

September Is Coming

New Battle For Food

Must Begin Now

Harvests have long been gathered in. The scorching sun of May-June is baking the fine fields of India. Millions of the peasantry have begun preparing the fields for the rains and the next sowings. Food for the year-end and the next has to be thought of. The days of September are not far away.

THE days of September last year were the days of severest food-crisis. Food was not so short. But it had gone underground. The big bankers and hoarder-speculators were fattening on the hunger of the working people.

The Congress ministers everywhere produced a harvest of statements, threats and false promises. "Spectacular raids" on a few speculators' godowns were made, then called off. Arrests of hoarders were made, cases instituted. Then quietly the hoarders were let off; cases dropped, at least some of them.

Like in the old days of Harun-al-Rashid, the Home Minister even went to see things in disguise. The Food Minister threatened to establish new state-sector ricemills and flourmills to beat the private ones.

PROMISES GALORE

Banks were asked to curb credit to the food-trade. A hundred-crore food corporation was floated to cut at the feet of the wholesalers. Almost a revolution was in the making.

When new harvests began to come in, solemn resolves to procure stocks from the new harvests were made. The Finance Minister in his budget speech declared that new monetary measures to curb credit would be taken this year to ease the price situation.

The Food Minister who had been temporarily washed away, by the emotional floods of the language issue, came back and announced in a flamboyant manner that this year's food production is 87.2

million tonnes, the highest ever.

No need to worry now. No food crisis this year; output 87.2 million tonnes! Great glory to the Congress which did so much and a little praise for the peasant.

So the hoarders, who had been arrested last year in Delhi were all absolved and their cases withdrawn. The big gang in Bombay which had defied the government's order was rehabilitated, so as to create goodwill for the next year.

★ The Finance Minister has proved false already. The bank credit to the trade this year has been the highest. The banks' profits from last year's hunger, the biggest.

★ The Food Minister has proved false too. Not a single new flour or ricemill in the state sector has been set up. Procurement of stocks has failed. The Food Corporation has slyly its money and its offices to the wholesalers, who now go to the markets with two weapons: their private black-money bag and the state corporation's lawful agents' flag. The monopolists have again cornered all the crops.

Prices are not falling. They are not shooting up fast yet because the harvests have just come in. The speculators even manage a sharp fall, here and there, by stalling on purchases, as they did recently in the Punjab market.

FLARE-UP CERTAIN

There is, at present, a lull in the food-front just as there is lull in the Kanjarkot front. But the enemy

from within, and the enemy from without, have not called off the battle nor are they defeated.

The food-front is going to flare up again in September or thereabouts as it did last September. We must get ready to battle against it.

Last year saw a few food-riots. But most of the battle was fought on the basis of picketing before government offices and 'satyagraha' campaigns. Thousands courted arrest. The movement of the masses alone moved the gov-

***** by *****
* S. A. DANGE *

ernment to bring in relief.

Are we going to allow the same crisis and starvation to overtake the people again?

We cannot depend on the government and the promises of its ministers because they themselves are the abettors of the bankers and speculators. They are building consciously and ruthlessly the capitalist system. Hence they do not nationalise the banks, take over the wholesale food trade and the biggest of the rice and flour mills which constitute one of the centres of speculators and hoarders.

The rich Congressmen-cum-cultivator-traders in the villages have become the organised conscious base of the flowering capitalist system in India, though this base also suffers from the conflicts with the growing monopoly of finance and industry.

The Congress is spreading the opium of tall promises about the ensuing fourth five-year plan. Fertilisers, irrigation, tractors, completion of land-reforms, big industries and big schemes are in the air.

DHORI : 564 DEAD

ATTEMPTS TO DESTROY EVIDENCE ARE ON

ARREST THE RAJA

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And to make the people believe, they have made a fine agreement with the Soviet Union, a socialist country which, as everyone knows, is always ready to help India stand on its feet.

But all that generous help is not going to solve the problem of food and people's living. Every good agreement with the Soviet Union and socialist countries is sabotaged by the hold that the reactionary monopolists, bureaucrats and ministers have on the whole system of government, as it exists. Every step of friendliness with the socialist camp is negated by a handshake with the neocolonialists and imperialists.

Hence, the struggle for food

activities of these millers, especially the big ones among them, who are one of the main culprits in the crisis.

There are 145 roller flour-mills in India. They produce more than two million tons of wheat products in a year. They are another centre of criminals in the food-crisis.

The big grain-dealers and the wholesalers, who last year completely defeated the government's declared policies with the help of the bankers and the bureaucrats and some ministers, are yet another gang to be dealt with.

MILITANT ACTIONS

It is therefore necessary that the sangram samities start mobilising their forces throughout the country. From now they should consider building up a volunteer force of several thousands to prepare for the battle, to dehoard stocks, to attack price-rises, to establish a peoples distributing agency, and to deal justice to the criminals.

This time, the people must go into more militant and positive actions than last year. The people must prepare to deal with the criminal activities of the big price-racketeers and millionaires with their own people's courts and people's justice.

All defenders of democracy and people's food must come together and plan measures as to how to do this. All the divided forces of socialism must come together for this battle.

Next September must not see the helplessness and unorganised discontent of last September. Conscious, planned, fearless and detailed organisation of the people must be built up from now on. Then alone we can defeat the anti-people policies of the Congress and defend the country and the people.

Then alone the people will reap the new harvest for themselves and not for the profiteers as is done today.

(June 1)

GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE

There are 36,800 ricemills in India through which passes the rice harvest of millions of tons. The four big rice-producing areas—Tamilnad, Andhra, West Bengal and Kerala—account for half the number of these mills.

The government has completely failed to control the

Victims Of Profit Greed

Editorial

THE DEAD IN THE Dhori mine disaster point their accusing fingers at those responsible for their murder: those who in their greed for more and more profits deliberately failed to take necessary precautions to ensure the safety of those from whose labour they amass their wealth.

Every day new facts are coming to light. Trade union leaders allege that the most elementary rules were not observed, that there was a lack of proper supervision, that no member of the supervising staff went down the mine before the change of shift.

The total failure of the so-called Safety Inspectorate of the Government of India to ensure the observance of safety rules has been obvious for a long while. Despite protests and warnings from the trade union movement, the government has done little or nothing to take action against mineowners responsible for violations of the safety laws.

The lives of the working people of this land are evidently not of as much value to the Congress rulers of India as the contributions to the Congress party funds from the exploiting and profiteering mineowners.

The Raja of Ramgarh who owns the Dhori mine has been quick to cry thief in an attempt to turn public attention away from the guilt of the management. He is "sure" it is all a case of "sabotage"!

The political antics of the Raja of Ramgarh are wellknown. His recent "breakaway" from the Swatantra Party and his entry into the Congress have been the occasion for public comment. It has resulted in further disruption inside the Congress party in Bihar.

As a mineowner, the Raja's performances are not so wellknown. But the Dhori disaster, it is hoped, will throw the spotlight on the true state of affairs in the coalmines and bring to book all those owners who are playing with the lives of the miners.

The Government of India has appointed a court of inquiry. In a case such as this, where so many lives have been lost and where the mineowner is as influential and wealthy a patron of the ruling party and the bureaucracy as the Raja of Ramgarh, what is necessary is a public inquiry at the highest level, with judges whose integrity and incorruptibility as well as independence of the executive is assured.

The inquiry cannot bring the dead back to life. But a genuine public inquiry can help to bring the murderers to book and perhaps also assist in preventing a repetition of such tragedies in the future.

The trade union movement will have the full support of the people in its demand that the coalmining industry be nationalised without further delay. The nation's interests call for such a step. And now it is clear that the protection of the lives of the mine workers also requires that the mines are taken out of the hands of the profit-mad private sector.

An immediate necessity is that of adequate relief for the families of the victims of the disaster. They must be given substantial relief immediately and adequate compensation without much delay.

Government and the mineowners are handing out their pittances with loud proclamations regarding their philanthropy and charity: the lives of the working class are cheap in the world of capitalism.

The class brothers of the dead, the entire democratic movement, will not allow those who have fattened on the labour and lives of the dead to escape so easily. The demand for the punishment of the guilty men will also not die down till it has been met.

(June 1)

NEW DELHI LETTER

BALANCING TRICK IN OPERATION

Prime Minister Shastri is getting ready to go to Canada. After the Canada visit he would go to London to attend the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference and later the Algiers conference of Afro-Asian countries.

MEANWHILE, the political atmosphere in New Delhi has suddenly registered a drop in sharp contrast to the mood of expectancy and hope that preceded his departure for Moscow. Shastri himself has contributed to this phenomenon. He found it necessary to write a personal letter to President Johnson just at this time—a reply to the latter's letter asking for the postponement of the Indian Prime Minister's visit to the USA.

Shastri had greatly enhanced his prestige by the dignified way in which he cancelled the visit altogether at that time. It took political circles quite by surprise therefore when it was reported that he had now sent a formal reply to Johnson's letter.

An official spokesman subsequently attempted to tone down the meaning and significance of Shastri's exercise in correspondence. He claimed that the letter was in the "same sense" as the Prime Minister's statement in Parliament on the subject and that the reported contents of the letter were "unauthorised and speculative" both in "substance and in emphasis".

It had been reported that Shastri in his letter had "appreciated" the reasons for the US President's request for postponement of the visit and had not taken it amiss and also appreciated Washington's efforts to prevent the use of US arms by Pakistan against India.

What has caused misgivings, despite clarifications by the official spokesman, is that the reported letter was written at all, in the midst of ingeniously manipulated propaganda—first directly condemnatory to the results of Shastri's visit to the Soviet Union and later more subtly distorted assessment of it from the Washington angle.

It was also suggested that the US was not at all unhappy since in its view India could use its influence with the Soviet Union to moderate the developing crisis for Washington in Asia as a result of its adventurous policy in Vietnam.

This was not confined to press alone. Important elements in the Congress Party and in the government, among whom S. K. Patil and Satyanarain Sinha can be explicitly named, mounted pressure for some gesture to balance things up with Washington without delay.

Side by side, vested interests in government and outside, stepped up a sinister campaign to play down the value and significance of the Soviet aid offers for the fourth plan, particularly the proposal to double Indo-Soviet trade turnover during the next five-year period.

That no less a person than Commerce Minister Manubhai Shah himself should initiate this campaign and cast doubts on the practicability of the proposal is a measure of its serious implications.

It would appear that Manubhai Shah is not worried so much over the expansion of trade between the Soviet Union and India on traditional lines, which by its very nature must have a

limited scope. He does not relish the idea of a long-term and planned growth of Indo-Soviet economic collaboration, with the proposed establishment of complementary industries to feed each other's markets, which Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission Asoka Mehta has been advocating and which evoked such ready response from the Soviet side.

Manubhai seems to think that the expansion of trade on the scale and in the manner envisaged during Moscow talks would not be liked by the western countries and it might further shrink our trade with those countries.

But he forgets that western markets are just not open for the manufacturers of our developing economy. We are running trade deficits in these markets because of restrictions on our trade potential in other than primary products which they are willing to receive on highly unfavourable terms.

A certain fetish has been allowed to grow in our thinking on the question of foreign exchange which has been made synonymous with earning western currencies as if they alone represent value in terms of needed goods for our economy.

The fact, however, is that the so-called foreign exchange stringency which India has been facing since the launching of its industrialisation programme has sprung from unfair terms of trade with the west, restrictions on our exports and costly imports of machinery, machine parts and raw materials of various kinds.

It was the appearance of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries as collaborators in our efforts which provided us with alternate sources for meeting the requirements of our industrialisation programme at competitive and in many cases favourable terms.

We are now on the threshold of a great expansion and diversification of this collaboration with the socialist markets, earnings from which in terms of material goods are of equal and even greater value than the so-called free foreign exchange earnings. This is not to say that we should stop to strive to enter the western markets but it must be on equitable terms.

Meanwhile, it should not escape notice that inspired reports have started appearing about the readiness of the west, particularly of the US to assist India in economic development. This is to provide the opening for hard knocks that India is sure to get, as usual, when the US Senate in Washington begins to discuss aid allocations and the World Bank teams come here to probe our planning and economy.

Anti-Kamaraj Move In AICC

AICC office has suddenly become eager to dig out

and publicise an old, forgotten resolution passed in October 1958 at a session of the AICC at Hyderabad which expressed itself against election for a second term of the office-bearers of the Congress committees.

The purpose is to suggest that it would not be in order for Kamaraj to accept the second term. Not finding it convenient to openly oppose his re-election, the syndicate appears to have hit on the idea of resurrecting this resolution to block the chance of re-election.

It is known that Atulya Ghosh has for long been hankering for this high office but without success. It is also known that for some time he has been trying to act as the AICC office manager, the latest gain out of which is the fishing out of the Hyderabad resolution.

Kerosene Trouble

A PROPOS the cold war launched by the oil companies since the government's refusal to grant them foreign exchange to import deficit petroleum products, the Indian Oil Corporation which was called upon to organise parallel distribution facilities of the Soviet petroleum products is feeling severely handicapped.

The government is hesitating to take the logical steps that should follow to meet the situation. The companies have flatly refused to either handle the Soviet products or make available to IOC the transportation and distribution facilities now surplus with them and their agents.

But the government is still unwilling to use "special powers" to requisition these facilities because, it is stated, they might result in larger political repercussions. Even in mid-sixties of twentieth century, the power of oil cartels tells, at least in India.

—B. M.

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INDIA & SECOND BANDUNG

Are New Delhi's Preparations Adequate For Algiers Meet?

The Government of India's emissaries are flying helter-skelter all over the two continents preparing for the Second Conference of Afro-Asian Heads of State and Government which opens at Algiers on June 26. The Vice-President is in the Arab world. The Minister, the Minister of State and the Deputy Minister for External Affairs are scheduled to visit several countries in the coming weeks. Lesser officials are also doing their bit.

It is important to make contacts and explain the government's viewpoint in as many countries as possible. And no one can have any quarrel with any steps which help to bring about such contacts as preparations for the Second Bandung.

But the question is: Is all this enough and is it in the correct direction?

All who sincerely desire Afro-Asian solidarity, to whatever country they may belong, will place at the head of their aims at the Second Bandung the defeat of all attempts to disrupt the conference or divide it.

Internal differences inside the two continents must be subordinated to the far greater common concerns of the Afro-Asian world.

As a country which is dedicated to Afro-Asian solidarity, India's first and foremost task at the Algiers conference will inevitably be the same as that performed by the late Pandit Nehru at the first Afro-Asian governmental conference at Bandung; namely, to help overcome differences and promote solutions which strengthen the Afro-Asian efforts for peace and national independence, against war and imperialism.

It is argued glibly that India can no longer play this role which won for it such high regard at Bandung in 1955. It is argued that with the advent to independence of so many new countries, the old solidarity cannot prevail.

Defeatist Attitude

And then, it is further maintained that India has lost its influence and should not attempt the impossible; it should maintain a dignified silence and not push itself forward, for, with the present tensions with China and Pakistan, India is vulnerable and so she should not attempt to unite but only to secure maximum support for itself against its detractors.

This is a thoroughly defeatist and false attitude and is not based on any serious appraisal of India's duties and responsibilities. Of course, every country has the right, and indeed the duty, to protect its own interests in any international gathering. It must make all possible efforts to win support for its case on all matters of national interest.

But this is quite a different

"Chinese" can always be added for good measure.

The reactionary regimes in several of the countries of the "French community" have a record of siding with the imperialists and of maintaining centres of neocolonialism in Africa.

Their present "anti-Chinese" stance therefore is nothing but a move by the imperialists to disrupt the Algiers conference, "Chinese subversion" is merely the mask for pro-imperialist policies.

Similarly, the Government of India should not attempt to make common cause, in the name of "anti-Chinese attitudes", with other pro-imperialist governments.

Nothing would be more disastrous for India's prestige and reputation than any such "common front" with governments tied to the imperialist powers through military pacts and other bonds.

To say this, is not to suggest that the government is contemplating any such thing. But an examination of the list of the countries being visited by Indian ministers in preparation for Algiers does leave the impression that an effort is afoot to woo some at least of the most reactionary and pro-imperialist regimes in Afro-Asia.

One can only hope that this impression is incorrect.

By ROMESH CHANDRA

of their allies as they can muster are desperately intriguing to wreck the Algiers conference—at least create such divisions among the participating countries that no effective decisions for common struggle against imperialism, colonialism and neocolonialism can be taken.

It would be a grave error of judgment for India to shout 'hurrah' at the news that ten African governments of the so-called "French community" are threatening to boycott the Algiers conference because of "Chinese subversion" inside their countries.

It is true that these governments are "anti-Chinese" but this one fact does not and cannot make them friends of India or of Afro-Asian solidarity.

Most of the ten governments concerned are reactionary regimes facing popular struggles from genuine democratic and patriotic forces. It is easy to label all democratic opposition as "Communist subversion".

And with the adventurist mistakes of the Chinese leadership to help, the label

out the positive results of the Prime Minister's visit to the Soviet Union.

The TIMES OF INDIA has last week (May 28) editorially attacked India's sponsorship of the Soviet Union, joining hands with other sections of the monopoly press in this anti-Soviet campaign meant to pressurise the government into abandoning its principled position.

It would be fatal for India to relax its efforts for Soviet participation. Not only is this a correct stand in the interests of Afro-Asian unity; it is also in the best interests of this country.

It is not narrow outlook, as suggested by the TIMES OF INDIA ("to encourage a kind of counter-force against China"), which is behind India's sponsorship of the Soviet Union's claim to be present at Algiers.

The Soviet Union has a geographical right to be in any Afro-Asian gathering; it has exercised this right in the Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Organisation for the last ten years with great benefit to the popular movement.

More, the collaboration between the Soviet Union and the nonaligned Afro-Asian countries has already become a decisive force in world affairs and Soviet participation in the Algiers conference could strengthen this collaboration.

For instance, there is still no material support being given by the Government of India to the national movements in South Africa and Portuguese colonies despite a spate of worthy resolutions; the offices of the national movements have still not started functioning in New Delhi.

Again, what about the draft resolutions? From informed circles one gathers that there is still refusal to condemn categorically the imperialists in the drafts being prepared by the Ministry of External Affairs.

Most significant is the news that there is hesitation to back up the Prime Minister's stand over Vietnam through concrete resolutions condemning the US bombings.

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Hesitation Over Vietnam

There is even an effort to out forward the pro-imperialist "Radhakrishnan proposal" for a so-called Afro-Asian force on the borders between North and South Vietnam.

India's attitude towards US aggression in Vietnam may well prove to be the crucial question which will determine India's success or failure at Algiers.

One can only hope that the imperialist pressures will not divert India from taking a resolute stand against US aggression.

Cause of Malaysia

One unfortunate aspect of India's sponsorship of the Soviet Union is that it has been accompanied rather too closely with sponsorship of Malaysia's claim to a seat at Algiers.

In the eyes of all anti-imperialist Afro-Asian governments, Malaysia is a creation of British neocolonialism.

Even those who may not vote against Malaysia's participation (on the ground that the fact of Malaysia's existence cannot now be denied) are not enthusiastic at the entry of one more obviously pro-imperialist government.

Where India's sponsorship of the Soviet Union has raised its prestige, its enthusiasm for Malaysia's participation in the Algiers conference has lowered it.

It is useful to examine a little closely the other political preparations for Algiers being made by the Government of India.

The recent withdrawal of our diplomatic mission in Southern Rhodesia was an important move which won African support as few other steps could have.

But a great deal more needs to be done in pursuance of Indian support for the African peoples' struggles.

Rightist Campaign

The right reactionary parties have launched a new anti-Soviet campaign and a somewhat vain effort to wipe

out the positive results of the Prime Minister's visit to the Soviet Union.

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INDIA'S PEACE STAND IS REITERATED

The homage that the nation paid to Nehru on the occasion of his first death anniversary should serve as an eye-opener to those who would bury the dear departed leader's legacy and his entire life's work.

FROM one end of the country to the other people took every possible opportunity to pay their humble homage to the memory of one who became so inextricably a part of the life of each one of them, one who did so much for so many by his role in restoring their national self-respect and self-confidence.

The massive rally at the Ramliha Grounds in the capital was in fact the political climax of the Nehru anniversary. Among those who addressed it were Communist Party leader Bhupesh Gupta and Lenin Peace Prize winner Aruna Asaf Ali. Hem Barua who spoke on behalf of the PSP supported nonalignment. There was no speaker from the rightwing parties—neither from the Swatantra nor from the Jan Sangh. The meaning of this absence shall not be lost on our countrymen.

Prime Minister Shastri whose was naturally the major address at the rally spoke in the true spirit of Jawaharlal Nehru's teachings on the burning problems of the day.

The question uppermost in people's minds and facing the country was naturally that of the acute worsening of relations with Pakistan in the recent times and the threat of a full-scale war that overhangs the two sister nations. The approach adopted by the Prime Minister in dealing with this question was a most reasonable and sensible one. He decried the idea of a war between India and Pakistan in the strongest possible terms. He said that none else than the common people will have to suffer, while the politicians on both sides will continue to have a good time. He insisted that

everything humanly possible should be done to avert and avoid war.

The stand taken by Shastri and convincingly put across by him to the people at the Nehru anniversary mass rally is surely a wise and courageous stand and fully conforms to the interests of India as of Pakistan; it is also in keeping with the best interests of the world community at large.

And yet it is amazing how interested parties manage to blackout and distort India's stand. The British press in this very period has left no stone unturned to paint this country as a warmonger before the world. And if that is their public behaviour one can very well imagine what must be their doings in the corridors of diplomacy, and how sincere and honest can they be expected to be in their vaunted peace-making efforts.

Unfortunately the rulers of Pakistan too have followed in the British wake. Far from positively and constructively responding to Shastri's peace overtures the President and the Foreign Minister of Pakistan have continued to misrepresent and malign India's stand.

Their demand for linking the question of the restoration of the status quo in the Rann of Kutch with all the other issues in dispute between the two countries has only revealed the mentality of seeking to exploit an advantage temporarily gained by recourse to aggression; it is far removed from any real and sincere desire to make a beginning in the matter of

Comment

solving the numerous and thorny disputes that bedevil the relations between the two countries and have brought them so close to the brink.

Swatantrites' Chagrin

THE Swatantra leader Dayabhai Patel could not restrain himself and finally chose to come out in open opposition to the developing Indo-Soviet co-operation and friendship. The argument advanced by him—almost as a trump card—is that the Soviet Union has not come out in the open to denounce Pakistani aggression on India.

Dayabhai like all politicians despises consistency. He must have known full well when he was making his statement that he was not being consistent with his own party's stand on the question, nor even with that of the big powers with whom the Swatantra would have India aligned. Neither the leadership of the Swatantra Party nor its mentors of the Western bloc have found their way yet to condemn Pakistan's aggression. Far from doing any such thing they have taken every possible step to show by their deeds that their sympathies lie not with India but elsewhere.

The Soviet Union, on the other hand, proves every moment by its deeds—always more eloquent than words—that, while it is keen just like Shastri himself is that there should be peace between India and Pakistan, it would do everything to help India strengthen her defence potential and would continue to lend both material and moral support to India.

The chagrin so openly evinced by the leaders of Shastri's visit to the USSR is conclusive proof of this, if somebody would insist on turning a blind eye to all the concrete and tangible evidence which manifests itself unmistakably on the Indian scene every day.

by the US to India in recent weeks and even offering an apology on behalf of India for ever having protested at those wrongs?

It was put out that the Prime Minister had written to Johnson, the US President, conveying "appreciation of Washington's efforts to prevent the use of US arms by Pakistan against India" and 'explaining the reasons for the cancellation of Shastri's visit "after Mr. Johnson had requested that it be postponed".

The alleged letter of the Prime Minister of India to the President of the USA was reported to have said that the postponement request by Johnson was "primarily due to the full schedule he had in the next few months". The Prime Minister also said, according to this version that "he appreciated the reasons for the President's request for postponement and that he did not take it amiss".

The day after the above report appeared in the press an official spokesman of the Government of India described it as speculative and not correct. "The Prime Minister's letter to President Johnson", the official spokesman said, "is in the same sense as his statements in Parliament".

The question remains unanswered as to how this so-called speculative report found its way into the press. Who briefed the particular agency to so completely distort the Prime Minister's sense? Has any explanation been called for from the gentleman concerned?

—SHARIF

(June 1)

HATS OFF

Hats-off to the Indian mountaineers who under the leadership of Lieut. Cdr. M. S. Kohli have set up a world record. Not only have four teams in the expedition climbed the Everest; it has been achieved in a row. India has now nine Everest Heroes, and ten if one is to include Tensing Norgay. The three successful climbers on the fourth assault are (left to right) H. C. S. Rawat, Phu Dorji and H. S. Ahluwalia.

Who is Responsible?

IS it not amazing that with the US attitude towards India being what it is and the malice and hostility that characterise this attitude being no secret, reports should still appear in the Indian press putting words in the Prime Minister's mouth seeking to whitewash the wrongs done



NEW AGE

JUNE 6, 1965

RAJHAMUNDRY: The Ghantasala meeting of the Andhra Pradesh state council of the Communist Party of India can be said to be an important landmark. The seriousness of the discussion and the severity of criticism highlighted a new mood of earnestness and determination to effect a rapid breakthrough.

DELIBERATIONS of the meeting, from May 24 to 28, began with a detailed report of the last National Council meeting, presented by C. Rajeswar Rao, general secretary of the Party.

In the discussion that followed, there was general agreement with the political resolution as well as review of the Kerala elections.

Some speakers however were of the opinion that not enough was being done to properly implement the national democratic front approach. Questions were raised as to whether all efforts had been made to avoid isolation in Kerala and to try for appropriate adjustments.

Some members were of the view that the Shastri government remained essentially a centrist government; it was certainly not a government of the right, yet there was a clear trend of shift to the right in its policies.

Others however drew pointed attention to the sharpening of the contradiction between imperialism and the Indian people, including the national bourgeoisie in the recent months. They were of the view that the Shastri visit to the Soviet Union at this juncture would have very far-reaching consequences.

There was unanimity on the point of the urgency of the intervention of the people. This was necessary for the proper defence of the nation, defence of national policies, defence of the national demands of the people.

In this connection a suggestion was made that note should be taken of the recent speeches of Congress president Kamaraj.

It might be a good idea for the CPI leadership to address an open letter to the Congress president and Congress democrats proposing joint mass mobilisation

ANDHRA: CPI PLANS MASS ACTIVITY

From MOHIT SEN

and action on the basis of a minimum charter of demands. This should be combined with the efforts now being made to have joint actions with the left opposition parties.

There was general agreement that the CPI had done well in taking up vigorously the demand for the release of detenus, defence of democracy and scrapping of the DIR.

But not enough was being done to go on the offensive against the utterly wrong and dangerous ideological line of the Marxist Communist Party.

There was a tendency to be on the defensive, only to the Marxist Communist Party that had to be put in the dock for its sectarian passivity, its utter political opportunism and its disruption of

the democratic movement. Their revolutionary pretensions should be exposed in the Party press and in general agitations.

The agricultural labourers, their problems and organisation was the subject of a searching discussion. The unanimous view was that on the mass front particular attention would have to be devoted to this stratum of rural society. Its mobilisation was vital for the further progress of the democratic movement.

While detailed working out of the demands of the agricultural labourers was left to a special committee, it was felt that minimum wages, homesteads, distribution of banjar lands, educational facilities, etc., had to figure prominently.

Painstaking and persistent efforts had to be made to develop the agricultural labourers' organisation. A member of the state council secretariat was deputed to take charge of this front and to devote his major attention to it.

The VISALAANDHRA daily was another item on the agenda. Despite the split, the legacy of the past mistakes of the former editor and manager who had deserted the Party to the Marxist CP and direct sabotage, the circulation of the paper has remained more or less stable. Heavy financial difficulties were there, which were proving a drag to the entire Party.

It was decided that a drive for readers, subscribers and advertisement was the number one task of the entire Party. As a first step, a VISALAANDHRA MONTH would be launched from June 22, the birthday of the paper. Attempts would be made to draw into the campaign leading intellectual and cultural personalities.

Visalaandhra Festival

Party leaders would personally participate in sales squads at different centres and direct the campaign. Special incentives would be given to subscribers and sales promoters apart from special advertisement drive. A regular VISALAANDHRA Festival is clearly in the offing.

A great deal of the time and attention of the council was taken up with the problem of the Party organisation. Concern was expressed at the fact that no breakthrough had been effected and that some sort of a lull had set in after the Bombay Party Congress. The problem of regrouping for quick advance ahead has not yet been fully solved.

It was also pointed out that not a single member of the CPI had gone over to the rival party after the split, but a slow return from it to the CPI was there.

The style of leadership had to be changed, state leaders had to give direct leadership to the districts during campaigns as well as during normal conditions. Leading from afar had to go if the Party as a whole was to advance. The aim of such direct leadership was precisely to develop local leadership at all levels.

It was also decided to do something like a cadre scrutiny so as to spot out and promote capable cadres and to remove idle, inefficient leaders wherever they were to be found.

It was further decided to make a check of all the property and sources of income

*ON PAGE 12

PAGE FIVE

KARNATAKA: CAMPAIGN AGAINST HIGH PRICES

From C. R. KRISHNA RAO

BANGALORE: The Karnataka state council of the Communist Party of India has decided to hold a demonstration before the AICC meeting scheduled to be held in Bangalore in the second week of July.

THE demonstration will be the high-point of a statewide agitation which the council has planned in support of a seven-point charter of demands drawn up by the council.

Copies of the memorandum containing the demands, charter will be given to Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, Union Home Minister Gulzarilal Nanda and Union Labour Minister D. Sanjivaya.

The decision to hold the demonstration was taken by the meeting of the state council held from May 20 to 24 at Bangalore.

The meeting has authorised the state council secretariat to organise a deputation to the Governor and the Chief Minister to put before them the demands detailed in the charter.

Charter Of Demands

The first demand in the charter is effective steps to check hoarding and black-marketing in foodgrains and other essential commodities and to bring down prices and ensure regular supply of these articles, including nationalisation of banks and effective functioning of the Foodgrains Corporation without reliance on hoarders and speculators.

The charter has urged the state government to bring sufficient pressure on the Central government for its due share in the allocation of finances for the Fourth Plan and for certain projects to be located in the state.

Implementation of the Land Reforms Act without delay and the cancellation of the enhance-

ment of land revenue is another important demand made in the charter.

It has also demanded correction of the cost of living index computation in the state, measures to revise the minimum wages, implementation of the Beedi Industrial Premises Act and other labour legislations, speedy settlement of industrial disputes and reorganisation of the Labour Department to make it more effective.

The charter has demanded a change in the name of the state from "Mysore" to "Karnataka" and the progressive use of Kannada in law courts, administration and educational institutions at all levels.

A full-fledged enquiry into all charges of corruption against the state ministry has also been demanded.

The charter also draws attention to the problems of students such as high tuition fees, difficulties in getting admission into technical colleges, hostel facilities, scholarships. It has demanded that the state government should take appropriate steps to redress the grievances of the students.

The four-day meeting of the state council was attended by 28 members. N. K. Krishnan, member of the central secretariat of the CPI, and S. V. Ghatge, chairman of the central control commission, attended the meeting, which was presided over by Umanath Naik.

N. K. Krishnan reported on the discussions and decisions of the last meeting of the National Council.

By another resolution the state council drew the atten-

tion of the government to the serious food situation in the state. Rice is not available in the open market and prices have gone up from Rs. 1.50 to Rs. 1.75 a kilogram.

He pointed to the American

NEW AGE

JUNE 6, 1965

FOR PARTY MEMBERS ONLY

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New Delhi 5-11 April 1965

ORDER THROUGH PARTY COMMITTEES

MAHARASHTRA

NAIK IN TROUBLE OVER FILLING CABINET VACANCY

NAGPUR: Factionalism and groupism have once again come to the forefront in both the legislative and organisational wings of the Maharashtra Pradesh Congress over the question of a successor to S. G. Barve, reports IPA. The former Industries Minister left the state cabinet to join the Planning Commission.

Chief Minister Nalk's task has been made difficult by rival claims raised in the name of safeguarding the various regional and caste interests.

While Congressmen from western Maharashtra were demanding selection of a person from their region, a section of them had become more vocal in support of a candidate from Barve's home town, Poona.

That the candidate, like his predecessor, belongs to the Brahmin community was not considered here as a mere coincidence.

Regional Pulls

Next came the question of regional representation.

Marathwada had been complaining of inadequate representation in the cabinet for quite a long time. People from this area wanted the successor to Barve to be selected from their region.

Ultimately, Pradesh Congress chief Vinayak Rao Patil himself came in the field as a candidate and tried to influence Chief Minister Nalk through some Union Ministers including Y. B. Chavan.

Originally, Nalk was understood to have thought of promoting the present Deputy Minister for Industries, G. D. Patil, as a full-fledged Minister in the same department and appointing one Deputy Minister from Nagpur.

Nagpur had remained unrepresented in the cabinet after the defeat in the last general elections of the former Deputy Minister of Health, Madan Gopal Agrawal.

In this connection, the chief Minister was said to be considering the names of the newly-elected MLA Premnath Wasnik and Sushila Balraj.

But the political tug-of-war has compelled him to give up the entire idea and to leave the things as they were, it is understood.

The story does not end here. A tussle has already begun in the Pradesh Congress and the Congress Legislature Party over the question as to who would be the next Chief Minister of Maharashtra.

Though Nalk enjoys good popularity among people, it seems he has not succeeded so far in creating his own group inside the party.

This handicap of the Chief Minister has been responsible for giving chance to others to come out openly by forming their own

organising a signature campaign against Chief Minister Nalk levelling charges of inefficiency against him.

Though, it is not yet clear as to what view Nalk has taken in regard to the moves of Desai, it is certain that every one in the party is not prepared to overlook the challenge thrown by Desai.

Resistance To Desai

State legislators from Marathwada and Vidarbha, it seems, are not willing to accept Desai as their leader.

Congressmen from Vidarbha believe that if a change at the top is at all necessary now or in future, the leadership should go to Marathwada.

Even some Brahmin and Muslim legislators from western Maharashtra are likely to support a candidate from Marathwada.

If such an occasion comes, Shankar Rao Chavan, the present Irrigation Minister, seems to stand a better chance in view of the popularity he has gained among his partymen.

Any way, the coming few months are expected to prove crucial in the political history of Maharashtra in view of the group alignments and realignments that are taking place.

WATER, POWER SCARCITY GRIPS MADHYA PRADESH

BHOPAL: People of Madhya Pradesh have been experiencing scarcity of power, water and wheat for the last one month. The government policies, instead of easing these problems, have rather accentuated them.

The power crisis has paralysed normal life in western region. It has deprived people of the means of comfort in summer like fan, ice, etc., and rendered nearly six thousand workers idle since several industries have either been closed down or are running only one shift in place of two or three before.

This crisis is the result of rapid fall in water level of Gandhisagar reservoir.

The Minister of State for Electricity in and outside the state Assembly, quite a large number of people still believe that Chambal power crisis is more man-made than natural.

They feel that a high level enquiry into this crisis would bear out the truth.

Official complacency is apparent in meeting the situation created by shortage of Chambal power.

The government and the Electricity Board were aware since the rains were over that there was not adequate water in the Gandhisagar reservoir and it would be difficult for them to meet power requirements of the industry and the people.

Still they did not even to prepare the people for this eventuality. They gave the impression that all was well with the power front.

After closing down the first turbine, they announced that the commissioning of thermal units at Bhopal, Itarsi, Ujjain and Gwalior and the diesel unit at Burhanpur coupled with supply from Kharakhedia in Maharashtra and Mata-

tila in Uttar Pradesh and its augmentation from the Amarakantak thermal station in the state, would meet the requirements.

All these steps proved inadequate and the Electricity Board authorities had to close down another turbine of 23 thousand kw in January.

Now, they are generating only 32 thousand kv of power, which is being shared equally by Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.

The water level has fallen so low that depleted power generation at the present rate could be maintained for hardly two months.

The Board had to effect a 20 per cent cut in the power supply to industries.

Frantic efforts are, however, being made to get 2,500 kw additional power from the Matatila project and connect the Chambal grid with Amarakantak-Korba. But this will take some time.

The only hope is that monsoon would break out in the middle or third week of June and would mitigate hardships of the people.

The power crisis has made the water problem in Bhopal, Indore, Ujjain, Dewas and some other cities acute.

The water works authorities complain that they are not getting enough power and the people can-

Epidemic Ravage in Assam Villages

From M. Bhattacharya

SHILLONG: Nalbari, Rangiya and Tamuli circles in the Kamrup district of Assam are in the grip of an epidemic which is reported to have already taken a toll of no less than 400 human lives.

The authorities, instead of taking urgent preventive measures, are still quibbling over what the name of the disease is.

While the local people believe that the disease is cholera, official sources, quoting the civil surgeon, maintain that it is gastro-enteritis and not cholera.

Whatever be the medical name of the disease, it has proved to be a mass killer and the local people are becoming panicky over its disastrous effects.

According to Tarun Sen Deka, president of the All Assam Kisan Sabha, who is a resident of the area, as many as 30 villages are already affected.

Disease Spreading

It is now spreading to other villages as well. Not only the villages, even a few wards of Nalbari town have been affected.

The government has claimed that necessary measures have been taken to prevent any further spread of the disease and has advised the people not to get panicky.

But local people maintain that the preventive measures taken so far are quite inadequate. As a matter of fact, the authorities are still indifferent to the calamity.

While the government does not admit it, there is a dearth of doctors for undertaken preventive and curative measures. Available doctors are being overstrained.

Dearth Of Doctors

Medicines and disinfectants are also in short supply so much so that the doctors cannot undertake effective steps to curb the spread of the disease.

Deka has demanded that the whole of Nalbari circles should be declared an epidemic area and immediate preventive measures taken not only in that circle but in adjoining areas too.

Services of doctors should be requisitioned from other areas of the state and, if need be, from other states as well.

Free medical aid should be provided to the people. Mobile medical should be sent to the area, and some camp hospitals set up, he has demanded.

MADRAS: What is Congress President K. Kamaraj up to? Is he planning for a comeback into state politics? Or is he planning for a change in the state Congress and government leadership by replacing Chief Minister Bhaktavatsalam with one of his own nominees?

THESE are some of the questions which have been provoked by recent utterings of the Congress president.

Kamaraj has for the past three weeks been on a mass contact programme in the state. He has visited dozens of villages during these days and addressed several meetings.

And he has done some "plain speaking" which has upset many a dignitary in the state administration. It has caused considerable speculation about his attitude to the Bhaktavatsalam Ministry itself.

The Congress president has charged the state administration with failure to translate the socialist professions of the Congress into practice on a progressive scale.

According to him, those in office were in "unholy alliance with the reactionary, anti-socialist elements in other political parties" and are doing everything to sabotage the Congress pledge to bring about socialism in the country.

Another issue on which Kamaraj has criticised the Bhaktavatsalam government is the language policy.

Language Imbroglio

He has said that the state leadership ought not to have run away from its commitment to abide by the three language formula by which it should have introduced compulsory teaching of Hindi in the schools.

He also said that by its failure to give the rightful place to the regional language, namely Tamil, the state leadership was guilty of playing into the hands of the "English-knowing elite which wants to corner the plums of power and good living for itself".

To offset any advantage to the Hindi regions by the process of making Hindi the official language of the Union, Kamaraj favoured the introduction of regional languages as media for UPSC examina-

Mass Contact and Plain Speaking

Is Kamaraj Planning To Drop Bhaktavatsalam?

From OUR CORRESPONDENT

tions—again, a stand diametrically opposed to that of the state government.

Kamaraj has actually thrown the bombshell by openly paying homage to those who had died in the cause of Tamil, that is, those who immolated themselves during the language trouble in January-February last.

Chief Minister Bhaktavatsalam had given another motive for these instances of self-immolation: that mere domestic troubles had driven these "deranged" men to seek the "vehement of martyrdom".

Kamaraj, shrewd as he is, must have realised that this kind of expression could never be in tune with the popular sympathies for the martyrs however much they could have been misled. And so, he must have moved in the direction of undoing some of the damage done by the Bhaktavatsalam line.

Kamaraj has sought to bring round the Congress to a position wherein it too can have a share in the effects flowing from the "martyrdom of Tamil patriots", as different from the fight of the English slaves who are striving not to save Tamil but to preserve their own vested interests accruing from knowledge of English.

In another respect also, the Congress president has publicly differed from the state leadership.

He has expressed himself in favour of direct election of panchayat chairmen as against the practice currently followed of indirect election by the elected members of village panchayats and panchayat unions.

Having gone to the villages the Congress president is perhaps in a better position to assess the nature and extent of feuds and caste rivalries which led even to criminal acts like kidnapping and murder among the "people's representatives".

Kamaraj has therefore revised his earlier stand ruling out the possibility of direct elections. But the state government is still not willing to do so.

Stemming Unpopularity

All these postures taken by the Congress president might as well be an attempt at restoring to the Congress some of the influence and backing which it is fast losing in the state.

For example, the Vanniya community has en bloc walked out of the Congress recently.

The Vanniya consider themselves the most backward community in the state, even more backward than the Harijans.

Drawn mostly from agriculturists and artisans, the Vanniya are otherwise a well-knit community, habitually inclined to follow the headmen, if necessary even to hell.

The headmen who wield such sweeping social control over their community, besides economic influence in their own right, are just now sore with the Congress for not getting a share in the plums of power.

So they have declared what amounts to a war on the Congress leadership and have revived their communal platform to carry on their fight.

The Vanniya platform is not an unknown quantity. It existed in a most militant form in 1951-52 at the time of the first general elections.

Styled as the Tollers' Party and the Commonweal Party, it functioned in the districts of South Arcot, North Arcot, Salem, Tiruchi and Chingleput and on the sheer merit of its communal appeal won more than a dozen seats in the Assembly.

When it seemed as a formidable opposition party, capable of toppling the Congress government, C. Rajagopalachari, the then Chief Minister, moved swiftly to tackle the "Vanniya problem".

It smacked of horse-trading but that did not deter Rajaji from offering ministerships to the Vanniya leaders Ramaswami Padayachi and Manickavelu Naicker "to isolate the Communist Party, Enemy Number One".

The language trouble certainly did not enhance the prestige of Bhaktavatsalam Ministry and if the trend continues, the Congress might find itself in a tight situation at the time of the elections.

The mass contact programme and the plain-speaking of the Congress president certainly are attempts to win back the people's confidence in the Congress.

Whether there is any other motive behind the plain speaking is to be judged from future developments, especially what he says and does when he resumes the programme in July.

When Kamaraj became the Chief Minister after the separation of Andhra, he followed the set pattern.

THE JAINS WANT A CEMENT FACTORY!

From OUR CORRESPONDENT

JAIPUR: Jains of the Vivian Bose report notoriety are again in the news. Now they want to establish a cement factory in Rajasthan.

Sahu-Jain company, headed by Shanti Prasad Jain, had been given a letter of intent by the Rajasthan government years back to set up a cement factory near Abu.

But after the publication of the Vivian Bose report, the government decided to cancel this letter of intent. Subsequently came the prosecutions launched by the government of India against the Jains.

After cancelling the Sahu-Jains' letter of intent, the government recommended to the Centre that the Poddars might be

allowed to proceed with the setting up of the cement factory.

The Jains however managed to get hold of a copy of a confidential letter sent by the Union government to the Rajasthan government. By what means they got hold of this, it is still not known.

On the basis of this letter, they filed a writ petition in the Rajasthan high court challenging the decision of the government to cancel their letter of intent as discriminatory.

The high court has admitted the writ and a stay order has been granted to prevent the state and union governments from proceeding with the proposal of the Poddars.

Latest reports indicate that the state government is also backing the Sahu-Jains in its bid to retain

the letter of intent and set up the cement factory as originally planned.

The state government is reported to be trying to persuade the Centre to regrant the letter of intent to the Jains, albeit on the plea of the writ in favour of the Jains.

This sudden interest of the state government in the Sahu-Jains has aroused considerable speculation in all quarters here.

It has even led to rumours about how the Jains got hold of the confidential letter sent by the Union government to the state government.

People think that behind the anxiety to give the cement factory to the Jains, despite the Vivian Bose report and the prosecutions against the Jains, can be seen the hands of some big shots in the state industries ministry.

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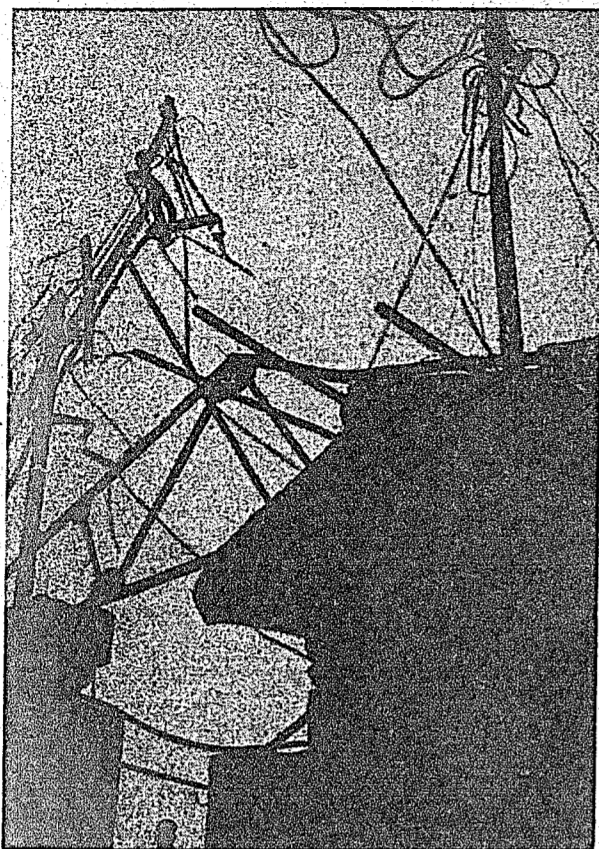
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A scene of destruction at Dho-1 (Courtesy: AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA)

DHORI DEATH ROLL 564

(SPECIAL TO NEW AGE)

DHANBAD: The entire area was coated with thick layers of coal dust. Devastation writ large all over the place. The blinding-hot rays of the sun were merciless. Wailing women and children restlessly stood behind police cordons in the torrid heat anxiously awaiting the rescue teams to come out of the pitmouth, hoping against hope that their near and dear ones might be rescued from the jaws of death. The twisted, jagged remains of mechanical devices bear testimony to the intensity of the explosions.

SUDDENLY there was a murmur among the crowd that had collected at what remained of the Dhori coalmines: the Raja is here. Yes, the Raja of Ramgarh, Kamakhya Narain Singh, owner of the colliery, had arrived at the scene of disaster.

The Raja stepped out from his car, clad in spotless white jodhpurs and silk achkan almost like a white ghost in an expanse of black coal and blackened coalmen.

There was a hushed silence for a moment among the restless crowd, and then a woman suddenly flung herself at his feet, walling and imploring him to return her dead son.

The Raja turned away in disgust and quickly returned to his car to be taken back to the comforts of his palace, away from the unsavoury scenes of the mass killing of the wretched miners.

The mother who had lost her only son, the breadwinner of the family, was still rolling on the grounds, beating her breast and asking who would look after her now that her son is gone, when the Raja had reached miles away from the scene.

This was the scene at the Dhori colliery on May 29, the day after the disastrous explosion occurred.

By that time it was clear that here could be no survivors. The Dhori explosion turned out to be the biggest mine disaster in this country and the second biggest in the world.

Grim Scene

It was a grim and sombre scene that greeted the visitor to the disaster area. Groups of workers clustered around talking in hushed tones and monosyllables, eagerly awaiting the return of the rescue squads from the pits.

Coal dust hung heavily in the air, blackening everything around. Twisted wires lay all over the place. The remains of the blown-up office of the timekeeper stood desolately. Upright tubs were lying here and there. And the dark, gaping mouth of the inclines stood gawking at the visitor, looking like the jaws of death.

Rail tracks lay twisted and wrested away from their beds. Electric poles lay uprooted and their wires all coiled up. Shrubs and plants stood charred and blackened.

The bodies recovered from the mines lay in rows in a shed, to be transported to the temporary mortuary for a quick post mortem and thence to a mass cremation by the side of the nearby river. Hardly any of the decom-

posed and charred bodies could be identified.

The stench of the decomposing bodies was suffocating. At night jackals strayed around in search of their human prey, undaunted even by the presence of so many people around.

People were being warned by officials from going near the pitmouths, because of the carbon monoxide. Ironically, just near a pitmouth could be seen the slogans inscribed a few weeks earlier marking the observance of the Mines Safety Week.

Against this background of misery and ghastliness moved about the rescue squads, carrying out their jobs with devotion and determination. Theirs was an arduous job, carried out in the midst of most trying conditions, braving even possible death.

Courageous Rescue Work

Each squad carried a cage of canaries while going down the pit, to test the effect of carbon monoxide. The first of the squads had to turn back quick because of the poisonous atmosphere in the pits. But they persisted with their valiant work. Within hours of the tragedy, the first of the squad had gone down the incline.

And this despite the callous attitude of the management, which has resulted in adverse comments from even the Union Labour Minister. No facilities for rescue work were being provided by the management, which did not deem it fit to provide even drinking water at the mines after the explosion.

Help came from all the surrounding collieries immediately after the news of the explosion reached them. Most prompt were the workers of the NCDC collieries. They arrived along with the rescue squads from Dhanbad, Asansol and other areas. And they began their work even risking the possibility of further explosions in the inclines.

By the evening of May 29, the rescue teams had brought out the charred remains of 70 miners. By noon on May 31, 235 bodies had been recovered. On June 1 evening, after recovery of bodies were made, the authorities announced that the rescue work was being discontinued.

This sudden decision of the authorities to discontinue the rescue work has caused considerable misgivings among the mine-workers and trade-unionists here. Was it an attempt to keep down the death roll, as

the government and the mine owners had done in the case of the last serious disaster, in the Chinakuri colliery in 1958?

What is the actual death toll? Various estimates have been made by various people.

The owner of the mine, the Raja of Ramgarh has stated that there were 80 miners working on each of the three inclines in one shift. Since the explosion occurred in between shifts, he considered that "some of the incoming" might also be there.

Official Estimate

Official sources have estimated the death toll to be around 270. On what basis they calculated this figure is not known.

Talking to the miners working in the nearby collieries and the trade union functionaries, one comes to the definite conclusion that the death toll is actually much higher.

As the coal cutters in the second shift get tubs for filling the extracted coal only in the

This, 276 persons were engaged in each shift. Two shifts make 552 workers inside the mine. Plus 12 who died on the surface. It makes a total of 564. Not a single man has come out alive.

Various versions are being put forward as to what happened to the attendance register.

The time office has been blown up and the timekeeper is dead. The attendance register may be under the debris; may be it is with the police as claimed by some people.

But it is strange that the owner of the colliery should go round asserting that the register has been destroyed in the explosion. Is it with the aim of felling forever any chances of ascertaining the correct number of the dead?

The Raja's antics are indeed noteworthy. Even before the ghastly sound of the explosion died down in Dhori, he came out in Calcutta with the fantastic allegation that the explosion was the result of sabotage. For plausibility, he added that there

was a six-week strike in the mines which ended only days before.

But the entire evidence at Dhori points the accusing finger against the management of the mines. Even the Bihar Chief Minister, K. B. Sahay and the Union Labour Minister, D. Sanjivayya, have publicly repudiated the Raja's allegation. The Chief Inspector of Mines has also discounted the sabotage theory.

Talking to the miners and their relatives in and around Dhori, one gets a picture of the

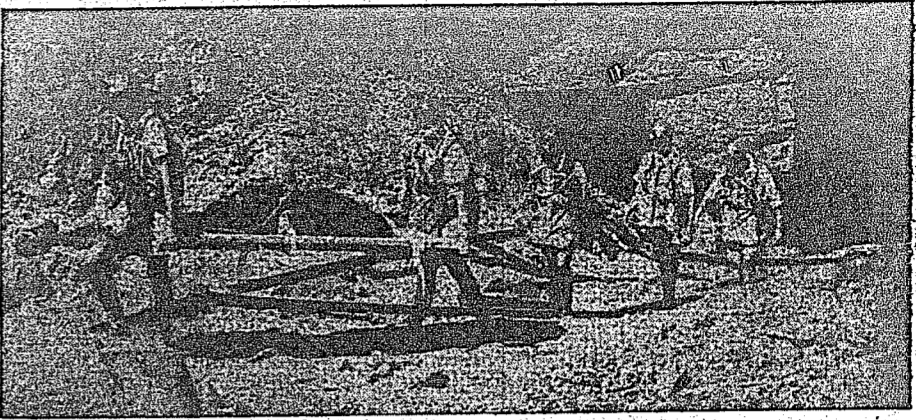
calous and indifferent attitude which the management of this mine had towards the safety of the miners.

The Raja has claimed that the Dhori colliery was non-gaseous and so there was no possibility of any explosion due to accumulation of gas. The mines had no mishap during the last 60 years.

But was the mine that safe? This colliery was previously owned and run by the British company, Anderson Wright. This company had been working two pits, namely, number seven and number eight inclines. Work in these pits were stopped about 30 years ago.

The subsided portions of these inclines have never been touched. After the pits were closed down. Probably gas accumulated there.

The Raja has been working three inclines, BI 10A, JJ 10 and Amlo. The Amlo Incline was being worked in an angle which progressed towards the abandoned inclines.



Rescue operation in progress (Courtesy: AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA)

naked and has no wire-net around it).

The use of 'dhibris' is against mining regulations. Still this was being used because they are cheap and because the mine is alleged to be free of gas.

Again, the coal dust which is generated in the process of cutting coal seams was never removed. There is reportedly no mechanical dust-extraction device. There is supposed to be a natural ventilation system.

What is more; the coal dust, boiler ashes, etc., were being used to reinforce the trolley lines.

A possible explanation for the disaster is that gas had seeped into the working faces

body who could make a satisfactory inspection did so. A chargeman is supposed to have done the job.

After the explosion, the management's attitude to the victims was even more callous. For 18 hours after the explosion, the management did not even inform the police about the disaster.

The rescue teams had to carry out their work without as much as nodding help from the management. They did not even make available men to help rescue teams coming from outside.

No trucks were supplied by the management for re-

direction in which the management is moving. They are going all out to destroy evidence of their criminal neglect for safety and to jolt the fault on the workers.

They are seeking to influence the outcome of the court of inquiry, which has been ordered by the Union government, through numerous statements giving their own version of the disaster.

Arrest The Raja

It is imperative in the circumstances that the Raja of Ramgarh should be immediately arrested and kept in custody. All that he has said and done go against the very grain of decency and normal social conduct.

He is trying to hamper the work of the court of inquiry by destroying evidence and planting his own so-called evidence. An impartial and just inquiry into this biggest disaster demands that his freedom to tamper with evidence be curtailed.

More, he should be made to stand trial for criminal negligence resulting in the loss of life of more than five hundred people. It is sheer mass murder. He cannot be allowed to go scot-free after such a crime.

After all the brave words said by all the ministers against the negligent mine-owners and the volumes of sympathies offered to the victims, will they have enough guts to take action against the guilty?

The dead cannot be brought back to life. But surely steps can be taken to prevent from such disasters happening in future. Will the responsible persons have enough guts to take such steps?

AITUC STATEMENT

S. A. Dange, general secretary of the AITUC in the course of a statement issued on May 28 said that the AITUC "is shocked" to know that several hundreds of coalminers have lost their precious lives in the worst-ever mining disaster in India which took place today at the Dhori colliery in Bihar.

IMWF Demands Safety Measure

The explosion at the Dhori colliery in Hazaribagh District, Bihar and the death of several hundred workers once more point out to the danger of keeping mines in the hands of profiteers in the private sector, where safety laws and regulations are being violated and workload has been increased under threat of victimisation and retrenchment, says a statement issued by Kalvan Roy, general secretary of the Indian Mine Workers' Federation on May 28.

The statement adds: Repeated complaints from the trade unions regarding violation of safety laws, bad ventilations, inadequate supervision and speed-up of work have been ignored by the government and trade unions have never been taken into confidence by the Mines Department.

Miners TUI Sends Condolences

The Miners' Trade Unions International (Trade Department of the World Federation of Trade Unions) has expressed condolences on the Dhori Colliery tragedy.

In a cable to the AITUC, the general secretary of the Miners' TUI has said:

"Miners' Trade Unions International (WFTU) having learnt with great emotion about terrible disaster costing life of 375 brothers, conveys its sincere condolences to you and to the families of victims and assures you of its fraternal solidarity. Wishing every success to rescue work. May unity be strengthened among workers and trade unions for better safety."

SORDID RESULT OF OWNER'S NEGLIGENCE

third shift, both the shifts were inside the inclines at the time of the explosion.

The average attendance in the three working inclines of the Dhori colliery per shift is as follows:

	BI 10A	BI 10	Amlo
coal-cutter	75-80	60-70	65-50
trammer	12	20	25
pump			
khalasi	6		
balling man	6		
mining sirdar	1		
munshi	1		
others	5		
Total	106	80	90

Again, flouting all regulations of safety, the mines under the Raja of Ramgarh are being worked under primitive conditions with the least care for the workers' comfort or safety.

In all the three working inclines of Dhori, safety lamps were rarely used. Most of the miners were provided with 'dhibris' (a small kerosene container in which a wick is put and lighted, the flame is

from the closed inclines; ignition took place due to the presence of the 'dhibris'; there were three explosions as a result of large dumps of coal dust which had accumulated in three different places inside the mine.

The Raja of Ramgarh is impervious to such reasonings, his only anxiety is to shirk the responsibility for the disaster. He is only interested in extracting coal, the black gold, from the bowels of the earth and making money. For all he cares, the workers, who through their sweat produce that gold, might go to hell!

Regulations Flouted

Charges have also been made that the management did not cooperate with the Mines Inspectorate and the Coalmines Welfare Board in their duties at Dhori.

All these go to show the

Such an attitude on the part of the management has compelled Union Labour Minister Sanjivayya to call it "appalling". He should have known that the profit-greedy capitalists do not bother about the workers, dead or alive, under the benign patronage of Congress ministry.

This callous attitude of the management was evident before and after the disaster. There was criminal negligence in taking even the most elementary safety precautions.

Callous Attitude

After the strike when work was resumed the working faces were not sprayed with stone dust as is the usual practice. The mine manager was on leave; it was a second rate assistant manager who was running the mines after the strike.

This worthy gentleman did not inspect the mines when work was resumed, as he should have done. He was not even able to say whether any-

Dazed, grief-stricken relations of dead miners await at the pit heads. (Courtesy: THE HINDU)



COLLIERY DISASTERS AND QUESTIONS OF SAFETY

Read in next week's NEW AGE an article by Kalyan Roy, general secretary of the Indian Mine Workers' Federation, analysing colliery disasters in our country and pinpointing the need of observing stringently the measures of safety in the mines.

The author draws the conclusion, on the basis of facts, that most of the mine accidents take place due to owners' negligence when they practice economy at the expense of safety.

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES CASE FOR DA LINKED TO CORRECT PRICE INDEX

The Central government employees are currently agitating on the issue of dearness allowance. Their main demand is for evolving a new formula for payment of dearness allowance linked with the consumer price index with built-in arrangement for automatic adjustment whenever prices fluctuate.

THIS dearness allowance, they further emphasise, should neutralise the rise in prices in full for the lowest-paid employees and give adequate compensation for the higher-paid categories, so that the real wages earned by them are not eroded by rise in the cost of living.

Why is it that the Central government employees are so much concerned about their dearness allowance when they have already received some increase in DA recently announced by the government? This is precisely the crux of the issue and in it is hidden the real answer to the problem. To understand the subject, it is necessary to look in retrospect.

ORIGIN OF DEMAND

The demand for dearness allowance originated during the first world war when the cotton textile workers first voiced this demand in Ahmedabad and Bombay and won it. Later, when recession overtook the industry, the DA was either merged with the wages or substantially reduced.

But again during the second world war when prices began mounting up, the demand was revived and it was recognised by the wage-determining authorities as a just and reasonable demand. Thus DA came to be accepted as a part of the wage system in our country.

The system perpetuated as an adjunct to the wages because it was hoped, and it still

is, that some day prices were going to come down and then there would be no necessity for DA payment. And this is the main reason why DA is not merged with the basic wage.

Of course, there are additional grounds too. If basic wages increase with the addition of DA, then employers will have to pay more in terms of fringe benefits, bonus, allowances and so on.

The employers and the government also, as an employer, undertook to pay DA on the ground that it was their responsibility to ensure that prices do not rise.

No government worth its name can afford to say it has no responsibility in maintaining the price line or that it is not bound to compensate the workers for the fall in the real wages due to high prices.

While this is the moral and administrative responsibility of the government, the Government of India, followed by the state governments, refused to discharge this obligation fully to the satisfaction of the employees.

Thus when the organised workers in the private sector on the strength of their trade union movement secured one concession after another from the employers and, in the main, achieved full neutralisation of the rise in prices in DA and automatic adjustment in scales through a link-up with the cost of living index, the government declined to accede the same for its own employees.

The government took up a peculiar and untenable position

by stating that "a sound wage policy has necessarily to ensure that increases in salaries are not made in proportion to the rise in prices; and unless this policy is strictly followed, a vicious circle would develop; therefore a 100 per cent or near 100 per cent neutralisation is wrong in principle and bad in practice." (Das Commission Report, p. 29)

Thus, although it is under obligation to ensure that the real wages of the employees do not fall due to rise in prices, the government takes a contradictory attitude declaring its opposition to full neutralisation.

It is precisely on this wrong notion that the Second Pay Commission took upon itself the responsibility to declare that if DA is paid on a sliding

Conference on the norms for fixation of need-based wage. The Ministry wrote to the Pay Commission (April 1958) that "government have, at no time, committed themselves to taking executive action to enforce the recommendations."

For employees drawing Rs. 70 per month, the Second Pay Commission recommended 95 per cent neutralisation of rise in prices in the form of extra DA. Government arbitrarily reduced it to 75 per cent.

The Das Commission, which was appointed to "find out" if the Central government employees were entitled to further DA in terms of the Second Pay Commission recommendations, advised the government to neutralise the rise in prices for three

employees which they had already achieved in terms of neutralisation for the lowest paid employees, upto 125 points in the index (1949=100). It actually reduced relief for all salary scales excepting those between Rs. 110 to 149.

There are two additional grounds to the demand of the employees. One is that there is still no middle class consumer price index numbers properly computed by government machinery and hence the needs of families of middle class employees are purely guess-work and arbitrarily pegged at a little higher level than the working class consumer prices index numbers.

FAULTY PRICE INDEX

Second, the all-India numbers of this very index are faulty. It is proved in a number of states that the methods of compilation of data are wrong and hence lower index numbers are computed. With the present weightage, the fault in the all-India index comes to about 8 points and the employees are deprived of money on this count too.

The Das Commission recommended DA on 145 points of the index in October, 1964. The actual index was 163 and if the 8-point fault is added to it, the real index would be 171. Thus for 26 points, the Central government employees are not compensated at all, full neutralisation question notwithstanding.

The fault in index computation also raises another question. What should be the base year on which index should be computed? Should it be changed every time a new pay commission is appointed, or should there be a fixed period, 1944 or 1947 or 1949 or say the first year of planning? No answer to this is yet available. Government is reported to be in favour of an index with 1960=100.

Though the Das Commission failed to satisfy the Central government employees' demands and in some cases reduced their already-earned gains, it made some important observations.

It took the position, very correctly, that "if the price-line is not held in future, even a 90 per cent neutralisation may prove illusory" and that "... it would be a grave error to assume that the interest of government employees are in opposition to the needs of the State in the matter of dearness allowance."

The financial commitment of the DA as recommended by the Das Commission was about 10 crores, a bare "one per cent of the total revenues including the Railways; and about 0.2 per cent excluding the Railways." This is not a serious burden at all.

It is estimated that if full neutralisation is granted for the lower-paid categories and commensurate rates at slightly lesser percentage for other categories, the total financial commitment of the government on account of the DA would come to about 2 per cent of the total revenues.

Thus there is no basis for the government to justify its refusal to meet the demands of the employees. Point is will the government now accept the demand and avoid a show down with the employees?

As readers of NEW AGE know, the unity that succeeded to bring about the termination of British rule in India was not India's most striking national characteristic till Jallianwallah. The India that Dyer met with had nothing in common with the India of the time of Alexander, Chori, Babur, Nadir Shah, or Clive. Even 1857 had to manage without it. The first convulsion of this new force was felt in the seventies of the last century when, stunned by the phenomenal success of the Civil Service Agitation under the leadership of Surendranath Banerjea, a spokesman of our 'master race' Sir Henry Cotton, had the following to say in his "New India":

"The idea of a Bengali influencing the Punjab would have been a conception incredible to Lord Lawrence... yet it is the case that... at the present moment the name of Surendranath Banerjea excites as much enthusiasm among the rising generation of Multan as in Dacca."

The reason why India could acquire a quality in twenty-five years she had missed throughout her vast history from the Battle of Hydaspes to the First War of Independence is also known to all. It was during this quarter century that India made a decisive entry into the era to which such unity belongs, the era of modern economics, which alone can provide impregnable nationalism with the necessary material foundation.

How can we talk of driving away English without ascertaining whether it had some relevance to the process or processes that brought about this revolution?

Campaign For English

It is on record that 25 years before the dawn of this new era, which took place in the fifties of the last century when steam was introduced into the country's locomotion, leading Indians carried on a raging and tearing campaign in favour of English as the medium of instruction.

Is it not possible that this agitation symbolised a vital want of a society impregnated with the germs of capitalism?

What else is the significance of the following quotation from the memorandum submitted to the government in 1823 by Raja Ram Mohan Roy, who was at the head of those agitating in favour of this medium:

"The Sanskrit system of education would be the best calculated to keep this country in darkness if such had been the policy of the British legislature. But as the improvement of the native population is the object of the government, it will consequently promote a more liberal and enlightened system of education, embracing mathematics, natural philosophy, chemistry, and anatomy, with other natural sciences, which may be accomplished... by employing a few gentlemen of talents and learning educated in Europe..."

Anyone can see that what had influenced forward looking Indians of that time to agitate was not the beauty of the English language and literature but its competence to teach Indians modern science, technology and the humanities.

Coming seventy years after Plassy, which means after the "objectively regenerative role" of British imperialism had completed a definite cycle, did it not indicate the urgency and urgency of a society ready to perform new tasks?

Let us take a closer look at the facts. We all know that although developing capitalism not only generates the spirit of modern nationalism but also endows it with a national language, India proved an exception to the rule due to one peculiarity of hers.

LIGHT, MORE LIGHT ON LANGUAGE QUESTION

[Asking for "Light, More Light" on the language question, D. C. Home, author and journalist, has sent us an article which is in the nature of a comment on the article by Yogindra Sharma titled "Language Issue And Communist Party of India" which appeared in NEW AGE dated May 2, 1965.]

Stating that he is sadly disappointed with the article, Home raises the question, "is English an imperialist stranglehold or does it represent some logic of our own history?"

He quotes from Yogindra Sharma's article: "Our people have forced the British rulers out of India and this they could do through the unity of all the people speaking different languages. It was not within the power of the Hindi-speaking people alone to do so. In the same way, it is not possible for Hindi alone to drive away the English language from India. It can only be ousted through the unity of all the languages."

Home then poses the question, "how did the Indian people bring about this unity? Did or did not English have any relevance to the process or processes that shaped it?"

We are publishing Home's article because it contains interesting and thought-provoking historical material about the language question which one has to take into account though we do not agree that the same must necessarily lead to the conclusion which he has drawn.]

Centuries before the dawn of the capitalist era, her regional dialects, which are the raw material of a national language everywhere, had been developed into full-blooded languages of two irreconcilable families, Sanskrit and Dravidian, thus precluding for ever all chances of our having a lingua franca through any linguistic fusion or amalgamation.

Once formed, no language ever abdicates in favour of another. It is all the more true in India where there are among the regional languages some, like Tamil, which have long and rich traditions.

Historic Dilemma

There was also no chance of recourse to a hegemonic language, as was the case with Russian during Czarist days. The only such language available was Sanskrit, which was found wanting.

The alternative was to fall back upon the regional languages. But that would have meant running the risk of Balkanising the country, which was against the spirit of an era pregnant with the germs of capitalism. Besides, there was also the conscience of India which, though prone to become silent at crucial moments, is never dead.

To put it in the words of Oxford History of India, "The political unity of India, although never attained perfectly in fact, always was the ideal of the people throughout the centuries. The conception of the universal sovereignty as the Chakravarti Raja recurs through Sanskrit literature and is emphasised in scores of inscriptions. The story of the gathering of nations to the battle of Kurukshetra, as told in the Mahabharata, implies the belief that all Indian peoples... were Indians by real bonds..."

The election of English was promoted by this instinct under the conditions of embryonic capitalism which presses for national unity in order to gain control of certain economic and social forces.

had come to stay, a loyalist service, whereas Raja Ram Mohan Roy carried out a vital task of a society instinct with the urge for a social revolution under the pressure of new economic forces.

This momentous aspect of Raja Ram Mohan Roy's action emerges vividly if the role of English in our country is periodised.

In the twenties of the last century, leading Indians, acting under the pressure of new economic forces, elect English as a medium of instruction, and produce an intelligentsia well-equipped with the knowledge of modern science, technology and the humanities.

In the sixties, that is, within ten years since the introduction of steam into the country's locomotion, India accumulates a huge amount of capital from the famous Cotton Boom (which had resulted from the American Civil War).

Social Upsurge

This leads to the sudden growth of a sizable textile industry in India in the seventies, giving the newly educated national intelligentsia a direct root in the new economy. From cogs and wheels of the imperialist administrative machinery, they turn into the standard bearers of a social upsurge unprecedented in Indian history.

So cataclysmic becomes the impact of this sudden change in the Indian social set up that even a religious leader, Vivekananda, chastises his countrymen for slumbering in the snug lap of the past when civilisation had advanced to the point of talking about socialism. Incidentally, he was perhaps the only leading Indian to have made a laudatory reference to socialism at that early stage of our nationalist awakening.

The Civil Service Agitation, Ilbert Bill movement, the organisation of labour unions by Bengali-wala and Lokhande, the emergence of separate bodies of Indian merchants and industrialists and, above all, the birth of the Indian National Congress highlight the awakening of that period.

But the illusions of English educated gentry persist. Taking the imperialists by what they pro-

be to presuppose that a foreign administrator in the service of the government know more about the wants of the masses than their educated countrymen. It is true in all ages that those who think must govern those who toil; could it be that the natural order of things was reversed in this unfortunate country?"

This outlook survives not only the teachings of Tilak, by then a force himself, but also the experience of the Swadeshi movement, with the result that even in 1912, that is four years after the biggest anti-imperialist action of Indian masses, namely, the Tilak Day strike of 1908, Pandit Nehru finds the Indian National Congress very much an English-knowing upper-class affair.

But this is not due to any deleterious effect of English on the mental health of the country's intelligentsia, which is apt to think itself out above the plebeians everywhere and in all ages, no matter what the medium of its education is.

That English had no responsibility for this phenomenon was proved when it became no barrier to conversion when, with the advent of Gandhiji, the time became ripe to call the masses into action.

The explanation is that R. C. Mitra reflected the awakening of one stage and Gandhiji another. That had at its base a less developed stage of incipient capitalism, this a vastly higher one due to the expansion during the first world war, which taught nationalism that the masses were not its wards but the only source of revolutionary energy and strength.

Sharing Honours

English is unable to cement this new bond between the masses and the intelligentsia. They at once make necessary readjustments. Hindi-Hindustani is declared the country's lingua franca.

What follows is wellknown. The entire nationalist movement becomes bilingual at the all-India level, Hindi and English sharing the hegemonic position in varying ratios according to exigencies.

With the growth of labour and kisan movements, the process begins getting more powerful incentives with Hindi films doing likewise from Bombay and Calcutta in the sphere of culture.

Learning Hindi becomes a symbol of patriotism, which voluntary organisations like Hindi Prachar Sabha carry far and wide. The process continues with unabated vigour until the time comes to give ourselves a constitution. It is only then that the voice of nationalist India gets sharply divided, with consequences we saw last February and are doing so still.

Does this history justify exercising English as a form of imperialism? Or does it show that English fills up a void which had appeared in our history in some distant past, and became very wide by the time of our nationalist resurgence?

Yogindra Sharma's article evades the issue by resorting to a terminological trickery when he says the following: "The educated community represented the brain and conscience of the country, and were the legitimate spokesmen of the interests of the masses, the natural custodians of their interests. To hold otherwise would

* OVERLEAF

PAGE ELEVEN

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SEVENTH CONGRESS OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA

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LIGHT, MORE LIGHT ON LANGUAGE QUESTION

LETTERS

* FROM OVERLEAF

wherever the steel arms of free India are being built, the people from different areas, who speak different languages, are working and living under one roof—it is there that is developing a new language—popular Hindi, the real link language of India."

Since owing to the existence of full-blooded regional languages there cannot be a lingua franca of the classical form, the national medium has got to be something short of that. This can be called a link language or any other thing according to one's fancy. But can there be any uncertainty about its scope?

Let us see if history has any light to shed. Hindi's title to be the link language does not in the least rest on its lineage, which we can trace best by the following quotation from R. C. Dutt's "A History of Civilisation in Ancient India":

"...the spoken language of northern India has changed considerably within the last four thousand years. In the Vedic period it was the Sanskrit of the Rig Veda, in the Puranic period it was the Sanskrit of the Brahmanas; in the Rationalist and the Buddhist periods it was Prakrit; and since the rise of the Rajputs in the tenth century it has been Hindi."

We all know that Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit, though belonging to the North, were also something more: they were pan-Indian languages. The literature that they produced are not only India's main cultural heritage but also reflective of pan-Indian genius.

PAN-INDIAN LANGUAGE

Has this scope of pan-Indian language shrunk when our nationalism has widened the inter-regional contacts to include even such vital material activities as working for a living at centres of cosmopolitan life like Bhubaneswar?

This reluctance to define the link language is producing dangerous consequences. The cultural activities of renaissance nationalism is inhibited with the result that the national mind is exposed to the invasion of foreign ideas.

While the films, which once were a powerful bulwark of renaissance nationalism in the sphere of culture, are getting Hollywoodised, foreign literature has become the only source of intellectual relaxation for the intellectuals.

It is not realised that just because there is no national medium of hundred per cent Indian make, the national mind cannot go without its cultural sustenance.

The emphasis on excessive regionalism may save patriotic puritanism; but that cannot stimulate our national spirit. The progress of the nation and the regions rests on a certain rhythm which can be accelerated by stimulating economic progress for which, in the present state of our development, nationalism is the best framework. The link language must conform to its needs.

PAGE TWELVE

It is because the scope of the link language has not shrunk but phenomenally widened that the nation is divided on the language issue. Economic, political, cultural and administrative activities of renaissance nationalism demand the service of a central language of a vast scope. Going over either to Hindi or English is bound to create oppressive inequality among equals.

That Hindi must one day become the country's central language for all round national activities is to tell the obvious. But this is an ideal that can be reached only if we do not forget the lessons of history, as we are prone to do.

REASON FOR SHRINKING

The reason why Hindi, though the direct descendant of the lineage which gave India her central language at various ages since times immemorial, shrunk into just one of the regional languages, and that too of not the most commanding height, was not that India had ceased to have any need for such a medium. It was political.

Unlike a national language which rests on the crest of a popular upsurge, namely, modern nationalism, a central language depends for its status and stature on two forces which can be symbolically described as the pen and the sword.

For instance, in pre-revolutionary Russia, Indian derived its hegemonic strength both from the intelligentsia which enriched it and from the Czars who gave it status.

And that was what had happened with Sanskrit, Pali and Prakrit in India. While the central power gave them pan-Indian status, the intelligentsia as religious teachers gave them intellectual depth, sweep and stature.

Hindi failed to reach such a position because the Battle of Tarain brought into the seat of the central power, which was always northern India, not the Hindi-speaking Rajputs but the Muslims, speaking various foreign languages.

ANDHRA : CPI PLANS MASS ACTIVITY

* FROM PAGE 5

of all the state council members MLAs, MLCs and MPs. The auditing commission would put out a questionnaire in this connection and propose a suitable levy which would be finalised by the state executive. Any defaulters would face necessary disciplinary action.

The council passed a resolution naming three MLAs and MPs who were defaulters in regard to their dues. The overwhelming majority of

What would have happened had Hindi won political support at Tarain can be guessed from the fact that the court poet of Prithviraj, the Indian hero at that eventful battle, was not a Kalidasa or a Bana, but Chand Bardai, one of the Hindi charans common in the courts of all Rajput chieftains.

Add to this the fact that the Bhakti cult, which embraced all parts of the country, had its major base in the Hindi belt. Ramananda, Kabir, Nanak, Surdas, Tulsiadas, Meerabai and a good many others of the Bhakti-margis not only belonged to that region but also used Hindi.

As no Indian central power in olden days ever remained indifferent to any social movement in the form of religious activity, it was more than probable that a Hindi-speaking imperial power would have promoted the Bhakti cult and established inter-regional contacts favourable to the pan-Indian growth of Hindi. Tarain stopped all that.

But such was the vitality of India's tradition of a central language that even Tarain could not disrupt the process for good. As conversions and immigrations increased the strength and deepened the local roots of the Muslim population, the process revived and Urdu came into existence as part of a new synthesis.

LACK OF SUPPORT

But the Muslim rulers did not give it the necessary political support. On the contrary, they enforced the hegemony of Persian and Arabic with unmodified persistence to maintain a cultural barrier between them and the people.

This political handicap was removed when, owing to the growth of the capitalist economy within the national framework, cosmopolitan populations appeared in various centres of enterprise and administration bringing

into existence bazar Hindi outside the Hindi belt for the first time.

It is their participation in the national struggle which made the intelligentsia realise the importance and the efficacy of Hindi as a medium of communication in the national sphere.

ROLE IS SYMBOLIC

Yet the fact remains that the role of Hindi was symbolic. Owing to its stunted growth due to political reasons since Tarain, as well as its inadequacies to meet modern demands, which was the case with all Indian languages and still is, English proved invaluable and indispensable for its efficiency, flexibility and up-to-dateness.

Consequently, the bilingualism of the pre-independence days, though not entirely favourable to the growth and enrichment of Hindi, worked to the best advantage of the nationalist cause.

Incidentally, because bilingualism in the old days functioned smoothly and without internecine feuds, India's renaissance spirit was all-pervasive in the cultural sphere also.

Not only the contents of our films, the mainstay of the people for their cultural sustenance, but also our English writings used to be vibrant with it.

But today our renaissance spirit is being starved in the national sphere and consequently it is exposed to the American way of life, which cannot be fought with slogans alone.

What India needs can be called anything, the name link language not excluding. But, in the given stage of our progress, it has got to have such a big range that only harmonious use of both Hindi and English can serve the purpose.

It is only if we do this, that we can reach the stage when not only Hindi alone will do but also the fuller use of the regional languages will not be conducive to unhealthy regionalism.

It is all very well to talk about building national democratic front, but how can it be built without conscious efforts to cement the unity of democratic forces through joint campaigns and actions in which both the left parties and the democratic elements in the Congress participate.

At present, apart from certain campaigns initiated by the peace movement, I see no such joint actions developing. I think a certain amount of sectarianism on all sides is preventing joint actions from developing on the most urgent issues of today. Like the fight against communalism and economic struggles against concessions to monopolists and for nationalisation of banks etc.

The Congress left must unite, but it must do this in order to unite with the other left forces also.

Jaipur

MORE ON CONGRESS LEFT

IN his letter (NEW AGE, May 23) "Congress Worker" has rightly stressed the necessity for the progressive left elements in the ruling party to unite among themselves. They are often seen pulling in different directions and the personal antagonisms are obvious.

How can this unity be achieved? Surely on the basis of a clear-cut programme. K. D. Malaviya, just before Bhubaneswar, did make such an attempt with his alternate resolution. Then there were the conventions, organised also by Malaviya, of socialist Congressmen.

But one cannot help feeling that little has been done recently to consolidate the results of these efforts.

The "Forum" led by Gulzarilal Nanda is also virtually ineffective as a day-to-day movement. Occasional conferences and sermons are useful, but there is no sustained campaign for left policies.

On the other hand, the right appears to be overcoming some at least of its internal contradictions. This is a dangerous situation for the Congress and its future.

Burdwan K. C. CHATTERJEE

CONGRESS LEFT AND THE CPI

THERE is one important fact about the Congress left which I think "Congress Worker" in his letter (NEW AGE, May 23) has missed.

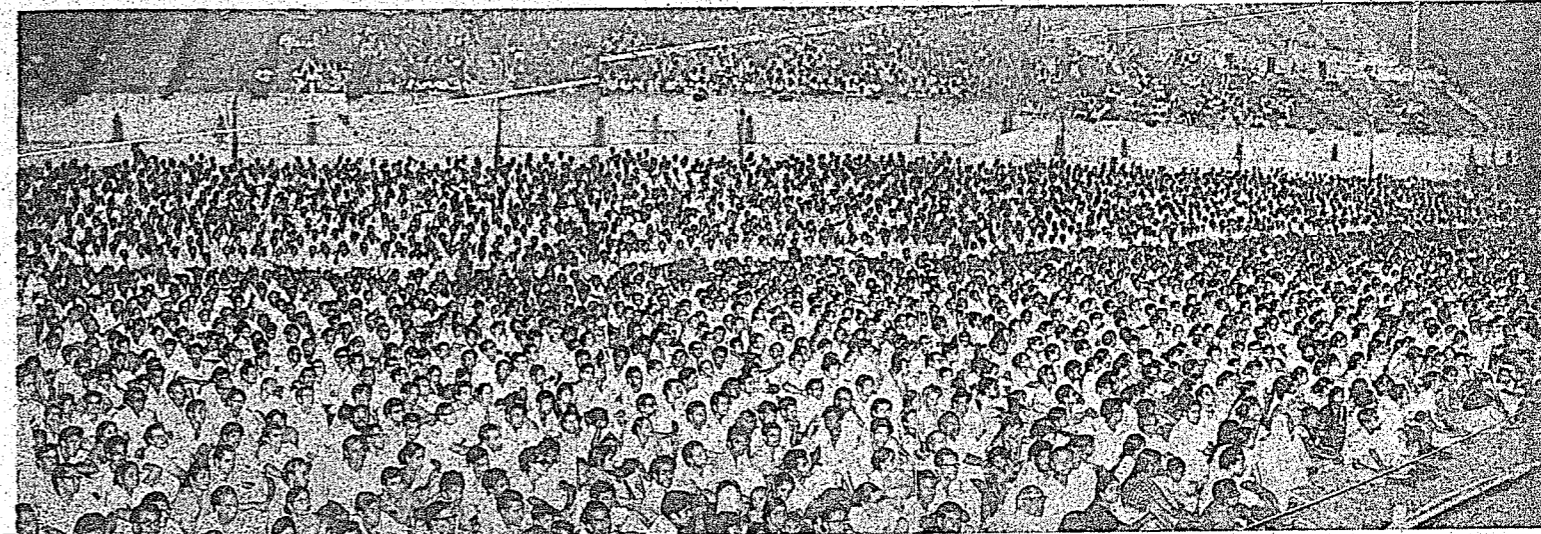
What are the relations between the Congress left and the Communists? Of course, the pro-American gangs always label every progressive Congressman a pseudo-Communist. But the truth is that the relations between the Congress left and the other forces of the left, particularly the CPI, are certainly not as close as they should be.

It is all very well to talk about building national democratic front, but how can it be built without conscious efforts to cement the unity of democratic forces through joint campaigns and actions in which both the left parties and the democratic elements in the Congress participate.

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The Congress left must unite, but it must do this in order to unite with the other left forces also.

ATMA RAM
JUNE 6, 1965



Sixth W. Bengal Youth Festival Concludes

From SUBIR GHOSH

CALCUTTA: The Sixth West Bengal Youth Festival came to a grand finale on May 30 with mass singing by 900 young artistes led by V. Bulsara.

The day was observed as Anti-Imperialist Day by the Festival participants. A mock UN Security Council session was organised with a discussion on Vietnam on the agenda.

Prominent personalities including Renu Chakravarty, Sadhan Gupta and Kalyan Dutta took part in the mock UN session.

Most of the days of the festival were devoted to particular subjects like Africa, young workers, build-better Bengal, education, rural youth and young girls.

There were seminars on national integration, Today's

Africa and problems of education, which attracted considerable attention of the participants.

Every night of the festival saw cultural programmes including films, dramas, dances and music.

Picture shows a partial view of the vast gathering at Eden Gardens on May 28 when a mass rally was held in connection with the Youth Festival.

UGLY INDIAN

"I would be sad to think that we are now so resourceless in diplomacy that we have abandoned all initiative in advance planning for the country's security."

This is how Prem Bhatia, the great columnist-cum-resident-editor of the Delhi link of the Goenka chain of newspapers reflected on the twin subjects of diplomacy and security in his Report From New Delhi on May 12 last.

Eighteen days later the External Affairs Ministry announced his appointment as India's High Commissioner to Kenya.

"And I am sure now the nation can take it easy. Mao and Ayub must be shivering in their shoes. For New Delhi is no more resourceless in diplomacy. And for that reason planning for India's security will go ahead at jet speed."

And we can count on Prem for affecting such a miraculous breakthrough. He will turn Africa upside down and convert it into a zamindari of New Delhi. The entire Africa will be on our side against the Chinese and Pakistanis.

It is a measure of degeneration that the Foreign Ministry has suffered since Nehru's death that it should send out a man to a sensitive African country, of all places, a man who wrote week after week

maligned Nehru and his foreign policy.

As for Afro-Asian countries, he had always treated them in his writings as a cluster of worms.

What was Prem Bhatia's assessment of Nehru? What did he think of nonalignment, air umbrella and the like?

If Sardar Swaran Singh and his official advisers missed reading his views, here are a few quotations INSIDER has culled out from his weekly column. Report From New Delhi:

On Nehru: "The late Prime Minister was not particularly fond of critics either, but he felt a rather superior contempt for what he did not like." (13-1-1965)

Nonalignment: "Or is it because, after immediate danger was over, we could again indulge in the virgin chastity of academic nonalignment." (24-3-1965)

Air Umbrella: "It is surprising, indeed shocking, that the great pundits of our foreign policy should engage themselves in the old game of splitting hairs on the precise definition of 'air protection.'" (24-3-1965)

How should India save herself from the Chinese? Self-reliance? No, invite the Americans to take over the defence!

"We are (thus) driven to adopting the only course open to us in present conditions, namely, to seek a guarantee of safety against China from the USA." (12-5-1965)

This is the man whom they are sending abroad to represent India simply because, being an Indian national the State Department cannot recruit him into its foreign service.

For years Prem Bhatia had been trying to get into the diplomatic service. Some five years ago it almost came through but Nehru put his foot down. He thought Krishna Menon had come in the way. And week after week Menon was blasted in his columns.

Fortunately for him Nehru died. And when his appointment was mooted, it is said, only Indira Gandhi murmured a word of feeble protest.

In one respect Prem Bhatia will be well upon the mark in Nairobi. The personal side of his diplomacy will be superb. His wife is a gracious hostess.

And if only his daughter also joins them, it will be wonderful. She has finished or is finishing a course in the United States on a scholarship granted during the time when Bunker (now fighting the Dominicans) was the US Ambassador in New Delhi.

—INSIDER

NEW AGE

Workers To Fight For Equitable Bonus

The utterly reactionary modifications made by government to the Bonus Commission's recommendations, especially the higher rate of profits allowed to the employers, have now been enforced through an ordinance promulgated on May 31.

AND in promulgating the ordinance, the government has gone one step ahead in its pro-monopolist policies and even the limited benefit of minimum bonus has been refused for two years by limiting the retrospective benefit of the ordinance only to disputes pending on September 2, 1964 and not for all workers from 1962 as was envisaged in the Bonus Commission's recommendations.

Commenting on the ordinance, S. A. Dange, general secretary of the AITUC, stated on May 31: "I denounce the changes completely and we will fight them."

He said that on the whole the changes in the bonus formula made first in the draft Bill and now enforced through the ordinance are for the worse and leave the bonus situation as a whole in a mess.

S. A. Dange said that the workers and trade unions would have to organise an all-India struggle in every industry and including the public sector, to introduce a sensible and rational bonus system which will really allow the workers to get a substantial share of the vast profits made by the monopolists.

WHAT IS DIALECTICAL MATERIALISM

A new popular course

By O. YAKHOT

Latest book on the fundamental problems of Marxist philosophy. It expounds the subject of Marxism, shows its difference from other sciences, revealing the fundamental issue of philosophy and the meaning of matter and consciousness. It also deals with the basic laws of dialectics; quantitative and qualitative changes; the unity and struggle of opposites and of the negation of the negation. Much stress has been given to the dialectical categories, the theory of knowledge, the role of practice and the problems of truth.

The author stresses the practical value of dialectical materialism and throws light on its laws and categories. Written in a simple, popular and lively style, this book will be an invaluable guide for the beginners of Marxist philosophy.

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ADMARK

PAGE THIRTEEN

JUNE 6, 1965

PRAVDA APPEALS FOR UNITY OF ACTION

From Masood Ali Khan

MOSCOW: An article in PRAVDA on the 45th anniversary of the publication of Lenin's book "Left-wing Communism an Infantile Disorder" appeals for unity of action of the world Communist movement in the struggle against imperialism.

MENTIONING the fact that imperialist reaction is taking advantage of the existing differences in the Communist movement and imperialist provocations against socialist countries and revolutionary forces are becoming more and more dangerous with every passing day, the article declares, "those

who shirk the struggle for unity and do not seek ways and means for it are obviously shouldering a grave responsibility before the working people of all countries. The inner party differences cannot justify the renunciation of joint action in the struggle against imperialist aggression".

Without referring to the sectarian leaders of today by name the article refutes in a dignified and comradely manner a number of their wrong assertions and pronouncements.

"It would be wrong to think that only a new world war could lead to the unity of the socialist camp and the entire world Communist movement. The Marxist-Leninists see their task not in waiting for a world war conflagration to break out but to prevent by joint efforts of the progressive democratic forces a course of events which could lead to the unleashing of war."

The article refers to the

communiqué of the March meeting of the 19 Parties in Moscow which also declared that it was, quite possible and necessary to work for anti-imperialist unity of action in spite of differences and problems of theory and tactics.

The PRAVDA article declares that we should not ignore the real situation that different interpretations are given to the documents of the world Communist movement. It is necessary to rely on what unites the Parties and "let time help some Parties to outlive their erroneous views."

In those fields where international unity of action of Communists is urgent for the entire revolutionary movement, international cooperation must be maintained, for example, in the support for the just struggle of Vietnamese people, against imperialist aggression and intrigues in Afro-Asian and Latin American countries.

"Practice is the best judge

In any theoretical dispute. It will undoubtedly teach all detachments of the Communist movement a correct understanding of common tasks—anti-imperialism, national freedom and peace."

Criticism of mistakes had to be in the form of friendly advice with the purpose of helping fraternal Parties. Only this way of clarification of disputed issues could be acceptable among the Communists. Tact must be displayed while dealing with other Parties; their specific features must be carefully studied; any infringement of feelings of national dignity had to be avoided and principles of genuine equality and independence of all Parties, big or small, had to be consistently observed.

The creative approach to revolutionary theory meant not only an objective appraisal of practical experience but

* On Facing Page



Mulk Raj Anand at the International Writers' Conference in Weimar

Manifesto of World Writers' Conference

WEIMAR: 200 prominent writers from 52 countries in conclusion of an international writers' meeting held in the German Democratic Republic from May 14 to 20, have signed a manifesto at Weimar, reports ADN.

"WE have met here, on the territory of the GDR, in the town of German classical literature where in 1945 the anti-fascist resistance fighters of Buchenwald took an oath in many languages which is being upheld and fulfilled today," the manifesto says.

"We have met in friendship, united by the firm will—despite different origins and political outlooks—to struggle with the power of the humanist word for the lives of the peoples in peace.

"Twenty years after the victory over Hitlerite fascism we have met in the spirit of our best friends and comrades who in Paris in 1935 and in Madrid in 1937

raised their voices for the defence of culture and peace.

"Their legacy is our task: to struggle in solidarity with mind, heart and talent against open and camouflaged fascism, against imperialist aggression, and against the dreadful new threat to mankind, a nuclear war.

"As at all times before, literature written in the spirit of progress will be of lasting value. We, the writers from 52 countries address all those who write: hear our appeal from Weimar!"

The Indian participants to this meeting included among others Mulk Raj Anand and Sajjad Zaheer.

OAU IS TWO YEARS OLD

ORGANISATION for African Unity has completed two years of its existence. May 25, the day of its anniversary, was marked as Africa Liberation Day throughout the continent.

Special celebrations were held at OAU headquarters. Emperor Haile Selassie in his message of greetings declared: "The liberation of the African territories which are still under savage colonial administration remains one of the major tasks of the Organisation for African Unity."

Later, in a radio address to the Ethiopian people, the Emperor said that his country would continue its effective support to the fighters for Africa's freedom. "We are impatiently looking forward to the day when the Africans in the dependent countries will smash the fetters of foreign domination," the Emperor said.

He deplored the fact that some great powers were not cooperating in implementing the economic boycott of the South African Republic and Portugal.

At OAU headquarters, the General Secretary Diallo Telli in a speech said that the OAU has fully proved its viability during its two-year existence. He hoped that the difficulties with which OAU is faced at present, would be overcome by the joint efforts of all African states.

JAPANESE BOYCOTT US SHIPS

JAPANESE seamen are refusing to touch American arms meant for being shipped to South Vietnam.

The crew of the Japanese vessel "Bunan-Maru" sparked

AFRO-ASIA In The Headlines

this campaign by refusing to carry American weapons from Okinawa. Other Japanese seamen soon followed suit. When the US command ordered a tugboat to sail from Naha to a destination in Vietnam, 22 members of the crew refused to oblige.

The stronghold of this resistance to shipping of American arms is the US-occupied Japanese island, Okinawa.

"We want not a single seaman from Okinawa to take part in such cruises," declared Tomoyose, General Secretary of the trade union of workers who serves the US base on the island, in a statement. "Our trade union," he added, "adheres to the principle of renunciation from cruises to South Vietnam. And this principle remains firm."

Agents of the US command in Okinawa tried hard to cajole the recalcitrant seamen into cooperation. They called each member of the crew separately and tried to talk him into going to South Vietnam but even this "individual" approach of theirs led them nowhere.

UAR : NEW WOMEN'S BODY

A NEW women's organisation has been formed in the UAR. Members of the UAR National Assembly, of the Arab Socialist Union and representatives of different women's associations last week met at Cairo to finalise the rules of the organisation.

The organisation will press for the liquidation of all restrictions on the rights of women and the granting of political rights to them. The organisation will direct the activity of

the Egyptian people inside the country and in the international area. It will also represent them at international, regional and inter-Arab conferences and meetings.

ALGERIA READY FOR IY YOUTH FESTIVAL

THE cultural programme of the 9th World Festival of Youth and Students, opening in Algiers this July, will turn out to be a colourful and varied fare. Art groups from over 100 countries are expected to participate in it.

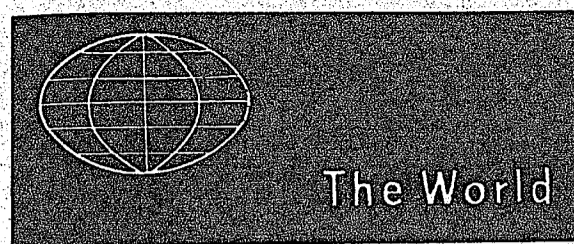
Algerian young people are engaged in building in different parts of the town concert platforms convenient for artists and viewers. Nineteen elegant open-air stages, specially designed by foremost artists and architects, are being put up. They will be used for presenting 300 international concerts and plays.

On the opening day, an Algerian youth ensemble consisting of 7,000 young people, will give a mass performance devoted to the history of Algerian freedom struggle.

Foreign art groups will have some of the leading performers of their countries with them. Embattled Angola will send a song and dance ensemble.

July 30 will be observed as a day of solidarity with the youth of Algeria. Special "Friendship Trains" will run to Oren, Constantine, Annaba and other Algerian towns to give the visiting youth a glimpse of the country.

—DARSHAK



The World

JOHNSON'S PARANOIA

The crisis was never bigger: the delusion of Johnson about the invincibility of the US war machine coupled with what has transpired as his 'doctrine', have resulted in a steady deterioration of the international situation.

NO longer is peace dominating the world scene; the balance has tilted towards violence threatening abominable misery and suffering for mankind.

The heroic people of Vietnam are repulsing the US aggression and with every passing day its intensity is increasing. In South Vietnam the patriotic forces are inflicting severe damages on the US forces; in North Vietnam a determined resistance is punishing the air invaders.

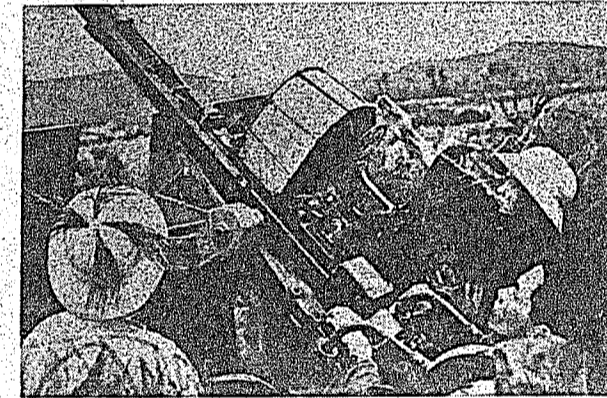
All this is making Johnson mad more than ever before. The trend of his thinking in trying to bring about a military solution in Vietnam was reflected when Senator Russell, chairman of the Armed Service Committee proposed last week that the US should prepare to use atomic weapons in Vietnam.

He said in Atlanta that "we don't have any alternative but to use nuclear weapons."

This spoke volumes about the war the US intends to carry on in Vietnam. It became clear that conventional arms, every description of which has been used in Vietnam, have not been able to turn the tide in favour of the Americans. The US forces are being pushed out from their strongholds one after the other.

The so-called stoppage of bombings by the US airforce on North Vietnam which was ordered by President Johnson was merely an attempt to lull the people into a wrong belief about American intentions; it was never meant for Vietnam peace talks as was given out by the state department.

Henry Cabot Lodge in fact gave out as much when he made



Defenders of North Vietnam in action.

PRAVDA CALLS FOR UNITY OF ACTION

* FROM FACING PAGE

also the ability to approach critically one's own policy.

At each stage of social development, Leninist teaching must rise to a new level. Lenin said that it is not befitting to the champions of socialism to preserve ideological heritage in the way an archive-keeper keeps old papers. Lenin creatively approached the theory of Marx and Engels and enriched it with important new ideas.

Keeping in view the spread of the Communist movement and the fact that the revolutionary democratic parties in many liberated countries are going over to positions of socialism, a constant concern of Marxist-Leninist Parties for coordination of their policies and line of common

struggle for unity and exchange of experience is necessary, PRAVDA says.

The article mentions Lenin's important idea of the possibility of the non-capitalist path for peoples of colonial and dependent countries with the assistance of the victorious proletariat of advanced countries. It mentions a number of countries of Asia and Africa where profound social transformations are taking place.

PRAVDA says that history has made the world Communist movement responsible for "the solution of the radical problems of today—the prevention of a world thermo-nuclear war, the liberation of peoples from national oppression and a complete eradication of colonialism and the transition to a new socialist order." For attainment of these tasks unity is essential.



Vietnamese patriots being shot in South Vietnam.

the American atrocity generated by Johnson's paranoia is a massive retaliation. US must be told: get out from Vietnam before it is too late or you will be forced out

QUEEN'S GESTURE

THE visit to West Germany by the British Queen would have been just

policy declarations against West Germany seeking to keep them in good humour. An entente has developed between West German militarism and British war office which is not only contrary to the interests of the British people but also dangerous for others. The British Queen's visit was a fraternal gesture.

DOMINICAN IMPASSE

THE American game in the Dominican Republic did not lead to the result the Johnson administration had expected.

Faced with the worldwide condemnation of its intervention and fearing that the ambers of discontent in the Latin American countries might burst out in flames, the US government is now trying to play the role of a peacemaker working behind the screen of the OAS.

The OAS is nothing but a handmaiden of US Administration. There is hardly any difference between direct US intervention or intervention through the OAS.

What is hidden in this maze of confusion is the fact that the OAS role in this country is itself a wrong measure altogether. The OAS has no legal or otherwise justifiable ground to take upon itself any single-handed action in the Dominican Republic. It is only the United Nations that can effectively discharge such a responsibility.

If OAS action is deemed to be logical and permissible in the Dominican Republic, then a chain reaction would inevitably follow. Why should not the Organisation of African Unity in that case openly extend military aid to the fighting peoples in the Southern Rhodesia and South Africa?

The oppression of the African people by white settlers in these areas is by far a more justifiable case for a forcible ousting of the white domination.

That the OAU has not taken such a step is only because such intervention would lead to massive bloodshed and jeopardise peace the world over.

The real solution of the Dominican crisis can only be brought about under the aegis of the United Nations. The following steps immediately are essen-

tial for such purpose: (1) strict observance of 1963 Constitution; (2) all legislators elected in 1962 to continue in office; (3) occupation forces must withdraw immediately (both US as well as the OAS); and to ensure free and democratic election of a government with hundred per cent civilian members.

LATIN AMERICA IN FERMENT

BESIDES the Dominican crisis, other developments in Latin America have created a condition of ferment all over the continent.

The most serious of them took place in Bolivia where the army carried out a mass-smale slaughter of striking miners.

Once again it was the US interest that led to the clash. The present government in Bolivia, controlled by a military junta sought to bring down costs in tin production to feathered American interests and help them garner larger profit.

The trade union movement protested against the measures taken on this issue and the government sought to put the organised workers in disarray by deporting top trade union leaders, including Juan Lechin, from the country. A strike followed and this was attempted to be broken by force. The clash has temporarily been suspended.

In Colombia also a disquieting situation has arisen. Its capital, Bogota, has been taken over by the army in accordance with the "Hammer Plan" following the general strike in the city in protest against the murder of Luis Enrique Uscache.

In Guatemala, over 200 people were arrested last week after the vice-minister for defence Ernesto Molina Arreaga was shot dead while travelling in his car.

All these developments indicate the tense situation which currently prevails in Latin America. The clash between the people's interest and the interest of the capitalists, particularly the American capitalists, are becoming sharper in this continent.

—Sadhan Mukherjee

(June 1)

VOLUNTEER CORPS FOR VIETNAM

AITUC Circular To Unions

S. A. Dange, general secretary of the AITUC, in a circular to all affiliated unions on June 2 has explained the position with regard to the campaign for support to the struggle of the people of Vietnam against American aggression and the liberation of South Vietnam from the aggressors and their local puppets.

IT was decided by the AITUC general council on April 14 that such a campaign would be immediately undertaken and that the AITUC, in cooperation with those who would agree, should enrol "volunteers for Vietnam."

These volunteers should take a pledge to go to the defence of the Vietnamese people, if called upon by them. In addition these volunteers should be a standing corps to combat the American imperialists and their criminal activities in India, against the freedom of the peoples of the world, in the field of economy, politics, ideology, culture, etc.

S. A. Dange in his circular has stated:

We have to think on these lines because the American aggression against Vietnam, if it is not successfully annihilated, will spread to the whole continent of Asia and will one day swallow India also. The American imperialists in Vietnam are not battling only to save their puppets there. They are battling for the conquest of Asia and the annihilation of all freedom movements and socialist aims everywhere.

All democratic and revolutionary freedom forces in India must support Vietnam just as we supported the Spanish Republicans in their defence against the fascist aggressors. The fascists emboldened by the tacit support they got from the Anglo-American imperialists in those days, launched the Second World War.

Today the American imperialists are trying to repeat that history by sending their hangmen and their marines against the revolutionaries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

But today they will not succeed like the fascists of old days. The socialist camp, the might of the Soviet Union, the determination and unity of the South Vietnamese people led by their Vietcong, the workingclass and the anti-colonial peoples of the world are stronger than imperialism. Even inside America, the democratic intelligentsia and other sections are protesting against their government's aggressive invasion of Vietnam.

The issue at stake, therefore, is not the fate of Vietnam alone. The issue is of world freedom. The issue is whether

the Asian people will decide their destinies as they like without interference from the imperialists.

The workingclass and trade unions in India must rouse their ranks to the consciousness and gravity of the issues involved.

The International Committee of Solidarity with Vietnam established by the WFTU has been holding its meeting in Hanoi to take steps to mobilise the workingclass of the world in support of the Vietnamese struggle against American aggression.

The trade unions in India should undertake publication of small pamphlets, handbills to take the issues to the people.

The four points put forward by the Vietnam leadership should be supported and taken to the people. India will not back any other proposal, not acceptable to the Vietnamese leadership.

And volunteers for the Corps to Combat American Imperialists and their aggression should be enrolled on a pledge.

BRITISH FACTORY TO EFFECT SEGREGATION

NEW DELHI: A factory is being set up in England on segregation principles, reports IPA.

INFORMATION available here give shocking details of this new racial victimisation venture in Britain which will stare the Prime Minister of India and President of Pakistan in the face on the occasion of the Commonwealth PMS' Conference.

The factory will have separate entrances for the Indian staff and another for the European employees. Workers of Pakistani nationality are also being included among the former category. The two sets of workers—of Indo-Pak origin and the Europeans—will have separate washing places.

The factory is being set up in Smethwick, not very far from London. Its proprietorial interests belong to the Midland Motor Company headed by the Marquess of Exeter, a former Tory MP and vice-president of the International Olympic Committee since 1955.

The factory will form part of the Middlemore Industrial Estate. If the venture proves to be a success, other factories may follow the same segregation pattern.

Party Press Month

The Party Press Month (one month during the period May 15 to June 30) is being currently observed throughout the country. Of the highpoints of the campaign, the most important one is the mass-scale drive for popularisation of the Party papers published by the centre, namely the central organ NEW AGE weekly (English), JANYUG weekly (Hindi) and HAYAT weekly (Urdu).

In order to intensify the WIN MORE READERS campaign, the Central Secretariat has decided to offer incentives to enterprising Party members and sympathisers who would take initiative in securing subscribers for these papers.

The incentives offered by the central secretariat are as follows and are valid till August 15, 1965. It is, of course, understood that crediting of subscriptions to one's name will be considered *only* after the amount has been received at the managerial offices of these papers.

PRIZES

For those who would secure FIVE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS or 10 HALF-YEARLY SUBSCRIPTIONS or 20 QUARTERLY SUBSCRIPTIONS of any one of the three papers or the three papers together:

One-year free supply of one copy of either of the three papers.

★ For TEN ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS or equivalent thereto:

Coupon worth Rs. 30 negotiable with the People's Publishing House, New Delhi for buying books according to choice.

★ For TWENTYFIVE ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS or equivalent thereto:

Rs. 100 in cash or utility goods of that amount according to choice.

★ For ONE HUNDRED ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS or equivalent thereto:

Rs. 300 in cash or utility goods of that amount according to choice.

★ Those who would secure 100 or more annual subscriptions or equivalent thereto, would also have:

- His photograph and a short life-sketch published in the Party papers.
- The fact of this achievement recorded in the Party Card, if he is a Party Member.
- Be declared as a honorary member of the NEW AGE family.

Those who would secure highest number of subscriptions (beyond 100 annual subscriptions or equivalent thereto) shall have the distinction of receiving:

- Cash prizes or utility goods worth a big sum, the exact amount of which is to be decided by the Party's central secretariat;
- Special honour by the Party and the Party press; and
- Special awards and benefits.

Agents Note

★ For six weeks, any time upto August 15, 1965, they can receive extra copies in addition to their existing orders on sale or return basis. The number of extra copies ordered must be reasonable.

★ On the extra copies sold, a commission of 40 per cent will be allowed for six weeks effective from the date of the order.

★ After six weeks, when sale of extra copies would be stabilised, new terms can be worked out for the entire bulk of copies to be sold every week.

INDIA MUST SUPPORT THE FOUR-POINT VIETNAMESE PROPOSAL

The following four points have been put forward by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the Liberation Front of South Vietnam for solution of the Vietnam issue:

- 1 There must be scrupulous respect for the Geneva agreement on Vietnam and a correct application of its governing stipulations.
- 2 US forces and military apparatus must be withdrawn from South Vietnam.
- 3 South Vietnam affairs should be settled according to programme formulated by the South Vietnam National Liberation Front.
- 4 There should be a reunification of the country without alien interference.

WE reject President Radhakrishnan's proposal for an Afro-Asian force to police the border between South and North Vietnam.

It is a proposal which in effect will help the imperialists to defeat the liberation struggle of South Vietnam.

India knows that UN forces could not prevent the murder of Lumumba in Congo.

India knows that UN agents on Kashmir borders with Pakistan are nothing but American and British agents helping Pak aggression against India.

India must support the above four points, demand the cessation of American bombing on North Vietnam and withdrawal of its forces from South Vietnam.

(June 2)