

SHASTRI'S PROPOSED

US VISIT A VILE TRAP

All the briefed denials notwithstanding, it is now absolutely clear that serious preparations are being made at the highest level for an early visit by Prime Minister Shastri to the United States of America. For the first time, since the outrageous cancellation of the planned visit to Washington by President Johnson as a "punishment" for India's demand for the stopping of US bombing in Vietnam, Shastriji has himself declared that "I WOULD LIKE TO VISIT THE USA".

In ordinary circumstances this might be mistaken for a mere expression of courtesy, for the Prime Minister added: "I am not sure when I can go".

But in the context of detailed reports from Washington regarding the manner in which that arch "friend" of the USA Sadoba Patil is preparing for Shastri's visit, this declaration by the Prime Minister cannot be taken as a mere expression of diplomatic formalities.

The Indian people have learnt through many years that when G. D. Birla wields his baton, several in the Congress leadership usually play his tune. Therefore the greatest attention must be paid to the non-stop campaign in favour of the visit by the monopolist himself. Last week NEW AGE drew attention to the praise showered on the USA's "sympathy" with India by Birla in an exclusive interview in the London INDIA WEEKLY.

But that was only a whisper compared with the roar we have heard this week from the chief financier of the Congress. Birla has spoken this time in the presence of the Prime Minister himself and his words of wisdom have been flashed in the entire press.

Speaking at the opening by the Prime Minister of one of the Birla racketeers in Bombay on October 17, G. D. Birla sang hymns to the gods in Washington.

The USA had shown "unqualified sympathy and admiration for the way in which Mr. Shastri handled the critical situation of the Pakistani aggression in Kashmir and Kutch"... "During the hostilities pictures sympathetic to India were shown over US television networks"... "The American people were impressed by the fact that India had proved to be a nation of mature people"... "There was now no more talks of any plebiscite in Kashmir" (All quotations from Birla's own HINDUSTAN TIMES).

As if this were not enough, Birla has let loose the reddest herring of all. "The United States had warned China during the recent India-Pakistan conflict that if it entered the hostilities in a big way, it should be prepared to face even atomic bombing".

Who told Birla this yarn? "Those who counted" had given him that "impression". So don't you see how much our beloved Yankee friends

are prepared to do for India? They had risked a world war, all for us! We should bow our heads in shame for misjudging them, simply because they armed the Pakistani aggressors and are now busy replacing the destroyed pattons and sabres through the indirect channels of governments in the pay of Washington.

But the mighty Birla has a method in his Majnu-like madness for the Laila in Washington. He blurted it out fairly coherently: "He was confident that Mr. Shastri would receive tremendous sympathy and affection on his visit to the US".

The sole immediate aim of the American lobby is to get

By
THE EDITOR

the Prime Minister to Washington. Everything else is to follow.

The latest news from Washington shows that the plans for the visit are well under way. HINDUSTAN TIMES Washington correspondent says in a front page, despatch:

"Indian Railways Minister S. K. Patil's conversations with senior US officials appear to have paved the way for an early visit by Prime Minister Shastri to the US. Barring unexpected developments the visit should take place well before the close of the year."

"According to authoritative sources, Mr. Patil is convinced that an early Shastri-Johnson meeting will serve the best interests of India and the US, and he is reporting accordingly to New Delhi. "Since Mr. Patil is meeting US officials as the Prime Minister's special envoy his advice should be decisive".

It is quite clear that this is an officially briefed news item, for the despatches from other Indian correspondents in Washington follow identical lines.

The reports appearing in a section of the press that Patil had no brief to meet US leaders and that the Prime Minister has no intention of visiting the USA should thus be taken as inspired and wishful, and meant only to lull democratic opinion into complacency.

How sinister is the motive behind the US attempt to

draw the Indian Prime Minister into a trap in Washington, has been revealed in a despatch in the TIMES OF INDIA (October 19) from the United Nations. This despatch says:

"Diplomatic observers at the United Nations are carefully watching various United States moves for a visit by India's Prime Minister... to Washington...."

"In the opinion of these observers, the moves appear to be designed to help the United States regain its influence over India and, inci-

dentally, throw a spanner in the growing understanding between India and the Soviet Union."

It is this dirty purpose which the US lobby seeks to serve. The despatch goes on to list the "gains" which would be there for the US if the Indian Prime Minister walked into the trap. These are:

★ "First, the effect of the Indian acceptance of the Russian Prime Minister's offer for talks in Tashkent could be wiped out.

★ "Secondly, the ruffled feelings caused by Mr. Shastri's cancellation of US visit following President Johnson's sudden decision to put it off along with President Ayub's, would be assuaged.

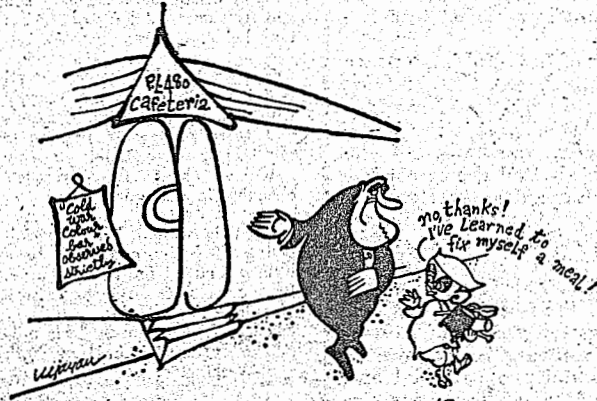
★ "Thirdly, by holding up economic aid and compelling Mr. Shastri to come to Washington in order to get it restored, Washington could conceivably have the whip hand."

The Indian people want the Prime Minister NOT to play into the hands of the American imperialists. Even at this moment the US is sending more armaments to Pakistan through its CENTO and SEATO allies. The same sabre jets, which the US supplies free to Turkey, are being transferred to Karachi for use against India.

A visit to Washington at this time would be disastrous and completely out of tune with Indian sentiment.

The lies of the American lobby cannot convince the Indian people of a change of heart in the master of the Land of the Dollar. It is to be hoped that they do not convince the Prime Minister either.

(October 20)



(Courtesy: PATRIOT)
This is what Shastri's answer should be to Johnson's invitation

Why Does Birla Love the Yanks?

WELL, there are lots of reasons why the Birlas are in love with the Yankees but the main one is money.

Hundreds of millions of dollars and rupees are being given to the Birlas by the United States government. It is with American aid that the Birlas are spreading their tentacles on the Indian economy.

How much aid do the Americans give the Birlas? Here is a PARTIAL listing of the munificence which the Birlas have received from their friends in the dollarland:

- From the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) the following loans:
 - On December 7, 1962 an amount of Rs. 75 millions to the Hindustan Motors for expanding their automobile-making capacity.
 - On February 6, 1964 Rs. 20 millions to the National Engineering Industries, Jaipur, for expansion programme.
 - On July 7, 1964 Rs. 110

- millions again to the Hindustan Motors (second loan) for expansion programme.
- On the same day, another Rs. 14 millions to the Hindustan Motors themselves for production of power showels.
- From the Cooley Fund which is part of the counterpart funds accruing to the US in India from the sales of PL 480 commodities:
 - To the Hindustan Aluminium Limited, Pipri (Uttar Pradesh), Rs. 20 millions. Birlas collaborate in this concern with the Kaiser Aluminium and Chemicals of the United States.
 - To the RenuSagar Power Company, another collaboration venture with the Kaisers, Rs. 30 million for power generation.
 - The Hindustan Aluminium also stand to benefit immensely from the Riband hydro-electric project of the Uttar Pradesh government for which the US authorities have given as much as Rs. 287.6 millions. Birlas get concessional power from the Riband plant.
 - From the United States Export Import Bank, the following loans:

- Rs. 65 millions to the Hindustan Aluminium on January 7, 1960 for expanding production capacity.
 - Rs. 88.1 millions to the Orient Paper Mills Limited, Amlai (Madhya Pradesh), on January 6, 1961 for expanding capacity.
 - Another Rs. 23.8 millions to the Hindustan Aluminium for expansion of their Pipri works.
 - Still another Rs. 52.4 millions for the Hindustan Aluminium, the third loan from the Export Import Bank, on July 30, 1964 for expansion programme.
- This is by no means an exhaustive list of the loans and grants which the Birlas have received from their American benefactors.
- Among those which have received grants are many educational institutions bearing the Birla name like the Birla Engineering College, Pilani (Rajasthan) and the Birla Agricultural College, Haringhata (West Bengal).
- No wonder, G. D. Birla found lots of "sympathy" in the United States. He should certainly show gratitude for the favours received.

Is Peace Impossible?

Editorial

THE AYUB DICTATORSHIP continues its flagrant violations of the ceasefire. Even more ominous is the news of the training of thousands of mujahids for still another invasion of Kashmir. A 'Crush India Day' is being organised in East Pakistan.

In such circumstances it is inevitable that the question should arise in the minds of honest men and women in this land: Is peace with Pakistan possible?

Our people earnestly desire peace. We hate war. And therefore our answer to this threat of imperialism and its Pakistani agents, to continue the war for a thousand years, cannot and must not be in the same coin. War is the creed of imperialism. Peace is the banner of the anti-imperialists.

The Pakistani aggressors at the instance of their imperialist masters, and also encouraged by the Chinese leadership, insist that they will not end their aggression except on their terms—that is unless India surrenders Kashmir which is an integral part of our Motherland.

Here again, it is obvious that peace-loving India's answer can never be in the same bellicose phraseology, whatever the provocation. Our position is clear: once the aggression is vacated, we are prepared to discuss all outstanding problems with the Pakistan government. We earnestly believe that bilateral negotiations, without imperialist interference, can ensure peace.

What has stood in the way of Indo-Pakistan peace these years has essentially been the support given to the Ayub dictatorship by the American and British imperialists. Today also, it is the imperialist powers which keep alive the flames of discord, which have aided and abetted the latest Pakistani aggression and which are desperately striving to help the Pakistani rulers to make the flames of war rage again as fiercely as before the ceasefire.

The Chinese leadership's role is to pour fuel on the fires lit by the imperialists. This it continues to perform, to the great glee of the imperialists.

India's answer must be twofold. First, of course, we must intensify by every means our efforts to strengthen our independent defence potential and all that that implies for the front and the rear. Second, India must take all necessary initiatives which could contribute towards peace.

Necessary Initiatives

The nation is already discussing in detail the full implications of the first necessity. But what about the second? What initiatives can and should be taken by India?

For a peaceful solution, it is absolutely necessary that the entire question must be taken out of reach of imperialist interference. There can be no real and lasting peace, as long as imperialism is able to use Pakistan as a base for its aggressive and disruptive operations for keeping the flames of conflict alive.

How are the imperialists to be put out of the picture?

FIRST, Pakistan must be compelled to quit the imperialist military pacts to which it is attached. This certainly implies the weakening of the stranglehold of the Ayub military dictatorship through the strengthening of the democratic forces of Pakistan. Fortunately, these forces have already begun to assert themselves more vigorously than ever before in East Pakistan, in the land of the Pakhtoons, in Baluchistan. Every encouragement and fraternal solidarity must be extended to the democratic forces in Pakistan.

SECOND, the offer of an Indo-Pak No-War Pact should be renewed and friendly international support for such a pact sought and secured.

THIRD, a vigorous campaign in support of the Soviet Union's good offices for a peaceful solution of all genuine disputes which may exist should be launched by the Government of India. This in itself would win support for India and be valuable further proof of India's sincere desire for peace.

There is a way to genuine peace with Pakistan. But it is a totally different way from that which the imperialists seek to impose on this country. The path to real peace is an anti-imperialist path. It has nothing in common with the paths proposed in any way of the imperialist-sponsored suggestions, even those sought to be put forward in the name of the United Nations.

WOBBLING ABOUT SELF-RELIANCE

WITH the return of Finance Secretary Boothalingam after studying the climate or rather the absence of climate for aid from the West and the projected visit of Finance Minister T. T. Krishnamachari to the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia (though postponed due to his illness), the government is faced with some hard decisions to take on the economic front.

It is now to be accepted, the earlier unstated hopes and expectations and S. K. Patil's capability to do business with his American friends notwithstanding, that India will have to reckon with a greatly curtailed quantum of aid from western countries in the long run and its almost total freeze for the time being.

The western big powers stand is linked quite openly and crudely with impossible political demands and therefore few in responsible positions in New Delhi are now sanguine about the prospects changing in the near future.

Even the western lobby, specially the US lobby, appears to be a little put out of its high optimism. Its adherents are no longer so sure of pulling anything big as thought when S. K. Patil launched his mission of persuasion in New York and Washington.

Indications are that Patil too will draw a blank till after a Shastri-Johnson meeting is arranged, which at present is the immediate demand of the US leaders.

Even while the lobby steps up its pressure for such a meeting with all its sinister implications of drawing India into accepting US mediation, though informal to start with, on Kashmir, Patil's doings in the USA are adding to the irritation in New Delhi.

The western lobby however per-

sists in its efforts, encouraged by New Delhi's hesitations in taking those hard economic policy decisions which have become imperative. Though there is much talk about self-reliance, the entire thinking and planning is in terms of resumption sooner or later of western economic aid.

It is precisely in this context that the proposal has been mooted to prepare two alternative plans—one on the basis of a greatly reduced quantum of foreign aid and the other on the basis that full aid will be available as earlier envisaged. In effect, this approach leaves the country open to every form of pressure for securing aid, if possible.

It has been rightly asked by some among the planners, if a plan of development is feasible

Such hesitations in taking positive decisions—allowing drift and waiting for others' decision and events to unfold—is the basis on which the American lobby operates.

For the proposal for a Shastri-Johnson meeting, there is support in various ways from even those in authority who do not form part of the lobby, but are not willing to take a bold stand about breaking from the apron strings of imperialist aid.

Among them might be mentioned Food Minister Subramaniam, Oil Minister Kabir and Planning Commission Deputy Chairman Asoka Mehta.

Reports are current that an important MP, who is its most effective speaker in the Lok Sabha, is showing willingness to accept an important diplomatic position abroad, if offered.

The government seems to be considering the possible gains of such an appointment.

—B. M.

release bihar detenues

THE Bihar government has released some of the political workers whom it had detained during the food agitation. But thousands are still in jail as detenus or undertrial prisoners.

Among those still in detention are Yogindra Sharma, member of the central secretariat of the CPI and several other state leaders of the CPI, SSP, RSP and SUC as also a large number of students, teachers and nongazetted government officials.

Hundreds of these people were held under detention orders passed by unauthorised officials; subdivisional officers and even a sub-inspector in one case. Blank detention orders were passed around for the convenience of the police and cases were registered en masse.



Yogindra Sharma

In September the Union government told Parliament that it had asked state governments to release all those

who had been arrested in connection with food agitations in July-August. In all the other states, most of the people have since been released too.

The Sahay government in Bihar, however, has refused to release the detained persons. There is no plausible reason for keeping these opposition workers in prisons.

On the other hand, the urgent necessity of boosting defence efforts demands that these people's leaders should be among the people. Sahay is actually hampering the defence efforts by refusing to release them.

We demand that all the detenus and undertrial prisoners in Bihar jails, arrested in connection with the food movement, student agitation and NGO struggle be released immediately. All pending cases against them should be withdrawn; warrants cancelled.

PUNJABI SUBA AND HARIANA PRANT DEMANDS SWELL

THE day after the cease-fire, the Government of India announced the appointment of a Cabinet sub-committee and a Parliamentary Committee to consider afresh the entire question of the linguistic reorganisation of Punjab. Great interest has been roused inside the state, as well as outside, particularly in the light of the experiences gained during the days since the latest Pakistani aggression.

Punjab has been in the front-line all the time. And the Punjabi people have all given a splendid account of themselves, not only in the armed forces, but also in the rear. How are the people of this front-line state reacting to the demand for Punjabi Suba and Haryana Prant? In this NEW AGE article, the Secretary of the Punjab State Council of the Communist Party gives us a detailed picture of the stand being taken on this vital question by different political and other forces in the state—EDITOR

The people of Punjab have, in general, welcomed the decision of the Government of India to set up two committees to examine the demands for the creation of a Punjabi Suba and a Haryana Prant. The very constitution of the committees has been taken to mean that the Centre means business, and has made up its mind to meet the legitimate demand for linguistic reorganisation.

In support of this conclusion, many people are quoting favourably from speeches made by President Radhakrishnan and also from the views expressed by members of the committees themselves.

While the formation of the high-level committees was widely welcomed by the mass of people, the reactionary forces in the state vehemently opposed it.

THE JAN SANGH went to the extent of attempting to rouse the communal sentiments of the Punjabi Hindus by suggesting that the formation of Punjabi Suba would mean the "vivisection" of Punjab and the formation of "a Sikh state."

MASTER TARA SINGH and his friends are only the other side of the same communal coin. They declared that a Punjabi Suba would only be another "stooze state" of the Congress, like other states formed on the linguistic basis. Said the Master:

"I want an independent political status for the Sikhs."

MASTER'S POISON

In his Urdu daily PRABHAT, Master Tara Singh pleaded for a "buffer Sikh state". And this has naturally given the Jan Sangh an excuse to intensify its own communal opposition to Punjabi Suba, on the ground that it will really be a "Sikhistan".

Fortunately for the nation, and unfortunately for both the Hindu and Sikh communalists, the Punjabis as a whole have refused to be then taken in by their disruptive propaganda.

Master Tara Singh has received a considerable setback as a result of the principled stand taken now by Sant Fateh Singh and the Akali Dal led by him, that the Punjabi Suba should be formed purely on the linguistic basis, and NOT on the religious basis. The Sant's party has strongly condemned Master Tara Singh's communal approach.

PRATAP, MILAP and HIND SAMACHAR, which have all along opposed Punjabi Suba on essentially communal grounds.

"Swamis" and "sadhus" are being mobilised by certain reactionary communal bodies to oppose Punjabi Suba and rouse communal passions. It is interesting to see that precisely those who have been attacking the Akalis for using the gurdwaras for political purposes are now themselves using communal religious meetings for their own political ends.

CENTRE'S BLESSINGS?

These Hindu communal bodies—the Arya Samaj, Sanatan Dharma Sabha etc.—are pressurising communal elements inside the Congress itself to join them in their campaign against the Punjabi Suba. The result has been that certain Congress leaders like the former Kalron Ministers Yash and Mohan Lal, and later even Chief Minister Ram

Perhaps it would be useful to recall that the present Punjab boundaries are products neither of patriotism nor of sacrifices of any heroes, of the kind Yash may claim to represent. The present boundaries of Punjab are the products of British rule and of its interests. The British conspired and conquered Punjab after the death of Maharaja Ranjit Singh; how they did this is well known. At that time, Ambala and Delhi divisions were in another province along with Meerut and Agra divisions.

REACTION FAILS TO FOIL GROWING MOVEMENT

BOUNDARIES NOT 'SACRED'

After the war of independence of 1857, Ambala and Delhi divisions were cut off by the British in 1858 and joined with the Punjab. The western province of Agra took a big part in the independence war, and the British punished it by dividing it. In 1912, when the British shifted the Indian capital from Calcutta to Delhi, they separated the Delhi Pradesh and the remaining area was left attached to Punjab.

It is also well-known that because they helped the British in 1857 the rulers of Patiala, Nabha and Jind were rewarded with certain parts of the Hindustani-speaking areas (Mahindergarh for Patiala, Bawal for Nabha and Dadri for Jind). After 1947 all these became part of the state of PEPSU and later, when PEPSU was merged with Punjab, all these areas also came into the state.

These facts show conclusively that the talk of the "sacredness" of the boundaries of Punjab is meant only to cover up a communal approach to the question and the absence of a principled stand.

A look at the formation of Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Orissa and Gujarat will convince any one that the old British-made provinces had to be reorganised almost in all cases. Then too those with vested interests spoke of the "sacredness" of boundaries and all the rest.

But as the reactionaries failed in those cases, so here too the movement for linguistic provinces cannot be held back.



by AVTAR SINGH MALHOTRA

On the other side, the Jan Sangh has received a slap in the face, as a result of the forthright stand taken by all the major political forces in Haryana. A united convention organised by the major political parties of the region has demanded the reorganisation of Punjab on a linguistic basis, and the formation of Haryana Prant or Maha Delhi.

It is important to note that even in the Punjabi-speaking region of Punjab, a substantial section of the Hindu population is now of the opinion that the entire problem should be solved once and for all. This section is therefore seriously examining the demand for a Punjabi Suba on its own merits, free of its communal overtones, which the pronouncements of Master Tara Singh and the Jan Sangh have tended to give it.

COMMUNALISTS ISOLATED

It is thus a fact that today the majority of the Punjabi masses have come out in support of the demands for Punjabi Suba and Haryana Prant. And this has caused complete confusion and consternation in the ranks of the communalists, Hindu and Sikh.

The bewilderment of the communalists is glaringly seen not only in the pages of the Jan Sangh Urdu daily FRADEEP, but also in the columns of such papers as

Firstly, many secular parties, known for their op-

ECONOMISTS ARE AGAINST PL 480

Criticism of government's dependence on PL 480 food imports voiced by distinguished economists who participated in the all-India seminar on agricultural policy, held this week-end in Vallabh Vidyanagar in Gujarat, has come not a day too soon.

IT adds to the strength of public feelings in this country roused recently by Washington's unabashed attempt to coerce India to settle with Pakistan on the Kashmir issue by withholding wheat supplies. The poisoned politics of PL 480 has never been more convincingly demonstrated to our people than now.

But the severe criticism of PL 480 heard at the seminar on agricultural policy has also drawn attention to the disastrous consequences to our agriculture which have flowed from the administration's acceptance of these US food imports as an easy way to overcome recurring food deficits.

This is more important from the point of view of long term policies and measures to feed our population adequately.

The compulsions of the post-cessation situation, in which there is so much new awareness among all sections of the need for self-reliance, inevitably point to the necessity of a total departure from the hitherto dependence of the government on imported US foodgrains. The economists have put it rather mildly as a "serious review" of the policy.

They, however, did not mince words when pointing out that the policy of PL 480 food imports has been "responsible for stagnation in the agricultural economy during the first three years of the Third Plan and for prolongation or postponement by the government in formulating a sound agricultural policy for the country."

This leaves no alternative except a complete reversal of that policy, which has injured our agriculture and brought humiliation to our people.

Another point in the economists' criticism relates to the policy of meeting the heavy cost of food imports by boosting the export of cash crops, a policy which was propagated and put into practice by that same S. K. Patil, champion of PL 480 and other US "assistance."

The economists have pointed out that "it was highly improper to spend as much as Rs. 100 crores on food imports annually and at the same time subsidize exports of commodities like sugar, the foreign exchange earnings from which were only 'meagre'." (PTI)

Here one would recall some of the debates in Parliament, when Patil as Food Minister used to boast and harangue how successful his scheme of agriculture would be to solve the food problem. The result of that boast is now witnessed in the despair on the food front and the pressures from the US blackmailers on the political front.

It is therefore altogether

welcome that more and more people are coming round to the view that Patil's PL 480 is no good for our self-respect and also for our stomachs. Dr. V. K. R. V. Rao, member of the Planning Commission is another notable person to come out this week with the suggestion that PL 480 food imports have to be stopped within a definite period of time.

The Prime Minister himself declared, while addressing a mammoth public meeting in Bombay this Sunday, that the country would no longer depend on the PL 480 food supplies from the US.

He has said: "We do not want to depend on that aid. We want to stand on our own legs, we will not yield to any diplomatic pressure because of the aid we receive."

After this, the people would expect the Prime Minister to take a few bold steps to end this humiliating chapter of PL 480 in government's food policy and move on to con-

Comment

crete actions to implement the resolve to self-reliance.

Observers And The Ceasefire

ALMOST a month after the cease-fire, the situation on the western front still holds little promise of a return to normalcy and peace since Pakistan has continuously kept up her provocations.

India has therefore drawn the attention of the UN Secretary-General to the danger of this precarious cease-fire being irretrievably ruptured if Pakistan does not stop the air attacks and other violations of the cease-fire.

The number of air viola-

tions committed by Pakistan, 48 since October 1, all along the border from Jammu to Rajasthan, is proof enough that Rawalpindi has no intention of respecting the truce that was brought about under UN auspices.

Further, the problem of Pak raiders and infiltrators has all along posed a big challenge to any easing of

seriousness of the situation and in that connection referred to the military training being given to mujahids in Pakistan.

It is therefore necessary in this context to repeat once again that the attitude of the Secretary-General to cease-fire and withdrawal has been from the very beginning unhelpful to a solution of the real problem, namely withdrawal of all infiltrators by Pakistan and prevention of further infiltration, and to that extent opposed to the stand taken by India.

To the Indian request that the cease-fire be administered by a single group of observers under one command also, U Thant has said "no".

This attitude of the UN Secretary-General plus the support which Pakistan has continued to receive from her imperialist mentors evidently encourages Rawalpindi to defy cease-fire and provoke a resumption of conflict.

As for the UN observers, the telling facts given by Kashmir Premier G. M. Sadiq in the civic reception accorded to him in the capital last week should make New Delhi wary of placing any trust in them. Sadiq was blunt to point out that these "observers", many of whom are drawn from NATO countries, are not as impartial as they are supposed to be and have even tried to help Pakistan. Naturally, Pakistan is emboldened to violate the cease-fire, which is under their supervision (October 18)

-K.U. WARIER

Big Berthas Of US Imperialism

AFTER Sadoba Patil comes Ghanshyamdasji.

One by one the Big Berthas of American imperialism in our land—members of the American Lobby—are being brought into play. Their objective: to bring India back into Washington's "good books", firstly, and also to restore the shattered prestige and illusions about America in our country.

The job of the two Big Berthas is evenly shared out. While Patil is on his mission of "rapportment" between New Delhi and Washington, engaged in dubious behind-the-scenes deals on Kashmir, Birlaji is engaged in the more difficult task of soothing Indian feelings, outraged by American imperialism during the Indo-Pak hostilities. He is trying his damndest best to restore the false image of a friendly America in the wounded hearts of millions of Indians.

Just back from the States, Birlaji has announced with a gusto: Prime Minister Shastri would receive "tremendous sympathy and affection" on his visit to the United States. What visit—is it the one which Sadoba is preparing for?

But Birlaji knows that the cleavage between the Indian

people and American imperialism is not to be easily bridged. So he goes all out on his job.

Here are a few gems from his first pronouncement after the American sojourn. And if you begin to disbelieve what you read, be assured that the quotes have been checked up with a reliable scribe of the Birla empire, the HINDU-STAN TIMES.

First of Birla's shots, fired in the presence of Prime Minister Shastri, at a public function in Bombay: Birla said, during his recent visit to the United States he found "unqualified sympathy and admiration" for the way in which Shastri handled the critical situation of the Pakistani aggression in Kashmir and Kutch!

Another tongue-in-cheek shot of Birla's: during the hostilities, pictures sympathetic to India were shown over US television networks!

So the clippings of American press coverage which have been received in India—slandering and lying versions against our country—are just imagination and moonshine, and only Birlaji's "sympathetic pictures" are true.

But hard as the dozen of Indian capitalists may try, Indians cannot just forget the death and murder which American equipment has rain-

ed on India, no amount of soothing words can alter the reality of these murder weapons.

Together with these Big Berthas of the American Lobby, the smaller ones are by no means lagging behind.

One of these is the Punjab Education Minister, Prabodh Chandra, whose recent visit to Britain was quite an affair in itself, the only unwholesome part being the hold up of the accompanying son-in-law by Foreign Exchange enforcement people at Palam Airport.

Shame-facedly forgetting the martyrs of the Punjab who fought the American Sabres and Pattons with death-defying valour, Prabodh Chandra grew red hot in the Punjab Assembly when patriotic speeches took an anti-American turn.

He went out of his way to attack Prime Minister Shastri for having cut a Patton-shaped cake on his birthday. He wanted nothing to be done to hurt the British and the Americans, but everything to "win" them, to remove their "misunderstandings" and to "explain things" to them.

Here is a State Minister who openly defies his chief, the Prime Minister, and gets away with it. Not that the

SPOTLIGHT

Punjab legislators ignored Prabodh Chandra's fulminations. They gave him back hard for his diatribes for all they were worth. But there has been not a word from the High Command of his party!

There is however one notable difference in the stands taken by Birlaji and Prabodh Chandra. While the Punjab Minister is equally concerned about protecting Britain and America from the anger of the Indian people, Birla would not mind if the British get a shoeing.

Reason: Americans won't mind a little screwing up of British positions in India if the American capitalists can replace them. And Birlaji is particularly chummy these days with the Kaisers of the United States.

Want to hear this part of the story straight from the mouth of Birlaji? Then here it is (courtesy HINDUSTAN TIMES): Birla said he was greatly disappointed at the fact that he did not find the same atmosphere in Britain. "I was disappointed and felt suffocated by the hostile attitude of England", Birla said. Draw your own conclusions.

-BHIMA

Economic notes

NEW SLOGAN: LAND TO THE CAPITALIST?

IT would appear from the Prime Minister's Bombay speech that the government has come to a decision to make India free of reliance on imported food as rapidly as possible. American blackmail on PL 480 supplies makes such a decision absolutely necessary. It would be all to the good if such a decision which should have been taken at the very dawn of freedom, is taken at least now. Better late than never.

The importance of such a decision, which the Communist Party and the democratic movement had been consistently pressing for, should not be underestimated. It will be of immense significance in consolidating the anti-imperialist economic foundations of our independence.

It should be realised that the foodgrains imported annually at the highest level was about seven million tonnes or about eight per cent of our indigenous production. Together with the imports, the daily per capita availability of foodgrains comes to about 16.7 ounces. Without imports it comes to about 15.3 ounces—a cut of only 1.4 ounces.

But food imports would loom much larger if considered as a proportion of the marketed surplus of foodgrains in India, anything between 25 to 30 per cent. Thus, stoppage of imports in the immediate period poses more of a problem of procurement and distribution of indigenous production.

No Steps Yet For Rationing

The government has talked of rationing in big cities and procurement directly from producers. But precious little has been concretely done in the matter. Unless the government is made to move far more rapidly, a very serious crisis can erupt in the coming months.

There seems to be quite an amount of confusion about monopoly procurement and levy. It would certainly not

be correct for the government to take up the entire surplus in the form of a levy. Exemption limits apart, the levy should comprise only a certain proportion of the production to be bought at a suitable minimum price.

It would however be dangerous if the remaining surplus or future surpluses were left to be bought by the wholesale private trade. State monopoly of the wholesale trade is essential even for the success of limited procurement in the shape of a levy. Here, the purchase price could be suitably higher than the procurement price so as to stimulate food production.

Operate on Two Levels

It would appear that Professor Danwala and others wanted limited procurement by the state and purchase of the rest by private trade. It would be far better if the state was both procurer and purchaser but operating with different sets of prices.

In addition, it should be borne in mind that the loss of foodgrains in India is colossal. The Central Food Technological Research Institute has estimated that steps can be taken to avoid the loss of foodgrains to the extent of 11 million tonnes of rice or about 25 per cent of the entire crop. Incidentally, this works out to 50 per cent more than the total food imports.

The government's failure on the distribution and waste front is not, however, the only point of concern. The problem of increased production is, at the rock bottom, the main problem. It is here that the government has now come forward with a disgraceful proposal.

On October 8 Union Food Minister C. Subramaniam announced in Hyderabad that the government "was considering a proposal to permit joint stock companies to undertake agriculture on unrelieved lands... the government would take a final decision in this

regard very soon. He thought that no fresh legislation was needed for the purpose as the government intended to give unrelieved land to companies on lease."

On October 12, V. K. R. V. Rao said in Poona that agriculture should be treated as a business... experience has proved that a 'land to the tiller' programme was not enough to solve the country's agricultural problems and that it had in fact created more production problems than it had solved. The same was the case with ceilings on land.

Finally, on October 15, the TIMES OF INDIA reported that the government has decided to allow four or five privately owned large farms in the reclaimed land in the Rajasthan Canal Area. These would be five thousand acre farms requiring a capital outlay of about one crore rupees each.

It was further pointed out that such farms require an investment of Rs. 2,000 an acre, while in Suratgarh the investment was only Rs. 300 an acre, leading to poor performance. This is another case of sabotage in the public sector.

Private Sector Interest

It seems that "a large number of major industrial houses have agreed to make the capital and other investment if they are provided the land and the requisites like irrigation, fertilisers and pesticides."

"The government concedes that the proposal runs contrary to the policy of land reforms which has been the plank of the Congress party since the days of the national movement but it feels that it provides the only means of bringing about a quick increase in

food production." From reliance on the US monopolists, a switch is to be made to reliance on Indian tycoons and may be even foreign monopoly houses operating in India like the Hindustan Lever!

And this is done when only a bare six weeks ago the Planning Commission endorsed the Ladjinsky report which categorically states that the food production drive is essentially dependent on radical land reforms.

And when the FAO report equally categorically states that "the institutional problems of agriculture are proving more intractable than those of investment... the greatest single obstacle to increased production... is the lack of any real incentives to cultivators in many countries to increase their production for the market, especially the production of foodstuffs."

In the name of national defence and self-reliance the government is seeking to give a dangerously reactionary turn to their already retrograde agrarian policies. The entire democratic movement, congressmen included, will have to take up arms against it on this vital issue.

-MOHIT SEN

A PATRIOT'S NOTEBOOK

NAPALM-MAKERS: ESSO, CYANAMID & KAISERS

ON at least two occasions during the recent Indo-Pak conflict, the Pakistani Air Force is known to have used napalm bombs against Indian towns and villages. The napalms were of course provided by the godfathers of the Ayub regime, US imperialism.

Who makes the horror that is known as napalm bomb for the Pentagon? After all, in the land of free enterprise, nothing, not even bombs are produced by the government; it is all done on contract by the free enterprise.

Well, the names of the makers and suppliers of the napalm bombs are kept a top secret even in the "free world". Not that the US monopolies are that shy in announcing their contracts from the Pentagon and the US Army.

But napalm is an entirely different commodity. People all over the world, especially in Asia and Africa who are subjected to the heinous crime of napalm bombing, might not take kindly to its producers. And so, the napalm makers and suppliers keep to the dictum, silence is golden.

However, like all good secrets, some information regarding the makers and suppliers of napalm have also been available. And what is thus available should make every Indian sit up and take note.

The first napalm bomb was developed at the Gibbs Laboratory at Harvard (nobody in this country might have associated the name Harvard with

such activities as napalm-making). One Louis F. Feiser headed the second-world-war-time work at the Gibbs Laboratory.

Recently, Feiser and five other Harvard scientists described in detail how the horror bomb was developed and manufactured in the process, these scientists also disclosed the names of some of the concerns which supplied the material for making the napalm and later on took up its production itself.

Three names among them deserve special notice by Indians. They are: the Standard Oil Development Co., now known as the Esso, Research and Engineering, the American Cyanamid and the Permanente Metals, now called the Kaiser Aluminium and Chemicals.

The Standard Oil (Esso) had played a major role in the US warlord's napalm programme from the beginning. It helped in the development of the horror-bomb and ran field trials. It continues to supply the major raw material for the napalm—petroleum.

The American Cyanamid supplied some of the materials needed for making napalm. Even in current American trade journals, the company is listed as making sodium aluminium, a basic chemical for the napalm bomb, though the word 'napalm' is discreetly kept out.

The Permanente Metals (Kaisers), along with the Esso, helped in the development of the bomb and provided some of the raw materials needed. Aluminium is also a component of napalm.

All the three American monopolies are today operating

in India and carting away huge profits out of their operations. Esso needs no introduction. It is the second biggest foreign oil monopoly in the country.

Cyanamid is also a known name; it is one of the biggest pharmaceutical concerns in the country. Behind that seemingly innocent reputation and concern for human welfare is hid the claws of profit hunger. The Cyanamid India is a subsidiary of the American Cyanamid.

The Kaisers are expanding their field of activity in India. They are already collaborating with the Birlas in the Hindustan Aluminium plant at Rihand; they are planning to further collaborate with the Birlas in setting up a pig iron plant in Bihar.

May be, the profit-hungry American monopoly capital is utilising some of the profits it reaps in India to make their horror bombs which in turn they are selling to the Pentagon for use against us Indians and reap still higher profits.

It is high time that the employees of these concerns in India told the American capitalist sharks some hometruths. They should definitely make sure that their sweat and labour are not contributing to the making of any horror bombs which are used against their fellow citizens.

The people of this country should also take note of the activities of these American monopoly concerns. The demand for the nationalisation of all foreign capital should be strengthened more by such disclosures.

-P.V. PARAKAL



This volume contains articles and speeches of Ajoy Ghosh, the former General Secretary of the Communist Party of India who died in January 1962. They concern the major social, economic and political problems of India and they show the way to solving them. The articles and speeches are chronologically arranged and they will be of immense help for an understanding and solution of present-day problems of India. Rs. 1.55

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MILLIONAIRE NABBED

U. P. Minister's Favourite Caught In Anti-National Activities?

From RAMESH SINHA

LUCKNOW: The story of the arrest of a millionaire of Kanpur and his alleged smuggling racket during recent Indo-Pak hostilities, has entered a new phase, with speculations rife in the state capital regarding official and political pressures working to save the culprit.

THE tycoon Lakshmi Chand, who was caught and exposed for sending to Pakistan, in the name of fictitious persons, 80 tons of iron sheets in over 21 consignments, has also been found in possession of large quantities of these sheets as well as a wide range of foreign goods.

The search of his godowns and offices had brought out not only 13,493 iron sheets, but also large quantities of foreign-made transistors, binoculars, watches, cigarette lighters, liquor and other things. It is also alleged that there was a transmitter also among these goods.

Also several boxes full of secret records of the smuggling gang's doings, including diaries, showing the various sums given by Lakshmi Chand to numerous officials, past and present, were reportedly found in the search.

Permits By The Wads

Then there were whole wads of blank permit books, signed in advance by the District Supply Officer which could be used by Lakshmi Chand to collect stocks of iron sheets as and when their supplies arrived.

It is well known that iron sheets these days are issued to people only against per-

mits, which are difficult to obtain.

But Lakshmi Chand, apparently, had no difficulty of obtaining these sheets and he was sending them to a place called Naroda on the Gujarat-Pakistan border, from where they were being smuggled into Pakistan.

Attempt To Bribe

The arrest and search were ordered by a judicial magistrate of Kanpur, to bribe whom Lakshmi Chand is reported to have made a vain attempt, offering Rs. 6,000 and then raising it to even Rs. 1,50,000.

The exposure of this anti-national smuggling racket had figured in the UP legislature when members were incensed by the replies of the state Home Minister Har Govind Singh and his deputy, Sheo Prasad Gupta, both of whom tried to make light of the affair.

However, it was then stated that the matter has been taken over by the Central Government.

Chief Minister Sucheta Kripalani also then assured that stern action would be taken against the culprit.

But now people's apprehensions have been roused over reports that very influential and highly placed persons in

the state are trying to save the smuggler-tycoon and persuade the authorities to drop the case, quietly.

It is openly alleged in political and business circles that the son of a state minister is in the employ of Lakshmi Chand. Also the names of the son-in-law of a former Chief Minister and of the father-in-law of another minister are being mentioned in this connection.

Adding to these apprehensions are a few unexplained actions of the authorities who proceeded boldly in the beginning to act against Lakshmi Chand. Although the latter was arrested under section 165 IPC, DIR, and EC Act for allegedly serious offences, he was let out on bail the very next day!

The procedure adopted by the officials' search party which searched his godowns looked strange, to say the least. Firstly, no inventory was made of the goods reco-

vered. Secondly, after the search was begun on September 18, it was suspended for one day and resumed only on September 18. Why?

In view of all these, there is a strong demand among the public that the Union Home Minister himself should look into this case and set in motion the central machinery to bring to book all the gully persons connected with this racket.

Communist leader and MLA, S. S. Yusuf, in a letter to the Chief Minister has drawn her attention to the various aspects of the case and charged certain local officials with trying to whitewash the whole thing and save Lakshmi Chand.

Yusuf has also demanded a thorough inquiry into the allegation that this Lakshmi Chand, who owns at least 50 different concerns in Kanpur and elsewhere, has been receiving special favours in the form of licences, permits and contracts from the state Food Minister Negi.

British Banks Swell Pakistani War Fund

From AJOY DASGUPTA

CALCUTTA: The anti-Indian and pro-Pakistani stance of British capital in this country has come out more sharply during the recent Indo-Pak conflict.

This anti-Indian attitude is not confined to the British tea planters in Assam. The dirty role of some of the British banks operating in India has now been exposed.

Pakistan Radio announced recently that British concerns working in Pakistan had made substantial donations to the Pak war fund. Particular mention was made of the National Grindlays and the Mercantile banks.

These two banks, the Pakistan Radio said, had donated one lakh rupees each to the war fund. And the donations were made after Pakistan had launched the attack on India.

But these banks, which have wide networks in India have not contributed anything to the National Defence Fund after the Pakistani aggression.

Kashmir Part of Pak!

It may be recalled that the National Grindlays Bank had showed Kashmir as a part of Pakistan in its balance sheet of 1959. It had to withdraw this in face of strong protests from its Indian staff.

Another interesting instance is that of the general manager of the Allahabad Bank, an affiliate of the British-owned Chartered Bank. It is Indian only in name.

This gentleman issued a personal appeal to all staff to contribute to India's "war

CONGRESS TYCOONS IN DOG-HOUSE

CALCUTTA: Two pillars of private sector, multimillionaires and donors to the Congress coffers, are in the dog-house for allegedly anti-national activities.

Their arrest by the police under the Defence of India Rules on October 8 has caused a sensation in the city.

The arrested tycoons are Gajraj Saraogi and his son Pannalal Saraogi.

Their residence was searched and it is reported that incriminating documents showing underhand business deals with Pakistan and other irregular transactions were seized.

It is said that these two were carrying on business with Pakistan even after her aggression against India.

Pannalal Saraogi was a Congress MLC. He is one of the key-men of Atulya Ghosh's gang in Calcutta.

Saraogi's paid substantial sums for building the costly West Bengal Pradesh Congress Bhavan on the fashionable Chowringee Road.

QUIT COMMONWEALTH

BLACK FLAGS FOR FREEMAN

From S. SHARMA

TRIVANDRUM: Quit Commonwealth slogan has been raised from scores of public meetings held throughout Kerala last week under the auspices of the Communist Party, trade unions, peace committees and other mass organisations.

In these meetings resolutions were passed demanding severance of relations with the Commonwealth and urging Government of India to resist Anglo-American pressures on Kashmir.

The Badagara Municipal Council has adopted a resolu-

tion moved by Communist councillor Kumaran urging the Government of India to sever connections with the Commonwealth.

As the state was observing the Quit Commonwealth week the British High Commissioner John Freeman was on a private visit to Kerala.

And so in places where he went he had to face angry crowds, young workers and students giving a lead to the protest demonstrations.

Freeman had a difficult time explaining the stand of his government on the Indo-Pak conflict at press conferences where also he had to face inconvenient questions.

British Shut Plants, Sabotage Defence

From SADHAN MUKHERJEE

JAMSHEDPUR: Two British companies have added their share to sabotage of India's defence efforts; they have decided to close down all their production units for an indefinite period.

THESE companies are, Tinplate Company (managing agents, Shaw Wallace) and Indian Copper (managing agents, Gillanders Arbuthnot)—both British firms incorporated in England.

Both companies produce material to meet defence requirements: tin plates for all sorts of containers and equipments and copper-brass ingots for artillery pieces, ammunition shells etc. Both Tinplate and Indian Copper are virtually monopoly concerns in India.

Another British company, Indian Cable (managing agents, British Insulated Cables Ltd.) has slowed down production, cutting down manufacture of cables so vital to defence communications.

While Tinplate and Indian Cable have their factories located in Jamshedpur, Indian Copper is situated at Maubhandar near Jamshedpur.

False Argument

Tinplate and Indian Copper have advanced the argument that due to foreign exchange shortage they are unable to import zinc, essential for manufacture of tinplates, thus necessitating closure. The Indian Cable's plea is fall in demand.

Both arguments are fictitious. Tinplate and Indian Copper import zinc only from Canada and have so far consistently refused to import zinc from Burma, which involves less foreign exchange.

The demand for cables has

Madras Protest

MADRAS: The Madras Youth League organised a demonstration before the British Information Service and the United States consulate on October 16 to condemn these countries' anti-Indian stand.

The demonstration was part of the Quit Commonwealth Week observed all over Tamilnad from October 10 to 17 on the call of the Tamilnad Youth Federation.

The Madras Youth League took out a procession from Bhagat House in Broadway to Mount Road where the offices of the BIS and the US consulate are situated.

Two Hundred Meetings In Andhra Towns

From C. RAGHAVACHARY

HYDERABAD: About a hundred towns and industrial centres in Andhra Pradesh held mass rallies, meetings and processions on October 10 to demand that India quit the Commonwealth.

The day was observed as QUIT COMMONWEALTH DAY in response to the call given by the All India Peace Council. The call was supported by the Communist Party and the All India Youth Federation.

A significant feature of these meetings and rallies in Andhra was the participation of persons with various political affiliations. The broadest unity of democratic forces was achieved in the campaign.

All-Party Response

A ten thousand strong meeting at Guntur was presided over by veteran Congress leader N. V. L. Narasimha Rao. Speakers included Tummalala Chowdary of the SSP, Sharma of the PSP and N. Rajashekhar Reddy of the CPI.

Similar all-party meetings were held in the working class areas of Hyderabad.

At the meeting in the Mushirabad industrial area, speakers were noted film

director K. A. Abbas, Rajashekhar Reddy, Vavilala Gopalakrishnaiah, Congress MLA T. Anjiah and CPI leader Makhdoom Mohiuddin.

In the Sanatnagar industrial area, the meeting was addressed by Vavilala Gopalakrishnaiah and Makhdoom Mohiuddin. K. L. Mahendra presided.

At Vijayawada an impressive procession was taken out. A meeting was addressed by Vavilala Gopalakrishnaiah and Chalasani Venkataratnam, youth leader and municipal councillor. It was presided over by T. Venkateswar Rao the CPI leader.

At Masulipatam four hundred youth volunteers marched through the streets shouting anti-imperialist slogans. A meeting held after the demonstration was addressed by Dasari Nagabhushan Rao.

Meanwhile, the Andhra state council of the CPI held a session and reviewed the campaign. The Council felt that it was a great success.

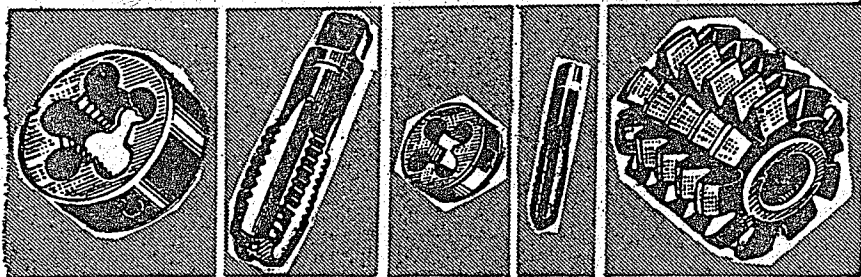
During the days of Pakistani aggression in September, the Party had held about two hundred meetings all over the state to explain the CPI's stand on the situation.

As many as eighty meetings were held in Krishna district alone.



Calcutta protest against Anglo-American conspiracy against India. Indrajit Gupta is speaking before USIS office.

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HAS NONALIGNMENT PASSED THE TEST?

A NEW LOOK AT INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

Planfully and with painstaking care have the parties of reaction built up their latest campaign for a reversal of the policy of nonalignment. No longer do they use the old "arguments", discredited and rejected by the Indian people a hundred times before. Now the advocates for the prosecution have an entirely different brief to plead against nonalignment.

LIKE a running thread through the new brief, goes the following theme in several variations:

These days, during which we have had to do battle for the defence of the country, they have continued and even stepped up their economic cooperation with India in vital sectors.

It is necessary to examine first the hypothesis: Are we "alone"? Have we had no friends during these days of crisis?

Unfortunately for the country, the "we-are-alone" thesis has been fed even by those who should know better. Only last week, Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri himself declared, in an interview with ELITZ, that "We are alone".

Of course, he evidently wished to say this in order to emphasise the perfectly valid point, that our struggle is essentially our own and we shall continue it, irrespective of the extent of support we receive from others.

We Are Alone False Thesis

But the "we are alone" ghost was there. It has been there in pronouncements from high places right through the tough days of August-September. And the unseemly scramble since by Ministers and other VIPs to dash abroad "to win friends and influence people" has also been based on the "we are alone" thesis.

Yes, the reactionary, pro-imperialist forces must have found themselves "alone". Their benefactors and patrons in London and Washington were all too evidently hostile to India. So also were the usual hangers-on of imperialism—the governments which are members of the imperialist military pacts.

But fortunately for India, the world is no longer one in which the majority of nations are either imperialists themselves or stooges of imperialism.

That is why India—non-aligned, anti-imperialist India—was NOT ALONE. To appreciate the tremendous friendship displayed by the Soviet Union towards India during this period, as the Prime Minister has repeatedly and openly done, and at the same time to say "we are alone" is itself a contradiction in terms.

But apart from the Soviet Union, the other leading socialist countries in Europe have also extended valuable support to India on the two crucial issues, where their

help was most needed. First, they have reiterated their belief that Kashmir is an integral part of India. And second, they have continued and even stepped up their economic cooperation with India in vital sectors.

This support has been demonstrated vividly during President Radhakrishnan's recent visit to socialist countries in Europe.

Take again the case of the nonaligned Arab countries. It is true that pro-imperialist governments among them, like that of Jordan, have openly sided with the Pakistani aggression. But the Arab countries as a whole remained friendly to India. Despite all its efforts, the Ayub dictatorship could not succeed in persuading the recent Arab summit to support its demand for a plebiscite in Kashmir.

The friendship of the United Arab Republic for India has remained firm and unshaken, like a rock.

Anti-imperialist Africa has also firmly spurned Chinese and Pakistani efforts to weaken its friendship with India.

Let it also be clear, that the principal reason why the Sino-Pakistani efforts to influence anti-imperialist Afro-Asian nations failed was the fact that India is a nonaligned nation while Pakistan is tied to imperialist military pacts.

It is thus that one can come to two basic conclusions simultaneously:

● India's anti-imperialist friends did not desert her. We are NOT ALONE.

● India's adherence to the policy of nonalignment ensured her such friendship and support of the anti-imperialist nations as she received.

Support But Not Enthusiasm

HAVING said this much it is necessary to go further and examine more carefully and in greater detail, why during this period of conflict there has not been that enthusiastic and spontaneous solidarity with India which should have been expected.

It is often stated that our diplomacy and publicity abroad are defective. This is certainly a fact. But it cannot explain the entire story.

Again, it is suggested by the communalists that the Arab nations and some other countries of Asia and Africa were influenced by religious affinities in favour of Pakistan—the common cause of Islam.

In today's world, these considerations are by no means of such significance. And there are plenty of facts to prove this.

Others still suggest that China's support of Pakistan's case gave "respectability" and an anti-imperialist colour to the demand for self-determination for Kashmir, which it never had before. This may, of course, have been a factor of some slight importance. But again, it cannot explain away the comparative absence of what may be called enthusiasm in anti-imperialist circles in support of India's defence against aggression.

It is not difficult to know the truth. Even a short conversation with representatives of nonaligned Afro-Asian countries in the capital will enable one to understand what has exactly been responsible for this lack of enthusiasm.

Indian foreign policy, while remaining basically

nonaligned, has failed to keep pace with the rising anti-imperialist tempo in the nonaligned world. New Delhi could and should have been a storm centre of the great movements for liberation of the African peoples.

by **ROMESH CHANDRA**

It is not. To this day, the offices of the freedom movements of South Africa, Angola, Mozambique and other countries have not been allowed to be opened in the capital, despite repeated requests from the leaders of these movements.

More, the impression was certainly created during re-

cent years and particularly after the Chinese aggression that Indian policies are leaning a little too heavily towards imperialism. It is not necessary to recount the stories of the Voice of America deal, the joint air exer-

cises, the silence regarding the entry of the US Seventh Fleet into the Indian Ocean and all the rest.

With the death of Jawaharlal Nehru, an impression WAS created that a shift to the right had taken place in foreign policy at any rate. This was a false impression, but nevertheless

certain stupid and utterly wrong actions by government representatives contributed towards this impression. The performance of T. T. Krishnamachari at the Commonwealth Conference of 1964, the failure to join the protest against the presence of Moshe Tshombe at the non-aligned conference in Cairo and the rather servile dash to London by Prime Minister Shastri after the election victory of the Labour Party—none of these added to India's stature, and the impression that a shift to the right had taken place persisted.

Though 1965 saw some improvement in India's image, notably as a result of the Prime Minister's visits to the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia, the pre-

vious impression was not completely wiped off.

Above all, the attitude to American aggression in Vietnam left much to be desired. Despite positive points, like the demand for ending US bombings and later the acceptance of the fact that the South Vietnam Liberation Front must be represented in any peace talks, Indian policy remained hesitant and at times shamefully silent on the vital issues involved.

As a matter of fact, there was a dangerous backsliding in Indian policy on Vietnam, in the period immediately before the latest Pakistani aggression. The democratic forces drew urgent attention to this and pointed out its grim consequences for India herself.

The anti-imperialist feelings of our people have grown due to the amity shown to us by the US and British governments. The

It can be said without the slightest danger of being wrong that, had the Government of India pursued sharper anti-imperialist policies, particularly in regard to Vietnam, in the most recent period, the anti-imperialist world would have supported India at this time with real enthusiasm.

Anti-Imperialist Edge to Policy

LET us now come to the lessons of the Pakistani aggression as far as our foreign policy is concerned. Certainly, nonalignment has stood the test and proved itself to be the best policy for our country.

The anti-imperialist feelings of our people have grown due to the amity shown to us by the US and British governments. The

* OVERLEAF



BEWARE OF THE BOMBWALAS

THE Prime Minister has done well to make a categorical declaration that India's policy was not to manufacture the atom bomb, and "we shall stick to it". This declaration, made at a press conference at Aurangabad on October 19, should put a stop to speculation on this urgent matter.

It would be unfair to dub all the bomb partisans as people who seek a change in India's policy of peace and non-alignment by the back door. Some of the bomb-makers are simply ignorant busybodies. But there need be no illusions about the most vociferous of the bombwalas.

The right reactionary forces in the country seek to create a mentality in the country, which can best be described as bellicose and one of war-hysteria. They seek to make people believe that India cannot defend herself without nuclear weapons. They do this with the sinister purpose of later turning the bomb mania to their own advantage: they will plead for the free bomb... the US umbrella or shield... as soon as the question of the high costs of nuclear weapons is raised.

Already reports from Washington indicate that side by side with the make-the-bomb propaganda in India, is also growing in the USA, hope of the acceptance by India of a "guarantee", which is just another name for the umbrella. The INDIAN EXPRESS correspondent reports from Washington that "the idea (of a nuclear guarantee) is regarded as urgent in view of the growing demand in India for an atomic test..."

The Prime Minister's forthright reiteration of Indian opposition to the bomb will help to brighten India's image abroad. It stands out in striking contrast to the rabid speech of Chinese Foreign Minister Chen Yi, who not only proclaimed China's intention to "explode more bombs, but also called for the possession of nuclear weapons by all Afro-Asian nations (Of course, he refused to agree to help them to make the bombs!)

Inside India, the make-the-bomb lobby remains largely the same in its composition as before the Pakistani aggression of August 5. The only addition to the lobby appears to be E. M. S. Namboodiripad, who has evidently shifted his stand and that of his party, and now proclaims that this is a matter for the government to decide and he will support whatever decision the government takes!

This "unconditional" support to government on this issue appears strange, when contrasted with all the other issues on which Namboodiripad does not hesitate to give his advice and criticism. One can only interpret this ambivalence as a turn about in policies... for reasons on which one can speculate with astonishment and a little horror.

(October 20)

EMS ON KASHMIR, CHINA : 'MARXIST' SOLUTION !

The right reactionary forces in the country are competing with each other in demanding the arrest of E. M. S. Namboodiripad and even a ban on the Marxist Communist Party. The Jan Sangh has launched a vigorous nationwide campaign which began with an open call in the ORGANISER, titled "The Only Answer for Namboodiripad Is... D.I.R."

IN Kerala, the Muslim League president has also called for Namboodiripad's arrest as "it would be dangerous to leave Mr. Namboodiripad at large to openly question the basic policies of the government on disputes with Pakistan and China".

The Kerala committee of the Swatantra Party has adopted a resolution making the same demand.

The monopoly press has also joined the campaign.

The motives of the reactionary forces in the country are not by any means patriotic, despite their loud protestations against what they call the "treachery" of Namboodiripad. They seek to use this campaign to boost their own reactionary, pro-imperialist policies. Anti-communism has never been inspired by worthy aims and principles.

No progressive in this country can therefore have anything to do with the reactionary forces' anti-Namboodiripad chorus, whatever the ostensible ground of their song.

Unfortunately, however, the stand taken by Namboodiripad and the Marxist Communists during these days has given cause for deep concern even among those who cannot be accused of having reactionary motives.

Most of the left parties have expressed their complete dissociation with the views expressed by Namboodiripad and his party in regard to Kashmir and settlements with Pakistan and China.

What has been most disconcerting has been the complete confusion which appears to mark the various statements issued by Namboodiripad. They have often been contradictory and usually give the appearance of someone talking with his tongue-in-the-cheek, but doing this in a terribly naive and childish fashion.

The reactionary forces have seized upon the fact that the various organs of the Marxist Communist Party have not distinguished themselves for consistency. Few of them have even published the most important of Namboodiripad's positive statements on defence. Their stand on certain issues has been different from that taken by the leader of their party.

In regard to Kashmir, Namboodiripad's stand has kept varying from statement to statement. But in his latest formal communication to left parties, he says little more than that we should take the position that "Kashmir is a part of India with a special status".

In regard to China, Namboodiripad now advocates "direct negotiations on the basis of recognition of Chinese suzerainty over Tibet and accommodation with her with regard to the Akaal Chhina region".

The Communist Party and other progressive forces in the country strongly differ with the Marxist Communists in regard to their equivocal stand on the vital issues of our

relations with Pakistan and China.

Kashmir is an integral part of India—that is the stand of this country and its people. Raising the question of Kashmir's "status" ("special" or any other) is no contribution to the supreme task of ensuring the defence of Kashmir from Pakistani aggression. On the contrary, the discussion of "status" only helps the imperialists and their agents inside Pakistan to confuse the real issues further and make impossible claims on Kashmir.

Similarly, in regard to China, while every progressive would welcome a peaceful solution, the fact must be stated that every initiative so far taken by India has been stubbornly spurned by the Chinese leadership. To suggest, as has been done by the Marxist Communists in various statements, speeches and articles, that in some way India is responsible for pre-

venting a peaceful settlement is a travesty of truth.

India has all along recognised the suzerainty of China over Tibet. And so far as accommodation is concerned, it is no secret that every effort has been made in this direction through the acceptance of the Colombo proposals and in other ways.

Certainly, India can and must take still new initiatives as was suggested by President Radhakrishnan himself not so long ago. But the initiatives cannot and must not mean the condoning of aggression or the acceptance as a pre-condition for negotiations that India must surrender part of her own territory. The Marxists' argument

names people and have nothing to "give", while what they seek to "take" is a portion of Vietnamese independence.

This is not to suggest that the two cases are identical. But it would be useful for all those who suggest that in the interests of peace India must give up its territory to ponder over the reactions they themselves would have if similar arguments were to be used in the case of other so-called disputes over boundaries or territory.

Every one knows the West German renechants demand for a change in the frontiers of Germany. Can one argue that "in the interests of peace", some

"give and take" should be there? Obviously not.

There cannot be a "solution" by surrendering to imperialism and aggression. Such a "solution" would result only in an intensification of the danger to peace and would not be a contribution to peace.

Have the Marxists ever thought why it is that the only other major political force advocating surrender of Kashmir is the Swatantra Party, through Rajaji?

The surrender of Kashmir by India is an imperialist demand. No anti-imperialist can have anything to do with it.

The initiatives for peace which India must take (see EDITORIAL) cannot be such as to lead to surrender of Kashmir, which is an integral part of India. It is impossible for anyone who sincerely upholds the independence of nations, to agree to any such surrender.

Moreover, the taking over of the strategic valley by Pakistan (and through it, by its imperialist masters in CENTO and SEATO) would greatly increase the perils of war. For Kashmir would be turned into a major base for imperialism's war plans in this region, directed against the Soviet Union and the socialist countries as well as against the independence of India and other Afro-Asian nonaligned nations.

What Namboodiripad has been putting forward as steps towards peace are really steps which would whet the appetite of aggressors. Thus, these steps would not help towards peace but only intensify tension.

(October 18)

BY OUR POLITICAL COMMENTATOR

NOT ONLY REPRESSION, MORE TAXES IN BIHAR

From K. GOPALAN

PATNA: The Bihar Government's move to administer a dose of new heavy taxation, on the plea of raising additional resources for financing the "emergency plan", has evoked bitter reactions among the people.

THE opposition parties have described the move as a crude device adopted by the state government to exploit for its own ends the patriotic upsurge among the masses and their readiness to make sacrifices for the defence of the country.

According to the government proposal, Rs. 10 crores would be raised within one year to finance the "emergency plan". Land revenue, water and electricity rates, sales tax and excise duty will be raised and fresh taxes imposed to achieve this target.

This move is one of the outcomes of the recent meeting of the Eastern Zonal Council at Calcutta, where the Chief Ministers were inspired to increase taxes in their respective states by the Union Finance Minister and the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission.

Previous Attempts

While the other states have yet to decide on the move, Bihar under K. B. Sahay has taken the initiative to implement the decision of the Zonal Council.

In the past the state government had made several attempts to impose betterment levy and surcharge on land revenue. But it was forced to withdraw these proposals by the stiff resistance of the op-

position parties and even sections of Congressmen.

Now in the name of emergency, the state government hopes to get through

KERALA : NO POLL BECAUSE IT ISN'T SAFE FOR CONGRESS

From S. SHARMA

TRIVANDRUM: After a pretence of "consultations" with opposition parties, the Congress bosses, it is learnt, have now decided that no early elections in Kerala should take place and instead President's rule should continue.

THE Governor, A. P. Jain had last week met leaders of all parties with a view to ascertain their views on the question of extending President's rule in the state. And all parties, except the Congress, had expressed themselves in favour of ending President's rule and holding early elections.

Yet, the move is now to extend the President's rule on the plea that no political stability can be visualised if elections are held now. The Governor's report to the Centre is stated to be on these lines.

The present term of President's rule expires on November 10. Parliament which meets in the first

its plan of raising taxes while presuming that the public and the political parties would not oppose it.

But the initial reactions have shown clearly that the people are not prepared to take kindly to this diabolical move of the Sahay Ministry.

Opposition political circles in the state have expressed

the opinion that the new tax measures would hit the common people most who are already hard pressed by high prices and food scarcity. It would only dampen their enthusiasm to contribute to national defence.

They also point out that additional finance for the defence oriented plan could be found without taxing the common people.

ing with the Governor that though it was difficult to predict whether the present cease-fire in the Indo-Pak conflict would continue or not, it would be advisable to end President's rule and hold elections in the state now.

It is not for the Union Government or the Governor to find out or consider whether any single party would get a majority of seats in the Assembly and be able to form a stable government, and make it a precondition to ascertaining the will of the people.

Neither was the question of possible alignment of parties relevant at this stage, he said.

week of November will therefore be approached by the government for extending President's rule in Kerala for another six months.

The Communist Party has made its stand clear in favour of early elections.

C. Achutha Menon, secretary of the CPI state council, told pressmen after his meet-

Has Nonalignment Passed the Test ?

* FROM OVERLEAF

unanimous feelings of our people is that the Soviet Union and other peace-loving socialist countries have been our best friends.

It was hoped that the Government of India would learn the most important lesson in regard to our foreign policy which has been spelt out above—namely that it is necessary to strengthen the anti-imperialist content of our policy of nonalignment, to wipe out the mistakes of the past.

The strong and forthright statements condemning the British government's anti-Indian role had given rise to this hope. So also, the Prime Minister's emphasis on self-reliance, his suggestions to do without American PL 480 and his positive attitude towards the Soviet Union's initiatives for peace—all gave rise to the hope that the essential lesson had been learnt.

These hopes have however been somewhat dampened last week by the outrageous omission of any reference to Vietnam in Foreign Minister Swaran Singh's address to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The speech as a whole was generally strongly anti-imperialist in content. In fact, African representatives have commented that India's stand in regard to Southern Rhodesia, for instance, has been far more sharply anti-imperialist than ever before.

Handle To Enemies

But the omission of any reference to Vietnam gave a handle to India's enemies to suggest once more that a dirty deal with US imperialism was cooking. No satisfactory explanation for this disastrous omission has yet been given by the government.

But when combined with the recent activities of the American lobby in India, the open campaign for a visit by Prime Minister Shastri to Washington in November or December, the now notorious pro-American speeches of G. D. Birla, and the activities of Vijayalakshmi Pandit and S. K. Patil as the Prime Minister's personal envoys, it appears clear that the lessons of the Pakistani aggression have not yet been fully learnt by India's policy makers.

The Indian people realise well that what is necessary is a shift to the left, in an

PL 480 WHEAT BOYCOTT BEGINS

AHMEDABAD: People in Gujarat are expressing determination to do away with the American PL 480 wheat. They are determined to become self-sufficient.

Farmers of Bhadrach village in the Mahuva taluka in Bhavnagar district recently decided not to allow any more American wheat to come into their village.

They have pledged to maximise cultivation in the village and meet the entire demand from their own produce.

The population of Bhadrach village is 4,000. Most of them are cultivators.

Another such instance of PL 480 boycott has come from the Dholka taluka in the Ahmedabad district.

Here the workers have pledged not to purchase wheat on their ration cards. It is PL 480 wheat that is supplied on the ration cards.

The pledge was taken at a meeting of the workers in the taluka. About 600 workers attended this meeting.

Reports of such pledges to boycott PL 480 wheat are coming from several other places too.

Challenge On The Labour Front

RADICAL SHIFT IN POLICIES NEED OF THE HOUR

AN important meeting of the Labour Panel of the Planning Commission is scheduled next week-end to formulate the labour policy and programmes for the Fourth Five Year Plan. Before this is the annual tripartite gathering, the Indian Labour Conference, with a large agenda varying from proposals to limit maternity benefits (and achieve family planning through this simple trick!) to co-partnership in industry, that is, to convert the workers into no less than shareholders.

As usual, there will be no dearth of homilies. The Labour Minister will, no doubt, shower fulsome tributes to industries and labour for their splendid role in the emergency. Exhortations will be made to the august gathering to live up to the Code of Discipline and the Industrial Truce Resolution.

Can Rituals Deliver Goods ?

All these are, it might be said, the very necessary annual rituals and, of course, can be passed off as important institutions of our industrial democracy.

But can such rituals deliver the goods in the present emergency? It will be useless to hoodwink ourselves that all is well on the industrial relations scene since the tripartites, the codes and the truce resolutions are there.

The workers in this country, as they are elsewhere, the hardheaded realists. They judge the government's record by what it does and not by what it says. And that record of deeds on the industrial front is not very straight—and not so very tidy.

Let us take a few examples.

★ The cotton textile industry is the largest organised industry in India. In an emergency situation, the accent is on production—the more, the better. But what do we witness today?

The textile mills are laying off workers, closing down shifts and threatening to close down entire units. This is allegedly due to accumulation of cloth and yarn stocks. And this "crisis" is persisting even after liberal bank loans guaranteed by the government.

According to the ECONOMIC TIMES (Oct. 14), the government itself is unable to get convinced about the crisis:

"It has been pointed out that the accumulation has reached only the level of 4.62 lakh bales whereas immediately following the Chinese aggression in 1962, the accumulation of mill cloth was as high as six lakh bales. Even at that time, the government's wait and watch policy had proved to be correct though there had been demand for the government to buy the surplus stocks and to set-up a stock for future clearance.

"In 1957, the accumulation had reached a high of 5.62 lakh bales."

Evidently, there is no "crisis" in the industry. There is, it seems, a slackening in demand which is but a temporary phase and nothing unusual.

If this is so and the millowners are actually swindling the nation and heaping hardships on workers, what is the role of the government in this country? "Wait and watch"?

Far worse is the report from Maharashtra where the state government has reportedly decided to allow a cut in the DA of textile workers in Vidarbha region (by nearly Rs. 30) to cajole Tata's Empress Mills in Nagpur and other millowners so that they may not close down the mills!

A remarkable example of implementing the Industrial Truce Resolution, one must admit.

The story from Punjab is not far different. According to the AITUC-affiliated Textile Mazdoor Ekta Union, 75 per cent of nearly 2000 textile units in Amritsar have closed down and another 15 per cent are partially idle.

Workers who are pledged to raise production under the Industrial Truce Resolution are sitting with empty hands outside closed factories, whose owners had run away without even paying wages for the previous month.

Despite such experience, it is admitted by all that in the matter of civilian support to defence efforts, the workers in Amritsar, Chheharta and other towns in Punjab have played a most excellent role. And in this, the role of Chheharta, ravaged by the most cruel bombing by the Pakistani planes, was undoubtedly one of the bravest.

It has been rightly observed that in the most crucial hour of emer-

Such an unconditional support was also made by the trade unions in the post-October 1962 period, in the wake of Chinese aggression.

What happened in the 21st Indian Labour Conference held barely eight months after the signing of the industrial truce is recent history and the lesson was that the adherence to the truce, if it is to succeed, has to be reciprocal.

The experience of 1963 and the massive discontent which was shown in the number of mandays lost in industrial disputes in 1964 could be an adequate lesson to the policymakers if only they choose to learn.

And if the present policy of surrendering to the employers is to con-

not need a private corporate sector in which the workers may invest in equity shares and thus have the psychological boost of being in co-partnership.

Yet, seemingly intelligent people and people who should know what they are talking about are again at this game.

★ In the formulation of the Payment of Bonus Bill, the government's ideological predilections on co-partnership were very much in evidence.

The workers do not get a share of profit even as a most junior partner, despite all their toil. Now, under the new co-partnership even the workers' savings in their provident funds are to be gifted for use by the other "partner".

Resolutions Not Enough

Battles are not fought with paper resolutions. Production does not come out of mere exhortation, however high-pitched it might be. Machines require not only good engineers to design them, but craftsmen to man them.

The challenge on the production front is precisely on the solution of the human problems—and a solution is possible only when the organised labour is taken into full confidence.

It is indeed a good augury that after years of agitation, wisdom has at last dawned on the government that the foreign oil companies can be somewhat anti-national, to put it rather mildly. In five years, the oil companies sacked more than one-third of their workers by resort to large-scale automation in offices.

The present emergency has at last forced government to arrest the mass sacking and that is something to be welcomed.

The present emergency has opened the eyes of many people to certain very hard facts—about the need for self-reliance, about the intrigues of imperialists, etc. Should a radical change in industrial relations policy also wait for more of such crisis situations?

This is the question before the Labour Panel and the policymakers of the Planning Commission and the Government of India.

By
M. ATCHUTHAN

the workers and their trade unions, irrespective of affiliation, stood in the advance guard of the nation's defence against aggression.

The fact that all the plans of direct action were unconditionally called off in the wake of the national emergency also showed that the organised workers in India were fully conscious of their duty to the nation.

In marked contrast is the half-baked patriotism of a great many employers—and the gentry who are feigning a crisis in textiles are typical of them.

It is also the experience of the recent emergency that the employers have not halted a bit in their anti-labour activities.

The leading employers' organisations, for instance, are reported to have advised their members not to pay bonus more than the minimum four per cent, drag the dispute to the court and not be too eager for a settlement.

Millowners Refuse Bonus

The millowners in South India have not only refused to pay even the minimum bonus as per the statute on account of the so-called crisis, but have demanded time even to pay the arrears on account of workers' provident fund dues.

★ The wage boards in tea plantations, coalmining, etc., are stalled interminably since the employers are in no mood to agree to any wage revision. The wage board for cotton textiles is now as good as dead, struck by the crisis-talk of the employers.

To talk of the Code of Discipline and the Truce Resolution in such a context and to pretend that there is nothing wrong with the world of industrial relations in this emergency period is to shirk all responsibility to decisively intervene and improve matters, which the government is called upon to shoulder.

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★

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BAN THE ENTRY OF 'TIME' & 'NEWSWEEK'

WALTER Lippman, recognised for his accuracy of facts, states "that the hostilities in Kashmir began with an infiltration of guerilla troops recruited as a matter of fact from the Pakistan army though they wore different uniforms. The purpose of the guerillas was to arouse the population and to liberate Moslem Kashmir" (Indian Express October 7).

But the partisan journalists of the American magazines TIME and NEWSWEEK have a different version to give. According to them, Indians were seen "in a hasty retreat", the Kashmir legislature which decided to integrate with India was "a puppet legislature"; "guerilla warfare" broke out in Kashmir; the Indian army marched westward for "open seizure of Pakistan territory"; and Pakistan had to fight "in self defence". (TIME September 10 and NEWSWEEK September 27)

There are other equally derogatory and untrue remarks which insult the dignity and besmirch the name of our jawans who have covered themselves with glory by their performance at the front.

Naturally enough, there have been widespread demonstrations all over the country against these journals described as "yellow" by no less a person than our Union Minister for Education.

It is indeed regrettable that our government has not yet thought it necessary to ban the import of these journals. They are, apparently, underestimating the mischief and harm these magazines have done and are likely to do to lower the morale of our people.

While there is an assiduous attempt by the United States to declare its feigned impartiality in the Indo-Pakistan conflict, it must be realised that a dominant and influential section of our community still continues to adhere to and abide by American standards.

These journals are likely to give the impression that the national press is just paying lip service to the Union Government while reporting news from the front. A false sense of the freedom of expression may bring in its wake danger to national security.

It would be indeed calamitous if foreigners who pretend to be impartial are given the liberty to malign and insult our valiant armed forces in their magazines which are widely circulated in our country.

The government must realise that the demonstrations all over the country against these journals are nothing but a just and universal demand by the people to ban the entry of these magazines.

Bombay T. S. HECDE

READER'S FORUM

BIHAR DETENUS ARE STILL IN JAIL

SINCE my release from the Hazaribagh central jail on October 8, I have felt extremely distressed at the continued detention of hundreds of innocent political workers belonging to the CPI, the SSP, the RSP, the SUC not to speak of scores of NGOs, teachers, students and even PSP-men and Congressmen.

While making a pretence of yielding to the pressure of the popular demand, the Bihar government seems to be engaged in crafty manoeuvres to continue the detention and incarceration of as many persons as possible.

I feel constrained to point out that this shortsighted policy of the Bihar government is not only unjust and vindictive but also disruptive of the all-in national unity so urgently needed for strengthening national defence in this hour of crisis.

I appeal to all parties, organisations and personalities interested

in strengthening national unity for defence to intensify the popular pressure for immediate and unconditional release of all persons arrested in connection with the August movement and for the withdrawal of all cases and cancellation of all pending warrants.

I feel confident that the valiant and patriotic people and parties of Bihar will be able to overcome the shortsightedness and obstinacy of the Bihar government and win back all patriots now shut up behind bars to their post of duty in the sacred cause of the nation.

Patna INDRADEEP SINHA Secretary, Bihar State Council, CPI.

RELEASE N.N. KALE, MAHARASHTRA COMMUNIST

THE Maharashtra government has released most of the opposition leaders it had detained during the food agitation of August last. Many of these were arrested under the Defence of India Rules.

N. N. Kale, secretary of the Yeotmal district council of the Communist Party of India was arrested on August 20. Though most of those arrested along with Kale have been released, he is still kept in the Yerawada jail.

Why this discrimination against the CPI leader? His detention is certainly not going to help the defence effort, on the contrary, his presence among the people is urgently needed. The Maharashtra government should immediately release Kale.

Chanda R.L. KOTPALLIWAR

INDOXCO WORKERS CONTRIBUTE TO DEFENCE

THE employees and management personnel of the Indian Oxygen Limited New Delhi have contributed their mite to the defence efforts.

Immediately after the news of the Pakistani aggression came, they passed a resolution assuring uninterrupted supply of essential products and services from their Delhi factory.

When the news of possible paratroopers in and around Delhi came, the employees volunteered themselves for round the clock vigil of the factory.

A batch consisting M. S. Ahluvalia, K. S. Garg, John Mohan, R. K. Kaushal, Lalit Kumar, S. N. Madan and Upkar Singh donated blood. Fifty more volunteered to donate blood.

New Delhi K. S. GARG Secretary, Indian Oxygen Employees' Union

MP GOVT TO THE HELP OF BIRLAS

THE Madhya Pradesh Trade Union Congress records its indignant protest against the wanton arrest of nine leaders of the Universal Cables Kamgar Union, Satna, on September 29 and the promulgation of section 144 in Satna Cements and Universal Cables factories colony.

I urge the government to immediately release Shakti Prasad Pande, SSP worker and president of the Universal Cables Kamgar Union and nine other arrested workmen and withdraw section 144 from the colony.

It is surprising to find that every time workers of the Birla concerns launch their legitimate struggles for bonus, wage revision etc., the authorities in Satna immediately rush in defence of Birla Brothers to take punitive action against the trade unions and clamp down section 144. It has become a common occurrence there that every time workers voice their demands, they are met with lathis and warrants.

The government must do something to stop this blatant use of its state apparatus for the benefit of the Birlas. All trade unions and democratic forces in the country must demand and end to all repressive measures against trade unions in Satna so that the defence effort is not adversely affected.

Bhopal SHAKH ALI KHAN President, Madhya Pradesh Trade Union Congress

ANGLO-U.S. HOSTILITY TO INDIA PERSISTS

HEARTY congratulations to NEW AGE for exposing the dirty imperialist hands behind the Pakistani aggression against India and also the opportunistic support "socialist China" gave to the imperialist backed aggression. NEW AGE also deserves special applause for the article titled "self-determination for Kashmir?" in the September 28 issue.

The US imperialists had assured us many times that they would not permit Pakistan to use American arms against India. But when Pakistan actually used those weapons against us, the US imperialists not only did not fulfil this undertaking but even tried to channelise arms through Turkey and Iran while claiming they had stopped arms consignments to Pakistan.

British hostility to India is also patent. The dirty lies propagated by the BBC has certainly shown where official Britain stands.

Therefore, we should immediately demand that the Government of India quit the commonwealth and nationalise all British capital in this country without compensation. India should also stop all imports under PL 480 from the US. India's self-respect can be redeemed only by these measures.

New Delhi Meerut C. K. AJMANI

Sholokhov Awarded Nobel Prize



MIKHAIL Sholokhov, outstanding Soviet novelist, has been awarded the Nobel Prize for literature for 1965.

By awarding the prize to Sholokhov, the Nobel Prize Committee has corrected a long-standing injustice to Soviet literature as a whole. In 1958, much anti-Soviet propaganda was made by awarding the prize to Boris Pasternak for his controversial novel, "Doctor Zhivago".

Sholokhov's works have become Soviet classics and have been published 678 times in 42 million copies and translated into 73 languages.

Sixty-year-old Sholokhov has been writing for forty years his great realistic novels about the civil war and revolutionary conflict.

Throbbing with life, his character portrayals with their fine psychological insight, his poetic descriptions of the Russian landscape, the joy and optimistic exhilaration in his works—have all become a part of the life of the people and brought to millions all over the world a breath of the real revolutionary Russia.

Nearly all his works have been filmed and have been a source of inspiration to composers. He is one of the most

loved and respected writers of the Soviet Union.

Since 1924 Sholokhov lives among the people in the Cossack village of Veshnevskaya in the land of the river Don.

In a message of congratulations to Sholokhov on behalf of the Indian writers, Sajjad Zaheer writes:

"We consider that this award should have been given to you much earlier; for all those who cherish the highest humanist and aesthetic qualities and values of literary creation were convinced of the great merit of your work."

"Indian writers, irrespective of their political inclinations, recognise you as the most outstanding of the living Soviet writers. Your books have been translated into many of our languages and have been widely read and appreciated."

"In you we recognise a worthy descendent of the great masters of Russian literature—Tolstoy, Dostoyevsky, Turgenyev, Chekhov and Gorky."

50 YEARS OF MARXISM IN SOUTH AFRICA

Communists and Marxists in South Africa are currently observing the fiftieth anniversary of the formation on September 22, 1915 of the International Socialist League (South Africa). This is about the earliest date in the history of the organisation of revolutionary Marxist ideas in the continent of Africa.

ALREADY at the time of the February revolution in Russia in 1917, the socialist newspaper INTERNATIONAL, published from Johannesburg, wrote editorially: "This is a bourgeois revolution but it came at a time when capitalism is on the decline. It cannot be an ordinary repetition of the preceding revolutions."

The article stated that after the overthrow of autocracy, two classes stood opposed to one another in Russia, and one of them, the working class, was in favour of a "Socialist Republic". The article was printed under the significant headline: "170 Million New Fighters".

In May 1917, the paper carried a leader, "Russian Workers Defend Marx" and in August it noted: "from all points of view the events show the correctness of the principles proclaimed by Lenin. Each week brings fresh evidence of his correctness."

"Lenin Is Gaining the Upper Hand" was the title of another leading article in which the October Socialist Revolution was characterised as the "greatest revolution of all times".

Briefly, the South African Labour Party that existed

since 1909 had declared at the beginning of the first world war that "this war can be advantageous only to the circles of the international arms manufacturers and other enemies of the working class". But in August 1915 the chauvinists supporting the war got the upper hand in the party.

The left-wing headed by chairman of the party, W. H. Andrews, and the secretary, D. Ivan Jones, left its ranks and joined the active socialist organisation headed by S. P. Bunting, the League of Struggle Against War.

The League decided to join the Third International early in 1920.

In 1921 the League united with a few other socialist organisations and announced the foundation of the Communist Party of South Africa, the first on the African continent, and the INTERNATIONAL became its official organ.

Dramatic Moment

A dramatic moment in the history of the movement came in 1919, when in the midst of mass strikes, there appeared a leaflet: "the Bolsheviks are coming".

This caused such a great stir in the general political situation that during the trial of its authors, special experts on the "way of thinking of the natives" were interrogated to gauge the impact of this leaflet. Examined in great detail was the attitude towards the leaflet of different sections of Africans who read it.

Conditions in South Africa have fundamentally changed over the last fifty years. While the League existed legally and could openly convene meetings and circulate Marxist literature, fascist terror

reigns in the country today. The Communist Party was formally outlawed fifteen years ago, and the official law to suppress communism is used as a weapon against the entire democratic movement. Detention without trial, savage life sentences, inhuman torture in prisons, shooting of revolutionaries—such is life in South Africa today.

Force To Be Met

The Communist Party and other progressive organisations in South Africa have today arrived at the conclusion that in the given conditions, obtaining in the country, force has to be countered with force. The Umkonto we Sizwe (The Spear of the Nation) a special secret organisation inspired by the broadbased African National Congress, is conducting regular sabotage activities to undermine the apartheid regime.

The old leaflet "the Bolsheviks are coming" figured again in one of the most important political trials recently, and was used by the prosecutor to prove how long back the present "ill-intentioned ideas" had come into being.

To the International Socialist League and the South African Communists who are working in deep underground today, belong the best traditions of the working class movement, the tradition of the unity of the working people irrespective of the colour of their skin, of the united struggle against any manifestation of racialism, close contacts with and the unity of the international revolutionary movement etc.

True to these traditions, the South African Communist Party is fighting for the implementation of these ideas which are spread far and wide all over the great continent of Africa today through their important monthly journal THE AFRICAN COMMUNIST.

FRENCH ELECTIONS : Emerging Left Unity

PARIS: France's political life is being increasingly coloured by the forthcoming presidential elections.

"Unity of the left-wing forces should be much more important than disagreements about a doctrine", said Francois Mitterand while elaborating his election programme.

He spoke in favour of the unity of the Left-wing forces of the country and pointed out that in 1958, France could have avoided the establishment of a regime of personal power "had we found courage to overcome the difficulties" due to the split among the Left-wing parties.

He also confirmed the necessity of revising the present concept of the European Economic Community so as "to make it an institute serving the people and not the monopolies, serving peace and not the military blocs".

An end must be put to "social injustice" and privileges of the economic magnates, he said.

The French Communist

Party decided at the last Central Committee meeting to campaign for Mitterand as the candidate of the union of democratic forces.

Ever since 1958 the Party has been struggling for such a broad united front to put an end to the present authoritarian regime, on the basis of a minimum common platform from which the Communist Party should not be excluded.

Mollet's Support

Guy Mollet, General Secretary of the French Socialist Party, has declared in favour of Mitterand's candidature.

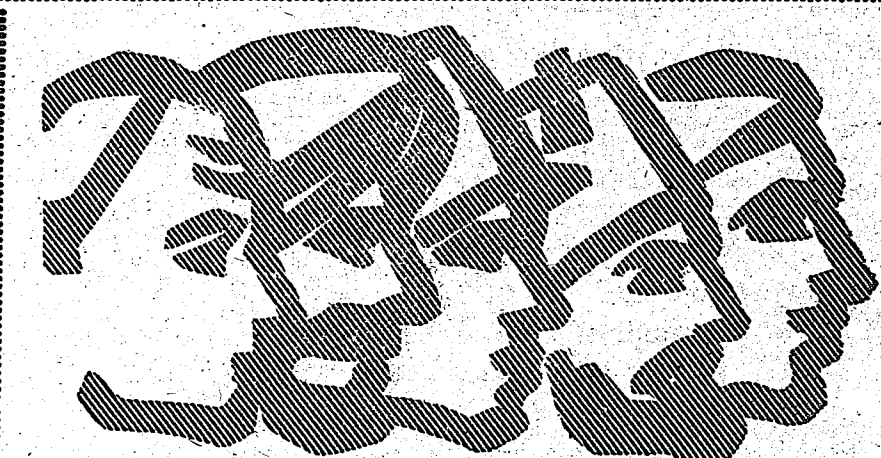
The National Council of the United Socialist Party has also decided to support his candidature.

Thus, practically all left-wing political parties, including the French Communist Party, the Socialist Party (SFIO), the United Socialist Party and some smaller political groups of republican leanings, support the candidature of Mitterand.



Francois Mitterand

Among the influential political parties which are in opposition to the present regime, only the Radical Party has not yet taken a final stand with regard to the presidential election which is to be held in December.



Millions of hearts beating as one. Small rivulets flowing into a mighty river.

Such is our free society of many communities living together in peace and harmony. This society is worth preserving, worth fighting for. Remember, your neighbour is as important to this society as you.

ONE GREAT COUNTRY ONE GREAT PEOPLE

US-Italian CPs Affirm Unity of Approach

NEW YORK: A delegation consisting of two senior leaders of the Italian Communist Party had a joint meeting in New York recently with the leadership of the Communist Party of the United States in which they exchanged views on a wide range of subjects concerning the problems of widening and strengthening the worldwide struggle for peace and national liberation.

BOTH parties were united in the view that the struggle to bring an end to the war in Vietnam by the withdrawal of American troops was the most important before the peoples of the world today.

The Italian leaders were Giuliano Pajetta, member of the Central Committee of the Italian Communist Party, director of its international department, and Vice-Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Italian Senate and Senator Luigi Conte, member of the Central Control Commission and of the Puglia Regional Committee of the Italian Communist Party. The US participants consisted of leading spokesmen like Gus Hall, Henry Winston, Robert Thompson, Gil Green, James Jackson and others.

They expressed their deep appreciation of the results already achieved and for the new efforts of the Italian Communist Party to strengthen the unity of the working class and the collaboration of all the democratic forces.

The American Communist leaders hoped a new Italian government which would realise a foreign policy of peace, national independence and understanding with all nations and a national policy of social progress would soon emerge in Italy.

Both delegations expressed a desire to continue the fraternal exchanges begun at this meeting as an indispensable form of working class and Marxist international solidarity and unity as a means by which to strengthen the understanding and cooperation between the Italian people and the people of the United States for peace and social progress.

They declared their full support to the Communist Party of the United States in its struggle for the democratic right to function as a legal party of the working class.

The spokesmen for the Communist Party of the USA expressed their appreciation for the way in which the Italian Communist party has struggled for peace and has given active support to the heroic liberation struggle of the Vietnam people.

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HOW TO KILL ? AMERICAN VARSITY'S NEW RESEARCH SCHEME

NEW YORK: An American university has been caught in the act of conducting research on how to kill people chemically. It is the so-called Institute for Cooperative Research at Pennsylvania University.

The disclosure about the activities of this "seat of learning" was made by the Philadelphia Committee to End the War in Vietnam.

It has become a common practice in recent years for American universities to accept large grants from the government for military research.

But this is the first time that an American university has been found to be engaged in research on chemical and bacteriological warfare.

In a letter to the university's president, Gaylord Harnwell, the Committee to End the War in Vietnam has demanded that the institute cease its deadly researches.

The committee wrote: "The most likely immediate application of the research of the Institute for Cooperative Research (ICR) and similar institutes is against the civilian populations of North and South Vietnam, poisoning both the people and their staple foods."

Plans for picketing the death-dealing institute and the grant-grabbing university have been announced by the committee.

In addition it has sent copies of its letter to President Howel to the United Nations Special Committee on Genocide, the International Red Cross and members of the United States Congress.

Youth Revolts Against Johnson's Vietnam War



The wave of nationwide protest demonstrations against American armed aggression in Vietnam rocked the United States from end to end last weekend. Organised by the very broadbased National Coordination Committee to End the War in Vietnam—consisting of religious, pacifist, civil liberties, liberal-radical and Leftist elements—these demonstrations perhaps marked the high water mark of popular mass action on any single progressive issue since the war.

THE most conspicuous aspect of these demonstrations was the preponderance of youth, students and members of the intelligentsia in this broad movement.

It is interesting to remember in this connection that a recent gallop poll revealed that more than half of the entire student community in the United States had personally participated in some progressive political protest demonstrations during 1965.

While governmental circles may still be adamant in their criminal policy this is some indication of the trend of opinion among thinking sections of the people.

The latest movement developed on such a scale that the bourgeois press which at first tried to belittle the significance and scale of the mass protests against Washington's policy, were later forced to recognise that they constituted a serious factor and to report them adequately.

One other aspect of the impact of these demonstrations was the very wide coverage they received on the television revealing to millions of ordinary Americans for the first time that there was a large body of American opinion that opposes Johnson's policies for valid rational reasons.

The demonstrations took place in over sixty cities in the country and were participated by over 100,000 people.

gest deposits of copper, Zambia has extremely limited outlets for exporting it. Therefore the Rhodesian government is trying to impose upon Zambia tremendous transit duties on copper which would ruin the republic's economy.

Independent Zambia which is the southernmost extension of freedom in the African continent and is situated immediately to the north of Rhodesia on the other side of the Victoria falls, is an eyecore to the southern racials and also constitutes a great political and moral support to the four million Africans of Southern Rhodesia.

The government of Zambia has remained firm in the face of threats and continues to follow its policy of supporting the liberation movement of the Africans of Rhodesia and of Southern Africa as a whole. It is in Lusaka that the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU)—the bulwark of Rhodesia's patriots—has its headquarters.

The developments on the border between Zambia and Rhodesia concern not only Zambia alone, they are a reminder of the vital need of strengthening African unity to give a collective rebuttal and a final battle to the racials and colonialists.

The Ministerial Council of the OAU has declared that all African states were resolutely determined to oppose the threatened unilateral declaration of independence by the Smith government.

"The African countries will be compelled to take concrete political, military, diplomatic and other measures against the racist government of Rhodesia where the situation is fraught with the danger of

an explosion", said the Secretary General of the OAU. He also put forward the following fundamental conditions adopted at the session for the solution of the Rhodesian problem:

Repeal of the Rhodesian Constitution of 1961 and the release of all political prisoners.

Convocation of a conference of representatives of the National Liberation movement of the country for the purpose of drafting a new constitution resting on the principle: one man one vote.

It is expected that these conditions will underlie the resolution to be submitted to the Conference of the Heads of state and government of the OAU which will open in Accra on October 21.

CONGO : Imperialist Stooge Ousted

MOISE Tshombe's removal from the Premiership in the Congo on the eve of the Accra summit conference of the member countries of the Organisation of African Unity can hardly be regarded as a mere coincidence.

Indeed, Tshombe failed to win support and recognition of his regime by free Africa. Not only the sufferings of the people of Congo but also the new neo-colonialist offensive against the independent countries of the continent was associated with Tshombe's name.

While this shows that imperialist hopes of retaining their positions in the Congo with the help of an openly pro-imperialist anti-popular regime have been dashed, the immediate aim of the reaction was surely to try and remove the Congolese problem from the agenda of the Accra Conference which certainly would have opposed any attempt on Tshombe's part to attend the Conference as the representative of the Congo.

Now they will seek by removing Tshombe and eventually replacing him by another imperialist agent from Katanga—Evariste Kimba, a less known and hence (they hope) a less odious puppet—to prevent the discussion of the Congolese problem by the Conference.

But such ruses can hardly be of much help today and Congolese patriots who enjoy the support of independent Africa will carry on their just struggle against imperialism and reaction and for genuine independence.

While these changes were

taking place in Leopoldville, patriotic nationalist leader Gaston Soumialot, who was earlier reported to have been killed, addressed a press conference in Dar-es-Salaam.

He declared that this change of Prime Minister was no improvement as far as the nationalists were concerned and reminded the world that Kimba had definitely been involved in the murder of Patrice Lumumba, the first Prime Minister of the Congo.

INDONESIA : Communist Which-Hunt Unabated

THE anti-communist forces in Indonesia have now succeeded in bringing about the banning of the Indonesian Communist Party and of the party's broadbased mass organisations of youth, women's and trade union organisations.

While there have been some reports of President Soekarno resisting army pressure demanding still greater repression against the Communists, it seems that the wave of hysteria and mass pogroms of Communists and other democrats have gone on unabated without encountering much resistance.

While formerly-banned political elements—religious and fanatical groups and even some pro-imperialist elements—have come into the open and are exploiting the fury of the mobs and clearly effective control now rests with the army, the progressive forces as a whole have neither been able to influence the course of events nor to put up any substantial resistance in self-defence.

As for the origin of the so-called 30th September movement it has become known that the names of some progressive leaders including some Communists were included in the "revolutionary council" of Colonel Untung without their approval.

The Moscow Izvestia has said that the Indonesian Communist Party paper HARIAL RAKIAT had written, "without clearly understanding the complicated situation of the first few days, as if the attempted mutiny had the support of the people".

These things were used by the reactionary elements to launch the anti-Communist campaign, said IZVESTIA.

The Communist Party of Indonesia has formally declared that it was not a party to the events and that the events were an internal affair of the army.

—BAREN RAY

Peaceful Coexistence

It was the understanding of the two delegations that the worldwide struggle of peoples against imperialism, colonialism and neo-colonialism, is an indispensable part of the struggle against the danger of nuclear war, for peaceful coexistence and for the democratic advance to socialism.

The delegation of the Italian Communist Party was keenly interested in the conditions of the working people of the United States and particularly the struggle of the Negro people for their full and unconditional freedom.

The Italian Communist de-

CIA Runs Riot in S. E. Asia

SOUTHEAST Asia is lousy with the agents of the CIA. They spin intrigues, organise conspiracies and reshuffle governments there.

THE SINGAPORE SCANDAL: Recently the Prime Minister of Singapore Li Kuan Yee declared that US agents tried to give him a bribe of three million dollars lest he should divulge the facts per-

taining to the arrest of a CIA agent by the security organs of Singapore.

This agent had tried to get secret information on the activities of the Singapore government.

Washington was greatly worried over this exposure and the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee of the House of Representatives began to investigate the Singapore scandal behind closed doors.

But what happened in Singapore, the newspaper WASHINGTON POST writes, is a relatively "harmless" operation as compared with what the CIA agents have done in other countries of Southeast Asia.

OPIUM TRADE IN BURMA: In the fifties the CIA agents who tried to exert political influence to bear on the leaders of Burma, turned out to be mixed up with illicit opium trade.

In carrying out these operations they made wide use of American planes meant for flying supplies to the remnants of Chiang Kai-shek's armed bands operating near the Chinese border.

A CONSPIRACY IN CAMBODIA: In 1958 a group of secret agents was picked and equipped on American money in South Vietnam and smuggled into Cambodia so as to organise a coup there and to replace Norodom Sihanouk.

The conspiracy fell through and the American agents were found among the plotters.

HELP TO REBEL GENERALS IN INDONESIA: Soon after the CIA agents began to cook up a plot against President Soekarno of Indonesia.

They rendered assistance to the anti-government groupings among the military in Sumatra, Java and in a number of other areas.

Weapons were brought to the rebel generals by American planes from bases situated in Formosa and in the Philippines. INTRIGUES IN LAOS: In Laos the CIA agents are picketing and financing the local political leaders and organising uprisings.

AFRO-ASIA In The Headlines

In April 1960 they organised "elections" in such a way that only the extreme rightwing leaders found themselves elected.

In the very same year the American secret agents organised a march of general Phoumi Nosavan to Vientiane, the seat of the centralist government headed by Prince Souvanna Phouma.

Flying Start to OAU Meet

THE meeting of the Ministerial Council of the Organisation of African Unity started with a bang with almost hundred per cent representation to prepare the grounds for the summit conference of Heads of State and Government which begins from October 21.

Earlier the nine-nation committee of the OAU had an extraordinary two-day meeting in which the main stress was on the struggles of the peoples of Angola, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa and other territories for liberation and national independence.

This struggle is being carried on in the background of fresh military and economic preparations by the Western powers directed against African movements opposing colonial and imperialist domination.

The OAU General Secretary specially emphasised that the OAU Foreign Ministers were

now at the United Nations defending the African positions on such burning problems as the crisis in Southern Rhodesia, the oppressive regime of apartheid in South Africa and the question of the Portuguese colonies.

The summit meeting is also expected to consider the issues before the second Afro-Asian Conference (if it is finally held) beginning on November 5 in Algiers.

GUINEA: Portuguese Retreat

FORTY per cent of the territory of the so-called "Portuguese" Guinea are controlled by units of the National Liberation Army and their control is extending to more and more communication lines fortified districts of the enemy.

This was disclosed by Hamilcar Cabral, General Secretary of the Organisation for the Liberation of Portuguese Colonies, at a press conference held recently in Cairo.

Cabral reported that he had sent an appeal to the United Nations and to the participants of the OAU summit meeting to take effective measures in support of the national liberation struggles in the Portuguese colonies in Africa.

—B. R.

People of Florennes, Belgium, protesting against Johnson's war against Vietnam



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GOLDEN PREMIUM ON IMMORALITY

THE hit this week is the launching of the gold bonds scheme. The bait is golden. Gold will be returned for gold, carat to carat, at the end of 15 years plus interest every year.

No questions will be asked of the subscriber as to where, how he got the gold. No question will be asked whether he bought the pride of metals with white or black money. In fact, the identity of the subscriber will be kept top secret.

The anonymous bond-holder will be wholly exempt from the wealth tax and capital gains tax. He will also be baled out from the gift tax up to a certain ceiling. If he dies, no estate duty will be levied up to that ceiling.

The Union Finance Ministry hopes that the scheme will net gold worth Rs. 500 crores. If they hit that target, people might shut their eyes to the golden premium on immorality in the interests of the country's defence.

Five hundred crores is a lot even though the authoritative estimate of the total gold in India, concentrated especially in the hands of a few thousand, is over 5,000 crores.

★ The two series of similar bonds put through in 1962 and later were spectacular flops. They yielded only 11 crores worth of gold. So people are bound to keep their fingers crossed till the end of January next year and watch how the hoarders react to the fabulous prize and de-hoard a fraction.

CONFESSION, CATHOLIC STYLE: It is an irony that the announcement of the gold bonds scheme (together with two national loans) came on the same day when Home Minister Gulzarilal Nanda made his confession about his socialist credo. He told the UNI that he was a disappointed socialist.

Bengal: State Takes Over Rice Trade

CALCUTTA: By introducing statutory rationing in Calcutta and other industrial areas last year, West Bengal government had given the country a correct lead. Now it has done it again by taking over the wholesale trade in rice.

The government decision to take over the monopoly trade in rice was announced to pressmen by Chief Minister P. C. Sen on October 16. The decision becomes effective with the coming harvest season in December.

Sen announced that retail trade in non-producing areas such as towns and industrial centres would also be taken over by the government. This is necessary in view of the fact that already rationing is in existence in such areas.

The procurement scheme detailed by Sen envisaged a cent per cent levy on the mills. He expected about seven lakh tonnes of rice to be available through this levy.

Direct procurement agents appointed by the state will make all wholesale purchase of paddy from the cultivators. Only licenced agents would be allowed to purchase paddy and they would hand over all their stocks to the government.

The Chief Minister also said that the government would purchase through cooperatives about 1.5 lakh tonnes of paddy from small cultivators. This will be done to help them from making distress sales at the time of harvest. Three lakh tonnes of paddy is normally traded in this kind of distress sales.

The government proposed to procure a total of 12 lakh tonnes of rice during the coming harvest season. Last year it could procure only 3.5 lakh tonnes through its partial procurement system.

All in all, the proposals made by P. C. Sen may be said to be good. It meets the popular demand that the government take over the entire wholesale foodgrains trade.

He had thought that it would be easy to break the hold of the vested interests but "they are too powerful and too entrenched."

According to him, there were three requirements to fight corruption. He devoted attention to two but missed the third, namely, to seek the cooperation of "important people."

He in his ignorance bypassed the VIPs in his own high command and fell on the wayside. He was obviously hinting at the treatment, none too VIPish, from the conclave at Ranchi last year.

THE WEEK

Confession is good, for confession is the first important step towards expiation of the sin. But coming as it did in the wake of the launching of the gold bonds scheme (vested interests are too entrenched) one might think that TTK's hope to collect 500 crores is rather a fond one.

COMPETITION IN AMERICAN DARSAN: Throughout the week reports have been appearing of a keen competition between S. K. Patil (S. K. Patton, according to cartoonist Vijayan) & Co. and Shoab-Bhutto & Co. Who will win the race—Shastri or Ayub—in reaching the ailing Johnson.

★ The latest report from Washington is that Patil thinks that Shastri can have darshan "even tomorrow" if only Johnson's doctors oblige.

All these perambulations of Patil in the land of Almighty Dollar could

have been laughed at if Shastri had not opened his mouth at Aurangabad. Barkis is willing. He told reporters that "I would like to visit the USA some time but I am not sure when I can go."

Incidentally, the Prime Minister's first affirmative reaction to the renewed invitation of the US President (reportedly renewed at the recent Rusk-Swaran Singh meeting) has come within 48 hours of G. D. Birla's pompous declaration in Bombay that Washington is all dressed up to meet him.

Much has been written by the Indian correspondents based in Washington that when Johnson meets Shastri the former may not insist on a plebiscite in Kashmir. What was demanded was "accommodation." And that remains an uncertain quantity.

We have noted in this roundup last week that if Senator Sherman Cooper were to be believed, then "accommodation" would mean that India should rest content with the area bordering on China.

Relevant to quote in this context is a remark made by Indira Gandhi on Tuesday at Barmer (Rajasthan). When a correspondent asked her about the validity of our policy of non-alignment, she retorted:

"What do you want? Should we join the US which wants us to give up Kashmir? It has been suggesting since long and it has not yet changed that attitude."

Here is not only a Cabinet Minister but a member of the Cabinet's Emergency Committee speaking: that the United States has not changed its attitude towards Kashmir.

If Kashmir is not negotiable, as Shastri has repeatedly stated, then the people who fought the American Pattons and Sabres need to be told more intelligently about the contemplated Washington mission.

★ By the way, Diwali is in the air, and reports from major cities say that this year's speciality will be fireworks patterned on Pattons and Sabres. And also there is regret in press reports that our cracker-manufacturers have not yet learned the know-how of napalm bomb, another American gift to Pindi.

Most press reports this week indicate that Americans have not resumed direct military supplies to her ally.

But it is no longer a secret that Turkey has flown among other things a squadron of Sabre-jets, Iran has gifted unlimited quantities of oil and Saudi Arabia has given away a large amount of foreign exchange. All these donors are American allies, Portugal included.

NON-NUCLEAR: The Prime Minister has cleared the air. He has replied to his own colleagues—Mehr Chand Khanna, D. P. Mishra and others, not to mention the Sapru House scholars, who have been clamouring for turning India nuclear. Shastri has said NO. This is the continuation of the policy restated at the Durgapur session of the Congress.

Whispering Gallery

Venkataramanism

RECENTLY R. Venkataraman, Industries Minister of Madras, returned from the United States. He was a member of the Indian delegation to the current session of the UN General Assembly.

Instead of hurrying to Madras, this gentleman stayed on in New Delhi and met some of the VIPs. In the capital he has a name for his super-intelligence. After all, who else but Venkatbhai could have conceived of an American model government for India with a President directly elected!

The New York returned had a round of meetings in Delhi. Among others, he closeted himself with Kamaraj, Shastri, TTK, Nanda and Indira Gandhi and outlined his sinister scheme to advance the time of the next general elections.

The political pundit of Mylapore predicted that if they went in for general elections before the blood of our jawans got cold on the scattered battle fronts, then the Congress would be able to bag 90 per cent of seats in Parliament and state Assemblies.

As far as INSIDER could gather, TTK hailed the new messiah and lapped up his brilliant suggestion. Kamaraj and Shastri were highly impressed but remained uncommitted.

In fact, it is being whispered about that some one at the highest level specially commissioned the TIMES OF INDIA to act as the sounding board with a big splash.

Unfortunately the sounding evoked angry reaction. But even then when the proposal went up to the Union Cabinet, TTK strongly argued for Venkataramanism and thus cheat the opposition parties by cynically exploiting the military gains of the whole nation in the interests of the ruling clique.

Among others, Chavan opposed this transparent election trick. So the proposal has been shelved, at least for the time being.

Observers were rather intrigued why Krishnamachari of all persons should be an ardent advocate of this scheme. In the 1962 elections, did not his Swatantra rival disappear from the scene after filing his nomination? TTK is too brilliant and resourceful to need the crutch offered by his junior from Madras.

INSIDER must confess that only on two occasions he has found the mild-mannered, soft-spoken Education Minister of the Punjab getting visibly angry.

Last week Prabodh Chandra was in a temper. On the floor of the Legislative Assembly he upbraided India's Prime Minister for the "vulgarity" he committed in cutting a Patton tank shaped cake on his birthday.

He also described as indecent the anti-British campaign.

Nearly four months ago he was similarly angry with the Customs staff at New Delhi's Palam airport.

I think it was on May 22 when the distinguished Education Minister was about to board a plane for London. The Customs officials found his son-in-law, B. K. Gupta, sneaking behind him and meandering towards the aircraft.

They grabbed him, and Prabodh Chandra used the juiciest slangs in the Punjabi language on the occasion. However the ruffled father-in-law winged without his company.

The Customs undressed the son-in-law who is a resident businessman in Her Majesty's homeland. And here is a list of their alleged findings:

Two hundred twenty-five dollars, 85,100 Swiss francs, 100 French francs, 25 German marks, two Malta pounds and 11 extra India rupees. All allegedly unauthorised!

—INSIDER