

1448

* * * "UNION VOICE" SALES INCREASING.

* * WHAT'S HAPPENING IN IRAQ ?

* REVOLUTIONARIES ACTIVE IN PERU.

THE BULLETIN

An Information Service
for
Socialists

VOL. 2. NUMBER 7.

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4^D

- Page 1. - - - Editorial.
- Page 2. - - - Anti-nuclear debate at Dutch L.P. Conference.
Spanish radio drops slogans.
French committee to help Algeria.
Campaign against repression in Portugal.
- Page 3. - - - 1,500 unemployed demonstrate.
Successful conference in Nottingham.
"Union Voice" well received.
- Page 4. - - - Pravda article on Unity.
- Page 5. - - - Russian Migs arrive.
Indian C.P. secretary resigns.
African students leave Bulgaria.
Indonesian C.P. sides with China.
- Page 6. - - - Demonstration against "Hanging bill."
Malayan leader detained.
Malayan railwaymen's success.
Borneo tribesmen gather.
- Page 7. - - - Canadian Socialists in Toronto election.
"Growing worry for U.S."
- Page 8. - - - Revolutionary activity in Peru.
South American revolutionaries seize ship.
Castro suggests solidarity conference.

Letter to Readers.

The Tories are in a crisis, the recent failure of talks for Britain's entry into the Common Market and rising unemployment have contributed to this situation. It is a situation which is favourable to Labour's chances at the next General Election, but from which the Liberals - with their strong pro-Common Market line - will gain little. We must now raise the slogan of "the return of a fourth Labour Government." The pressure for a campaign, a pre-election campaign, should be started in Wards, C.L.P.s, Young Socialist branches and T.U. branches. Mr. Wilson, if he is to "continue Gaitskell's policies" won't lead the party to victory, but it may be propelled into power by action from the left. On the same subject, "Union Voice" is selling well, keep up the good work. Finally anyone with a little spare cash can always send it to us, we need it.

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1450

General Abdul Karim Kassem's regime which was overthrown by a military coup some days ago, was a bonapartist dictatorship constantly at war on various fronts in its efforts to hang on to power. Kassem battled the pro-Nasser Arab nationalists who belonged to a wing of the Ba'ath (Socialist Party of Arab Renaissance) a petty-bourgeois nationalist party influential in Syria and Jordan as well as Iraq. He repressed the Communist Party which had been decisive in keeping him in power and in helping him put down the pro-Nasserite insurrection at Mosul. He was against the Kurds, who are struggling to conquer national autonomy. He was against the remnants of the old Nouri es-Said regime and the direct stooges of British imperialism among both the landlord class and the comprador bourgeoisie. He opened the way to his downfall by failing to carry forward the revolution begun in 1958. Brutal repressive measures proved insufficient to make up for his loss in popularity. In the Arab world, nationalist layers hailed the overthrow of the Kassem regime and the victory of Colonel Abdel Salem Aref. Iraqi students in Britain staged a big demonstration. Yugoslavia as well as most of the Arab countries, including Algeria granted recognition to the new regime.

Emotions however were somewhat mixed. The evident strengthening of Nasserism caused anxiety, especially among reactionary forces in Syria and Jordan and amongst Zionist leaders in Israel. On the left, despite Algeria's quick recognition of the new regime, the daily newspaper El Chaab printed a discordant note. "As for the population", it reported, "it was truly 'stunned' by the suddenness of the coup d'etat and by its extent. Most people appeared to be uneasy and dismayed. The aspect of the crowd which hurried yesterday on the sidewalks of Baghdad was far from the delirious enthusiasm which has marked the tone of Radio Baghdad since the beginning of the coup d'etat."

The disastrous policies of the Communist party should now be plain to everyone. In 1958 it was the strongest party in Iraq. Instead of taking power it preferred to back Kassem. In this way it conformed to Moscow's policy of seeking to support the status quo. Today the ranks of the Communist Party, and in fact, everyone accused of association with "communism" however remotely, are victims of a bitter purge. This position has been reached through default by the leadership of the Iraqi CP. Support from Britain has been obtained by the new government by promising not to touch the Iraq Petroleum Company, the international consortium which exploits the Iraq oil fields. American support has been given because of the hope that the "revolution" will continue on its anti-Communist course. One cannot help feeling that the Iraqi CP might have supported the new regime if it had not been for the fact that it had turned against them in such a bloody manner. Their previous unprincipled support of Kassem and neglect of the class-struggle in Iraq would not have precluded this from the realm of probability.

The political implications of the Aref revolt are simply that they sharpen the contradictions in the Middle East. Aref is buying Western support by not touching the Oil interests, but in order to seek popular appeal he may move against British oil interests. He may also have to do this in order to curry favour with Nasser.

Certainly, the Aref regime cannot be welcomed in the manner that Tribune has done, via Fenner Brockway, who welcomes the "revolution" and its neutralist flavour as a forward step. Heads have rolled, new people wield power, but for Socialism the prospect has hardly altered. The lesson to be learnt from these developments are those that accrue from the behaviour of the Iraq C.P. who have queered their pitch in recent years by supporting Kassem at the expense of developing revolutionary trends in Iraq when the conditions were essentially favourable. The events of last week should have highlighted the coming to power of a Left-wing Socialist Government, instead of heralding a further period of Middle East instability.

1451 THE HAGUE - JAN 5th. --- Broad opposition against the extreme right-wing pro-imperialist leadership was expressed at the annual congress of the Dutch Labour Party held here Jan 18- 19. Debate centred around problems of military policy. An amendment to the main resolution supported by several members of Parliament, urged the party to come out in favour of unilateral nuclear disarmament. The vote was 307 for and 2,128 against. A minority of more than fourteen percent at a party congress has not been heard of for many years in the Dutch reformist party.

SPANISH RADIO DROPS FASCIST SLOGANS.

Since the beginning of the year, the Spanish radio has dropped use of the fascist slogans "Viva Franco" and "Arriba Espana" which formerly brought all the news bulletins to a close. This is another step in cleaning up the Franco regime in anticipation of closer integration into the West capitalist Europe and the Common Market.

FRENCH COMMITTEE CALLS FOR HELP TO NEW ALGERIA.

PARIS, FEB 1st. --- An Association of Solidarity with New Algeria (ASAN) has just been set up in France. Among the prominent figures sponsoring it are the outstanding mathematician Prof. Laurent Schwartz, Robert Barrat, Robert Davezies, A-P Lentin, Albert Nemmi, and Maurice Peju, as well as various Trade Unionists and leftists who gained public attention for their defiance of persecution in helping the Algerian revolution in the past. The Committee has issued a call to workers, peasants, technicians and intellectuals in France to help the Algerian people in combating illiteracy, taking care of war orphans, and reconstructing the country along socialist lines.

The committee is planning an intensive educational campaign to help bring to the French people a better understanding of the enormous needs of Algeria after more than seven years of devastating war.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST REPRESSION IN PORTUGAL. From a Croydon Correspondent.

The British Committee for Portuguese Amnesty in a circular, lists the support given by the British Labour Party to their movement. Whilst this is not inconsiderable much more support could obviously be mustered with a minimum of effort. The position thus far, is : Constituency Labour Parties 66, Trade Union National Executives 11, Trade Union Branches 124, Trades Councils 16, Co-operative Societies. Staffs of 14 Universities and colleges have also signed the amnesty appeal.

Indications suggest that Salazar, surprisingly, perhaps, is yielding to international opinion. Several significant prisoners, including Agostinho Neto have recently been released and others on trial have received suspended sentences. The Unesco Courier is quoted as saying ".....the comparison of the death rate among children from 1 to 4 years of age, where it is recognised that the nutritional factor is a primordial cause, directly or indirectly of death. In this age group, for each child that dies in Sweden or France FOUR die in Portugal.

The address of the British Committee for Portuguese Amnesty is : 30, Benson Road, London S.E. 23. Further documentary material may be obtained from this address.

1452

The February 13th demonstration and lobby of Parliament was a mighty example of the great potential in the workers movement. Something like a thousand workers went to London from South Wales, and over 500 workers in London joined them in the demonstration despite the fact that it was a week day.

The weakness of the whole affair was that the slogans under which it was organised were purely reformist. Very few calls for socialist planning or policies were made. Calls for the "freeing of World trade", direct industry to South Wales, and "Not a man for the road" predominated. That these slogans are totally inadequate even in the present period is shown by the problems presented by the Soviet oil imports. The C.P. has tended to oppose the increase in the import of oil and the N.U.M. has adopted a very hostile attitude to the use of oil for heating (even to the puerile extent of boycotting workmens clubs which went over to oil heating.) Yet the shipbuilders are very pleased with the prospect of being able to build Soviet ships. Obviously to overcome these contradictions, socialist planning is needed and right now one can get tied into knots unless the slogan of socialist planning is put at the fore of any campaign.

SUCCESSFUL 'APPEAL FOR UNITY' CONFERENCE IN NOTTINGHAM

On Sunday the 10th of February, as already announced in the Bulletin, a conference organised under the auspices of 'Appeal for Unity' was held in Nottingham. About 50 people attended all of whom are active Labour Party workers. We understand that of those the organisers got details of) the following C.L.P.s were represented: Carlton, Central Nottm., Derby South, Grantham, Ilkeston, Leicester South East, Northampton, North Nottm., South East Derbys, South Nottm., and West Nottm. Among the Unions represented were: the A.B.T., the A.E.U., the C.S.C.A., the E.T.U., the F.B.U., the M.M., the N.U.M. there was a good contingent probably because Bert Wynn was speaking), the N.U.T., the T.G.W.U., the T.W.U., and U.S.D.A.W.. There were members of the following Y.S. branches present: Central, North, South & West Nottingham, Derby, Ilkeston and Northampton.

After listening to Bert Wynn's opening remarks there was a serious discussion about the role of 'Appeal for Unity' and several of the people in attendance were very keen to get the organisation established quickly in this area. This was especially noticeable among people who had not taken part in the organisation before. Steps were taken to ensure that the conference will be followed up.

A speaker involved in crisis of the Young Socialists spoke on the present situation in that movement. He made an appeal for the unity between the left in the adult party and the Y.S.. It is certain that positive results will flow from that discussion. Copies of Union Voice were sold at the meeting and a good number were taken by members of the audience.

UNION VOICE STILL SELLING WELL

by a special correspondent

Although my reports are by no mean complete I can give news of further successes in selling Union Voice. About 30 copies were sold when two comrades went to Blidworth Pit, 12 have been sold at a building firm, 30 have been taken by a Players shopsteward for sale in that factory, 12 have gone to union official to a large printing works and 12 to the Nottm. Fire Station, another shop steward from Ericson's (a large engineering factory) has taken 12, other places where it has been sold include Nottm. University and T.C., Northampton, etc.

1453

We are summarising and commenting below on the substance of an article which appeared in the Feb. 10th Edition of Pravda. We have used the Soviet News text for this purpose. The relevance of this article to discussions currently taking place on a world scale in the Communist movement, particularly in relation to the Chinese suggestion that an international conference of CP 's should take place to discuss difficulties, a suggestion which has received the backing of many other CP 's, will not be missed by "Bulletin" readers.

In the article there is a deal of reference to proletarian internationalism and the necessity of unity in the Communist world, but nothing precise emerges concerning the steps to be taking by the movement, despite the weighty chunks of Lenin. The article develops for some length into a defence of Yugoslavia, or more accurately, a defence of Khrushchev's policy of uncritical support of Tito. The reason for the difference which exist between Yugoslavia and the "dogmatists" is explained away as a product of Stalin's personality cult, i.e. the article says that Stalin's opposition to Tito was only a product of a quirk in Stalin's nature, that there were no more important reasons. It is perhaps natural, as well as convenient for the present C.P.S.U. to seek this explanation, because it not only justifies their current attitude to Yugoslavia, but allows them to avoid defending revisionism as such, and avoids the real issue by side-tracking the real argument. Thus indirectly, the ghost of Stalin is invoked to defend K's policies. Because Stalin opposed Tito, K supports him, or so at least, the Pravda article seems to run. The Chinese criticisms of Yugoslavia are not challenged directly.

A heavy innuendo exists in the following paragraph against the Chinese who are in effect being accused of wishing to expel revisionist parties. In fact the Chinese are only calling for a world forum to discuss ideas and strategy. "What would happen if each CP, at its own discretion excommunicated other C.P.s from Socialism, strove to expel them from the ranks of the movement, and, what is more, refused whole nations to co-operate in the building of socialism." The Chinese have never suggested such a course, nor, in fact, does the article directly attribute this to them, but the unmistakable impression is that the article wishes to convince its readers that this (expulsion of Yugoslavia) is what the Chinese are after. Thus the article attacks and sidetracks the Chinese suggestion of an international conference, and goes on to maintain that existing means for intercourse exist. This at a time when differences are becoming increasingly acute and public, to the detriment of the unity of the Socialist camp. Internal resolution of conflict is rejected.

The Chinese are accused of distorting the meaning of the Moscow declaration of Communist parties and of giving a "one-sided" interpretation. They are criticised for being disruptive at the East German CP Congress, but "Bulletin" readers will have no difficulty in remembering that the provocation that they were presented with at this, and at the Italian Congress, especially from Togliatti, was extreme. "The C.P.S.U. waged a struggle against Menshevism, and Trotskyism, right-wing and leftist opportunism in its own country against revisionists, sectarians and dogmatists in the international arena. Our party will go on resolutely combating all apostates from Marxism-Leninism both right and leftist". It is this sentence that reveals the exact substance of the article. What the Chinese are guilty of is not specified. Trotskyism? Leftism? Dogmatism? But what is said, is that the attacks are to go on, and that the Russians have spurned the Chinese attempts to eradicate differences by an international conference of Communist Parties. This can only be because the Stalinists fear the preponderance of revolutionary views that exist in many Eastern CPs who reject the "peaceful road".

1454

The Indian information service in New Delhi, issued on Feb 12th, the following statement: "The first consignment of four Mig fighters (out of the twelve promised) from the Soviet Union has arrived in Bombay." The press trust of India adds some ancillary equipment has also arrived with the aircraft on board a Soviet freighter. This news has been relayed, without comment by the New China News Agency.

INDIAN COMMUNIST PARTY SECRETARY RESIGNS.

The secretary of the Indian Communist Party, Mr. Namboodiripad, has resigned from his position. This was announced after an eight day session of the party's national council. It was also stated that the N.C. had passed a resolution condemning China on both its attitude to the Cuban crisis and for "invading India". On the latter point the article spoke of China having provoked "..... armed conflict with a country like India which is a non-aligned, peace-loving and democratic country." The complete degeneration of the Dange group is thus clearly demonstrated. To describe "democratic" India in these times when over 400 members of the party are in gaol, including members of the N.C. and when strikes and routine Trade Union activity is banned, and when India is conducting a vicious war against the Nagas is truly complete servility to Indian Capitalism and its interests.

AFRICAN STUDENTS TO LEAVE BULGARIA.

Comrades will have read in the press of the demonstration of Ghana students in Sofia which led to their being asked to leave by the Bulgarian authorities. The western press is naturally making as much of this affair as possible, but they are doing so by distortion of the facts of the incident and thus making a criticism of Bulgaria which is inferior to attacking the Stalinists there, than would be the case had they stuck to the facts of the matter. The real objection of the Bulgarian Stalinists is that students carried out political activity which was independent of the apparatus. The government would not tolerate any political activity of any kind within the boundaries of its rule. In fact its rule depends upon being able to maintain an atomised state amongst the workers and peasants of Bulgaria, and prevent any heresy that might prove contagious. This is the reason why some 25 students represent a menace and why, inspite of the bad propaganda that was bound to ensue, the Bulgarians took the action that they did. The capitalist Press, by seeking an explanation in the accusation of the operation of a colour bar shows how little the professional "Kremlinologists" of the Crankshaw and other schools understand the nature of the present day rulers in such countries. This affair casts a revealing light on the much vaunted "de-stalinisation and is likely to be repeated in other countries of the Soviet bloc.

INDONESIAN COMMUNIST PARTY NOW SIDES WITH CHINA.

The latest statement by Aidit, Chairman of the Indonesian C.P., shows that this party has advanced further along the road of the Peking policy. In a report to the first session of party's 7th Central Committee, entitled, "Courage, more Courage", he made the following points: (1) That the Western Alliance is disintegrating and that the world progressive forces are pressing back imperialism (long hand for "paper tiger"), (2) that the recent attacks on the Albania party at recent national CP. congresses in the West is very wrong. (3) That Nehru is following a "sham non-alignment policy" and is pro-imperialist. (4) That the foremost enemy of the world communist camp is modern revisionism. There is also an attack on 'modern dogmatism' but this appears to be mainly for the record.

RHODESIANS DEMONSTRATE AGAINST "HANGING BILL." (based on Hsinhua report-Feb 14.)

A group of Rhodesians waving banners, which bore slogans condemning Southern Rhodesia as a Police State, protested against the "hanging bill" on Tuesday Feb. 12th. The demonstration took place during the arrival of the Governor at the House of the Legislative Assembly in Salisbury to open the session. Large numbers of police were called out to suppress the demonstrators. The "hanging bill" - an "amendment to the law and order maintenance act" - would give sweeping powers to the police to suppress the African resistance, hanging would be introduced for people convicted of throwing gasoline bombs and other explosives. In a speech opening the assembly, the Governor Humphrey Gibbs, declared that the amendments were also designed to prevent resurgence of political movements and of political leaders who had been banned for their activities.

MALAYAN OPPOSITION LEADER DETAINED. (From Hsinhua - Feb. 14)

"The Malayan Federation Government announced on Feb. 14th. the detention of Ahmad Boestaman, who is a member of Parliament, leader of the Malayan People's Socialist Front and chairman of the Partai Raayat Malaya, according to a Kuala Lumpur report. He was arrested that afternoon. In an official statement, the Malayan Government branded Boestaman as having carried out "subversive activities", and charged him with expressing support for the Brunei People's armed uprising which broke out last December. Several days ago, the Singapore "internal security council" which was composed of British, Malayan and Singapore officials, ordered the mass arrests of leaders of opposition parties and other progressives, totalling more than one hundred and sixty persons."

SUCCESS OF MALAYAN RAILWAYMEN'S STRIKE.

The success achieved by the Railwaymen's Union of Malaya after the recent 23-day-strike of its 14,000 members, has led to an announcement by the Government of the Federation of Malaya that it will soon put its 56,000 daily-paid workers on a monthly scale, at the new rate which the railwaymen are now receiving. Thus RUM has not only won a victory for its own members but for the Malayan trade union movement as a whole. The strike ended when a settlement was reached after the intervention of a mediator, a Professor of the University of Malaya in the negotiations. The terms of the settlement included the reclassification of the daily-paid workers on monthly rates based on 27 times the daily wage. In addition the monthly-paid staff received considerable wage increases.

BORNEO TRIBESMEN READY TO HELP IN INDEPENDENCE STRUGGLE. (Based on Hsinhua report)

About tenthousand people in Kalimantan (Indonesian Borneo) were ready to go to North Kalimantan (North Borneo; Sarawak and Brunei) to help the people there in their struggle for independence, according to Antara reports from Samarinda recently. These people, who are now gathering to wait for orders, are of the Iban Punan and Kenjah tribes of the Dajak Nationality. It is reported that apart from the first group, other groups of the Dajak Nationality would also arrive later. According to Radio Samarinda, many people in the interior of Kalimantan have registered as volunteers and asked to be sent to support the North Kalimantan people in the fight for independence. The first group was reported to be led by its own Tribal chiefs and to be armed with primitive weapons.

1456

TORONTO --- The League for Socialist Action reports encouraging results in its campaign behind the candidacy of Ross Dowson for Mayor. Editor of the "Workers Vanguard" a national monthly publication, Dowson is well known in Canada labour circles as a revolutionary socialist. The League announced that it was supporting Dowson for two reasons: (1) To uphold the principle of independent labour political action when this was not done by either the Toronto Labour Council or the New Democratic Party. (2) To rally support for the defence of Cuba against the threat of attack from the United States.

The Cuban crisis was a burning issue throughout the campaign but the defenders of the Cuban Revolution --- no doubt because of their position on this question --- found it difficult to break into the columns of the daily press. Dowson did succeed, however in getting several short appearances on T.V. Most of the campaigning was done in the streets. Some 60,000 leaflets were distributed at factory gates and door to door in working class areas and a special leaflet in Italian was distributed in the Italian Community. Almost a thousand posters were pasted up throughout the city.

Two days before the election, demonstrators carrying placards paraded through the heavily crowded downtown areas. A sound truck was also used on major streets of the city. The revolutionary socialist received 1,119 votes. This low vote was not unexpected. Workers were little interested in the election as a whole since the labour bureaucrats urged support of Tory and Liberal candidates. With limited resources and a complete press and radio blackout, it was difficult to bring the socialist alternative to the electorate. However, the League For Socialist Action reports that the direct response to the campaign was greater than in any previous campaign.

UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG YOUTH "GROWING WORRY FOR U.S."

"Now concern over a growing problem - unemployment among the young - now is being voiced by high officials of the Government", says the U.S. News and World report in its issue of Feb. 18th. In an article entitled "Growing worry for U.S. : Young People out of work", Unemployment among youths is high now, and the number looking for work is growing faster than the number of jobs. The hardest hit are those without education or skills." The rate of unemployment in the under-25 age group already was twice as big as that for other workers. 11 out of every 100 youths were unable to get jobs in Jan. 1963. U.S. Secretary of Labour W. Willard Wirtz is quoted as saying: "more recently the unemployment problems of young persons have become increasingly urgent. The number of unskilled and semiskilled jobs - those which frequently provide the first opportunities for new, young workers - have been declining at an accelerating rate. . . ." The article admitted: "Negroes have more difficulty than whites when it comes to finding jobs. Latest figures show that non-white teenage boys and girls had the highest unemployment rates of any group in the labor market. The December 1962 figures showed a 21% unemployment rate for non-white boys and a 28% rate for non-white girls. The rate for white youngsters was about 12%. Discrimination because of race is to blame in part: lack of education and skill also are held responsible. Officials have their doubts that anything less than a big expansion of the economy can provide jobs for all of the 26 million youths entering the labor market during the next few years."

REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITY IN PERU. (From a Paris Correspondent.)

News of very encouraging and well-directed political revolutionary developments are given in reports arriving from Peru. These are being led by HUGO BLANCO, a left-wing socialist following an admirable programme, with which "Bulletin" readers are in full accord. The guerrilla battle being waged is not simply nationalist, but fully orientated to the Left internationally.

At the end of October, in a demonstration in support of Cuba, at the height of the crisis, Hugo Blanco led a march of 5,000 campesinos from villages in the Andes into Cuzco. They occupied this important city for some hours before withdrawing. Following this, at the beginning of November, some 300 fighters of Blanco's forces stormed and conquered a local police commissary, seizing arms and ammunition. Hugo Blanco is rapidly gaining a following and reputation in Latin America. His revolutionary genesis is different from Castro, by virtue of his initial, rather than developed Socialism.

The Chilean C.P., which has previously been following "peaceful road", has been forced to acknowledge and praise the achievements of Hugo Blanco. The Italian Y.C.L. paper, in contradistinction to its elders, has applauded in its paper the activities and gave over the entire front page to a picture of Blanco, who is reported to have the support of 72,000 guerrillas in his struggle.

SOUTH AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARIES SEIZE VENEZUELAN SHIP.

Revolutionaries often seize things: contents of bank vaults, armaments etc. Twice in recent years ships have been hi-jacked by opponents of corrupt dictatorial regimes. The incident this week in Venezuela recalls the seizure two year ago of the Portuguese liner Santa Maria in the Caribbean by Portuguese and Spaniards opposed to Franco and Salazar. The motive behind the current incident is ransom. A radio message has been sent by the rebels offering to return the 3,127 tons freighter if political prisoners in Venezuela are released.

Other revolutionaries have been active in Caracas itself when on February the 14th. a high-powered bomb was exploded in a large warehouse. In another part of the city according to a Reuter report police surrounded a group of armed terrorists who are holding two policemen as hostages in the gardens of an observatory. In Peru, Venezuela, and throughout latin-America, available newsindicates that the days of the U.S.-sponsored dictators are severely numbered, and that before more years have passed, we shall see them going the inevitable way of Batista.

CASTRO SUGGESTS "THREE CONTINENT" SOLIDARITY CONFERENCES.

At the end of the Moshi, Afro-Asian Solidarity Conference in Tanganyika, a message was received from Fidel Castro, containing fraternal greetings and mootng an idea which could have significant developments for the coming together of world liberation and socialist movements. He has suggested a "Three Continent" conference of the type held at Moshi, and embracing the Latin-American States. The Afro-Asian conference would probably benefit from some Castroite influence, and a three continent conference along the lines proposed could be very significant. The Moshi conference agreed in principle to this suggestion and welcomed Castro's idea.