

THE central secretariat of the Communist Party of India issued the following statement on August 17:

The penetration of over 5,000 Pakistani army personnel into Kashmir disguised in civilian clothes and carrying heavy arms, including machine-guns, grenades and rocket launchers, constitutes nothing short of an invasion of our country. It is virtually a repetition of the 1947 attempt by Pakistan to seize the Kashmir Valley by force.

The manner in which the attack was launched, its timing, its targets, in fact, the whole plan of action behind it, as revealed indirectly by the so-called Sada-e-Kashmir Radio and the statements made by the arrested infiltrators go to show that it was a very well planned and carefully organised attempt to capture and occupy the Kashmir Valley, overthrow the Sadiq government, announce

a new provisional government and then face the world with a fait accompli, representing it as a successful revolt of the Kashmir people.

Hence, any complacency in regard to the gravity of the situation would be totally unwarranted and extremely dangerous.

The Indian people, as also the Government of Kashmir, have always been suspicious of the bona fides of the UN personnel on the ceasefire line. The correctness of these suspicions has been fully confirmed.

Complicity 'Of UN Observers

The Pakistani aggressors could not possibly cross the ceasefire line in such large numbers and with such heavy arms and other materials except with the cooperation or

CPI CALL TO RESIST PAK

INVASION

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at least the willing connivance of the UN authorities.

General Nimmo, whose close links with the American Foreign Office are well-known, is now seeking to cover up his complicity in the matter by stating that the ceasefire rules permit civilians with arms to cross the line without let or hindrance.

The Anglo-American support to this adventure of Pakistan is further underlined by the fact that the

official propaganda organs in Britain and America are by their tendentious reports giving credence to Pakistan's case.

It is indeed a matter of great concern that the intelligence service of the Government of India could not detect in time this mass infiltration of armed men upto considerable depths into our territory. It has to be investigated as to how our Central Intelligence Service on the borders of Kashmir functions.

India be forewarned that the Indian people would never accept any proposal from whatever quarter it comes, which barter away our national territories and gives Kashmir to the aggressor. Under no conditions should the Anglo-Americans be allowed to intervene in the situation at any stage.

The Government of India should learn from the experience of its dealings with Pakistan on the border question.

It should seal the entire border along the ceasefire line.

It should demand the recall of the present UN personnel posted on the ceasefire line and particularly of General Nimmo whose complicity in this aggression is beyond doubt.

The Government of India should deploy armed forces in full strength all along the border and ensure that our supply lines are properly protected and all further infiltration is prevented.

In order to mop up and completely eliminate the infiltrators and scotch sabotage activities, the Kashmir government and the armed forces should win the active cooperation of all patriotic elements in Kashmir, rouse and organise them into popular fighting units in the spirit of 1947 resistance.

The people of Kashmir have proved their patriotism and loyalty to the motherland in this crisis. This gives the lie to the propaganda of all those reactionary communal parties and groups which have been defaming the Kashmiri people as pro-Pakistan and also utilising the situation to stir up communal conflict.

These disruptors cannot be allowed at this moment to carry on this nefarious activities and poison our national political life. Communal harmony and peace has to be maintained at all cost.

The people of India are a peace-loving people. Time and again the Indian government has offered a no-war pact to Pakistan, whom we consider to be our nearest and closest neighbour in every respect. This offer still stands though Pakistan has spurned it.

If the Pakistan rulers, however, misconstrue our desire for peace and friendliness as a source of weakness and seek to annex our territories by armed force, our people shall give them a befitting reply.

FOOD BATTLE

THE battle for food is on. In Bengal and Bihar, Kerala and Karnataka, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, toiling masses are engaged in the grim struggle to get food. People in other states are getting ready to move into action.

In Bihar people who cried for food got bullets instead from the Sahay government's police; In Maharashtra, Naik escaped by proroguing the legislature; in Kerala, Governor Jain promised rationing in November!

Undaunted by the bullets and lathis, not taken in by the sweet promises of Congress rulers, the people are marching ahead. Their demand is simple: provide food at cheap prices.

On right is a view of the mass food satyagraha before the secretariat in Trivandrum. Below, a Kannada girl is seen digging for roots to eat.



Relentless in their pursuit of territorial aggrandisement in Kashmir, the Pakistani rulers would leave no stone unturned to continue and prolong this offensive by attacking our borders at various points, sending fresh bands of infiltrators inside and by developing some sort of a guerilla warfare within Kashmir.

There is enough evidence to show that the present infiltrators are digging in, that many more of them are sought to be pushed in and that the Pakistan army stands poised on the borders to intervene directly at an opportune moment.

Prepare For All Eventualities

India should, therefore, prepare herself for every eventuality since to all appearances, it is going to be a bitter and long-drawn-out struggle.

The Sadiq government has given an excellent account of itself. But the central government, which is responsible for the defence of the country, shall be answerable to the Indian people if it shows any complacency, vacillation or weakness in the defence of Kashmir.

One can foretell from the reactions in UN circles and in the American and British press that the Anglo-American imperialists will try to intervene in the situation for bringing about a settlement favourable to their imperialist designs and global strategy.

Whatever may be the role of the Chinese government in this case, it is ultimately the Anglo-American bloc that would pressurise India to arrive at a compromise with Pakistan which would go against our national interest.

Let it be clearly understood and let the Government of

SHASTRI & VIETNAM

Editorial

THE COUNTRY should take serious note of the high praise showered on Prime Minister Shastri by the US State

Department for his references to Vietnam in his Independence Day speech at the Red Fort. According to an Associated Press despatch from Washington dated August 17 and gleefully published in *Hindustan Times* the next day:

"Mr. Lal Bahadur Shastri 'spoke the facts as we see them', the US State Department said yesterday, commenting on the Indian Prime Minister's remarks on Sunday concerning China and Vietnam".

This was a remarkable "tribute" from the US imperialists, who had till now never failed to attack Indian policy on Vietnam, and had not so long ago expressed their dislike of this policy by cancelling Shastri's visit to Washington.

What had the Prime Minister said to deserve this praise from President Johnson's aides? According to the Delhi edition of the *Times of India*, the Prime Minister had this to say about Vietnam:

"There were danger spots in the world such as Vietnam. Nobody knew what would happen there. India favoured a peaceful solution of the problem. The Soviet Union too wanted a peaceful solution. So did the USA and European countries.

"But there was one country which did not want peace in Vietnam or in India. That country was China".

In Washington, the State Department spokesman was specifically asked "whether the speech (Shastri's) indicated a change in the Indian position", since at other times, "Mr. Shastri has repeatedly urged an end to US bombings in North Vietnam" (AP report, *Hindustan Times*, August 18)

The reason for the high praise showered on this speech by the US imperialists is obvious enough. One need not enter here into the role of the Chinese Government: opinions may differ in regard to that. But the certificate Shastri has given in his important Independence Day Red Fort speech to the "peaceful" intentions of the US government is totally out of tune with Indian and world opinion.

One would like to ask the Prime Minister:

● If the US imperialists want a "peaceful solution", why are they escalating the war, why are more troops being poured into South Vietnam, why is the bombing of North Vietnam being intensified, why is the call of India and other non-aligned nations for a stop to the bombing being spurned again and again?

As a matter of fact, the Prime Minister's references to Vietnam in his Independence Day speech constitute the lowest point of the slide-back in Indian policy on Vietnam, which seems to have been a continuous process in recent weeks, starting from the equivocal stand taken by the Prime Minister during his talks with the Yugoslav leaders and the Uganda Prime Minister, where the whole question of putting a stop to the US bombings gradually became more and more confused.

It is true that on August 16, in his written statement to both houses of Parliament, the Prime Minister again talked of the necessity to stop the bombings on North Vietnam. But the damage done by the Independence Day speech, as is evidenced by the US State Department's quick reaction, cannot be easily repaired.

The Indian people particularly resent this tendency to kow-to to the US imperialists, at this time when there is unmistakable proof of the US imperialists' support for the Pakistan aggression in Kashmir.

If the Prime Minister succumbs in this way to the pressures of the imperialists and their hangers-on in this country, and weakens our foreign policy—the result will be disastrous for the country's independence and security.

The Prime Minister's stand on Vietnam in the Independence Day speech will lose India much-needed support of anti-imperialist peoples, unless it is firmly repudiated by a clear-cut condemnation of the US aggression in Vietnam. (August 18)

NEW DELHI LETTER

KARGIL POSTS AND AFTER

The advantage of surprise having worn out without the Pakistani raiders achieving their main objectives in Srinagar or elsewhere in their initial thrust, the situation in Jammu & Kashmir can be said to have become stabler. But it portends far serious dangers and a long tussle.

THE fact that the government had to take back the Kargil posts in order to secure the lines of communications in that area, particularly the road to Ladakh, is indicative of the seriousness of the situation.

According to high official circles the decision to act in that area had been taken after due deliberation as a "calculated risk". Before taking back the posts the government had to reckon with the danger of Pakistani retaliation and escalation of the fighting. But there was no choice.

The Indian government does not seem to have any intention to do anything to further aggravate the situation and will not cross the ceasefire line. The security forces are charged with the task of quickly mopping up the raiders and exercise effective guard over the ceasefire line and the international border between Jammu and West Pakistan. But it is also aware that if Pakistan decides to expand the conflict, there will be no alternative to vigorous counteraction: The military action in the Kargil area, besides being of strategic value, also had a good effect on the public opinion in the country.

Even more than the actual operations, what government leaders seem to be watching closely are the likely moves of the western powers through the UN and otherwise. India's clearest stand that the UN observers at Kargil sector at least had failed in the implementation of their assurances, should spotlight the UN role in the present conflict.

There are also indications that the UK government might take advantage of this crisis to further its aim of placating Rawalpindi and muscle in there to perform a greater role that the USA allowed it so far.

While nothing tangible has happened, there are signs of sinister moves by western powers. The government position is weak and uncertain because it is neither clear nor fully informed what may really be cooking in this regard.

Plan Debate Continues

IT might seem a little unusual but the Pakistani incursion did have some effect on the Planning Commission's decision ag-

inst a cut in plan size and its order of priorities. That India has to match the necessary rate of economic growth and creation of industrial base adequate for its defence needs in the face of dangers threatening it from unfriendly neighbours did have a positive impact on the plan debate at the time of taking the decision.

Till then, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission Asoka Mehta appeared to be engaged in a desperate battle to save the plan from being drastically pruned. Finance Minister Krishnaachari kept up his refrain for a "realistic" plan which should match the financial resources in sight, estimated at Rs. 650 crores less than the proposed outlay and the Prime Minister appeared to be sympathetic towards his stand.

On the first day of the full meeting of the Planning Commission to decide the plan size, Asoka Mehta had to admit that resources in sight were certainly short of the proposed plan size but insisted that instead of cutting down the plan, measures should be devised to generate and mobilise more resources. But this did not seem to have budged the Finance Minister from his position.

What clinched the issue was the intervention of Food Minister Subramaniam and Home Minister Nanda in the debate on the second day. That made it clear that the central ministries could not agree to cutting out projects which they considered vital.

Earlier, the state chief ministers took the same position. In their case, their demand for plan allocations for their respective states had already acquired the nature of election pledges and they seemed to have brought this home to the Prime Minister.

Prime Minister Shastri therefore supported the Mehta line about which he had earlier indicated his misgivings. His support came with boldness and without equivocation. It was he who suggested that the gap between the resources in sight and the total plan allocation should be made up through savings in administration and efficiency in running public sector enterprises, while inflationary finance must be completely ruled out.

This has, however, not closed the plan controversy. It is bound to be joined at other levels and from different angles. The stand taken by private sector spokesmen at the Industrial Advisory Council and the FICCI is noteworthy in this context.

While the agitation against the plan size is continued, the emphasis has already been shifted to the question of share of the private sector in allocation as well as resource mobilisation.

Right from the start when respective roles of the two sectors were considered, it was taken as settled that the private sector's share would be Rs. 7000 crores. This was kept a constant factor in the discussion on the overall size of the plan and the Planning Commission seems to be keeping upto it.

But the private sector has now come forth with the suggestion that it may not be able to gather this order of resources unless further concessions are made to arrange resources flow towards this direction, specially in the industries sector in which an outlay of Rs. 2400 crores is envisaged for the private sector.

There can only be two answers to the posture taken by the private sector. If private enterprise finds it beyond its capacity to gather resources of this order in the prevailing set of conditions, it should be willing to let public sector do the job and there should be proportionate cut in the size of private sector's allocation. Or, government should take upon itself to provide resources for the private sector to maintain its share in the plan.

These alternatives have come again and again in plan implementation. The problem was sharply spotlighted at the time of mid-term appraisal of the third plan when private sector showed serious shortfalls in many vital branches. It was then envisaged that such shortfalls should be picked up by the public sector and made good.

In the present phase of plan preparation this approach has been relegated to the background. This needs to be revived for an effective answer to the private sector's pressures on plan making.



TAILPIECE: While apprehensions were being felt about the likely mischief making capacity of large number of RSS volunteers in the city, the Jan Sangh leaders went about assuring the government leaders that they were taking particular care to prevent "Communist" infiltration into their demonstration so that there was no "trouble". Ingenious indeed, is it not, to cover the tracks? The disgusting fact is that men in authority seem-

That India has to match ed to be mightily pleased by such "assurances".

—B. M.

US HAND IN "OPERATION GIBRALTAR"

WHAT has happened to the much-talked about "rift between the United States and Field Marshal Ayub Khan's government in Rawalpindi?

One fine morning the government-controlled press of Pakistan—especially West Pakistan—has taken off from its pages all mention of Lyndon Johnson's outrageous aid-with-strings policy. The wave of popular protests and anti-American demonstrations in Dacca and other towns—which undoubtedly call for full support from patriotic Indians—no longer finds any mention in the Karachi and Lahore newspapers.

The focus is entirely on "Operation Gibraltar" being assiduously conducted in Kashmir with a massive thrust of infiltrators who have the distinction of possessing compressed food pills, ultra modern outfits of raincoats-cum-tents, and some of the latest automatic American small arms.

Uncle Sam on his part maintains a discreet, quiet posture about "Operation Gibraltar" leaving it to the "free American press" to do the anti-India, pro-Pakistan publicity. Washington of course uses the backdrop of diplomatic secrecy for occasional warnings to India

against any "strong action" with threats of dire consequences.

This does raise the question: what in fact is the equation between Pakistan's Ayub Khan, and the American government which, for all of Pakistan's actions against India, for all the much-publicised Chinese slant in Rawalpindi, retains an almost perfect understanding of objectives and purposes between the two?

The use of American arms in abundance, first in the Kutch operations and now in Kashmir, without producing any feeling of outrage in Washington, raises the issue as a basic question which this country has to fully appraise.

The question also arises: is there a major cleavage between the two?

A careful appraisal of events and the less-publicised behind-the-scenes facts shows that there is no major or insurmountable "rift" or cleavage. Facts deny the significance of rumours, guesses and inspired leaks of "indiscretions" on the much-talked about "basic" differences in the views of Johnson regime and Ayub government.

The "differences" and "rift" which allegedly exist in the views of the two heads—of

imperialist America and its subordinate, the Islamic militaristic regime in Rawalpindi—must be seen as part of a conscious effort to take into account the new circumstances in Asia: the Sino-Indian conflict, the cleavage in the Communist world and the resulting confusion among anti-imperialist Asian countries.

This is a startling statement to make, isn't it? Where is the evidence? Facts of the modern world, however, are sometimes stranger than fiction. Here they are—weighty, fundamental facts.

● A short while before the current Kashmir campaign was launched by Pakistan's reactionary rulers, just when the so-called rift with America over postponement of the Aid Pakistan Consortium meeting was at its height, Pakistan's military budget for the next fiscal year was raised by 31 million dollars to reach an all-time high of 287 million.

This is 12 per cent more than in the current fiscal year, it was announced in Karachi. From where will they come?

● For all the hallyho about curbing of American aid to Pakistan, Washington not only maintains strictly all promises of military aid, but replenishes it. Here is the most convincing proof:

Hardly had the Rann of Kutch operations ceased when Washington concluded with Rawalpindi's military experts (over whom it undoubtedly retains careful hold) a deal through American firms for the supply of Phantom 104 jet planes. The first group of Pakistani military pilots has already left for America for training.

It is these very Phantom 104s which the Government of India has for so long been trying so hard to get and pleading with Washington though in vain. A final answer never seems to come from there.

● Deals such as that of Phantom 104s and other massive equipment for the Pakistani army from America have reached a huge figure. Of America's "aid"—mostly grants—to Pakistan amounting to over 5,200 million dollars since 1951, a major part consists of armaments.

Not enough? Then here is some more!

Evidence comes from an unexpected quarter, the London "Times" (April 30). Sizing up the situation created by American arms aid to Pakistan, the paper notes that "the Pakistan Army is equipped by the United States" and that "once it is engaged in action above the company level, use

of American weapons is inevitable".

The paper confirms that American Patton tanks were used in the recent fighting in the Rann of Kutch.

It is with the use of its armed potential, the strings of which are firmly in Washington's hands, that Pakistan is in a position to organise at any time and in any place such campaigns against India as in the Rann of Kutch and the present campaign in Kashmir.

At the same time, Rawalpindi—after obtaining due clearance from CIA-Washington—combines these actions with a very effective propaganda drive.

Special attention is of course devoted to the use of the tense relations between India and China. Full use is also made (again with approval from Washington) of the Chinese leaders' rigid postures and anti-India stand.

Uncle Sam does not see much harm in all this. It discreetly nods approval, with occasional show of "differences" specially worked up on the eve of Rawalpindi's fresh provocations against India. That was so on the eve of the Kutch aggression, so also now!

—BHIMA

IS ANTI-SOVIETISM A CREED WITH 'MARXISTS'?

The leaders of the "Marxist" Communist Party have evidently no answer to give to the factual articles NEW AGE has been publishing exposing from their own writings their anti-Soviet lies.

THEY do of course make periodical protests, affirming that they are undecided about the ideological issues being debated in the international Communist movement and that, therefore, to charge them with supporting the anti-Soviet line of the international dogmatists is a dirty slander invented by the Indian "revisionists".

But to the concrete evidence of quotations from their official party organs, they conveniently have no answer to give. How can they? For facts are stubborn things.

Last week NEW AGE published a number of quotations from the Andhra organ of the "Marxists", JANASHAKTI. The week before we published anti-Soviet gems from the Hindi organ of the "Marxists"—SWADHINATA.

This week we have before us a whole heap of translations from their Bengali organ, DESH HITTAISHI. It is not possible for reasons of space to give all—here are some from the more recent issues.

In its issue of April 30, DESH HITTAISHI in its last page feature "Prabhaman Duniya" had this to say about the whole question of Soviet assistance to Vietnam:

"In Accra, the capital of Ghana, the Soviet representative, without mentioning the name of any country, significantly said in the executive committee meeting of the WFDY that the Soviet Union was not responsible for the reasons for which supply of Soviet arms and specialists has been delayed.

"The Chinese representative, General Secretary of the Chinese Youth League Chu Liang-o, however, gave a fitting reply, without naming any person or country in the following words: to propagate that China has put obstacles in the way of supplying Soviet arms to Vietnam is a blatant lie. Those who propagate such lies are those who, on their own, inform the American journalists that very little Soviet help has been sent to Vietnam.

"Immediately after this, the same accusation was brought against China through the American journalists, that China is obstructing the supply of Soviet help.

"The simple meaning of this propaganda is to inform the US imperialists that the Soviet Union has not sent any considerable help to Vietnam and therefore the US imperialists can attack Vietnam without worrying. The main proof of the fact that the imperialists

carried out their attack, relying on this information, is that the man of good conscience Johnson started continuous bombing of Democratic Republic of Vietnam...

"The anti-imperialist people of the world may ask the Soviet Union why it becomes necessary to discuss the issue of sending arms, etc. to Vietnam after such a long lapse of time? Had there been no pacifist illusions and wrong evaluation about the programme and character of the US imperialists who are carrying on direct armed intervention in Vietnam and Indo-China for the last ten years, could these issues be raised after such a long time?

"... If there is some delay due to discussion on supply of some new items through the territories of a sovereign state, that does not spoil everything. But who is responsible for the delay in discharging the socialist internationalist task against imperialism, which was due to the modern revisionist ideas?" (Emphasis added)

But E.M.S. Namboodiripad insists that his party is not at all following the anti-Soviet creed of the international dogmatists. Let him compare the above with the slanders trotted out every day by the Chinese leaders (and the Albanian leaders, of course) and he will find that there is not one iota of difference.

"The 'Marxist' leaders are particularly angry because NEW AGE has pointed out that the 'Marxist' journals are attacking the Soviet assistance to India. They insist that they actually welcome Soviet assistance."

Yet DESH HITTAISHI of June 11, 1965 has this to say:

"Some Leftists have become overwhelmed by the progressive character of the Shastri government because some additional aid from the Soviet Union will be forthcoming. It is true that more aid, compared to previous years, will be available from a socialist country and perhaps that would be forthcoming in the public sector. But it is also true that this aid is coming on the basis of a government which represents India's bourgeoisie and landlord classes. This money, of course, will help the ruling class to establish more firmly their class-rule.

"You may say that Soviet aid will strengthen the state sector and thereby will come the monopoly capital. It would have been possible if the state power were in the hands of the people's representatives. But the reality of today is that the state power is controlled by the monopoly capitalists. Therefore, even if the state sector is strengthened, that will not corner the monopoly capital. On the other hand, things will be quite reverse—this public sector will be used to strengthen the monopoly capital still more." (Emphasis added)

One wonders if this is the way Soviet assistance is welcomed. Let E.M.S. Namboodiripad compare the above arguments with the slanderous attacks made by the international dogmatists on Soviet assistance to underdeveloped countries and he will find them identical.

As a last piece from DESH HITTAISHI, we quote from its June 18 issue, a piece on the Soviet Party leadership. This is what it writes:

"Khrushchov has been removed

from the leadership of the Soviet Party and government. But his revisionist ideology has not died in the Soviet Union. On the occasion of the 47th anniversary of the October Revolution, the First Secretary of the CPSU, Brezhnev said: 'Our state is the state of the whole people, which is the natural development of proletarian dictatorship.'

"... The revisionist Khrushchov clique, in support of their theory, wants to say that there is only one class in the Soviet Union. But what do the real facts prove? They prove that in the socialist Soviet Union there remains still today, alongwith the state-owned property, cooperative-owned properties. There are workingclass and peasantry and intellectual community. There is a contradiction between the means of production and the production relation.

"... This real picture in the Soviet Union of today is that the remnants of the bourgeoisie still remain there changing their colour and under the influence of international capitalism, new elements of capitalism are coming up there." (Emphasis added)

But E.M.S. Namboodiripad insists that to call the "Marxists" anti-Soviet is a dirty slander. Unfortunately, a reading of the "Marxist" press leads one to the conclusion that anti-Sovietism has become a creed with the "Marxists".

Not all the verbal jugglery, in which E.M.S. Namboodiripad indulges, can wipe out the cold print of the quotations given above and in previous issues of NEW AGE.

Some Object-Lessons Of Kutch & Kashmir

While the government and the Opposition are one in viewing the situation in Kashmir as a serious threat to our country posed by Pakistan, whose army personnel in the disguise of civilians has crossed the cease-fire line in large numbers and attempted sabotage and destruction according to a carefully laid plan, the criticism of government's complacency in defence matters will continue to be voiced so long as New Delhi treats every new threat from Pakistani side as a separate case.

GOVERNMENT spokesmen might well argue that the present attack by Pakistan in Kashmir has nothing to do with the earlier problem of Kutch which the country had to face only a few months before.

But it was well known in New Delhi even at the time of the Kutch incident that Pakistan was training large number of guerrillas and mujahids in the Azad Kashmir area and there was a general concentration of troops by Pakistan all along her borders with India. The number of cease fire violations in Kashmir by Pakistan had shown a record rise—over 1,800—in the seven months from January to July this year, as is now admitted by Chavan in Parliament.

With such indications, the fact that we could not prevent this massive Pakistani infiltration from taking place cannot be explained by merely saying that the infiltrators come in small groups over an extensive and difficult terrain and it is difficult to stop them.

Here obviously is the central point in Opposition criticism, that our intelligence has not been alert and capable of detecting the danger before it materialises.

On the political side, there is more than a little justification.

tion to the charge that the Government of India has too much and too long relied on the UN observers in Kashmir, trying to draw comfort from an occasional report by them against Pakistan, whereas in reality they have all along turned a blind eye to the steady nature of Pak violations of the cease-fire line.

Pakistan has never bothered about the presence of UN observers in Kashmir, in fact the presence of the UN has not at any time prevented her from attempting what she wanted to do.

The case of General Nimmo, the Chief UN Military Observer, who had all these years maintained that he cannot object to armed or unarmed civilians from crossing the cease-fire line illustrates what these "observers" are.

Evidently Pakistan has made the best of this argument to send her armed personnel in civilian disguise into Kashmir crossing the cease-fire line.

Also there is the question, does New Delhi which is now seized of the seriousness of the situation created by Pakistan's attack on Kashmir, take an equally serious and firm stand in relation to those powers which give aid and comfort to Pakistan so that she may go on creating trouble for India?

For, even the blind cannot

fail to see today that but for the massive military aid and moral support which the Anglo-American imperialists had generously bestowed on the rulers of Pakistan in all these years of her disputes with India, Pakistan would never have reached a position to challenge the defences of this country. A later addition to the Ayub Club has been China, whose logic has led her to accept any adversary of India as her own friend.

Yet, government spokesmen continue to be unduly cautious when confronted with the question of Anglo-American complicity in Pakistan's attacks and provocations against this country.

The performance of Sardar Swaran Singh in Parliament in the first two days of the current session when he was faced with a volley of questions on the outcome of government's protest to the USA about the use of American arms by Pakistan against India in the Rann of Kutch must have left a bad taste even for Congress men.

The Minister's reply that "we were informed that the US Government had taken up the matter with the Government of Pakistan and that this had had the desired effect" was as uncertain and unimaginative as any answer could be.

Even after some persistent questioning by members, among them a few sharp ones put by Kamath, H. C. Mathur and Hiren Mukherjee, nobody could find out what this "desired effect" was.

One must be extremely credulous to believe the word of the US imperialists for the good behaviour of Pakistan's rulers. Even Sardar Swaran Singh had to concede that the US assurances on this score, that the arms supplied by her to Pakistan will not be used against India, were difficult to be implemented.

USSR HELPS INDIA'S DEFENCE

BUT as often in such cases realisation comes slow to New Delhi and even then it can be temporary. Otherwise, the whole experience of our shopping in Western capitals for military hardware could itself have produced by this time a few sharp reactions and some plain speaking by New Delhi to educate the so-called "friendly" governments of UK and USA on the current mood of the Indian people.

In this connection, it is worthwhile to refer to a report that the US Government has agreed to supply a further consignment of Phantom 104 jets to Pakistan even as the Government of India has been trying in vain so long to get these planes from the American Government.

Reporting this, the IPA says: "It is understood that the deal was negotiated and

Comment

finalised soon after cessation of the Indo-Pakistani fighting in the Rann of Kutch.

"The first group of Pakistani military pilots has already left for the United States for training. Further batches of pilots are expected to proceed from Pakistan shortly".

It could be another proof, if proof were wanted, of what the stakes are in our confrontation with a belligerent neighbour whose allies New Delhi has tried to cultivate assiduously with the hope that they may exercise some influence on her and soften her attitude towards us.

On the other hand is the heartening spectacle of the steadfast friendship of the Soviet Union for our country and her willingness to honour all her commitments and help India to strengthen her defences and her economy.

The Soviet Union has consistently upheld Kashmir's accession to India in international councils and been of help more than once to this country when faced with Anglo-American machinations.

Recent reports by Indian correspondents stationed in Moscow have further emphasised the fact of Soviet readiness to supply India all her defence requirements. A PTI report of August 9 from Moscow says:

"The Soviet Union is willing to supply the naval equipment required by India to strengthen its defence and protect its long coastline, according to knowledgeable sources.

"The sources said that the Soviet Union had long ago pointed out that India's defence needed to be strengthened not only on its land frontiers, but also on its coastline. Apart from its army, India had to modernise its naval and air defence potential".

The Indian Express correspondent reported on August 14:

"The Soviet Union is prepared to supply all Indian defence and naval requirements, if need be. This sentiment has been conveyed to the Indian authorities, it is reliably understood here".

These are very significant and welcome factors in the present situation. An Indian delegation left for Moscow last Saturday to conduct negotiations with the Soviet authorities for the acquisition of submarines, after a request by the Government of India to Britain for even one sub-

marine had been turned down by that Commonwealth country on the plea of her "present financial difficulties".

INDO-SOVIET TRADE IN IV PLAN

ALSO leaving for Moscow this week was another high level delegation for preliminary talks for concluding a new five-year trade agreement between our two countries.

As envisaged in the joint communique by the Prime Ministers of the two countries issued at the conclusion of Lal Bahadur Shastri's visit to Moscow in May last, trade between India and the Soviet Union is to be roughly doubled in the next 5 years on the basis of the actual Indo-Soviet trade in 1964.

Since exports of Indian goods to the Soviet Union in 1964 were worth about Rs. 75 crores, and since the trade between the two countries is a balanced one, the new trade agreement will be prepared so as to reach the figure of Rs. 150 crores each way by 1970.

The present talks are expected to cover a wide range of subjects including joint ventures by which certain industries can be set up in India with Soviet assistance for producing goods for export to the USSR.

The Soviet Union, consistent with her policy of helping the economy of developing countries has been purchasing more and more manufactured goods from India including machinery, chemical and other products, engineering products etc. This apart from the usual exports of tea, jute products, tobacco, coffee, spices etc.

In return, the Soviet exports to India have consisted of machinery and equipment with spares and components for major industrial projects such as those set up in Bhilai, Ranchi, Hardwar, a well as for hydro projects and irrigation projects etc.

Indo-Soviet trade which has expanded considerably in recent years thus plays a key role in our development effort and therefore the prospect of its further quick expansion is of much significance when the country is trying to formulate its Fourth Five Year Plan.

K. U. KARIER (August 17)

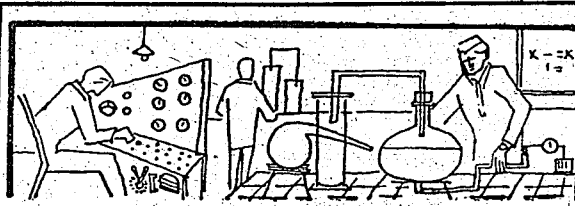
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BANGALORE: Nearly one-third of the state is in the grip of drought conditions. While the hungry people are clamouring for food the government officials are helplessly looking at the sky for rains without rushing relief operations. Rains have not come in many places and crops have completely failed. Fodder and drinking water have become scarce. Prices are soaring.

KARNATAKA

From G. S. SATYANARAYANA

DROUGHT AND FAMINE

DESPERATE PEOPLE EATING ROOTS & TUBERS

NEARLY eight out of 19 districts in the state are drought-hit. Some of the districts are facing famine conditions.

Reports of stray clashes and looting of standing crops from fields have appeared in the press. People are leaving their villages and are going to town; men in search of work, children to beg.

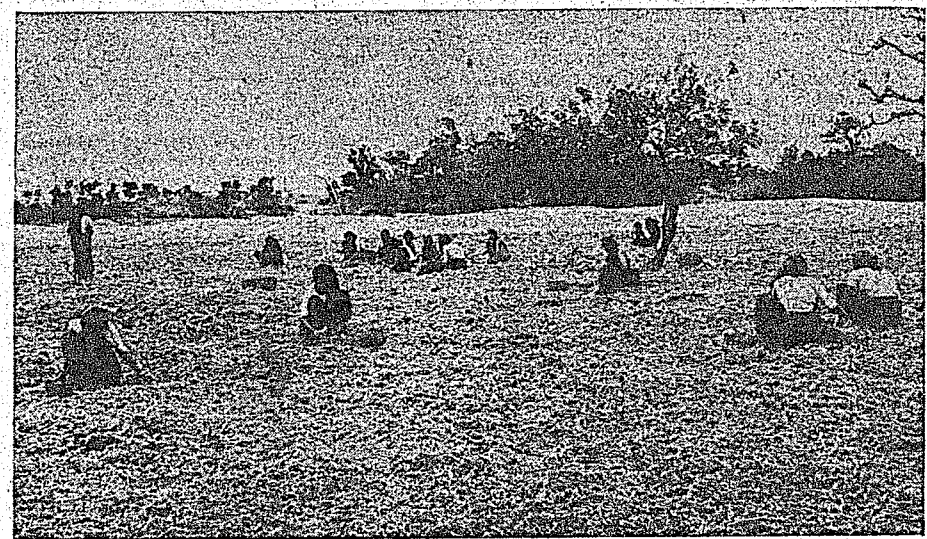
Even though conditions were bad for long and such a calamitous situation was fore-

seen, the government failed to take any steps in time. Only a fortnight back, it took a hurried decision to rush Rs. one lakh each to the affected districts.

But this amount is pathetically short of actual need to

undertake even minimum relief operations. It is estimated that some of the districts like Kolar, Chitradurga, Bangalore will each require nearly ten times more than the sanctioned amount.

The government relief ope-



Hungry people searching for roots and tubers.

FLOOD RAVAGES : 33 DEAD IN MADHYA PRADESH

From B. K. GUPTA

BHOPAL: The floods in Sehore, Raisen and Vidisha districts of Madhya Pradesh have caused extensive damages. Almost all the villagers affected by floods have become homeless. Loss of cattleheads numbering over 5000 and huge quantities of stored foodgrains have been reported. Officially 33 deaths have admitted so far. The final assessment of the loss is yet to be made.

From the night of July 27 for four days, there were heavy rains in this area. In some places over 25 inches of rains were recorded.

There are many dams—big and small—in the area. Some of them are not in good condition. There were breaches in them which were never repaired. Moreover they are not properly built to withstand heavy rains.

Because of these reasons much water was released from them during the heavy rains, inundating the surrounding areas.

The water released from these dams mingled in the river Betawa and its several tributaries contributing to the fury of floods.

Another reason which has further aggravated the flood situation is the opening of the nine out of eleven floodgates of the Bhadbbhada dam which is an outlet of the Bhopal tank—one of the highest tanks in the state. This tank not only receives rainwaters of the city but also a number of villages around it. A

river-Kalliasot — also originates from the dam.

The sudden release of water from Bhadbbhada without warning the people is regarded as an inhuman act on the part of the officials concerned.

Although it is a fact that the level of the Bhopal tank was rising posing a threat to the low-lying areas of Bhopal, it is claimed by experts that the damage due to the rise of the level of the tank would not have been so serious as was caused by the release of the waters.

It is also alleged that the floodgates were opened not with a view to save the common people living in the low-lying areas but to save some fashionable bungalows of the big contractors and high officials living on the bank of the Bhopal tank.

Political parties and newspapers have to come forward to demand a judicial-technical enquiry into the causes of the floods.

The remarkable work done by the Central Railway in restoring the traffic by the hard labour of over 4000 workers is widely appreciated here. Normal traffic was restored within seven days which is regarded as the record time for completing such a difficult task.

This area has also suffered in the past. But the authorities did not learn any lessons. In 1961 the flood waters also caused much damage to this area. But still the authorities did not make any arrangement to face such an eventuality.

When the flood waters inundated this area on the night of July 27, the officials were taken unawares. In spite of their efforts they could not do much to rush the rescue parties to the affected areas.

When this was suggested to one of the top officials he replied: "now they expect us to carry the foodgrains on our heads to them." Such is the cynical attitude of the officials.

It is felt that to speed up relief operations and ensure its equitable distribution, it is necessary to associate political and social workers with the relief committees. But the government has not so far formed any such committees and the entire work of relief operations has been entrusted to the officials.

Although the Chief Minister has given a hint that he would order a preliminary enquiry into the causes of the floods, but so far no formal announcement has been made.

All the opposition parties including the Communist Party have demanded a judicial enquiry into the causes of floods.

There are many villages where relief measures are yet to be taken. The foodgrains given to the people are inadequate. The affected people have to cover a distance of four to five miles passing through knee-deep mud to take 200 grams of atta per head.

It is felt that instead of asking the people to come to the relief camps, if the officials could send the foodgrains and other necessities to the affected areas it would relieve people of much difficulty.

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rations are completely unsatisfactory. Even in the face of this grave situation the official lethargy is outrageous. In many places the relief operations have not even started. A reporter of DECCAN HERALD who recently toured Kolar district was "surprised" to learn that the district authorities have no knowledge of Rs. one lakh supposed to have been sanctioned for relief work.

Conditions in the affected areas are appalling. The starving people are eating tubers and roots dug up from the dried-up tanks. The DECCAN HERALD has carried a report which said that the reporter at one place saw (at a dried-up tank) nearly one hundred hungry women, men and children excavating earth to "discover" some tiny sweet-potato like stuff. They go on digging throughout the day extracting these roots and tubers which they call gothigadda or sankaragadda.

People are demanding more fair-price shops and alternative employment so that they can get money to buy food.

Picture Of Agony

The same reporter after a tour of Chitradurga district writes "I heard reports of starvation in all the taluks we toured. With due margin of exaggeration it is found to be common." "Many of them are starving. Young Chikkamma (in Bharampura) has not lighted the oven for the past four days. Her husband has gone out in search of jobs in the channel-town of Hariyur and not yet returned.

The people are so desperate in many places that the reporter of DECCAN HERALD was told by a peasant in Chitradurga district: "why does not the government give us some poison and kill us? We cannot stand this hunger." An agricultural labourer was reported to have said: "let us do some thing that will land us in jail, at least our rations will be assured."

The situation is extremely bad and late rains now will not improve the position. Only by rushing foodgrains and selling them at a subsidised rate and speedy relief operations are the only alternative. Government has not done this so far even in the worst-affected places and seems to be smugly complacent about the whole thing.

DHORI ENQUIRY

THE Dhori court of inquiry rejected the application of the Bokaro and Ramgarh Ltd. to stay the proceedings of the Court till the disposal of a criminal case against them arising out of Dhori disaster.

The lawyers of the management stated that the proceeding before the court has been made nugatory in view of the police case and they would be prejudiced "if the present proceedings are not stayed."

Justice S. K. Das rejected the petition of the management and pointed out that this court is a quasi-judicial body and a fact finding commission, and any delay to enquire into causes of this accident would be harmful and ridiculous. He also observed that nobody is prejudiced and no constitutional right is violated by the institution of the criminal case against the management.

However, he made it clear that the court would treat "the police report against the management as a mere scrap of paper" and the court would independently proceed on its work.

The Advocate General of the Bihar government declared that no charge-sheet etc. would be submitted by the police against the management till the conclusion of this court of inquiry. He however gave this assurance on condition that the management withdraws its petition for stay order.

The lawyers and the management refused to withdraw the petition or agree to accept the offer of the Bihar government and declared that they would be filing a petition in the High Court against the decision of the Court of Inquiry.

The court however directed the parties to submit their statements on August 10 and fixed the next date of hearing on August 30 for evidence.

FAMINE CONDITIONS IN ANANTAPUR DISTRICT

HYDERABAD: A joint statement issued by representatives of all parties and prominent individuals has focussed the attention of the state on the famine conditions prevailing in Anantapur district and the miserable plight of the people who have to live on grass, roots and leaves etc.

THE signatories to the statement include T. Ramachandra Reddy, Zilla Parishad chairman, A. Chidambaram Reddy, MLC and district Congress committee president, V. K. Adinarayan Reddy, MLA and secretary of the district council of the CPI, I. Sadasivan, MLC (CPI), Y. Subramaniam and M. Ramachandra Rao of PSP and P. Ashwathappa, president of the district Swatantra Party.

Scarcity is too inadequate an expression to bring out the seriousness of the situation in Anantapur district. The statement of the representatives of political parties has demanded starting famine relief work in the district and setting up of fair prices shops.

While such is the situation in Anantapur, it would be a mistake to consider it an isolated phenomenon. All news from other districts show that it is not so, it is evident that this is a prelude to a wide-spread food crisis in this surplus state.

The situation was rendered more critical by the draught, and the destruction of the dry crop by pests even in those areas where sowing was possible due to early monsoon showers. And the shameful aspect of the matter was that Food Minister Balarama Reddy could talk about his 30,000 tons buffer stock while the people are denied even a starvation diet.

The three-day debate on the non-official resolution on food situation moved by Communist members, Nanka Satyanarayana and N. Prasad Rao in the Assembly showed that there was near unanimity on the point that the situa-

tion was quite serious, though the Swatantra and their patrons inside the Congress differed naturally on the ways to solve it.

The resolution demanded the introduction of statutory rationing in all towns and villages with a population of 500 and more and government take-over of the food trade.

It turned out to be a censure motion against the pro-hoarder and pro-land lord food policy of the Rajapaksa Andhra Cabinet. In the voting, while the Congress members had to line up behind the whip, the Swatantra remained neutral.

Wanted: Food Not Figures

As the Communist Opposition has warned, the government is sitting on a keg of gunpowder of people's discontent and doling out inflated statistics. What the people need is food and not

figures, and the government apparently has no policy to satisfy them.

The entire Opposition, with the exception of the Swatantra walked out of the House when the motion of thanks to the Governor's Address was adopted, protesting against the indifference of the government towards people's demands.

The coming days will see hunger marches by peasants and agricultural labour and already the Anantapur march has been announced for the 28th of this month. N. Rajasekhara Reddy, secretary of the Andhra Pradesh council of the CPI will participate in it.

The provincial executive of the CPI which met for five days in its resolution on the food problem called upon all Party units to take initiative to form all-party food committees to conduct the people's fight for food. Already the other left parties have been sounded in the matter.

Meanwhile, the students of the Osmania and Venkateswara Universities are on strike since last week demanding the abolition of the detention regulations newly introduced this year. The authorities of the Osmania

University have handed over the university to the police for "disciplining" the students.

A sort of martial law atmosphere is created inside the campus and even wardens are not spared from police atrocities.

The leader of the Opposition, Pillalamarri Venkateswarulu, condemning police brutality has demanded on the floor of the Assembly a judicial enquiry into the affairs which led to the ugly scenes of breaking open hostel doors. The Chief Minister gave a harangue on the virtues of non-violence.

The strike is continuing peacefully and the police atrocities have provoked much criticism and revulsion among the public.

Another case of police atrocities cited by Communist MLAs in the Assembly was from Narasampet where the police has acted to help the landlords. The police, interfering in a dispute over a passage which is before the court, had opened fire on the people in Maheshwaram killing one Communist.

A. Kamaladevi, N. Prasad Rao and N. Mohan Rao who visited the place had tabled the call attention motion in the Assembly.

SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE OF TAMILNAD KISAN SABHA

From OUR CORRESPONDENT

MADRAS: The Thirteenth Session of the Tamilnad State Kisan Sabha which met for two days at Keezh Ambur in Tirunelveli district has demanded of the central and state governments the formulation and implementation of a national food policy based on the three pillars of production, procurement and distribution of foodgrains. The resolution was adopted in the open session of the conference which concluded on August 8 with a mammoth rally.

THE resolution *inter alia* pointed out that though eighteen years have gone by since Independence was achieved, and though declarations of national unity and national integration were being made from house-tops by leaders of the ruling party and ministers, the Central Government had completely failed in evolving a National Food Policy regarding production, procurement and distribution.

The Union Government was at the mercy of powerful state governments whose food policies were dictated by big landlords, millers and wholesale dealers. All this had created the present crisis in spite of the fact of increased production and imports.

The resolution further pinpointed the fact of the Bhakthavatsalam Ministry of Madras having surrendered to wholesale dealers in food-

grains. The government had no share or role in the matter of procurement. Though the system of family cards had been introduced in deficit districts prices of rice were shooting up in the open market.

The price of paddy to be procured through wholesalers had been fixed but compared with the selling price of rice in the open market, what the actual peasant was getting was only half of this. Despite all this, the state government and its Chief Minister were claiming that all was well with the state of Madras.

The way out, according to the conference, was for the government to take over for the entire responsibility of procurement of rice and other foodgrains. It should further be its responsibility, to hand over the surplus foodgrains

(after setting apart the needs of the state) to such deficit states as Kerala.

Through another resolution, the conference demanded that Tirunelveli district should be declared as a famine affected area. The district was facing a draught, the like of which it has not faced during the last thirteen years. The banks of the river Tamraparni were one of the most fertile areas of Tamilnad, but today they were dried up.

Another resolution warned the inam legislation. The resolution referred to the government notification by which a particular village was exempted from the provisions of the Act to help a big landlord who happened to be none other than the brother of Raja Sir Muthia Chettiar.

The Ambur village where the conference was held is a fortress of the Red Flag and the Kisan Sabha. All the 12 members of the local panchayat who were returned against this combined might of Congress and the DMK are active workers of the Kisan Sabha and the Communist Party. It appeared as though the entire village had got up the show for the conference.

Every nook and corner was decorated with Red Flags and festoons. The peasants and the common people of the village had contributed to put up a special

shamiana which could easily accommodate over 10,000. Over 5,000 people of the entire area, men, women and children participated in the procession with the rural folk dances, the drums and music so peculiar to Tamilnad.

Over hundred delegates from all the districts actively participated in the two day delegates session. Manali Kandaswami, one of the founder leaders of the Tamilnad Kisan movement led the discussions. From Tanjore, the granary of Tamilnad and the cradle of its Kisan movement came the biggest contingent of delegates.

A. K. Subbiah, MLA from Tanjore was elected the president of the Sabha and M. Kathamuthu also from Tanjore general secretary. S. Adimoolam, another veteran Kisan worker was elected joint secretary.

A. K. Subbiah presided over the open session. Kathamuthu and Adimoolam reported on the resolution adopted by the conference. The open conference was addressed by C. Achutha Menon, Secretary of the Kerala State Council of the Communist Party of India and Manali Kandaswami.

The conference concluded with cultural performances, the main item being a drama entitled "class relations" put up by a cultural troupe of the Tanjore unit of the Communist Party.

PLANNING AT CROSSROADS

The Planning Commission has again retreated before the pressure of the right, though it has not completely surrendered. It has again evaded the real challenge of the developments in our national economy. It has shown a bankruptcy of vision and courage when faced with the problem of policy and structural changes as part of the very process of genuine planning.

ASOKA Mehta claims that a "big" plan has been saved and that a so-called plan "pause" has been averted, thanks to the "luminous" speech of Prime Minister Shastri. Unfortunately, this is far from being the whole truth.

It is true that the doleful chorus from the inveterate right reactionaries has not become the theme-song of the official Fourth Plan. It should not be forgotten that this was a powerful and sustained chorus: Tata, Masani, Patil, G. L. Mehta, Kiroloskar, Lindsay of the Associated Chambers all pressed for a total reversal of the trends of Indian planning, a retreat from the very concept of development.

Their arguments are familiar enough: "We do not have the financial resources to attempt anything more than Rs. 18,000 crores." "Foreign exchange beyond Rs. 3,000 crores is quite beyond us." "The administration, with its controls, cannot cope with anything but a minimal Plan." "Let us do in seven years what was earlier thought possible to accomplish in five."

This undue pessimism and advocacy of a "smaller" plan is nothing but the political line of neo-colonialism. It is the advocacy of keeping India tied to the imperialist world market as part of its undeveloped hinterland. It is a call for consolidation on the basis of the present mass misery and arrested growth.

One should go further and realise that this unseemly advice of a "small" plan together with a "pause" is essentially meant to dismantle whatever there is of planning in our country and, to use Masani's words, let "men and money loose" i.e. unbridled capitalist development along the lines of Japan and West Germany.

The Planning Commission has decided not to accept this advice wholesale. This is a welcome development, won through quite a good deal of bitter struggle inside and outside the government. The decision has been taken to continue as before, to keep to the path of independent capitalist development.

But the rejection of the neo-colonialist path cannot be irrevocable, so long as those policies and methods of Plan implementation continue that strengthen precisely the neo-colonialist forces. The ferocious right offensive and the inherent weakness of the independent capitalist-path as pursued by the Congress has prevented the Planning Commission from seeing the simple truth and acting upon it.

Situation Different

The situation today is not what it was during the days of the debate on the Mahalanobis Plan frame in 1955-56. The limited advance made at that time has not been carried forward and the attempt to stand still on all basic policy issues is fraught with disaster.

First, take the financial size of the proposed Fourth Plan. Even the upper range of Rs. 22,800 crores outlay proposed a few months ago has been abandoned once and for all. Even the lower range of Rs. 21,500 crores has been given up though attempts are being made to disguise this fact.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES of August 13 very correctly pointed out that the recommended Fourth Plan size is now

Rs. 20,800 crores. This further reduction from the minimum agreed upon earlier is said to be due to the coming decisions of the Finance Commission which will devolve a further Rs. 600 crores to the states from central finances.

This should be borne in mind since Asoka Mehta and others are attempting to convert what is a retreat into a triumph. It should be recalled that the memorandum on the Fourth Plan released in October 1964 has worked out a set of physical targets on the assumption that the outlay would reach Rs. 22,500 crores. It had said that "it was not possible to indicate physical targets on the basis of a plan outlay of Rs. 21,500 crores." This task would now become well nigh impossible.

Working Group's Recommendations

It should further be remembered that the Fourth Plan memorandum had mentioned the fact that the work-

ing groups set up by the Planning Commission had visualised a plan outlay in the public sector of Rs. 24,162 crores. "This with the addition of the Reserve Bank estimate of about Rs. 7,000 crores in the private sector, indicated a total outlay of over Rs. 30,000 crores for the Fourth Plan."

This was the financial outlay considered essential to achieve the set of physical targets and increase in aggregate income which would lead to a Fourth Plan national income growth rate of about 6.5 to 7 per cent.

As far as one can make out these calculations were based on 1962 prices. Considering the inflation that has taken place since then it is quite obvious that a far bigger financial outlay would be required to achieve those very same targets. And now the Planning Commission has accepted a considerably lower financial outlay.

What this amounts to is that a "cut" and a "pause" of some 10,000 crores has already been accepted by the Planning Commission as compared to its own previous targets.

Second, let us remember what the Fourth Plan memorandum had itself stated about the Third Plan achievements. "The aggregate investment targets will have been achieved in financial terms, several of the physical targets of production or capacity set for the Third Plan will not be reached by 1965-66."

It states that the national income in 1965-66 may be around Rs. 17,400

crores (at 1960-61 prices) rather than Rs. 19,000 crores i.e. a shortfall of Rs. 1,600 crores despite a likely reaching of the targets of financial outlay. This is a reflection of shortfalls in targeted physical outputs.

To give only a few examples, foodgrains production was scheduled to rise to 100 million tonnes, but is not likely to be more than 82 million tonnes. Steel output will be only 7.4 million tons instead of 9.2 million tons.

Instead of 1.4 million tons of chemical fertilisers, actual production will be eight lakh tons. Coal output will be 76 million tons instead of 98.6 million tons. Alloy steel production will be only 0.5 million tons instead of 2 million tons.

The net result is that the 30 per cent increase of national income targeted for the Third Plan is very far from being reached. It is not likely to be more than 22 to 25 per cent.

The reason is that the price situation has gone completely out of control. From March 1961 to September 1964 there was a 44.4 per cent rise in the price of foodgrains, a 5.9 per cent rise in prices of manufactured articles and a 7 per cent rise in price of industrial raw materials. In all, the general index rose by 24 per cent.

The reason is that the price situation has gone completely out of control. From March 1961 to September 1964 there was a 44.4 per cent rise in the price of foodgrains, a 5.9 per cent rise in prices of manufactured articles and a 7 per cent rise in price of industrial raw materials. In all, the general index rose by 24 per cent.

As for foreign exchange, the memorandum had estimated that a total of Rs. 3,200 crores of foreign exchange would be required apart from what can be earned through exports. Now, with a smaller plan, Asoka Mehta told the press on August 13 that Rs. 4,000 crores of foreign exchange would have to be found, apart from exports!

It is high time that the democratic movement took up these two questions in all earnestness. A stage has been reached when the people should demand a tax holiday as far as fresh taxes are concerned. A stage has equally been reached when further foreign exchange liabilities should not be incurred. The Soviet pattern of assistance should be insisted upon from the imperialist countries as well, i.e. aid essentially through balanced trade.

Fourth, the social and policy changes essential for rapid growth of the economy and rapid advance to a just democratic society, can no longer be postponed. It is quite absurd that the entire debate on the Plan in the Planning Commission turns around financial aggregates while the question of structural changes is conveniently ignored.

Agrarian reforms and extensive nationalisation have now to be brought on to the centre of the stage, as far as the debate on the Fourth Plan is concerned. Without such fundamental democratic reforms there is not the slightest chance that the Fourth Plan will really bring India nearer the goal of economic independence and social justice.

The real alternative to the neo-colonialist formula of a "smaller" and "extended" plan is not the holding operation of getting through an outlay decision of Rs. 20,800 crores.

The real alternative is a plan bold in physical size, adequate in financial balancing and thoroughly oriented to radical social change. The battle must be joined between the adherents of the neo-colonialist path and the entire democratic movement with its programme of a non-capitalist path.

(August 16)

DEFEAT ATTEMPTS TO GIVE NEO-COLONIALIST TWIST TO FOURTH FIVE-YEAR PLAN

By MOHIT SEN

There are conflicting reports about the actual rise in national income. Some economists rightly pointed out that the rise is likely to be more than officially estimated since the share and rate of growth of the small industries sector is underestimated.

Others point out that the national income estimates include the income of the government servants of all categories. Since this swells year by year, the rise in national income is artificially inflated.

Whatever the final balance that might be struck, it is quite clear that mere financial outlays is no guarantee that actual physical targets will be achieved. The very fact that the Planning Commission still clings to the outlook of financial balancing as the exclusive method is a sign that it is not serious about genuine planning.

Question Of Internal Balances

The experts of the Planning Commission are quite well aware that planning is first and foremost a question of internal balances and their dynamic equilibrium. Finances come in as the measure of value and medium of circulation. These commodity balances cannot just be juggled about.

Yet this kind of juggling is precisely what the Planning Commission pundits are engaged in. This kind of so-called financial planning is compatible with some kind of state-capitalist programming but it is quite opposed

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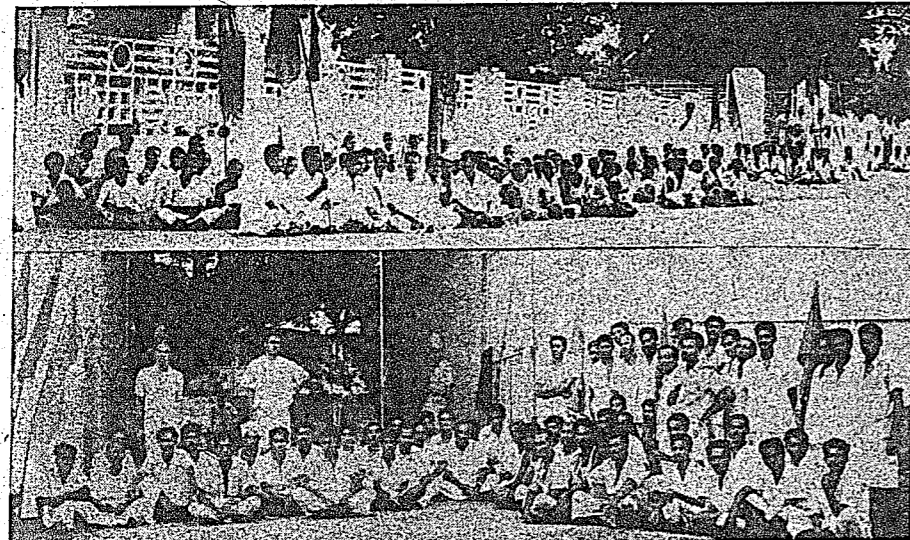
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BATTLE FOR FOOD—PEOPLE IN ACTION

Police Repression Fails To Cow Down Hungry Masses In Bihar



Scenes from Kerala food-struggle: Above, two views of the mass satyagraha before Quilon Collectorate; below, Satyagraha before Trichur Collectorate; bottom, satyagraha before Calicut Collectorate



From K. GOPALAN

PATNA: Patna Bandh and students' strike on August 9 has turned into a mighty struggle of the people all over the state against the Congress government for its failure to bring down the prices and tackle the food crisis.

WHILE ordering to fire on the students of Patna at the foot of the Martyrs' Memorial before the Assembly on last Monday, the government had miscalculated. It failed to realise that it would only fan the popular wrath all over Bihar which will erupt in massive protest demonstrations in all parts of the state.

What happened in Patna on Bandh day has been repeated in almost all big and small towns as well as in countryside; people rose in protest and the government faced the challenge with lathis and bullets.

The state government was virtually paralysed for a few days, not only in Patna, but all over the state. Three days which followed the Patna Bandh was actually people's day. The state government desperately tried to assert its authority. People defied lathis and bullets and observed complete strike and staged massive demonstrations before the government offices at various levels.

Section 144 was imposed throughout the state and curfew was clamped on all major cities including Patna, Muzaffarpur, Bhagalpur and Ranchi. Army was called in Patna to help the civil authorities and it was alerted in Ranchi. Police assistance was sought from the neighbouring states like U.P. and West Bengal to cope with the situation.

Pattern of the struggle was the same in all places—strike, demonstrations and gherao of the government offices. Despite this universal manifestation of the mass discontent and frustration by the people, the government refused to take positive steps to meet the demands of the people and the students and adopted ruthless punitive measures to suppress the popular movement.

Extreme force was applied in all centres. According to reports pouring in from all parts of the state, police resorted to firing in 14 places—Patna, Muzaffarpur, Darbhanga, Bhagalpur, Monghyr, Begusaral, Barani, Bihta, Naubatpur, Sulatguni, Jamalpur, Bakhtapur, Daltongunj and Islampur. Teargassing and lathi charges were resorted to in numerous places.

Despite widespread resort to force, the government is not prepared to divulge the actual number of casualties. The PWD Minister told the Vidhan Parishad on Friday that the government had "no accurate figures of the victims of last

four days incidents in the state."

But according to unofficial estimates, hundreds have sustained injuries by bullets or lathis and scores have died. According to reports appearing in the local press five to ten persons died in Patna firing alone, which the government has promptly contradicted.



Yogindra Sharma

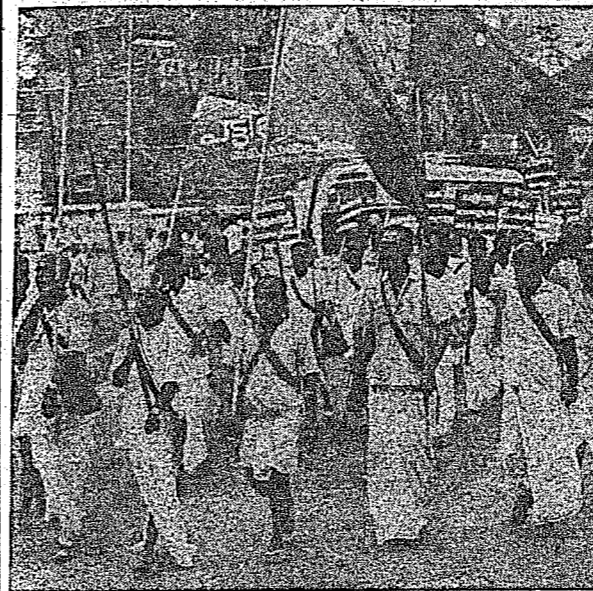
Reports of six deaths outside Patna have so far appeared in the press, which has not yet been contradicted. One person died of bullet injuries in Patna Medical College hospital. There is a feeling among the people that casualty figures are deliberately being suppressed.

While sponsoring the Patna Bandh jointly, the CPI and SSP had made it clear that the agitation would be peaceful. The RSP and the Marxist CP supported the move afterwards.

After the Patna firing and eruption of popular wrath, the sponsoring left parties again appealed to the people to maintain perfect peace while protesting against the government actions.

Now the state government is trying to exploit certain incidents for discrediting the popular movement. The government and the ruling party have overnight discovered that "Pindi and Peking agents" were engaged in acts of sabotage by exploiting the situation. This is considered to be an effort on the part of the government to justify the use of extreme force to suppress the popular movement.

But there are saner elements in the state who do not subscribe to this theory. They consider that rough and unmaginary dealing of the students' demonstration and Patna Bandh by the government was responsible for whipping up the popular



The Kerala hungermarchers in the state capital

wrath and subsequent developments in Patna and all over Bihar.

A Birla group daily, THE SEARCHLIGHT, whose editor has now been arrested under DIR, while editorially commenting on the Patna incidents said:

"The manner in which the Patna Police handled the 'Bandh' showed its inability to adjust to changed circumstances. The crowd of students in the Secretariat area could have been handled in other ways than by firing bullets..."

The editorial further added: "Politicians who are in power should muster enough courage to face the people. When they claim to reflect the will of the people why are they afraid to meeting demonstrators? A courageous member of the government could have saved the situation on Monday by walking up to the people and siphoning off some of their anger" (August 11).

The ARYAVARTA, a Darbhanga group Hindi daily in an editorial on August 12 said: "People of the state are facing a serious crisis due to

high prices and scarcity of foodgrains and other consumer goods hence discontent among them is natural. In view of this discontent if the people participate in anti-government demonstrations, it cannot be described as unnatural."

The ARYAVARTA held that "it is the duty of the state government act according to the feelings of the people."

Communist MPs Indrajit Gupta and Renu Chakravarty who visited Patna on August 11 told a press conference here that all these emotional outbursts were manifestations of accumulated frustration among the people due to high prices of foodgrains and scarcity.

The two MPs held that "but for the tactless police action the firing would not have been necessary."

Jalprakash Narayan while condemning the "acts of hooliganism and vandalism" admitted:

"No doubt the shortage and soaring prices of foodgrains are causing terrible hardship to the people and it is quite understandable that it may

Maharashtra: Govt Retreats First Round

From SARALA KARKHANIS

BOMBAY: The week beginning August 9 witnessed a great slump in the prestige of the Maharashtra government and the ruling party, which stood exposed on the food issue. Twice the Legislature had to be adjourned, and ultimately both the houses had to be prorogued prematurely on August 13.

AGAINST the background of rising prices and scarcity of foodgrains, particularly in the rural areas, opposition parties in the state, barring the FSP, have launched a powerful agitation. MLAs and MLCs belonging to the opposition parties held a meeting on August 7 and as elected representatives of the people of Maharashtra decided to take the battle for people's food into the legislature.

The meeting was held in response to appeal made by the united food committee of the Peasants and Workers Party, the Communist Party of India, the Samyukt Socialist Party and the Republican Party of India.

The meeting gave the call, "no more starvation deaths in the state" and devised ways and means to focus the attention of the government on the miseries of the people.

On August 9, sixteen MLAs and MLCs started a mass hungerstrike in the lounge leading to the two halls of the Legislature.

Other members of the opposition sought to raise discussion in the Assembly and the Legislative Council on the difficult food situation. They had served notices earlier for raising the discussion. However, permission was not granted to raise the discussion. The ruling party insisted upon carrying on "normal work of the day". The opposition members continued to argue in favour of their demands for rationing and lowering of prices.

This created a situation where the houses could not continue their work. Both houses had to adjourn the sessions.

mills are facing partial unemployment.

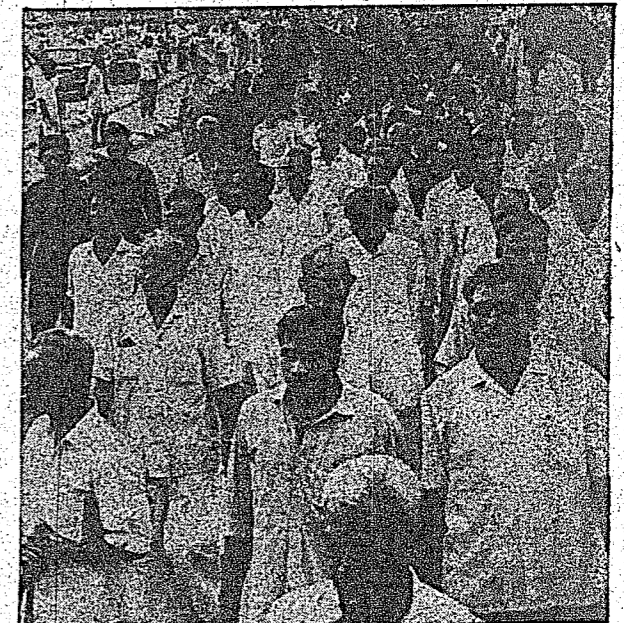
A deputation of the textile workers which met the Labour Minister demanded that the government should take over all the closed mills. The Minister wanted time to "think over the matter", and as yet the workers have not received any reply from him.

Thousands of workers and middle class employees came for the public meeting called on August 11 at the Shivaji Park. On that morning newspapers had carried the report that 36 members of the Assembly and the Legislative Council had been suspended for three days and they were anxious to know the details.

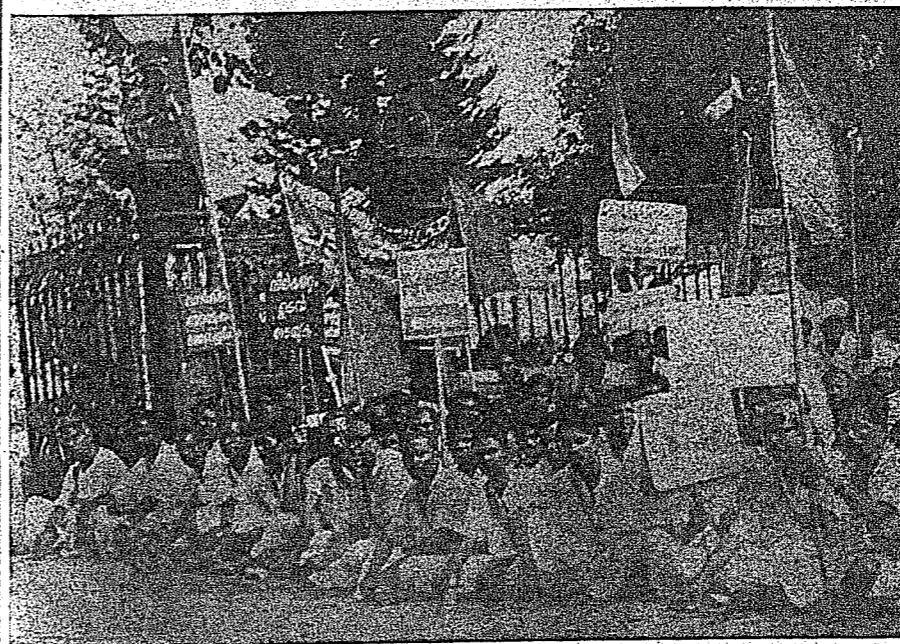
A wave of anger ran through the assembled crowd when it was announced at the meeting that the suspended representatives of the people were prevented from entering the Assembly premises by the police and that they were sitting at the gates of the Council Hall.

The meeting was presided by Nana Patil and addressed by Deji Desai (PWP), Datta Deshmukh (Lal Nishan), Eknath Bhagwat (CPI), Bhayyasabab

* On Page 13



Above: The big rally in Bombay on August 13 for food; below: Legislators scaling the walls of the Council Hall to bypass police blockade



Mass satyagraha before the Secretariat in Trivandrum on August 9

21 YEARS OF PEOPLE'S RUMANIA

On August 23, the Rumanian people celebrate the 21st anniversary of Rumania's liberation from the fascist yoke. The victory of the armed insurrection of August 1944, initiated, organised and led by the Rumanian Communist Party, constitutes a landmark in Rumania's history, opening up the road of deep-going revolutionary changes that have led to the complete triumph of socialism in towns and villages, to the liquidation for ever of exploitation of man by man, to a tremendous development of the productive forces of the country and the advance of the people's living standards.

DURING the Second World War, the Rumanian Communist Party expressing the most vital aspirations of the people fought for the unity of all patriotic forces of the country, for the overthrow of the military fascist dictatorship, the withdrawal of Rumania from the Hitlerite war and her joining, arms in hand, the anti-Hitlerite coalition.

Although the fascist regime had thrown into prisons and concentration camps more than 9,000 Communists and other anti-fascists, the people's masses were fighting under the leadership of the Party against the fascist dictatorship; the workers and peasants sabotaged the Hitlerite war-machine, and in the ranks of the army the number of deserters was continuously increasing.

PATRIOTIC UPRISING

As early as the summer of 1943, the Communist Party worked out the plan for the overthrow of the military fascist dictatorship. According to this plan, patriotic armed detachments were formed including workers and other anti-fascist fighters, and generals and officers guided by patriotic feelings were attracted to join the anti-Hitlerite coalition.

The setting up of the United Workers Front between the Rumanian Communist Party and the Social-Democratic Party of Rumania in April 1944, was a big stride towards the coalescence of all the political forces determined to fight for the country's liberation.

The military successes of the anti-Hitlerite coalition, and first of all, the crushing blows dealt at the fascist armies on the front by the Soviet Army, powerfully enthused the liberation struggle of the Rumanian people.

The anti-fascist armed insurrection, organised and led by the Rumanian Communist Party, started on August 23, 1944, with the arrest of Antonescu's military fascist government. The patriotic

the fact that industrial output has increased 2.24 times in the last six years.

An even sharper increase has been marked in the basic industrial branches. In order to give a picture of Rumania's industrial development one should add to the quantitative increase in output, the deep-going changes in the pattern per branches of industry, the priority growth of heavy industry, the process of diversification of the industrial branches and the large-scale introduction of highly productive techniques, the wider range of assortments and the steady improvement in the quality of products.

At present, about two-thirds of the total industrial output are supplied by the branches turning out means of production. The machine-building industry alone—whose output increases 2.6 times under the six-year plan—accounts for more than a quarter of the total industrial output and provides of the equipment needed by the Rumanian national economy.

The installed power in electric power stations has reached some 3.5 million kw, the electric power output being 2.6 times higher than in 1959. Steel output is of more than 3.3 million tons.

One of the fundamental targets of the policy of industrialisation of Rumania is the high-grade use of the country's natural resources. This is reflected in the attention paid to branches such as the chemical industry and the timber industry.

CHEMICAL INDUSTRY

The chemical industry—meant to convert oil, methane gas, salt, reed and other raw material into manufactures of high value—has recorded the highest rate of development among all industrial branches, its output increasing 3.6 times during the six-year plan period. Big chemical combines in the Gheorghiu-Dej and Craiova towns, at Piatra Neamt, Tirgu Mures and Turmu Magurele, at Brazi and Braila, as well as in other localities are turning out today hundreds of varieties of chemical fertilizers and insecto-fungicides, synthetic rubber, plastics, synthetic yarn and fibre, dye-stuffs, medicines, etc.

The new combines of the timber industry which have been erected in various regions of the country, in the forest areas, turn out a great variety of products— from lumber and chipboard to furniture, musical instruments, etc.

The growth of the industry turning out means of production has been paralleled by the increased output of the light and food industries which ever better meet the consumers' requirements.

The policy of industrialisation has been the decisive factor in the harmonious, balanced and steady growth of economy as a whole, contributing to the development of agriculture, to the systematic advancement of the people's living standard.

STRUGGLE FOR PROGRESS

In their struggle for the uninterrupted progress of their homeland, the Rumanian people resolutely carry out the Party's policy. This policy has been focused and continues to focus on the country's socialist industrialisation, the basis for the progress of economy as a whole, for the many-sided development of the socialist society, decisive factor of national independence and sovereignty.

The steady and high rate at which the country's industrialisation proceeds is proved by

deep-going revolution in the life of the peasantry—has marked the generalisation of the socialist relations of production throughout the economy. The cooperativisation of agriculture has created conditions for the steady upsurge of this important branch of economy, for stepping up agricultural output, for improving the living conditions of the peasantry.

The correctness of the Party's agrarian policy is reflected by the fact that the process of cooperativisation went hand in hand with a constant increase in farm output. In the 1960-64 period, the annual average of cereal output exceeded by over 1,100,000 tons, the average level of the five previous years.

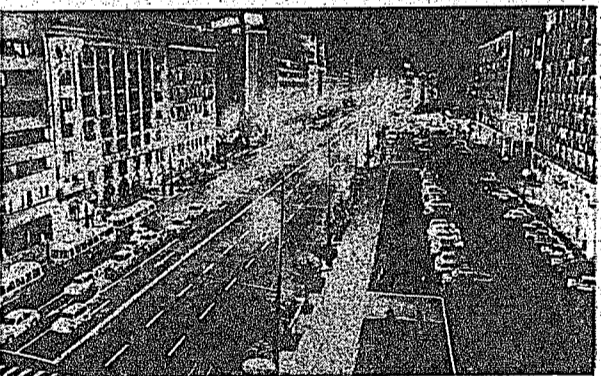
The livestock sector too, has developed. Plant and animal output have constantly ensured the population's supply with farm-food produce, industry with raw materials, the creation of state reserves as well as some export availabilities.

ADVANCE IN AGRICULTURE

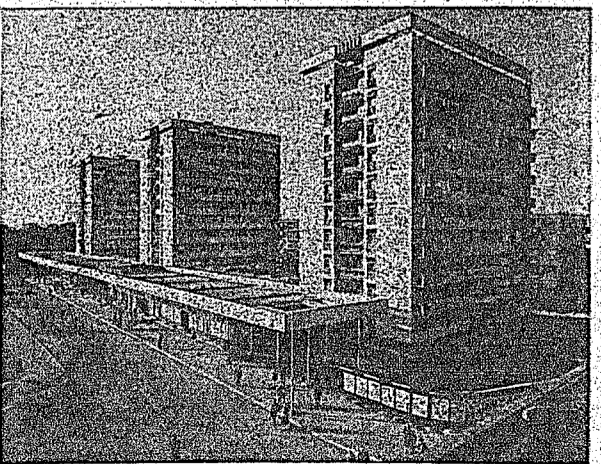
The country's socialist industrialisation has shown its fruits also by the endowment of agriculture with tractors and farm machines, the ensuring of steadily increasing amounts of chemical fertilizer. There are at present 82,000 tractors, 28,000 combines, 66,000 seeders and other farm machines operating on the lands in Rumania. In 1965, agriculture is receiving 1,200,000 tons of raw chemical fertilizers.

Economic progress has ensured an almost 65 per cent growth of the national income in the last six years. It is on this lasting foundation that the steady advance of the working people's welfare is being carried out, the aim of the entire policy of the Party.

During the six-year plan period, the real wages of the working people grew by 35 per cent. The same period saw the building from state funds of 270,000 flats, and in the countryside from the own funds of the peasants of some 490,000 houses for themselves.



A night view of Bucharest, capital of Rumania; below: new houses in Bacau



State-financed socio-cultural activities play an important part in the life of the population in Rumania. They ensure free education at all levels, medical service to the population, a vast network of cultural and artistic facilities. Generalisation of eight-year education has now been completed. All the pupils attending elementary and secondary schools (12-year schooling), are ensured free-of-charge text-books by the state. The number of students has doubled in the last six years.

SCIENCE AND CULTURE

The socialist system has ensured highly favourable conditions for the flourishing of science, culture and the arts. Scientists, writers, artists help, by their valuable production, enrich the treasure of national culture and heighten the country's prestige.

The upsurge of the national economy, the growth of industrial and farm output have rendered possible and necessary the year-by-year growth of foreign trade, the extension of Rumania's trade relations with the socialist countries and with other states, on the basis of mutual advantage. In 1965, the volume of foreign trade exchanges goes up 2.3 times over 1959.

All the achievements recorded during these years are the result of the implementation of: the Party's policy, of the joint labour of the workers, peasants, intellectuals, of all working-people, irrespective of nationality, who regard the Party's policy as their own policy.

The IX Congress of the Rumanian Communist Party held recently: synthesized the experience won during the years of socialist construction and mapped out the inspiring programme of the country's many sided development, of raising it to ever higher peaks of progress and civilisation.

The Ninth Congress has endorsed the directives on the deve-

lopment of the national economic in the 1966-1970 period and the directives on power resources and the country's electrification programme in the 1966-1975 period.

The Congress directives on Rumania's development in the ensuing five years envisage the sustained rate of industrialisation of the country on the basis of most up-to-date technique. Gross industrial output will increase by about 65 per cent, at an annual average rate of 10.5 per cent. The value of the absolute rise of industrial output will be about 110 thousand million lei—as against some 70 thousand million lei in the 1961-1965 period.

Industry—this leading branch of economy—will increase its contribution towards the formation of the national income, from the 51 per cent at present to 60 per cent. In 1970, the electric power output will stand at 32-34 thousand million kw, while steel output, an important pointer to industrial development—at 6.3 thousand million tons.

The output of the machine-building industry will increase by 75 per cent, that of the chemical industry—by 130 per cent, of the consumer goods industry—by 50-55 per cent. The big investments during this period—equivalent to the investments of the last ten years—will add 750 new units to the Rumanian industry.

The problems of the complex mechanisation and chemicalisation of agriculture—essential factors in the modernisation and growth of agricultural output—are expected to be solved in the main by 1970.

RISE IN INCOME

The number of tractors of the machine-and-tractor stations will be 55 per cent greater, and of combines by 60 per cent. The agricultural sector will receive four million tons of raw fertilizers. In this context it is estimated that gross agricultural output will in the next five years be 20 per cent higher than in the five previous years.

Based on the rise of the national income by some 40 per cent, the real wages will grow by 30-35 per cent, and the real incomes of the peasantry by some 20 per cent. Additional 300,000 flats will be built in towns, as well as new educational, cultural and health establishments.

During the next five-year plan period, the fundamental and applied researches in all scientific branches will be intensified. By 1970, 30,000 people will be active at research institutes. Science will contribute ever more actively towards increasing the country's economic strength, towards the development of society as a whole.

The steady progress and improvement of education at all levels is an important target. Schooling—this chief source of culture and factor of civilisation—will cover in Rumania nearly a quarter of the population in the ensuing five years.

The deep-going socio-economic changes in the entire structure of society have made it necessary to adopt a new Constitution of the country. In compliance with the present stage of development of the social system, the country will be named the Socialist Republic of Rumania.

The new Constitution is a live expression of democratisation of the socialist system that concentrates on concern for the people's happiness. It confirms the full power in the hands of the people, the socialist character of the national economy, it sets the seal on

ALL-ROUND PROGRESS, PROSPERITY

the democratic rights and freedoms and ensures their exercise by the citizens, for a growingly creative activity of the people in every domain of social life.

The new Constitution features the new life of the Rumanian people who have become truly free in their country, full masters of all national riches, of the fruits of their labour, of their own destiny.

The Rumanian people have for ever associated the achievements of national freedom and independence, their accomplishments in building socialism, with the wise, consistently revolutionary guidance by the Rumanian Communist Party, in which they see the constant guarantee of the realisation of their fundamental interests.

The unity around the Party of the workers, peasants, intellectuals and the other categories of working people, irrespective of nationality, is the decisive factor of the great victories won by the Rumanian people, the guarantee of their triumphant march forward along the road of socialism.

Precisely therefore, the citizens of Rumania have unanimously approved the Constitution provision that confirms the Rumanian Communist Party's role of the leading political force of society.

The Constitution ensures the steady development of the nation, the growing role of the socialist state as organiser of the entire activity of building the socialist system. The disappearance of the exploiting classes has led to the strengthening of the nation, towards cementing its unity.

The Rumanian Communist Party considers that the nation and the state will for a long time continue to be the basis for the development of the socialist society. The development and growth of each socialist nation, of each socialist state fully comply with the interests of socialist internationalism, and are an essential requirement on which the strengthening of the unity and cohesion of the socialist countries depend, as well as their increasing influence on mankind's onward march towards socialism and communism.

FOREIGN POLICY GUIDELINE

The guiding lines of Rumania's foreign policy stem from the nature of her social-political system.

Rumania carries on constant activity for the lessening of international tension, for the expansion of cooperation among peoples and the consolidation of world peace.

Rumania regards as her international duty the steady development of fraternal relations with all the socialist countries, making her active contribution to the unity and cohesion of the world socialist system. Acting in the spirit of peaceful coexistence, Rumania declares itself in favour of the development of relations of cooperation with all countries, regard-

less of their socio-political system.

The principles of national sovereignty and independence, equal rights, non-interference in internal affairs and mutual benefit are a lasting, permanent foundation of socialist Rumania's foreign policy. Rumania militates for the consistent promotion of these principles on the international arena, considering that their observance is an essential requisite for expanded inter-state cooperation, for a strengthened trust among peoples.

The Rumanian people firmly condemn the American intervention in Vietnam and demand the cessation of the aggression and the withdrawal of all foreign troops, in order to let the Vietnamese people solve themselves their internal affairs.

By all her actions, Rumania expresses full solidarity with the peoples fighting for liberation from the colonial yoke, for winning and consolidating national independence, for peace and social progress.

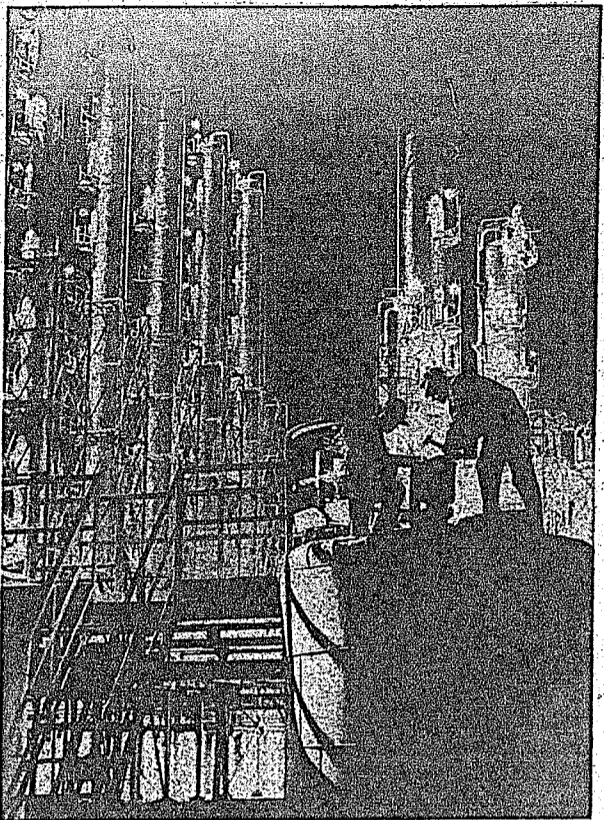
Within the United Nations' framework Rumania has consistently spoken up for an improvement in the activity of this international body so that it may reflect present-day world realities, for the universality of the organisation and the restoration of the legitimate rights of the People's Republic of China.

AGAINST ARMS RACE

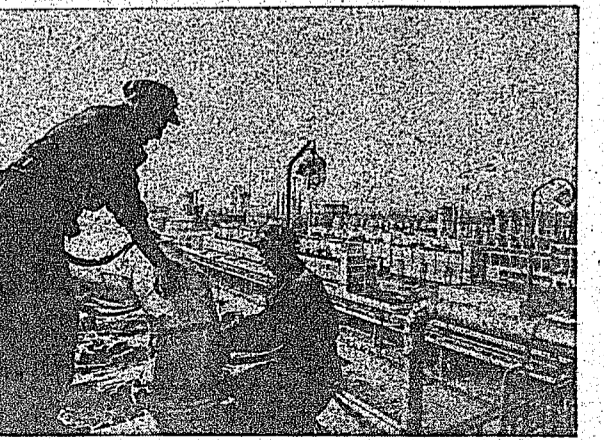
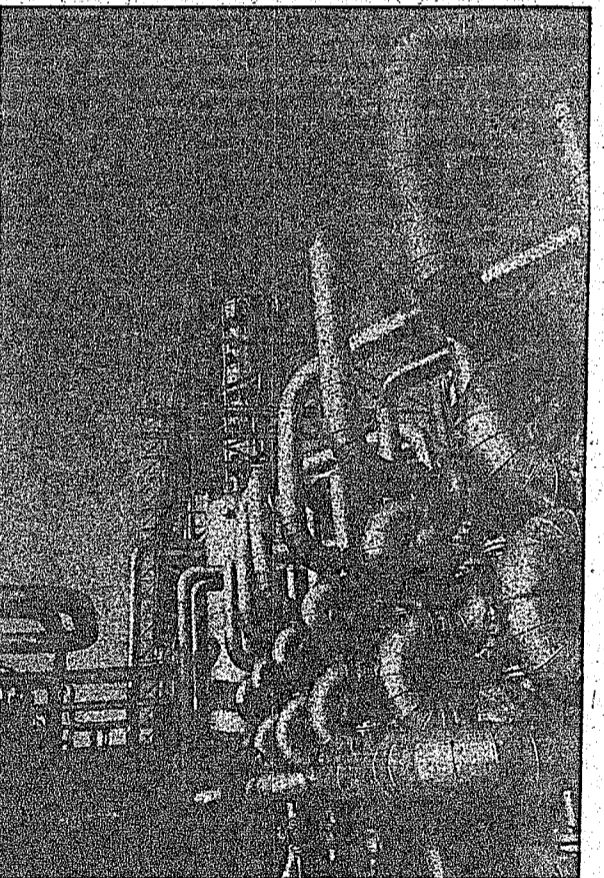
Rumania campaigns for an end to the arms race and for disarmament, for the creation of nuclear-free zones, for an unconditional ban on the use of nuclear weapons and the total destruction of existing stockpiles, for the liquidation of military blocs, for the dismantling of foreign military bases and the withdrawal of all troops from the territories of other states, for the elimination of the remnants of the Second World War by the conclusion of the German peace treaty.

The Rumanian people are animated by the conviction that the united struggle of the peoples, the joint action of all peace forces will lead to the ensuring of the triumph of peace, in compliance with the fundamental interests of all mankind. Rumania will make every effort and will make unflinchingly her entire contribution to the victory of this grand cause.

Honouring their greatest national holiday, the citizens of the Socialist Republic of Rumania view with justified pride present achievements and with confidence the future. As Nicolae Ceausescu, general secretary of the central committee of the Rumanian Communist Party, stated at the recent Party Congress, "in the next five years, the Rumanian people will be covering yet another stage of their new life and will get still nearer to the lofty summits of civilisation, communist society."



Above: Brazii oil refinery in Rumania; below: Coking installation of Onesti refinery; bottom: Craiova chemical factory



SINGAPORE'S SECESSION TAKES BRITAIN BY SURPRISE

From KAY BEAUCHAMP

LONDON—The secession of Singapore from Malaysia seems to have taken the British government completely by surprise. Although official comment stressed that the British base would not be effected, the capitalist press commentators were not so sanguine.

HERE are some quotations from London papers of August 10: "A heartrending and painful event has occurred in South East Asia." —DAILY MAIL.

"...grave alarm...stunning news... For Sukarno this is joyous... Now he will be cock-a-whoop." —DAILY EXPRESS.

"Britain's line of defence East of Suez took a staggering blow yesterday when Singapore announced her breakaway from the Malaysian Federation." —THE SUN.

"In sum, Britain's position in Singapore is much less assured... If things begin going really wrong, the time may come when it is so difficult and troublesome as not to be worth while." —TELEGRAPH.

"Another federation has cracked across the middle—the penultimate surely, of those which the previous British Government hoped would be a substitute for the imperialist rule it was anxious to lay down." —THE GUARDIAN.

"...throws the whole future of the federation into doubt and with it British policies in South East Asia." —TIMES.

THE DAILY WORKER in its editorial urges the Labour movement to call for real independence for the people of the area and the winding up of the Singapore base which is part of the East of Suez imperialist policy which is bankrupting Britain both politically and financially.

Immigration Scandal

Last week the government announced new and drastic restrictions on the number of Commonwealth immigrants. This is to be reduced to 8,500 a year, of which 1,000 are to come from the tiny island of Malta and not more than 15 per cent of the remainder from any one Commonwealth country whatever its size.

Many Labour supporters are absolutely disgusted that although the Parliamentary Labour Party when in opposition vigorously opposed the Commonwealth Immigrants Act, the Labour government has not only renewed it but is operating it far more stringently than the Tories did and is reducing the number of vouchers from the 208,000 of a few years ago to 8,500 this year.

This is regarded as a particularly blatant surrender to racialism for two reasons. The first is that the government has announced that Britain's economy will need 300,000 more workers by 1970. Therefore an increase rather than a decrease in the number of immigrants is required.

Second, immigration from Ireland is entirely uncontrolled and the number of workers from Europe permitted under the Aliens Act is increasing and last year was considerably greater than the number of Commonwealth immigrants. At the same time and while employers are constantly complaining about shortage of labour, the number of emigrants leaving the country far outnumber the number of those admitted to this country.

* ON PAGE 14

HAPPY FAMILY

Regular use of "Sadhana Dasan" made of Indian herbs and plants, according to Ayurvedic method, removes foul smell emanating from the mouth, cures all kinds of dental diseases, strengthens the 'Enamel' of teeth. Teeth become healthy, strong and bright, the face also glows with smile. That is why, we use the wonderful dental powder.

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Adhyaksha Dr. Jagesh Chandra Ghose, M.A. Ayurved-Sastri, F.C.S. (London) M.C.S. (America) Formerly Professor of Chemistry, Bhagalpur College.

Calcutta Centre: Dr. Nares Chandra Ghose, M.B.B.S. (Cal.) Ayurvedacharya.



AFRO-ASIA In The Headlines

TWENTY YEARS OF PEOPLE'S KOREA

OUR Independence Day coincides with the day of deliverance of the Korean people from the age-long subjugation to Japanese imperialism.

People's Korea, "the country of morning freshness," celebrated on August 15, the 20th anniversary of its independence, won with the help of the Red Army.

Despite complete collapse of the economy, following from the US invasion, the Korean Democratic People's Republic (K DPR), carried out the tasks of rehabilitation and reconstruction and further development with success.

The K DPR fulfilled the three-year plan of post-war rehabilitation and development (1945-1958) and the five-year plan (1957-1961) far ahead of schedule.

The K DPR has become an advanced industrial-agrarian country. The share of industry in the gross national output has gone up from 28 per cent in 1948 to 75 per cent in 1964.

Quite a few important branches of industry—machine-building, automobile, tractor and locomotive manufacture, production of mining and building machinery and metal-working machine tools—have been built up from a scratch.

The annual harvest of grain has been doubled as compared to the pre-liberation period and now stands at five million tonnes. About 95 per cent of all the villages and 81 per cent of all peasant houses have been electrified.

If we look across the border, we find South Korea in US bondage producing 13 times less electricity, 4 times less coal, 15 times less steel, 8 times less cement and 8 times less chemical fertilizer. Once a granary for the whole of Korea, now it stretches out its palm to others for a dole of one million tonnes of grain every year.

NEW DAWN IN CONGO (Brazzaville)

CONGO (Brazzaville), a small state in Equatorial Africa, had three days of festivities, celebrating the second anniversary of August 13-15 Revolution, which toppled the reactionary regime of Fulbert Youlou, the puppet in the hands of foreign monopolies.

One of the highlights of the celebrations was the national exhibition of industry and agriculture in the capital. Addressing the inaugural ceremony, President Massamba-Debat stressed the need of further consolidation of the economic independence within the frame-work of socialist construction.

Quite a few significant changes have taken place in the life of the Republic during the last two years. First national enterprises have already started to function. The

water and power companies and the "Air-Brazzaville" which were formerly under French ownership, have been nationalised. The capital's transport is also under the control of the state.

Public education and health services have received urgent attention. Over 35,000 students have been able to attend school only after the August Revolution.

Meanwhile, a helpless Fulbert Youlou living in refuge across the river Congo, in Leopoldville, continues to sneak furtive glances at the distant horizon, as the new dawn rises over Brazzaville.

JAPAN: US TAKES OVER SASEBO PORT

SASEBO is no longer a Japanese port. With the ever-widening of US aggression in Vietnam, this haven for ocean-going vessels on the western coast of Kyushu; has been turned into a supply base of the US Seventh Fleet.

On August 14, a US military transport ship entered with three debeaked "sky-hawks" on board on its way from Da-Nang to Yokosaka.

In Sasebo, none of the nine port wharves and three of the six large docks can be used without American permission. Japanese shipping finds only 10 per cent of water area of the port open to it.

YOUTH UNITE IN CONGO (Leopoldville)

THE democratic youth organisations of Congo (Leopoldville) have resolved to unite themselves into one single youth movement—the National Lumumba Youth.

Meeting on the other bank of the river Congo, at Brazzaville, they urged the fellow youth to play an important part in the liberation struggle of the people of their country being waged under the banner of the National Council for the liberation of Congo (Leopoldville).

The National Lumumba Youth called for setting up committees of resistance to US aggressors. It denounced Tshombe as "the vile murderer of Patrice Lumumba."

It condemned the disruptive activity of the National Federation of Congolese Youth under the leadership of Michel Nouzi which is solely occupied with efforts to wean away the youth from the armed insurgent movement.

The National Lumumba Youth elected Lumumba Buta as its first general secretary pending the convocation of the constituent congress.

—DARSHAK

BIHAR FOOD BATTLE SPREADS TO VILLAGES

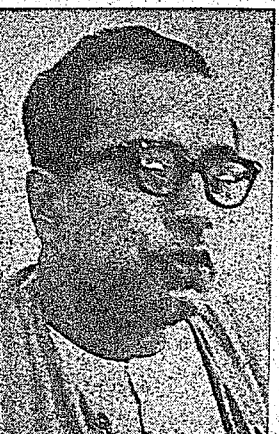
* From Centre Pages

some times burst out in spontaneous protests and even desperate action involving violence."

Neither the popular wrath nor the democratic opinion has any effect on the government. They appear to be adamant on the blind policy of crushing the people, Opposition and all democratic opinions by resorting to brute force. The government has heavily swooped on the left parties, NGOs, students and the press.

Top leaders of the CPI and SSP including Indradeep Sinha MLC and secretary, Bihar state council of the CPI, Sunil Mukherjee, MLA and leader of the CPI group in Assembly, Rammanohar Lohia, MP and Bhola Prasad Singh, MLC (SSP) were arrested and detained under DIR on August 9.

The next day prominent Opposition leaders including Chandrashekhar Sinha, MLC, deputy leader of the CPI group in the Assembly and SSP leader Ramanand Tiwari, MLA and Karpuri Thakur, MLA were brutally lathi-charged by the police at the end of a public meeting. Chandrashekhar Sinha was admitted in the hospital with serious head injury. All of them were arrested.



Chandrashekhar Sinha MLA

On August 11, the entire Opposition members, numbering 49, were expelled from the Assembly for five sittings for insisting on a discussion on the previous day's brutal assault on the Opposition MLAs. The government was thus able to function without any Opposition during this serious crisis.

Meanwhile the government has rounded up almost all leaders and workers of the CPI from all over the state. It is surprising that the government has not yet given the actual figures of arrests. But it is expected to be several thousands. DIR has been freely invoked to detain the CPI leaders and effective cadres as well as a number of SSP leaders.

Yogindra Sharma, member of the central secretariat of the CPI was arrested under DIR from the state headquarters. The police has so far made three raids on the CPI

state headquarters and papers have been taken away. Similar raids have been made on almost all districts and local offices of the CPI. Normal functioning of the Party offices has been made impossible.

A large number of students and other sections of people have also been arrested. Over two dozen NGO leaders have been arrested so far for protesting against the indiscriminate assault of the NGOs by police on August 9.

Most shocking was the arrest and detention of T. J. S. George, editor of the SEARCHLIGHT. It has evoked widespread condemnation from all sections of the people.

This action on the part of the government is described as "undemocratic and an attack on the freedom of the press". Eminent personalities from different parts of the country as well as various organisations have expressed concern over this step. K. D. Malaviya, former Union Minister was "shocked" by the news. He has demanded the immediate release of George.

Joachim Alva, MP regretting the arrest has urged the government to withdraw the detention order. A habeas corpus petition for the release of George has been admitted in the Patna High Court.

Appeal To President

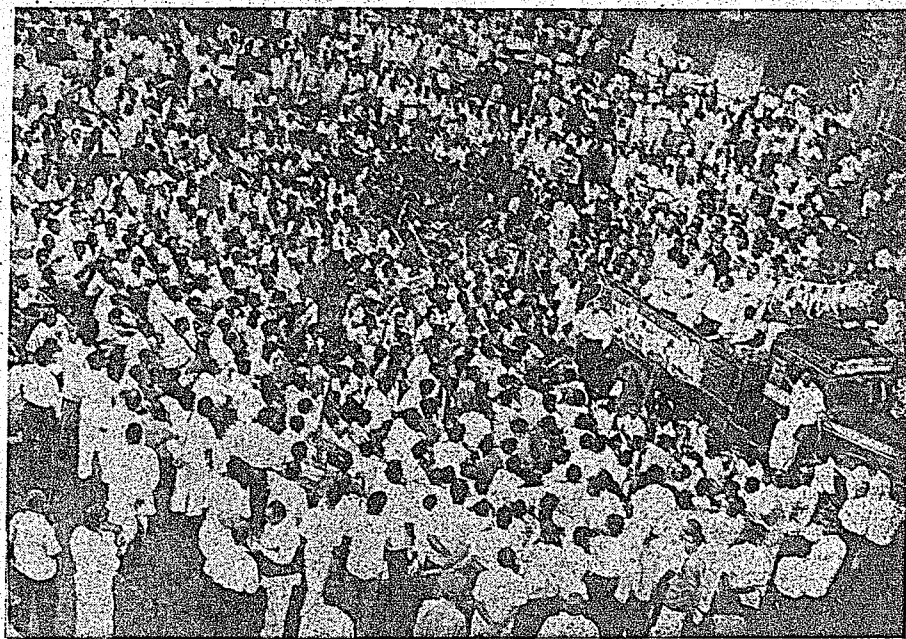
In view of the explosive situation in Bihar, the Opposition members who have been suspended from attending the Assembly sitting have urged President Radhakrishnan intervene in Bihar affairs and dismiss the Sahay ministry and order fresh elections.

Even Congressmen are deeply concerned over the deterioration of the situation. Mahamaya Prasad Singh, MLC a former president of the BPC has urged the Prime Minister, Home Minister and the Congress President to immediately intervene in the Bihar situation which is sharply deteriorating.

Deterioration in the situation is so sharp and alarming that neither the Chief Minister nor the senior Minister or top Congress leaders have dared to approach the people.

Despite such a critical situation all over the state, none of them went out of Patna to face the people or study the situation. They have totally surrendered to the police and bureaucracy. Instead of seeing the things with their own eyes, the Sahay Ministry sent out a few top officials to visit the main centres of the state and report back. They have observed this formality by a "flying visit".

Meanwhile the government claimed that the situation is fast returning to normalcy. But the reports reaching here clearly indicate that while the tempo of the agitation in the big towns are being retarded through severe repression, the struggle is swiftly spreading in the villages.



Bombay: People Act For Food: The massive meeting in the circle near Council House on August 13

NAIK RETREATS BEFORE PEOPLE

* FROM CENTRE PAGES

Ambedkar (RPI) and George Fernandes (SSP).

The speakers called on the people to take forward the battle for food and join in their thousands in the morcha on August 13 defying the ban on processions in the vicinity of the Council Hall.

Meanwhile, the government opened negotiations with the action committee of the legislators. The Chief Minister condescended to admit that food was not a party issue and he desired to find agreed solutions.

Beyond these pious words, he was not prepared to go. Though the Chief Minister was willing to form an all-party food committee to "go into the details of the situations", he was not prepared to entrust the committee with any powers.

The opposition offered their co-operation with the committee if it was entrusted with the work of finding out the stocks of food-grains and deboarding them. But the government refused point-blank to give the committee any such powers.

Only "Moral" Responsibility!

The government was not willing to introduce rationing nor was it prepared to guarantee a minimum quantum of food to the people. It is reported that the Ministry took the position that it had no "legal responsibility" to feed the people, but only a "moral" one.

When negotiations broke down, Opposition MLAs and MLCs continued their hungerstrike and sit down strike at the gates of the Council Hall.

Members of opposition in the Municipal Corporation also started a hungerstrike in the Corporation Hall. Some members moved a resolution supporting the hungerstrike of the legislators.

When the situation in the Corporation was tense the Mayor left the Hall along with some of the Congress councillors. The opposi-

tion continued the business of the Corporation and passed a resolution supporting the demand for rationing in Maharashtra.

Meanwhile preparations for the massive march on the Council Hall on August 13 continued. Hundreds of workers enrolled themselves as volunteers to defy the ban on processions near the Hall.

Sensing the angry mood of the people, the government beat a retreat and prorogued

both houses of Legislature one day earlier than previously planned. Thus, victory was for the people in the first round.

The MLAs and MLCs broke their fast late on August 12 evening. At the meeting held in the circle near the Council Hall on August 13 (the King Edward Statue popularly called Kala Ghoda had in the meanwhile been removed to the museum) people were called upon to get ready for the second round of the food battle.

The second round will be fought in the district and taluq centres in Maharashtra, from August 24 to 27. It was announced that it will not be just a symbolic struggle; people's food committees will go into deboarding action in the second round of the food battle.

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By O. YAKHOT

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WILLIAM GALLACHER PASSES AWAY

VETERAN FIGHTER FOR THE PEOPLE

By J. R. CAMPBELL

It was said of John Knox, the leader of the Reformation in Scotland, that "he feared not the face of man."

SUCH an estimation fitted William Gallacher to perfection. He was without reverence for the "powers that be," whether in capitalist society or in the Labour movement.

The pompous, the conceited, the self-important, inevitably attracted his righteous anger and his fierce satire.

Agitator, strike leader, political leader, pamphleteer, author, Member of Parliament, involuntary inhabitants of H.M. jails, he brought tremen-

dous zest to all he did, for he was supremely happy when the struggle was at its height, and danger was in the air.

He even lent a hand at the birth of the *DAILY WORKER* in January 1930, though here, as he often ruefully admitted, his contribution was more moral than journalistic.

When he joined the Social Democratic Party after the 1906 general election, he was already a practised speaker,

having been active in the temperance movement and in a well-known local Sunday school.

At first he inclined to be fiercely denunciatory and ultra-serious on the platform, but he soon developed a robust humour, and he employed it mercilessly against the spokesmen of the capitalist class, and against the weaklings and humbugs in the working-class movement.

The West of Scotland in the years between 1906 and 1914 was an agitator's paradise. Put up a platform at a street corner and a fair crowd immediately assembled.

Fierce theoretical discussion raged in the socialist movement. The younger men were tired of the high-minded ethical "socialism" and low electoral practice of the Independent Labour Party, and the rather rigid dogmatism of the Social Democrats.

New ideas were in the air. Pure and simple parliamentarianism was discredited. "Direct action" by the workers was regarded as necessary, not only for winning immediate concessions from the employers but for overthrowing the system altogether.

New ideas began to be discussed, modified and adapted. Syndicalism from France, industrial unionism (one big union) from America, were keenly debated—all this in the middle of a mounting wave of strikes.

Early Years

In the years before the 1914-18 war, William Gallacher was one of a group of militants from various groups of factories who were meeting to discuss how to apply the new ideas on industrial action and organisation to their own conditions. Out of those discussions the shop steward's movement in Scotland was born.

Meantime the war-clouds were lowering. Toward the end of the Balkan wars, I remember Gallacher asking the Paisley Trades Council to get

in touch with other trades councils with a view to concerting action against the impending war. This was one of the few echoes of the *Bolshevik Manifesto of the Socialist In-*



William Gallacher

ternational heard in the West of Scotland at that time.

During the war, he seemed to grow in stature as the situation grew darker, as the public activities of the movement became more restricted, as the rumblings of discontent among the workers increased.

All the while, the militants were watching the development of the struggles in Russia. They did not like the look of Kerensky and the Men-

sheviks. These people were too like the rightwing Parliamentarians in Britain, whom the militants had grown to detest. So when the Bolsheviks took power, every militant experienced a great upsurge of hope.

From that moment Gallacher became one of the foremost defenders of the Russian Revolution.

After fighting a number of contests Gallacher was elected to Parliament in 1935 for West Fife. This crowned years of hard work by many supporters, including Communist miners' leaders like Abe and Alex Moffat and John McArthur.

Gallacher lost his seat in 1950, at the age of 68, when the cold war was at its most intense. On the eve of his 69th birthday, after recovering from an illness which he had soon after the General Election, he announced he would not stand again for Parliament, but would make way for a younger man, William Lauchlan.

Still chairman of the Communist Party, William Gallacher was soon active in his earlier campaigning grounds of Clydeside. He became president of the Communist Party in 1956, a position he held until 1963.

CPI Condolences

THE National Council of the Communist Party of India deeply mourns the passing away of Comrade William Gallacher, one of the founder members of the Communist Party of Great Britain, an outstanding leader of the international Communist movement and a popular leader of the Scottish miners. Representing the Communist Party of Great Britain in the British House of Commons for several years Comrade Gallacher acted as a model Communist Parliamentarian, ceaselessly defending the cause of the working class, and the cause of the independence of India and other colonies from British imperialism. Indian Communists and democrats will ever remember with gratitude the fight he put up for the defence of the Indian independence movement and our early trade union movement.

The National Council pays its homage to the memory of this stalwart veteran of the world Communist and workers' movement and sends its heartfelt condolences to the British Communist Party, as well as to the friends and relatives of Comrade Gallacher.

(August 14, 1965)

London Letter Strange Way of Saving

* From page 12

Despite the great concern caused by Britain's balance of payments crisis and rapidly vanishing reserves, Britain's foreign military expenditure is not to be cut nor is the arms programme. All the government will do is to try not to increase it as much as it would like to.

At a recent press conference Healey, Secretary of State for Defence, stated that the total cost in foreign exchange amounts to £201 million for defence. This includes "Germany £85 m., Gibraltar £17 m., Malta £15 m., Cyprus £17 m., Libya £3 m., Aden and the Gulf £21 m., Africa £8 m., Hongkong £10 m., Malaysia £63 m., and elsewhere £17 m."

£91 million is spent on oil projects and on NATO and £26 million on other "defence aid" programmes (that is, for arming and propping up puppet governments in different parts of the world).

Demand For Arms Cut

Just before the recess a meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party adopted a resolution asking for drastic cuts in the arms programme. Rather than be defeated in the vote the Labour Party leadership at the last moment accepted the resolution which it had rejected earlier on the same day. However, there is not the slightest indication that the government intends to put it into practice.

Profits Soar

This question of the reduction of the arms programme together with that of the incomes policy are likely to be two of the main issues debated at next month's trade union congress.

Whatever arguments the rightwing had intended to put forward to justify limiting wage increases to 3½ per cent will be knocked sky high by figures issued by the Board of Trade on August 6.

A government analysis of the profits of 572 companies shows that profits have risen by 17 per cent on an average, while some have risen 50 per cent. Even the 17 per cent is five times George Brown's norm. What is sauce for the gander....



US Doubletalk On Vietnam

The US doubletalk on Vietnam reached ridiculous proportions last week following a series of affirmations and quick denials on the question, how long the US troops would remain deployed there.

THE performance put up by President Johnson and his newly-appointed Saigon Ambassador Lodge was so crude that political observers could not but have a silent laugh. The performance though poor was nonetheless dangerous. Despite protestations to the contrary, the real intent and purpose of the Johnson-Lodge statements were to escalate the war further in Vietnam.

On August 9 Johnson declared at a press conference that "we are there to stay" meaning that the US would not get out of South Vietnam under any circumstances.

This was significant because the statement was made after Johnson had rejected out of hand any "unconditional discussions" on Vietnam. The Democratic Republic of Vietnam had already made clear that it would be willing to have such a discussion.

Johnson's declaration was made more specific by Lodge's testimony, scooped by *NEW YORK TIMES* on August 11, that he had told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee some days ago that the US would keep its forces in South Vietnam even if a South Vietnam government requested their withdrawal.

This obviously means that the US considers South Vietnam as an occupied territory and would retain its forces there as long as it feels the same to be necessary for its own purposes.

This enunciation of positions also gave a lie to Johnson's earlier plea at the July 28 press conference that he was in favour of UN help to bring all the countries involved in Vietnam to a conference table.

Then came the top feat. As soon as Lodge's statement became known and reports of unfavourable mass reactions began seeping into the White House, Johnson hastily sought to "correct" the impression created in "public mind".

He said on August 12 that the US "would never undertake the sacrifice these efforts require if its help were not wanted and requested." He added, "our determination is built on their (meaning South Vietnamese government—ed.) determination."

This was yet another blind put up by Johnson to cover up his real design which unintentionally perhaps both he and Lodge revealed.

protesting against police highhandedness. The demonstrations of the Negroes seeking justice are being crushed using all conceivable methods.

The Black Ghetto, as the Negro-populated area of Los Angeles is generally called, exploded into anti-segregation demonstrations after a Negro was hauled up by police on a fictitious charge. In Chicago, a Negro woman was killed by rash and negligent driving.

In both these areas the Negroes are subjected to discrimination in all fields: education, civic amenities, parks and churches and employment and so on.

These events, taking place as they did, after the US Senate has passed the so-called Civil Rights Bill, prove that the rights given to the Negro population under this Bill are just rights in theory, not in practice.

US HOPES IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

IT seems that the US is hoping to set-up a provisional government headed by Garcia Godoy in the Dominican Republic within a few days.

The hope centres around the fact that the US believes that a complete discontinuation of American financial aid to the Dominican Republic (which the State Department announced a few days ago), would compel both the constitutional government of Caamano and the junta of Imbert to accept the US terms.

The terms embodied in the so-called "Institutional Act" legalises the presence of the inter-American force in the Dominican Republic for an indefinite time.

This Act in fact ensures the continued existence of the occupation forces in the Dominican Republic. And Garcia Godoy himself lost no time in making his intention clear that he would like to have elections only after two or three years, and not "within nine months" as announced by the Organisation of American States. Meanwhile, he would trust the strength of the OAS to keep himself in power.

The Washington STAR has suggested that if the US fails "to persuade" Caamano to agree to a "provisional government", the OAS could resort to force.

But the OAU, which is the handmaid of the US, has not been waiting for this suggestion. It has already demanded the liquidation of the zone now controlled by the Caamano government and surrender of arms by all civilians. If they refuse to do so, the arms will be taken away by force. The OAU also intends to replace the existing Constitution and enforce a provisional constitution.

AUSTRALIA: REACTION IN JITTERS

THE reactionary forces in Australia are alarmed at the growing tempo of the campaign initiated by the Communist Party and the trade unions against the deployment of Australia-

lian troops in South Vietnam.

The reactionaries are pressing the government to stop all these campaigns and urging it to come down heavily on the Communists. They have demanded that the Communist Party should be banned and that it should be made prohibitory to give premises to Communists and other progressive organisations for holding meetings and rallies. Along with that they have asked for stringent measures to cut down Communist influence.

The firm position taken by the Communist Party of Australia in exposing the essence of the dirty war in Vietnam and in demanding its discontinuation and the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Vietnam is receiving good response from the masses ignoring the anger of the reactionaries.

Twentyeight trade unions of Australia, including big unions in railways, port and dock, mines, foundries, locomotives, postal system etc., have signed a national petition demanding that the government immediately recall the Australian troops from South Vietnam, contribute to the ending of hostilities there, strive for the calling of a conference with the participation of representatives of the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam in order to establish a lasting peace and help Vietnamese people to have the right to decide their affairs themselves.

Large mass rallies have been held in Athens, Salonika, Serres, Alexandropolis and several other cities demanding return to power of the lawful government headed by Papandreou. Throughout the country, demands are being voiced in defence of democracy, for the normalisation of political life and for the restoration of the constitutional order.

To keep the seething masses within control, police forces have been deployed in almost every strategic area. The indications are that the King who is backed by the rightwing forces, who in turn are working in close cooperation with the US, does not wish to allow the people to decide for themselves the government they want to have.

—Sadhan Mukherjee (August 17)

CRISIS IN GREECE CONTINUES

THE political crisis in Greece continues unabated. The King of Greece has turned down the demand of Papandreou, the leader of the majority party in Parliament, that his party be given the mandate to form

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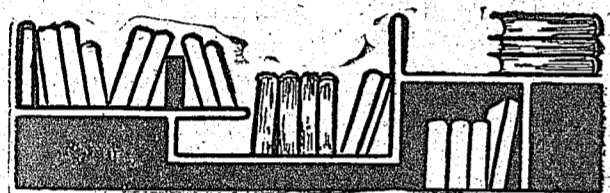
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ADMARK

FOOD, KASHMIR DOMINATE CRISIS SESSION OF PARLIAMENT

By OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT

News of the capture of the three Kargil posts in Kashmir by Indian forces spread an air of confidence and ignited a spark in Parliament's opening days as the monsoon session got going.

THE grim shadow of Pakistan's thrust into Kashmir cast an all-pervading reflection on Parliament's two Houses as they reassembled after a long break.

Behind lurked the demon of rising prices and the mounting anger of the people at government's inability to curb this demon. With all this and more, the monsoon session promised to be a tumultuous one, a crisis session in fact.

The first few days have been packed with a number of important events. The Defence Minister's statement on the Pakistani intrusion into Kashmir and the debate on the Indo-Pak agreement on Kutch have intertwined, supplementing and complementing each other.

Then there came Prime Minister Shastri's statement on his tours abroad—to the Soviet Union, Canada, Yugoslavia, UAR, Nepal and UK. Statements by Oil Minister Humayun Kabir on oil policy and Planning Minister Bhagat on the Fourth Plan touched important problems.

The temper with which the Lok Sabha faced the vital issues before the country was underlined at the outset by the angry tone of members when Swaran Singh failed to answer adequately the demand for action against continued American arms aid to Pakistan despite the Kutch aggression.

Members from all sides of the House wanted to know

what the government felt about the United States' massive arms aid to Pakistan even when it had been proved that these American arms had been used against India in the Kutch fighting.

There came from Swaran Singh an impassive reply—we have "protested" to the American government—that was something which Members had heard too often. There were demands that government should come out with its "assessment" of the American government's attitude.

There was a feeble reply, but nothing that would meet the angry temper of the House against the Western attitude of tacitly encouraging and reinforcing Pakistani aggression against this country.

Defence Minister Chavan's long statement on the Kashmir situation underlined the seriousness of the Pakistani intrusions. It was a massive affair in which thousands had penetrated after long preparations. The intruders were well armed and well supplied. Despite the heavy casualties inflicted on the raiders, it was clear from Chavan's statement that the Pakistani threat would live with us for a long time.

It was a new development, an insidious move to threaten Kashmir's security from within and without. There evidently was going to be a longdrawn tussle in which political factors would play an important role side by side

with military ones. In other words, correct political approaches to the people would be important in shaping events. Though there was a faint recognition of this fact, Chavan's outline of the Kashmir situation failed to adequately recognise this fact of the situation and to grasp it in fullness.

In this setting the debate on the Indo-Pak pact on Kutch took on a new complexion. Its range covered the entire approach towards Pakistan and its bellicose attitude towards this country. In his context the Kutch agreement was subjected to remorseless scrutiny.

The most difficult role was that of the pro-Western par-

ties, specially the Swatantra Party, which had taken a dubious stand on the defence against Pakistan. Faltering between his party's positions and the overwhelming temper of grim fight against aggression, Swatantra Party's leader N. G. Ranga lent support to the Kutch agreement, but wanted to save his party from the expected onslaughts by saying that it was the best that could be expected from the present government and leadership.

It was left to Communist spokesman Indrajit Gupta to take the balanced stand of severely castigating the government's weakness reflected in the Kutch agreement as well as supporting the spirit of peaceful negotiations to solve Indo-Pakistani dispute.

Firmness against aggression, but readiness for a principled peaceful settlement—that was the keynote. Indrajit Gupta was sharp in exposing government's continued reliance on Western imperialism and British duplicity.

In an otherwise gloomy economic situation, Humayun

Kabir's statement in Parliament outlining government's oil policy threw the spotlight on a heartening development.

The struggle of this country to build up its own oil industry and attain self-sufficiency in this vital field had taken yet another stride forward thanks to the stride mined stand taken by government against Western oil monopolies.

It was clear that India's helm was guarded by Soviet cooperation from whom, as Kabir pointed out, large quantities of kerosene and diesel oil had been obtained in this difficult period.

Beneath the oil tussle one could discern gradual strengthening of India's oil arm. The indigenous oil company—a public sector enterprise—had expanded in this period, hope of vast new deposits of oil had brightened the horizon.

As a further step towards economic independence in this field, Kabir said he would like to promote local manufacture of refinery equipment in the country so as to take quicker steps for expanding India's refining capacity.

UNITED LEFT MOVEMENT FOR FOOD IN KERALA

From S. SHARMA

TRIVANDRUM: The Kerala state council of the Communist Party of India has decided to go all out to unite the left parties, mass organisations and all democrats for developing mass actions against the policies of the Union Government in regard to food, discrimination against Kerala in Plan allotment and for the release of detenus.

ANNOUNCING this, C. Achutha Menon, secretary, told pressmen that he and his colleagues had already held exploratory talks with the leaders of the Marxist Communist Party, the SSP and the RSP and before long an action council on the pattern of the All-India Sangram Samiti might take shape in Kerala.

The council reviewed the experience of the one month long hunger march and the mass satyagraha before government offices with a participation of 5,500 organised by the Party on August 9 on the three main slogans of increase of rice ration, a just share for Kerala in the Fourth Plan and release of detenus.

The council was of the view that these problems could not be solved in isolation and without changing basically the anti-people policies of the union and state governments. Only the united struggles of the people could change these anti-people policies of the government.

All democratic left forces should unite for this and as part of the all-India struggle, hartals, general strikes and other forms of state-wide popular actions should be organised in Kerala too. The council decided that the primary and urgent task of the entire Party in

the coming months should be the organisation of this popular action.

The council underlined the fact that this was not a problem of the Communist Party alone. All the left parties, the mass organisations like the trade unions and the kisan sabhas and all genuine democrats are actively concerned about the solution of these problems of food, Plan and democratic liberties.

The council noted with concern the decision of the detenus in Kerala jails to resort to hunger strike from August 21. The council warned the government that it alone will be responsible for all the consequences if the detenus are compelled to undertake such an action.

It demanded their release and directed all Party units to continue the agitation for release of detenus.

Meanwhile, on August 15 a thousand strong demonstration was held in the state capital under the auspices of the RSP to protest against continued discrimination against the state in the matter of food and Plan.

Led by RSP leaders Srikanth Nair and Divakaran, the demonstrators held a mass meeting in which Srikanth Nair appealed to all democrats to come together and

prepare for a mass struggle to achieve the demands of the state's people.

He declared that the left parties jointly would convene a meeting of representatives of all parties and panchayats before long to chalk out the further course of action.

Earlier, an impressive jatha of three hundred cashew workers marched to the Raj Bhavan and presented a memorandum outlining their demands.

On August 16, over 500 cashew workers, 400 of them women, from the districts of Alleppey, Quilon and Trivandrum led by Chittaranjan and Bhaskaran held a demonstration before the secretariat. They demanded wage increase, bonus, gratuity and implementation of agreements. Afterwards a memorandum was submitted by them to the Governor.

The same afternoon a thousand strong demonstration of the employees of the Devaswam Board which manages a number of small and big temples in the state was held. Carrying red flags the demonstrators voiced the Devaswam Board employees' demand for wage increase and allowances. From August 18 they are staging a satyagraha before the offices of the Board.

A meeting of the executive committee of the Samyukta Socialist Party held in Palghat has authorised the chairman of the state SSP to contact other non-Congress parties and evolve forms of united agitation for increase of rice ration and a just share for Kerala in the Fourth Plan.



Men of the Indian Security Force patrolling near the ceasefire line in Jammu and Kashmir