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SIXTH PARTY CONGRESS IN APRIL

THE Sixth Congress of the Communist Party of India will be held in Vijayawada from April 7 to 16 next, according to a decision of the National Council which has just concluded its session in Bombay. The National Council of the Party will meet in Delhi from February 15 to 20 to finalise the documents for the Congress.

NEW AGE

COMMUNIST PARTY WEEKLY

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25 nP.

BIG RALLY ROUNDS OFF CPI NATIONAL COUNCIL SESSION

* From Our Correspondent

After the seven-day long National Council meeting at the beauty spot of the Vihar lake, the Communist Party held a public rally in Shivaji Park, which has become famous as the meeting ground for mammoth political rallies.

It was a grand and moving meeting. Neutral folks who came to listen to the Communist leaders readily said: 'it is a big affair'. The audience was at least 50,000, and that was something striking, because at exactly the same time Prime Minister Nehru was speaking in Chowpatty.

THE working class followers of the Party were of course there, but the large number of women that came and also, a very significant section of the neutral middle class, heightened the significance of the rally.

A big jatha of working class demonstrators came marching through the working class and the neighbouring middle-class areas.

The atmosphere in the meeting was one of militancy, warmth, visible political awareness and deep interest. A cool breeze came from the sea, just across the road, and made everybody feel fine, and braced up to listen to the Communist leaders.

Comrade Dange made the main speech, reporting the key decisions of the Moscow Conference of leaders of World Communism and the deliberations of our National Council. Dange had hardly begun, when some from the audience began demanding 'Hindi... Hindi', and he swung over from Marathi to Hindi. The Bombay audience knows very well the amazing skill with which Dange uses simple and racy Marathi to educate and uplift the audience. I was amazed that he could produce the same effect by speaking in Hindi as well.

Hits The Bull's Eye

Dange hit the bull's eye in the very beginning, by saying that we met and discussed for two long weeks in Moscow. When we Communists meet and take long to come to conclusions, our enemies start forecasting splits. We cheated them in Moscow, but undaunted they went on repeating their old

yarn that the Indian Party at least would split after the Vihar Lake session of the National Council. We cheated them again the second time, said Dange, amidst laughter from all around.

Present Epoch

Dange went on to state that we discussed the character of

Dange, Namboodiripad Speak On Moscow Decisions, National Issues

the present epoch in the world, that is who is growing strong and who weaker, and which way we ourselves want to shape events. He graphically sketched the character of world developments after World War II and drove home the point that today the decisive force in the world is no more World Imperialism but World Socialism. He concretised this in a manner that the loyal supporters of the Party applauded and felt more confident about the future and the cause they have been fighting for, and the neutral elements conceded that he was talking sense and generalising what was actually happening.

The next point Dange emphasised was that the triumph of peaceful co-existence today was a real possibility and the key task to fight for. When imperialism was dominant, war was inevitable. Now when Socialism is be-

coming stronger, and the moving force of the world, it is possible to ensure peace. It was a hard and difficult job, demanding great skill and determination, which the leaders of the USSR, heading the Socialist camp, had already demonstrated over and over again. The newly liberated countries of Asia, and Africa were new and powerful allies in the struggle for peace and the liquidation of colonialism.

The world balance of forces had not only shifted against imperialism, but a new bright perspective had arisen to realise the age-old dream of mankind, to live and work in peace, and mould their destiny according to their own desire and strength.

Coming to the affairs of our own country, Dange stated that the Communist Party

and find out the distribution of National Income. Everybody laughed when Dange said that all that Pandit Nehru had to do was to come to Bombay, go around and meet honest people, and they will tell him where the money is going.

The need for foreign aid for India's industrialisation is obvious. In a simple way, and using well known facts in an effective manner, Dange explained the difference between the capitalist and the Socialist aid to India. Foreign capitalists and their Governments were willing to give us economic aid but not for starting our own basic and heavy industries on the basis of which we could rebuild and industrialise our country.

The Soviet Government helped us to get going in a big way with our National

debunked the Press slander about impending splits in the Party.

Kerala And P. D. Act

Referring to the latest Parliamentary debate on the Preventive Detention Act, during which Home Minister Pant had made the argument that if the Communist Ministry in Kerala had used it, they would not have found it necessary to resort to firing, and would have saved their Ministry, Comrade EMS retorted in a manner that went down with the Bombay audience. During the Samyukta Maharashtra agitation, the Congress Ministry here liberally used this Act but had to resort to firing on a much bigger scale than we ever did in Kerala. More, ultimately, it had to concede the Samyukta Maharashtra as well!

No Government can last by relying on undemocratic measures like the Preventive Detention Act. The ex-Chief Minister of Kerala explained the vital importance of fighting for democratic rights and strengthening Indian democracy as the common task before all.

By the time Namboodiripad concluded, it was 9 p.m. and the organisers concluded the meeting, and then they had a taste of something they had not bargained for. A big section of the audience, mostly working class and middle class youth, came rushing forward towards the platform and shouted that so many leaders had come to Bombay and they could hear only two. Why did you close the meeting so early? We came all ready and prepared to stay long and listen to the Communist leaders from the various States. But most of the leaders had already gone, and only the old veterans Muzaffar Ahmed and Sohan Singh Josh were left behind.

The organisers had to offer plentiful apologies before the meeting finally dispersed. This little incident indicates how keen and intense is the public desire to listen to the Communist viewpoint.

was out to unite with all patriotic and popular forces for the fulfilment of the tasks that face the Nation.

He admitted that after the achievement of independence, significant economic developments had taken place and stressed the contrast between growing riches and chronic poverty and the big problems that planning under the present regime, had failed to solve.

Nehru's Socialism

He made roaring fun of Nehru's socialism. When Nehru said that he was building socialism, unemployment had doubled and the rise in prices was unending.

Pandit Nehru does not know where the money is going and has appointed a Committee to investigate

Steel Industry. Explaining the latest oil deal with the USSR and the tricky manoeuvres of the Western Oil monopolies, he rammed home the point how India now is in a position not only to have its own National Oil Industry, but also to beat down the Anglo-American Oil companies, who had hitherto enjoyed the monopoly of the Indian market, and reaped fantastic profits. Indian industrialisation has grown and bigger possibilities had opened up, the decisive positive factor was the selfless and friendly aid our country got from the USSR and the other countries of the socialist camp.

Dange concluded with the words that the Communist Party was collectively engaged in working out a new programme for our Party and the next Congress will finalise it.

Comrade E. M. S. Namboodiripad spoke next. He also

NATIONAL COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS ON PAGES 3, 14, & BACK PAGE

Unpardonable Blindness To Imperialist Machinations

1960 has ended with official spokesmen in New Delhi detailing the country's achievements in the past twelve months. They have also released a hand-out to inform the people about the projects to be undertaken in 1961.

While all this is their legitimate function, and ours, too, for the achievements are of the people and not only of the officials, their almost total blindness to the machinations of the imperialists is unpardonable.

For, simultaneously with our country—and other countries similarly placed—making strides in building independent economies the imperialists too, have been devising new ways to frustrate their efforts. The fact that they do not succeed to the extent they wish, because of the ready assistance which the Socialist world has been increasingly providing to the developing nations, is, of course, a different matter which in no way negates the need for vigilance vis-a-vis the imperialists.

Tariff Curbs Tightened

The imperialists, headed by the United States, have initiated the New Year with tightening of the tariff curbs in the member-countries of the European Common Market, and conclusion of the agreement to form the wider "Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development" (OECD) which includes the countries forming part of the ECM and the European Free Trade Association as well as the United States and Canada. The evils of the ECM have been detail-

ed very often in these columns, and what with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and the Government, shedding copious tears over the Western countries' breach of faith, and anti-GATT practices in this behalf, there is certainly no need to rub the point further.

The OECD, however, is not so well-known to our readers mainly because it is so new, but the idea behind it is the same: to deny to the under-developed regions opportunities for fair trade, and to rob them of a fair price for the goods they sell.

There is one difference, however. Instead of two rival West European groups practising the same type of restrictionist policies vis-a-vis the under-developed countries, and incidentally also vis-a-vis the United States, which has now to contend with strong rivals in UK, France and West Germany, there will now be one supra-organisation whose strings will naturally be in the US hands.

OECD is thus born out of a bitter strife among the imperialist nations, but that does not make it any the less sinister as far as we, or other under-developed or developing peoples, are concerned.

A tighter ECM and a supra OECD are thus the two New Year gifts which the imperialists have offered to us. If now Senator Kennedy talks about forming a "Good Samaritans Club" to give us more aid in 1961, can we really resist the impression that he is being only cynical?

Before giving some facts about this Club of the modern "Good Samaritans",

and the way its proposed formation is viewed by a member-to-be, Japan, it is worthwhile to give here an example of how Western circles themselves have owned their trade policies to be harmful to the under-developed countries.

"Aid" Only Covers Losses Through Unequal Trade

According to figures recently published by the London Financial Times, the ratio of export to import prices has deteriorated for under-developed countries as a whole by 94 per cent since 1954. For the developed countries, the improvement has been 7 per cent above the 1954 level; for the UK alone it has been no less than 14 per cent. The newspaper concludes,

"It is clear that most of the increase in Western aid and loans to primary producing countries has done no more than make good the fall in their purchasing power caused by a steady drop in commodity prices".

This is as it should be, for, apart from the Western aid givers, and their local tub-thumpers, not many people were taken in by their claims to the contrary.

Now about the "Club" itself. The US, afflicted with recurrent deficits in balance of payments, and consequent rush of its gold resources, finds it difficult now to provide all "aid" which the requirements of its foreign policy make it necessary to give. Hence, it enlists the support of other

INSIDE OUR NEWS & ECONOMY NOTES

good "Samaritans" like itself—Japan, UK, West Germany, etc.—who together may save the world for "free world" and the US.

Japanese ruling circles look askance at the Kennedy proposal because they know that it is a device by which they are being asked to take the chestnuts out of the fire for the US. As for themselves, they believe, that even on their own, they can drive a hard bargain with the developing countries whose need for capital goods is great.

Japan is thus against the "Club" immediately. It might remain adamant, or soften its opposition in course of time, but its tiffs with the US—important as they are as pointers to the hollowness of their much-vaunted unity—should not blind us to the reality that the imperialists, with the US at their head, are planning new ways to thwart our development in the New Year.

DLF STILL OPPOSED TO PUBLIC SECTOR

US Development Loan Fund has never been able to reconcile itself to the development of a public sector in our country, and yet apart from offering veiled criticism sometimes it knew it could do nothing much to reverse the trend. And although its occasional aid to the public sector had invariably been given to sectors whose development helps private enterprise, it had not till now dared to suggest that the latter's development should be a pre-condition.

TWO WORLDS

The last decade witnessed two diametrically opposite trends in the economies of two leading countries in the world. In the Socialist Soviet Union workers' families spent 4787 old roubles on manufactured goods in the first nine months of the year. This was 37 per cent more than in the same period in 1953. The purchasing power of the rouble increased by more than 2.3 times within the past 13 years.

In the capitalist United States retail prices went up by 21 per cent and wholesale prices by 16 per cent between 1950 and 1959. In the Soviet Union both dropped by 25 per cent during the same period.

The total outflow of gold from the United States in 1960 amounted to 1619 million dollars as against 1073 million dollars in 1959. In the USSR the new rouble will contain 11 per cent more gold than in the dollar.

—ESSEN
January 3.

Now, however, this reticence has been given up, presumably because the Government itself has relaxed its industrial policy in respect of production of a number of items.

The latest DLF loan (30 million dollars) has been given to pay for the foreign exchange costs of setting up a public sector fertiliser plant at Trombay. In considering it, however, the loan announcement said, the Fund "took cognizance of India's announced intention to enlist cooperation of the private enterprise to help produce further fertiliser supplies". Obviously, if the latter intention were not there, the loan for the public sector plant, too, would not have followed. And yet they say that the aid from the United States has no strings.

The Government's surrender of fertilisers has already had its first offshoot, a Birla-Koppers (US) tie-up, which will establish a factory in Visakhapatnam. Others to follow, according to IPA, are: Birlas with the American Phillips Petroleum Co. at Barauni; Khanelwal Brothers with International Ore and Fertiliser Company US in Madhya Pradesh; Perrin and Company with the US International Mineral and Chemical Corporation at Kothagudem in Andhra; Surajmal Nagarmal with Vitro Engineering and Chemical Corporation US, and Sahu Jain Chemicals with Westinghouse Electric Company US. And this by no means exhausts the list.

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C. P. I. NATIONAL COUNCIL HAILS MOSCOW STATEMENT

The National Council of the Communist Party of India which concluded its meeting on January 1 in Bombay, adopted the following resolution on the Statement and Appeal adopted by the recent Moscow Meeting of Communist and Workers Parties:

RESOLUTION

THE National Council of the Communist Party of India hails the Statement adopted by the Moscow Conference of 81 Communist and Workers Parties as a historic programmatic document for the world Communist movement. It embodies the unity of the international Communist movement and will serve as a source of inspiration and guidance to our Party.

The National Council calls upon all Party members to study the document seriously and sharpen their understanding of Marxism-Leninism.

The Appeal issued by the Conference is a stirring call to common men of all countries to defend peace and save the world from the horrors of a nuclear war. It assures the people all over the world that the Socialist countries and the Communist Parties will be in the forefront of forces fighting for preservation of world peace. The National Council of the Communist Party of India is confident that the Appeal will unite all men of goodwill everywhere in the noble cause of peace and progress.

Other Resolutions ON PUNJAB

Other resolutions adopted by the National Council are as follows:

ON THE LINGUISTIC REORGANISATION OF PUNJABI SPEAKING STATE AND HARIANA PRANT

THE Central Executive Committee and the Punjab State Council of the Communist Party had demanded of the Central Government in their resolutions in May-June last to take immediate steps to reorganise Punjabi-speaking State and Hariana Prant on linguistic basis, while at the same time disapproving of the Akali movement run on communal lines and diehard Hindu communal opposition to this democratic demand. Under pressure of popular movement, the Central Government had been compelled to reorganise States on linguistic basis everywhere else in the country and no reason or argument could be used to refuse creation of the linguistic States in the North—and to complete the process of linguistic reorganisation there-

Since The Fast

Recently things had been moving towards a crisis. The Akali leader Sant Fateh Singh had given the ultimatum to go on fast-unto-death in Gurdwara Manji Sahib, in Amritsar. The Secretariat of Punjab State Council of the Party urged the Congress Government to avert the crisis by releasing Master Tara Singh and other Akali prisoners unconditionally, withdrawing restrictions under Section 144 and Special Powers (Press) Act, and announcing the acceptance of the principle of solution of the issue on democratic basis.

The Congress Government, however, turned a deaf ear to reason and contributed to bring about a crisis. The Akali leader Sant Fateh Singh has resorted to fast-unto-death since December 18. It is likely to inflame feelings of Sikh masses and worsen the situation still further.

The National Council of the Communist Party of India urges the Central Government to intervene in the situation forthwith and save it from further deterioration. It demands that—

(1) Master Tara Singh and other Akali prisoners be released unconditionally and all repressive restrictions be withdrawn.

(2) It should announce acceptance of the principle of democratic solution of the problem and set up a Boundary Commission to make recommendations for demarcation of Punjabi-speaking State and Hariana Prant.

The National Council of the Communist Party of India, at the same time, appeals to the Akali leaders to abandon communal approach to the question and the use of the historic Gurdwaras for the purposes of conducting their movement. For, the creation of a Punjabi-speaking State is not a concern of the Sikh community alone. Such a correct change in their policy would facilitate unity of the Punjabi people, help isolate diehard opponents of Punjabi-speaking State and deprive the Congress Government of the last vestiges of any excuse for denying linguistic reorganisation.

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The National Council of the Communist Party of India expresses its grave concern at the recent developments in Nepal which not only dealt a heavy blow to the consolidation and development of the democratic regime in that country but constitute a danger to India and other countries of Asia.

The people of India have looked with sympathy and goodwill at the establishment of a democratic regime in Nepal which has been pursuing an independent foreign policy of peace and friendship with all countries, has established friendly relations between Nepal and her neighbouring countries like India and the People's Republic of China, has carried out land reforms calculated to weaken the feudal grip over the public life of the country and in other ways tried to build Nepal as an independent progressive nation.

All this has won for Nepal the esteem of progressive elements in all countries; it has also naturally roused the ire of reactionaries within Nepal and outside. They knew that if Nepal is allowed to continue to pursue this path she will make still greater contributions to the consolidation of the peace zone and the development of friendship between the progressive and Socialist forces in the world. They, therefore, wanted to prevent this development.

It was at the behest of these reactionary elements in Nepal and outside and to protect the interests of his own feudal class in Nepal that the King of Nepal violently subverted the democratic regime.

Nobody will be deceived by the protestations of the King to the effect that he is an ardent champion of democracy and that the dismissal of the elected Ministry and the large-scale arrests of political leaders in the country were directed not against the democratic form of Government but against the corrupt practices resorted to by the political leaders. This, as is well known, has been the argument advanced by the ruling circles in all countries where democratic rule was subverted and despotic or militaristic rule was established.

The National Council of the Communist Party of India is gratified to note that Indian public opinion has expressed itself against this attack on democracy. This, we are confident, will further strengthen the bonds of friendship between the democratic forces in the two countries and help them in their struggle against reaction.

The National Council hopes that the sympathy and goodwill that has universally been expressed by the democratic and progressive forces throughout the world will strengthen the people of Nepal in their struggle for the restoration of democracy and that the forces of democracy and progress will assert themselves despite all difficulties.

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members, among whom were several who were mowed down by Portuguese bullets and paid the supreme sacrifice for the cause of Goan liberation.

The struggle of the Indian people at that time was frustrated by the action of the Government of India which refused to permit non-Goan Indians to participate in the Goan liberation struggle. Indian police prevented Indian patriots from entering Goa to aid their Goan brothers and sisters. It was this attitude of the Government of India which dealt a sharp blow to the movement for Goan liberation.

Welcome new developments have recently taken place.

The Communist Party of India congratulates the Goan political parties and liberation forces for increasingly uniting their efforts under the banner of the Goan Political Convention. The unity of Goan freedom fighters is bound to be an important factor in the struggle for Goan liberation.

The Communist Party reiterates its firm belief that the struggle for liberation of Goa, Daman and Diu is a struggle not only of the seven lakh people of these territories, but of the entire 40 crores of Indian people. The Communist Party welcomes the formation of the National Campaign Committee for Goa under the auspices of the Afro-Asian Solidarity movement, which has called for support from all political parties in the country, for the demands (1) for more effective action by the Government of India for Goan liberation and (2) for the removal of all hindrances in the way of non-Goan Indians participating actively in the Goan freedom struggle.

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Cooperation Off d

The Communist Party offers the National Campaign Committee its wholehearted cooperation together with other parties and groups in the country in the noble task it has undertaken.

At a moment when colonialism is being wiped out by the struggle of the peoples in territory after territory in Africa, when the struggle against Portuguese imperialism itself in Angola, Mozambique and other parts of Africa is growing ever stronger, when Portugal is more and more isolated in UNO and elsewhere, it is a matter of shame that thirteen years after winning our independence, the Portuguese imperialists, aided by the NATO Powers, continue to rule over parts of our Motherland.

The Communist Party of India calls upon the Government of India to put an end to the present policy of inaction in Goa and to take effective and powerful measures—here and now—against the Portuguese imperialists, liberate our brothers and sisters in Goa and prevent the use of our soil for the military and naval bases of the NATO powers.

The Party calls also for an end to all obstructions preventing non-Goan Indian nationalities from participating in this great movement by its

—ESSEN
January 3.

PRAGA TOOLS UNION CELEBRATES FOUNDATION DAY

THE Foundation Day Function of the Praga Tools Employees' Union was held on December 22, 1960. N. Satyanarayana Reddy, President of the Union, presiding. The function was attended by all the officers of the Corporation and a number of prominent trade union leaders.

Inaugurating the function, General Manager of the Corporation B. Venkataraman traced the history of the Praga tools factory which had pioneered many of the machine-tools without much of foreign assistance. He said the Corporation was now on a firm foundation and had wiped off the previous losses. The Government of India had decided to invest Rs. 2.5 crores in expanding the factory.

He complimented the union for its responsive cooperation in the running of the factory and assured the workers that the Board of Directors was considering their memorandum of demands.

In his presidential address, Satyanarayana Reddy said the meeting gave a symbolic expression of the cordial relations between the Union and the management.

Expressing the workers' happiness at the schemes of expansion of the factory, he said they were at the same time eagerly awaiting the decision of the Board of Directors on the revised memorandum of demands. The present wage rates and dearness allowance in Praga

are the lowest compared to any of the public sector undertakings.

Praga made a net profit of Rs. 4.91 lakhs in 1958-59 and yet was paying Rs. 24 as dearness allowance and Rs. six ad hoc whereas the Hindustan Shipyard and Hindustan Aircrafts which are continuously incurring losses are paying a dearness allowance of Rs. 50 per month.

Profits High, D. A. Low

Referring again to the cordial relations between the Union and the management, the President said settlement of day-to-day issues was necessary and desirable from the point of view of maintaining healthy relations and improving production.

The time has come, he said, when the Union and the management should ratify and adhere to the code of discipline and evolve a grievance procedure.

P. Parthasarathy, General Secretary of the Union, said that since the Union was formed in December, 1959, more than 95 per cent of the workers had joined it and routed the disruptive elements. He detailed in his report the activities of the Union in giving trade union training to its members and raising their educational level.

Messages of good wishes to the function were received from, among others, Kerala Governor V. V. Giri, Union Labour Minister Gulzarilal Nanda, Union Industries Minister Manubhai Shah, Andhra Labour Minister Ramachandra Reddy and S. Ranganathan, ICS, Chairman of Praga's Board of Directors.

America's Desperate Gamble

Editorial

THE EISENHOWER ADMINISTRATION now dragging out the last days of its hardly popular existence threatens to plunge the American people and the whole world into some adventure or other before it retires unhonoured and unsung from the scene. Both over Cuba and over Laos at the moment the situation is fraught with such a dangerous possibility.

U.S. threats of massive intervention in Laos—now directly—are being so recklessly bandied about that one is strongly reminded of John Foster Dulles's threats after the Dien Bien Phu debacle of dropping atom bombs over the "Viet-Minh" and People's China. Atom-powered U.S. Task Force has been rushed to South China Sea and is at the moment reported to be busy "exercising" within quick reach of Laos.

This task force, press reports say, carries a reinforced marine battalion landing team of 1200 men, including the aircraft carrier Lexington and the anti-submarine carrier Bennington and LSD (Landing Ship Dock), used as an assault troops transport, other amphibious craft and a dozen destroyers.

This is but one specimen of the USA's threatening posture. The press every morning is full of these.

They are accompanied by lying assertions being broadcast all over the world that North Vietnam troops are fighting inside Laos.

The tried technique of loud repetition is again being used on a massive scale to convince the world that Souvanna Phouma's followers and supporters are "rebels" and the "legitimate" Government is the one installed in Vientiane by reckless bombing of that town by American guns manned among others by Thai and South Vietnam troops.

When patriotic forces loyal to the Souvanna Phouma Government take the offensive and force the traitorous usurpers and intruders out of positions they had occupied, it is attributed to "intervention" by North Vietnam and the Soviet Union. One need only recall that this same explanation of Soviet-Chinese aid to Ho Chi Minh had been given seven years ago by U.S.-French imperialists for their Dien Bien Phu catastrophe.

The fact is that U.S. and its propped-puppets have no chance of imposing their rule over Laos. Laotian patriotic forces are united and determined as never before. Laos has gone through the gruelling experience of the last seven years when the one attempt of U.S. in Laos has been to frustrate the Geneva Agreement which provided for Laos's independence, neutrality and national unity. In the last seven years the U. S. has used every means towards this one end. And the present unleashing of civil war is part of that old game.

The Laotian people will not yield. This is certain. They will fight with all strength at their command and they will win. This, the U. S. imperialists must know.

Despite the fact that they stand absolutely isolated in this matter the U. S. imperialists insist on pushing with their course in Laos. That only shows their desperation and utter disregard for the fate of international peace.

The way to a peaceful solution in Laos which they must be made to accept is reiterated in the resolution of the National Council of the Communist Party of India. It lies through stopping of U.S.-Thai-South Vietnam intervention; calling off of all threatening manoeuvres; reactivation of the International Commission appointed by the Geneva Conference of 1954 and calling again a conference of that type to review the situation and re-establish those principles. Latest to raise his voice for such a conference is Prince Norodom Sihanouk of Cambodia. He has suggested that such a conference be held in a neutral country, preferably in Asia.

The Government of India we hope will, besides insisting on reactivation of the International Commission, press for the convening of such a conference without delay.

January 4, 1961.

Assam After Assent To Language Bill

* From MADHUSUDAN BHATTACHARYYA

The Assam official language Bill received the assent of the Governor on December 17 last and with the assent of the Governor, it became an Act. This put an end to speculations about the issue that brought in its trail so much of bitterness leading to the most disgraceful fratricidal riot.

AVERAGE Assamese intelligentsia received the news of the Governor's assent to the language Bill with a sense of satisfaction and joy. The extremist section among them, however, is not fully satisfied because their demand for recognition of Assamese as the sole official language for the whole State has not been met by this Act, for, according to this Act, English at present, and Hindi in future, will be used at the State level, along with Assamese.

The Bengali-speaking districts will use their local language or English in their district level administration.

The Bengali-speaking district of Cachar will use Bengali, unless a joint meeting of the Mahakuma Parishad and the Municipal Board by two thirds majority decide for the use of the official language.

More responsible section of the Assamese intelligentsia who were as enthusiastic as the others about the recognition of Assamese as the official language, however, feels concerned that the issue brought so much of bitterness among the different linguistic groups of the State.

This concern marks their joy at the final shape that the issue has taken after the Governor gave his assent to the Bill. They would have been much happier if the issue could have been solved in an atmosphere of cordiality and understanding among all the linguistic groups of the State.

They are, however, happy that the uncertainty over the issue that has been responsible for so much of tension and agitation in the State has been put to an end and the issue has received the seal of finality. Now that there is no more room for speculation, they hope that, with the passage of time, good sense and reason will get the better of emotion and once again the different linguistic groups will be able to come to an understanding that is so very essential for building joint movements of the toiling people of different linguistic groups for the solution of many of the pressing problems of the State that had been eclipsed by the linguistic agitation.

Press Comments

Comments in the Press reflect the feelings of the Assamese intelligentsia. While welcoming the assent of the Governor to the Bill, the Press

that the leadership of this organisation is provided by some rice millers, ex-zaminars and political fortune hunters who perhaps look upon this organisation as a stepping stone for a future political career. But it is also noted by observers that, in the absence of powerful common organisations of different linguistic groups to champion the rights of the minorities, quite a large section of the Bengalis in Assam valley looks upon this organisation as a means of safeguarding their cultural and linguistic rights and many wish it successful, though they may not actively be associated with it.

Average Assamese intelligentsia as well as some quite well meaning responsible political elements look upon it as a disruptive force and an impediment to the building up of common organisation. Many Assamese middle-class elements consider it as an attempt to consolidate the Bengalis to "thwart the progress" of Assam.

Up to the time of writing, the Bengali Association has not formally expressed any opinion on the Governor's assent to the language Bill. It is, however, believed that the Bengalis living in Assam valley had accepted introduction of Assamese language as fait accompli as soon as the State Assembly passed the language Bill and as such, the Governor's assent to the Bill now did not come to them as a surprise nor does it constitute anything basically new to them.

What is noted by political circles here, and not without concern, is that the Bengalis in Assam valley have developed a "cynical attitude" after the last July disturbances. They have lost all faith in the Central Government, the State Government, and the political parties.

Hill Districts

The Governor's assent to the language Bill has brought hardly any change in the attitude of the leaders of the three of the four Autonomous Hill districts of Assam, namely, Khasi-Jaintia, Garo and Mizo (Lushai) hills. These leaders have ceased to have any concern over the language question ever since the passage of the language Bill by the State Assembly in October last.

They refer to the language Bill as only an "additional proof" of the Assamese people's "intention of dominating us". Busy as they are with preparing the ground for achieving their demand for a Hill State, no formal comment has been available from them on Governor's assent to the language bill. In informal talk, some of the leading

Thinking section of the Bengali intelligentsia notes

* ON PAGE 13

GREATER DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN AID

from I.P.A. Service

Galbraith's Dangerous Advocacy

The preoccupation of economic circles in India with discussing Prof. Galbraith's note on the "Rationale of Indian Economic Institutions" tends to convey an impression that he had very little to say besides it during his second visit to New Delhi.

THE fact, however, is that he said much more and that too concerning an aspect no less important than the one which has been in the limelight. The reference here is to his note on foreign resources for the Third Plan wherein he has expressed views which should compel attention of our economists and planners.

The basic strategy of the Third Plan, according to this note, is that "large size makes for large effort at home and establishes the basis for larger claims on foreign resources". In other words, the larger the Plan, the bigger must be its foreign exchange component which the foreign countries should be asked to make good.

Also the completion of the Plan will not, and should not, mean that the balance of payments would become even, or the need for creating deficit in it would not arise. In fact, the need for capital imports would not diminish, hence "the emphasis in current discussions on eliminating capital imports by the end of the Third Plan is wrong."

In putting forth this view Prof. Galbraith has in a way counselled giving up of the idea that with the completion of her successive Plans the country would be able to reduce her dependence on foreign resources. In fact, it should be clear to the planners, and the people, ab initio, that a heavy import bill for capital goods today does not mean "resounding promises of balance tomorrow".

This, however, is a view contrary to that of the Draft Outline, which says that "it is important to aim at a progressive reduction in the imbalance, so as to eliminate it within a foreseeable period". Recognising the need for inflow of resources from abroad it says that "reliance on special foreign aid programmes has to be steadily reduced and after a period of years dispensed with".

There is evidently being no similarity between Prof. Galbraith's and the Planning Commission's views on the subject, it is necessary for the people to be clear in their mind as to what exactly would be the consequences of their accepting the one or the other. Surely, if the perspective is that of continuing dependence on foreign aid and chronic imbalances in payments, it would not be necessary to be frugal or prudent in the utilisation of this aid in the present.

The reverse would naturally

"among the ominous figures in Indian history, Eugene Black is unlikely to rank with Robert Clive, Warren Hastings or even the late Lord Curzon".

While the Professor's prognosis might be true—and there is no reason why an otherwise strong debtor like India should let things take a course today which they took more than a century back—does the character of the creditors themselves not enjoin caution in this respect? For, if India has changed, have the creditors, the World Bank and other State and private agencies in the West—very much changed in their essentials?

They charge a heavy rate of interest, and unlike Prof. Galbraith, generally look askance at India's development programmes. In fact, it would be only a truism to describe most of them as not only critics of India's plans, but also detractors, whose main objective has invariably been to so mould India's schemes that her dependence on them may never end.

Prof. Galbraith's approach also leads to the same result, but being more shrewd he chooses to attack from the flank rather than from the front. This is not to question his motives, for after all his eminence is beyond dispute, but it surely is too big a task even for him to make any suggestion basically differ-

ent from the prevailing opinion in the Capitol or the Wall Street.

Public Sector Undertakings

This brings us to the Professor's second note—on the "Rationale of Indian Economic Institutions". Significantly, he has confined himself in it only to a dissection of the anatomy of the public sector, with a view, no doubt, to suggest improvements, although with his profound knowledge of the drawbacks of his country's private enterprises, he could not be unaware of similar shortcomings of the enterprises here. But this is certainly not a point against him, since his visit, at the Government's invitation, was presumably arranged only to suggest improvements in the functioning of the State undertakings. And he, no doubt, did his job well, since now New Delhi cannot put forth the excuse that it did not really know the evils of its centralised working.

"Principal Enemy"

Prof. Galbraith's strictures on "Socialists" are (to say the least) singularly uncalled for. (He considers "Socialists" "the principal enemy of public enterprise" today.) They have nowhere suggested that the "peculiar requirements of the modern productive enterprise" be overlooked. Nor have they been against granting a limited autonomy to the enterprises or their making profits. In fact, they would probably be the happiest when the State undertakings will begin showing their economic superiority by making larger profits than the private sector.

But the same questions had been raised by the Public Accounts Committee and the Krishna Menon Committee earlier without much result. The reason has thus not been a dearth of recommendations, but their unsuitability to the present stage of development of the State undertakings.

Take this question of centralisation, for example. Can the State dare give the entire authority to the management

on the spot without at the same time ensuring public accountability? Even without decentralisation there have been a Mundhra episode, and many cases of abuse and irregularities. How much more will be the incidence of such cases if the boards of management were given a free hand in all respects? Prof. Galbraith will no doubt even let the public enterprise make mistakes "for these are inevitable in efficiently rapid decision-making", but for a poor country like India it would surely not pay to indulge in this daredevilry.

But in wishing and working for all this they cannot surely be expected to hand over the enterprises to the management on a platter, nor to cease pressing for a legitimate and increasing investment in the labour force itself, which, too, after all, plays a role in production. (I.P.A.)

Land Reforms In Himachal

by KAMESHWAR PANDIT

Himachal Pradesh came into existence in 1948 with the merger of more than 30 small Punjab Hill States. For centuries together the people here groaned under the tyrannical rule of the Princes. There were no schools or hospitals. All the fertile lands were owned by the Rajas and Jagirdars and the people had to render "Begar", unpaid compulsory labour, for the Raja.

When freedom was assured, the people in these areas became restive. The people stormed the palace of the Raja of Suket in February 1948. Similar campaigns were soon to be launched elsewhere. The States Ministry intervened and negotiations were opened with the representatives of the people as well as the rulers regarding the future Constitutional set-up of this area.

The rulers toyed with the idea of having a Princes' Chamber to counterbalance the elected Legislature but ultimately they had to yield. The direct rule of the feudal elements in Himachal Pradesh came to an end.

The first step taken by the Chief Commissioner Himachal Pradesh was to abolish the serf system known as the "Bethu" system in 1948.

The tenants known as "Bethus" had to perform free compulsory labour for about three-four days on the lands, water-mills, or in the households of the Jagirdars. Such tenants were given the right to acquire proprietary rights in such lands and

"Beth" was abolished. However, this system continues to exist even today in the interior and remoter areas on a smaller scale.

For an illiterate poor peasant belonging to the socially oppressed section of the Scheduled Castes, the threat of eviction from land is sufficient pressure to get "Begar". This power of the Jagirdars has, however, gradually declined. Himachal Pradesh was the first State in India to go to polls in November 1951. The Congress Ministry, on the recommendations of the Planning Commission, passed two bills in the very first Budget Session of the Assembly in 1952.

One of these bills banned evictions except in cases where the tenant failed to cultivate lands adequately, where the tenant would sublet the land, or if the tenant failed to pay rent.

The other bill reduced the maximum rent to one-fourth of the produce of the land. This rent in kind was to be collected by the landowner at the threshing floor.

These steps were welcomed as progressive measures. They, however, remained on paper. The administration was run mostly by the erstwhile States' officials, who were mostly from the families of the Rajas and Jagirdars or when drawn from outside easily fell under the influence of the local Rajas and the rich.

A powerful campaign was launched by the Kisan Sabha in Mandi District in 1953 for the implementation of these laws and it was only here that these laws could benefit the peasantry. In 1952 a Committee was formed by the Congress Ministry and it toured the vari-

ous parts of Himachal Pradesh for obtaining the views of the various sections of rural people. These were to serve as a basis for formulating a Jagirdari abolition law.

In 1955 a comprehensive law was passed by the Himachal Pradesh Assembly. It exposed the reactionary nature of the changes stipulated therein. The maximum rent, earlier reduced to one-fourth of the produce of the land, was now to be raised to one-third of the produce. It did not provide for the acquisition of proprietary rights by tenants.

In the case of lands of a landowner, the land revenue

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Satellite Town Near Calcutta What's The Real Game?

★ From Jnan Bikash Moitra

The West Bengal Government has drawn up a Rs. 220-crore scheme for setting up a new city near Calcutta. It is claimed that the main purpose of the project is "to ensure decongestion and dispersal of Calcutta's population."

Pertinent questions that naturally arise in this connection are: How will Rs. 220 crores be found when the Planning Commission is unable to allot to West Bengal a single rupee more than Rs. 160 crores for its Rs. 340-crore draft Third Five-Year Plan? What are the real considerations that have prompted the Government to draw up the scheme? What are its main features?

THE satellite city is proposed to be built to the south of Calcutta. It will cover a total area of 55,000 acres, lying between the 8th and 18th mile-posts of Diamond Harbour Road. It is claimed that a population of about 14 lakhs will be accommodated in the township, which will have all the amenities of a well-planned modern city.

There will be provision also for the construction of new industrial settlements and commercial centres.

The project is, no doubt, a grandiose one. But, how is the Government going to find the huge amount of Rs. 220 crores to put it through?

An official brochure, which was circulated to the members of the State Legislature on December 12 last, makes the tall claim that it will be a "self-financing scheme" and, as such "only a sum of Rs. 75 crores as working capital would be enough to develop the area."

Nevertheless, it is no longer a secret that almost the entire amount of the estimated cost will come from the U.S. Government or U.S.-dominated agencies like the U.N. Special Fund, WHO, etc.

When West Bengal's draft Third Plan was discussed in the last session of the Assembly, Jyoti Basu, Leader of the Opposition asserted that the State Government proposed to establish the satellite city with U.S. money. "We are a little afraid of our U.S. friends, because they never give any aid except for reactionary and undemocratic purposes," he emphasised.

In his reply to the debate, Dr. B. C. Roy was careful enough not to indicate how he would raise resources for the project.

Horrible Conditions

There can be no controversy about the magnitude of the problems of urban development in Calcutta. But, they have been neglected so long that they have now assumed alarming dimensions. Overcrowding has reached the utmost limits. The population of Calcutta has increased hundred per cent during the last twenty years. It is now estimated that about 40 lakhs of people live permanently within the municipal limits of the city. Density per square mile is one of the highest in the world. In addition to this, a "floating population" of about six lakhs daily come to Calcutta from different areas around the city.

Little wonder that housing conditions in such a congested city are extremely deplorable.

sion is so solicitous about the "well-being" of the people of Calcutta? Why should it go out of its way to give "suggestions" for "effectively" tackling the city's problems?

World Bank's Worry

The reasons are not far to seek. The Mission makes no secret of the fact that it is terribly worried about the strength of the democratic movement in Calcutta.

It emphasises that "the continued neglect of Calcutta's problems is one of the most dangerous weaknesses of the Third Plan", and ascribes this neglect to a lack of "political commonsense of those in authority."

It is abundantly clear from the Mission's report that it is extremely allergic to any democratic movement. This explains why it has sought to pin-point what it considers to be the "danger spots" in this great city.

It slanders Calcutta's democratic-minded students by describing them as "one of the most unruly" in the country. Evidently the glorious struggles waged by the students in defence of their just rights and also of other sections of the people, are in the opinion of the Mission, acts of indiscipline and unruly behaviour!

The Mission feels worried over the "increasing cost of moving goods" due to overcrowding, lack of space for new industries, traffic bottlenecks, power shortage, etc.

But the most serious "danger" that the Mission is at pains to underline is this: "These conditions likewise nurture feelings of unrest and malaise in the population which are likely to boil over from time to time in ways that are both destructive and inimical to orderly economic development."

The above quotations leave no room for doubt about what the Mission wants the Government to do.

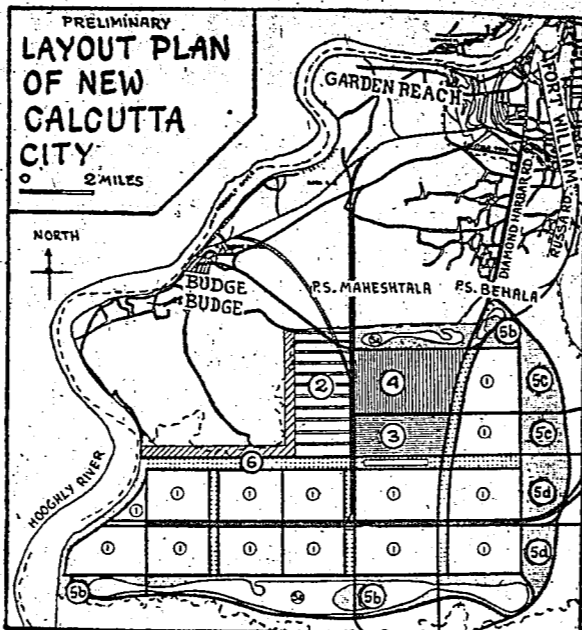
Equally significant is the fact that the West Bengal Government "considers" the Mission's "suggestions" as "vital for our very existence."

The official brochure also approvingly quotes the words of warning from the Economic Weekly of Bombay: "The biggest reason why the Centre should step in ought to be political foresight. The 1959 food agitation is a portent, and, unless things turn for the better, Calcutta may soon explode in an orgy of violence which might ruin not only Bengal, but not only the industrial complex in and around the city, but many cherished national ideals, realities and goals as well."

It is not difficult to understand why the World Bank, the Government and some other people feel so panicky.

Calcutta has been virtually lost to the Congress. The Communist Party is the first political party in this city. Twelve out of 26 MLAs and three out of four MPs are Communists. Opposition members hold seven other Assembly seats.

Calcutta is justly proud of its tradition of big struggles against the anti-people policies and measures of the Con-



(1) Area of residential districts	15,000 acres
(2) Industrial area	2,500 "
(3) Space for central amenities	1,500 "
(4) Administrative and commercial area	2,000 "
(5) Peripheral belt including excavation area, wood lands & agricultural farms.	
a. excavation area	9,000 "
b. green open land	10,000 acres
c. wood lands	2,000 "
d. agricultural farm	2,000 "
(6) Play grounds etc.	3,000 "
Total	55,000 acres
Residential area	120 acres
Community amenities	18 "
Roads etc. 30%	40 "
Open space 12%	14 "
Total	192 acres

gress Government. In course of the past five months alone, three mighty strikes completely paralysed the city's life. No wonder that it is a "nightmarish" city to our Prime Minister.

Viewed in this context, the proposed township is a sinister attempt to weaken and disrupt the powerful democratic movement in Calcutta by dispersing one-third of its population, and thus isolating them from the main current of the people's movement in the city.

Note should also be taken of the fact that while the township project is being publicised as a "concrete evidence" of the congestion in Calcutta, the Government has as yet no master plan to solve the many staggering problems faced in the city.

The reactionary features of the project itself further reveal the actual intentions of the Government.

Almost the entire area of 55,000 acres, which is proposed to be acquired, is rich agricultural land. It has been under cultivation for a long time.

It is a well-known fact that food crisis has become a recurring feature of West Bengal's economy. One of the reasons is that the State does not produce enough foodgrains to feed its own population.

Internal deficit is of the order of 12-14 lakh tons a year. Consequently, it has to depend heavily on supplies from the Centre.

There is, therefore, no reason why such a big chunk of cultivated land should be acquired for the township when thousands of acres, overgrown with weeds and bushes, are lying waste around Calcutta.

Secondly, the acquisition of the land will displace about 107,052 agriculturists and 36,531 non-agriculturists living in the area. Lavish assurances are, of course, being given regarding payment of "adequate compensation."

But, from their own experience about the way the Gov-

ernment has "rehabilitated" the East Pakistan refugees, it is rather difficult for these people to believe in the Government's promises. Over 30 lakhs of East Pakistan refugees are claimed to have been "resettled" in West Bengal. The reality, however, is that most of them still continue to drag on an extremely precarious existence.

In these circumstances, the new township project will impose a fresh burden on the already overstrained economy of the State by turning nearly one-and-a-half lakh people into homeless refugees.

Thirdly, the implementation of the project has been entrusted to the West Bengal Development Corporation, which was set up by the State Government some years ago in the teeth of stiff resistance from the Opposition parties.

The official brochure says that "illustrious men from the fields of Commerce and Industry of this country" are at the helm of affairs of the Corporation. So none need have any worry about the success of the project!

Scheme To Line Capitalists' Pockets

Who are these "illustrious" gentlemen? They are, to name a few, G. D. Birla, Biren Mukherjee and B. P. Singha Roy, a worthy company indeed to implement a project, the ostensible purpose of which is relieving the distress of the people!

So, there are adequate grounds for the apprehension that most of the plots of land in the area and the bulk of contracts for building construction will be distributed to a handful of friends and favourites of the ruling class to enable them to earn huge profits.

Lastly, the worst feature of the project is its heavy reliance on U.S. aid. The West

Bengal Government has not yet been able to say definitely how it proposes to raise additional finances to fill the uncovered gap in its Third Plan. It is, therefore, quite obvious that the Government cannot find the necessary money from internal resources for a project which is outside the Plan. Hence, the easiest solution lies in securing U.S. aid, no matter how onerous the terms might be!

The Statesman of September 15, 1960, reported that both Dr. B. C. Roy and Ellsworth Bunker, U.S. Ambassador in India, had appealed to the Union Finance Minister to release the PL-480 counterpart funds for "massive investment" in West Bengal to solve the problems of Calcutta's development and also of refugee rehabilitation. Although both Morarji Desai and Dr. B. C. Roy categorically denied that the State Government had ever made such a request,

Where The Ruling Party Meets In Session

GLIMPSES OF BHAVNAGAR

From Our Correspondent

I have been walking round Sardarnagar, the venue of the 66th Session of the Indian National Congress and there are too many things here which one cannot view without feeling anguished. The nation is told to tighten its belt for future glories while here in Bhavnagar it is a different picture. Let me tell you some of the things I have seen.

There is, for instance, the question of iron sheets. They are not easily available for love or money, the lucky ones who get them have access to the back-door and have the necessary wherewithal to grease the palms of all concerned and in addition pay blackmarket prices.

But for the 66th Session of the Indian National Congress, the Industries Department is reported to have graciously lent 250 iron sheets of six inches size, 16,000 of seven inches, 20,000 of eight inches, 8,500 of nine inches and 28,000 of ten inches.

The department will get all this back the moment the Session is over and, of course, will be proud that its material has been put to such a national use. It is not thought probable that the 180 maunds of nails of various sizes are likely to be returned after use like the iron sheets.

The venue of the session itself is roofed with coconut leaves, 1000 bundles of the pieces each have been brought. In addition are the bamboo and other sticks that have been brought to hold up the sidewalls of mats and iron sheets.

And to see that there are no difficulties for the delegates to make themselves clean and spruce before they come to the sessions, 2,500 bathrooms and the same numbers of lavatories have been constructed. They are no temporary structures. That would have been an unpardonable crime considering that the mightiest of the land from every State are to use it. So it is all brick and cement work and

each lavatory, it seems will cost about Rs. 500.

Milk for the delegates will be specially tinned in Bombay and Anand and brought by special trucks to Bhavnagar.

The Public Health Department of the Government of Gujarat had in its possession six-inch pipes to be used for the drainage scheme of the Bhavnagar Municipality. Five thousand feet of these pipes have been supplied (or is that also a loan?) for the Congress Session—of course, free of charge.

One often used to hear spokesmen of the Gujarat State Transport department saying that there was no provision in the budget to buy new buses to ease the congestion. But now, suddenly, one doesn't know from where the budget provision came—the State Transport department has added 2000 buses to its fleet, some of them new,

and these buses have been placed at the disposal of a special depot brought into being entirely for service to the nation through the Congress session.

There are plenty of small municipalities in Gujarat, like the one at Paltana, which have not been legitimately, but without any result, demanding such small things as fire-extinguishers. But the Public Works Department has been very prompt in supplying for the Congress Session fire-extinguishers, rollers and other material.

But that is not the best part of the project. The entire space of the Congress session, according to reports, has been taken from the Bhavnagar municipality at a token charge of Rs. 11 (eleven). But the P. & T. department it seems, is paying Rs. 4,000 for the land and space to set up the special office.

In addition the department will run a bus almost every hour from the station to Sardarnagar—at least the Congress delegates will be convinced of the efficiency and promptness of the Postal department.

Not only the P & T department, all the other Government departments

which have in one way or other occupied space at the Congress Session are making similar payments. Anybody jumping to the conclusion that public money is being transferred to the coffers of the Congress Party will be doing so at his own risk.

As if all this is not enough, a special exhibition of the Khadi Gram Udyog department—run on a no-profit, no-loss basis! Quite some State Governments are participating in this exhibition and they have all had to pay rent to this no-profit, no-loss undertaking.

The People's Publishing House was denied a stall in this exhibition, only the Navjivan Publishers from among the booksellers could be allowed to exhibit books since they alone subscribe to the principles of Khadi and Gram Udyog. This reason sounded quite plausible till one found a stall occupied by the Police Department!

The Sangeet Natak Akademy has been mobilised for daily programmes. Who is paying them?

There are 350 names on the waiting list for telephones in Bhavnagar and they have been told that two years is the least they will have to

wait before getting telephones. But now, right in front of their eyes, about six hundred new telephone connections have been made—all for the Congress Session.

Two simple cottages have been built for the biggest two of the Congress—President Sanjiva Reddy and the Prime Minister. These cottages will cost only Rs. 10,000 each. Thank God, they are simple. One shudders to think what the cost would have been if the organisers had planned for something more than simple.

The two textile mills of the city have not lagged behind in exhibiting their urge for national service—they have agreed to pay wages to all those workers who remain absent from work because of volunteering for the Congress session. But the 4,000 and odd policemen who have been brought from various places have not been so lucky—it is said. They have not been given any special allowance nor any proper accommodation in this place of simple cottages.

What have all this and many other unlisted items cost? I have heard some Congress leaders say twenty lakh rupees. It must be much more people say who know.

NEW STRAINS IN U. P. CONGRESS

Those who expected C. B. Gupta to put the Congress in order in U. P. have had a big jolt. Even the Congress High Command's expectations seem to have been belied. For, after C. B. Gupta's advent to Chief Ministership, the Congress in U. P. faces an even bigger threat of disruption than it did before.

The beginning was made by a concerted drive on the part of Gupta's followers to weed out their opponents from all positions of importance in the Congress organisation. This has been followed up by public exposures of the acts of omission and commission by Ministers in the for-

mer Sampurnanand Ministry. This has set the pace for a new and bitter turn in the group tussle in U. P.

K. D. Malaviya, Union Minister for Oil, and A. P. Jain, former Union Food and Agriculture Minister, along with four other supporters of Sampurnanand, have lost their seats on the State Congress Executive. Sampurnanand himself has lost his seat on the State Election Board.

The only prominent supporter of Sampurnanand to escape the wrath of C. B. Gupta's friends so far is H. N. Bahuguna, which perhaps is accounted for by the fact that Bahuguna and Gupta are both considered to be close friends of Morarji Desai.

C. B. Gupta recently made a speech, described later by his Cabinet colleagues as "aggressive", which had been followed up by several similar public speeches. The substance of these utterances has been to openly expose some of the activities of his opponents in the Congress when they were in office.

The activities exposed could broadly be classified into two categories; misuse of power for group interests and misuse of public money. For instance, Gupta disclosed at a public function that the former Ministers had left the discretionary funds completely empty—insinuating that

public money put at their disposal had been misused for group interests and also probably for personal ends.

The expected repercussions of this has been that Gupta's opponents have been further embittered. They met under Sampurnanand's chairmanship and decided to retaliate not only by defending publicly their administrative actions criticised by Gupta, but also by exposing misuse of power and money during the days Gupta was in power and in later days by some of those who now constitute Gupta's council of Ministers.

One of Gupta's opponents told newsmen after the meeting that they had a hundred times more damaging material against Gupta and his friends than the latter could produce against them. He also indicated that they had evidence which would expose Gupta's links with the vested interests.

Some idea of the strategy employed by Gupta's opponents in fighting back his offensive can be had from the fact that for exposing Gupta they have deputed Bahuguna, about whose personal friendly relations no one doubts, while for negotiations they have deputed Mohanlal Gautam to whom Gupta is much more allergic than to anybody else.

The most regrettable part of the happenings in U. P. is the way in which the new Chief Minister has begun introducing changes in the Secretariat set-up.

The first to receive his attention was the Commissioner of the Industries Department, an ICS officer, who has had the reputation of being an upright and firm officer. Gupta has down-

graded the department, abolishing the post of Commissioner of Industries and putting the department under a Secretary.

The new Secretary is not an ICS officer though many ICS officers are still available in the State. He has been associated with the Civil Supplies Department from the days Gupta was its Parliamentary Secretary and later Minister. When this officer was subsequently associated with the Textile Commissioner's establishment, he had occasions to come in close contact with the Kanpur textile magnate, whose support for Gupta is well-known.

If these administrative changes and reversal of administrative measures had taken place quietly they might have gone unnoticed. But they have been accompanied by methods which have led to protests from higher ranks of the services.

One of the topmost officers in the Secretariat is being quoted to have said: "If I am not allowed to function honourably I will have to ask for transfer to the Centre." He feared that the steps being taken might once again lead to a "flight" of talented and capable officers from the State, affecting the standard of administration, as happened about a decade ago when men like S. S. Khera, Bhagwan Sahal and A. D. Pandit left U. P.

Moreover, these administrative changes have been accompanied by public criticism of the services whose fault lay in loyalty to those who honour the decisions of those who were in office till now and were opposed to Gupta. (IPA)

CENTENARY OF INDIANS' ARRIVAL IN SOUTH AFRICA



Indians and Africans giving the Afrika salute in 1952 struggle

It is now a hundred years since the first Indians arrived in South Africa. They were taken there as indentured labour, slaves of a new type.

In course of hundred years of struggle they have become part and parcel of their new homeland, South Africa. They have fought and suffered along with their African brothers and sisters and the unity of the entire people against the white racial oppressors has grown from year to year.

Here is the record of the Indians' hundred years of struggle.

IN November, 1860, the S. S. Truro anchored off the South Beach, Durban, bringing the first Indians to South Africa.

With the abolition of slavery in 1833, the problem of labour in the newly developing colonies had become acute. The farming potential in Natal which had become a British colony in 1843, lay dormant. The economic conditions of the Zulus settled in the reserves had not yet deteriorated to the point where they were forced to sell their labour for a mere pittance.

Since 1834, a new form of slavery had replaced the old, and India, under foreign domination became the chief supplier of indentured labour.

The Indians who waded ashore in knee-deep water in 1860 were the first indentured labourers to arrive in South Africa. They had contracted to work for five years at the rate of ten shillings per month, with a rise in wage of a shilling per month per year. Rations and quarters and a free passage were thrown in.

Other features were a six-day week, nine-hour working day, no choice of employer, no freedom to leave their place of work without a pass.

Women were also indentured, for this system of "emigration" required that there should be a "representative slice" emigrating to the new country. Thus it was compulsory that each "shipment" included 35 to 40 per cent women.

Women received half the wage of men. Children were also pressed into service and were paid according to their age.

At the end of five years, the Indians were promised equal citizenship rights and it was this offer, combined with the alluring stories spun by the recruiting agents of a country running over with wealth, which inspired the Indians to set out on this adventure.

Awful Conditions

Most of the Indians were indentured on the cape fields—some on the railways and the mines in Northern Natal. Instead of the stipulated nine hours, they were made to work for eleven. Quarters were inferior, particularly on the tea plantations where the Umhlatuzana and Umbilo Rivers were prone to burst their banks and flood out the area. In 1905, a major tragedy occurred with hundreds of workers losing their lives.

No sanitation and no latrines were provided and medical officers of health continually declared the huts unfit for human habitation. Rations were unsatisfactory and sometimes employers refused to supply additional rations for the workers' families.

Redress, while possible, was not always easy to secure. Magistrates and the Protector of Indian immigrants did not understand the language and a pass was necessary from the employer before a worker could leave the estate. Whipping was commonplace.

In 1904, 150 men and women walked 24 miles to lodge their complaints with a magistrate in Kliptown. The magistrate had no doubts about the genuineness of their complaints, one of which was that women on the mines complaining of being unwell, were made to strip as proof.

Nonetheless, instead of redress, the group was fined for breaking the law which made it illegal for workers to go as a group and lodge complaints.

Ramasamy, in Mooi River was nailed to a wall and whipped, then tied to the rafters of a roof and flogged until his back was covered with raw wounds. That night he escaped with his wife and child to complain to the Protector of Indian Immigrants. His employer got to the Protector before him and

charged him with desertion. Ramsamy was imprisoned and his family was left destitute.

Medical attention was scanty—many employers procrastinated to avoid the meagre hospitalisation fee. Employers were not always sympathetic and tended to interpret sickness as truancy, fining the workers a six pence or a shilling a day for absence from work.

After ten years some Indians, taking advantage of the free passage, returned home. The majority remained in the new country, too ashamed to face their home village as failures. Thousands applied for the free land gift in lieu of a passage. Less than a hundred received it.

They began to lease land, seeking a fortune in the tilling of the soil. In the hearts of many there dwelt the hope of an eventual return, but the hope faded with the years as meagre incomes shattered the dreams of landless serfs returning home as minor zamindars.

Today the Indians are South Africans, five or six generations in the country and the most indigenous section of the population in Natal. More Indians are born and naturalised in that Province than any other section of its population.

Enslaved in Natal, and prevented from bettering their own living conditions, the first group of returning Indians lodged their complaints of brutal conditions before the Indian Government which thereafter refused to continue with the indenture system until some reform measures were undertaken.

Gandhi Arrives

In 1893 Gandhi came to Natal. He found widespread social prejudice against the Indians. Licensing officers discriminated against them and the raising of the educational

standard required of immigrants prevented a large number of passenger Indians from entering the country. The introduction of the first anti-Indian Bill in the Natal Legislature coincided with Gandhi's visit and he prolonged his stay to fight it.

The Indian people, who in the past had sought legal assistance to protect their rights when attacked, now learnt the strength of political unity and organisation. Telegrams of protest and a petition bearing 10,000 Indian signatures were sent to the Natal and British Governments, followed by personal representations by Indian delegates.

The first Indian political organisation, indeed the first non-White political organisation, the Natal Indian Congress, was formed in 1904. In 1902 the Transvaal Indian - British Association was formed. Gandhi was the first secretary of both organisations.

The Disfranchisement Bill, however, passed the Assembly. Indians were disfranchised in Natal in 1894. They lost the municipal vote in that Province in 1924. They have never had the vote in the Transvaal and the Free State. In the Cape about 1,000 Indians exercise the Municipal vote.

First Passive Resistance

In his picture on this page Gandhi is seen standing outside his hut at Phoenix Settlement, during the course of the first Passive Resistance struggle initiated in 1906 to protest against racial discrimination against Indians. Phoenix, together with the Tolstoy farm in Johannesburg, a donation from Mr. Kallenbach, a European Gandhian compatriot, became the centres for passive resisters. The first Indian newspaper, Indian Opinion, established in 1903 was published from Phoenix.

Recently on May 31, 1960 during the state of emergency, Phoenix became once more a centre of political inspiration when Mrs. Sushila Gandhi, the daughter-in-law of the Mahatma, went on a five-day fast and daily hundreds of Africans and Indians gathered in prayer for the end of the emergency and apartheid. The last day was climaxed by a mass meeting of thousands of Indians and Africans some of whom had kept a night-long vigil in the hut before which Gandhi stands in this picture.

With the end, of the Boer War, the Transvaal was placed under the jurisdiction of the British administration. Faced with some White public agita-

tion against Indians, the Government sought to restrict the size of the Indian population in that colony and brought in a measure to stop all future Indian immigration to the Transvaal. Indians already settled had to register themselves and carry passes which bore whole handprints as identification. The Indians, led by Gandhi, launched a passive resistance struggle against the Act in 1907.

This led to the arrest and imprisonment of hundreds of Indians. Several hundred were deported to India. The struggle was interrupted for a brief period when Smuts called Gandhi from prison and offered to repeal the Act if all Indians voluntarily registered themselves.

The Indians kept their part of the bargain, but Smuts did not and 3,000 Indians, constituting one-third of the total Indian urban population of the Transvaal (practically every adult male) burnt their passes in traditional African

This incensed the Indian women and in 1913 they gave new life to the six-year-old passive resistance struggle, which was beginning to lag, by breaking laws and inciting the police to arrest them. A group from the Transvaal crossed the Transvaal-Indian border and agitated on the Newcastle minefields, calling on the miners to strike. Another group of women, including Mrs. Gandhi, crossed the border from the Natal side.

Imprisonment followed for the breaking of a law which made illegal the crossing of Provincial borders by Indians without a permit. This law is still in existence.

A Heroine Of The Struggle

There were many heroines during this struggle, the most outstanding being, Vallamma, who died within a few days of her release from prison on February 22, 1914. In later

Group Areas Act Threatens To Uproot Them Now

three-legged pots, and resumed their struggle at a gathering in Pretoria.

White colonialists in Natal, desiring to rid themselves of free Indian competition, prevailed on the Government to impose a £3 poll tax on all girls from the age of 13 and boys from the age of 16 who failed to re-indenture themselves or return to India.

This meant that families were forced to pay up to as much as £ 15 to £ 20 per year in taxes, far more than they could earn at this time.

After Union the South African Government promised Gokhale, then visiting South Africa, that the tax would be repealed. This was not done, however.

Moreover, the Government declared the traditional marriages, which were unregistered, illegal.



When Gandhi left South Africa: One of the farewell meetings.

So died a great South African for the love of her Motherland—South Africa.

Workers On Strike

Numerous mass meetings were held during the campaign calling for a general strike by the Indians. Almost the entire Indian working force responded and 20,000 workers struck.

The Government resorted to force in order to defeat the strike. Violence, picketing and police patrols became the order of the day, for it was said that only Gandhi or the gun would force the labourers back to the fields. The Indians, however, remained steadfast.

The Solomon Commission was set up to investigate Indian grievances, but Gandhi refused to co-operate with it as it did not include Indian representatives.

Nonetheless, the Indian Relief Act was passed, the Poll

era in the development of Indians, no longer under indenture, commenced. The community underwent tremendous social, educational and economic changes. The Indian political leadership, strongly influenced by the British Indian Government, which was represented in South Africa by an Agent-General, became estranged from the mass of the Indian people.

In 1926, the British Indian Government compromised at a round table conference and India accepted the principle of repatriation of Indians and sought solutions by means of closed-door negotiations with Government ministers. The compromises sowed the seeds of a new political ferment in the mass of the Indian people.

Revival Since 1946

After World War II, a new tide began to flow in the affairs of the Indian community. The old, compromising

leadership of Congress was ousted and a group of young militants came to the fore.

In 1946, the NIC under the new leadership of Dr. G. M. Naicker and the Transvaal Indian Congress under the leadership of Y. M. Dadoo, formed a new Passive Resistance Council which launched a Passive Resistance Campaign against the Asiatic Land Tenure and Indian Representation Act, passed during the twilight of the United Party Government.

The Act segregated Indians into special areas and made illegal their occupation of land in White areas, just like the Group Areas Act which was later passed by the Nationalist Government.

Resisters camped on a site in Umbilo, Durban, a predominantly European area, and awaited arrest. The police at first refused to act, but on the third day incensed white hooligans beat up resisters, including Indian women and the Rev. Michael Scott. One Indian woman was sent to hospital, an Indian-owned car was burnt and an Indian plain-clothes policeman, mistaken for a resister, was killed. Arrests then followed and thousands of Indians, led by Drs. Dadoo and Naicker, went to prison in the campaign.

As in 1913, women again played a prominent role, making up almost half the total number of resisters. Mass meetings and demon-

strations became the order of the day.

While the 1946 passive resistance campaign remained Indian in character, the platform drew multi-racial speakers and towards the end of the campaign a few European and African resisters courted imprisonment as a symbolic gesture of unity.

This development, however, suffered a major setback in 1949 when Africans in Durban, responding to the anti-Indian agitation engineered by white politicians over the years, revolted against their own intolerable conditions by assaulting defenceless and mainly poverty-stricken Indians. Many Indians lost their lives and thousands were rendered homeless.

The African National Congress joined with the Indian Congress in issuing a joint statement of regret and the leaders of the two people settled down to organise a more thorough-going non-racial political unity.

The first major political action by the African and Indian people was on June 26, 1950 when throughout South Africa Indian and African workers took part in a one-day strike of protest against the Suppression of Communism Act and other discriminatory laws.

Indians, Africans Join

In 1952, the Indian and African Congresses launched the Defiance of Unjust Laws campaign. As in the campaigns led by Gandhi in 1908 and 1913, and those led by Dadoo and Naicker in 1946, resisters deliberately defied segregatory laws. Indians and Africans who occupied white waiting rooms on railway stations and defied other similar discriminatory laws, were arrested and imprisoned.

In 1955, the stage of multi-racial cooperation was taken a stage further when the Congress of the People met at Kliptown, Johannesburg. The concept of joint Congress activity became firmly entrenched as the African National Congress, the South African Congress, the S. A. Congress of Trade Unions, the

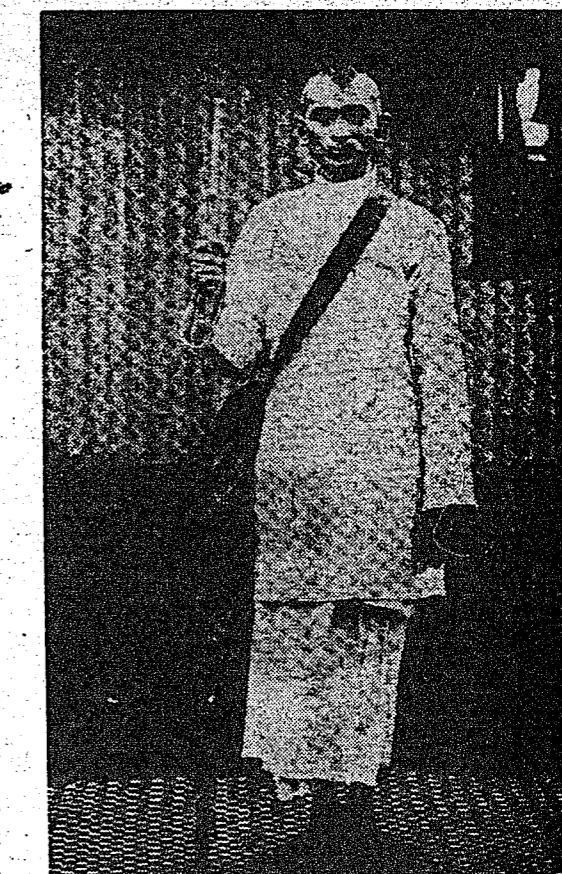
S. A. Congress of Democrats and the S. A. Coloured People's Organisation combined to adopt the Freedom Charter.

The Treason Trial followed on the establishment of this alliance and the Indians featured proportionately in the arrests. Bannings and other Government measures robbed Congress of its valuable leadership developed since 1945. The work of Congress, however continued to progress.

In 1958, the agitation against the Group Areas Act gathered momentum. Over 20,000 Indians gathered at Curries Fountain, Durban, to declare their opposition to the Act. Although an African speaker was on the platform, Africans were prevented from attending the meeting in terms of a temporary measure which debarred African gatherings.

The Group Areas Act threatens to uproot and destroy a hundred years of Indian life in South Africa. The implementation of Group Areas will mean the complete economic annihilation of the Indian community in South Africa. Public institutions and schools built through the hard work and philanthropy of the original indentured and passenger Indians who came to South Africa penniless stand in danger of being lost to the Indians.

This phase of their struggle still continues.



Gandhi in South Africa

FORTY YEARS OF FRENCH COMMUNIST PARTY

THE French Communist Party was formed during the powerful revolutionary upsurge engendered by the First World War and the October Socialist Revolution in Russia. On December 29, 1920, the majority of the delegates to the Tours Congress of the United Socialist Party voted to join the Third International. This decision found an eager response among the French working class. Most of the 180,000 members of the former Socialist Party, and the majority of its local organisations, joined the Communist Party, which thus came into being as a mass party.

In the courses of hard-fought battles it acquired the qualities of a true leader of the working people. The Party took over the best traditions of the prewar Socialist movement and the revolutionary traditions of the nation as a whole; it became the vehicle of progressive French thought. But to become a party of the new type, it primarily had to free itself from the survivals of reformism, philistine and anarchist individualism, and bourgeois-parliamentary methods of work.

Then began the process of assimilating Leninism, the penetration into the Party ranks of the ideas of the great Lenin, and learning how to apply the general truth of revolutionary theory in the specific conditions of the country.

Overcoming the idea ingrained in the trade unions that the fight for the everyday needs of the working people was not its concern, the Party based all its activities on linking the ultimate tasks of the working-class movement with the immediate demands, not only of the workers, but of all working people.

Special care was taken to ensure the alliance of the working class and the peasantry. The Party's first agrarian programme met with the approval of Lenin. Adopting proletarian internationalism as an organic and integral part of its world outlook, the French Communist Party was soon called upon to display this quality in practice: in speaking out against the occupation of the Ruhr and for solidarity with the working people of Germany, the Party withstood the first serious test in internationalism.

With its clear-cut and unyielding policy towards any manifestation of colonialism (the first test of which was awakening the masses against the colonial war in Morocco in 1925) the Party taught the working class that "a nation which oppresses other nations cannot itself be free"; it inculcated contempt for racism and called for struggle against national discrimination.

An important contribution of the French Communist Party to the international Communist movement was its fight for the Leninist idea of united front. It was during the struggle against sectarianism, and to ensure the Party having an effective say in the political life of the country that Maurice Thorez was elec-

ted to the post of General Secretary.

The Party correctly assessed the lessons of the 1929-33 crisis, realised in good time the danger of fascism and worked out a policy and slogans which helped to rally the masses and crush the fascist putsch of February 1934. This was the policy of the Popular Front—the unity of all the democratic forces around the working class.

Popular Front

The social gains won by the French working people under the Popular Front Government in 1936 are, to this day, the best argument in favour of united action.

The Communist Party fought consistently and steadfastly for collective security and supported the Soviet Union's efforts to prevent the outbreak of war. It advanced the idea of a "French Front" capable of rallying the nation in the face of the fascist danger. But the betrayal of Republican Spain by the Blum Government, and, later, the Munich treachery undermined the Popular Front, freed the hands of the reactionary forces and weakened France.

When the Second World War broke out the Communists' stand remained clear and firm; they declared: Fascism is Enemy No. 1. They denounced the "phony war" as connivance in the fascist aggression and the fifth column, as the war of reaction against the working class and the people of France.

The Communists were the first to oppose the "wait-and-see" attitude and to raise the banner of national liberation. Although they suffered heavy casualties, they resolutely gathered the forces of resistance all over the country and played the decisive part in this movement.

After the war, true to the principles set forth in the programme of the National Council of Resistance, the Communist Party worked out and pursued a policy of national regeneration which became a determining factor in industrial rehabilitation, extension of democracy and the country's progress in general. But the Party was ostracised by international reaction in 1947.

Fight For Peace

With the hotting up of the cold war, the efforts of the Party, as of the entire international communist movement were concentrated on the fight for peace. The Party devotes all its energies to the peace movement and actively supports the Socialist countries in their struggle to lessen the tension, for disarmament and peaceful coexistence.

Exposing the "dirty wars" of the colonialists in Viet Nam, and later in Algeria, the Party warned that these wars would not only exhaust the country's resources and discredit it in the eyes of the world—they are the media for reaction and fascism inside France. The reactionary forces,

however, aided by the right-wing Socialists, were able to divide the nation, with the result that one-man rule was established and democracy trampled underfoot.

The Party pointed out that the de Gaulle regime would not resolve a single crisis engendered by the rule of the rights, that, on the contrary, these crises would deepen. The estimates made at the Party's Fifteenth Congress (1959) on questions of economy and policy, as well as its predictions as regards growth of the mass movement, were confirmed by subsequent developments.

Proclaiming that the abolition of one-man rule was the main task, the Congress advanced a programme of regenerating the democratic institutions and all national life with the forces of the united popular front.

Basing its policy on a profound analysis of the situation, the French Communist Party is doing its share, together with the Communists of all other countries, in developing Marxist-Leninist theory. At its Twelfth Congress (1950), for instance, it gave a realistic assessment of the significance of the peace movement and voiced the view that with the new alignment of social forces in the world prevention of war had become a tangible possibility.

EYE-WITNESS IN ALGERIA

★ by YVES MOREAU

KARL MARX wrote once that many historic events repeat themselves—the first time as tragedy, the second as farce.

We know that only too well in France, where we have had Napoleon I and Napoleon II. . . . But one can say that in Algeria in the past week farce has preceded tragedy.

The farce took place during the riots staged by the extreme colonialists. The tragedy occurred when the mass demonstrations of the people of Algeria were mown down by the firing of French troops. I was in Algiers at the beginning of these events. The town seemed to be in a state of siege.

Machine-guns were mounted everywhere, and tanks rolled along the streets while trucks, loaded with troops and armed police, were concentrated at key points.

Nevertheless, the Right-Wing European demonstrators were allowed to assemble in the centre of the town, they forced the shopkeepers to close and go on strike in support of a "French Algeria."

They were allowed to seize buses and to place them across the streets as barricades to prevent all traffic from moving.

I saw rioters tearing up the fences which protect the trees in the streets to use them as coshes; a little farther on others raided a builder's yard and seized stones and planks, with which they began to build barricades, while, a few yards away, hundreds of gen-

Peace Council Protests

THE World Council of Peace voices the indignation felt by all defenders of peace at the testing of another atom bomb in the Sahara on the orders of the French Government. This Government has hurled another challenge in the face of the peoples of the world and in particular the peoples of Africa.

The World Council of Peace, sharing the worldwide indignation, strongly condemns this shameful deed.

It was a matter of great satisfaction for the peoples that, thanks to their determined struggle, nuclear tests stopped for a certain period. They are now witnessing a revival of the activities of militarist circles aimed at stepping up the cold war and blocking all progress along the road to general and total disarmament.

The Secretariat of the World Council of Peace

This new atom bomb test 30 December, 1960

in the Sahara goes hand in hand with an intensification of the colonial war against the Algerian people. In carrying out this test the French Government is trying in particular to intimidate the national liberation movement in Africa. There is, however, no force in the world that can prevent the great movement of the colonial and dependent peoples from winning their freedom and independence.

There is no doubt that the peoples of the world and all national Peace Movements will exert every possible effort to prevent any further nuclear test, to bring about a final ban on nuclear tests and on the production of nuclear weapons, unanimously demanded by all men.

The Secretariat of the World Council of Peace

This new atom bomb test 30 December, 1960

The Party holds that with the working class heading the movement for democratic regeneration, the time lag between democratic and socialist transformations in France will not be very great. As far back as 1946, basing its conclusions on the outcome of the Second World War, it showed that the possibility of a peaceful transition to socialism is not excluded in France.

True to the principles of creative Marxism, the Party has gained vast experience in the struggle against both right and "left" distortions of revolutionary theory and tactics, for ideological unity of the communist movement.

The French Communist Party, with its membership of 400,000, is a powerful organisation, a truly national political force enjoying prestige among all sections of society.

STRENGTHEN COOPERATION WITH USSR

ISCUS Conference Plea

THE Fifth National Conference of the Indo-Soviet Cultural Society was held in Lucknow on December 24 and 25, about 100 delegates from all over the country participating.

The Society has now 84 affiliated branches and about the same number of units awaiting affiliation.

Greetings to the Conference were received from a large number of distinguished personalities including Prime Minister Nehru and Vice-President Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan.

A goodwill delegation from the Soviet Union attended the Conference, led by Madame N. Popova, Vice-Chairman of the USSR Society of Friendship with Foreign countries.

Greeting The Prime Ministers

The Conference in a message of greetings to Prime Minister Nehru and Soviet Premier N. S. Khrushchov welcomed "the sustained efforts of the two world leaders towards disarmament, banning of atomic and nuclear weapons of warfare, towards liquidation of colonialism and racial arrogance and working for peaceful coexistence and world peace."

The message also said, "Under their leadership, cultural and friendly relations have developed rapidly between the Governments and peoples of India and the USSR which extended to technical and economic cooperation."

Congratulating the Governments of India and the Soviet Union on the signing and ratification of the "Agreement Concerning Cultural, Scientific and Technological Cooperation" between the two countries, a resolution of the Conference said the comprehensive agreement provided for mutual cooperation on a reciprocal basis between the "educational, scientific, technological, cultural, sporting, athletic and research institutions of the two countries."

The resolution offered the full cooperation of the Indo-Soviet Cultural Society to the Government of India in all its plans and proposals for the implementation of this agreement which can have a great impact favourable to our country's progress in all cultural fields.

The conference further asked the Society's National Council to examine the activities which the Society may undertake to assist the Government in the working of the Agreement and its constant improvement and enlargement.

The conference expressed its great satisfaction at the rapid growth in economic co-operation between India and the Soviet Union and said, this cooperation has been of vital significance.

The Conference resolution drew special attention to the excellent work done by Soviet specialists in the prospecting of oil. The Plan of development of our petroleum industry for the ten year period from 1959 to 1968, drawn up with the assistance of Soviet specialists, provides for increasing our present meagre oil production of 400-500 thousand tons a year to ten million tons annually, half of which is to come from the State sector.

The Conference recalled and fully endorsed Prime Minister Nehru's statement in Bhillai, "This cooperation is of great benefit to India not only for the construction of factories, but also for training new skilled workers, good scientists and technicians."

"Of Great Benefit To India"

The resolution expressed great satisfaction at the rapidly expanding trade between the two countries. In 1963 the annual trade turn-over between the two countries was only about a crore of rupees. This has risen to Rs. 50 crores in 1959, and the new trade arrangement for 1961-63 provides for a further increase.

The best feature of India's trade relations with the USSR, added the resolution, is that

The National Council was also asked to invite during 1961 two or three Tagore scholars from the Soviet Union to tour India and deliver lectures and participate in meetings, seminars and other Centenary functions.

The Conference elected Dr. A. V. Baliga as President and Rajendra Singh Bedi as General Secretary of the Society for the next year.

Algerians Know What They Want

★ FROM FACING PAGE

been sent to Algeria; tens of thousands of Algerians have been thrown into prisons and concentration camps; the populations of entire villages have been herded into so-called "regrouping centres" behind barbed wire.

More Than Six Years

This war has already lasted for more than six years... but the passionate desire of the Algerian people for freedom and independence is being asserted more ardently than ever. And it will never be broken down.

De Gaulle would, no doubt, be ready to cut his losses, to sacrifice, at a pinch, certain of the interests of traditional colonialism (which explains the agita-

tion of the ultras), in order to adopt a form of neo-colonialism which would safeguard what French finance-capital thinks is essential—notably the oil of the Sahara.

That is why de Gaulle says he supports not "French Algeria," but "Algerian Algeria," an "Algerian Algeria" which he wants to bring about without the Algerian Provisional Government.

That is the objective of the January 8 referendum; to reorganise the public authorities in Algeria pending self-determination.

And this means putting off self-determination indefinitely, giving Algeria a status imposed by Paris and setting up a puppet "Algerian" administration.

But the events of these past days have shown how vain

KHRUSHCHOV GREETS NEHRU

NIKITA KHRUSHCHOV, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, in a New Year's message to Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, notes with satisfaction that India and the Soviet Union are marching shoulder to shoulder in the struggle for peace and disarmament, for the final abolition of the disgraceful system of colonialism.

Khrushchov has expressed the hope that the USSR and India would actively co-operate in the New Year with the object of facilitating an early solution of these vital problems of mankind and that the friendship and co-operation between India and the Soviet Union resting on the principles of peaceful co-existence would gain in strength and scope for the benefit of the peoples of the two countries, for the sake of world peace.

Khrushchov pointed out that strong efforts were made in 1960 in the struggle for peace, for the complete liquidation of colonialism.

It is difficult to overestimate the importance of Soviet-Indian friendship for the success of this lofty cause, the message says.

It also points out that there is understanding between the USSR and India on an approach to the solution of the most important problem of our time—the problem of disarmament.

The President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR Leonid Brezhnev sent a New Year's message to President Rajendra Prasad expressing the hope that the New Year will witness fresh successes in the struggle to strengthen peace between the nations, resting on the principles of peaceful co-existence.

BHILAI'S NEW YEAR GIFT

THE third, the last, blast furnace of the Bhillai Iron and Steel Plant produced its first metal on December 30. Thus, the building of the plant's blast furnace shop, with a capacity of 1,100,000-1,300,000 tons of iron a year, has been completed in full. Like the first two furnaces, the third blast furnace is manned by Indian specialists trained at the plant with the help of the Soviet experts.

The commissioning of the third blast furnace completes the construction of the principal sections of this giant of the Indian iron and steel industry.

Upon the completion of the second stage of the Plant, which is now on the agenda, the Bhillai Plant will produce 2.5 million tons of steel a year.

Talking to correspondents the Plant's Chief Engineer N. V. Goldin, recalled Khrushchov's visit. It "was the biggest event in the history of building this giant of

Indian metallurgy" he said. "Talking to the Plant's workers engineers and directors, Nikita Sergeevich gave them valuable suggestions made some critical observations and set forth his considerations concerning extension of the Plant."

"We promised him to complete the building of main shops and installations in 1960. The advice given by Nikita Sergeevich and the word given by the builders became a militant programme of our work. Fulfilling their pledges, the builders completed the construction and have commissioned 18 large shops and installations. The builders of Bhillai have kept their word. The personnel of 'the heart of the Indian industry' as the Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru called our plant, have demonstrated by their work, their achievements, that Bhillai is becoming the 'Magnitka' (the Magnitogorsk Iron and Steel Mill) of India."

such an undertaking is.

The Algerian people know what they want. They are absolutely behind their Government and their army of national liberation.

The shootings of December 11 resulted in hundreds of dead and wounded in all the large towns of Algeria.

On the 12th the troops occupying Algiers were reinforced, bringing the total to 25,000 men, who besieged the Casbah and its 200,000 inhabitants while the demonstrations continued.

On the 13th the first victims of the shootings were buried, and enormous crowds broke through the barriers emerged from the Casbah and took part in the funeral demonstrations. There were demonstrations also at Bone, Constantine, Elida, Sidi Bel Abbes and elsewhere.

On the 14th the demonstrations began again in the Casbah at one o'clock in the morning, continuing right through the day and the following night.

To continue to refuse such a people the right freely to dispose of its own future is to prolong and aggravate the war.

French Rulers Are Afraid

Measures like my expulsion from Algeria, the imposition of censorship, the seizure of l'Humanite and other newspapers by the police, only show the fear of the rulers of France of their people and of international public opinion.

They also show the effectiveness of solidarity action with the Algerian people, above all at the present time.

CPI NATIONAL COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

* FROM PAGE 3

nations from taking an active part shoulder to shoulder with their Goan brothers, for the removal of the last vestige of imperialism from Indian soil.

The Communist Party fully supports the demand being made by Goan nationalists and by the people of the liberated enclaves themselves for the immediate integration in the Indian Union of Dadra and Nagar Havelli.

The Communist Party welcomes the recent statements of Prime Minister Nehru, warning the Portuguese imperialists that India would not wait indefinitely to win her full independence, which remains incomplete as long as Goa is not free. This

warning to be effective must be followed by determined action.

The Communist Party of India offers its full support to the nationwide campaign launched by the National Campaign Committee for Goa to urge more effective action by the Government of India for the liberation of Goa. The Indian people will give their wholehearted backing to any action by the Government of India which helps to make the Portuguese imperialists quit Goa without delay.

The Communist Party of India calls upon all its units and members to intensify the campaign for Goan liberation by all possible means and to build up the widest public support for the Goan cause.

ON FRENCH ATOMIC TEST IN THE SAHARA

THE National Council of the Communist Party of India vehemently condemns the French Government for carrying out yet another atomic test in the Sahara in brazen defiance of the UN resolution and the will of the African peoples. This test, intended as a demonstration of French military power to intimidate the African peoples, particularly the heroic people of Algeria, subjects thousands of Africans to the dangers of radio-activity.

The Communist Party of India joins all sections of the Indian people and of the peoples of the whole world in denouncing this savage action of the Government of General de Gaulle.

This test explosion is all the more reprehensible when there is a veritable truce among the three leading nuclear Powers which have carried out no new nuclear tests for a considerable period and when the world is demanding agreement for a complete ban on nuclear tests.

The Indian people stand

wholeheartedly with their African brothers in their struggle against this outrage committed by the French imperialists on African soil, endangering the lives and health of African people.

The Communist Party of India calls upon the Government of India to give its support to the African Governments in the steps they are contemplating to impose sanctions against France.

The French atomic test underlines once again the urgency of the world-wide movement for general and complete disarmament, for the banning of nuclear weapons tests and the liquidation of imperialist military bases. While the imperialists refuse to accept the concrete proposals for disarmament, new powers are entering the nuclear field, making the task of ending the nuclear menace ever more difficult.

The Communist Party of India appeals to all peoples to intensify the campaign for general and complete disarmament and for the ending of the nuclear menace.

ON ALGERIA

THIS meeting of the National Council of the Communist Party of India sends its warm greetings to the brave Algerian people who are valiantly fighting against the French imperialists for their national liberation and ardently hopes that their struggle will soon be crowned with complete success. The National Council of the Communist Party of India extends the full support of the entire Indian nation to the cause of Algerian people.

This meeting of the National Council of the Communist Party of India strongly condemns the recent monstrous massacre of Algerian people in Algiers, Oran, etc., who

were peacefully demonstrating their support to the Algerian Provisional Government of Ferhat Abbas and declares that such fascist methods would not suppress the resurgent people but would only bring the wrath of the peoples of the entire world against such brutal colonial policy.

This meeting of the National Council of the Communist Party of India requests the Government of India to immediately recognise the Algerian Provisional Government of Ferhat Abbas, give moral and material help to that Government and to lodge their strong protest against the brutal policy pursued by the French Government against the Algerian people.

The Communist Party expresses its deep concern at the dangerous turn which imperialist intrigues in the Con-

ON THE CONGO

THE National Council of the Communist Party of India strongly condemns the naked conspiracy of the imperialist powers, led by the USA, to rob the Republic of the Congo of its newly-won independence and destroy its integrity.

The Communist Party denounces the misuse of machinery of UNO to permit the building up of Col. Mobutu's armed gangs, which used the Belgian and NATO arms and funds to supplant the legal Government of the Congo in the capital by a Belgian-directed administration of so-called "Student Commissioners". It has been these very gangs of Col. Mobutu which have arrested Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba and are even today subjecting him to torture, endangering his very life, while the UN command stands idly by.

It was the same Col. Mobutu's so-called soldiers, who with impunity assaulted and insulted and robbed officers and personnel from India in the Congo. Several diplomatic missions have been compelled to leave the Congo by the same Mobutu gangs, in complete violation of recognised international codes.

The imperialist Powers led by the USA, conspired to unseat the representatives of the legal Government of the Congo in UNO and secure recognition for the illegally appointed representatives of Kasavubu, thus encouraging still further the dastardly attack on the Congo's freedom and unity.

Afro-Asian opinion has been incensed at this outrageous inaction by the UN Command in the Congo, which has not hesitated to threaten the supporters of the legal Government of Lumumba with armed attack if it dared to take effective steps against imperialist interference. Several countries have been compelled to withdraw their troops from the UN Command, unwilling as they are to continue to be parties to the UN con-ivance in the imperialist game in the Congo.

The role played by the UN Secretary-General Hammarskjöld in the Congo has been particularly reprehensible and has been sharply condemned by several African Governments who have pointed out the manner in which this UN official has acted in the interests of the imperialists in the Congo.

The National Council of the Communist Party of India congratulates those African Governments which have already taken firm measures—the breaking of diplomatic relations and the freezing of assets against the Belgian imperialists. It congratulates Vice-Premier Gitzenga and his colleagues on their courageous action in setting up the legal Government of the Congo in Stanleyville.

The Communist Party expresses its deep concern at the dangerous turn which imperialist intrigues in the Con-

go have taken, threatening peace in Africa and the whole world. The unity of all who want peace, who stand against colonialism and neo-colonialism, can today prevent the situation in the Congo from developing into a world catastrophe. Common action by all anti-imperialist forces, particularly the Afro-Asian Governments and peoples, can be of decisive significance.

The fact that Indian officials are in leading places in the UN machinery in the Congo places a heavy responsibility on India. It is a matter of regret that during the presence of these Indian officers in the Congo, the United Nations machinery has become an object of hatred and contempt of large sections of the African peoples, because of its being totally ineffective and acting only in such a way as to aid the imperialists in actual practice.

The Communist Party appreciates the stand taken on the Congo by Prime Minister Nehru and Indian representatives at the United Nations Session, demanding the functioning of the Congo Parliament, the disbandment of the armed group of Colonel Mobutu and the withdrawal of all Belgian personnel.

The Communist Party regrets that the Government of India has not been able to take a stand in complete solidarity with the leading African Governments like those of the UAR, Ghana and Guinea, in regard to the situation in the Congo, leading to

an unfortunate situation. It is regrettable that at times Government spokesmen have described the Congo situation as though it was a "cold-war dispute", tending to hide the role of the U.S. imperialists in the Congo and the reality that the Congo problem is a problem only of struggle between the people of the Congo on the one hand and the imperialists led by the U.S., the Belgians and other NATO Powers on the other.

The Communist Party urges upon Prime Minister Nehru and the Government of India to grant recognition to the legal Government of the Congo and take the initiative to convene an immediate meeting of the heads of Afro-Asian Governments with a view to take united action in support of the legal Government and people of the Congo, to ensure the release of Prime Minister Lumumba, the disbanding of the armed gangs of Mobutu, the convening of the Congolese Parliament and the functioning of the legal Government of the Congo, to see that all Belgian personnel is removed from the Congo and the UN machinery is no longer misused by the imperialist powers.

The Communist Party appeals to all parties and organisations in the country which stand for peace and against colonialism and imperialism, to act resolutely in solidarity with the people and the legal Government of the Congo for the immediate release of Prime Minister Lumumba and for an end to all imperialist machinations in the Congo.

ON LAOS

THE National Council of the Communist Party of India expresses its grave alarm at the situation which has arisen as a result of the interference of the U.S. imperialists, assisted by the SEATO powers in the internal affairs of Laos, menacing peace in Asia and the world. Some members of the legal Government of Laos, headed by Prince Souvanna Phouma, have been compelled to seek refuge in neighbouring countries following a largescale assault launched by the troops of the reactionary General Phoumi Nosavan, openly directed, armed and financed by the U.S. Government, in total violation of the Geneva Agreements.

The imperialists have now installed a so-called Government in the Laotian capital headed by Prince Boun Oum.

The imperialists first conspired to have the work of the International Supervisory Commission, headed by India suspended. When they had succeeded in this, they rapidly built up their armed strength in Laos and in violation of the Geneva Agreement connived to have the pact made with the Pathet Lao broken and the leaders of Neo Lao Haksat Party arrested. Despite this, however, the

Laotian people were able to defeat the imperialist conspiracy and succeeded in establishing the Government of Prime Minister Souvanna Phouma, which united the country in terms of the Geneva Agreement and pledged itself to neutrality, non-alignment and peace.

Infuriated, the US imperialists stepped up their massive aid to General Phoumi and launched a full-scale war against the rightful Government of Laos.

The Communist Party of India denounces this aggressive imperialist interference in Laos and calls upon the UN and on all Governments and peoples, desiring peace—particularly those of Asia and Africa—to take immediate measures to put a stop to the US-led conspiracy against the freedom of Laos.

The danger to India and other countries following the intervention of the SEATO in the Laos has been rightly underlined by Defence Minister Krishna Menon.

As Chairman of the suspended International Supervisory Commission, India has a special duty to perform. The

* FROM FACING PAGE

JANUARY 8, 1961

GAIETY AND GOODWILL AT NEW YEAR

RECEPTION IN THE KREMLIN

From MASOOD ALI KHAN MOSCOW, January 2

New Year came to the Socialist world in an atmosphere of full blooded happiness and confident all embracing joy and merriment. People of the Land of Soviets completed the old year with heroic feats of joyful labour in the name of peace and prosperity all over the world and entered the New Year 1961 with their creative vital forces in full bloom.

NEW YEAR brought new hope to the people of our globe as Prime Minister of First Land of Socialism again extended his hand of friendship to the capitalists world ready to forgive and forget the recent dismal past. Khrushchov's speech at the gay Kremlin reception immediately after the clock had announced the arrival of New Year contained generous and large-hearted appeal to the United States to make a new beginning in mutual relations with inauguration of their new President.

Stress On US-Soviet Relations

Proposing toast to the health of all ambassadors present the Soviet Premier called for improvement of relations and establishment of real peaceful coexistence between the States. He expressed hope that the New Year will be a really happy one and said that everybody in the world imagines happiness to be above all the condition when he could live and work in peace without fear of a destructive war.

"I hope nobody would blame us if I say that we give great importance to the betterment of our relations with United States of America, as improvement of relations between all States of world depends to considerable extent on improvement of relations between our two States."

"We would like to believe," Khrushchov said, "that the United States also want this and we hope that with the

inauguration of the new President a fresh breeze will blow and the unhealthy atmosphere in the relation-

ship between the Soviet Union and United States will begin to clear. We would like that with departure of the old year and the old President our had relations with United States of America also become a thing of the past."

This declaration caused stir in huge Georgievsky Hall as if a new door of hope for the future of the world had started to open. The fresh breeze Khrushchov referred to already fills the halls of the Grand Kremlin Palace. It is now for Kennedy to open the windows and let it into the stuffy corridors of the White House as soon as the politically dead President's body is removed.

Along with the Soviet people that should be hope of all decent people all over the world. Here is the time and opportunity for all of us again and let us be vigilant and firm and see that the dark cloak and Dagger Knights of Western underworld don't mess up the future for us once more.

U-2 Affair Dropped

Khrushchov referred to Kennedy's statement during the election campaign that he (Kennedy) in Eisenhower's place would have expressed regret at U-2 incident to the Soviet Government. "We would like," Khrushchov said, "that with departure of the old President that sorry inci-

dent would also be left behind and we think it is not necessary to return to that."

Here the Soviet Prime Minister announced that in order that the bad past does not come in the way of hopes for better future, the Soviet Government would not insist on discussion of this question in the U.N. He expressed the hope that the Soviet aspirations for improvement of relations would be understood in their true spirit.

With Mikoyan we talked of Armenia, now due to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Republic. Later followed popular request that Mikoyan should dance but he called the announcement a joke.

As Khrushchov arrived on the scene I referred the matter to him saying that

Socialist world and Communist movement, to defenders of the Soviet State, to heroic labour of women (he referred with love and gratitude to his first school-teacher at Kallinovka village, Lidia Mikhailovna Shevchenko and the old venerable lady was present there in person).

Food was excellent and all toasts were drunk with best wines of the Soviet Land. When the banquet was over Khrushchov got up and anno-

now that the Prime Minister of Soviet Union had officially announced that Mikoyan will dance the Soviet Government should fulfill the promise.

Mikoyan Wins A Prize

A lady approached Mikoyan and Khrushchov good-humouredly pushed him on to the

Khrushchov Toasts His Majesty, The Working Class

ship between the Soviet Union and United States will begin to clear. We would like that with departure of the old year and the old President our had relations with United States of America also become a thing of the past."

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now that the Prime Minister of Soviet Union had officially announced that Mikoyan will dance the Soviet Government should fulfill the promise.

Gaiety and fun, music and dancing lasted till small hours of New Year morning and I thought these are Communist leaders whom Western propaganda wants to present as mysterious and inhuman. Leaders of Socialist world like their people know how to work and how to make merry because it is after all to human happiness that their lives are dedicated. Let us have more of it in the New Year.

ASSAM PANCHAYAT ELECTIONS

Communists Returned

* From S. BHATTA

COMMUNIST candidate Jogan Gogoi and Guna Dutta, an independent supported by the CPI, have been elected President and Vice-President respectively of the Sibsagar Anchalik Panchayat in the Sibsagar subdivision of Sibsagar district of Assam.

In another Anchalik Panchayat in the same subdivision, the Congress lost the presidency, conceding the victory to an R.C.P.I. candidate.

CPI candidates have been elected Vice-President in two other Anchalik Panchayats. Com. Jadav Dutta has been elected Vice-President to Amguri Anchalik Panchayat and an independent member supported by the CPI has been elected Vice-President to Dimou Anchalik Panchayat in the Sibsagar Subdivision itself.

It can be said here that the Anchalik Panchayat covers the areas generally of a legis-

lative assembly constituency and comprises several gaon sabhas, elections to which were held openly by show of hands.

The gaon sabhas are also formed on the basis of population with one or more villages and along with the election of the Gaon Sabha president, vice-president and executive members, the members of the Anchalik Panchayat, on the basis of one from each gaon sabha area, were elected openly by show of hands by the voters. The electorate was formed on the basis of the adult franchise and all the voters enlisted for parliamentary election, were voters in the panchayat election too.

But as the election was by show of hands for the Anchalik membership and also for the gaon sabhas, free exercise of the franchise could not be achieved and the rural rich and landlords had the special advantage of it.

It is however, encouraging that in spite of all those handicaps and diffi-

culties, many CPI, other Left and popular elements have been elected members, president and vice-presidents of the gaon sabhas and also of some Anchalik Panchayats, throughout the State.

Earlier, in the Nowgong Anchalik panchayat, Com. Kehoram Hazarika has been elected vice-president.

Election to Anchalik panchayats in the State are not yet fully over.

In spite of the undemocratic election system and anti-CPI tirade in the context of the border dispute with China, which were fully taken advantage of by the Congress and also the language controversy and disturbances, of which the aftermath was favourable for the chauvinists of all brands, these results of the panchayat elections are politically very significant and heartening for the democratic forces.

Everywhere the fight turned to be a highly political one when there were CPI or other progressive contestants in the field against the Congress. In places where the CPI had its candidates, a good amount of enthusiasm and higher political tempo could be seen and Congress had even to make adjustments with others including the PSP.

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NEW AGE

PAGE FIFTEEN

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NEW AGE

JANUARY 8, 1961

AGAINST RENEWED THREATS TO CUBA

Khrushchov Warns U.S.A.

★ From MASOOD ALI KHAN

MOSCOW, January 3

First of January is a big Cuban holiday as the People's Revolution on that valiant island won on New Year two years ago. Soviet people have great admiration and love in their hearts for freedom-loving and fearless people of Cuba.

At the reception given by the Cuban Ambassador in Moscow, Chomon, on January 2 the atmosphere of brotherly love, sincere friendship and informality prevailed. Khrushchov, Mikoyan, Kozlov, Minister of Defence Malinovsky and other members of Government and prominent personalities were present.

The radio had already brought the disturbing news that the Cuban Foreign Minister had lodged a serious complaint with the UN Security Council that the United States were planning aggression against Cuba within next few hours and the mad men of Washington could now after Laos start a conflagration in another part of the world. This danger was at the back of everybody's mind and the Cuban Ambassador in his speech spoke of it.

But the Cuban people he said were sure that American imperialism could not repeat now what had earlier happened in Spain. US imperialists want to force Cuban people to kneel before them in submission. If they attack Cuba, he said, the Cuban people would fight to the last drop of their blood.

"We declare," he said, "that this war shall bring total annihilation to imperialists. The people of Latin America see that the cause of Cuba is their own. They see in her their only hope and are prepared for any sacrifices in her defence." Solidarity with free nations of the world, the Soviet Union and the Socialist countries inspired Cuban people in their struggle, the Ambassador, declared.

Lies And Slanders

When Khrushchov began to speak everybody was expectant and silence was pin-drop. "The Cuban people can always count on help and support from Soviet people," he said. He referred to "alarming news" that the most aggressive monopolists of USA were preparing direct attack on Cuba under the pretext that Soviet Union was allegedly building rocket bases there.

This was a lie and a slander and "Soviet Union had no rocket bases on Cuba or in any other country." It was the United States which had built war bases round the Soviet Union. It was a policy of war and not peace

and Soviet Union was firmly opposed to such a policy.

"Why should we need bases in other countries? Nowadays technology has created such means that if necessary shattering blows could be delivered directly from our territory to any point on the globe in retaliation. This we have repeated many times and American imperialists know this very well."

The Eisenhower administration even during the last few days of its life was pursuing hazardous policy and it was not by chance that in the UN the US Government voted with other colonialists, he said. If one side would go on helping reactionary forces in their struggle against people this could only widen the conflict and endanger peace, Khrushchov declared.

He welcomed the successes of the Cuban Revolution and declared that people fighting bravely for its own interests and clear aim before it could not be defeated. But he warned that internal reaction is never defeated easily and is bound to sabotage and terrorise. The Soviet people know this from their own experience.

Referring to Cuba, Congo and Laos Khrushchov called for non-interference in internal affairs of these countries.

"We must put out the fia-

mes of war in Laos in time. A conference similar to the Geneva Conference of 1954 should be called at once and the work of International Commission in Laos must be renewed."

"Can't Answer For The Mad"

Later the Soviet Premier chatted with correspondents and answered many questions. I asked him whether he thought it probable that Americans would attack Cuba. I should ring up Thompson, the US Ambassador and ask him, maybe he knows was his first reply. I said that considering the very serious consequences that would follow for the world, did it seem probable that United States would take such dastardly step now. "I do not think it probable but I cannot answer for the mad," Khrushchov said.

Speaking of significance of the new revision of the current economic Plan the Soviet Premier explained that now they had adopted a system of continuous planning. The Plan for the next five years was worked out and extra resources will be used for agriculture and consumer goods production. In 1970 the Soviet Union will be producing as much per head as USA and in 1980 Soviet production will be double than that of USA, Khrushchov said. He said that this rate of progress was assured.

I remarked that proletariat

National Council Resolution

HASAN NASIR

THE National Council of the Communist Party of India expresses its deep sorrow at the death in the notorious prison of Lahore Fort, Pakistan, of Comrade Hasan Nasir, Communist leader and member since 1949 of the Central Secretariat of the Communist Party of Pakistan.

The National Council expresses its great indignation at the foul murder of this valiant leader of the Pakistan people.

Hasan Nasir was arrested in Karachi about four months before his murder and was kept in an unknown place. He was later brought to Lahore and kept in the Lahore Fort, notorious as a torture chamber. There he was cruelly tortured by the political police of Pakistan in order to elicit from him information about his other comrades and the organisation with which he was connected.

The iron will of a Communist revolutionary cannot be broken by torture. It was so with Hasan Nasir, too. He went to his death with his lips sealed, defeating his torturers. The National Council salutes the memory of this brave comrade.

The National Council further voices its indignation over the fraud perpetrated by Pakistan authorities when on orders of the High Court of West Pakis-

tan to exhume the dead body to ascertain how the death had taken place, they substituted another body for the real one. Comrade Nasir's mother who had gone all the way from Hyderabad (India) was subjected to threats and indignities when she refused to identify the wrong body as that of her son.

This despicable ruse of Pakistan authorities to cover up their guilt only heightens the ghastliness of their crime.

The National Council demands, in the interests of justice and human rights, an open and free enquiry into the circumstances which led to the death through torture of Hasan Nasir and exemplary punishment for those who perpetrated this crime.

The National Council is sure that the people of Pakistan will cherish the memory of their noble son with deep affection and honour him as a martyr to the great cause of justice, democracy and Socialism. The day will soon come when those who murdered Hasan Nasir will receive their just and proper retribution at the hands of the Pakistani people.

The National Council sends its heartfelt condolence to the bereaved mother of our dear comrade Hasan Nasir in her great sorrow.

will be living as well as bourgeois. "No it will live more sensibly," was his quick reply. Answering another question Khrushchov said that con-

crete steps to improve relations with USA could only be considered when the new administration would be in the White House.

DO'S AND DON'TS FOR Times of India

IT may be considered presumption on our part if we begin to advise the Times of India bosses as to how they should run their paper. The Times of India, after all, claims every day under its masthead that it has the biggest net sales among all daily newspapers in India. But when it commits such blunders as it did on January 3 last, it is difficult to refrain from suggesting some do's and don'ts for its benefit.

We have never had any doubt that the Times of India does not believe in just giving the news and allowing the readers to use their intelligence to form their own conclusions. No. The Times of India has other ideas about its news-coverage.

For its reports on China, for instance, it has stationed a Correspondent in Hong Kong who makes occasional flying visits to Taipei—for

inspiration from the decrepit Chiang Kai-shek? It has a man in Washington who faithfully peddles the American line whether it is in the interests of India or not. And so goes the list.

One can understand this desire to manufacture scare-stories about the Communist movement and the Communist Party of India. But shouldn't the Times of India be a little cleverer?

The pet theme at the moment is Communist activities on the India-China border. How many hair-raising stories can be written everyday of well-known Communists going there incognito, of midnight meetings in out-of-the-way places and so on. All that cleverness requires is no names should be mentioned. The moment you begin printing names, there is the danger of such stories exploding sky-high. And that exactly is what happened to the Times of India on January 3.

The reference is to the less-than-dozen-line news-item on an inside page of that issue. It was a despatch from the Times of India News-Service from Pauri-Garhwal of Reds from Delhi visiting the Chamauli area.

Arrest Reported

So much would have been just enough. But the Times of India went a lot further and wrote that Mr. Alam Singh who works in the Communist Party office in Delhi was reported to have been arrested in that area. And that is where the story begins to explode into a thousand bits.

Now Alam Singh does work in the Party's Central Office. He did go recently to Pauri-Garhwal where his mother resides. In fact, he went to a place a few miles further away, Srinagar.

But he didn't go there for any midnight conspiracies. He went to meet the District Magistrate who was camping there. And he met the official twice in connection with a deputation and also in connection with some cases of corruption which he had raised while he was in service.

But he was nowhere miles near Chamauli, neither was he arrested.

How then did the Times of India get its story? Why did it concoct such a report? Has the Intelligence Department anything to do with it? Are all its stories about the Communist Party of the same truth-value?

While the Times of India is thinking up the answers, Alam Singh who works in our Information Department has opened a new file of news-cuttings and captioned it—"Fairy-tales from the Times of India."

—RAMDASS