

THE REAL STORY BEHIND THE JO'BURG CLASHES

Government Silent As Demand For Inquiry Grows

From Ruth First

JOHANNESBURG.

FOLLOWING the recent clashes in the southwest townships, all parties were busy last week trying to prevent a fresh outbreak of violence—all, that is, except the Nationalists, who, through Verwoerd, have simply thrown a spanner in the works and tried to make political capital out of the people's misfortunes.

However, efforts to keep the peace were successful, and last week-end passed off without incident. The funerals of all the victims of the clashes the week before were held over to avoid further trouble.

Some steps taken, like the Council's ban on all meetings in the region, will complicate rather than improve the situation. The ban on meetings has been roundly condemned in the locations where meetings were being planned to explain the true position to the people, stop panic rumours, and preach the message of unity of the people.

HUGE FORCES OF POLICE CALLED OUT THIS LAST WEEK-END TO RAID EVERY HOUSE IN DUBE FOR ANYTHING FROM A WALKING STICK ALSO ANGERED THE PEOPLE. THEY ARE NOT AGAINST DISARMING FIGHTING GROUPS, BUT THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT RESIDENTS WERE THE COMBATANTS IN THE LAST WEEK-END'S UGLY CLASHES.

Wrong Slant

Indeed the whole slant put on the clashes by the press and the police has been proved quite wrong and misleading.

Johannesburg awoke the morning after 40 had been killed to headlines and reports of "bloody battles between Zulus and Basutos"; reports of rioting between armed impis of Zulus and Basutos; to articles on the "Mau Mau methods used in Dube riots," and editorials on "savagery getting the upper hand," "the failure of the European civilising mission" and "the residual savagery shown by the clashes between Zulu and Basuto factions."

In the confusion immediately after the clashes there might have been excuses for misinterpretation, but not afterwards when clearer evidence became available of how the clashes started, who was involved, and why they took the ugly proportions they did.

With the exception of one or two areas in the south west region, residents were on the whole not drawn into either the fighting or the subsequent tribal groupings.

Origins Clear

The fight was one between the residents of the Dube Hostel, most of whom happen to be Zulus, and

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Transkei Chief Shouted Down

Africans Reject Bantu Authorities

From GOVAN MBEKI

PORT ELIZABETH.

A MEETING held last week-end to support the Government's Bantu authorities programme broke up in the face of a determined demonstration by more than 1,000 angry people in the audience.

The meeting was to have been addressed by Chief Kaiser Matanzima, a leading supporter and exponent of Bantu authorities in the Transkei.

"Why have you betrayed us," the people shouted at him.

The municipal authorities, who have imposed a strict ban on meetings of more than 10 Africans, organised an open-air meeting to be addressed by Kaiser at the New Brighton sports ground.

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Golding Plans New Approach To Government COLOURED ORGANISATIONS TO CONFER IN DECEMBER

CAPETOWN.

A CIRCULAR from the Coloured People's National Union, signed by its president, Mr. Geo. J. Golding, and its entire Central Executive Committee, has been sent to selected Coloured leaders inviting them to a conference "representative of Coloured opinion."

The proposed conference, which is planned to take place in the 3rd week of December, will discuss "the future of the Coloured people" as they are affected by such aspects as apartheid, group areas, the transfer of Coloured education to the Central Government, and the forthcoming general elections.

The tenour of the discussions which it is hoped will take place appears, from the contents of the circular, to be already cut and dried.

Although "it is of very great importance that the leadership of the Coloured people be given unbiased views about these issues," Mr. Golding's invitation stresses that "it is necessary to establish machinery which could bring about an end to this cold war and uncertainty that exists between us and the powers that be."

Correctly pointing out that the authorities are forging ahead with measures which are deeply affecting the people, and bewailing the deterioration in race relationships, the CPNU is, however, "not interested in any irresponsible talk advocating boycotts, disobedience to statutes and perpetual demonstrations which lead only to further uncertainty, division and hatred."

Mr. Golding adds: "We must seek ways and means to establish consultation with the powers that be."

"We must aim at removing fear and ill-will. Let us realise that particularly in these days we are in the greatest need of a closer touch with the authorities."

"Let us not be misled any longer by those who talk big but who in many instances are just plain pawns in the hands of clever plotting people, who delight in spreading dissension and ill-will."

Mr. Golding says that the forthcoming conference is aimed "to rouse the people into a spirit that will urge them to act in defence of their rights and to a maintenance of laws which will at least ensure the retention of our dignity and status."

COLOURED REACTION

Coloured political opinion will await with interest the outcome of the conference. The past record of the CPNU inspires little confidence that it will be able to "rouse the

people into a spirit that will urge them to act in defence of their rights."

As to the "maintenance of laws which will at least ensure the retention of our dignity and status," a search of the Government's statute books has not revealed any.

Jazz Star To Aid Treason Fund

A jazz concert featuring the American artist Lionel Hampton is to be held in London in October in aid of the Treason Trial Defence Fund.

The concert is being organised by Canon John Collins, of St. Paul's Cathedral. All the artists are performing free to help raise funds, and Mr. Hampton will fly from New York especially for the one-night performance.

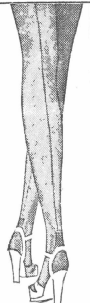
FUNERAL OF A PEOPLE'S LEADER



At the funeral of Gladstone Tshame in Port Elizabeth recently, Congress flags at half mast are carried before the coffin as the procession moves slowly between lines of Congressmen on the way to the cemetery.

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OUR DUTY IS TO PRESERVE PEACE, TO SAFEGUARD LIFE

I WAS very glad and happy to see my greetings to Youth of the Union of South Africa published in New Age. I was especially glad to receive some very kind letters in return from the young citizens of this remote country. Thank you very much, friends.

We live so far apart, but this fact does not matter very much. Surely there's only one thing in the world that matters, and that is peace indeed. It matters very little where people live. What matters is how people live. And all people strive for peace, want to live in peace, without any war.

When comes to my mind here the lovely words my friend once spoke about Peace and Friendship.

"Friendship," he said, "makes hands firmer and hearts gentler." The future holds bright prospects and happiness in store for us. All this is well worth struggling for.

Friendship is the guarantee of our victory, it will help us to safeguard peace.

When Hitler invaded the U.S.S.R. I was 9 years old. I lived through terrible things. I know what death, hunger and bombardment mean. My father went to the front to defend our Soviet Motherland. He was killed, but he died like a hero at the battlefield and I'm very proud of him. Many Soviet people gave up their lives in the name of Freedom. I saw how my friends became orphans, how the Ger-

man fascists tried to destroy my native city. But I also saw how the people remained at their workbenches day and night. The efforts of the city inhabitants and those of the soldiers defending it merged into a single force.

Thus the great victory was won.

It is difficult in a few words to describe all that stirs me while I'm writing these lines. I can say only one thing, our holy duty is to preserve Peace, to safeguard Life.

Long live Friendship among all people of the world!

IGOR MIKHAILUSSENKO
(A Soviet student)

21 Gorky St.,
Flat 10,
Moscow, U.S.S.R.

What Has Happened To Umtata ANC?

In 1954 an ANC branch was formed at Umtata, but to my surprise I have not heard of the activities of this branch. What has happened? Have the members turned into arm-chair politicians? Women have been issued with passes and this branch has not protested. I appeal to the People's Movement to devise means of organising the rural areas particularly the Transkei, which is sinking deep in slavery.

Freedom for all or freedom for none.

Afrika!
Pondoland.

MORE CRITICISM OF ANC SECRETARY

It is frequently said that Africa should be for Africans. That is what the Africanists say. Are these people leading our movement into a progressive or reactionary way? No doubt into a reactionary way. If my honourable ANC Secretary (Cape) disagrees with the ANC in associating itself with the other progressive organisations, it is catastrophic for him because we have no tribalism in our movement.

The time has come, Comrade. That I must tell you that our struggle is not a narrow nationalism, but a progressive one. We are not forgetting your mischief at almost every branch in the Cape before you were arrested, and we are watching every step you take. The ANCYL is proud of its affiliation with the Federation of Democratic Youth. If you condemn this it means you do not support Congress policy.

Our secretary has blindly entered a wrong road to attack an association with progressive bodies, and we are not at all prepared to listen to his ideas of tribalism. For instance he is popularising a new salute. He says Mayibuye baTembu instead of Mayibuye iAfrica. We know no baTembu in our movement and this wrong teaching must be stopped forthwith.

S. M. NZUBE
New Brighton.

SPRINGS PROTEST AGAINST RENTS

On the 8th September a crowd of more than 200 residents of Kwa Thema gathered at the Indaba Tree to discuss the high rent which is £3 for sub-economic houses at Deen Levels and Khute City alone. The members of the Advisory Board held their own private meeting at Tornado, another part of the location, to discuss the women's pass-laws and other matters pertaining to that particular part of Kwa Thema.

The crowd at the Indaba Tree marched down to Tornado. On their arrival the chairman, Mr. Khumalo, announced his agenda, but the people were not satisfied and there was a great noise of "Rent first, Rent first."

Mr. Khumalo said he could not be forced to change his programme and the uproar continued and there was a hot exchange of words between the Advisory Board members and the residents. A woman pointed out the incapabilities of the A.B. and said that the women needed no assistance from them to protest against passes. The A.B. members did not participate in the pass protests at Springs and Pretoria.

The chairman then stood up and challenged the people to fight. He produced something like a toy gun and threatened to shoot anyone who did not come towards him. Mr. Mhloni (ANC) and Mr. Rakaune (ANC) acted as peace-makers. That was the end of the meeting.

MICAH VELAKAZI
Kwa Thema, Springs.

Bantu Education

Under Bantu Education it is well alleged that each parent must pay a quarterly tax for his or her child for the school fund. What has the Government planned to do for our education? Where is the money for our feeding scheme? On which point is this money to be used?

J. M. S. AVESHA
Elliotdale, Transkei.

EDITORIAL

Violence and Bloodshed - The Nats Like it that Way

OF course there will be no judicial inquiry into the Johannesburg riots. Just as there has been no judicial inquiry into any of the innumerable bloody clashes between police and Africans that have scarred this land of ours during practically the whole period of Nationalist rule.

The last commission of this kind that was ever appointed—to inquire into riots on the West Rand in 1950—made some scathing comments on the behaviour of the younger members of the police force which, it found, was one of the factors causing strife and unrest among the African people. Swart's reply to the criticism was, not to cure the sickness in his police force, but to announce that there would be no more such commissions of inquiry, because they only served to provide ammunition for the agitators.

The Commissioner of Police at the time breathed an audible sigh of relief which was quoted in the newspapers.

So it was quite to be expected that Senator Dr. Verwoerd, safe from any prying inquiry, could fasten all the blame for the recent factious clashes on the Johannesburg City Council and leave it at that. Why should he be put in the dock by any commission and forced to admit that it is Nationalist policy which provokes race hatred and clashes?

By the rest of South Africa, however, the Government's repeated refusal to investigate these clashes may be construed as condonation of violence and murder. If no serious attempt is ever made to get at the bottom of these troubles, does not that mean the Government is satisfied to leave things as they are?

It is hard to escape from the suspicion that the Government in fact welcomes these clashes—and certainly the Nationalist press does—as providing a justification for apartheid and an excuse for the further tightening of oppressive measures against the Non-European peoples.

So long as there is an atmosphere of violence and tension in the country, so long will the Nats try to make out that their policy is the only alternative to a bloodbath in which the Europeans will be the victims.

Does the safety of the Europeans really depend on the necessity to incite the Non-Europeans to quarrel among themselves? Is this merely another version of the old imperialist slogan of divide and rule?

If so, let the people provide the answer. Let us unite and defeat the apartheid maniacs who, insensitive to violence and bloodshed so long as the victims are black, are satisfied to base their policy, not on the arguments of justice, but on the tyranny of force.

Let the unity, brotherhood and solidarity of all South Africans triumph over the "civilised" barbarism of those who rule with a sjambok in their hands.

IN MEMORIAM

GLADSTONE XALA TSHUME

An immense loss has been sustained by the democratic and working class movement of our country in the departure from this world of Gladstone Tshume. He has left a gap which will not be easily filled for it is not given to too many to fulfil the role such as was played by this son of the people during his lifetime.

Glad's greatness and sincerity was manifested by his humility towards the workers whom he always regarded as the vanguard of the democratic movement. In contrast, he had utter contempt for the enemies of the workers. He never vacillated when duty called; duty to him meant service in the ranks of those fighting in the forefront for the emancipation from oppression and exploitation which he recognised as the creed of wicked and repulsive capitalism.

Glad, at least, got in touch with reality, realising early that the national struggle for freedom and independence was concomitant with the workers' struggle for living wages, decent housing and human working hours and gave up his all in order to participate in all struggles for the achievement of freedom for his people.

Often he escaped from the bullets of fascism's hired assassins and a battle lost never deterred him from planning the next two steps forward. Even when he had been clubbed, his injuries seemed

to serve him with stimulation and inspiration to return once more to the battle for his principles in life.

Glad's greatest characteristic was his thirst for knowledge. He despised dogmatism. Knowledge to him meant the acquisition of power to achieve progress and he consistently and persistently sought for it. He was personified the best features of a staunch follower and leader—learning from books, learning from the people and then teaching them. His life was thus of inestimable value to his people and he burnt it out in their service.

It was a privilege to work with him and on one occasion he filled my heart with joy when he replied to a "higher-up" of the notorious "Special Branch" who had demanded that Glad should show more respect for police officers.

"L. ——— you are a hypocrite. Don't you realise that I am an officer in the ranks of the best army of our kind? I have only contempt for your officers who are hired spies and rapists of human thought." That is the Glad we loved.

Farewell, son of Afrika—I would have loved to see the cream of departed humanity welcome you to their fold for you merit a place with the best of them. Sleep in peace for your followers are inspired to carry out your behests.

MOKKOTHO MATI.
Qachas Nek.

HELP US AND HELP YOURSELVES

THIS week has been quite a bumper one for donations. Our readers have done us proud. And a special thank to Durban who in the past few months has shown that New Age really means something to the Natalians—their contributions have been outstanding. So, too, of course have been the collections in the Transvaal which consistently, week in and week out, have been the most generous. That leaves out O.F.S. and the Cape Province, whose efforts fall far behind those of the other two provinces.

This, therefore, is an appeal to them to get really cracking on collecting donations for New Age. This applies particularly to Port Elizabeth and Bloemfontein where there are very strong political organisations able to give our donations column a real "new look" if only part of the energy they put into other campaigns were put into this equally important political task. We suggest that apart from the usual collection from people who are sympathetically inclined towards New Age, another very good way of swelling our funds is for every location where our paper is read to organise a New Age party or dance. This is an easy way for even the smallest community to aid New Age in its

work to gain freedom for all in our country. Help us and you help yourselves.

Finally here is a short note from one of our readers, Mr. Robert Matji, of Qachas Nek in Basutoland: "Enclosed herewith is a tribute to the late Gladstone Tshume (donation of £1). I am sorry I cannot afford more and am thus only sending you a small contribution which I hope will in a small way contribute to the continuation of your great stand for the truly democratic forces of our country and the world. Not ever having hesitated to salute New Age, I do not apologise to do so today."

LAST WEEK'S DONATIONS
Johannesburg: Collections £9, Monthly Donations £11 10s., Visitor £15, Intellectual £5, September Donation £3 10s., Pretoria £7, Mr. Angel £3, £12.

Durban: D.V. Collections 265 Ss., Jimmy £100, Les £25, "G" Collections £20 10s., F.M. £30 10s., Abel £10, Mark £10, £261 Ss.

Cape Town: R. Matji (In memory of Gladstone Tshume) £1, Harold (to welcome our friends on their return) £5, K.F.H. 10s., Anon £24 16s. £31 6s.

Total: £414 11s.



ONE WAY OF DEFEATING THE I.C. ACT

This delegation from the Port Elizabeth branch of the Food and Canning Workers' Union entered into direct negotiations with employers and succeeded in obtaining raises of up to 3/6d. per week for approximately 1,500 canning workers in two factories in Port Elizabeth.

They are (back row): Mr. O. Mphahlele, General Secretary of the African Food and Canning Workers, Mr. D. Mhoba, Mrs. R. Buys, Mr. M. McKay, (Front row): Mr. T. Saleka, Mrs. Z. Botha, Mr. S. Demgo, Mr. D. Telling, Secretary of the Port Elizabeth branch, and Mrs. Liz Abrahams, General Secretary of the union.

The negotiations took place at the offices of the S.A. Fruit and Vegetable Canners' Council in Cape Town last week. Had the machinery of the I.C. Act been used, Africans would have been excluded from representations.

New T.U. Confederation Includes Nats, Excludes SACTU

JOHANNESBURG.

THE recently-formed "S.A. Confederation of Labour," established on the initiative of the Trade Union Council, aims, according to a statement released after its first meeting in Pretoria on September 7, to "co-ordinate the views and policies of labour federations and express the views of organised labour."

In addition to the TUC, it is composed of the S.A. Federation of Trade Unions, the Federal Advisory Board of Railway Trade Unions and the Koördineerende Raad van S.A. Vakkeuse. The Presidents of these various bodies are the officials of the "Confederation."

The S.A. Congress of Trade Unions, the only trade union co-ordinating body open to all unions, irrespective of race, was neither invited to participate nor consulted at any stage of the negotiations which led to the establishment of the new Confederation, whose membership is restricted to "registered unions." (African unions cannot be "registered.")

Interviewed by New Age, Mr. Morris Kagan, veteran trade unionist and executive member of the former Trades and Labour Council, expressed grave doubts about the role of the new Confederation. One of the parties, the Koördineerende Raad, he pointed out, was openly Nationalist and supported the Government in all the main principles of the latest 1956 Industrial Conciliation Act.

In view of its deliberate exclusion of the majority of the workers, the Africans, he did not see how the new body could claim to be truly representative of S.A. labour. Nor did he expect that it would put up a struggle for the rights of labour, because this would inevitably bring it into conflict with the Government—which the Raad would not countenance.

"The only sort of 'struggle' we could expect would be one for increased privileges for White workers at the expense of Non-

European labour. Indirectly any such policy will harm White labour too."

"With the exception of the TUC all the parties to the Confederation are all-White bodies. The TUC of course contains mixed unions which include Coloured and Indian members. I do not know how they are going to react to this new move to the Right. Presumably the matter will come up for ratification at the next TUC conference. I am sure that those members with any principle, decency and self-respect will resent this new move and oppose it.

LIFE IS HARD IN "PARADISE"

From Tennyson Makiwane

JOHANNESBURG.

THE place was the Drill Hall in Johannesburg and it was during the Treason Trial. A man emerged from the witnesses' rooms and walked to the witness box with steps much more confident than those of an ordinary policeman. There was an air of expert about him. He was Mr. I. P. van Onselen, Secretary of the Native Resettlement Board, who came to give evidence about the removal of the people of Sophiatown to Meadowlands. Said Mr. van Onselen at the conclusion of his evidence: "The Natives in Meadowlands are very happy."

But even as he stood in the witness box at least two people, one a widower and the other a widow, were being evicted from their houses. Some people's furniture was being thrown outside their houses for rent defaulting.

Scores of other people, in response to summonses, make their way to the Kliptown Magistrate's Court where they pay fine or face imprisonment for late payment of rent.

Mr. France Ndlovu, one of the latest victims, was told a few weeks ago to vacate his three-roomed house since his wife died and he was now a widower. Mr. Ndlovu had already suffered great misfortune—his wife had died, and three of his children had died previously. Now, as if to rub salt in his wounds, the Meadowlands superintendent confiscated his rent card and told him to get out even before his wife had been buried. However, Mr. Ndlovu consulted lawyers and managed to have his house re-opened pending an appeal to the NAD.

A few weeks ago New Age reported the case of Mrs. Seru, a widow who is facing the same plight and who is also battling through lawyers to save her house. Several other residents have raised complaints about what is going on in Meadowlands. Most of the complaints centre around the rent question and the authorities' practice of selling the possessions of rent defaulters whilst the owners are absent.

Mr. J. Bloomstein told New Age

WOMEN INTENSIFY STRUGGLE AGAINST PASSES

JOHANNESBURG.

TWO Johannesburg African women Kate Sepeng and Matsuka Moseke were arrested last week and taken to Lichtenburg where they have been charged with incitement. They were present when the women in the area burnt their passes. Both are out on £50 bail.

In spite of arrests and other forms of intimidation women throughout the Transvaal are intensifying their struggle against passes.

At Carletonville in the district of Pietfontein a procession of about 1,000 women marched to the local Native Commissioner's offices and lodged their objection to carrying passes. They so thoroughly demolished the arguments of the official that the Native Commissioner resigned to threats, stating that women without passes would be thrown out of their jobs. When this failed to intimidate them he told them that he would give them a period of four months to think the matter over.

Further resistance against passes took place in Nelspruit, where the women decided not to take out passes. At Wakkerstroom the opposition of the women was broken down when the police used force and many of those who refused to take passes were assaulted.

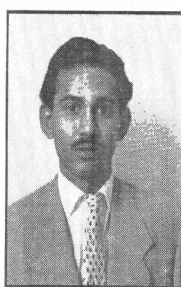
Deputations of people from distant country areas are daily coming to the ANC offices to get advice as to how they can fight against the passes.

In defiance of the people's wish, however, two African ministers of religion at East Rust, near Pretoria, have appealed against the authorities and asked that passes be issued to the women.

Bail Reduced

JOHANNESBURG.

The 24 African women of Lichtenburg who have appealed against their sentence to a year's imprisonment under the Criminal Laws Amendment Act for burning their passes had their bail reduced from £100 to £50 each by the Supreme Court in Pretoria on Monday.



After 7 Years Told to Leave Cape Town

CAPE TOWN.

MR. Stephen Pillay, 25-year-old clerk, has been ordered to leave the Cape Province by the Minister of the Interior. Born in Durban, Mr. Pillay has been living in Cape Town for the past seven years and has been employed all the time. In March, 1956, he was approached by the Immigration authorities and told that he was an illegal immigrant in the Cape Province and had to leave.

After an appeal by his legal representatives and the motor firm where Mr. Pillay is employed, he was issued with a temporary permit to remain in Cape Town. The permit had to be renewed each month. On Friday, September 13 Mr. Pillay received a notice from the Minister of Interior ordering him to leave the Cape immediately, under penalty of arrest and prosecution.

"This order will ruin me," Mr. Pillay said in an interview with New Age. I will have nowhere to go and will be homeless. I have spent all my money on legal fees, trying to remain here in Cape Town where I have made my home. I haven't even got train fare."

Mr. Pillay is married in Cape Town and has two children. His removal to Natal will mean separation from his family.

Last-minute attempts on the part of his legal representatives have resulted only in the local authorities granting him an extension of the time limit in order to allow him to make preparations for his departure.

Merebank NIC Meeting

DURBAN.

The annual general meeting of the Merebank branch of the NIC was held on September 15. Mr. G. S. Naidoo addressed the meeting, and a resolution was passed condemning the Group Areas Act, the Industrial Conciliation Act, and the treason arrests.

It was announced that through the initiative of Congress people in Merebank, a welfare committee had been formed to raise funds, and over £50 had been collected.

WORLD STAGE

BY SPECTATOR

GHANA: The Lion Roars

GHANA has hit the headlines once more. Dr. Nkrumah, the Prime Minister of the newly-independent West African State, who only a few months ago was the darling lion cub of the British press, has roared, and is now being called "autocrat," "authoritarian," and, even, "dictator."

The local press is daily filled with reports of his latest "inquiries." What are the facts as reported? A few months ago already there were "disquieting" reports that Nkrumah intended taking up residence in Christianburg Castle, former home of the British Colonial Governors. Further, Nkrumah's profile was to appear on coins in place of the head of the Queen. According to the reports, what followed was even worse.

Deportation steps were taken by the Ghana Government against two Moslems and against a journalist from Sierra Leone, Dr. Timothy. To complicate matters, the London Daily Telegraph correspondent covering the deportation proceedings, Mr. Ian Colvin, was tried for contempt of Court.

He was acquitted on a technicality, was allowed to leave the country on a promise to return for a re-hearing in the proper Court, and failed to do so.

Meanwhile his defending counsel from England, Mr. Shawcross, Q.C., was ordered to leave Ghana. At this stage the British Government took the strong and unusual step of sending an official note to Ghana expressing its "disquiet."

WHAT DOES IT MEAN

Now there can be no doubt that all these things have actually taken place. The problem is to place the proper interpretation upon them.

As have been indicated above, the British press in the main has a simple answer. Arrogantly expressed in the Tory Daily Telegraph, condescendingly written up in the intellectual left-wing New Statesman, is the theme that "we" (the British) have generously given Ghana her freedom, and now Nkrumah turns out to be just another autocrat like Nasser.

The leading Opposition Party in Ghana, the National Liberation Movement, is hammering away vociferously at the same tune.

Dr. Busia, leader of the NLM, cites in a pained intellectual voice the setting up of labour brigades and interference with the Chiefs as further evidence of the Government's desire to set up a totalitarian state "like Russia."

AN EASY REPLY

An easy reply to these critics of Nkrumah is that they have a line right to talk—the British who without a blush detain 40,000 Africans in Kenya and 1,000 Cypriots in Cyprus, and the NLM, which, from all reports, would not hesitate to use even harsher measures against Nkrumah's followers if it were in power.

Yet two wrongs do not make a right, and it is still necessary to consider whether Nkrumah's actions are justifiable.

In fact, a strong case can be made out in favour of Nkrumah.

Tribal influences in the interior and the northern part of Ghana are still strong.

Dr. Busia is a member of the Ashanti chief's (Asantehene) family. A few years ago he wrote a book on the chieftainship of the Ashanti in which he exposed in no uncertain terms its corruption and backwardness.

Now he is quite prepared to use his family status to encourage the Chiefs in their opposition to the central government, with a view to bringing Nkrumah to his knees.

MODERNISATION

Nkrumah on the other hand sees tribalism and regionalism as the main obstacle to the building up of Ghana into a modern, independent, industrialised state.

An important figure on the scene is Mr. Geoff Bing, Q.C. A former Labour M.P., Mr. Bing recently came from England to be Ghana's new Attorney-General.

Bing is more than just the legal adviser to the Government. According to a recent visitor to South Africa from Ghana, Bing is generally known in Ghana to be one of Nkrumah's chief political advisers.

Bing would not have taken the drastic steps that he has, said this visitor, unless he thought the situation was really serious. Nkrumah is determined to industrialise Ghana. He feels that if he fails to do so, Ghana's continued existence as a unified, independent state will be impossible. Tribalism is the main threat to industrialisation, so tribalism must be rapidly broken down, by drastic measures if necessary.

The only rallying call which will unite the great majority of the people of Ghana behind a policy of swift industrialisation is anti-colonialism.

Accordingly, our visitor informant continued, Nkrumah is openly provoking a breach with Britain in order to rally the people of Ghana behind the Government on an anti-colonialist basis.

CHIEF'S ROLE

This theory explains why the Chiefs have gone over from a policy of partial support to Nkrumah to one of active opposition.

The Ashanti in the interior fought a long and courageous battle against the British conquerors long after the coast had been subdued. Although they were finally defeated at the beginning of this century, the Chiefs of the Ashanti were never placed completely under the heel of the British administration. A constant source of trouble between the colonialists and the Chiefs was the fact that mining concessionaires paid fairly handsome grants to the Chiefs directly, which the British tried to stop.

Accordingly, the Chiefs gave a certain degree of support to Nkrumah in his struggle against British colonial rule.

Now, however, the Chiefs see a modern, unified Ghana as a threat to their traditional authority, and are actively engaged in trying to bring about the downfall of Nkrumah.

VOLTA SCHEME

Nkrumah believes that unless he takes strong measures, he can forget about making Ghana a prosperous, industrialised state. The key to his plans for industrialisation lies in the vast Trans-Volta hydro-electric project.

The Volta lies in the northern region of Ghana, which is relatively backward and under the control of tribal chiefs. If these chiefs are allowed to sabotage the scheme, then Ghana will remain poor and divided.

One may wonder why it is that the British, who were prepared to grant independence to Nkrumah only a few months ago, see now opposed to his policy of industrialisation, and are taking the side of the Chiefs.

It cannot be for their proclaimed reason of wanting to see pure democracy practised, for in the Middle East and elsewhere in Africa they are quite prepared to overlook harsh undemocratic practices in territories under their control.

Nor is it likely that they are opposed to industrialisation as such, for they could have a good few fingers in the pie themselves.

POLITICAL POWER

The answer seems to be largely political. According to Cheddi Jagan, who was in Ghana to attend the independence celebrations in March, Nkrumah sees himself as the Nehru of Africa.

When he was in London a few months ago during the Commonwealth Prime Minister's Conference, Nkrumah had long consultations with Nehru.

Nehru is reported to have told him that if he did not take firm steps to unify Ghana at the outset, the country would disintegrate in a matter of years, and genuine independence and prosperity would become impossible.

Nehru certainly did not hesitate to take strong measures during the years of India's independence. The archaic Princes' States which were an obstacle to India's progress were abolished with a firm hand when the Rajahs and the Nabobs began to object.

Troops were used to stamp out communalism, one of the scourges of modern India, yet Nehru was not called names on that account by the British.

Perhaps it was because he was unceremoniously throwing Communists into gaol at the time. Perhaps the British colonialists are sorry now that they did not take a stronger anti-Nehru line earlier.

Whatever the reason, they do not wish to see a new Nehru arising in Africa, for such a person would constitute a serious challenge to the continuation of their colonial rule elsewhere on the continent.

That may well be the reason why they are kicking up such a fuss at Nkrumah's attempts to build up an advanced Ghana.

Of course there is danger in what Nkrumah is doing. He may be trying to go too far, too soon and too fast. But progressives will be reluctant to condemn him for making the attempt.

Ghana must make its own way in the world. And it is the people of Ghana with whom the final decision must rest. They will know how to give their verdict.

1. As the Orlando train draws up at Croesus, the platform is swirling mass of people struggling to board the coaches.

2. The train is already moving, but the doors are still open and passengers battle to keep their foothold.

4. The Alexandra bus queue stretches down the road. Bus users tife in for the long wait for a bus at the end of the day.

THE MAD RUSH TO GET HOME

FROM five every evening

Johannesburg's factories, shops and offices belch forth the tens of thousands of African workers who at that hour have one idea only firmly in their minds: to dash as quickly as possible to their bus queues or the station to fight for that seat on the bus or train taking them home.

Getting to work and home again is no simple matter for Johannesburg's Non-Europeans. Twice a day they join the rugby-type scrum to grab a seat; and it is nothing unusual to have to stand all nine or ten miles home in the swaying bus or train.

If you don't know how to push hard to board the train you have to learn quickly: otherwise you will watch one peak-hour train after the other pull out from the station without you.

Intrepid young men travel home hanging out of train windows; clinging on to still open doors as the trains pick up speed . . . and every so often there is the tragic accident as someone loses his grip.

But to start at the beginning . . .

At Park Station the thick crowd of people on the platforms press forward almost to the edges of the track. All eyes are turned in the direction of the oncoming train. Many turn uneasily to their neighbours and ask "Where's it going?" As the train pulls up and before the loudspeaker has even finished its announcement of the train's route, its carriages are full to overflowing. Those who stood to ask questions are left behind.

The unfortunate Mr. Mbatha or Mrs. Mofolo has then to wait for the next train. The later it gets the greater the panic, especially if it is pay-day, for on Fridays the gangsters lie in wait for those pay packets and the later the journey home the worse the risk.

The bus users are not much better off. The queues wind round the blocks, and in the rainy weather passengers are soaked to the skin. At peak hours the timetables collapse and schedules go by the board.



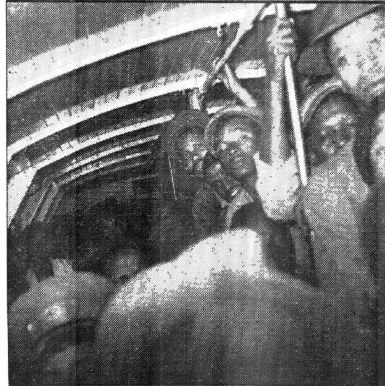
3. AN ACCIDENT: This passenger tried to board a train which stopped for only 4 seconds. He fell between the train and the platform and his legs were crushed by the train wheels. This man was taken to hospital—but only after a long wait on the platform for an ambulance.

To be in time workers have to get up long before the sun rises. By 4 a.m. large crowds are already forming queues for buses in the townships or converging on the stations. Those who knock off at 5 p.m. seldom get home before 7 or 7.30 p.m.

Last year at the request of the Location Advisory Boards, members of the Johannesburg City Council, as well as railway officials, conducted an inspection tour of various railway stations at peak hours. They were reported to have been "shocked" by what they saw. Said one official: "My God, this is terrible!"

So far, however, nothing has been done to improve the situation. The congestion is as bad as ever.

IT'S JUST AS BAD ON THE BUSES



5. Many passengers have to hang on for dear life as the bus, jammed to the roof with its human cargo, swerves along the busy route to the township.

NEW MOVE TO FORCE INDIANS TO REGISTER

From PAUL JOSEPH

JOHANNESBURG.

FIFTY thousand Indians are virtually prisoners in the Transvaal. They are being restricted from moving to other provinces because of the insistence by the Commissioner for Immigration and Asiatic Affairs that all Indians who apply for permits must produce their identity numbers.

There is nothing about identity numbers in the Act enforcing provincial permits, and the demand for the numbers appears to be a decision of the Dept. of Interior which officials are enforcing as one way of compelling Indians to register under the Population Registration Act.

Transvaal Indian Congress officials commented that this action is high-handed and irregular. All Indians whose business, social or personal affairs necessitate trips to other provinces are harassed by this demand for identity numbers.

I accompanied an applicant to the local Asiatic Immigration Office to get an insight into the rigmarole that goes on before a permit can be issued.

This is what happened. Applicant: "I would like a visiting permit to Durban, please."

Official: "Where is your T.R.C.?" (T.V. Asiatic Registration Permit.)

I: "You know very well that females don't register."

Official: "Then your father's."

Applicant: "He died. Here is a card which you gave to acknowledge surrender of his T.R.C."

Official: "Sorry! I know nothing about it."

I: "So where do you think she got it from?"

Official, after brief consultation with his cronies: "Sorry, that is not enough."

Applicant: "Here is my birth certificate to prove residence in the Transvaal."

Official: "No, give your Population Registration Number."

Applicant: "Well then, here is my census number."

Official: "I can't do anything about it."

I: "Why?"

Official: "We are acting on instructions from Pretoria."

Peace Council on I.C.B.M.

JOHANNESBURG.

The announcement that the Soviet Union has successfully tested the first inter-continental ballistic missile which can reach a target 2,000 miles away should be a signal to all powers, not to intensify the arms race, but to make a determined effort to reach agreement to ban all nuclear tests and the use of nuclear weapons, says the South African Peace Council in a statement.

"History has proved too often that nations involved in an armaments race invariably put their weapons to use. But the peoples of the world yearn for peace."

"The South African Peace Council therefore calls upon the Government of this country to take its place with those governments working for the banning of all nuclear weapons and tests."

"The Soviet Union has indicated her willingness to negotiate along these lines. We cannot cast aside any opportunity to reach such an agreement."

"Civilisation as we know it depends on our determination to maintain the peace and to eliminate all threat of war. We dare not let posterity down."

From Drill Hall To Police Cells

PORT ELIZABETH.

Before he had been in Port Elizabeth for a week after his return from the Treason Trial in Johannesburg, Ben Ndima spent a night in the police cells.

He was arrested as he entered Kwazakhele (Site and Service) on Thursday afternoon last week for failure to produce a poll tax receipt. He told New Age that when he tried to explain to the police that he did not have to pay poll tax while he was still involved in the Treason Trial case, they said he was cheeky and threw him out of the bus into a kwele. And as they dragged him out of the bus the front of his shirt was torn off. At the charge office he refused to pay admission of guilt in spite of police persuasion to get him to do when they found a pound on his person.

He appeared in the Native Commissioner's Court on the following day where the Native Commissioner ordered that he should be exempted from the payment of poll tax for the year 1957.



SPEKENHAM WORKERS GET STRIKE PAY

CAPE TOWN.

NOW in the fourth week of their strike for better wages and conditions, Coloured and African workers of the Spekenham food products factory in Sikkiland, Cape, are still in high spirits and more determined than ever to hold out against

the employers until their demands are met.

The workers, all members of the Food and Canning Workers' Union, went on strike at the beginning of this month when the Conciliation Board failed to arrive at an agreement between the workers and the bosses.

Many of the workers are married and have families to support," Mrs. A. Oranzi, shop-steward and one of the leaders of the strikers, told New Age. "However, everybody is determined to carry on, in spite of the attempts of the bosses to persuade some to return to work on the company's terms. Morale remains at a high level."

Our picture shows one of the strikers receiving strike pay from union officials. The Food and Canning Workers' Union is raising funds and donations of food for the strikers.

"New Age" wishes all its Jewish readers a Happy New Year and well over the fast

SACTU TO APPROACH SPEKENHAM BOSSES

CAPE TOWN.

THE South African Congress of Trade Unions has decided to approach the management of Spekenham products factory with a view to asking them to reconsider their attitude to their workers at present on strike for better wages and conditions.

This decision was taken at a local conference of SACTU, held last Sunday to discuss the furtherance of the £1 a Day Campaign.

If the approaches to Spekenham are unsuccessful, all organisations, trade unions and other interested parties might be called upon to boycott the products of that firm on a national scale, the resolution indicated.

The conference was attended by 74 delegates representing 9 unions affiliated to SACTU.

Speaking at the conference, Mr. Oscar Mphahle, general secretary of the African Food and Canning Workers' Union, said: "Low wages cause unhappy homes and result in the breaking up of families. That is why all workers should get at least £1 a day. But higher wages can only be achieved through the unity of the workers and a strong trade union movement."

SACTU was handicapped by the banning of many of its leaders and by the treason arrests. It was the duty of workers to think in terms of organising among themselves.

PASS LAWS

The relationship of the pass-law system to wage levels was also discussed. Speakers from the floor showed how migratory labour and passes prevented the African workers from achieving a higher standard of living.

"The passes also hold up the building of trade unions," said one speaker. "Many workers are afraid to demand higher wages for fear of being endorsed on the towns."

"The employers therefore have to be educated to see the benefits of paying workers £1 a day. But only the united strength of the workers will force them to take

Resolutions pledging great support for the campaign were passed, and a lengthy discussion took place on trade union organisation and means of implementing the campaign itself.

UP MY AILE!

HERE we are, back in the old home town down South. It's a quiet town. When I walked out of Cape Town station I automatically looked for the Ghost Squad hanging around to stop Africans for the inevitable passes. They weren't around. We haven't been kind of weeds in our garden yet. We haven't any mine dumps—only dear old Table Mountain. Of course we do have the Houses of Parliament. They're still on the same spot, waiting for the next round of legislation.

Well, there are a lot of things I'm going to miss for the next four months. The Treason Trial, of course (praise be to Allah), seat number 85 (a thousand excuses), Vrededorp, Sophiatown, a certain Chinese gentleman by the name of Johnny, rock 'n' roll, and two characters of the Special Branch, Messrs Douglas Ndaba and Gladwell Ngcai. (May their feet be light.)

Most of all, I'll miss everybody who made my stay in Johannesburg a happy one. Practically a home from home. To all of them a thousand thanks, and auf wiedersehen.

AS usual my favourite barber had lots to say. Most of it was contempt of court, but a lot was a general political review and long philosophical dissertations. His big complaint (not restricted to barbers only) is the treatment

under the lousy colour-bar system. He was on his way to church with his family one Sunday morning when his little son wanted a cold-drink. Pa gave him permission to pop into a nearby cafe. The place had once welcomed all comers, but had recently been taken over by a gentleman of the apartheid breed. He mistook the little boy for one of the chosen race and invited him to sit down at one of the tables. But when father showed up to see why junior was taking so long over his cold-drink, the cafe owner saw red (I mean black) and manhandled the youngster out of the shop. Of course, father objected. The cops showed up, and reviewed the situation. They decided that if the youngster had been asked by the cafe proprietor to sit down, he would have his drink he ought to be allowed to finish it, irrespective of whether it had been a "mistake."

Jo'burg, Cape Town, anywhere in the country, it's the same old story. But it's a good sign that many people refuse to get used to the colour-bar, and are prepared to put their backs up.

AN agency which brings out a classified address-book periodically canvasses for customers in a peculiar way. Or maybe business is bad, and so anything goes. Anyway, a circular in Afrikaans sent out by them to prospective customers says in a rather whining

British Trade Unions To Help Treason Fund

BLACKPOOL.

THE Trades Union Congress, held at Blackpool earlier this month, decided to launch the greatest appeal for voluntary contributions from their members in the history of the movement. The aim is to collect £500,000 from individual trade unionists within the next three years for the International Solidarity Fund set up by the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

With which will be used to support workers in many parts of the world in certain strikes and lockouts to help young and struggling trade unions; for legal costs in cases involving trade unionists, as at present in South Africa; for financing education and propaganda; and to help workers and their families who are victims of repressive governments and employers or of major industrial or natural disasters.

The total target for the fund is £2 million, so that the British aim is to provide one quarter of it.

Speeches at the congress showed a deep interest in international affairs. Sir Tom O'Brien made a plea for an attack on the government of South Africa where, he said, Fascism and Hitlerism were undisguised.

Mr. D. Bowman, of the N.U.R., disclosed that his union had decided at their recent conference to send a strong delegation to Russia, in spite of a strong recommendation from the General Council of the T.U.C., after the Hungarian uprising, that such visits should cease.

Sir Charles Geddes, chairman of the international committee, had spoken about "hands across the sea." Mr. Bowman said. That should mean hands across the Black Sea and the Baltic as well.

END NUCLEAR TESTS

Other speeches condemned the use of atomic weapons and a motion, passed unanimously, called for an immediate halt to all nuclear tests. Commenting on the warlike policy of the NATO Powers, one

speaker pointed out that they spent £8,000 million annually on war preparations, and he thought that the Soviet Union was spending at least half that sum.

The peoples everywhere must go over the heads of statesmen to stop this stupidity, to stop this madness. The killing of only a few little children would be one of the greatest crimes against humanity.

Mr. B. Walsh, member of the General Council, said the people yearned for peace. The nations called themselves peace-loving yet they went on manufacturing "these terrible weapons."

"The position is urgent," said Mr. E. Marsden of the Constructional Engineering Union. "We must call for an end to certain workers who would be prepared to use industrial strength on this vital issue."

TRANSKEI CHIEF SHOUTED DOWN

(Continued from page 1)

During his address people started heckling, saying he should go back home to clean up the mess he has made by accepting and implementing Bantu authorities. As the heckling increased the mood of the audience became more angry. Kaiser showed evident signs of nervousness and started looking around.

The people shouted that he had come to clear the way for ethnic grouping as he hoped he would cut off the Abatembu from the rest of the people. A group of Abatembu roared that would never happen. At this stage Kaiser told the meeting he had come to lay a stone on the grave of one of his relatives. The people replied: Why address a meeting if you have come to mourn? Who organised it for you? Why support the introduction of passes for women?

FROM BAD TO WORSE

When Mr. Schauder, who was present at the meeting with the Manager of Native Affairs, tried to intervene, the position became worse. As the people rose and surged forward round the platform someone started singing "Nkosi Sikelele." At the end of the singing three Africa salutes rent the stillness of the afternoon.

The demonstration started on Friday when Kaiser arrived. As a convoy of a few cars entered New Brighton it was met by women at the bridge carrying banners. Also when he arrived at the home where he lived during his stay here, he had to go through ranks of women carrying banners reading "Away with Bantu authorities."

During Saturday night thousands of leaflets issued by the New Brighton A.N.C. were distributed from door to door. The leaflet stated that as a result of the implementation of Bantu authorities by Maitland, his own tribal group of Abatembu were quarantined amongst themselves and flying at each other's throats. Meanwhile he the N.A.D. was issuing passes to the Tembu

The leaflet called upon the people to refuse to be divided along tribal lines and thus drawn into tribal conflicts.

He was playing Honeysuckle Rose with his feet.
ALEX LA GUMA

SYRIA IS SOMEHOW QUITE DIFFERENT

BETWEEN the Turkish and Syrian frontier posts there is a good six miles' stretch of no-man's-land. The road is asphalted but badly maintained. In the glowing heat of the sun our little car bumps over potholes through a scorched, empty, hilly landscape.

There, at last, behind a bend, a big, clumsy building, the customs office. On the roof there waves the Syrian flag. In the shade of the entrance four or five soldiers are seated playing draughts. One of them gets up slowly and raises the frontier barrier.

The Road to Damascus

The road to Damascus seems at first to run through Aleppo. About twelve miles from this town, however, it makes a sharp turn and then runs southward straight as an arrow. And slowly the picture of the landscape changes. The first villages are seen. They look like a collection of large sugar cones. The houses have steeply sloping sides surrounded by a cone made of large clay bricks strengthened with beams.



"HOW DARK IT SEEMS"
This Chinese cartoon comment on the attitude of those who see only the negative features of China's development applies equally to Syria at the present moment.

This style of building has existed for thousands of years, but it is only as regards architecture that time has stood still in these villages. Between the sugar-cone huts one sees modern mechanical monsters: bright red harvester-combines, tractors, motor trucks. We are in the so-called "fertile Crescent." Waving fields of wheat extend beyond the horizon. The uplands are traversed by rivers which splash their foam like of Anti-Libanus or of Jebel Ansarie. With the exception of the Orontes, after a short but useful existence they become lost in the desert, because for thousands of years past they have been dammed, diverted, drained and caused to turn great water wheels.

In Syria 350,000 hectares of land are artificially irrigated. A part of the great irrigation works—like the Freshwater Lake of Hm—so old that archaeologists dispute as to whether it was constructed by the Egyptians or the Hittites. Syria has always been the granary of the East, and in the past there have been fierce struggles for possession of the wheat. Today the struggle goes on in reverse.

The imperialists and some neighbouring countries of Syria are trying to force this small but independent country to her knees by—buying no wheat from her. For after every harvest Syria has a wheat surplus of 250,000 tons which she must export. Apart from some cotton, wheat is the only important export article. But

the Syrian Government were able to break through this "wheat blockade."

They entered into trade relations with the Soviet Union, the people's democracies and the countries of the Bandung Pact, above all with India and Indonesia. And they are endeavouring to build a new native industry which shall render the country more independent economically. Syria today possesses a rapidly growing textile industry employing 60,000 workers. A leather industry is also springing up.

An Old Town Rejuvenated

In a country with old feudal forms of production and society a modern state is arising. Everywhere there is construction and

This descriptive article is by the correspondent of the Vienna "People's Voice" who recently spent some time in the countries of the Middle East

reconstruction, especially in the capital town, Damascus. Miles away on the town's outskirts orchards and olive groves announce the proximity of the "Pearl of the Orient." The asphalt road passes through neat, clean suburbs and finally merges into a broad boulevard lined by modern houses, shops, neon signs and a busy and bustling life.

Posh American cars glide past, then again units of the Syrian army in Soviet jeans. The bright lights at restaurants are full. At the street corners "cha'urnas," large appetising pieces of mutton, are being roasted on perpendicular spits where they sizzle in front of open charcoal fires. When they are done they are enveloped in the fat Arab loaves and sold. The Damascus radio broadcasts call at evening prayer. The voice of the Moslem priest sounds monotonously from the loud-speakers hanging in the cafe gardens, pauses for a few seconds, and then again rises above the cries of the lemonade sellers, the tooting of motor horns, the clatter of draughts at the tables.

Damascus is probably the oldest city in the world. But today it conveys the impression of a young, modern, big town. The Omayyad Mosque with its winding covered-in market alleys has long ceased to be the centre of the town. The new town with its straight, spacious boulevards is spreading westwards and northwards with astonishing rapidity right up the slopes of Jebel Qassoun.

Contradictory Impressions

Then there are things to be seen in the street which fit with profound fear the journalists of Western newspapers, who have popped over from Beirut to Damascus. In the newspaper stories there are not only Syrian, Lebanese and Egyptian newspapers on sale, but also Soviet and Chinese periodicals. In the midst of Arab adventure stories and novels with brightly-covered covers are the dark blue volumes of the works of Marx, Engels and Lenin, which Goldenfeld's music drama "The Witch" was recently put on here. It was one of several recent presentations by Jewish cultural groups in this city.

mer, or whatever his name is, is quite convinced he is in a people's democracy. His confusion is still further increased as soon as he learns that the Communist Party, far from being in power, is on the contrary illegal; that the only Communist member of Parliament, Khalid Badgash, however, is the General Secretary of this illegal party, and if one is looking for the office of the Party organ the best thing to do is to ask the nearest policeman.

This daily paper, "An-Nur," which means "Light," has a big circulation and every shoeblick knows that it is the Communist Party organ. Our Fleet Street gentleman then proceeds to walk stealthily along the avenues on the look out for corpses of capitalists hanging from the trees.

But he doesn't find any. The

Syrian bourgeois drives in his brand new Chrysler or Cadillac, and it is therefore obvious he still has plenty of money. His sons and daughters, with haughty countenances, ride horseback in the streets of the fashionable quarter of Salihiye and drive away with their riding whips the barefooted small boys who want to sell them cigarettes or chewing gum.

Syria, therefore, does not seem to be a people's democracy. Or is it a cunningly camouflaged one? Our Western visitor finds that, at any rate, here everything is different from the other countries of the Middle East. And he is right. Syria like other Arab states of

the Middle East, arose after the First World War. The frontiers between Syria and Jordan or Syria and Iraq were drawn with a ruler somewhere in London or Paris. In the last years of the Second World War the country obtained its nominal independence from the imperialists and their agents, who sought to rule the country by fascist methods.

Talk with an M.P.

I am indebted to a Syrian friend for the following account of a talk he had with one of the most interesting men in the country, Khalid Badgash.

As a Communist deputy Badgash lives among his constituents in a working class district of Damascus. I passed through the entrance of the typically Arab low-built house and was greeted by a tall imposing man of fifty. A broken nose gives Badgash a certain likeness to a boxer. The liveliness with which he immediately went to argue showed that he is wont to deal blows, if only of a political kind.

We had hardly finished drinking our inevitable thick, perfumed coffee than we got down to discussing them: number one—the Eisenhower Doctrine and the role of Israel. In the minds not only of Communists but of most Arab politicians, these two topics are closely connected. Only recently, during the reactionary coup in Jordan, the collusion between the imperialists in Israel was again to be seen. Israeli troops marched to the Jordan and Syrian frontiers and the Americans demagogically dispatched their Sixth Fleet to the port of Beirut.

"Our own reactionaries at that time scented the morning air. They tried to provoke us but did not succeed," said Badgash.

The National Front

"How come it that you are a member of the Syrian Parliament when the Communist Party is illegal?"

"We are not illegal, we are merely not legal," said Badgash with a smile, and then explained to me some of the intricacies of the Syrian constitution and the election law. The Party has never sought official sanction, although it exists and works unhindered. Badgash himself was elected in the Damascus constituency as second candidate on a list of the National Front.

The National Front is a block of all parties standing for an independent democratic Syria. It includes in the first place the National Party, the Baath Socialists, and the Communists. The National Front supports the Assali Government and has a big majority in Parliament. In addition, it maintains its own organisation with bureaux for propaganda work and so on. At the parliamentary elections the Communists mainly elected candidates of the National Front.

Imperialist Doctrines Rejected

"Because our Government has so far rejected everything the imperialists want to sell us in the way of doctrines, the Western press like to dub us a Communist country. That is of course a nonsense," said Badgash. "Syria is merely pursuing its own course. It seeks political and economic independence and has thereby made many enemies among the bosses of yesterday."

"It wants Arab unity, and this has called forth the hostility of the Arab feudal lords, who know there will no longer be any place for them in a united Arab state league. But Syria today has two big and faithful friends: the Soviet Union and Egypt," said Badgash in conclusion.

REPORTS ON

JEWISH CULTURE IN SOVIET UNION

LONDON.

REPORTS from the Soviet Union of plays produced in Yiddish, books published, and contacts with non-Soviet Jews having been re-established, indicate that there has been a considerable revival of Jewish cultural activity in recent months.

The random reports state that in

● **LENINGRAD:** An exhibition has recently been held of the works of the late Solomon Borisovich Yudavich. The exhibition, in Yudavich's illustrations for two well-known books by Jewish writers, Jess Suss and Benjamin the Third.

● **MOSCOW:** A new Russian edition of the works of Sholem Aleichem can be found in the bookshops. In 1956 another edition in his works sold 225,000 copies and a volume of children's stories by him sold 100,000 copies. This year Sholem Aleichem's autobiography and other works were published in an edition of 165,000.

● **OVNISH (Latvia):** Alexander Goldenfeld's music drama "The Witch" was recently put on here. It was one of several recent presentations by Jewish cultural groups in this city.

CONTACT WITH WEST

Particularly interesting is the report that Soviet Jews have re-established contact with Jews outside the Soviet Union. One of the main reasons why Jewish cultural figures were singled out for attack in the

last years of Stalin's life (the "Black Years" 1948-1953), was that during and after the Second World War they had been in regular contact with Jewish anti-Fascist writers from the West. This was upheld by elements in the Secret Police as the basis for the false accusation at the time of the Cold War that Soviet Jews prominent in the cultural field were plotting in league with Western intelligence agencies.

● In **BIROBDJIAN**, the Yiddish newspaper Birobidjan Star, sent greetings to the Israel newspaper Kol Haam (organ of the Communist Party of Israel) which recently celebrated the 20th anniversary of publication.

● Twelve well-known Soviet Jewish writers have also recently celebrated birthday greetings to the American paper Morning Freiheit. The Morning Freiheit is a left-wing paper which speaks on behalf of Jewish working people in the U.S.A. Last year it carried a series of editorials sharply critical of the position of Jews in the Soviet Union.

The twelve Soviet Yiddish writers included Samuel Hildin, Aaron Vevgelis, Jacob Steinberg and Re-

becca Rubina.

FRENCH ZIONISTS' REPORT

Confirmation that life for Jews is fast returning to normal in the Soviet Union is provided by the president of the French Zionist Federation who recently paid a visit to Russia.

On his return to Paris he stressed particularly the "broad internal freedoms" which the Soviet people were enjoying on a growing scale.

As far as Jews were concerned, he reported that the facts he had obtained showed that Jewish re-entry, in proportion to their numbers, held first place in decorations awarded by the Government. He added that the percentage of Jewish scientists was much higher than the proportion of Jewish people in the population as a whole.

On present-day Jewish cultural activity, he learnt of troupes of Jewish theatre artists travelling around the various centres. New works in Yiddish were "on the way."

It was assured that if the Jewish people wanted Yiddish schools or books, these would be provided.

Progressives throughout the world should be most interested in the situation of Jews in the Soviet Union.

VAN RIEBECK CUP FINAL

From Henry Dempers

The teams were: City and Suburban: Full back: H. De Waal; Wings: K. Brown, V. Petersen; Centres: C. Lang, H. Alexander (V.C.); Halves: G. Daries, J. Abrahams; Front row: C. Boo, A. Petersen; Hooker: A. Kester; Flanks: L. Newman, R. Maxwell; Locks: E. Petersen, A. Heugh; 8th Man: J. Ford.

Wellington District: Full-back: J. Abrahams; Wings: S. Selogole, M. Hartog; Centres: M. Julius, V. Festus; Halves: A. Adonis (Capt.), L. Fredericks; Front row: B. Peters (Vice Capt.), E. September; Hooker: L. Borman; Flanks: M. Anolis, P. Nyman; Locks: A. Benjamin, M. Marthinussen; 8th Man: H. Louw.

It was unfortunate that City failed to score a try when from a set scrum the final pass from Lang to V. Petersen was a forward one. Soon after, however, K. Brown, wing, scored three points when the Wellington flanker was penalised: 3-0.

City scored another neat try when H. Petersen scored under the post after a series of clever passes. K. Brown converted, bringing the score to 8-0 in favour of City.

The Wellington Captain A. Adonis who was the star of his side, scored a splendid drop goal, which opened Wellington's score with three points. Shortly before half-time Wellington's J. Abrahams missed an easy penalty.

Half-time score: City 8, Wellington 3. After the interval A. Adonis put after a penalty when J. Abrahams of City was penalised (4-6). Three minutes later there was a similar penalty but this time Adonis failed with his kick. A magnificent try by C. Lang once more increased City's score (11-6).

The final score came when K. Brown scored in the corner after a series of short, quick passes first of all from Abrahams to Daries to E. Petersen, V. Petersen and finally to K. Brown.

K. Ford was unsuccessful with the kick at goal. Final score: 14-6.

One Act Plays

One act plays are always welcome changes from the usual run of cinema entertainments, and productions by the Peninsula Dramatic Society, which has built up a reputation for itself over the last few years, are to be looked forward to. The three plays put on by that company at the Rondebosch Town Hall this week, however, did not quite compare with the usual standard of its past work, although it was obvious that everybody had put every effort into making the evening's entertainment as good as possible.

Too much concentration on elocution and too little on acting resulted in lack of atmosphere throughout, and gave the impression in many instances of a series of un-

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THE REAL STORY BEHIND THE JOHANNESBURG CLASHES

(Continued from page 1)

groups of "Russian" gangsters, some from the area, and others imported into it from "Russian" strongholds outside. The origins of the Zulu attacks are quite clear: molesting and robbing on the trains by totsis enraged them in the absence of adequate police protection for the law into their own hands. Indiscriminate attacks on so-called totsis in some cases amounted to attacks on anyone in the area who looked like a totsi, and in these attacks innocent residents were killed, among them some Basutos like Malefane. This is a fairly widely accepted version.

At this stage the "Russian" gangs entered the scene and transformed it. The Malefane funeral was the signal for things which any clear-accused could have been the pretext. Accumulated evidence now shows that the "Russian" gangs were molesting extensively in and outside the area and getting ready to move in to fight. On the Sunday before the Malefane funeral a body of "Russians" about 200 strong was seen in Meadowlands. Just after that they were involved in a clash in which three people were killed.

On the fateful week-end of the 14th and 15th four lorries from Welkom carried "Russians" into the south-west region. There are "Russian" groups in Site and Service itself, many of them having been moved over from Newclare, long a background of the "Russians."

In Newclare there was a whole week of mobilisation. "Russians," asked where they were going that week-end, replied: "To Ioanna" (We're going to fight).

Even this last week there were reports of "Russians" at Rand Lesaas, and preparing to go to the south west townships.

Not Tribal Warfare

While the "Russian" gangs are composed mainly of Basutos, by no means all Basutos are "Russians," and even among the "Russians" there are Hlulis, Zulus and some men of other tribes.

The fighting between the Zulu hostel men and the residents from the townships surrounding the hostel could never have reached the proportions it did without the participation of the "Russians," who are notorious for their savagery in fighting and the fearsome weapons they wield.

This was not a tribal clash. Zulus and Basutos and members of other groups are living in peace throughout the city, and deplore the turn events in the south-west region. But as long as there is ethnic grouping the danger of clashes on a tribal basis is ever-present.

The Advisory Board has asked for the ending of all ethnic grouping schemes. The Boards also want the disarming of all fighting groups, the abolition of the beerhall, and the abolition of the hostel itself.

Zulu group spokesmen roundly condemned the hostel system again last week and demanded that the hostel residents be returned to their homes in the buildings where they work.

Affairs Department that a meeting between the hostel inmates and residents from the surrounding areas should be arranged. Such a meeting could have averted the tragedy. The meeting was never called.

Why were the warring factions not quarantined before the fighting started? The townships had been seething with reports of looting trouble for some time.

How did the "Russians" arrive on the scene to play their critical role? What exactly was the role of the police in this affair?

Eyewitness accounts testify to what looked like quite indiscriminate firing into hostel inmates and the use of sien gangs when other dispersal measures against the warring parties might have been equally effective. Suspicion has been cast on the seeming police reticence to stop "Russians" entering the area.

Zulu spokesmen called in to prevent a recurrence of the trouble have said openly that they cannot understand why they became the chief victims of police firing. They are suspicious of the role of the "Russians" and the leniency shown them by the police.

Said one man bitterly: "We started to fight the totsis. Then we found the "Russians" had come here's somehow. We don't know how. Behind the "Russian" blankets we then saw the hand of the Government."

Need For Inquiry

Many material facts are still obscure. Will they ever be revealed? The most complete versions of events that have appeared in the press have come from the police, some from officers and men who fired into the hostel residents. There are many other eye-witnesses who are some of the clashes, but short of a commission or some other impartial investigation their version will be difficult, if not virtually impossible to piece together.

Some witnesses said that as the funeral procession passed on its return from the graveyard police were stationed on the other side of a rail cutting running alongside the hostel. The funeral party approached and some Zulus surged forward and there was a skirmish. But the shooting did not take place at the site of the skirmish. At a signal, police standing alongside the cutting opened fire, although the funeral procession had already passed.

Shots are reported to have been fired at random into the hostel, separated from the police not only by the hostel fence but also the rail cutting. One witness saw two men drop during the shooting. At the time they were washing their dishes at a tap.

Another casualty was a Shangaan passing the area of the shooting on his way to the shop.

In Mofolo South the police are said to have opened fire indiscriminately, killing the death of one man who was simply standing on the scene with a group of friends.

Figures from Baragwanath Hospital show that of 65 treated after the clash, 35 were detained in the wards, of whom 15 were suffering from gunshot wounds.

How Did They Die?

New Age attempted to find out

details of the mortality figures, how many died of gunshot wounds, how many of axe and chopper injuries? Lt. Col. Pienaar, in charge of the investigation at Newlands police station, said on Thursday morning that the total number of dead was 36. (On Monday before that the press had quoted the figure of 40, but some bodies, three it is said, had been removed to the Roodepoort mortuary.) Not all the bodies had been identified. Lt. Col. Pienaar said. He could not say how many of the dead were Zulu. Most of the dead had had their "heads chopped open." Lt. Col. Pienaar said "two." There might be more later, he said, but these were the post-mortem reports to date.

Captain J. Moolman, who was in charge of the police patrol that escorted the funeral procession and who himself operated a sien gun, said he picked up five dead from our bullets. Others might have died later. They were so tightly packed when they rushed us I just saw bodies fall as we opened fire."

Yet another source gave the figure of 40 dead, of whom 32 were reported to be Zulu. This source said most deaths were caused by gunshot wounds.

Will the truth come out really there is an inquiry that really probes these events?

Verwoerd Rants

While the Johannesburg City Council is pressing for an inquiry, and trying to look into causes and prevent future clashes by means of a committee of investigation, Dr. Verwoerd has set up a commission in one of his speeches at the Transvaal Nasionaal Congress. He raved and ranted at the Council and attacked its members for being riddled with "liberal ideas."

Said the Minister: "We know what is going on in Johannesburg. Ethnic grouping had absolutely nothing to do with the affair, he asserted. It was the inadequate control by the Council in the locations that bred totsis and lawless elements."

It is thought the Council may go ahead with attempts to have a commission start work.

Residents of the south-west region met all week together with Advisory Board members, spokesmen of the men in the hostel and others. Among the steps they took to prevent any further outbreaks were arrangements for meetings throughout the area to persuade residents to remain calm, and to explain the causes of the clashes, and urge an end to all tribal talk and tensions. Then the Council banned all meetings.

The police took a hand too. Following meetings with NAD representatives and Council officials, leaders were distributed by members by barrier attendants telling the people to stop fighting and warning that the authorities would not hesitate to put any fighting down by force.

Zulu and Basuto tribal heads were brought to Johannesburg to broadcast peace messages from loudspeakers.

Questions to Answer

The people are asking a number of urgent questions which need an answer. Why were early steps not taken to prevent the trouble?

Three full weeks before the trouble residents approached their advisory board members to meet municipal officials to warn them of the growing danger. It was suggested to the Johannesburg Non-European

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