

ASIA AND AFRICA AGAINST COMMONWEALTH

Editorial

THE PRIME Minister and the Finance Minister are attending the Commonwealth Conference being inaugurated on the 10th. They have before them the task of persuading the other Commonwealth Governments, particularly Britain, to stand by India and protect her interests which are threatened by Britain's entry into the Common Market.

This is by no means an easy task. It will be a miracle if our representatives are able to convince the ruling circles of Britain that it is necessary to safeguard the interests of the Asian and African members of the Commonwealth. For, Macmillan and Co. are concerned only with how the white dominions will react to Britain's entry into the Common Market.

The organ of British monopoly capital, the London "Economist", foresees "four possible outcomes" of the Conference. They range from what it calls "probably the very best that Mr. Macmillan can hope for" to the "worst outcome".

The first is "that the Canadians and Australians give what can be construed as grudging acceptance of the broad lines of negotiations that have now emerged". The last is "if the Canadians and Australians decided to call the emerging terms quite inadequate and proceeded to protest and campaign insistently against them".

In case the first possibility becomes reality, the paper goes on, Britain can "unhesitatingly proceed to become a fullfledged member of the Common Market". In the last contingency, not only will the unity of the Commonwealth be broken, but the ruling Conservative Party of Britain will be faced with the "most explosive internal situation since the repeal of the Corn Laws in 1846".

The paper has no hesitation to state that what is necessary to safeguard against is "an unfavourable reaction by the white dominions at the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference" and adds: "What the Asian and African dominions say will have a smaller political effect; not all of the potential Tory rebels will regard it as an additional point against the Brussels negotiations if they learn that Mr. Nehru has been disappointed by them".

It will, therefore, be idle to hope that Jawaharlal Nehru and Morarji Desai will be able to conduct such "skilful negotiations" with British ruling circles as to enable our country to minimise the harmful consequences of the British entry into the Common Market to our economy. Macmillan and Co. are out primarily to protect the interests of the ruling circles in Britain, and secondarily to prevent a revolt of the white dominions. As for the hundreds of millions in Asia and Africa, their lot was to do slave labour and to provide the cannon-fodder for the British rulers when they

had political domination over these countries; after the attainment of independence, their role is to act as the pawns of their former rulers in their diplomatic and economic chess.

The danger is, therefore, real that the supposedly "skilful" negotiations, which the representatives of the Asian and African members of the Commonwealth will be conducting in London, lead to such arrangements between Britain and the Afro-Asian members of the Commonwealth as will tie their economies to those of the capitalist powers. If at all any concessions are made by the six powers of the Common Market to Asian and African countries like ours, they will be in return for concessions in the economic and diplomatic fields which the Asian and African powers will be forced to make to them.

We know from our own experience how the economic ties that have been forged between our country and the United Kingdom during the last several decades have since independence been utilised by the British ruling circles to blackmail us against entering into independent trade relations with other countries, particularly those of the socialist camp.

The British rulers made a howl when our Government decided to enter into trade relations with the socialist countries. Bhilai and other examples of mutually beneficial economic relations between us and the socialist countries have always remained eye-sores for the capitalist powers. The recent negotiations between our Government and the Soviet Union for the purchase of MIG planes and for their manufacture in our country have infuriated them beyond measure.

There is, therefore, no doubt that, even if the British ruling circles deem it necessary to fight for the protection of India's interests when they join the Common Market, they will use these concessions to blackmail us against our independent economic and diplomatic relations. The meagre concessions that the Common Market countries give us (if at all) will only be in return for our surrendering the basic policies which we have been pursuing and which have proved to be exceedingly inconvenient to the imperialist powers.

The difficulties which we will have to face if, following British entry into the Common Market, our products have to pay higher duties in Britain are of course serious. But far more serious will be the difficulties which will follow any surrendering of our independence in the diplomatic and economic fields. For, they will mean the abandonment of the policy of non-alignment which our country has been following, the abandonment of the mutually beneficial co-operation between us and the socialist countries which have enabled us to launch our Plan of industrialisation.

We, therefore, cannot afford to do anything which will make us toe the British line in international relations, whether political or economic.

NEW AGE

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Game That Fits Kripalani

✦ FROM RAMESH SINHA

LUCKNOW, September 8:

C. B. Gupta, U.P.'s Chief Minister and some of his lieutenants like Sucheta Kripalani, it is learnt, have not yet given up the attempt to smuggle Acharya Kripalani into the Lok Sabha in the seat that has fallen vacant as a result of the sad demise of Maulana Hifzur Rehman.

AS one of Gupta's important men and caste-fellows, Ram Saran of Moradabad is also a strong contender for this seat, it was thought that Gupta would not countenance, or, in any case, not go out of his way to sponsor the name of this doddering representative of reaction. But, it appears, much bigger and 'higher' forces are behind the move.

As is probably not sufficiently known, Gupta has completely allied himself with Morarji Desai faction of extreme right-wing in the all-India struggle for power at Delhi. Probing more deeply into the matter, I have now learnt that last May, when Pandit Nehru was not well, Morarji and his clique were expecting that Morarji would be called upon any moment to step into the Prime Minister's gaddi.

Accordingly, they had worked out all their plans—"on an all-India basis." Morarji had contacted Gupta and they had long confabulations. Morarji had straightaway asked him to join his cabinet as Home Minister as soon as he became Prime Minister. Lal Bahadur and Krishna Menon were to be packed off. The whole "new cabinet" had been prepared.

BID TO CAPTURE CONGRESS

A simultaneous bid was made to capture the Congress organisation. Sadiq Ali, office secretary turned into politician, with no base anywhere except perhaps in the counsels of Morarji Desai and his Indian and American friends, was to be put up for the presidency of the Indian National Congress. C. B. Gupta was there, in Delhi for two days canvassing support for his candidature for the post which was about to fall vacant due to Sanjiva Reddy's going back to Andhra. People like Ansar Harvani, another of Gupta's men, were also harnessed to confuse left-minded Congressmen. Even the fact that Sadiq Ali happens to be a Muslim was used to push his name up.

It was about the same time that Gupta's men and even he personally got spreading the news here that he was being "called to Delhi." People got and were given the impression that perhaps Pandit Nehru was "calling" him. Some even fondly hoped that the usual method of the High Command was being used to rid U.P. of this gentleman who has already outlived his utility.

Interested people made inquiries from the concerned circles. It was found that Lal

Bahadur Shastri had no knowledge of it and Pandit Nehru and Indira Gandhi were equally in the dark. Only later, it was discovered, that the call was from Morarji Desai and for the purpose mentioned above!

Luckily for the nation, no such contingency arose and the card-castle that some political card-sharps had constructed vanished in the air. But it is as well that our people know the ramifications of such anti-national intrigues.

INTRIGUERS GANG UP

The prying up of the ambitious Acharya's name is in line with those intrigues. Morarji wants him there for his game. They want him there for Mennon-baiting, for Nehru-baiting and for championing all the causes that are dear to Dollarland and its Indian stooges...

As if acting under a concerted lash, the stalwarts of the Jan Sangh have already jumped into proper positions and announced that they would fully and heartily support him in Amroha. The Jan Sangh has got its second string too, and none need doubt that the redoubtable Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia is their second string. As is known, though perhaps not as widely as it should be known, Dr. Lohia's almost entire campaign in Allahabad during the last general election was manned and conducted by the Jan Sangh.

As for the PSP, they would be most willing to support Kripalani. In fact, Sucheta Kripalani and other emissaries of the Acharya and those who are backing him have already sounded the PSP leaders. Efforts are afoot even to secure a "unanimous" election. Hence even Communist Party men were contacted (what cheek!).

The Republicans, led by Rahat Maula, a strange character in U.P.'s politics, have also pledged their support to the Acharya, or rather to others who are behind him. People are also talking of the rivers of silver that will converge in that region if Kripalani does ultimately decide to try his luck again.

In case he does, Bombay will be re-enacted in Amroha and, possibly, the discarded commodity from Bombay will become doubly-discarded. They know it and therefore they are proceeding cautiously. But the efforts continue and there is even a move to move Delhi in the name of compassion and piety to let the ageing 'old Congressman get into the Lok Sabha to pass his last days in some "comfort and honour."

SAMPURNANAND AWARD ON TEXTILE INDUSTRY

★ Analysed by Ram Asrey,
General Secretary, Uttar Pradesh Committee of AITUC

KANPUR, September 2:

The Award on Textile industry of Kanpur concerning rationalisation and other connected matters is out and at present is being discussed by the workers who for over a decade and half heroically fought for removing the bad consequences of anti-worker rationalisation schemes of Kanpur textile millowners and for gaining a position at par enjoyed by their counterparts at Bombay engaged in similar rationalised occupation.

THE award would assuredly mark an end of a period beginning with heroic resistance of Laxminarayan Mill workers against the imposition of increased workloads in the form of allotment of more machines per worker in the name of rationalisation.

This heroic resistance was crushed through heavy repression by the Congress Government and the irony of fate was that the same Sampurnanandji who has given the present award, was then the Labour Minister of the State.

This 5-month-old resistance was followed by another glorious strike of New Victoria Mills workers which too was defeated by unprecedented police repression in 1949 and intrigues of the then INTUC leadership. Similar battle was fought by the workers of J. K. Manufacturers in 1950 against the imposition of double-side working and heavy retrenchment.

82-Day Old Strike

Last of these battles were fought in 1955 when under the united leadership of Suti Mill Mazdoor Sabha, Kanpur-textile workers organised an 82-day-old strike that attracted the attention of the entire nation and was called off only when the principle of 'rationalisation without tears' was propounded by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

Once again it should be noted that the strike was attempted to be crushed by brutal police repression by the Government led by Dr. Sampurnanand himself. The ferocity and intensity of the repression was such that even the late Congress MP Pandit Balkrishna Sharma had to assail the Government for having established a 'goonda raj' in workers' bustees.

Even the decisions of the Bindbasini Prasad Committee were shelved by the U. P. Government under pressure from Kanpur employers which had prescribed conditions for rationalisation, not wholly satisfactory to the labour, and awarded such wages for rationalised categories of workers that the employers in their greed for maximum profits considered 'too high' and refused to accept that award.

And it was only after the campaign in 1960 for the implementation of the Wage Board, decisions that the employers were forced to

has been perpetrated on the workers since Nimbkar Committee decisions were enforced by a government order dated December 6, 1948.

Asserting inter alia that "the wages are nothing more than the money value of the commodities and services considered essential or reasonable to be provided to the workers in accordance with the social and economic development of the community," the Sampurnanand Award affixes such rates of wages which in its own words are far less than those obtaining at Bombay.

The award says: "... even if the Bombay basic wage rates were to be adopted, the textile worker in Kanpur working on rationalised basis would be receiving about Rs. 30 less on account of dearness allowance, Rs. 2 less on account of Wage Board increase and Rs. 2 less on account of employers' contribution to the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme, i.e. a total of Rs. 34 less than his counterpart in Bombay textile industry."

Not only this. The award in paragraph 14 further says: "... since the submission of the Report of Kanpur Textile Mills Rationalisation Enquiry Committee, in regard to three categories of operatives i.e., weavers, ring-piecers and ring-doffers, there has been upward revision of the basis of these categories in some textile centres. For example, in Bombay the 4-loom weaver now gets seven-eighths of the standards rates increased of three-fourths. This means, a minimum basic increase of Rs. 13 over the 1955 position..."

Less Than Bombay Workers

So all told, the Kanpur textile worker after 15 years of sufferings and heroic resistance to the employers' attempts to impose one-sided workloads and meagre wages, has been awarded Rs. 47 less than his counterpart at Bombay for workloads which work out to be higher—about 30 to 35% more than Bombay!

That is how the matters stand with regard to the workloads and wages referred to Dr. Sampurnanand.

The award rejects the claim of the employers to adjust "personal wages" against the increase in wages on account of rationalised working or against the increase granted to the workmen of the textile mills in pursuance of the recommendations of Wage Board for Textile Industry.

It has also accepted partially the claim of the workers for arrears on rationalised working since the date of the signing of arbitration agreement i.e., August 14, 1961.

In the matter of prescribing the standards of physical, operational and mechanical working conditions for rationalisation, the award has more or less relied on the unanimous decisions of the Bindbasini Committee and prescribed the same conditions.

The award has further laid down that the percentage of substitutes to the permanent strength of weavers on rationalised working shall be 20% while in the case of other categories including piecers and doffers it shall be 17.25%.

With regard to the Sunday working, the sorest point with Kanpur worker who won this common holiday in 1938 after a prolonged battle with the employers, the award has partially conceded the employers' demand on this point and allowed Sunday working as a measure to absorb surplus workers on certain conditions.

The award has also standardised holidays in the textile mills and allowed the mills to take work from the workers on Sundays in lieu of 10 unpaid holidays that have been prescribed now in addition to 5 paid holidays including three national holidays.

But the unkindest cut, perhaps, has come in the shape of the Gratuity Scheme. Despite almost unanimous demand from the workers' side to award a gratuity to the retiring worker on the basis of the period of service he has rendered to a concern, the Sampurnanand Award fixes a gratuity which is much lower than what it should have been.

No doubt, the award on this point is an improvement on the existing position when many of the Kanpur textile mill employers used to throw out old hands only on payment of 12 days wages for the entire period of their service, yet it should be emphasised that the Award is cruel seen from the long term point of view.

According to the decision of Dr. Sampurnanand, now a retiring worker shall be paid one month's salary for every year of service rendered to a Company, but along with that, it has also been prescribed that the employers' contribution towards Employees' Provident Fund Scheme shall be deducted from the amount that may be derived on the basis of earlier calculations.

In practice, it will give some relief to the workers who may wish to retire now after having completed 20, 30 or 40 years of services, but for those who have only 10 years service to their credit will be getting only Rs. 250 or after putting another 10 years service, only Rs. 500.

Signal Victory

The most important of this award which should be considered a signal victory not only for Kanpur workers but also for the entire Indian working class, is the decision for Supervisory Committee on the industrial level and mill levels to supervise and control the prescribed conditions of rationalisation.

The Committee, according to the award, will have the power even to de-rationalise if the mills do not abide by the prescribed conditions. But the award is partisan in the matters of employees' representation and has given two seats to INTUC and only one to Suti Mill Mazdoor Sabha.

The workers of Kanpur though resentful over the fact of having been robbed of their traditional holidays and Sundays and disappointed over the fixation of low wages and higher workloads, desire the immediate implementation of this award as that would improve the present position.

No amount of 'explanation' can hide the reality. The Congress did receive two smashing blows—at Tiruchengode from the DMK and at Chittoor from the Swatantra Party.

IN the former, it was supported by the PSP whose candidate in the general elections had polled 39,937 votes. Yet its vote fell from 109,799 in the general elections to 95,535 now. In other words, even with the active support of the PSP, the Congress polled 14,000 votes less than it had secured on its own in the general elections.

It is true that the DMK also had its votes reduced from 97,635 in the general elections to 96,275 now. This thousand-odd decrease in the vote secured by its candidate should be seen against the background of the anti-price increase agitation launched by its leaders just on the eve of the Tiruchengode by-election. This struggle, it was hoped by its leaders, would improve their electoral position. That, however, did not happen. Though the DMK secured the seat, its hold on the electorate has by no means improved since the general elections.

It cannot, however, be denied that the fall in their votes is only marginal; and such marginal changes are by no means unusual in by-elections. The truth is that the DMK has more or less maintained its position in the constituency while the Congress position has deteriorated.

Swatantra Votes Increase

As for Chittoor, the Swatantra candidate here had his votes increased from 106,062 in the general elections to 132,209 in the by-election—an absolute increase of 26,000 votes.

It is true that the Congress vote has not fallen from what it polled in the general elections. As a matter of fact, there is a marginal increase of 630 votes (from 130,026 to 130,656). It should, however, be stated that the Communist Party whose candidates in the general elections had won two assembly seats, included in this Parliamentary constituency, actively campaigned for the Congress candidate now.

If thought it necessary to combine even with the Congress in order to defeat the all-India President of the Swatantra Party. If the Party had not done so but had set up its own candidate as in the general elections, the Congress defeat would have been much more smashing.

One can, therefore, very well understand the glee with which the leaders of the Swatantra and the DMK hailed the results of Tiruchengode and Chittoor. Rajaji put the whole thing in his characteristic way: "One shot had been fired at the tiger in Tiruchengode, another was fired at Chittoor."

It is natural for Congressmen to feel disturbed at these by-election results. Not only has their strength in Parliament been reduced by two, but two seats have been added to parties which are out to challenge all that the Congress holds dear.

One of them challenges the socialist goal proclaimed by the Congress; planned economy as the means through which the Congress proposes to take the nation's economy forward; rapid industrialisation with

emphasis on heavy industries; strengthening of the public sector in industries; land reform; expansion of the co-operative movement, etc.

● The other party challenges the very unity and integrity of the nation.

Well-Meant Suggestion

Outside the Congress too, there are large numbers of progressive and democratic-minded people who feel perturbed at the growth of parties like the DMK and the Swatantra. Suggestions have been made by many such well-meaning persons that, since parties like the Congress, the Communist Party, the PSP, the Lohia Socialists etc. have a common approach to problems—an approach based on secularism, national unity, democracy and socialism—they should jointly fight the forces of right reaction, as well as those of casteism, communalism, linguism and regional separatism.

The Communist Party understands the sentiments guiding these well-meaning friends. It would not hesitate to join other parties in a united campaign against fissionary forces of all kinds. Nor would it have any hesitation in joining hands with the Congress in fighting the forces of right reaction as are represented by the Swatantra Party.

That is why the Party did, in certain individual constituencies, support the Congress candidates as against right reactionary and disruptive forces, even though the Party's general line towards the Congress is that of weakening its monopoly of power. The most notable example of this is the North Bombay election where the Party played its role in mobilising the people behind Defence Minister Krishna Menon. Another example is the recent by-election in Chittoor.

The Party, however, has to remind its friends, both in the Congress and outside, that the struggle against right reaction, as well as against fissionary forces, cannot succeed unless certain pre-conditions are created by the Congress itself.

For, the Swatantra, the DMK, the Jan Sangh, the Akalis, etc. are able to grow and develop in the country, precisely because the policies pursued by the Congress are leading to acute mass discontent. The most effective slogan coined by the founder leader of the Swatantra Party, Rajaji, during the last general elections was that "the Congress Raj is quota-licence-contract Raj".

Taxation And Votes In Chittoor

In recent by-elections too, the balance was tilted against the Congress because of the mounting discontent against the policies pursued by its government. Even the most ardent supporters of the Congress agree that the 26,000-odd increase in the votes secured by the Swatantra candidate in Chittoor was the result of the additional land

LESSON OF TIRUCHENGODE AND CHITTOOR

Tax imposed by the Sanjiva Reddy government in its recent Budget. Those who campaigned for the Swatantra candidate did not campaign for their basic policies of opposition to socialism, to land reform, to industrialisation, to co-operative movement, etc. Their campaign was centred on opposition to the new taxation.

It is true that the Communist Party too is opposed to the taxation policy of the Congress Government in general and of the Government of Andhra Pradesh in particular. It took the initiative in launching a mass campaign against the additional burdens of taxation imposed by the Sanjiva Reddy Government in its new budget. The series of meetings and demonstrations organised by it and its allies on the issue roused the people and mobilised them against the Congress policies.

In the Chittoor by-election campaign itself, the agitators of the Party told the voters that their opposition to the additional land tax and other taxes are legitimate and that the Party was solidly behind them in this respect. They, however, warned the electorate that, if in their opposition to the Congress government's taxation policy, they help the all-India President of the Swatantra Party to represent them in Parliament, he would be fighting not for a really democratic taxation policy but for pro-landlord policies all along the line.

Subtle Approach

He would be fighting not for putting the maximum burden of taxation on the rich in order that the burdens of the poor may be reduced to the minimum, while developmental activities are carried out to the utmost possible extent. He would, on the other hand, fight for relieving the rich of whatever burdens they have legitimately to bear. What is more, he would fight for scuttling the developmental plans.

This campaign of the Communist Party did have its impact on the electorate. A section of them who would have otherwise voted against the Congress did vote for its candidate, even though they are as much opposed to the new taxes as are their brethren who voted for the Swatantra candidate. But the Communist campaign could not sway such a large section of the electorate against the Swatantra candidate as to ensure his defeat.

Many of them felt that, however reactionary the policies advocated by the Swatantra Party, there is no alternative but to vote for the Swatantra candidate, since no other candidate in the field

is pledged to fight the taxation policy of the Government.

Congress Apathy And DMK Activity

In Tiruchengode too, the DMK was able to win the seat not because of its own inherent strength, but because of the apathy of a large number of voters who had supported the Congress in the general elections. The figures given in the beginning of this article would show that, while the Congress and PSP candidates together polled in the general elections a total of 140,738 votes, the candidate for whom those parties worked now secured only 95,535 votes.

Such a reduction of over 45,000 votes (one-third of what the two parties jointly secured in the general elections) should be seen against the background of the votes secured by the DMK which was only 1,350 votes less than what its candidate got in the general elections.

This apathy in the anti-DMK camp in Tiruchengode against the DMK in the by-election at Tiruchengode is as serious a factor as the

apathetic to the results of the election while the DMK electorate is alert. Had it not been for this alertness of the DMK voter, their candidate could not have more or less maintained the electoral position as obtained at the time of the general elections; he would not have been able to secure even the 740-vote margin which he did secure over his Congress rival.

Both Tiruchengode and Chittoor are thus clear proof that a right reactionary party like the Swatantra and a separatist party like the DMK cannot be successfully fought unless a reversal of governmental policies (for which the Communist Party and other forces of democratic opposition are fighting) is brought about.

Policy Should Be Reversed

The National Council of the Communist Party at its recent meeting in Hyderabad drew pointed attention to the serious situation that is developing because of the taxation and price policies of the Congress government. The Coun-

by
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increase in the Swatantra votes in Chittoor. For, the margin between the DMK and the Congress candidates in Tiruchengode was just 740 votes. In other words, if at least 1,000 out of the 45,000 voters, who had voted for the Congress or the PSP in the general elections but failed to turn up in the by-election had come and voted for the Congress candidate, the DMK candidate would have been defeated. It was thus the apathy of these voters that led to the DMK victory in Tiruchengode.

On the other hand, the Swatantra candidate in Chittoor had a positive increase in the votes secured in the last general elections, even though the Congress vote remained the same.

The reason for this difference between the apathy of the Congress voter in Tiruchengode and the positive addition to the Swatantra vote in Chittoor is this: while the discontent against the Congress government's policies is common to the electorate in both constituencies, the new taxation in Andhra Pradesh is an additional factor in Chittoor. It is, however, significant that even in Tiruchengode where such a specific factor leading to increased and acute mass discontent does not obtain, a big chunk of the Congress voters are

called a basic criticism of these policies.

It has pointed out how the Communist Party's opposition to the taxation policies of the Congress Governments is different from the opposition of parties like the Swatantra, Jan Sangh, DMK, etc. It has pointed out how an integrated financial policy of economy in governmental expenditure, better system of priorities for developmental expenditure, taxation of the rich, etc. can obviate the need of putting the major burden of developmental activities on the common man.

It has, therefore, called for a fundamental reorientation in the financial policies of the Government.

On the question of prices too, it has made basic critique of the economic policies of the government and also called for certain immediate measures to arrest the rise in prices.

Leaders of the Congress and Ministers, however, are not only not prepared to accept the constructive proposals made by the Communist Party. They even go to the extent of calling the Communist Party anti-national and anti-plan.

Some of them make the fantastic assertion that, since the Communist Party accepts the principle of

NOTES OF THE WEEK

SONDHI AND ASIAN GAMES

THE misunderstanding which arose between India and Indonesia on the Asian Games is indeed deplorable.

It led to a statement by the Indonesian Trade Minister that no new trade agreement will be signed with India. It culminated in a violent demonstration before the Indian Embassy in Jakarta, which caused damage to Embassy property.

These reactions on the part of the Government and people of Indonesia are deplorable, because the Government of India was in no way responsible for the incident which infuriated and angered the Indonesians.

India's spokesmen, from our Ambassador in Jakarta to the Prime Minister here, made it unmistakably clear that Sondhi, the Indian Vice-President of the Asian Games Federation, did not represent the Government of India, which does not share the views expressed by him in a public statement and in a resolution which he had moved at the Asian Games Federation meeting. Being an office-bearer of a purely non-official organisation with which our Government has no connection, Sondhi's activities should not be considered to reflect the standpoint of our Government.

It should, however, be stated that the way in which a section of our press and politicians reacted to these developments is still more deplorable. They have used the occasion for an attack on the Government of Indonesia.

They talk a great deal about the right of two members of the Asian Games Federation, Israel and Taiwan to participate in the Asian Games organised in Jakarta. They, however, forget that what angered the Indonesian people was the proposal made by Sondhi that the name of the games should be changed after their formal inauguration by the President of Indonesia.

The inauguration of any such event by the Head of State of a country is a solemn occasion. Those who organise such functions should treat them as such. But Sondhi and Co., violated this principle. Having got the President of Indonesia to inaugurate the Asian Games in that name, they proposed that its name should be changed since it was not representative of Asia. This was rightly considered by the Indonesian people as an insult to their President. The people of any country would react in the same way if their Head of State was asked to inaugurate such a function and then they were told that that function was not representative of the people in whose name it was inaugurated by the Head of their State.

It was, therefore, right of the spokesmen of the Government of India to have dissociated themselves from Sondhi's pronouncements and activities. But the favourable reaction that this may have created on the people of Indonesia has been marred by the violent attacks made on them and their Government in the columns of our press and in Parliament.

Some of them went to the extent of justifying the totally unjustifiable activities of Sondhi and making him a hero. Their

argument that Sondhi was fighting for the Asian Games Federation looks ridiculous in view of the fact that the President of the Federation himself stated that Sondhi's pronouncements were wrong.

It is deplorable that, instead of correcting the mistakes committed by these people, the Prime Minister should have made the suggestion that the Jakarta demonstrations were incited by the Chinese. Such statements coming from him are not likely to retrieve the damage initially caused by Sondhi's objectionable behaviour, followed by the violent reaction to it among the Indonesian people.

NO FULL DEMOCRACY FOR UNION TERRITORIES ?

THE Union Government has at last been forced to concede that the Union territories cannot permanently go on in their present position of having no democratic administration. All the former union territories except Delhi and certain islands on the Indian ocean will have legislatures and ministers responsible to them.

But the Constitution Amendment Bill providing for the democratic administration in these territories falls far short of real democratic administration. For, their legislatures will not be all elected; as in the pre-independence provincial and Central legislatures, the new legislatures of these former Union territories will have a combination of elected and nominated members. The amendment moved by Communist member Biran Dutta urging the deletion of the provision for nomination was defeated by the brute majority enjoyed by the Congress Party.

The Bill is far from satisfactory in respect to the former French settlements. For, as was pointed out by several members, Yenam, a tiny village in Andhra which is 500 miles away from Pondicherry, and Mahe, another village in Kerala 300 miles away, are to be added on to Pondicherry to make it a separate State. The democratic demand that each of the former French possessions should be merged with the adjoining State (Yenam with Andhra, Mahe with Kerala and Pondicherry with Madras) has not been conceded.

Above all, Delhi has been told that it has to satisfy itself with wider powers for the Corporation. Wider powers for the Corporation is something which should, in any case, be conceded in all States and has nothing to do with the democratic set-up at the State level. As the Delhi Congress leader Brahma Prakash stated in Parliament, the demand for democratic administration in Delhi is 38 years old and will go on till it is conceded.

In several respects, therefore, the Union Government has to go further than it has so far done. Public opinion in the concerned territories, as well as in the country in general, will have to be mobilised for it.

The Congress leadership should put its foot firmly down on all its party colleagues who make such suggestions if the situation is not to deteriorate further.

DANGEROUS PLAN TO UNDO LINGUISTIC STATES

MANY of those in authority have, of late, been talking of the 'folly' of having formed the linguistic States. Some like Kerala Governor Giri and Mysore Chief Minister Nijalingappa went to the extent of suggesting the revision of that decision and the formation of a unitary State of India with four or five provinces or divisions on purely administrative basis.

Their ranks have now been joined by Punjab Chief Minister Pratap Singh Kairon. In the course of a talk with pressmen on September 4, he suggested the merger of Rajasthan, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab into a single administrative unit. This, he claimed, would put an end to the demand for a Punjab-speaking State for all time to come!

Those who make such suggestions forget the realities of India's political development. It was not because of anybody's whim, but of real economic, cultural and political forces that the national movement came to be associated with the programme of the formation of linguistic States. Renunciation of that idea now would, therefore, create far greater difficulties than are expected to be solved by those who advocate it.

Consider, for example, the very suggestion made by Pratap Singh Kairon. It was violently opposed by Rajasthan's Chief Minister, Sukhadia, who told pressmen that he would prefer the status quo and would not be interested in any merger.

One can well imagine the uproar which would arise in Jammu and Kashmir if Kairon's suggestion is seriously meant and pursued. Even as it is, Kashmir occupies a special position in the Indian Constitution. The demand that this special position should be put an end to and that Jammu and Kashmir should be put on a par with other Indian States has been sharply criticised by the Kashmir Prime Minister Bakshi Gulam Mohammed and his colleagues. Can it, under these circumstances, be imagined that the leaders of that State would accept Kairon's suggestion?

As for Himachal Pradesh, it is well to recall that a few weeks ago, the Punjab Governor Gadgil made a suggestion that that State should be merged with Punjab. That created an uproar in that State; it is doubtful whether they would accept it either.

Kairon's suggestion, therefore, would lead to more difficulties, rather than overcoming those which he is facing today.

The Congress leadership should put its foot firmly down on all its party colleagues who make such suggestions if the situation is not to deteriorate further.

PARTIAL VICTORY FOR MERCANTILE EMPLOYEES

★ From AJAY DAS GUPTA

CALCUTTA, September 2:

The movement now being carried on by the mercantile employees in Calcutta under the leadership of Federation of Mercantile Employees' Unions against retrenchment and rationalisation has scored a victory though partial.

An agreement has been arrived at between the Hoare Miller Employees' Welfare Association and the management of the Company regarding the 27 employees on whom retrenchment notices have been served.

The management agreed to provide alternative jobs to all employees who wanted it. But some of the employees who were in pensionable category desired to retire with pension as well as retrenchment compensation.

The term of agreement stipulates that four employees will be absorbed by the Company on their existing salaries and continuity of service. Three more will continue for six months on existing salaries and then absorbed in another Company.

If these three and other five persons decide not to accept the offered jobs, they will receive two months' salary for each completed year of service as compensation. Eight other employees were given jobs in a subsidiary stevedoring firm which will provide the same nature of jobs as the employees were performing.

These employees will receive at present 22½ days wage per year as compensation and the company will recommend to their principals, Brookie Bank Lines to pay 7½ days wages more to them. All the employees will get leave pay, notice pay and other dues.

As a part of the movement against retrenchment and rationalisation the mercantile employees went to the Chief Minister in a mass deputation on August 28. After the office hours, a large number of employees from different offices under the banner of their respective unions gathered at Netaji Subhas Road.

After parading through the office area the procession proceeded to the Writers' Building. A big posse of police force with wireless vans stopped the procession on Netaji Subhas Road at the corner of Bengal Chamber of Commerce Building.

Chief Minister P. C. Sen informed that he was agreeable to meet a small deputation and accordingly a deputation of five representatives led by P. K. Ghosh, General Secretary, Federation of Mercantile Employees' Unions, went to meet the Chief Minister, and a memorandum was submitted to him.

The memorandum detailing out the measures of retrenchment, rationalisation, re-organisation etc., carried out by employers, also pointed out the inadequacies of the existing labour laws to effectively check these attacks and the dilatory and pro-employer activities of the State Labour Department.

The Chief Minister expressed his concern over the situation and said, he would meet the representatives again after discussing the points raised with the State Labour Minister.

It is difficult to understand how a political party can be denied the right to contest elections and other facilities normally enjoyed by all political parties, unless a ban is imposed on it. Bhaktavatsalam will, therefore, be forced either to go the whole hog and demand the imposition of a ban on the DMK, or withdraw the suggestion that he has made before the Ramaswamy Iyer Committee.

Even supposing that the suggestion made by him is feasible from a legal-technical point of view, would such a step be in any way better than the political point of view than the imposition of an outright ban on it? Would not discrimination between different political parties—some of them being allowed to contest elections while others being prevented from doing so—itself makes martyrs of that party which is discriminated against? Would not such discrimination, shown against a particular political party now, arouse apprehension in other political parties that this is the beginning of an attack on all opposition parties?

Bhaktavatsalam and his colleagues are making such counsels of despair, because they are no more confident that the ideology of separatism and the organisation of the DMK can be fought politically. Having lost their faith in the people and in principles of national integration, they think that the unity of the country can be preserved only through repressive measures.

—E. M. S. Nambudiripad

RAHULJI GOES TO SOVIET UNION

After a longish stay in Delhi due to certain technical difficulties Mahapandit Rahul Sankrityayana has flown to Moscow on August 31. He has been invited by the Health Ministry of the USSR for treatment.

FOLLOWING his arrival in Delhi, almost all the leaders of the Communist Party and scores of his admirers, friends etc. visited him to enquire about his health and offer their felicitations.

Rahulji's deteriorating health during the last few months had become a matter of grave concern for all sections of our people. A patient of diabetes, he also developed kidney trouble recently and was suffering from high blood pressure. He has virtually lost his memory.

The indifference of the Government towards the medical care and treatment of a scholar of Rahulji's eminence had evoked serious criticism from all sections of the press.

"It is not necessary to point out what the future generations will think of our claim to a welfare state," commented the Saraswati, one of the oldest Hindi literary journals, "if the state fails to arrange proper medical care and treatment for Rahulji, a scholar of international repute. His condition is deteriorating day by day... Further delay might prove fatal."

"How unfortunate," wrote Dr. Prabhakar Machwe in Dharma, "that the learned scholar has to re-learn his alphabets like a tiny tot. We

have failed to give him the honour which is his due; now we are failing in offering him proper help."

"It is the prime responsibility of the Government of India," commented the daily Swadhinata, "to save the life of this beloved son of our motherland."

Various literary, cultural and political organisations voluntarily started collecting funds for his treatment. The entire nation was moved to the gravity of the situation. The invitation from the Soviet Union, therefore, has brought great relief to our people and has been hailed all around.

A reception in honour of Rahulji was organised at Delhi on behalf of Prantiya Hindi Sahitya Sammelan on July 29. Rahulji was garlanded on behalf of various organisations. Every speech made on this occasion was surcharged with optimism and confidence that Rahulji will have the best medical care in Moscow and would return to write more books for us.

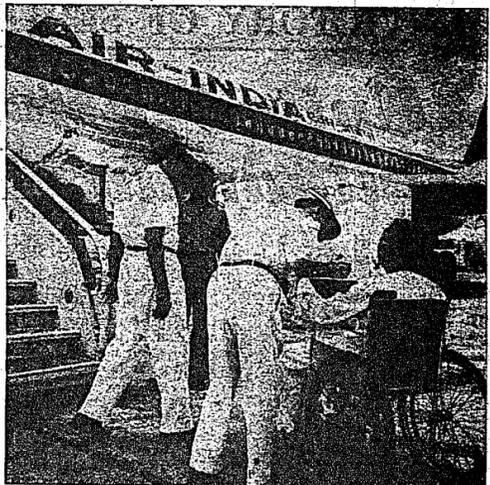
Whenever friends and admirers visited him, Rahulji struggled hard to recognise them. He would extend his hand to grasp theirs, and failing to recognise them, would burst into tears. He would in-

clude on everybody taking food ("Khana Khaya?"), though he himself was being fed like a little child by his wife.

The memory of his two children, Jaya and Jeta (left at Darjeeling), constantly haunted him, and whenever any visitor was accompanied with a child, Rahulji would smother the child with kisses. Occasionally, he also remembered Igor, his son in Leningrad, and enquired about his studies.

One of the favourite pastimes of the ailing scholar has been to listen to his autobiography Jeevan-Yatra (in 2 vols.). Lovingly he would fondle the book, look unbelievably at it, wondering if it was really written by him. It was difficult for him to recall his own or his wife's name, but whenever any interesting incident in the book would be read out, a streak of smile would embellish his lips.

Now that Rahulji has left for the Soviet Union, there is an all round confidence that he would regain his health. The author of "Soviet Bhumi", "Rus Men Pachchis Mas", "Dwandatmak Bhanikwad", "Bhago Nahin Duniya ko Badlo", "Darshan Digidarshan", "Satmin ke Bachche", "Madhya Asia Ka Itihaas" and hundreds of other books is by far one of the most learned scholars of our day and we cannot lose him at this stage when we expect more works of knowledge from the pen of this great writer.



Rahulji boarding the plane for Moscow.

TATA TO TAKE OVER A PUBLIC SECTOR PLANT

The Secretariat of the Kerala State Council of the Communist Party of India has issued the following statement to the press:

A NEWS item has appeared in the press that the Kerala Government is considering a proposal to hand over to Tatas the Titanium Factory situated in Trivandrum and run with 75% of shares owned by the State Government.

Since the Government has not cared to contradict the news, there is reason to believe that the proposal is being considered. The Secretariat of the party desires to point out that the proposal, if true, deserves condemnation on all scores and cannot be justified on any account.

Limonite, the raw material for this factory is available in the coastal areas of Kerala. It was taking into account this favourable factor that the factory was started as early as 1946 under the Dewan regime of C. F. Ramaswami Iyer with the technical collaboration of a firm in U.K.

The then Government had to placate the British firm with undue concessions including the managing agency to secure the technical aid. But on August 15, 1960, the managing agency of the U.K. firm was terminated and a Managing Director was appointed by the Government directly.

Since then the daily production of Titanium dioxide rose from 5 tons to 10 tons and Acid Plant also was put into operation.

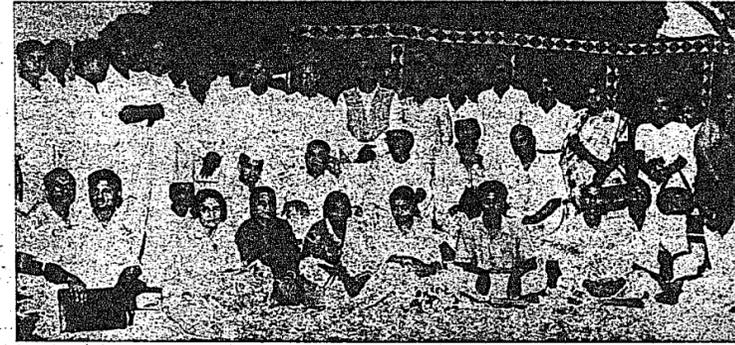
The argument advanced in favour of handing over public sector concerns to private sector is that the public sector concerns are not run profitably and efficiently.

But the case in question tells a different tale. The net profit of the concern in 1960 was 15 lakhs and this is understood to have gone up in 1961. The Tariff Commission has given protection to the Titanium Dioxide produced here till 1964.

In view of the growing demand of the product, and taking into account the period of the III Plan in prospect, license has been secured to increase the production to 50 tons per day.

Under these circumstances, it is difficult to comprehend the reasons that have motivated the initiation of the proposal to hand over this mitch-cow to Tatas.

Whatever be the reasons, the secretariat considers the proposal to be detrimental to the interests of the State. The Secretariat demands that the concern should be retained and developed in the public sector in the best interests of the state and the country.



Rahulji seen in a group of Hindi writers during his recent stay in Delhi.

BOMBAY TEXTILE WORKERS' DEMONSTRATION OF UNITY

From Our Correspondent

BOMBAY: Following the call given by the Girni Kamgar Union, at the Bonus conference held in Bombay last week, over 50,000 workers of textile mills in Bombay staged a mammoth demonstration on August 30 by taking a large morcha towards the office of the mill-owners' Association.

STARTING in batches from various textile mills the morcha marched through the main roads of the city shouting slogans demanding 12 months' Bonus for the years 1959, 60 & 61, and supporting the call of token strike on September 24.

SEPTEMBER 9, 1962

nacharya, Krishna Desai, K. N. Joglekar and other leaders. A delegation consisting of 11 members led by Patkar, Jagtap, Kadam, K. L. Desai and Krishna Desai and some workers called on the representatives of the Millowners, viz. the Chairman, two vice-chairmen and three labour officers, of the Millowners Association and submitted a memorandum on the workers' demands.

In a meeting held later, the workers reiterated their resolute determination to stop work unless the demands were met.

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VICTORY OF SEPTEMBER 9

United Effort Of Bulgarian People

This year the Bulgarian people celebrate their national day, September 9, for the 18th time.

On this day 18 years ago the Bulgarian workers and peasants united under the banner of the Fatherland Front and under the leadership of the Communist Party and, with the fraternal aid of the Soviet Army, which was the decisive factor, overthrew the monarchofascist dictatorship in the country and set up their own people's government.

On that day Bulgaria embarked along a new road, the road of socialist development, which she has followed ever since.

The historic victory of the popular uprising of September 9, 1944 crowned decades of struggle by the Bulgarian people to abolish exploitation, oppression, capitalism and monarchofascism, and to establish freedom, democracy and socialism.

These struggles were organized and led by the Bulgarian Communist Party, headed by such outstanding revolutionaries as Dimiter Blagoev, Georgi Kirkov, Georgi Dimitrov and Vasil Kolarov. Guided by the great ideas of Marxism and Leninism, this party succeeded in raising and leading the people to struggle resolutely against capitalism and fascism and to bring about the complete triumph of socialism.

The Bulgarian people passed along a long and arduous road before achieving this glorious victory. It was the road of valiant strike movements, of the Soldier's Revolt in 1919, of the September Anti-Fascist Uprising of 1923, of the heroic and glorious period of armed struggle against the monarchy and foreign domination from 1941 to 1944.

On the day after Nazi Germany attacked the Soviet Union, the Bulgarian Communist Party appealed to the people to prepare for an armed uprising.

The Communist Party succeeded in uniting the patriotic forces in the country and in turning the anti-fascist movement into a large-scale popular movement.

It succeeded in organizing a powerful insurgent army of popular liberation. On the eve of September 9, 1944, there were 11 brigades and 39 detachments of partisans in the country, comprising thousands of fighters and active assistants.

The power and the scope of the anti-fascist popular movement expressed itself in big strikes and sabotage activities against the Nazi troops, in revolts of soldiers and in entire army units going over onto the side of the people.

The people had to give thousands of precious lives in this stout-hearted struggle against fascism. Over 30,000 fighters were killed in a most brutal manner. Hundreds of thousands of patriots were dragged through the prisons, concentration camps and police headquarters.

Socialist Construction

Coming into being on September 9, 1944, the government of the people led the Bulgarian nation along the bright road of triumphant socialist construction. It opened up boundless opportunities for the powerful forces of creation lying dormant in it. The socialist system brought about revolutionary changes in every walk of life.

Working people of Bulgaria meet this bright anniversary year in a nationwide upsurge of the national economy as outlined in the directives for the Fourth Five-Year Plan (1951-1955) and in the long-term programme for the country's development in the next 20 years, which the eighth congress of the BCP is to adopt in November of this year.

The economy of Bulgaria has changed radically in the past 18 years. Compared to the pre-war 1939, industrial output has increased 14 times, the main efforts having been directed towards creating and developing the heavy industry.

The output of electric power has risen from 266 million kilowatt-hours in 1939 to 2.6 billion in 1957, to 5.4 billion in 1961, and it is to reach 6.3 billion kilowatt-hours this year.

The ferrous metallurgy, the foundations of which were actually laid in 1953 by the erection of the Lenin Works in the town of Pernik, produced 175,000 tons of cast-iron, 340 thousand tons of steel and 271,000 tons of rolled-iron last year.

Almost 80,000 tons of electrolytic copper, lead and zinc was last year's output of the non-ferrous metallurgy which was created less than 10 years ago.

The newest branches of the heavy industry such as the machine-building, the chemical industry, the electrical industry, the light industry and food industry are developing at a tremendous rate.

Bulgaria now makes various kinds of metal-cutting machines, light tractors, electromotors and internal combustion engines, electro-power installations, electric trucks, electric pulley blocks, building machines, ships, freight wagons, passenger carriages, storage batteries, wireless and television sets, motor-cycles, electrical appliances and many more other products of the machine-building and metal-working industries.

The backward private farming with the land-parcelled out piecemeal has been reorganized during the years of the people's government into large scale, mechanized, highly-productive modern farming, which is increasingly and ever more fully satisfying the need of food-stuffs for the people and of raw materials for the industry.

In the period between 1956 and 1961 alone, agricultural output increased by more than 36 per cent, and the Fourth Five-Year Plan stipulates an increase of 47.50 per cent in agricultural output by 1965, including 35 per cent increase in animal husbandry.

As the result of the growth of the country's economy as a whole, output has increased 3.5 times in the period 1948-1961, and national income — 2.9 times.

The growth of the national wealth has made it possible to improve the life of the people systematically. In the past 10 years alone, the consumers fund has increased to more than twice, the value of the real wages — twice.

The salaries and wages of the factory and office workers with lower wages and the smaller pensions were considerably increased and at the same time pensions were introduced for farmers.

The state has allotted large funds for education, for medical aid free of charge, for housing and for public utilities, for public canteens, for rest homes and sanatoria, etc.

In the 1962 budget alone, 750 million leva, which makes nearly 20 per cent of the whole budget, has been allocated for such purposes. These annual expenses increased by the state have caused an increase in the real income of the population.

The mistakes made however, in the management of the national economy during the period between 1952 and 1956, which have led to a certain delay in the rate of development in the different industrial branches and in agriculture, in particular, have



BULGARIA — The Land of Roses. Rose-picking in the Valley of Roses

made it necessary to direct more funds to the development of the co-operative farms.

A part of these funds will be collected from the population by means of a temporary rise in the prices of a number of animal products. The Bulgarian people have come forward with understanding for this urgent need of the country and have voiced their willingness to take upon themselves this temporary sacrifice in the interests of the proper harmonious growth of the economy as a whole.

It is clear to the people that these measures, which correspond fully to the present and future interests of the working people in the towns and villages, are to have an exceptionally favourable influence in consolidating the economy of the country and that they will help to push forward the building of socialism.

As far as farming was concerned, Bulgaria was one of the most backward countries in Europe until the establishment of the people's rule 18 years ago. The land parcelled out in more than 12 million small-holdings, was tilled with the most primitive implements.

New Agricultural Implements

Thus, for instance, 540,000 wooden ploughs and 290,000 primitive sledge-shaped threshing implements were still being used in this country in 1934. Out of a total of 854,869 peasant farmsteads, 225,000 had no draft-animals and thousands of farmsteads had only a horse, an ox or a cow. Agricultural output was very low.

It was difficult for most of the peasants to make both ends meet and many of them were deep in debt. After collectivisation was introduced and the farms were amalgamated, socialist agriculture became mechanized and highly productive and the smallholdings gave way to big farms.

Now the greater part of agricultural operations are done with machinery. About 45,000 tractors (in terms of 15 horse-power units), nearly 8,000 grain combine-harvesters, about 10,000 trucks and thousands of other agricultural machines are now working in this country.

The degree of mechanization will continue to rise and, in 1965

the number of tractors is planned to go up to 68,000, trucks — to 17,000, grain combine-harvesters — to about 18,000 and so on.

Because of the soil and climatic conditions in Bulgaria, irrigation is of exceptional importance, if high yields are to be constantly obtained. The irrigated area is constantly expanding.

While in 1944 it amounted to only 37,500 hectares, in 1957 it had increased to 750,000 hectares and now in 1962 it is to exceed 830,000 hectares.

Artificial fertilizers, a considerable part of which is already produced in this country, are being used more and more. More than 10,000 agronomists, 200 technicians and veterinary doctors are already working in Bulgaria. They help to put the achievements of science into practice on the farms and to raise the standard of the farming.

Greater areas are put down to perennial crops, tobacco and vegetables every year. In the Fourth Five-Year Plan alone, the area under perennial crops is to grow by about 90,000 hectares, reaching 433,000 hectares in 1965.

The co-operatives have also provided favourable conditions for the increase of animal husbandry. The number of cows, sheep, pigs and poultry has risen considerably. There is an increase in the number of animals of better breeds, the breeds are also improving and productivity growing.

The Fourth Five-Year Plan envisages the head of cattle to hit the 2,200,000 mark by 1965, the number of cows to go up to 750,000. Sheep are to increase to 10,500,000, pigs — to 2,700,000 and poultry — to 25,000,000.

The output of animal products will increase in comparison, with 1960 as follows: meat (live weight) — by 64 per cent, milk — by 64 per cent, eggs — by 46 per cent, wool — by 32 per cent.

The state allocates each year hundreds of millions of leva in the budget to aid farming. Thanks to this aid agricultural output is constantly on the upgrade. For the period 1956-61 alone, agricultural output went up by more than 36 per cent. The Fourth Five-Year Plan envisages an increase of 47.50 per cent for 1965, 55 per cent of the increase being for animal husbandry.

Eve Of The 8th Congress Of Hungarian Socialist Workers Party

On August 19 the newspaper Nepszabadsag printed the theses of the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party for the 8th Congress of the Party due to be held next November.

It is stated in the introductory part that the congress constitutes a great event in the life of the party and the people. The Hungarian People's Republic, the Hungarian state and the social system of the country are developing on a healthy basis; the party is strong and united. The forces of socialism are growing steadily and rapidly.

The world socialist system is turning into a factor more and more determining the course of world development. The international forces of socialism and peace are showing ever better organization in the struggle to remove the threat of a new world war. All this creates favourable conditions for the peaceful socialist constructive labour of the Hungarian people.

The Central Committee, in reporting at the congress to the party and the people, will be able to state that it has strictly abided by the policy laid down by the Seventh congress of the party, and fulfilled, in the main, the tasks set by it.

The socialist reorganization of agriculture has been completed; further economic and cultural progress has been made; the working people have created material conditions necessary for increasing the defence capacity of the country; the standard of living has grown.

The theses consist of seven parts. The first of them is devoted to the international situation and the main principles of Hungarian foreign policy.

The HSWP, it is stated in this part, approves and implements in its activities the principles proclaimed by the 20th congress of the CPSU and supported by the documents of the Moscow conferences of representatives of the Communist and workers' parties in 1957 and 1960, and further developed by the 22nd congress and the new Programme of the CPSU.

All over the world, the theses read further on, the ideas of Marxism-Leninism continue to spread; the forces of socialism are growing irresistibly.

Powerful Stream Against Imperialism

The world socialist system, the revolutionary struggle of the world proletariat, and of the masses of the people, the national-democratic and national-liberation movements, the purposeful struggle of the peoples for peace are united in one powerful stream against imperialism, for social progress and peace.

The colonial system of imperialism has collapsed. But world and first of all American monopoly capital continues the arms race fraught with a grave war danger.

In such conditions, it is pointed out in the theses, it is the duty of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries to improve constantly their armed forces and prevent the imperialists from gaining military superiority.

All over the world Communists are in the front ranks of the forces fighting against the military preparations of the imperialists. The struggle for the realization of the principle of peaceful coexistence remains the basis of the foreign policy of the socialist countries.

The Hungarian People's Republic supports with all its forces the struggle for general and complete

disarmament. Our party, government and people come out for the settlement of disputed international issues through peaceful negotiation.

The backbone of Hungarian foreign policy is constituted by friendship and alliance with the Soviet Union, consolidation of the socialist camp, and loyalty to the Warsaw Treaty.

Maintenance and development of Hungarian-Soviet friendship is a guarantee of the preservation of the independence and freedom of our country, a very important factor for the further economic and cultural development of the Republic.

In keeping with the spirit of the Moscow Statement we proclaim that peace and mankind's progress depend on the unity and solidarity of the socialist camp. The Warsaw Treaty is a defence alliance against the military plans of and threats from the member states of NATO. The Hungarian People's Republic is a loyal signatory to the Warsaw Treaty.

The second part of the theses is entitled "A New Victory of the Socialist Revolution in Our Country."

It is devoted to the socialist transformations that have taken place in Hungary over recent years.

Foundations Of Socialism

"With the socialist reorganization of agriculture, socialist relations of production have assumed undivided domination in the entire national economy of the country; we have completed the laying of the foundations of socialism," the theses stress.

"The Hungarian people have scored a new historic victory and entered the period of fullscale construction of socialism."

It is pointed out in the theses that in 1959-61 more than 900,000 peasant families united in agricultural cooperatives. Today already 95.5 per cent of the country's arable land is tilled by cooperatives and state farms.

The socialist reorganization of agriculture was facilitated by several favourable factors. The decisive pre-requisite was the Marxist-Leninist policy of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, approved and supported by the toiling peasantry. Effective economic measures also contributed to this.

The rich experience of the socialist agriculture of the Soviet Union, the example of the fraternal socialist countries helped our toiling peasantry to take the correct road.

With the socialist reorganization of agriculture an end has been put once and for all to conditions for exploitation of man by man. Social and economic possibilities of the restoration of capitalism have been liquidated.

If the Hungarian People's Republic continues to march shoulder-to-shoulder with the Soviet Union and other countries of the socialist camp, the socialist gains of our people will be secured for ever.

The next section, devoted to the development of the country's social and political system, describes how the development and consolidation of workers' rule, the socialist transformations in agriculture and the fundamental changes which have taken place in the class structure of society have strengthened the political unity of the Hungarian people.

At present the foremost task of further development is for all the working classes and strata to

new victories in socialist construction

rally still closer politically and morally in the process of the complete construction of socialism.

The struggle for the creation of socialist-national unity is headed by the working class and its revolutionary party, the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, which is the acknowledged leader of the whole Hungarian people.

The tasks of economic construction are given a big place in the theses. The marked economic strides made since the 7th Congress of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party are highlighted. During the three-year plan, national revenue increased 22 per cent instead of the expected 13 per cent; another rise of 14 per cent is recorded in the first two years of the five-year plan.

Socialist industry boosted output by 40 per cent during the three-year plan, as against the planned 22 per cent. Ever since 1958, the pace of Hungary's industrial development has equalled that of the other socialist countries.

The main front on which the struggle for the complete construction of socialism is being waged is that of raising labour productivity and the profitability of production, and also expanding production.

A big role in the development of Hungary's national economy, note the Theses, has been played by close cooperation with all the countries belonging to the Council of Economic Mutual Aid. From the day of their liberation, the Hungarian people have enjoyed the generous, fraternal and all-round assistance of the Soviet Union.

The Theses continue: "We approve and welcome the document 'Fundamental Principles of the International Socialist Division of Labour' and the decisions taken at the 1962 Moscow Meeting of Representatives of the Communist and Workers' Parties of the countries affiliated with the Council of Economic Mutual Aid."

"The interests of our country and of the whole world system of socialism demand the further extension and activation of the role and responsibility of the Council of Economic Mutual Aid.

Support To Comecon

"Following the principle of peaceful coexistence, we want to go on developing economic relations with the highly developed capitalist countries. We support the proposal of the Moscow Meeting of the Council of Economic Mutual Aid (COMECON) for the development of mutually advantageous world trade and also favour the suggestion that this question be discussed at an international conference."

The fifth section of the Theses take up the achievements and tasks of the country's cultural development. The next section deals with the development of the Party.

All the victories of the socialist revolution, states this section, have been achieved primarily due to the fact that the Hungarian working class and working people have a united Marxist-Leninist

international party which has solved and is continuing to cope with its historic tasks.

The workers, peasants and intellectuals who belong to the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party are united by the ideas of communism, by their common aims. The Party, which is the revolutionary vanguard of the working class, has won the active support of the overwhelming majority of the people.

The effect of the complete construction of socialism, the achievement of the socialist unity of society, and spread of the ideas of Marxism-Leninism result in the working-class vanguard becoming a Party of the Whole People.

The policy of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party determines the objectives and direction of all the activity of the people. The Party proceeds in all that it does from the theory of Marxism-Leninism; its policy expresses the interests of the whole Hungarian people.

The Party is always guided by the "real state of affairs and never forgets its final goal, which is to build communism. All its activity lies in service to the working class and the people.

The HSWP considers that its historic mission is to join in the struggle of the international revolutionary working-class movement, affiliate itself with the interests of the whole of progressive mankind and lead the Hungarian working class and the entire nation to the complete triumph of the socialist revolution, and then to communism.

Personality Cult Broken

The Theses go on to say that the Party has broken with the personality cult in the course of struggle against the counter-revolution and of socialist upbuilding.

As the document adopted prior to the Congress by the Central Committee of the HSWP stresses, the personality cult is alien to Marxism-Leninism; to the working class, to socialist society. The personality cult does not spring from the socialist system, nor has it changed its social character. The personality cult was exposed and rejected by socialist society and the communist movement.

"Our Party was infected with the Stalin personality cult combined with the Rakosi cult. Following 1949, Rakosi and a small group of his cronies gradually forgot collective leadership and put themselves above the Central Committee, the Party and the people. Their sectarian pseudo-radicalism distorted the policy of the Party. They ignored socialist legality."

The personality cult undermined the Party's authority and weakened confidence between the Party and the masses; it harmed socialist construction, confused Marxist thinking, obstructed daring communist initiative and the creative activity of the people, and encouraged careerism, cynicism in questions of principle, boot-licking, and conservatism.

"The Rakosi clique, which had abused its power and done the

Hungarian people and international communist movement tremendous harm, was removed from leadership and the political life of the country by the HSWP after November 4, 1956. The Party restored Leninist standards of Party life and socialist legality.

"The Central Committee excluded from the ranks of the party those who bore the main political responsibility for the crimes committed during the years of the personality cult. By taking these decisive measures, the Party established guarantees against a repetition of such illegality."

The life of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party, the theses further read, is regulated by Leninist standards. Collective leadership has been established. All essential matters of principle and political questions are decided by the Central Committee.

The principle of collective leadership is being implemented: a frank, sincere and comradely atmosphere reigns throughout the Party. The Party has put an end to the personality cult. The Party has been revived and has again won the confidence and support of the people; it has exposed revisionist, betrayal and strengthened Marxist-Leninist unity.

The Party's unity has grown still stronger since the Seventh Congress. In the process of elaborating and realizing the Marxist-Leninist policy, the Party successfully waged a struggle against Right-wing and Left-wing views.

The concluding seventh section is captioned: "The Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party and the International Communist Movement."

The HSWP, it is pointed out in this section, is part of the international communist movement and is guided by the ideas of proletarian internationalism. The Communist Party of the Soviet Union is the most experienced Party, the vanguard detachment of the international communist movement, the theses stress.

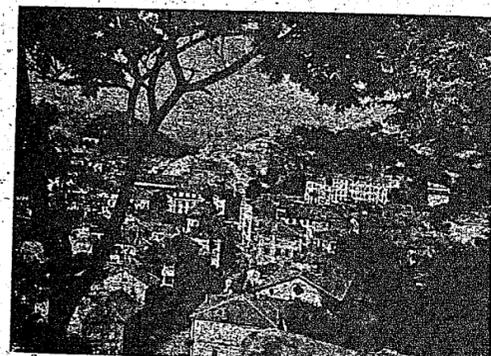
The role of the CPSU in the communist movement has taken shape in the course of history: the CPSU, for the first time in history, led the socialist revolution to victory and built socialism; it mapped out a programme of communist construction and directs its practical implementation. The attitude towards the Soviet Union and its Communist Party remains today the touchstone of internationalism.

Leninist Policy Elevated

The Statements of the Meetings of Representatives of Communist and Workers' Parties in 1957 and in 1960, it is further pointed out, elevated the Leninist policy elaborated by the 20th CPSU Congress to the level of the general line of the international communist movement.

The correctness of the Leninist policy mapped out by the 20th Congress is also being confirmed by the experience of the HSWP. The implementation of the principles of the 20th Congress in

—ON PAGE 11



PLOVDIV, Second biggest city of Bulgaria

It succeeded in organizing an armed, partisan movement under conditions of savage terror. Under the leadership of this movement the working class, the bulk of the working peasants and of the petty bourgeois rallied under the banner of the Fatherland Front.

The programme of the Fatherland Front which was announced on July 17, 1942, contained the most fundamental political, economic and national aspirations of the people. It was on the basis of this programme that the Com-

PAGE SIX

SATYAGRAHA AGAINST RISE IN PRICES

BANGALORE, August 31:

After the State-wide protest demonstrations against rise in prices and taxes organised by the Party, the agitation has assumed the form of direct action in some centres in Karnataka.

OVER 2,000 persons offered satyagraha in various centres in South Kanara District on August 7, demanding opening of more fair price shops in the District. This year the price of rice has risen by nearly 25% compared to the rates prevailing at this time last year.

In spite of this, only 23 fair-price shops were opened by the Government as against 30 shops run last year. Even in these shops, the supplies were very irregular and on many occasions poor people standing in long queues for hours had to return empty handed.

The Communist Party was the first to take up this issue and carry on an agitation for regular supplies in the existing shops and for opening of more fair-price shops. The authorities paid no heed to the various representations made. Finally the Communist Party decided to launch a one-day mass hunger-strike on August 7 in front of the District Commissioner's office and also in all the Taluk Headquarters.

1,500 Offer Satyagraha

Accordingly, nearly 1,500 persons, mostly workers and including about 300 women, offered Satyagraha in Mangalore under the leadership of A. Krishna Shetty MLA. About 500 persons offered satyagraha at Udipi under the leadership of B. V. Kakkilaya. M. H. Krishnappa and Shankaram Pal led similar batches in other places.

The Party wanted to observe a general strike and hartal on August 17, but it was postponed with a view to drawing other sections of the people also in the agitation. Even the District Congress Committee President has supported the justness of this demand.

NEW TAXES IN OFFING

THE Mysore Government has now planned to bring in legislations in the forthcoming Assembly Session beginning in September, which will fetch the State nearly Rs. 4 crores of additional taxes per year.

The proposed new taxes are tax on urban immovable property, tax on buildings, withdrawal of exemptions under Sales tax, enhancement of agricultural income-tax, stamp duty, surcharge on entertainment etc. throughout the state.

Mysore was the only state so far which had not imposed sales-tax on food grains. The new bill proposes to remove all these exemptions and food-grains, cereals, firewood, charcoal etc., on which no sales-tax was levied will in future be subject to levy. All these will fur-

ther add to the burdens on the common man.

Dissatisfaction has already been expressed by various sections about these measures. The Government has quoted the authority of the RESOURCES AND ECONOMY COMMITTEE of the State Government in support of these new taxes.

However, the Government has conveniently ignored the

important recommendations of the same committee, namely that eight ministers are sufficient for the state.

SIX HMT WORKERS ACQUITTED

THE Sessions Judge has at last acquitted six out of the seven ac-

cused in the murder case instituted against the trade union militants in the Hindustan Machine Tools Factory, Bangalore.

Only one of them Raghavachari has been convicted for seven years under Section 304 (2), of the Cr.P.C. K. Madhawa Rao, P. Sunder Raj, K. P. Balakrishna, A. G. Nalk, H. S. Doddiah and G. V. Velayudan have been acquitted. All these workers were arrested in March 1961 on the alleged ground of having murdered one Krishnappa of the rival Union in the HMT.

SPOTLIGHT

By GARUDA

Disgrace To Parliament

Many of our newspaper readers may not be aware of the story how the Jan Sangh disgraced Parliament by blowing its communal trumpet in the Lok Sabha on August 28 and its leader was severely taken to task for his anti-national performance.

THE following is from the records of what took place during the Lok Sabha's debate on the Nagaland Bill on that day:

Jan Sangh leader U. M. Trivedi: The Muslims told us, whether they lived in Kerala, whether they lived in Tamilnad, whether they lived in Andhra Pradesh or whether they lived in Gujarat, each one said: "My mother tongue is Urdu"—whether he understood one word of Urdu or did not understand—and created trouble for us.

Harvani: The Tamilnad Muslims never said that Urdu is their mother tongue; they always considered Tamil as their mother tongue.

Trivedi: I have been told and I have been taught and I have heard people saying that ... (further remarks expunged).

Raghunath Singh: One Hon. Member, Abdul Wahid from the South said that Tamil was his mother tongue.

One does not know, but perhaps it would have been better to let the Jan Sanghite observations remain on the record and publicise it among the people as an instance of the base and slanderous propaganda being indulged in by this party.

Those who may be having some illusions about the true character of this party, might thereby be helped to see the real face of these anti-national upstarts.

Jan Sangh's methods are simple to the point of crudity. Trying to play on the "Hindu ethos" of certain backward sections of the Indian people, they sow hatred against the minority communities, particularly the Muslims and Christians. The hatred is frequently fanned to the point of bloody communal carnage.

Blatant Lies

They do not scruple to use the most blatant lies to further their aims. The RSS, which works as the brain-washing agency for the Jan Sangh cadres and leaders, carries on a most consistent campaign of communal calumny.

It is hammered into heads, whose IQ is far from high, that patriotism was the sole monopoly of Hindus in India and that others could never be loyal to the motherland. "Every Muslim is a living Pakistan on two legs" wrote the "Organiser", propaganda organ of the RSS and Jan Sangh.

That the Muslims of Tamilnad, Kerala or Andhra were not loyal to their respective mother tongues is one of the lies which they broadcast. It was Trivedi's misfortune that he uttered this lie in Parliament and got in the neck.

outside—from press, platform and pulpit—his party-men are daily repeating in-

numerable such lies and getting away with the same, thanks to the patronage they enjoy among influential Congress quarters and the patings they get from persons like Dr. Lohia.

NEW AGE

SEPTEMBER 9, 1962



Panchayati Raj & Politicians: Prohibition Programme Setback

AHMEDABAD, September 1:

Congressmen in Gujarat are wrangling for top positions in the zilla and taluka panchayats, new bodies which are to come into existence from January 1, 1963 consequent on ushering in of 'Panchayati Raj' in the State.

THE "wrangle" has assumed such a proportion that some political observers are tempted to remark that Panchayati Raj may well become Panchat (meaning trouble) Raj for the Congress Party as well as Government in course of time, after it is ushered in.

On the one hand, spokesmen of the Government, from Chief Minister down to smallest officers, are painting a rosy picture of good government following the implementation of this new, three-tier system of administration. On the other hand, groupism in the ruling Congress Party is having a heyday.

Under the new Panchayat Act of Gujarat, Chairman of the zilla panchayat would get more powers than even district collector and this is the reason why the post of zilla panchayat chairman has assumed importance.

Many a Congressman, who has spent most of his life in the cities, is now making frantic bid to get himself enrolled as a voter in villages in order to fulfill certain explicit conditions in the Panchayat Act. Candidate for the post of zilla panchayat must be a voter in the village, under the Act.

This sudden 'invasion' by the so-called leaders from urban areas has shocked real, genuine village leaders. Consequently, a sort of conflict is discernible between the urban and rural wings of the Congress, which for a time has over-shadowed even the traditional groups.

Those Congressmen, who are presently in positions as Chairmen of district local boards, district school boards and other such statutory bodies, are keen to get the support from villages.

These bodies are to be wound up after Panchayat Raj scheme is implemented. Even those Congressmen who failed to get tickets during General Elections or were disowned by the electorate are also in the field.

Efforts are being made by Congressmen to bring the village panchayats round them; since elections at taluka panchayat level, unlike zilla panchayats, would be indirect.

This wrangling is not limited to any particular area but is prevalent practically in all the districts of Gujarat and Saurashtra. It would appear that the Con-

gress, which sought to keep party politics out of village panchayats would itself become a party to introduce this element.

In fact, a section of Congressmen already affirms that it would be quite futile if the party did not contest panchayat elections when other parties were fast preparing for it. Though AICC has already adopted a resolution in this respect, the question is coming up as a major controversy within the Congress here.

Meanwhile, it has been officially announced by Ratubhai Adani, Gujarat Minister for Panchayats and Rural Development, that Prime Minister Nehru has agreed to launch Panchayat Raj scheme in Gujarat on January 1.

According to Congress sources, Morarji Desai might attempt to reconcile the two warring groups. But there is a section of Congressmen here which takes rather a pessimistic view of the attempt succeeding.

CONSIDERABLE significance is being attached to the Baroda meetings of the executive and general body of the Gujarat Pradesh Congress Committee on September 2.

According to sources close to the Congress workers, the Baroda meetings are likely to be 'stormy' inasmuch as certain vital issues would be brought under discussion and a trial of strength be-

tween the rival groups will take place.

The widening rift between the organisational and administrative wings in the context of the recent provocative outbursts of Thakorebhai Desai, a former GPCC President against the Gujarat Ministry, is expected to be the main topic of discussion.

Gujarat Deputy Minister for Prohibition Manubhai Patel, while inaugurating the three-day meet at Rajkot, said that the State Government was alive to the situation that had arisen in the absence of prohibition in Diu and Daman and was taking steps at higher levels in this connection. It is understood that Gujarat Government has already urged the Centre to extend implementation of prohibition to Diu and Daman.

Some interesting statistics and instances were cited at the Rajkot conference in support of the plea that 'dry law' had suffered adversely of late. It was stated that not less than 800 persons daily visited Diu island, off the Saurashtra coast, to enjoy drinking. These persons include officers, big businessmen and even college students. People from far off places like Rajkot and Ahmedabad also flock to Diu.

There were some 22 wine shops in this tiny former Portuguese enclave catering to a population of 22 thousand. The solitary distillery, having capacity of manufacturing 60 gallons of liquor daily, is not able to meet the present demand of 150 gallons daily. The demand was hardly 25 gallons before the Indian military action was launched in December last, it is stated.

The conference also urged the Gujarat Government to immediately regulate the sale and consumption of cologne water which is now being widely used as substitute for liquor. It also decided to picket, if need be, the place where cologne water was being sold. (IPA)

IMPLEMENTATION of prohibition received a severe setback in Gujarat following the removal of all restrictions on the movement of persons from Diu-Daman and Saurashtra, so much so that work done in the border areas by social workers over these years is going waste.

The conference of district prohibition organisers and social

Kerala Newsletter

From OUR CORRESPONDENT

Cashew Workers United Struggle For Bonus

TRIVANDRUM, August 31:

Cutting through political strife, communal acrimony and power politics, the 75,000 Cashew workers of the Quilon District, men and women who earn valuable foreign exchange for the country, are continuing a united action to secure a square deal from greedy and recalcitrant owners of Cashew factories in Kerala.

THE issue this time is grant of Bonus, and all the workers belonging to the AITUC, INTUC and UTUC are united as one in the struggle.

Patent attempts on the part of the Unions to secure bonus as before proved of no avail, since the owners have refused to grant any bonus this year on the false plea and cry of "LOSS".

C. M. Stephen MLA and Secretary of KPCC and leader of the INTUC, R. Sugathan, a top leader of the AITUC and Divakaran of UTUC, assisted by a band of active trade union workers belonging to the three unions are jointly campaigning for the demands of the workers and helping the 75,000 workers to continue the struggle peacefully till the demands are won.

It is over 12 days today since the strike was begun and it has been peaceful throughout. The Govern-

weeks to settle the issue, but the recalcitrant attitude of the Cashew Kings has been responsible for the failure of the discussions.

The owners are out to flout all principles governing the grant of bonus and all precedents of bonus payment in the industry in the earlier years. But workers are determined to stand united and win the demands.

Demonstration Against Rising Prices

THE working people of Alleppey District and Trichur District demonstrated against rising prices and taxes on August 31 and September 2, respectively and demanded measures by the State and Central Governments to control prices and ensure daily necessities to common man at regulated prices.

The demonstration was planned under the auspices of the Anti-Tax-Price Committee at Alleppey wherein the trade unions, kisan sanghams, the

INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST MISCELLANY No. 5

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 - Old Doctrines And New Situation and other articles of interest

PEOPLE'S PUBLISHING HOUSE
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NEW AGE

PAGE NINE

NOW ENGLAND IS A U-2 BASE

A regular and sinister feature of the Tory strategy has always been to take highly unpatriotic and politically dangerous course of actions while the Parliament is in recess.

GENUINE parliamentary opposition becomes difficult, and with Gaitskell in the saddle in the Labour Party, it is futile to expect powerful mass demonstrations of the organised labourers against the manoeuvres of the MacMillan government from the official Opposition.

And, if any criticism of the issue in question will mean a dangerous onslaught against the basis of the Anglo-American alliance, the British Press then can be trusted to do nothing of the sort.

This is precisely what has happened when three U-2 jet aircraft of the United States Air Force arrived at the RAF station at Upper Heyford (Oxfordshire) last week to carry out, it is stated, "atmospheric sampling and high-altitude weather research."

These aircraft are, in a way, remarkable. They resemble huge sail plane with their 80 ft. wing and relatively small fuselage. They are capable of flying more than 15 miles high and (more important) of flying a great distance with their engines shut off, which makes them noiseless.

Dangerous Possibilities

The permission given to the U.S. Air Force to operate these aircraft from the soil of Britain is fraught with the gravest consequences. It is just over two years that a similar American plane was shot down over the territory of the Soviet Union while it was engaged in spying over her territory.

At that time, the Americans issued a statement that Gary Powers' plane was "observing" the weather over the Turkish frontier. The world, of course, is now fully aware of the true facts behind that sordid episode of history.

The Powers' flight wrecked an impending summit conference and forced the international political climate to worsen hundred-fold overnight.

During the subsequent trial of Powers in Moscow, the whole unadulterated truth behind these dangerous strategies of the Central Intelligence Agency, in particular, was unmasked for all the world to shudder at and ponder.

As if the U-2 debacle was not enough, less than two months later, another American aircraft, an RB-47 bomber, with its base at Brize Norton, once again at Oxfordshire, was shot down over the Soviet Union.

And now, once more, the notorious U-2 planes have been officially allowed to start their provocative flights which go against the vital securities

of the socialist countries, ignoring, in the process, the proud frontiers of the non-aligned countries and others.

The MacMillan government came under heavy fire in 1960, after the RB-47 incident, throughout the length and breadth of the country. The government was asked in the Parliament to enter, as a minimum measure, into a written agreement with the American government covering conditions on which such flights could operate in future.

MacMillan disclosed that there was "an understanding" between the two governments, based on the disgraceful notion that (to quote The Guardian) "what is good for the United States Air Force is good for the alliance as a whole."

People in this country recall that in connection with both the U-2 and RB-47 flights, the Tory government revealed that it had not been informed by the Americans that these dangerous flights were being taken.

It is possible for the present government to equate with great ease the interests of the United States Air Force with those of Britain and her people.

But the peace-loving forces throughout the world, the non-aligned powers and, above all, the socialist countries are not going to be taken in by the use of such hypocritical terminology as has been used to describe the purpose of the latest U-2 visits.

Sources angered by this unashamed joint move of Britain and the United States have reminded both of them of the statement made by the Soviet Minister of Defence, Marshall Malinovsky, after the last U-2 incident, wherein the latter stated that the commander-in-chief of the Soviet rocket forces would have orders to initiate immediate retaliation against any base from which spy-flights over the Soviet Union took place.

The neurotic obsessions of the notorious John Birch Society in the United States may lead them to accuse the American ruling class and C.I.A., in particular, of engineering the Francis Powers' U-2 plane over Sverdlovsk at the Kremlin's bidding.

Latest Provocation

But the great majority of the peace-loving people, representatives of whom gathered at the World Congress for Peace and Disarmament in Moscow, in July, 1962, possess better sense and they feel justly angered at this latest Anglo-American provocative act while the Geneva Conference is continuing its deliberations.

tely, this has not yet developed and the people are asking why?

BERNARD LOVELL, Director of the world famous Jodrell Bank Radio Telescope at Manchester, was among the first of those scientists who publicly warned the Americans that their high-altitude nuclear test would adversely affect the scientific exploration of the outer space.

When the bomb was exploded 200 miles above Johnson Island in the Pacific on July 9, 1962, it released swarms of high energy electrons which became trapped in the earth's magnetic field and formed a doughnut-shaped belt round the earth.

This new belt of radiation, created by this high-altitude test, has already had its effects, its first casualty being the British satellite Ariel which was transmitting scientifically useful information back to earth.

The electrons released by the test made the solar cells of the satellite deteriorate faster and silenced it, thus making it a useless lump of metal. Subsequent transmissions have been

found to be grossly inaccurate.

But more important than this is the fact that this new artificial radiation belt is likely to be dangerous to other satellites and cosmonauts.

Professor Keldysh, a prominent Soviet scientist, has declared that the Americans had made space "dirty" and that it was not safe for space-men to fly in "higher orbits" at present.

The whole point, as scientists like Professor Lovell have been trying to tell the world, is that it is a crime against humanity to use outer space for carrying out experiments for military purposes.

This is a lesson that the western, particularly American scientists must learn before their insane acts (prompted by their government) render man's quest for knowledge of the universe useless and impossible.

In spite of the vigorous protests by scientists like Professor Lovell and many others from other parts of the world, the United States government carried out its high-altitude test. Now the prophesy of these scientists has been vindicated.

After this, it is being asked how can the American government and its scientists claim that they know what they are doing?

On The Issue Of Disarmament

WEST'S PROPAGANDA STUNT

★ By M. KRYLOV

Washington and London plugged their "new" proposals with a flourish of trumpets and a flood of highfaluting phrases.

LONG before they were officially submitted in the 18-Nation Committee the pro-government press in the United States and Britain praised them as something "sensational", "unprecedented" and even "historic". It was emphasized that this time the West makes concessions to the Russians on all points and if a test-ban agreement is not signed now, only the Soviet Union will be to blame for this.

Being unaware of the details of the Western proposals and hearing panegyrics to them, one can really believe that if they contain nothing sensational, then at least they must surely contain something more or less significant.

It turned out, however, that the two draft treaties on the discontinuance of nuclear tests tabled by the United States and Britain in the 18-Nation Committee, far from making any concessions to the reasonable Soviet standpoint, contain nothing new or constructive at all.

The first document — the so-called Draft Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons Tests in all Spheres is in effect a repetition and a more systematic exposition of the already known US proposals which are absolutely unacceptable for the Soviet Union.

The pivot of this draft, the basic point of it, remains the demand for a compulsory international inspection on site which, as is known, is absolutely unnecessary and which the Western powers need for espionage.

the eight neutral nations' proposals.

The latter could serve as a basis for rapidly reaching an agreement on halting all tests — in the atmosphere, in outer space, under water and underground. But while declaring that they took into account the "eight-nation memorandum, Washington and London, in fact, completely ignored it.

The draft they presented ignores one of the basic points of the memorandum saying that, on-site inspection can be conducted only with the consent of the states on whose territory an unidentified phenomenon occurred. Washington and London likewise ignored another important point in the memorandum saying that a test-ban agreement would be observed with the aid of national detection means.

The eight-nation memorandum was, as is known, supported by the majority of the Committee. It is undoubtedly a real step towards an agreement. By rejecting it, the United States and Britain only demonstrated their unwillingness to promote the success of the talks.

Let us take now the so-called alternative draft of the United States and Britain, which envisages the prohibition of nuclear tests only in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water.

The second draft, clearly, was tabled for the purpose of, first, disguising the obstructionist character of first draft and, second, legalising underground nuclear tests.

way the arms race or prevent the spread of nuclear weapons.

On the contrary, the legalisation of underground tests will further step up the competition in the nuclear arms race and will encourage other states to acquire nuclear weapons.

Speaking in the 18-Nation Committee in Geneva, Soviet delegate V. Kuznetsov aptly recalled that quite recently A. Dean, the head of the US delegation, himself pointed out that considerable results in nuclear weapon improvement could be achieved by means of conducting even small underground tests.

A. Dean said that particular progress in the development of weapons had been attained as a result of underground tests. Thus, concrete results could be achieved by holding small underground tests... In other words, big results could be achieved owing to small tests.

Since a big effect is possible when small underground tests

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NEW AGE
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RECENT LITERARY TRENDS

From O. S. CROHMALINCEANU,
Assistant Chief Editor GAZETA LITETARE
(Weekly newspaper of the Union of Writers of Rumania)

Writing this letter, which aims at providing the Indian reading public with a glimpse of cultural life in the Rumanian People's Republic, I have had to overcome a strong feeling of shyness.

OUR countries lie thousands of miles apart. For centuries, India was known in our culture as the fabulous world of an emperor of folk stories like "Alexandria".

Nevertheless, even in that form, wreathed in a halo of legend, it was present in the minds, and kindled the imagination of our poets, from Eminescu to Cosbuc and the irresistible lure of the East. Now, what does the Indian reader know about Rumanian literature? That is the reason for my feeling of shyness.

But these times, with their spirit of rapprochement among the peoples under the sign of progress, give me confidence.

Between our countries, the friendly search for ways to build a world on a more just basis, with peaceful interests actuated by the wish for mutual acquaintance and co-operation, has in recent years caused distance to melt away very quickly.

It is with that feeling, then, that I have tried here to inform Indian reading public posted of an aspect of Rumanian cultural

actuality, and I'm sure I'm not mistaken. Any explanations that those interested might require, and will be kind enough to communicate to me, will be helpful to me in carrying out my task in future.

As I write this letter, Rumanian writers strongly feel the impact of an historical event that marks an epoch for our country: the collectivization of agriculture has been fully completed three years before the planned term.

Thus in our country socialist relations have been extended to embrace the whole of our economic and social life.

The importance of this fact is immediately apparent when I recall that years ago Rumania was known as an "essentially agrarian country", the majority of her population being peasants.

The deep-going revolution in people's consciousness brought about by this freely consented transition from individual small holdings to collective work with up-to-date technical means on united holdings is the result of the wise, patient, persevering poli-

cy and adherence to principle of the Rumanian Workers' Party.

The way in which millions of peasants decided before the term to set out on the path of socialist agriculture clearly shows their faith in the new system, their firm belief that it can assure them of a life that is better in every way.

A socio-historical process of this kind, with its fundamental moral implications, is bound to interest writers in the highest degree. Dozens of them asked to participate directly in the work of total collectivization, to see for themselves on the spot the reactions of the people and the various situations best suited to provide understanding of the event.

Many writers mixed with Party activists, talked with the peasants

and took a direct part in the explanation work, in order, to help in it and acquire a close knowledge of its progress. "In the field" as the current expression here goes nowadays — the literary periodicals get many reports, notes and pen-pictures, all being the immediate echo of this contact with the Rumanian village world in full and radical revolutionary change.

DRAMA OF LAND

The event is also of vital importance for our literature, for in the past the destiny of the peasantry and what used to be known as the "drama of land" was always one of the main themes of our writers.

It was tackled with exceptional realist vigour by such brilliant novelists, as Mihail Sadoveanu (1880-1961) and Liviu Rebreanu (1887-1944). Based on those traditions, our new literature is proud of having kept abreast with the revolutionary changes in village life and even of having contributed to them on a considerable scale by the influence it exerted on men's consciousness.

I think the Indian reading public is curious to know something about those books and in what actual ways they exerted an influence on men's minds.

Some of them concentrated on throwing a true light on the existence of the peasantry under the old regime, on exposing unsparringly the inhuman conditions of life in those times, on giving men a truer knowledge of their secular enemies — the landlords, the tenant farmers, the grain speculators, the tax-collectors and those who acted as tools of the exploiters' repression machine — the gendarmes, mayors etc.

A book of this kind, shattering for the almost incredible, yet strictly authentic character of the picture of misery, oppression, and ignorance that it paints is Zaharia Stancu's novel *Barfoot*, which has been translated also in India.

Based on the associations of childhood memories, with the overriding maternal watchword of "Darie, don't forget!" that endures as a legacy, it is written in a very original style for novels dealing with the peasant world.

Another book, not less moving and on a rather similar subject, is Marin Preda's *The Morometes*. This novel, whose realism, as I think, reminds one of Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* and Caldwell's *God's Little Acre* and whose studies in dissimulation might be likened to those of Dostoyevsky, deals with the fate that overtakes the smallholder who thinks that he can outwit the cunning of capitalist society and maintain his relative material and moral independence.

In the distressing story of this disaster, the book shows how in the peasant's mind favourable ground is created for the emergence of hope in a different socio-economic system. The way to the latter was first described in our literature by Mihail Sadoveanu himself in *Mitrea Cocor*, which provides a reply to the dis-

treasing questions put in his earlier books.

The first of the great writer's heroes thus advances from individual revolt to understanding of organized struggle; in alliance with the workers, for liquidation of landlord exploitation.

The moment our peasants are freed from the chains of semi-feudal relations through the conquest of state power by the broad masses and through land reform is described by the young novelist Titus Popovici in *Thirst*, a novel built up on strikingly dramatic lines full of the revolutionary pathos of the times.

The Rumanian writers then went on to try and picture the effective transition process to socialist agriculture. Pioneering in that line — the creation of the first settlements of that kind in the countryside — is narrated from the angle of the Communist worker in the struggle against secular inertia, against a thousand difficulties, against the irreconcilable enemies of the new system by V. E. Galan in *Baragan*.

We have also had a number of short stories, among which the most moving in picturing the upheavals in the consciousness of the once-down-trodden, the awakening of their sense of human dignity which coincides with the founding of farms based on respect for labour and human capacity is Marin Preda's *In a Village*.

CHANGING PHASES

These catch the initial stages of collectivization. The laborious process of overcoming the individualist spirit, the appearance of new peasant types — ardent fighters for socialism — is the subject of other books such as Dumitru Radu Popescu's *Days of the Week*, Relavesby's A. I. Ghilia, Gyula Szabo's *The Gondor Family* and others.

At the present stage our writers are concentrating their attention on life in collective farms. The ethical and social problems that arise out of new labour relations, the use of advanced technique, the overcoming of civic, family or cultural prejudices form the object of works dealing with a number of these aspects.

Among the last-named are recent novels such as Serban Nedelcu's *Open Road*, Petre Salmucanu's *Front without Trenches*, the tales of Andras Suto featured by delightful touches of humour and many other short stories and sketches, the work of a numerous array of gifted young prose-writers and keen observers of the deep-going changes in village life such as Fanus Neagu, Nicolae Velea, Simion Pop, Vasile Rebreanu.

They are already planning works on a vast and more enterprising scale, regarding which I do not doubt that I shall have news for you in future letters.

Thus in our country the collectivization of agriculture is not merely a social event of capital historic importance, it also determines genuine creative effervescence in present-day Rumanian literature.

New Victories In Socialist Construction

*From Page 7

Hungary provided the Party with the opportunity to rapidly eliminate, in close unity with the people, the confusion evoked by dogmatism and revisionism, to overcome the difficulties caused by the counter-revolution, to point out the direction for the further construction of socialism and to build it more successfully than in the past.

The new CPSU Programme adopted at the 22nd Congress, this Communist Manifesto of our time, is the further development of Marxism-Leninism. This Programme provides a scientific answer to the basic problems of our epoch, sums up the successes of the Soviet Union in building socialism and communism, generalises the tasks in the struggle for the peaceful coexistence of the two systems, for complete elimination of the colonial system, and

the victory of socialism throughout the world.

"The HSWP is convinced that our country consistently implementing the Leninist policy, will, following the Soviet Union, go over within a historically short period to the building of communist society."

"The HSWP considers it its international duty to do everything within its power to strengthen the unity of the international communist movement. The Party is persistently waging the struggle for Marxist-Leninist unity, against revisionist and dogmatic distortions of Marxism-Leninism.

The Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party calls upon all organisations and members of the Party to prepare in the spirit of these theses for the great event in the life of the Party and the people, for the Eighth Congress of the HSWP."

Lessons Of Personality Cult

The newspaper, *Nepszabadsag*, on August 19, published a decision by the Central Committee of the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party (HSWP) "on the closing of unlawful proceedings, launched against leaders of the workers' movement in the period of the personality cult."

The decision points out that the Central Committee of the HSWP, preparing for the forthcoming 8th Congress of the Party, deems it necessary to take into consideration the lessons of the period of the personality cult in order that the mistakes of this period are not repeated in the future.

For this purpose, a special commission was set up in 1961 which studied the materials of the political trials held in 1949-1953 on the basis of fictitious charges. Although these political cases were repeatedly re-examined since 1953, decisive influence on their retrial was exerted up till 1956 by people who did not strive to discover the real truth, because they themselves bore responsibility for the holding of these trials.

The decision underscores the fact that the political trials of leaders of the workers' movement were due to manifestations of the personality cult in the theoretical and practical work of the Party and also the desire of the Rakosi clique to seize the Party leadership and hold it in their hands. Former members of the Central Control Commission also bear grave responsibility for the violation of elementary rights of Party

members.

The decision stresses the particular political responsibility of the Rakosi clique for spreading the cult of the individual, for the tremendous harm it inflicted on the people, the Party and the cause of socialism, and for the political trials in the period of the personality cult.

The Central Committee has at its disposal documents testifying that a considerable part of the false charges brought up at the political trials were personally invented by Rakosi which he himself had admitted in some of his pronouncements.

Ernoe Geroc, one of the initiators of the trials, bears great responsibility together with Rakosi. Holding the post of Minister of the Interior after 1953, Geroc dragged out the examination of cases of rehabilitation of the convicted people, the result being that for a number of years hundreds of innocent people were not exonerated.

Many executives of the former state security administration, procurator's office and judicial organs also share with the Rakosi clique responsibility for the trials.

Having examined the materials of the political trials held during the period of the personality cult, the Central Committee decided to fully exonerate the innocent comrades, who had been convicted, and to expel Matyas Rakosi and Ernoe Geroc from the Hungarian Socialist Workers' Party as persons bearing chief political responsibility for the trials.

The Central Committee confirmed the expulsion from the Party of 17 former workers of the judiciary, procurator's office and state security organs, bearing responsibility for the trials, and also of six people who belonged to either the Rakosi or Geroc faction.

Based on the associations of childhood memories, with the overriding maternal watchword of "Darie, don't forget!" that endures as a legacy, it is written in a very original style for novels dealing with the peasant world.

Another book, not less moving and on a rather similar subject, is Marin Preda's *The Morometes*. This novel, whose realism, as I think, reminds one of Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* and Caldwell's *God's Little Acre* and whose studies in dissimulation might be likened to those of Dostoyevsky, deals with the fate that overtakes the smallholder who thinks that he can outwit the cunning of capitalist society and maintain his relative material and moral independence.

In the distressing story of this disaster, the book shows how in the peasant's mind favourable ground is created for the emergence of hope in a different socio-economic system. The way to the latter was first described in our literature by Mihail Sadoveanu himself in *Mitrea Cocor*, which provides a reply to the dis-

ANOTHER SOVIET-AIDED THERMAL POWER STATION

NEW DELHI:

Five contracts between "Mashinexport", the Soviet foreign trade organisation and the Power Department of the Bihar State were signed on September 6 for the construction of the Patratu Thermal Power Station near Ranchi.

THESE relate to the designing of the Plant, the supply of equipment, the training of 24 Indian technicians in the Soviet Union and the appointment of 54 Soviet specialists to render technical assistance in the construction and commissioning of the Plant.

The Detailed Project Report, according to which the Plant is to be designed, was submitted and accepted by the Indian side some time back.

The Patratu Plant will be the most powerful of all the thermal power plants that are being built in India. Its initial capacity will be 100,000 kw, composed of two units of 50,000 kw each. Later two more 50,000 kw units and two 100,000 kw units will be added to expand the total capacity to 400,000 kw.

The Station will supply power to a group of major industrial enterprises including the Soviet-aided Heavy Engineering Plant and the Czech-aided Castings and Forgings Plant, both of which are being built at Ranchi.

It is understood that in view of the imperative demand for power and the great urgency of the project, the "Mashinexport" will start supplying the equipment for the Plant almost immediately after the contracts are signed. It will complete the delivery within a stipulated time-limit in accordance with the convenience of the Bihar Government.

The payment for the equip-

ment will be made in Indian rupees, which will be used by the Soviet Union for buying goods on the Indian market. This, it goes without saying, will give an impetus to Indian exports.

The first group of Indian technicians is shortly leaving for the Soviet Union for practical training and experience at Soviet thermal power stations. The training of Indian personnel is an integral part of the technical assistance the Soviet Union is rendering for this as for other plants.

The Patratu Plant is one of the four thermal power stations that are being built with Soviet assistance in the Third Five-Year Plan period. The others are Neyveli in Madras, Korba in Madhya Pradesh and Obra in Uttar Pradesh.

The Neyveli Plant was formally inaugurated by the President on August 5 this year. The first turbo-generator of 50,000 kw capacity has been operating for a few months already, and has been supplying life-giving current to the Madras Grid.

The second turbo-generator of the same capacity is expected to be commissioned in December this year. The first stage of the Plant, when it will have a capacity of 250,000 kw, comprised of five 50,000 kw units, will be completed some time next year.

All the equipment for this stage has already been delivered at the construction site and is at present in the process of being installed.

Two more generators, one of 50,000 kw capacity and the other of 100,000 kw, are scheduled for supply in 1964 and 1965. When these too are installed the Plant will reach its full rated capacity of 400,000 kw.

The Neyveli Plant, operating on cheap lignite fuel, will change the very face of the region, where a whole complex of industrial enterprises, feeding on the cheap power supplied by the Plant, is expected to grow up.

The Korba Plant in Madhya Pradesh will be expanded with Soviet assistance; its capacity will

be raised from 90,000 kw to 280,000 kw in order that it may meet fully the growing power requirements of the Bhilai Steel Plant under expansion.

The Detailed Project Report for the Korba Plant has been submitted and approved, and contracts for the supply of equipment and the deputation of Soviet specialists to the construction site have already been signed.

The Detailed Project Report for the power project at Obra (earlier it was planned to be constructed at Singrauli) in Uttar Pradesh is at present under preparation and will be submitted early next year. This Plant will have a capacity of 250,000 kw, and will serve industries coming up in this region.

Apart from these thermal plants, the Soviet Union is helping India to build an hydroelectric power station—the biggest in the country—at the right bank of Bhakra. Planned to have a rated capacity of 480,000 kw, it will supply

power to four adjacent States—Punjab, Rajasthan, Kashmir and Delhi.

The Detailed Project Report and working drawings for the Bhakra Station are at present under preparation and will be completed by the end of the year. The Soviet Union has undertaken to supply during 1963-65 four hydro-generators for the Plant, each having a capacity of 120,000 kw.

The importance of Soviet assistance in the field of power development can be seen from the fact that the total capacity of all the five stations the Soviet Union is helping to build will be 1,730,000 kw, i.e., roughly one-fourth of all the power capacities to be commissioned in the Third Plan period.

Thus the Soviet Union is playing a major role in the establishment of a strong power base for the rapid industrialisation of the country.

I. U. S. Congress Ends

LENINGRAD, August 29: The Seventh Congress of the International Union of Students (IUS) ended here today, after 10 days of work.

THE closing night session was presided over by the Iranian representative, Babaku. Under his chairmanship, the Congress approved the last resolutions, expressing solidarity with organisations fighting for the bright future of their countries and peoples, and determined the Union's attitude to the political problems of our time.

In a resolution on colonialism, tabled by the delegation of Chilean students, the Congress cordially "greeted the peoples who have recently achieved independence in various parts of the world, and especially in Africa."

The representatives of students of 90 countries found it necessary "to warn the peoples of the world against colonialism. The former colonial powers and imperialist countries are striving to use technical and financial cooperation with former colonies for political pressure on them in order to retain their former privileges," says the resolution.

In a resolution on anti-fascist solidarity, tabled by the delegations of Portugal, Spain and Greece, the Congress demanded that "still more attention be given to anti-fascist struggle." The IUS Secretariat was instructed "to establish immediately a standing commission responsible for this work."

In an appeal to the students of the world, the Congress urged them to intensify the struggle for peace, for general and complete disarmament, for the peaceful co-existence of states with different social systems.

"We must extend our struggle for the complete liquidation of the colonial system," the appeal says. "Let us unite our efforts to repulse the imperialist aggression!"

The appeal ends with the words: "Our sacred duty is to give our energy and knowledge to achieve victory in our struggle, to secure enduring peace, freedom and progress throughout the world!"

The Congress noted with satisfaction the positive results of the work of the IUS Executive in the past two years and voted thanks to it "for organisational work and objectivity."

The Congress adopted a message to the people and youth of Leningrad thanking them for providing the excellent conditions which enabled the Congress to conduct its work in an atmosphere of a great uplift.

The message points out that "indicative of the people, the

Secretary-General, Representatives of the National Students' Unions of Cuba, Brazil, Venezuela, the Federation of Students from Black Africa in France, the Sudan, China, India and the USSR were elected Vice-Presidents.

Representatives of Bulgaria, Poland, Rumania, Puerto Rico, the General Union of West-African Students, Japan and Afghanistan form the Secretariat of the Executive Committee.

The congress delegates unanimously elected the representatives of Cyprus, Liberia, Mongolia and the Lebanon to the Finance Committee.

A representative of the German Democratic Republic was elected treasurer of the IUS. (TASS)

COMECON Yielding Fruitful Results

MOSCOW, August 30: In the past four years the average annual growth of industrial output in the socialist countries equalled nearly 13 per cent, i.e., nearly 200 per cent above that in capitalist countries.

"Economic cooperation between the fraternal countries graphically demonstrates the great advantages of socialist distribution of labour. These advantages are due to the unity of purpose and tasks confronting the socialist countries," P. Ivanov, Chairman of the Permanent Economic Commission of the COMECON (Council for Mutual Economic Assistance), writes in PRAVDA of August 30.

He emphasises that the relations of respect and fraternal mutual assistance that exist between socialist countries "make it possible to combine most fully the interests of development of national economy of every country with the consolidation of the world system of socialism as a whole."

While the "Common Market" formed in Western Europe ensures tremendous advantages for imperialist monopolies and at the same time jeopardises the interests of smaller countries which are becoming increasingly dependent on this imperialist alliance, the relations between the socialist camp countries "are based on complete equality, independence and sovereignty," the author of the article stresses.

He cites numerous examples of fruitful cooperation between socialist countries in building large industrial projects which make it possible to use most rationally the natural, economic

and labour resources of individual countries in their own interest and in the interest of the socialist system as a whole.

For instance the world's largest "Druzhba" oil pipe line extending for over 4,500 kilometres is being built by joint efforts of the USSR, Poland, the GDR, Czechoslovakia and Hungary and the power grids of the COMECON member-countries are being linked together.

P. Ivanov writes: "International socialist distribution of labour ensures all-sided industrial development of all socialist countries and leads to the strengthening of their unity while capitalist division of labour rests on the dominating influence of the economically strongest countries and leads to the formation of a lopsided dependent economy of the lesser developed countries."

Within the COMECON framework considerable experience has been accumulated in the joint solution of problems related to the division of labour between countries, specialisation and cooperation of production. One of the major trends of cooperation is extensive exchange of documentation of the manufacture of machinery and equipment.

Coordination of the plans of the socialist countries furnished a sound foundation for the development of mutual economic cooperation. —TASS

SMALL CAR PROJECT

Government Succumbed To Pressure

Bhupesh Gupta's Scathing Criticism In Rajya Sabha

(Following are extracts from Bhupesh Gupta's speech in Rajya Sabha on August 27 wherein he made a damning exposure of Government showing how the small-car project was scuttled to preserve monopoly profits being minted by Birlas in car manufacture.)

Right at the beginning I must register my strong protest at the manner in which one good public sector project has been killed by this Government. I shall relate to this House the inner story of how this was done.

WE were getting information from time to time that powerful influences were at work to get this project of People's Car abandoned and we raised questions in this House and the other House to express our apprehensions and unfortunately, our apprehensions and the worst fears have come true. May I mention in this connection that the General Manager of the Birla's Hindustan Motors, Mr. Misra, wrote a letter to Mr. Pande, Chairman of the Expert Committee, when the matter was under investigation, indirectly trying to impress on him that this project should not be supported?

The Government have acted in this matter in the interests of the Birlas and the automobile industry in the private sector and not at all in the interests of the nation.

Yet the material data in regard to this project have not been furnished to this House by Hon. Minister.

In the statement the Government suppressed a number of material facts, some of which I propose to reveal. They have suppressed the Expert Committee—Report. That will prove that the Government have let down the country, although facts about this report appeared in certain economic journals and everybody knows that the Development Council in charge of the automobiles under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry had supplied such information to the Birlas and others.

Now I come to the Resolution of the Government of September 6 which announced that in case the Expert Committee considered the Low-Cost Car feasible within the price range indicated above, the project would be undertaken in the public sector. The Expert Committee—please note it—found it feasible. The Government stood committed. This is what I say. They are violating that commitment.

On what ground is it being abandoned now? Mr. Subramaniam said something about the foreign exchange difficulty.

Was the foreign exchange position particularly better than what it is today or in September 1960 when the Government announced its decision or when the Pande Committee went into this matter? No, it was not materially better. Then is it not a fact that the Expert Committee went into this question of foreign exchange and the officials worked out the foreign exchange implications but all of them found it wise to have this project through and found it feasible.

Moreover M/s. Renault of France offered to solve the foreign exchange problem in a big way. Permit me to give the House some interesting information on the basis of the facts and figures of the Expert Committee and the official researches. They know it as they have it in their files. Renault Dauphine was tested at Ahmednagar by the Ministry of Defence. It was found to be very satisfactory, economic and suitable for our conditions.

It is a four-seater car with

Planning Commission for their concurrence for a note to be submitted to the Cabinet. I may inform you that the Finance Ministry gave concurrence and the Planning Commission said that it had no objection. Such was the final stage by July or the beginning of August, 1961. There the matter stood.

Now we find that after concurrence was given, one year passed and this one year was a crucial year because considerable wirepulling was done in order to sabotage the scheme and there is the answer to my hon. friend's question as to why there was delay but the answer will not suit him. The monopoly class, specially the Hindustan Motors, saw to it that the scheme did not materialise. This is the position.

Government Resolution

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Bhupesh Gupta

a weight of about 1100 lbs. whereas Fiat is 1780 lbs. Dauphine has a saving here in the weight, which means saving in steel of 600 lbs. or so. The price of the car would be Rs. 5,100 if the production is at the level of 50,000 and Rs. 6,000 if the production is at the level of 20,000, whereas the prices of the Standard and Fiat are twice as high as this.

Here I want to straightaway clear the point regarding foreign exchange. What was the foreign exchange implication? It was pointed out by Renaults that to reach the 20,000 level of production, the

foreign exchange required was Rs. 7.1 crores and to reach 50,000 production the foreign exchange required was 9.38 crores. It was also pointed out that during the Third Plan the actual foreign exchange requirement would be only Rs. 4 crores, in view of the fact that only 10,000 cars would be produced in that particular period.

So for this little money we would have got 20,000 cheap cars and after two years 50,000 cars at cheap prices.

Here again I may point out that economically we could have gained, for, if we had these cars, we could have sold them. The Jha Committee had said it and other committees also had said it. Calculations had been made by the Ministry that by the central excise duties and the central sales tax and so on, the Government would have earned at the rate of Rs. 1,000 per car or Rs. 2,32,00,000. If it was less and they earned only Rs. 500 per car, then the earning would be Rs. 1.23 crores.

Then the petrol consumption would have brought in additional excise revenue and then there was the excise duty on tyres and tubes and all this would have come to the State.

It only suits the Birlas to do this and they are now saying that they want diversification of the production, which only means that the small car should be given up.

Secondly, they say that if they increase the indigenous components of their cars, then the prices should be raised. Now, as you know, the Birlas are making large profits. In 1957-58, the Hindustan Motors made a profit of Rs. 11 lakhs. In 1960-61 their profits came to Rs. 2,49,73,000. So the monopoly has to be maintained and therefore, with that ruthlessness and cynicism that the monopolist class is capable of they saw to it that a good project in

the public sector—which had the support of all the Secretaries, and the expert committees, including the Pande Committee, was scuttled.

I would ask the House to consider this matter. This is not a party question at all. Government itself took the decision. The Jha Committee made the recommendation and Government approved of its recommendations. Things moved very quickly and then Government left the matter to an expert committee to go into the financial and other implications, the feasibility and so on. This expert committee whole-heartedly supported the idea and buttressed the whole thing and then again the matter was reviewed by the Secretaries, in the Planning Commission and in the Finance Ministry and again this question was supported.

Then, for one year, somebody sat on it and now the country's interests have been let down. This is how monopoly interests are served and this is how the good decisions of the Government are scuttled and violated.

I would ask the hon. Minister to deny these things. Let him tell us something about the Secretaries' Report or must I produce these some day, the report, the notings? Let him deny about the concurrence of the note to be sent to the Cabinet. I am told even the Cabinet was divided over it. I would like to know. I would not go into all that because that is their Cabinet affair.

If he denies it, then, I would like to know if any Minister of the Government would resign if I produce documentary evidence to show how things moved, how things had moved in the manner in which I have indicated before this House.

REFUGEES CONFER

CALCUTTA, September 3: The Seventh Conference of the United Central Refugee Committee (UCRC) was held in Tollygunge, Calcutta, on September 1 and 2.

THE importance of the conference lay in the fact that it was taking place in the context of closure of refugee camps, stoppage of various forms of Government assistance to these uprooted people and winding up of the Refugee Rehabilitation Department.

It was being held at a time when the Government had declared that but for a few residual problems, the East Pakistan refugee problem had been solved!

The reality is that 10,000 camp families, nearly 2,000 refugees living in Sealdah Railway Station in the midst of indescribable filth, squalor and poverty, and lakhs of other categories of refugees are yet to be rehabilitated.

The most important task before the conference, therefore, was to work out an effective line of action for building up a broad-based movement and a strong organisation in order to reverse the present policy of the Government in regard to the East Pakistan refugees.

In his report, Samar Mukherjee, General Secretary of the UCRC, said that the Government's record in tackling the problem of the rehabilitation of East Pakistan refugees was one of utter inefficiency. Yet, it had been declared that the problem had been practically solved!

By concretely analysing the conditions of different sections of refugees, he conclusively showed that the situation had become more acute and that the problems had become much more serious.

In this context, he emphasised, if the Government was permitted to have its own way, it would bring disaster in the lives of lakhs of refugees.

The imperative need of the hour, therefore, was to build up a powerful and united movement and a strong organisation to force the Government to change its present policy.

On the second day of the conference, the delegates met in the morning and adopted the main resolution and three other resolutions—on the anti-tax and anti-price-rise movement, on general and complete disarmament and world peace, and on solidarity with the workers of Sulekha Ink Works.

Surhid Malik Chowdhury and Samar Mukherjee were re-elected President and General Secretary respectively of the UCRC. The Conference also elected a Council of 75 members and an Executive Committee of 85.

The main resolution exposed the utter hollowiness of the Government's tall claim that the rehabilitation problem had been

solved for all practical purposes and showed by analysing the conditions of different sections of refugees that the problem had assumed grave proportions.

It demanded appointment of a High-power Commission to assess the actual magnitude of the problem in West Bengal, and urged upon the Government to set up an all-party committee to advise the Government in drawing up and implementing schemes for rehabilitation.

The resolution expressed the view that the prevailing chaos in the sphere of refugee rehabilitation could not be eliminated without reversing the policy which the Government had been pursuing so long.

The Conference, therefore, decided to build up a broad-based, united, strong and peaceful movement, extending over a long period, and a powerful organisation behind this movement.

It appealed to all-section of people to lend their active support to the movement, and urged upon all refugees and their organisations to join hands in the common cause.

The open session of the Conference was held in the afternoon. Surhid Malik Chowdhury presided, and Jyoti Basu, M.L.A. Leader of the Opposition in State Assembly, was the Chief Guest. Samar Mukherjee reported on the work of the Conference, and Ranen Sen, M.P. Vice-President of the AITUC, Niranjan Sen, M.L.A., Jyoti Basu and the President of UCRC addressed the gathering.

West's Propaganda Stunt

*FROM PAGE TEN

are conducted, then, it goes without saying, big tests may produce simply a tremendous effect.

Moreover, if we take into account that, unlike the Soviet Union, the United States has acquired considerable experience in the holding of underground tests, then a conclusion is suggested: in proposing the prohibition of atmospheric tests and the legalisation of underground tests, the United States is guided by considerations of gaining a military advantage.

The Soviet Union cannot ignore this aspect of the matter, the more so that the Americans flatly reject the idea of a moratorium on underground tests.

It is highly significant that many Western newspapers also admit legitimate nature of Soviet objections against the exemption of underground tests from a nuclear test ban agreement.

The West German Frankfurter Rundschau, for instance, stresses that this objection is obviously appropriate at the present moment. Another West German newspaper, Westfälische Rundschau points out that the Americans "consciously excluded underground tests from their proposals and that precisely at this moment this cannot but be piquant. The whole world knows that the United States is conducting underground nuclear tests in the Nevada desert."

The Soviet Union cannot, of course accept the Anglo-American proposals for a partial cessation

which would exempt underground tests. It cannot do so because the acceptance of a partial cessation would give nothing and would merely complicate the situation.

If the Anglo-American proposal was accepted it would give rise to illusions among the peoples that a major step has been made toward cutting down the danger of a thermonuclear war, whereas nothing of the kind would be achieved and the arms race would grow as before.

Where is the way out? One can naturally ask. The way out has been and remains in the compromise-proposals of the eight neutral nations. The Soviet Union was ready to reach an agreement on the basis of the eight-nation memorandum many months ago and it is ready to do this today.

It also supports other compromise proposals of the neutral nations, in particular, the fixing of January 1, 1963, for instance, as a date for ending all nuclear tests.

The Soviet Union, taking into account the US position, is not against drawing, in a test stop agreement, a certain difference between underground and other tests.

It considers that a final decision in the atmosphere, underwater and in outer space can be taken immediately, and a provisional agreement can be reached on the cessation of underground tests, so that it could be subsequently replaced by a permanent decision. Thus, the way to an agreement is open, everything depends now on the Western powers.

Agony Of Assam

★ From MADHUSUDAN BHATTACHARYA

SHILLONG, September 2:

According to latest reports received from districts, the death toll in the current wave of the devastating floods in Assam has mounted to 105.

It is, however, apprehended that report of more deaths will be forthcoming from the outlying areas which have still remained isolated. Also not all the dead bodies could be recovered.

This figure of loss of human lives itself is a measure of the devastation caused by the flood which is said to be the worst in the living memory of the people of this State.

According to the Chief Minister of Assam, no fewer than 3 millions of people have been affected and the loss of food crop alone is estimated at not less than Rs. 30 crores.

This last figure is considered very moderate and even high officials think that assessment of the total loss sustained by people cannot be made until after some time when those rendered homeless by flood have gone back to find out what they have really lost.

In spite of a commendable job done by the Army in rescuing the marooned people, quite a large number of them is yet to be brought to safety. Dearth of boats is said to have stood in the way of expeditious rescue operations.

Even Boats Are Not There

When the Army was called in, it is learnt, the military officials who sat with the officials to plan rescue operations, were surprised that though flood has become almost an annual occurrence in the State, particularly after the 1950 earthquake, the State Government had not thought it necessary to have at its disposal some boats to meet a possible emergency.

It is felt here that there was considerable sense of complacency in the State Government circles about the capacity of the flood preventive and control measures that had been taken earlier. It was, perhaps, because of this that this year's flood devastation took the Government by surprise and when they had got over it and wanted to meet the situation, they found that they lacked even in certain essential things like boats.

Dykes and embankments constructed earlier at a huge cost could not stand the fury of flood. Even during the first wave of floods in June and July, it was noticed that the flood control measures were of little avail.

In certain cases, it is confirmed even by Ministers, mace dug holes in the embankments and hoarded paddy that they collected from the nearby areas. These holes proved fatal to the embankment; flood water crept into these holes and eroded the embankments, making inlets for flood water to rush in.

While flood water has been receding, erosion of river banks has started and this is causing no less damage than the flood itself.

The misery of the affected

people beggars description. One has to see the condition of those who have been destituted of all their belongings and have been living on high roads and embankments that have been spared by flood water, under the open sky, exposed to cold, heat and rain to realise their sufferings.

There are hundreds of such families still living such a precarious life and if they have still survived, the credit for it goes to the sturdy spirit of our peasant folk.

Those who have found shelter in some relief camps run by official or non-official agencies may be considered a little "fortunate". They have got at least a cover over their head and some relief, even if not sufficient, has been made available to them.

Cattle population which to a peasant is no less valuable than his own life have fared no better. It has not yet been assessed as to how many heads of cattle have perished.

The surviving ones also face a hard lot. Fodder is scarce and shelter is not available. For shelter in many places it shares the open dry spot on some high road or embankment with its master. If all the carcasses of cows and buffaloes had been picked up, an assessment of the loss might have been possible.

It goes without saying that epidemic among both man and cattle may follow in the trail of the flood unless very prompt measures are taken to prevent it. Though the State Medical Minister has claimed that steps are being taken to prevent any outbreak of epidemic, it is felt that he has underestimated the situation.

Some preventive steps, no doubt, have been taken in some areas. But it has not covered those who have been living under the open sky on high roads or unbroken embankments; nor is it possible to check it among them until they have been brought to some shelter and it is they who are more vulnerable to diseases.

The most urgent problem till now is that of rescue of the marooned people. Relief in various forms, not merely doling out some amount of cash, has to be organised on a wide scale. The Government, it seems, even now relies mostly on official agency.

In the first place it is pointed out that the administrative machinery is not sufficient for meeting this emergent situation. Secondly, various malpractices can hardly be checked unless public cooperation has been ensured. It is also felt that there should be a broad-based relief committee at the State level to coordinate the entire relief operation.

Various political parties in the State, including the Communist Party, have gone into relief operation. Communist Party's State Council Secretary had directed all the party units and party members and sympathisers to redouble their

efforts for the relief of distressed people.

He has also directed them to work together with others, officials and non-officials. He has appealed to the people of the State who have been spared by the ravages of the flood to give their mite to the relief of the suffering brethren and sisters.

He has also appealed to the people of other States of India to extend their help in cash

and kind to the suffering people of Assam in this hour of their grim ordeal.

It is admitted on all hands that the resources of the State are not sufficient to meet the situation. However, there is room for increasing the contribution of the State towards relief of the flood victims.

Communist Party's State Council Secretary has urged upon the State and Union Governments to increase their contribution. The State Chief Minister has appealed to the Union Government to give an ad hoc grant of Rs. 1 crore to the State to meet the emergency. The Government of West Bengal donated Rs. 10 thousand in two instalments.

The Government of Jammu and Kashmir donated Rs. 50 thousand to the Prime Minister's relief fund for distribu-

tion to the flood victims of Assam. It is this amount that the Prime Minister seems to have sent already to Assam. Certain other non-official organisations in other States too made some contribution. But much more is required.

Though relief is the most urgent need of the hour, one cannot ignore the question of steps for permanent flood control in this State. The Chief Engineer of Central Water & Power Commission paid a visit to the State and had discussion with State officials and Ministers about steps that should be taken for permanent flood control. The chairman of the CWPC is also accompanying the Minister for Power and Irrigation. It is hoped that certain steps would now be taken for permanent flood control.

Poona Engineering Workers' Conference

POONA, August 30:

The first Conference of Engineering Workers of Poona was held here on August 25 and 26. S. A. Dange, General Secretary AITUC presided over the Conference.

POONA today is a hub of industries, mainly engineering. There are six industrial estates around Poona. The Poona-Bombay road estate alone has 34 factories with a total capital of Rs. 20 crores. The number of workers in the new industries will reach one lakh at the end of the third Plan. Their present strength is around 65,000.

All these factories—except the Pimpri Penicillin factory—are of private ownership and most of them have been started with foreign collaboration.

Initially, the workers here had to struggle even for elementary trade union rights. When the Mahindra and Ruston factories shifted to Poona from Bombay, they tried to introduce a 50 per cent wage cut.

This was stopped through a three-month strike in Bombay by Ruston workers. The anti-victimisation and anti-retrenchment strikes in 1960 were also equally successful. Thus trade union consciousness among the workers here had been slowly gaining ground.

The workers today are facing various harassments and attacks of the managements. The Engineering Conference was for them a good occasion to build up greater unity.

Urgent Demand

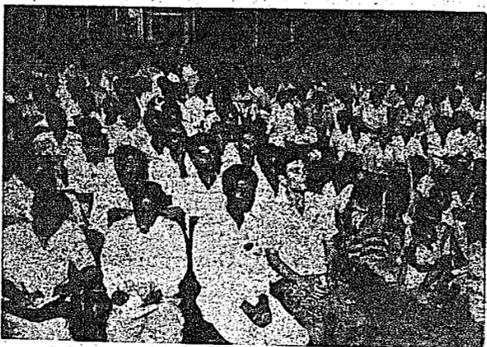
The most urgent demand of the workers is for standardisation of wages. The workers also want a separate cost of living index for Poona after the recent Industrial Tribunal Award which links dearness allowance to Sholapur index and not to the Bombay index. Since Sholapur is a much cheaper town, it means a great loss to the workers.

The workers also demand bonus which the Companies had been systematically avoiding, payment by manipulating balance sheets.

About one hundred and fifty workers' delegates attended the conference from different factories.

After Vasantrao Tulpute read out the report, S. A. Dange addressed the conference. He gave an account of the struggle of the Bombay Textile Workers for wage standardisation.

Dange asked the workers to build up an enlightened and organised group of cadres for proper trade union work and exhorted them to be prepared always for militant actions.



A view of the Conference in session.

Lesson Of Tiruchengode

★ FROM PAGE THREE

planning, it should also accept the taxation policy enunciated by the Congress Government! As for increase in the prices of consumption goods, they declare, it is inevitable in a developing economy!!

Compare this with what the Swatantra leaders tell the people and you will find that both have a common approach to planning and its relation to taxes and prices. It is inevitable, according to both, that, if a country adopts the path of planned economy, then its people should bear increasing burdens of taxation as well as spiralling rises in the prices of consumption goods.

Approach To Planning

The difference between the Congress leaders who have this approach to planning and the Swatantra leaders is this: The Swatantra leaders say that, since planning leads to these hardships for the people, better do without planning. On the other hand, the Congress leaders say that, since the country requires planning, the people should

necessarily be prepared to bear its burdens by way of increased taxation and spiralling rise in the prices of commodities.

The Communist Party opposes this very approach to planning and its relation to taxes and prices. It holds the view that prices of essential commodities can be kept under control even in a developing economy, provided the Government is prepared to put curbs on the vested interests. Taxation can be reduced to the minimum if only the Government is prepared to attack the vested interests in economy, administration and public life.

The question is whether the ruling party is prepared for making these attacks on the vested interests. If it is not, then it is inevitable that the discontent against the Congress and its government will grow. It is also inevitable that, in places where forces of democratic opposition like the Communist Party are not strong enough, this mass discontent will be utilised by right reactionary and disruptive elements like the Swatantra and the DMK.

Such is the lesson of Tiruchengode and Chittoor.

West Bengal Newsletter

From Jnan Bikash Moitra

Anti-Soviet Propaganda

CALCUTTA, September 2:

Sometime ago two Calcutta dailies, which are well-known for their pro-American sympathies, tried to spring a "surprise" by splashing the "report" that the small-pox vaccine imported from the Soviet Union was "poisonous".

ANOTHER journal of the same hue, the Bombay weekly Current, played up the "news" under the caption that the Soviet vaccine had caused mental derangement!

It was, however, quite evident to many people here that this so-called "scoop" news was a deliberate piece of mischievous anti-Soviet slander, because a Press Note issued by the West Bengal Government on the same day stated: "A Health Department Officer met these girls and contacted the attending physicians, but it was not confirmed that the illness was a reaction of the vaccine."

What were the facts of the case? On July 28, of the 282 students of Garia Girls' High School who were present on the day, 253 were given the Soviet vaccine. One of the vaccinated girls became ill after going back to her home. She was sent to one of the leading hospitals of Calcutta.

The doctors there thoroughly investigated the case and found that her illness had nothing to do with the administration of the vaccine.

The girl recovered shortly afterwards and was discharged from the hospital.

The reporters of the dailies, referred to above, did not care to meet the Head Mistress or the Secretary of the School to verify their "information". Nor did they, it is reliably learnt, contact the specialists who had treated the girl.

Yet the "news" of the "poisonous" Soviet vaccine was dished out in the typical manner of yellow journalism. Significantly enough, these dailies published the Government's Press Note, but deliberately omitted the portion, quoted above, which stated that it had not been confirmed that the illness was a reaction of the vaccine.

The real purpose of this crude anti-Soviet propaganda stunt was to counter or, at least, to soften up the strong and widespread public sentiment against American wheat flour, which had caused partial paralysis of the limbs to 435 people in Malda district of this State.

The anti-Soviet slander was further exposed on August 29, when West Bengal's Health Minister, Dr. J. R. Dhar, told Pressmen that the Soviet vaccine was completely free from any flaw or contamination. Government experts had analysed the vaccine and had come to this definite conclusion.

He further said that the Soviet vaccine had been administered to his one-year-old grand-daughter, but as yet no adverse reaction had been noticed.

Despite the attempt of the two dailies to rouse suspicion in the public mind, the West Bengal Government is going ahead with its programme of vaccinating a large number of people in the current year.

The Union Government, it will be recalled, has decided to observe 1962 as the "Anti-Smallpox Epidemic Year". It is under this programme that smallpox vaccine has been imported from the Soviet Union. The campaign to eradicate the epidemic has been already launched in all States. In West Bengal,

too, nine lakh people in Howrah and 24-Parganas districts are being vaccinated with the Soviet vaccine. Plans for immunising large numbers of people in two other districts have been drawn up.

It should be noted in this connection that the period of immunity from smallpox after taking the Soviet vaccine extends to six years.

A Case Where Police Won't Act

SWADHINATA, the Bengali Daily newspaper of the West Bengal Council of CPI, in its issue of August 31 published the photostat copy of a letter, which implicated certain Congress leaders in the theft of powdered milk

worth of Rs. 6 lakhs, which was the property of 24 Parganas District Red Cross (report about this theft was published in New Age of July 22).

The letter was addressed to the investigating police officer by Arabinda Das. He was the Secretary of Jagatballypur Mandal Congress Committee, 24-Parganas District. A brother-in-law of his is a Congress MLA from the same district.

Arabinda wrote the letter on August 10, and committed suicide on August 17.

In his letter, which is now in the custody of police, Arabinda held the big boss of the 24-Parganas district Red Cross and two other persons, responsible for luring him into the sordid business. All the three persons named in the letter are leaders of the District Congress Committee.

The letter rendered in English, reads as follows:

"My humble submission to investigating police officers—
"Sri—, Sri— and Sri—
all of 27 Belvedere Road, Alipour, are actually responsible for my suicide.
"It is they who initiated me in this work by tempting me. They really deserve punishment. God will judge.
Yours—Arabinda Das
10-3-62"

(Since the case is sub-judice, the names of the persons mentioned in the letter have been expunged from the photostat)

copy of the letter published here—Editor). Immediately after his arrest some months ago, following seizure of large quantities of Red Cross milk from his possession, Arabinda was reported to have made a statement before the police, in which he disclosed the names of the persons involved in the theft.

The police conducted investigations at different places and were reported to have come across some tell-tale clues. But, curiously enough, none of the persons named by Arabinda, nor those suspected of the theft were arrested by the police.

Stranger than that is the fact that the police do not seem to have taken any action even after the letter was written by Arabinda before his death! The reasons for this "masterly inactivity" of the police is, however, not very far to seek.

Congressmen completely control the 24-Parganas district Red Cross, from the district to the lowest committees. They have been in charge of the free distribution of the Red Cross milk to children and patients.

It is now quite evident that for a considerable length of time they have been selling the milk in the blackmarket to earn lakhs of rupees at the expense of hungry children and needy patients.

It is interesting to note in this connection that the Governor of West Bengal is the President of the State branch of the Red Cross, and the Chief Minister, P. C. Sen, was the chairman of the organisation.

The publication of the photostat copy of Arabinda's letter in Swadhinata appears to have made the State Government jittery. It is now learnt that a high police official is being deputed to Budge Budge, the place from where Arabinda hailed, for investigating the case.

ence, it had been a long-standing demand of the trade union movement that bonus should be regarded as deferred wage.

In the context of this low level of wages and the continuously rising prices of essential commodities, there could be no question about the justness of the demand for bonus, he added.

But, he further said, the State Government had not yet taken any step to amicably settle the dispute which had already arisen in different industries.

If the demand of the workers and employees for bonus was not conceded, all the trade unions would be forced to launch a united movement, he concluded.

Save Calcutta Campaign

AN important convention of the citizens of Calcutta was held on September 1 to discuss the city's civic problems, which have already assumed menacing proportions, and to devise ways and means to tackle the problems.

Prominent doctors, educationists, journalists, engineers, leaders of political parties and representatives of mass organisations participated in the convention.

Among the sponsors of the Convention were eminent medical practitioners like A. K. Basu, Nihar Muni and Manindra Lal Biswas, Dr. Triguna Sen, Rector of Jadavpur University, Mira Dutta Gupta, Vice-Principal of a Women's College, Vivekananda Mukherjee, Gopal Neogy, and Ananta Misra, Editors of Jagantor, Basumati and Samrag respectively. Kapil Bhattacharya, well-known engineer, Aruna Muni, President of West Bengal branch of All-India Women's Federation, Jyoti Basu, leader of the Opposition, Hemanta Basu, MLA (F.B.), Jatin Chakravarty, MLC (R.S.P.) and Bejoy Banerjee, MLA, former Mayor of Calcutta.

Vivekananda Mukherjee presided over the convention and those who spoke in support of the resolutions were Mira Dutta Gupta, Dr. A. K. Basu, Biren Roy, Bejoy Banerjee, Dr. B. P. Trivedi, President of the IMA, (West Bengal branch), Dr. Nihar Muni, Jatin Chakravarty, Jyoti Basu and Kapil Bhattacharya.

The convention adopted four resolutions: on the urgent civic problems facing Calcutta, on epidemics, on adulterated food articles and spurious drugs and on introduction of adult franchise in civic elections.

The main resolution—that on the urgent civic problems—pointed out that civic life in Calcutta was on the verge of complete collapse.

But, both the State Government and Calcutta Corporation authorities are totally indifferent to these hardships of the people.

With a view to popularising certain short-term measures and developing a self-help movement among the people, the convention gave the call for observing September 23 next as "Save Calcutta Day".

The Convention set up a "Save Calcutta Committee" consisting of 21 sponsors of the Convention and Dr. B. P. Trivedi and Dr. P. C. Chandra, MLA (Congress), with powers to co-opt more members.

It was further decided to send two deputations, one to the State Government and the other to Calcutta Corporation authorities.

Bonus Struggle Begins

THE movement of the workers employed in different industries in West Bengal for an adequate quantum of bonus has just begun.

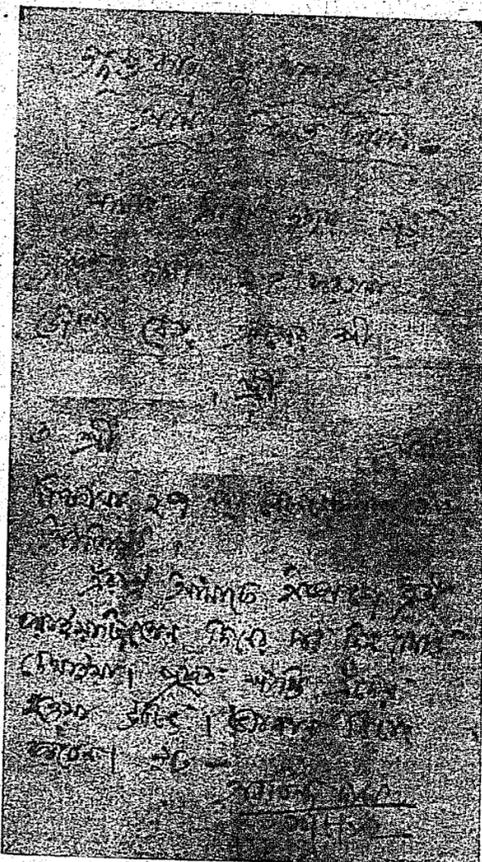
On August 28, over 2,500 workers and employees of Braithwaite Co., demonstrated in front of the company's factory, demanding payment of six months' wages as bonus before the ensuing Dussehra.

The movement will continue till the demand is conceded. The profits earned by the company in 1961 increased by 100 per cent compared to that in the previous year.

In response to the call of the union, over 6,000 workers of Jessop & Co., the biggest engineering establishment of its kind in the country, came out in a demonstration on August 27, demanding revision of the bonus agreement, which had been arrived at between the management and the Union several years ago. The union has been demanding the revision for the past three years, but the management has remained adamant.

The union wants the quantum of bonus to be increased. It also demands certain changes in the procedure for calculating the bonus.

Monoranjan Roy, General Secretary of the BPTUC, in a statement on August 30 said that since the general level of wages was still far below the living wage recommended by the Fifteenth Labour Confer-



Photostat of Arabinda Das's letter

U.S. PREPARES TO POUNCE ON CUBA

The United States warlords seem to be bent upon creating a world crisis by invading Cuba. The fiasco at the Bay of Pigs did not give them enough education to keep quiet and lick their wounds.

NOW a massive build-up is going on in Florida which is just 100 miles off the Cuban coast. The headquarters of Cuban counter-revolutionaries—US has no direct responsibility, the warlords say—have been set up in Florida and the "prospective attacking forces" are being trained, armed and guided by the US Central Intelligence Agency.

Those "pirates" who had shelled Havana just a few days back have returned to the USA and taken refuge in headquarters of the counter-revolutionaries, but they are not being arrested. This constitutes not only a blatant violation of international law but also a direct encouragement for a new aggression.

US President Kennedy addressing his regular press conference on August 29 said: "I am not for invading Cuba at this time" and seeing the reaction among pressmen hurriedly added that his remarks contained no secondary meaning.

Meanwhile, US warlords have started complaining that Cuba has been bolstering up

her coastal defence through Soviet Arms. The Soviet Union has agreed to further help Cuba and shiploads of arms are on the way to the Cuban shores. These American entrepreneurs of war probably expected Cuba to remain poorly armed so that their trainees could just visit Cuba and take over.

New York Times (International Edition, September 3) in a lengthy editorial on this issue argues that this aid from Soviet Union is in violation of Monroe Doctrine and that Cuba will be now turned into a base for aggression against the USA. They just do not want to admit that the arms aid has come as a great hurdle to their adventurous campaign and the "faithful Cuban emigres" will now have second thoughts before going into action against Cuba, and put a stop to their mischief.

It goes on to say that "this manoeuvre" (arms aid) "is intended to outrage our sense of national pride and thus stimulate angry response in this country..." and adds that until America gets "more reason to suspect that Moscow

intends to flood Cuba with arms and troops, there is no reason to revise President Kennedy's declaration of last week that it would be a mistake for us to invade that country."

This line of argument only proves that the USA has not in the least given up its plans for attacking Cuba and is waiting only for an opportune moment. Build-up in Florida is only a step in this direction.

Another dispatch from Washington in the same day's New York Times tactfully

points out that "this latest move in the Cuban situation was certain to increase Congressional pressure on President Kennedy to intervene militarily against Castro regime to protect United States' security". The ominous meaning of this is clear enough to discern.

Reflecting the wishes of peace-loving people the world over, the statement of the Soviet Government following agreement on arms supply to Cuba, inter alia pointed out that as long as the imperialist quarters continued to threaten Cuba, the Soviet Union "had every justification for taking necessary measures to ensure its security and safeguard its sovereignty and independence".

But the USA is administered by a group of persons who

refuse to learn any lessons. Despite the consequences that will inevitably flow in the event of another aggression against Cuba, the US warlords continue surreptitiously to intrude into Cuban territory and violate its air space and territorial waters. US soldiers posted in Guantanamo naval base fire shots almost daily into Cuban territory.

All this is but a prelude to USA openly attacking Cuba at an opportune moment, meanwhile the emigre warriors' adventures are just feelers. But the US should make no mistake about world opinion in the event of such an aggression—the people of the world who cherish peace stand with Cuba and not with them and no amount of false propaganda will hoodwink world opinion.

—Sadhan Mukherjee

Hill Leaders Conference

DEMAND FOR A HILL STATE

★ From Madhusudan Bhattacharya

SHILLONG:

THE All-Parties Hill Leaders' Conference (APHLC), a joint platform of certain political parties of the Hill districts of Assam, that demands creation of a separate Hill State, comprising of the Autonomous Hill districts of Assam, in its last session held here from August 23 to 25 decided to send a delegation to New Delhi for another round of negotiations with the Union Home Minister and the Prime Minister.

But the said session also decided to launch a "non-violent direct action" should the New Delhi parley fail.

The suggestion for sending another delegation came, according to the APHLC source, from the Union Home Minister conveyed through Prof. G. G. Swell, MP of the APHLC.

The Conference, however, could not take a decision on this invitation of New Delhi before the extremists and the moderates had a heated debate in which "sharp differences of opinions" had been expressed on the issue. The extremists, according to available reports, wanted no further negotiations and were in favour of immediate launching of "direct action" to achieve their "goal".

The moderates, on the other hand, it is understood, do not favour any mass action. Both sides, it seems, took rather an irreconcilable stand and would not budge from their respective stand until each side made some concessions to the other.

In the conference, after heated debate, the moderates could induce the extremists to accept the resolution for sending the delegation to New Delhi not before the latter had been assured that this would be the "last delegation" and that failing to achieve the objective through this negotiation direct action would be launched.

Meanwhile, there has been some defection in the APHLC. Two of its MLAs did not tender their resignation from the Assembly through others

did so in pursuance of the directive of the Council of Action of the APHLC.

Among those who tendered resignation, two have since withdrawn their resignation. Thus out of the 11 Assembly seats captured by the APHLC from the Hill districts—these districts have 15 seats in the State Assembly—it is now left with 7 seats as against 4 held by Congress and 4 by the "deserters".

Of the two who did not resign, one, however, reiterated his demand for a Hill State. But the rest have not made any public commitment if they still stick to their demand for a Hill State.

Even when the APHLC decided to contest the election, it stated that its elected members would resign from the date decided upon by the Council of Action. The APHLC members in the Assembly took their oath and silently walked out on the very second day of the session of the new House and since then they have not been taking part in the proceedings of the House, though the Secretary of the Council of Action of the APHLC who is also a member of the Assembly drew his remuneration till August. The resignations so far tendered, however, would be effective only from October 24 next unless withdrawn earlier.

It is true that the APHLC today does not appear as unified a body as it was a year ago. But competent observers point out that the existing differences in the APHLC should not be overemphasised. Should New Delhi fail to tackle the situation very cautiously, the existing differences may be resolved more easily than it seems possible now.

It is also noted that if the coming New Delhi parley the date of which is to be fixed through correspondence or through discussion between the APHLC representative in the Lok Sabha and the Union Home Minister fail to yield satisfactory results—satisfactory for the extremists also—the moderates might find themselves isolated and the situation might take a dangerous turn.

Meanwhile the Mizo National

Front, an organisation that emerged in 1960, evidently as a non-political body to render relief to the Mizo people who had been facing a famine situation at that time, but which has since changed its colour and has emerged as a political organisation, has been agitating for the creation of an independent Mizo State outside India.

They want " reunification" of all the Mizos living in certain parts of East Pakistan, certain portions of Burma (Chin hill area) and some Mizos living in Tripura, Manipur and North-Gachar hills together with the Mizos living in the present Mizo district of Assam.

The resemblance between the demand of this organisation and that of the Naga National Council led by the rebel leader, Phizo is too patent to escape notice. According to some press reports, the Mizo National Front has been in touch with some foreign power, which is also reported to have assured "help" to this organisation.

According to some recent reports, it is learnt this organisation has been extending its network in other areas. It is also said that the agitation of this organisation has caught the imagination of some sections of Mizo youth.

Sometime back when the President of this organisation came here, he disclosed in a meeting of the Mizo residents of the State capital that Army had been sent to the Mizo district "without the knowledge" of the District Council of that district.

While security measures, no doubt, have to be taken, it is felt that this organisation thrives on the seething discontent of the Mizo masses who have been smarting under the impact of the economic ills that the district has been suffering from.

Unless that breeding ground of this discontent is removed, other remedies, it is felt here, might not prove very effective. That the economic and development needs of the hill districts have gone by default is now an admitted fact. It is this aspect which, it is felt, should be carefully taken note of.

Calcutta Disturbances: Left Parties' Statement

★ From JNAN BIKASH MOITRA

CALCUTTA, September 5:

Serious disturbances broke out yesterday in Sealdah Railway station area in Central Calcutta following the minor incident of arrest of one college student. Due to heavy rush he was forced to travel on the footboard of a first class compartment with third class railway monthly pass.

ARRESTED for this by the railway police, other students demanded his release. Police lathi-charged and arrested sixteen students. On hearing the news students of a nearby college took out a big protest demonstration and were proceeding to Calcutta University lawns when police suddenly attacked them from behind with lathis and tear gas shells. Then a pitched battle began. Police also used brickbats thrown by a section of the crowd.

The situation having taken an ugly turn, the students withdrew from the scene at noon. Control then passed into the hands of anti-social elements. Thirteen tram cars and several roadside transport installations were burnt; police continued teargassing for five hours.

The situation was brought under control by eight in the evening. Several policemen were found looting wayside shops, one was even caught redhanded by the Deputy Police Commissioner.

Fifty persons were wounded by tear gas and lathi-charge. Government press note claimed 60 police officers and men injured. About two hundred people have been arrested. Many of them have been mercilessly beaten up in police lock-up.

Three central students' organisations in a statement condemned the police action and called for a students' general strike today. Leaders of Communist and other Left Parties in a joint statement said, "Tuesday's incidents proved how a trivial matter could lead to serious disturbances due to provocative behaviour and high-handed action of police.

Pointing that the incidents of arson were regrettable, they emphasised that the responsibility for the deplorable happenings rested on the shoulders of the Government and the police who had behaved most provocatively and had failed to handle the situation properly.

They demanded the release of arrested persons and proper enquiry in disturbances to find out and punish officers responsible for provocative behaviour. They hoped public and democratic organisations would see to it that Calcutta returned to normalcy without delay.

The Chief Minister in a statement assured students of enquiry in their legitimate grievances, but asked them not to give opportunity to anti-social forces to create disorder.