

Subscription rates: \$1.50 for 6 months, \$4.50 for 12 months. THE MILITANT PUBLISHING ASSOCIATION, 116 University Pl., N. Y. 3, N. Y. Editor: MURRY WEISS. Business Manager: DOROTHY JOHNSON.

Bandung and Bangkok

Labor News

The Guardian Calls for a Third Party

On Jan. 10, the National Guardian, Progressive Party weekly, issued "A call for independent political action" — a statement "for discussion by progressives." The call, signed by John T. McManus, proposes the holding of a caucus not later than Labor Day, 1955, to field a national ticket and state tickets in the 1956 elections.

they hail it because it is not a proposal for a Marxist party. "So far as the formation of a Marxist party is concerned," say these renegades from Marxism, "the time for that is not here yet." Their description of the party proposed by McManus is accurate: It is not a labor party (that is, one based on the unions) and it is not a Marxist party. It is neither the body of independent working class political action nor its head.

Now They're Singing A Different Tune

Members of the House of Representatives in Washington voted themselves a big pay increase of \$10,000 a year. This would boost their pay 66 2/3%. The U.S. Senate now, who's members are a little more modest, are considering a bill to raise salaries by 50%, from \$15,000 to \$22,500.

servants of the people. Bickering over how many thousands of dollars they should receive each month for their "patriotism" tarnishes the glitter. It makes them resemble too closely Al Capp's Senator Phobound.

When Is a Right Not a Right?

The corporations make a big issue of the "right to work" when a scab is stopped by a picket line. Or when a scissorbill refuses to join a union. Laws on the books in 17 states forbid the union shop on the spurious claim that it interferes with "the right to work," and Big Business works furiously away to extend this type of union-busting legislation throughout the nation.

an indication of a substantial character defect. The District's Board of Appeals and Review is now studying Shonick's case. "We do not yet know," says Kempton, "whether a man has a constitutional right to tune pianos in the District of Columbia."

Their Morals and Ours

All the "moralistic" arguments of anti-Marxists — from the hoary charge that Lenin and the Bolsheviks were "amoral" to the current accusation that the guiding Marxist maxim is that "the end justifies the means" — are answered in this classic work.

"When he made that pilgrimage, special agent Fred McIntyre suggested that he get off the hook by joining the Trotskyites as an FBI spy. When he refused he was fired; the Detroit Security Board reinstated him; and he was fired again when his supervisors appealed to the Army Review Board in Washington. He is still unemployed.

By Daniel Roberts

How to keep one-and-a-half billion Asian and African people in colonial bondage or drive them back to it — that is the major problem confronting the U.S. State Department today. What brings the problem acutely to the fore for the U.S. government is the 30-nation Africa-Asia conference scheduled for the end of April in Bandung, Indonesia.



NEHRU

THE UNINVITED Representatives of these five nations met again last December to invite "all (African and Asian) countries with independent governments" to the conference next April.

According to Dana Adams Schmidt, writing in the Feb. 20 N. Y. Times, the Bandung conference "has been planned on the premise that Western, white man's colonialism or imperialism is the principal menace confronting Asia and Africa."

ARAB NATIONS Setting the tone for the Bandung conference is also the statement issued this week by Nehru and Egypt's Premier Nasser in Cairo. They agreed in condemning "military alliances and power entanglements which increase tension and rivalry in armaments."

The only prospect the U.S. State Department holds out to these one-and-a-half billion people is precisely that kind of war. That is the meaning of the Southeast Asian Collective Defense Treaty conference that opened at Bangkok, Thailand on Feb. 23.

integrity and sovereignty, non-aggression, non-interference in internal affairs, equality and mutual benefit, and peaceful co-existence.

Behind these declarations are the wishes of the Asian and African people who do not want to be used as cannon fodder by imperialist powers in a Wall Street instigated war against the Soviet bloc and China, a war that would also impose colonial slavery on them.

The author is a German writer who spent eight years in Stalin's concentration camps — six of them in the Arctic Circle — after she became disillusioned with Stalinism in East Germany.

They regarded as dangerous every attempt to organize passive resistance on a large scale, going so far as to reject it as a provocation, and they sabotaged it every way they could.

My Life in Stalin's Prison Camps

How the Great Vorkuta Strike Was Prepared

By Brigitte Gerland

The idea of a mass strike of forced laborers was popularized in the camp by the Leninist students. No one could keep this idea from spreading, although it was more dangerous than a time-bomb.

CONTACTS ARE MADE The problem of contacts did not present a major difficulty because the MVD (Secret police), anxious to head off any revolt, had prudently dispersed the "student troublemakers" throughout the entire area; so that in each camp there was at least one small group of three or four.

NATIONAL GROUPS This shift did not help the oppositional movement, since the "national groups," as they were generally called, held aloof from any united fronts, not only with communists, but with any Russians whatsoever.

In addition, the superintendents of work in the bigger construction yards, railroads and the like, could not avoid bringing together workers from different camps. This invariably furnished new opportunities for getting together, making future appointments, and even afforded the possibility for summing up the overall situation in detail.

were prepared which were to make possible the organization of the strike with surprising rapidity considering that the 50 camps of the area are spread over hundreds of miles. The immediate problem, however, was not that of strike organization and strike tactics, but something more pressing: How to drive home to some 250,000 forced laborers that they could better their lot, and perhaps even gain their freedom, only by acting in concert, only by organizing a powerful action of solidarity?

For a long time this seemed virtually unattainable. The only firm supporters of the strike were to be found among the Blatni (Soviet outlaws) and the Monashki (Soviet religious sect).

Vorkuta was made by decree an area of special "regime camps," and the vacancies left by the departure of ordinary prisoners were filled mainly by natives of the newly-constituted Soviet Republics of West Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

The struggle often took on acute forms, because, in everything that involved outside work, the central issue became solidarity in resisting the methods of unbridled exploitation. It was not just an ideological clash. The alternative was either to give in, to become degraded to the animal level of existence and to die a slow death, or to unite and to

of the Philippines, Thailand and Pakistan tagging along. This is the organization in which Secretary of State Dulles wants eventually to enroll all Asian nations for war against the People's Republic of China.

It is true that at Bandung there will be no spokesmen for the worker and peasant masses of the 30 nations although they make up the great majority of the populations. The African and Asian nationalist movements will be represented by native capitalist politicians such as Nehru.

LIMITED AIMS The capitalist class in these countries struggle against imperialism only for limited aims and launch repressions against genuine freedom fighters — the workers and peasants — in their own countries.

Nor will the Stalinist bureaucrats representing China be genuinely concerned with helping colonial peoples in other lands achieve complete victory over imperialism. They will be more interested in using the unreliable "neutrality" of colonial capitalists as a buffer against U.S. war threats, than in aiding workers and peasants to liberate themselves.

Just the same, it is the tremendous groundswell of anti-imperialist sentiment among hundreds of millions of workers and peasants that is forcing the nationalist leaders in Asia and Africa to make anti-imperialist pronouncements. The Bandung conference will register that sentiment and strengthen it.

The American working people should hail the Bandung gathering to the day when one-and-a-half billion Asian and African toilers will mobilize their forces through organizations genuinely representing their interests. They will then sweep forward to create workers and farmers governments that will end imperialist exploitation and tyrannical rule of home grown capitalists and landlords once and for all.

That day will see the war-making powers of the U.S. government in pursuit of Wall Street's profits severely weakened. It will strengthen and inspire the movement for labor's rule in the United States and world peace.

INTERNATIONAL POPULARITY? The Mexican authorities revealed, as U.S. Vice-president Nixon left their country, that they were releasing from prison all those who had been rounded up on the eve of Nixon's "good-will" visit as a precautionary measure.

FIGHTING BETWEEN POLICE AND STRIKERS marked the attempt of workers in Sierra Leone, West African colony of Great Britain, to win an eleven-cent a day wage increase. Six strikers and one British police official were killed in Freetown, the capital. Crowds burnt down the police station in the East End of the city.

FOOD RIOTS have broken out in Tunis, capital of French-ruled Tunisia. The number of starving Arabs in Tunis has been estimated between 10,000 and 15,000. According to the N.Y. Times (Feb. 12) a possible 15% of the whole Tunisian working class is unemployed.

SUGGESTED SOLUTION FOR FORMOSA deadlock was offered by Harold Wilson, prominent figure in the Bevanite wing of the British Labor Party. He proposed that Chiang Kai-shek be "safely stowed away" on St. Helena, the remote South Atlantic island where Napoleon was exiled, and that the U.S. Seventh Fleet be sent there to guard him.

ANEURIN BEVAN, leader of the British Labor Party's left wing, defending the right of Jamaicans to immigrate to England, declared: "What we are dealing with is the arrival of people who stand in need of help from the welfare authorities and from the employment exchanges, first to look after them while they are searching for a home, and secondly to place them in suitable employment as soon as possible. We must make them at home amongst us and the best way to do so is to mix as much as possible and discourage segregation in separate communities."

THE MAYOR OF FLORENCE, ITALY, Prof. Giorgio La Pira, confiscated a bankrupt foundry and gave it to the workers, fixing an indemnity to be paid the owners at 300,000 lire monthly. A sit-down strike had been organized in protest against plans

to close the foundry. Most of the capitalist press criticized the mayor sharply for infringing on the rights of private property. Fears were expressed that his action would discourage foreign capital investment.

ISRAELI TAXI DRIVERS protested a new ordinance, barring them from picking up passengers on the main streets of Tel Aviv, by driving their cabs to the center of town, blocking the streets and then taking the wheels off their cabs. When police trucks attempted to drag away the cabs the drivers and their sympathizers began to boo. Fighting with the police broke out and many demonstrators were injured.

THE "FREE, DEMOCRATIC WORLD" chalked up another victory as 476,000 of the 500,000 registered voters in Cambodia voted in favor of the king's program. There were no secret ballots and all voting was in the presence of police and government officials.

THE JUNGLE WAR IN MALAYA costs British imperialism \$200 million annually. To repress an officially estimated 5,000 guerrilla-fighters the British are using 50,000 police, 35,000 troops and 175,000 home guards. Malayan rubber and tin bring the British Empire its richest dollar earnings.

PUERTO RICO'S GOVERNOR, Munoz Marin, reported Feb. 7 in his annual message to the legislature that "increased obstacles" have arisen to the goal of a \$2,000 income per family by 1960-70. He also pictured a time when Puerto Rico would assume some of the functions now exercised by the U.S. federal government. "I believe, of course," he said, "that there should be some changes in the future."

RUNAWAY INFLATION IN CHILE is leading to what the Feb. 3, N. Y. Times calls a "gloomy and dangerous picture." Official price index there showed a jump of 25% in 1952, 56.1% in 1953, and 71.15% in 1954. The labor minister Eduardo Yanez, has proposed a 60% wage increase to meet strike threats made by the coal miners. Only Government and industrial white collar workers are protected with cost-of-living wage adjustments.

STALIN'S DEATH

But the decisive premises for the strike took shape with Stalin's death as the starting point. The despot's death brought with it no modification in the living conditions of the prisoners. Nevertheless, they did derive from it a great moral boost which manifested itself everywhere by stepped-up activity. Many prisoners nursed hopes of an early amnesty which, rumor had it, had been blocked all this while by Stalin. But this illusion burst like a bubble when early in May 1953, the highest MVD functionary at Vorkuta, General Derevyanko, announced that political prisoners should not count on amnesty, since their liberation would jeopardize state security.

This news came as a shock to all those who imagined that with the disappearance of Stalin would also go the terror of the Stalinist epoch. In this way even the most docile elements, who up till then had been straddling the fence, oriented toward energetic action. But action meant strike action; no other way of protest was available. And so, by the end of May 1953 committees for preparing the strike were set up in several places. To these committees Leninists, anarchists, Monashki, as well as unorganized elements were elected. For here, participation had been opened to those who were unaffiliated with any underground movement.

The Balto-Ukrainian groups, around whom had rallied all the anxiety-ridden, wavering or despairing elements during those decisive weeks, flatly rejected the very idea of a strike. "We shall be shot, and nothing more will come of it," they argued. "And why should we, like fools, allow ourselves to be wiped out at five minutes to twelve?" By these words they expressed their conviction that, now, with the last great "Bolshevik" dead, war was imminent. (The final installment of the Gerland series will appear next week.)

