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 Public sector house building declines in importance under
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Latin America demands workers engaged by company's new
 British labor... stake in South Africa
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THE BULLETIN

Letter to readers

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Letter to readers

Last week we reported a statement by Prof. Bernal on the Morocco/Algeria border dispute in which he put a "neutral" point of view. This week we can see that he was echoing the view of Khrushchov. Thus we see the practical application of his variety of "peaceful co-existence." This more clearly than a hundred Chinese documents shows why so many left wingers do not trust the Kremlin leadership. We have extensively quoted Khrushchov's remarks on this question so that people will not think we are being sectarian.

We hope that readers will give the widest publicity to the Neville Alexander case which comes up the same day as we go to press. There are so many trials and arrests in South Africa that to give special attention to one may seem strange. The truth is that we have a special regard for Neville Alexander because of his many activities whilst in Europe, especially his help for the Algerian Revolution. Despite the risk he publicly spoke out for this cause. In view of the volume of protest our Paris correspondent reports are we being too optimistic to hope that a similar movement can develop in this country?

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THE SOUTH VIETNAM COUP: Despite official U.S. State Department denials the evidence of U.S. complicity in the coup is overwhelming. The serious bourgeois papers in the U.S. do not attempt to hide this fact. The Wall Street Journal in its November 1st issue carried a report which confirmed that there had been heated argument within the Kennedy administration as to whether Ngo Dinh Diem should be removed, and that Cabot Lodge U.S. Ambassador to South Vietnam, had insisted that "the struggle to check communism in South Vietnam cannot be won without the removal, one way or another, of the government of President Diem." The New York Herald Tribune of November 2nd said "despite the State Department's flat denial that the U.S. is involved in the current uprising in Saigon, this revolt is our revolt."

The paper continued to say that for the United States, the coup was merely a "change of horses." The New York Times said in an editorial, of the same date, that "the only surprising thing about the military revolt in Saigon is that it has not come sooner." Next day it declared "there seemed little doubt that the United States had been instrumental in creating the climate that had made the coup possible."

The Washington Post of November 2nd defended the U.S. action of kicking out Ngo Dinh Diem. It held that it had long become impossible to rely on Diem in resisting the popular liberation movement in South Vietnam. It continued, "all the military power and foreign aid imaginable surely could not sustain permanently a regime in the grip of an internal conspiracy to see how high it could have piled up its accumulated folly, corruption, incompetence and perversity..."

The papers however stop at this point and do not analyse the situation more deeply. What they do not pose is the question of what political and social reasons give rise to the Diem type of regime. One does not have to be a marxist to be forcibly struck by the basic similarity between this regime and a whole series of others - in Latin America, in South Korea, in Liberia, etc. In different parts of the world, with different racial composition, with different degrees of social development (contrast the Argentine with Haiti), with different religions, all these countries have a common denominator: they are utterly in the grip of U.S. neo-colonialism.

For reasons of their economic resources or strategic position in the cold war U.S. imperialism has decided that these countries must be kept safe from communism. To achieve this end, U.S. imperialism has to completely distort and subject the social and political development of these countries. The mixture may differ a little in its ingredients, for instance, the national capitalist class may be an important factor (Argentine) or be almost non-existent (the banana republics of Central America and Liberia). Certain factors are constant, though; the regimes lack a real social base in the country, the mass of the people come more and more to realise that they are ruled by quislings, the U.S. imperialists pour more and more 'aid' in, most of which is appropriated by the ruling clique, and there is the most flagrant interference in their internal affairs by the U.S.

Because of these factors everyone of these countries is in a permanent state of crisis. Lacking any social base the ruling cliques have to lean on the most backward social formations: the feudal landowners, the comprador sections of the capitalist class and various privileged strata. This in itself retards the most elementary social development as does U.S. 'aid'. 'Normal' capitalist development is impossible whilst the main driving force in the economy is a struggle for loot. Ex-President Bosch of the Dominican Republic tells the tale of how he was thrown out of office by the military because he tried to prevent the military getting their normal 'cut' from a plane contract. We can, therefore, say categorically that Diem's crimes arose not from a personal quirk but from his social position, we can also say that the new regime will go along the same path. Only the armed struggle of the workers and peasants will overthrow the U.S. puppets.

The ban on overtime working and on payment-by-results schemes which is to be imposed by building trade unions in Scotland, in protest against the refusal of a pay increase, will come into effect after the normal finishing time of 5 p.m. on Friday, November 8th. The dispute which has given rise to this overtime ban arises from a claim by the Scottish workers for a 4d an hour wage increase which was granted recently to the building trades in England and Wales, where the workers have a 42-hour week.

A 40-hour week comes into force on Monday, 4th November, in Scotland, and the Scottish employers have refused to pay a rate for a 40-hour week similar to that for a 42-hour week in England and Wales.

The decision to ban overtime was taken in Glasgow on October 30th by a coordinating committee of the Scottish Regional Council of the National Federation of Building Trades Operatives.

A Scottish official of the federation said after the decision had been taken: "This is the first stage of the dispute. Other methods to bring pressure to bear on the employers are being considered."

GLASGOW CORPORATION STAFF TO HOLD A ONE-DAY STRIKE

A Glasgow correspondent reports: Clerical and administrative employees of Glasgow Corporation decided on October 30th to hold a one-day strike in support of claims for salary increases and a regrading of certain staff positions to accelerate promotion. This proposal, submitted by the executive committee of the Glasgow branch of the National and Local Government Association, was passed by 277 votes to 54. 2,600 employees are affected by the decision.

By 369 to 58 it was also agreed that, in the event of the one-day strike failing to achieve the proposed salary structure, a series of selective department strikes should be held.

The decisions will now go before the local executive, and in turn they will refer them to the Scottish district council and the national executive council of the association. The approval of these bodies must be obtained before the Glasgow NALGO members could strike officially.

Mr. Neil McLean, president of the Glasgow branch, said after the meeting: "There could be a strike before Christmas." The emergency committee of the national executive council who dealt with such matters would have to consider the issue before then, he added.

DAILY HERALD - VERY LITTLE PROSPECT OF CONTINUANCE

Bob Willis holds out "very little prospect" for a continuance of the Daily Herald, in the November issue of the London Typographical Journal, his union's paper. If saturation point had been reached in newspaper readership it was obvious, he says, that any newspaper increasing its circulation could do so only at the expense of its rivals. Therefore, he adds, "It is obvious that for the Daily Herald to increase its circulation it would inevitably take readers from the Daily Mirror and when it is realised that both papers are printed by the Mirror Group it may explain the lack of success in the Daily Herald and the startling success of the Daily Mirror as far as circulation is concerned.

Mr. Willis adds that "Everything that can be done is being done either to preserve the Daily Herald as we know it, or to ensure that whatever publication takes its place the employment of our members will not be placed in jeopardy."

DATE UNION YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT LOBBY CHANGED: Because of the later opening of Parliament, the lobbying of Parliament sponsored by USDAW Youth Section, has been postponed for one week and will now take place on November 19th.

HUGE INCREASE IN NUMBER OF SLUM HOUSES FORECAST

A survey commissioned by the Ministry of Housing from the Central Office of Information gives an estimate of how many slums there are likely to be in the coming years. Today some 600,000 housing units are officially defined as slums, the survey estimates that between 1960 and 1965 210,000 units would become slums. But in the next ten years - 1965 to 1975 - the rate will be drastically increased. In this period some 1,100,000 are expected to become unfit. The next 15 years would see another 2,900,000 units go the same way. Houses usually have a life of about 100 years and this huge increase in the number of houses becoming unfit arises because of the boom in house building which took place in 1860s, especially in the Midlands and northern England. These facts are powerful ammunition for the supporters of the housing campaign.

WILSON WOOS BIG BUSINESSfrom the Sunday Express of 3/11/63

Harold Wilson has been a-wooing in the City. In discreet lunchtime meetings he has turned on the charm to convince insurance and property tycoons that he is not such a fearsome chap after all. Mr. Wilson tells friends privately that "all the people I have seen have been reassured." (emphasis in the original)

Insurance firms have been given to understand that there is absolutely no question of nationalisation. There will be fair competition from State pensions and requests that money should be made available for selected projects. But, if the companies play ball, they need not be afraid of anything drastic. Property men have been told that he is after speculators in residential property and land - but that office builders would little to worry about if a Socialist Government came to power.....

NOTTINGHAM CND PLANS FOR FALLfrom a C.N.D. correspondent

Nottingham CND has a Fall 63 Centre at 4, Park Row, which will be open in the evenings from November 4th to 18th, for the sale of Campaign literature, particularly "Civil Defence and Nuclear ^{WAR}", as a base for Fall activities and as a meeting place for CNDers and others interested in the movement. There is a demonstration on the Old Market Square on Sunday the 17th of November commencing at 6.30.

PUBLIC SECTOR HOUSE BUILDING DECLINES IN IMPORTANCE UNDER TORY RULE

The Treasury Bulletin for Industry for October gave details of the proportion of the Gross National Product represented by public spending. Whilst most sectors since 1952 have increased relatively and absolutely, that of Public Sector Housing has declined by over 50% as a proportion of the G.N.P.. The figures are

	1952	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962
Housing (including net lending for house purchase and to building societies)							
Expenditure in millions of £	457	436	399	409	474	527	512
as % of the G.N.P.	3.3	2.2	2.0	1.9	2.1	2.2	2.1

Commenting on the figures, the Treasury Bulletin said, "Public sector housebuilding is only part of the total housing programme. Since building controls were lifted, private housebuilding has been able to play a greater part in meeting the nation's housing needs. This has meant that within the public sector emphasis could be turned from housing to other forms of social investment such as education and roads. As a result, the share of resources devoted to public sector housing declined from 3.3% of the G.N.P. to 2.0% in 1958 and has since remained pretty steady."

It might have added that whereas most public sector housing is concerned with building houses for rent, private building is concerned with building houses for sale. It would also be interesting to see how the increases in interest rates has decreased the amount of building done.

SPLIT IN ISRAEL'S MAPAI PARTY - From a special correspondent

Israel's ruling Labour Party Mapai has held a monopoly of state power since 1947, with the formation of the State of Israel. The resignation of Ben Gurion Prime Minister, a few weeks ago, has brought to a head the simmering discontent of the different elements within the ruling stratum. The younger elements around Moshe Doyan have revolted against the Social Democratic Old Guard, but not necessarily in a progressive direction. Some of the younger elements are militaristic and chauvinistic, and want a showdown with the Arab states. At the recent Mapai conference in Tel Aviv Moshe Doyan the Israeli Ministry of Agriculture attacked the voluntary efforts of the individual pioneers as having no place in Israel's present day realities. This was Doyan's first major attack on the Prime Minister, Mr. Eshkol, who made the traditional call for pioneering, workers co-operatives, the strengthening of the Histadrach (T.U.C.) and of Socialism (the "Clause 4" of Israel's Mapai). These ideas were attacked by Doyan openly and by Ben Gurion more obliquely at the conference. Israel's Mapai, trapped in insoluble contradictions, it has either to find the road to the Arab Revolution or end up as the rump of Imperialism in the Middle East. To find the road to the Arab revolution, to Algeria - Israel's Mapai has to cease being itself. This is the problem and dilemma of Zionist Social Democratic politics.

BELGIAN DISSIDENT COMMUNISTS START PAPER based on Hsinhua report

A fortnightly, "The People's Voice", has been published by Belgian Communists who support China, issues of the journal were put out last month. The first issue, published on October 11th, carried an editorial signed by Jacques Grippa, political director of the journal and first secretary of the Brussels Federation of the Belgian Communist Party. Class struggle requires that the Communist parties issue their own newspapers, the editorial says. In the past few years, militant journals dedicated to Marxism-Leninism were no longer published in Belgium. The editorial points out that in Belgium the Socialist party continues to play the role of the social mainstay of the bourgeoisie, and that the reformism it pursued in the past decades is an inalienable part of "Social-Capitalism" and has brought disappointment and betrayal to the working class.

The present leaders of the Belgian Communist Party, it declares have repudiated Marxism-Leninism and have taken the stand of reformism which they describe as a "New Ideology." Their organ, Le Drapeau Rouge, has become a guide to revisionism. It spreads revisionism among the poor and induces them to hate the revolutionaries.

LATIN AMERICAN BANANA WORKERS ANGERED BY COMPANY'S NEW LAND SYSTEM

The Federation of Workers in the Banana Industry of Latin America and the Caribbean has strongly condemned the United Fruit Co. for introducing a sub-contracting system based on land transference. The U.F.C. is a huge concern controlling the biggest share in fruit production and trade in Latin America. In an open letter to the Company's president the Federation maintains that the Associated Producers defeats the purpose of the Alliance for Progress programme.

Listing the disadvantages of the system to the workers, the Federation says the U.F.C., which invests the capital, imposes onerous and unilateral conditions on the "so-called Associated Producers"-including supervision, technical assistance and exclusive sale to the Company at the price determined by it. As a consequence of short-term repayment of the capital invested by the Company, high payment for supervision and technical assistance, payment of low prices for the bananas which they are only allowed to sell to the Company, the Associated Producers have no alternative but to deny their workers decent wages, housing, other benefits and working conditions in keeping with the dignity of labour.

The following facts extracted from South Africa in Fact, an official publication of the South African Embassy in Britain, show the stake British imperialism has in South Africa. Whilst British politicians prate about the necessity of defending the free world, they show by their action of opposing economic sanctions against South Africa that they put economic interests far above freedom and rights of men.

Fact 1: Two out of every three pounds of foreign capital invested in South Africa is British. Total British investments are estimated to be more £1,000,000,000.

Fact 2: Dividends from direct and portfolio investments amounted to some £43,000,000 in 1962.

Fact 3: British big business gains more from South Africa in trade and investment than from any other country in the world. Last year British business derived £76,000,000 from South Africa in this way.

Fact 4: So great is the volume of trade between South Africa and Britain that half the traffic at Southampton docks is accounted for by British-South African trade.

Fact 5: In 1962 British exports to South Africa were worth £148,000,000 and South African exports to Britain were worth £115,000,000.

VERY BIG INCREASE IN BRITISH TRADE WITH SOUTH AFRICA THIS YEAR

The Board of Trade Journal of November 1st contains a detailed breakdown of British trade in the third quarter of 1963. We have extracted the figures and comment about British-South African trade:

".....Exports to the sterling area increased by /£3 million....."

Two-thirds of the increase was in exports to South Africa which included the delivery of a warship in September. In each quarter of this year exports to South Africa have been substantially higher than the rates in recent years.."

	1st quarter	2nd quarter	3rd quarter
Exports to South Africa in 1963	54.5 (up 52)	45.2 (up 25)	47.1 (up 28)

Figures are in millions of pounds and the percentage change from last year is given in brackets. There has been a big increase in British imports from South Africa too:

	1st quarter	2nd quarter	3rd quarter
Imports from South Africa in 1963	26.3 (up 7)	35.7 (up 9)	29.8 (up 19)

U.S. INVESTMENTS POUR INTO SOUTH AFRICA

In a recent despatch from its South African correspondent, the Wall Street Journal gave some facts and figures about U.S. investment in South Africa. Total American private investments in South Africa are estimated at over \$600 million, a 25% increase in only two years. Giving reasons as to why South Africa is attracting so much U.S. capital the despatch said "American companies doing business in South African industry are averaging profits of 27% on invested capital." Giving some details of particular investments it said that Goodyear Tyre and Rubber Co. is spending 4.2 million dollars expanding Uitenhage tyre plant, the First National City Bank will open a new branch in Durban in November and Lilley Laboratories is opening a 30,000 square foot plant at Isando.

SOUTH AFRICA TO SET UP ROCKET RANGE based on South African Embassy handout

South Africa is to set up a rocket research institute near Pretoria to develop a ground-to-air missile. In making the announcement, Prof. Le Roux, of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, said a firing range would also be built. He claimed that South Africa had been forced to enter the missile field by events in Africa and that the missiles would be developed as modern "defensive" weapons.

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ALGERIA/MOROCCO DISPUTE - KHRUSHCHEV WON'T INTERFERE

Answering questions posed by ^{the}journalists who had taken part in the third International Forum of Journalists, Khrushchov put forward his views on the Algeria/Morocco border dispute. He clearly evaded taking sides on a chaos basis and one is reminded of the similar "neutral" attitude he had in the Sino/Indian border dispute. The question was:-

... What measures could the Soviet Union offer for the defence of the Algerian revolution whose sovereignty is today under threat? What is Chairman Khrushchov's opinion on the Moroccan-Algerian conflict which today has aroused the anxiety of all the peoples of the world?

ANSWER: The Soviet government cannot but express its anxiety over the Moroccan-Algerian armed conflict which has flared up between two Arab states. It seemed as if this conflict flared up over a frontier dispute. But if one looks more deeply at it and studies it, one sees that the roots are more serious.

To check the progressive movement of the peoples that have cast off the colonial yoke, to retain their economic domination in the liberated countries, to keep those countries on a capitalist basis, monopoly circles are taking a wide variety of measures. The imperialists are now rubbing their hands in glee because a conflict has flared up between Algeria and Morocco. And, pursuing their sinister aims, the imperialists are in every way fanning and aggravating this conflict.

The anxiety of the Algerian people, who only recently won their independence in a staunch and sanguinary struggle against the colonialists, in connection with this conflict is quite understandable. It is to be regretted that the Moroccan government decided against taking the path of peaceful settlement with Algeria of the border disputes colonialism and resorted to the force of arms.

The continuation of the armed conflict between Algeria and Morocco is advantageous only to the imperialists who are trying to make use of the resulting situation to interfere in the internal affairs of those states. This conflict runs counter to the national interest of the peoples of these two neighbouring Arab countries, creates a threat to their security, distracts the attention of the government of those countries from the solution of important and urgent tasks in consolidating their political and economic independence, and gravely damages the unity and solidarity of the African states. The Soviet government has always adhered and continues to adhere to the position of the non-interference of states in the internal affairs of other states, and it comes out for all controversial issues, including border conflicts, being settled peacefully through direct negotiations between the sides concerned.

The Soviet government is of the opinion that the present conflict between Morocco and Algeria should be settled precisely in this way. One cannot but welcome the initiative of the statesmen of a number of African and Arab states who offered their good offices with the object of facilitating a peaceful settlement of the Moroccan-Algerian conflict. We sincerely wish them success in this noble cause.

As regards the problems of social, political and state development of this or that country, we have declared more than once that these questions must be settled by the people of each country themselves, without outside interference. Outside interference can lead to serious complications, can develop into the kind of conflict which would be fraught with the most serious consequences for the very aggressors who fanned such a conflict....

Net profits of 245 UK companies whose annual reports were included in the Exchange Telegraph service during October reached a combined total of £38.4 millions, or 20 per cent more than the same companies reported in the previous year. The rise is by far the largest in any month of the present recovery phase. In September, the rise on the previous year was 11 per cent but in all other months since February of this year the increase over the corresponding 1962 month was under 5½ per cent. In January, profits were actually 15 per cent down on the previous year, reflecting the dismal experience of steel and motors in the recession.

The net profits of 3,406 companies which reported during the 10 months to October amounted to £1,294 millions, a rise of 2.8 per cent on the profits of the same companies in the previous year. With every month now, company reports will reflect more of the economic recovery which for some industries began a year ago, but for others only in the second quarter of this year.

INTERNATIONAL COMPARISON OF DAYS LOST THROUGH INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

The Ministry of Labour Gazette of October 1963 gave the yearly figures in the Table below supplied by the International Labour Office and show the number of days lost through industrial disputes per 1,000 persons employed, in a number of countries including the United Kingdom, in the last ten years. The industries covered are mining, manufacturing, construction and transport. As the definitions used for these statistics vary from country to country too much significance should not be attached to relatively small differences in the figures.

	1959	1960	1961	1962	Average for		
					1953-1957	1958-1962	1953-1962
Australia	200	380	340	280	556	290	423
Belgium	440	210	60	160	824	204	514
Canada	310	310	500	440	684	556	620
Denmark	30	100	3,340	30	306	704	505
Finland	610	130	50	30	196	176	186
France	280	160	350	240	550	238	394
West Germany	-	-	-	30	122	16	69
India	770	770	600	530	782	732	757
Ireland	270	140	540	290	300	320	310
Italy	1,020	540	830	2,200	588	1,012	800
Japan	520	350	430	350	446	434	440
Netherlands	10	260	10	-	48	60	54
New Zealand	90	100	100	250	91	120	105.5
Norway	80	-	570	130	353	164	258.5
Sweden	10	10	-	-	69	6	37
Switzerland	-	-	-	-	17	-	8.5
South Africa	10	-	40	-	5	10	7.5
United Kingdom	420	240	220	450	282	318	300
U.S.A.	2,770	750	650	740	998	1,188	1,093

LIGHT INDUSTRY AGAIN LAGS IN THE SOVIET UNION

The report of U.S.S.R. Council of Minister's Central Statistical Board for the first 9 months of 1963 gives details of how the various branches of industry increased production over the same period of 1962. They read (percentage increase in brackets): Chemical industry(17); Metals(9) Fuel & Power(10) Engineering(14) Building materials(8) Light industry(4) Food(7).

Overall production rose by 8.7% but most consumer items increased by considerably less than this figure and some even declined individual items of which details were given included (with amount expressed as percentage of same period of 1962): Woollen textiles(99.9) Garments(99) Leather footwear(101) Clock & watches (104) Butter (95) and Milk products(103).