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THE BULLETIN

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for
Socialists*

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Letter to Readers

At the time of writing the Editor has still not returned from Algeria where he is participating in the Conference for the Organisation of Non-Governmental Aid to Algeria. He will however, be back in good time to write a general report of the Conference to appear in the next issue of the Bulletin. This will be followed by a series of more detailed articles on the decisions of the conference.

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MAO'S 25 POINTS: In their letter of June the 14th to the C.P.S.U., the Central Committee of the Chinese C.P. reiterate their old complaints against the 'revisionists' and mention some new ones including the 'cult of the individual' question. As usual they criticise 'certain people' in the 'international communist movement' who have a negative attitude towards the national liberation struggle. However, the poverty of the Chinese position becomes obvious in passages like the following:

"In these areas", (Asia, Africa, Latin-America) "extremely broad sections of the population refuse to be slaves of imperialism. They include not only workers, peasants, intellectuals and petit bourgeois, but also patriotic national bourgeoisie, and even certain kings, princes and aristocrats who are patriotic."

In the case of the capitalist countries, Togliatti and Co. are warned against "legalism or parliamentary cretinism" and "advised to raise the political consciousness of the masses instead of regarding the immediate movement as everything." It is pointed out once again that there is no example of a "peaceful transition to socialism" and that C.P.s must educate their members in every form of struggle so as to prepare for either a peaceful or non-peaceful development.

Again certain persons have one-sidedly exaggerated the role of peaceful competition between capitalist and socialist countries in their attempt to substitute peaceful competition for revolutionary struggles of the oppressed people and nations. However, the Chinese somewhat naively discount the question of a war of national liberation leading to world war on the grounds that "those that have occurred since World War II have not led to world war." They say these victories greatly strengthen the forces preventing the imperialists from launching a world war without explaining how this is to happen, in view of the well known tendency of the toppling ruling class to strike out, even irrationally.

A new question is raised when the Chinese letter attacks Kruschov's assertion that Russia is "a state of the whole people". The Chinese contend that, on the contrary, class struggle must still go on against exploiters, political degenerates, newly emerging bourgeois elements, subversive imperialist activists, parasites and embezzlers for decades after the seizure of power. "In the view of Marxist-Leninists, there is no such thing as a non-class or supra-class state. So long as a state remains a state it must bear a class character; so long as the state exists, it cannot be a state of "the whole people". As soon as society becomes classless, there will no longer be a state. In particular they mention that it will take along time to eliminate the difference between peasant and worker.

Another new point is the charge that to "raise the issue of combatting the cult of the individual" is erroneous and harmful. This is "actually to counterpose the leaders to the masses, undermine the party's unified leadership which is based on democratic centralism, dissipate its fighting strength and disintegrate its tanks."

"Certain persons" are "shifting all errors onto others and claiming all credit for themselves! Moreover, they are using this pretext to force fraternal parties to change their leadership. This is "great-power chauvinism" as also is using "division of labour" as an excuse to impose one's economic will.

The Chinese state specifically that at the coming bilateral talks they will raise the question of "the criticism of Stalin". The failure of the Chinese to line up on the anti-Stalinist platform cannot but have the most serious consequences for them in the ideological struggle with the revisionists and presumably stems from an unprincipled alliance with Molotov-Stalinist elements and the Albanian leadership.

The Economist of June 15th, does not share Mr. Maudlings confidence in the economy. In an article entitled 'the unspectacular chancellor', it has this to say- 'Mr. Maudling's speech to Birmingham's rotarians helped to send stock exchange prices up on Tuesday, by almost as much as Miss Christine Keeler had sent them down the other day. It is a bit difficult to see why. He waved away April's disappointingly stagnated retail trade figures, and averred that he much prefers 'steady rather than spectacular growth', because in the past 'spectacular progress has sometimes lead to sharp setbacks.' First this last statement is historically misleading. First the last three sterling crises have taken place at or just after a time when production has been stagnating or rising very slowly, not after it has been rising spectacularly (editorial comment) spectacular economic growth has led to inflation e.g. the 1956 crisis). Secondly, it is a familiarly bad treasury habit to use the word growth only at budget time and then to start qualifying it by some adjective shortly afterwards; such as Mr Lloyds 'sound growth' (which meant unnecessary deflation), or Mr. Maudlings own previous 'Underlying growth' (which meant growth which had not actually happened), and now this term 'steady growth' (which could easily become a euphemism for growth at a totally inadequate rate).....The depressing feature of this Birmingham speech was that the Chancellor seemed already to be digging in behind so many of the old platitudes that the Treasury has used too often in the past to justify immobility."

NORTH EAST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL FAILS.....Economist.

The North Eastern council is an association of all the local planning authorities in Northumberland, Durham, and the North Riding of Yorkshire, financed by grants from local authorities, from local firms and trade unions. Its functions are to give advice about how the north-east can be restored to the relative prosperity that it once enjoyed within the nation, to urge native industry to expand and outside firms to move in. However, the Economist says- "the north eastern council has so far done more to educate people outside its own region than benefit those within it. Its second annual report carries its own story up to the end of March this year; just before the budget. Much of the rise in unemployment was due to structural unemployment caused by the decline of coal and of shipbuilding, not just the effects of the weather), and the collapse of the common market negotiations had driven off some prospective new American investors. New job opportunities are needed at a rate at least four times as great as the 5,000 new opportunities a year now being created. Unemployment is now back at November's level, at 5%. 15,000 people probably the brightest young people, leave the region each year.... The region is still an inordinate bureaucratic delay over the granting of the various capital sums and loans provided for in the budget; the Chancellors claim that the traditional delays would be eliminated has not worked out in practice.

U.S. Magazine Describes Gloomy Situation in U.S. Foreign Trade...Hsinhua.

The June 10th issue of U.S. News and World Report pointed out that 'The Germans, the Japanese, the French, and the Italians are grabbing more and more of the world market for manufactures. The British and the Americans are falling by the wayside comparatively speaking... Great efforts have been made to promote exports. Most of the U.S. aid dollars have to be spent in the U.S. for U.S. goods for example. Great efforts are made to cut down imports. But in spite of this the situation has deteriorated."

DETROIT DEMONSTRATION PLANNED BY NEGROES... from 'The Militant' 17th June.

A mass 'Freedom March', with 100,000 negroes taking part, is planned for Sunday, June 23rd. The marchers will hold a meeting in the centre of Detroit, with Rev. Martin Luther King speaking. This meeting has been organised by the newly formed Detroit Council for Human Rights, which is supported by community organisations, block clubs, local unions, churches, youth groups and the Socialist Workers Party of America. Free copies of negro bi-weeklies, 'Detroit Courier' and 'Illustrated News' are being circulated in the area.

Up to now Kennedy has attempted to placate Northern Negroes, whose votes are so strategic, with civil rights bills which were too weak to antagonize the Dixiecrats. A time-honoured variation of this game has been for Northern liberals to introduce somewhat stronger civil-rights legislation in order to win praise from Negro leaders, and then to allow the Dixiecrats to whittle the bills down to almost nothing. The liberals then continue their pose as great friends of civil rights, saying: "We tried."

This time, however, the situation is much more serious. As Kennedy pointed out in a television speech, his problem is to get the issue "out of the streets and into the courts." Some legislation has to be passed. But will it be whittled down enough to be acceptable to the Dixiecrats? Or will the Negroes be able to force something through that they can really utilize to advance their struggle?

UNREST IN ECUADOR... from *Hs inkia*
Farm Labourers.

Farm Labourers of the Mercedes Estate in the area of Santo Domingo de los Colorados, near Quito, the capital of Ecuador, have started a fight against the ruthless exploitation and armed suppression by their militarist latifundist. Their struggle has the support of the Trade Unions of the country. The Ecuadorian Government has recently given large areas of fertile land to the leaders of the three services, in an attempt to preserve latifundism and retard agrarian reform. The Mercedes estate was set up on the land which the government had given to Air Force General Andrade Ochoa, who carried out cruel repressions of the farm labourers. In order to hold down the labourers' fight for a better living, he called in the armoured unit 'AZUAY' and had the labourers and their families tied up and beaten. He then burnt down their houses and deported some.

Teachers. 400 striking Ecuadorian teachers from 87 schools held a parade through the streets of Guayaquil on June 18th to demand payment of back wages. At a rally following the demonstration the government's economic policy was denounced. Roberto Rivero, President of the National Union of Educationalists, said that the teachers' strike was a protest against the oligarchs and bureaucrats serving U.S. imperialism, who, in addition to plundering the nation's wealth, had adopted a policy of ruthlessly robbing the workers.

Textile Workers. 14,000 textile workers hold a 24 hour strike on 18th June in support of workers in a San Antonio factory against unlawful dismissal of 15 T.U. leaders. This strike was supported by the Ecuadorian confederation of Labour and its affiliated union organisations.

HUGO BLANCO.

No news has yet been received of Hugo Blanco, but readers are still urged to make known the Peruvian workers struggle through their Labour Party wards, etc.

STRUGGLE IN LAOS DEFENDSHsinhua.

On June 13th, U.S. news agencies admitted that the military exercise which the U.S. controlled S.E.A.T.O. carried out in Thailand was a full dress rehearsal for the United States to carry out an aggressive war in the S.E. Asia region, particularly in Laos. A U.P.I. dispatch from Lophburi, Thailand, said that 'the U.S. 25th division's first battle group got a preview today of what the next war might be like. The battle round would be somewhere in S.E. Asia, the enemy Communist, and the war fare 'guerilla'. Quoting U.S. military sources, an A.P. dispatch indicated that the units of the U.S. 25th infantry division would remain in Thailand after the conclusion of the current military exercise. This was confirmed by the U.S. Defence Department on June 14th.

These reports followed a week in which the U.S. have been fervently building up the strength of the Savannakhet forces in Laos. U.P.I. reported on June 7th that 'the build up of forces in continuing north of the Plain of Jars. These forces, which are estimated at anywhere between 8 and 12 battalions have been airlifted into a dirt airstrip near The Plain of Jars complete with their weapons and even artillery pieces. On June 10th U.P.I. reported from Vientiane that truckloads of American ammunition were being loaded on planes at Vientiane Airport for parachuting them to Kong Le's men and the right wing forces near the Plain of Jars.

On June 14th, the radio of the Pathet Lao fighting units announced that planes of the U.S. and the Savannakhet group airdropped large quantities of arms, ammunition and food to their forces in San Neua province for 2 hours on June 12th. The right wing forces shelled the positions of Pathet Lao forces soon afterwards. Also, on June 12th, U.S. and Savannakhet troops near the city of Attapeu conducted massive 'mopping up operations'. They met with stiff counter attacks from the local peoples armed forces and suffered heavy casualties. Soldiers of a unit of the Savannakhet group refused to carry out the orders from their supervisors. Their brave action was supported by some soldiers from other units, the radio added.

On June 16th 'The Peoples' Daily devoted its editorial to the situation in Laos. This editorial ended with the following words, 'No foreign intervention can prevent Laos from following the historic path of independence, peace and neutrality, nor can it subject the Laotian nation once again to oppression and enslavement. U.S. imperialism will never be able to realize its wild ambition of turning Laos into its colony and military base. China is a signatory to the Geneva agreements and a next-door neighbour of Laos. Our position of upholding the Geneva agreements and supporting the Laotian people's just struggle will never change. China will never interfere in the domestic affairs of Laos, nor will it look on idly while others violate the Geneva agreements, interfere, in Laotian internal affairs and threaten China's security. We would like to advise U.S. imperialism not to under-estimate the Laotian people's will and strength in safeguarding their national independence, peace and neutrality, and not to under-estimate the determination of the signatories of the Geneva agreements to uphold this solemn international agreement. U.S. imperialism and its lackeys will have to pay dearly if they ignore this advice.'

DELAY IN RETURN OF CHINESE PRISONERS.....Hsinhua

Quote- 'The Indian government has by force and fraud held back more than 260 Chinese nationals in India whose names were already on the lists intended for the first two groups to return to China. This was disclosed by the second group of returned Chinese from India, who cited many facts giving the lie to the Indian propaganda alleging that the Chinese victims had changed their mind and refused to return to China'.

British troops were seen yet again fulfilling their classic role as strike-breakers. This time they operated in Swaziland against the workers in the Havelock Asbestos Mines. The workers had been on strike for over a month, in spite of the strike being declared illegal, when troops were air-lifted in from the Kahawa base in Kenya on June 15th. The workers, who were striking for a minimum wage of £1 a day and against the new British imposed constitution, were attacked by the troops and rounded up. Those who agreed to work were released while those who would not were kept in custody. By June 18th, the strike had been broken and 1000 men returned to work. The situation in the rest of the country is returning to "normal" as Gordon Highlanders patrol Swaziland and 153 strikers remain in prison.

The Kenya African National Union attacked the air-lift from Kahawa and stated: "KANU is appalled that the British Government is using our country as a military base from which troops are being sent to suppress our brothers in Swaziland." "We have constantly pointed to the danger of the British base in our land. Not only is it an embarrassment to us in our determination to remain non-aligned, but also represents a continued threat of colonialist interference in Africa."

ALGERIAN NOTES

Ben Bella when addressing the European Conference on non-Government aid to Algeria warned that unless the French agreed to release the 8 Frenchmen and women still in French jails for helping the F.L.N., those O.A.S. still in Algeria and the Markis (Algerians who acted as French auxiliaries) would be detained.

He went on to express his dissatisfaction with some aspects of the Evian agreement in particular the military clauses. The Algerians wanted no more nuclear experiments or military bases on their territory and the Algerian Government had explained to the French how difficult Franco-Algerian relations would become if there were any more nuclear explosions in the Sahara.

ANTI-COLONIALISM IN AFRICA THE PRIORITY

Premier Ben Bella in an interview on 12th June said: "Africa is in gestation. We should consider all other problems as secondary while there was still African soil under colonial domination and suffering racial discrimination." To give substance to these words on June 17th the Algerian Government ordered the closure of the Portuguese consulate in Algeria. This measure was taken in accordance with the Addis Ababa Conference resolution urging all African countries to break off diplomatic and consulate relations with Portugal and to support popular struggles for national independence in Portuguese colonies.

DOCKERS BOYCOTT SOUTH AFRICAN GOODS

"Copenhagen dockers" it is reported in the Journal of Commerce "have decided to boycott ships carrying South African goods because of the South African apartheid policy. A resolution passed at a dockers' meeting said the boycott would start on July 1st" This was despite threats that such action, constituting a form of strike, would be illegal.

"An unofficial trade boycott of South African goods was begun in Copenhagen on March 1st as a result of a campaign by the Danish Youth Council. Two big Danish retail concerns have refused to sell S.African goods."

Whether or not the docks are to be the battleground for a major 40-hour week breakthrough will be decided within the next few weeks. Last week the port bosses rejected a claim for a cut in the weekly hours from 42 to 40 in British docks. At the same time it was agreed that the twice daily "attendance money" paid when a docker reports for work but does not get any, will be raised from 7/- to 8/-. In resisting demands for a cut in the working week, the port bosses will be strongly backed by the Government, who may try to refer the struggle to 'Nick'. The unions involved are the T&G.W.U., the N.U.G.M.W., the Scottish T.G.W.U., and the Watermen, the Lightermen, and the Tugmen and Bargemen's Union. About 70,000 men are concerned. The dockers will go into the struggle conscious of their victory in securing a cut from 44 hours to 42 hours in August 1962.

Among other claims that remain outstanding at the moment for the 40 hour week is one for 1.25M English and Welsh building workers and another for 3.25M engineering and shipbuilding workers.

Ed. Note: A breakthrough in one sector of industry for the 40 hour working week will give great momentum to demands for its general application throughout the whole of industry. Because of electoral considerations, the Labour Party leadership will do everything it can to discredit such a campaign. The left must therefore fight all the harder for active participation by local C.L.P.'s and Y.S. branches, to integrate them with the T.U. struggle by handing out leaflets and organising demonstrations where possible.

AFRICAN WALK-OUT IN PROTEST AGAINST APARTHEID taken from Guardian

The June 19th Guardian reported that the African walk-out from the International Labour Organisation Conference on June 18th was "a carefully calculated move to push the I.L.O. to the brink of destruction and to keep it there until S. Africa either abandons apartheid or is removed from the I.L.O." Walking out as the conference was about to elect a new chairman they made it clear that their action "does not mean withdrawal from or leaving the conference" and that the African delegates will "continue to enjoy the rights conferred on us as delegates until we finally decide on a further step in the light of developments"

This has put the conference in a dilemma. Unless they satisfy the demands of the African delegates they do not see how the conference or I.L.O. can continue. Half the members have withdrawn and the French Govt. delegate commented that unless the necessary 2/3 quorum was obtained "the I.L.O. will stop its operations on Jan 1st." The Africans were followed by the Soviet Block, the non-African members of the Arab League, and Israel. However the Ukrainian acting-chairman stayed behind and the Soviet block avoided committing itself to any qualified withdrawal. Most Asian and Latin-American countries stayed behind together with W. Europe and N. America in support of the argument put forward by the I.L.O. director general "if we adhere to the law, it will re-inforce the moral purpose of the I.L.O. in its struggle against racial discrimination and for the universal recognition of human dignity" He recommended to the Africans that they should pass resolutions urging the U.N. Security Council "To take up apartheid as an urgent matter"