

INDIA'S BIGGEST-EVER PEACE RALLY

AMRITSAR, NOVEMBER 1-3

★ From Our Correspondent

THE FIRST PROOF THAT THE ALL INDIA PEACE CONGRESS TO BE HELD AT AMRITSAR (PUNJAB) IS GOING TO BE IN EVERY WAY THE BIGGEST PEACE CONGRESS EVER HELD HAS ALREADY BEEN GIVEN. ORIGINALLY PLANNED AS A CONGRESS WITH AN ATTENDANCE OF ONE THOUSAND DELEGATES THIS MIGHTY PEACE ASSEMBLY, IT IS NOW CLEAR, WILL BE ATTENDED BY OVER TWO THOUSAND DELEGATES FROM EVERY STATE, THE ORIGINAL TARGET FOR DELEGATES IS BEING DOUBLED. AND AS THE DAYS OF THE CONGRESS COME NEARER, THE NUMBERS ALSO SEEM TO BE GOING UP STILL HIGHER.

In every district of Punjab, conventions and hundreds of meetings, big and small, are being held to prepare for the Amritsar Congress. The election of delegates at these meetings reveals an enthusiasm which is totally unprecedented in the peace movement. The mass organisations, in particular, are playing a most active part in the preparations.

Scores of trade unions in every part of Punjab, kisan sabhas, youth organisations, women's organisations, writers' groups... all are preparing to send delegates as well as huge contingents for the record procession and rally which are to take place at the conclusion of the Congress on November 3.

The collection of funds is proceeding at a rapid pace in most districts. Enrolment of Reception Committee members is being stepped up. Donations in small coins and in large amounts are pouring in.

The Punjabis insist on playing host in the grand style, and the Reception Committee has promised to provide accommodation and meals for all delegates from outside Punjab. The announcement of this decision and the call for more funds to allow the Reception Committee to give proof of the traditional Punjab hospitality, had given a new impetus to fund collections.

Collection of funds is also

going on in other states to enable the largest number of delegates to reach Amritsar. From Delhi, the news that the total number of delegates will exceed hundred and may well go beyond 150, has created considerable enthusiasm among Peace workers. The Delhi State Peace Council has chartered buses to take its delegation to Amritsar.

In most states, conferences and conventions are being organised to elect delegates and prepare resolutions to be moved at the Congress. Already in the last two weeks, state conventions have been held in West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar. Other states have either held their conferences earlier or will be holding them during this week.

All the state conferences have revealed the same enthusiasm, which marks the preparations in the Punjab. Resolutions adopted at these conferences indicate full support for the broad position taken by the All India

Peace Council and the World Peace Council on the urgent issues facing the country and humanity as a whole.

Of special interest will be the participation of a number of distinguished guests from abroad. A strong Soviet delegation led by Professor Rumyantsev, President of Lumbumba University, will attend the Congress. There will also be guests from other European socialist countries, from Burma, from Sudan, from Latin America and other parts of the world.

All the outstanding personalities connected with the Peace Movement in India are expected to be present at Amritsar, for this huge demonstration.

THE APPEAL

The appeal issued for the Congress highlights the issues to be discussed. It is the significance of these issues which make the Congress so important. The appeal says:

● "THE POLICY OF NON-ALIGNMENT IS IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF OUR COUNTRY;

● "NONALIGNMENT IS ESSENTIAL FOR BUILDING UP THE SELF-RELIANT DEFENCE POTENTIAL WHICH CAN PROTECT OUR COUN-

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TRY'S SOVEREIGNTY AND INTEGRITY;

● "NONALIGNMENT IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF INDIA'S INDEPENDENCE TODAY;

● "NONALIGNMENT IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF INDIAN ECONOMY IN THE MANNER BEST SUITED TO OUR NEEDS."

Recent developments have made clear to the entire people that nonalignment is under grave attack. The Peace Congress will undoubtedly discuss these developments and take steps to bring into action the united will of all Indians who love peace, against those who would drag this country, by one means or the other, into the system of military pacts.

The Congress is being held at a time when the first tangible result of years of activity for peace all over the world against nuclear weapons has been achieved. Ever since its inception, the All India Peace Council, inspired and guided by the noble principles of the World Council of Peace, has organised mass campaigns for the banning of nuclear weapon tests, and destruction of nuclear weapons, for general and complete disarmament and for a world without war.

The World Council of Peace collected over 60 million signatures demanding a ban on nuclear weapons. This campaign has now resulted in its first victory with the signing of the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty in Moscow in August this year. The victory, though partial, is a source of inspiration to the peace workers all over the world to intensify their struggle for complete banning of nuclear weapons and for general and complete disarmament.

The Congress will not only support the Test Ban Treaty and call for further steps to-

wards disarmament, it will also express its resolute opposition to the madmen who are opposing the Treaty, refusing to sign it, and describing it as a fraud and a betrayal.

Of special concern to the Congress will naturally be the defence of the security and integrity of our Motherland. The peace movement in India during the critical days following the Chinese aggression was in the forefront in lending its support to the Government of India in all its efforts to defend the country and at the same time work for a peaceful solution. Today it is the concern of every patriotic and peace-loving Indian to see that worldwide pressure is brought to bear upon the Chinese leaders so that they may accept the historic Colombo Proposals and thus assist in creating the climate for fruitful negotiations.

INDO-PAK RELATIONS

Recent days have seen a sharp intensification by the Pakistan government of tension on our borders. The city of Amritsar is only a few kilometres from Pakistan. The common ties which bind us to the people of Pakistan can never be destroyed. The Congress is bound to devote its attention to the question of Indo-Pakistan relations and the problem of Kashmir, and to denounce the imperialist conspiracies which seek to take virtual possession of the Kashmir Valley by sinister schemes.

The Sino-Pakistan pact which has created new perils for our country will undoubtedly also figure prominently in the discussions.

As at all Congresses of the Indian peace movement, urgent attention will be paid to the

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BENGAL RESISTS BUNGLING WITH ITS FOOD

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Squatters outside Calcutta's Raj Bhavan after a night's vigil on Oct. 18.

(Photo: Sambhu Banerji)

DANGE MAY JOIN KERALA SATYAGRAHA

Bombay, Oct. 22: S. A. Dange, Chairman of the Communist Party of India, may join the satyagraha in Trivandrum against the Kerala Land Bill. In a telegram sent today from here to C. Achutha Menon, Secretary Kerala State Council, CPI, Dange says:

"Your satyagraha in defence of Kerala peasants who had gained under the law passed by our Communist ministry and which is now being amended by the Congress government should be supported by all progressive opinion.

"Your struggle is not only for your state but for peasants of the whole country.

"To express all-India solidarity I propose to come and join in the Satyagraha as Party Chairman along with Nambudiripad, Gopalan and others."

Dange who had planned to leave for Moscow on October 25 to attend Congress of Soviet trade unions proposes to cancel the trip and proceed to Kerala if he receives okay from Achutha Menon.

(See Page 17 inside for Satyagraha news)

CHINESE ATTEMPT MISFIRES

Bid to Sow Confusion Over Colombo Proposals

The Chinese Government's note of October 9 to India, released simultaneously with Premier Chou En-lai's long interview with the Reuter's General Manager Gerald Long, was cunningly timed to put a damper on the efforts of the Colombo Powers.

As indicated by President Nasser's press conference of October 1 and Mrs. Bandaranaike's visit to Cairo starting October 10, these countries had renewed their urgings on China to accept their famous proposals.

In an attempt to reinforce the persistent Chinese effort of painting before the world a picture of an intransigent India, Chou En-lai offered to visit Delhi again "if Mr. Nehru finds it inconvenient to come to China". In administering this deliberate provocation and insult to India, the Chinese leaders also hoped to dupe some gullible people in other countries.

It is difficult to see who can be misled by such antics. Surely it was only one of the devices to "expose" India, and no more. For, as in regard to all other problems, the Chinese leaders are interested less in their solution than in the "exposure" of their imaginary and real enemies.

By adopting such devices it is they themselves and no one else who get exposed. The sole purpose of making this histrionic gesture is to divert attention from China's persistent refusal to unreservedly accept the Colombo proposals. China's responsibility for the

current deadlock in the border dispute with India is so patent and hard to conceal that the Chinese leaders have to consume all their ingenuity trying to do so. They claim credit for measures to reduce tension after they had wantonly created it by committing brutal aggression.

They go to the extent of saying that India had in reality not accepted the Colombo proposals! This because, to quote their own words, "the Indian government's so-called acceptance in toto of the Colombo proposals actually means accepting the Colombo proposals plus the so-called clarifications produced in New Delhi".

These "so-called clarifications" were no other than those offered by the Premiers of Ceylon and UAR, Mrs. Bandaranaike and Ali Sabry, and the representative of Ghana when they all visited India last January. According to the Chinese government India's acceptance in toto of the Colombo proposals becomes "so-called", because it followed upon certain clarifications. And these clarifications, though given by the authors of the original proposals, become "so-called" because they do not suit the convenience of the Chinese authorities.

Instead of saying in so many words that they would not accept the Colombo proposals and their clarifications unless these all suit their purposes entirely, the Chinese government resorts to all sorts of dishonest, lying and even stupid arguments, backed in the last analysis by the final argument of brute force.

Slandering Colombo Powers

Abusing and maligning India, is of course nothing; they do not hesitate to malign and slander even the Colombo Powers, accusing them of betraying the trust and of allowing themselves to be led by the nose by India.

The Chinese authorities say: "The so-called clarifications produced in New Delhi were drafted by the Indian government and written in its own language as a summary of the discussions in New Delhi. There is authoritative proof of this. Therefore the so-called clarifications are in fact the Indian government's own interpretation of the Colombo proposals."

"The clarifications not only differ in substance from those made by the Prime Minister of Ceylon when she was in Peking, but also differ widely from the original provisions of the Colombo proposals." (People's Daily, Editorial, October 13)

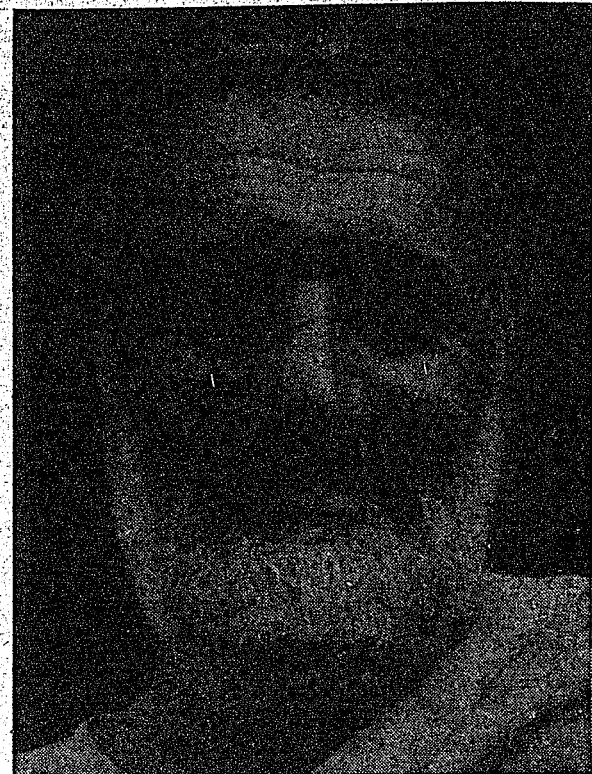
Besides charging the Ceylonese Prime Minister of double-dealing, the Chinese leaders accuse her of being such a simpleton as to allow Indians in New Delhi to draft documents for her and on behalf of Colombo Powers and making her accept these as such, making her thus a party to all that forgery and fraud.

Aren't the Chinese rulers taxing the world people's goodwill and gullibility a little too much?

The Ceylonese government has repeatedly refuted these irresponsible charges. For instance, Felix Bandaranaike, Minister without portfolio in the Ceylon government, told his country's Parliament on April 1: "there is no divergence in the explanations of the Colombo proposals given to the Prime Ministers of China and India."

The Prime Minister Mrs. Bandaranaike also wrote to Premier Chou En-lai saying, "I should like to disabuse your mind of any erroneous impression you may have formed that the Colombo proposals have not been clearly and consistently explained to India and China."

After all these clear and categorical statements, for China to go on repeating canards about "so-called clarifications" given to India which "differ in substance from those made by the Prime Minister of Ceylon when she was in Peking" is the height of dishonesty. All these excuses and diversionary tactics will not obscure the fact that it is China's rulers who refuse to take advantage of the Colombo proposals to make a start in restoring



KHAN ABDUL GHAFFAR KHAN indefatigable fighter for the national independence of the Indo-Pak subcontinent, has languished in prison intermittently ever since Pakistan came into existence. Held prisoner by Ayub since the military coup staged five years ago, Badshah Khan's health has suffered serious setback during the last one year. NEW AGE joins the people of Pakistan and India in demanding immediate release of this revered and beloved leader of his people.

peaceful and normal relations with India.

The Colombo proposals which India has accepted in toto (notwithstanding what China says) provide that arrangements arrived at on their basis will not affect the parties' final claims. With this reservation having been provided in the proposals themselves, one does not know why China's rulers need some additional reservations of their own.

Obviously peaceful negotiations and working for restoration of normal relations does not suit Peking at the moment. Keeping cold war alive and having India involved on the borders suit their purposes more, otherwise Peking's

thesis about "modern revisionists" having joined hands with US imperialists, etc., will not get proved.

Like the Indian people, the people all over the world will sooner or later see through this Machiavellian game and find ways to deal with it. L'Humanite, organ of the French Communist Party, commenting on Chou En-lai's long interview has very appropriately stated:

"They are seeking to put on a more agreeable face in order to try to make acceptable the same calumnies and to put on to other shoulders the responsibilities which in reality are theirs."

—ZIA-UL HAQ

Readers' Letters

More Memoirs

THE special anniversary number of the NEW AGE was a well produced issue and gives the reader an idea of the Communist press in India and abroad. Of special attraction were the article on the first Communist journal in India, THE SOCIALIST, and the reminiscences by S. V. Ghate and D. P. Sinha.

I hope NEW AGE will continue to publish in future such reminiscences by party leaders, so that young people like me may know about the early days of the Communist movement in the country. It will also be a fitting reply to those who slander the great party of the Indian working class and try to keep the truth about its fighting traditions from the youth of the country.

Dechi G. S. SINGH

Jan Sanghi Vituperation

THE speeches made by Jan Sanghi leader Atal Behari Vajpayee during his recent Bihar tour are revealing. At Darbhanga he said Nehru was a crypto-communist who was assisting the Communists to increase their strength. The Communists were "traitors" and there-

fore should be burnt, dead or alive. At Chapra he said the Prime Minister had celebrated his last birthday with the blood of the jawans. The soul of Gandhi went with him, his body with Sardar Patel. Nehru was carrying only the dead body of Gandhi to shamelessly mask his unprincipled and un-gandhian acts, he said.

It is a wonder that the authorities are deaf to the vituperative utterances of people like Vajpayee and do not take any action against them, while sincere social workers who stand for progressive causes are detained behind bars. Darbhanga SUNDARAM

SOS From Famine Area

HUNDREDS of poor kisans and khet mazdoors in Chhuria, Dongargaon and Chouki areas of Rajnandgaon tehsil in Madhya Pradesh are facing acute starvation. Jobs are not available even on four annas a day. The village sahokars are refusing the loan of foodgrains known as badhi, demanding more than 100 per cent interest. Immediate test relief and other helping measures are necessary to alleviate the hardships of the people. The government should immediately start relief work and open more cheap grain shops in the area.

Rajnandgaon PRAKASH ROY
Secretary, MP AITUC

PEACE CONGRESS

*FROM FRONT PAGE

struggle against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism.

The Congress will extend wholehearted support to the heroic struggles of the peoples of Africa and Asia who are still groaning under colonial oppression. It will resolutely demand abolition of colonialism in all its forms and manifestations, and condemn imperialist penetration in the countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America in the fields of politics, economy or culture. It will vehemently oppose racialism in South Africa, Southern Rhodesia and the United States of America and in all other places. Cultural and economic problems connected with the question of peace will, of course, occupy an important place in the deliberations.

There will be sectional meetings of workers, peasants, writers and artists, youth and students, women, lawyers, doctors, etc.

The cultural festival to be organised in connection with the Congress is expected to be a great spectacle of the best that Punjab can offer us as well as gems from other parts of the country.

Amritsar has a glorious tradition in the national movement. It is the city of Jallianwala Bagh. Among the first activities of the delegates will be to place flowers at the monument in memory of the martyrs of Jallianwala Bagh.

And as they do so, they will pledge themselves to carry forward the battle to defend our independence to win which so many sacrificed their lives and were shot dead by the butcher-general Dyer.

The struggle for peace today is the continuation of that struggle. The Amritsar Congress will lead to a nation-wide militant struggle against those who would sell our independence, destroy it, and hand over our Motherland to the imperialists once again.