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Charter of humanity's dreams

Editorial

THE NEW DRAFT PROGRAMME of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union is an illuminating and inspiring scientific charter of the fondest dreams of working humanity the world over and of the best minds of all lands. In historic significance, it ranks with the Communist Manifesto of Marx and Engels.

The early Manifesto inspired the struggle of the modern proletariat for the achievement of Socialism and what tempestuous victories it has already won, what millions upon millions rally under the Red Banner in one country after another, both big and small, in Europe as well as Asia—it has become the flag of the victorious!

The new Draft Programme helps to carry forward the great struggle in the new epoch to the final victory of Socialism the world over and begin the construction of Communism, a classless society, moved ever forward by the inspired creative labour of the new man, strong, wise and selfless.

The very announcement of the gains to the Soviet citizens from the stage by stage construction of a Communist society has uplifted the spirit of working peoples and thinking minds everywhere.

The publicists and ideologues of the monopolists in panic have begun to shriek "impossible", "it is all propaganda", "it cannot be realised in practice".

They and their predecessors did not believe in the final triumph of the Russian Revolution. They did not believe in the soundness of Soviet planning. They did not believe in the victory of the USSR. Yet the Soviet men and women proved them to be false prophets.

They will be proved false over and over again till there will be no such persons left to utter and propagandise such outmoded bourgeois ideas.

The new Draft Programme proclaims the achievement of the final victory of Socialism in the USSR and its great advance in the other countries of the socialist camp. The figures it reveals of the targets it announces make it abundantly clear that capitalism has already lost the battle of the rate of growth and in the coming decade it will lose the battle of production achieved under the two systems. Capitalism is losing the game in peaceful economic competition.

The economic leap forward of the socialist world means more selfless socialist aid for the industrialisation plans of the underdeveloped countries and fairer, and greater trade for their export goods so that they may earn the much needed foreign exchange and get out of the clutches of the imperialist "aiders".

The new bold formulations in the Draft Programme about the new stage of the dictatorship of the proletariat, its inevitably varied forms in different countries and the new concept of national democracy has stirred the thought of Indian democratic circles, helped to remove time-worn prejudices and cannot but inspire new thinking to devise our own effective way to enlarge the bounds of democracy in our country and find our own peaceful and democratic path to socialism.

The new Draft Programme has analysed the new stage of the general crisis of capitalism and spelled out its inevitable doom with unanswerable facts and arguments. U. S. monopoly has been denounced as the worst exploiter today and the role of U.S. ruling class characterised as that of the international gendarme of world imperialism. India knows it from its own economic, political and international experience of U. S. imperialism how true it is.

The Draft Programme reiterates in a profound manner the need to develop and strengthen the unity of the Socialist camp headed by the USSR with the newly liberated countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America and all those struggling to be free, as the surest and quickest way to preserve peace in the world, liquidate the scourge of colonialism and ensure a bright, happy and independent future for every nation.

(August 2)

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Behind Bowles' Dash To Delhi

Chester Bowles won a reputation in India, after the arrogant words and the bullying tactics of his predecessors, as an U. S. Ambassador, who talked politely, listened patiently, generously promised to do his best to get us U. S. "aid for our development, and when his Government failed he put the blame on it and shrugged his shoulders.

AFTER leaving India he became known as one of the U. S. statesmen-diplomat who were opposed to Eisenhower's crudely aggressive policy. They had their senses more intact to see that it was making more enemies than friends. He wrote a book on the subject.

Naturally he became one of the top advisers of Kennedy when he fought the Presidential election. And he was duly rewarded, appointed as the Under-secretary of State in Kennedy's new administration.

Now U. S. foreign policy has badly flopped in various parts of the world. India is annoyed besides, after facing its concrete and naked application, via Pakistan, in the shape of faster than sound jet-fighters, the new dump of the missiles in Ayub's armoury while ours has none. And above all, after Kennedy's new commitment on Kashmir and that in the joint communiqué with Ayub.

In such a situation it is obvious that the U. S. has to explain itself before Indian public opinion and who could be a better mouth-piece of U. S. foreign policy than Under-Secretary, Bowles, with the reputation of "an old friend of India".

It is necessary to take a bird's eye view of U. S. foreign policy to understand aright what Bowles is briefed to say and what Indian spokesmen must press hard, in terms of India's independent foreign policy, and in the interests of world peace.

no "new frontiers"

Kennedy's election promises of opening up new "bright horizons" in U. S. policy have turned out to be dark and dismal. This is no carping Communist criticism.

The famous New York Times commentator James Reston, was among the first

top U. S. publicists to draw and stress the conclusion that the foreign policy of the U. S. during the first six months of the Kennedy administration essentially remained the same as under the Eisenhower administration. The gravely shaken world prestige of the U. S. has not been raised under Kennedy but has only suffered more shocks and fiascos.

The arms race has been stepped up, both in conventional armaments as well as the nuclear ones. Kennedy

by
P. C. JOSHI

himself has demanded the biggest arms budget and the U. S. Congress gave him more dollars—1,000 million more! India stands for total and general disarmament while U. S. policy adopts the opposite direction.

In India, as also in the estimate of other freedom-loving Afro-Asian nations, Cuba and Laos have become two blackmarks against the Kennedy administration.

defeat after defeat

The U. S. press is furiously debating whether the adventure in Cuba or the intervention in Laos was the bigger disaster for U. S. world prestige, but all agree that Cuba and Laos are the two most profound blows suffered by Kennedy since his accession to power.

One Western commentator has described the situation as "the most nerve-trying first six months any new chief executive (of the U. S.) has encountered since one hundred years ago".

The U. S. delegation, in

the Geneva conference, sat glum and silent most of the time, till the time came when the Chinese delegate halled the communique of the three Laotian princes repudiating the so-called "protection" by any foreign military bloc, as implying that they had objected to Seato "protection". At this U. S. delegate Avrell Harriman got up only to state that the Seato had the "right" to "protect" Laos!

Swallowing defeats is one thing but drawing the necessary lessons from them is another. This is age-old experience. It is clear that the U. S. is far from drawing the necessary conclusions even from its latest round of ignominious defeats. Our own historic experience tells us, and it is now writ large all over the Afro-Asian world, as also the Latin American, that no imperialist power can any more successfully drown in blood the national liberation movement of the nations struggling to regain and defend their national independence.

The policy-makers of the U. S. refusing to recognise the march nor willing to accept the verdict of history are licking their wounds and blaming each other. One set blames Kennedy for adventurism in Cuba and timidity over Laos. Others put the blame on the State Department set-up, the CIA misinforming the President, the State Department left leaderless after Dulles.

Still others blame Secretary of State, Dean Rusk, for being overcautious and indecisive and the Under-secretary, Bowles for pressing his "impractical" ideas in and out of season.

In this chaotic situation Dean Acheson has again reemerged as the chief advisor to the White House. He is rallying around him all the ultras in the State Department, Pentagon and the CIA—all the old admirers of the "brinkmanship" tactic.

According to New York Herald Tribune the decision to exploit the West Berlin question for fanning war psychosis and stepping up

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No Ignoring The Peril

The pro-Western monopoly-controlled press of our country continues to underplay the deadly and many-sided warned earlier. Dumping new-fangled arms in Pakistan and offering the dollar dakshina to India while manoeuvring to make both dance to U.S. tunes on the world arena, in the critical days ahead, is a new and diabolical form of U.S. imperialist policy vis-a-vis Pakistan and India. Not to understand this is to deny the grim evidence of hard facts and be deaf to what is being shouted aloud at our very doorsteps.

THE Pak Dictator Ayub is continuing to operate high tension wires over Kashmir. The Special Correspondent of Hindustan Times, July 21, reported his press conference, from Rawalpindi, answering Nehru's Srinagar speech where he had called the demand for plebiscite in Kashmir as a joke, a tamasha.

Ayub growled back "what he (Nehru) was saying is a joke. If the rights of the people to determine their future is a joke, I do not know what is serious". Ayub went beyond the wordy duel, when speaking at the Karachi Citizens' reception he stated, "It was not possible for Pakistan to live in peace with India without a solution of the Kashmir dispute... Lack of settlement of the Kashmir problem endangered Pakistan's security". He did not merely close with a reiteration of his bellicose intention. He spoke "in eloquent terms about Sheikh Abdullah and his colleagues now facing trial in Srinagar and prayed for the success of Abdullah's objective". (Hindustan Times, July 30)

The Pak President gave direct and open encouragement to Abdullah's followers and all pro-Pakistani elements within Kashmir to go ahead with their morale-disrupting propaganda drive, chaos-producing sabotage activities, and so on and, then make Kashmir the ripe and rotten apple of his big dream. The same day, the same paper reported from Jammu "Pakistan forces have resumed spasmodic but concentrated firing near Balakot in Poonch", and that this had been going on "for over a week".

After dismissing Nehru's behaviour as "childish" the Pakistan President, Field-Marshal Ayub Khan, proclaimed "we will not trust until we have secured justice for Kashmir".

old mud-slinger

TALKING to newsmen at the Khanewal Railway station Ayub stated that his Government was currently reviewing the Kashmir issue. "A decision whether to take the issue back to the U.N. or adopt other steps would be made known at an appropriate time". (Times of India, July 30)

There are clear enough indications in the Pakistan and also the American press that President Ayub plans to raise the issue at the U.N. during Pandit Nehru's visit to the USA. The purpose is obvious, to make Nehru feel awkward and small, smaller than Ayub in the U.S. eyes.

Zafarullah led the Pak delegation to the U.N. during earlier debates on the Kashmir. His advocacy was lying-without-blinking and his words emitted the Jehadi fire. He became the

favourite of the Western specially the U.S. press for giving them good stories against neutralist India.

more U. S. arms

AYUB's confidence and strength for taking "other steps" if the U.N. fails him, obviously comes from new U.S. arms.

It is the imperative of imperatives that every Indian who loves his motherland, and wants to live in peace with neighbour Pakistan, realises the significance of the new and steadily growing menace, that step by step growing military aid to Pakistan has created for India, directly and purposely aided by the U.S.

The India Press Agency, July 25, reveals that with U.S. aid 600 miles of strategic roads have been constructed in Pak-occupied Kashmir. A new strategic road is to be built in that area to link up Peshwar with Skardu via Gilgit.

Skardu is on the other side of the ceasefire line, near Kargil, where there is also a bomber base. Besides this there are air bases in Gilgit, Chilas and the plateau between Bagh in Poonch and the Uri sector. All these air bases are being expanded to receive the new Supersonic U.S. jets.

These air bases, all around the Indian frontier, are manned by Pak air forces personally under the direct guidance of U.S. advisors and experts and have set up a cluster of colonies in Sialkot, Jhelum, Kasur, and Rawalpindi. Further, these air bases have the latest radar equipment, again supplied by U.S.

H. R. Vohra from Washington has cabled some revealing facts in the Times of India, July 27. Pakistan has already received one squadron of F-104 fighters and will get the second squadron of this ultra-modern plane in a few months. Also known as Super-Star Fighters they have a speed of 1,500 to 2,000 miles per hour. They are so fast that they could not fly for more than 10 minutes from any central point in Pakistan, in any direction, without crossing its borders.

Their standard equipment is 1.22 mm. six-barrel cannon, and the deadly Side-Winder missiles. They have a multi-purpose role. They can be used as interceptor fighters as also tactical bombers. They are much prized Nato weapons given only to the favoured few West Germany has some and Italy is seeking them. In South Asia only Pakistan has them now.

C-130 U.S. transport planes, good for use in high altitudes in Kashmir, were demanded by Ayub. There are not many of these planes to draw on but he got some. "It does seem

NOTES OF THE WEEK

likely that Pakistan will receive some ground-to-air missiles".

It is patent enough that the new U.S. planes and arms to Pakistan are useless against USSR and China but can be deadly against India who lacks them.

Prem Bhatia in his column in Times of India, August 1, claiming inside knowledge which however is public knowledge, writes:

"With the American gift of two squadrons of F-104 aircraft Pakistan will achieve air superiority over us, in numbers and quality... The most impressive air-crews that the Indian Air Force has are the French Mysteres which are years behind in speed and striking power.

"On the ground the Pakistanis have equipment, especially tanks which remain the envy of the Indian Army. Pakistan's military and air bases are much closer to Kashmir than ours for targets in the reverse direction".

All this does not mean that Pakistan is going to attack India tomorrow. That is not the immediate aim of the U.S. Its rulers have not gone so insane nor so desperate yet. It seeks to achieve its aid vis-a-vis India more discretely and indirectly, by supplying high quality arms to Pakistan.

scuttle the plan or...

AFTER revealing the above and recalling that we have launched "An ambitious Third Five Year Plan to develop our economic resources", Prem Bhatia neatly adds:

"But the unpleasant facts of life continue to be a reminder of obligations in other fields of endeavour. There is, therefore, a new awakening in the Defence Ministry to the needs of national security".

New aircraft to match F-104, new tanks and heavy armour to match what Americans have given Pakistan free, and getting missiles which we don't have at all costs real big money, counted not in lakhs but crores. And it can only come from the resources already budgetted for the Plan.

The New Delhi Correspondent of the Times of India, July 27, has underlined this point while telling the story of "readjustments of the Third Plan". "Though no estimate will obviously be available for some time, our defence commitments are likely to go up, among other things, in view of the more deadly arms, being supplied by U.S. to Pakistan".

Earlier this year the U.S. failed to wake the Indian Government give up heavy industrialisation projects though U.S. pressure won more room for the expansion of the private sector and more facilities for the entry of foreign private capital.

The Third Plan remains on the whole one of heavy industrialisation. By dumping new U.S. planes and arms in Pakistan it has kept up its imperialist pressure against India achieving economic

independence through industrialisation.

The U.S. arms to Pakistan pose the difficult dilemma before India of either carrying on with expensive industrialisation plans and risk national security or slow down on industrialisation and strengthen Indian security by buying the now needed and fantastically expensive foreign arms, to bring us at par with Pakistan!

The U.S. game in supplying these ultra modern arms, especially what we lack and which will give Pakistan military superiority over us, is to pose another dilemma which is also a new choice before India. If India does not want to slow down its industrialisation nor take a bad risk with national security it has another alternative before it.

The Kennedy Administration has only recently amended the U.S. Mutual Security Act, under which neutral nations can get U.S. arms, at cut prices and even free, without getting into military alliance with U.S. or into any one of its existing system of military alliances.

This new change in U.S. military aid policy was clearly enough designed to bait neutralist nations like India, after creating acute problems for them and a situation which may lead towards their acceptance of this course.

Getting U.S. arms, the above way, is not the same thing as joining U.S. military alliances. This could be the plea of the soft statesman of the uncommitted nations. This is the fond hope of the Kennedy Administration.

the softening process

Accepting U.S. arms without fully paying for them is only one step removed from joining the U.S.-led system of military alliances; but it inevitably leads several steps closer to the U.S. This is the cunning calculation of Kennedy and his egg-heads.

The situation is not less serious than at the time when the U.S.-Pak Military Pact was first signed. But national indignation against U.S. intervention in the affairs of our sub-continent is not so spontaneous as then, because the load of U.S. dollars and the lust for more of them has produced a bad cold in India's ruling circles.

Prem Bhatia is among the elite of the New Delhi columnists who claim "inside knowledge" from all quarters. Prem Bhatia is known to be close to the U.S. Ambassador. He also claims to be able to gate-crash into the Prime Minister's House whenever big news is in the making. In his column entitled "The Road to Hell", Times of India, August 1, he has made some stunning statements about the thinking and estimates passing muster inside Indian official circles:

"Over the years the conviction has strengthened in New Delhi that it is futile to try to dissuade the U.S. Government from adding to India's

difficulties by giving military aid to Pakistan". The U.S. Government, "rules out the possibility of a mad military adventure by our neighbour. Thus, having come to that conclusion, Washington sees no harm in pacifying an ally angry over unrequited love." Such can only be Uncle Sam's words to the Indian, willing to be his Mistress.

Prem Bhatia applies the U.S. soap fairly tidily but the new dirt that he adds on gives him away.

"According to New Delhi's view, this is as good an example as any of the road to hell being paved with good intentions. The difference between India's current attitude to the USA and that of three or four years ago is that American intentions are not now misunderstood."

The final powder-dusting from Prem Bhatia is as follows:

"So far as continued U.S. military aid to Pakistan is concerned, New Delhi has by now learnt to live with the problem."

The vigorous diplomatic protest that India is reported to have launched in Washington shows that the situation is not as bad as portrayed above. But Pandit Nehru's failure to publicly and boldly denounce U.S. imperialism and its provocative intervention in the relations between India and Pakistan—as he did last time—does indicate that a dangerous softening process is on inside Indian ruling and official circles, which Prem Bhatia has sketched out baldly and in terms desired by his U.S. patrons.

The sad fact is that the Prime Minister himself is keeping Indian protest against U.S. supply of arms to Pakistan confined to the diplomatic plane and falling to fully expose its sinister significance, both for India as well as Pakistan, which would add greater weight to Indian diplomatic protest itself and also give new courage and hope to freedom and peace-loving Pakistani elements. Equally paralysing is the fact that the biggest and most influential national organisation of the country, the ruling Congress Party is taking a passive attitude. Such a situation is utilised by pro-American publicists like Prem Bhatia to put the bandage over Indian national vigilance.

It is necessary to raise the whole issue of U.S. arms aid to Pakistan and the new U.S. tactic against India on the floor of the Parliament when it assembles next week. Several motions have been already tabled on the subject. The Parliamentary debate will help to reflect how far Indian ruling circles have softened up before U.S. imperialist pressure and what new diversionary or servile course of action the Masanlis and Asoka Mehtas now mouth. These friends of the "Free World" must be busy doing some very hard thinking indeed. Championing the U.S. now will not be as easy as was the feat of China-baiting earlier!

U.P. Newsletter

Communists' Election Tactics

The four-day meeting of the U. P. State Council of the Communist Party concluded on July 20 after extensively reviewing the political situation in the State and spelling out its tactics for taking part in the forthcoming general elections.

THE 4,000 word resolution passed by the Council on elections says that: "The Communist Party looks at the election campaign as a means for developing the struggles of the masses for the realisation of their demands; and it will, therefore, do everything in its power to build up mass class organisations of the people in the midst of their struggles. As always, it will head their efforts to organise these struggles".

The resolution says that the election battle in 1962 will be very important because political issues and ideological issues have arisen in a big way. National unity forged during the struggle for freedom is disintegrating and anti-secular and disruptive forces of communalism and casteism are challenging the secular character of our State and the Indian Constitution.

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Failure Of Congress

The resolution says that the ruling party, the Congress, must bear the major responsibility for this situation because its policies have failed to consolidate and strengthen national unity.

The resolution points out that the character of the Congress since independence has changed. Vested interests and their supporters are getting entrenched in it. Speaking of the Congress in U. P., the resolution points out that the Congress leadership in U. P. does not accept fully even the declared policies of the All India Congress Committee and is opposed to major policies of land reforms, State trading and expansion of the State Sector.

Jan Sangh—Growing Menace

It is, therefore, the Jan Sangh which has emerged as the leader and champion of the most rabidly reactionary and communal forces in the State. Until a few years ago the Jan Sangh was confined to cities and some smaller towns; but recently it has been making organised efforts to penetrate the countryside to befoul the social and political climate there.

Utilising the border dispute with China, it has tried to hide its communal politics under the cover of aggressive nationalism and, thanks to the policies of the ruling classes, it has to some extent succeeded in this nefarious game. The communal incidents that occurred at Moradabad, Ferozabad, etc., are indicative of the troubles ahead if the activities of the R. S. S. and the Jan Sangh are not resolutely opposed.

The situation in U. P. is, thus, quite complicated. The Congress has been losing ground, but the democratic and left forces have failed to fill the vacuum. The Communist Party, therefore, will be

called upon to follow flexible tactics without abandoning its basic objectives.

The election resolution of the State Council says that the Party will seek to build a front of all democratic elements and will make every possible effort for electoral adjustments with the PSP and the Socialist Party in spite of the fact that their leaderships are guided by blind anti-Communism.

The resolution further says that in such constituencies where the Jan Sangh or the Swatantra Party are strong, the Party will throw its weight against them and support the candidate of any secular political party who has the best chances of winning.

Avoid Dispersal Of Forces

On the basis of their assessment of their strength and possibilities of success, the local and district units of the Party in the State have recommended 200 seats for being contested in 1962.

The policy of the Party, however, is to avoid all dispersal of resources. The Council resolution directs that the Party should fight only those seats where the chances of success are fair. It has also laid down stringent conditions which have to be fulfilled in each constituency before permission can be granted for contesting the seat.

The Council has set up an Election Board of eleven leading comrades to screen and finalise the list of Party's candidates by September 15. Dr. Z. A. Ahmad is the Chairman of this Board and Kall Shankar Shukla is its Secretary.

During its review of the situation in U. P., the Council noted the widespread industrial unrest that has been witnessed all over the State and expressed concern regarding the repressive manner in which the government has tried to tackle the problem.

In Banaras, nearly 1,000 of the 1,200 sweepers who have been waging a heroic struggle for a weekly holiday and wage increase, have been arrested and sent to jail. Hundreds of them have been given vindictive punishments in summary trials.

In Dehradun the tea garden workers strike is being dealt with in a similar callous manner. The recent strike of the construction workers of the Aluminium Factory in Pipri, in Mirzapur district, was also subjected to violent repression.

The Council passed separate resolutions on these struggles. It passed another resolution congratulating the workers of the Saharanpur textile mill on their success in their long drawn struggle for the implementation of the textile wage board award.

The Council condemned the withdrawal of the rebate on the irrigation rates due to which a burden of another three crores has

been placed on the rack-rented peasantry of the State. It pledged support to any struggle that the U. P. Kisan Sabha may launch on this issue after holding its project conferences on this question.

The Council advised the tenants and landless agriculture workers of Sampurnanand Nagar (a colony in the Terai area of the State) to suspend their satyagraha to enable a Conference of all Terai tenants and agricultural workers for chalking out the future course of action.

The Council sent its fraternal greetings to the secondary school teachers of the State who are intensifying their struggle for securing the same dearness allowance as is being given to their colleagues in the Government schools and colleges.

The Council expressed concern at the appalling failures in the last High School and Intermediate examinations in the State. The Council said this high percentage of failures year after year constitutes a national loss and steps must be taken to remedy this situation.

It also expressed anxiety at attempts to suppress students'

From Ramesh Sinha

unions in colleges and universities in the name of imposing discipline. The Council resolution said that in the Banaras University even cultural organisations of students have been suppressed.

Secretary Kall Shankar Shukla's report had stated that there is hardly any sphere of life in U. P. today where signs of deep discontent and simmering unrest are not visible. The whole State is passing through a period of restlessness and hundreds of small struggles of various forms are breaking out everywhere. They testify to the utter failure of the Congress policies in the State.

The Council passed a condolence resolution on the death of V. D. Chitale and others who have died in the recent months.

The Council effected some organisational changes also. Dr. Ahmad (who was elected Secretary of the State Party at its last Mau Conference), having been elected a member of the Secretariat of the National Council of the Party resigned his post and Kall Shankar Shukla was elected Secretary of the State Council in his place. Dr. Ahmad's place in the State Secretariat was filled up by Ram Asrey.

The Council reiterated its decision to restart Janaguj, its Party's Weekly, from September and appointed Shankar Dayal Tewary as its editor.

more ministers—more waste!

THE much awaited and talked of expansion of the U. P. Ministry has been consummated. To the unwieldy team of some twenty-four members of the Ministry another six have been added. They all belong to the Gupta faction.

These seats had been reputedly reserved for members of the other faction—the Sampurnanand faction. The day-to-day leader of this group is Kamlapati Tripathi. And much bargaining had gone on between him and Gupta until a few weeks ago. The talks broke down.

On principles? Please do not accuse these office-hungry gentlemen of any such scruples. It is said Gupta was willing to give these six seats to them—or rather to six of them who were to be chosen by himself.

Kamlapati was agreeable to the number six, but he wanted six of his nominees to be taken into the Ministry. Besides, he wanted his old Home Portfolio, which is at present in the tight possession of Charan Singh.

Nobody wanted a joint ministry for the sake of unity. Each group leader wanted this "unity" in the ministry for strengthening his own group against the other. By choosing the six from Kamlapati's group himself, Gupta wanted to break the unity of that group and to strengthen his own hands. By insisting to choose the six himself Kamlapati wanted to keep his group following together.

When the talks failed, a public slanging match was witnessed between Gupta and Kamlapati in which such choice epithets as "damned liars" were freely banded. Kamlapati accused the other group of factional attitude and ridiculed the idea of unity having been forged in the organisation. He charged Gupta publicly. Gupta attacked him by suggesting he was a damned liar and, thus, proved that Kamlapati's charge was well founded.

Let us hope at least now no one, not even Ajit Prasad Jain, will prattle about unity having been achieved. In fact, they should recognise that Congress, at least in this State, has passed that stage when any sort of unity could be forged in its ranks.

I shall end this subject by recounting a story which has been told to me by someone who was present when the event occurred. An MLA belonging to Gupta group went to a Minister and asked for the transfer of a certain officer in the name of helping in the 1962 elections. The Minister readily obliged him. The orders for the officer's transfer were passed.

Two days later another MLA—belonging to the same group—went to the Minister and asked that the transfer of that official should be cancelled—again in the name of helping in the 1962 elections. The Minister was exasperated. He flung the file on the floor and declared he did not know what to do. I do not know what he did ultimately.

Crucial Debates Ahead

By ZIAUL HAQ

The Monsoon Session of Parliament opens on August 7 in the background of events crucial to the life of the nation. During the three months that Parliament has been in recess events have continued to move at a quick tempo and the scene has vastly changed.

Clearly the most ominous development which has come about and which is likely to figure most prominently in this Session is the enhanced threat to this country by the increased supply of more deadly U.S. arms to Pakistan and the latter's more menacing attitude towards India.

This has come about as a result of Ayub's twin campaigns to vilify India and to have the Kashmir question reopened even by a resort to arms. No amount of assurances and soothing words from the U.S. officials, nor the lullabys that are being sung by their friends in India can alter this hard reality.

Parliament will have to take note of it and give expression to what is the unanimous opinion of the Indian people that U.S. accession to Pakistan's request constitutes a most unfriendly act towards India, the biggest single blow to her hopes for planned progress which in effect offsets all promises of massive economic aid.

So far as this aid in itself is concerned, Parliament will certainly take note of its emerging contours, which had initially been deliberately kept dim and had remained lost in massive publicity. It is becoming clearer and is bound to become more so as time passes that this promised aid is neither going to be as massive nor as free-of-strings as originally claimed.

It is directed more at distorting India's economic evolution and directing it from the path of independent development into something like that of a South American semi-colony of United States.

Another blow which is sought to be struck at India's economic prospects with which Parliament will be faced in this session is Britain's decision to seek admission along with her EFTA partners into the European Common Market. It is no secret that it is the U.S. that has been pushing Britain all these years to join the EC.

What is taking shape before our eyes is an economic super-NATO which will move collectively to tighten the neo-colonialist strangle-hold on all underdeveloped countries.

ries and effectively frustrate their efforts at building independent developing economies.

Thus it is that during the last three months that Parliament has been in recess world imperialism through successive moves has raised a triple threat to India's security and economic growth.

This has been accompanied on the internal plane with a systematic campaign to blunt India's resistance to these grievous threats. And this same effort to lull India's vigilance and opposition is bound to find reflection in the forthcoming Parliamentary session.

The unholy combination of the right-wing in Parliament and the monopoly press outside which took shape in course of earlier sessions on vital issues is once again preparing to go into action. Those who had been vociferous earlier in demanding a joint Indo-Pakistan Defence Pact are today in the forefront in playing down the threat posed by recent U.S.-Pak moves.

S. M. of Hindustan Times has already discovered new signs of friendliness towards India in Ayub's pronouncements since the Pakistani dictators' return from his Washington odyssey. Even die-hard reactionaries of international repute like Louis Fischer have been mobilised in this campaign.

The Swatantra, Jan Sangh and the P.S.P., blessed by the extreme rightwing of the ruling Congress Party are expected to carry forward their cooperation on these lines in preparation for an anti-Communist alliance in the forthcoming general elections.

It is not clear how and when the Third Five Year Plan, the final draft of which is to be placed before the Lok Sabha on August 7, is to be debated.

In the light of backsliding, once again the question of radical reforms in the internal economic structure will be raised, and the new openings given by Government especially by its statement of May 7 to foreign monopolies to make inroads into our economy and their compatibility

with the Industrial Policy Resolution will be questioned. The fate of land reforms and the threat to trade union rights embodied in the impending bill relating to Government employees organisations will be raised in this context.

Most hotly debated among internal issues since the last session of Parliament has been that of national integration and the discussion is bound to be resumed in Parliament. It is widely recognised that what lies at the root of the problem is the failure to tackle the basic problems of the mass of our people and to provide them with perspectives which will fire their imagination and unite them in a common endeavour.

And although the realisation has grown even among ruling circles that urgent measures have to be taken to seriously begin the fight against the evil unitedly with other secular democratic forces without standing on prestige or similar other considerations, still very little as yet has been done in this direction.

The bill to amend the Indian Penal Code that is proposed to be brought by Government in this Session to ban incitement of communal hatred is but a small, almost a symbolic, step.

The floods that have been ravaging the country showing the inadequacy and even misconceived character of some flood control measures will constitute an important issue of debate in this session.

One welcome measure coming up in this session is the bill to integrate Dadra and Nagar Haveli — former Portuguese pincples — into the Indian Union.

Meeting in the shadow of sharpening international tensions created by the Western Powers war-like reaction to the Soviet proposal for signing at long last a Peace Treaty with Germany and normalising the situation in Berlin by creating a free, demilitarised city of West Berlin, India's Parliament will not remain indifferent to these new threats to peace.

The French imperialists' barbarous action in Bizerta and their persistence in violation of even the limited UN directives as well as the British imperialists, action in landing troops in Kuwait under cover of the Sheikh's call will come for condemnation and sharp criticism.

The continuing agony of Angola, the barbarous Portuguese campaign of genocide in that territory and British complicity with Portuguese colonialist will draw passionate condemnations.

The U.S. obstruction of the Geneva Conference on Laos and the Western Powers insistence on imposing Seato "protection" on what they would nominally concede as a neutral Laos will have to be condemned.

The neutral Summit in Belgrade will meet while this session of Parliament is on. Despite all hesitations it is hoped that the Prime Minister will go.

The latest developments whether on our own borders or in connection with the impending enlargement of the ECM all show how vitally important in sheer self-interest it is for India to join with all non-aligned countries to oppose the economic, political, and military moves of the imperialist powers.

HOMAGE TO ACHARYA RAY

NEW AGE joins the entire country in paying homage to the memory of Acharya Prafulla Chandra Ray on the day of his birth centenary. Acharya was a chemist of world stature and his achievements in this field of scientific endeavour bring lustre to our country's name.

More important, perhaps, than his researches in chemistry was his vision of the need to unite science with industry and, thus speed forward the national regeneration and modernisation of India. His untiring endeavours in this sphere continue to this day to be an inspiration to all patriots. His Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works was founded in 1901 without any foreign collaboration.

Not content with these achievements Acharya Ray turned his great mind to historical study. His immortal work History of Hindu Chemistry was meant to arouse our sense of national pride, to bring us to our feet as the inheritors of a great scientific tradition. One other remarkable feature of this great personality needs to be noted. He was a man of strict discipline, austere living and abundant humanism. As encountered him, Acharya Ray was a man unparalleled. His memory will bless our efforts at national rebirth and spur us to noble deeds.

Bowles Visit

* FROM FRONT PAGE

war preparations in the U.S. and the NATO countries as a whole was taken after a hectic internal drama inside the State Department, where Chester Bowles was put on the mat and the Dulles gang headed by Acheson had a field day.

Acheson is known to be very close to the die-hard West German Chancellor Adenauer who is reported to be influencing U.S. policy more than being himself influenced by it.

Again according to the New York Times, Washington is reported to be badly disappointed by the fact that the neutral Afro-Asian countries do not support the United States position on West Berlin.

According to Times of India, July 30, when the acting Indian Ambassador to the U.S. met Secretary of State to protest against U.S. supply of new deadly arms to Pakistan he was told "don't worry" and led on to talk about Berlin instead!

In the current situation, far more difficult and slippery than during the Dulles days, when brinkmanship is to be tried again, and balancing and skating on the brink far more difficult and dangerous, who could be a better proving Ambassador of the U.S. to the Afro-Asian countries, including India than Chester Bowles to "explain" "win" the support of the uncommitted nations.

From Cyprus he is coming to New Delhi to hold still another conference of U.S. Ambassadors in South East Asia where besides the unsettled Laos situation, the Indo-Pak problem will be on top of the agenda, how far the new increase of U.S. arms aid and the propaganda boost to him in the U.S. has helped Pak Dictator Ayub to sit safe and secure over his own people and how to answer and explain U.S. arms supply to Pakistan to worried and anxious Indian public opinion and its leaders.

And above all, how to use the dollar "aid" to win Indian support, or at least silence and diplomatic passivity over the coming U.S.

provocative moves in Berlin and the other storm centres.

He must be talked to sharply and bluntly:

● That India as a peace-loving country considers the recently stepped-up, so-called "defence measures", as aggressive moves that inevitably lead to war and poison the international atmosphere. And that India stands for total and general disarmament.

● That U.S. belligerence over provocative and a defiance of international law and the common decencies of civilized life.

● That India is irrevocably opposed to U.S. intervention in the affairs of any other country, as in Cuba, Laos and so on. And that India herself is an ardent supporter of the struggle against colonialism and for national liberation.

● That India is indignant over the latest supply of U.S. arms to Pakistan as unjustified provocative intervention in the affairs of our sub-continent; badly disrupting Indian planning and gravely endangering Indian security and the peace of our area.

Let Indian self-respect, national interests and progressive national aims and proclaimed policies assert themselves during the Chester Bowles visit. He has come to India to try his hardest to turn the wheel the other way! (August 2)

AITUC GENERAL COUNCIL

ACCORDING to an announcement made by the Secretariat of the AITUC, the meetings of the AITUC Working Committee and General Council, scheduled for August 19-21, have been postponed by a few days.

The Working Committee would now meet in New Delhi on August 31 at 10 A.M., at the Maharashtra Bhavan. The General Council session would begin at 4 P.M. on August 31 and would continue on September 1 and 2, 1961.

AUGUST 6, 1961

coal—the big mess

from ALI ASHRAF

Shiv Kumar Ray, a leading functionary of the Giridih Coal Workers Union, had to go on a hunger strike on July 14 to prevent the forced and illegal retirement of 300 workers. The prevailing system with regard to these weekly paid workers was that they worked till the age of 60 if at 55 a medical examination declared them to be physically fit. These 300 workers had fulfilled this condition, yet they were being forced to retire.

This drastic cut in production has come at a time when after the short-fall during the Second Plan, the NCDC had announced in March—the last month of the last year of the Second Plan—to have reached and surpassed the rate of the Plan target of 135 lakh tons annually.

This was a small affair, perhaps. But its significance lay in that it was symptomatic of a deeper malady—a malady whose seriousness does not yet seem to have dawned upon the country but which can, if not checked in time, cause havoc to the entire Third Plan of national reconstruction.

These are hard words. And though they may break no proverbial bones, they truly express the hard reality of the situation. And the reality is that while on the one hand, the entire country is exerting its utmost to launch upon the Third and the biggest yet Plan, on the other, coal, the most important source of fuel and power, at present, is faced with a virtual breakdown of production.

How else is one to describe the NCDC decision to cut down production by almost 50 per cent! This is their way of facing the problem of transport shortage and the consequent rise in the huge coal stocks at the pitheads.

staggering reduction

What worried the coal workers of Giridih who resisted the forced retirement of 300 of their comrades was the apprehension of a larger retrenchment drive in the context of the NCDC decision. Thousands of temporary workers have already been retrenched in Giridih, Bhurkunda and other places.

The figures that I have been supplied go to show that in Giridih output has been reduced from 54,000 tons per month to 32,000 tons per month. In the Serampore Colliery in Giridih, output for the same period has been reduced from 24,000 tons to 8,000 tons. In Karanpura area in the district of Hazaribagh, which claims one of the most mechanised mines in the country, it was being contemplated to stop production altogether. The open quarry at Bhurkunda is, in fact, abandoned. In the whole of the Karanpura area production has been reduced from 20,000 tons a day to a mere 5,000 tons. In Kattarah, near Kargall, production has come down to 1,500 tons from 5,000 tons a day. These are all NCDC collieries.

In the public sector collieries, as a whole, production is said to have been reduced from about 50,000 tons a day to 27,000 tons a day.

In fact, in March the NCDC claimed to have produced at a rate (50,000 tons a day) which would yield an annual output of more than 150 lakh tons or about 15 lakh tons in excess of the Plan target. At this rate, it was claimed, the Third Plan target of 970 lakh tons could also be fulfilled. But as it is, in the very first month of the Third Plan, production had to be drastically curtailed.

Here it should be mentioned, however, that in certain quarters these claims of the NCDC are considered to be somewhat exaggerated. At least till December 1960 the rate of the Second Plan target was nowhere in sight.

is estimated at 10 lakh tons. In the private sector, with its Second Plan target of 450 lakh tons having been fulfilled and exceeded, the accumulated stocks lying at the pit heads are estimated to be no less than 35 lakh tons.

This has created a very dangerous situation. The coal stock at Sayal 'D' Colliery in the Karanpura fields recently caught fire. The stock there was said to contain about 50,000 tons. This fire is the result of stocking. When a coal stock exceeds 6 feet in height, the per cubic ft. pressure crosses the normal limit and there is danger of fire breaking out.

Sometimes back a similar fire had broken out in Khurasia in Madhya Pradesh which has not yet been brought under control.

The extent of danger can be imagined by the fact that at the NCDC coalmines pit heads the stacks are sometimes as high as 20-40 feet. Stocks have not been lifted because of shortage of wagons. It is said they would have been still higher but for the 50 per cent cut in production.

transport bottleneck

The transport shortage continues to be very acute. As against the total daily requirement of 6,000 wagons of coal loading in Bihar-Bengal collieries and 5,000 wagons committed by the Railway, only 4,694 wagons on an average are loaded from January 1961 causing a shortfall and short supply of 1,306 and 306 wagons respectively.

Behind this wagon shortage is a long story of complacency bordering on callousness on the part of the Railway Ministry. It had always told the country that there was no dearth of wagons. In fact, the complaint was that wagons were supplied but not utilised, washeries did not get high grade coal and that the Fuel Ministry's Plan was full of defects, etc.

In the quarrel between the two Ministries serious effort was not made to overcome the transport bottleneck. It was in April last that the Railway Minister, for the first time, admitted that the demand for increased number of wagons could not be fulfilled.

He, however, promised to supply the required number of wagons in July. But July is nearing its end and the Railway Ministry's promise is nowhere near fulfillment.

Meanwhile as a result of the production cut the Democles' sword of retrenchment is hanging over the heads of the workers. Already more than 2000 temporary workers at Giridih and 1,500 at Bhurkunda have been retrenched. Forceful retirement of workers seems to have become a regular practice of the NCDC. But they are not able to have their way because of the strong and genuine trade union movement in the NCDC Coalmines in Bihar.

But let this be clear. It is not a narrow problem affecting the workers alone. Nor can the workers on their own solve the problem. It is a national problem and can be only nationally solved.

SCRAP-BOOK

nursing communalism

THOUGH I cannot read Malayalam, yet I follow with keen interest the news from Kerala, especially the developments in the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee. Of late, I have started picking up some English periodicals from Kerala which otherwise in a week or so go to the dustbin. The Weekly Kerala is my favourite these days.

Here for the benefit of readers I am reproducing the headlines from a recent issue of the paper: "SIN OF BEING A CONGRESSMAN Congress Journal wants Govindan Nair to be impeached. Reason: He called League a-Communal Party".

Under these headlines Weekly Kerala had reprinted the editorial of a Malayalam Congressite weekly, the Democrat, about which it said in an intro: "Democrat... is the unofficial mouthpiece of Home Minister Chacko and the Kottayam District Congress Committee".

In the editorial referred to in the Weekly Kerala the KPCC President C. K. Govindan Nair was assailed for making such statements like "my belief is that the Muslim League is a communal organisation" and Kerala Congress has no truck with communal organisations, etc.!!

Though quite late, it is a welcome sign that at least some Congressmen in Kerala, too, have started thinking in terms of combating communalism. The Weekly Kerala itself admitted: "The large majority of Congressmen in Kerala feel that the alliance with communal organisations has only weakened the Congress. Instead of becoming a well-knit political party, the Congress has continued to be a loose organisation influenced by communal trends..."

But what has happened during the last two weeks does not give any proof of the KPCC's readiness to fight communalism in the immediate future. On July 26 Hindu reported KPCC Secretary Stephen's press conference in which he said that the local units of the Congress "had been released from the obligation of putting up candidates if they felt that the Congress had no chance of success in any ward as against a Muslim League candidate".

This is the Congress policy in the coming panchayat elections. And that is how the Congress proposes to fight communalism. What will it do in Kuttipuram where a by-election is due to elect a member to the State Legislature in place of the late Seethi Sahib? Probably the same thing.

Latest is the report from the capital where the Jan Sanghis have won two by-elections. Some ex-Jan Sangh workers have alleged that RSS leaders interfered with Jan Sangh activities and hence they have started another organisation—"The Democratic Jan Sangh".

In the 1957 elections,

however, the combined vote of the Congress and Communists was greater than the League's and this time the Communists have offered support to any anti-League Congress candidate.

The Congress leadership however, is not prepared to accept this. They actually want to gift away some seats to communalists. The reason is obvious. They want to remain in power—even by nursing communalism!

vanishing socialism

U. P.'s Praja Socialists are in the doldrums. Having lost all their love for socialism, the PSP leaders now envy each other for a variety of reasons. In Kerala if the bone of contention is Ministership, in U. P. they quarrel for control of the Party apparatus.

In these columns reference was made to the flirtations of two PSP leaders with communal elements. Now the tug-of-war is in full swing.

The present Secretary of the Party in U. P. Chandrasekhar is encountering heavy weather. Dr. Faridi and Narayan Dutt Tiwari, who were asked by the Secretary to explain why they participated in two functions organised by the communal RSS and Jamati-Islami, have challenged the very right of the Secretary to demand such an explanation.

The next conference of the U. P. PSP is going to meet in the month of August where the ding-dong battle for the control of the party will be fought.

Thus, while power-politics and opportunism is growing in the PSP, its socialism is vanishing day by day.

"democratic" jan sangh

JAN Sanghis very stoutly deny that they are controlled by the RSS leaders. The reason is obvious: they do not want that the ghastly murder of Mahatma Gandhi, with which many people in the country rightly associate the RSS, should haunt them. But day by day RSS domination is proved and leads to defections in the Jan Sangh.

Latest is the report from the capital where the Jan Sanghis have won two by-elections. Some ex-Jan Sangh workers have alleged that RSS leaders interfered with Jan Sangh activities and hence they have started another organisation—"The Democratic Jan Sangh".

—AGRADOOT

Comrade Gopala Pillai

Comrade Gopala Pillai passed away on August 2 after a prolonged and painful illness heroically borne. During the past few weeks he was undergoing treatment for a very serious kidney ailment in the Vellore Hospital.

Comrade Gopala Pillai was for many years a prominent leader of the freedom struggle in Kerala during the British days. His fiery speeches and patient organisational work won him thousands of friends and admirers.

Comrade Gopala Pillai was brought to the Communist Party by nothing other than his own revolutionary experience. As a matter of fact his love for his people, his burning desire to see them free from foreign rule and social oppression led him to join these other infrepid pioneers who first planted the Red Flag in Kerala.

We dip the Red Flag in memory of Comrade Gopala Pillai, a dear comrade and a magnificent leader.

KISAN SABHA CHARTS COURSE

A Statewide movement is in the offing in Uttar Pradesh against the State Government's decision to withdraw the three anna reduction it had made in irrigation rates in 1954.

The Fourteenth Session of the U.P. Kisan Sabha which met in Lucknow from July 22 to 24 has called on all its units to build a powerful movement on this issue in the districts and hold demonstrations at district headquarters on September 7 and a demonstration in the State Capital in the first week of October.

Apart from this issue of the irrigation tax, discussions in the delegates' sessions were mainly on the report of the General Secretary and a resolution on the Kisan Sabha and the coming General Elections.

Outgoing President of the Sabha, Ganpat Sahal, MP, who won the recent Parliamentary by-election from Sultanpur defeating Congress and Jan Sangh candidates, addressing the delegates requested them to relieve him from Presidency as he would have to devote all his time to his constituency to win the General Election from there. Though he was leaving the Presidency, he assured the delegates that he would continue his association with the Kisan Sabha.

Sugar-Cane Worker's Strike

The report presented to the session by General Secretary Pratap Tandon dealt exhaustively with the work of the Kisan Sabha in the State since its last conference in Sultanpur two-and-a-half years ago.

Among the movements led by the Kisan Sabha in the State he discussed in detail four main struggles—the sugarcane growers' agitation, the Nagpur Resolution of the Congress and the State Government's land policy, on the consolidation of holdings issue and the demand of the landless for land.

On the sugarcane front, some of the biggest and most united struggles have been fought in the last three years, the most important of which was the strike which began on December 15, 1959. Unlike in earlier years when each organisation used to call the strike on different dates, on this occasion the Praja Socialist Party and the Socialist Party had called for strike on the day decided on by the Kisan Sabha. Forty out of the seventy mills were affected by the strike which despite terrible repression lasted for four days.

In the 1960 season nothing very much could be done because of the panchayat elections, etc., and meanwhile two new demands had come up due to the mills' refusal to buy the entire supply of sugarcane and to pay the growers in time as a result of which huge arrears had piled up. Hence, along with the demand for a fair price for the sugarcane the grower also demanded that the mills should buy their entire supply and that they should be paid in time.

When the Congress adopted its Nagpur Resolution on ceiling and cooperatives, the Kisan Sabha rightly considered it as its moral vic-

tory because the resolution was precisely on those issues raised and on which the Sabha had organised campaigns and struggles.

Immediately after the resolution was adopted the Kisan Sabha launched a campaign with the demand, implement the Nagpur resolution properly. Conferences in many districts but the movement did not grow beyond this stage. Meanwhile, the U.P. Government's land ceiling bill came—a legislation more against ceiling than for it.

Legislators who are also office-bearers of the Kisan Sabha like Bikha Lal and Jai Bahadur Singh spoke and moved amendments in the Legislature putting forward the Kisan Sabha's demands. But no Statewide movement could be organised.

The Kisan Sabha ever since the Consolidation of Land Holdings Act was passed in 1954 had been agitating for the cancellation of consolidation proceedings because they were entirely in favour of the big landowners with whom the officials were in league.

As for the decision of the Kisan Sabha a conference on the issue was held in Unnao in February 1959. According to the decision of this conference, over 3,000 kisans from the districts demonstrated in front of the Assembly in Lucknow in March. After this the Statewide agitation came to an end, and the campaign was restricted to only those areas where consolidation proceedings were again beginning.

The main weakness of the movement was that while the Kisan Sabha led a general agitation, it did not make any day-to-day intervention to help the peasants affected by the consolidation proceedings. The result was that the movement collapsed though the demand had widespread support.

Agricultural Workers' Union

A welcome development in this period, the report pointed out, was the attempt that was made to form agricultural workers' organisations. Conferences were called, the demand for land was raised, demonstrations were organised and some members were also enrolled. Here again the movement stopped at this stage with no efforts made to form a Statewide organisation. Now a constitution is being prepared and a committee has been appointed to take up this issue.

Thus the Kisan Sabha had taken up various mass issues but because of the weakness of the organisation, particularly at its base in the village, the movements did not go beyond a particular stage. This weakness was again shown in the panchayat elections.

The Kisan Sabha had brought out an election manifesto which had proved very popular among the

peasantry. The people were also wanting to remove the old pradhans who were in league with bureaucratic officials, but because of the weakness of the kisan organisation and the absence of village leaders who could stand up to the village rich and the rich officials, this desire of the people could not be fulfilled. About one-third to half of the pradhans were elected unopposed and even in places where Kisan Sabha supported candidates won, they did not stand firm but went over to the other camp.

The delegates who participated in the discussion also focused attention on this weakness of the organisation and it was decided that the organisational position of the Sabha should be discussed after the General Elections.

About the General Elections, the delegates discussed a lengthy resolution which put forward the demands of the Kisan Sabha on vital issues affecting the peasantry like the demand for land, the price policy of the Government, rural life and democracy, education and cultural deve-

lopment, taxation, etc., and called on the activists of the Kisan Sabha to popularise this programme from village to village and offer support to those candidates regardless of the party to which they belonged or Independents who stood by this programme and pledged to fight for it in the Legislature and Parliament.

Kisan-Sabha's Election Plans

The resolution made an appeal against canvassing votes in the name of religion, community, etc. The Kisan Sabha, said the resolution, had always stood for eradicating the poverty of the peasantry and to improve agriculture and increase food production and with this end in view had come forward with the programme. While the Kisan Sabha as an organisation will not participate in the elections, the support of its activists will go to those who were in favour of this programme and would fight for its implementation once they are elected.

FROM OUR KISAN CORRESPONDENT

A resolution on cooperatives was adopted after detailed discussion in which delegates narrated their experience, the difficulties and problems of their areas.

The delegates elected a 75-member Provincial Kisan Council which elected Sarju Pande, MP, as President and re-elected Pratap Tandon as General Secretary.

One hundred and fortyone delegates and visitors had come to the Conference from 35 districts representing nearly 25,000 members. Almost all the delegates were activists from the districts and what was more refreshing was that many of them were quite young, and with a good grasp of the problems of their areas enthusiastically participated in the discussions.

Mrs. Bertha Braganza, Editor of Free Goa and a prominent figure in the Goan liberation movement, addressed the delegates and told them of the present situation in Goa and the valiant struggle the Goan people were fighting to rejoin their motherland.

Her appeal for contributions was responded to by the delegates with an on-the-spot collection of Rs. 66 and Rs. 50 from the U.P. Kisan Sabha with a promise of further collections.

JUTE MILLS CRISIS GROWS

THE employers in the jute industry, organised in the Indian Jute Mill's Association (IJMA), have been putting tremendous pressure on the Union Government to permit another block closure of the mills for a week in August.

Two closures, one from June 26 and another from July 24, for one week in each case, was approved, by the Government on the basis of the IJMA's claim that raw jute was in short supply.

False Plea

On the same plea, the IJMA is now demanding a third block closure in continuation of the second, that is to say, for 14 days at a stretch!

The actual raw jute position, however, clearly shows that the plea trotted out by the IJMA is utterly false. The semi-official Central Jute Committee has categorically stated that there is "no shortage of raw jute." Official as well as semi-official circles connected with the jute industry point out

that the production of raw jute this year has broken all previous records. According to an official estimate, the acreage under jute has increased by 25 per cent.

The new jute crop has already started coming to the market, and the bulk of it is expected to arrive in the first week of August. With this supply and the import of one lakh bales of jute cuttings from East Pakistan, for which the Government has already issued permits, stocks of raw jute from the beginning of next month will be much more than what the mills require. There can be, therefore, no reason whatsoever for not resuming uninterrupted production.

Fair Price

The real game of the jute-mill employers is to force down the price of raw jute by creating an artificial shortage, and thereby make in extra profits at the cost of the peasantry and jute workers. They resorted to the same manoeuvre in 1959, and stopped purchases of raw jute.

The plea advanced at that time was that the supply far outstripped the demand. As a result, the jute-growing peasantry in West Bengal had to suffer losses to the tune of Rs. 30 crores.

This year raw jute is selling at Rs. 40 to Rs. 50 a maund. This price can in no way be considered as "excessive" in view of the high cost of pro-

duction and the rising prices of all essential commodities which the peasants have to buy.

From JNAN BIKASH MOITRA

But, the East India Jute Association has already demanded that the Union Government should fix the floor price of raw jute at Rs. 25 a maund! Curiously enough, the Bihar Government also has proposed that the minimum price should be fixed at Rs. 35. Such a proposal only brings grief to the mill of the employers.

It hardly needs to be mentioned that even if the price is fixed at Rs. 35 a maund, masses of the jute-growing peasantry will be ruined and vast tracts of land will again go out of jute cultivation.

Representatives of the AITUC met the State Labour Minister on July 20 to reiterate their strong opposition to the second block closure from July 24. They also told him

has written to the Centre that the information in its possession shows that many mills have requisite stocks of raw jute. Other mills can resume production by replenishing their stocks with the new harvest. The State Government has further informed the Centre that there will be serious unrest among the workers if the proposal for the third closure is approved.

Workers' Demand

A convention of the badli workers, who have been most severely hit by the closures is being held on July 24 under the auspices of the Bengal Chatkal Mazdoor union, to chalk out the future course of action.

The State Kisan Sabha has proposed that a joint convention of the representatives of the jute growing peasantry and the jute workers should be held early next month to discuss the issues affecting both and to draw up a plan for a united movement of the peasants and workers.

State Govt.'s Stand

Several labour leaders met G. L. Nanda, Union Labour Minister, when he was here on July 21. Later he told Pressmen that there must be definite evidence of shortage of raw jute before the Government could agree to the proposal for the third block closure. It could be allowed only after the "closest scrutiny" of the raw jute position. He hoped that, as the new crop had begun to come to the market, another closure could be avoided.

The State Labour Minister told journalists that the IJMA's proposal for a block closure in August could be effective only after it had secured the approval of the State Government.

It is now reliably learnt that the State Government

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TROUBLE IN THE NANGAL FERTILIZERS

We publish below some points from a letter of Communist MLA Ram Kishan Bharolian to the Prime Minister. The letter gives a detailed report of the conditions in the Fertilizers' Corporation of India Ltd. (Nangal Division) and offers concrete suggestions for a way out of the difficulties that are cropping up as well as for the further progress of this most vital public sector project.

compensation would be awarded to them. They were asked to appeal to the Court at a time when the due date for appeal was over. As a proof of the above statement, reference may be made to the D.O. No. 679/10/57—4471 dated March 14, 1957 by Chief Minister Kairon.

These trusting and betrayed peasants should not be harassed but immediately awarded the increased compensation.

Another issue causing anger among the people pertains to the large area of land lying waste and unused. As much as 2,000 of the 4,200 acres acquired are just not being put to any use at all and there is no plan for its utilisation either.

The obvious thing to do is to return such unutilised land to the evicted peasants, who can be charged the due rent. The land, of course, would be returned subject to the condition that it should be reverted to the Government at short notice when the latter requires it.

Then there is the problem of proper facilities for the evicted peasants. Adequate water supply, proper roads, an up-graded primary school and medical facilities on the requisite scale—none of these are available for the peasants. In addition, it is essential that a Senior Sub-Judge be appointed in Nangal itself to settle the many land disputes that crop up, especially since many of the liti-

gants are widows, minors and invalids who find it quite a harassment to make frequent trips to the district headquarters.

Next attention needs to be directed to the problem of the workers in the establishment. A new scheme has been launched to establish a permanent set up. In its name, mass retrenchment, a change mode of daily payment (to the detriment of the workers) and total arbitrariness with regard to appointments, promotions, dismissals, etc., is being forced on the workers.

The workers have three main demands: Retrenchment should be stopped by making jobs transferable; restoration of monthly rated system of payment for all; framing of principles for appointments, promotions, punishment, etc.

Menacing Discontent

Finally, it is a regrettable and damaging fact that the relations of the management with the public are most uncordial and unfriendly. More particularly is this the case with regard to the shopkeepers, who are charged most arbitrary allotment prices and whose allotments are subject to cancellation after three years. A regular no-rent struggle has been forced on the tenants of certain areas.

Discontent is reaching menacing proportions in Nangal and requires the urgent personal intervention of Pandit Nehru before it erupts in a big way.

Inadequate Compensation

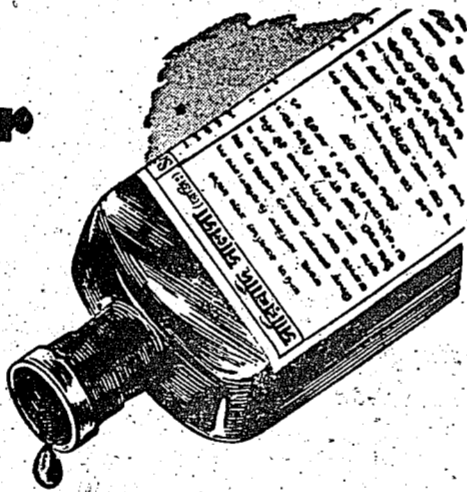
The peasants who were evicted were totally dissatisfied with the compensation awarded. On their approaching Chief Minister Kairon, he promised them that all the affected peasants would be given increased compensation, in case a few test cases were won on this issue in the Court.

Accordingly, some peasants approached the Courts which awarded them a 75 per cent increase over the compensation previously awarded.

But those who did not go to the Courts, on the basis of Kairon's assurance, were told that no increase in

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COMMUNISM—SPRING-TIME SPLENDOR OF MAN

The Communist Party of the Soviet Union proclaims in the draft of its new programme: The present generation of Soviet people shall live under communism. Socialism triumphed in the Soviet Union completely and finally. Within two decades the communist society will, on the whole, be built in the USSR. The world capitalist system on the whole, is ripe for the social revolution of the proletariat. To eliminate wars, to establish ever-lasting peace on earth—such is the historic mission of communism.

THE draft of the third programme of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union—the programme of construction of a communist society—published in Pravda of July 30, for general reference and discussion, will be presented by Nikita Khrushchev to the 22nd Party Congress which will be convened in Moscow on October 17, this year.

The draft programme notes that "communism, which had once seemed a mere spectre, became the greatest force of modern times, a type of society that is being built up over vast areas of the globe."

The first programme of the Party adopted by the Second Congress in 1903, and the second programme adopted by the 8th Congress in 1919, have been fulfilled. "Socialism triumphed in the Soviet Union completely and finally."

The Soviet Union has consistently pursued, and will continue to pursue, the policy of peaceful co-existence of states with different social systems.

constructive generalisation

The new, third programme is a constructive generalisation of the experience of socialist construction; it takes account of the revolutionary movement throughout the world and, giving expression to the collective opinion of the Party, defines the main tasks and the principal stages of the communist construction.

"The Party regards communist construction in the USSR as the Soviet people's great international task, in keeping with the interests of the world socialist system as a whole, and with the interest of the international proletariat and all mankind."

Stressing the historic necessity of the transition from capitalism to socialism, the draft programme notes that "the world capitalist system as a whole is ripe for the social revolution of the proletariat."

"There is an accelerated creation of the material conditions that make possible the replacement of capitalist by communist production relations, that is, the accomplishment of the social revolution which is the aim of the Communist Party, the politically conscious exponent of the class movement of the proletariat."

Characterising the historic significance of the October revolution and of the victory of socialism in the USSR, the draft programme notes: "Soviet experience has shown that the peoples are able to achieve socialism only as a result of the socialist revolution and the implementation of the dictatorship of the proletariat."

This experience has fully confirmed the fundamental

principles of socialist revolution and socialist construction, principles which are of universal significance despite certain specific features due precisely to the historical conditions of socialist construction in the Soviet Union, then in a hostile capitalist encirclement.

Soviet experience had shown that the victory of the socialist revolution alone provides all possibilities and conditions for the abolition of all national oppression, for the voluntary union of free and equal nations and nationalities in a single state.

Soviet experience has shown that socialism and peace are inseparable. The might of socialism serves peace. Soviet experience has fully borne out the Marxist-Leninist theory that the Communist Party plays a decisive role in the formation and development of socialist society.

Soviet experience has shown that fidelity to the principles of Marxism-Leninism, of proletarian internationalism, their firm and unswerving implementation, and defence of these principles against opportunists and all other enemies, are imperative conditions for the victory of socialism. The historical truth of Leninism has been confirmed and a crushing blow has been delivered to social-reformist ideology.

There exists in the world a socialist society that is a reality and a science of socialist construction that has been tested in practice. The high road to socialism has been paved and it will be taken sooner or later by all peoples.

socialist system

The Soviet Union is not pursuing the tasks of communist construction alone but in fraternal community with the other socialist countries.

A new form of political organization of society, People's Democracy, a variety of the dictatorship of the proletariat, emerged. There emerged a world socialist system, a social, economic and political community of free sovereign peoples.

The successes of these countries have conclusively proved that true progress is feasible only under socialism. "This experience is the most valuable asset to the international revolutionary movement."

The world socialist system is a new type of economic and political relationship between countries. Its experience has confirmed the need for the closest unity of countries that fall away from capitalism, for their united effort in the building of socialism and communism.

The world socialist system is advancing steadfastly towards decisive victory in its

economic competition with capitalism. It will shortly surpass the world capitalist system in aggregate industrial and agricultural production.

"The magnificent edifice of the new world being built by the heroic labours of the free peoples on vast areas of Europe and Asia is a prototype of a new society, the future of all mankind," the CPSU draft programme says.

World capitalism has now entered a new, third stage of a general crisis.

The principal feature of this new stage is that its development was not due to a world war."

The general crisis of capitalism finds expression in the following:

The break-away from capitalism of more and more countries; the weakening of imperialist positions in the economic competition with socialism; the break-up of the imperialist colonial system; the intensification of imperialist contradictions with the development of state-monopoly capitalism and the growth of militarism; the mounting internal instability and decay of capitalist economy evidenced by the increasing inability of capitalism to make full use of the productive forces (low rates of production growth, periodic crises, continuous underloading of production plant, and chronic unemployment); the mounting struggle between labour and capital, acute intensification of contradictions within the world capitalist economy; an unprecedented

growth of political reaction in all spheres, rejection of bourgeois freedoms and establishment of fascist and despotic regimes in a number of countries; and the profound crisis of bourgeois policy and ideology.

The United States monopoly capital has become the biggest international exploiter, the draft programme notes. It is performing the function of world gendarme. The economic and, with it, the political and military centre of imperialism has shifted from Europe to the United States. "The United States monopoly bourgeoisie is the mainstay of international reaction."

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capitalist contradictions

The United States, the strongest capitalist power, is past its zenith and has entered the stage of decline. Imperialist countries such as Great Britain, France, Germany and Japan have also lost their former power, the CPSU draft programme points out.

The draft programme stresses that the basic contradiction of the contemporary world, that is, between socialism and imperialism, does not eliminate the deep contradictions rending the capitalist world.

"The antagonism of labour

and capital, the contradictions between the people and the monopolies, growing militarism, the break-up of the colonial system, contradictions between the imperialist countries, conflicts and contradictions between the young national states and the old colonial powers, and—most important of all—the precipitous growth of world socialism are sapping and destroying imperialism, leading to its weakening and collapse."

proletarian revolution

Referring to the development of the international revolutionary movement of the working class, the draft programme notes that the world situation today is more favourable to the working class movement.

The proletarian revolution in a country, being part of the world socialist revolution, is accomplished by the working class of that country and the masses of its people. "The revolution is not made to order. It cannot be imposed on the peoples from without."

Together with the other Marxist-Leninist parties, the Communist Party of the Soviet Union regards it as its international duty to call on

power in the period of socialist construction, their essence will be the same—dictatorship of the proletariat.

Revisionism, right opportunism, which is a reflection of bourgeois influence, is the chief danger within the communist movement today. "The ideology of revisionism is most fully embodied in the programme of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia."

Another danger is dogmatism and sectarianism, which cannot be reconciled with a creative development of revolutionary theory.

The draft programme points out that the rise of socialism marks the advent of the era of emancipation of the oppressed peoples. "The existence of the world socialist system and the weakening of imperialism offer the peoples of the newly-free countries the prospect of a national renaissance, of ending age-long backwardness and poverty, and achieving economic independence."

"A consistent struggle against imperialism is a paramount condition for the solution of national tasks."

After noting that in many countries, the liberation movement of the peoples that have awakened proceeds under the flag of nationalism, the draft programme points

between two ideologies—communist and bourgeois—in the world today, says the draft programme. The new historic epoch has brought the revolutionary world outlook of the proletariat a genuine triumph. Bourgeois ideology is experiencing a grave crisis.

The chief ideological and political weapon of imperialism is anti-communism. Rallied to this black banner today are all the enemies of social progress. Anti-communism is a reflection of the extreme decadence of bourgeois ideology.

The monopolies are reviving fascist ideology—the ideology of extreme chauvinism and racism. Anti-communism is becoming the main instrument of reaction in its struggle against the democratic forces of Asia, Africa and Latin-America.

right-wing social-democrats

It is noted in the draft programme of the CPSU that the contemporary right-wing social-democrats are the most important ideological and political prop of the bourgeoisie within the working-class movement. "The right-wing of social-democracy has completely broken with Marxism

continue to pursue, the policy of peaceful co-existence of states with different social systems.

"Peaceful co-existence implies renunciation of war as a means of settling international disputes, and their solution by negotiation; equality, mutual understanding and trust between countries, consideration of mutual interests, non-interference in internal affairs, recognition of the right of every people to solve all the problems of their country by themselves; strict respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all countries; the promotion of economic and cultural co-operation on the basis of complete equality and mutual benefit."

"Peaceful co-existence serves as a basis for the peaceful competition between socialism and capitalism on an international scale and constitutes a specific form of class struggle between them."

The Communist Party of the Soviet Union advances the following tasks in the field of international relations:

To use, together with the other socialist countries, the peace-loving states and peoples, all means of preventing world war and providing conditions for the complete elimination of war from the life of society;

To pursue a policy of estab-

Soviet Union in Building a Communist Society", gives the following definition of communism:

communism defined

"Communism is a classless social system with one form of public ownership of the means of production and full social equality of all members of society; under it, the all-round development of people will be accompanied by the growth of the productive forces through continuous progress in science and technology; all sources of public wealth will gush forth abundantly, and the great principle 'from each according to his ability, to each according to his needs' will be implemented. Communism is a highly organized society of free, socially conscious working people, in which public self-government will be established, in which labour for the good of society will become the prime vital requirement of everyone, a necessity recognized by one and all, and the ability of each person will be employed to the greatest benefit of the people."

The draft programme fixes successive stages for the solution of tasks pertaining to the building of communism in the USSR.

In the current decade (1961-1970) the Soviet Union, in creating the material and technical basis of communism, will surpass the strong-

est and richest capitalist country, the United States in production per head of population; the people's standard of living and their cultural and technical standards will improve substantially; every one will live in easy circumstances; all collective and state farms will become highly productive and profitable enterprises; the demand of Soviet people for well-appointed housing will, in the main, be satisfied; hard physical work will disappear; the USSR will become the country with the shortest working day.

In the next decade (1971-1980) the material and technical basis of communism will be created and there will be an abundance of material and cultural benefits for the whole population; Soviet society will come close to a stage where it can introduce the principle of distribution according to needs, and there will be a gradual transition to one form of ownership—public ownership.

Thus, the draft programme says, a communist society will on the whole, be built in the USSR. The construction of communist society will be fully completed in the subsequent period.

The draft programme outlines the following plans: To increase total industrial output within the current ten years (1961-1970) by approximately 150 per cent, and to exceed the contemporary level of United States Indus-

trial output. Within 20 years the industrial output will increase not less than 500 per cent, leaving the present over-all volume of the United States industrial output far behind.

The draft programme sets the task of ensuring the priority development of electric power output. The electrification of the entire country will, on the whole, be completed in the course of the second decade. The annual output of electricity must be brought up to 900,000-1,000,000 million kilowatt hours by the end of the first decade, and 2,700,000-3,000,000 million kilowatt hours by the end of the second decade.

Within 20 years ferrous metallurgy will reach a level sufficient to produce about 250 million tons of steel a year.

In order to fully satisfy the requirements of the entire population and of the national economy in agricultural produce, the task is to increase the aggregate volume of agricultural production in ten years by about 150 per cent, and in 20 years by 250 per cent. In the first decade the Soviet Union will outstrip the United States in output of key agricultural products per head of the population.

The kolkhozes and state farms will become enterprises of a communist type by virtue of their production relations, character of labour, and the living and cultural standards of their personnel.

The draft programme stresses that "elimination of socio-economic and cultural distinctions between town and country and differences in their living conditions will be one of the greatest gains of communist construction."

The Party sets the task of achieving in the Soviet Union a living standard higher than in any of the capitalist countries.

This task will be effected by:

a) Raising the individual payment of employees according to the quantity and quality of their work, coupled with reduction of retail prices and abolition of taxes paid by the population;

b) Increase of the public funds distributed among members of society, irrespective of the quantity and quality of their work, that is, free of charge (education, medical treatment, pensions, maintenance of children at children's institutions, transition to cost-free use of public amenities, etc.).

The national income of the USSR in the next ten years will increase nearly 150 per cent, and about 400 per cent in 20 years. The real income per head of population will increase by more than 250 per cent in 20 years.

shortest working day

In the second decade, material requisites will be created to complete the transition to the communist principle of distribution according to need in the ensuing period.

In the coming ten years the country will go over to a 6-hour working day with one day off a week, or a 34-36 hour working week with two

days off, and in underground and harmful jobs to a 5-hour working day or a 30-hour five-day working week. Transition to a still shorter working week will be begun in the second decade.

The Soviet Union will thus have the world's shortest and, concurrently, the most productive and highest paid working day.

The length of the annual paid holidays of working people will be increased together with the reduction of the working day.

At the end of the 20 years public consumption funds will total about half of the population. The draft programme says that this will make it possible to provide at public expense: free maintenance of children at children's institutions and boarding schools; (if parents so wish); maintenance of disabled people; free education at all educational establishments; free medical services for all citizens, including the supply of medicines and the treatment of sick persons at sanatoria; rent free housing and also free public services; free public transport facilities; free use of some types of communal services; steady reduction of charges for, and, partially, free use of holiday homes, boarding houses and tourist camps; increasingly broad provision of the population with benefits, privileges and scholarships (grants to unmarried mothers), scholarships for students; gradual introduction of free public catering (mid-day meals) at enterprises and institutions, and for kolkhoz farmers engaged in production.

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The state as an organization embracing the entire people will survive until the complete victory of communism. The working class will have completed its function of leader of society after communism is built and classes disappear.

As socialist statehood develops, it will gradually become public communist self-government which will embrace the Soviets, trade unions, co-operatives and other mass organizations of the people.

draft programme of communist party of soviet union

national democracy

The draft programme points out that establishing and developing national democracies opens vast prospects for the peoples of the economically under-developed countries. The political basis of a national democracy is a bloc of all the progressive, patriotic forces fighting to win complete national independence and broad democracy and to consummate the anti-imperialist, anti-feudal democratic revolution.

"The joining of the efforts of the newly-free peoples and of the peoples of the socialist countries in the struggle against the war danger is a major factor for world peace."

The CPSU considers fraternal alliance with the peoples who have thrown off colonial or semi-colonial tyranny to be a cornerstone of its international policy, the draft programme says.

A grim struggle is going on

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people's police

THE propaganda machine of West Germany spares no effort to convince the world, specially the neutral countries, that in East Germany the Russians have established a police state. The pupils of Goebbels — whose motto was to repeat a lie so long till it is believed — shout themselves hoarse that West Germany is the state of law and democratic freedoms.

If one could believe these gentlemen, one would think that in GDR only the most cruel and horrible men are recruited in the police. Mildness is not the virtue of police in any country and in a police state there must be a beast in every grey-green uniform. I wanted to have a closer look at these 'beasts' and how 'horrible' I found them I would like to report.

In April, I took part in the opening of the museum in Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp. After the opening ceremony a press conference was held. In its presidium sat a middle-aged gentleman in grey-green uniform, who was answering the questions of the journalists.

As I had come a little late, I missed the introduction of the members of the presidium. I asked a German colleague who the gentleman in uniform was. He told me that he was the chief of Berlin's Volkspolizei (People's police), Major-General Fritz Eikemeier.

After the press conference I approached him and expressed the desire to interview him. He agreed and invited me to the Polizeiprasidium (Police HQ).

I went there at the appointed time and told the porter

that I wished to meet the President. He rang up the secretariat: "Here is a citizen who wants to see comrade general". Then he asked me to accompany him. He did not even check my identity card, not to speak of a search! He did not even ask me what was in my brief-case.

As I entered the ante-room and wanted to ask the secretariat to inform the general that I was there, a gentleman in uniform approached me introducing himself "I am Eikemeier." At first I did not know what to say to him. It is not usual for high officers to receive guests in ante-room. There was nothing in his behaviour which betrayed his high rank.

worker— general

Had I met him in muff I could never have imagined that he was a member of the police force. In course of the interview I realised that he has remained a worker despite of his general's uniform. He is so simple and frank!

He took me into his room and sitting down beside me

asked: "What would you like to know about our police?" I requested him to tell me something about himself.

"Well, what am I to tell you about myself?" was his answer. Then he began: "I am a worker, my father was a glass-blower, so was my grandfather. We were four children. I could not learn a profession as I had to earn a living".

He continued that he worked as a stone-breaker, factory worker and then in the railways as an ordinary worker. "It was all hard manual labour", he said, showing me his hands.

His father was active in the labour movement and young Fritz joined the trade union and workers' sport union at the age of fourteen. He joined the CPD (Communist Party of Germany) in 1930. When Hitler came to power in 1933, he was already a well known trade union leader. He had to go underground and later emigrate.

After spending some time in Holland and Belgium he fought for Republican Spain on various fronts and was promoted to a lieutenant. In 1939, after the defeat of the Republic, he had to retreat to France and spent eight months in an internment camp.

In May 1940 he fell in the hands of Gestapo while in Bordeaux. He was brought to Germany and, like many other anti-fascists, he was dragged from one prison to another.

In Berlin he was locked up in a cell with 150 prisoners! The prisoners could hardly sit.

He spent five years (1940-45) in the concentration camp in Sachsenhausen (horrors of this camp were reported in New Age of 30.4. '61). He took part in the Death March to Schwerin, where he remained till the liberation of Germany.

He returned to Berlin and on 6.6. '45, joined the police. This in short is the life of the chief of Berlin's People's Police, life of a simple worker.

Horrible was the torture he had to undergo horrible to hear and horrible for the western propagandists that the chief of Berlin's Peoples' Police is an active anti-fascist.

I asked him on what principles was the People's Police founded. He told me that the aim was to have a people's police which could defend the interests of the working class and its allies.

In contrast to olden days, when the police was used to suppress the workers, the People's Police meant to be used against anti-social elements and the enemies of the working people. Instead of man-hating and arrogance, the police is educated in the spirit of proletarian internationalism.

anti-nazi fighters

My next question was about the class-origin of policemen and officers. He told me that 80 per cent were workers and peasants. About their political past, I was told that 50 of the officers have been de-

corated with the medal "Fighter against fascism".

He named all the heads of various departments. They have all undergone imprisonment in Hitler's jails and concentration camps. In the police of the whole GDR there is no officer who was a member of the fascist army or police. Just the opposite: there are many who were in the communist or socialist youth movement and have fought in Spain with the International Brigade.

I asked him if there were experts who have served in the police in earlier times. One can have a class-conscious police but one cannot afford to reject the services of experienced criminologists.

The general smiled and said: "We did reject these 'experts'. He then related an episode from the immediate post-war period. An American officer raised this objection when he saw General Eikemeier rejecting all applications of former policemen. He told the American: "If I appoint these people in their old posts, there is a danger that our people would have to go the same destructive path they did in the past".

He then added, "so far as the fight against crimes is concerned, our results are better than those of the West police. This has been admitted by people in the West more than once. Apart from our education, the main reason for our success is the support and confidence of our people which the police has". In the opinion of the general, it is a mistake to give arms to such

* SEE PAGE 12

THREE PLANS FOR GERMANY

The People's Chamber, GDR Parliament, agreed on three plans for the solution of the German problem at its session on July 7. Taken either in whole or in part, these plans would de-fuse the German problem and make Germany, for the first time in modern history, a centre point for peace and defence, instead of a war danger.

HERE are the main points of the three plans, which the People's Chamber submitted for discussion to the West German Parliament and the German people as a whole:

THE Governments of the two German states should agree without delay on the formation of a German Peace Commission, charged with the task of working out German proposals for a peace treaty, and for a "Good Will Treaty" which should improve relations between the two German states.

This Good Will Treaty could cover the following points:

1. Both German states agree to renounce atomic arms, and to agree on an immediate arms stop.
2. Both German states agree on the strength and armament of their respective armed forces, pending

a general disarmament agreement.

3. Both German states ban in their territories propaganda for war and propaganda for revenge.

4. Both German states agree that their populations have the right of self-determination on their respective social systems. They pledge themselves not to intervene in the social system of the other German state.

5. Both German states support the conclusion of a non-aggression pact between the Warsaw Pact states and the NATO states, and support the establishment of an atom-free zone in Central Europe.

6. Both states pledge themselves to take steps to increase mutual trade and cultural and sport contacts, and to improve conditions for passenger traffic between the two states.

THE German Peace Commission should work out proposals for a German Peace Treaty on the basis of the UN Charter. The German proposals for such a treaty should include the following points:

1. The two German states pledge themselves to renounce force or the threat of force in international relations, and to solve international conflicts with peaceful means.
2. The two German states support the creation of a

Germany which is militarily neutral. The main powers of the Anti-Hitler Coalition should guarantee this neutrality. The strength and armament of the defence forces of the two German states should be laid down; the German states renounce atomic arms.

3. The two German states and the other partners to the Peace Treaty guarantee the existing frontiers of Germany. The inviolability of the sovereign territory of the two German states shall be guaranteed.

4. All propaganda for war and revenge is forbidden. All nazi, militarist and revanchist organisations are banned. Persons guilty of crimes against humanity and war crimes shall not be allowed to occupy public office.

5. The partners to the Peace Treaty recognise the full sovereignty and right to self-determination of the German people, including the right to take steps towards German reunification as a peaceful state without outside intervention.

6. The partners to the Peace Treaty support the claim of the German people to representation with equal rights in UN and other organisations. Pending the reunification of Germany they shall sup-

port the acceptance of both German states in UN.

7. Extension of relations between guaranteed full liberty in the development of peaceful economy, shipping, and access to world markets.

8. The West Berlin problem will be solved on the basis of the Peace Treaty, which shall give West Berlin the status of a neutral Free City pending the reunification of Germany.

This Free City may not be a centre for any form of espionage, subversion or hostile propaganda against other states. The inviolability of the status of the Free City and its freedom of decision in internal and external affairs shall be guaranteed on the basis of agreements with the German Democratic Republic.

THE conclusion of the Peace Treaty opens the way to the reunification of Germany, which can only be achieved by way of a Confederation, owing to the differing social systems in the two German states. The bodies of the German Confederation should make recommendations to the two German Governments on the following points:

1. The conditions of the Peace Treaty should be fulfilled in both German states.

2. The obligations of both German states to military groupings should be systematically reduced, culminating in leaving these groupings. All foreign troops should be withdrawn.

3. Agreement on the military neutrality of both German states as a basis for the later establishment of a neutral united German state.

4. Realisation of complete disarmament of the two German states as a German contribution to universal disarmament.

5. Foreign relations of the two German states on the basis of the UN Charter. Membership of the two German states, or the German Confederation in international organisations.

6. Help for economically underdeveloped countries and the renunciation of all forms of colonialism.

7. Extension of relations between the two German states in the field of trade, culture, science and sport; unhindered travel between the two states.

8. The preparation of a democratic constitution for a united German state. General free and secret democratic elections in the whole of Germany for an All-German Parliament.

9. The creation of an All-German Government for a peaceful, neutral and democratic German state with Berlin as capital.

SIBERIAN JOURNEY—2

FACTORY IN THE TAIGA

★ From MASOOD ALI KHAN

We visited two factories in Khabarovsk — right in the heart of the once feared Siberia. But there was no sign of the former darkness. We found the factories bright and the workers eager, happy and well-informed.

THE second factory we saw in Khabarovsk was DALSEISEL, an old establishment which was actually founded in 1902 as an arsenal catering for the Tsarist forces in the Far East. One of the first Bolshevik organisations of the area was established in this factory, we were proudly told, and the workers took part in the establishment of Soviet power, fought in the Red Army and partisan detachments and defeated the Japanese and American interventionists.

The Japs once killed twenty workers and their "brothers' grave" on the territory of the factory is looked after as a cherished monument.

After the revolution the arsenal was turned into a factory producing simple farm machinery for the Far East. Later it produced internal combustion engines, then 20-25 h.p. two-cylinder diesel engines.

Since 1956 it is also putting special caterpillars on harvester combines, and after the Central Committee, CPSU, plenum of July 1960 decided to produce 150-250 h.p. diesels which have been designed by a research institute for the factory. The engines are used for launches, river trams, tugs and fishing boats, etc. They also make 100 k.w. generators for use in agriculture and on ships.

Factory Director

The forty-five year old director of the factory, Lev Koltipin, had all the figures on his finger-tips and was all inspiration when he spoke of the rapid development of his factory and of the whole Soviet Far East. His life story is typical of the most of the leading executives we met in Siberia. His father, an agronom, and

mother a village school teacher, came to Khabarovsk in 1924 from a place 150 kilometres north of Moscow. He himself finished ten-year school in 1935, then a technical school in Vladivostok, started work in shipbuilding on Komsomolsk on the Amur, the new city which had been built by the heroic Soviet youth in the wild taiga of the Far East.

Starting as assistant foreman he went up as a qualified worker, later became deputy engineer then Chief Engineer and finally director in 1958.

His wife is an engineer in a research institute, has three daughters, the eldest graduated this year in Russian literature, the middle one is studying in a polytechnic in second year and the youngest is a first year student in a fisheries institute. Koltipin was quite proud of his daughters but he was much more proud of his factory.

Astounding Growth

Production at this plant has been expanding at an astounding rate, at least that is what we thought, but by the time our trip was over we were to realise that that was the rule in Siberia and Soviet Far East and not the exception. The 1958-59 growth was 13 per cent, 1959-60 already 52 per cent and for this year they had planned to increase production by another 60 per cent in other words from 1959 to 1961 production will be more than doubled.

Giving us these figures the director concluded "and by 1965, at the end of the seven-year plan our production has to be increased 12-fold, mainly through new machinery and mechanisation and automation. The number of workers will increase only ten to twelve per cent".



At Khabarovsk. It is on the five-foot-thick ice over the great river of the Far East, Amur, that the trucks and cars—and even excavators—are rolling across.

"We had to ask him to repeat the figures so as to make sure our ears had not deceived us. "Only last year we installed 70 new machines, come and see the factory you will believe then" he said. And we went on a round of the factory with him.

We went through many shops where the chassis for combines were made and assembled. The combines come from Taganrog but they are put here on special extra wide caterpillars for use under local conditions, on damp soil. They are also good for rice fields. These huge machines can go over muddy fields where a human being would sink. We saw huge diesel engines on test beds and countless lathes and grinders at work.

There was the usual bang and clatter of a huge plant working full capacity. Of the 1,940 workers about 40 per cent are women. The director told us of the seven year and eleven year schools and technical schools and evening classes organised at the factory or attached to it, and we saw the shops where young apprentices are trained, they earn while they learn.

One hundred and sixty workers are studying in evening courses or external classes of higher educational institutions, 30 are preparing for entrance exams and will be sent on factory scholarships to study in Moscow and other

places at the universities and institutes. It is easier for workers to get admission in universities if they come from factories with some production experience.

We chatted with as many people as we could to form some idea of their life, standard of living and other interests. It is impossible to give all these conversations but some examples are necessary to show how people live in these remote regions of the Soviet Union. What we discovered was that basically the day-to-day life and conditions of the workers in this factory differed little from those of a Moscow plant.

Cultured Lives

Alexander Sidorin first came to Khabarovsk a few years ago on military service. When demobilised two years back joined this plant. He is married has two children, one goes to school and the other to the kindergarten. They have a separate three-room flat, radio. He works a seven-hour day like all the others. He earned 160 roubles last month. Goes to pictures with his wife twice a week and once in a while to the theatre.

On their last visit they had seen "Island of the Aporidite", a play about the struggle for freedom on Cyprus which was also running at Moscow's Art Theatre at that time.

Alexander is a keen angler and likes reading. I asked what was the last book he had read. Sebastopol Days he said. Not a detective as one would most likely find in England but something by Tolstoy.

Georgi Anisimov is 37, ten years older than Sidorin, and has been at the factory for 20 years. He lives with his wife and daughter in a newly built flat (3 rooms, kitchen and bathroom), loves sport and plays hockey and football. The director added that Anisimov was the best goal-shooter of their team.

"My wife too loves sport and is a cycling enthusiast. We fell in love as a matter of fact because we both love sport", Anisimov said with a smile. They live not far from the factory and grow fruit and vegetables as a hobby. Then there came the inevitable comparison with the Indian climate. "In winter we have 35 to 45 degrees below freezing, but

we like it, such climate is very healthy". Standing in a group we discussed the wage level and how the new norms for the piece-rate were fixed. "The new norms are a result of the new techniques. With new machines our work becomes easier and production goes up, so the rates of payment have to be revised too", Anisimov said.

Pointing to the director of the factory I asked "you are not afraid of this chap?" "No why should we be?" a worker said, and explained "He cannot sack anyone without the consent of the trade union". And another elaborated further: "Director must have the confidence of the workers, and he goes if he loses it".

And did they have any conflicts and disputes with the management I enquired. "Of course we have, we are all human beings". New norms, new machinery, wage rates lead to differences and they have to be settled with the T. U. Last year the wages of the workers went up by seven per cent, we were told.

The workers were proud of their factory's housing estate of new blocks containing 80 to 100 flats each. The new blocks were going up and will be ready in July. Earlier they had followed a wrong policy of building bigger flats of four to five rooms and they had to be shared between two families, the new ones are smaller but the whole flat belongs to one family.

We asked whether they had conflicts over the allotment of flats with the management or the director. "But I have nothing to do with it, it is all their own affair" broke in the factory director Koltipin.

There is a factory housing committee which is elected by the workers at the T. U. Conference, it has 27 members and is attached to the factory T. U. committee. "The director has no powers in this" a worker said conclusively.

Most of the workers, we found, were sport enthusiasts, liked fishing in the Amur and its tributary the Ussuri, for were fond of hunting, and the nearby taiga was full of wild game. Nearly all workers had their own motor-boats. Motorcycle races are held on the ice of the Amur which forms "the best racing track in the world".



SOCIALISTS MOVE LEFT

ROME, July 25

The administrative elections of the spring of this year have brought a welcome clarity to the political situation. More particularly has it brought about a certain sharpening of the political stand of the Italian Socialist Party led by Nenni.

THE elections revealed that the Italian Communist Party has advanced everywhere or nearly everywhere. But the Italian Socialist Party has just about retained its position in some provinces and lost heavily in others. Its leadership had, naturally enough, to draw the appropriate lessons from these results.

Its Central Committee session in early July, therefore, clearly condemned the wait-and-see attitude adopted by Nenni and his colleagues. This attitude of waiting for the Christian Democratic

Government to become "progressive" and offer an alliance to the Italian Socialist Party had simply strengthened the Fanfani Government, weakened the Christian Democratic Leftwing and the Socialist Party itself.

Sensing the mood of the Central Committee, Nenni himself proposed the adoption of a clearly oppositional attitude to the Fanfani Government and the moving of a no-confidence motion in the Parliament. In this way the Socialists were compelled to take the same stand which the Communists had adopted as long as May 26.

FANFANI DEFEATED

The most significant aspect of this shift in the policy of the Socialists is that it means the defeat of Fanfani's policy of isolating the Communists with the help of the Socialist

policy of watching and waiting.

Immediately, this shift has had a very favourable impact on the Sicilian situation. The four-month old political crisis in the island was resolved in a progressive way by the setting up of a regional Government composed of the Socialists and the Autonomists, and enjoying the support of the Communists. The Christian Democrats tried in vain to move a no-confidence motion against this Government.

They now have no hope of restoring their rule in that island not, at any rate, till the regional elections next autumn. This is a great victory for the Left forces and a smashing success for their unity, even if it does not mean that stability has come to stay in Sicily.

As was only to be expected, the Socialist Party's no-confidence motion was lost with 247 voting for it and 318 against, with seven abstentions. The debate around the

motion, however, in the Parliament and press, served a very useful purpose.

GOVERNMENT EXPOSED

The total support given to the Government by the monopolist press, including its most openly reactionary sections, has thoroughly exposed the "Left" pose of Fanfani.

The so-called "third force" parties (the Saragat Social Democrats and the Republicans) by their support to the Government have shown to the public their role of the reserve force of the bourgeoisie. This will, undoubtedly, lead to a loss in their political influence.

UNITY OF THE MASSES

Moreover, Saragat's voting against the Socialist motion has put an end, for the time

From S. BENSASSON

being to the flirtation which Nenni was carrying on with him. For a long time there can scarcely be any talk of unity between these two parties. A similar fate now descends upon the Nenni policy of a "centre-Left coalition" between the Socialists and the Christian Democrats. This will help to stimulate mass unity in action.

Intervening in the Parliamentary debate, Palmiro Togliatti pointed out that the Italian Communist Party had condemned this Government at its very inception; since it had betrayed the ideals of the great anti-fascist struggle which had brought down the Tambroni Government last year. He stated that the struggle against the Fanfani Government would go on in factories and fields so as to bring about a true "centre-Left" unity, and bring about progressive policy changes, supported by the Socialists and Communists.

It is to the development of such a struggle that the Italian Communist Party devotes all its energy and immense mass influence.

The cult of the individual, and the violations of collectivism in leadership, of inner-party democracy and socialist legality arising out of it, the draft says, are incompatible with the Leninist principles of Party life.

The draft provides for the introduction in practice of a regular renewal, in certain proportions, of the members of all elected Party bodies—from primary organizations to the Central Committee, thus ensuring continuity of leadership.

The draft programme stresses that "the people are the decisive force in the building of communism. The Party exists for the people and it is in serving the people that it sees the purpose of its activity."

The concluding words of the draft programme are: "The Party solemnly proclaims: The present generation of Soviet people shall live under communism!"—TASS.

C.P.S.U. PROGRAMME

* From Centre Pages

The Party considers it essential to perfect the forms of popular representation and promote the democratic principles of the Soviet electoral system.

The draft programme points out that as long as imperialism survives the threat of aggressive wars will remain. The CPSU regards the defence of the socialist motherland as a most important function of the socialist state. The Soviet Union sees it as its international duty to guarantee, together with the other socialist countries, the reliable defence and security of the entire socialist camp.

In terms of internal conditions, the Soviet Union no longer needs an army. But since the danger of war coming from the imperialist camp persists, and since complete and general disarmament has not been achieved, the CPSU considers it necessary to maintain the defensive power of the Soviet state and the combat preparedness of its armed forces at a level ensuring the decisive and complete defeat of any enemy who dares encroach upon the Soviet Union.

The Party sets the following tasks in the sphere of national relations:

To continue the all-round economic and cultural development of all the Soviet nations, ensuring their increasingly close fraternal cooperation, mutual aid, unity and affinity in all spheres of life, thus achieving the utmost strengthening of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; to make full use of, and advance, the forms of national statehood of the peoples of the USSR.

The Party will continue its policy of promoting the actual equality of all nations and nationalities.

The CPSU considers that the paramount task in the ideological field in the present period is to mould a new man of the communist society

to educate all working people in a spirit of ideological integrity and devotion to communism, and cultivate in them a communist attitude to labour and the social economy; to eliminate completely the survivals of bourgeois views and morals; to ensure the all-round, harmonious development of the individual; to create a truly rich spiritual culture.

EDUCATION'S PERSPECTIVE

In the field of instruction and education the task is set of introducing in the next decade compulsory secondary general and polytechnical eleven-year education for all children of school age, and education of eight classes for young people engaged in the national economy, who have

not had the appropriate schooling; in the subsequent decade everyone is to receive a complete secondary education.

The draft programme deems it to be a point of honour for Soviet scientists to consolidate the advanced positions which Soviet science has won in major branches of knowledge and to take a leading place in world science in all the key fields.

The draft programme points out that cultural development during the full-scale construction of communism society will constitute the closing stage of a great cultural revolution. At this stage all the necessary ideological and cultural conditions will be created for the victory of communism.

The draft programme's chapter, "Communist Cons-

truction in the USSR and Co-operation of the Socialist Countries", points out that the development of socialist countries as members of a single world socialist system, and their utilization of the objective laws and advantages of this system, enable them to reduce the time necessary for the construction of socialism and offer them the prospect of effecting the transition to communism more or less simultaneously within one and the same historical epoch.

The CPSU regards communist construction in the Soviet Union as a component of the building of communism society by the peoples of the entire world socialist system.

east berlin's police send greetings

* From Page 10

persons who have in the past abused and misused them.

Then I asked him about the first days of People's Police. After the defeat of Nazism, there was no law and order. Members of police just left their posts and disappeared. The Soviet Army organised anti-fascists and other democratic elements, many of whom had just been released from prisons and concentration camps or had liberated themselves, to restore law and order.

Their main jobs were to find out hiding Nazis, to hinder sabotage and fight the black market. The people's police fulfilled its duty. A very important role was played in this struggle by the Soviet soldiers and officers under the command of Major-General Bersarin (who later died in a road accident) and after him under General Kotikov.

The Western Allies came to Berlin in July 1945. At that time there was a united police force for whole Berlin under allied control. From the very first day it became clear that the Western Powers were not serious about demilitarization. With every passing day the number of re-employed ex-police increased in the western sectors.

Reduce Forces

The last and strongest blow to the western propaganda was struck when the General said to me:

"I would be happy if the time would soon come when, as a result of better understanding among nations, we could reduce the strength of our forces as our army has done."

"My boys will not remain

behind anybody in peaceful labour," he added with pride. Could a police chief in a police state say such a thing? Reduce the strength of the police forces?

In the end Major General Fritz Elkemeier requested me to convey the greetings of Berlin's Volkspolizei to Indian people and to our paper.

How deep-rooted is the confidence of the people in the police? Are the people afraid of the police? I did not put these questions to Major General Elkemeier. I tried to find out the answer myself.

People's Love

First of July was the Day of People's Police. Delegations of workers, youth and young pioneers visited police stations and congratulated their police on its 'Day'.

Many policemen on traffic duty received bouquets and regulated traffic with bouquets instead of their black and white sticks.

Wuhlheide Park was the scene of the main festivities. After a march-past there was rich programme. Sport fans could watch games, which ranged from football to races. The criminologists demonstrated how they detect crimes. There were posters with a description of four 'criminals' who were in the park and had to be found out. Monday's newspapers report that they were found out and those who led to their 'arrest' were rewarded. There was a 'traffic park' where children were taught the elementary rules of traffic. On various places films about the work of the police were shown. In short the People's Police-Day was great fun enjoyed by over 82,000 citizens.

U. S. THREATENS LIMITED WAR

President Kennedy's speech on July 26 is a clear indication that the U. S. Government has decided to adopt in toto the Dullesian policy of brinkmanship. The world situation has taken a most grave turn and there can be little doubt that only the most urgent action by all the peace forces of the world can avert the most serious war crisis since 1959.

THIS point has been underlined by the New Statesman editorial (July 28): "For the third time this month, the New Statesman warns its readers over the growing danger of war over Berlin. We make no apology. We shall do so again and again until public opinion forces the Government of the West to act upon the essential truth that the Berlin problem can—and must—be solved by negotiation, not war..."

No leading Western statesman has indicated what the West is prepared to negotiate about. Indeed, if one may judge by public utterances—not excluding several passages in Mr. Kennedy's speech—the signs are still that, despite conventional promises about negotiation, public opinion in the West is being conditioned (as Bertrand Russell so cogently put it last week-end) into a "general state of mind in which the public will acquiesce in a large-scale nuclear war."

This is only the most natural reaction to Kennedy's speech which the London Economist (July 29) has aptly headlined "Rearmament". The U. S. President has requested Congress for an additional three billion dollars military expenditure in the current fiscal year. This brings the military expenditure in the U. S. this year to the astronomical sum of 46,500 million dollars. Never in all history has a Government spent so much on arms in peace time.

He has asked for a rise in the authorised strength of the U. S. to the one-million mark in addition to a 30,000 rise in naval and air-force strength. Draft calls are to be doubled and trebled in the coming months, old sea and air craft are to be recommissioned and close on two billion dollars will be spent on the procurement of non-nuclear weapons, ammunition and equipment.

Rearmament Programme

Besides this, Kennedy said "subsequent steps will be taken to meet subsequent needs" and added that "comparable efforts for common defence are being discussed with our NATO-allies for their commitments and interests are as precise as our own".

Kennedy also pointed out that these additional measures for arms expansion "are part of the long-term build up in our strength since January", i.e. since he became President. Further, the measures for arms expansion and war preparation which he proposed to the Congress last March and May "must be speeded up."

These measures included: an increase in the size of the marine corps; improved readiness of U. S. reserves; expansion of its air and sea lift power; stepped up procure-

ment of needed weapons, ammunition and other items; the strengthening of U. S. missile power and the putting of the B-52 and B-47 bombers on a ground alert.

Apart from its obvious purpose of heightening international tension, the U. S. President's rearmament programme had two other subsidiary aims.

Reaction's Shock-Brigade

First, there was the old idea of using increased military appropriations to hasten the rather tardy process of the revival of the U. S. economy after a quite prolonged slump. The Rightwing U. S. News and World Report commented that the Kennedy plan would "stimulate" business activity and might even help to lessen the "stable unemployment" which has become the scourge of the U. S. workers.

Second, there is the intention of heightening the U. S. role of the armed shock-brigade of reactionary forces in all the countries of the world. The New York Times stated that Kennedy's new proposals were primarily aimed not at enhancing U. S. capacity to "defend" West Berlin but at increasing the ability of the Western allies to wage any kind of war in any part of the world.

Only this can explain the words of the U. S. President about the necessity of creating "sea and air-lift capable of moving our forces quickly and in large numbers to any part of the world."

The primary purpose remains, however, the determination of the U. S. to come to the brink in Europe. It seems likely that the extreme Rightist forces in the Kennedy administration are getting the upperhand as far as military strategy is concerned. These rabid elements are concentrating their efforts on inducing a so-called "limited war" in Europe. The most prominent among them are Dean Acheson, who is the brains behind the Kennedy approach to the German problem, and General Maxwell Taylor, who has become the chief military assistant to the President.

The Time (July 28) writes: "As Army Chief of Staff from 1955 to 1959, Taylor fought unsuccessfully for a bigger and better equipped Army, finally pined in frustration and poured his theories into an outspoken book he called The Uncertain Trumpet... the book caught the eye of Senator Kennedy, who contributed a blurb for the publisher; 'This volume is characterised by an unmistakable honesty, clarity of judgement and a genuine sense of urgency.'"

"Since then, President Kennedy seems to have

bought Taylor's views on limited war..."

The planning, endorsed by both Taylor and Advisor Dean Acheson, calls for the U. S. to be prepared to fight a limited war... The Administration's reasoning: a limited war against Russia would leave the situation flexible enough so that general war might be averted.

"Many U. S. officials argue that, by definition, it would be impossible for two great powers such as the U. S. and USSR to fight a limited war. But Taylor has long claimed that a limited war in Europe was indeed possible."

The international scene would be dismal, indeed, if persons like the Kennedy-Acheson-Taylor combine could have their way unhindered. Fortunately this is far from being the case. Soviet superiority in the field of rocketry has compelled a shift in Western military thinking away from the theory of victory through a push-button war.

Now their insane plans hinge around conventional arms. But here, too, the Soviet Union has given them cause for pause. The Soviet air display some weeks ago and the very recent Lenin-grad naval display has shown that in these fields, too, the Soviet Union has outstripped the West. And it is a well-known fact that the land forces of the Warsaw Treaty Powers are far superior to the Nato divisions.

In this situation, only a lunatic in the U. S. would embark on a limited war and hope to win. But militarists and true blud reactionaries are not famous for their sanity.

TUNISIAN TENSION

Employees' Union fell flat on the management.

To secure its fat profits and to brush aside the union it resorted to most nefarious methods, and recruited a Security Officer—a certain B. R. Salwan—who goes almost with a loaded pistol dangling on his person. Funch drunk, generally, this "gentleman" in the company of hired goondas from outside marches on department to department 'picking up' the office bearers and active workers of the union.

The peaceful agitation of the workers is being met with a host of illegal and vindictive acts on the part of the management.

With a view to demoralise the workers, the management has suspended Martin and Jaswant Rai, dismissed Hira Lal an active worker, and K. L. Roy, the General Secretary of the Union on false and cooked-up charges.

Even the right of the union to hold meetings in front of the union office—the right which the union has been exercising for the last six years—is being denied now.

To disrupt the ranks of the employees, the management has started to distribute money among certain workers in various ways, to spare certain stooges from doing any work to go round the departments and terrorise and harass workers. For their anti-social activities these stooges are

rewarded by overtime payment and in other ways. With a view to further victimising the workers, the management planned a conspiracy to accuse the workers for the alleged "go-slow"—hiding the fact of tremendous work-load increase. Defects in the machines were planned and purposely created by the officers, to put the blame on workers and harass them.

On top of these most unfair labour practices, Section 144 has been imposed and Police interference has been brought to into the industrial dispute, which undoubtedly has become the biggest obstacle to popularise the workers' demands and decisions and to win mass support.

It is against such a state of affairs that the extraordinary General Body meetings of the Bennett Coleman & Co. Employees' Union, held on July 17, 1961, has adopted a resolution and has decided "to launch a strike in defence of the right and privileges enjoyed by the workers, for reinstatement of dismissed, suspended and retrenched employees."

Exercising utmost restraint and patience in the face of grave provocations the workers are now firmly poised behind their union for direct action.

Will the management avert the impending crisis and accede to the demands of the union, before the zero hour strikes?

—MOHIT SEN (August 3)

Workers Victimised

* FROM BACK PAGE

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Congress Factions Take To Violence

After the fiasco and consequent stalemate in the BPCC meeting in which the anti-ministerialists were planning to set up their own election supervision committee, the group fight in the Bihar Congress has shifted to the districts where each group is employing every manoeuvre to have its nominees recommended for Congress tickets in the coming general elections.

THESE manoeuvres also include organisation of mass meetings and demonstrations of public support for its candidates. Inevitably with different groups working at cross purposes, this is often leading to violent disturbances.

Sometimes back a Youth Congress was organised at Sikandra in South Monghyr. The moving spirit behind the Youth Congress was the 70 years old Shyama Prasad Singh, a former Chairman of the Legislative Council and a staunch supporter of the present ministerialist group. The Youth Congress was to be inaugurated by Sri Jafar Imam, the Minister for Jails, and presided over by a Deputy Minister, Sri Daroga Rai.

meetings disrupted

When the ministers were requested to accompany the procession they insisted on a conveyance. A jeep was hastily arranged and the ministers took their seats in it. But as soon as Shyama Prasad Singh recognised the jeep to belong to Hari Sharma, the local MLA belonging to the anti-ministerialist group, he ordered the jeep back and the poor ministers had to trudge along with the more militant supporters of their group in the procession.

But that was not the end of the trouble which the local Congress MLA was bent on giving to his ministerialist leaders. At the meeting, as soon as a welcome address was presented to the ministers congratulating them for having put an end to the Ravana Raj in Bihar the supporters of that Raj began to get vociferous and troublesome. The local MLA, Sharma, insisted on speaking. He succeeded in mustering enough local support to end the meeting in pandemonium among shouts of abusive slogans.

A few days later, a similar scene was repeated in another meeting inaugurated by the Chief Minister, Binodanand Jha. This was in Barhaya, also in South Monghyr—an old stronghold of the anti-ministerialists.

The meeting was ostensibly organised in order to consider the law and order situation in the area which had seriously deteriorated in the recent period.

At the meeting somebody proposed the name of Nand Kumar Singh, an ex-president of the BPCC, for presidency. From among the audience another name was proposed. A controversy started which soon degenerated into a battle of slogans as to who was the president of the meeting. Ultimately the Chief Minister decided to intervene. Regular and organised heckling made it impossible for him to proceed. The meeting had to be abandoned and it is reported a slogan shouting mob kept the Chief Minister and others surrounded for hours.

The consultations about the law and order situation for which the local district officials were called had to take place two miles away on the roadside.

The anti-ministerialists are glad that they have rebuffed an invasion of their strongholds by the ministerialists. The latter threatened retaliatory measures.

"Corruption" is proving a handy weapon in this war of retaliation. The Chief Minister declared a holy war on it. He threatened to make public the names of Congress legislators and others who had misused loans from the Government for industrial and agricultural development and were refusing to pay them on one plea or other. It involved about 400 congressmen and the loan granted ran into crores.

On scrutiny, however, it was found that this could hit both ways and so Revenue Minister Janaki Raman Misra has come out with an explanation in the obvious attempt to hush up the matter. It is customary, explains Misra, to adjust agricultural development loans against Zamindari compensation bonds. And so in the case of these Congress loanees the question of payment never arose!

People wondered, however, if all the Congress recipients of loans were zamindars. But the Revenue Minister did not care to say anything about the recipients of industrial loans.

In this crusade against corruption announced by the Chief Minister the Government, it is reported, came very near to starting legal proceedings against a Congress leader of Bhagalpur who was once upon a time among the top leaders at the Sadaqat Ashram.

corruption charges

The District Magistrate, it is said, was actually instructed to sue him in connection with some iron sheet scandal and certain other cases of alleged embezzlement of Government money. The Congress leader concerned was a prominent member of the anti-ministerialist group. And since no member of the ruling group had fallen a victim to this anti-corruption drive, it was not difficult to present it as a form of group vendetta. Congress prestige was at stake.

At the last moment the offensive had to be called off. Such was the inglorious finale of a drama that had promised at least to be exciting.

In the meantime, the anti-ministerialists, fearing if worst came to worst, had got ready cash in lakhs to help wriggle out a leader from a situation which would have compromised the name and prospects of the whole group and made it ineffective, at least, in one district.

In this group struggle, however, corruption — and not only 'struggle' against corruption — also played a

part. Political circles in Patna are intrigued over the report of an alleged offer of Rs. 20 lakhs by an industrial magnate to a leader of the anti-ministerialist group in order to win him back to the fold of the ruling group.

This industrial magnate who has very large interests in cement and sugar in Bihar, is said to have intimate relations with Congress leaders in the State. The late Dr. S. K.

Minister Kedar Pandey, and so on and so forth. Dr. Mah-mood was accompanied on his tour by another Deputy Minister Abdul Ghafoor. They are storm troopers of the ministerialist group. The integration committees set up in the districts were headed by their men, as for example, in Ranchi by Amanat Ali.

It was in this context that BPCC President Ansari, one of the troika of the anti-ministerialist leadership, was roused to come out, apparently apropos of nothing, with his strong worded condemnation of the Muslim Convention. Pat came a spate of joint statements denouncing Ansari on behalf of various sections of Muslims—lawyers, journalists, ladies etc.

Ansari took the next step by appointing a National Integration Committee of the BPCC in terms of the Indra Gandhi Report and nominated all but two members from his own

congress muslims enter fray

GROUP struggle in the Congress in Bihar is ever trying to find new grounds to expand itself—and one such ground recently discovered is what is called in common parlance "Muslim" politics. Muslim Congressmen—Ministers, Deputy Ministers and MLAs and their followers and supporters are arranged against each other behind the two main groups—the ministerialists and the anti-ministerialists.

The struggle came into the open when sudden controversy developed over the Muslim Convention held sometimes back at Delhi. The ball was set rolling by BPCC President Abdul Qayyum Ansari.

On July 22, he came out with a statement condemning the Convention for having encouraged forces of communalism among Muslims. This was intriguing to an extent for two reasons. Ansari himself was one of the sponsors of the Convention. And though he did not attend it, he woke to the communal danger let loose by it rather suddenly after more than two months had passed to the event.

The real reason for Ansari's discomfiture, however, soon became evident. It was not so much the Muslim Convention as the Bihar tour of Dr. Syed Mahmood—planned and organised by the ministerialists. It was known that Dr. Syed Mahmood who was identified with Dr. S. K. Sinha's group during the latter's lifetime was lately being cultivated by the present incumbents of the ministerialist gaddi.

Under the cover of a country-wide tour to promote national integration and communal harmony, he took the anti-ministerialist group by surprise by coming down to Bihar and announcing an integration conference of the Muslims under the chairmanship of Sir Sultan Ahmad.

The old man sensing the real purpose behind this integration and seeing the forces arranged for and against it, thought it prudent to keep aloof. The Conference was postponed sine die in the name of the illness of the President of the Republic.

But integration meetings were addressed by Dr. Syed Mahmood at Darbhanga presided over by ex-Minister Harinath Misra, at Ranchi presided over by Deputy

Sinha was his guest at Calcutta during his last and fatal illness. During those days the said industrialist was a supporter of the Chief Minister's group. Now he has transferred his patronage to the new Chief Minister and is said to be using his money and influence to disrupt his previous proteges.

The story goes that he invited both the Chief Minister and K. B. Sahay and offered the latter Rs. 20 lakhs

as the price for his joining hands with the Chief Minister. Sahay who has, obviously, higher ambitions than playing second fiddle to Pandit Binodanand Jha, seems to have turned down the offer.

And in the bargain the said industrialist was a follower of K. B. Sahay, having added another feather to their plume, are going about with a sense of moral superiority giving garbled and obviously tutored versions of the story.

The ministerialists, however, do not give any credence to the affair. Their argument is that in Bihar, today, there is no leader who could not be bought at twenty lakhs.

from ALI ASHRAF

Minister Kedar Pandey, and so on and so forth. Dr. Mah-mood was accompanied on his tour by another Deputy Minister Abdul Ghafoor. They are storm troopers of the ministerialist group. The integration committees set up in the districts were headed by their men, as for example, in Ranchi by Amanat Ali.

It was in this context that BPCC President Ansari, one of the troika of the anti-ministerialist leadership, was roused to come out, apparently apropos of nothing, with his strong worded condemnation of the Muslim Convention. Pat came a spate of joint statements denouncing Ansari on behalf of various sections of Muslims—lawyers, journalists, ladies etc.

Ansari took the next step by appointing a National Integration Committee of the BPCC in terms of the Indra Gandhi Report and nominated all but two members from his own

group. The two were the Chief Minister and Mazhar Imam who was the General Secretary of the Muslim Convention.

On July 28, this Committee organised a conference addressed by Sanjeeva Reddy and presided over by Ansari. Mazhar Imam, however, was heckled when he rose to speak.

On the day Sanjeeva Reddy was arriving in Patna, the opponents of Ansari gave wide publicity to an editorial in the ISHARA edited by a follower of Ansari and his nominee on the BPCC Integration Committee. This editorial speaks abusively of the "majority" community for its attitude to the Muslims. This was brought as an evidence of Ansari's own communalism.

In the meantime rival deputations are waiting to place their respective cases before Congress President Sanjeeva Reddy who is here on a brief visit.

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P. S. P. DIVIDED

THE question whether the PSP in Bihar will survive the coming General Elections is certainly not realistic. But when people begin asking this question it, no doubt, shows the real depths to which the PSP has fallen in popular estimation.

The PSP in Bihar, today, is faced with a crisis unprecedented in its life. Thirteen out of its thirtyone members in the Legislative Assembly and one member of the Lok Sabha offered to join the Congress if they were assured of tickets from the constituencies which returned them in the last elections.

The situation was saved by Asoka Mehta and Ganga Saran Singh who approached Congress leadership, both here and at Delhi, to save the PSP. And so no assurances were given. And the news of impending resignations from the PSP which had leaked out to the press was promptly denied. Apparently all was well, again, with the PSP in Bihar. But this is a facade which nobody believes, first and foremost in the PSP itself.

The fact that fourteen members of the Vidhan and Lok Sabha offered to join the Congress is not true enough measure of the crisis. More important than the number, in this case, is the quality—the type of persons involved. The fourteen included Ramanand

Tiwary, the famous policeman-striker and currently the leader of the Assembly PSP group, Karpoori Thakur MLA, General Secretary of the Party in Bihar, Rajindra Singh MP and others. Their defection it is not difficult to imagine, would have dealt a mortal blow to the PSP in Bihar.

Even Karpoori Thakur complained of helplessness as General Secretary in face of non-cooperation from the majority of the Executive and its Chairman.

The way out of the crisis which the dissidents wanted to take by joining the Congress was, however, dictated by the casteist set up prevailing in political life in Bihar.

It is a well known fact that divisions in the PSP in Bihar follow, more or less, the line of the caste divisions in the Congress. The different PSP factions are adjuncts of the Congress caste groupings.

Ramanand Tiwary and Karpoori Thakur got encouraged to offer to join the Congress by the fact that the group of their allies in the Congress is today in power in the government. But the BPCC is controlled by the allies of the rival faction of Basawan Singh and so it was not difficult to scuttle their move by refusing them any guarantees.

It is obvious that in the coming general elections the Bihar PSP will enter as a house divided against itself.

students fight on

from JNAN BIKASH MOITRA

Calcutta, July 31

STUDENTS throughout West Bengal observed a token general strike on July 28, demanding, among other things, that facilities for admission in colleges should be provided for about 65,000 students. In Calcutta alone, nearly 125,000 students participated in the strike, the call for which was given by the Council of Action, consisting of representatives of Central Organisations of students and College Unions.

College education in this State is now in the grip of a grave crisis. Thousands of students are desperately trying to get admission in colleges in and around Calcutta, which offer facilities for honours and commerce courses, have adequate and competent staff, good libraries and well-equipped science laboratories.

The position of students under Burdwan University is no better. The entire pressure of admission is confined to a few colleges in Burdwan town because these alone offer necessary facilities. Besides this, the students of this University are faced with a number of acute problems such as chaos in selection of study-courses, system of teaching of certain subjects in post-graduate classes, etc.

The attitude of the West Bengal Government till now has been one of supreme callousness and "masterly inactivity". It flaunts tons of "statistics" to prove that the total number of seats in colleges in the State is much more than that of students seeking admission. So, according to the Government, the problem of admission does not really exist!

These "statistics", however, deliberately gloss over certain inconvenient facts. First, most of the mofussil colleges do not offer adequate facilities. Hence, the main rush for admission is in Calcutta colleges.

Calcutta University's figures show that 8,270 mofussil students live in hostels and messes controlled or approved by the University and 5,000 more come as daily passengers to study in colleges in the city. Such a large number of students would not have incurred the additional expenditure in-

involved in staying or daily coming to the city for the mere fun of study in Calcutta colleges.

Secondly, the total seats in the city's colleges constitute only a fraction of students seeking admission in them. The problem was becoming increasingly difficult in the past three years, and this year it has come to a head as a result of the implementation of the University Grant Commission's scheme of phased reduction of the roll strength and the policy adopted by most of the college authorities to admit students on the basis of marks obtained in the examinations.

In these circumstances, all those who have passed in the Third Division and the majority of those who have come out in the Second Division stand no chance whatsoever of securing admission.

Thirdly, the Phillips Committee appointed by the West Bengal Government in 1958 carefully scrutinised the accommodation potential in colleges in Calcutta and suburbs and recommended that 12 new colleges should be set up without delay. But hardly two or three colleges have come into existence since then. Meanwhile, the number of students seeking admission has gone on increasing from year to year.

At the outset, the attitude of Calcutta University's Vice-Chancellor Dr. Subodh Mitra was also on a par with that of the State Government. He quoted figures to show that there was no dearth of accommodation in colleges in the Greater Calcutta area. He therefore, accused students of creating unnecessary furore and even went to the length of telling pressmen that the main purpose of agitation by the students was not question of admission "but something else".

Later on, the Vice-Chancellor climbed down and expressed sympathy with the demands of the students, although he gave no categorical assurance about fulfilling them.

The Students' Council of Action launched direct action from July 25 in protest against the callous attitude of the authorities. Over 150 student volunteers from colleges in and around Calcutta started squatting

inside the premises of Calcutta University. Groups of students from different colleges came in processions to greet the squatters.

The purpose of the movement was not to paralysise the administration, the day-to-day work in the University went on as usual. Some of the main demands formulated by the Council of Action are as follows:

1. The University Grants Commission's scheme for the phased reduction of the number of students should be suspended pending alternative arrangements for admission.

2. The system of shifts should be introduced in every college.

3. The facilities for Honours and Commerce students should be provided in all the Calcutta and mofussil colleges.

4. There should be no increase in tuition fees in the form of enhanced development, science and session fees.

5. An adequate number of technical and vocational institutions and general colleges should be started for solving the problem of admission on a permanent basis.

Squatting inside the University premises was called off from the evening of July 29 after a deputation of the Council of Action had met the Vice-Chancellor on the previous day.

In a resolution, the Council stated that although the assurances given by the Vice-Chancellor did not mean that all demands of the students had been accepted, the pressure of the movement had made it possible to win many of these demands. There was, therefore, no need to continue squatting any longer.

The Council decided that in the second phase of the movement, its main edge should be directed against the State Government. It was further decided to build up for a week from July 3 a powerful movement in different colleges to put pressure on college authorities to concede such demands as introduction of shift system, starting of Honours and Commerce courses, etc.

The Council is meeting on August 2 to chalk out a detailed programme of action.

He has succeeded in touching the American people's conscience (1) and preventing them from feeling tired of helping others. The Pakistan leader received ovations and accolades from both the parties of America and from Congress formally assembled which had, of late, been fatigued in the process of helping people who did not appreciate that help" (Swaraj, July 22).

Having said the above, Rajaji commended Ayub Khan to India for a lesson. The lesson is, to put it bluntly: Permit yourself, as the Pak ruler has done, to be ridden by Uncle Sam. That, however, is fully in line with the Swatantra Party's proclaimed policy of "collaboration in defence with Pakistan" and "collaborating with the countries of South and South-east Asia for concerted mea-

asures of security", i.e., joining the SEATO.

This policy of making India a servant of the CIA and the Pentagon was proclaimed at the Party's Patna Convention. In applauding Ayub, our shrewd politician-patriarch is only trying to sell this sinister Swatantra plank.

creates a healthy internationalism—the urge to put the clock of history back also gives birth to its own variety of internationalism. This is the internationalism of the riffraff, the ragtag and bobtail of reaction.

Reactionary parties in all countries while they scoff at true internationalism and plead for the narrowest nationalist credo, actually hold aloft the banner of the other variety of internationalism. This internationalism, which in the thirties marched under the banner of Hitler and Musoolini, now walks abreast under the signboard of the Free World with anti-Communism as its summum bonum.

Our Jan Sanghites are, naturally, today one of the foremost marchers under the banner. Jan Sangh leader Atal Behari Vajpayee visited America last year carrying in his portfolio a message of eulogies to the dollar land from the great Gururji Golwalkar himself.

In the message Gururji had acclaimed America as the leader of the "free world", donning, by clear implication the mantle of the minion for himself. For in the "free world", the only relationship that subsists is that of master and minion. As the Tunisians are saying the "lord can appreciate valets" only.

And the valets vie with each other, so much so that if the master pats one all the others go green with envy and set up a howl. Jan Gangh's reaction to the latest Ayub-U.S. pact is, therefore, interesting as well as typical. Deendayalji is bursting with plaintive complaint. He is very anxious that there is going to be "a fresh spurt of anti-U.S. feelings". His complaint follows the familiar line.

He wails that the military pact with Pakistan will "weaken India's (1) hands in her fight against the Reds". Protesting that the wrong valet has been chosen for the grant of a favour, he challengingly asks: "Who is going to be more useful for the Free World, Pakistan or India?"

The mask of "nationalism" is off, and we see the ugly face of the American henchmen which the Jan Sangh leaders are. Talking loudly of nationalism, this party actively purveys communalism at home and reactionary internationalism abroad. That is its true worth.

There is yet another serious aspect of Raj Narain's statement. He says:

"There were a large number of foreign missionaries

SPOTLIGHT

Applause For Ayub

IT has to be admitted that Pakistan dictator Ayub Khan and his American patrons together put up a very delectable show during the former's visit to U.S.A. Truly, a fine piece of play-actors' performance by master and minion.

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Border Areas—Whose Activity?

SOCIALIST leader Raj Narain Singh (he is now National Chairman of the Socialist Party) has given a direct lie to C. B. Gupta and Charan Singh who have been shouting hoarse about the imaginary presence of Communists on the borders and about their "anti-national activities".

After a tour of the border areas, when he returned to Lucknow the other day, he declared:

"During his tour he did not come across any Communist worker in the border areas, nor did he hear about any cultural propaganda done by the Communists. He had heard only of the visit of P. C. Joshi, Com-

munist leader, to that area..." (National Herald, July 22)

I hope Gupta and his Home Minister will not now come forward to say that Joshi has been doing all that they have been talking about. Where is then that "whispering gallery" of Charan Singh and his wretched minions of the intelligence department?

The testimony of Raj Narain becomes all the more important because he himself has been mouthing such baseless charges against the Communists in the Assembly and outside.

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Kisans March To Bangalore

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

Bangalore, capital of Mysore State, witnessed on July 24 a grand militant demonstration in front of the Vidhan Soudha where the State Assembly is meeting. It was a demonstration of 2,000 kisans who had come to the Capital from all over the State in response to the call of the Karnataka Prantha Raitha Sangha.

It was held to demand modification of the Mysore Land Reforms Bill in the interests of the tenants and poor peasants; to protest against corruption and nepotism in the matter of distribution of Government waste lands and to demand distribution of such lands to landless agricultural labourers and poor peasants in a just and proper manner; to protest against the imposition of 35 per cent surcharge on land revenue and to demand reduction of the tax-burden on the common people in general and the surcharge on land revenue in particular, and lastly to rouse the peasantry against corruption and repression.

UNPRECEDENTED DEMONSTRATION

It was an unprecedented demonstration and attested to the awakening of and the determination of the organised kisans of the State. Despite devastating floods, landslips, incessant torrential rains, disruption of communications and continuing threat to life and property due to this natural calamity, hundreds of peasants from all over the State came to Bangalore.

Some of them had to take circuitous routes and face indescribable hardships on the way. They were anxious every minute as to what would happen to their fields, seedling, huts, cattle and family; but they were determined to participate in the demonstration, come what may!

They came by special buses from Mangalore, Thumkur, Gubbi, Kunigal, Bagepally, Kolar, Mulubagal, Mysore and Mandya. They came by trains from Bijapur, Dharwar, Belgaum, Gulbarga and Bidar. Hundreds were disappointed as they could not find accommodation in buses to reach Bangalore.

From Shidlagatta taluk of Kolar District 30 peasants came on cycles, shouting slogans on the way and carrying the Red Flag of the AIKS. From Bangalore North, Bangalore South, Doddaballapur, Magadi and Devanahalli taluks hundreds of peasants came, despite the dastardly attack on the Secretary of the District Kisan Sabha by goondas on the previous day.

In short, every one of the 19 districts of the State had sent its representatives to participate in the demonstration.

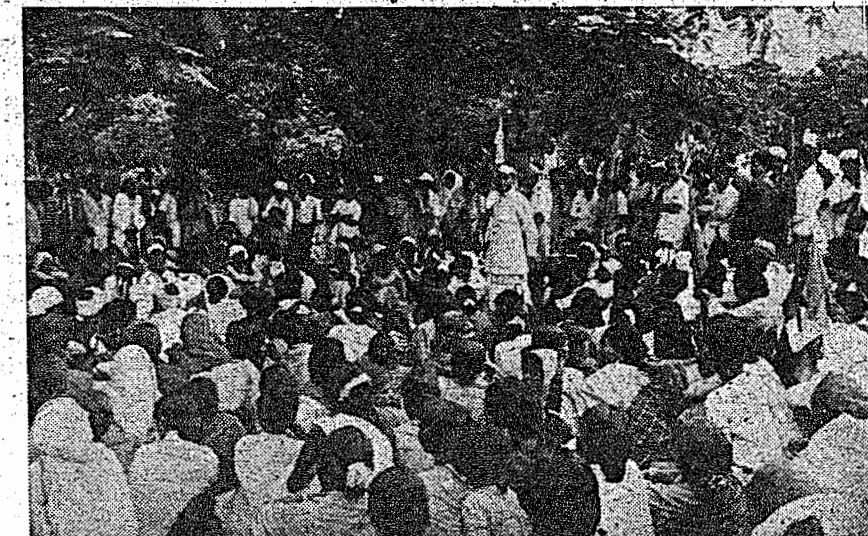
The procession reached near the Vidhan Soudha at 3.30, when the Assembly and the Council were in session. Police stopped the procession about two furlongs away from the Vidhan Soudha and barred its further progress. There is a law in this State prohibiting any procession within two furlongs of the Vidhan Soudha.

On hearing this some peasants remarked "there is no wonder in an anti-people authority taking shelter under such a law! And it would not be difficult for those who had braved the wrath of nature to come near the Vidhan Soudha to break this thin wall of defence put up by the rulers. If they intended to do so".

M.L.A.s ADDRESS THE PEASANTS

But there was no such intention: So the procession took a diversion and marched to a spot in the Cubbon Park just opposite the Vidhan Soudha. One could clearly see the sea of Red Flags and banners and hear the militant slogans from the balcony of the Vidhan Soudha.

M. C. Narasimhan, Communist member of the Assembly, came out to meet the demonstrators along with V. S. Patil and Birje, members from Bel-



The President of the Bangalore District Raitha Sangha, Muguvalappa, addressing the demonstrators in Cubbon Park opposite the Vidhan Soudha.

guam, Danappa, Harijan MLA from Bellary and V. Srinivasa Shetty from South Kanara, all opposition members.

They assured the peasants that they would do their best to force the Government to accept the amendments suggested in the memorandum presented to them by the Karnataka Prantha Raitha Sangha. They congratulated the Raitha Sangha for organising such a grand demonstration and wished all success to the efforts of the Raitha Sangha.

The Revenue Minister was met by a deputation of MLAs and kisan leaders. He assured the deputationists that the suggestions made in the memorandum would be sympathetically considered by the Government. Responding to the invitation by the deputationists, the Minister came out of the Vidhan Soudha and walked up to the demonstrators and greeted them. He told the peasants assembled there that the Government was sympathetic to them.

After the Minister left, B. V. Kakkilaya explained the memorandum and the reaction of the Minister to the demands raised in it. H. Muguvalappa, President of Bangalore District Raitha Sangha, appealed to one and all to support the peasants in their

struggle for land and social justice.

Then the demonstrators left the place in an orderly procession, went through the main streets of Bangalore and reached Chikkalabag at 6.30 P.M. Thousands of people witnessed the procession. Hundreds of workers from various factories joined it on the way.

It culminated in a public meeting under the presidency of A. Khishna Shetty, President of the Raitha Sangha. B. V. Kakkilaya, N. L. Upadhaya, M.C. Narasimhan, H. Muguvalappa and P. Ven-

katagiriappa addressed the gathering.

Resolutions were passed urging upon the Government to enact and implement the Land Reforms Bill without further delay, appealing for relief to the victims of floods, condemning the goonda attack on B. T. V. Raju, the Secretary of Bangalore District Raitha Sangha and demanding firm action by the authorities to book the culprits.

At the end, Aruna Burra Katha Mandali of Gulur village of Bagepally taluk gave an inspiring burra katha performance.

IN TIMES OF INDIA PRESS

workers serve strike notice

A reign of terror and goondaism has been let loose in one of Delhi's biggest job press. Dismissals, suspensions, and retrenchments coupled with atrocious forms of repression and victimisation of workers, are the order of the day in the Bennett, Coleman & Co.'s press which publishes the *Times of India* and *Nav Bharat Times* from Delhi.

THE situation has now deteriorated to a point when the workers have served a general strike notice on the management. The story centres round the Job Department of that Press and dates back to 1960.

The management had effected the closure of that Department and had terminated the services of about 200 employees. Workers' struggle then forced the management to come to an agreement with the Employees' Union, on November 2, 1960. All the retrenched employees were reinstated and the management promised to keep the job department running up to December 31, 1962, when the position was to be reviewed again.

But, in flagrant violation of that agreement, the management most unjustifiably and illegally retrenched 19 workers of the job department on May 23, this year, and threatened to retrench more workers on the plea of there being a surplus.

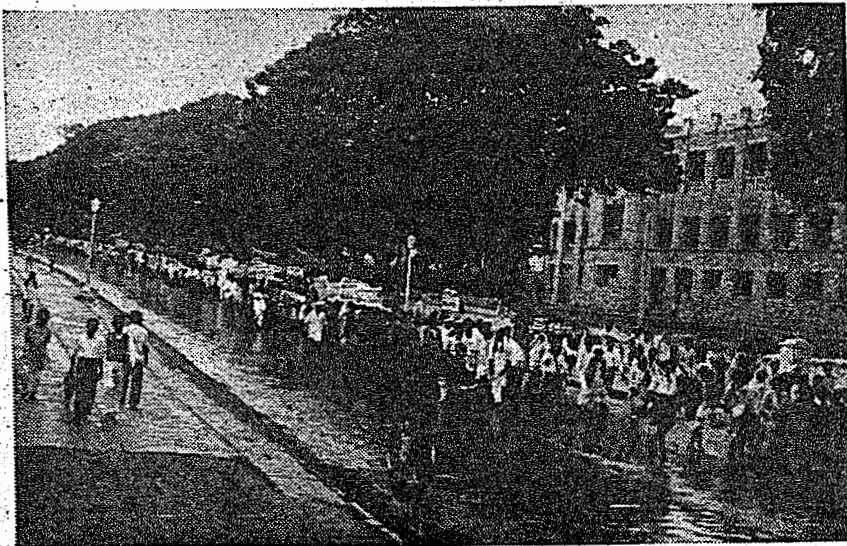
Enough facts are given by the Employees' Union to show the utter baselessness of this argument.

Contrary to the "surplus" theory trotted out by the management, the work has in fact tremendously increased, with the increase in the Delhi editions of the newspapers. Every department is understaffed. The monthly rate of overtime is one-third of the wage bill of the workers. Increasing restrictions are being imposed on the leave, and very often leaves are being refused on most flimsy grounds.

The union, therefore, rightly pointed out that the way out of the present difficulties faced by the management in coping with the work is to increase the staff strength, instead of increasing the work-load through drastic measures.

This sound advice of the

* SEE PAGE 13



Peasants' procession marching to the Vidhan Soudha.