is worse he went to address the All-India Peace Council's open session early this month and actually supported Nehru's foreign policy.

Atulya Ghose lost his balance and in a public meeting thundered that he would settle the hash of the Mayor in the same way as the Triple Alliance had dealt with the Communists in Kerala!

This open insult to Calcutta's First Citizen was too much for anybody to stomach.

* SEE FACING PAGE

SCRAP-BOOK

SCRAP BOOK

THE Mayor made a dignified public statement and to the miniature Mussolini's horror of the Calcutta Corporation, which has a Congress majority, unanimously passed a motion of confidence in the Mayor!

Knowing Atulya babu and his desperado friends, I would strongly advise Calcutta's Mayor to be adequately guarded when he moves about. For his critics the Bengal Congress chief's recipe is beating with iron bars—even when Nehru's daughter is on the scene. Who knows what it will be for somebody with the guts for public defiance?

Ungoldy Treasure

THE Dalai Lama, it is now clear, had long been preparing for his desertion from his people. He had moved out the greater part of the "sacred" treasure from the Potala as long ago as 1951. After all, the Government of India could not be relied upon to be the hospitable host forever.

Besides, many things might have to be financed which Nehru's Government could scarcely be expected to pay

for—Tibet and Border Conventions, for example.

Two facts need pondering upon. Legally all this vast hoard is not the personal property of the Dalai Lama or of his Kashag. Spiritually, it is supposed never to be touched by mortal hands but to be used by the Enlightened One. When somebody—not a God King, of course—spirits away property that is not his own, it is called theft. What shall we call this removal?

And all this, it is clear, was done with the full knowledge of the Government of India, without whose consent, Sikim could never have agreed to keep the treasure. It also provided the escort when the journey was to be made from Gangtok to Calcutta.

How would we have reacted to the removal of the Nizam's treasure and the utilisation of it for the cause of "Independent Hyderabad" and for venomous anti-Indian propaganda? The whole affair stinks.

Patriot's Pride

IT was a fine spectacle to see Nehru rising to stature and with full dignity hurling

the Foreign Minister then stressed that the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany would be a tremendous step forward on the road towards lessening of international tension. He pointed out that the German problem was the main international question having its impact on the relations between East and West. For Poland the German issue was the basic problem of her raison d'etat.

Rapacki declared that should the forces of cold war block the road to the signing of a peace treaty with Germany, Poland would have no other choice than to sign, together with other countries which would desire to do so, a peace

treaty with the German Democratic Republic.

Rapacki discussed the problem of disarmament and stated that the Polish proposal concerning an Atom-Free Zone in Central Europe had played a positive role. He said that this idea as well as concepts of creating other Atom-Free Zones could be today carried out while marching towards full and general disarmament and expressed unreserved support for the Soviet proposals concerning a total and general disarmament.

"As far as Poland is concerned," said Rapacki "our defence effort depends above all on West German armaments. Should German Federa-

l Republic check its re-arming armed forces, Poland would not hesitate to take corresponding steps. As far back as October 2, 1957, we have declared our readiness to refrain from introducing rocket and nuclear armaments should the German Federal Republic renounce its possession of such armaments. This declaration as well as the ones which followed and which are the development of the original proposals, continue to remain in force. However, until now the Government of the Federal German Republic has by no means displayed a positive attitude towards these proposals."

visiting Nazism was sought to be glossed over. One instance of this was an interview given by Von Brentano to Times of India correspondent in Bonn appearing in this paper's issue of February 13.

We publish here a letter to the Editor, Times of India addressed in regard to this interview by Dr. Jiri Stepanovsky, Head of Eastern Department of the Institute of International Politics and Economics of Prague who happens now to be in India. It is highly regrettable that the Times of India could not find it possible to publish this letter which presented the other viewpoint on the subject.

The West German stand amounts to: No lessening of tension to be allowed unless Germany is unified on West German terms—which means the annexation of East Germany, restoration of Nazi German frontiers and the full militarist revival of Germany once again to embark on the expansionist programme in Europe and the world which has twice in last fifty years brought calamity to the world.

Von Brentano came to India as a salesman of this policy. In all the accompanying propaganda the hideous face of German imperialism and German militarism and

back the abuse of Kripalani & Co. about "betrayal." He recalled his 50 years of service to the nation—which none can dispute, whatever the differences. He was hurt that his motives and his honour should be in doubt.

But does Panditji realise that his words could also apply to all those members of the Communist Party, some of whom have even longer years of work for India, whose patriotism he doubts? Did he remember the Andaman heroes, the Garhwal soldiers' revolt heroes, the glorious Ghadar babas and the heroes of 1942, who flocked to our Party, when he himself publicly casts aspersions on the patriotism of the Communist Party? Does he think of the thousands who have given their all for India under the Red Flag when he calls us anti-national?

Patriotism is nobody's monopoly nor hurt and anger when motives are attributed. Having been stung himself, Panditji might think again before he attacks the Communist Party as lacking in patriotism.

—Onlooker
February 23.

concern to a great deal my country, Czechoslovakia. Therefore I may be permitted to make the following short comments on them:

1) Dr. Brentano asserts that the Government of the German Federal Republic has "considered a few months ago making its frequently reiterated renunciation of the use of force in the settlement of questions affecting Germany and her Eastern neighbours the subject of contractual agreements under an international guarantee." This alleged intention has never been communicated to the Czechoslovak Government.

On what grounds then does Dr. Brentano state that "the reaction of the Eastern bloc States to this idea was not encouraging"? Is it meant to cover up the unequivocal rejection by the Federal Government of the official Czechoslovak proposals for establishing diplomatic relations and for the conclusion of a non-aggression pact?

2) Dr. Brentano asserts further that the Government of the German Federal Republic wants to settle peacefully frontier problems with Poland and Czechoslovakia.

Since the present frontiers of Czechoslovakia are the same as in 1937, Dr. Brentano's remarks can only be qualified as bringing forward the demand for a revision of these frontiers probably in the line of the Munich dictat of 1938 which led to the swallowing up of Czechoslovakia and to the Second World War.

Open Revanchism
Dr. Brentano has thus reaffirmed the revanchist policy of Western Germany, which the Minister of Transport, Herr Seebohm, formulated as early as May 1957 in these words: "For the sake of reunification we must not, however, relinquish the claim to the homeland of all Germans, which lies east of the Oder-Neisse line and beyond the 1937 frontiers."

Many other proofs of the revanchist aims of Western Germany can be found in the publications "Beware!" and "What They Want" which have been prepared and issued by the Institute I represent.

3) Dr. Brentano's refusal of a zone of restricted armament in Central Europe must and can be understood only in the context of his statements mentioned before.

Yours sincerely,
Dr. Jiri Stepanovsky.

KHRUSHCHOV VISIT

* FROM PAGE 3

is the basic and decisive condition for industrial development." Khrushchov went on to tell the workers of Bhilai: "Only such victories of world-historic significance as the rise and tempestuous growth of the world socialist system, the downfall of colonial empires, and the competition of socialism with capitalism in the world arena have placed the problem of assistance to underdeveloped countries on the agenda of world politics."

It is a fact worth noting that the speeches of welcome made by the President, Prime Minister, the Delhi civic address, the greetings at Bhilai, as well as the Joint Communiqué lay correct stress on the value and importance of this economic cooperation. It is undoubtedly in the interests of our country that this cooperation be consolidated, expanded and utilised to the maximum. It is equally obvious that India's appreciation of the utility of this cooperation and our understanding of its significance deeply moved the distinguished visitor.

The visible pleasure that Khrushchov felt at India's industrial development was a demonstration of unselfish friendship.

As he said at Bhilai: "It is with great joy that we have availed ourselves of kind invitation to visit the Bhilai Iron and Steel Plant, not only because your plant is a symbol of inviolable friendship and cooperation between our countries but also because the features of the future of India, a highly developed industrial power, are clearly discernible here..."

This genuine happiness at the measure of industrialisation achieved stands in refreshing contrast to the gloomy prognostications of various economic missions from the West and the torrent of advice to slow down our far from rapid rate of growth, to give up the idea of industrialisation and the like.

In these two differing attitudes we find mirrored two different social systems—the Socialist and the imperialist. It was not surprising, therefore, to find the dismay in the Western press—and in a section of our own—at the enthusiastic attention given to Khrushchov's description of the life, system and growth of his own country. There is no doubt that his explanations concerning Soviet democracy, the nature of freedom under socialism and the boundless vistas opened up by the most recent phase of Communist construction, left a deep impression and started off healthy trends of thought. No attempt to dub all this as propaganda could prevent the Indian people from recognising the truth.

In summing up the results of the Khrushchov visit, one cannot do better than quote the concluding words of the Joint Communiqué:

"To the new chapter in Indo-Soviet relations which opened with the visit of the Prime Minister of India to the Soviet Union in June, 1955, has been added a significant page, recording a notable step forward in the consolidation of the cordial and friendly relations between the two countries."

Well done, dockers—now you need a cup of tea!

I am Tea—
THE BEST PICK-UP
IN YOUR WORK

PRESS COMMUNIQUE

AT the conclusion in New Delhi on Feb. 22 of the four-day session of the Secretariat of the National Council of the Communist Party of India—attended besides the members also, on special invitation by Comrades E. M. S. Namboodiripad, M. N. Govindan Nair, P. Ramamurthy and Harkishen Surjeet—a press communique issued by the Central Office says:

At this meeting, a number of important matters were discussed and the dates for the meetings of the Executive Committee and the National Council were fixed. The Executive Committee will meet in Delhi from April 10 to 17. The National Council will meet in Hyderabad or Bangalore from May 5 to 10. At these meetings, the Political Report and other organisational matters will be considered.

The Secretariat was apprised of the assessment of the mid-term elections in Kerala made by the Kerala State Executive Committee of the Party which will now be discussed by the Party's State Council which is meeting at the end of this month. Comrades E. M. S. Namboodiripad, M. N. Govindan Nair and A. K. Gopalan reported on the elections as well as the post-election developments.

The meeting noted with grave concern the growing attacks on the Harijans and other sections of people who supported the Communist Party in the elections. These at-

tacks have already taken such violent forms as murder, grievous assaults and destruction of houses of the supporters of the Party. Not only are goondas who are responsible for these attacks left unchecked; in many places even the police are oppressing the people suspected to be supporters of the Communist Party.

In view of these developments, the Secretariat has decided to draw the attention of the whole country to this violent offensive. The Secretariat has decided to send some Communist Members of Parliament headed by Comrade A. K. Gopalan immediately to Kerala.

The Secretariat further discussed the various moves connected with the formation of the Ministry in Kerala. These moves once again highlighted the unprincipled character of the Triple Alliance which has, as was to be expected, given rise to conflicts and bickerings even before the assumption of office. Both the Congress and the PSP played a most harmful and unprincipled game by allying with communalism.

If the Congress is now opposed to the inclusion of the Muslim League in the Ministry, that is not because of any love for principles. In fact, the Congress High Command has been forced to do so under the growing impact of public opinion against communal alliances—but, of course, only after securing for itself the present position in the Kerala Assembly.

It remains to be seen how the unprincipled alliance actually works. As for the Communist Party, it will function as a constructive Opposition upholding the interests of Kerala and its people.

Comrades P. Ramamurthy and Harkishen Singh Surjeet reported on the current political developments in Tamilnad and Punjab respectively. The Secretariat discussed their reports and considered the tasks facing the Party in these two States which will now be further discussed and finalised by the leading Party organs of the States concerned. Later these would come up before the National Council also for its consideration.

On the India-China question, the Secretariat took note of the moves of reaction to thwart a meeting of the two Premiers. The Secretariat decided to expose these moves and help create the necessary atmosphere in which a meeting of the leaders of the two countries—Prime Minister Nehru and Premier Chou En-lai—materialises at an early date.

The Secretariat discussed certain questions connected with the bifurcation of the present Bombay State.

The Secretariat discussed the biennial elections to the Rajya Sabha from different States and worked out its approach in this regard.

Although Comrade Ajoy Ghosh will be available for consultation, it will not, however, be possible for him to resume his usual responsibilities for another two months.

THREATS AND COUNTER-THREATS

* FROM FRONT PAGE

After receiving his alms in the form of his votes the Congress SANYASI went a step further and made it clear that he would go his own way disregarding even the PSP CHANDALA if he insisted on the inclusion of his friend, the Muslim League CHANDALA!

It was this situation that created acute tension in the State's politics for a couple of days. Threats and counter-threats seem to have been uttered by the advocates of the two courses suggested—that of inclusion or exclusion of the Muslim League: the threat of breaking of the unity of the Congress Legislature Party if a single Party Congress Government was formed and the counter-threat of President's Rule once again being installed if Congressmen did not behave.

The Muslim League leaders at this stage considered discretion to be the better part of valour and voluntarily withdrew their demand for inclusion in the Cabinet. In doing this, however, they added, bitterly, that the reasons advanced by the Congress for refusing cooperation with the League were entirely untenable and imaginary. It was only because the League was anxious to main-

tain the unity of the anti-Communist forces in Kerala that its leaders were standing down and facilitating the formation of a Congress-PSP Government.

These controversies regarding the composition of the Government marred the atmosphere at the time when the decision was taken to install a Congress-PSP Coalition Government. Even the Congress and the PSP followers are, therefore, not as jubilant as they should ordinarily have been considering the elation with which they were greeting the election results as they were coming one by one.

As for the Muslim League there is perceptible gloom in their ranks. The claim that their leaders were making during the election campaign that the Muslim League was getting recognition as a national political party at the hands of the Congress has received a rude shock. Dissatisfaction also expresses itself among the Latin Christians and women who have been left out of the Cabinet. And they were in the front ranks of the "Liberation" struggle.

But despite these moods of dissatisfaction or gloom in the ranks of those who have been responsible for the formation of this Government, the people at large are happy

that an elected Government has come into being and that an elected Legislature will now begin functioning. They, however, want to know, for how long. They are anxious as to what will happen to a Ministry in whose very formation there had been pulls in different and contrary directions by different groups and individuals.

But far more important than this question of the stability of the new Ministry is the question of how it will function, whether it will continue in the spirit of anti-Communist crusade, which the parties that composed it have been carrying on for the last several months.

The specific question is: Will the new Government be guided by its anti-Communist prejudices when it deals with concrete problems of the State? Will it project into the field of routine administration and national development the spirit of hatred which animated the political campaign organised by the Triple Alliance in the election and post-election days.

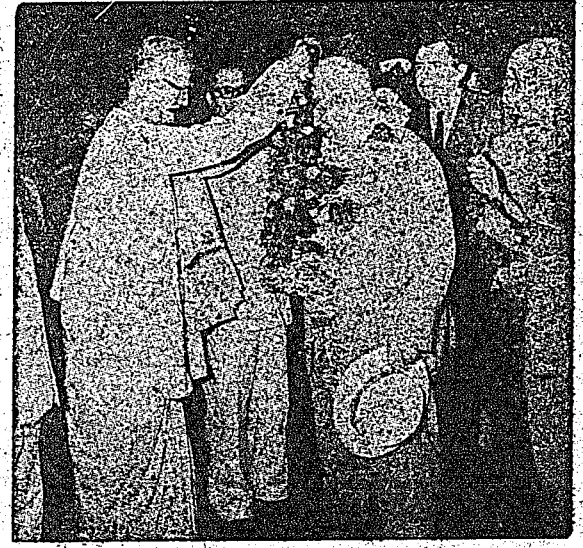
Break off social relations with Communists, leave your daughter if your son-in-law happens to be a Communist, don't give even water to Communist, women should throw their husbands out of the homes if they are Commu-

Khrushchov

TO STOP OVER IN CALCUTTA

CALCUTTA will again have the opportunity of giving a rousing reception on behalf of the whole country to Khrushchov when he stops-over in that city on March 1 on the return journey from his eminently successful tour of Indonesia. The Soviet Premier during his short stay will be accorded a civic reception, hold talks with Prime Minister Nehru and attend a banquet given by the West Bengal Governor.

Picture below shows Bankim Mukherjee Deputy Leader of the Communist Group in West Bengal Legislative Assembly garlanding Khrushchov when he arrived at Dum Dum on February 15.



A sketch of the Soviet Premier by Ranganath on which the cartoonist was lucky enough to secure his autograph.

nists: such were the slogans issued by the leaders of the Triple Alliance during and after the elections. If they persist in the spirit of this campaign of anti-Communism, it is obvious that they should not seek the cooperation of the Opposition in the Legislature.

In framing and implementing national policies the well-known policy of people's cooperation in the matter of development activities will then be a people's cooperation minus those who voted for the Communist Party which comes to 45 per cent. If that is the policy which the new Government proposes to follow then it will be difficult for it to tackle the problems which the people of the State are facing. For, after all these problems can be tackled and solved only with the fullest cooperation of the Government and Opposition.