

NEW AGE

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U.P. CHIEF

MINISTER

ENTRUSTS

HIS MINIONS TO FACE PEOPLE

The U.P. Congress affairs have now reached such a strait that a section of the Government itself has been put under strict surveillance by the other, that is, its dominant section.

It will be remembered that C. B. Gupta, Chief Minister and leader of the majority group in the Government and the Congress organisation, had asked the members of his Government to go out to the districts "to prepare the people for the coming taxes" and to "convince them that the proposed movement of the Opposition parties against the tax proposals is anti-State and anti-national."

Following the advice, some members of the Council of Ministers took courage (or self-interest?) in both their hands and left for the districts that were allotted to them under instructions of the Chief Minister.

For example, Banarsi Das, Minister for Information and

right-hand man of Gupta, took to cover Allgarh, Bulandshahr, Meerut and Agra. Jai Minister Govind Sahai, who had recently tried to "intellectualise" his boss's unseemly tirade against the Opposition parties in a write-up in the local Congress daily, left for some of the western districts, like Bijnor, from where he hails.

Similarly, some other ladies and gentlemen like Shanti Prapanna Sharma, Prakashvati Sood, Dharma Singh, Ram Narain Pandey, Keshbhan Rai, Tara Agrawal and Mohammad Fakhri are visiting some other nondescript areas and districts.

The otherwise unnecessary list of these persons has been

given just to show that it is only some of the junior and ambitious members of even Gupta's following who have undertaken the suggested tour.

The list includes not even one senior member of the Government. Known names of people like Kanhlapati Tripathi, Charan Singh, Girdhari Lal (both the last mentioned Ministers had been candidates for Chief Ministership against Gupta when he was "elected" from above), Ali Zaheer and even the Revenue Minister Hukum Singh are not there.

Nor have Acharya Jugal Kishore, Chaturbhuj Sharma, Sucheta Kripalani, Vichitra Narain Sharma, etc., bothered to stir out. They are all staying put, perhaps, regarding discretion as the better part of valour.

Gupta has been so much

annoyed by this calculated affront to his suggestion and appeal and he has become so distrustful of his colleagues in the Government that he is reported to have ordered a strict watch over their activities. This has become more or less an open secret in the capital. For instance, the AAJ, (July

parties and his own colleagues at the same time. But the activities of these colleagues are being fully watched." (emphasis added).

But this story does not end even with this. The boastful Golaith seems to have become afraid of even his own shadow

***** From *****

Ramesh Sinha

23) commenting on this strange development, writes:

"Of special significance in this connection is the fact that some members have no intention of undertaking tours in support of the taxes. The Chief Minister is naturally dissatisfied with this attitude on their part. But it is understood that at this time he is not in favour of precipitating any crisis in the Council of Ministers. It is not possible to oppose both, the Opposition

—his real shadows. The same report in the AAJ continues:

"This is not all. The Chief Minister is getting reports even about those persons who are going out on tour under his instructions to find out how far they are really helping in creating a climate in favour of the taxes."

The complaint that Gupta has set watch over the activi-

* SEE PAGE 13

PLAYING UP BORDER INCIDENT

Editorial

THE FIRING on the China border which resulted in injuries of two of our jawans will be deeply regretted not only in India but also abroad.

It shows how dangerous is the situation in which the Indian and Chinese armed forces face each other in a territory regarding whose ownership bitter controversy is raging between the two governments. The very presence of these armed forces under such circumstances is likely to lead to clashes. The gravity of the situation was brought out by no less a person than Prime Minister Nehru who asked the Indian people to be "wide awake".

This has led a section of our press and our people to demand that 'more firm' measures should be taken against the Chinese. Demand is made that we should prepare ourselves to "throw the aggressor out" of our soil. To this end, it is suggested, we should come closer to the imperialist powers. A recent article appearing in the *Hindustan Times*, suggests that the Dalai Lama should be allowed to form an emigré government in India and to organise resistance and revolt in Tibet.

Prime Minister Nehru and Defence Minister Krishna Menon have made it clear to the public that they do not approve of any such measures. The Prime Minister made the categorical statement that, just as in relation to Pakistan, so in relation to China, he does not want to have "all the doors and windows shut". Immediate negotiations may not be possible, but the perspective of nego-

tiations at the appropriate moment should always be before us. Krishna Menon too, has pointed out how, in an area which is largely unoccupied, the presence of armed forces of the two countries would lead to charges and counter-charges but should not lead to major armed conflicts.

Such open disavowals of the line of "giving no quarter to the Chinese", "taking firm action to throw the Chinese out of our soil", etc., by the Prime Minister infuriate the advocates of that policy. They carry on a concerted campaign against the allegedly weak-kneed policy of the Government. They want to use every incident, every report, to whip up passions and to create psychological atmosphere in which the declared policy of the Government would meet with increasing opposition.

The path chosen by these elements is fraught with serious danger. If successful, it would lead to perpetual clashes in the diplomatic and even military fields. It would give a handle to the imperialists to get a foothold in our country and to attempt at transforming India into another Pakistan, militarily allied to the imperialist powers.

It is, therefore, the task of all patriotic Indians who are desirous of getting the India-China border problem solved with honour but in a peaceful way, to see that the game played by these elements is defeated. The efforts made by the Government to defend the country and at the same time to seek a peaceful solution of the dispute with our neighbours should not be allowed to be sabotaged.

(July 25)

Mikoyan Visits Delhi



First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of USSR, Anastas I. Mikoyan, stopped over in Delhi on July 24 on his way back to the Soviet Union from Indonesia, where he had gone on an official visit.

In the Indian capital, where Mikoyan is no stranger (he was here several years ago on the occasion of Holi and had thoroughly enjoyed playing it), he was warmly received by the Prime Minister and other ministers and officials of the Government.

T. T. Krishnamachari and several other ministers met the Soviet Deputy Premier separately and together at a dinner given in his honour. The talks are reported to have centred round specific projects already under construction in India with Soviet aid.

Mikoyan and his party left for Moscow on the morning of July 25. In the picture above the Soviet guest is seen being received by Prime Minister Nehru who had an hour-long talk with him.

INSTABILITY IN CAPITALIST WORLD MARKET

A news which did not receive headlines in our "national" press, but which was nevertheless of a vital significance, concerned the steep decline in the country's principal stock markets on July 19.

ACCORDING to the Financial Express, which perhaps was the only daily newspaper to give the news any prominence, "conditions akin to a panic prevailed on the Bombay Stock Exchange" on that day. The newspaper's composite index recorded a fall of 1.39 on this veritable "Black Thursday".

In Calcutta, the miscellaneous and regional index slid down by 1.31 points. The Madras, Ahmedabad and Delhi exchanges also "moved down in step with Bombay".

How did this situation come about? What was it that unnerved these markets? The Financial Express termed it "inexplicable", but felt that "with the sustained fall in prices over the past two months the market psychology has undergone such a distinct change that it is more favourable to prophets of gloom... than to those who would discuss the other side of the medal".

The newspaper obviously does not like this undue "sensitivity" of the market, and yet, it is constrained to admit that the "equity shares have to respond to basic facts of the country's planned development". These facts, according to it, point to a "prosperity (which) is not as bleak as it is made out".

ONE-SIDED PICTURE

Financial Express may be correct to a certain extent in its assessment, because the situation is certainly not as dismal as the market behaviour would make us believe. But this is only one side of the medal, a side which has always to be kept in the forefront to maintain a proper perspective.

The speculator would surely not like to emphasise this side, for then he would not be able to create a proper climate for his dirty work. Nor do the leaders of big business like to stress this positive side, because then they give up a handle to visit all their sins on the "public sector". There is, however, another side too which needs to be equally kept in mind because it is its pointers which have to be taken into account while planning for a solution of our problems.

What are these pointers? The depleting foreign exchange reserves, uncertainty of aid, shortfall in achieving targets, all these obviously expose the weaknesses of the situation, but these in themselves would not have perhaps given sudden jolts to the stock exchanges were it not for a very close relationship between these exchanges and their counterparts in the advanced Western countries.

A number of collaboration agreements between the Indian and foreign industrialists have further narrowed a distance between them, which had already been bridged to a great extent by an active mutual exchange of goods.

464 new industrial plants overseas, expanded 161 existing plants and signed 323 licensing pacts. Combined with this increase in capacity, which in fact means over-capacity, was restriction in consumption due to low wages, an increase in the national debt. The latter is now computed to be over one trillion, three hundred billion dollars. The annual interest on this debt amounts to about 10 billion dollars.

The sum total of these paradoxical indices are the periodic recessions which the US economy suffers, and which bring in their trail increasing misery and starvation. An army of more than 5 million unemployed is almost permanently maintained, while after each recession the number of those who do not get back their jobs grows.

SYMPATHETIC REACTION

A recent sharp downturn in the US Stock Exchanges sent Indian stock prices reeling in a sympathetic reaction. The US exchanges are not yet out of the woods, hence the periodic jolts which the stock markets suffer in other capitalist countries including India.

The severity of the jolts may no doubt be intensified by developments of the moment, like the Ladakh incident, or the scare about the Prime Minister's health, but basically they are born out of the instability of the capitalist world market which has its centre in the US.

What however, are the factors making the US markets behave the way they are doing? Some internal political compulsion, born out of the so-called 'divergence of views' between the big business and the Administration, can, of course always be picked upon to explain a particular downturn, but basically, as the Financial Express has rightly said in the context of the Indian situation, the "equity prices have to respond to basic facts". And these facts, in respect of the US economy, do not certainly point to a healthy economy making rapid strides in economic progress.

In 1947, the US share of the world capitalist production was 58 per cent. It was the period when Winston Churchill, in his famous Fulton speech, hailed the US as standing "at the pinnacle of world power". In 1950 this share had declined to 45 per cent, and the decline continues.

In 1947, the US share of the world capitalist exports was 33 per cent. In 1960 it had dropped to 18 per cent and the decline continues.

At its pinnacle the US share of the world production of automobiles was 75 per cent. Now it is less than 50 per cent. Similarly, in steel it has declined from 50 per cent in its most successful periods to 25 per cent at present.

From 24.5 billion dollars in 1949, the "pinnacle" after World War II, US gold reserves declined to 18.5 billion dollars in 1961.

This all-round decline in the US economic indices has not however, affected the few multi-billion corporations, which have continued to increase their holdings during the very same period. Thus, during 12 months period from mid-1960 to mid-1961 these corporations set up

pamphlet "End the Cold War" the US Communist leader Gus Hall recalls Roosevelt as speaking in his day about one third of the American nation being ill-housed, ill-fed and ill-clothed. "Now after some 15 years of the cold war, this latest report speaks of two-fifths of the people living under the deprivation level".

These are the "basic facts" about the US, which our "national" press does not perhaps consider in good taste to publish, but it is the malady which they portray, and its accentuation in course of time, which imparts their peculiar instability to the US stock exchanges.

As long as these "facts" stand—and it is only the American people who can make them fall—this instability cannot be ended. Its impact can surely be sometimes reduced by one step or the other, but that would not alter the basic situation. The fact that our markets and exchanges too have to share this instability, due to their close relationship with Wall Street, should provide us a clue to a solution of this important problem.

To ward off instability it is expedient to reduce dependence on unstable markets for the sale of commodities. Likewise, to ensure the system against behaving the way the US system does it might be necessary to change it basically to make it yield results other than its US counterpart has done.

THE new 4.6 billion dollar US Foreign Aid Bill has been welcomed in our country because it has apparently dropped the 10 per cent cut in aid to India during the current fiscal year, which had earlier been incorporated in it.

According to an AP report in the Hindu (July 22), however, this favour is only a ruse, for, in reality, the Administration has assured the Congress that the cut will be very much there. Reproduced below is an account of the exchanges between Senator Symington, who wanted the cut to be maintained, and Senator Humphrey, who is said to be championing India's interest.

"In the discussion on the Senate floor when the Senate approved the compromise Foreign Aid Bill, Senator Stuart Symington asked why the restriction on aid to India had been dropped.

"Mr. Humphrey replied 'We do not like to mention country by country in the legislation'. However, Mr. Humphrey said the objective of the Symington amendment would be 'fulfilled by the Administration'.

"He added 'It can be done administratively. We have been assured it will be carried out administratively on the basis of the understanding arrived at with the Administration during the foreign aid conference'.

"Mr. Symington said, 'In other words, as I understand the distinguished Senator from Minnesota, (i.e. Humphrey), the restriction in aid to India of 10 per cent as agreed upon will be carried out'.

"Mr. Humphrey said that the amount was approximately 10 per cent."

After this does it need stressing that the US professions of sympathy for our interests are not only not altruistic, but are also so much chicanery and falsehood? (July 24)

Behind Kennedy's Call For Interdependence

July 4 is a memorable day. It was on that day 186 years ago that a historic document was signed in Philadelphia—the Declaration of Independence through which the people of the then British colonies in North America proclaimed their independence from their colonial overlords.

THE hall in which this memorable act took place is rightly called Independence Hall. It has around it cherished memories. The founding of the new state, of which it is the symbol, has been a source of inspiration for ever to so many nations struggling to throw off the fetters of colonialism.

Open Repudiation

This memorable date and this Hall of historic memories were chosen this year by President Kennedy to make a speech which was nothing but an open repudiation of the anti-colonial spirit of the American revolution.

That speech expressed the sense of shame which the present-day rulers of the United States feel for the spirit of independence which pervaded that Hall 186 years ago. The noble ideal of free and sovereign nations fighting against colonial overlords and helping their brethren in similar circumstances is replaced by what is called the ideal of interdependence.

"I will say here and now," Kennedy declared, "on this day of independence, that the United States will be prepared to discuss with a United Europe the ways and means of forming a concrete Atlantic partnership—a mutually beneficial partnership between the new union now emerging in Europe and the old American union founded here a century and three quarters ago".

German Warlords

Among them is the Federal Republic of Germany whose present rulers have a nostalgia for the 'glories' of their predecessors—the Kaisers and their militarists of the pre-First World War period when the then Prussian Empire had vast colonial possessions; the Hindenburgs and Hitlers of inter-war years who tried to transform the whole of Europe including the British Isles into their German colonies.

They know that the glorious past of their predecessors has gone for ever. Yet they are doing their best to salvage whatever can be salvaged out of it in cooperation with the United States and other capitalist powers.

Collection Of Colonial Powers

Above all, United Europe includes the United Kingdom, the metropolis of an empire on which it was once said, "the sun never set". Its rulers too know very well that the 'golden age' of their empire is gone for ever; not even such devices as the new Commonwealth of Nations can save it in an age in which colonialism is crumbling under the heavy blows jointly dealt by freedom-loving humanity.

They too are trying to protect whatever can be protected out of their monopolistic interests by joining the alliance which Uncle Sam offers to them.

At the centre of this United Europe are Gaullist France and militaristic West Germany. Their rulers, Chancellor Adenauer of West Germany and President de Gaulle of France, recently made an ostentatious display of Franco-German amity and friendship which, according to them, should form the core of the

Among them is also Belgium whose record of the loot of the colonies is notorious. She is still trying indirect means

newly emerging United Europe.

At the very time when President Kennedy was offering the newly emerging United Europe his Declaration of Interdependence, Chancellor Adenauer was on a state visit to France. Together with de Gaulle he attended a mass in the Rheims cathedral and inspected the Guard of Honour provided by the French army.

Such a show of friendship between the two traditional enemies in Western Europe was welcomed by the ruling circles in both. But, to the democratic and progressive-minded people in both countries, this 'Bonn-Paris alliance' must arouse what the progressive British Weekly, New Statesman, calls "Serious Misgivings".

"Behind the emotional symbolism at Rheims", the paper points out, "a good deal of brutal horse-trading has taken place. Unscrupulous self-interest has been the motive force on both sides. The Germans want the alliance because they fear an Anglo-Saxon sell-out over Berlin and reunification."

The last 17 years—the period in which the freedom struggles of colonial peoples in country after country forced the older imperialist powers to loosen their grip on their colonies and ultimately to withdraw from them—have witnessed a carefully planned and relatively successful at-

tempt of the United States to 'fill the vacuum' created by the withdrawal of the older colonial powers.

Country after country in Asia and Africa became the field of furious struggle between the older colonial powers and the United States, and, in most cases, the United States did ultimately become successful.

The peoples and Governments of the newly-independent countries are not prepared to tolerate either the continuation of old colonial powers or the establishment of American domination. They fight back with all their might. They, however, have to face furious opposition not only from the older colonial powers but from the United States as well.

Iran—whose Mussaddegh launched on the path of nationalisation of the oil industry; Egypt—whose Nasser took over the foreign-owned Suez Canal and started building an independent Egyptian economy with the cooperation of socialist powers; Indonesia—whose Sukarno is taking energetic steps to fulfil the aspirations of his people for the elimination of the last remnants of foreign domination; Ceylon—whose Bandaranaike took some steps against foreign interests—all these have had to incur the wrath of America, as well as of the older imperialist powers.

Our own Government did not go in the direction of nationalising foreign-owned enterprises. Still it has to face tremendous hostility and obstruction from the imperialist powers headed by the United States.

Why? For no other reason than that it is not prepared

to sign on the dotted line, but is taking independent stand on some issues which are vital to us but which do not coincide with the imperialist interests of the United States and her allies.

Above all, the moment the revolutionaries in Cuba overthrew the Batista dictatorship and started taking energetic steps against the interests of the United States monopolists, the entire might of the mightiest capitalist power in the world was directed against them.

Slogan For World Domination

Such is the present day United States of America, the very opposite of the state formed by those who signed the Declaration of Independence in 1776. And it wants now to form a "mutually beneficial partnership" with Portugal, France, Belgium, West Germany and Britain.

It is therefore, not surprising that President Kennedy is ashamed of the spirit of independence which characterised the document which gave birth to the State over which he is presiding now. He should naturally have something different from something opposite to this, spirit of independence. He has it in what he calls the spirit of "interdependence. And what is this "interdependence"? President Kennedy explains:

"Acting on our own, we cannot establish justice throughout the world. We cannot insure its domestic tranquillity, or provide for its common defence, or promote its general welfare, or secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our prosperity.

"But, jointly with other free nations, we can do all this and more. We can assist the underdeveloped nations to throw off the yoke of poverty. We can balance our worldwide trade and payment at the highest possible level of growth. We can mount a deterrent, powerful enough to prevent all aggression, and ultimately we can help to achieve a world of law and free choice, banishing the world of war and coercion."

Interdependence is thus a new slogan but the content is the same old unity of the entire capitalist world—both the developed as well as the underdeveloped capitalist countries—against the socialist world.

It is, at the same time, a demand made by the strongest and most powerful capitalist power in the world to the other capitalist powers—developed as well as underdeveloped—that they should subordinate their national interests and sovereignty to the interests of the United States.

This, naturally, rouses opposition not only from the peoples and Governments of the countries in the Socialist camp, not only from the freedom-loving peoples in the capitalist world but even from the ruling circles of some of the developed capitalist countries. As a matter of fact, the Kennedy offer of the Declaration of Interdependence was itself a challenge to the Bonn-Paris axis.

The Economist, the organ of the British monopolists, gives the significant title, "Europe or Atlantis?" to the editorial which it wrote on July 14 dedicated to this subject. It

is still trying indirect means

Why? For no other reason than that it is not prepared

E. M. S. Namboodiripad

Disaster At Dumraon

★ From ALI ASHRAF

PATNA, July 24:

It is one of the worst accidents in the history of Indian railways that took place in Dumraon on July 21 night when the 6 Down Amritsar-Howrah Mail collided with a goods train standing on the platform.

THE impact of the collision was simply terrific. It shook the whole town of Dumraon some three kilometres away and the people ran out of their houses for fear of an earthquake.

Engines of both the trains bit deep into each other and were badly damaged. Five bogies of the mail were thrown off the rails. One third class bogie turned tangent, dashed against a tree and then came to a halt in North-South direction. An air conditioned bogie jumped on it and stayed in that position badly mangled. An RMS bogie and two others were smashed to pieces.

Besides the unfortunate victims trapped and buried in the debris, many were thrown out and with broken limbs in a marshy pond beyond the lines. Unable to struggle, they slowly sank in knee-deep water.

The final figures of the dead are not available till the time of writing. Officially 66 have died, besides bodies still unextricated, which are "estimated" to be not more than half a dozen.

The Railway authorities are known to have expressed chagrin at the "subordinates" on the figure of the dead having risen so high. On the other hand, responsible persons on the spot denounce the official figures as gross under-estimation.

ability and not pass it on to some imaginary sabotage. The Up Goods Train was brought on the Down Main Line while the points were set for the Amritsar-Mail.

The blame is being thrown on two cabinmen of the West and East Cabins. But the Cabinmen acted on the instructions of the Control Room, Dinapore. Accordingly, they placed the Up goods train on the down main line.

The control room claims the instructions were given to divert the mail to a loop line. It is not explained how both the East and West Cabins will commit the same mistake of ignoring the instructions. More probably, the control forgot to issue instructions for diverting the mail to a loop line as claimed by the cabinmen. The latter two are absconding.

This accident has brought out the worst, as well as the best in man. Immediately after the accident, anti-social elements busied themselves with stealing the personal belongings of the dead and wounded.

On the other hand, workers and other people showed great resourcefulness, courage and selflessness trying to avert the tragedy.

The mail fireman refused the suggestion to jump out and remained inside to apply vacuum brake to the last ounce of his strength. Hanging on the rod which had gone right through his belly he shouted for help, but as soon as he was extricated from the rod, blood gushed out and he succumbed.

This is the first major accident when the Railways had to accept their own responsibility.

"Oil found anywhere in the country is the property of the nation", said Union Minister K. D. Malaviya. He was obviously referring to the attempts made by the States on whose soil oil is found, to see that the maximum advantage accrues to them out of the development of oil resources.

As a principle, this is unexceptionable. But, if this unexceptionable principle were to be put into practice, the all India leaders of the ruling party would have to realise that the nation is different from, more extensive than, the Central Government.

Just as the resources in every part of the nation are the common property of the entire nation, so are the people in every part of the nation entitled to get an equitable share in national development.

This, as a principle, would undoubtedly be accepted by the Central Government and the all-India leaders of the ruling party. As a matter of fact they have laid it down as a fundamental principle of national planning. All the documents of our Five-Year Plans speak eloquently of the need for removing regional disparities.

It is, however, known that this principle remains on paper. State after State points out how they are denied their rightful share of the benefits of industrialisation.

Some of the claims made by some of these States may be exaggerated or even baseless. But the fact remains that no less a person than Planning Minister Nanda had, some time back, been forced to make the admission that there are States which are backward, those that are advanced and those that stand in between.

If he had given all the facts and figures regarding the way in which total plan outlay is distributed state-wise, he would have to admit further that the disparities are increasing, rather than decreasing.

It is this reality that makes various States put forward their individual claims and to take advantage of whatever constitutional provisions are there to put pressure on the Centre to get their claims admitted.

There is no use of deploring the fact that Assam has not been cooperating with the Centre in implementing its oil plans; the leaders of the Centre should themselves examine whether they can legitimately claim to have done all that Assam deserves.

In regard to other cases of dispute between the Centre and the States (like the one between West Bengal and Union Government which has gone to Court), the question is not merely whether the States are co-operating with the Centre, as they should.

An equally relevant question is whether the Centre is creating the confidence in the States that they can expect fair and equitable treatment. How can you get a satisfactory answer to the first question if the answer to the second is unsatisfactory?

No Unilateral Test Ban

WIDE sections of peace-loving people throughout the world expressed their sorrow when they were told this week that the USSR would conduct a new series of nuclear tests.

This is understandable. For they are anxious that all tests conducted by the Western powers as well as by the Soviet Union should end immediately; no more should the atmosphere be polluted by the chain of tests that has been going on for 17 years.

It is this anxiety of the people for an end to all nuclear tests that is given expression to by those who call for a unilateral ending of the tests. Addressing each of the nuclear powers, they say: "Please stop the test unilaterally. We are sure that, if you do so, others will follow".

Unilateralism And India

A variant of this call is the call for unilateral disarmament. Such a call it will be recalled, was made by Dr. Rajendra Prasad to the Government of India when he addressed the anti-Nuclear Convention held in Delhi from June 16 to 19.

Some speakers who followed Rajen Babu also expressed their sense of disappointment that India, which claims to be following the footsteps of Mahatma Gandhi, should hesitate to accept the call for unilateral disarmament.

It is an irony of fate, according to them, that the disciples of Gandhiji, who called on Hitler to renounce war at the very time when he was plunging humanity into the deadliest war in human history, should now be using armed forces in Goa, Kashmir, the Chinese border etc.

The majority of delegates, however, felt that situated as India is, she cannot renounce the use of force; she, therefore, cannot make the declaration of unilateral disarmament for which Rajen Babu appealed.

If it is thus idle to expect our Government to defend the frontiers of our country and yet to adopt disarmament unilaterally, then it will be difficult for us in India to criticise the decision taken by the Soviet Union.

For, past history and present reality are enough to show that, short of unilateral disarmament, the Soviet Union has gone the furthest both in helping reduction in conventional armaments as well as in facilitating a ban on nuclear tests.

Soviet Record

It was not the Soviet Union, but the United States, which exploded the first atom bomb 17 years ago in Hirohima and Nagasaki. At that time and for few years after that, the United

States enjoyed a virtual monopoly of atomic armaments. She was using this atomic monopoly for blackmailing other powers, her diplomacy thus earning the title "atomic diplomacy".

It was to break this atomic monopoly of the United States, to effectively counter-act the "atomic diplomacy", that the Soviet Union started its own nuclear tests. This was successful in breaking the power of imperialist camp headed by the United States.

It was, therefore, a source of encouragement to the anti-imperialists and freedom-fighters; it gave them theidence that imperialist powers can be prevented from dominating the world.

But, while happy at this change in the alignment of forces against imperialism, progressives everywhere were horrified at the prospect of acute danger to human lives arising out of atomic competition. They, therefore, combined their struggle against imperialism with a demand for the destruction of all nuclear arms and for the ending of all nuclear tests.

It was the Soviet Union who first responded to this demand of the people. She came out with her unilateral declaration of a moratorium of nuclear tests. This bold action earned her the gratitude of the entire peace-loving humanity.

At the same time it forced the imperialist powers headed by the United States to follow the Soviet Union and agreeing to a moratorium on nuclear tests.

The United States and her allies, however, did all they could to block the signing of a test-ban treaty which would end nuclear tests and explosion for all time. They allowed her NATO ally, France, to conduct nuclear tests.

Furthermore, their militarists were openly proclaiming that they would use nuclear arms in any future war against the Soviet Union. The perfectly legitimate action, resorted to by the German Democratic Republic in defending their own sector of the Berlin city against sabotage and subversion from Western Germany, was used as a pretext by the Western powers to make war preparations.

It was these war-like activities of the Western powers, including the open threat of unleashing a nuclear war, that forced the Soviet Union to resume nuclear tests.

But, in doing so, the Soviet leaders made it clear that they would do their best to expedite the signing of the test ban treaty and, to this end, make all possible compromises.

Neutrals' Proposals

It is the Soviet Union, and not the Western powers, who are prepared to accept the terms proposed by the neutral powers (including India) with regard to the controversial question of controls. It only the Western powers had been prepared to accept the neutrals' proposals, the treaty would have been signed several months ago. But they are not even now prepared to accept those proposals.

It is, therefore, idle to take

the stand, as some anti-nuclear campaigners are doing, that Soviet tests and United States tests are exactly alike.

Those who take this stand miss the most essential fact that, just as on disarmament in general so on nuclear arms, the Soviet Union is prepared to go with the neutral powers and make the maximum possible compromise with the Western powers.

It is only because the Western powers refuse to heed the advice tendered by the neutral powers, and insist on terms which no sovereign nation can accept, that disarmament parleys in general and nuclear test bans in particular have reached a deadlock.

Under such circumstances, it is the duty of governments of sovereign States to help breaking the deadlock but, at the same time, to take adequate precautions to defend their frontiers against attacks from outside.

This is precisely why the majority of delegates at the Delhi Anti-Nuclear Convention could not accept the proposition that India should disarm herself unilaterally. This is also the reason why the Soviet Union has to further strengthen its defences by launching on a new series of nuclear tests.

Firmness Against Groupism

INTERNAL squabbles inside the Congress organisation, and between the organisational and ministerial wings of the ruling party, have become so common that the recent reports from Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan do not appear to be anything unusual.

After all, it is the same story as has been heard in several other States before:

YOUNG INDIA GOES TO FINLAND

The Indian youth delegation composed of 89 members has left for Helsinki in batches to take part in the VIII World Festival of Youth and Students for Peace and Friendship which is taking place at Helsinki from July 28 to August 6.

THE last batch left on July 24. Apart from the 89 official delegates, there are about 25 observers from several youth organisations which are not members of the National Preparatory Committee for the World Festival in India.

The significant feature of the delegation is that it is composed of representatives from many branches of youth activity and it includes noted singers, writers, music and film directors, youth activists, sportsmen, dancers etc. It includes, among others, a member of Parliament too. There are actual young workers of

only the names of personalities and the particular local circumstances change.

The Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan affairs, however, stand on a slightly different footing from other similar internal squabbles. For they are taking place in two States in which the ruling party has only a very narrow and, obviously, precarious majority. Any defection in their ranks, is therefore, likely to lead to serious political developments.

The report available at the time of writing these lines shows that, in Rajasthan at least, there is a possibility of serious developments.

Khumbharam Arya, the dissident leader, is openly defying the High Command. He refuses to follow its directive and give up the leadership of the State Congress organisation.

He has declared that he is going to carry on an uncompromising struggle against a reactionary pro-Jagirdar policy. The Chief Minister, too, appears to be preparing for a showdown.

Despite the dangerous consequences which may follow the defection of Khumbharam Arya and his followers, the High Command is reported to be determined to take firm action against the dissidents. Groupism it is said, cannot be eliminated from the organisation unless firm and determined action is taken.

It is, however, ironical that the High Command, which is said to be taking a firm and determined stand against groupism, is itself presided over by one who has reached that position because of the working of groupism in his own State.

It is no secret that both the present Congress President Sanjivaya, as well as the previous President Sanjiva Reddy, came to occupy that position because of group rivalries and squabbles for power that had long been going on in their home State.

In regard to both, it was a case of "being kicked upstairs". How can a firm and determined struggle against groupism be fought if the instrument with which that struggle is to be waged is itself subject to the interplay of various groups in the organisation?

(July 25)
—E.M.S. Namboodiripad

NO MORE SCHOOLS & HOSPITALS

RAJASTHAN GOVT'S NOVEL PLAN TO SOLVE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

★ From Our Correspondent

JAIPUR:

Rajasthan Government's much-publicised "economy drive" is yet another attempt to tinker with mistakes of the administration and its lapses in tackling the State's developmental problems. In fact, some of the remedies are even worse than the disease.

IN the last week of June, after a Cabinet meeting in the cool heights of Mount Abu, came the announcement of the "economy drive" which is supposed to arrest too much administrative expenditure. In informal talks Government spokesmen have been confiding that the State has to contend with a serious fiscal position, that the ways and means position of the State has deteriorated and hence this sudden economy drive.

It is now also a well-known "secret" that the State Bank of India has refused to give further overdrafts to the Rajasthan Government, since the latter's overdraft with the SBI has reached the high figure of Rs. 19 crores. The Government of India too is understood to have refused to come to the aid of the State Government unless the latter showed some enterprise in the direction of economy.

While all political circles in the State are keenly aware of the neglect of State's needs by the Centre, the State Government, caught in endless factional squabbles of the ruling Congress party could not stand up to the Centre and press the State's demands.

One of the latest instances of how Rajasthan had fared in this relationship of State and Centre is the decision to burden the State with the entire expenditure on the Pong Dam. It will be recalled that the Pong Dam was suggested by the World Bank in order to create additional storage facilities of water for Rajasthan Canal. And this was done just because for ten years or may be even more, the waters of the Sutlej and Beas had to be supplied to Pakistan. It is,

Square Peg In A Round Hole

But what the Sukhadia Cabinet has done to meet such a serious situation is most fantastic. The Government has moved to slow down the pace of developmental work and even to stop it in some cases. No new schools except primary schools are to be opened this year. No new road construction will be taken in hand and no new building—be it for a school or a hospital—will be constructed this year.

Again, in the field of administration, some patch-work economy is being tried. A few lower offices are being abolished. While the Revenue and Police departments will retain their 26 districts in the State, all other departments will have only 19. Some tehsils will also be reduced.

No doubt, these measures will in course of time save expenditure on the upkeep of the sprawling administrative set-up in the State. But what is ignored and covered up is the fact that the top-heavy administration is left intact in these measures. The set-up of the Secretariat of the Heads of Departments, the Cabinet and the Raj Bhavan has not been touched in this "economy drive".

However, the Government claims that these measures will effect a cut of about Rs. 1.80 crores in the expenditure this year.

Observers have sharply questioned the wisdom of these measures adopted by the Government, particularly the decision not to have new schools and roads and buildings. It is pointed out that much more than an economy measure, this is an anti-Plan measure. The real effect of these economy measures will be to put the clock back on the State's much-needed development. It is indeed criminal to

therefore, actually the result of the nation's commitment to Pakistan. The question is therefore asked, why should Rajasthan alone bear its cost?

While such examples can be cited of discrimination against or neglect of Rajasthan by the Centre, the story of internal mobilisation of Rajasthan's resources is also not very heartening. When the Princely States were abolished, the process of integration left the bureaucracy free to increase the weight of the top-heavy administrative set-up.

Also the Princes, apart from fat privy purses, got a number of concessions from the Government in terms of light, water, guards and honoraria, all going up to a total of about Rs. 20-30 lakhs per year. No economy drive has been made in regard to this waste.

The abolition of Jagirdari had brought about an increase in land revenue, from about Rupees four crores per year to the present Rupees eight crores. But expenditure also had increased as educational, medical and other amenities had to be brought to the people in those areas which had been so long kept by the Jagirdars even, more backward than the other parts of the State.

At the same time the Government burdened itself with the liability of paying huge compensations to these Jagirdars, which alone amounted to about Rs. 3.5 crores per annum. Loans worth crores of rupees granted to Jagirdars had

just to be written off.

There are complaints of the Administration dispensing favours to the favourite ones of the ruling party. This is particularly true of loans granted to industrialists. In many cases the money loaned to these people from the public exchequer had been squandered and had just to be written off. In one case, the State Government guaranteed a loan given by the Rajasthan Finance Corporation to a cotton textile mill. The concern went into liquidation and failed to pay the instalments. The State Government therefore had to pay Rupees five lakhs.

More Expenditure On Top

The top-heavy administrative set-up is also eating up a sizeable portion of public revenue. There are too many important officers in the administration and too little of work. Besides a Chief Secretary and an Additional Chief Secretary, the State has got two or more heads in practically every department, designated as Directors and Joint Directors and so on. The expenditure on the TA and DA of these officials and the Ministers has naturally been "progressing" steadily. Expenditure on the maintenance of Government jeeps and other vehicles has itself gone up from Rupees five lakhs to 15 lakhs in the last ten years.

Meanwhile, the various industries and commercial

concerns run by the Government have a poor story to tell. Due to red tape, nothing has been done to improve them or expand them, to utilise fully the State's resources. The classic examples are those of the Sodium Sulphate Works at Deedwana and the Panala Collieries and Open Cast mining. Despite increased investments, the Ganganagar Sugar Mills have shown a downward trend in profits.

The new "economy drive" has left out all these spheres and is directed at curtailing developmental expenditure and expenditure on the lower levels of administration. What the results will be is not difficult to imagine. However, the very fact that the Government has now been forced to come forward with the plea for an economy drive is an indication of the serious position of the State's finances about which the public had been kept in the dark for a long time.

It is interesting to recall that in the last Budget Session of the Assembly in March, Government spokesmen had pooh-poohed the idea of economic crisis facing the State. The Chief Minister himself, speaking on March 30 chided the Opposition for imagining things. He was at pains to show that all was well with the State's finances and quoting figures from the Accountant-General's Report, he claimed that while the State's total liabilities including short term loans and overdrafts did not exceed the figure of Rs. 160 lakhs, capitalised assets were well over Rs. 171 lakhs, leaving a net surplus of more than Rs. 15 lakhs.

Seldom has it happened that the tall claims of a Government had been repudiated so soon by themselves.

Prof. Mundasseri Is Sixty

★ FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

Trivandrum:

Trichur witnessed a unique celebration on July 15 when men of letters, leaders of differing political affiliations, artists and poets assembled to greet Professor Joseph Mundasseri on his sixtieth Birthday.

IN recent years Kerala has not had such a gathering with a commonness of purpose namely of appraising and appreciating the work and personality of Professor Mundasseri—when political differences, acrimony and warfare in the field of letters and personal rivalry were pushed into the background and the best sons of enlightened Kerala rose as one man to pay respects to the sixty year old Professor.

The greatest living Poet of Kerala G. Sankara Kurup inaugurated the function in the morning. Panampallil Govinda Menon presided. Dr. V. K. Narayana Menon on behalf of the celebration Committee, T. A. Dharmaraja Iyer, MLA on behalf of the Trichur Municipal Council and A. P. P. Namboodiri on behalf of the Kerala Sahitya Samithi garlanded the Professor.

Messages were received from Governor Giri and Pattom Thanu Pillai who were expected to inaugurate and preside over the function but could not due to rains and floods. There were messages from men of letters and leaders of public opinion from all walks of life.

Panampallil Govinda Menon said that Professor Mundasseri was one who brought the glory and light of literature into the field of politics. In the days to come Professor Mundasseri who has played a leading part in political and literary fields will be remembered and cherished as a renowned literary critic.

Another aspect of Professor Mundasseri's contribution which Panampallil Govinda Menon referred to was the sense of independence and confidence with which he dealt with problems in the field of letters without relying either on Western thought or Oriental lore.

Professor Mundasseri replying to the greetings said that looking from his standpoint he might sometimes feel that he has contributed something but every man and his work should be judged from the standpoint of people and the people's interests.

And he felt that then his life and contribution are only drops in a great ocean. He added that the celebration of the day made him feel that he who had all along felt that he had only the copyright for doing the wrong things and was condemned, had also something positive and right.

E. R. Elankath on behalf of the Kerala Institute of Co-operation presented a Commemorative volume while Thakazhi Sivasankara Pillal, P. Kesava-dev, K. Balakrishnan and K. Damodaran spoke greeting the Professor.

Later in the evening a symposium on Literary Criticism was conducted in the Town

Hall where men of letters like Kuttippuzha Krishna Pillal, Kuttikrishna Marar, Sukumaran Azhikode, M. S. Devadas and Professor Mundasseri spoke on the various aspects, of literary criticism.

The District Communist Party organised a function on July 17 where a special number of the Progressive Daily Navajeevan was presented to Professor Mundasseri. K. K. Warriner, MP presided over the function and leaders of the Communist, V. R. Krishna Iyer, Vayalar Rama Varma spoke greeting Professor Mundasseri.

Referring to his association with the Communist Party, Professor Mundasseri spoke in moving terms and said that the Communist Ministry was the one Ministry in Kerala which attempted to initiate original legislation designed to change society in a revolutionary way. The rulers that followed are either attempting to sabotage the legislations such as Agrarian Relations Act, Education Act and the Kerala University Act or dilute them.

He assured people that as before he will continue to cooperate with the Party in advancing the cause of the people.

NOTES OF DISSENSION IN MYSORE CABINET

★ FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

Within four weeks of formation of the new Ministry headed by S. Nijalingappa, dissatisfaction is brewing. The inclusion of B. D. Jatti, former Chief Minister and avowed leader of the rival group, and in particular the handing over the portfolio of Finance to him has resulted in bickerings among the followers of Nijalingappa.

The rival group feels betrayed by its leader Jatti for not being successful in getting in the Cabinet Kadidal Manjappa, former Minister for Revenue.

In the new expanded Ministry M. V. Krishnappa, who resigned his parliament seat with high expectations, is now very much dissatisfied. He finds himself relegated to fourth place in the ranking of the Cabinet, the first three being occupied by the three former Chief Ministers. He was expected to be a strong man in the Cabinet next only to the Chief Minister.

The Vokkaliga Vs. Lingayat communalism has also a hand in this it is felt. Krishnappa, former Minister in the Centre, now heads the Ministry of Revenue in the State.

He won the last parliamentary elections with majority of over 57,000 votes. He has started giving open expression to his unhappiness over his position in the cabinet.

The Deputy Ministers numbering ten are grumbling over the distribution of portfolios and have started demanding more powers for them. The Chief Minister is yet to define the nature of work of the two Parliamentary Secretaries appointed by him.

The expansion of ministry has come under fire severely in the State Assembly during the discussion on the Budget. The Chief Minister in his reply to criticism stated that the expansion of the ministry was only a minor affair.

He asserted that in order to keep the unity inside the party he had to have the present number to satisfy the regional and other claims. He also stated that when the State was dealing with crores of rupees, expenditure of a few lakhs of rupees over the ministry was not a very big amount.

AUDIT REPORT WITH 62,658 OBJECTIONS

THE Audit Report running into more than 70 pages with more than 62,658 objections involving over Rs. 27.93 crores is a reflection on the state of affairs in the administration of the State.

About two thirds of the objections raised by the auditors related to the Public Works Department. The total amounts involved in various transactions come to Rs. 24.13 crores.

The two important Hydel projects in the State namely Sharavati and Bhadracharya account for 4,000 objections, involving over Rs. 14 crores. Lakhs of rupees worth ma-

chinery is lying idle and proper procedure was not followed in entrusting works to the contractors.

Some of the objections in the report date back to 1937. The outstanding amount is of the order of Rs. 8 crores. An interesting point, that has come to the fore, is the cost of increase in construction work. A project estimated to cost about Rs. 4.70 lakhs in 1929 has now been completed at a cost of Rs. 91.60 lakhs and final figures are yet to be worked out.

Misappropriation in the canteen attached to the district police office accounts for Rs. 33,037. The matter is still under investigation by the police.

Out of 36 commercial and quasi-commercial undertakings working under Government control, 11 have not filed the proforma till January 1962. While eleven concerns have shown a profit of Rs. 121.88 lakhs, eight have shown a loss of Rs. 37.43 lakhs.

The State Electricity Board, a Statutory corporation, is yet to prepare accounts for the years 1958-59, 59-60 and 60-61. On mere verification of stock position it was found that copper wire worth of Rs. 22,000 was missing.

Salary Without Savetion

The State Khadi Board, another corporation under the State has led to scandalous state of affairs. The Chairman of the Board was paid a salary of Rs. 750 per month, though there is no provision in the Act. (The Boards Chairman for the year under review was G. V. Hallikeri, presently elected as Chairman of the Legislative Council).

Apart from the salary, the Chairman had drawn quite huge sums of money as T. A. and Sitting fee.

Besides these, the audit report observations on the Exhibition conducted by the Board in Bangalore are as follows:

"The Exhibition organised by the Board in December 1959-January 1960 was financed by grants-in-aid of Rs. 50,000 and Rs. 3 lakhs from the Government of Mysore and Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Bombay respectively.

"The Commission also advanced a loan of Rs. 1 lakh to the Board for this purpose, out of which a sum of Rs. 75,000 has been repaid by the Board.

"It was noticed during the audit: (a) that accounts relating to receipt books and cash bill books were not maintained; (b) that a stock account of materials purchased (worth over 2 lakhs) and disposed of was not maintained; (c) that a

DIMITROV ANNIVERSARY OBSERVED IN CALCUTTA

Calcutta, July 16
THE 80th birth anniversary of Georgi Dimitrov, outstanding leader of the world communist movement, was celebrated in Calcutta on July 15 under the auspices of the Calcutta District Committee of the Communist Party.

The big hall of the University institute, in which the public meeting was held was packed. Mohit Moitra, MLC, presided over the function.

At the outset a resolution paying homage to the memory of the great patriot and revolutionary was moved from the chair.

Addressing the gathering Dr. Ranen Sen, M.P., narrated the life of Dimitrov and said that his life and work would always remain a beacon-light to the working class and democratic movements all over the world.

Paying homage to the hallowed memory of the great leader, Prof. Hiren Mukherjee, M.P., said that the revolutionary significance of Dimitrov's life and activities could not be re-

lised without a knowledge of contemporary history and his tremendous contribution in shaping it.

Pointing out that his life was one of unflinching ceaseless struggle in the cause of the people, of the working class and of world revolution, Prof. Mukherjee said that this struggle was the battle of light against darkness, of truth against falsehood, of life against death.

Dimitrov was the embodiment of communist virtues, and his example will continue to inspire the revolutionaries, Prof. Mukherjee concluded.

At the end of the meeting, the entire gathering stood up and observed two minutes' silence to pay homage to his memory.

A resolution was adopted by the meeting.

An exhibition, showing the various phases of Dimitrov's life from childhood to the assumption of the leadership of the Government in Bulgaria after liberation, was held in the long corridor of the University Institute Hall.

The defeated INTUC leaders polled 98 and 77 respectively. The Jan Sangh leaders also had made a bid to contest but they could get only 48 and 38 votes.

The victory of the AITUC nominees is significant. The Union was for over ten years under the leadership of the INTUC. There are 1300 employees in the factory.

U. P. Prepares For Anti-Tax Struggle

★ From Ramesh Sinha

The Executive Committee of the State Council of the Communist Party and the State Council of the All-India Kisan Sabha met here in the second week of July separately to review and check up the work being done by their units to prepare for the mass struggle against the U. P. Government's taxation proposal.

THE discussions covered various items, such as the sales tax—amounting to one crore rupees—which has been levied this month on a number of items of daily use, the increased Railway and Bus fares, increased irrigation charges due to the withdrawal of rebate of three annas per rupee, the raised electricity charges in many places, and of the rising prices of grains and other food stuffs and reported that these things are already having a very adverse effect on the life of the people.

The meetings assessed that if the proposed 12½ to 13 crores of rupees more were to be realised from these people, their back would break.

The State Executive of the Communist Party has drawn up a detailed programme of work for the coming weeks. Districts have been allotted to members to go and streamline the preparations. Zonal meetings of the Eastern, Western and Central areas of the State have been fixed.

A meeting of the Party's legislators has been summoned. The State Party Secretary and other leaders have been asked to contact other parties, mainly the PSP and the SP as well as independent members and public men to obtain their sanction and support to hold a State Convention on this issue in Lucknow. Similar all-parties conven-

ple but C. B. Gupta and his followers who are itching for struggle—he said.

The Kisan Council too has emphasised in its detailed resolution its constructive approach towards the Plan. It has suggested some alternative methods of raising the revenue and appealed to the government to convene an all Parties meeting to discuss the question.

But, it has also declared equally emphatically that no amount of threats to crush, etc. will be of any avail if the Gupta Ministry persists in its anti-people crusade and does not drop its proposals to place further burdens on the toilers of the State.

The Kisan Council has called upon its units to intensify its campaign of educating and rousing the kisans to hold local meetings and conventions in cooperation with all parties and organisations, to elect Action Committees in these conventions, to enrol Volunteers and Satyagrahis and to collect Satyagraha Fund.

The students too have started forming broad committees to fight against the enhancement of their fees.

Other parties also have reaffirmed their resolve to resist the anti-people taxes to the last ditch, the PSP, the Jan Sangh and others.

The Chairman of the Socialist Party has now amended the Party's stand and announced that they would be prepared to "join hands with the Communist Party and the Praja Socialist Party in the mass struggle if they give an undertaking not to withdraw the movement without prior agreement with the Socialist Party."

Mass movement of resistance will therefore be resorted to only if all other efforts fail to persuade the government to change its policies. It is not the peo-

MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES' STRIKE

THE ruling civic bloc of the Bombay Pradesh Congress Committee was on the rampage last week. Bedlam and pandemonium were let loose in the Corporation meeting, corporators trying to restore order were manhandled, opposition speakers were shouted down and mikes were taken away from their tables. R. G. Kharat, an opposition member, who was presiding over the deliberations was repeatedly jeered at by the Congress Municipal Party.

The united and combined strength of the opposition led by the Samyukta Maharashtra Samiti, however, brought the Congress to its senses. The Congress ultimately had to agree to the demands of the striking workers.

The 35,000 municipal employees had gone on indefinite strike demanding a flat increase of Rs. 10 in their D.A. The Congress, the ruling party in the Corporation, refused to concede the just demands of the workers. They offered an increase of Rs. 5 to those drawing a monthly salary of Rs. 100 and less, and Rs. 10 to those drawing more than Rs. 100 instead. This was a clear move on their part to perpetuate the wide disparity in pays of subordinate labour and the rest of the municipal employees.

The Municipal Congress Party took this unreasonable stand thinking that as the biggest single party of 60 in a House of 131 in the Corporation, terms could be dictated to the opposition parties. They also thought that the Samyukta Maharashtra Samiti, the main opposition, would

not lead support to the Socialist-led strike.

The Maharashtra Samiti, however, belied the Congress expectations by coming out in wholehearted support of the demands of the municipal employees. The Samiti, at a meeting held at Parel, also signalled its various trade union and other organisations to stand by for all eventualities if the strike was to take place. This was, however, alarming for the Congress.

After nine days of the "discriminating D.A. offer" on July 12, the Congress came out with another proposal. This time they agreed to pay a flat D.A. of Rs. 7/- to all municipal employees who draw a basic salary upto Rs. 500 per month. They

be held on July 12 all the parties and groups, barring Congress, came together and pressed for a showdown. The Congress leaders, however, realised their numerically weak position in the House. The Mayor, a Congress nominee, therefore, thought it wise to leave the House abruptly in the middle of the meeting. The Congress benches then started shouting as though the meeting had been adjourned.

The opposition did not give any chance to the Congress. Amidst all sorts of roudyism, by the Congress, they elected R. G. Kharat to preside over the meeting and proceeded

in a statement issued after a combined meeting of the Samiti, the PSP, the SP, the Republicans

(Kamble Group), Jan Sangh, Muslim League and the Independents, the opposition parties appealed to the Congress Party not to make this a prestige issue and to concede forthwith and avert the forthcoming catastrophe (strike).

Even at this late stage, the Congress refused to change its stand. It got its own proposal passed in the Standing Committee meeting held a day before the strike by virtue of its numerical majority.

Next day on July 11, 35,000 workers employed in water installations, hospitals, sanitation, etc., stopped work. Thus, all efforts and appeals by opposition leaders like P. K. Kume, Dhaburwalla, Madhu Limaye and others were made ineffective by the obstinacy of the Congress. In the Corporation meeting to

with the agenda. They passed a resolution conceding the workers' demand.

Thus the whole attempt of the Congress to block any opposition move was foiled. Later the leaders of the BPCC rushed to Chief Minister Chavan and agreed to his intervention.

Ultimately, they too agreed to concede the demands of the workers. The opposition parties in the Corporation and the toiling employees' combined strength made it impossible for the Congress to dictate terms on the basis of its numerical strength. The united opposition of the Samiti, the PSP, SP and others forced the Congress to bow before the wishes of the masses.

TIMES OF INDIA DISPUTE

THE strike of the employees of Times of India group (Bombay) which began on July 16 ended the next day following intervention and promise of settlement by the Minister of Labour, Government of Maharashtra.

All sections of employees, numbering about 2,500, including the editorial staff, clerks, peons, etc., had struck work and the four dailies published by the Times of India group could not be brought out for two days.

With the complete success of the sit-down strike, the employers in their panic had threatened to declare a lock-out. The Times of India and Allied Publications Employees' Union had appealed to the State Government to intervene and see that the lock-out was not enforced. The demands were, a flat in-

crease of Rs. 20/- in the Dearness Allowance, proper scales to the Gravure Department Staff, implementation of the Sen Award and the decisions of the joint-staff councils.

At present the minimum D.A. drawn by the employees is Rs. 68/-. The last increase of Rs. 8/- was given two years ago. The cost of living index in Bombay then stood at 425. Today it has gone up to 443—a rise of nearly 18 points. The employees, therefore, demanded compensation on this.

Further, the management had assured the employees, both at Bombay and Delhi that whatever benefits one centre got would be extended to the other.

The management recently raised the Dearness Allowance of the employees at Delhi by Rs. 10, whereas the Bombay employees were denied any increase in this regard.

In matters of leave facilities new obstacles and hardships were imposed recently by the employers. Facilities enjoyed by the workers for decades were sought to be curtailed. Even for two days sick leave medical certificate, started being insisted upon.

Cameemen of the Gravure Department are entitled to minimum wage under the Minimum Wage Act. This issue, however is pending with the Management for the last three years. Yet they have been denied minimum wage.

Again, the Staff Council had agreed to introduce rotation shift in Stereo-Rotary Section. But even this agreed decision of the Staff Council was not implemented by the Management.

The Management all along refused to concede any of the just demands of the employees. The employees were forced to resort to sit-down strike to get these demands fulfilled.

allegiance of these invitees. Hence, the discussion had to be postponed. And again floods provided an excuse.

But still the ruling faction of Assam Congress will have to face rough weather ahead of them.

Meanwhile, the State Government have taken certain further administrative steps to deal with Pakistani infiltration. A special wing of the Police department has been created under the overall supervision of the Deputy Inspector General of Police (CID) and a post of Special Superintendent of Police has also been added. The Special SP will be directly incharge of the newly-created wing.

This wing of the Police department will be engaged entirely in detecting Pakistani infiltrators and taking steps for their deportation. Some special units will also be set up in the border outposts to check infiltration.

Another step reportedly contemplated by the State Government is separation of the Home department and putting it in the charge of a Secretary.

How far these administrative steps will help detection and deportation of Pakistani infiltrators remain yet to be seen. But political observers have sensed in these steps an attempt to mollify the critics of the Government, particularly those Congressmen who are being alienated from the ruling faction by the persistent campaign of the anti-Ministerial group about Assam being converted into a "Pakistan" by the ruling faction.

Both the Chief Secretary and the Inspector General of Police happen to be Muslims. As such, the anti-Ministerial group can exploit the communal feeling by saying that with Muslims placed in these two key posts, it is quite

easy for Pakistani Muslims to come over here and find shelter.

It was also alleged, by implication though, that "some high officials" were hindering the work of detection and deportation of Pakistanis. Though these insinuations were meant for factional interests, yet in the existing atmosphere, these served the purpose of rousing suspicion in the mind of the public about the bona fides of these officers.

In this connection it may be mentioned that in the last Budget session of the Assembly one of the spokesmen of the anti-Ministerial faction himself suggested separation of the Home department.

Though he did not accuse the Chief Secretary directly—and it was not easy also to question the loyalty of the Chief Secretary, who has got a long record of service to his credit and who is suspected by but very few who have got a communal perverted outlook, the said stalwart of the anti-Ministerial group made it abundantly clear that his group would spare no pains to exploit this also.

Significantly enough, the proposed Home Secretary is a Hindu officer and so is the Special Superintendent of Police as also the DIG of Police (CID) who has been entrusted with over-all supervision of the newly created Special wing of the Police.

Muslims in general, however, view these steps with a sense of relief. For, hitherto, even Muslims of Indian origin, when falsely accused of being Pakistanis, could secure but little relief from the Chief Secretary who would not interfere in their cases lest he should be dubbed as "pro-Pakistan". A Hindu officer, unless he would be guided by communal consideration, it is felt by Muslims, might help them when they deserved that help.

BOMBAY NEWSLETTER

★ From Our Correspondent

could not pay Rs. 10 because the finances of the Corporation did not permit it, the Congress explained.

This drew an immediate rejoinder from the opposition parties in the Corporation and the employees' union. They said the Corporation's last budget was surplus and so Rs. 68,00,000 could easily be borne by the Corporation. (The Congress first showed its willingness to spare Rs. 40,00,000 and then came out with Rs. 48,20,000 within a week).

In a statement issued after a combined meeting of the Samiti, the PSP, the SP, the Republicans

SHILLONG NEWSLETTER

Congress Quarrels Continue

★ From Madhusudan Bhattacharya

The anti-Ministerial group of Assam Congress which has made the issue of Pakistani infiltration into Assam its major political plank in its struggle against the ruling faction had another round of tussle with its rival faction over the same issue of infiltration in the meeting of the Executive of the PCC held at Gauhati on July 10 last.

ALTHOUGH it is to the credit of the anti-Ministerialists that the question of infiltration was included as an item in the agenda, yet they must have been disappointed in their objective. The issue was discussed for quite sometime in the meeting and then postponed for a future meeting to be held at an early date.

Even in the inconclusive discussion, it was the spokesmen of the ruling faction who held the floor and stole the thunder from the anti-Ministerialists.

Last week it was reported that about five PCC members of the anti-Ministerial faction gave a notice of requisition for holding a meeting of the PCC to discuss Pakistani infiltration and the flood situation.

The ruling faction was not yet prepared to face the PCC in which it enjoys a doubtful majority—the PCC President, who belongs to the Ministerial groups could get elected by a narrow margin of only two votes. Moreover, at the time of the last Budget Session of the Assembly last month there was some re-alignment of forces in the Congress

which posed a threat to the Ministry itself. The ruling faction, though it escaped unscathed, had not yet been able to regroup its forces to face the PCC confidently, all the more so on the ticklish issue of Pakistani infiltration. It, therefore, convened a meeting of the PCC Executive with flood situation as the major item on the agenda. But under the pressure of the rival faction, it had to include the question of Pakistani infiltration. However, as a counter measure, it included the question of organisational discipline in the agenda. If the anti-Ministerialists could assail the ruling faction on the score of infiltration, the latter could assail the former on the score of discipline, the ruling faction could confidently look up to New Delhi for support. New Delhi's patronage of the present ruling faction of Chaliha is well known.

It is also significant that one of the General Secretaries of the AICC who happened to be present in Assam, apparently to study the flood situation, attended the PCC Executive meeting. Political circles here

felt that he attended the meeting as an observer on behalf of the High Command and should there have occurred any serious situation for the ruling faction, he would have intervened, it is believed.

After the meeting had discussed the flood situation, which had taken a major part of the time, the discussion on the question of Pakistani infiltration was initiated by the PCC President himself, without giving the rivals any chance to take the initiative.

In a forthright attack on the rival faction, the PCC President said that confusion was being created in the mind of the people on this score "to undermine the Congress and the Government". He, therefore, felt it necessary to give a clearcut guidance to the Congressmen.

The Chief Minister also spoke in the meeting on the subject and he is believed to have apprised the members of the steps that the Government had been taking in the matter.

In the PCC Executive, the anti-Ministerialists are a minority. As such, it was not possible for them to take any advantage over its rival faction. But even then, the ruling faction had its difficulty.

For the Presidents of the DCCs had been present in the meeting by special invitation. Even though the DCC Presidents had no voting rights, yet the leaders of the ruling faction had to reckon with the feeling of these invitees.

The ruling faction was not yet sure to which side lay the

SOVIET STATEMENT ON NUCLEAR TESTS

Following is the text of the statement released by the Soviet Government on July 22:

FOR many years, the Soviet Union has been pressing for the ending of nuclear weapon tests for all times, but the U.S., together with its NATO allies, is wrecking agreement on this question. This was again made clear to the entire world when the U.S. and Britain refused in the 18-Nation Disarmament Committee in effect, to take as the basis for the talks—as the Soviet Union had done—the proposal made by India, the United Arab Republic, Brazil and other uncommitted states in the committee, providing for control over the test ban agreement with the help of the national means of detection.

The Western powers want one thing—to establish a network of international control posts on the territory of the Soviet Union and to have inspections which are not necessary for the verification of compliance with the agreement, but which are highly desirable to NATO's intelligence services and military staff working on the plans

of a war of aggression against peace-loving states.

Over the past months, one nuclear weapon test after another has been held by the United States of America in the Pacific and in North America—in the state of Nevada. This series of nuclear weapon tests has far surpassed all the previous ones. Recently, despite widespread protests, including protests by scientists, the U.S. exploded a nuclear device of a great yield at the altitude of several hundred kilometres, extending the arms race to outer space, the arms race which is hateful to the peoples.

Even before the U.S. Government embarked on the present series of nuclear tests, it was well aware of the fact that if American nuclear bombs were to start exploding, the Soviet Union would be faced with the need to hold tests of its nuclear weapons. The Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers N. S. Khrushchov warned the President of the U. S., J. Kennedy, of this in his message of March 3, 1962. Consequently the Government of the U. S. was fully aware of what it was doing. On it, and on it alone

depended whether the tests to which the Soviet Union had to resort in the autumn of 1961 would have been the last or whether our planet would be swept by a new wave of nuclear tests. And the Government of the U. S. made its choice. The explosions of American nuclear bombs over Christmas and Johnston Islands have produced their echo—they have made reply nuclear tests by the Soviet Union inevitable.

The Government of the U.S. does not conceal that it has undertaken this new series of nuclear weapon tests, and especially tests in outer space, to try to achieve a military supremacy over the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union would not justify the trust of the Soviet people, would not display concern for the future of the Soviet state, if it did not draw appropriate conclusions. No, the Soviet Union will not give this satisfaction to those who harbour aggressive designs against our country, who threaten us and our allies with preventive war.

The Soviet people have not forgotten and will never forget the perfidious at-

tack by Nazi Germany on our country. They know from the experience of 1941 how vitally important it is for our defence to keep abreast of the latest achievements of science and military technology, so as to be able to meet the aggressor fully prepared at any moment.

In reply to the series of nuclear tests by the United States, the Soviet Government has ordered tests to be held of the latest types of Soviet nuclear weapons. This is a forced step on the part of the Soviet Union. When these tests are held, all measures will be taken to reduce radio-active fallout to the minimum. The Soviet Union has achieved considerable results in this respect. It is widely acknowledged that the Soviet tests last autumn were not accompanied by any essential increase in radioactivity in the atmosphere, on the land, or in the ocean.

Anyone who cherishes the sense of justice, any unbiased person cannot but agree that since the U. S. was the first to start nuclear weapon tests and has held many more of them, with its allies, than the Soviet Union has done, the

other side, the Soviet Union which has invariably held its nuclear tests only in reply, has the right to be the last to end nuclear tests in the world.

The Soviet Government calls upon the Governments of the U. S. and the other Western powers to heed the demands of the peoples and remove the artificial barriers to agreement on the ending of nuclear weapon tests, which would be based on the achievements of science which enable control over compliance with this agreement to be effected by the national means of detection.

The Soviet Government subscribes to the appeal which the World Congress for General Disarmament and Peace addressed to the peoples of all countries—to strengthen peace, to fight for disarmament, to deliver mankind from the threat of nuclear annihilation. This appeal embodies the will of the peoples, and this will is the supreme law of history. Struggle for the ending of nuclear tests, for disarmament, for peace, continues and it must be crowned with victory for the cause of peace.

Madras Newsletter

DMK Exploits Popular Discontent Against Tax & Prices

From V. P. Chintan

In response to the call given by D.M.K. most of the Government offices in Tamilnad were picketed by DMK volunteers on the 19th of this month demanding reduction of prices. More than 6,500 were arrested including the General Secretary of DMK Annadurai, 16 MLAs and 3 MPs under Criminal Law Amendment Act (Sec. 7).

AS early as May 26 and 27 the General Council of the DMK in its Tiruch meeting called upon its branches to conduct meetings and demonstrations throughout the State on June 10 against central taxes especially against tax on lower counts of handloom yarn. It was also decided to organise a mass demonstration before the State Assembly on June 30 demanding reduction of soaring prices.

This demonstration was to be followed up by a series of meetings and demonstrations in a statewide campaign to protest against the price policy of the Government.

The Council authorised the Secretariat to sanction mass picketing before the District Collectorate and Taluk Offices in the State on July 9 in case the Government were to refuse to change their policy on prices. Slogans like "Unearth the hoard", "Prevent monopoly in trade", "Stop black-marketing", "End inflation and ensure price reduction", "Stop advancing bank loans on food grains", "Guarantee supply of manure and implements to the tillers at fair price", "Organise more consumer cooperatives", "Increase production", etc., were worked out by the Council to guide the statewide campaign.

Closely following the demonstration before the Assembly on June 30 mass rallies throughout the State were conducted in an effective way drawing different sections of the people.

The DMK leadership in the meanwhile made a gesture to the Government to accept their proposal made on the floor of the Assembly during the debate on the Budget to set up an all-party committee to advise the Government on effective steps to hold the price line. They offered to cancel the proposed picketing in case Government accepted this offer.

This was not accepted by the Ministry.

PREPARATIONS FOR PICKETING

Hectic preparation for mass picketing followed and the date was fixed for July 19. A special conference held at Madras focused attention on the issues involved in the struggle. Speeches were made rousing the people to enter the struggle irrespective of the consequences.

The fury of the people against soaring prices, discontent against the newly imposed central taxes and the Rs. Seven crore and odd

new taxation proposals of the State Ministry and the callousness of the Ministers to the increasing burden of taxes and prices on common people—all these were used skilfully to conduct the combined campaign against taxes and high prices.

In response to the call of the DMK at various centres mass picketing went on for the whole day before Government offices. Official sources stated that 6,500 were arrested. The DMK press claimed 15,000 as arrested on July 19. It may be that some more people other than 6,500 were apprehended on July 19 and later released.

Everywhere enthusiastic crowds drawn from different sections of the people cheered the pickets and booed the police who came to remove the volunteers.

In Vellore where Annadurai himself led the picketing, the crowd and the police clashed. And in Madras where the Opposition Leader of the State Assembly led the picketing, was also seen series of clashes with the Police. In Madras tear gas was used and crowds dispersed by lathi charges. Stone throwing was resorted to freely making Government transport vehicles the main target of attack.

The callous attitude of the State Government to do anything in concrete to hold the price line and their refusal to consider suggestions made by the Opposition on the floor of the Assembly and outside gave an opportunity to the DMK leaders to use the just anger of the people. In their eagerness to extend their ideology of "separation of the South from the grip of the North", the platform of anti-tax campaign was freely used to give a twist to the popular feeling against soaring prices and high taxes.

In the campaign against Central taxes while rightly nailing down the taxation policy of the Government heavily leaning in favour of rich and refusing to tap other resources, the DMK leadership in a most fanatical way began to explain that the imposition of taxes on lower counts of handloom yarn was intended to ruin the handlooms in the South in favour of the textile magnates of North India.

While condemning high prices and refusal of the Govt to take proper measures for State Trading, nationalisation of banks etc., they began to dabble in their pet view that the Govt. of India is neglecting the South and only the separation of South from North would solve the issues.

State Government to the burning issues of high prices.

Notwithstanding the bureaucratic and unhealthy attitude of the ruling Party the DMK in their anxiety to use the mobilisation of the people on such a just issue thrust their disruptive slogan of separatism in this campaign. There is every reason to believe that they refused joint action only to highlight their political slogan of separatism. This political tactic motivated by narrow party ends and also the disruptive and reactionary slogan of separatism had its impact on the movement also.

The vicious campaign against the so-called Northerners resulted in ugly instances such as attack by the demonstrators on a maternity home run by an institution of northerners. In Sowerpet, predominantly inhabited by the people from the North, some houses and shops were made the target of attack by the demonstrators. It cannot be ignored or the consequences and the causes of it minimised.

GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE

Had it not been for the oft-repeated propaganda of the DMK on the domination of the North this ugly phase of the demonstration could not have happened. It rightly gave a handle to Government to cover up their mistakes and also to a section of the press to condemn any agitation and mass action for a change of policy in an established democratic system.

Thus the harm done by the DMK leaders to an issue on which more millions could have been moved into action could not be minimised.

Despite all these, even Madras Mail, the English daily which was very critical of DMK leadership for conducting this direct action editorially had to comment about the statement of the

Home Minister in the Assembly in the following words:

"... preservation of law and order does not exhaust the duties of the Government of a welfare state. The British Government always disposed of popular agitation by invoking its duty to protect law and order. When all is said and done, when all the vocabulary of vituperation has been exhausted in condemnation of Thursday's violence, the basic fact remains that the riot was a bread riot and that is not the kind of riot that the Government can be proud of... No less imperative than the Government's duty to preserve law and order is the duty to ensure that food and shelter and clothing are within the reach of ordinary men, not in some indefinite future, but right now."

In a statement, M. R. Venkatarman, Secretary of the Tamilnad State Council of the CPI stated that "The Government cannot solve the issue involved in this by resorting to force".

"On the contrary the tactics adopted by the DMK even though the issue selected by them is a just one, will not help mobilisation of all sections to defeat the wrong policies pursued by the Government...."

He strongly condemned the incidents reported to have occurred in the areas where the people from the North resided and pointed out that "the wrong ideology popularised by the DMK is the cause for all these ugly and unhappy events. He criticised the Government for not taking prompt action to hold the price line and said that this issue should be taken up by all parties in a wider mobilisation. Such a joint fight for an alternative policy he said will naturally get wider support to ensure the winning of the demand."

PAKISTAN SCENE

AYUB'S BASIC DEMOCRACY vs UNITED FRONT

RAWALPINDI, JULY 23:

The revival and normal functioning of the old political parties in Pakistan has made little progress under the restricted scope provided for them in the general pattern of Ayub's Basic Democracy.

THE Political Parties Bill, passed by the National Assembly in the teeth of opposition, debars a large number of influential personalities from taking part in the affairs of the political parties. Many of them are in detention still, among them stalwarts like Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan, Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani and H. S. Suhrawardy.

This has created quite a stalemate in the political life of the country in general and the revival and normal functioning of the main political parties in particular.

The Joint Secretary of the Muslim League, Manzar-e-Alam claimed in a statement that the party stood revived after the coming into force of the Political Parties Act. But his stand has been challenged since the President and the General Secretary of the Muslim League at the time of its dissolution, Khan Abdul Qayyum Khan and Qazi Isa respectively, stand EBDQed, that is, they are disqualified from participating in the affairs of the party, according to Elective Bodies Disqualification Order.

Manzar's bid to call a meeting of the Muslim League Council has, for the same reason, been opposed by party ranks in both wings and Qazi Isa in a public statement has issued a warning against Manzar's activities. Clearly, the old leaders of the Muslim

League are reluctant to let Muslim League be revived under the prescribed conditions.

The leaders of the Republicans are marking time and their ranks too are divided over the revival of the party in the existing conditions. They appear to be watching the developments among Muslim Leaguers before taking any action.

Jamiat-e-Islami has been the first party in Pakistan to revive its activities in the new conditions. But its leaders are also facing difficulties. Farid Ahmed, representing Nizam-e-Islam, the counterpart of Jamiat in Eastern Wing appears to be hesitating to follow suit and has stated that his party might take some time before finalising its future programme.

He has explained that discussions with various political groups would be needed before any action is taken. He favours exploring first the possibilities of chalking out a common programme and bringing all the political forces in the Eastern Wing on a common political platform.

The most significant development in the political field in Pakistan, since the enforcement of the Political Parties Act, has precisely been the emergence and growth of this idea of a united front of all political

forces. Deprived of normal rights and opportunities to revive their respective parties, the leaders and workers, particularly in East Pakistan, find in the united front idea an attractive alternative.

United Front Within A Month

Syed Hussain Mansur, a National Assembly member from East Pakistan made a categorical statement the other day that all shades of political opinion would unite under the banner of the United Front in East Pakistan within a month. The Front would mainly devote itself to the cause of democratising the Constitution and restoring in this country democracy in the "truest sense". If the attempt to democratise the present constitution failed, the United Front would "not hesitate to nullify the undemocratic Constitution", Syed Hussain Mansur declared.

On the basis of the talks with political leaders which he held in Dacca recently, Syed Sahib expressed the hope that except for some Ministers, all the Muslim League leaders would be inclined to join the proposed Front.

The resistance put up by the leaders to the revival of the old political parties under the conditions prescribed by the regime, and the moves to set up a new united front party appears to have created quite a panic among supporters of the presidential regime. These circles have been daily imploring President Ayub to take initiative, in forming a political party of his own so as to counter the moves of the opposition.

In the light of the recent developments connected with the revival of the political parties, the stormy debate on the Political Parties Bill in the National Assembly was significant. The debate highlighted not only the militant temper of the critics but also exposed the game of the regime.

Member after member criticised the bill's various restrictive clauses and they staged a walk-out during the final voting on the Bill. "We refuse to be witness to its passage", Farid Ahmed said on behalf of the opposition.

Sardar Bahadur Khan, brother of the President Ayub Khan, warned Government that if the Bill was passed as framed, they would have to amend it within six months.

Leaders debarred from membership on account of the Elective Bodies Disqualification Order of the martial law regime were a great force and by closing the doors of political parties on them, the Government would force them to go underground and act from behind the scenes, he declared.

The critics in general described the Bill as a half-hearted measure, while Mahabubul Haq said "it was designed to regulate the people but by the whims of a few Ministers". He wanted the photostat copy of the appeal signed by 108 members of National Assembly for the release of political prisoners held under preventive laws be placed on the record of the House.

Ramizuddin Ahmed, who moved several amendments to the

different clauses of the Bill, said that there should be no restriction on parties except that they must have their political and economic programme. A serious situation would be created if the Bill was adopted as it was. Whoever was condemned by the Government, became a hero of the people, he said.

Co-mover to his amendment to the provision of restriction on EBDQed leaders, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan said that revival of political parties would be meaningless unless front-ranking leaders and workers were allowed to participate in political activities. "Without these leaders," he said, Pakistan would be faced with the same problem, which India would face, if Jawaharlal Nehru was to be debarred from taking part in the Congress affairs.

Repression & Student Unrest

A fresh wave of student unrest has been sweeping over East Pakistan. A demonstration was held against the Central Food Minister, Fazlul Kader Chowdhury, when he arrived in Chittagong on July 14—for the first time after he had assumed office as Minister.

The demonstrators charged Chowdhury for breach of the

* ON FACING PAGE

PAKISTAN SCENE

From Facing Page

promise which he had given on his election to the National Assembly that he would not accept any ministerial post until and unless the demands of the East Pakistan people were conceded.

The police cordoned off 3,000 students in the college area and prevented them from taking out any procession while resorting to lathi-charge on others who demonstrated against the Minister at the railway station when he arrived there. About 100 persons were injured by the police attack. This acted as a great provocation and students in Chittagong and Dacca immediately held meetings protesting against the attack on the students. A complete hartal was observed in Chittagong on July 16 and it was followed by a one-day general strike throughout the province.

Meanwhile, the campaign for the framing of a new constitution through a newly elected National Assembly based on adult franchise is growing and gaining strength in East Pakistan.

The students of Dacca, who are taking again the initiative to give the call for a province-wide strike, took out a procession on

July 17 and made a bonfire of the newspapers which blacked out the news of the police lathi-charge on students in Chittagong.

Daily Pakistan Observer of Dacca, it might be mentioned in this connection, has alleged that the report sent by its correspondent in Chittagong on July 14 (Saturday) was delayed by the authorities and reached the newspaper office on July 15 (Sunday). It also alleged that the reports from other correspondents of other papers, which did not mention the lathi-charge incident, reached Dacca quite in time.

The course of political developments in Pakistan in the last few weeks is thus indicative of almost complete isolation of the Ayub regime from the people of Pakistan. This is admitted even by the supporters of the regime and the press.

Pakistan Times of Lahore, which is the mouthpiece of the regime, ruefully commenting on the situation blamed the Ministers for their failure to seek mass support. "The whole row of ministers, beginning with Bogra, are puny in the face of stupendous job of national leadership they have been set while the giants are against," the paper wrote.

The public agitation behind the demand for new constitution and parliamentary system of Government was launched in

WHEN DEED SPEAKS BETTER THAN WORD

Prime Minister of Cuba Fidel Castro addressed a meeting held to bid farewell to young Soviet agricultural specialists on June 29 in Havana. Following are some extracts from the speech he made on that occasion:

Deeds speak better than words, and concrete actions have greater impact than abstract reasoning.

When we have to explain, to answer the question what proletarian internationalism means, what is the character of the relations between revolutionary peoples, between peoples who have abolished the exploitation of man by man, we well realise that our country has only just embarked on this road.

Proletarian internationalism is manifested in its most profound and pure form in these relations. These relations are of such a sincere, such a fraternal, such a profound and firm nature as can only result from communion of these peoples; relations which are born of genuine fraternity of nations, relations which have arisen between our peoples, and of which you yourselves are an excellent and unforgettable example.

Such relations could be established only between such a revolutionary people as the Soviet people, who have written so many glorious pages in the history of mankind in the sweat and blood of their workers and peasants, and such a people as our people, who have overcome tremendous difficulties standing face to face with the mighty imperialism of the Yankees, and also shedding the sweat and blood of their workers and peasants, fighting for a better future.

Unequal Yet Mutual Exchange

A few days ago our comrades returned from the Soviet Union; in a few days' time you will leave us also. Only one year has passed but what successes we have achieved as a result of this exchange! Primarily, what successes have we Cubans achieved! For when we talked with the leaders of the YCL we did not suggest organising an interchange of peasants. Naturally, we could not offer such comprehensive technical experience as you, we offered the opportunity of learning our language. And so we sent our peasants to your country, and the Soviet Union sent your peasants, mechanisers,

This was an unequal exchange, it was an exchange by which our country derived all the profits, because, on the one hand, our peasants went to the Soviet Union to learn, and, on the other hand, Soviet young people came here to teach our peasants.

This was done by the wise decision of the Party and the Soviet government, as they proceeded from the real state of affairs; they understood that we, Cubans, needed ex-

perience, that we, Cubans, were at that time only making our first steps and that it was necessary for our peasants to be trained over there, and for your mechanisers to come here to teach us.

This was a decision adopted on the basis of reality, the basis of our real needs, the basis of the real state of affairs in our country. We needed experience because our workers and peasants, obviously, had none, because in Cuba the best agricultural experts were the big landowners and they had fled. Do you understand? (Cries of "yes").

Unique Experience

And what did you find here? Here, you learned something that you had not known that you had been told about—what happens when a revolution begins; at school you learned about the October Revolution, and you heard what changes had taken place in the Soviet Union, what the revolution has been like and what difficulties there had been; you heard about all this but you did not know it from your own experience; but here you were able to learn from your own experience what these changes are like, what difficulties arise when the revolution begins.

Naturally our difficulties are not so great as those which the Soviet people had to contend with; the Soviet people had neither tractors nor agricultural machinery, we, however, meet with less difficulties because we have friends who help us, because we have received from the socialist countries a lot of agricultural machines; but undoubtedly there are some things which we have to learn, there is something which cannot simply be received, and that is, experience and knowledge; they are acquired in work, in struggle against difficulties; we lack the following: technical knowledge, experience, organisational knowledge, while you have come from a country with high organisation, in which everything is progressing at top speed, of course, not without some difficulties, for certain difficulties always arise; and it is a good thing that there are always some difficulties which have to be overcome. Here we read N. S. Khrushchov's speeches describing how the Soviet Union is working to eliminate the difficulties which still exist.

We, however, would be glad if we now had the difficulties which the Soviet agriculture is experiencing,

as they belong to a higher stage, to a higher level of development, as they conform to the level of the requirements of the programme for building communist society in the Soviet Union, while our difficulties are the difficulties of the stage of building our socialist society, the stage of lack of experience.

It undoubtedly does you honour the way you worked, the way you overcame the obstacles in your path, the way you adapted yourselves to need to a situation that was new to you, learned a language which differs greatly from your own, reconciled yourselves to the fact that you were so far from the Soviet Union.

We say that this does you honour, because we were not able to pay you sufficient attention in all districts, to show you even equal courtesy or create equal conditions for all of you.

We are aware of our shortcomings, we know that there are many managers who lack experience, and in some cases are not even sufficiently trained politically, and sometimes even have a different understanding of what is meant by hospitality.

We know that we have many bad managers. Some people ask: "Then why not change them?" The answer is very simple: "Because we have no better ones." But we shall replace them when we have better managers, or when we raise the level of those who cannot work better, and improve the qualifications of all the good managers.

Soviet Training And Discipline

Of course, we heard very many things. But we never heard a single complaint from any Soviet technical specialist. We never heard a single complaint about your behaviour. And this, comrades, speaks very highly of the Soviet youth, of the Soviet technical specialists, and of the Soviet Komsomols. The fact that over such a long period of time such a large group of young people, behaved in a manner which did not give rise to a single complaint speaks extremely highly of your level of training and your discipline.

And I do not believe that this is due to the fact that you were carefully-picked, because it is impossible, because whoever does the selection can and will always make a mistake when he has to choose 300 people.

It means that a whole new generation of people has grown up. It means that the whole of the youth have mastered the new conception of the duties of public behaviour, it means that Soviet society is bearing such splendid fruit.

It is quite possible that you yourselves do not see anything special, anything extraordinary in this. You

regard such behaviour as perfectly natural. However, what capitalist country could send abroad 300 young people with such good training and discipline, as you have displayed, capable of such selflessness in work and such keen enthusiasm as you have shown?

No capitalist country could have done that.

But the socialist country, the Soviet Union, can find not hundreds, but thousands, tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands, millions of such young people as you, because this is a society which is developing with a different view of life, with genuinely brotherly and human relations between people, with a true cult of labour, a society which regards work as the most honourable and legitimate activity of man, which regards work as the only legitimate source of the bread we eat, the clothes we wear, the houses we live in, the books we read. That is not capitalist society which regards work as an instrument of exploitation, in which the work of the toilers ensures the idleness of parasites and exploiters.

It is natural that the society which has abolished the exploitation of man by man has given birth to a new youth, a new man.

This youth, this man, the product of the new society, we see in you and we see him better than you yourselves, because to us he is really something out of the ordinary. Yes, to us he is new because we are accustomed to a different type of visitor, to a different type of technical worker, North-American sailors used to come here to stagger drunkenly through our streets and insult our citizens. Once, a group of Yankee sailors climbed up the statue of our national hero Marti in the Central Park of Havana and defiled it.

Yankee visitors, millionaires, full of vices, came here to gamble in the gambling dens, in search of entertainment, exotic surroundings, curios, everything unusual and looked on our people as a herd of lower beings.

Our managers will become better, our organisation will improve, profits will rise, productivity will increase and expenditure decrease; more attention will be paid to agricultural machinery, there will be more machines in the countryside, there will be appropriate organisation and work norms.

We shall achieve all this because we know our shortcomings, we know that we have great difficulties, but we shall not coexist peacefully with our shortcomings; we shall fight against our shortcomings. We know what they are, and we intend to struggle against them energetically. Therefore, believe in your Cuban friends, be sure that in agriculture we shall also conquer!

"We Know Their Full Worth"

We, who in the course of so many years had to deal with such visitors, we who know what capitalism and imperialism bring, can appraise at their full worth the youth, the man who comes from the Soviet Union.

Great are the achievements of the Soviet Union, great and imposing are its construction sites, its hydroelectric stations, its factories, its automatic plants, great and impressive are its housing programmes. Great and imposing are its conquests of outer space.

But yet what impresses us most, the greatest achievement of the Soviet Union, its most outstanding suc-

cess, is the new type of man and woman which it has produced.

To us that is the very greatest achievement of the Soviet revolution—this type of man and woman whom we have met—men and women with equal behaviour and an equal attitude to their surroundings wherever they may be. Mechanisers, diplomats, actors, all the representatives of the Soviet people who come to our country, are invariably distinguished by their fraternal, friendly attitude full of respect and warm human feelings to those around them.

And this man, in whose name all the efforts are being made; for whose sake revolutions are made, arouses greater enthusiasm in us than all the other achievements of the socialist revolution.

We also dream of the day when our revolution will be able to produce such people, in addition to the material achievements which we also hope for. We know that we are only beginning, that the road is long, but we also know that success is ensured.

I am certain that when you return home you will take with you memories of our land, concern for our revolution, and that many times you will ask yourselves questions about our island.

You will recall your friends, you will think how they are struggling for the aims which we are pursuing, and how many facts will come to your memories, how many details, how many questions. And so it will be many times—how many details, how many questions.

Something To Remember

But there is something that you must always remember, and that I want to tell you now: it is that whatever the difficulties, whatever the obstacles, whatever the mistakes and impediments, our agriculture will develop, our soil will yield more tons of maize and cotton per hectare, our herds will grow, and we shall have more and more of the very best specimens of meat and dairy cattle, our agricultural production will satisfy our needs, and we shall have millions of hogs, we shall breed more and more and losses will be reduced.

Further, the representatives of the Communist Party suggested certain urgent practical measures that should be adopted to solve the pressing problems facing the

state. These suggestions have also been rejected by Shastriji. The continuation of the coalition which has become a paradox in democracy would only mean that differences inside the coalition would deepen, and the present administrative stalemate would continue, and the result-

ing situation will be ideal for corruption and nepotism to flourish all the more. The people of the state will have to put up with greater difficulties.

Thus, Shastriji's visit has not only not solved any single problem, but has helped accentuate all the problems and worsen the situation.

A detailed examination of the proposals of Shastriji makes this clear. He has suggested the functioning of an informal Cabinet subcommittee to discuss controversial administrative and policy matters. The members of this Committee are the main actors in the drama of the present crisis. Leaders of the PSP have already expressed doubt

about the need and practicability of this sub-committee. Under these circumstances the sub-committee will be another arena for the factions to continue their fight.

Another suggestion of Shastriji is that an advisory body, a "Brains Trust", may be constituted with eminent non-officials from all walks of life. Who are these eminent gentlemen, what is the scope and function of this Brains Trust? Shastriji is silent on all these questions.

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KERALA

END OF COALITION IS ONLY WAY TO SOLVE POLITICAL TANGLE

★ From Our Correspondent

TRIVANDRUM:

The Executive Committee of the Kerala State Communist Party meeting at Trichur has reiterated the resolution of the Council of last month that the only way to solve the political tangle in the state was for the "useless and vicious coalition Ministry" to quit office.

ANALYSING the political developments in the State since the visit of the Union Home Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, the resolution referred to Shastriji's own admission on arrival in Kerala that the problems he confronted were gigantic. But Shastriji instead of finding a radical solution has advised the continuation of the Coalition Ministry. He himself is not confident that his recipe will cure the disease that has beset Kerala.

The reaction from various quarters in the State to Shastriji's formula has clearly indicated that nobody in Kerala believes that the grave differences that have continued inside the coalition for the last few years and have affected adversely the public life and administration in the State are likely to be resolved by accepting the Shastriji solution.

The Kerala Communist Party had represented to the Home Minister that he should advise the coalition Ministry to resign since they had morally and politically forfeited the confidence of the people. Many others belonging to different political affiliation had also communicated similar views in stronger terms to the Home Minister. But he was not prepared to accept the simple and only right remedy.

Further, the representatives of the Communist Party suggested certain urgent practical measures that should be adopted to solve the pressing problems facing the

Fidel Castro . . .

★ FROM FACING PAGE

of reaching. The more deeply we go into the real meaning of history, the better we understand this great people, the better we understand what it has done and how it has done this and how it understands our problems, and how it has brought its solidarity over thousands of miles to our little island, blockaded by the imperialists and subjected to constant persecution.

The better we understand and see all this, the more we learn about the history of the Soviet people beginning with the October Revolution, the more certain we are that immortal Lenin's dreams are not only to be implemented; they have already become the wonderful present-day reality and in good time will become reality for all mankind. Therefore, we believe all the more in the cause which we are defending, in the invincible cause for which we are fighting, in justice which is on our side in the triumph which will crown our struggle.

The more news we hear from the Soviet Union, the more we know about Soviet people, the more certain we are that this great people cannot have any unconquerable obstacles, cannot have targets which it is incapable

of reaching. The more deeply we go into the real meaning of history, the better we understand this great people, the better we understand what it has done and how it has done this and how it understands our problems, and how it has brought its solidarity over thousands of miles to our little island, blockaded by the imperialists and subjected to constant persecution.

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Disarmament And German Peace Treaty

★ From P. KUNHANANDAN NAIR

MOSCOW:

Leaders of the East German delegation to the Disarmament Congress held an international press conference in the spacious hall of the GDR Embassy in Moscow on July 13.

PROFESSOR Albert Norden, Secretary of the Central Committee and Polit Bureau Member of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany made a statement on the relations between the German Peace treaty and disarmament.

Here are the questions put by me and the answers given by Prof. Norden and other leaders who headed the GDR delegation to the international peace meet.

"New Age" Correspondent: It was already reported that Prime Minister Khrushchov had agreed to a proposal that West Berlin

should be made the Headquarters of the UN. What is your opinion about this and what in your opinion are its advantages? Second question: How real is the danger of a nuclear collaboration between West Germany and France, in the light of the recent developments, and what are the contradictions in the western camp?

Answer by Prof. Norden: "As far as the nuclear collaboration between West Germany and France is concerned, it is no longer a question of any possible danger, but it has become an actual reality. Adenauer's West German Government and the French Government have already been collaborating in testing the French atomic weapons in the Sahara and in Alsace. There is already quite a lot of collaboration in research work between the representatives of West Germany and France.

Over and above that, quite a large amount of research work has been done by West Germany itself in the field of atomic weapons, as has already been revealed before the German National Congress by Comrade Max Reimann, Chairman of the German Communist Party, which has been declared illegal in West Germany.

You can already see the political background of this in the recent secret meeting between Adenauer and de Gaulle, where they have come to a common agreement on behalf of the extreme reactionary circles in West Germany and France, to build up a common front, which would be of advantage in the realization of the aims of West German imperialism, and in view of the increasingly stronger position of West German imperialism over the French imperialism, the danger of the West German imperialists getting direct possession of atomic weapons becomes still greater through the talks between Adenauer and de Gaulle. You know that the West German generals and Strauss are actively striving might and main towards

the conclusion, not to lay down any particular details, because such matter of details would probably lead to big discussions, and would have shown the divergences of opinions on technical points.

On account of this we came to the conclusion, not to lay down any particular details, because such matter of details would probably lead to big discussions, and would have shown the divergences of opinions on technical points.

In the principles underlying the agreement there was no difference of opinion whatsoever, as claimed more than half-a-year ago by the German Peace Union, and as they correspond to those of the International Union of War-resisters, and these principles underlying our joint statement have been formulated unequivocally along these same lines.

The draft of the statement had been prepared by one of the West German Delegates and myself. This draft was placed before the plenary sitting in a conference of all the West and East German delegates, and was thrashed out, as a result of which some textual amendments were proposed to the authors of the draft.

As no principal changes were found to be necessary, the final statement emerged after discussions lasting for two hours, and it was accepted unanimously by all the delegates from GDR, W. Germany and West Berlin.

Maximilian Scherer, writer and Member of the World Peace Council: I want to add a few words. My colleague Perk and I were among those who first arranged the coming together of the delegates. I had already before this spoken at the Congresses of the German Peace Council in West Germany and I now come to the conclusion that a significant development has come about in the opinion of the West German Peace-friends. The West Germans are alarmed over what is taking place in West Germany, and they are afraid, ever more, that something terrible would happen under the proposal of the gag-order, or as it is called over there "Emergency Law".

about the need and practicability of this sub-committee. Under these circumstances the sub-committee will be another arena for the factions to continue their fight.

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Cholera Preventive Measures Handed Over To Corporation

★ From JNAN BIKASH MOITRA

Calcutta, July 21: CHOLERA is still raging in Calcutta, though the virulence of the epidemic seems to have abated.

Next to the acute scarcity of pure drinking water, the most important cause of the epidemic, which takes a heavy toll of lives every year, is the utter failure of Calcutta Corporation's Conservancy Department to remove garbage for weeks on end. Heaps of rotting garbage on roadsides are a common sight in this metropolitan city.

The West Bengal Government, therefore, announced its decision on July 13 to set up a new organisation, completely independent of the Calcutta Corporation, for clearing all the garbage within a month. P. K. Sen, Deputy Inspector-General of Police, West Bengal, was appointed Special Officer for the purpose. He was supposed to be in complete and independent charge of the anti-epidemic operations and of the resources of the new organisation proposed to be set up.

The Government's decision created a furore in Congress circles in the Corporation which, by the way, has been under the control of the Congress Party for over 34 years. Never before had the Congress Councillors been so vociferous and so trenchant in their criticism of the Government measures which they characterised as "unwarranted interference" in the "internal affairs of the Corporation."

They sought to throw the entire blame on the Government for the deplorable state of garbage clearance in order to cover up their own inefficiency and bungling in the matter.

Thereafter events moved swiftly. Tremendous pressure was brought to bear on the Government and ultimately the Government had to reverse its policy.

In an executive order issued on July 17, it was stated that the State Government's assistance in the clearance of garbage and in otherwise fighting the cholera epidemic would be placed at the disposal of the Commissioner of the Corporation, who is also a Government official.

Such assistance will now comprise the services of 1,000 volunteers of the National Volunteer Force, supply of about 100 lorries and a sanction of Rs. 400,000. Although P. K. Sen will be in "immediate" control of these resources, the use of any of them would require the previous approval of the Commissioner.

Thus, the idea of an independent organisation to conduct the emergency operations has been dropped.

President Requested To Withhold Assent To Bill

JULLUNDUR:

THE Executive Committee of the Punjab State Council of the Communist Party of India which met here on July 21, 1962 reviewed the situation arising out of the temporary tax measures and the growing mass movement against them.

The Executive appealed to the President of Indian Union not to grant assent to the temporary Taxation Bill.

It once more reiterated the demand that Rs. 10 crores be allocated for Harijan Welfare out of the common pool of consolidated fund in the Third Plan period.

It deplored the attempts being made by leaders of the ruling party to create a rift between Harijan and non-Harijan masses and poison public life.

It condemned provocative utterances of the Chief Minister and his threats to crush peaceful movement of people as undemocratic and reprehensible.

It called upon all units of the Party to intensify efforts to build unity of common people, irrespective of political differences, in a common movement for withdrawal of irrational tax measures and for alternative measures to raise finances for welfare of Harijan and for other development schemes.

The Executive decided to continue to unite with all those who can be united with, including Congress followers in furtherance of the popular movement.

The State Executive also adopted a resolution condemning the murderous attack made by landlords in Ferozpur district on a party of tenants ploughing surplus lands on which they had been legally settled by an order of the Collector.

The Executive considered this incident to be a part of landlord conspiracy to terrorise tenants and prevent them from coming over to occupy surplus land and demanded that arms licenses of big landlords be cancelled and measures be adopted to prevent such attacks on tenants.

By another resolution the Executive demanded utilisation of surplus rural evacuee lands and houses purchased by the State Government from the Central Government in the interest of Harijans and other rural poor.

The Executive took serious note of attack on civil liberties in Sangrur district where 12 Communists were arrested recently.

BLACKMARKETING BY CONGRESS LEADERS

IT is reliably learnt that a grave charge of the theft of powder milk worth several lakhs of rupees and blatant corruption in the distribution of the milk is now under investigation by the police. The powder milk was given by the Red Cross, 24 Parganas District.

A few months ago, the police arrested three persons with some boxes of powder milk in Kidderpore area of Calcutta. They could not satisfactorily explain how they had come in possession of the milk which belonged to the Red Cross.

One of the arrested persons, who is a relative of a certain Congress MIA from 24-Parganas District, turned an approver and made a statement to the police. He was reported to have told the police that some leading Congressmen of 24-Parganas District were "distributing" the Red Cross milk in different areas to persons who did not exist! They were selling the milk in the blackmarket and making a lot of money.

Following up the clues, the police came across cases of the most brazen-faced corruption at Budge Budge, Magrahat, Joynagar, Diamond Harbour and other places in the district. Enquiries in Kalam village in Magrahat revealed that although the local school and nine other institutions in the village were supposed to be receiving the Red Cross milk, it had never reached the area!

It was further found that in most places, local Congress leaders were directly involved in the corruption. One person was reported to have admitted before the police that one of the top-most Congress leaders of the district, who is also a boss of the District Red Cross, used to sell the milk in the blackmarket.

Attempts are now being made by influential circles to hush up the matter, as Congress leaders of the 24-Parganas District are involved in this sordid affair.

LABOUR MINISTER PROMISES BETTER DEAL

MONORANJAN Roy, General Secretary of the BPTUC and other opposition M.L.A.s were able to obtain three important assurances from the Government on July 16 when the State Assembly debated the budget demand under the head "Labour and Employment".

Citing scores of concrete cases of how Indian and foreign employers in West Bengal were retrenching workers in open contravention of the rules and regulations framed by the Government and were intensifying the exploitation of the workers and imposing increased work-load on them, the Opposition members charged the Government and its Labour Department with pursuing a pro-employer policy.

They demanded among other things, statutory fixation of minimum wages, stoppage of retrenchment and measures to check the growth in the number of contract labour.

The most effective opposition speaker of the day was Bhadra Bahadur Hamal, Communist member from Darjeeling District. Though a Nepali, he made his speech in clear Bengali which, surprisingly enough, was punctuated with sharp banter. Deftly marshalling his facts and arguments, he made an effective exposure of the Government's labour policy.

The effect produced by the Opposition criticism was clearly noticeable. In the tone of most of the speeches made from the Congress benches. Although they prefaced their speeches with the claim that the Government was not pursuing a pro-employer policy, the vein in which most of them spoke left an impression that they agreed with the substance of the criticisms levelled by the Opposition.

Significantly enough, Dr. Maitreyee Basu, President of the INTUC, said that the oppression of the employers in the tea industry had reached

TWIN SCOURGE IN BIHAR

★ From Ali Ashraf

The twin scourges of drought and flood have developed a habit of visiting Bihar almost every year. While floods have already carried their ravages to the districts in North Bihar, drought posed its threat somewhat ominously for a fortnight and then slowly began to recede before the latecoming monsoon.

BUT even while receding it has done the damage. In many places paddy seedlings have withered away. Only last week Darbhanga DCC president Harish Chandra M.L.A., spoke of serious drought in his district and appealed to the Government to "realise the gravity of the situation and to mobilise available sources to help the affected people." (Indian Nation, July 14).

In Aurangabad in the district of Gaya, "there is now no prospect of the bhadal crops." (Ibid). And the Sub-divisional officer of Nawada in the same district informed that "the Agricultural department had been contacted for the supply of paddy seedlings from the agricultural farms."

It is doubtful if the Agricultural department can arrange for the supply of seedlings on the scale required. But unless the Government takes energetic measures to help the peasants, paddy transplantation many suffer in many districts on both sides of the Ganga.

Drought And Flood

In North Bihar there was the tragic spectacle of drought and flood existing side by side. Although almost all the districts in North Bihar were

affected by floods, Champaran bore the main brunt of it. Revenue Minister Mahesh Prasad Sinha, who made an aerial survey of the area, found that the 35 miles from Motihari to Rammagar was "a vast sheet of water" even while the floods had receded.

In Champaran the volume and level of water is said to be the highest in forty years. Water entered almost all the houses in the area. All seedlings which were ready for plantation have been destroyed. Nearly 90 per cent of the fodder has been swept away. More than 50 per cent of the houses, mostly of mud, have fallen.

Kisan Sabha's Demands

Reports appearing in the daily Press indicate that the total devastation caused by the flood in Champaran as well as other districts is not less than 20 persons dead, 100 animals drowned, 10 thousand houses demolished and crops on about 10 lakh acres swept away. The total destruction is estimated at about two crores of rupees. At least 20 lakh people are affected by the floods.

On account of this devastation, the Bihar State Kisan Sabha has demanded free rations to the poor, work for the unemployed, loan to peasants, repair of houses, roads and canals, cheap ration shops in the area, and monetary help to students, etc.

The attitude of the Government can only be described as one of indifference. Having distributed some relief they seem to think the Government's job is done.

On the other hand they have assumed the role of the aggrieved party. Chief Minister Binodanand Jha complained that "people generally demanded suspension of realisation of old loans and distribution of new loans from the Government as relief in the flood affected areas. But it was a difficult task."

He put the counter demand for the payment of "rupees 16 crores (given) in various forms in agricultural loans and rupees 13 crores as sales tax" (Searchlight, July 16).

This attitude of the Government has encouraged anti-social elements to take advantage of the sufferings of the people. The Chief Minister himself admitted to "have found slight rise in the price schedule of essential commodities, especially foodgrains, in Darbhanga and other districts. Profiteers and hoarders are active." (Searchlight, July 16).

He said that "officials had been instructed" to take action against these elements.

Even where flood control work was undertaken, it was

This, however, has not convinced anybody. Congress members of the Legislature from Sitamarhi in Muzaffarpur "criticised", as if in reply to the Chief Minister, "the tendencies of Government officials to avoid reliefs until a major harm was done to the people."

No Effective Instructions

It should be obvious that mere instructions to officials cannot prove effective against the hoarders and profiteers unless active cooperation of the people and their representatives and organisations is called forth, and at the same time cheap grain shops are opened by the Government themselves.

Besides immediate relief, people in the flood affected areas are demanding long term measures for the control of flood. The Government of Bihar claim to have constructed so far 1,493 miles of embankments along the Kosi, Burhi Gandak, Kamla and other rivers which protect about 8,000 square miles.

But even so the work is haphazard and without necessary planning and foresight. As the Statesman editorially noted "The Government policy shifted from embankments to irrigation..."

then again "the 1961 floods led to second thoughts over flood control by embankments.... Flood control has begun to take priority once more." (Statesman, July 16).

Even where flood control work was undertaken, it was

implemented in a haphazard fashion. For example, people in Champaran have a grievance that while embankments were laid on the Burhi Gandak in Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur and Monghyr where the river ends up in Ganga, Champaran has been left out where the river originates and is known as the Sikrahana. Flow of water was controlled in the lower reaches with resultant floods in the upper ones. Why was Sikrahana left out? There is a suspicion that technical decisions are often guided by political considerations.

Factional Political Play

During these floods also there was ample evidence of factional political play in the way in which the various ministers of the Government moved and behaved. They entered into open controversy over the existence or otherwise of the danger of floods in certain areas and the necessity of special measures being taken.

Revenue Minister Mahesh Prasad Sinha "apprehended breaches on the Kosi bundh near Gopalpur" (Indian Nation, July 12). And in that case, he said, "the Government were prepared to evacuate 75,000 people."

Irrigation Minister Dip Narayan Singh refuted the statement claiming the danger was non-existent. The Chief Minister intervened to support the latter. All this was hardly likely to restore confidence among the people.

(July 21)

SECRET CONFABULATIONS

★ FROM FRONT PAGE

ties of some of his ministerial colleagues is not entirely new. For instance, Charan Singh, even when he was the erstwhile Home Minister of the State, was known to complain that special spies had been deputed to keep watch over his activities, friends, etc. But now the whole thing has become a stinking scandal.

Gupta is not unaware of what all this implies.

The issue of factional struggle against him and his clique has got intertwined with the issue of a big people's cause and this can only spell disaster for him. Consequently, he is reported to be very worried.

But as power and good sense seem to be slipping out of his hands and head, the more desperate he is becoming to curry favour with Prime Minister and he imagines that the only way to please him and keep him on his side is to push the Plan and its supposed targets with the relentlessness which is associated with his name.

Of course, he has a poor idea of the Plan and its targets and perhaps even a poorer idea of serving his all-India Chief.

Unable to rely on his colleagues in the Government or the party, Gupta has summoned an emergent top-level meeting of the police officials and bureaucrats of the State

to discuss measures for meeting the threat of the coming anti-tax movement.

Over 150 chosen men, including heads of all departments, Divisional Commissioners, some important District Magistrates and top-notch police and C.I.D. officers are currently meeting in the capital in extreme secrecy to work out a strategy to crush the people's upsurge and the opposition parties leading it.

The Chief Minister himself is reported to have set the harsh tone of the discussions with his violent opening remarks.

Now the bureaucrats will hatch a plan against the very people in whose name and for whose benefit the Plan is supposed to have been conceived, and, not buoyant enthusiasm or voluntary support of the tolling masses, but back-breaking fines and police bayonets and bullets will be the weapons of its implementation!

On July 24, the final day of the confabulations, the "Operation Police" will be put before the Chief Minister for his approval.

The people of U.P. consider that if these things are taken as signs of the Chief Minister's strength, then those who think so are welcome to keep wallowing in the world of their make-believe so long as they may!

(July 23)

Assam Calls For Help

Phani Bora, Secretary, Assam State Council of the CPI has issued the following statement in connection with the recent flood havoc in Assam.

THE recent flood that swept over the plain-districts of Assam was an unprecedented one. It surpassed all the previous records of deaths and destructions that floods ever caused to the people of Assam, both in its magnitude and calamities.

It submerged simultaneously thousands of square miles of lands, rendered lakhs of people homeless, took a toll of about 60 human lives, washed away a very big number of cattle and poultry, damaged paddy fields and other crops extensively and spoiled dwelling houses and other household belongings of the people. Flood water has been neck-deep in dwelling houses and at places it flowed over house roofs.

Over and above all this, now, when flood water has been receding, erosion of the Brahmaputra river has assumed terrible proportions.

We call upon all the units and branches of our Party—all workers in the student, youth and cultural fronts, to get down energetically into relief works and to move vigorously for organising help and relief to the flood affected people in cooperation with all, including the Government, and to collect help in cash and kind from the generous public.

The State and the Union Government shall have to be moved with the following demands that over and above the adequate measures for rendering relief, they must:

- 1 give all facilities for cultivation to compensate at least partially the loss of crops;
- 2 render help and grant loans for rehabilitation;
- 3 grant exemption from paying land revenue and local rates; and
- 4 adopt scientific measures for protection against and prevention of floods.

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COMPELLING FACTORS FOR SOVIET NUCLEAR TESTS

★ FROM MASOOD ALI KHAN

MOSCOW, July 24:

As was expected the continuous cannonade of U.S. nuclear weapons in the Pacific has compelled the Government of the Soviet Union to start testing again. The people of this country have been left with no other choice in spite of all their efforts to put an end to this nuclear competition for the perfection of the weapons of war.

THE Soviet Union has repeatedly and continuously offered to sign a test ban treaty with the Western powers and is prepared to do so today if the United States at the head of the imperialist camp cease to raise artificial difficulties and really desire to put an end to the nuclear arms race.

It has now been conclusively proved by the scientists of all countries including the United States that the existing national means of detection are quite enough and nuclear explosions cannot be confused with the tremors caused by natural causes, such as, movements of the inner layers of the earth or earthquakes. The latest work of the US experts has only confirmed this conclusion.

Caught On Wrong Foot

So much so that not long ago even the Chief American delegate to the Geneva disarmament talks, Arthur Dean, had to admit the feasibility of national detection. On July 19 the New York Times referred to an incident which according to its correspondent John Finney "annoyed and upset" United States officials.

And the incident was this: on arriving in Geneva on July 14 Dean said that the recent advances in detection of nuclear tests might make it possible for the United States to accept national control systems. But this admission of the reliability of the modern detection methods operating from within national boundaries—and Dean should know what he is talking about—caused panic in Washington.

A confidential message demanding explanation was sent to Geneva and at the same time the State Department press office issued a statement "clarifying" the United States' position on international controls which clearly demonstrated that it intended to continue obstructing a nuclear test ban agreement by demanding espionage facilities for itself knowing full well that the Soviet Union would never agree to such a demand.

Here even the New York Times had to admit that the entire incident was "bewildering and maladroitt". The continuation of the "frozen positions" of the United States on the test ban will doom the talks in Geneva "to the futurity that has attended all previous efforts. That will mean we will continue with endless rounds of testing and ever increasing radio active contamination of the atmosphere".

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movement by trying to divert the public pressure into the wrong channels.

And apart from putting forward her own clear cut proposals, the Soviet Union has made it known that she is prepared to make the proposals of India and other neutral powers put forward at Geneva the basis of a disarmament agreement.

As Sunday's Soviet statement (reproduced in full on page 8 of this issue) declared, the Government of the United States was well aware that if American nuclear bombs were to start exploding, the Soviet Union would be faced with the need to hold tests of its nuclear weapons. The Soviet Union has repeatedly warned the United States of this. Consequently the Government of the USA was fully aware of what it was doing.

And Pravda, elaborating the Soviet stand, declared on Monday, "until there is an agreement on disarmament, we have no other option in the present international situation. The stronger the situation camp, the lesser the danger of attack and of unleashing a thermo-nuclear war.

"By increasing its might, the Soviet Union promotes not only its own interests but also those of mankind, and contri-

butes to the maintenance of world peace".

The artificial barriers to a test ban agreement have been raised by the Western powers and the Soviet Union works to remove them.

The will of the people expressed at the world Congress for General Disarmament and Peace was embodied in its appeal addressed to all peoples—to strengthen peace to fight for disarmament to deliver mankind from the threat of nuclear annihilation. The Soviet Government subscribes to this appeal, Pravda declares. The fight for general disarmament and for peace continues. It will be crowned by the victory of the cause of peace the newspaper says.

Indian Delegates at Cancer Congress

MORE than 5,000 scientists and cancer specialists from 70 countries are gathered in Moscow for the Eighth World Cancer Congress which opened here on Sunday.

600 have come from the United States. More than

2,000 papers have been submitted of which 800 would be read on the problems of the origin, development, prevention, diagnosis and treatment of malignant tumours.

India's V. R. Khanolkar President of the International Union against Cancer inaugurated the world Congress and installed the Soviet oncologist and president of the USSR academy of Medical Sciences Nikolai Blokhin as president of the present Congress.

Nikita Khrushchov in a message wished the Congress success in its most humane and highly noble cause and called for the use of the great discoveries of science for peaceful purposes and the benefit of man.

More than 25 specialists from India are already here to take part in the International Cancer Congress and 11 lectures are to be delivered by members of the Indian delegation.

It has been pointed out at the Congress that science today stands at the threshold of victory over cancer, one of the greatest killers in the world. Technical advances make it possible that this dread disease be conquered in the twentieth century.

During the last few years important discoveries have been made in this field and it is the purpose of this Congress to pool knowledge and experience and to extend international cooperation to save the lives of millions.

KENNEDY'S INTERDEPENDENCE

★ FROM PAGE THREE

explains how the Kennedy concept of Atlantis and the de Gaulle-Adenauer concept of Europe are mutually conflicting and how Britain is inclined to side with the United States in this conflict.

It says:

"As the Western European revival has gathered speed, the possibility of a revived Western Europe acting as an independent political force has become more imminent, and, to Washington, more alarming.

"An American design to correct this drift towards a position in which Europe, the weaker, could act freely while America, the stronger, remained tied to its tall must depend in some part on Britain....

"In Paris, if not in Bonn, Britain is still regarded as the particular friend of America, a member of that long-represented entity known to General de Gaulle as Les Anglo-Saxons whose encroachment on France's domain he has resisted for long... Doubtless, some people in Paris and some elsewhere on the continent at present see Britain as an American Trojan horse. In a sense, it is, and quite rightly."

The concept of Atlantis, as well as that of Europe, is thus a new edition of the United States of Europe against which Lenin had to polemicise about 50 years ago.

He wrote at that time: "A United States of Europe under capitalism is tantamount to an agreement to divide up the colonies.... On the present economic basis, i.e., under capitalism, a United States of Europe would mean the organisation of reaction".

The struggle between the United States (supported by the United Kingdom) on the one hand and Western Germany and France on the other, is therefore a manifestation of that same crisis of monopoly capitalism about which Lenin spoke in his writings against the United States of Europe slogan.

That crisis, however, has now become far deeper and far more acute than it was 50 years ago. For, today there is a powerful Socialist camp embracing one-third of humanity and successfully challenging the capitalist system. There is also a powerful group of independent States which have thrown off the yoke of colonialism, which are obstructing the path mapped out by the imperialist powers.

Together with them are the peace, democratic and working class movements in the capitalist countries fighting against the rule of the monopolies. The efforts made by both the United States, as well as the Western European ruling circles, will therefore miserably fail.

The question, however, is not whether their efforts will

or will not fail. The question is what the Indian people, together with peoples of Asia and Africa and their Governments, are going to do.

Main Question For India

Are we going to sit with folded hands in the hope that the efforts of the imperialists will fail of their own accord; or, are we going to take some concrete and effective steps to speed up and complete the process of eliminating imperialism from the world?

It is against this background that our people and our Government will have to consider the proposal now being mooted by some neutral countries like Indonesia, UAR, etc. with regard to the holding of a Second Bandung Conference.

We all remember the part played by the First Bandung Conference held in 1954 in strengthening the national liberation movement in Asia and Africa. Eight years have passed since then—eight years of successful advance in Asia and Africa. The ranks of the independent and sovereign States of Asia and Africa have been enormously strengthened and the grip of the colonial powers on Asia and Africa has, to that extent, become weakened.

But, as the developments in Congo, Algeria, West Iran etc.

have made it clear and as our own experience in Goa showed, the imperialist powers, though much weaker now, are still powerful; they are able, to hoveforward limited an extent, to obstruct the path of advance of the Afro-Asian peoples. Has not the time, therefore, come when the new situation is once again reviewed and the new responsibilities fully utilised

It is true that, the larger the number of neutral powers, the greater the number of problems that arise between them. The Second Bandung Conference will, therefore, require lot of patience, lot of the spirit to give and take; on the part of those who participate in it; several problems which affect the mutual relations between two or more Afro-Asian powers will have to be left out of the agenda of the Conference. These problems can be dealt with only through mutual discussions between the powers concerned.

The Conference will have to concern itself with the common problems of all the Afro-Asian countries which happen to be the common problems of the entire humanity—peace, national freedom and economic advance of the peoples of the underdeveloped countries.

But, even for this to become successful, India should play her constructive role in the same way in which it did eight years ago.

SPANISH WORKERS' STRUGGLE

By JOSE MOIX,

Member of the Executive Committee of the World Federation of Trade Unions

The great action of the Spanish workers (which began with the struggle of the valiant miners of Asturias) for better working conditions, bread and democratic liberties, has taken on major political significance—not only because of the important results already achieved, but also because of the repercussions it will have in the immediate future on the political and economic life of Spain.

OF all those that the Spanish workers have conducted during the twenty-three years of fascist dictatorship, this strike is without any doubt the biggest, the best organised, the one which affected most areas and which is of the greatest political significance.

Some half a million workers of different industries and trades took part in it. But it was the miners of Asturias and other regions, along with the steel workers of Vizcaya, Guipuzcoa and Catalonia who were the most numerous and most militant.

This great working class action has confirmed that the Trade Union Opposition represents the biggest organised working class movement. It has played such a conspicuous part that the correspondents of international agencies and foreign newspapers did not omit to stress its importance.

Such was the work of the Trade Union Opposition that even the owners of the factories on strike, the Falangist trade union panjandrums, the Franco authorities and even the Minister Solis Ruiz, national delegate to the trade unions, were forced to discuss and negotiate during the strike with delegates of the Opposition—which proves that it was recognised as the true representative of the workers.

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REAL FORCE

The Trade Union Opposition came out as a real force, capable, in the difficult conditions of a fascist society, of organising an action so formidable that the working class movements of all countries, as well as national and international public opinion, followed it with passionate interest. It was indeed a triumph for the policy and tactics of the Trade Union Opposition, which were, essentially, to draw the maximum advantage out of the minimal legal possibilities which exist, whilst at the same time carrying on illegal struggle.

It must be stressed that this was also a triumph for the W.F.T.U., for the Spanish workers associate the Trade Union Opposition with our powerful international organisation and draw their inspiration from the illegal organ of the Opposition, *Lucha Obrera*, whose heading bears the emblem of the W.F.T.U. and which defends the W.F.T.U.'s principles and aims.

Now let us consider how in Spain, where there are no real working class trade unions, no civil liberties, where to strike is treated as an act of military rebellion punishable by thirty years imprisonment, the Spanish workers were able to carry out a strike of such size and such significance for the anti-Franco struggle.

We will briefly state the causes of the constant struggles conducted by Spanish workers against the Franco dictatorship. The long-term and immediate causes of the present political situation in Spain lie in the fascist character of the system, which is the expression of the power of high finance and big landowners. For over twenty-

three years a small group of monopoly capitalists has imposed its economic policy, based on "compulsory saving" by the working people, which involves an extremely low wage level so as to permit the utilisation of the surplus value created by an ever more intensified exploitation of the workers for the financing of the monopolists' activities.

Some of the most important features of this movement should be underlined.

The workers' struggle was directed not only against the capitalists, the fascist State and its apparatus of repression, but also against the "vertical" trade unions and against the bureaucratic officials who lead them in the interests of imperialist groups alone and not in defence of the workers' vital interests.

As an example of the nature of these unions one may quote a January issue of *Pueblo*, organ of the Trade Union Centre, which defines its function as follows:

"Spanish trade unions, without losing any of their content as a social force, are, to sum up, the political heart of the nation, the foundation on which the whole Spanish political system rests....

The State having imposed such a character on the existing trade unions, the blow dealt them by the workers' actions of recent weeks is so serious that Jose Antonio Novais, correspondent of *Le Monde*, the newspaper of the French big bourgeoisie, expresses it thus: "In little more than six weeks of strike, the Asturian miners have made the present trade union structure unworkable."

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UNITY IN STRUGGLES

Among other features of the strikes one must draw attention to their unity. Wherever the workers embarked on a struggle, of whatever form—strikes, simple temporary stoppages of work, go-slows and so on, their actions were conducted in close unity—Communists and Socialists, Anarcho-Syndicalists, Catholics and non-party workers, all filled with the same spirit.

A true fighting unity was born. One must stress the attitude of Catholic workers who came out in support of strike action, whereas the high clergy gave no proof of the same resolution or clarity in their declarations, and numbers of them still defend the fascist regime.

A most significant fact is that there is strong feeling against the vertical unions and in favour of trade union freedom. This feeling found an echo in an editorial of the journal *Ecclesia*, to which the organ of the Falangist union leaders already referred to replied with ill-concealed uneasiness.

The *Ecclesia* editorial said: "Natural law and Christian ethic have admitted as a licit weapon, when discussion by direct of trade union means has come to the end of its resources without achieving a fair result, recourse to voluntary strike... within the correct functioning of the capital-labour mechanism; the State must see to it that the

trade unions fulfil their mission of 'authentic intermediaries between the two sectors by ensuring in the first place, by their genuineness, their independence and the purity of their devotion to the working people, the confidence of those whom they represent."

This view has precedents. We may mention in this connection a note published by the secretariat for social affairs of the Bishops of Bilbao:

"The workers must have at their disposal industrial organisations that are effective and capable in practice of defending their legitimate rights when these are attacked."

"It is not licit to deprive the workers of truly effective means of defending their rights, on the pretext of safeguarding public order."

"There is no real public order, even when one observes an apparent calm, where justice and truth are infringed and the most minor rights flouted."

Clearly these criticisms were intended to gain support among the workers. But it is equally clear that they had repercussions in working class Catholic circles which went beyond the limits desired by the high clergy.

POPULAR SUPPORT

Another characteristic feature of the movement is the broad popular support which the strikers enjoyed, and the great number of indications of active solidarity by students in Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia and Saragossa, who demonstrated in the streets and bravely withstood police attacks.

Women in Madrid and other cities expressed their support for the strikers' cause and their solidarity by marching past the Security Headquarters and past provincial government headquarters, shouting demands for an amnesty and protesting against the imprisonment of workers.

The most famous intellectuals showed solidarity with the strikers and appealed to the government to tell the country what was happening and to adopt a policy of freedom, justice and concord.

But the most significant fact is that all the opposition parties and groupings, from the Communists to the monarchists, expressed solidarity for the strike; this brings out its key political basis.

The strike made possible the appearance of this anti-Franco front which links all the national forces even if there are divergences among them. To some extent it was a plebiscite against the dictatorship.

This is the result of a developing process of which the working class is the motive force. It is the result of patient, determined work of innumerable sacrifices and efforts by the most unselfish and conscious workers, loyal to their class and to the best militant and revolutionary traditions of the Spanish proletariat.

But the industrial workers and the working people generally believe it urgent and essential that this convergence of forces be crystallised round a plan of action jointly worked out by the opposition political forces, and that the plan, allowing for every form of struggle by the workers and the people—strikes, go-slows, street demonstrations—should culminate in a national strike led by all the opposition forces and making possible an end to the dictatorship and the re-establishment in Spain of democracy and freedom.

By their size, their unity and their results, as well as by the militancy of the workers who

took part in them, the recent strikes in Spain confirm in startling fashion the correctness of the Programme of Action adopted last December at the Fifth World Trade Union Congress.

During these struggles the striking workers were encouraged and supported by the sympathetic and solidarity of the most varied sections of national opinion and by an international movement of active working class and democratic solidarity which covered all countries and all ideologies. Faithful to its traditions and to its consistent policy, the World Federation of Trade Unions made its contribution from the beginning to the Spanish workers in struggle. It gave material help to the strikers and sent a delegation to the main strike centres.

The Trade Union Opposition, as we said, played a role of the first importance in the starting and conducting of the strikes, and we owe to it, in great measure, the progress made towards united action, and also the success which the extent and duration of the conflict themselves represent.

It has therefore come out of the struggles strengthened, with greater prestige and authority and, thanks to the new possibilities born out of the struggles, is moving toward a situation of semi-legality. It must also be pointed out that this Trade Union Opposition movement is to a great extent led by workers of the new generation, born or at least brought up under Francoism—men and women between eighteen and forty years old.

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THOUGH it may be too early to draw up a final balance sheet, one can say already that by their struggles during April, May and June the Spanish workers have succeeded in:

- 1. sharpening the internal contradictions of the regime by giving various sections of the bourgeoisie, the high clergy and so on the alternative of taking up a position for or against the basis of their claims and their struggle;
- 2. giving new life to the anti-Franco opposition movement, which, because of the strike results and immediately following them has begun to carry on public activity inside and outside the country;
- 3. forcing the authorities to deal directly with the striking workers on conditions of the return to work, outside the "vertical" unions; this has dealt these unions a terrible blow and puts the question of freedom of organisation right in the forefront;
- 4. getting signed and published the decree increasing the price of coal, the basis of the miners' wage increase, before the end of the strike—this being the condition imposed by the authorities for the promulgation of the decree and consequently the return to work for the worst paid categories, are large;
- 5. strengthening their unity of action, raising their class consciousness, gathering experience of struggle and understanding their strength more fully, gaining more confidence in the possibilities of this struggle, which they are ready to continue or restart for the liberation of their comrades imprisoned during the strike;
- 6. establishing as a fact, by their own struggle, the right to strike—a right non-existent in present Spanish legislation, which makes strike action a crime of rebellion punishable by the heaviest penalties.

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JULY 29, 1962

NEW AGE

Add Home Book cuts

MADHYA PRADESH ANTI-TAX SATYAGRAHA BEFORE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Dasharath Singh—a disabled worker from Hoshangabad approaching the Assembly for satyagraha



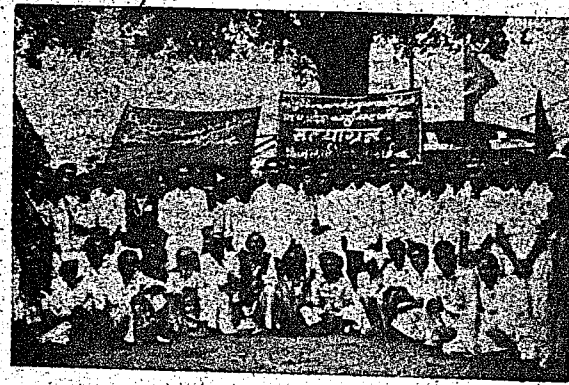
Pandit Shrinathji, leader of the batch of satyagrahis on July 20, being taken away by the police



Mahendra Bajpayee and others being arrested in front of the Assembly on July 18.



Procession of satyagrahis towards the Assembly



A group of satyagrahis of July 20 demonstration

ASSAM STATE CPI EXECUTIVE MEETING

The Executive Committee of the Assam State Council of the CPI in its meeting held from July 17 to 19, adopted a resolution concerning communalism and infiltration of Pakistani nationals into Assam.

THE resolution, *inter alia*, states: The Communist Party holds the firm opinion that communalism of all brands are the greatest enemies of national unity, democratic advance and progressive developments of all nations and people and this has been the weapon of all reactionaries to disrupt and divide the people and retard the growth of democracy and social progress.

The Communist Party, therefore is firmly of the view that the government that profess secularism and parties and organisations of democratic, secular and socialist belief, should unitedly stand to smash and liquidate the forces of communalism from our public life.

It is however unfortunate and regrettable that the ruling party and the state government failed to adopt a firm and bold policy with regard to this problem and as a result of their policy of opportunism and vacillation to deal with the communal forces, the present situation has come into existence.

There are reports about illegal infiltration of Pakistani nationals into the state of Assam which has become a matter of concern to all citizens here. This feeling of

concern is justified, as no country can allow large scale migration of people from another country without any legal basis.

The state executive committee wants to reiterate its stand that our party wants expulsion of the illegal infiltrators. Our party also demands of the government such arrangements in the Indo-Pakistan border as to prevent any further illegal infiltration of Pakistani nationals into Assam. By and large, the lack of vigilance and proper precautionary measures on the part of the government concerned, is the cause of infiltration.

However, it is noted with anxiety that a national problem concerning all the citizens of Assam, Hindus and Muslim alike, has been seized to be utilised by the opportunist and reactionary politicians for their narrow political game and the Hindu communalists of the well known communal parties and also under the garb of the national patriotism, for fomenting communalism against all the Muslims of the state.

These forces are out to plunge the state into a communal carnage and the graveness of the situation cannot be underestimated. Our party categorically de-

clares that such an approach to the problem not only does not help to fight the illegal infiltration of foreign nationals, but on the contrary, it positively damages the cause of the nation and great national interests as a whole — principles and gains of our freedom struggle and the lofty ideals of democracy and socialism.

It is also noted with concern as to how the police who miserably failed to prevent the infiltration across the border, are now out to demonstrate their might by arresting people at random without any consideration and in the name of arresting the illegal infiltrators, a large number of Indian citizens are also being harassed. Corruption, as in the border, has become the general rule in this case also.

The communist party is totally opposed to such arbitrary police activities in the manner in which they are being carried on. Therefore the party proposes that police personnels must act in conjunction with the local

citizens' committees to find out the Pakistani nationals illegally coming to Assam and expel them.

The state executive committee of the CPI has urged upon all the secular parties, left and democratic parties including the Congress, to come forward and forge a joint front against the forces of communalism and dark reaction for the very interest of the unity and integration of the state.

It has also reiterated its proposal to the government of Assam to convene a conference of all secular and democratic parties and individuals of the state to discuss the issues concerning the problem of National integration.

Calcutta Demonstration

★ From JNAN BIKASH MOITRA

CALCUTTA, July 25

A big and colourful mass demonstration was jointly organised on July 25 by eight left parties in protest against the high prices, mounting taxation, increase in railway fares etc.

Led by the leftist leaders, the demonstration in which women also participated marched to the State Assembly. It was stopped by police some distance from the Assembly.

Then the Communist leader, Ranen Sen and Niranjana Sen went to the Assembly to ascertain whether the Chief Minister would

receive a deputation. Meanwhile the Leader of the Opposition, Jyoti Basu, raised the matter in the House and demanded the Chief Minister to meet the people outside.

Chief Minister was not present but the other ministers declined to meet the deputationists. All Leftist MLAs, including PSP, stag-

ed a walk out in protest.

Later, the Chief Minister agreed to meet the deputation the following day. Demonstrators dispersed after the leftist leaders had addressed them.

Showing with facts and figures how the conditions of West Bengal people had been deteriorating rapidly as a result of rising prices and mounting taxation, a memorandum addressed to the Chief Minister called upon him to redress fourteen demands including the pressing demands of the peasantry and refugees.