

International Bulletin

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TORIES WILL DO NOTHING ABOUT UNEMPLOYMENT - ACTUAL FIGURE MAY BE 1 MILLION BY FEB.

The TUC got no joy when they met Haudling and presented their plans for relieving unemployment. These plans, the TUC argued, would both help the plight of the over 1 1/2m unemployed and also stimulate consumer demand. But Haudling rejected even this modest tinkering. He claimed that a lot had already been done, that legislation took time, and in any case he did not want to do "anything that would make us look silly in a few months time". He also stated that he expected unemployment to rise 'normally' during Dec., Jan., and Feb. This would mean a figure of well over 600,000, which does not take into account the thousands of workers forced into the position of having to work short-time.

According to an official US report dealing with unemployment in the States, the statistics of many countries, and this certainly includes the UK, tend to underestimate and conceal the real numbers of unemployed. At the time of the writing of this report, the Ministry of Labour Report was 1.2%, but the writers claim that the true figure would be 2%. The discrepancy is caused by the fact that many categories of unemployed in Britain - housewives who would work if they could get a job, some classes of pensioners, and others who do not for one reason or another use the Labour Exchange, are not counted. On the American basis of counting the actual number of unemployed would near 1 million by Feb.

Speaking at his union's quarterly conference on Dec. 7th, Frank Cousins accused some companies of taking advantage of high unemployment to pursue anti-union policies. He said that his union had heard of companies arbitrarily cutting pay, sacking people who tried to join a union, refusing recognition to unions and taking lock-out action against union members following rejection of a pay-demand. Whilst such actions as Cousins reports are not yet general, there is no doubt that the toughness as typified in the recent action by Fords, is due to a feeling of confidence caused by the position of the workers and their organisations relative to the unemployment situation. In the increased competition arising out of the entry of Britain into the EEC (or for that matter, our non-entry), the tendency will be intensified.

Under these circumstances it is naive to expect a Tory Government to do anything about unemployment. Whilst for them it is undesirable from an electoral point of view to have high unemployment, the Government's main consideration is that of making British capitalism as competitive as possible in the new conditions resulting from the end of the succession of post-war booms. Moreover the electoral significance of unemployment should not be overestimated. The Tories' main election task is to win back those sections of the middle class whose vote has gone to the Liberals or who are currently abstaining in by-elections. A tough policy towards the workers may well draw back to the Tories this lost support, especially when coupled with propaganda criticising the Unions and unofficial strikers. It is worth remembering in this connection that Merseyside, one of the worst hit areas for unemployment, has a Tory council and after the collapse of the Labour Govt. in 1931, Britain had a Tory Govt despite the 1 1/2 million to 3 1/2m then unemployed.

A militant campaign is the only guarantee that high unemployment strengthens Socialist forces instead of weakening the working-class through demoralisation and debilitating effect on the Unions. This campaign must couple education with action. Sackings must be fought when and as they occur, with a 'no-sackings' policy and the posing instead of work-sharing and the nationalisation of firms that will not provide work. The fight for the 40-hour and then the 35-hour week is one which will unite both employed and unemployed. The scandalously low unemployment pay must be exposed (Observer of Dec. 2nd published useful statistics on this topic, showing that benefits are now only 19% of the weekly average wage, compared with 32% in the time of the general strike. Other countries have much better standards - Germany 90%, Holland 70%, Switzerland 60%, Finland 66% and Greece 40%). A campaign on this question must be launched together with one against the various anomalies of the system such as 'waiting days'. In particular the problem of young people and school-leavers which will deteriorate needs attention.

Educationally it needs to be said time and time again that unemployment is a disease of capitalism and not merely a product of Tory caprice; that it is one of the most striking demonstrations of the bankruptcy of capitalism, despite the few years of comparative full employment that have been enjoyed since the war. This high employment has only been gained at the expense of a permanent annihilation threat due to the arms economy which even within the context of the deterrent has proved unworkable. This has especial importance because the present Labour Party policy would in the long run aggravate unemployment. A possible Tory move is to cause Britain to enter the EEC, and call an election which they wished to lose in order to discredit the Labour Party. Only a vigorous and bold policy of Socialism will solve the problem of unemployment.

ARE RUSSIANS TO SUPPLY INDIA WITH MiGs?

During the week there have been two diametrically opposed statements on this question. Speaking after his return from India and Pakistan in the House of Commons, Duncan Sandys said:

"As I understand it, the Russian Government have informed the Indians that in view of the situation they did not feel in present circumstances to be able to deliver these aircraft."

Next day, 4th December, Nehru denied Sandys's assertion and said:

"There has been no question at any time of Soviet Russia backing out of its commitments. It will fully implement its contractual obligations." He went on to say that the main thing was the setting up of the factory for the manufacture of MiGs. This, the Russians have repeatedly assured, would be started as scheduled. There was some delay in their delivery due to the world situations, such as Cuba. India was now assured that a few MiGs would be delivered by the end of December or a little later, a few more during 1963 and the rest in 1964.

Up to the time of writing there has been no comment from the Russians. How can there be any justification whatsoever for one workers state supplying arms to a capitalist state engaged in hostilities with another workers state? It is to be hoped that the Khrushchovites will reverse this disastrous policy which flows directly from their so-called peaceful co-existence theories.

WEST STEPS UP AID TO INDIA

The Indian bourgeoisie is getting its reward for its provocation against China. During last week the following items were announced: £ $\frac{1}{2}$ million grant for Aluminium scheme.

The Commonwealth Development Finance Company has agreed to subscribe £500,000 of Sterling Debenture Stock to be issued by Indian Aluminium. This sum will contribute towards the total cost of £4,78m. for expanding the company's existing aluminium smelter capacity at Aluparam in Kerala and building a new aluminium foil rolling and converting plant near Bombay.

£300,000 LOAN FOR CABLE WORKS

The Commonwealth Development Finance Company has agreed to lend Universal Cables of India £300,000 towards the total cost estimated at the equivalent of £2m., of a new power cable works at Satna in Madhya Pradesh. This loan, with a similar sum from the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India, will meet the borrower's foreign exchange requirements. British Insulated Callender's Cables will provide technical assistance for the project.

KRUPP TO DOUBLE OUTPUT OF INDIAN STEEL PLANT

A Daily Telegraph report states:

"New Delhi, 4th December. Krupp of Essen is to back India's rearmament drive by supplying heat-treating equipment for production of tank armour plate, it was learnt in New Delhi tonight. Ovens have been ordered capable of turning out 5,000 to 6,000 tons of hardened steel a month, said a German spokesman.

The project is getting priority. The ovens will be sent in the first quarter of 1963 to the German-built State-owned steel mill at Rourkela, Orissa. India has already launched a pilot plant in Madras to build the British Chieftain tank.

Herr Alfried Krupp, 55, who was once gaoled by the Allies for his wartime activities, is on a brief visit to India as Mr. Nehru's guest.

The German consortium of which his company is the biggest member has agreed to speed the expansion of Rourkela from its present capacity of a million tons a year to 1,800,000. This actually means more than doubling its output, since it is operating at only four-fifths of its capacity.

The agreed expansion at Rourkela will cost £70 million, said Herr Krupp in New Delhi tonight. Half this would be covered by West German long-term credits.

Herr Krupp added that Rourkela was especially important in India's defence programme, since it was designed to turn out sheet-steel seamless piping suitable for vehicles.

PHILLIPS PETROLEUM OFFER TO BUILD 2 MILLION TON REFINERY AT COCHIN.

The Financial Times of 3rd. December reports:

The Government of India is believed to favour the offer of Phillips Petroleum to build a 2m. ton refinery at Cochin in South India. It would be an integrated plant, including a 100,000 ton lubricating oil plant, an asphalt plant, hydrogenation and power plants - all at an estimated cost of \$50m. The company has offered to take a minority share of 25% in equity capital, to share 24% with Duncan Bros. and Goonkas, who would be sponsoring the project, and giving the majority share of 51% to the Government of India.

REUTER REPORTS CALL FOR NATIONALISATION IN KENYA.

The Kenya Federation of Labour's Council has called for the nationalisation of the colony's tea coffee and sugar plantations and banking and insurance, it was announced there on Dec. 3rd. A council meeting at the weekend passed resolutions to this effect, according to a Press release today signed by Mr. Peter Kibisu, Gen. Sec. of the Federation. Commenting on the proposals, Mr. Ronald J. Hillard, chairman of the Nairobi Chamber of Commerce, told a reporter: "I can see no quicker way than this to commit economic suicide".

MORE INCIDENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA.

Saboteurs cut between 20 and 30 telephone wires in Port Elizabeth last night (i.e. 3rd Dec.) according to a newspaper report. Communication with all main towns except Cape Town was lost for 2½ hours. Saboteurs also blew up a telephone box in a Cape Town suburb last night. In the past three months there have been over 40 acts of sabotage in South Africa despite the introduction of the death penalty for this offence.

PORTUGAL PLANS MASSIVE IMMIGRATION FOR ANGOLA.

The "Sunday Telegraph" reported on Dec. 2nd that the Portuguese authorities have worked out a massive immigration scheme for Angola, according to a report from London. The scheme was aimed at resisting the National Independence Movement of the Angolan people and further plundering the agricultural and mineral resources of Angola. According to the plan, the Portuguese colonialists would send immigrants to Angola from Portugal, the Cape Verde Islands, and the Azores, to double Angola's present population in ten years and it is intended to increase it to between thirty million and forty million in 20 years. A settlement administration has been set up to handle the immigration.

The "Sunday Telegraph" disclosed that Portuguese officials placed hopes in large-scale investment by West German monopoly capital, so as to facilitate the immigration plan. There were already confidential talks in Lisbon with official and unofficial West German representatives. However the telegraph doubted whether the Portuguese plan could be carried out in view of the daily growing Movement for National Independence of the Angolan people. It pointed out "The question of whether there is enough time left to carry out this grandiose scheme is totally unconsidered". It is stated that already many people in Angola "Doubt the feasibility of the scheme".

HSINHUA QUOTES TROTSKYIST PAPER.

HSINHUA, the New China News Agency, quoted the 'Samsamajist', journal of the Ceylon Section of the Fourth International as follows: "There is no doubt that a decision made by the Chinese Government to cease fire and retreat will cause immense satisfaction to everyone but the imperialists and the reactionaries. Two things become clear from this action of the Chinese Government. Firstly, it proves that the imperialist and reactionary allegation that China tried to commit aggression against India is a lie and that China's object was only to fix her boundary. Secondly, it is clear that the peaceful proposals now advanced by the Chinese government are to seek a just basis for the settlement". (Dec 6th).

INDIA TO ADVANCE FOLLOWING CHINESE WITHDRAWAL.

Mrs. Lakshmi Menon, India's Minister for External Affairs, speaking at a Press Conference in Colombo on Dec 4th, said that India would go forward as China withdrew. India was not excepting the position that she should stop 12½ miles from the McMahon line. "We must have control of the passes on the North-East Frontier Agency".

TAXES TO RISE IN INDIA DUE TO BORDER CONFLICT.

According to a Financial Times report the Indian Finance Minister has declared that because defence expenditure was rising higher taxation would be introduced and industry would have to tighten its belt.

CUBA NATIONALISES CLOTHING SECTOR

Reuter reported on December 5th that the Cuban Council of Ministers today announced the nationalisation of all privately owned clothing, textile, footwear and hardware businesses in Cuba. A decree signed at a Council meeting last night by President Osvaldo Dorticos, Dr. Fidel Castro and the interior trade minister, Sr. Manuel Lizardo, excepted only one-man businesses with no shop assistants other than members of the immediate family. The decree provided compensation for owners of one lump sum equivalent to 10 per cent of the value of shares, plus the remainder in 120 monthly payments.

For some months shoes and underclothing have been very scarce. The decree says: "The majority of large and medium centres of distribution of clothing, footwear and hardware are in private hands which fosters speculation and favouritism in the distribution of goods to sectors of the bourgeoisie. "The Cuban people must take measures permitting it resolutely and efficiently to face economic aggressions of Yankee imperialism, and to further its revolution against all forms of exploitation and privilege.

GOOD HARVEST IN CUBA

Chinese News Agency Report December 3rd.

The crops have been growing well in Cuba in the second half of this year. At present, rice, the staple food of the Cuban people, has ripened. Tens of thousands of volunteer labourers have been rushing out to help the harvesting daily, as if they were going to the trenches to defend the Fatherland in response to the call for general mobilisation. Army combatants stationed near the farms have also been helping the peasants. People's artists have given wonderful performances in rural areas, and young pioneers have enthusiastically sent water and food to the workers.

In the cities of Oriente Province, six thousand women took part in the harvest of cotton and rice yesterday in commemoration of the sixth anniversary of the landing of the warriors of the boat "Granma." Vilma Espin, President of the Cuban Women's Federation, joined in the volunteer labour. Up to the present, two million seven hundred thousand quintals of rice (one Spanish quintal equals one hundred pounds) have been reaped in the Province of Oriente alone. Permanent volunteer workers have been sent by various industries and mass organisations. In Pinar Del Rio Province, already three thousand five hundred permanent labourers from cities have volunteered to help with the rice harvest.

Two thousand five hundred volunteers worked on the farms of Las Villas Province yesterday. Among them were commander of the insurgent army of Central Cuba, Juan Almeida, and other leaders of the Province. Despite the incessant rain, the peasants and volunteers have gathered thirty thousand quintals of cotton.

The work of harvesting maize and fruit, and of collecting dried fodder is also going on well.

TEN THOUSAND FARMWORKERS STRIKE IN PERU

Chinese News Agency Report 3rd. December.

Ten thousand farm workers in the valley of Canete, South of the Peruvian capital, are continuing their strike, begun last week for an eight-hour work-day minimum wage of forty soles (Peruvian currency), payment of back wages, and paid holidays. The strikers, of forty farms, on November 30th. put up a valiant resistance to savage police attacks in which tear-gas bombs and fire-arms were used and a number of farm labourers wounded.

The reactionary Peruvian Authorities yesterday afternoon rushed a police detachment to the valley to reinforce the force there which has violated trade union and all other democratic rights and has arrested and persecuted the farm workers. The strikers have set up their own canteens as one of the measures to strengthen their unity to fight. They have the support of local workers and peasants.

The Peasants' Federation of Canete demanded that the armed brigades on the forty farms be withdrawn.

U.S. GOVERNMENT PREVENTS TRADE WITH CUBA.- EMIGRES CONTINUE AGGRESSION.

According to a financial Times report of Dec. 7th, the US Department of Commerce has announced a 90-Day denial of export rights to a Belgian oil company for shipping petroleum products of US origin to Cuba, in violation of the US Export Control Act. The denial order imposed upon the Belgian firm prevents it, for the next 3 months, participating, "directly or indirectly, in any manner or capacity, in an exportation of any commodity or technical data from the US, to any foreign destination, including Canada".

Havana radio announced on Thursday that counter-revolutionaries had shelled Cuba's North-East coast from a large vessel on Tuesday night. The attackers were identified as Cubans exiled in the United States, and the ship shelled San Francisco Beach on the North-Eastern Coast of Camaguey province.

Speaking at the Italian Communist Party Congress, Signor Pajatta, rated number three in the Party's leadership, after attacking the speech of the Chinese fraternal delegate, went on to say that there were no factions in the Italian Communist Party. In making this statement, it may be that he was trying to convince himself as much as the Chinese, for of all the Communist Parties of Western Europe the Italian is least monolithic. To give readers some background to the situation in the Italian C.P. we reproduce the following article from Militant of 3/12/62 entitled "C.P. Youth in Ferment":

During October the Federation of Italian Communist Youth (FGCI) held its national convention in Bari. The FGCI is quite a large organization - about 250,000 members - principally young workers and students of good fighting spirit and militancy. It differs from Communist youth organizations in other Western European countries - not to mention those in the Soviet-bloc countries - in that, though it obviously is closely connected to the Italian Communist Party, it has taken advantage of its formal autonomy sufficiently to permit the development of free debate within its ranks and, in some cases, to elect local leaderships which are far from being "orthodox" and acceptable to Palmiro Togliatti, the head of the Communist Party of Italy.

At the close of the Bari Congress, Ochetto, the official CP candidate for the post of FGCI national secretary, was elected to the central committee but only after his name had been crossed off the secret ballots by more than 100 delegates. It should be noted that though Ochetto was the official choice of the CP, his political position is not 100 per cent in agreement with that of Togliatti. Nonetheless, as was shown by the vote Ochetto polled for membership on the central committee, the CP leadership's manoeuvre to put at the head of the youth someone who might be acceptable to the opposition did not altogether succeed because a considerable number of delegates considered his position was not sufficiently critical of party policy.

Still more significant was the vote for FGCI secretary by the central committee to which Ochetto had just been elected. It was 38 votes for Ochetto, 25 against. The immediate consequence was that Ochetto, realizing that he could not lead the FGCI against the will of such a large opposition in its central committee, was obliged to accept some of his left-wing opponents onto the FGCI political bureau and national secretariat. How has this situation, which is rather extraordinary for the Communist movement, come about? The previous FGCI congress was held immediately after the July 1960 demonstrations, when despite bloody repression the workers forced the resignation of the Christian Democratic government led by Tanbroni (who was supported by the fascists in parliament). The Communist youth cadres had been in the forefront of this struggle. This brought about a mounting, though confused, leftist wave leading to substantial changes - permitted by the party leadership in a manoeuvre to obtain the support of the youth - in the FGCI's organization and methods.

However, many young militants took this manoeuvre seriously and the CP leadership was soon confronted with the accomplished fact of a fairly well organized left opposition in the youth federation. This opposition, moreover, won the leadership of some important provincial federations, including Rome and the important industrial centre of Turin, as well as the editorial board of Nuova Generazione, the FGCI newspaper. Enthusiastic support for the Cuban Revolution and the principles of the Second Declaration of Havana, sharp criticism of the opportunism of the French CP and Khrushchev in regard to the Algerian Revolution, condemnation of Stalinism, and a substantial opposition to the CP's opportunism on certain economic, political and cultural problems in Italy - these were the main points on which a left opposition began to coalesce. This tendency held positions similar to those of the left wing in Nonni's Socialist Party and the trade unions.

Togliatti's fight against this tendency in the youth has gone several rounds without obtaining a final political victory or smashing the opposition by repression. The sharpest moment in the fight came after the 22nd. Congress of the Soviet Communist Party, when Nuova Generazione, by openly publishing articles and photographs, raised the issue of the moral and political rehabilitation of Leon Trotsky.

Apart from the historical-judicial matter, the influence of Trotsky's ideas on the Youth Communists, especially on the Communist students, has been an important element in their ideological development. This has been facilitated by the fact that the new climate in the Italian Communist movement does not permit any bureaucratic ban on Trotsky's writings. Books by Trotsky, for example, are available to Communist members at the library of the Gramsci Institute, the CP's central national library. The battle begun by the FGCI at its previous national congress goes on. The CP's tenth national congress has been scheduled for December and the debate in the FGCI has already had a certain influence on the debate now going on in the party. Togliatti's policies have found a powerful new left opponent.

PRAVDA REPORTS PUBLICATION OF NEW ANTI-STALIN NOVEL.

Following the recent publication of a "One day in the life of Ivan Denisovich" by Alexander Solzhenitsyn, a further anti-Stalin novel "The Flying Day" by Vadim Kozhevnikov. It is the story of a building worker who comes to criticise the buildings of the authorities that are the visual propaganda of the era, and the consequent lack of housing projects. He too was sent to Siberia. (Counter-revolutionary?).

ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY CONFERENCE TURNED INTO IDEOLOGICAL BATTLEFIELD.

The Italian Communist Party Conference has become the first occasion for a direct and completely open confrontation between the views of the Chinese Communist Party and those of the Khrushovites. Despite impressions created by Press reports, it was the Italian CP leader who commenced the recrimination when in his opening address Togliatti attacked the Albanian CP and then went on to criticise the Chinese for supporting the Albanians. This is the first time at such gatherings that the pretension that the dispute was between Khrushov and the Albanians has been dropped. Hitherto, all reference to China has been avoided. Togliatti also took the opportunity in an indirect way of criticising the Chinese over the Indian border dispute.

Speaking the next day, Mon. Dec. 3rd, Kozlov, leader of the Russian delegation, strongly condemned those who believed that war with the Capitalist countries was inevitable. This time Albania was accredited with this view and China remained unmentioned but said "Those who are certain of their historic future have no need to play with fire and endanger all the achievements of civilisation". Kozlov stated that the Indian border dispute harmed the true interests of the Chinese people and their friends the Indians. Imperialists and reactionaries in India were the only ones, he went on, who would benefit from China's action, and would use it to hound the CP in India and obstruct its work, whilst bringing an end to Indian neutrality and encouraging her to enter the Western camp. Chao-y-Ming, fraternal delegate to the conference from the Chinese Party's central committee criticised Togliatti's attack on the Albanians at the Congress whilst admitting that the real difference existed with the Chinese Party. (See footnote).

Naturally enough, the Italians responded to this criticism next day, when Pajetta, a leading Italian CP member declared his party's support for Khrushov's position and echoed Togliatti's remarks of Sunday when he claimed that the issue at stake was not the shaky condition of international capitalism, but the strengthening of the powers of the socialist part of the world, which by building up its strength and internal economic condition could contest capitalism whilst maintaining Co-existence. By intimation Pajetta rejected the Chinese policy of vigorous support for national revolutions, as this would increase the dangers of conflict with the capitalist world.

(Note: We intend to reproduce at a later date the full text of the speech of the Chinese delegate at the Conference, which incidentally is moderately couched and far from 'turbulent' as one would expect from the Italian attitude. Copies available 4d post free from Bookshop.)

CZECH COMMUNIST PARTY CONFERENCE OPENS WITH ATTACK ON 'ALBANIANS'

Opening the 12th Congress of the Czech CP in Prague on Dec. 5th, President Novotny launched a strong attack on the Albanian CP and accused it of inciting a thermo-nuclear war during the Cuban crisis. Listeners would no doubt realise that this attack was directed against China as it is extremely difficult to see how a country the size of Albania (area about $\frac{1}{4}$ that of Scotland with the population of Birmingham) could incite thermonuclear war. He also announced that the central committee had decided to review political trials held between 1949 and 1954, "draw the basic conclusions from them and liquidate the matter". The most important political trial of the period was that of Rudolf Slansky and his supporters. Slansky the former Gen. Sec. of the party, together with 10 other leading members of the Communist Party were executed after being accused of being capitalist agents, Zionism, Trotskyism and Titoism. Novotny should know all about this affair because he was publicly praised for helping to uncover the 'Slansky plot' and he climbed to party leadership over the bodies of those executed. A year ago he rejected calls for Slansky's rehabilitation and claimed that Slansky had ruled Czechoslovakia with the methods of terror used by Beria.

EAST GERMANY TOO - The process of 'destalinisation' a la Khrushchov is now reaching East Germany that stronghold of old-style stalinism. Speaking in Berlin December 4th, Ulbricht, chairman of the Council of State, criticised the East German judiciary, saying that it still showed "manifestations of dogmatism" left over from the Stalin era.