

APR 8 1960  
**PAY MORE FOR KERALA:**

**AJOY'S APPEAL**



Ajoy Ghosh

**D**EMOCRACY is on trial in Kerala today as the election battle approaches its climax. The most crucial days are now ahead. It is clear to all who are

unprejudiced that the Communist Party and the Independents supported by it are waging a grim struggle not for any narrow partisan advantage but to save the very soul of our Constitution and our chosen path of democratic advance.

Ranged against them are the most reactionary forces gathered together in a shamelessly opportunist alliance. The Muslim League openly flaunts the banner of communalism and mocks at our national goal of secularism. The Catholic Bishops and the rank Nair communal leaders fan the flames of caste and religious passions and strive for a throw-back to medieval obscurantism. The PSP earns notoriety for its onslaughts against our independent foreign policy and champions the cause of dictatorship.

The Kerala Congress leaders fully participate in this heinous campaign and rally together the landlords, plantation owners and all the vested interests in a desperate attempt to hold back the people of Kerala from going forward even a single step.

The Congress High Command, which had blessed the unconstitutional "liberation struggle" earlier and ordered Central intervention, now fully backs all these sinister moves.

The Communist Party and supported Independents go confidently to the people with their proud achievements of a stable, democratic and efficient 28-months of rule. They go to the people with a programme, concrete and realistic, for further speedy advance. They go to the people to unite them for the defence of the Indian Constitution, democracy and all the progressive traditions of our glorious freedom struggle.

They go to the people as the representatives of all that is healthy, noble and forward looking in the land of the Malayalees, with a record of service to the people unmatched and unparalleled.

Hence, the very big shift among the people towards them which is so marked a feature of the Kerala situation. Hence the rallying of honest Congressmen, PSP followers, even ex-Muslim Leaguers to active participation in their election campaign.

Hence, the turning to them even of those who had mistakenly participated in the "direct action." Hence, the great possibility of victory and the calm confidence.

The rest of India is no passive spectator to these stirring events. The whole of India and its future is involved and every body knows it. All the vested interests and all those who hate and fear India's advance have unloosed their moneybags for the so-called Triple Alliance. No resource or means have been spared to see that democracy is defeated in Kerala and then butchered in the country as a whole.

Against them have risen the mighty phalanxes of our great masses.

At considerable sacrifice and exerting their all they have given their material and moral support to their Kerala brothers and sisters. As a towering symbol of this unprecedented national and democratic awakening stands the great contribution of the people of West Bengal, who in a week raised nearly Rs. 80,000. Proud indeed would anybody be to belong to such a people and to be bound up with their destiny.

Yet the battle is hard and we must all—every Party member, unit and friend, every democrat and patriot—contribute to our capacity and beyond. Let the coming days see the advance of the Kerala Fund campaign at tornado tempo. Let our slogan be—Approach everybody and then approach them again. Let the justice of our cause and our confidence in victory, move all of us to send money, mikes, jeeps and field workers in an irresistible avalanche to sweep aside the enemies of Kerala and of India.

Let our country reverberate to the tremendous cry: **ALL FOR KERALA!** New Delhi, January 13.

**WELCOME VOROSHILOV**

**I**T is no ordinary President that all of India will welcome on January 20. A bit of history, a living legend will walk upon our soil. Voroshilov carries on him the glorious scars of decades of revolutionary struggle and all the resplendent serenity of its triumph and its integrity. Here is a man who has risen not above but with his class, till now he heads the first and mightiest Socialist state in the world.

Kliment Yefremovich Voroshilov was born on February 4, 1881 in a simple railway workers' family in an Ukrainian village. Before the new century was in and hardly on being 18, young Kliment had already felt the wrath of the exploiters and been dismissed from the metallurgical plant at Alchevsk for the "crime" of participating in a strike.

In 1903 the Bolshevik Party, made up of the "sons of incredible privation and heroic struggle," opened its ranks to him, and for 57 years now his name has been in the rolls of these vanguard makers of modern history.

Arrested and exiled by the Tsarist oppressors several times, Voroshilov on each occasion managed to elude their clutches and continue his revolutionary underground activities.



Came 1917 and the days of storming heaven. At the time of the February Revolution it was he who brought over the Izmalyovskiy Regiment to the side of the people. The great event of October found him active in the Donbas, where he was elected chairman of the Lugansk city Soviet of workers' deputies.

**Builder Of Soviet Army**

The days of the cruel civil war both shaped and were shaped by Voroshilov. Starting as the head of a partisan detachment in 1918, he went on to build the famous Fifth Army which broke through the encirclement of the German imperialists in the Donbas.

Then, in command of the Tenth Army he took a foremost part in the defence of Tsaritsyn (now Stalingrad) together with Joseph Stalin, in 1918. The next two years were spent in the leadership of the armies which threw off the Denikin, Wrangel and Polish invading bands from the soil of the Ukraine.

It was Lenin himself who proposed that Voroshilov head the revolutionary forces who crossed the ice and crushed the counter-revolutionary uprising at Kronstadt in March 1921.

It was at the famous 10th Party Congress of the same date that he was elected to the Central Committee, a post to which he has been elected ever since. Since 1926 he has also been a member of the Political Bureau. Thus, for close on 40 years Voroshilov has been in the leadership of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and among the main architects of all its plans

and breath-taking achievements.

The hero and victor of the civil war, one of the most brilliant builders of the Red Army of Workers and Peasants, he has since 1924 been devoting his enormous talents and energies to the development and perfection of the armed forces of the Soviet Union—the mightiest bulwark of peace and the scourge of the imperialists.

In 1925 he was chairman of the Revolutionary Military Council of the USSR, and from 1934 to 1940 its People's Commissar of Defence, being honoured with the title of Marshal of the Soviet Union in 1935.

When on June 22, 1941 the German fascist invaders hurled themselves at the Soviet land, as member of the State Defence Committee and as a leader of the Soviet Army, he took a prominent part in organising their ultimate rout. In this great battle to save human civilisation the Soviet Union produced

numberless heroes. Right in the front ranks of them stands Kliment Voroshilov.

In the post-war years he gave himself no rest but continued his indefatigable labours for the cause of the toilers, first at the post of Vice-Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers in 1946 and then from March 1953 as President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet.

It is in this capacity that he comes now to India, at the head of a big party of 60 experts, observers and journalists. Accompanying him are Frol Kozlov, Ekaterina Furtseva and Kuznetsov—all among the top-most statesmen and leaders of the Soviet Union.

In 1956 Voroshilov was awarded the highest title in his country—Hero of the Soviet Union. In 1960 shall we not all give him our highest title—our love, our respect and our brotherhood in peace?

(See also page 13)

**CONGRESS PRECEPT AND PRACTICE**

**E. M. S. On Contradictions**

PATTAMBI, January 13

By the time these lines appear in print, the Bangalore session of the Indian National Congress would have given the answer to a very important question which is of great interest for democratically-minded people in the entire country:

Does the Congress officially approve of the United Front that has been forged between itself and the Muslim League in Kerala?

The paradox of the situation is this: Any visitor to the State can find signboards

with three flags joined together flying over them, in all parts of Kerala; vehicles carrying candidates and organisers of the election campaign of the Congress also fly the three flags joined together; yet the Congress has not given its official blessing to such practices.

It was not long go that the then President of the Congress Indra Gandhi, observed that the Congress has

not come to any agreement, not to speak of having a united front, with the Muslim League; it has only left a few seats, which the Congress has no chance of winning, uncontested and these are being contested by the Muslim League.

It is against this background that one noticed the absence of any reference to any sort of arrangement with the Muslim League in the Election Manifesto of the Congress; as I previously ob-



# TRENDS IN LABOUR POLICY

by K. G. SRIWASTAVA

The Eighteenth Session of the Standing Labour Committee which was held at New Delhi on January 5 and 6, and the Labour Ministers' Conference which preceded it are important events inasmuch as they give an idea of the direction in which the three important elements of our industrial world are thinking on immediate issues as also about labour policy in the Third Five-Year Plan.

THE Union Labour Ministry, as the convener, had its say first. In the name of reconstruction and development and national defence—national defence being mentioned for the first time in the context of labour policy—the Union Labour Minister, announced that "the Third Plan will have to be thought of in terms of hard work and self-denial rather than any large gain for individual or group."

Regarding workers' share in the fruits of their labour, he said: "As productivity increases, the workers must have their legitimate share in one form or another, but they have to take care that their claims and the manner of pressing them will be fully consistent with the rapid growth of the economy of the country and the successful implementation of the Plan."

While conceding in regard to employment opportunities that the approach and methods so far adopted had yielded very meagre results, he hoped "not in the distant future" for the reflection of the principle of full participation of workers in the management of industry in both the private and public sectors.

## Harder Work, Self-Denial

In short, the labour policy for the coming period is: still harder work, self-denial but with productivity increasing, the workers may hope to get some benefit in one form or another.

The First Five-Year Plan had a wage-freeze policy; in the Second Plan, increase in wages was dependent upon productivity increase. Workers belonging to all central trade union organisations had, after the First Plan, in 1956-57, demanded an increase of 25 per cent in wages, as a result of the increase in productivity and national income during 1951-56.

In the 15th Indian Labour Conference held in 1957, they workers had got the policy of wage-freeze reversed, when the norms for need-based minimum wages were agreed upon and decisions taken to set up Wage Boards in different industries. It is very evident that not only was this policy not going to be followed in the remaining years of the Second Plan but in the Third Plan, the same old policy with stress on self-denial is being envisaged.

From these policy declarations as in the past, it can be foreseen that a period of hard struggles to win wage increases lies ahead of India's workers.

To implement the above policy, the State Labour Ministers, in their conference on January 3 and 4, have decided to rely on "better working" of the Code of Discipline. One of the important features of their decision is to apply sanctions against the defaulters.

In practice, no sanctions can be applied against the Union Government or State Governments for the violations, whether in their capacity as Government or employer, nor will

and demanded that Government as a bigger and model employer apply all the labour laws and implement tripartite decisions before (as they alleged) they are "squeezed" further.

Naval Tata, on behalf of the employers, speaking on the labour policy of the Third Plan demanded the system of bonus to be done away with. The Tatas have given a lead in this respect in their recent agreement with Michael John, wherein production bonus is said to have been merged in the revised wages.

## AITUC's Protest

On behalf of the AITUC and the working class in general, Ranen Sen, Vice-President of the AITUC, immediately after the opening remarks of the Union Labour Minister, read out a statement charging the Finance Ministry of the Government of India for torpedoing the implementation of the agreed decisions of the 15th Tripartite Indian Labour Conference in regard to fixation of norms for minimum wages.

It will be recalled that the Finance Ministry when asked for by the Central Pay Commission regarding these decisions, made the astounding statement that the Government have at no time committed themselves to taking executive action to enforce the recommendations of tripartite conferences.

The AITUC statement added that the Labour Ministry not only did not contradict this but by keeping silent, became party to such a position and instrumental in the Pay Commission finding of new norms based on supposedly lower caloric intake (reduced from 2,700 to 2,200) and reduction in other requirements of life.

The statement charged the Government of violating the tripartite agreements regarding rationalisation and closures, industrial housing scheme, the functioning of ESI Scheme and the Code of Discipline, both as Government and also as employer.

Ranen Sen and K. G. Sriwastava who represented the AITUC in this meeting announced their decision to walk out from the session in protest against this policy and behaviour of the Government.

G. L. Nanda, immediately promised to discuss the issues raised in the statement at this very session and appealed against a walk-out on these questions. In deference to his wishes, the AITUC delegation refrained from the walk-out and participated in the deliberations of the Committee.

This issue which affected not only the Central Government employees but the working class movement as a whole, was discussed by the Committee on January 6. Nanda affirmed that the decisions of the tripartite conferences and committees, though not legally binding, are morally binding on the parties.

He made the employers and the representatives of State Governments agree to this viewpoint and they also agreed to try to implement them earnestly.

The Mazdoor Sabha (HMS) supported generally the AITUC standpoint while the Indian

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# SCRAP-BOOK

## VIP & THE GOD

EVEN the gods and their attendants have to realise that a VIP is a VIP, especially if he happens to be a Congress Minister or even a deputy Minister. And when the gods and the priests dare to treat them as ordinary mortals—they are threatened with the sack.

The Union Deputy Minister for Railways, S. V. Ramaswamy, honoured the Kanya Kumari temple with his august presence recently. No *poorna kumbham* (temple honours), no garlands and even the *prasada* was given to him as to any other devotee. The priest just observed all the rules, which alas! do not make exceptions for VIPs.

The Minister, of course, made the temple walls ring with abusive curses. He then hastened off to the All India Lawyers' Conference, which was in session, and made an extempore speech invoking the Constitution to stress the point that he had been insulted—he was given the same treatment as anybody else!

Then back in Delhi he wrote a lengthy letter to the Madras Cabinet asking for the sacking of the priest and even calling for the abolition of the entire priestly order. He tried to buttress his case by claiming that all this treatment was due to the fact that he was not a Brahmin. Unfortunately, he spoilt his own case by mentioning this in a post script while the eight pages of text harped on his Ministerial status! We hope the gods enjoy the joke—it is worth cosmic mirth.

## MAHATAB GOING OVER ?

THE Congress High Command has enough headaches. Orissa is, however, going to provide a further job of pain. Mahatab is reported to be seriously thinking of changing allegiance to the Ganatantra Parishad—it is such a small change, after all.

In the last days of the past year Sadiq Ali was busy contacting his thesis against the Communists, when Indira Behn hustled him off to Cuttack. A SOS had come from Congress stragtraps in Bhubaneswar that the Congress-G.P. alliance was working against them. Even membership was down by 20 per cent. Mahatab had instructed the officials to show no favours to Congressmen who did not come with a personal chit from him—and not all could hope to get the chit, so why enrol?

Hearing of Sadiq Ali's impending arrival, Mahatab made it clear that no "usual" arrangements could be made this time for the Congress envoy's tour. And the Congress General Secretary having arrived he was snubbed when he asked the Congress Chief Minister to arrange a meeting with Congress Ministers. "This is a coalition Cabinet, we have no secrets from each other", was Mahatab's cool reply.

Poor Sadiq Ali had to fall diplomatically ill, cancel most of his programme and rush back to Delhi with the

bad news. He still hopes that Nehru's wrath can bring Mahatab to heel—but can it?

## SWATANTRAITES ?

THE Congress Bangalore session is going to discuss again the question of cooperative farming. It is high time this was done. Then, at least, junior officials will know what notes to draft. In the Andhra secretariat, a young I.A.S. officer was all worked up with enthusiasm after the Prime Minister's defence of cooperative farming. He immediately worked out an elaborate scheme for its actual implementation and forwarded it to Mehdi Nawaz Jung, the Minister for Cooperation. This gentleman was only too happy to be able to present something intelligent to a Cabinet meeting. But he was rather surprised by the stony silence which greeted "his" scheme.

In the meantime P. Thimma Reddy, the Minister for Agriculture, sent his spies out to track down the real author of the scheme—it was too intelligent to have come from Mehdi Saheb, is reported to have been his' caustic comment.

All Indian democrats, irrespective of party alignments were thrilled. The Rashtrapati when he visited Kerala for the 15th August celebrations echoed the national sentiments that the establishment of the first Communist Government would lead to the healthy practice of coexistence in our international political life. Everyone realised that a new way to advance and strengthen Indian democracy had opened out.

The hypocritical Congress leadership has been stung to the quick by the truthful characterisation and widespread popularisation of the anti-Communist alliance of the Congress with the League and the PSP as an "unholy alliance."

The AICC statement takes great pains to underplay the alliances as "an adjustment of seats between the major political parties opposed to the Communist Party." Its defence is: "The situation in Kerala as it exists today is far from normal. All these parties are now confronted with a conception of democracy which is at variance with all their basic ideas about it."

Hence the conclusion is supposed to be justified: "Those confronted with the common danger must unite to repel a common danger."

The real problem however is different. The Triple Alliance itself symbolises an intensified danger to Indian democracy and it is the Communist Party which is valiantly defending, along with non-party independents, all the healthy ideas and tradition of Indian democracy.

The PSP leadership is notorious for its challenge to India's independent foreign policy and advocacy of a pro-Western orientation. Yet the Congress leadership unites with the PSP just to defeat in one State election the Communist Party which is the most ardent and consistent advocate of the very foreign policy.

Claiming to be the purest democrats, the PSP led the onslaught against democracy in Kerala—allying with the Muslim League and ganging up with the Catholic bishops and casteist Nair leaders. Now their mentor Jeevandan JP's

Coexistence was destroyed by the very leaders who had welcomed it. The Indian Constitution was grossly misused by those who had drafted it.

## ONLOOKER

January 12

JANUARY 17, 1960

# KERALA—The Testing Ground

By P. C. JOSHI

The AICC has issued an appeal to the people of Kerala which the Hindustan Times has headlined as "The Real Issue in Kerala is to Save Democracy—AICC Warning Against Communist Tactics." The appeal is signed by Sadiq Ali who belongs to the PSP lobby inside the Congress bureaucracy.

THERE is nothing new or original in the appeal, nothing that newspaper readers have not already read a hundred times. Even its phrases and arguments are shopworn; reaction has been selling them ever since the day of Marx and anyone can get them free of cost from any USIS library.

"Democracy was established by law in India, twelve years ago," states the AICC statement and goes on to add: "It has produced great results. It has awakened India at a certain level from end to end."

Very true. It is this very awakening which reached its peak point in Kerala, when during the last general elections the people there elected the first Communist-led government in our country.

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## The Unholy Alliance

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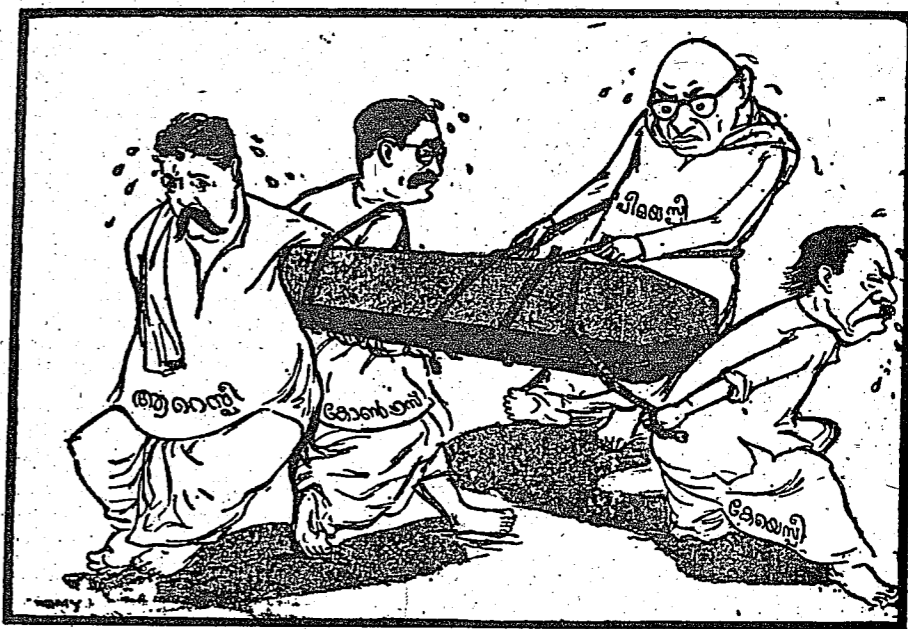
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"United Front" in Action.

blessing of the "basic democracy" under dictator Ayub is a clear enough indication where Indian democracy may end in alliance with the PSP leaders. It is no accident that the PSP executive is scheduled to discuss the JP thesis of "Partyless Democracy."

The Congress leaders broke their pledge and lost with the people, and the Communists gained the support of the people through loyal service. The Indian people found that the PSPers were no better, and they also lost to the Communist Party, which in turn emerged as the main opposition party in the country as a whole and the ruling party in Kerala. It is very much worth recalling that the people of Kerala chose a Communist-led Government after trying out successive Congress Governments and one PSP Government.

The Congress-PSP alliance in Kerala, therefore, is an alliance of those who have lost influence among the people in a big way. This is really what has brought them together. What is most in common between them is somehow to keep the Communists out of power through these elections. And this they call defending democracy in Kerala!

Kerala Muslim League leaders openly campaigned against the Nagpur resolution on land reforms and mouthed the Swatantra thesis in Indian planning in their last convention. The Congress recognition of an alliance with the League in Kerala is being used by its leaders to revive the League as a political party in the other States.

When the Indian constitution was being drafted, the proposal was made that the existence and activity of communal parties must be banned. Prime Minister Nehru welcomed the idea and assured that the Congress itself will work Indian democracy under the Indian constitution in a manner that communal parties will die their natural death.

Today the same Congress under the same Pandit Nehru is allying itself with the Muslim League and is directly aiding its revival throughout the rest of the country, just because it must defeat the

Communists in these elections. The Congress-League alliance betokens the grave danger that the Congress leaders have become so unprincipled as to use and strengthen communalism to fight and defeat Communism. It is a big retreat from the traditional national principles of secularism and nationalism, of which the Congress itself was one of the loudest champions.

The Congress alliance with the League in Kerala is a national scandal and a crime against Indian democracy. The Communist Party by fighting it out in Kerala is really sucking out the poison of communalism with its mouth and thus saving the rest of the Indian political life from a fatal contamination.

Their electoral defeat will be like laying low the cobra, all poised to strike at Indian democracy, the concern of us all.

## Their Faith In Democracy

The AICC statement with a nauseating sanctimonious air declares that "The Communist Party had little faith in democracy, both as a system of Government and as a way of life."

The twenty-eight months of the Communist-led Ministry in Kerala against twelve years of the Congress Governments themselves violated or seriously compromised all their democratic pledges while the Kerala Communist-led Ministry in its short spell of office implemented more of the very democratic programme. Many examples are not necessary.

The Communist Ministry gave relief to labour and passed executive orders and legislation the like of which labour, irrespective of political differences, in the rest of the country began demanding from the Congress Governments. Did the Kerala Government go undemocratic and also Indian labour?

The Communist Government passed land legislation, which Pandit Nehru himself admitted did implement the Nagpur resolution. Nag-

pur is an old story and the Bangalore session is on and what have the Congress Governments themselves done?

The common talk among honest Congressmen is that Nagpur resolution has remained on paper or been scuttled in the legislation proposed in the States which have come out with any. And it is the duly passed Kerala legislation that is being held back by the Centre to prevent the Kerala peasantry from enjoying its fruits and voting in greater numbers for the Communists! And this is being democratic, as understood by the AICC headquarters!

"It is not easy for any intelligent person to see how the Communists can square their wholehearted adherence to Marxism-Leninism with belief in democracy."

This sanctimonious nonsense is neither new nor original but then the very fact that this utterly reactionary poster can appear in an AICC statement reveals that the Congress leadership does not hesitate to raise the bankrupt ideological banner of anti-Communism in fighting the Indian Communists, the tattered banner once hoisted by Hitler and flaunted today by the worst reactionary imperialist circles.

The Sadiq AIs need not and perhaps cannot understand the working of the Communist mind nor the A B C of Marxism-Leninism.

Let them only learn to respect the common people of Kerala who repose such faith in the Communists and trust them to run the Government. Let them learn to respect the vote of the millions of their fellow countrymen who have raised the Communist Party of India to the status of the main opposition party.

Let them listen respectfully and humbly to the large body of neutral opinion in our country which expects the Communist Party to do what the Congress has failed to do and thus remedy the sad state of affairs brought about by the misrule, and the rest of painful and shameful things, under the Congress Raj.

NEW AGE

PAGE THREE



## COMMUNAL SUPPORT WON'T HELP CONGRESS

\* FROM FRONT PAGE

served in these columns, the manifesto calls on the voters of Kerala not to give their support to the alliance of the Congress, PSP and Muslim League, but to repose their confidence in the Congress Party. Will this situation continue after Bangalore?

● Will the Congress still maintain this contradiction between its officially declared policy (of having no alliance with the Muslim League) and its actual practice in Kerala (of setting up joint election committees in every village and town)?

● Will it continue to hold the view that it is only by maintaining this contradiction between the official policy and actual practice that the Congress can expect to secure more votes and more seats in Kerala with the help and support of the Muslim League, without the risk of losing more votes and more seats in the rest of the country in future elections by having alliance with an avowedly communal political party like the Muslim League?

● Connected with this is a question of details. Will the cars being used by the Central leaders (including Prime Minister Nehru) during their visits to Kerala fly the Congress flag alone or will they fly the three flags of the Congress, PSP and Muslim League joined together, as in the case of cars and jeeps used by candidates and workers of the Congress Party in Kerala?

This may appear a petty question. But it has enormous bearing; that what is considered good enough for the Congress candidates and their workers in Kerala is not good enough for the topmost leaders of the Congress in the country? Would it be embarrassing for the Prime Minister and other all-India leaders to have the same practice as their colleagues in Kerala are having?

In the meanwhile, the Congress and its allies seem to have realised that even their present trite alliance will not work a miracle which it is supposed to do. The alliance with the Muslim League, it seems, is to be supplemented by an alliance with another equally communal political party, the Jan Sangh.

There is, however, one material difference; unlike in the case of the Muslim League, the Congress is not leaving any seat uncontested in order to enable the Jan Sangh to contest; them; it, on the other hand, asks its prospective ally to withdraw from all seats which it is supposed to contest.

Frantic appeals are made on behalf of the Congress to the Jan Sangh candidates to withdraw and thus to see that "democratic" votes (Muslim League and Jan Sangh, it seems, are "democratic", while the Communist Party is not!) are not split.

The Jan Sangh has not yet fully acceded to this request of its prospective "democratic" allies; three of its candidates are still in the field. Yet it has withdrawn its candidates from other three constituencies which it has originally announced it would contest.

One seat from which the Jan Sangh has withdrawn its candidate happens to be the one which I am contesting. I am giving the relevant extracts from a handbill by the Pattambi Mandal Samiti of the Jan Sangh announcing the withdrawal of its candidate:

"People of this constituency expected that the non-Communist Parties would support the Jan Sangh here, since it is a party which has earnest and active workers and units in all villages of this constituency and it is working on a planned programme. The Jan Sangh accordingly outlined its plan of election campaign; it selected a competent and popular candidate.

"The Communist Party, too, meanwhile was active. Dismissed Chief Minister and Communist leader E. M. S. was declared its candidate. The political atmosphere of this constituency thus saw the emergence of two well-defined camps—that of the Communist Party and Jan Sangh. Sympathetic upsurge of all non-Communist sections of people began to express in favour of the Jan Sangh. One could in this situation confidently forecast the defeat of the Communist candidate and victory of the Jan Sangh.

"It was at this stage that the Congress came out of its hiding place. The Congress has no clear programme to place before the people nor has it evidence to prove its capacity to contest in this constituency. Yet it came forward with certain meaningless and irrational arguments. The argument was that the Jan Sangh will not be able to secure the support of Muslims in this constituency, that the Muslim voters will come only for the Congress and that key to victory of the non-Communist candidate lies in this constituency lies in Muslim vote.

"On this ground the Congress began to march forward with the Green Flag of the Muslim League, which led to the partition of India. During the last elections, Pandit Nehru characterised the Muslim League as a 'dead horse'. Now however, the Congress is showing its greatness and prestige by sitting on the backs of this 'dead horse'.

"The people began to suspect whether the Congress is not conspiring to assure the victory of the Communist leader by splitting the votes of the Jan Sangh with the support of this 'dead horse'. It was at this stage when it became clear that the Congress will not take a stand which will help to defeat the Communist Party which as a matter of fact is threatening the best interests of the nation that the Jan Sangh decided to withdraw its candidate in order to assure the defeat of the Communist candidate and thus to serve the best interests of the nation."

The handbill goes on to ask whether the dependence of the Congress on the Muslim League, which is dreaming of a "Moplah-dominated" Kerala is good for the future. "However", it concludes, "the electoral picture has become clear with

the withdrawal of the Jan Sangh. Voters who have great indignation against the Congress and its unholy relations would completely defeat the Communists as the latter is a bigger evil."

Anxiety to secure the support of one communal political party, that is the Muslim League, has thus given encouragement to another such communal party. The Congress probably expects to secure the support of both. Actually, however, it is only giving rise to acute discontent both among the democratically-minded sections of Muslims as well as of Hindus; both see that the alliance and unwritten agreements entered into by the Congress are the most opportunistic and unprincipled.

Tight-rope walking resorted to by the Congress by having one official policy declaration and another contrary practice in Kerala is not going to save them. As days go on, it is becoming clear that even if the Jan Sangh gives its sincere and solid support with the withdrawal of all its candidates, the Congress-PSP-Muslim League alliance is not going to win. Election workers of the Communist and non-party Democrats are daily acquiring more and more confidence.

### We Lack Only Funds

May I, however, remind our friends outside Kerala that the only factor which may adversely affect our election work is the shortage of finance? We expect them all to do their utmost to make up this lag and do it quickly.

May I in this connection express my warm and sincere appreciation of the way in which I found our friends in Mysore, Kolar, Bangalore, Madras, Calcutta and Bombay (which I have had an opportunity to visit during the last 10 days) have been making collections for the Kerala Election Fund?

The generous response which people in these places have made is truly inspiring. I thank all those who made these collections successful. I, however, feel that a little more can be done in these very places. I further hope that friends in other places will also do their best.

## CONTINUING COLLECTIONS

AT a crowded reception in Bangalore on January 3, the Bangalore District Committee of the Party presented E. M. S. with a purse of Rs. 5,394 for the Kerala Election fund. A further sum of Rs. 958 was handed over by the Party workers from the districts. Two mikes were also handed over.

Earlier on January 2 at a reception in Mysore, he was handed over a purse of Rs. 1,500 collected by the District Committee of the Party. In Kolar, the District Committee of the Party at a public function presented a sum of Rs. 702 on a silver plate. On-the-spot collections yielded another Rs. 49.50 nP. In addition in the Gold Field area another Rs. 1,500 awaited him.

The local Malayalees had collected a sum of Rs. 501

## Editorial Indo-Pak Agreement

IT is good news that the representatives of India and Pakistan have been able to solve four out of five disputes on the Western sector of the Indo-Pakistan Border, in the good neighbourly spirit of mutual accommodation.

In the case of Hussainiwala headworks, the Pakistan forces will withdraw nearly a mile and accept the district boundary between Ferozepore and Lahore as the international boundary. Here Pakistan has made concession to India's claim.

In the case of Suleimanki headworks, India has conceded that a portion of the 14 mile bund, now in India's possession, should go to Pakistan and also agreed to adjust the boundary of Ferozepore District accordingly. This is a concession India has made to Pakistan's claim.

In the case of the group of disputed villages on the Amritsar-Lahore border, Pakistan has surrendered its claim to the three villages of Theh Sarja-Marja, Rakh Hardit Singh and Pathanke. Ground rules, applicable to the entire border, have been agreed upon. They physically separate the security forces of the two countries, with a view to avoiding incidents, and lay down procedures for consultation and investigation of complaints.

The disputes over the Kutch-Sind border have not been settled but kept for future consideration. Here Pakistan claims about half the Rann of Kutch or about 90 square miles.

This new border agreement carries forward the good work of the earlier Eastern border agreement and they together have settled almost all the long-outstanding border disputes between our two countries. These disputes were by themselves of minor significance but they were artificially kept up only to create tension between the two countries.

These two settlements which will help to ensure peace on our common border have, therefore, been spontaneously welcomed.

The Communist Party has long been campaigning for peaceful negotiations as the only way to settle our disputes with Pakistan. We were denounced for being pro-Pakistani. We feel gratified and vindicated that the policy of negotiations is really helping to normalise and to improve our relations with Pakistan.

Reactionary circles would like that settlement with Pakistan can be used to key up tension against China. They are counting without their hosts, the peace-loving Indian people, who want and need peace with all their neighbours.

They will see for themselves that the policy of negotiations won a peaceful settlement of the border dispute with Pakistan. They will ask why not adopt the same path with the other neighbour, China. And it will be done, for there is no other practical, sensible and neighbourly way out.

Let reaction have any designs, the people need peace with their neighbours and they will win and keep it.

(January 13)

collections are: Rs. 6,000 by the Jhansi District Committee of the Party; Rs. 1,000 by the Nainital District Committee and Rs. 3,500 by the Aligarh District Committee.

At a reception accorded to EMS at the Shivaji Park Maidan, on January 10 presided over by S. A. Dange, it was announced that the Bombay Committee had so far collected Rs. 20,000.

Ganganagar District has made a very intensive Kerala Fund Drive. The District Committee members themselves donated Rs. 730 from their own income and during the week ended January 11, Rs. 2,500 have already been collected.

The Delhi State Committee has already handed in Rs. 2,750. A group of friends have banded together to donate Rs. 3,846 in addition to about Rs. 2,000 already despatched. The comrades of the Central Headquarters branch have collected Rs. 2,566.33 in addition to the Rs. 1,026. 69 sent some weeks ago.

# CONSOLIDATING AUTHORITARIAN RULE

-Despatch from East Pakistan

The military regime of Pakistan has been trying to create a big furor over its proposed Basic Democracy Scheme. An organisation called the National Bureau of Reconstruction (NBR) has been entrusted with task of popularising this scheme.

BRIGADIER F. R. Khan, who is reported to be one of the strong men of the regime is the All-Pakistan Director of the NBR and Qazi Anwarul Haq, a high ranking police officer is its East Pakistan chief.

This Bureau has either lured or coerced a number of well-known writers of Pakistan into its service and various sorts of pamphlets, posters, etc., have been produced by them to popularise the Basic Democracy Scheme. In all 70 million of such pamphlets, posters, etc., are being produced by the Bureau for distribution throughout the whole of Pakistan.

Besides, a batch of paid propagandists has been appointed by the Bureau in every district of East Pakistan to explain the Basic Democracy Scheme to the people.

Above all, the District Magistrates, SDOs and Circle Officers have been deputed to popularise the scheme and they are holding meetings on it. But, in spite of such huge propaganda, this Basic Democracy Scheme has so far aroused very little interest amongst the people of East Pakistan.

The main reason for lack of enthusiasm amongst the people of East Pakistan is the undemocratic set-up of this Basic Democracy Scheme. The scheme is made up of five tiers and of these only the lowest, i.e., the union or town councils will have ten representatives each directly elected by the people.

The jurisdiction of the union council will extend over a rural union and that of a town council over a municipal town or city. The union or town councils will in fact replace the old union boards or municipalities with the difference that on each of these newly formed councils, the Government will nominate five persons in addition to the elected representatives.

Each union or town council will thus have 15 members—ten elected and five nominated.

### Back To Nominations

Incidentally, the system of nomination in the union boards and municipalities was originally introduced by the British rulers when they were compelled to grant local self-government. The purpose of instituting this system of nomination was clear and obvious. It was through these nominations that they managed to smuggle their stooges into the union boards and municipalities and it was through them that they controlled those self-governing institutions.

The system of nomination in local self-governing bodies had consequently been always disliked and hated by the people. Subsequently, it was abolished under pressure of public opinion. This was about 20 years back. Further reforms in the union boards were introduced in 1958 by the then Awami League Ministry of East Pakistan.

It is on such union (or town) councils that the other four tiers of Basic Democracy will stand. But in no other tier will there be any sort of election.

The Thana Council will be composed of the Chairmen of the union councils (the union council will elect its own Chairman) plus members nominated by the sub-divisional officers. The nominated members will constitute one-third of the total of Thana council members. The SDO will be the ex-officio President of the Thana Council and he can depute any other official to act as President of any Thana Council in his absence.

### Bureaucracy On Top

The other three tiers, the district council, the divisional council and the Provincial council, will be composed of members—50 per cent of whom will be officials and the other 50 per cent "chosen" by the Government. Amongst the "chosen" members of these upper tiers, a section, probably half, will be taken from the Chairmen of the union councils.

Thus, while in the lowest tier, i.e., the union and town councils, the nominated members will be a strong and substantial section, in the three upper tiers, Government officials alone will form half of the total number. They will dominate the whole show. In fact, the proposed institutions of Basic Democracy Scheme will be institutions under the absolute control of the bureaucracy.

The leaders of the military regime are loudly proclaiming that they have given ample powers to the union councils and they have brought democracy to the doorsteps of the people. They claim that whereas under the old parliamentary system, the elected members of the Assembly sat and worked in capital cities, far away from the reach of the common people, Basic Democracy provides that the representatives of the people comprising the union council will now have to work before the very eyes of the common people and the opportunity of constantly watching and testing them. The works of village development will now lie with the village representatives, whereas in the old days this work was conducted from cities resulting in the neglect of the villages.

Ministers and high Government officials are always harping on the theme that "the British-made Parliamentary system is not suited to the genius of our country", and Basic Democracy is the thing which is needed because it brings power

in the hands of the people through local union councils. They assert that the union council is the real seat of power.

But even a casual reading of the Ordinance instituting the Basic Democracy Scheme will show how bogus their claim is. It is true that there is a long schedule of duties and responsibilities of the union councils. It ranges from maintenance of peace and order, levying new taxes down to various development works. The long schedule looks nice and alluring on paper.

But what is the actual fact? No union or town council has the right to work independently without the sanction of the district council which, as already shown, will be dominated by the district bureaucracy.

A union or town council will have to take the sanction of the district council (i.e. district officials) for all its works. The district council can veto any plan of work drawn up by a union council. If a union council does undertake a work which is not previously sanctioned by the district council, the district council can pass summary orders cancelling that work and the union council is bound to carry out that order. For example, if a union council opens a new school or builds a new road without the prior sanction of the district council

At the same time, the Basic Democracy Scheme of the military regime provides for levying of many new taxes on the

is not an iota of democracy in this scheme. It is a scheme for consolidating autocracy.

### Cento's Tentacles

This scheme has some other ulterior political motive too. There is a provision that all members of a union council are duty bound to report to higher authorities any incidents of "subversive nature" which may come to their notice. They are also required to be vigilant against "subversive activities". In short, they will have to act as village agents of the Intelligence Branch.

This provision, together with the provisions of raising a new village police force under the control of the district officials, makes it abundantly clear that the union council and police force will be a new organ of espionage and repression against the democratic elements in the rural areas. Many in the political circles of Dacca are of opinion that it is through the union councils and village police force that the Anti-Subversion Department of SEATO and CENTO will try to spread their tentacles in the countryside.

At the same time, the Basic Democracy Scheme of the military regime provides for levying of many new taxes on the

## Real Face Of Pakistan's Basic Democracy

and if subsequently the district council decides that the new school or the road is not necessary, the union council will have to close down the school or demolish the road.

To crown all, the union councils will have to pay from their funds, the salaries of the village police force, which will be newly raised, but the union council will have no power either of appointment or dismissal of any member of the said force. This power will lie with the SDO and District Magistrate.

Thus, whether in the sphere of development work, or in the sphere of maintaining peace and order or in any other sphere, the union council, the basis of the Basic Democracy, will have to function at the beck and call of the district bureaucracy. Further the power of the District Magistrate to unseat any member of the union council will naturally, especially when there is the rule of a martial law in the country, make all members of a union council subservient to the District Magistrate.

The union councils will thus be puppets in the hands of the District Magistrate and other officers. In fact, the Basic Democracy Scheme, instead of giving any power to the people, concentrates more and more power into the hands of bureaucrats. There

village people in the name of "collecting funds for village development". The union council has been vested with authority of levying and collecting 29 items of new taxes in its jurisdiction.

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### To Impose New Taxes

These taxes include birth tax, amusement tax, local business tax etc., etc. If any union council levies any one of these taxes on the people under its jurisdiction, the people will have to pay those taxes in addition to the land revenue and other taxes which they are already paying.

The economic conditions of the people of East Pakistan have further deteriorated during the last one year. The boastful claim of the Martial Law rulers that they will set the economy of the country on a sounder footing has proved to be empty one. During the last one year, i.e., since the promulgation of the martial law, the price of rice has never come down below the level of Rs. 30 per maund. This is a phenomenon which was not seen even in the year 1955-56 when a terrible food crisis shook East Pakistan.

Even in that year, the price of rice came down to Rs. 25

\* SEE PAGE 14



## IRAQ AFTER RESTORATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES

[We print below extracts from a recent editorial of the Itihad-Al-Shaab, the daily of the Communist Party of Iraq, on the problems and tasks in the new period, following Premier Kassem's declaration of the end of the transitional period.]

THE announcement by Premier Kassem that the transitional period will be ended on the Army Day on January 6 had a strong impact on the covetous imperialists, and their reactionary agents. It threatened with the collapse of their propaganda and falsehoods before Iraqi, Arab and world public opinion.

We shall reveal no secret to state that those circles and quarters are working now feverishly and through all means of intrigues, slanders and threats and the artificial creation of political crises both at home or in relations with neighbouring countries in a desperate attempt to maintain the present transitional period.

They want, thus, to sabotage the efforts exerted by the National Government and the patriotic forces and the broad masses of the people to lay down the foundations of public life on a healthy basis that enables the entirety of the people to exercise their democratic, social and human rights and liberties.

In our opinion, it is the duty of all the patriotic forces and elements who are sincere to the Republic and keen to reinforce its democratic course, to exert the maximum efforts they can with a spirit of cooperation and solidarity among themselves and with the patriotic authority, to provide for the authority the best means and most secured ones for the transition towards the new era and to foil the endeavours of enemies which attempt to prevent this transition.

There is no doubt that the patriotic forces and elements are responsible before the people and before history for the stands which they take and the activities they make in serving or not serving this great target.

On our part, we have struggled since July 14 1958 and are still fighting to safeguard the Republic, to safeguard this ripe

fruit which our people won after bitter struggle and heavy sacrifices.

We have put and are still putting ourselves and all our abilities to discharge this sacred duty in cooperation with all the patriotic forces and the patriotic authority.

We on our part have contributed, together with all the patriotic forces loyal to the Republic, in the education of the masses in the spirit of solidarity with the patriotic authority and the spirit of patriotic cooperation and fraternity among the nationalities and the handling of all problems that arise after every liberation revolution which releases the forces of the people and their aspirations and which explode their hatred to imperialism, feudalism, treason and oppression.

### Settlement Of Internal Disputes

The past period of our Republic testifies to the good results of the stand of the working class towards its national duties and towards the expected problems and disputes with the businessmen. Many of the problems and disputes were solved through friendly and constructive means, thereby depriving on many occasions the saboteurs and infiltrators of the chance to drag the workers into strikes.

This period also witnessed comparatively good results for the peasants who live and work under more difficult and complicated circumstances in view of the feudal elements and the violent resistance made by quarters who are affected by feudal influence and in view of the fact that the peasants are divided into many categories, the poor peasants, the middle and rich peasants and the small and middle landowners.

All these factors render the settlement of the disputes in the countryside among these strata and their mobilisation and the unification of their efforts for the task of safe-

## News from brother parties

guarding the Republic and backing the patriotic authority for the accomplishment of the agrarian reform and the increase of production, an intricate task.

The loyal sons of the people, the students, youth and women and others displayed high vigilance towards the plotting activity. They have backed the patriotic authority in checking the dangers which menace our Republic and in defending the gains of the Revolution.

In our opinion, the stubborn and triumphant struggle which was waged by our people against the enemies of the Republic was and still is imposing a common duty on all the patriotic forces and elements which they should perform through solidarity, each in his own field and according to his own way.

It is well-known for example, that one of the means of imperialism in fighting the recently liberated countries is the pressure and subversion in the economic sphere; in the fields of industry, trade and finance.

We have witnessed on the morrow of the Revolution the subversive role which was played by the foreign banks and companies as well as the big capitalists who ceased their activity and smuggled their money abroad or froze them, and who spread rumours about chaos in the Iraqi economy which had a negative effect among several quarters of merchants and businessmen.

### Vigilance Against Imperialists

Such things also took place in the sphere of construction works and in agriculture. Naturally, the covetous imperialists and those who are enraged at the accomplishments of our Revolution and its reforms that affected their selfish interests do not cease from placing the consequences of their subversive actions in economy on the responsibility of the Revolution, its new legislations and laws and on the popular masses.

Here, some of the patriotic forces who can exercise their

political and moral influence in the economic sphere can contribute their share in this sphere by establishing confidence and optimism in the future and by enabling the revolution to overcome the difficulties that usually arise after every revolution.

The raising of the slogan of stability and insisting on it will

continue to be of no use unless the patriotic forces take the initiative to struggle, in solidarity with each other and each in its own sphere of influence to accomplish the conditions for stability by creating the basis where the legitimate interests of all national classes meet, and correspond with the line of the revolution.

## JAPAN: AGAINST VIOLATIONS OF THE CONSTITUTION

THE Japanese Communist Party, in a Central Committee statement published in *Akahaia* recently, called on the Japanese people to struggle against the Japanese reactionaries' violations of the Constitution and democracy, according to a Tokyo report.

The statement condemned the Kishi Government and the ruling Liberal Democratic Party for forcing through the lower house on December 24, 1959 a bill for prohibiting demonstrations around the Diet building. This was an outrageous action unprecedented in the history of the Japanese Diet, the statement pointed out. It was also a typical fascist practice.

The Japanese Communist Party, it said, decided to protest, together with the Japanese people, to the Kishi Government and the Liberal Democratic Party, and would struggle till the end for preventing the adoption of the bill by the upper house of the Diet, it added.

The statement exposed the fact that the Japanese reactionary forces were obviously trying to revive step by step militarism and police rule simultaneously with the revision of the Japanese "Security Treaty."

This was why they found it necessary to do away with the constitutional provisions for peace and democracy before the revision of the Treaty, so as to facilitate their suppression of the people, with the working class in the vanguard.

The statement emphasised that the Japanese people would

not permit this reactionary conspiracy to succeed. The unity of the Japanese working class and the Japanese people in their struggle for peace, neutrality, independence, democracy and better living standard had developed with each passing day. Only by strengthening this unity and struggle would it be possible to prevent the revision of the "Security Treaty," bring about its abrogation and check any further encroachment on the Constitution and democracy, the statement added.

## CUBA—ONE YEAR AFTER THE REVOLUTION

THE outstanding feature of Cuba's internal situation now was that the Revolution was forging ahead, stated Blas Roca, General Secretary of the Popular Socialist Party of Cuba, in an article in *Noticias de Hoy*.

The article, written on the occasion of the first anniversary of the founding of the revolutionary government, pointed out that the Revolution had now won greater support from the broad masses, including the workers and peasants. People's sympathy for the Revolution had now become "staunch and conscious support."

Roca said that the Revolution was becoming ever more consolidated since the traitors and opportunists had gradually been cleared out of its ranks.

"The unity of thinking and action of the masses and the revolutionaries has become increasingly strengthened while anti-Communism, the old standby of the splitting elements and counter-revolutionaries, has met with ever-increasing failure," he stated.

Roca wrote that imperialism and the counter-revolutionary forces today stubbornly resorted to brutal force and terrorist activities. They were ready to carry out through *Trujillo* armed intervention, sabotage and threats. But the trend of events was not in their favour.

The imperialists formerly helped the Batista regime in an attempt to maintain the semi-colonial system, to enslave the people and suppress the Communists. However, this had stirred the people into action and resulted in the victory of the Revolution, Roca stated.

Roca said that progress was a historic necessity and no counter-revolutionaries and imperialists could stop it. "Their desperate struggle is like that of those who have fallen into a quagmire," he declared, "the more desperately they struggle, the deeper they sink."

## COVER TO ATTACK NEHRU'S POLICIES—BORDER DEBATE FARCE IN U. P. ASSEMBLY

From December 28 to 30, for three days, the U.P. State Assembly was the scene of a most unscrupulous game of red-baiting in the guise of a debate on the India-China border problem.

AS is inevitable in such smugly-labeled discussions, the Prime Minister's foreign policy of neutrality, non-involvement and settlement through peaceful negotiations was the first casualty.

Before the "debate" neither the Government of the State nor its redoubtable Chief Minister nor any of the Congressmen had shown the slightest concern about the border problem—at least not visibly. They had no thought of sponsoring any discussion on the subject either. And when a Jan Sangh M.L.A. from Almora, Govind Singh Visht, for his own purposes—to which we shall come later—raised the question, only two-and-a-half hours were allotted for the discussion which was to take place after all other pressing issues had been disposed off!

### Jan Sangh Motion

The draft of the question which this worthy had sent to the Speaker for the purpose of discussion, *inter alia*, stated:

"This year as the result of China's attack on India, a fearful situation has been created in the border districts of Uttar Pradesh—Almora, Garhwal, Tehri. Along with Tibetans Chinese agents, in large numbers, have entered into these districts...."

"This whole hilly region is very poor and backward. Lots of fifth-columnists, born in the country, are carrying on propaganda in China's favour there. As a result of this, the security of the area is being endangered. It is having some bad effect also."

"This year an unexpectedly great amount of snow has thawed near Trishul, Panch-chuli and the near Himalayas and a strange sort of light also is visible on that side. Due to this also the border people are in terror."

"The Government have not only not taken any solid steps for the progress and industrialisation of this backward area, but have neglected it. On account of this the people of this area seem to have become indifferent towards the State and towards India and are looking towards outsiders for help...."

His purpose in moving for this discussion was two-fold: to get some money—some extra allotments, for the development of the hilly regions of the North, and to try to work up feelings of the people against the Communists. In the first objective most of the people, including Communists, would have agreed with him and supported him; and in the second, many would have sympathised with him and his party, because lately it has not been faring too well in this State.

### Gangsterism Rebuffed

The Sangh's storm-troopers had for some time past been organising attacks on Communist workers and on meetings organised by the Party. They attacked the blind leader of the Ballia unit of the Communist

Party and broke his arm and ribs. They also smashed the teeth of an elderly woman leader of the same place, Ganga-jali Devi, who tried to protect the respected blind leader, Baijnath Singh Sharma.

So long as their campaign against the Party was limited to meetings, demonstrations and burning of effigies, the Communist Party did not bother about them. But when from words they came to lathis and gadasas, the Party gave a call to its members and friends to defend its meetings, demonstrations and guard its leaders against such dastardly attacks.

They made one or two more attacks and then they came to their senses and realised that discretion was the better part of valour. For every hundred or two hundred hoodlums that they could collect for disturbing or attacking a Communist meeting, the Party was able to call several hundreds of sturdy volunteers for its defence. And, the people, who had been through the game by now, were coming more and more on the side of those who stood for peaceful negotiations and freedom of discussion.

What Visht was now trying to do was to revive the sagging morale of the hoodlums by means of this debate.

But for this purpose he was not only trying to raise a scare—as was pointed out by other MLAs from the same area, including Food Minister Negi—but also standering the entire hilly people, by declaring that they had become or were becoming indifferent towards the question of national security and defence! Perhaps such anti-national policies cannot be pursued without standering the people.

By now, however, others, including the anti-Nehru Chief Minister, had also seen the opportunity that the debate on this question would give them. Hence, Visht was prevailed upon to withdraw his draft and a somewhat cleverly worded resolution was submitted under the joint signatures of the leaders of the PSP, SP, Jan Sangh, Socialist Unity Party, Swatantra wing of the IPLP and one or two others.

### Congress-Supported Draft

The time for discussion was also generously extended from two-and-a-half hours to three days with the obvious blessing of the leader of the House, Sampurnanand. In fact, it was being said in the lobbies that the draft of the new resolution had been prepared with the support of the leaders of the ruling party.

The new draft said: "The House strongly condemns the anti-Indian activities of the Communist Government of China in annexing large areas, specially Bara Hoti, Nilang, Puling, etc., of U.P., belonging historically, traditionally and geographically to India and being integral parts of the country, inside the Chinese borders and declaring India an

aggressor and illegal occupier of these areas. The House also recommends that all efforts should be made to face the Chinese imperialist designs and to take immediate steps to arrange a strong defence of the Northern borders of the State and the country and an all-round development of the border areas with the cooperation of all national elements."

Deputy leader of the Communist group in the Assembly, Chandrajiet Yadav, said that the House should discuss the question, but the resolution that it should pass should be such as would be in keeping with the foreign policy of the nation and the attitude of the Prime Minister. It should create neither an unnecessary scare, nor help in the working up of war hysteria. Above all, it must not cast aspersions on the determination of our people to defend the integrity of our country.

With this in view, Yadav moved a few amendments.

### Communist Stand

Appealing for a sober attitude in the pronouncements of the House, he said the Chinese have a name for their government—they call it the "People's Republic of China"—and we should call them by the same name instead of describing them as the "Communist Government," etc.

Secondly, he asked for the deletion of the word "aggressor" from the resolution, because "aggressor" has a serious connotation and calls for equally serious steps in answer.

Besides, Yadav said, China

leader of their group in the Assembly, who is an ex-princeling, tried to trace the history of treason of the Communist Party!

He called the Chinese "bandits" and "turning to the plea for truce talks with the Chinese, asked bluntly, 'Can there be any talks with a bandit, or an aggressor...?' (Pioneer, December 30). He was so excited by his newly acquired patriotism that he even attacked Govind Sahai, Nehruite Congress leader, and insinuated that he was getting gifts from the Chinese in the shape of shoes.

These things were repeated ad nauseam by the spokesman of the PSP and the SP, Narain Dutt Tewari, deputy leader of the PSP group, after describing the "designs" of the "Chinese aggressors and the fifth columnist Communists," said that, "it will take the Chinese army not more than a week to reach either Delhi or Lucknow if they succeed in capturing control of the six mountain passes on our border that led to Tibet."

Another PSP warrior from the eastern districts, who had also taken part in the attack at Ballia on the blind communist leader of that place, Baijnath Singh Sharma, repeated all the slanders about the "espionage activities of the Communists in Almora" and other hilly districts and then demanded the head of not only the Communists, but also of Defence Minister Krishna Menon and "even of papers like the Blitz."

Making an oblique reference to the Prime Minister he thundered, "We shall not be sorry if for the sake of the country, Menon or some one else has to go...."

Prime Minister to deal with the Chinese aggressor... (Pioneer, 30 December) He wanted a "new Prime Minister, who is war-minded and a known anti-Communist."

Ex-Communist Deepankar, now member of the Socialist Unity group, echoed the slanders against the Communist Party and the Chinese People's Republic with full gusto.

The reactions of Congressmen were varied. The ordinary ones among them were critical of the Chinese attitude. They were critical of the Communist Party also. The ones who hailed from the hilly districts were unanimous in the demand for the development of those neglected areas.

Except for the big shots, led by the Chief Minister himself, they were not for creating scare or unnecessary hysteria! They were not for blowing up Pandit Nehru's policy of peaceful negotiations.

This was expressed perhaps best in the statement of the Congress member from the hills, Chandra Singh Ramola who said, "It appears to me that there is greater worry about the Chinese aggression in Lucknow and Delhi than in the border areas...."

He went on to say that, "no doubt, the issue was serious, but it would not help to create fear in the people to talk about war without knowing its implications." He further said, "I do not believe there are persons who welcome Chinese aggression, but if there are any they should be proceeded against by the Government immediately."

### Congressmen Discount Panic

Food Minister Jag Mohan Singh Negi, himself from the hills, discounted the rumours spread by the Jan Sanghis, PSPers and the Socialists. Amidst a lot of heckling and bullying by these groups, Negi refuted the allegation that Bara Hoti had ever been occupied by the Chinese. He said:

"It is surprising how people talk that the Chinese had at any time occupied Bara Hoti. They had tried to do so in 1900 and forces from Lansdowne had repulsed them in the month of December after crossing the pass.... Everybody knows that the Chinese have built roads in the area but to describe it as a dangerous situation is creating panic for nothing. It is equally bad to give currency to statements like seeing strange lights in the area and unusual thawing of snows."

Refuting the panic policy-mongering of the PSP spokesman, Narain Dutt Tewari, Negi emphatically said: "It is cowardice and defeatism to think that the Chinese can reach Delhi or Lucknow in seven days. The people of Kumaun and Garhwal alone can withhold any aggression for seven months unaided...."

He welcomed the declaration of the Communist Party that it would defend the territorial integrity of the country and invited them into the Congress.

It was obvious that the Chief Minister, who had by now covered his face with his hands, did not very much like what Negi was saying.

Another somewhat balanced speech from the Congress benches was made by Govind Sahai.

\*\*\*\*\* From \*\*\*\*\*  
RAMESH SINHA  
\*\*\*\*\*

has not termed our country or government "aggressor." Then he beat his own confre one better by calling the Chinese "monkeys" and the Russians "wolves!"

The Lohia brand of Socialists were not to be outwitted in this slanging game. Raj Narain Singh, their leader in the Assembly, himself led the attack on the Communist Party. He made fun of our "red glasses" and made fun of the red rose in Pandit Nehru's buttonhole! Socialist Dev Narain Bharatiya demanded that China's claims over Tibet should be resisted and Tibet should be made into a buffer State.

Another Lohia Socialist, D. P. Misra said: "We must force the Chinese to accept Brahmaputra in its easterly course as the boundary between India and Tibet, because the MacMahon Line is neither a natural border nor a good defence line...." He further said that it would also solve the problem of Kailash and Mansarovar, because after this boundary is accepted, they will come into India. Utimately, this socialist leader came to his attack on Pandit Nehru and accused him of pro-Communism and pro-Chineseism. The road was thus cleared for the independent Swatantrist M.L.A., Sita Ram Shukla to demand: "It is time that Pandit Nehru made room for a tougher

## LIC'S NEW PLAN

THE Life Insurance Corporation of India has now finalised its proposals regarding financing of housing schemes, says a Press Note issued by the Corporation on January 4.

For some time now, the Corporation has had, under active consideration how best it could help towards easing the acute housing shortage in the country. It may be recalled that the Corporation has been earmarking some funds to be granted as loans to State Governments for housing schemes, but it was felt that it would be in the best interests of its policyholders to take a more active and direct part in granting loans for house construction.

The scheme now decided on by the Corporation envisages granting of loans for construction of houses to co-operative societies, public limited companies and individual policyholders.

In the case of co-operative societies, loans will be granted only to apex co-operative housing finance societies subject to

such loans being guaranteed by the respective State Governments. The rate of interest charged will be 5 per cent per annum.

Loans will also be granted on the first mortgage of properties situated in India under any housing scheme of a public limited company. In this case, the maximum loan will be 70 per cent of the value of the property and the loan will carry interest at the rate of not less than 6 1/2 per cent per annum with a rebate of 1/2 per cent for punctual payment of interest. The term of the loan shall not exceed 20 years.

Such companies will be encouraged to form co-operative housing societies, with membership limited to their employees, and if the public limited company is prepared to guarantee principal and interest, loans will also be granted to such co-operative housing societies. In such cases the Corporation will endeavour to get the members of the co-operative societies to take out life insurance policies for the aggregate amount of the loan and assign them to the

Corporation by way of additional security.

The policies should be Endowment Assurance Policies for a term not longer than the term of the loan.

In the case of individuals, it has been decided to grant loans to policyholders in cities with a population of 10 lakhs or over in India, namely, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Delhi and Hyderabad.

These loans will be on the security of freehold properties or leasehold properties where the unexpired term of lease is not less than 30 years. The maximum amount of the loan will be 70 per cent of the value of the property, and the maximum period 20 years, but not extending beyond age 70 of the borrower. The minimum amount of the loan will be Rs. 20,000 per policyholder and the maximum Rs. 1 lakh.

Loans would also be advanced in the case of properties which are yet to be erected or in the course of construction in the cities mentioned above. The Corporation will, from time to time, make advances to the borrower of sums not exceeding 70 per cent of the value of the land

and the cost of labour and material of the work executed on the building according to the value computed by the Corporation's valuers, subject to the condition that moneys advanced will be utilised solely for the erection of the building.

Loans will be granted only to those policyholders who, on the date of the application for loan, are holding policies which have been in force for a minimum period of five years and on which all premiums due up-to-date have been paid and where the policies are Endowment Assurance Policies maturing not later than the due date of repayment of the loan, subject to the face value of the policy, including vested bonuses if any, being not less than the amount of the loan plus one-tenth thereof. When the loan is granted, the policies will have to be assigned to the Corporation, and will have to be maintained by the borrower by regular payment of premium.

At the end of the policy term or in the event of the borrower's death, the policy moneys will be applied to repay the mortgage debt. The loan will carry an interest of 7 per cent.



# CALCUTTA'S MAGNIFICENT TRIBUTE TO PEOPLE OF KERALA

## RS. 76 THOUSAND GIVEN, E. M. S. ASKS FOR MORE

Knowing that E.M.S. as Kerala's Chief Minister means the triumph of that very democracy which is so dear to them, the masses of West Bengal—despite all the high prices and their own scarce resources—responded to the call for funds with remarkable fervour.

At a meeting today on the famous Calcutta Maidan, where over 1½ lakhs had congregated, the veteran Communist leader Muzaffar Ahmad handed to E.M.S. a cheque of Rs. 71,017 and 17 naye paise. On an appeal to the audience, before the meeting was over this had

E.M.S. spoke first in English (interpreted by Professor Gautam Chattopadhyaya) and later for a short while in Malayalam for the Malayalee residents of the metropolis, who had flocked to the meeting for "their" Government. Earlier in the morning E.M.S. had laid a wreath at the memorial in Subodh Mullaik Square for the martyrs of the great food struggle.

Thanking the workers, intellectuals and thousands of others who had selflessly contributed to the Fund, he stressed that this represented

a tremendous democratic awakening.

He solemnly pledged that each and every single naye paise of this money from the people would be put to the most effective use to defeat the unholy alliance of the Congress, PSP and Muslim League. But he asked that more people should come forward to donate and those who had given once should give again.

He said: "I am not greedy. But I want frankly to tell you all that the Opposition

is powerful. All the wealthiest classes of the whole of India are behind them. That is why the moral and material support of every democratic and progressive person throughout the country is essential for us in Kerala."

E.M.S. said that from the Bangalore session the all-India Congress leaders would hasten to Kerala to work for the triple alliance. Prime Minister Nehru was himself going. Yet the principal ally, whose support they were rushing—the PSP—was among

those whom he had called in the Parliament "a motley crowd".

The other pillar was the Muslim League, which has openly declared its opposition to the secular character of our Constitution. In December 1959 it declared in its programme that it is only organisations of a religious character that could safeguard the interests of religious minorities in our country.

E.M.S. asked: "Does the Congress also believe in this? Indra Gandhi had stated some days ago that the Congress would not have any united front or electoral alliance with the League. Yet go anywhere in Kerala and you will find that outside the opposition's election office hang

the signboards of the Congress, PSP as well as the Muslim League. The Congress, PSP and Muslim League flags fly side by side."

He went on to point out that the Swatantra Party had no branch in Kerala. The reason was simple—its supporters were within the Congress, PSP and League!

He said that there was in Kerala a large and perceptible shift among the people in favour of the Communist Party and supported Independents. As a matter of fact, many ordinary Congress workers who had even been to jail during the "liberation struggle" had publicly proclaimed their support for us. The same

was the case with the Muslim League.

Apart from this, there was the tremendous support from the workers, peasants, employees, artisans and intellectuals. It was all this that, E.M.S. declared, had laid the foundations of victory, even though it would be totally wrong to underestimate the strength of the opposition.

The unity of the democratic forces in Kerala and the whole of India was the prerequisite for rebuffing this offensive of reaction against the Constitution. "We shall win but there is a hard struggle ahead"—these were the concluding remarks of the man Calcutta and West Bengal had taken to their hearts.

(See also page 14)



## CAMPAIGN IMPRESSIONS

by K. T. K. Thangamani, M. P.

FROM January 3 to 8 I visited certain centres in the districts of Alleppey, Palghat and Trichur. Nominations had been filed in all the constituencies and the scrutines were over on January 5. Communist Party rallies were held in majority of constituencies on January 3. When the campaign was inaugurated I was in Alleppey. This is our ex-Labour Minister T. V. Thomas's constituency. The procession was one of the biggest I had seen and stretched right down the entire road. I was able to count 15,000 of whom a good quarter were women.

The mass rally was addressed by the Alleppey Municipal Chairman, T. V. Thomas and myself. Friends tell me the same enthusiasm is visible throughout the district. Indeed from Alleppey to Ernakulam on both sides of the road one is struck by the array of flags—a veritable battle of the flags! In the ferry as I was crossing, a jatha shouting slogans in support of democracy and the Communist Party woke up the landscape. It was proceeding to the rally held for the Communist supported Independent Kerala Varma (Ernakulam District) where comrade P. Ramamurthy spoke.

Palghat is comparatively quiet but firm confidence is exhibited by the cross section of people in support of the Communist candidate Gopalannal (MLA in the former Madras Assembly in 1952). Ward committees have been formed on a very wide basis—I had addressed workers in the XXI ward consisting both of Communist and DMK workers. Nanjil Manoharan of the Madras DMK has been touring this district exhorting the people to vote Communist. The Madras Congress M.L.A. Mahalingam (proprietor of the A.B.T. Bus Transport Company) is working here in support of the Congress candidate.

The Tamil Brahmins, who were neutral formerly, now openly condemn the undemocratic and unconstitutional way in which EMS ministry was dismissed and demand that a full term should be allowed to the Communist-led ministry.

Ward V, the Kalmadapam

area, is inhabited mainly by Municipal sanitary workers.

A meeting of election workers was arranged there at which more than 150 attended. The same evening some workers were arrested, I learnt that, under some pretext or other. I was also told that some of them were beaten. This has caused deep resentment amongst the workers. I hope it is only an isolated event and that there will not be recurrence of such incidents.

I addressed a rally in Olavakkot (Palghat constituency), where there is a heavy concentration of railway and tile workers. Needless to say specially warm enthusiasm for winning this election and teaching a lesson to the unprincipled triple alliance was strikingly evident among them.

In the Elapally constituency the Communist candidate A. K. Raman Kutty, sitting member, is opposed by the Congress. I went to the rally in a village called Kodumbur in this area. It is full of Tamil handloom weavers, very much affected by the yarn price increase, low wages, and unemployment.

This village was once reckoned as a Congress strong hold and yet the rally was one of the biggest the village had seen. The workers later told me that the EMS Government had done so much for them that they could not but regard it as their own government.

Next I would like to make a brief mention of the Manalor constituency, where Professor Mundassery is opposed by the Congress candidate Kurur Neelkantan Nambodiripad. The meeting which I addressed was at Antikad— which earned the praise of non-Party people as the centre of the Toddy Tappers cooperatives. This is a working class stronghold and made up of staunch defenders of the Government. The enthusiasm of the men and women and their calm

confidence would impress any new comer.

In the Chalakkudi double-member constituency our candidates are C. Janardanan and P. K. Chathan (ex-Minister). The opposing candidates belong to the P.S.P. and Congress. During the 1957 election the P.S.P. won the general seat and Communist Party the reserve seat. But it should be remembered that at that time the P.S.P. candidate was supported by Communist Party. The same person now opposes our candidate. This constituency spreads over a very wide area, including the Kannan Devan group tea estates at Malukkapara, 70 miles from Chalakkudi.

### In The Plantation Area

This estate is on the border of Tamilnad and adjoins the Pannimede and Shakludi estates. Fourteen hundred voters in this estate get voting rights only this time.

The estate workers say that it was the Communist ministry which worked for granting them their constitutional right to vote. One can imagine the thrill of these workers at being called up to go to polls for the first time under the Constitution!

These workers know that after advent of Communist led ministry their daily wage was raised by two annas and enhanced leave wages and maternity benefits came to them only from this ministry. They now want might and main that this ministry be returned to power for retaining the gains and for the final settlement of the 1957, 1958 bonus and of the plantation workers.

The plantation workers are class-conscious workers and not caste-conscious. They know that the Communist-led ministry spent all it could for Harijans and that the funds under that head never lapsed. So a poor reception awaits the Harijan minister of Madras, Kakkam, when he arrives here on January 10.

The tour of the these districts of Alleppey, Palghat, Trichur left a deep impression on me of the calm confidence of the people and the regard they have for the EMS ministry. I propose to go to the Devikulam and Peeramade Taluks in Kottayam District as well as certain areas in Quilon and Trivandrum district during the next ten days.

OPENING the election campaign in Kottayam T. V. Thomas, Minister for Labour in the dismissed Communist Ministry said on December 27 that the people of Kerala will return the Communist Party to power with a bigger majority in the ensuing mid-term elections. The meeting was attended by an unprecedented crowd.

Thomas said that the people of Kerala in the course of the 28 months of the Communist Government had come to know what a stable government is, and their desire for stability and prosperity of the State would make them vote for the Communist candidates and for the independent non-Party Democrats supported by the Party.

He said that history was going to repeat itself in Kerala, and in Kottayam district the Communist Party was going to snatch away from the Congress new seats like Ettumanoor and Puthuvally this time.

T. V. Thomas narrated the gains of the working people under the Communist-led government. He asked: "What was the crime that we had committed that this government had to be overthrown by the Centre?"

One reason they say is that our Government introduced and passed a bill which was described as a threat to Christianity and religion. But even today the law they had opposed, i.e. the Education Act, still remains in force. Things are going as per rules framed under the Act. The bishops and priests who then opposed tooth and nail do not say a word against the Act which is now in force.

The "liberation struggle" was launched really to sabotage the Land Bill and to prevent any radical change,

## THE MUSE TOO IS ROUSED

ENCLOSING a rough English translation of his latest Urdu poem Makhdoom Mohiuddin writes that the ghazal had been shaping itself for some months. And the muse gave a total response only when the poet had moved among the people of Kerala, now in the midst of the election battle.

From the comrades he had met and the scenes of popular enthusiasm he has witnessed, he feels that the Malayalees will have again their tried and true Government led by the Communist Party.

It is this sense of optimism that pervades the poem, born of the Kerala situation and not just a subjective reaction, he adds.

The new factor which can be realised on coming to Kerala, Makhdoom writes, is the large-scale shift among the people towards the Communist Party. Even among those who had participated in the "liberation struggle" many are coming to work actively for the candidates of the Communist Party and the supported Independents. Most of them are Congressmen but there is also no dearth of PSPers and Muslim Leaguers.

Among the people he finds the same sense of upsurge that had greeted Makhdoom and his comrades in Andhra in 1952 when they came out from the prison and the underground.

His final word is that the weather—both physical and political—in Kerala is bracing and refreshes one to happiness!

## THIS LATE HOUR OF THE NIGHT...

At this late hour of night,  
Red wine more exhilarating.  
The cheek of Saki  
Blushing deeper red at this hour.  
Life's journey lightened in the dark, love's foot-prints shining more brilliant.  
Lonely, tired at this hour a knock at the tavern door—  
—a traveller mad with love?  
"Love", he cries.  
Our flowing cups with taut breath and awe  
Listen to the call of fidelity.  
Dead the lamp of priesthood, extinguished the candles of hypocrisy.  
The yearning hand of the helpless reaches for the wine cup of life.  
Oh, the march of a martyr's procession!  
The fear-silenced criminal, the tyrant sunk in shame.  
At this hour of night blow! morning breeze,  
Unveil again the glowing dawn!

—MAKHDOOM MOHIUDDIN



**MAP OF KERALA**  
References

- Railways
- Capital Town of State
- District Headquarters
- Other Towns



# AN AFRICAN LEADER'S IMPRESSIONS

LAST week I had the opportunity to meet and interview Poet Ahmed Mohamed Kheir of Sudan, in Peking. Along with Dr. James Endicott of Canada, Poet Ahmed Kheir represented the World Peace Council at the 10th anniversary celebrations of the peace movement in Japan, held in Tokyo during the later half of November 1959.



Ahmed Mohamed Kheir

On behalf of the World Peace Council Ahmed Kheir awarded posthumous gold medal of peace to twenty-eight peace fighters of the Japan Council Against A and H Bombs and the Japan Peace Committee.

As representatives of the World Peace Council Poet Ahmed Kheir and Dr. Endicott also signed a joint statement with the Japan Council in which the two organisations announced mutual support for each other's activities, welcomed Premier Khrushchov's proposal for general and complete disarmament and stressed the importance of convening, after the Summit meeting, of an international peace conference representing all peace forces the world over.

During his stay in Tokyo, Poet Ahmed Kheir "had the opportunity of meeting the foremost leaders of the peace movement, the Japan Council Against A and H Bombs, as also leaders of various other democratic organisations."

"Apart from this," said Poet Ahmed Kheir, "I witnessed the 8th Common Action of November 27—that mammoth demonstration of the citizens of Tokyo against the revision of the U.S.-Japanese Security Treaty, a demonstration that truly expressed the wrath of the Japanese people against American imperialism and its allies in Japan."

Born in a working class family in Khartoum in 1926,

Ahmed Kheir has been a fighter for the freedom of his motherland—the Sudan—right from his school days. In 1946 he was expelled from school for "political activity" against the British.

He succeeded in getting a job as a teacher in an intermediate school, in 1947, and during the same year was elected general secretary of the Sudan Youth Congress and an executive member of the Khartoum Peace Committee. During 1949-51 he worked as the general secretary of the All-National School-Teachers' Union. In 1951, after the general strike of teachers, he was sacked from the school where he was teaching and was forbidden to teach anywhere in the Sudan.

In 1953 he was imprisoned for leading a demonstration in the North Province and later deported to Khartoum and confined there. Towards the end of 1953 he was elected secretary of the Sudanese Peace Committee. At the Colombo session of the World Peace Council held in 1957 he was elected secretary of the World Peace Council and held this post till May 1959.

Since he had just arrived with fresh impressions of the peace movement in Japan, I decided to confine my questions to Japan.

## PERSISTENT STRUGGLE FOR PEACE

Question: Could you say something about the striking features of the peace movement in Japan?

Answer: The peace movement in Japan is one of the biggest in capitalist countries. It covers broad sections of the masses. The industrial workers of Japan form the backbone of the movement.

There are a number of organisations working for peace and they differ in many respects from one another. Each such organisation has its special tasks.

For example, there is the Japan Peace Committee, the Japan Council Against A and H Bombs, the movement Against Foreign Military Bases, the movement for the Restoration of Okinawa, the movement for the Defence of the Peaceful Constitution of Japan, the movement Against the Revision of the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty and the movement for the Restoration of Diplomatic Relations with the People's Republic of China. All these and many other organisations pool their efforts for the cause of peace.

The oldest of these movements is the one started by the Japan Peace Committee which is affiliated to the World Peace Council.

and has the largest number of activists. This movement cooperates very closely with all the other movements and particularly with the Japan Council Against A and H Bombs which has the character of an all-national movement.

Japan was the victim of the first atomic bomb towards the end of the Second World War. For the rest of the world this is something that happened fourteen years ago. But not so far the people of Japan.

The dragging effects of that wanton act of U.S. imperialism are still a ghastly reality to the people of Japan. Hiroshima still has the deformed, the blind, the maimed whose illness is, to this day, a mystery and those who are still falling victims to leukemia.

That is why the people are fighting with such determination against the nuclearisation of Japan under U.S. domination.

Question: What are your impressions of the rising tide of popular feeling against the proposed revision of the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty? And what role are the various parties and organisations playing in this movement?

Answer: The revision of the

U.S.-Japanese Security Treaty is one of the major issues today, not only for the people of Japan, but for the people of the entire Far East and the whole of Asia as well. Hence the intense struggle around this issue.

The common man in Japan knows that the revision of the Treaty would reduce Japan to a semi-colony of U.S. imperialism and that Japan would be wiped out in not more than seven minutes in the case of war.

Every thinking man and woman, every patriot in Japan understands that the proposed revision of the Treaty is a major link in America's preparations to unleash a war of aggression against the People's Republic of China and against the Soviet Union so as to have a free hand in robbing the peoples of the Far East and the Afro-Asian peoples as a whole.

The American imperialists have already built air bases in Tachikawa and Yokota near Tokyo. They have also built bases in Kyushu and Hokkaido. These bases are to be equipped with ballistic missiles and nuclear weapons. It is worth recalling that during the Korean war American planes and bombers took off from Japan. The U.S. Air Force and the American 7th Fleet were supplied with arms and provisions from bases in Japan.

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Since he had just arrived with fresh impressions of the peace movement in Japan, I decided to confine my questions to Japan.

### Against Arms Pact With U.S.A.

The Kishi Government wants the revision of the treaty because it assures the Japanese monopolists the "support" of American big business. The Japanese monopolies hope to be able to penetrate the underdeveloped countries of Asia and Africa with American support! They are hoping that they will receive big arms orders from U.S. big business—arms to be supplied to countries in Asia which have economic and military agreements with the United States.

The Japanese people, aware of the results of this policy, are fighting tooth and nail against the proposed revision of the U.S.-Japanese Security Treaty and demanding at the same time friendly relations with the People's Republic of China and the Soviet Union. The Socialist Party, the Communist Party, all other democratic organisations, the peace movement, the Trade Union movement, the student and youth movements are all represented in the council against the revision of the treaty.

The workers and students are particularly active in this nationwide movement. An increasing number of intellectuals and peasants are also joining this movement. A hundred thousand citizens of Tokyo took part in the 8th Common Action of the November 27 and stormed the Diet to hand in their appeal. This demonstration symbolised a mighty force that the ruling party cannot possibly ignore.

Question: How has the pro-U.S. orientation of the Kishi Government affected life in Japan?

Answer: One feels sad to see, inside the city of Tokyo, the huge barracks of the U.S. armed forces. It is also sad to find that in Coffee houses, restaurants and

## OF JAPAN

bars the main music consists of cheap American or Western songs. One finds many middle-class young men and women going about in the latest American-styled suits, ties and dress.

Under the dim lights of the bars and night clubs of Tokyo, where every visitor is surrounded by an uninvited bevy of smiling girls who speak broken Yankee English, it is difficult for one to recall the true face of Japan.

But life goes on the Japanese way, in spite of these glimpses of the American way of life.

Question: What prospects has the Afro-Asian Solidarity movement, in Japan?

Answer: Among the working masses the Afro-Asian solidarity movement has taken root and is quite strong. It finds expression in many activities—in the movement against the Sahara tests—planned by the French Government, in support of the Algerian people's struggle for independence,

the work of the Afro-Asian Writers' Committee and now the keen interest shown by many organisations in the coming Afro-Asian Conference in Conakry.

It is interesting to note that some sections of the monopoly capitalists of Japan are striving to influence the Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee and to have it under their control. They think it can provide them with a very suitable channel for their plans of economic penetration in Afro-Asian countries! Such manoeuvres on their part have, however, already been exposed in Japan.

The preparations, which have already started on a wide basis, for the Conakry conference, will I think, have good results and will help further develop this movement in Japan.

—R. M. JAMBHEKAR

Peking, December 30, 1959

## U. P. ASSEMBLY FARCE

\* FROM PAGE 7

Of course, an attack on the "designs" of the Chinese and the "unpatriotic" activities of the Communists was the sine qua non of every one of the speeches; but Govind Sahai alone chose to take a sober and realistic stand.

He said, "Really-speaking there is not much scope for discussion on the issue, because even the Communists broadly support the foreign policy of the Union Government."

He added: "Border disputes were not a serious thing but the feeling in this country is that the spirit behind the Chinese claims and their incursions denotes something more than mere border incidents. It would however be suicidal to leave the path of negotiations. The country should also simultaneously prepare against internal disruption and step up economic consolidation."

Govind Sahai made much deserved fun of the Jan Sangh leader's newly acquired patriotism. He said that he (ex-Raja of Jaunpur) never allowed even the word patriotism to come on his lips when the British imperialists were ruling here. Then he found patriotism in collaborating with them against the people and their national movement.

About whether "we acted rightly or wrongly in accepting Chinese suzerainty over Tibet," he said, "it was a different matter..." Like Kripalani he believes that that was the original sin we committed!

### Chief Minister's Performance

He denounced the cry for war and said, "It is significant that no such cry was raised when Pakistan occupied — and occupies—a much larger territory of ours which it seized through acts of aggression..." and added, "I agree with those who say that there is a conspiracy among the reactionary forces in the country to exploit the tension created by China in its relations with India..."

\* SEE FACING PAGE

## LANDLORDS OBSTRUCT REFORM MEASURE

★ FROM H. K. VYAS

LAST year the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly had passed the Rajasthan Zamindari and Biswedari Abolition Act, which notwithstanding some weakness was on the whole a proper measure. The Act provided for the abolition of these last remaining intermediaries on land, which abound in the four District of Rajasthan namely Alwar, Bharatpur, Kotah and Ganganagar.

According to the provisions of the Act all land which was Khudkash with these Zamindars or Biswedars would remain with them with the only change that they would become Khatedar instead of their present designation. For this notional change a provision for payment of compensation to the extent of 25 per cent of the Land Revenue was made.

In respect of land which is under cultivating possession of some other tenant, that tenant would become the Khatedar. That tenant would have to pay the same rent to the Government which he was paying to the Bisweddar or Zamindar, for another ten years. The Government undertook to pay compensation to the Zamindars and Biswedars to the extent of eight times the land revenue for such land.

It is clear from the foregoing that the provision for continuing the same rent for the tenants which

they were paying to the Biswedars or Zamindars with the pegging limit of twice the land revenue, meant that the poor tenants were deprived of real and material advantage for ten years to come.

But despite this serious defect and some other defects the Act as enacted corresponded to the long felt need of reform in regard to this form of land relations, and so the measure was on the whole welcomed by the progressive opinion in the State including the State Committee of the Communist Party.

The President gave his assent and finally the State Government issued a notification that from November 15, all the Zamindaries and Biswedaries stand taken over by the State. Pursuant to this notification, the collectors of the various districts issued proclamations saying that as from that day no tenant should pay rent to any other person except the State, that no transfers should be made etc.

The notification of the enforcement of this measure raised two sets of problems. On the one hand the bureaucracy in actually implementing this measure started a round of extortions from the peasant. For example in Alwar District, the Patwaris and even the Tehsildars issued orders asking the tenants to pay twice the land revenue. This is in clear contravention of the Act because the

provision in the Act is that the tenant would pay the same rent as he was paying to the Biswedars with the ceiling limit of twice the land revenue. In a large number of cases the tenants were paying just a little more or the same amount as the land revenue. Even such tenants are being threatened that they will have to pay TWICE the land revenue. The idea is to frighten the poor kisans and extort large sums from them. Even from the smaller biswedars fabulous amounts are being extorted in the name of filling of forms and making entries.

On the other hand big landowners, particularly of the Ganganagar District raised a hue and cry against the enforcement and implementation of the law itself. A meeting was held in Ganganagar last month where a resolution asking the State Government not to implement this measure at least for Ganganagar District was passed.

In this campaign all the big landowners joined. The Swatantra Party people who had attended the Doraha convention and the Congressmen all got united on this platform. These big landed gentry raised the false cry that the poor owner who had purchased this land by the sweat of his labour is now being deprived of his rights.

The fact of the matter, however, was that the self-cultivating proprietor was only notionally being changed from an owner to a Khatedar, all other rights of his on his own cultivated land namely of improvement, sale, mortgage, transfer, and of inheritance would remain the same. Only in respect of land actually tilled by a tenant would he lose his right of collection of share or rent.

But hiding this fact a false alarm was raised. On this basis a deputation in numbers came to Jaipur and lobbied the Ministers.

### State Govt. Helps Sabotage

The State Government did nothing to ease the hardships on the poor tenants. It has so far issued no circular or order directing its officers to collect only that amount from the tenant which he was paying to the Biswedars or the Zamindars. But as far as the question of the big landed gentry is concerned, the State Government soon moved.

The Jagir Commissioner, who has been given similar powers to determine compensation in case of Zamindaries and Biswedaries, somehow was asked to issue orders staying the enforcement of this Act for Ganganagar District.

Taking advantage of this stay the landowners went and propagated that soon the whole Act would be withdrawn as far as Ganganagar is concerned. They started collecting the share and the rent from the tenants.

The State Government has now issued another notification fixing January 15 as the date by which these Zamindaries and Biswedaries would be taken over. This means that the Government has openly given the opportunity

to the big landed gentry to collect their rent and share from the poor tenant for one season more. It has given them time to manipulate entries and effect benami transfers and such things.

But that is not all. Behind this concession, some people suspect that there is a deep-set conspiracy. Some of the landowners of Ganganagar District have immediately after securing this concession rushed to Achauram. Their idea is to file a writ petition in the Rajasthan High Court challenging the validity of this Act, and somehow get a stay.

If that happens then the whole enforcement of this

law would get indefinitely postponed. It may be noted that the landowners could not have availed of this unless the actual enforcement of the Act was not put off to some future date as has now been done.

Whether this line was unofficially agreed between them and the Revenue Minister, while all these persons were lobbying last month in Jaipur is what some people suspect.

In any case the pressure of the landed vested interests has succeeded in at least putting off, for no reason whatsoever, the implementation of this much needed measure of reform.

## INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' CONFERENCE

From AJAY DAS GUPTA

THE Fourth General Conference of the All India Insurance Employees' Association took place in Kanpur on December 25 to 28, 1959. 252 delegates representing nearly 25,000 members from both Life and General wings of the industry participated in the Conference.

The Conference was inaugurated by the Minister for Defence, V. K. Krishna Menon. In his inaugural address he dwelt mainly on two subjects—the role of the democratic set-up in the growth of industries and development of economy and on India's foreign policy in the context of India-China border issue. He emphasised the need of paying the workers a living wage and associating the workers in management.

On the other issue he emphasised that there had been no aggression on India by China, though he was hurt by the attitude of China on the border question, which he considered to be unreasonable and incorrect. He reiterated the principles of Panchsheel and said that India would stick to this principle, whatever others might do.

Mayor of Kanpur, Ram Ratan Gupta, presided over the inaugural session. S. M. Bannerjee, M. P., Chairman of the Reception Committee and Chandra Sekhar Bose, General Secretary of the Association welcomed the guests and the delegates.

The report of the Working Committee which was discussed for full two days with more than 50 delegates participating in the discussion, surveyed the condition of the industry and the struggles of the employees, particularly the battle for bonus, present-ed the organisational position, analysing its strength and weaknesses and made a critical appraisal of the Pay Commission's report and the Government's labour policy and charted the tasks for the future.

The survey of the industry showed that the nationalised Life Insurance business had made all-round progress—new business reaching an all time high of Rs. 345 crores in place of Rs. 261 in peak pre-nationalisation year; life fund had gone up to Rs. 448 crores; expense ratio has gone down and interest yield of the investment had gone up. In a word the progress of the LIC gave a big rebuff to the calumniators of the public sector and the propagand-

ists of the free enterprise. At the same time the report noted the investment policy of the LIC was not fulfilling its role as a supplier of resources for the further development of public sector in industry, rather its insistence on giving facilities to private enterprises, which led to the Mundhra scandal, could not but be viewed with alarm.

But the report showed by juxtaposition that the general insurance industry in the private hands was in a paradoxical situation. While the overall premium income was going up all these years, many companies closed down and more than 1,000 employees had been retrenched during the last three years. The reason behind this is the development of monopoly and malpractices.

The report showed that the New India of the Tatas earn as much as 29.28 per cent of all premium income of all Indian companies, while 50 companies at the bottom earn only 4.33 per cent of it.

The analysis of the Pay Commission's recommendations, the report noted with consternation that the accepted norms of nutrition, of minimum wage etc., has been thrown overboard, workload increased, leave facilities curtailed and new attacks have come on trade union rights.

In this background the Conference decided to frame a new charter of demands for the Life Insurance employees. A sub-committee has been formed to prepare a draft charter, which would be circulated among employees. The Conference also demanded reopening the question of promotion rules, while resenting very much the LIC's remark that this was not a matter for negotiations with the unions. Progressive amendments were suggested in the Staff Regulations.

On the resolution on the Pay body's report the Conference urged the Government to sit around the table with the representatives of the employees to find out mutually acceptable positions.

The Conference demanded immediate nationalisation of general insurance business and decided to launch a movement, which includes mass petition to the Prime Minister, on this demand.

S. M. Bannerjee, M. P. and Madan Mohan presided over the delegates' session. Rajani Patel and Saroj Chowdhury have been elected President and General Secretary.



# AFTER THE NOWGONG DEFEAT

★ From Madhusudan Bhattacharyya

SHILLONG, January 8

Almost immediately after the Congress defeat in the recent by-election to the Assam Assembly from the Nowgong constituency, Chief Minister Bimalprasad Chaliha said in a Press interview that it was factional quarrel inside the Congress that had been responsible for Communist victory and Congress defeat.

THIS was hardly an analysis of the by-election result. Still, the statement had significance insofar as it was for the first time that no less a man than the Chief Minister made a candid confession of the fierce factional scramble inside the ruling party in Assam.

## So-Called Enquiry

Secondly, this statement of the Chief Minister set the stage for the institution of an enquiry into the causes of Congress defeat in the by-election. A three-man Committee headed by a trusted man of New Delhi has since been appointed and the committee has already interviewed over a hundred persons.

Though ostensibly enquiring into the causes of Congress defeat, political circles here do not have the slightest doubt about the purpose of this committee. They believe, and not without reason, that it is aimed at suppressing the anti-ministerial faction inside the Congress leadership of the State.

Not unlike in other states, factional rivalry inside the Assam Congress leadership is nothing new. But never before was it so fierce, so naked and so determined as to-day.

This factional scramble began to assume an acute nature soon after the second general election and one phase of it was over with the downfall of the Medhi Cabinet. The anti-Medhi group, headed by a number of stalwarts, pulled down Medhi's Cabinet and forced him to retreat.

But his power and influence was so formidable that this group did not feel secure until Medhi was removed far from Assam. New Delhi obliged this group by appointing Medhi Governor of so remote a State as Madras.

It was quite obvious that the new group had the blessing of the High Command. Quite a few of the High Command's trusted hands, including the former speaker Deva Kanta Bara (since defeated in the by-election) and the present Chief Minister Chaliha made their way into the leadership of this group.

Almost all the ministers of the Medhi Cabinet, except one, were excluded from the Cabinet of Chaliha. Chief Minister Chaliha struck a good bargain with the Eastern India Tribal Union (EITU), advocates of a separate Hills state, and formed a coalition with it. It was a unique example of a marriage of convenience, the two part-

ners holding two diametrically opposite views. There was not the slightest programmatic understanding. In fact, the only common ground between the two parties seemed to be a desire to share the loaves and fishes of office and they decided to work jointly in the parliamentary sphere.

Like-wise, the Chief Minister secured the solid support of what is known as the "Muslim block" inside the Congress. This block held the balance and in it were found persons who have had the reputation of having been active organisers of the Muslim League in pre-partition days, with the credit of organising communal riots.

With a view to consolidating the position of his faction Chief Minister Chaliha gave considerable concessions to this group and had to make room for them inside his Cabinet.

But for all this the Chaliha group still did not feel very secure.

To rout the anti-Chaliha group, just ousted from power, many of the none-too-secret scandals of the ousted group were dug up and given publicity in various ways. In course of time the new Chief Minister and his followers consolidated their position.

## Defeat For Chaliha's Group

It was, therefore, a surprise to some that the anti-Chaliha group should again seize the Congress organisation in this State. In the first week of November last a stalwart of anti-Chaliha group and an ousted minister of the Medhi Cabinet, Siddhinath Sharma was elected APCC President by defeating the nominee of the Ministerial group by a margin of eight votes.

This was an obvious sign that the anti-ministerial group was gaining strength inside the Congress organisation and this naturally alarmed the Chief Minister and his followers who began to look out for an opportunity to deal a crushing blow to the opponents. The defeat in the Nowgong by-election provided them with such an opportunity.

It may also be mentioned here that ever since they were ousted from office the anti-Chaliha group had been trying to retrieve their position by assailing the nakedly opportunist alliance of Chaliha with the EITU. The alliance had raised very many pertinent questions in the rank of the Congress as well as among the people of the State in general.

At the same time the anti-Chaliha group conducted a systematic campaign to rouse chauvinistic passion of the people to beat the Chaliha group with. All these, it seems, have ultimately yielded good harvest for the anti-ministerial group.

Immediately after the Nowgong by-election where the Congress candidate was a strong pillar of the ministerial group, charges and counter-charges were flung against each other. Now they started washing their dirty linen in public. The ministerial group alleged that the anti-ministerial group which controlled the Congress

organisation did not sincerely and seriously participate in the election campaign, they rather sabotaged it.

The other group retorted that it was the opportunist alliance of the ministerial group and their concessions to communal elements—whose ring-leaders were present at Nowgong during the election—that was responsible for the defeat.

The ministerial group which had already bestirred itself induced New Delhi to institute an enquiry and at the same time tried to rope in some elements who had fallen from grace of the anti-Chaliha group. Thus, the out-going APCC Chief Mahendra Mohan Choudhury who had relinquished AICC general secretaryship to enter State politics and who at one time aspired for chief ministership was elected Speaker of the State Assembly. This is considered Chaliha group's net gain. Some more shuffling of the cabinet is understood to be in the offing.

Meanwhile Chaliha Cabinet's Education Minister Devaswar Sharma became a suspect. Devaswar Sharma was the only member of the former Medhi Cabinet who had found a place in the Chaliha Cabinet. Initially he was the Finance Minister. He was also an aspirant for chief ministership but could not mobilise enough support for

himself. He is considered too clever to be trusted by any group.

Soon enough the Finance portfolio was snatched away from him and was given to Fakhruddin AH Ahmed.

Recently, after the Nowgong by-election, some members of the Congress Parliamentary Party, where Chief Minister Chaliha still seems to command the majority, raised a demand, reportedly at the instance of the defeated Congress candidate Sri Deva Kanta Barua, for the resignation or removal of Devaswar Sharma.

## Minister—Without Portfolio

One of their charges against him is that while all the other departments helped the Congress election campaign, the Education Department did not. Sharma at first was willing to resign. But then he changed his opinion. He said that he would rather be removed than resign. Since an enquiry has been going on, he maintained, he would not resign pending the findings of that enquiry.

But the Chief Minister would not take any risks. He has deprived Sri Sharma of all his portfolios and has made him a minister without portfolio.

## Death-Pit At Damua

S. D. Mukherji, President and S. K. Sanjay, General Secretary, Samyukta Khadan, Mazdoor Sangh have issued the following statement on the mishap in Demua Colliery:

It is shocking to hear of the gruesome entrapment and death of sixteen workers in Damua colliery under the management of the C.P. Syndicate. The memorials are still fresh of the tragic inundation of the adjacent Newton Chakli Mine disaster in 1954. The Court of Inquiry held under the Chairmanship of Justice V. R. Sen and its findings should have been seriously taken note of by the management and the staff of the Inspectorate of Mines.

In spite of the several conferences held at the instance of the Govt. of India to ensure the safety measures in the mines and the particularly underground, the management-inspectorate unholy alliance set at naught all the measures meant to show a little regard for the lives of the hundreds of workers working by day and night to increase production of coal to fulfill the targets of industrial output in the country.

## Callous Neglect Continues

The descriptions available to-date of this latest tragedy speaks of almost the same negligence and callousness of the management that is interested only in minting money at the expense of hundreds of poor lives working underground in the coal-mines. The necessary precaution towards the abandoned mine and the caution given by the workers working on the boring being ignored have once again brought out this disaster.

The subsequent reports of the enquiries in Bihar and Bengal fields of the collieries and participated by the worker's representatives on behalf of the Indian Mine Workers' Federation have also brought

to the fore that the top bosses of the Mines Inspectorate have been glossing over the shortcomings just for the sake of securing a few jobs for their sons and son-in-laws by the profit-hunting and greedy colliery owners and managements.

Incidentally this management which day in and day out claims to be one of the efficient ones in this part of the State, has been conspicuous by its greater denial of facility to the workers, greater indulgence in petty politics and more inefficiency in looking after the productive interests of the country. This was manifested by the closure of the Major Colliery just about three years ago from to-day.

We demand that a proper judicial enquiry be held and full facilities to conduct the enquiry at the cost of the management be assured to all the participants and particularly the workers' representatives. Till the closure lastly full average wages and interim relief for the closure period be paid immediately to the workers.

## THE SWASTIKA APPEARS AGAIN

Starting from Cologne on Christmas Day, sweeping the whole of West Germany and West Berlin like a wild fire, the epidemic of swastika-daubing and anti-Jewish and pro-Nazi slogan-writing has spread all over the West's "free world" during the last two-three weeks. From its centres—New York, London and Paris—the cancer has spread as far as Melbourne and other far-flung outposts of the Western civilisation.

THE sheer extent and speed with which this phenomenon has spread is staggering. The present wave started when the newly rebuilt Cologne synagogue was found painted with "Juden Raus" (Jews, Get Out) and with Hitler's swastika sign.

"The Cologne incident seemed to act as a signal", wrote New York Times Bonn correspondent. It was immediately followed by dozens of acts of vandalism not merely against Jewish synagogues and cemeteries but also against Catholic churches.

Outside West Germany, reports of such incidents poured in from the United States, Italy, Sweden, Norway, Holland, Greece and Australia, London, Glasgow and Manchester, Devon, Bristol, York, Liverpool, and Dartford in Britain, Vienna, Parma (Northern Italy), Stockholm all reported swastika-daubing incidents.

New York police reported that a big swastika had been daubed on the side of a synagogue on New York's Fifth Avenue. In nearby Newark, New Jersey, a butcher found a big swastika and the words "Cheap Jew" scrawled across his shop window on New Year's Day.

Day after day as reports of incidents filled the press, protests mounted from all over. What had for years been blacked out or played down by the Western press could no longer be covered up. (For instance, the largest trade union of West Germany, the Metal Workers' Union, estimated that one in

ten—176 out of 1700—Jewish cemeteries had been desecrated between 1948 and 1958).

The beast of Nazism that had so long been carefully nursed in West Germany, keeping itself thus far aloof from the glare of publicity, now found itself strong enough to come out in the open, with its friends and sympathisers all over the world hailing it.

Adenauer, the West German Chancellor—nicknamed the Fox for his cunning—tried first to put the blame on "Communists", then wailed the press had been exaggerating the significance of these anti-Jewish incidents, finally decided to take some halfhearted action against the culprits, assuring the world that "everything would be done to bring those responsible to book."

## West Germans Protest

Protest inside West Germany and in West Berlin mounted. West Germany's six million strong Confederation of Trade Unions called for a Parliamentary Commission of Inquiry into the "outrages. It accused the Bonn Government and the West German courts of "dangerous forbearance and clemency". The Social Democratic Party joined in the protest.

In West Berlin where police first banned anti-Nazi banners a 20,000-strong protest demonstration came out on January 8 called by the Social Democratic Youth Organisation Falken. They were

## INTERNATIONAL EVENTS



Writing on the Wall in Western Europe.

joined by trade unionists and carried banners proclaiming "Stop racial hatred", "No Nazis in lecture halls".

Survivors of Nazi brutalities from all over denounced the manifestations of Nazi revival. From Poland, for instance, wartime resistance fighters and survivors of death camps demanded the stamping out of the menace and called this outburst "a logical consequence of the feverish rebuilding of West German imperialism."

"Everyone who witnessed the barbarous practices under the sign of the swastika, who got to know its beastlike face in Oswiecim (Auschwitz), Majdanek and hundreds of Nazi extermination centres... clearly realises they are not just the sporadic extravagances of irresponsible youngsters", they said.

## Western Responsibility

What had been happening in West Germany and West Berlin all these years—the revival of

German militarism and Nazism and all the accompanying features of anti-semitism and racial hatred—had been directly sponsored by U.S. and other imperialists who in post-war returned to the game of "rolling back Communism" with the help of Hitlerite remnants. They bear full responsibility for it. It was under their protection and with their help and encouragement that all plans for denazification were sabotaged in West Germany and war criminals let loose again.

Hitler's close underlings like Oberlander now sit in Adenauer's cabinet. Hitler's war-machine—the Wehrmacht—has been revived. Today it is staffed exclusively by Hitler's officers. Similarly, the West German judiciary too is largely staffed by Hitler's judges, its Foreign Office by Hitler's diplomats. The same is true of its educational system, so that the new generation too has been systematically poisoned.

It was as part of this revival of Hitler fascism that German Communist Party—the Party which sacrificed most in fighting Hitler all through—was banned in 1955 and along with other fighters for peace continues to be persecuted right to this day.

Nazi propaganda in the form of books, periodicals and papers is flooding West Germany today. Records of Nazi songs and Hitler's speeches are freely sold.

The crimes of Hitler fascism need to be told over and over again. During the last war, no less than six million Jewish people were murdered by Hitler's gangs. In Germany alone, more than 500,000 Jews were slaughtered in the gas chambers and concentration camps. Out of the pre-Hitler population of 600,000 Jews in West Germany, only 30,000 have managed to survive.

What they did to the rest of the German people can be imagined from the fact that on the eve of the War, in 1939, Hitler had 300,000 German anti-fascists in jail. Of these 28,000 were shot, by court decisions alone, during the war. In course of the war, to keep himself from toppling, in 1944 alone Hitler arrested 500,000 Germans for "disloyal" activities.

This apart from the killing of seventy lakh Soviet citizens and the mass genocide of Poles and other "inferior races", driving into slavery of tens of thousands of Frenchmen and others, destruction of numerous peaceful British cities.

unforgivable crimes, even the New York Times now admits, the present generation of West Germans knows pretty little. Repeated surveys have shown that most German school children know little or nothing of what Hitler and the Nazis did, "except perhaps, that Hitler built Autobahns and wiped out unemployment." This silence in the schools has been compounded by an even tighter silence in the homes.

Add to this the Nazi propaganda that is openly carried on as mentioned above. And you get the inevitable picture of reviving anti-semitism, militarism and the drive towards the East—blessed and subsidised, of course, by the West.

## Flicks And Krupps Flourish

Adenauer's supporters are the very same monopolies which built up Hitler. On Fredrick Flick's 75th birthday last year, he sent a message referring to the "great and amazing life of achievement, in long and self-sacrificing toil" of this man "whose factories armed Hitler's armies through the sweat—and often the blood—of slave labour." (New Statesman)

"The Goerings and Goebels" perished; the Krupps flourished under Adenauer's regime, writes the New Statesman. Tried after the war as a war criminal, Krupp had built his billion dollar fortune during the war on the slave labour of 12,000 Jews. The same Krupp is again head of a vast industrial empire and in possession of assets estimated at \$53 million.

It is this Germany where racial hatred and anti-semitism are so well-entrenched that seeks to annex the other Germany that has purged itself of Nazism and gives no quarter to anti-semitism. It dreams of establishing the world empire that the Kaiser and Hitler failed to achieve. It is now being armed with nuclear arms by the West.

It is not without significance that the symptoms of Nazi-Fascist revival—the anti-Jewish outrages—have come up there at a time when relaxation of international tension has proceeded to a certain degree and the end of the cold war has become a real possibility. The anti-Jewish outrages are the West German monopolists' warning to the world that they propose to fight this relaxation of tension to the very bitter end.

—ZIAUL HAQ (January 13)

## Soviet Leaders Coming To India

MOSCOW, January 12

V. OROSHILOV, Kozlov and Furtseva, distinguished Soviet leaders and all three of them members of the Presidium of the CPSU are to arrive in India next week to take part in the Republic Day celebrations; to meet Indian leaders and to acquaint themselves with the life and problems of our land.

The Head of the Soviet State or more precisely Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, Kliment Efremovich Voroshilov, son of an ordinary worker, has devoted himself to the cause of the Socialist Revolution since 1896 when he was only a lad of 15.

Among the delegates to the 21st Congress of the CPSU Voroshilov was the oldest member of the Party since 1903 and on February 4 he celebrates his 79th birthday.

First Deputy Premier of the USSR, 52-year old Frol Romanovich Kozlov, son of a poor landless peasant, started work at the age of 15 as a textile worker in the small town of Kasimov. Three years later, he became member of the CPSU. He studied in a workers' faculty to become a metallurgical engineer and later served as Secretary of Leningrad Party Organisation. He is likely to interest



Ekaterina Furtseva



Frol Kozlov

himself in questions of India's economic development especially industrialisation.

Ekaterina Alekseyevna Furtseva, the only woman member of the Presidium of the Party is the youngest of the three. Born in 1910 she is a member of the Party since 1930. Apart from questions concerning women and their problems, she takes keen interest in cultural matters.

This visit and news that Khrushchov has accepted our Prime Minister's invitation to spend some time in India on his way to Indonesia in Feb-

ruary has aroused great interest here and it is felt that his talks and the preceding visit of three distinguished Soviet leaders are bound to result in further important advance in the development of friendly Indo-Soviet relations and cooperation in all fields.

It is learnt here that Khrushchov is expected to visit Bhilai, the Agriculture Fair and the Suratgarh farm in Rajasthan which has been equipped with Soviet machines.

—Hasood Ali Khan

Well done, dockers—now you need a cup of tea!

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# WEST BENGAL'S GIFT TO KERALA

● From Jnan Bikash Moitra

The people of West Bengal have responded magnificently to the call of the State Council of the Communist Party to contribute their mite to the Kerala election fund. West Bengal's quota was Rs. 50,000 but it has already given Rs. 76,257 and it will contribute more.

ONLY three months ago, West Bengal was devastated by the most disastrous floods in its history. Yet thousands of people from all walks of life—workers, office employees, peasants, students, teachers, professors, doctors, lawyers, businessmen, housewives and even children—came forward to contribute to the election fund.

The mass campaign for the fund started rather late; yet the enthusiasm was so unprecedented that practically the entire amount—Rs. 26,256 more than the quota—was collected in just a week's time.

And behind the collections lie scores of touching stories of West Bengal's love for and confidence in the people and the Communist Party of Kerala.

Two children of the family with whom E. M. S. Namboodiripad put up during his stay in Calcutta handed over to him their precious savings from their tiffin money. The son of Mahavir Singh, manager of the Hindi Swadhinata, contributed Rs. 5 out of his weekly tiffin allowance of Rs. 1. A newly married girl gave Rs. 50 out of the cash gifts she had received at her wedding.

Employees of commercial and mercantile offices in Dalhousie Square area deposited over Rs. 3,000 and 200 employees of the Bata Company's City Sales Office contributed more than Rs. 200 in one day. The workers of the Burn Co. donated about Rs. 300 and the workers of five bidi factories in Bankura district gave Rs. 145.

The Calcutta District Council of the Communist Party topped the roll of honour with its contribution of over Rs. 44,000. The 24-Parganas District Council came next with Rs. 9,416. The Kerala Janadhipatya Samrasan Samity, an organisation of democratic-minded Malayalee residents of Calcutta, handed in Rs. 6,005 as the first instalment of its contribution.

Memorable scenes were witnessed at the offices of the State

Council and the Calcutta District Council of the Party between 12 noon and 2 p.m. on January 9. Comrades and sympathisers queued up to deposit their collections. The rush was so heavy that a counter had to be opened at the Maidan itself when the mass meeting was in progress. The amount deposited there in less than an hour was Rs. 5,244.87.

On arrival EMS. was garlanded by the Dum Dum Committee of the Party with notes to the value of Rs. 1001. Later in the evening at a reception of the Marwari Students' organisation he was presented with a purse of Rs. 1,000 by the Rajasthan Yuvak Sangh.

It goes without saying that but for the magnificent work of our comrades and friends such a big sum could not have been collected within such a short period. Apart from collecting the funds from the people, hundreds of them gave their one day's wage.



Muzaffar Ahmad handing over the cheque to E. M. S.

## PROTEST AGAINST BLACK BILL GROWS

A MASS protest movement against the West Bengal Government's Bill to control processions and meetings throughout the State has already begun to take shape.

The 150,000 strong Calcutta rally on January 9 on the occasion of E. M. S. Namboodiripad's visit unanimously adopted a resolution strongly condemning the Bill.

Pointing out that the proposed measure is an attack on the fundamental right of association and assembly guaranteed to the citizens of India by the Indian Constitution, the resolution says that "this black and barbarous Bill is meant to crush the democratic movement which has so often baffled the attempts of the Government to carry out its anti-people policy. It is a prelude to the imposition of fresh burdens on the people,

such as increases in fares, increases in taxes, increases in working hours, etc., and is designed to make West Bengal a paradise for hoarders, black-marketéers and corrupt Ministers."

The resolution points out that the Congress Government of West Bengal is hoping that in the prevailing atmosphere in which the India-China border dispute is being deliberately magnified and a war hysteria is being worked up this Black Bill will get a smooth passage.

Appealing to all sections of people "to oppose this move in every possible way", the resolution expresses the confidence that "the democratic movement of West Bengal will be able to face this challenge effectively and successfully prevent the passing of this Bill which seeks to make a farce of our Constitution."

In a statement, Harekrishna Konar, M.L.A., Secretary of the State Kisan Sabha, has appealed to all units of the Kisan Sabha and to all democratic organisations to send their protests to the Home Secretary, West Bengal Government by January 31. He has further asked all Kisan Sabha workers to see that letters and resolutions opposing the Bill are sent by prominent people and different organisations in their respective areas.

Amar Basu, M.L.A., Chairman of the West Bengal Committee of the Forward Bloc, the Secretaries of the RCPI, RSP, State Students' Federation, Primary Teachers' Association, Students Unions of Bangabasi and Surendranath Colleges and Secretaries of several trade unions have issued statements condemning the measure.

The Executive Committee of the powerful Tramway Workers' Union has adopted a resolution strongly protesting

against the proposed legislation and urging upon all tramway workers, irrespective of their political affiliations, to take part in the mass signature campaign against the sinister attempt to curtail their rights.

A meeting of about 2,000 workers of the Burn Co., Howrah, appealed to the entire working class to build up a powerful movement against the Bill.

An extended meeting of the Executive Committee of Thakurdas Surekha Iron Foundry Workers' Union warned the Government that "if it pushes through the Bill with the help of its brute majority in the Assembly, the working class will resist it with all the strength at its command."

The Executive Committees of Texmaco workers Union, and Rubber Products and Moulding Co. workers unions have also adopted resolutions condemning the Bill.

## STAY-IN STRIKE

IN response to the call of the Coordination Committee of the Associations of Central Government employees in West Bengal, about 20,000 employees went on a stay-in-strike for half-an-hour on January 9 in protest against the Government's order making three Saturdays in a month full working days and curtailment of leave facilities.

Employees of over 40 Central Government offices in Calcutta went in mass deputations to their departmental heads. Many wore badges which read: "We Protest Against the Increase in Working Hours."

Over 6,000 employees at the head office of the Eastern Railway observed five minutes' silence as a mark of protest.

## Garhwal MLAs Discount Panic

MEETING Sarat Chand Ramola, Congress MLA from Tehri Garhwal I asked him: "Are the people in the border area panicky?" His reply: Not in the last."

"Is there any evidence of Chinese incursion?" Again a straight answer, "No! There was no such occurrence in the areas I visited."

To my further question, "When did you visit the border last?" he said "I had been to Nelang pass area in Tehri Garhwal district on December 10 and 11, 1959."

About the feelings of local Congressmen his opinion was, "Local Congressmen agree with what I spoke in the Assembly. No statement was issued by them demanding any immediate action."

Many other prominent MLAs and a few responsible persons in the U.P. Government whom I met were not prepared to commit themselves if the story was to go in their name. One or two of them were, however, frank enough to tell me that as their position in the U.P. Congress was not sound, they would not like to be involved in this "meaningless controversy."

"Did you visit any border areas recently," I asked a responsible member of the U.P. Government. "Yes! I visited the upper Garhwal regions very recently," was his answer. Another question I shot at him, "Are the people panicky there?" He answered "So far as my information goes there is no panic in the border areas."

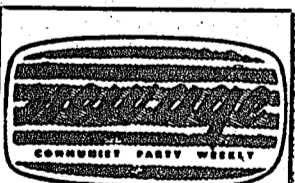
Lucknow was quite agog with stories and on checking up one of the most persistent among these, I found it to be pretty true.

Some of the Garhwali MLAs had kicked up quite a fuss about "Communist infiltration" in their areas and the need to spend large sums on development work there to fight back this "menace."

The reason for this furore? It seems that this was the only way to get the benighted U.P. Congress leaders to agree to spend even some paltry sums in this backward and undeveloped region.

One fellow Garhwali, far removed from any Communist sympathies, actually told me: "Why don't you get your Party more active in my area? We can then get Sampurnanand to throw us a few tibbits also."

—V. S. Nautiyal



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# Strive Harder For Peace

## INDIAN MPS APPEAL TO PARLIAMENTARIANS ALL OVER THE WORLD

250 Members of the Indian Parliament and many Members of State Legislatures through the Committee of Indian Parliamentarians for Peace have sent "warm fraternal greetings to all fellow Parliamentarians all over the world for their happiness and prosperity in the New Year and the New Decade", and called upon them to strive harder for Peace. The message says:

AS 1960 opens, the news that the Summit Conference will take place in Paris in May has filled men and women in every country with new hopes of an early end of the cold war and of agreements which can rapidly bring about a world without war weapons.

This accord between the heads of the Governments of the four Great Powers has been reached following a number of welcome developments: the exchange of visits of leading statesmen of the Western Powers and the Soviet Union, culminating in the visit of the Soviet Prime Minister to the U.S.A. and the signing of the historic Eisenhower-Khrushchov joint communique; new proposals for general and complete disarmament put forward by leading Governments, the adoption by a unanimous vote in the United Nations of a resolution on disarmament jointly sponsored by the U.S.A. and the Soviet Union, and the setting up of the ten-nation Disarmament Committee; scientific achievements of a miraculous nature which demonstrate clearly the immense power which man possesses today for co-prosperity.

The Committee of Indian Parliamentarians for Peace places on record its great appreciation of the splendid part which the peoples of the world have played in bringing about all these welcome developments which have created the present atmosphere in which the decision to convene a Summit Conference has been taken. The force of public opinion for peace has been a factor of the utmost significance in removing obstacles in the way of the convening of a meeting of the Big Four.

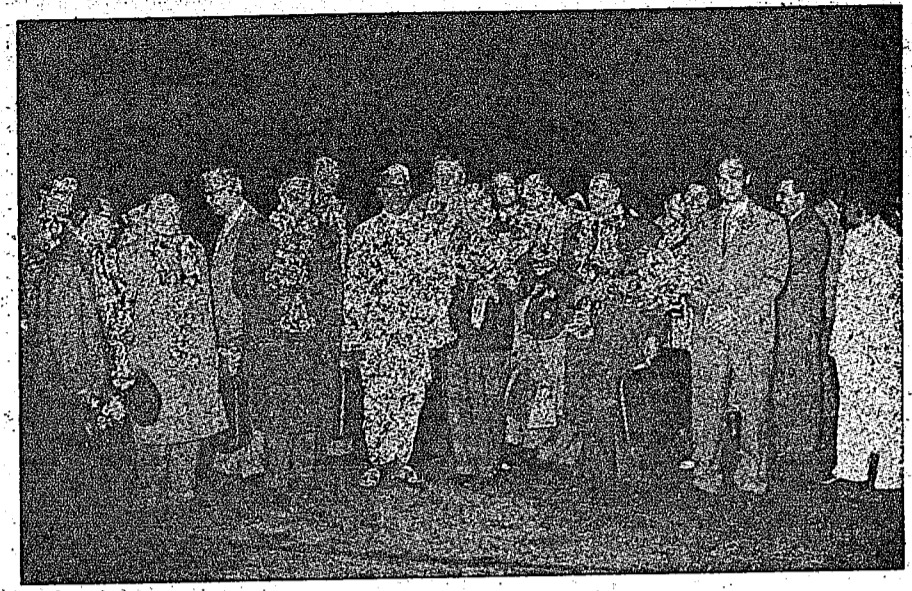
Parliamentarians in several countries have participated actively in the world-wide efforts for peace, and we extend our hearty congratulations to them.

Several National Parliaments have adopted resolutions and appeals for peace, disarmament and the banning of nuclear weapons and their tests—a policy which has been advocated from the very beginning by the Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru and his Government. Individual Parliamentarians and groups of them have from time to time raised their voices in an effective manner for concrete measures for the reduction of tensions.

All these initiatives have contributed in influencing public opinion as well as the Governments concerned.

The work for peace is, however, by no means over. Public opinion will have to assert itself still more forcibly to ensure the success of the objectives of the Summit Conference and the arrival at agreements for general and complete disarmament with an adequate system of inspection and controls, for the settlement of all disputes through negotiations and by peaceful means, and for peaceful co-existence and the banishment of aggressive policies and of war.

Believing that Parliamentarians, as elected representatives of the people, have a special responsibility today to stand in the front ranks of the movement for relaxation of tension, the Committee of Indian Parliamentarians for Peace appeals to the Parliamentarians of the world to work harder than ever to ensure that genuine and acceptable agreements are arrived at the Summit in Paris next May.



## CZECHOSLOVAK DELEGATION

ON the invitation of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Ananthasayanam Ayyangar, who led an Indian Parliamentary Delegation to Czechoslovakia last June an eight-member Czechoslovak Parliamentary Delegation arrived in Bombay by CSA jet-airline on January 3, 1960. Present at Santa Cruz airport on the occasion were the Speaker of the Bombay Legislative Assembly, Government Officials, Members of the Diplomatic Corps and Czechoslovak Officials in India. Seen in the photo (centre) is Zdenek Fierlinger, Chairman of the Czechoslovak National Assembly and one time Prime Minister and lately Deputy Prime Minister; on his right is S. L. Silam, Speaker of the Bombay Legislative Assembly; at right are seen Mr. Jan Suchanek, Czechoslovak Consul General and his wife. Fifth from left is Charge d'Affaires Jan Pec. The delegation after a short stay in New Delhi is at present touring the country.

## LABOUR FACED WITH NEW OFFENSIVE

\* FROM PAGE 2  
National Trade Union Congress (INTUC) remained silent.

The working class will watch how far this reaffirmation is acted upon by the Governments—Central and State—as also by the employers.

Since the Code of Discipline was enforced, not a single union affiliated to AITUC has been recognised, though this was one of the main conditions put forth by the AITUC for acceptance of the Code.

On the other hand, recognition has been withdrawn from one of the AITUC unions in Bombay and the Union Labour Ministry has failed even to suspend the orders till the appeal to the Union Labour Minister is disposed off.

Rationalisation has been and is going on in various factories and the provision of the model agreement decided upon in the 15th Indian Labour Conference are openly violated.

The Railway, Defence and Communication Ministries have refused to ratify the Code of Discipline to this day. These are some of the examples of violation of tripartite agreements by the Government.

prove that they have violated the Code more than the workers.

After the 15th Indian Labour Conference in July 1957, a new turn had taken place in the history of these tripartite meetings in that some agreements beneficial to the workers were reached. This was a welcome sign.

For the last one year, specially in the Indian Labour Conference and its Standing Labour Committee, the main job of workers' representatives has been reduced to opposing the new measures proposed to curb the trade union rights of the working class and/or attack their living standards. The proposals which are beneficial to the working class are opposed by the employers very often supported by the vocal section of the State Governments. More often they are successful in their attempt, at least to maintain the status quo or delay such proposals considerably.

They put forward new proposals against the interest of working class and it requires the united voice of the workers' representatives not to get these passed.

In this meeting also, the suggestion to amend Section 24(3)

of the Industrial Disputes Act, providing that a strike or lockout declared in consequence of an illegal action of the employer or workers shall not be deemed to be illegal, was shelved on the opposition of the employers and some State Governments.

Similarly, revival of the Labour Appellate Tribunal was opposed by the INTUC and some State Governments, specially Punjab and Madhya Pradesh. The idea was supported by the AITUC, HMS, UTUC, Assam State Government, the employers and the Union Labour Ministry.

Ultimately it was decided to maintain the status quo and try for screening appeals to higher courts by the respective screening bodies of employers and workers.

An amendment in the Code of Discipline to make it compulsory to give seven days' notice for strike and lockout was dropped on the opposition of workers' representatives. The AITUC maintained that unless the working of the Code of Discipline is reviewed, no amendment should be made.

On the Labour Policy of the Third Plan, as against the policy of wage-freeze of the Government and wage-cut policy of employers, the

workers' representatives demanded wages to be linked up with increase in national income and productivity, and dearness allowance to be raised on increase in cost of living index.

On rationalisation, the AITUC representatives maintained that as the model agreement has not been implemented by the employers and the Government has been a helpless spectator, the provisions of the agreement should be given statutory status. The workers' representatives were more or less united in this approach. The organisations have been asked to send their viewpoints to the Union Labour Ministry by the end of January and the next meeting of the Committee on February 12 and 13 will resume discussions.

The INTUC took the stand that recommendations of Wage Boards should not be modified by Government while the AITUC held that normally this might be agreeable but in exceptional cases, Government should modify the recommendations, if they adversely affect the workers. In no case should modifications be made in favour of employers.

Such were some of the highlights of this latest meeting of the Standing Labour Committee.

NEW AGE

PAGE FIFTEEN



If you ask any comrade in Quilon he will find it difficult to say which of the 14 seats the Communist Party is going to lose. But nobody has any doubt that the Party is going to retain the ten seats it won last time and "We are certainly making a bid for the four seats which the Congress won."

AND then you are presented with a number of facts, common to the entire District which the comrades think will all work in favour of the Party.

There are 8.8 lakhs voters in the 12 constituencies—two are double-member—of this District. Seventy thousand of the 16 lakh population are coir workers, 50,000 cashew workers, 15,000 handloom weavers, 16,000 plantation workers, 25,000 workers in ceramics, tile, aluminium starch, engineering, textile and other industries, a total of 176,000 workers.

In addition are the nearly two-lakh agricultural workers. Excepting a small section of officials, traders, businessmen, etc. the rest are mainly peasants or dependent on agriculture.

There is no section of the people which has not been benefited by the Communist Ministry.

### Strength of Organisation

Any Government could have done all this but the people remember that neither the Congress in ten years of its rule nor the PSP in ten months even bothered to make an attempt to think of these problems.

And to organise all the new sections which have come forward and bring them to the polls, a much stronger Party has entered the elections this time. At the time of the general elections in 1957, the Party had 6,000 members in this district, now it has 12,000.

In many areas where there was no Party organisation as in some parts of the Pathanamthitta, Ranni, Trikkadavoor and Karunagapally constituencies, there are very strong Party units now.

There is a kisan sabha with 25,000 members and four hundred trade unions affiliated to the AITUC.

This general picture is confirmed and is filled in with details when you begin a survey of the constituencies.

Communist and Communist-supported Independent candidates are contesting all the 14 seats, the RSP is in 13 seats, the Congress in 8, PSP in 6 and there are eight independents. There is straight contest in only one constituency.

Though the RSP has put up its largest number of candidates in this district, only in three constituencies—Quilon, Karunagapally and Trikkadavoor—where they have created triangular contests can they be said to be a force even to some extent.

Quilon was won for the Congress by A. A. Rahim last time, the RSP candidate, T. K. Divakaran had come second and the Communist candidate was only a third. But those who saw the inauguration of the RSP's election campaign here are convinced that the situation is radically different now. For any party it was a shabby show, much more so for the RSP which claims a trade union base here.

The main contest thus is between the Congress candidate A. A. Rahim, and the Communist candidate Dr. P. K. Sukumaran. Dr. Sukumaran has far more influence in the constituency and Rahim is trying to make up for that with money which he can spend in plenty

being a very near relation of one of the biggest cashew bosses of the area.

A lot of discomfiture has been caused to the Congress candidate by the Independent candidature of Smt. Thankamma Malik. She was till recently a prominent office-bearer of the Congress and a leading light of the "liberation struggle". But the factional struggles which began around the selection of Congress candidates led to the flinging of charges and counter-charges.

The result is that Thankamma Malik decided to contest the Quilon seat as an independent and the Congress candidate is very much afraid she will cut into his votes.

Karunagapally, the second second constituency, where the triangular contest will to a certain extent affect the election result, was also won by the Congress last time.

Here the RSP candidate is again Baby John, a trade union boss of the American type who has minted money out of a labour contract. The RSP claims 7,000 workers here under its leadership and even if they and all their families vote for the RSP candidate, he should win the seat. This did not happen last time nor will it happen this time.

The explanation is that many of these workers are in the RSP-led union only because that is the only way they can get work as long as the RSP boss has the labour contract. They are so dissatisfied with this situation that they are only waiting for the opportunity of the elections to express their wrath.

Additionally many of the RSP trade unionists themselves have no love for this trade union boss and that is already affecting his election campaign though he is spending plenty of money made out of his labour contract.

The Congress candidate here is the same person who won last time and he has earned the displeasure of his community by opposing the measure which the Communist-led Government had initiated for the benefit of the Ezhava community. The Congress itself has not taken this constituency seriously as was evidenced when it showed its willingness to concede it to the RSP when talks were going on between the two parties.

This constituency lies in a highly populated coastal area and has 8,000 coir workers, 3,000 cashew workers, 5,000 workers in the mineral industry, 5,000 fishermen.

The Communist Party has gained in this area by, apart from all the other measures, providing an elementary necessity in the coastal areas—drinking water.

Another measure the Communist Government had taken was to fight the menace of soil erosion. When a 16-lakh rupees scheme was begun to build a wall against the sea, the Congress leaders of the area had ridiculed it saying it was throwing stones into the sea. The voters are reminding them about it today.

The third such constituency is double-member Trikkadavoor. Here last time both the reservation candidates had won and the Communist candidate had polled the largest number of votes in the general seat.

There are 13,000 cashew

# ELECTION SCENE IN QUILON

workers, 10,000 coir workers, 3,000 workers in other industries, 10,000 agricultural workers and 3,000 fishermen in this constituency which has a total of 116,148 voters.

The Communist Party, Congress and RSP are all working in cashew workers' trade unions, but Communist influence is the strongest among these workers. Most of this strength was built in the last three years when the workers in large numbers came over to Communist-led unions learning by their own experience that the Communist Party fought for their demands and the Communist Government protected their interests.

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## From RAMDASS

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Only the Communists have worked in the peasantry which has a tradition of struggles against Jenmikaram and a strong peasant organisation in the area today is the result of these struggles. The Communist Party is supporting an independent candidate in the general seat V. Gangadharan, a former PSP Speaker of the Travancore-Cochin Assembly with a record of struggle in the national movement.

The RSP candidate is trying to gather votes exploiting the fact that the first firing under the Communist Government took place in Chandanathope which lies in this constituency. But in Kottakmara panchayat which includes Chandanathope, comrades were confident the Party will at least double its vote.

The Congress candidate here is the INTUC boss, C. M. Stephen. He is organising his campaign through his unions and is banking on getting all the Catholic votes—there are 50 Catholic and non-Catholic Churches in this constituency. But this also is not going to materialise as there are plenty of instances like Mulavana where the Catholics live in large numbers and the President of the Communist Party's election committee is himself a Christian.

Nine out of the remaining ten seats in the District were won by Communist candidates last time, only the Ranni constituency was won by the Congress.

The situation in these constituencies has improved further in favour of the Communist Party.

Chadayamangalam, for instance, was won by the Communist Party with 51.99 per cent of the votes against Congress, PSP and RSP candidates. The majority of the 59,384 voters of the constituency are peasants and belong to that category of tenants most benefited by the Communist Government's measures. There are 10,000 agricultural workers, a thousand plantation workers and some cashew workers.

The RSP is not much of a problem in this constituency. It was strong only in one or two areas and even there most of its activists have left and are participating in the Communist Party's election campaign.

And it is not only from the RSP that the Communist Party has gained influential elements. An important office-bearer of the Communist Party's election commit-

tee this time is Sri Thomas who was a leader of the PSP's election campaign in this constituency in the last general elections.

There are Muslims in various parts of the constituency but the League had its branch only in one place. And there also its organiser, Meeran Sahab, has resigned from the League and is working for the Communist Party.

Areas like Elammad, Kodukal Chadayamangalam village, etc. show big change. While there were no Party units in these areas earlier, now there are very strong Party units and very broad support for the Party.

That this new support to the Communist Party is not accidental becomes evident when one moves around the constituency.

Unemployment is a very big problem here. Communist members of the last Assembly, V. Bhargavan, who is also the Party's candidate this time and some leading personalities of the area had submitted to the Communist government a Plantation Scheme on 27,000 acres of land which would give work to about 7,000 workers and the Government would have earned lakhs of rupees. The Forest Minister had accepted the scheme and it was being examined by the Finance Minister when Central intervention came.

Now the slogan here is, put the Communists back in office to implement the Plantation Scheme.

Take another instance: When the Congress and PSP ruled the State, the people of this area had made 103 representations for a particular bridge. Nothing had happened. The 104th representation was made when the Communist Party was in office and they did not have to make any more representations. The Communist Government took up the work and the Nedumankam bridge is under construction now.

### Tenants Wait For Communist's Return

Tenants in 12,000 acres of land were for the first time able to enjoy the fruits of their land when the Communists were in office and many more are waiting for the return of the Communist Ministry to implement the Land Relations Bill.

As against this wide support, 50 persons who will be affected by the ceiling provisions in the Bill spearhead the opposition to the Communist candidate.

In the Kottarakara constituency, unlike in Chadayamangalam, the election atmosphere is quite hot with plenty of flags and posters in evidence.

The Communist Party had won this seat last time with 52.12 per cent of the votes against Congress and RSP candidates. And the Party goes into the present election—battle with still bigger support—many silent well-wishers of the Party have gone into action this time and as a comrade said, they are more active than even the Party members.

This is a constituency which did not get affected by the "liberation struggle", in fact, more people came to the Party disgusted with the tactics of the

"liberators". In the area like Puthur all the activists of the RSP have left their party and come over to the Communist Party.

The election machinery here is in top gear. There are 68 booths and committees have been formed in all the booths. In all, there are 125 area committees. Seven thousand workers are active in the Communist Party's election campaign and over 15,000 people have participated in the conventions held at various levels form election committees.

The whole constituency has been divided into ten zones, with zone committees of 500 to 1,000 workers. Among the 3,000 persons who attended the constituency convention were 150 women.

No wonder the comrades here are so confident of improving the Party's majority.

Eravipuram is a constituency of which Mannath Padmanabhan himself has given up all hopes. It seems he went round the constituency and the response was so poor that he is reported to have burst out: "What can I do if all the Nairs of Eravipuram are in the Communist Party."

The majority of the voters of this constituency which has been won by the Communist Party thrice successively, is peasants, there are 3,000 handloom weavers, 3,000 cashew workers, 8,000 coir workers, 6,000 fishermen and 10,000 harijans, mainly agricultural workers.

The Ithikara Scheme has inspired the peasantry who have long waited for water for their fields.

The Vinayak Textiles which had been closed down was restarted by the Communist Government in the cooperative sector and the Vanji Clay Mines were also reopened. Rural electrification on a wide scale has brought immense support to the Communist Party from all sections.

All this new support is reflected in the 7,000 workers who are actively engaged in the work of ensuring the victory of the Communist candidate.

Krishnapuram is the only constituency in this district where there is a straight contest. PSP's big-gun P. K. Kunhu is fighting the Communist candidate G. Karthikeyan who won the constituency last time with 51.39 per cent of the votes against Congress, PSP and RSP candidates.

This constituency of 62,415 voters has 6,000 cashew workers and 2,000 fishermen. The rest are peasants and agricultural workers.

Five thousand workers are active in the Communist Party's election campaign and notable among the new supporters of the Communist candidate are Sri Chellappan Pillai, a retired Deputy Tahsildar and a prominent member of the PSP's selection committee last time and Adinat Karunakara Pillai, an old Congressman of repute.

The other constituencies which the Party won in this district last time are double-member Kunnathur, Pathanapuram, Punalur and Pathanamthitta, all of which the Party is confident of retaining this time.