

Socialist Outlook

The Paper of
Labour's Left Wing

● MALAYA
—THE TRUTH ●

see article page 3

No. 41

MAY DAY, 1952

3d.

UNITY WITH THE COLONIAL PEOPLES!

Asia and Africa lead the Fight against Churchill

NO Tory Government was ever quite so devoid of popular support as the present one. The more they legislate, the fiercer grows the desire of the people to be rid of them. Tested in the County Council Elections, Tory policy has received a shattering repudiation. Labour almost swept the board.

The Government now stays in office against the will of the people. It is illegal, fraudulent, and hated by the workers. Why doesn't it fall?

Because—so far at least—the leaders of the Labour Party have refused to give the command to bring them down.

They have confined their opposition to Westminster, refusing all suggestions to supplement it with a well-organised mass resistance on the industrial field.

As a result of this pitiable respect for "constitutional" methods, the Health Service is being chopped to pieces by the parliamentary guillotine. And the

definite connection between these facts and the present refusal to give the signal for mass resistance to the Tories at home.

Such mass opposition would undoubtedly bring down the Government—but it would also interfere with the progress of the war being waged against the colonial peoples. A real fight against Churchill would strengthen the anti-war feeling which is rapidly growing in Labour's ranks, and the effect of that on working class conscripts in the jungles of Malaya would not be to Mr. Churchill's liking.

Knowing that, the leaders of the Party are paralysed. They cannot really fight Churchill at home.....because they are united with him in Malaya and Korea.

Not being prepared to impair the efficiency of the military machines of Generals Templar and Erskine abroad..... they are powerless to resist the demands of these armies on the living standards of the workers at home. Truly has it been said....."Labour with a white skin can never be free while Labour with a black skin is enslaved!"

SOLIDARITY

May Day is a day of international working class solidarity. Unless that means—first and foremost—solidarity with those

A "Red Bandit"



fighting Churchill's armies in the colonies..... May Day is a sham.

Look again at that half-starved little lad whose picture appears at the top of this page. Is he YOUR enemy? Can you deny his father and brothers the right to take up arms to end the foreign oppression which has reduced him to such abominable poverty? If you are a socialist, you can't.

The colonial peoples are fighting Toryism in its worst form. British Labour wants to fight Toryism. When we unite our forces against the common enemy, Churchill will fall, the Tories will be cast out and a new era of peace, socialism and co-operation will open up for mankind. That is our May Day message.

May Day-The Fortnightly's Birthday

IN December 1948, members of the Labour Party founded the monthly "Socialist Outlook". To-day we become a fortnightly.

Our paper has consistently fought for a clear socialist programme, against re-armament and for colonial freedom. Officialdom, resenting and fearing the growth of our support, has tried to silence us by spreading rumours of impending "proscription" and bureaucratic bans on the paper's sale.

The rumour-mongers have been forced into the open and defeated. Transport House has had to admit that Parties and Party members are free to buy, sell and read the "Outlook".

It is significant that this development has taken place at a time when the rank and file is clearly moving to the left. We think that we are part of that leftward movement, and that we can play a role in winning the majority of the Party for a socialist policy.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

We are proud of becoming a fortnightly paper, but the effort has strained our resources.

We need money and increased sales. At least £50 a month in the Fighting Fund, and a doubled circulation.

Don't be content to buy a copy at the branch. Take a dozen and sell them to your workmates.

Don't be content to sell only at ward meetings. Go to the members who don't attend meetings—it will help to make them active. Go to non-members—it will encourage them to join the party.

Double the sales of the fortnightly to help the fight for real Socialism in our ranks.

Our next objective is—
a WEEKLY.

Cotton Unions Must Act Now

THAT cotton should be on the nationalisation list is no new proposal. I have in front of me a 32-page pamphlet issued in 1935 by the T.U.C. entitled "Report on Socialisation of the Cotton Industry". It follows closely the lines adopted 12 years later for the coal industry.

Then, in November 1943, 213 delegates from all the cotton unions accepted unanimously a carefully thought-out plan for the future of their industry (which they presented to Hugh Dalton, then President of the Board of Trade. This plan included the taking over of the whole spinning and weaving sections of the industry.

Then something went wrong. In 1948 a sub-committee of the cotton unions did NOT request that nationalisation be placed in the Labour Party's election programme.

What caused the change in policy? Principally the Tory press campaign against nationalisation, playing up mistakes, playing down successes until millions of people believed nationalisation was no good.

The cotton union leaders attitude might have been understandable then—but a return to the old policy of nationalisation is very clearly wanted right now to meet the unemployment crisis. F.A.

nationalised.

All textiles will then belong to the State which can readily sell them to those peoples of the East who need cotton and woollen goods of every kind. Credits, long-term and without interest, must be advanced to these countries to enable them to purchase British textiles.

Where will the money for these credits come from? Out of the huge sum now set aside for useless arms production. One hundred millions out of fifty-two hundred millions would hardly be missed, yet it would provide work for all in Lancashire and Yorkshire. Trade could thus be conducted with Russia and China without overstraining the limited resources of these countries. Eventually we should benefit by the increased imports of all manner of raw materials and foodstuffs so badly needed in this country.

Naturally a Tory Government will never carry out such a plan. They are trying to re-convert their (continued on page 2, col. 5)

SOLVED!.. BY GAD!

Lt. Col. Sir W. Saules (Tory M.P. for Down), speaking in the textiles debate, offered this prize solution to the cotton crisis: "I suggest that it is about time that all of us bought some new clothes, and our wives also."

Editorial

Standard of living of our people is being lowered by a Government which, were it to face the electorate tomorrow, would get even less seats than it obtained in the debacle of 1945.

POLITICAL AIM

We are not proposing sporadic industrial action—nor industrial action that has no clear political objective. We want organised action—prepared, led, and called for by the Labour Party.

Our reason..... to resist the cuts in living standards. Our object..... to return a new and more socialist Labour Government.

As you can read elsewhere on this page, the "Herald" gave this call in 1918 when Labour had far less popular support than it has today. Why now do they hesitate?

To answer that question, it is necessary to pose others—all of them very pertinent in a May Day editorial.

THE CANCER

Do our leaders oppose the re-armament drive which is undermining all working class living standards? They don't.

Do they oppose the savage war against the Korean people? They don't.

Do they lift a finger to obstruct General Templar's atrocities in Malaya? They don't.

Have they protested at the slaughter of Egyptian workers in the Suez Canal Zone? They haven't.

In fact, the wars in Korea, in Malaya, in Egypt—as well as the monstrous arms programme which sustains them—were all started under the late Labour Government.

THE ANSWER

If you think about it, there is a

UNEMPLOYMENT IN TEXTILES PROVES TORIES ARE POLITICALLY BANKRUPT

By the Editor

FOR tens of thousands of Britain's most highly-skilled workers full employment has disappeared almost overnight. Back once more are the dole-queues and the pawnshops.

One in four of Lancashire's textile workers are now unemployed or working short time. According to Lewis Wright, the United Textile Factory Workers' president, some 50 per cent of the total textile labour force will be unemployed by the late summer. With only slight modifications, the same story is true also of the woollen towns of Yorkshire and the hosiery districts of the East Midlands.

The Government says that nothing can be done. Asked to alleviate the crisis by removing purchase tax from textiles (to bring cotton goods within the reach of the workers' pockets), Mr. Butler remained quite unmoved. Neither the pleas of the Parliamentary Labour Party, nor the panicky cries

for help from the Lancashire mill-owners, could shake the Government from its purpose.

The most they would offer was a promise to speed up the transfer of textile labour into armaments!

THEY DON'T CARE!

The Government's attitude was best expressed by the *Sunday Observer* in saying that "textile capacity is too large for the world market" and then, with a casual shrug of the shoulders, "a gradual shift of manpower away from textiles especially cotton, is necessary."

Is it, indeed! Everyone knows that a huge and unlimited market exists for textiles of every kind—especially in the countries of Asia and Africa.

But capitalist re-armament has so impoverished the world, has so restricted the purchasing power of the workers through high prices, that those who need shirts, and dresses, sheets and towels, cannot afford to buy them.

Even the market which is open in Russia and China is not exploited by the Tory Government because it runs counter to their preparations for war. From the Tory point of view, of course, it is quite illogical to feed and clothe peoples whom you are preparing to ravage with atom bombs and flame-throwers.

Furthermore, unemployment in textiles (and other industries which cater for the needs of the workers) is considered by the Tory Government to be a heaven-sent opportunity to transfer labour from these "unessential" industries into "essential" ones, that is, into armaments.

NO PLACE FOR CLOTHES

All this means that private enterprise has abandoned the textile industry to the wolves of



unemployment and destitution.

The Tory Government has admitted that it has no place in its capitalist scheme of things for industries that can feed and clothe the people! There is plenty of room for gun factories and atom-bomb plants but no place at all for the skill of the weaver who can make the shirts which can clothe the millions of naked backs in Asia and Africa.

This is an admission of utter bankruptcy. It is also a warning to Labour that no solution can be found to the crisis in textiles which envisages the retention of capitalist control of the mills and the continuation of this impoverishing arms drive.

WHAT TO DO

Yet the real solution is plain for all to see. The textile industry must be taken out of the hands of private enterprise which has milked it, exploited it, and now left it high and dry. It must be

Ssh! TREASON!!

Herald Editorial, Dec. 21st, 1918

"It will be the first duty of Labour in opposition as in office—to put a term to the life of this parliament....."

"Under our antiquated constitution the people have no political power over the House of Commons once it is elected. They cannot dissolve it; they cannot even recall individual members."

"The constitution provides no remedy. Very well, then we must

seek one outside the Constitution. If we cannot persuade the Government, we shall have to co-erce it. And we have the means. If the Government clings to a fraudulent authority, we must use our industrial power to regain our political liberty. We shall have to resort to the General Strike to secure a free Parliament....."

Further interesting extracts from the "Herald" in its Socialist days will appear in our next issue.

Easter Conferences show move to Left

Co-op Says - - 'Cut Re-armament!'

Reported by BOB MILLER

THERE was an air of excitement in St. Andrews Hall, Glasgow, on Good Friday afternoon as delegates assembled for the Annual Conference of the Co-operative party.

All seemed aware that, among other things, this was to be the first test of Labour rank-and-file opinion on re-armament since the General Election.

But delegates were also uneasy. When Conference opened, no procedural agreement had been reached on the mass of resolutions submitted on the subject.

However they did not have long to wait for fireworks. The report submitted by the Standing Orders Committee was referred back by the powerful London Political Committee (who had submitted an emergency resolution opposing the present re-armament programme).

On a card vote the reference back was only lost by 47,000 votes out of 7,000,000.

BIG CHANGE

The issue which finally came before Conference was an emergency resolution from the National Committee of the Party which said "..... the programme of re-armament should be flexible enough to avoid overstraining the national economy and undermining standards of living and

the social services." (Quite a step forward from the official Labour Party line).

There was also an amendment to this which "..... opposed the vast expenditure already entailed and envisaged in the re-armament programme."

After a heated discussion the amendment was defeated by only 357,000 votes out of over 7,000,000, and the resolution was passed.

But because of the close vote and the spirit of the platform's resolution the result wasn't important. There is no doubt that the Co-operative Party refuses to stand by and see the social services cut, unemployment, and a ruined economy, all at the altar of re-armament.

The spirit of Conference was also strikingly shown when a resolution opposing German re-armament was moved. The platform opposed it, and put up Percy Holman M.P. to speak against it. For all that it was passed overwhelmingly.

Then Conference settled down to thoroughly condemn the Tory cuts in health, food subsidies and education, and to express its 'disgust' at the facility with which the Government has thrown overboard the specious promises made to the people.

DEMOCRACY

The other major discussion

took place on the Party's new policy statement "The People's Industry". This was moved by Councillor Ballard, Vice-Chairman of the Party. He claimed that it laid down a practical method of reconciling the idea of democratic control with large scale productive and distributive enterprise.

Harold Taylor, President of the Co-operative Productive Federation seconded and said that nationalisation had produced little mandarins in their own domain, many of whom were out of sympathy with the idea of public control.

After much praise and constructive criticism "The People's Industry" was overwhelmingly carried. It was clear that the Co-operative Party is not only prepared and able to fight Toryism, but that it has started the task of thrashing out new policy for the future of Socialism.

The Conference realised that it isn't enough to condemn the Tory Government and to correct the mistakes made during Labour's years of office. It is also necessary to think out what the next Labour Government will do.

In international affairs and nationalisation the Co-operative Party knows where it wants to go. Let's hope the Labour Party's Annual Conference gives all Socialists the same impression!

TARGET OCTOBER

THE October Conference of the Labour Party will be of tremendous importance. The reports of Union and Co-operative delegates printed on this page, show very clearly the swing to the left following the return of the Tories to power.

These progressive tendencies must now become official Labour Party policy—and that can be done in October.

It may seem a long way off—but not if you know how the Labour Party works. Resolutions from Wards and Trade Union Branches must be in to the Constituency Parties certainly no later than early June. That means you must start considering them NOW.

If the Left Wing in the Unions now allies itself to the Left Wing in the Party and the Co-ops, the 'block vote' which has carried so many Right Wing motions in the past CAN NOW BE WIELDED FOR SOCIALISM.

THE MOSCOW ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

'East-West Trade Must Result'

By JACK STANLEY

(Gen. Sec., Constructional Engineering Union)

THE question of East-West trade is of supreme importance to the unemployed textile and other workers in Great Britain. Owing to lack of space I shall here concentrate on that aspect of the Moscow Conference, but I hope to give my impressions of life in Russia in subsequent issues. Sufficient to remark here that the Russian workers appeared to be well-fed, happy and healthy.

To bring together 471 business men and others from 49 countries was in itself no mean feat. The British delegation included five trade-unionists, three being rank and filers. Arthur Morris from Birmingham, a member of the vehicle builders' executive; Bob Shorthouse, engine driver member of ASLEF and President of the Birmingham Trades Council; George Tate, a railwayman representative of Hull Trades Council; Bert Wynn, General Secretary of the Derbyshire Mineworkers, and myself.

All five went as individuals, without in some instances, any financial or other assistance from their organisations.

To me, Moscow seemed a fine city, but our introduction was not too pleasant as we arrived at 3 a.m., Moscow time, after a six-foot fall of snow! However, our reception and the warmth of our welcome made up for it. The arrangements for comfort and accommodation could not have been improved upon by any country.

THE WORKER'S INTEREST

Readers may not have seen in the press much support for the conference and some Labour and trade union leaders have done everything possible to deride and condemn it. But these leaders will in all probability shortly have to retract—as has been the case on more than

USDAW GOES BEYOND BEVAN

Says J. R. SANDY (Chairman London Fed. 1951/2)

USDAW musters some 1,200 delegates to its annual Parliaments and caters for about 350,000 members in some 90 different trades. Its deliberations are therefore a good reflection on the real feeling of a large proportion of the people of this country.

A resolution opposing the Government's Economic Policy as revealed in the 1952 Budget and calling for the return to power of a Labour Government at the earliest possible date "... pledged to resume the advance to a free socialist society" was carried with three dissentients. This resolution was put forward by Alan Birch, the General Secretary, for the Executive Council.

Two further resolutions were moved from the floor; one demanding effective action to open negotiations for wage increases commensurate with the "steep rise in the cost of living" and to "ensure that subsequent increases in the cost of living shall not eat up the wage increases won"; and another expressing profound concern at the continued rise in the cost of living, demanding the restoration of food subsidies, the abolition of purchase tax on essentials, the introduction of price controls, and the drastic taxation of profits.

It was in this debate that the new feeling showed itself. Whereas the General Secretary had been content to give an admittedly admirable and objective survey of events, and the repercussions on the workers of the Conservative Administration, speakers from the floor were nearly unanimous in going beyond mere denunciation of the Tories and were pointing the necessity for a planned Socialist alternative.

As one speaker said: "It has taken the Tories less than six months to prove that while capitalism lasts there is no security for the workers."

FOREIGN POLICY

The executive had tabled an emergency resolution calling for a re-examination and reduction of the rearmament programme, and stating the necessity to "evaluate afresh the relative weight to be given to the military and economic measures which it is possible to take in pursuit of a negotiating position from which to reach some

understanding with the Soviet Union and its allied countries which will remove the threat of war."

In spite of the muddled thinking implicit in its wordy paragraphs, this resolution, carried with only eight dissentients, represented a big advance over previous years.

It was on this resolution that Mr. Alfred Robens accused the Executive in general and President Walter Padley in particular, of "jumping on the Bevan bandwagon"; an accusation which Mr. Padley from the Chair was unwise enough to try to refute. It led him into a sharp exchange with Mr. Robens from which it appeared that Mr. Padley wanted to show himself as both the leader of the peacemakers and the white-headed boy of Transport House at the same time.

Another resolution drew attention to the increasing bestiality and barbarity of war, instancing General Templer's actions in

BEVAN AND OURSELVES

Owing to space restrictions, the review of Bevan's "In Place of Fear" has been held over to our next issue, May 16th.

Malaya and the use of napalm in Korea. It called for renunciation of war as an instrument of policy and a top level conference of major powers to abolish horror weapons as a step towards total disarmament and world peace.

TAKES THE LEAD

In spite of a vicious attack by the General Secretary, this pacifist resolution was carried by the narrow majority of 2 votes. The Union's policy now demands of the E.C. that they go far beyond Mr. Bevan.

They will now be expected to take the lead throughout the country, and the world, in making world disarmament an accomplished fact. Thus conference killed any thought of "finding a negotiating position from which to reach some understanding with the Soviet Union". The "cold war" must be ended. It is an instrument of policy we no longer admit to be permissible.

This year, not for the first time, distributive workers have jumped out far ahead of their leaders. We shall see now whether their leaders will try to catch up with them, or try to haul them back.

TEXTILES (from page 1)

industries to a war basis and textiles—except for the production of army needs which are nearly all completed—are not included in that plan.

Mr. Anthony Greenwood, Labour M.P. for Rossendale, said in the recent textile debate that "five years ago many of us were stumping the cotton recruiting workers for the cotton industry".

He was obviously on the wrong stumping ground. He should have been stumping the country for the nationalisation of textiles and an end to the mad armaments race.

It is still not too late. A vigorous campaign to take textiles out of the hands of the mill-owners and use the industry for the benefit of all humanity can bring down this Tory Government, return a Labour to power, and restore full employment to Lancashire. There is no other solution.

LABOUR REVIEW

Quarterly—6d.

The Road to Workers Power and Socialism in Great Britain.

A full analysis of Bevan's new book

Order now 7½d. post free from

J. Pawsey, 61, Smedley Road, Manchester, 8.

CLERKS WANT COMPENSATION CUT

The tone of the annual conference of the Clerical and Administrative Workers Union held over Easter was certainly much improved on that of the past two or three years—the atmosphere of the witch-hunt was happily absent, although bitter reference was made from the platform to the "Bevanites" and the "goats of Battersea" (the communist party conference was taking place at the Battersea Town Hall).

A clear indication of the leftward trend amongst many delegates was the fact that a resolution on increased fares which called for the suspension of interest payments to ex-shareholders was carried against the advice of the Executive.

Feeling also ran high on an emergency motion submitted by the E.C. on the Far East crisis. An amendment to delete an implication that the Chinese Republic had aggressive intentions in Burma was defeated by only six votes.

A further amendment which sought to dissociate the Union from support of United Nations action in Korea was also narrowly defeated.

M. SHAW.

ADVT.

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The Executive Council of the CONSTRUCTIONAL ENGINEERING UNION

send Fraternal Greetings to all its Members and Workers throughout the World on this Labour Day

THE TIDE OF SOCIALISM IS RISING AND SHOULD BE TAKEN ON THE FLOOD, IF WE ARE TO SUCCEED IN ESTABLISHING PEACE

The Time for Unity is **NOW**

Wm. HOSIE, President
JACK STANLEY, General Secretary



LONDON FEDERATION OF U.S.D.A.W.

MAY DAY GREETINGS TO ALL WORKERS

FOR PEACE AND SOCIALISM

What do we fight for in Malaya? A Challenge to British Labour

By M. BANDA

THE Constitution of Malaya (sponsored by the Labour Government in 1948) stipulates that "the Rulers (native feudal sultans) shall enjoy the prerogatives, power and jurisdiction which they enjoyed prior to the Japanese occupation".

Further it states "the Central Government of the Federation comprises a High Commissioner appointed by His Majesty, a Federal Executive Council to aid and advise the High Commissioner, and a Federal Legislative Council..." All these facts (and those which follow in this article) about Malaya's "democracy" which British troops are supposed to be defending against the "dictatorship of the bandits" are taken from the Annual Report of the Malayan Government itself.

The Legislative Council consists of 75 members: 14 are officials, 11 are agents of the Sultans, and of the remaining 50 (all selected by the Commissioner) only 6 represent Labour and only 2 represent the Chinese population!

The High Commissioner, the **Tory General Templer**—has absolute powers to veto all legislation even of this hand-picked body.

Reporting the recent election in Kuala Lumpur, the "Manchester Guardian" (18/2/52) stated "The restricted franchise, which was confined to citizens of the Malayan Federation, disqualified about half the population from voting....."

THE CHINESE

Out of Malaya's population of 5,579,914...2,011,071 are Chinese (mid 1951 census). Of this number only 500,000 have been granted citizen rights. If the Chinese provide the bulk of the so-called "terrorists" the reason is therefore not difficult to understand.

They are the hardest working and most oppressed and exploited section of Malayan society.

It is inconceivable, despite the jungle nature of the country that a "few thousand" alleged bandits could carry on a war against the might of the British Army without popular support.

Even the official report of the Malayan Government (1950) is forced to admit that "a tendency had become increasingly apparent at the end of 1949, particularly in the towns, for the general public

of all races, with the exception of a relatively small number of public spirited individuals, to regard the prosecution of the emergency as a matter solely for the Government and the Security Forces".

And this "tendency" we may add, has greatly increased since 1949 to the point of great strikes and demonstrations among the plantation workers, leading in turn to terrorist activities by Templer's minority

POLICE STATE

Ever since the "emergency" began, more and more power has been concentrated in the hands of the military and police whose powers have been further increased by the adoption of the notorious Internal Security Laws. That these laws are a complete negation of democracy can be seen from the following:—
Emergency Regulation 4 C.

The possession of terrorist documents or of supplies for which the possessor cannot satisfactorily account was also made a capital offence.
Emergency Regulation 12.

Power was given to the chief Secretary to prohibit the printing, sale, issue, circulation or possession of seditious or inflammatory matter of any kind. No doubt the "Outlook" would be banned under this law—and perhaps even the "Tribune".

At the end of 1950, 8,508

persons with 527 dependants were detained. Of these 3,746 were deported.

Together with these laws there was conceived in 1950 the "Briggs Plan" which was intended to stem the rapid "deterioration of public morale".

Under this plan the "squatters" (the very poor Chinese peasant-farmers who cultivate land in the jungle) were deprived of their land and driven into barbed wire enclosures. In many places whole villages were put to the torch.

TRADE UNIONS

It was the Government's banning of the Pan-Malayan Trade Union Federation in 1948 that started this bloody war in Malaya. The reason given for this banning was that the PMFTU did not register with the Government. Under Malayan law it could not register. Its affiliated bodies could and did.

After the banning of the PMFTU, 185 trade union officials were arrested and jailed.

The Secretary of the Rubber Workers Union and the Secretary of the Mining Labourers Union were both shot.

The life of the vice-president was saved by the intervention—not of the British TUC—but of the Indian Government.

The Government has since set up a new Trade Union Centre known as the Malayan Trade Union Council. The number of trade unions registered in 1950 was 169.....but between 1946 and 1950 at least 386 trade union applications to be registered were either abandoned, cancelled, withdrawn or dissolved.

Finally, out of a total working population of nearly two millions, the total organised in "registered trade unions" is still only 54,000. Yet there were 300,000 workers in the Pan-Malayan Trade Union Federation at the time it was banned.

LABOUR'S DUTY

Official sources give the average wage of an unskilled worker as 2/5d per day.....the cost of living as having increased 5 times its figure for 1939. Disease takes a terrible toll of the Malayan workers—nearly 5,000 deaths from T.B. alone in 1950.

There are still 1,230,000 children without any form of education at all and child labour is officially allowed from the age of 8, except in factories where the age limit is 14.

Are these the sort of things for which British troops fight in Malaya?

Will British Labour continue to stand by and watch the brutal General Templer impose collective fines, curfews of 22 hours, burn down whole villages, deport whole populations, and now destroy food crops with poison gas.....so that rich planters can continue to lord it over the Malayan peoples?

Surely it is clear that the Malaysians are fighting for their national independence against the same well-fed Tory bandits as face the British Labour Movement here at home. Let us recognise that fact. Stop supporting this bestial war!

Enlist the aid of Malaya's millions in our own struggle against Toryism by insisting on the complete withdrawal of all British troops and the immediate independence of Malaya.

Discuss this !

FOREIGN POLICY PAMPHLET reviewed by

TOM BRADDOCK

IT is significant that this, the first of a series of pamphlets issued by the N.E.C., deals with Foreign policy. Moreover, on the first page it states . . . "Socialism faces its greatest and most urgent challenge in international affairs".

This is true, but the assertion at the foot of the same pages that the Labour Government carried through "a revolution in British Foreign Policy" is certainly not true.

Party members will be well advised to cast a critical eye over this and a number of other statements that are calculated, not to meet "the greatest challenge", but to obscure the issue.

The whole production is, in fact, an attempt to land the party into giving a further consent to the disastrous policy its leaders have been following since 1946.

There has been no revolution in foreign policy. It has had the support of the Tory Party since the start and the Tories, now they are in power, are carrying on as before.

If the N.E.C. want the opinion of our movement on the subject they cannot do better than turn to the resolutions sent in for the annual conference. We know they were not discussed, but they gave a clear indication of the views of rank-and-file members.

Constituency and Local Parties should certainly study the new pamphlet—but send your conclusions in the form of resolutions for consideration at the coming October Conference of the Party.

Then they will be printed and we shall know what the general opinion is. To send comments to Transport House is like trying to fill a bucket with no bottom. Nothing will be heard and nothing will stick.

This is a short and preliminary note. Socialist Outlook will return to the subject again.

STREATHAM CONSTITUENCY LABOUR PARTY

sends May Day Greetings to all other organisations in the Labour Movement and looks forward to the time when such greetings will be exchanged in a SOCIALIST BRITAIN.

Lewis Merthyr Lodge N.U.M.

Extends May Day Greetings to all Labour organisations working for Peace, Prosperity and Better Living Standards

TOWER LODGE National Union of Mineworkers

MAY DAY 1952

FRATERNAL GREETINGS TO ALL TRADE UNIONISTS

The Holloway Branch A.E.U. extends fraternal Greetings to their fellow workers everywhere and calls upon them for a united effort for the overthrow of the Tories

CONTINUE TO PROSPER BEST WISHES FROM 1/230 Branch T.G.W.U. N. GORTY, Chairman

The Ford Shop Stewards Committee sends greetings to all Workers fighting for Trade Unionism and Working Class Unity. Make 1952 the Year To get the Tories Out. Forward to Peace and Socialism

Chestnuts Ward Tottenham L.P. sends Greetings to all Workers for SOCIALISM and PEACE

Seven Sisters Ward Tottenham L.P. sends GREETINGS to the WORKERS OF THE WORLD

CAMBERWELL TRADES COUNCIL

Fraternal Greeting to workers and families throughout the world For Unity to defeat Toryism For Trade, Friendship, Peace and Socialism

Greeting to all Workers everywhere from Staines & Egham District Trades Council

Revive the old May Day spirit and March to Socialism with the Workers of all Lands

RHIGOS LODGE National Union of Mineworkers

C.A.W.U.

May Day Greetings from S.E. London Clerks

CAMBERWELL A.E.U.

May Day Greetings to all in the fight to smash the Tory Government. For Peace and Socialism

The Bevanish members of the NORTHFLEET BRANCH of the A.E.U. send greetings and good wishes to every Labour Trade Unionist on this May Day.

STOCKPORT TRADES COUNCIL

Offers cordial greetings to all workers irrespective of race, colour, or creed, on this day we demonstrate our unity and strength.

SMITH'S MA2 JOINT SHOP STEWARD'S COMMITTEE

Send fraternal Greetings to all Fellow Trade Unionists.

Let this May Day be the inspiration for a Great Campaign for a Socialist Leadership and Policy, Peace and Friendship, and the complete and utter defeat of the Tories.

SOCIALIST OUTLOOK

Sends Greetings to all our readers and to Fighters for Socialism in all Lands

May Day 1952

Labour League of Youth Notes

Readers Forum

Correspondence should be as brief as possible and addressed to The Editor, 177, Bermondsey St., London, S.E.1

A Sliding Scale

In his book, 'In Place of Fear', Aneurin Bevan argues that it is unfair that the recipients of State pensions, old age pensions, ex-Servicemen, widows and the like, should suffer because of rising prices.

"If real property can avail itself of ways and means of cancelling the effect of rising prices, why should not those who have to seek the help of social services be able to obtain redress, without having to resort to political pressures that must at best succeed only after delayed action?"

"There seems no reason why the cost of living index, when brought up to date, should not be used for the purpose of re-adjusting the scale of benefits say at six-monthly intervals."

Bevan states his belief that it is necessary also to apply this "principle of automatism" to the general field of wages.

All this is, practically identical to the sliding scale of wages and benefits advocated in several articles recently in the *Socialist Outlook*.

It is good to see these ideas gaining a wider publicity, because it is clear that the 'sliding scale', 'principle of automatism' or whatever you like to call it, is the only answer the trade unions can have to the pressing problem of the cost of living.

As Bevan says—"The first essential is to stop the ground from slipping under our feet." Our real wages are being quickly and insidiously undermined by bounding prices. Our wage increases (when we get them) are way behind price increases. At present we are fighting a constant rearguard action, and losing out. Every trade unionist who thinks seriously over the problem will surely see that we must achieve a sliding scale so that our wages rise automatically with the cost of living. We can then concentrate on raising our basic rate and real wages.

W. Hunter.
Islington.

Correction

I note from the last issue that you kindly acknowledged a donation from the Woodford Trades Council.

It is perhaps more accurate to say that the collection was taken at an Open Meeting organised by the Trades Council.

With best wishes,

F. H. Friedman,
Hon. Sec., Woodford Trades Council.

Long Hours

I was deeply interested in Norman Winthrop's article on the apprentices' strike because it was in a Salford engineering Tool-making shop where, during a "lock-out" of the 20's, I got the sack for refusing to "black" on the locked-out Tradesmen.

A great deal has happened since then and the apprentice has a great deal more to say in the Union and the Shop, but even so, we adult members of the industry—and particularly responsible officials of the unions—must not ignore the challenge which the latest action of the apprentices has brought to the surface . . . the right to independence in the wage packet.

The 44-hour week is a myth. 44 hours have never provided a living wage and the employers know this and have placed their factories on

systematic overtime.

On all occasions when action would have brought quick results we have been frustrated by the operation of the Procedure Agreement.

This latter was bitterly attacked at a Manchester shop stewards' meeting and despite the ban by the Group E.C. of the Confederation, a resolution was passed unanimously for the abolition of the agreement.

Butler has complicated the wage problem with a vicious anti-working class budget: the Procedure Agreement must go or the balance of negotiation will never be achieved.

D. Burgess.

Secretary, Manchester Branch
Constructional Engineering Union.

WEALTHY SNOOPERS IN DOCKLAND

Go jump in the dock!

Says JOHN McSHANE

AN organisation called Aims of Industry Ltd. is reported to have spent four months investigating conditions in dockland. The result of these four industrious months was one more attack to add to the many we have had directed at us of late.

It would be interesting to know how many dockers were interviewed with regard to the compiling of this report. There is little doubt in my mind that the total would add up to a minus quantity. However, on to the report, which says, "Turn round of shipping in Liverpool is well below pre-war speed despite the fact that with the machinery now available the speed of turn round should have increased."

Personally I am not surprised that dockers do not work as hard in 1952 as they did in the 1930 period. Because in the latter period dockers were treated like dogs and worked like slaves. Furthermore, in those days if a man worked a forty-hour week he could keep himself and his family in a modicum of comfort.

Even Aims Ltd. couldn't suggest that a docker could live on his basic wage in this Tory-ridden year of 1952. Or is it the case that we are going backwards and now have an established 10-hour day?

Machine Age

We claim quite rightly that in the all-important part of dock work there has been no change in the job. Only a fool would try to deny that the nerve centre of our job is down the ship's hold and the appliances used "down below" are still the old relics of last century, the bar and roller allied to man-power. This is a point our malefactors try to gloss over.

It can and will be readily admitted that the job on the quay wall has been made a little easier, but surely that can have no bearing on speeding up the job below decks. The use of machines at work has always been a bone of contention between worker and boss and I suppose it always will under the bad system in which we are forced to work.

Mr. More & More Profit tells the directors, "let's buy a machine and do away with so many workers." That is what he thinks machines should be utilised for. The worker says, "buy a machine and take some of the drudgery out of our lives."

It is ironical to think that old dockers slaved without any mechanical aids to enable the boss to build up reserves to buy machinery to throw present-day dockers out of work.

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FILEY and MAY DAY

By JOHN DALY
Holborn L.L.O.Y.

IN about six weeks from May Day the Labour Party League of Youth Conference will be in session at Filey, and I hope that in those six weeks the delegates to the Conference do not forget the memories and the working class traditions that May Day recalls.

Let them not forget the struggle of the early Socialist Pioneers, and how they fought and died that we may enjoy a better standard of living today. The delegates to the League Conference must support the fight for democracy in the League of Youth if they are not to betray those early pioneers.

The League of Youth Conference may seem unimportant compared to such problems as Korea, re-armament, etc., but in the broad shape of happenings in the world of today

and tomorrow, it is of the utmost importance. It is here that League members will have the opportunity of fighting for and gaining within the League, at all levels of the League's organisation, the freedom for which the early Socialist pioneers died—the freedom of expression.

Having gained its just demands the League can then take its place in the forefront of the Socialist struggle.

Only then can the League of Youth help in the formulation of a real Socialist policy, which will win this country for Labour, and become a rallying cry for Socialists all over the world.

Left wing forces in the League must unite, not only to achieve democracy in the League of Youth and to achieve a real Socialist policy for this country and the rest

of the world, but above all so that we do not betray those whom we honour and remember on May Day.

CONFERENCE

PROMISES

FIREWORKS

says NORMAN GOODCHILD
THE first thing that strikes you about the provisional League of Youth Conference Agenda is the small number of resolutions. There are 42. Several others have been ruled out of order because they were "outside the terms of reference" of the Conference!

Seven resolutions protest about the Conference being held during the Rally contrary to the decision of last year's Conference which specifically objected to Conferences being held during Rallies.

So also with the four resolutions protesting at the fact that delegates and resolutions again have to be endorsed by the Constituency Parties.

Two resolutions from Tottenham and Ruislip-Northwood point out that there are provisions in the Party Constitution for League representatives to Party Annual Conference and to the N.E.C. The resolutions demand the implementation of this constitutional right.

There are various other resolutions, most of them progressive, all reflecting a thoroughgoing dissatisfaction throughout the League.

The Provisional Agenda, in fact, shows how deep is the rift between the attitude of Party officialdom and that of League members on the question of the functions and purpose of the League generally. Despite all the restrictions placed upon it, there is bound to be a lively discussion on 15th and 16th June.

This Conference must be part of our general struggle to make the League a serious political body—an object realisable in the measure that we are able to interest and impress the adult membership with our sincerity and determination.

REMEMBER and UNITE

Let us remember on this day
Those workers who, in many lands
Have marched in May with arms
in hands
Against the common foe.

The Communards before our time
Fighting as only men can fight.
Inspired by aims of social right
Made May Day history sublime.

And Barcelona's glorious stand
Was made in May by men who
held the truth supreme
Exposed the "democratic" lie
And died for workers power that
might have been.

In U.S.A. where Wall Street's voice
Seems to drown all with war-like
bray
Do not forget here first we saw
The "Wobblies" and their Labour
Day.

Let us remember on this day
Re-dedicate ourselves each one
To join together near and far
And fight until the cause is won.
J.A.

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