

# GREETINGS TO CHINA

## NEW AGE COMMUNIST PARTY WEEKLY

VOL. VII. NO. 39

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1959

25 nP.

### STORMY SCENES IN W. BENGAL ASSEMBLY

## CONGRESS INSULTED THE DEAD

### Opposition Took Up The Challenge

★ FROM JNAN BIKASH MOITRA

CALCUTTA, September 23

The mounting hatred and indignation of the people against the diabolical savageries committed by Dr. B. C. Roy's Government exploded on the floor of the West Bengal Assembly when it met at 3 p.m. on September 21.

It was the stormiest scene ever witnessed in the House. As 25,000 people were demonstrating outside, having been held up by the police about 500 yards from the Assembly, the Opposition members, except the PSP, made it perfectly clear that the Government would have to answer for the mass-killing and wounding of peaceful citizens.

WHEN I reached the Assembly at about 2.30 p.m. it was unmistakably evident that the atmosphere there was one of calm before the storm. A sense of keen expectancy was in the air, and the public galleries, which have permanent seating accommodation for 181, were already occupied by over 400 people. The Press gallery, too was packed beyond capacity.

A. K. Gopalan, Bhupesh Gupta, Mohammed Iyas,

Arobindo Ghosal, Tridib Chowdhury and B. T. Ranadive watched the proceedings from the Governor's gallery.

All the members of the Opposition, except the PSP, entered the Assembly chamber wearing black badges bearing the inscription "In Memory of the Martyrs."

As soon as the Deputy Speaker took his seat, Jyoti Basu, Leader of the Opposition, got up and proposed that all sections in the House should pay homage to the

martyrs by standing up and observing one minute's silence.

The members of the parties constituting the PIFRC, the Lok Sevak Sangh, Siddhartha Ray and Sudhir Roy Chowdhury (who had resigned from the PSP as a protest against its role in the food movement) stood up. Both the Congress and PSP refused to show respect to the dead. The

★ SEE PAGE 4

★ Jyoti Basu addressing the mass deputation to the Assembly on September 21.

—Photo: Sambhu Bannerjee



## TEN GLORIOUS YEARS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC

### Editorial

As the People's Republic of China enters its glorious eleventh year our hearts feel proud and joyous in sending our warmest brotherly greetings to the great people of China, their Government and their leader—the Communist Party of China, its Central Committee and Mao Tse-tung.

Stern and arduous was the long march of liberation of the Chinese masses. Enormous sacrifice, suffering and struggle marked their path of advance to the bright day when they established their People's Republic and unfurled their banner of freedom, peace and regeneration.

Great wisdom was shown by the Chinese Communist Party and its leadership, headed by Mao Tse-tung, in illuminating the way forward, mobilising the masses and victoriously storming the citadels of reaction. Applying Marxism-Leninism to the concrete conditions of China in a masterly manner, the Chinese Communist Party made an invaluable contribution not only to the liberation of their own people but also to the common treasury of the world Communist and Worker's Movement.

Amazing has been the speed and scope of the achievements of the Chinese People's Republic in the short span of a decade. "Backward" China has advanced at a speed unparalleled in history.

Economically, whether in industry or agriculture, China has marched rapidly forward under her planned economy. The Big Leap Forward has changed the face of the country.

Following radical democratic reforms—in the first place Agrarian Reforms—the Socialist transformation of industry, agriculture and trade has been successfully accomplished and Socialist construction proceeds apace. The daring creative powers of the Chinese people have been given free and full rein by the Chinese Communist Party and People's Government.

From the day of its birth the People's Republic of China has been the target of attack of the imperialist Powers, headed by U.S. imperialism. Even to this day these savage enemies of the people and progress have denied China her rightful place in the U.N. Even to this day the American warmongers have maintained themselves on China's Taiwan and retain it as their outpost of aggression. Every kind of provocation and attack has been utilised. But in vain—the People's Republic of China stands forth in the full splendour of its might, just and invincible, the bastion of Asian freedom and peace.

The People's Republic of China in firm unity with our country and the other newly-independent States of Asia has opened a new, happy and promising era for this ancient continent, so long a victim and prey of the imperialist invaders. Asian solidarity—with India-China friendship as its bed-rock—has been the sword and shield of all Asian peoples out to win and preserve their freedom.

India-China friendship has galvanised the peoples of Asia, Africa and other continents. It has been a model to the world of the great potentialities and rich results of the principles of peaceful coexistence, of Panch Shila. This friendship is based on long historical traditions, on the common struggle against imperialism for independence, on the deepest mutual interests in maintaining that independence and preserving world peace. This friendship is a most cherished possession of both our peoples and no imperialist robbers, no lurking reactionaries will ever be allowed to snatch it away.

Temporary disagreements about the borders between the two countries can and will be settled through friendly discussions and negotiations. Let not the imperialists and their allies nurture any hopes of soiling this great edifice of friendship built by the struggles and founded on the hopes of the peoples of India and China. The defence and strengthening of this friendship is the highest patriotism, the biggest contribution to Asian and world peace.

Everybody who loves India, who wants peace and the happiness of all peoples, will join us in sending our heart-felt congratulations to the Chinese people and their Government on the anniversary of the great day, when ten years ago, China stood up.

Long live the unbreakable friendship between India and China!

Glory to the Chinese People's Republic!

★ Next week's "New Age" will be an extra-page special to mark the Tenth Anniversary of China's Liberation on October 1, 1949.

# Division Of Seats And After

★ by C. UNNIRAJA

The Congress, Praja Socialist and Muslim League leaders have agreed to avoid three-cornered contests in the coming mid-term elections in Kerala. The agreement was reached in the presence of Lal Bahadur Sastri and Sadiq Ali, representatives of the Congress High Command, and of Asoka Mehta, representative of the National Executive of the Praja Socialist Party. Anti-Communist newspapers in Kerala had banner headlines for this agreement which was called the first firm step towards forging the unity of "democratic" parties in order to not only defeat the Communists in the elections but also to "annihilate" Communism from Kerala as well as from India.

**A** POLITICAL commentator in one of the newspapers even went to the extent of characterising this agreement as a welcome gift given to the people of Kerala on the eve of the Onam Festival by the all-India leaders, Sastri and Mehta!

## Question Of Programme

But even the "democratic parties" which made this agreement do not seem to be satisfied with it. All of them have grievances against each other and against the programme as such. The Praja Socialist Party and the Muslim League wanted not only a greater share in the allotment of seats than what they have now got, they also wanted a programmatic alliance that would continue after the elections enabling the formation of a coalition Government if the alliance won.

M. Narayana Kurup, who was Deputy Leader of the PSP Group in the dissolved Legislature, wrote in Mathrubhumi on September 7:

"Whatever happens after the elections, whether a coalition Ministry is formed or one of the parties forms its own Ministry with the support of the other parties in the alliance, a common programme is very necessary. The voters have a right to know if the parties contesting the elections will form a stable Government and what programme the parties will carry out. It will not be correct to face the electorate evading this question."

Kerala Prakasham, edited by the KSP "liberation" leader, Mathal Manjuran, reported on September 9:

"Yesterday night the Muslim League leaders met (Lal Bahadur) Sastri and had discussions with him... It is known that they informed Sastri that the League was for unity based on a common programme."

So the first point of disagreement and contention in the forging of the grand anti-Communist alliance was the question of a common programme and the formation of the Government after the elections. The Congress was not prepared either for a common programme or for any commitment now on post-election problems.

Pradesh Congress Committee President Sankar said as early as September 7: "It is difficult to face the elections on the basis of a common programme. The Congress

and the PSP are all-India parties. In other States and at the Centre, the Congress is the ruling party and the PSP is in opposition."

Kerala Prakasham reported on September 9 that "it is understood that the Congress cannot stomach either a common programme or a common Government."

On September 11, Malayala Manorama gave the following explanation justifying the Congress stand:

"What mainly stands in the path of uniting the three parties on the basis of a manifesto is the practical difficulties arising from the fact that the Muslim League is

force in that constituency. So the Congress leaders in Trivandrum District, including ex-Ministers who sent their wives to jail in the "liberation struggle" have not even seats to contest. And naturally they are bitter and angry.

Pothujanam, an evening daily published from Trivandrum, editorially commented thus:

"Has Pattom Thanu Pillai decided that the people of Trivandrum taluk do not want the Congress? Should not a seat in the taluk be given to Trivandrum District Congress Committee President G. Chandrasekhara Pillai, a veteran Congressman who is also an ex-Minister? Pattom Thanu Pillai who is so obstinate as not to show even that much generosity cannot be said to be a patriot."

The Tamil minority community in Trivandrum District is also very bitter about this seat allotment. For, they consider that the Congress has betrayed them by giving the majority of seats in the district to the PSP

leaders are concerned, they were more concerned with getting political recognition from the Congress. Still they could not get back the Manjeri seat in the heart of their stronghold which the Congress won last time. They have not been allotted any seat in Cannanore District or in the Travancore - Cochin area. Hence there is very little material gain for them regarding seats.

## Mannam Ignored

Then there is the Vimochana Samara Samiti, led by Mannath Padmanabhan, consisting of the landlords, caste Hindu communalists, Catholic church representatives and others who were the driving force behind the overthrow campaign against the Communist-led Government.

When the Congress started the direct action in conjunction with the PSP and the Muslim League, Mannath Padmanabhan was invited as the respected leader above all

even enemies cannot do as much harm as they are doing." (September 16)

But Deepika, the mouthpiece of the Catholic church, has taken a different line. It contends that such speculations are quite natural in any democratic country.

"After a party finally decided its candidates, if a newspaper criticises that party or that candidate, it will be harmful. But, before any decision has been taken by the party, there is nothing wrong if a Press Correspondent speculates on the probable candidate on the basis of facts. It is better not to introduce such brittle things into politics." And then the Deepika asked a pointed question to the group in the Congress which Deenabandhu represents: "Have they any plans to put up candidates and get them elected behind the back of all the others?"

Some newspapers reported the names of PSP candidates for some of the constituencies allotted to the PSP. Immediately the State Chairman of the party came out with a statement that the party had taken no decision as to who should be the candidates of the party.

## Fight Continues

So the fight goes on unabated, within each party and between the different parties that form the new anti-Communist alliance in Kerala. And all the time the people are getting more and more convinced that it is only a marriage of convenience.

The people can see that it is not every sort of alliance and united front that can fetch votes or win seats. In the 1951 General Elections, in Malabar District, the Praja Party and the Socialist Party together had 12 seats in the Madras Legislature. But when they merged, and fought the Communists as the Praja Socialist Party in the District Board Elections in 1954, they secured just one seat! In the 1957 General Elections, the PSP allied itself with the Muslim League, but the number of seats that PSP won was reduced from twelve to four and the League lost one seat to the Congress in the heart of the Moplah area.

They united to get the elected Communist-led Government out of office; but it was intervention by the Central Government that really did the trick for them. Can any similar trick be played by the Central Government to win the elections also for them?

The people in Kerala want a stable Government that will boldly carry forward the progressive democratic and progressive measures initiated by the Communist-led Government for building a prosperous Kerala. Any unity which does not give the guarantee of stability or has any such programme will find it difficult to rally mass support.

# NO PARTY IS SATISFIED

branded as a communal organisation and an alliance with it will have repercussions in north India. Hence it is not possible to go any further than allying with it as a political party, a party which politically does not disagree with the Congress or the PSP."

So the first and most important political question involved in any real alliance between different political parties was settled in this case by an agreement to disagree. Lal Bahadur Sastri has tried to explain away this major hitch by saying that their approach was one of first things first.

## Charges Of Unfairness

After this there was nothing else to be done except trying to come to an understanding with regard to the division of seats among the parties. This the leaders did more or less successfully, though even this has left a very bad and bitter taste in the mouths of all the component parties.

In Trivandrum District, for instance, the Congress has been allotted only three seats, the remaining nine going to the PSP. Out of the three seats, the Congress can reasonably hope to win only one seat which it won last time also, not because of Congress strength but, because their candidate belonged to the Tamil minority which is the decisive

parties for all consultations. But now during the negotiations for the electoral alliance and division of seats so vital for the future, he was not invited to the meetings between the leaders of the different parties. He had hoped to continue as the leader above parties and as the arbiter in deciding constituencies and candidates for the parties that accepted his leadership in the liberation struggle.

So it is reported that before he left for Europe on the invitation of the MRA, he expressed his dissatisfaction with the way in which the anti-Communist alliance was being forged.

And quickly following on the heels of the agreement on the division of seats between the three parties, speculations and bickerings have started about candidates. Deenabandhu, edited by an ex-General Secretary and a member of the Election Committee of the KPCC, Udayahannu, editorially commented on these "dangerous speculations" on the probable candidates in certain newspapers.

"Some newspapers have already published the names of candidates and the constituencies from which they will contest. We are not sure whether this is just the antics of certain newspapers in their anxiety for scoops or whether there is something more behind it. Anyhow this is a very undesirable thing. If they think that they are friends, we wish to point out

He stated that such loose talk indulged in by interested parties were calculated to thwart the unity that existed among the democratic parties and warned that it would be good for such Congressmen and for the country if they desisted from this kind of propaganda detrimental to unity and that group or individual interests should not be allowed to destroy unity.

As far as the Muslim League

# WEST BENGAL: Eventful Week Ahead

★ FROM J. B. MOITRA



A scene near Bowbazar Police Station. The men in lungis are plain-clothes policemen who sallied out of the thana to belabour an unsuspecting pedestrian.

The current week in Calcutta and elsewhere in West Bengal bids fair to be a very eventful one. A sense of keen expectancy is already in the air.

Notice of a motion of no-confidence against the West Bengal Council of Ministers has been given, signed by Jyoti Basu, Leader of the Opposition, Hemanja Basu (F. B.), Jatim Chakravarty (RSP), Subodh Banerjee (Socialist Unity Centre), Siddhartha Ray, former Judicial Minister, and Sudhir Roy Choudhury, who recently resigned from the PSP.

**NOTICE** of an adjournment motion has also been given on the "wanton, inhuman and unprovoked orgy of violence let loose by the police through indiscriminate lathi-charges, tear-gassing and firing and perpetration of unparalleled barbarities against men, women and children in almost all the districts of West Bengal, particularly in Calcutta, Howrah and certain areas of 24 Parganas during August and September of this year, resulting in the death of about 80 people, maiming of scores, wounding of thousands, innumerable arrests and lack of information with regard to a large number of persons missing since August 31, 1959."

A Marxist Forward Bloc member has given notice of a motion of no-confidence in the Food Minister.

A resolution will be tabled on September 21 condemning police savageries and demanding a public enquiry.

The members of all the Opposition parties except the PSP will attend the first day's sitting wearing black badges. They will also make a reference to the martyrs and pay homage to their hallowed memory by standing up and observing two minutes silence. They will demand, it is further learnt, a discussion and disposal of their motions and resolution before the House takes up legislative business on the agenda.

Jyoti Basu has addressed a letter to the Deputy Speaker (a new Speaker has not yet been elected after S. D. Banerjee resigned a few months ago) protesting against the allotment of only two hours for a discussion on food and two hours for non-official business. He has demanded that two full days be fixed for the food debate and a whole day for non-official business, as provided for in the rules.

The attitude of the PSP to

the above-mentioned moves of the other Opposition parties is not yet known. But it can easily be seen that the PSP is desperately manoeuvring positions to cover up its rank treachery in relation to the present food struggle. It has decided to table two separate no-confidence motions against the Council of Ministers and the Food Minister.

## New Round Of Struggles

Outside the precincts of the Assembly, a new round of struggles will begin in Calcutta from today (September 21).

A mass deputation from Calcutta and neighbouring districts, organised under the PIFRC, will proceed today towards the Assembly House to

submit the food demands to the Government. But there will be no defiance of the law.

If the Government still refuses to come to a settlement, defiance of the law will start once again from September 22. Special days have been fixed for students, workers, refugees, etc.

September 22 and 24 have been fixed for the defiance of the law by students and refugees respectively.

The Students' Coordination Committee has also called for the observance of September 22 as Student's Day throughout the State. The programme for the districts includes meetings and demonstrations and peaceful defiance of the law. In Calcutta, after a central rally and the setting up of a martyrs' column, the law will be defied peacefully.

On September 26, a mass procession will proceed to Subodh Mallik Square to erect a monument for the martyrs and the PIFRC has asked the Calcutta Corporation for permission to put up a permanent structure. A series of mass meetings and numerous street corner meetings have been held in Calcutta, Howrah and 24 Parganas in preparation for the new round of struggles.

## In The Districts

The food struggle in the districts has been going on in accordance with the programme drawn up by PIFRC. The butchery and the savageries committed by the police in and around Calcutta between August 31 and September 5 have only added to the determination of the people. Thousands upon thousands continue to come forward to participate in demonstrations and to offer satyagraha. An indication of the sweep of the movement in the districts is provided by the fact that the total arrests between September 10 and 13 numbered nearly a thousand.

Even in "backward" areas like Malda, 82 persons defied the law on September 18. In Kalimpong, too, a hundred people went to jail on September 19.

Meetings and demonstrations condemning the brutalities perpetrated by the police are being held in different parts of the State. On September 14, a large number of women of Howrah came out in a demonstration, demanding immediate release of their sons, brothers and husbands arrested in connection with the food struggle. They went to the District Magistrate and submitted a memorandum.

Over a thousand students paraded the streets of Krishnanagar, headquarters of Nadia District, on September 16. A protest meeting attended by over 4,000 people was held at Kaina on September 15. It was addressed by Harekrishna Konar, MLA, Benoy Choudhury, MLA, and Gita Mukherjee. Silent processions in memory of the martyrs were

★ SEE OVERLEAF

# JURISTS TO WHITEWASH CONGRESS CRIMES IN KERALA

**THE** Indian Commission of Jurists has appointed a committee under the chairmanship of N. H. Bhagwati, a former Judge of the Supreme Court, to "enquire into certain matters which are alleged to have transpired in Kerala during the period when the Ministry headed by E. M. S. Namboodiripad was in office."

It will be always a welcome measure if any body of jurists will make an enquiry into the working of democracy under our Constitution, especially since ours is an infant democracy.

But there are certain features about this decision of the Indian Commission of Jurists which give the impression that the enquiry it proposes is not for any such superior motives.

Any proper enquiry, for instance, should FIRST take into consideration how far India's major political party and the leaders of the Central Government had shown any tolerance towards the non-Congress Government which had come into existence in Kerala.

**SECONDLY**, the role of the Opposition parties in Kerala. "A direct action which took all forms" had been launched under the leadership of the Congress, the party that rules at the Centre, the very party that has always condemned direct action against any Government in India after the adoption of our Constitution. Leading Indian newspapers and outstanding jurists like Patanjali Shastri had condemned this direct action.

**THIRDLY**, the responsibility of the Central Government in aiding and abetting this direct action and the question of whether the Central Government fulfilled its constitutional obligation towards a State Government under Article 355 by giving timely assistance against internal disturbances.

**FOURTHLY**, the propriety of the dismissal under Article 356 of a Government which still enjoyed a majority in the State Legislature and when the Judiciary and the Executive were functioning normally as in any other State. Outstanding law-

yers and constitutional experts had expressed their disapproval of such misuse of the provisions of the Constitution.

**FIFTHLY**, the role of the Governor in a State. Is he the constitutional head of the State or a political agent of the Centre? Was the Governor right in sending his report on the State to the President without consulting his Council of Ministers?

Surprisingly, the committee appointed by the Indian Commission of Jurists will not go into any of these questions. The terms of reference of the committee have been framed on the basis of the charge-sheet made by the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee.

The committee will only investigate and report on whether the rule of law as envisaged by the Constitution was maintained during the period of the Communist Government and in what respect it was undermined by pressure exerted by the Government on the administration, judiciary, etc.

The partisan character of the Commission of Jurists does not permit the investigation of even a single allegation made by the Kerala Government against the Opposition parties and the Central Government.

It is quite clear from the way the Committee is setting about its work that it is only doing a job for the Congress Party and its Central Government—a job which they themselves are not willing to do for tactical reasons.

The purpose of such an enquiry at a time when the elections are coming near is to legally resurrect the KPCC charge-sheet which Indian public opinion had characterised as a document for the museum. It is nothing but an attempt to tarnish the Communist Government and repeat during the coming elections all the slanders against it with the seal of approval of a jurists' committee. It is a pity that outstanding lawyers of India have allowed their names to be associated with such an enquiry.





# HERO'S RECEPTION TO E. M. S.

★ Staff Correspondent  
**ZIAUL HAQ**

The tremendous reception that E. M. S. Nambudiripad received during his four-day tour of Punjab (September 13 to 17) is an event of truly national significance. His entire 1170-mile drive by car through Punjab became one magnificent demonstration of the fighting unity of our multi-million people, an inspiring manifestation of the abiding one-ness of our vast motherland.

COMING at a time when feverish attempts had been made to divide the people by working up anti-Communist hysteria over the India-China border disputes, the tour and the popular response to it became a virtual declaration by the people of their determination to stand firm and not to be deflected from the basic struggle for unity in the cause of preservation of democracy and improvement in the living and working conditions of the vast masses of the land.

The heroic people of Punjab—the sturdy peasants and agricultural labourers, the emergent working class as well as the staid and sober middle classes including the cream of the intelligentsia—by turning up in tens of thousands at the central rallies

and in a continuous stream of big and small wayside and sectional receptions gave a powerful rebuttal to the blind disruptors of popular unity. They not only covered E. M. S. with garlands of currency notes and purses—in all amounting to about Rs 25,000 in cash—but also showered on him their unbounded love and affection.

## Hope And Symbol

In distant Kerala's beloved son, the people of Punjab's remotest villages saw the hope and symbol of their own and the entire country's struggles and aspirations. They would trek for tens of miles and wait



At Karnal, in Punjab, Ram Kishan presents purse of Rs. 501 to E. M. S.

for hours in the scorching sun and sometimes in pouring rain to get a glimpse of one who had stood up against the arrogance of might and power of the vested interests to defend democracy and to uphold the people's right to bring about democratic transformations in a

peaceful democratic manner. Standing out from amongst the innumerable similar instances particularly vivid in my mind's eye is the image of Mehar Singh, an almost 70-year-old Sikh peasant, with an absolutely snow-white flowing beard, coming up

leaning on his walking stick at the wayside reception at Sanawal—a village between Ludhiana and Khanna—and garlanding E. M. S. with a "mala" of eleven one-rupee notes and saying in beautiful, sonorous Punjabi, "Bright Red-star of workers and peasants, accept this humble homage made up by putting together of tiny straws just as a bird prepares the nest for its beloved little ones."

## Unheard Of Phenomenon

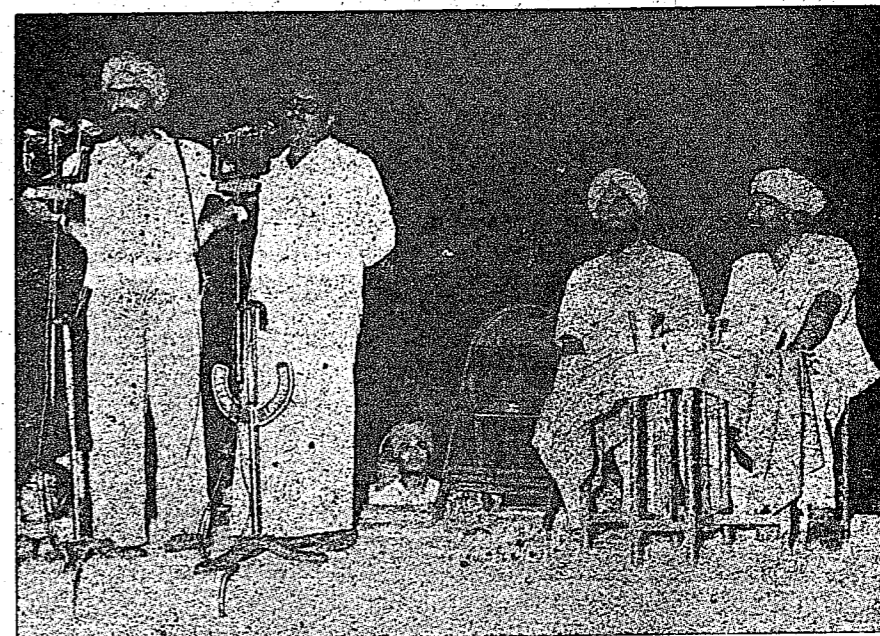
Truly did Harkishan Singh Surjeet who accompanied E. M. S. through most of the tour say in his introductory speeches at many rallies: "We have seen a lot of people become Ministers and Chief Ministers. The day they ceased to occupy that position, nobody would even greet them and offer a cup of tea even. Here is another type of a Chief Minister whom not only have the people of his own State given unprecedented receptions after he lost his

position but whom the people of Punjab and other far-relocated States are flocking to hear and see." Truly an unheard of phenomenon.

Starting from Delhi at about 6.30 in the evening on September 13 immediately after his arrival from Andhra E. M. S.'s first stop in Punjab was at Karnal where he addressed a rally of about eight to ten thousand people till 11 in the night. For that small town it was a very big rally.

From Karnal in the night itself we proceeded to Jullundur where at 8 in the morning a jam-packed and overflowing Municipal Hall gathering of the city's intelligentsia heard E. M. S. with rapt attention, repeatedly applauding him.

Followed a very well-attended Press Conference after which we headed for Hoshiarpur, making the first wayside halt at Adampur village. The people here as in most instances later had erected welcome arches and decorated the place with bunting and red flags. After he had been garlanded with the currency



E. M. S. Nambudiripad addressing the mass rally in Gol Bagh at Amritsar on September 14. Extreme right on the dias is Harkishan Singh Surjeet, Secretary of the Punjab Council of the Communist Party.

notes the people of the village had contributed towards the Kerala Election Fund and after E. M. S. had made a short speech thanking them, we proceeded to our next stop.

It was, however, discovered that the waters of the small river lying ahead had breached the bridge. Even as we journeyed word was sent to keep a bus ready at the other end of the river so that the scheduled programme would not be upset. It was all so easy because the Party has such deep roots among the people and the bus drivers and bus-owners are among its best friends. We walked across the river over the bridge at the other end and got into the bus standing ready.

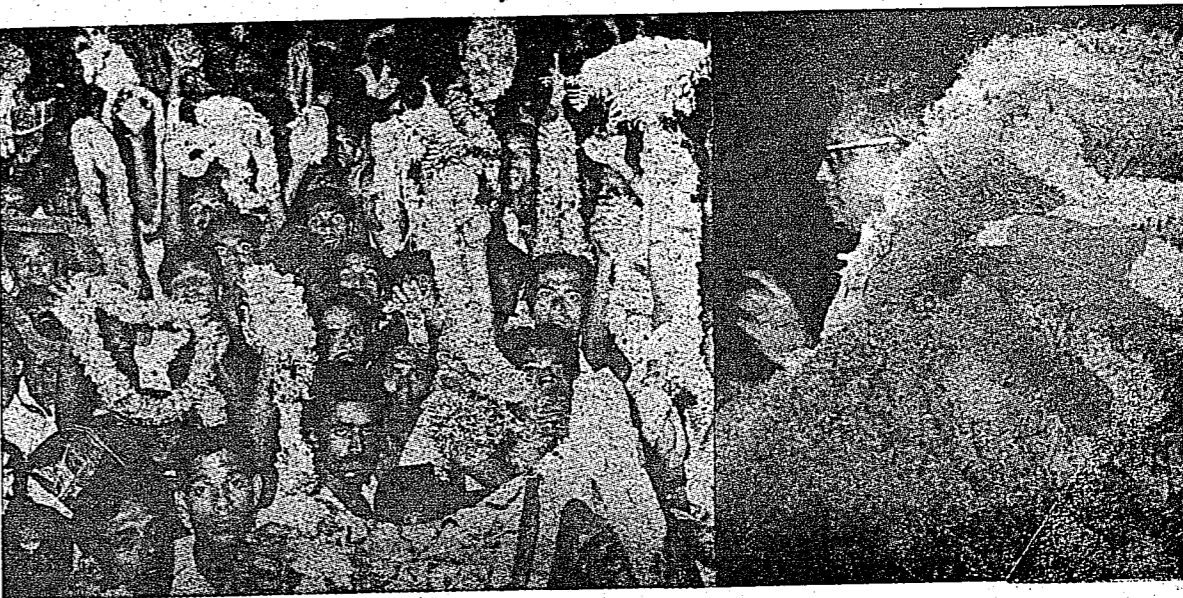
At Nasrula where we stopped next, E. M. S. was greeted by some hundreds of agricultural labourers and harijans. Here and later on many occasions one could feel the particular attraction Kerala and its leader have come to exercise on this most down-trodden section of our people. They have heard of what the Kerala Government had done for their brethren in that part of the country and their entire population in the locality—including the women and children would come—sometimes beating drums and blowing pipes—to welcome E. M. S.

From Nasrula we reached Hoshiarpur and it was almost midday—a most unearthly hour to have a public meeting. It had rained in the morning and people who had to come

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## INSIDE KERALA

Scenes at the reception to E. M. S. Nambudiripad at Quilon. RIGHT: Two Catholic women representing the St Francis Church garland E. M. S. BELOW: People waiting with garlands and E. M. S. beside the heap of garlands which rises up to his head



# IN ANDHRA

★ D. NARASIMHA RAO

SEPTEMBER 11: E. M. S. Nambudiripad is arriving in Vijayawada this morning by the Howrah Mail. After a month's tour of Kerala, during which unprecedented mass demonstrations were witnessed, E. M. S. is now beginning his visit to a number of States.

Thousands of people are on the platform to greet Kerala's ex-Chief Minister and accord him a rousing reception. As the train steams in, the noise of the engine and the din of the busy station are drowned by slogans of Nambudiripad Zindabad, Communist Party Zindabad, etc. C. Rajeswara Rao, Secretary of the Andhra Pradesh Council of the Communist Party, garlands E.M.S. as he alights from the train.

## Whole Town Is Festive

Coming out one finds that the reception at the station is only a part of what Vijayawada has prepared for the honoured guest. The whole town is wearing a festive look. Right from the morning, people from all over the district of Krishna, from neighbouring districts like East and West Godavari and Guntur and even far-off districts like Nellore, have been arriving in their tens and hundreds in transport buses, public lorries, jeeps, motor cars, trains and bullock carts, cycles and on foot.

From neighbouring rural areas like Kondapalli, they are arriving for the public

meeting as they go to a mela with fancy dresses, traditional musical instruments, dancing and singing.

The F. W. D. Grounds is overflowing despite the overcast sky. The meeting is organised by the Vijayawada Town Council of the Communist Party. The audience is estimated at over a lakh. E. M. S. is garlanded by innumerable organisations, he is almost lost in flowers.

Then comes the 'Kankabhishekam'—the word literally means showering of gold coins. Gold chains, gold bangles, garlands of currency notes are presented to E. M. S. In addition to all this is a purse of Rs. 4,000, collected on the spot for the Kerala Election Fund.

The staff of Telugu daily Visalaandhra are getting ready to put up the play Poddu Podupu (Red Dawn) and other cultural programmes after E. M. S.'s speech. E. M. S. is speaking now. He declares:

"Neither the President nor the Prime Minister nor the Home Minister has a right to reverse or alter the enactments and measures initiated by the democratically-elected and constitutionally functioning Ministry after getting it dismissed....

"With the abrogation of a constitutionally-elected Government by Presidential intervention in Kerala, a grave threat has arisen for the very safety of provincial autonomy. The Congress has stabbed provincial autonomy in the back."

Sorrowful is the state of affairs to which the Con-

gress has degenerated, says E. M. S. "Unless and until it strikes an alliance with the PSP and such reactionary forces as the Muslim League, it cannot survive and the Congress is publicly confessing this pitiable plight. An year ago, Pandit Nehru declared that the Muslim League was a 'dead horse', but today the Congress wants to run the race holding on to the tail of this 'dead horse'."

## Congress Has Failed

E.M.S. challenged Pt. Nehru "to quote a single instance where we have violated the Constitution. Pandit Nehru stated in the Rajya Sabha that when the Communist Government came to office in Kerala it faced a very important test and that he was curious how the Communist Party would acquit itself, whether it would come out successful or fail and it did fail. But he must realise that when the Communist Government came into office in Kerala it was not only a test for the Communist Party but also a test for the Congress as well and in this test it was the Congress that miserably failed."

Later, the wholesale merchants of Vijayawada entertained E. M. S. at a tea party. Speaking at the occasion, E. M. S. says it is the policy of the Communist Party to see that the trade of the merchants is not subjected to stresses and strains but to ensure a steady economy so that

the merchants are assured of a reasonable profit at the same time taking care that no profiteering is resorted to and commodities are made available to the consumers at reasonable prices. He appealed to the merchant community to give up its doubts and suspicions about the Communist Party and support it and its policy for national regeneration and economic prosperity.

The place now is the Secunderabad Railway Station on the 12th but the scenes of enthusiasm and gaiety are the same. Hundreds of people are at the station shouting slogans like Nambudiripad Zindabad and Communist Party Zindabad. Communist volunteers, in their red caps carrying red flags and banners give a thunderous ovation to E. M. S. as he mounts the improvised dais. P. Sundaraya, Leader of the Opposition in the Andhra Assembly, S. Sambamurti of the Secunderabad Committee of the Party, K. L. Mahendra of the Hyderabad City Committee and several Communist MLAs and trade union leaders receive E. M. S.

S. Sambamurti presents a purse of Rs 500 on behalf of the Secunderabad Party Committee and the citizens of Secunderabad.

The procession starts and wends its way through the main thoroughfares of Secunderabad. Two motor cycles with huge Red Flags lead the procession, several volunteers on cycles are on either side of the open car in which E. M. S. is standing. Following them are hundreds of volunteers marching.

At all important junctions, people stop the car to garland E. M. S. Flowers are raining from buildings and men and women through either side of the route to have a glimpse of E. M. S. We pass many decorated welcome arches and festoons.

E. M. S. Nambudiripad tells of the mammoth gathering at the Barkathpura Maldan: "The struggle that the Communist Party and the people of Kerala waged against Central intervention and the struggle we are waging now to defeat the forces responsible for Central intervention, is a much larger struggle, it is a fight to prevent the development in India of conditions of Pakistan."

"In Pakistan also the first attack on democracy was against provincial autonomy. It was against a progressive Government in East Pakistan. The Muslim League was happy because it was against a non-Muslim League Government, but this was only the first step. At the first instance the Central Government of Pakistan and the President joined hands to dismiss a State Government. That was followed by the President dismissing the Central Government and finally the Commander-in-Chief dismissed the President who had to flee for his life to London.

## Ayub Tendencies

"This is an indication of the danger we are likely to be exposed to unless the entire democratic forces and the working class rally to defend the fundamental tenets of democracy and the Constitution."

E. M. S. appeals to all democratic forces whether they be in the Congress, the PSP, the RSP, the Jan Sangh or the Hindu Mahasabha to pledge that the attack on provincial autonomy in Kerala would not be allowed to be repeated. "If such a pledge is taken the democratic traditions of our people and the working class would be able to prevent the emergence of an Indian Ayub Khan."

E. M. S. then describes the

provocative tactics adopted by the Opposition parties in Kerala. They seem to rely and cash in on the political tension that prevails and by terrorising the people of Kerala.

It is "a regular practice for our friends in the Congress, the PSP, the Catholic Church and the Nair Service Society to protest against the receptions arranged for the dismissed Ministers. They show black flags which is perhaps a normal way of protest. It can even be understood that chappals, brooms, etc., are being hung up. But they have adopted some new methods which are unprecedented in history. They dig up graves and human skulls are on display at every meeting. At the next meeting another batch of skulls are produced. I ask Nehru and Congressmen whether this is a proper and legitimate form of expressing protest. At that rate how many human skulls will have to be hung up when Nehru comes."

But, says E. M. S., the Communists refuse to get provoked nor do they intend to organise such demonstrations. "The digging up of skulls is a type of culture we like to leave it to them. We are not going to copy it."

The Sarojini Devi hall is filled to capacity and people are crowding outside. The intelligentsia of Hyderabad and Secunderabad are here to listen to the Kerala leader. In a long speech E. M. S. effectively answers all the charges levelled against the Communist Government of Kerala.

At the end of the speech, answering questions, he says: the guarantee of Communists continuing in office if they are returned to power is the support of the people of India and their determination to see that similar things will not be allowed to be repeated.

# PUNJAB POURS ALL ITS AFFECTION OVER E. M. S.

★ FROM CENTRE PAGES

from far away had not been able to make it. The sky had cleared by the time the meeting began and the scorching sun turned the stone-paved square where the meeting was held into a blazing furnace.

Still the place was overfull and people stood on the road and in doorways and on rooftops. The meeting continued for almost two hours with the people patiently bearing all the discomfort. Among the purses presented here was one by the organisation of Bank employees and some other unions and another by Punjab University students and a third by a theatre group.

By the time we got out of Hoshiarpur we were already behind schedule. Stopping at Dasooha and Mukerian for local receptions, we headed for Pathankot, being further delayed on the way by the numerous railway crossings. Nearer Pathankot, E. M. S. admiring the hilly and lush green landscape said it resembled Kerala. The park in which the meeting was held was a lovely spot on a hill top.

## All The Way From Jammu

But the people there had already waited for two hours and the shamianas were too small to provide shade for all of them. As we entered the town we felt as if the entire population had been waiting for E. M. S. The narrow streets became jam-packed with crowds rushing to catch a glimpse of him. In the audience which E. M. S. addressed a good number of people were those who had come all the way from Jammu to hear him.

The public meeting was followed by a unique reception—a tea party given by the Fruit Goods Transport Association. Quite a substantial sum was presented by them in the currency-note garland they gave to E. M. S.

From Pathankot to Gurdaspur, Dhariwal and Batala on our way to Amritsar it was just one rush. At Amritsar the authorities had forbidden the use of the loud-speakers after 10 p. m. In trying to reach Amritsar in time, great injustice had to be done to the people of the above-mentioned places.

It was particularly galling in the case of Batala where some 15,000 people had gathered. It was a very enthusiastic welcome they gave to E. M. S.—even a guard of honour by an impressive youth organisation was given. But the time that could be spared for them was a bare 15-minutes. Still the people, a majority of whom are workers of small engineering shops, were happy that E. M. S. had come to their town.

The Amritsar rally starting late in the evening far behind the schedule was still an impressive one—25 to 30,000 strong. A children's troupe—all five to eight years old—gave a sweet Punjabi song on Kerala—Ghar Ghar Chheriyan Gaan Si Bhai Keral di

Sarkar Diyan. Next morning—15th—E. M. S. was invited to address the Namdhari Shahidi Sammelan, presided over by the Sadguru, Jagjit Singhji, himself.

E. M. S. praised the anti-imperialist democratic traditions of the Namdharis and their anti-communalism. He said these traditions were a source of inspiration to all patriots. Sadguruji in his reply said that his was a non-sectarian organisation which appreciated and supported the struggle of the Left and progressive elements. He assured E. M. S. that whenever he visited Punjab he would always receive a warm welcome from him and his followers

## Crackers In Rains

From Amritsar, stopping for a local reception at Jandiala Guru, when we reached Taran Taran a heavy downpour had started. In the midst of this, crackers were burst to welcome E. M. S., a purse of Rs. 500 was presented and even as it continued to rain he continued to speak for quite some time

After Sarhall, the next way-side stop, we proceeded to Moga which again was a town astrid. From the outskirts E. M. S. was taken in a procession, with drums and all, and with the peasant marchers raising slogans. Passing through colourfully decorated arches it terminated in an impressive rally where besides about Rs. 1,500 from various organisations, including the Dehati Mazdoor Sabha, a welcome address was presented by the Transport Workers' Union.

In the afternoon we reached Dhuleta near Jullundur where a whole big kisan conference had been called to welcome E. M. S. Veterans of various struggles—including many who are still being prosecuted and harassed for participation in the anti-betterment levy struggle—came forward to garland E. M. S. with currency notes. Among them was the famous Mai Banti. In all Dhuleta gave about Rs. 3,800.

## Ludhiana—Biggest Rally

By evening we had reached Ludhiana. We learnt later that here in Ludhiana there had been some talk of showing black flags and holding a demonstration against E.M.S. on the pretext of "Chinese aggression." We were also surprised to read later in some daily papers that some shopkeepers had put up black flags. It was amazing that while these infernal antics which never revealed themselves anywhere while E. M. S. was actually in town received such prominent publicity, the huge, record-breaking rally which had been preceded by a powerful workers' procession was blacked out in the Press.

The reason for this was not far to seek. Indra Gan-

dhi during her recent visit to the town had been presented with a purse of Rs. 55,000. This money—as complaints appearing in Punjab's premier English daily also showed—had been collected through official pressure and there was tremendous resentment in the town over these strong-arm methods of the Congress and the bureaucracy. It was necessary because of this perhaps to create some publicity stunt.

Whatever might have happened this much however is a fact that the heroes of the so-called "Border Defence Committee" never dared to raise even a squeal anywhere near the impressive and powerfully militant rally which was held in Ludhiana to welcome E. M. S. It was certainly one of the most successful of the entire tour. Almost the entire working class and the city intelligentsia listened to E. M. S. and Surjeet with rapt attention and repeatedly applauded.

## Midday Meeting

From Ludhiana the next morning (16th) we went on to Sanawal, Doraha, Khanna, Mandi Gobindgarh, Sirhind and Kurali—coming to Kharar in the vicinity of Chandigarh. Khanna held a big rally and gave a purse of Rs. 1,650, while Gobindgarh which is entirely a working class centre gave Rs. 850. Kharar's narrow lanes through which E. M. S. was taken in an open jeep were decorated with arches and bunting and the rally although held at noon was an impressive one.

After the Press Conference at Chandigarh a long distance was covered to reach Patiala. Here Section 144 banning meetings was in force and a wave of repression was on in the district. With great difficulty permission had been given for a closed meeting. Even this was attended by a thousand people in spite of the difficulties through which they are passing. People there presented a purse of 501/-.

Next came Sangrur which was again an overwhelmingly peasant and agricultural labourers' rally. Here departing from his other speeches E. M. S. spoke mainly on what his Ministry had done and was trying to do for the peasantry and agricultural labourers

The same evening we were in Bhatinda and that was another town which seemed to have gone mad for E. M. S. It was a huge rally where the enthusiasm of the people was overflowing to the extent of making things difficult at times for the organisers.

## Hindi-Speaking Areas

From Bhatinda, on the 17th morning, with unscheduled stops at Gidderbaha and Lambi to the Hindi-speaking



The Mongolian Prime Minister being received by Premier Nehru, V. K. Krishna Menon and Jagjivan Ram.

## Indo-Mongolian Friendship Gets Strengthened

INDIA had the good fortune, in the second week of this month, to have on its soil the Premier of the People's Republic of Mongolia, Yumjagiin Tsedenbal. Born in 1916, in a poverty-stricken cattle-breeder family young Tsedenbal soon rose to prominence in the promising conditions established by the 1921 people's revolution. At the very early age of 24, he was elected to the most responsible post of General Secretary of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, which he has held since (except for a short break of three years).

Tsedenbal has been Chairman of the Planning Commission and has also rich military experience, holding the rank of Lieutenant-General. In 1952 he was elected Chairman of the Council of Ministers. By his sincere friendship for our country, his informal manners and striking statements the Mongolian Premier made a deep impression on all who met him. At the official State banquet and at the Red Fort Delhi Corporation reception he made warm references to "India's valuable contribution to the settlement of international problems." Nehru and the acting Mayor of Delhi made warm references to the age-old ties between India and Mongolia and the present deep friendship.

A Citizens' Reception Committee, headed by Rameshwari Nehru, had been set up in Delhi. It organised a reception in his honour at which cordial speeches were exchanged and the amity between the two countries reiterated.

At a Press Conference, on the eve of his departure, Tsedenbal made it emphatically clear that he felt that both India and China were anxious to settle the present border disputes on the basis of friendship and coexistence.

A Joint Communique issued on September 16 stressed the adherence of India and the Mongolian People's Republic to the principles of coexistence. It welcomed the Khrushchev-Eisenhower exchange of visits and called for an immediate agreement on the suspension of nuclear weapons' tests. This needed to be followed, the Communique added, by the prohibition of the production and use of nuclear weapons, as a part of general disarmament.

Premier Tsedenbal was seen off at the airport by Vice-President Dr. Radhakrishnan. There can be no doubt that his short visit not only strengthened Indo-Mongolian friendship but was a powerful reinforcement of the basis of India's foreign policy—peace and coexistence.

area of Punjab. Sirsa, Hissar, Hansi and five way-side stops till we reached Roh-tak almost three hours behind schedule when two-thirds of the vast crowd gathered had despaired and left the rally. Including Rohtak, the Hindi-speaking part of Punjab had contributed Rs. 4,700 towards the Kerala Election Fund. Reaching Delhi almost 26 hours after he had started from here, E. M. S. after a brief halt at the Central Headquarters to say "Hello" to all comrades, almost immediately left for Rajasthan.

He had had little rest during these four days and the last day had been particularly bad for him. But the tremendous love and affection of the people of Punjab sustained him throughout. It repeatedly overwhelmed him and moved him to the very depths of his soul.

Among the various cherished gifts from the people of Punjab that he has particularly asked to be safely sent on to him from Delhi is a portrait of Karnal Singh, the young Punjabi martyr who laid down his life in the Goa struggle.

# STOP THIS GOONDA WAR!

THE Congress-PSP-Catholic alliance in Kerala has become desperate. And in its desperation it has started violent attacks on workers and trade union functionaries and is attempting to provoke conflicts.

A. K. Sreedharan, leader of the great coir factory workers of Alleppey was attacked by about twenty goondas on the night of August 25 when he was returning home. He was removed to the hospital in a serious condition after this murderous attack

A "liberation" goonda is reported to have molested an agricultural worker woman in Kallada near Quilon.

Near Amballur in Trichur District, a number of textile workers were taking tea in a canteen. They were pounced upon and beaten by a group of goondas who style themselves "volunteers" of the Congress and the PSP.

Such attacks are reported to have taken place right in front of the INTUC office.

But the mature and conscious workers of Kerala know how to answer these cowardly attacks—not by stooping to these very tactics but by organised mass action.

In Mattancherry, immediately after the attack on trade union workers by the adherents of the INTUC, the AITUC workers came out on strike in the afternoon of August 21. It was a strike of



A. K. Sreedharan, Alleppey coir workers' leader in hospital after goonda attack.

nearly 5,000 workers from the Cochin Port, Fort Cochin and Mattancherry. They marched in a procession to the office of the Revenue Divisional Officer and demanded prompt action against the goondas.

Is what happens in Kerala a sample of Law and Order ad-

ministration under President's rule?

Will the "non-political", "non-violent" INTUC condemn these acts of its adherents?

Kerala workers demand: Stop this goonda war and this provocation.

## ADMINISTRATIVE INEFFICIENCY

A REVIEW of the Working of Payment of Wages Act, 1936, in the mines during the year 1957 (Indian Labour Gazette, May 1959, pp. 886-

888) reveals that the administration has deteriorated when compared to the working in 1956, whereas it was expected that with the enforcement of the Payment of Wages (Mines Rules) 1956 on November 30, 1956, the situation would improve.

The review indicates that only 4,258 inspections were made in 1957 as against 4,781 made during 1956.

Even though Rule 18 of the Payment of Wages (Mines) Rules of 1956 makes it obligatory on the part of the management to submit returns, the number of mines submitting returns were only 790 during 1957. During 1956 the figure was 689. The improvement in spite of the enforcement of the rules is surely not satisfactory when the total number of mines in 1956 were 2,873 employing 568,254 people. Moreover 689 mines that submitted returns in 1956 employed 328,634 employees, while 790 mines submitting returns for 1957 made up a total employed complement of 322,718.

It has to be noted that ave-

# LABOUR NOTES

● BY RAJ BAHADUR GOUR, M.P. SECRETARY, ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

## 10,000 Workers Of Kundah Project Strike

Ten thousand workers in the Kundah Project struck work for two days from August 31 demanding regularisation of service, conditions, continuity of service, implementation of recommendations accepted by the State Electricity Board with regard to the temporary workers, etc.

The Kundah Project is one of the important schemes of the Madras State Electricity Board that is being undertaken with Canadian aid. The dispute has been pending for the last two years and the Electricity Board has been adopting the unfair labour practice of discharging hundreds of workers in one section and recruiting fresh hands in another section.

After a long agitation, the Labour Department conducted an enquiry and made certain recommendations. Even these are as yet unimplemented.

In spite of a month's advance notice of strike, neither the Electricity Board nor the Labour Department showed any signs of making any move.

Only after the strike commenced on August 31, did the Labour Department wake up and inform the union that its recommendations were under consideration of the Government.

It was after this and on the advice of the Tamilnad TUC and the Electricity Federation that the strike was withdrawn on September 2.

The strike has demonstrated the unity of will and organisation of the 10,000 workers of the Kundah Project. It is hoped that the authorities realise the intensity of the feelings among the workers and the urgent and vital nature of their demands and meet them.

## Shifting Employers' Burden On To The Workers

It is understood that the Parliamentary Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Labour and Employment discussed a proposal by the Labour Minister for the organisation of a "Fund Pool" from contributions, by workers as well as employers. The Fund is to be utilised not only to help the industry and prevent its closing down but also to help the workers when they are thrown out of job as a result of closure. It appears that the Consultative Committee discussed the entire question of closures, mismanagement, machinery to detect the trouble in time and steps to stop the rot immediately it is detected, the Nainital ILC (Indian Labour Conference) recommendations and so on.

## Circumventing Decisions

It is evident that this proposal of the Labour Ministry seeks to circumvent all earlier decisions on the matter and involve workers in an expenditure which should exclusively be the burden of the employers, the financiers and the Government.

Has the Labour Ministry written off the possibility of persuading the employers and the Industries Administration to implement in right earnest the recommendations of the Nainital Conference for avoiding closures?

Should we understand that all the paraphernalia of the Income-Tax Department, Company Law Administration and the Commerce and Industries Departments in the States and in the Centre could not evolve a machinery to detect fraud and mismanagement in time and suggest remedies to set matters right in the given concern?

Is it too much to expect that in a developing economy a breach in production of the type that is threatened due to closures should be avoided?

Just as the Reserve Bank looks after the banking institutions through the mechanism of inspections and renders timely advice to improve matters, could not a similar machinery be devised at least on a State level to look after industries?

One is also tempted to ask the Labour Ministry whether it has surrendered to the Commerce and Industries Ministry in rejecting the Textile Enquiry (Joshi) Committee recommendation concerning the floating of a corporation to take over closed textile concerns.

Even in relation to the "Fund Pool" idea one should know the quantum of contribution by the employers and also the Government.



# Muslims Challenge League Leadership

Kalapatta is in no way an important place in Kerala nor was the meeting held in this small town on September 14 anyway exceptional. About 50 Muslims, most of them till recently active in the Congress and Muslim League, had come together to set up the South Wynaad Taluk Progressive Muslim League. They elected as the President of their Committee C. Mohammed Moideen Haji, a former Vice-President of the Taluk Muslim League.

HERE was nothing exceptional in the meeting as such meetings are today being held in every nook and corner of Kerala where Muslims live in any sizeable numbers. The Muslim areas of Kerala are astir with this new movement which, challenging the so far unquestioned leadership of the Muslim League, is developing slowly but steadily.

Even as the "liberation struggle" was on when the Muslim League leaders decided to join it, Muslims in many places had raised their voice of protest against the League's decision. In groups of fifties and hundreds, they had issued statements calling on the League leaders to steer the League away from the suicidal course on which they had set the organisation.

Muslims in India under the Congress, these statements had said, were treated as second class citizens. They were treated with distrust and suspicion, while their rights and religious freedom were with impunity trampled upon. It was the Communist-led Government of Kerala that had again given them the feeling of being equal citizens with the rest.

As among the Muslims, among the Catholics of Kerala, too, a new movement is developing. The Kerala Catholic League, which held its Conference in Ernakulam recently, is also born out of the protest against the open interference by the Catholic church and church dignitaries in the political affairs of the State.

Five hundred delegates from one end of Kerala to another had come to Ernakulam—men and women, agricultural labourers and industrial workers, students and teachers, lawyers and doctors, members of landlord and industrialist families.

The Ernakulam Conference was convened under the auspices of the All-Kerala Catholic League to coordinate the activities of a large number of Catholic organisations that had sprung up in various parts of the State during the recent period because of the feeling of protest and sorrow roused in considerable sections of the Catholic masses by the activities of Church dignitaries who were interfering in politics and making the church subservient to the interests of the propertied classes.

Interference by church authorities in political controversies has led to the denial of religious rights to many Catholic families. Members of the Catholic community are excommunicated because they hold political views opposed to those of church dignitaries. Certain priests refuse to perform the last rites if the dying persons have even members in their fa-

preparatory committee with K. P. Thangal, a veteran Muslim leader, as convener.

A meeting of progressive Muslims in Quilon town and surrounding areas was held on August 24 when an ad hoc committee consisting of 75 members was formed to call a conference of progressive Muslims in Quilon Taluk. The meeting called upon the Muslim community to unite in a new all-Kerala organisation to fight and defeat the present policies of the League leadership.

Such meetings of progressive Muslims are being held in other parts of Quilon District also. In Kozhikode District, a Progressive Muslim League has already been formed with M. V. Alikoya as President. Taluk committees and ward committees of the League are being formed. In the Muslim majority areas in Kozhikode town, the Progressive Muslim League has already become a force to be reckoned with. Recently the office of the District Progressive Muslim League was opened in the heart of the town in an atmosphere of tremendous enthusiasm.

At a meeting held under the

auspices of the Progressive League on August 31, Alikoya explained why progressive-minded Muslims in Kerala were forced to organise separately and fight the Muslim League leadership. People like him joined the Muslim League because they understood from experience that the interests of the Muslims were not safe in the hands of Congress leaders. Even now the Congress leaders do not respect the sentiments or interests of the Muslim minority.

But the League leadership in Kerala is today joining hands with that very same Congress. This policy of the League leadership had to be fought in the interests of the Muslims.

The speakers at the meeting explained how in the very first weeks of President's rule in Kerala attacks on Muslims had started. They cited the instance of the Muslim cemetery in Karaparamba near Kozhikode.

It is a centuries-old cemetery. Congress and PSP leaders in the Kozhikode Municipal Council had joined hands to get it closed through a prohibi-

tory order. Those who buried their dead in that cemetery were prosecuted.

When the Communist-led Government came to office, this prohibitory order was withdrawn, the cemetery was reopened and the fines that had been imposed returned. Now responsible Congress and PSP leaders have again gone to the High Court with a writ petition against the order of the Kerala Government. How can Muslims ally themselves with these Congress and PSP leaders, the speaker asked.

The Muslim League leadership is furious at this development. Earlier a few nationalist Muslims had joined the Congress and fought the League. But now that the League was allying itself with the Congress, betraying Muslim interests, Muslim masses were getting ready to fight the League leadership. This is the first time the League leadership has had to face such a challenge in Kerala.

In their fury, Muslim League volunteers have attacked and disturbed Conventions of the Progressive Muslim League in many places. Their latest slander is that the Progressive Muslim League is a creation of the Communists. But this is also not going down as the Muslim masses can see that it is the Muslim leaders who were either in the Congress or the League till yesterday who are organising the movement and Communists wherever they attend the meetings attend them as any other invitee.

## CATHOLICS PROTEST AGAINST CHURCH IN POLITICS

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milies holding different political views.

For example, on August 15, the priest of the local church in Chalakkudi (Trichur District) refused to allow the dead body of Maliakkal Devassy to be interred in the church cemetery with the religious rites to which all the members of the Parish are entitled. The reason was that the sons of Devassy were Communist sympathisers.

Similarly priests are denying baptism to new-born babies in some Catholic families for no reason other than that members of those families do not have the same political views as the priest.

### Their Questions

Thus introduction of politics into matters of religion and the church by church dignitaries has created a situation in which honest and right-thinking Catholics are being forced to organise themselves to fight for their religious rights.

Listening to the speeches of the delegates, one could see that many of them were the most faithful, most religious followers of the church and their grievance was that the church hierarchy was violating all the basic tenets of the church by its interference in political affairs.

They asked:

- How is it that a person who raised his foot to kick the vicar is given a ceremonial and religious burial when he is dead while another faithful Catholic is denied this only because he voted for a non-Congress politi-

cal party in whose programme he had faith?

- When the landlords form organisations to deny the rights of the tenants and agricultural labourers and to oppose land reforms, Catholic landlords can join such organisations. They can also give all support to the political parties which defend their interests. But poor peasants and agricultural labourers cannot form their own organisations to fight against evictions, for better wages, land, etc. Even if such organisations are formed, Catholics cannot enrol in them as members.

- The industrialists and employers can have their own organisations and support political parties to deny the workers justice and Catholics can join them. But workers cannot form their own organisations to defend their wages and living standard. And even if they form them, Catholics are barred from joining them.

- When Catholic priests arm the believers and send them out to shout, "We will take M. N.'s head, We will take E.M.S.'s head," are they not breaking the Fifth Commandment?

- When the same Catholic puritans who objected to certain text-books saying that they were not conducive to developing a correct attitude in children, allow the shouting in church quadrangles of slogans like "M.N. and T.V. are the same—K. R. Gouri is shared"—does that help to develop a correct attitude in Catholic children?

- The Catholic church teaches one not to steal or utter

an untruth. But what do the voter's lists show? Enrolled in these lists are at least twice the number of priests and nuns and inmates of their charity institutions. If the vote is a certainty for the Congress the dead become alive on the list, the under-aged become eligible to vote. Why this lying, why this cheating?

There were countless such questions and every delegate had his or her own experience to recount and their conclusion was the same: theirs was not a revolt against the church. Theirs was a protest against the church hierarchy's violation of all that the church held sacred.

### Statewide Organisation

The Conference decided to set up a Statewide organisation and call it the Kerala Catholic League. A General Conference consisting of 20 representatives from each of the nine districts was elected at the Conference with George Idanittum as the President.

The Conference passed a resolution protesting against the church officially interfering in politics. The resolution said that church authorities should observe the principle enunciated by Christ to give unto Caesar what belonged to him and to give unto God what belonged to God.

The Conference decided to collect one lakh signatures of Catholic citizens in Kerala for a mass petition to the Papal Throne appealing for proper directives against church interference in politics.

# A WORLD WITHOUT ARMS AND ARMIES

## Encouraging Response To Soviet Disarmament Plan

Hopeful expectation—that is the dominant mood of the world today. Will the autumn of 1959 go down in history as also the autumn of the "cold war"—this is the dominant thought and the ardent wish of mankind today. And the immediate cause that accounts for this mood, that has given rise to this question, and that has inspired this hope is Khrushchov's call for complete disarmament.

It hardly requires to be argued that the disarmament problem is the most burning issue that is agitating the minds of the peoples of today's world.

Yet, practically no headway has been made in resolving this problem. For well over 14 years, the U.N. has been discussing this problem, but with hardly any results. Many an international body came into existence, and after months of deliberations went out of existence, almost every time the results belied the hopes reposed in it.

Even on an issue like the banning of nuclear test explosions, it took three years for the United States to make up its mind and discuss the Soviet proposals of May 10, 1955. On this July 1, a year of talks around these proposals was over, a year which showed that the U.S. would dig out a fresh pretext about the "impossibility" or the "inadequacy" of control every time the verdict of the experts (including American) would go against its previous pretext.

And this was happening despite the results of the work of the experts in the technical working group, set up by the Conference. These results have confirmed the Soviet Government's view that the scientific and technical means now at the disposal of the States are fully adequate for establishing reliable control over the discontinuance of nuclear tests of all kinds.

### NEW APPROACH

At last, in the first week of this month, the announcement was made to the effect that the Governments of France, the United Kingdom, the USSR and the United States had reached agreement on instituting a committee for disarmament, composed of ten nations.

Welcome though this announcement is, if the past fifteen years' experience means anything, it is clear that great hopes cannot be placed on it.

What was required, therefore, was a new approach to the disarmament problem, an approach corresponding to the requirements for a radical change for the better in the international relations, an approach corresponding to the requirements of the complete abolition of the "cold war."

This new approach—that of finding a way out of the deadlock along the road of general and complete disarmament—can be seen in the Soviet Declaration: "It is not the balance of armaments, which every State tries to interpret to its own advantage and to make it serve its own ends, but the absence of material means of waging a

war by States that is the most effective and solid guarantee of peace, which meets not only remote ideals but the urgent demands of the people."

The response so far to the Soviet proposal has been encouraging. Prime Minister Nehru has said it is bold and far-reaching. Both the Tory and Labour party leaders in Britain, the French Government and the Afro-Asian group in the U.N. have declared that Khrushchov's proposals merit very serious consideration. Bertrand Russell has welcomed this bold move.

Even the rabid West German militarists are afraid to come out openly against them. The General Anzeiger, a newspaper close to the Government, cautions: "A cold war would be like losing a propaganda battle on a world scale", while the Die Welt emphasises that 80 member countries of the United Nations cheered Khrushchov to the echo after his speech.

In Indonesia, a spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Harsono, declared that Khrushchov's proposal was "very revolutionary" and "aimed at attaining the ideal."

Dr. Evatt, leader of the Labour Opposition in the Australian Parliament, has characterised Khrushchov's speech as "the turning point in world history."

strictly limited contingents of police (militia) solely to maintain internal order and to protect the personal security of citizens.

Disbandment of all armed forces and the prohibition of their re-establishment in any form; destruction of all types of war material, arms and ammunition; complete prohibition of nuclear weapons and the liquidation of their stockpiles; complete termination of the production, and destruction of all types of rocket weapons including space rockets for military purposes, prohibition of the means of chemical and bacteriological warfare and the destruction of the stockpiles of these types of weapons.

At the FIRST stage it is proposed to reduce the strength of the armed forces of the USSR, the USA and the People's Republic of China to the level of 1,700,000 men and those of the United Kingdom and France to 650,000 for each. To reduce the strength of the armed forces of other States to levels to be agreed upon at a special session of the United Nations General Assembly or at a world conference on general and complete disarmament.

For the SECOND stage the Soviet Government proposes completion of the liquidation of armed forces retained by the States and the liquidation of all military bases on foreign territories.

In the THIRD stage, destruction of all types of nuclear and rocket weapons, liquidation of the material of the air force, abolition of war ministries, discontinuation of appropriation of funds for military purposes and other measures envisaged by the disarmament programme.

With the aim of controlling the timely implementation of measures on

disarmament—spoken from the rostrum of the U.N.:

"Having achieved complete disarmament mankind would experience a feeling similar to that which overcame an utterly exhausted desert traveller tormented by the fear of perishing from thirst and exposure when after long wanderings he reaches an oasis. General and complete disarmament would provide the opportunity to switch enormous material and financial outlays from the manufacture of the instruments of death over to creative purposes."

—RAZA ALI

## THE THREE-STAGE FOUR-YEAR PLAN

The Declaration points out that if the Western Powers do not, for some reason or other, express their willingness to agree to general and complete disarmament the Soviet Government is prepared, as before, to come to an agreement with other States with regard to appropriate partial measures on disarmament and strengthening security.

The most important of these steps, in the opinion of the Soviet Government, are establishment of a control and inspection zone with the reduction of foreign troops in the territories of West European countries concerned; establishment of a demilitarised zone in Central Europe; withdrawal of all foreign troops from the territories of European States and liquidation of military bases in foreign territories; conclusion of a non-aggression pact between the NATO members and the Warsaw Treaty States; agreement on the prevention of surprise attack by one State against another.

The Soviet Government recalls its disarmament proposals of May 10, 1955, and expresses conviction that they constitute a good basis for agreement on the disarmament problem. As to the question of the cessation of nuclear weapon tests, the Declaration reads, the Soviet Government has been and still is in favour of immediate termination of these tests for all time.

The Declaration states that the framing of the question by opponents of disarmament in the way as if the termination of armaments would be bound to cause economic difficulties and deprive many people of work is deceptive. It is evident that the utilisation for peaceful purposes of the funds now being spent on military purposes will create the broadest possible opportunities for the employment of the population.

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# ORDINARY AMERICAN'S VIEW OF THE KHRUSHCHOV VISIT IT IS REAL HISTORY



Nikita Sergeivich Khrushchov's history-making visit to the United States has got under way and the whole world literally follows with closest attention how it goes. After initial contacts in Washington and New York—and the epoch-making address to the U. N. General Assembly in which he presented his "Total Disarmament in Four Years" plan, as bold and imaginative and as much within the realm of realisation as the Lunik itself—Khrushchov has proceeded to the West Coast, to Los Angeles and San Francisco. The substantive talks with President Eisenhower are fixed for September 25 to 27 when Khrushchov joins Eisenhower at Camp St. David.

S. Khrushchov's visit to the United States are even now doing their best to prevent him from meeting plain American citizens in a calm and friendly atmosphere.

What was prevented the day before in Disneyland could not be stopped the next day, September 20. San Francisco, famous for its hospitality, gave an extremely cordial welcome to the head of the Soviet Government.

From the railway station, the Soviet guest after being

It is a well-known fact that wherever he goes—whether it be in India and Burma, or in Poland and Czechoslovakia or in U. K. and the USA—besides establishing personal contacts with the leaders, Khrushchov is keen to meet the people. And this is exactly what authorities in the Western countries seem to like the least and to reduce to the minimum as far as possible. It is of course as short-sighted and silly as it must be irritating. The way Khrushchov was prevented from visiting Disneyland was referred to by him in his speech before Hollywood's film personalities.

The day after the visit to Disneyland was due and was suddenly cancelled, a party of Soviet journalists visited Dis-

## People Break Officially-Imposed Barriers To See Soviet Leader

neyland and here is what they report:

At the gate, Richard Corn, a park guard, warmly welcomed us and asked: And where is Mr. Khrushchov? We waited for him so yesterday. A lot of people gathered here. Day before we had only 6,000 visitors and yesterday the park was packed with a record crowd. Last night I heard Mr. Khrushchov's speech in Hollywood. It's a shame that they did not give him a chance to come here.

A Disneyland publicity executive, George Derby, who came out to meet us said: It is a pity the visit was called off. All of us as well as tens of thousands of visitors yesterday waited for Mr. Khrushchov and his family.

The publicity assistant of Disneyland Company, Edwin Ettinger, when asked what could prevent Khrushchov from visiting Disneyland, said that the park was filled yesterday with visitors who stayed right to closing time in the hope of meeting the distinguished guest.

We were amazed, Ettinger said, when we learned that Mr. Khrushchov wanted to come but was prevented from doing so. We thought that either Khrushchov was not interested in seeing Disneyland or was short of time. We learned what had really happened only from your Premier's televised speech.

We talked with many of Disneyland visitors. Many of them were here yesterday and came again in the hope that Khrushchov would come. After learning about the reasons which prevented him from coming they assured us that nothing could threaten Khrushchov's security in Disneyland.

The impression, conclude the Soviet journalists, is that those who from the very outset were against N.

greeted by Mayor George Christopher and having made a speech in reply, went to Mark Hopkins Hotel in a procession of 25 cars through streets almost solidly lined by people.

A local radio commentator accompanying Nikita Khrushchov noted with surprise the speed with which the huge crowds had gathered in spite of the efforts of the police to clear the streets along which the distinguished Soviet guest was to pass.

The crowds became more and more dense as the procession approached the centre of the city. There were many improvised posters reading in Russian and English: "Welcome Mr. Khrushchov," "We Salute Khrushchov's Visit" and "Hallo Khrushchov". Soviet and American flags were waved in the crowd. There was mounting applause with young people especially enthusiastic. At the last turn before the hotel there was a big poster in Russian saying: "Peace, Khrushchov".

Some three to four thousand people were waiting for N. S. Khrushchov's arrival in the square before the hotel. The appearance of his car bedecked with Soviet and American flags evoked shouts of hurrah and applause.

The applause and cheers became thunderous when N. S. Khrushchov stepped out of the car. Holding his hands clasped in a handshake above his head, N. S. Khrushchov thanked San Francisco residents for the warm reception. "Good," he said, "very good," he added in English.

N. S. Khrushchov headed for the hotel entrance but it was almost impossible for him to enter it. Hundreds of people who solidly packed all lobbies, staircases and halls again cheered and applauded him. At the request of Press photographers and

television operators, N. S. Khrushchov stopped among the welcoming crowd. Then he went to his suite to prepare for dinner with American trade union leaders.

Arriving in Washington on September 15 nearly an hour behind schedule because of the strong headwinds which his TU-114 had had to fight through its non-stop 5,000 mile flight from Moscow, Khrushchov told Eisenhower that he had come with an "open mind and good intentions." He also referred to the Soviet's successful moon-shot and said he was confident American scientists would also send a rocket to the moon.

"The Soviet pennant, as an old resident of the moon, will welcome your pennant, and they will live there together in peace and friendship—as we both should live together on the earth in peace and friendship," Khrushchov said.

In his welcome speech, President Eisenhower also said that peace should be the common aim of their two countries. He said that although the political and social systems of the two countries differed greatly, he was sure Khrushchov would find that the U. S., like the Soviet people, "want to live in peace with justice." "Just as I hope that I may later visit and learn more about your people, I know that you seek better understanding of our system, of our people, and of the principles which guide and motivate them."

"I most sincerely hope that as you come to see and believe these truths about our people there will develop an improved basis on which we can together consider the problems that divide us," the President said.

Huge crowds lined the route as the U. S. President and the Soviet Prime Minister drove from the An-

draws Air Force base to the heart of Washington. Straining to catch a glimpse of Khrushchov the crowds were estimated at hundreds of thousands. On the final leg of the trip towards the Blair House, where the Khrushchovs stayed in Washington, clapping broke out in the crowds and people pressed forward eagerly, clapping and cheering.

What did a plain American think of the occasion? As the giant turbo-jet liner glided in from the horizon at 12.30 p. m., reports Joseph North of the New York Worker, "the throngs turned silent with the surmise on the grand occasion.

"Maybe a plain, anonymous American put it best. Miss Martha Graham, of Rehoboth Beach, Del., showed up before 7 a. m. today to be sure she would be on the carefully watched Andrews Airfield.

"She saw the whole thing, as scores of millions in America did by television, or heard it on the radio. Miss Graham came and saw it, as most Americans wish they could, and like me had the privilege of standing some 25 feet from the two world leaders when they made their initial remarks.

"Miss Graham said—as all the Washington newspapers quote her this afternoon—When you realise the implication of it all, you just know, it is history, really important history."

"And then the 19-year old lassie added: 'Like Columbus discovered America.'

"It was as though two great nations were discovering each other, and coming to the conclusion that they were going to live with each other a long time 'on the same mother earth' as Premier Khrushchov said and they had to be good neighbours."

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