

# new age

CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF INDIA

VOL. XIII, NO. 18 NEW DELHI, MAY 2, 1965 25 Paise



## MAY DAY

MAY 1, 1888 to MAY 1, 1965 is a glorious period marked by tempestuous advance of the working class the world over. In more than one-third area of the globe, the working class today shapes its own destiny releasing its inexhaustible energy for the social good; its might acts as a brake against the intrigues of imperialism, the highest stage of capitalism.

In the rest of the world, both in the capitalist countries and developing countries, the working class through its relentless struggle is wresting one concession after the other from the unwilling hands of the employers. The struggles against the monopolies have taken most powerful forms uniting the diverse strata of society.

In India, these are the years which the working class can be rightly proud of—having thrown off the yoke of imperialist exploitation, the working class is pressing forward to assert their rights in free India.

May 1, 1965 is perhaps the most significant May Day ever to be observed in our country. For, this is the period in which the Indian working class has embarked upon a course of intense struggles against the employers, monopoly capital in particular, and to contribute their mite simultaneously for the defence of the country which is threatened at its borders.

One cannot but recall the tremendous sacrifice the Indian working class made since the hostilities on the India-China border. But the national crisis was taken advantage of by the exploiting classes to reap more and more profit. The government failed to protect the interests of the workers and succumbed to pressures from the employers.

It is this failure that has compelled the working class to go into actions to protect its rights and privileges, against rising prices, against these exploitations of the monopolists.

MAY DAY this year will symbolise the new upsurge of working class actions in our country, its determined resistance to the intrigues and machinations of the imperialists and reactionaries, both within and without the country; its greater unity and sacrifice for the defence of its class and the nation; its further expressions of international solidarity and the march forward to bigger victories in its struggle for socialism in India.

On this day NEW AGE salutes the valiant workers of the world. Long live working class unity.

# LONG LIVE WORLD WORKING CLASS UNITY



# Assam: Congress Group Wrangles Worsen

From M. BHATTACHARYA

SHILLONG: The contending factions in Assam Congress have started marshalling their forces with an eye on the next general elections. One indication of this factional regrouping of forces inside the ruling party was provided by the recent disciplinary action against six Congress leaders of Cachar, including an MP, Jyotsna Chanda.

In the particular case the Pradesh Congress Committee charged these members with "prejudicial activities and reprehensible conduct". It is alleged that these leaders helped the defeat of Congress nominees for the election of president and vice-president of the Silchar Mahakuma Parishad.

The Congress party has a strength of 13 members in the Parishad and it has the support of one independent member. Yet the three-member opposition group could secure both the seats. This could not have been possible but for the support lent to the opposition group by a majority of Congress members.

The opposition members who have been elected president and vice-president were both Congress leaders in the past. One of them is an independent MLA now.

They had stepped out of the Congress or were forced out of it some years back due to factional wrangles.

Among the six members against whom proceedings have been taken are two MLAs, besides Jyotsna Chanda.

popularity until on some crucial issue they appear in their real colour.

These elements deceive the people to their own advantage and weaken the genuine opposition forces. In the final analysis they become helpful to the Congress party and its anti-people policies.

The dissident Congressmen have been organising themselves feverishly so that by the time of the next general elections they may come out in the open to challenge the present ministerialists.

It is interesting to note that in the big business circles now-a-days one of the members of the Chaliha cabinet is frequently mentioned as the likely future Chief Minister. They seem to be quite willing to build him up and groom him for the future role.

Meanwhile, no doubt, they would test his loyalty to their own interest. For various functions of big business houses invitation to which has generally been the privilege of the Chief Minister—only occasionally the Finance Minister was invited to such functions, though grudgingly—now-a-days the abovementioned "future Chief Minister" is cordially invited.

How far this "future Chief Minister" has aligned himself with the dissidents in the latter's bid for power is not yet clear. The coming days, it is believed, will enlighten the people against this.

It is believed in political circles that this disciplinary action will have its chain reaction in the Congress organisation of the district.

Whether it will lead to the emergence of an alternate body or the factions will continue to fight within the Congress organisation itself remains yet to be seen.

One possible result of this is the victory of some "independents" in the coming general elections with behind-the-scenes support of the dissident Congressmen and exploiting the popular feeling against the ruling party.

These types of "independents" who have their conscience mortgaged to one or the other faction of the ruling party generally turn out to be a big hoax, if the current experience of Assam is any guide.

Even now there are some so called "independents" in Assam who are actually the proteges of one or the other faction in the congress.

They parade their "opposition" to the ruling party and thus earn some amount of

# CPI Secretariat Statement On Pak Aggression

THE Central Secretariat of the Communist Party of India issued the following statement on April 27:

The armed attacks by Pakistan at a number of points on the Indo-Pakistan border have assumed menacing proportions. It is the duty of all patriots, at this critical juncture, to unite for the defence of the country.

The rulers of Pakistan have to be made to realise that military pressure and blackmail cannot enable them to secure their unjust claims to Indian territory.

All reasonable avenues for arriving at a just settlement have also to be made while standing firm on the defence of Indian territory.

Pakistan's attacks on India have been facilitated by the supplies of American arms to Pakistan and the connivance of Anglo-American imperialists.

It is these powers who have consistently armed Pakistan with modern weapons while refusing to supply them to India.

It is the Soviet Union and other friendly countries that have stood solidly by India on the question of Kashmir and have given us all the military aid that our Government has requested.

Anglo-American intrigues supported by Indian reaction to pressurise India to compromise our policy of nonalignment must be resisted.

The situation demands that now at least the Government of India ceases to rely on Anglo-American promises and pursues an independent defence policy, utilising to the full the disinterested offer of modern arms made by the Soviet Union and other friendly countries.

The present situation is fraught with the danger of reactionary forces utilising it to fan communal conflict. It is the duty of the government and the democratic forces to guard against this danger and maintain communal harmony in the country at all cost.

The Communist Party of India demands that the government immediately takes firm action against hoarders and profiteers and maintains the price line for strengthening popular morale for defence.

## GREETINGS SOVIET PRESS

On the occasion of the Soviet Press Day, May 5, NEW AGE conveys its warm fraternal greetings to the Soviet press. We salute our colleagues—the press workers, journalists, technicians and all those by whose labour the Soviet press has emerged today as a mighty force in our common struggle against imperialism, for world peace, national liberation, democracy and socialism. We wish further strengthening of the bonds of friendship between us and our colleagues in the Soviet press.

# Despite Official Claims To Contrary, Prices Are Shooting Up

Official spokesmen including Union Finance Minister T. T. Krishnamachari have claimed that the prices of foodgrains have begun to fall from the peak it had reached in late 1964.

But that has not been the experience of the common people in this country. Every housewife who goes for shopping for her family needs knows that the price of not a grain has come down.

What is actually worrying the people is that the prices are showing signs of going up again after a short period of comparative steadiness—of course at the peak reached in November-December 1964.

Prices of foodgrains and vegetable oils have soared to new and higher levels during the past few days, reports SARALA KARKHANIS from Bombay.

causing serious hardships to the people.

In West Bengal, the price of rice is rising alarmingly, particularly in the northern districts, reports AJAY DASGUPTA from Calcutta.

In Jalpaiguri and Cooch-Behar rice is selling at Rs. 1.25 and Rs. 1.60 a seer. Even at this price it is becoming very difficult to get rice from the open market.

The modified rationing system is on the verge of breaking down and there is little supply in the northern districts. Ration cards are not being given. Maldah and Darjeeling are also said to be affected.

In the districts adjoining Calcutta, the price of rice has gone up. Even in the surplus districts of Midnapore and Burdwan, the prices are showing an upward trend.

The rationing system in the Calcutta industrial area is showing signs of strain. The procurement drive, relying mainly on the millers, has flopped and the state government is relying wholly on the Centre for supplies.

But then, the Union Food Ministry is reported to be pressing the West Bengal government to raise the price of rice and wheat still further and reduce the subsidy given on these grains for sale through the fair price shops.

The state government is resisting this pressure because of its apprehensions of the largescale discontent of the people hursting out if any rise is made in the price of rice and wheat.

Top officials of the state government are in New Delhi pleading with the central government for help, but so far without much success.

CUTTACK: The long-awaited amendments to the Land Reforms Act of 1960 which the Congress was promising the peasants in Orissa to give them relief has turned out to be nothing but a legislation to legalise eviction and evade ceilings on land holdings.

The amending bill even led to a united walkout by the entire leftist opposition consisting of the CPI, the PSP, the SSP and progressive independents, protesting against the anti-peasant nature of the provisions in the Bill.

On the other side, naturally were ranged the feudal Swatantra Party and the Congress. Interestingly, it was the first time since the Congress-Ganantra Parishad coalition broke up that the parties were seen in that much cordiality.

Land reform legislation in Orissa has had a chequered career. As far back as 1948, the sharecroppers in the state were promised rights in respect of lands in their possession.

The Orissa Tenants Protection Act of 1948 provided that no tenant under landlords owning more than 33 acres of land could be evicted.

In 1952, the Orissa Estates Abolition Act came into force

# Orissa: Land Reforms In Reverse Gear

From N. PATNAIK

interests in both the Congress and the Parishad.

The measure was not implemented either. Then the coalition government fell and in 1961 a pure Congress Ministry came into being under the leadership of B. Patnaik.

An amending bill was introduced in 1961 by the Patnaik Ministry, but it was given up when the Kerala Agrarian Relations Act faced constitutional difficulties. After the 17th Amendment was incorporated in the Constitution, another amending bill to the Land Reforms Act of 1960 was introduced in the Assembly.

It is this bill which has now created commotion in the Assembly. It has gone through the select committee stage and the walkout, occurred during the second reading.

The bill has three parts: ceiling, resumption and compensation. The amending bill has fixed ceiling limits according to the supply of water available in any given plot of land.

The provision is that the ceiling will be 20 acres for land having water supply for four months, 60 acres where paddy can be grown without any water supply and 80 acres where paddy cannot be grown at all.

Water supply is a criterion which can be abused much, but that is not the only loophole in the legislation. For one, there is no provision against malafide partitions and transfers.

ing, and so also sugarcane farms. Cooperative societies have been exempted from the purview of the ceiling provision too.

All these add up to the fact that the ceiling provided in the bill is only for make-believe. And the Communist Party has been in the front rank in the fight to amend the bill in a progressive direction.

## Communist Amendment

A Communist amendment demanded that ceiling should be fixed at 33 acres of land and all malafide transactions and partitions effected after January 1, 1946 should be annulled for purposes of fixing the ceiling. But the amendment was not accepted.

It was only regarding resumption that the amending bill could have been said to favour the tenants. As it came out of the select committee, the bill had provided that landlords could resume only half the land in the possession of any individual tenant.

No landlord could resume any land if by such resumption the tenant would be left with only less than two standard acres.

However, a Congress member brought forward an amendment to delete the clause on resumption. Both the Congress and Swatantra Party supported this amendment though their representatives in the select committee had agreed to the provision. The Congress member who moved the amendment was himself a member of the select committee.

Interestingly, the Chief Minister himself kept away from the House. It was Education Minister S. P. Mohanty, himself a big landlord and moneylender, who piloted the bill as it emerged from the select committee.

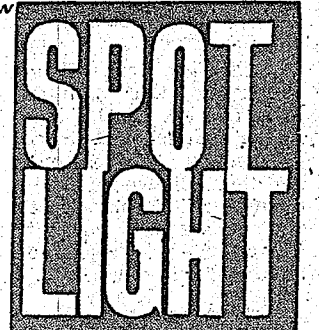
## Furore In Assembly

This unusual behaviour of the ruling party and one of its members created an unprecedented situation in the Assembly. And naturally there was a furore. The CPI, the PSP and the SSP walked out in protest against "legislating eviction."

Earlier, the opposition demanded a division on a Communist amendment which sought to provide that no absentee landlord would be entitled to resume any land from any tenant. This was also lost by a huge margin with the Congress-Swatantra line-up voting against it.

Thus, the much-boasted Land Reforms Act has fallen flat. Peasants are already thinking about plans to fight the anti-peasant provisions in the bill and the crop of evictions which is bound to come as a result of this farce in land reforms.

# Sangh's Shameless Sycophancy



ONE witnessed an amusing spectacle last month—Jan Sangh buttering up the big capitalists of India with great gusto. His mouthpiece, the ORGANISER, brought out a special "Industry and Commerce Number", and what a number it was!

If there is a world record in sycophancy there can be no doubt about it that it was smashed to smithereens by the "Bharatiya maryada" champions.

The issue contains uninhibited panegyrics on the Birlas and Singhanias and several other veterans of Big Business.

Birla is described as a prodigy who entered the family business when he was only twelve, and made a resounding success of it. (The Birla business empire, as is known, is the most unkept and oppressive among all the Big Business empires).

Of the Singhanias it is said that they are people with such "great faith in religion" that they have established a life of bliss for their workers!

The whole issue is replete with similar pieces of unstinted fawning. No wonder that it also carries an article by the most faithful servant of the monopolists, Swatantracharya Masani.

It is also not surprising that the issue contains the silliest stuff ever penned on the "out-of-dateness" of Karl Marx.

But we can leave that aside for the present to pin our at-

tention on an effusive essay on foreign aid by the president of the Merchants Chamber of Commerce in Calcutta which has found a welcome place in the mouthpiece of our sham Bharatiyata wallahs.

Unashamedly headlined "Foreign Aid Can Come Only On Foreign Terms", this essay makes the very point in the plainest words. Comparing India and Pakistan, its writer says:

"In Pakistan all sorts of encouragement are being offered to business enterprises, and its sole outlook, which will be apparent to any observer, is to help the growth of national wealth by all possible means. Industries are being promoted in public sector in spheres where private sector is not forthcoming, and when they are successfully established, they are handed over to private enterprise for running the same."

He thinks that the same ideal conditions do not exist in India but should at once be introduced here too, because "business people have a greater attraction for such conditions". What is more, "the Western countries have a liking for private enterprise".

The writer concludes with the following advice:

"It may sound quite well for our Finance Minister to say on the floor of Parliament that we shall have foreign aid only on our own terms. It is doubtful, however, whether our representatives can speak in the same vein when they visit the Aid India Consortium. We have to be practical if we mean business."

So, lie prostrate before the

mammon of foreign private capital. That is the profound "practical" advice. And the Jan Sangh will be there to bless such obeisance, for is it not in the most orthodox "Bharatiya sanskriti" tradition to do *dandvat* before your god?

The crowning piece of this kowtowing issue is one written by an old RSS-Jan-Sangh columnist seeking to teach that exploitation is a myth. This essay seeks at first to show that there is no real appropriation by capital at all.

"The question how much of production can be attributed to capital and how much to labour is as unanswerable as the question how much of a child belongs to the mother and how much to the father. It is thus not possible to pronounce that these Rs. 60,000 (the assumed amount appropriated by the capitalist), 'really' belong to the labourer and not to the industrialist."

Our Jan Sanghi, in fact, believes although he does not dare say so that the money appropriated is the capitalist's just due. But I am sure when he goes to the toiling common man for his vote, he would tell him the contrary, forgetting all the *maryada*!

The blooming argument further unfolds itself thus:

If we suppose that the money is appropriated by the capitalist and the latter instead of reinvesting it in industry or putting it away in a bank, spends the money in luxury, even then no exploitation is involved. "Even money spent on downright luxury is distributed in society, and it is absurd to maintain that the richness of the rich is the cause of the poverty of the poor!"

We are told: "Economists assure us that when industrialists start new and bigger industries and become richer, the poorer sections of society also get richer."

Could anyone beat this? According to it, even if sethji spends lakhs over a bungalow and a car for his concubine, money is socially spent!

Even the extravagant expenses over the capitalist's wining and dining is no waste, for distillery workers have received their pittance of a wage and the poor bearer has received his tip from the magnumanimous moneybag!

Such stuff could secure space only in the columns of a degenerate RSS rag.

An interesting thing in this connection is that Jan Sangh's latest manifesto, a thesis on streamlining the demagogic approach, talked of "crores in the country who are denied the most elementary rights of man". Do not say that these crores in the country are the exploited millions, for "exploitation is a myth".

To flatter Big Money is a natural trait of the petty-bourgeoisie. The RSS-Jan Sangh caucus being the party, above all, of the traders, hoarders and blackmarketeers and championing, as it does again in its latest manifesto, the "almost totally neglected small scale sector" had verily to do it.

—GARUDA

## ISCUS Reception To Shastri

THE Indo-Soviet Cultural Society gave a reception to Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri in New Delhi on April 20 on the eve of his visit to the Soviet Union. Shastri is seen in the picture speaking at the function. Seated behind him can be seen Rana Jung Bahadur Singh, Lok Sabha Speaker Hukum Singh, Soviet Charge d'Affaires A. Rodionov, Sahib Singh Sokhey, ISCUS President K. P. S. Menon and Aruna Asaf Ali.

It was at this reception that Prime Minister Shastri declared that the United States must stop its bombings against North Vietnam. Unless the bombings were stopped, talks for a peaceful settlement would not be possible, he said.



# PAK AGGRESSION ON KUTCH BORDER

The nation's eyes are riveted on the borders with Pakistan. While mounting fresh attacks on Indian positions in the Kutch-Sind border with the aid of armoured vehicles and tanks, Pakistan has ordered a general mobilisation, recalling reservists and men from leave and also started training large number of Razakars and Mujahids.

THESE moves of Pakistan have created a serious situation, as Defence Minister Chavan pointed out in Parliament on Monday, and necessitated an alert by our armed forces.

There is Pakistani mobilisation along other sections of the border also and Chavan told Parliament, it seems to be the intention of Pakistan to keep all the borders with India alive.

Naturally, this calls for a firm rebuff and the Government of India has been assured of the support of the opposition to any action necessary in that regard. There is unity and resolve in the country to repel foreign aggression and if Pakistan or her friends believe that India can be dictated terms by the aggressor, they are not going to succeed in their game.

Prime Minister Shastri's statement in New Delhi on Monday has clearly indicated this and he has given notice that India would not accept a situation in which Pakistan will violate our territory first and then ask for discussion.

At the same time Shastri has made it clear that India has always sought and will continue to seek a peaceful relationship with her neighbour. He said:

"We are always ready for peace and I will say that we stand for peace. We had, therefore, agreed to the proposal of Pakistan which it had put forward a week ago. These proposals were cease-fire, restoration of status quo ante and later on high level talks on boundary problems.

"But, unfortunately Pakistan has been shelling at us and has been trying to attack our forces and has thus created a very special situation."

Evidently, while making proposal for cease-fire, Pakistan had been busy preparing for further attacks on our positions.

It would be only realistic and useful to keep in mind at this hour that in creating this situation, Pakistan has drawn on her armed strength provided to her over the years by the US imperialists and the open encouragement she had received against India from the Anglo-American bloc on Kashmir and various other issues.

The Government of India is in possession of unmistakable evidence to the use of American military equipment by Pakistan in her aggression across the Kutch border and it is reported that this has been brought to the notice of the US Embassy here. It is interesting therefore that a Washington report on Monday should state that

position in the Afro-Asian world.

What has been lacking in New Delhi of late has been the determination to execute with firmness a foreign policy which has its foundations on our independence and our opposition to imperialism and colonialism in any part of the world.

Reliance on Anglo-American goodwill and readiness to adjust with the West on crucial questions has led to weakening our image and encouraging the imperialists to take New Delhi for granted. The awkward situation could be remedied even now.

the US was not aware of this factor!

The use of American arms by Pakistani aggressors against our forces is a sharp reminder of what the assurances of the imperialists—that these arms will not be used by Pakistan against India—are worth. New Delhi had more than one jolt recently to make it realise that American friendship is not all that attractive as it had believed.

## MORE ABOUT THE SNUB

THE New York Times report that Johnson had first decided to have Prime Minister Shastri's visit to the US postponed and then followed it up by calling off Ayub Khan's visit adds a new angle to the episode of "calculated snub and cancelled visit".

Earlier, when strong Indian reactions to the insult by the US President to our Prime Minister were made known to the US administration, the latter had sought to put up a defence by letting it out that it was Ayub Khan's visit which was postponed first and Shastri's visit also had to be postponed to "balance" the blow to Pakistan.

Even that was degrading to the dignity of this country. But now the explanation by New York Times makes it still more worse and shows with what arrogance Washington has begun to treat India on matters of policy. Apparently the US thinks that it can impose its views on the Government of India and if necessary administer insults to extract obedience.

For that is what the New York Times report implies. It says that Johnson did not want to hear Shastri's view that the US should stop bombing North Vietnam.

He is clearly "annoyed" at the Government of India's stand on the Vietnam question. That he is concerned about getting Congressional approval for aid to India is just an argument to cover up this annoyance with India's stand on Vietnam and his show of arrogant displeasure.

By cancelling his visit to the United States and by making it known that any visit by him to that country at a later date will have to be according to his convenience, the Prime Minister has retorted fittingly to the haughty Texan.

But that alone will not help the Government of India to retrieve its lost prestige or

# Comment

tri had never asked for nuclear protection for India.

While these are no doubt welcome statements, what was lacking in the replies of the Minister was a strong denunciation of the US-British moves to set up these bases in the Indian Ocean. It is not enough to say that India has not received any official communication from the British or American governments on the subject.

Already much has appeared in the foreign press to show that the United States and Britain are going ahead with their scheme; if they have not informed India about it, they are most likely not to.

Is it necessary that we should wait for an official communication from the US and Britain to convey our protest to them on the subject? Why can't the Government of India take the initiative to mobilise the opposition of Afro-Asian governments to this Anglo-American attempt to set up nuclear bases in this region? Certainly it will have an impact.

## DA REVISION DISAPPOINTS

THE revision of DA of Central Government employees announced by the Finance Minister on Monday is a disappointing outcome to a long wait. The employees have received it with justified resentment and anger.

The most glaring injustice has been done to the Class IV employees, who being the

lowest paid were entitled to more relief to minimise the hardship caused to them by the rise in prices of essential commodities. Whereas the Das Commission had recommended an increase of seven rupees in their DA, the government now has thought it fit to give them only five rupees. It displays a cruel and callous attitude to the problem.

Not only has the government rejected the principle of 90 per cent neutralization, but it does not even except the DA formula recommended by the Das Commission. What is the good of appointing a commission, if the government would not accept its recommendations and would decide only arbitrarily?

It is a damning indictment of the "socialist" ideology of the government that it should accept the recommendations of the Das Commission on upper income slabs and reject the same for the lowest income slabs. As often, Congress government's "socialism" has operated in this case too in the reverse gear.

Already the leaders of the Central Government employees have notified that the employees would be forced to launch a determined agitation to change this decision of the government. They will have the support of other sections of workers also. The government would do well to heed the voice of its employees and reconsider the whole scheme in keeping with even the modest recommendations of the Das Commission.

—K. U. WARIER

(April 27)

## BASES IN INDIAN OCEAN

IN this connection, the statement by Sardar Swaran Singh in the Lok Sabha regarding the Anglo-American moves to establish bases in the Indian Ocean to facilitate US nuclear presence in the region is welcome, as far as it goes.

The External Affairs Minister has reiterated India's opposition to nuclear bases in the Indian Ocean, reaffirmed the position taken in the Cairo declaration of non-aligned nations and expressed that we are in favour of establishing nuclear-free zones in Africa and other parts.

Swaran Singh also reiterated that Prime Minister Shas-

# LEFT PARTIES UNITE IN DEFENCE OF DEMOCRACY

From MOHIT SEN

HYDERABAD: After a long time left parties in Hyderabad have moved into united action. The issue is that of civil liberties and preserving democratic tradition.

A convention was held on April 25 by the left parties and progressive independents jointly to condemn the government for its anti-democratic action in arresting and detaining hundreds of its political opponents under the hated Defence of India Rules.

The sponsors committee of the convention had on it leaders of the Communist Party of India, the Marxist Communist Party, the SSP and trade union leaders belonging to the AITUC and the IIMP. Leading Urdu and Telugu writers, lawyers and doctors were also among the sponsors.

The highlight of the convention was a speech by Bhumeswar Gupta who lashed out against the government for taking the country along the path of authoritarian rule. He said the mass arrests of opposition leaders could not be justified on any

under the DIR and called for the release of all political workers and leaders of mass organisations and immediate lifting of emergency.

The resolution also criticised the imposition of President's rule in Kerala and demanded immediate end to it.

The sponsors committee is scheduled to meet again to set up an ad hoc committee to contact other centres in Andhra with a view to holding a statewide convention for safeguarding civil liberties.

On April 26 the sponsors committee organised a mass rally to demand the release of prisoners detained under the DIR and the lifting of emergency.

The meeting was presided by Makhdoom Mohiuddin and addressed by Baridvaris Pitti of the SSP, M. K. Swamy of the Marxist Communist Party and Bhupesh Gupta of the CPI.

The meeting endorsed the resolution passed by the convention the previous day after it was explained to the audience by Raj Bahadur Gour, convener of the sponsors committee.

# LENIN: GREAT TEACHER AND LEADER OF PEOPLES OF WORLD

Lenin, the great teacher and leader of the oppressed peoples of the world, is no more. But his teachings and great deeds live for ever.

HE blazed a new path for the toilers of the world to seize power, put an end to all exploitation and establish a social system where all have equal opportunities, a path marching along which over one-third of humanity has already reached the goal of socialism and many more are marching towards that goal.

Lenin led the Great October Socialist Revolution, which not only inspired the toilers of the world for action, but also the oppressed peoples of Asia and other parts of the world groaning under the yoke of imperialism.

He chalked out a grand strategy for the proletariat of the advanced capitalist countries to fight and defeat world imperialism in alliance with the oppressed peoples of backward countries.

To put it in his own words: "All commanding Europe, all European bourgeoisie is in alliance with all forces of reaction and medievalism in China. But on the other hand, all young Asia, that is the

hundreds of millions of toilers of Asia, have a reliable ally in the proletariat of all the civilised countries. No force on earth can prevent its victory which will liberate both the peoples of Europe and peoples of Asia."

Even though Lenin was pre-occupied with the pressing problems of revolutionary movements of the Soviet Union and other European countries, he paid attention to the events and movements of the oppressed peoples of the backward countries. He never failed to notice even the slightest mass action in India against British imperialists. He wrote about the arrest of Lokmanya Tilak, the great Indian nationalist revolutionary leader and the subsequent protest strike action of the Bombay workers in 1908.

He wrote a flaming article on the Jallianwala Bagh massacre in 1921 and predicted with foresight that this was the beginning of the end of British rule in India, at a time when large sections of Indian people

did not believe that Britishers could be driven out at all. The deeds of Lenin and the Great October Socialist Revolution inspired many nationalist leaders of India, including Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. The Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi paid glowing tributes to Lenin in his YOUNG INDIA in 1922, thus:

"Lenin has become a mighty tradition not only in his native Russia, but in the

world at large. As time passes, he grows greater, he has become one of the chosen company of the world's immortals. Petrograd has become Leningrad and almost every house in Russia has a Lenin Corner or a Lenin picture. But he lives, not in monuments or pictures, but in the mighty work he did and in the hearts of hundreds of millions of workers today who find inspiration in his example and the hope of a better day."

Indian Communists are deeply indebted to Lenin for the painstaking efforts he made in gathering together the Indian revolutionaries inspired by the Great October Socialist Revolution and laying the foundation for the Communist movement in India, even in the midst of the civil war turmoil in the Soviet Union. The Communist Party of India for ever cherishes these memories as an invaluable treasure to be handed to the future generations of Indian Communists.

I, as a student and a member of the Young Communist League at Benares, studied Lenin's works and his life 30 years ago. I was very much inspired by his teachings and his glorious life.

I very much admired his personal traits which are a model for Communist leaders, of firmness on principles, flexibility in practice and unassuming behaviour. I tried to follow him and implement them in my life as his humble disciple since then. How far I have succeeded in this is another matter.

Lenin's works are a great treasure house of Marxism-Leninism. Mastering them is no easy job. However much I read them, I find always something new. But I have to state three things that made a deep impression on me and stuck in my head since I read his works for the first time 30 years ago.

Writing about "dual power" in his letter on tactics in April 1917 Lenin said: "The revolutionary democratic dictatorship of the proletariat and peasantry has already been realised but in an

extremely original form and with a number of highly important modifications... It is essential to realise the contestable truth that a Marxist must take cognisance of actual events, of precise facts of reality and must not cling to a past theory, which, like all theories, at best only outlines the main and general and only comes near to embracing life all its complexity. Theory, my friend is grey but green is the eternal tree of life."

The other two things are from "Leftwing Communism—An Infantile Disorder". Lenin compared the "difficult protracted and complicated struggle to overthrow the international bourgeoisie" to a mountaineer struggling to climb an unexplored mountain and said: "Is it not as though, when making a difficult ascent of an unexplored and heretofore inaccessible mountain, we were to refuse beforehand even to move in

by C. RAJESHWAR RAO

# NO MERGER TALKS, SAYS CPI SECRETARIAT

The Central Secretariat of the Communist Party of India issued the following statement on April 25.

NEWS items have appeared in the press during the last few days to the effect that talks are taking place between the Communist Party of India and the Marxist Communists to find common ground to merge the two parties.

The Central Secretariat of the Communist Party of India desires to state categorically that there is no truth in these reports.

The truth of the matter is that the Central Secretariat of our Party addressed letters to all the Left Parties, including the leaders of the Marxist Communist Party, long before the meeting of our National Council pointing out the serious situation that has developed in the country and the dangers to the national policies of nonalignment, independent economic development and parliamentary democracy from the side of American and British imperialists, Indian reactionaries and the anti-people policies of the Congress Government.

We suggested that all the Left Parties should urgently come together at this crucial hour and plan out a joint campaign to mobilise people on the burning issues of the DIR and preventive detentions, President's Rule imposition on Kerala, American aggression in Vietnam and similar other issues.

With this end in view, we are carrying on talks with all Left Parties, including the Marxist Communist Party.

There are serious and basic ideological and political differences between the Communist Party of India and the Marxist Communist Party. It is because of these differences that a section broke away from the Com-

unist Party of India in 1964 and formed the rival Marxist Communist Party.

Unless unified understanding on these basic issues is arrived at, there cannot be any merger of these two parties, though it has always been our earnest desire that Communist unity must be preserved and strengthened.

But this is no bar for co-operation and united campaigns on the urgent issues facing the people and our country like the demanding the scrapping of the DIR and clamping of Presidential Order on Kerala, the campaign against US aggression in Vietnam, penetration of foreign monopoly capital into our country, rise in prices and all other mass issues arising out of the anti-people policies of the Congress Government. In fact, our Party today particularly emphasises the need for such joint action.

One point needs to be clarified in this connection. It is reported in the press that E.M.S. Namboodiripad has been saying that there is no ideological difference between the Communist Party of India and the Marxist Communist Party and the real difference is on the attitude to the Congress.

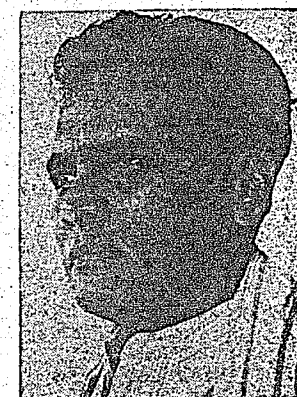
May we ask him: if there is no ideological difference, why did not rival party discuss their ideological documents at their last Congress at Calcutta?

Why does that party shun taking a clearcut position on the ideological issues, even while all their journals have been taking a stand on these issues opposed to that of the majority of the international Communist movement?

With regard to the attitude to the Congress, the Communist Party of India's position is clear. We fight its anti-people policies while supporting those measures which strengthen nonalignment and the independent economic development of the country.

We fight for the replacement of this Government by a progressive Government through the unity of all the progressive parties, groups and individuals.

We do not subscribe to the theory of "uniting with the devil to fight the Congress" advocated by some leaders of the Left Parties.



zig-zags, ever to retrace our steps, ever to abandon the course once selected and to try others?"

At another place, in the same book Lenin said "Frankly admitting a mistake, ascertaining the reasons for it, analysing the conditions that led to it, and thoroughly discussing the means of correcting it—that is the earmark of a serious party; that is the way it should perform its duties, that is the way it should educate and train the class and then the masses."

How fresh and true are the above-quoted sayings of Lenin today, in the context of the bitter controversy in the international Communist movement!

Lenin never clung to outdated formulas and slogans. He changed formulas, slogans and tactics without the least hesitation the moment a changed situation demanded it.

The works of Lenin and history of the CPSU abound in such examples. It is not for me to elaborate them. On this solemn occasion of Lenin's birthday, let us take a pledge to make serious efforts to grasp the real meaning of his teachings and become his worthy disciple.

(April 22)



## Former Attorney-General Says

# President's Rule In Kerala Is Deviation From Provisions Of The Constitution

The mass arrest of 'Marxist' Communists under the DIR, imposition of President's rule on Kerala and rampant corruption in the administrative machinery, are some of the issues about which every democratic Indian is deeply concerned. What is the future of democracy in this country? Such is the question uppermost in the mind of everyone who cherishes the ideal of civil liberties.

M. C. Setalvad, the former Attorney-General of India spoke in Bombay some time ago on this subject. His authoritative views as an eminent lawyer deserve serious study by all. Here are some excerpts from the views he expressed on the subject:

Our Constitution speaks of constituting India into "a sovereign democratic republic".

What appears to distinguish a democracy from a non-democratic government is that the nature of the common good, however it may be conceived, is determined by those who are governed. In a non-democratic government, this is determined by those who govern; and those who are governed and for whose benefit the government is supposed to be carried on, have only the duty of acceptance and obedience.

Democracy believes in self government; and insists that the government is to be not only "for the people", but

that it must be "by the people".

The section of the executive of the ruling party supported by its irresistible majority has undoubtedly been responsible for the ease and nonchalance with which democratic government has been suspended in some states and President's rule established under Article 356 of the Constitution and correct constitutional procedures have been deliberately disregarded.

### Previous Instances

One may recall the events in Travancore-Cochin in the years 1952 and 1954 when the Congress party was defeated at the polls and no other single party secured an absolute majority and also the events in Madras in 1952 when bypassing T. Prakasam's United Democratic Party, Rajaji was nominated to the Upper House to form a minis-

try in circumstances which showed that no single party could secure an absolute majority.

It has been felt that in these cases the Head of the State "allowed the formation of a Congress-supported ministry rather than report to the President that no ministry could be formed. The Head of the State in each case allowed himself to be used by a party which was defeated in the elections but which was in power at the Centre". The situation in Pepsu in 1952 and in Kerala in 1957 and also in 1960 have also been commented upon adversely.

It has been said "that the history of the working of our Constitution shows that reports from Governors and advice tendered by the Central Council of Ministers have been turned into instruments in the hand of the ruling Congress party, which is determined to see that its own government is imposed on the people even though they have unceremoniously rejected it".

The recent happenings in the state of Kerala are even more powerfully illustrative of this extremely undesirable trend in the actions of the ruling party. That state is known to have a large communist following and it indeed is the only state in the

country which had for a time a communist government.

On the eve of the election in that state were passed orders of preventive detention against over a thousand communist workers all over the country. This naturally laid the ruling party open to the comment that the move had been taken in order to place the Communist party in Kerala at a disadvantage in the elections. A number of them in Kerala, who were detained were put up as candidates for the election and 29 of them were elected as Members of the Kerala Legislative Assembly.

Though not commanding an absolute majority they could have with the assistance of some other groups formed a government in Kerala. Indeed the leader of the party is stated to have informed the Governor to that effect. Ignoring this position, the Governor even before the Legislative Assembly was convened, is stated to have reported to the Centre that government could not be carried on in Kerala in accordance with the Constitution as provided by Article 356.

Thereupon the President straightaway made a proclamation introducing President's rule in that state. The newly elected Legislative Assembly was dissolved by the Governor.

### Contrary To Practice

It would appear that the procedure adopted by the government was contrary to accepted constitutional practice. It should have been its duty and endeavour to induce the leaders of parties or groups to form a government and a report under Article 356 could legitimately be made only after these endeavours had failed.

The detention of a large number of communists throughout the country has also evoked criticism which is not without force. The reasons which have been put forward by the Government in a statement published by it have not satisfied public opinion, it being felt that these reasons if they have substance would have justified detention orders long before they were made.

The least that the Government could do in order to satisfy public opinion in this matter would be to submit the cases of these detenus to the scrutiny of an experienced and impartial advisory tribunal.

Grave anxiety in the public mind has also been created by the attitude and action of the Union Government in connection with the charges of corruption against Ministers. It has been said with a great deal of justification that in dealing with this matter the ruling party with its large majority has placed the interests of the party above those of the nation.

To begin with, charges against ministers are for prolonged period completely ignored even though they may be made by some members of the Congress party itself. Later, when the demand for an enquiry becomes insistent and cannot be resisted, the enquiry is entrusted to a committee of politicians of the ruling party itself. In some cases, unable to resist the compulsion of public opinion the Government is forced to appoint a judicial officer to make the enquiry.

Even when the Central Bureau of Information has made adverse reports, the matter is sought to be veiled from the public eye by keeping the report secret or sending it for further examination by a committee of the cabinet which in its turn makes another secret report containing recommendations resulting in the resignation of the minister or ministers concerned.

Is not such discrimination in favour of the important members of the ruling party itself a negation of real democracy? Nothing has lowered the ruling party in the estimation of the general public more than its attitude towards these allegations against important members of the party itself.

### A Bit Of Nepotism

One of the root causes of corruption has been the contributions by industrialists and corporate bodies to the funds of the ruling party which are made in the expectation of favours to come and which evoke responses from members of the ruling party in power. There has been an insistent demand by the public and the press that these donations may be either prevented or made publicly and announced, and that accounts of party funds be published.

Though there have been dramatic assertions of a resolve to root out corruption and though a number of measures, mostly ineffective, have been published and adopted for this purpose, many of the clear recommendations of the Committee to deal with the root causes of corruption appear to have been discarded. One of these was a total ban on all donations by corporate bodies to political parties.

Another was a special machinery to deal with delinquent ministers in the open like any other person charged with crime or improper conduct.

In the circumstances, the average citizen has, not unjustifiably, drawn the inference that so widespread and deep-rooted is the corruption in the higher ranges of the ruling party that it dares not to uncover those ugly sores.

NEW DELHI: Civilian defence employees all over the country observed a protest fast on April 24 and 25 to signify their resentment against the government's decision to retrench about 2,500 EME employees.

In Delhi, seven office-bearers of the All-India Defence Employees Federation undertook a hungerstrike before the Parliament House for four days beginning April 23.

Those who went on hungerstrike before Parliament House were S. M. Banerjee MP, and K. M. Matthew, president and general secretary respectively of the AIDEF. Others were K. G. Srivastava, N. K. Mitra, R. N. Yadav, Mahendra Singh and S. C. Dutt.

The hungerstrike was the third stage of an agitation programme which the defence employees had chalked out at their conference held in Delhi on April 1 and 2.

The first stage was a demonstration before the Prime Minister's and Defence Minister's houses in New Delhi on April 3. Several thousand employees participated in this.

On April 16, the civilian defence employees observed an ANTI-RETRENCHMENT DAY all over the country. And the week following it was observed as a Demands Week.

The main issue which is agitating the civilian defence employees is retrenchment.

The Defence Minister has announced in the Lok Sabha on March 4 that 2,400 civilian workers are surplus to requirement in Electrical and Mechanical Workshops consequent on the introduction of new policy regarding use of transport vehicles.

In Ordnance factories also workers are being declared surplus. In Avadi, Sahajehampur and Kanpur so-called casual workers who have served for more than one year continuously have been served with notices of discharge.

As a result of local agitation some of these workers have been given alternative jobs while others are still waiting. Latest report is that in the Gun and Shell Factory at Cossipore about 500 workers are being considered as surplus.

If this process goes on the number of surplus workers will run into thousands. Even skilled workers are facing retrenchment.

# COUNTRYWIDE MASS FAST BY DEFENCE EMPLOYEES AGAINST RETRENCHMENT

By OUR STAFF CORRESPONDENT

And this is happening when new Ordnance factories are being built up. The existing Ordnance factories are still working overtime. For maintenance and repairs of transport vehicles, overtime work is being done in Vehicle Depot, Delhi Cantt. where 108 workmen have been declared surplus to the requirement and 30 have been served with discharge notices.

Part of this retrenchment is due to the fact that the works are being got done by diverting them to private sector.

The Labour Ministry of Government of India is bringing forward a bill to abolish contract labour. But

the Defence Ministry is resorting to more and more contract work.

The employees' demand is that the workers who came forward to work in the defence department during the emergency should not be thrown out on the streets like this.

The Federation pointed this out in August 1964 but no serious discussions have taken place and 'drift' remains the policy.

Another grievance of the civilian defence employees relates to the negotiating machinery over which the Federation and the Ministry of Defence entered into an agreement in 1955.

This was withdrawn in 1960 after the central government employees' strike along with those in Railways and Post and Telegraphs Federation. The same has been revived in September 1961 in other departments but not in Defence.

It is being denied on various excuses. In September 1964 it was agreed to revive it to suit present conditions. But till today it has not been done.

The civilian defence employees are also demanding a wage board.

Several Members of Parliament belonging to different parties visited the fasting defence employees' leaders near Parliament House, among

them Nath Pal (FSP), R. K. Khadikar (Congress), Madhu Llamaye and Kisen Pattanayak (SSP), K. K. Warriar, Dinan Bhattacharya, Sarju Pande and Jai Bahadur Singh (CPI).

In a joint statement, S. A. Dange, general secretary of the AITUC, Deven Sen, president of the Hind Mazdoor Sabha, and Tridib Choudhury, general secretary of the UTUC, urged the Defence Ministry to concede the demands of the workers.

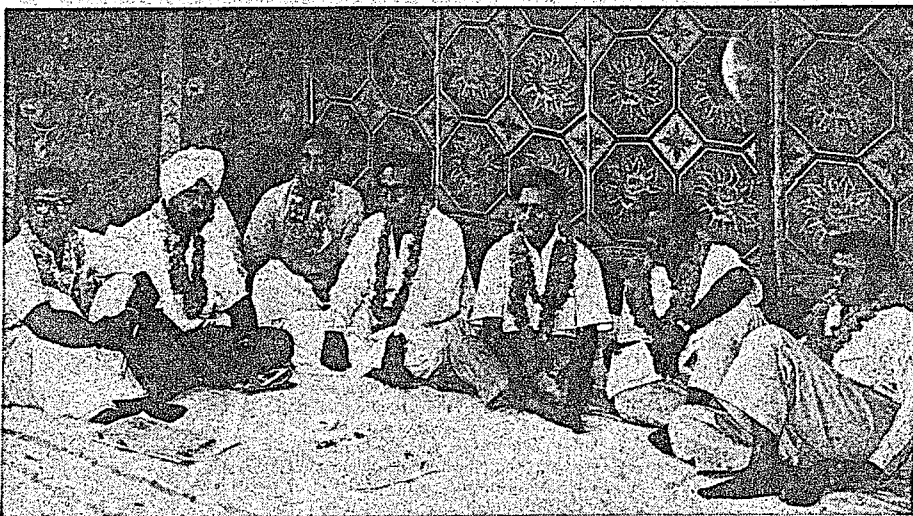
The statement expressed concern at the policy of diverting more and more of defence production into the private sector. This policy "not only harms the workers but is harmful to the security and economy of the country as a whole", the statement said.

The statement revealed that even parts of rifles and sten guns are now being given to the private sector for production on contract basis. It is this preference for capitalists and contracts which is resulting in retrenchment in defence establishments.

It is strange, the statement said that the government is transferring more and more defence production to the care of the capitalists "who find defence orders highly profitable and demand that production in the state sector be reduced for their benefit".

It is strange, the statement said that the government is transferring more and more defence production to the care of the capitalists "who find defence orders highly profitable and demand that production in the state sector be reduced for their benefit".

Defence employees' leaders on hungerstrike before Parliament House



## ABTA PLANS FOR UNITY OF ALL GRADES OF TEACHERS

From AJAY DASGUPTA

CALCUTTA: The fortieth conference of the All Bengal Teachers Association (ABTA), the premier teachers organisation in the state was held at Naihati a few days ago.

FRESH from the battle lines the delegates in one voice called for unity of all sections of teachers—from primary to university—to fight for an integrated scheme of education and to secure honourable status and living conditions for the teachers.

The conference gave specific responsibility to the incoming executive committee to build up joint movement with the West Bengal Primary Teachers Association and the West Bengal College and University Teachers Association for allocation of 10 per cent of the Central Budget and

20 per cent of the state budgets for education.

The conference also directed the executive committee to prepare a plan of universal education.

The secretary's report reviewed the struggle waged by the teachers recently and opined that basis had been laid for a more integrated and wider struggle.

It also reviewed critically the defeat of the candidates of ABTA in the election to the Board of Secondary Education while it won seats to the Legislative Council.

The report noted a 50 per cent rise in membership of the ABTA since the last conference. Satyapriya Ray MLC and Anila Devi MLC have been re-elected as president and general secretary respectively

for the coming year.

The Field Officers of the Oriental Fire & General Insurance Co., Ltd, a subsidiary of the LIC, submitted a Charter of Demands a few months back, main points of which were security of service, increase in salary and DA and grant of bonus.

The management having refused to reply the field workers under the leadership of All-India General Insurance Field Workers Association launched a movement of black badge wearing demonstration and finally 24 hours hungerstrike on April 23.

The movement was very successful and the management has now intimated the Association that negotiation on the Charter of Demands would be started not later than June 30. The Field workers of Oriental got full support from the office staff and the field officers of the LIC.

## BOMBAY BIDI WORKERS WIN RISE IN RATES

From SARALA KARKHANIS

BOMBAY: About fifteen thousand bidi workers in Bombay city and suburbs have won an increase of one rupee in rates per thousand bidis rolled.

The victory came after a lightning strike of the bidi workers which spread quickly to all centres of bidi manufacture.

Bidi workers are among the lowest paid skilled labourers in the country. The bidi industrialists have escaped paying any benefits to the workers under the plea that it is not an industry.

Neither is the Shop and Establishments Act applicable to the bidi workers, with the result that the workers could never get any legal redress of their grievances.

Out of the 15 thousand workers in Bombay, about 10 thousand are women who are the worst hit. They earn about one rupee for twelve hard

hours of work. The Bombay bidi workers were getting Rs. 8.50 to Rs. 4.50 per thousand bidis rolled. They had to buy the leaves by paying from their pocket which came to 75 paise in the old times.

But in recent months, the price of the leaves had gone up from 75 paise to as much as Rs. 1.50 and the bidi workers were demanding that they be paid higher to compensate for the higher price of bidi leaves.

It was this adamant attitude of the employers that led to the strike on March 25. The workers demanded an increase of two rupees per thousand bidis rolled in their remuneration.

Before the united and successful strike of the workers the employers came down and conceded an increase of one rupee per thousand bidis rolled and the strike was called off.

Work was resumed from April 10.

A NEW PPH TITLE

## THE INDIAN CAPITALIST CLASS A HISTORICAL STUDY

By V. I. PAVLOV

Price: Rs. 22.50

Place Your Orders:

PEOPLE'S PUBLISHING HOUSE (P) LTD.  
Rani Jhansi Road  
New Delhi



# The Birth Of May Day, 1886

On October 7, 1884, at its fourth convention, the Federation of Organized Trades and Labour Unions of the United States and Canada urged that from May 1, 1886, "eight hours shall constitute a legal day's labour."

THE resolution said:

"Resolved, by the Federation of Organized Trades and Labour Unions of the United States and Canada, that eight hours shall constitute a legal day's labour from May First, 1886, and that we recommend to labour organizations throughout their jurisdiction that they so direct their laws as to conform to this resolution by the time named."

The provision in the resolution that the unions' affiliated to the Federation "so direct their laws as to conform to this resolution" referred to the matter of paying strike benefits to their members who were expected to strike on May First, 1886, for the 8-hour day, and would probably have to stay out long enough to need assistance from the union.

The year 1884-1885 experienced a depression. The movement for a shorter work-day received added impetus from the unemployment and the great suffering which prevailed during that period.

At the convention of the Federation in 1885, the resolution on the walk-out for May First of the following year was reiterated and several national unions took action to prepare for the struggle, among them primarily the carpenters and cigar makers.

The number of strikes during 1885 and 1886 as compared with previous years shows what a spirit of militancy was animating the labour movement. Not only were the workers preparing for action on May First, 1886, but in 1885 the number of strikes

The May First strike was most aggressive in Chicago, which was at that time the centre of a militant Left-Wing labour movement.

With the air of the militant labour groups the strike in Chicago assumed the largest proportions. An 8-hour Association was formed long in advance of the strike to prepare for it. The Central Labour Union, composed of the Left-wing labour unions, gave full support to the 8-hour Association, which was a united front organisation, including the unions affiliated to the Federation, the Knights of Labour, and the Socialist Labour Party. On the Sunday before May First the Central Labour Union organised a mobilisation demonstration which was attended by 25,000 workers.

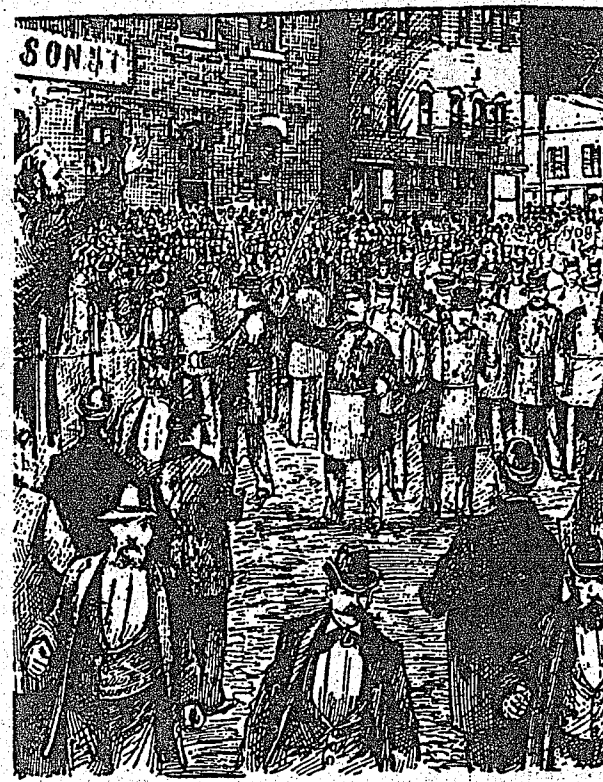
On May First, Chicago witnessed a great outpouring of workers, who laid down tools at the call of the organised labour movement of the city. It was the most effective demonstration of class solidarity yet experienced by the labour movement itself.

The events of May 3 and 4, which led to what is known as the Haymarket Affair, were a direct outgrowth of the May First strike.

The demonstration held on May 4 at Haymarket Square was called to protest against the brutal attack of the police upon a meeting of striking workers at the McCormick Reaper Works on May 3, where six workers were killed and many wounded.

The meeting was peaceful and about to be adjourned when the police again launched an attack upon the assembled workers. A

ON PAGE 14



The Assembly in Chicago that protested the police shooting of six McCormick Reaper workers on May 1, 1886. This was the origin of May Day

## AN IMPERIALIST REMNANT LETTERS

EIGHTEEN years after independence the British crown still holds sway over an office of the central government in Dehra Dun.

In front of the post office attached to the Forest Research Institute at Dehra Dun a conspicuous signboard hangs aloft an electric pole reading, "TELEPHONE Public Call Office" and above this legend is a sign of the crown printed on the signboard.

Ten years ago the attention of the authorities was drawn to this glaring symbol of our past slavery but the board has hung there undisturbed while thousands of foreign dignitaries passed under its shadow to attend the International Forestry Congress held at the FRI in December 1954.

Since then, several times the postal authorities have been made aware of the continued existence of this shameful signboard, but it has somehow managed to stay on.

It is too much to hope that the Directorate General of Post and Telegraph will direct its lazy bureaucrats to remove this symbol of past slavery from the sacred soil of our country?

Dehra Dun RAMESH BERRY

## MARMAGOA DOCKERS' DEMANDS

THE Union Labour Ministry has at long last named the personnel on the Goa Dock Labour Board.

The AITUC-affiliated Goa Port, Dock and Transport Workers Union has been given one seat on the DLB while the HMS-led Transport and Dock Workers Union has been given two seats.

This is a patently discriminatory action on the part of the Labour Ministry, for it is very well known that the MPDTWU is the majority union in the Marmagao port. And hence it has



naturally created a lot of resentment among the workers.

The workers are also resentful of the delay in making permanent 1,200 winchmen and 2,500 gang workers who are working in the stevedores pool.

A.S.K. Ayyangar, general secretary of the Port, Dock and Waterfront Workers Federation of India, has in a letter to the Marmagao Stevedores Association protested against the delaying tactics adopted by the stevedores.

Indrajit Gupta, president of the Federation, raised the issue in the Lok Sabha recently. Recently, the MPDTWU raised the issue before the central conciliation officer in Vasco Da Gama also.

The main demands of the workers are: reinstate all the 700 winchmen who have been wrongfully dismissed from service by the stevedores and who have put in ten to 15 years of work. These winchmen should be confirmed and given continuity of service in the pool or given reasonable compensation.

All the gang workers who are now working as casual should also be reinstated as permanent and the total number of permanent gang workers should be maintained at 2,500. All engagement of private gang workers through contractors should be stopped.

—GAJANAN PATIL Vasco Da Gama

# Lacking: An Integrated Pro-Labour Wage Policy

Mahatma Gandhi wanted that capitalists should act as the trustees of the nation but the neo-Gandhians in power today have made the government itself the "trust" of the capitalists.

THIS is most seen in the government's wage policy, if the supreme unconcern with which the wage system is allowed to find its own course could be called a policy at all.

More than the capitalists, their "trustees" in government have become the most anti-labour in formulating policy and the record of the government itself in attempting to sabotage every little advance made in evolving a rational wages system in recent history.

The conscience-keepers of the monopolists in the Finance Ministry sabotaged the agreement on need-based wages a year after the 1957 tripartite decision in the 15th Indian Labour Conference.

The same thing was repeated when the majority report of the Bonus Commission was tampered with to make it acceptable to monopoly capital. And, again, it was the Finance Ministry which decided the issue.

Until after they received the well-deserved rebuff by the bank employees through the work-to-rule, the government went on extending an award which the employees did not want.

It goes to the organised strength of the bankmen that they forced a settlement, obtaining a candid admission from the government that the indices were seriously faulty and that the faults should be compensated.

## Concession To Movement

The wages policy as it has evolved has therefore been what the organised working class movement could unmake of a deliberate policy of wage-freeze, to the extent it has been successful.

But the economic policies being what they are, the limited gains through wage struggles were more than offset by the rising prices.

The Index number of real wages (1951=100) fell from 123.7 in 1955 to 115.5 in 1961 and after a marginal rise to 116.3 in 1962, has fallen to 108.9 in 1963.

The phenomenal price rises in 1964 would have brought down the real wage-index to well below the 1951 level.

At the end of three Five-Year Plans, therefore, the real wages of the workers would remain largely constant, if not worse in several sectors.

deadlock in the work of several wage boards.

The Tea Plantation Wage Board is stuck up for the last five years and wage boards in coalmining and iron and steel are yet to submit reports although more than three years have passed. The workers have secured through agitation some amount of interim relief and in some cases, twice, but these were hardly sufficient to meet the rise in prices.

Moreover, workers had to fight hard even to get the implementation of Wage Board awards in many cases.

Fifth, while employers were rejecting wage demands or deliberately delaying the work of wage boards, wage costs in industry have been constantly going down due to increase in productivity, rationalisation, etc.

Sixth, the basic wages fixed in pre-war years or in the

By M. ATCHUTHAN

For instance, in the largest organised industry, cotton textiles, the first wage board did not standardise rates on an all-India scale and the great disparities (mainly in rates of neutralisation in DA) persisted.

In the banking industry, differentiated rates were fixed according to the so-called "capacity to pay". Only in coalmining was some uniformity in rates and categories realised, apart from the broad general framework of wage scales determined by the pay commissions in Central Government services.

Second, the wage boards have not been able to fix fair wages—not even need-based wages and only marginal gains have been made through the boards' recommendations.

Employers have been all through bargaining hard and instead of any rational wage-fixation, what has been done by the wage boards was only compromise ad hoc wage increments.

Third, the wage boards had no guide lines on wage-fixation on any concrete basis since the need-based norms of the 15th Tripartite were torpedoed by the Finance Ministry.

Under the Third Plan, it was agreed that experts would be asked to settle the controversy touched off by the Second Pay Commission on calorific requirements of industrial workers. The experts have given their report but this is still held secret from the trade unions.

Fourth, the hard bargaining by employers in the wage boards has led to complete

of DA at all but only consolidated wages.

As we have noted earlier, the greatest impediment to the standardisation of the wages system in our country is the highly irrational and arbitrary system of DA fixation. Even in largescale and protected industries where price control at national level prevails, there is considerable disparity in the DA system and, more so, on the rate of neutralisation.

## Promoting Anarchy

What justification the government has in promoting this anarchy, it is difficult to imagine. More so, in industries where prices are fixed by government as in iron and steel, or protected industries such as automobile manufacture.

The amazing position is that workers in Birla's auto plant in West Bengal get less than the DA component of auto workers' earnings in Maharashtra! In cotton textiles also, the DA in West Bengal Mills in December last was Rs. 61.38 as against Rs. 123.95 in Bombay.

The disparities as between Central Government and state governments' scales of pay are notorious and worse still is the position of teachers and of workers in the public sector undertakings under the state govern-

In implementing the policy of appointing wage boards for the various industries or about appointment of Minimum Wage boards or committees, the government had taken an attitude of delaying the setting up of these boards as much as possible.

Under this policy, the Engineering Wage Board has been set up seven years after the 15th Tripartite and in such major sectors as road transport, electricity, railways, defence undertakings, paper, leather, etc., even the setting up of the Wage Board has been held over for many years.

## Decision On Paper

In the context of the severe rise in prices, the government was forced to commit to a policy of linking DA with the price index at the 22nd Standing Labour Committee in 1963.

However, this decision has remained on paper and no steps whatsoever were taken to work out the application of the principle of sliding scale of DA in various industries.

On the other hand, there is complete anarchy with regard to the payment of DA in the various industries and in some states and industries, there is no system

ments as road transport, electricity undertakings, etc.

A rather crude manner in which the official agencies wanted to save lakhs of rupees for the capitalists was by way of manipulating the indices.

It is now established on inquiry by experts that the manipulations were of a substantial nature. Prices of several items which go into the family budget of the workers were "frozen" for several years, in order to depress the index so that less DA need be paid to the workers.

The shameless manner in which this was done, even after public exposure, is still being sought to be placated in many states where the state governments have refused to order inquiry into the faults in the index.

If planning on wages should have any meaning, it is high time that the TU movement enforces a rational wage system as part of the Plan. The elements of what this policy of wages should be, are implied in the criticism of the present policy.

## Target: Fair Wages

What is most of all needed is to set targets industry-wise to achieve a fair wage level, the laying down of national norms for the computation of need-based wages, statutory guarantees for the proper fixation of DA, linked with the consumer price index and radical improvements in the fringe benefits.

Such a policy is at the moment a blind spot for the government but as S.A. Dange stated in the AITUC general council meeting recently, the ways for solution of such problems are determined by the historical experience of the working class movement.



A pictorial book about the flight of VOSKHOD-2. Contains for the first time a large number of Photographs from space taken by Cosmonaut Leonov. Biographical sketches of Belyaev and Leonov—Article by Pilot Cosmonaut Komarov—Article by Prof. V. Parin on the significance of the flight of VOSKHOD-2 in the conquest of space.

SEE AND READ ABOUT LEONOV'S WALK IN SPACE MORE THAN 100 PHOTOGRAPHS Postage extra Rs. 0.50

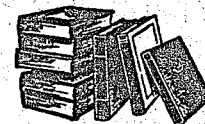
Order from: People's Publishing House, Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi; Rajkamal Prakashan, Fair Bazar, Delhi; PFH Bookfall, Bombay 4; Visalaandhra Publishing House, Vijayawada; Visalaandhra Book House, Hyderabad, Navakarataka Publications, Bangalore-9; New Century Book House, Mount Road, Madras; Prabhatha Book House, Main Road, Trivandrum; People's Book House, Patna-4; Manisha Granthalaya, Calcutta-12; National Book Agency, Calcutta-12.

ADMARK

# NEW POLAND IN A NUTSHELL

SOCIAL AND POLITICAL TRANSFORMATIONS IN POLAND: Polish Scientific Publishers, Warsaw; edited by Stanislaw Ehrlich. (Available with Polish Embassy, 22 Golf Links, New Delhi).

THIS is a collection of essays on social changes that have taken place in post-war Poland. It does not seek to be a comprehensive study of all the changes that have occurred in Poland since the last twenty years. It deals with only ten important aspects of social transformations in post-war Poland.



## BOOK REVIEW

Each of the ten aspects is dealt with in an article written by an eminent professor of Poland and that is what makes this book worth studying.

The ten aspects of social transformations dealt in this volume are: planning by Czeslaw Bobrowski; selected

cal aspects of higher education by Jan Szczepanski, and mass culture in a socialist society by Stefan Zolkiewski.

All the authors are well-known in their own subjects and therefore the analysis and observation made by these scholars on each subject can be taken as the most reliable material to understand the changes that have come in people's Poland in the post-war years.

This book is Poland in a nutshell. Poland, its problems and perspectives; its myriad of special features and distinguishing policies; its plan with regard to domestic issues and their solutions—are all dealt with in this book in precise and authoritative manner. This book is in fact a Poland that speaks for itself. Any serious reader of political sciences therefore will find this book of great value.

—S. M.



# The Birth Of May Day, 1886

On October 7, 1884, at its fourth convention, the Federation of Organised Trades and Labour Unions of the United States and Canada urged that from May 1, 1886, "eight hours shall constitute a legal day's labour."

THE resolution said:

"Resolved, by the Federation of Organized Trades and Labour Unions of the United States and Canada, that eight hours shall constitute a legal day's labour from May First, 1886, and that we recommend to labour organizations throughout their jurisdiction that they so direct their laws as to conform to this resolution by the time named."

The provision in the resolution that the unions affiliated to the Federation "so direct their laws as to conform to this resolution" referred to the matter of paying strike benefits to their members who were expected to strike on May First, 1886, for the 8-hour day, and would probably have to stay out long enough to need assistance from the union.

The year 1884-1885 experienced a depression. The movement for a shorter work-day received added impetus from the unemployment and the great suffering which prevailed during that period.

At the convention of the Federation in 1885, the resolution on the walk-out for May First of the following year was reiterated and several national unions took action to prepare for the struggle, among them, primarily the carpenters and cigar makers.

The number of strikes during 1885 and 1886 as compared with previous years shows what a spirit of militancy was animating the labour movement. Not only were the workers preparing for action on May First, 1886, but in 1885 the number of strikes

already showed an appreciable increase. During the years 1881-1884 the number of strikes and lock-outs averaged less than 500, and on the average involved only about 150,000 workers a year. The strikes and lockouts in 1885 increased to about 700 and the number of workers involved jumped to 250,000.

In 1886 the number of strikes more than doubled over 1885, reaching as many as 1,572, with a proportional increase in the number of workers affected, now 600,000.

How widespread the strike movement became in 1886 can be seen from the fact that while in 1885 there were only 2,467 establishments affected by strikes, the number involved in the following year had increased to 11,562. It was estimated that over 50,000 workers were directly involved in strikes for the 8-hour day.

The strike centre was Chicago, where the strike movement was most widespread, but many other cities were involved in the struggle on May First. New York, Baltimore, Washington, Milwaukee, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Pittsburgh, Detroit and many other cities made a good showing in the walkout.

It is estimated that about half of the number of workers who struck on May First were successful, and where they did not secure the 8-hour day, they succeeded in appreciably reducing the hours of labour.

The May First strike was most aggressive in Chicago, which was at that time the centre of a militant Left-Wing labour movement.

With the air of the militant labour groups the strike in Chicago assumed the largest proportions. An 8-hour Association was formed long in advance of the strike to prepare for it. The Central Labour Union, composed of the Left-wing labour unions, gave full support to the 8-hour Association, which was a united front organisation, including the unions affiliated to the Federation, the Knights of Labour, and the Socialist Labour Party. On the Sunday before May First the Central Labour Union organised a mobilisation demonstration which was attended by 25,000 workers.

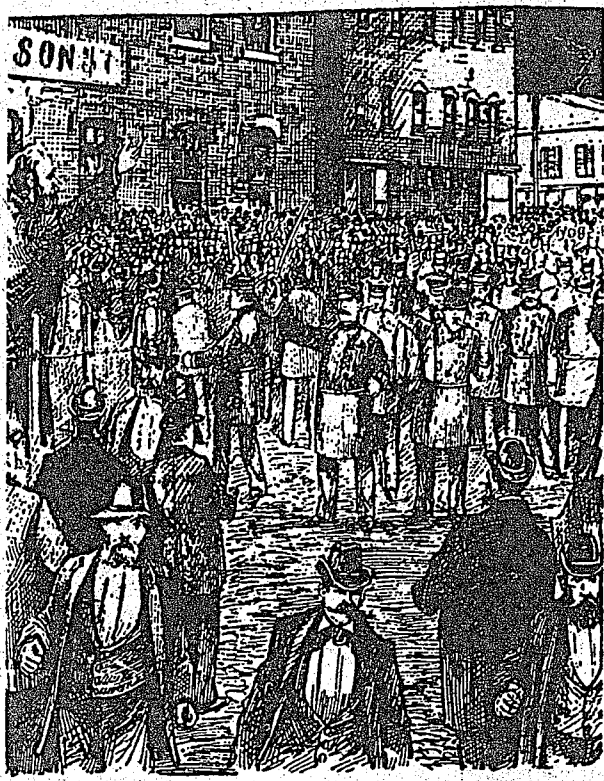
On May First, Chicago witnessed a great outpouring of workers, who laid down tools at the call of the organised labour movement of the city. It was the most effective demonstration of class solidarity yet experienced by the labour movement itself.

The events of May 3 and 4, which led to what is known as the Haymarket Affair, were a direct outgrowth of the May First strike.

The demonstration held on May 4 at Haymarket Square was called to protest against the brutal attack of the police upon a meeting of striking workers at the McCormick Reaper Works on May 3, where six workers were killed and many wounded.

The meeting was peaceful and about to be adjourned when the police again launched an attack upon the assembled workers. A

ON PAGE 14



The Assembly in Chicago that protested the police shooting of six McCormick Reaper workers on May 1, 1886. This was the origin of May Day

## AN IMPERIALIST REMNANT LETTERS

EIGHTEEN years after British crown still holds sway over an office of the central government in Dehra Dun.

In front of the post office attached to the Forest Research Institute at Dehra Dun a conspicuous signboard hangs aloft an electric pole reading, "TELEPHONE Public Call Office" and above this legend is a sign of the crown printed on the signboard.

Ten years ago the attention of the authorities was drawn to this glaring symbol of our past slavery but the board has hung there undisturbed while thousands of foreign dignitaries passed under its shadow to attend the International Forestry Congress held at the FRI in December 1954.

Since then, several times the postal authorities have been made aware of the continued existence of this shameful signboard, but it has somehow managed to stay on.

Is it too much to hope that the Directorate General of Post and Telegraph will direct its lazy bureaucrats to remove this symbol of past slavery from the sacred soil of our country? Dehra Dun RAMESH BERRY

## MARMAGOA DOCKERS' DEMANDS

THE Union Labour Ministry has at long last named the personnel on the Goa Dock Labour Board.

The AIUC-affiliated Goa Port, Dock and Transport Workers Union has been given one seat on the DLB while the HMS-led Transport and Dock Workers Union has been given two seats.

This is a patently discriminatory action on the part of the Labour Ministry, for it is very well known that the MPDTWU is the majority union in the Marmagao port. And hence it has



naturally created a lot of resentment among the workers.

The workers are also resentful of the delay in making permanent 1,200 winchmen and 2,500 gang workers who are working in the stevedores pool.

A.S.K. Ayyangar, general secretary of the Port, Dock and Waterfront Workers Federation of India, has in a letter to the Marmagao Stevedores Association protested against the delaying tactics adopted by the stevedores.

Indrajit Gupta, president of the Federation, raised the issue in the Lok Sabha recently. Recently, the MPDTWU raised the issue before the central conciliation officer in Vasco Da Gama also.

The main demands of the workers are: reinstate all the 700 winchmen who have been wrongfully dismissed from service by the stevedores and who have put in ten to 15 years of work. These winchmen should be confirmed and given continuity of service in the pool or given reasonable compensation.

All the gang workers who are now working as casual should also be reinstated as permanent and the total number of permanent gang workers should be maintained at 2,500. All engagement of private gang workers through contractors should be stopped.

—GAJANAN PATIL Vasco Da Gama

# Lacking: An Integrated Pro-Labour Wage Policy

Mahatma Gandhi wanted that capitalists should act as the trustees of the nation but the neo-Gandhians in power today have made the government itself the "trust" of the capitalists.

THIS is most seen in the government's wage policy, if the supreme unconcern with which the wage system is allowed to find its own course could be called a policy at all.

More than the capitalists, their "trustees" in government have become the most anti-labour in formulating policy and the record of the government itself in attempting to sabotage every little advance made in evolving a rational wages system in recent history.

The conscience-keepers of the monopolists in the Finance Ministry sabotaged the agreement on need-based wages a year after the 1957 tripartite decision in the 15th Indian Labour Conference.

The same thing was repeated when the majority report of the Bonus Commission was tampered with to make it acceptable to monopoly capital. And, again, it was the Finance Ministry which decided the issue.

Until after they received the well-deserved rebuff by the bank employees through the work-to-rule, the government went on extending an award which the employees did not want.

It goes to the organised strength of the bankmen that they forced a settlement, obtaining a candid admission from the government that the indices were seriously faulty and that the faults should be compensated.

## Concession To Movement

The wages policy as it has evolved has therefore been what the organised working class movement could unmake of a deliberate policy of wage-freeze, to the extent it has been successful.

But the economic policies being what they are, the limited gains through wage struggles were more than offset by the rising prices.

The Index number of real wages (1951=100) fell from 123.7 in 1955 to 115.5 in 1961 and after a marginal rise to 116.3 in 1962, has fallen to 108.9 in 1963.

The phenomenal price rises in 1964 would have brought down the real wage index to well below the 1951 level.

At the end of three Five-Year Plans, therefore, the real wages of the workers would remain largely constant, if not worse in several sectors.

deadlock in the work of several wage boards.

The Tea Plantation Wage Board is stuck up for the last five years and wage boards in coalmining and iron and steel are yet to submit reports although more than three years have passed. The workers have secured through agitation some amount of interim relief and in some cases, twice, but these were hardly sufficient to meet the rise in prices.

Moreover, workers had to fight hard even to get the implementation of Wage Board awards in many cases.

Fifth, while employers were rejecting wage demands or deliberately delaying the work of wage boards, wage costs in industry have been constantly going down due to increase in productivity, rationalisation, etc.

Sixth, the basic wages fixed in pre-war years or in the

of DA at all but only consolidated wages.

As we have noted earlier, the greatest impediment to the standardisation of the wages system in our country is the highly irrational and arbitrary system of DA fixation. Even in largescale and protected industries where price control at national level prevails, there is considerable disparity in the DA system and, more so, on the rate of neutralisation.

## Promoting Anarchy

What justification the government has in promoting this anarchy, it is difficult to imagine. More so, in industries where prices are fixed by government as in iron and steel, or protected industries such as automobile manufacture.

The amazing position is that workers in Birla's auto plant in West Bengal get less than the DA component of auto workers' earnings in Maharashtra! In cotton textiles also, the DA in West Bengal Mills in December last was Rs. 61.38 as against Rs. 123.95 in Bombay.

The disparities as between Central Government and state governments' scales of pay are notorious and worse still is the position of the teachers and of workers in the public sector undertakings under the state govern-

pre-Plan years showed no large variation between centres and the disparities in inter-industry and intra-industry wage differentials have developed mainly on DA, and particularly so, in the matter of the rate of neutralisation.

In implementing the policy of appointing wage boards for the various industries or about appointment of Minimum Wage boards or committees, the government had taken an attitude of delaying the setting up of these boards as much as possible.

Under this policy, the Engineering Wage Board has been set up seven years after the 15th Tripartite and in such major sectors as road transport, electricity, railways, defence undertakings, paper, leather, etc., even the setting up of the Wage Board has been held over for many years.

## Decision On Paper

In the context of the severe rise in prices, the government was forced to commit to a policy of linking DA with the price index at the 22nd Standing Labour Committee in 1963.

However, this decision has remained on paper and no steps whatsoever were taken to work out the application of the principle of sliding scale of DA in various industries.

On the other hand, there is complete anarchy with regard to the payment of DA in the various industries and in some states and industries, there is no system

ments as road transport, electricity undertakings, etc.

A rather crude manner in which the official agencies wanted to save lakhs of rupees for the capitalists was by way of manipulating the indices.

It is now established on inquiry by experts that the manipulations were of a substantial nature. Prices of several items which go into the family budget of the workers were "frozen" for several years, in order to depress the index so that less DA need be paid to the workers.

The shameless manner in which this was done, even after public exposure, is still being sought to be placated in many states where the state governments have refused to order inquiry into the faults in the index.

If planning on wages should have any meaning, it is high time that the TU movement enforces a rational wage system as part of the Plan. The elements of what this policy of wages should be, are implied in the criticism of the present policy.

## Target: Fair Wages

What is most of all needed is to set targets industry-wise to achieve a fair wage level, the laying down of national norms for the computation of need-based wages, statutory guarantees for the proper fixation of DA, linked with the consumer price index and radical improvements in the fringe benefits.

Such a policy is at the moment a blind spot for the government but as S.A. Dange stated in the AIUC general council meeting recently, the ways for solution of such problems are determined by the historical experience of the working class movement.

# NEW POLAND IN A NUTSHELL

SOCIAL AND POLITICAL TRANSFORMATIONS IN POLAND; Polish Scientific Publishers, Warsaw; edited by Stanislaw Ehrlich. (Available with Polish Embassy, 22 Golf Links, New Delhi).

THIS is a collection of essays on social changes that have taken place in post-war Poland. It does not seek to be a comprehensive study of all the changes that have occurred in Poland since the last twenty years. It deals with only ten important aspects of social transformations in post-war Poland.

Each of the ten aspects is dealt with in an article written by an eminent professor of Poland and that is what makes this book worth studying.

The ten aspects of social transformations dealt in this volume are: planning by Czeslaw Bobrowski; selected

cal aspects of higher education by Jan Szczepanski, and mass culture in a socialist society by Stefan Zolkiewski.

All the authors are well-known for their profound knowledge in their own subjects and therefore the analysis and observation made by these scholars on each subject can be taken as the most reliable material to understand the changes that have come in people's Poland in the post-war years.

This book is Poland in a nutshell. Poland, its problems, and perspectives; its myriad of special features and distinguishing policies; its plan with regard to domestic issues and their solutions—are all dealt with in this book in precise and authoritative manner. This book is in fact a Poland that speaks for itself. Any serious reader of political sciences therefore will find this book of great value.

—S. M.



## BOOK REVIEW

problems of economic development by Jozef Pajestka; problems of agriculture by Jerzy Teplitch; housing policy by Juliusz Gorynski; Polish-German frontier by Manfred Lachs; decentralisation and democratic development of people's councils by Sylwester Zawadzki; constitutional problems of workers' self-government by Zygmunt Rybicki; sociological research by Wladyslaw Markiewicz; sociologi-



A pictorial book about the flight of VOSKHOD-2. Contains for the first time a large number of Photographs from space taken by Cosmonaut Leonov. Biographical sketches of Belyaev and Leonov—Article by Pilot Cosmonaut Komarov—Article by Prof. V. Parin on the significance of the flight of VOSKHOD-2 in the conquest of space.

SEE AND READ ABOUT LEONOV'S WALK IN SPACE MORE THAN 100 PHOTOGRAPHS Postage extra Rs. 0.50

Order from: People's Publishing House, Rani Jhansi Road, New Delhi; Rajkamal Prakashan, Fair Bazar, Delhi; PFH Booksfall, Bombay 4; Visalaandhra Publishing House, Vijayawada; Visalaandhra Book House, Hyderabad; Navakarataka Publications, Bangalore-9; New Century Book House, Mount Road, Madras; Prabhatha Book House, Main Road, Trivandrum; People's Book House, Patna-4; Manisha Granthalaya, Calcutta-12; National Book Agency, Calcutta-12.

ADMARK



# MAY DAY REVIEW AN YEAR OF MASSIVE STRUGGLES BY WORKING CLASS



Police attack striking workers in Tel Aviv (Below) Striking salesmen and salesgirls in Paris

**MAY DAY** has come again, bringing with it the haloed memories of decades of heroic struggle which the working class has waged for the right to live and a better share in the fruits of their toils. It is a day of stocktaking for them, a day when the achievements of the past year are evaluated; the struggles for the new year planned.

The past year has been one of massive actions for the working people the world over. From Paris to Tokyo, from Rome to Chicago, it has been a year of strikes and

struggles in defence of the workers' rights and living conditions.

India too provided a picture of massive actions by the toiling millions. These actions involved not only the traditional factory workers but the entire toiling section of the people—women workers, commercial employees, government staff.

The year 1984 began in India with the toilers forming a National Campaign Committee to direct their struggle against the ever-rising prices—the dragon which eats into their living standards—and a round of satyagrahas and demonstrations.

By May, the toilers' cup of discontent had begun to overflow. The agitation had developed to the stage wherein the workers were planning for statewide bandhs, and possibly a Bharat Bandh.

Kerala gave the lead with a glorious bandh on July 31, followed by Gujarat on August 5, Maharashtra on August 12, Uttar Pradesh on August 18, Goa on August 20 and West Bengal on September 25.

These bandhs were not merely general strikes by the workers; they had gone a step further. They were strikes and hartals combined into one single action by which every facet of economic and social activity was put at standstill. The workers' struggles had thus become the entire people's struggles.

The campaigns launched by the National Campaign Committee and the bandhs had seen united actions in many local areas and states in which unions and workers affiliated to many organisations had been drawn in.

The AITUC therefore gave the slogan of Bharat Bandh. Bharat Bandh was capable of achievement if conscious effort was made and unity of action with other TU centres and national federations achieved.

The correctness of this slogan was demonstrated by the fact that for the first time, three national TU organisations and six industrial trade federations came together for joint deliberations.

On October 14, 1984 at Ahmedabad, representatives of AITUC, UTUC, HMF, AIBEA, AINEF, AICWF, National Federation of Road Transport Workers, National Federation of Insurance Field Workers of India and the Maharashtra Sangram Samiti met in a conference and decided to set up a Rashtriya Sangram Samiti to carry forward the campaign in a united manner.

Though the HMS and INTUC as also some major national federations did not join and are still keeping away, the importance of this united committee should not be underestimated. The Samiti formulated a six-point Charter of Demands which largely incorporated the 11-point charter framed by the NCC and reiterated the slogan of Bharat Bandh.

At its second meeting on 20-21 November 1984, the Sangram Samiti directed its constituent units to form state level committees and by now such committees have been formed in Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, and Andhra Pradesh.

In Bihar, Punjab and Assam, steps are being taken towards this. In Rajasthan, a convention of trade unions was held on March 27 jointly by AITUC, HMS,

HMF and independent unions and a united call has been given for a token strike in Rajasthan on May 5.

In some places, local committees of the Sangram Samiti have been set up.

Through campaigns unleashed by NCC, the bandh actions and the formation of the Rashtriya Sangram Samiti, for the first time, an effort has been made to have coordinated all-India actions on common demands drawing within its fold not only the organised working class but other sections of the toiling people as well.

## \*\*\*\*\* by \*\*\*\*\* PAULY V. PARAKAL \*\*\*\*\*

There have been many strikes during the period under review and the official statistics about mandays lost in industrial disputes also show the magnitude of the strike struggles during 1984.

The number of disputes was 2,035 in 1984 and the mandays lost 73 lakhs. The number of workers involved in these stoppages was 9.38 lakhs.

Some of the major struggle during the period under review were the following:

**1 JAY ENGINEERING STRIKE**—About seven thousand workmen belonging to the twin factories manufacturing Usha fans and sewing machines, including about 800 employees in the sales organisation in the Calcutta area, went on a strike from December 17, 1983, over the demand for bonus, gratuity, etc. The strike lasted for five months and 12 days and was called off on May 27, 1984.

During this prolonged struggle, the striking workers displayed great unity despite communal disturbances in Calcutta which affected many sections of the working class.

The solidarity of other workers was also great. Rallies, demonstrations and processions were taken out in support of the strike and thousands of rupees were donated as solidarity fund. On April 16, the overwhelming majority of the one-and-a-half-lakh engineering workers in West Bengal went on a one-day token strike and on

May 20, there was a state-wide general strike and hartal.

Though none of the demands could be won straightaway, the efforts of the company to smash the union were completely foiled and adjudication was secured.

**2 PIMPRI WORKERS STRIKE**—The workers of the Pimpri penicillin factory went on strike on June 12 to secure implementation of Meher Tribunals' award.

The Tribunal had upheld the contention of the workers that they should be paid on the basis that they were industrial workers and

strike was considered legal and justified.

**3 STRIKE IN ITI, BANGALORE**—The stay-in-strike of about ten thousand workers of Indian Telephone Industries, Bangalore from December 12 to 15 secured arbitration on demands.

The Union Communications Minister who was the Arbitrator gave an award on February 28, 1985, giving an interim relief of one rupee for every year of service and a slight increase in house-rent—all to be set off against any interim relief granted by the Engineering Wage Board.

Thus the decision demarcated the workers from the benefits given to Central Government employees.

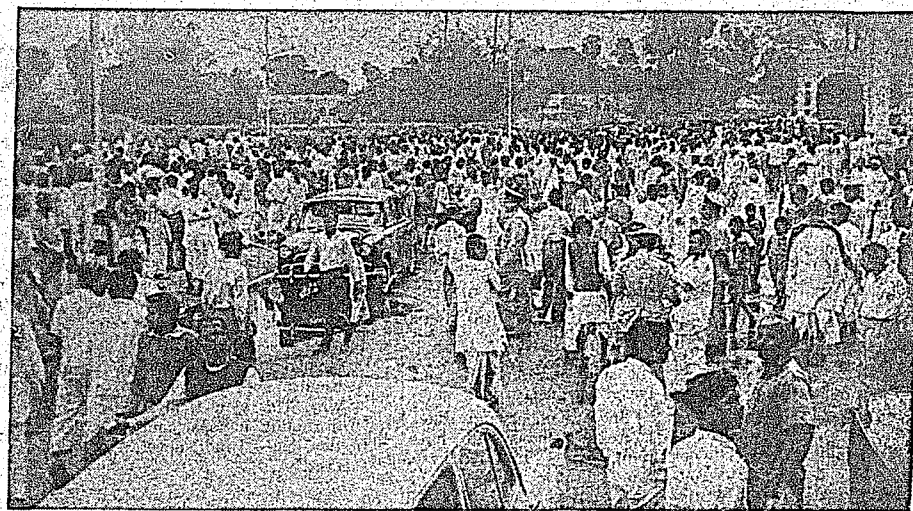
**4 TELCO STRIKE**—The workers of Tata Locomotive and Engineering Co., Jamshedpur, went on strike from December 12 to 20, 1984, led by a faction of the INTUC union.

The strike originally began over an issue of clash between a worker and a supervisor but the union later pressed certain other demands as rise in DA, recognition of the faction as the leadership of the union, etc.

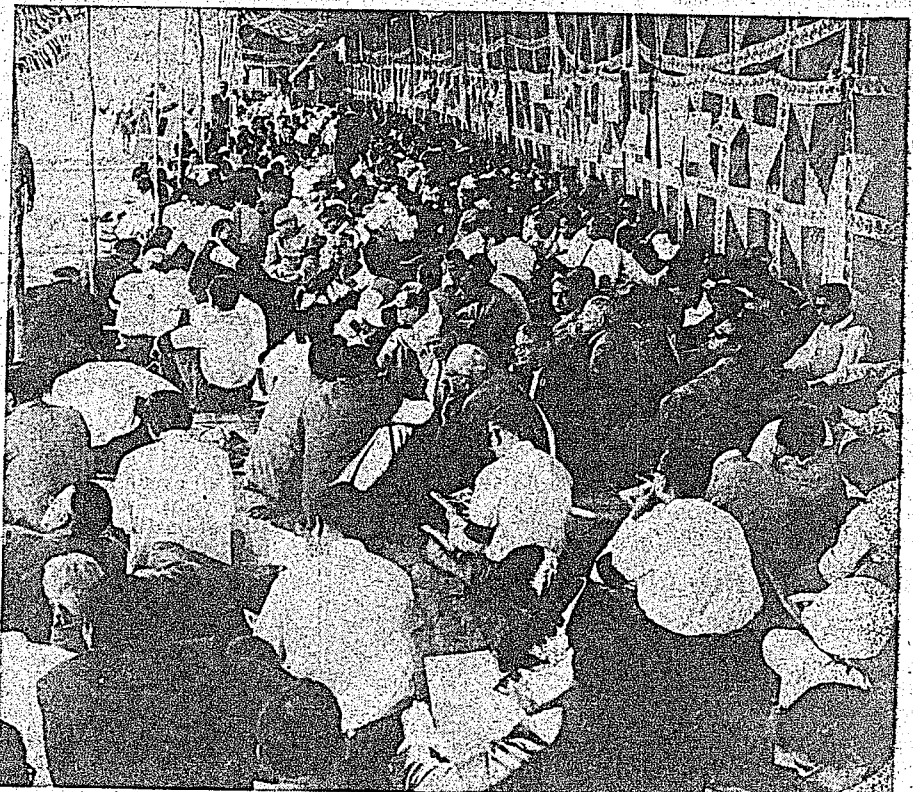
The dispute was settled when the Bihar Government intervened under the DIR and directed management not to take any disciplinary action against workers without approval of the Government. Some of the minor demands were not settled.

While TISCO and TELCO had identical wage rates and DA, following the interim relief given by the Steel Wage Board, TISCO rates had gone up by over Rs. 15. No relief was given in TELCO.

\*ON PAGE 17



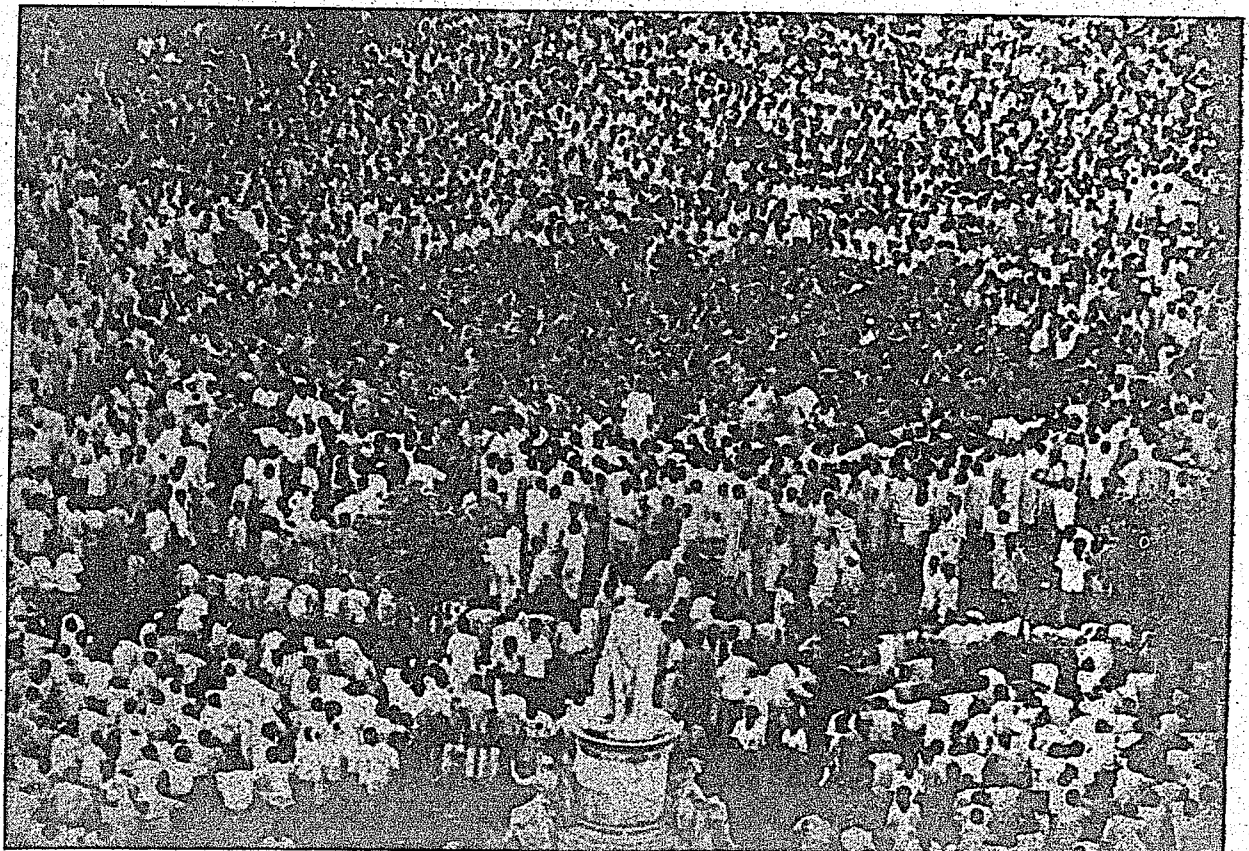
Mass casual leave by Bihar government staff, March 1985 (Below) LIC officers' satyagraha New Delhi, March 1985



Striking Italian agricultural workers demonstrate in Rome



A demonstration by Bombay working women



Bonus Morcha by textile workers of Bombay, October 1984

**4 VIZAG PORT WORKERS STRIKE**—In July 1984, the workers of the Visakhapatnam port struck work for five days protesting against non-settlement of the demands and over the nomination of a representative from a minority union on the Board of Trustees of the Port.

The strike was called off when management agreed to make a joint request for reference of the disputes to adjudication.

A significant aspect of the strike is that the workers won wages for the strike period when the Payment of Wages Authority decreed favourably on the cases filed by the workmen and the



# Language Issue And Communist Party Of India

Some of our friends have bitterly criticised in the newspaper columns the anti-Hindi agitation on the one hand and on the other attacked the Communist Party's policy and practice on the language issue.

THIS attack is due partly to the misunderstanding of our policy and practice but mostly out of the wrong positions as regards the question of national unity and official language.

The manner in which the Union government made the provocative and hypocritical announcement on January 28 making Hindi the official language, gave rise to a furious storm of resistance among the non-Hindi speaking people, particularly of Tamilnad.

All the all-India political parties were rudely awakened by this storm and their leaders fell apart on the basis of Hindi and non-Hindi areas. It was only the CPI which in one voice spoke of only one stand.

The misunderstanding about our Party's policy and practice is clear from the argument that while the CPI demands that in the different states the regional languages should become the media of instruction and administration, it neither itself implements it nor does it organise a popular movement to that effect.

Some people even naively argue that the leaders of the CPI should ensure that all their party work in the states is done in the regional languages and this will lead to the cutting-off of the roots of English within a month.

## Roots of English Run Deep

If by doing this, the roots of English could be cut in the states, we would have been very happy and English would have been uprooted long ago. But unfortunately the roots of English are not so weak in the states. Even after 18 years of independence, English still holds sway over all the states including the Hindi-speaking areas.

This is so despite our efforts to carry on all our Party's work in the regional languages only. Our Party journals in Bihar, West Bengal, Tamilnad, Kerala, Andhra and Maharashtra are published in the regional languages.

All the meetings of our state organisations are carried in regional languages only. Besides, we have been leading a sustained campaign on the slogan of replacing English by regional languages in various states. Recently in our national council meeting, a political resolution has been adopted emphasising this point.

The truth is that neither Hindi nor for that matter any single Indian language can replace English in the political and cultural life of our country. That is why it has been said in our Party Programme:

"It (the government of the National Democratic Front) will ensure that English as medium of administration and instruction is replaced by Indian languages. Every state shall use its own language for its internal administrative purposes in all government departments, public institutions and in the law courts. It will also be the medium of instruction at all levels.

English will be gradually replaced by Hindi as the medium of communication between different governments.

ent state governments and between the centre and state governments. In Parliament and state legislatures a member will have the right to use his mother-tongue. Simultaneous translation of Parliamentary proceedings will be provided for in all state languages.

"Urdu language and script will be protected in states and areas



where it has been in traditional use. Sindhi language shall be included in the Schedule VIII of the Constitution. Provision will be made for large linguistic minorities in different states to receive education in their mother-tongue. All competitive examinations for all-India services will be conducted in all languages listed in the Schedule VIII of the Constitution."

There are three trends clearly noticeable in the present controversy over the medium of administration and instruction and it is interesting to note that the followers of every trend pretend to be working for national unity.

The founder-leader of the Swatantra Party—Rajaji, Anglo-Indian leader Frank Anthony and DMK leader Annadurai—all are shouting "Hindi Never, English Ever". In favour of continuing the English language, they are using the same argument which was used by the British imperialists for continuing their rule in India.

The British imperialists used to say that without the British rule the unity of India will be jeopardised. Now this gentry of Rajaji, Annadurai and Frank Anthony is saying that without the English language the unity of the country will be disintegrated.

## Three Important Aspects

Our national unity on the basis of the English language will be just like the unity of the country during the British rule. Unity of free India is possible only on the basis of democracy and cultural awakening.

Democratic development and cultural awakening are not possible without the Indian languages. Hence, those who are advocating national unity on the basis of the English language are in fact advocating a colonial unity.

This is the reason why to solve the question of language, it

is necessary to keep in view three most important aspects: national unity, democratic development and cultural awakening.

The second point of view on language is that—throw out English and instal Hindi straightway. This view is also a trend of disrupting national unity just like the one—"Hindi never, English ever."

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

Therefore, the talk of ousting English and to instal only Hindi in its place is nothing but a view to suppress all other non-Hindi languages.

Will any genuine patriot and true democrat agree to accept a

By YOGINDRA SHARMA

position that Hindi should likewise suppress and exploit all other Indian languages as English did at one time?

A support to this stand is nothing but a support to suppression of culture and denial of democratic rights to the two-thirds of the population of our

country who are non-Hindi speaking.

Hence, from the point of view of national unity, democratic development and cultural awakening, this trend also is as disruptive and reactionary as the slogan of "Hindi never, English ever."

Who are the people who unfurl the flag of this reactionary and disruptive theory? They are: Guru Golwalkar of the RSS, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, general secretary of the Jan Sangh, and Morarji Desai—who is deeply engrossed at the moment in his tapasya for becoming the Prime Minister of the country.

In their view one can hear the echo of the slogan of the Hindu communalists: "Hindu, Hindu, Hindustan" and the refrain to the tune of the Jan Sangh slogan: "One Nation, One Culture and One Language." This echo and the refrain are of reaction and fascism.

An eminent Hindi enthusiast has written that "to secure the support of the middle-classes, fascism comes to the fore as the

\*ON PAGE 18

## News From Fraternal Parties RELEASE VENEZUELA'S PARTY LEADERS

CURRENTLY a great hue and cry is going on all over the world about some sort of an "international Communist plot" against President Leoni of Venezuela.

The secret of it lies in the need to divert public attention from the new wave of repressions that have been launched all over Latin America, including particularly Venezuela, in furtherance of new plans to strengthen US domination over that continent.

The central committee of the Communist Party of Venezuela recently addressed a message to the Communist Parties of the world, particularly highlighting the threat to the life of Jesus Faria, secretary-general of the Party who is languishing in prison and seriously ill.

"For eight trying years," says the message, "under the military dictatorship of Perez Jimenez, he (Jesus Faria) was a prisoner of the oil companies, now he has been jailed by the Leoni government."

The appeal says that prolonged imprisonment has undermined the health of this indomitable fighter. Faria's comrades in arms in the national liberation movement and the revolutionary struggle in Venezuela feel anxious about him in conditions of imprisonment in the absence of the necessary medical aid.

Following upon protests from all over the world, Faria was moved to a prison hospital.

Faria along with six Communist and progressive Venezuelan Parliament

members have been in prison for 18 months. In a statement they have demanded an immediate trial.

## S. African Communists Sentenced

TWELVE white men and women convicted of belonging to the underground South African Communist Party and furthering its aims were sentenced to a total of 52 years of imprisonment under the draconian Suppression of Communism Act at the conclusion of their trial in the Johannesburg magistrate's court last month.

## AKEL-SED Joint Statement

CYPRIOT Communists approve the results of the Moscow consultative meeting of Communist and Workers' Parties. A delegation of the Progressive Party of the Working Peoples of Cyprus (AKEL) which visited Berlin recently made it clear in a joint statement it signed with representatives of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED).

The communists said that representatives of the two parties, exchanged views on problems of the world Communist movement and acknowledged the identity of their positions.

The imperialist, neocolonialist, and revenge-seeking aspirations of the Bonn government are characterised as a great menace to the peace and independence of the peoples by the two parties.

"In the interests of all peoples and world peace it is necessary to prevent the nuclear armament of West Germany and promote mutual understanding between the two German states on the basis of disarmament, rapprochement and mutual recognition," says the communique.

The Socialist Unity Party of Germany proclaims through the joint statement its solidarity with the national liberation struggle of the Cypriot people against the plans to transform Cyprus into a NATO base. SED supports AKEL's viewpoint that "the Cyprus problem must be solved without any foreign interference, foreign military bases must be closed and complete independence and territorial integrity of Cyprus must be ensured. The Cypriot people themselves must be allowed to freely decide their own future."

THE Convention People's Party of Ghana, the ruling party of that country, and the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED) have reached agreement to further strengthen their cooperation.

The agreement was signed last month at the conclusion of a visit to Ghana by a Party delegation from the German Democratic Republic which went there under the leadership of Paul Verner, a member of the SED's Central Committee.

On March 18, 1871, the world's first socialist government, the Paris Commune was born.

IN its brief history before it was drowned in blood by the reactionaries of France and Prussia jointly, it blazed a trail of victorious socialism which led directly to the Russian socialist revolution in 1917. Marx acclaimed the communards as having "stormed the heavens."

Exactly, ninety-four years later on the same day of March 18, two citizens of the victorious Soviet land of socialism and both members of its Communist Party, Belyayev and Leonov "stormed the heavens" in the very literal sense.

As the world knows while Belyayev piloted the space ship, Voskhod II, Leonov projected himself out of it, clad in an autonomous space suit and floated in the vacuum circumterrestrial space for full ten minutes.

On one side (since in conditions of floating, there is strictly no up or down) lay the mother Earth in all her glory—the green continent and the deep blue sea, the contour of her roundness clearly discernible—on the other, could be seen the Sun in all his majestic fire and grandeur, pitted against the dark vault of deep space studded with so many myriads of jewel-like stars.

The USSR can proudly claim the pioneering place in space adventures. On October 4, 1957, it was a Soviet artificial satellite, the Sputnik, which first orbited the Earth in outer space.

The very next month, the dog "Lajka" orbiting the Earth, also the first martyr of space, provided much valuable information regarding the effects of weightlessness hermetically sealed space cabin etc. on warm-blooded organism which made Gagarin's pioneer flight possible on April 12, 1961.

## Always First

On January 2, 1959, the first artificial satellite or 'planet' of the Sun was launched, followed by the first successful moon shot and the automatic photographing and relaying of the pictures of the hidden side of the Moon

## NFIW HONOURS AMRITA PRITAM

The National Federation of Indian Women presented a roll of honour to famous Punjabi poetess Amrita Pritam at a function in New Delhi on April 18. Among earlier recipients of this award, which the NFIW makes every year to an outstanding personality, are Rameshwari Nehru, Sushila Nayyar, Subhadra Joshi and the widow of Brigadier Hoshiar Singh who was killed during the Chinese aggression. Picture shows Amrita Pritam speaking at the function, which was attended by many women from other countries who are working in India.



MAY 2, 1965

# from GAGARIN to LEONOV Tremendous Advance In Space Exploration

By DILIP BOSE

in September and October, 1959 respectively.

After Gagarin and Titov (who spent the first twenty-four hours in space), Nikolaev and Popovich made dual flights lasting several days and in the second dual flight of Bykovsky and Valentina Tereshkova, outer space had to yield its secrets to the charms of a Soviet girl—Valentina Tereshkova, as daring as a sea-gull which as its nature takes a special pleasure in soaring against the storm.

Leonov's "walk" (strictly, floating) in space brings the day nearer when space stations as mid-refuelling stations, (also as very useful posts for astronomical observations) will be built and man will retch the Moon ere this decade is over.

## American Achievement

The corresponding achievement by the USA in space should not be underestimated. Their cosmonauts have not lagged very far behind. Their Mariner rocket in 1963, sending radio messages across interplanetary space have helped to unveil, at least partly, the planet Venus, so very enigmatic as its very name indicates. Temperature recordings of Venus would rule out the possibility of any life there. But we cannot be definite about it as yet.

The other outstanding achievement is the automatic photographing and relaying of the pictures of the lunar surface. These photographs indicate that the lunar surface is not entirely composed of deep quick-sand like meteoric

air, at least 300 miles deep. This ocean of air blocks out most of the lethal radiations from the Sun, like ultraviolet rays and the corpuscular radiation, as also helps to metamorphose the lethal character of cosmic rays.

This ocean of air, therefore, is like a protective covering which has made life possible on Earth. But this also means that this protective covering blocks out the real character of the universe beyond the atmosphere from our view.

Let us take an obvious analogy. When I am inside a room, the four walls and the roof overhead protects me from the inclemencies of weather, from the hot Sun or the rains.

But now suppose, I have spent all my life confined within the four corners of a room, with never an occasion to go outside the room. Is it not obvious that not only my knowledge of the world outside the room would be practically nil, but even that of the room itself is bound to be

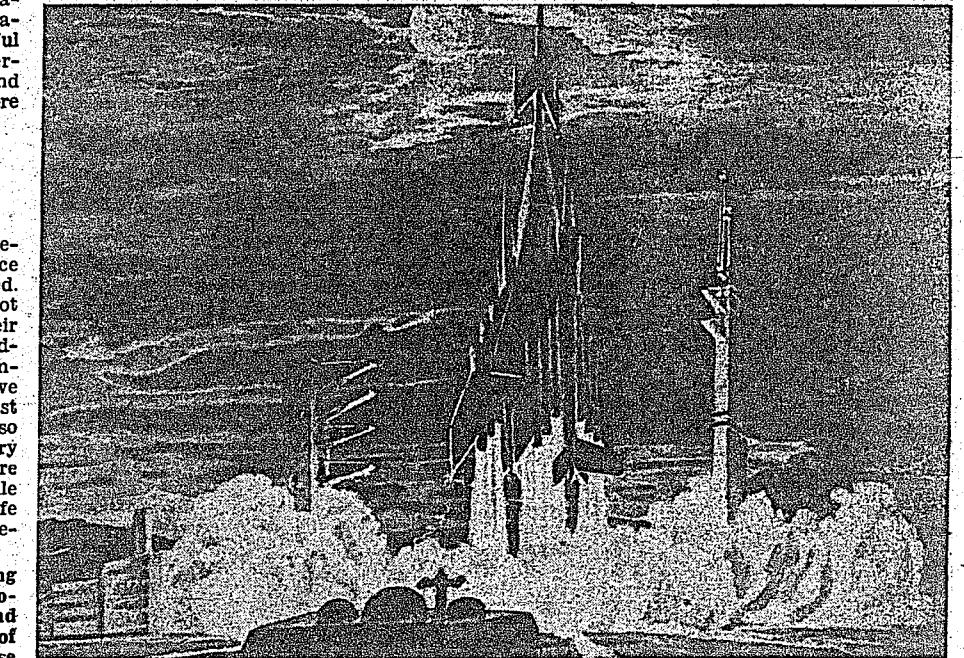
dust, that enough hard surface should be there to make a successful landing of the manned lunar space ship possible.

It is no exaggeration to say that the new knowledge obtained in the field of space and astronomy since October 4, 1957 far surpasses anything achieved so far in course of the last four hundred years when Galileo first turned his telescope to the Moon and the planet Jupiter.

We live on the surface of the Earth under an ocean of

Two belts of intense radiation, known as the Van Allen radiation belts, have posed a serious problem for future space voyages to the Moon and beyond. A third radiation belt has also been discovered.

Our knowledge so long of a prolonged condition of weightlessness on human organism has been mainly somewhat of a theoretical nature. Now a new branch of



A reproduction of G. Pokrovsky's "Launching of an Inter-Continental Transport Rocket"

were,—indeed it is the liberation of the kupamanduk of our ancient lore.

Even to catalogue the new knowledge obtained since October 4, 1957 should easily cover the length of a separate article. Here are a few:

We now know that our Earth is shaped not like an orange but a pear and this little fact lays open to challenge the hitherto-held theory of the plasticity of the Earth.

We have now gained an inside knowledge of the structure of the cosmic rays and hold important clues which must lead us to their source of origin.

The intimate relationship between the solar corpuscular radiation and the Earth's atmospheric and magnetic disturbances have been studied and it is a safe surmise to say that our Earth, orbiting 93,000,000 miles away from the Sun, is still within the solar atmosphere itself.

science, space medicine has developed fast.

Radio telescopes have provided a much wider range of observations than that by an optical telescope. We are gradually preparing a radio map of the universe, based on the radio noises emitted by the stars and the galaxies. It is now claimed that at least one of these "noises" bear such a regular character as to indicate its transmission by intelligent beings.

The evidence at the moment of such a civilisation far away is no doubt slender and we must also bear in mind that a radio emission coming across millions of light-years away means a "message" so many millions of years old.

Therefore, if the message has really been sent by intelligent beings, it was then transmitted at a time when man with his intelligence had not yet appeared on the world stage. All the same it is a startling thought.

NEW AGE

PAGE THIRTEEN



# OIL KING'S MONEY AND PRO-WESTERN POLITICS

On April 15 at Mecca, on the morrow of the Muslim Haj pilgrimage, opened a week-long World Muslim Conference convened by the Islamic World League (Raabita-e-Aalam-e-Islami), an organisation set up two years ago at the initiative of the Government of Saudi Arabia. Reliable reports of its proceedings are yet to become available in this country. Still it is none too early for attention to be drawn to the none too secret background of this conference.

THE Islamic World League or the Raabita does not see eye to eye with that other League of the area, the Arab League, inasmuch as it considers Arab nationalism to be an obstacle in the path of the world brotherhood of Islam.

At the same time, conferences like those held earlier this year at Bandung are considered to be too political in character to be conducive to Islamic unity of the Raabita conception.

The objection, however, would seem to be to politics only of a particular brand, for it has not prevented the Raabita itself from adopting political resolutions; for example, the one recommending self-determination for the Kashmiri people passed at the Raabita conference after the Haj last year in 1964.

At the same conference it was also decided to set up a department to look after the interests and requirements of

Muslims in countries where they constitute a minority in the population.

Nonetheless greater stress is laid on the religious aspect of the work—the spread of Islam, translations and publication of the Holy Quran in the languages of the world, the establishment of Islamic centres in various countries, and so on.

At present a new English version of the Quran, and French, Japanese and Chinese translations, besides translations in the various African languages are under preparation. The Chinese version is based on an old translation discovered by Dr. Saleh Sun Shu Wu of Formosa.

The Raabita devotes its major attention to the newly independent countries in Africa. In Asia, besides India and Pakistan the Raabita has centres in Formosa and Philippines.

An important aspect of the Raabita work is to financially help Muslim cultural and religious organisations and to set up new ones where they do not exist.

Nadwatul Ulema of India, an institution training Muslim theologians, and Mo'tamir-e-Alam-e-Islami of Karachi are among the organisations receiving financial aid from the Raabita.

Finances of the Raabita are supplied exclusively by the Government of Saudi Arabia. Over the last two years the Raabita was paid one million riyals annually (a riyal being equivalent to 1.25 Indian rupee) but from this year the grant has been doubled to two million riyals per year. This is an indication of the Saudi Arabian government's determination to step up the Raabita activities.

Accordingly, the Conference on the occasion of this year's Haj Pilgrimage had been organised on a much larger scale than in previous years. In view of the finances involved, and the trans-Saudi links (with the US monopolies whose royalties to the Saudi rulers have alone enabled them to operate on this scale), this year there has been a rush to the Haj pilgrimage on the part of religious and other leaders of the Muslim community.

This was particularly in evidence in India where different Muslim leaders and organisations vied with each other for an invitation to the Raabita conference.

While the original member of the Raabita Executive from Pakistan was Maulana Abul Ala Maudoodi, the founder of Jama'at-e-Islami in

undivided India, the member from India was not the Jama'at's Indian head, but Maulana Abul Hasan Ali Nadwi, who is connected with a parallel organisation and who has used his brilliant oratorical skill in both Urdu and Arabic to project himself in the Arab countries as the most prominent spokesman of Indian Muslims.

When the Raabita decided to have broader representation Maulana Abul Hasan had his own protegee Maulana Manzoor Noman nominated as the second member of the Raabita Executive from India.

## Jamaat's Demands

This led to considerable heart-burning among the venerable Maulanas and the Indian Jamaat was constrained to send its emissary Mohammad Muslim, Chief Editor of the Jamaat's DAILY DAWAT, to Saudi Arabia months before the Haj to campaign for its case.

The Jama'at demanded that either the Muslim Consultative Committee headed by Dr. Syed Mahmud should be accepted as the spokesman of Indian Muslims and asked to nominate the Indian representatives, or in the alternative, every Muslim organisation be allowed to send its representatives to Mecca.

The Raabita agreed to increase the number of representatives to three (besides the two members of the Executive) and to invite others as observes. These three invitees are the heads of the Jama'at-e-Islami, the pro-Congress Jamaat-ul-Ulema, and the Imarat-e-Sharia of Bihar.—(IPA)

## GALA FESTIVITIES MARK 'MAY' IN USSR

From MASOOD ALI KHAN

With the melting of snow, the appearance of greenery and warmth in the sun, spring is already in the air. With the mood of joy and elation, also fittingly comes a series of celebrations in harmony with this festive spirit.

PREPARATIONS are going on for the great international holiday of the first of May and Moscow is being given the traditional spring cleaning and holiday decorations are being put up with great enthusiasm.

The 20th Anniversary of the victory in the last war falls a few days later on May 9 which is being observed on a grand scale in the Soviet Union. A big military parade is expected to be held on the occasion.

Earlier came the day of cosmonautics and a few days ago was the 22nd of April—the 95th anniversary of Lenin's birthday, which was observed here as a day of happiness associated with the name of the person responsible for the great revolution and the fountain head of the great transformations and progress which followed it.

The best scientists, writers, artists, actors and film workers of the country were awarded the much coveted Lenin prizes on this day.

Further good news was the statistical bureau's announcement of the continued successful fulfilment of the current Seven-Year Plan and an announcement of reduction in prices of a large number of consumer goods which came into force on April 25.

The total annual saving to population will amount to 1,124 million roubles, half of which to population living in rural areas. The long list includes some fabrics, stockings, photo-cameras, fish, cocoa and some other foodstuffs.

Another spectacular achievement in the field of space research has been the launching of the new communication satellite MOLNIA I on April 23.

Launched on an elongated orbit reaching the distance of more than 39,000 kilometres over the northern hemisphere and circling the

earth every eleven hours, it is within the visibility range for a few hours over the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Union is so placed geographically that it cannot use a satellite which would hang on one point of the Earth doing a circuit every 24 hours over equator like the American Early Bird.

So for the Soviet Union the orbit of MOLNIA I was the

THE new Soviet cosmonauts, Commander of Spaceship VOSKHOD II, Pavel Belyaev and the first man to leave the spaceship and float in space, Alexei Leonov, in a special signed message to NEW AGE say the following:

"Congratulations and best wishes of health, happiness and successes in work to the readers of NEW AGE and Indian Communists on the occasion of the 1st of May, the international holiday of the working class.—PAVEL BELYAEV—ALEXEI LEONOV."

best solution and the experiment has proved a first rate success. The quality of live transmissions of television has been excellent, the sound and picture being so good that one would not notice any difference from ordinary programmes on the screen. MOLNIA I can be used for innumerable telephone and telegraph link-ups and is powered by solar and

\* On Page 18

## BIRTH OF MAY DAY

\* From Page 8

bing was thrown into the crowd, killed a sergeant. A battle ensued with the result that seven policemen and four workers were dead.

The blood bath at Haymarket Square, the railroading to the gallows of Parsons, Spies, Fischer, and Engel, and the imprisonment of the other militant Chicago leaders, was the answer of the Chicago employers. It was the signal for action to the bosses all over the country.

The second half of 1886 was marked by a concentrated offensive of the employers, determined to regain the position lost during the strike movement of 1885-1886.

One year after the hanging of the Chicago labour leaders, the Federation, now known as the American Federation of Labour, at its convention in St. Louis in 1888, voted to rejuvenate the movement for the 8-hour day.

May First, which was already a tradition having served two years before as the concentration point of the powerful movement of the workers based upon a political class issue, was again chosen as the day upon which to re-inaugurate the struggle for the 8-hour day.

May First, 1890, was to witness a nation-wide strike for the shorter workday.

At the convention in 1889, the leaders of the AFL, headed by Samuel Gompers, succeeded in limiting the strike movement. It

was decided that the Carpenters' Union, which was considered best prepared for the strike, should lead off with the strike, and if it proved successful, other unions were to fall in line.

In his autobiography Gompers tells how the AFL contributed to making May Day an international labour holiday:

"As plans for the 8-hour movement developed, we were constantly realizing how we could widen our purpose. As the time of the meeting of the International Workingmen's Congress in Paris approached, it occurred to me that we could aid our movement by an expression of world-wide sympathy from that congress."

On July 14, 1889, the hundredth anniversary of the fall of the Bastille, there assembled in Paris, leaders from organised socialist movements of many lands, to form once more an international organization of workers, patterned after the one formed 25 years earlier by their great teachers, Karl Marx and Frederick Engels.

Those assembled at the foundation meeting of what was to become the Second International heard from the American delegates about the struggle in America for the 8-hour day during 1884-1886, and the recent rejuvenation of the movement. Inspired by the example of the American workers, the Paris Congress adopted the following resolution:

"The Congress decides to organise a great international

demonstration, so that in all countries and in all cities on any appointed day the tolling masses shall demand of the state authorities the legal reduction of the working day to eight hours, as well as the carrying out of other decisions of the Paris Congress.

"Since a similar demonstration has already been decided upon for May 1, 1890, by the American Federation of Labour at its Convention in St. Louis, December, 1888, this day is accepted for the international demonstration. The workers of the various countries must organise this demonstration according to conditions prevailing in each country."

May Day, 1890, was celebrated in many European countries, and in the United States the Carpenters' Union, under the leadership of the Socialist Peter McGuire, and other building trades entered into a general strike for the 8-hour day.

Despite the Exceptional Laws against the Socialists, workers in the various German industrial cities celebrated May Day. Similarly in other European capitals demonstrations were held, although the authorities warned against them and tried to suppress them.

In the US, the Chicago and New York demonstrations were of particularly great significance. Many thousands paraded the streets in support of the 8-hour day demand; and the demonstrations closed with great open meetings at central points.

After the murder of Viola Gregg Liuzzo near Montgomery, US President Johnson had warned the members of the Ku Klux Klan that his government would not tolerate the violence of the Klan members and that they would be proceeded against on charge of Un-American activities.

His warnings were ignored with contempt by the Klan members and with all the show of defiance, outside Jacksonville a few nights ago, the Klan gang erected two wooden crosses with an effigy attached to each. One effigy was marked LBJ, for the President, the other MLK, for the Rev. Martin Luther King.

The crosses were set afire. As flames consumed them, a leader with a pistol fired bullets through the effigies, states a report in NEW YORK TIMES of April 22.

The NEW YORK TIMES report reveals the alarming sweep of the Klan influence and pinpoints the dangers which average American faces today at the hands of the Klan members.

It adds: Somewhere in Mississippi, the "cabinet" of a statewide Klan organisation opened a secret meeting with talks about Sunday school activities, then shifted casually, and with little change in tone, into a discussion about

whether to continue a moratorium on bombings.

In Hamburg, Ark, six men in pointed black hoods and masks resembling the uniform of a medieval executioner stood guard at a Klan meeting. One threatened a policeman for recording the license numbers of automobiles at the rally. Others made off with the automobile of the cameraman who had taken "unauthorised" pictures of Klansmen. An Imperial Wizard from Monroe, La.; identified the force of masked men as "our political action committee".

Leaflets signed "the white caps" were distributed under cover of darkness in Natchez, Miss, and in Ferriday, Lt., accusing local citizens, by name, of offences ranging from homo-sexuality to co-habitation with Negroes.

These are some of the recent manifestations of the "invisible empire" of the Ku Klux Klan, an elusive, ever-changing but persistent phenomenon of the American scene for a century.

## Uncle Sam's Umbrella

# AID WITH STRINGS

LAST week in these columns I had the occasion to write about the Uncle's genuine concern for the wellbeing of the Latin American people.

The sense of responsibility stemming from this concern makes the Uncle take a special care to ensure that the people of Latin America do not become subjects to Castro's "dirty influence". He therefore goes on changing the governments in these countries through coups carried out by his devoted proteges in the armed forces.

One of the countries mentioned last week was Dominican Republic and as luck would have it bang comes the report from Santo Domingo, the capital of this country, that the military triumvirate which came to power following a coup d'etat in 1963, has been replaced by another coup on April 25.

The same slogan—that of infiltration of Communist and Castro agents in the government—was used to oust the former government led by Juan Bosch has been repeated against Donal Cabral now.

There are reports that a similar coup is on the agenda in Uruguay which is passing through an acute financial crisis.

Meanwhile, statistical data compiled by the United Nations on military expenditure for "defence" and for payment of interest on the public debt (most of which came from the Uncle's treasury) in these countries make most revealing study.

The data show that bet-

ween 1938-60 Argentina's military expenditure has increased 67 times; that of Bolivia between 1953-61 by almost 32 times; Brazil's between 1938-61 increased by more than 40 times.

Colombia (1959-61) 19 times; Costa Rica (1938-61) more than four times; Chile (1953-61) more than nine times; Ecuador (1953-62) 1.3 times; Guatemala (1939-61) more than four times; Haiti (1939-62) more than three times; Honduras (1939-60) more than three times; Mexico (1939-61) more than 10 times; Peru (1953-59) twice; El Salvador (1938-60) more than three times and Venezuela (1957-62) by 32 per cent.

In most cases, 1939 has been taken as the base year to indicate the situation prior to the second world war.

It should be noticed that the statistics do not include Cuba, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, the Dominican Republic of Uruguay.

In the cases of Panama and Uruguay the omission was due to the fact that the data are scarce and deficient; in the others, the former dictator Batista, and present-day rulers Somoza, Stroessner and Trujillo were hardly interested in divulging figures on military expenditures; they received too much from too-well-known sources to admit them in public.

While the expenditure on military matters had been shooting up steadily, there has been very little improvement in the condition of living of the population.

Contrast with the military expenditure the deplorable condition of the Latin Ameri-

# TENTACLES OF KKK SPREAD FAR & WIDE

From the North Carolina coastal plains to the pine barrens of Louisiana, the Klan and allied organisations are now more active, and possibly stronger in numbers and influence, than at any time since the Klan's heyday of the 1920s.

Klan revival has been under way off and on for a decade, but it reached a new peak in recent months as a response to passage and enforcement of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and to the abandonment of the policy of massive resistance by state and local authorities in hard-core areas.

Of 16 widely publicised racial murders in the South since September 15, 1963 Klan members have been implicated to some degree in 11. In none of the 11, however, has there been a felony conviction.

Federal and state autho-

rities believe that Klansmen were responsible for many of the unsolved beatings, bombings, instances of arson, and other forms of violence that occurred in the South. Several communities—St. Augustine, Fla.; McComb, Miss.; and Bogalusa, La., among others—were gripped for months by Klan terror.

A NEW YORK TIMES survey of the South and of Federal and state authorities showed that the "invisible empire" today is composed of about 10,000 active members of a dozen distinct Klan organisations; several thousand others in allied or front groups such as gun clubs of the National States Rights Party in Birmingham, Ala., and a host of sympathisers who give the activists aid, comfort and protection.

Authorities agree with Klan leaders that the number, so long as it remains a small fraction of the population, is not as important as what a handful of Klansmen can do.

On the other hand, some Klan groups have become little more than fraternal organisations.

A Klansman driving through a city sees a policeman at a corner and executes one of the various Klan salutes. If the officer responds in kind, the Klansman knows he is in friendly territory.

The Confederate flag—whether worn on the helmet of an Alabama state trooper or displayed on the automobile bumper of a United States marshal—as it has been in Mississippi—means one thing to the Klansman: Here is a friend of "the cause".

A sheriff who is disinterested in investigating burning of churches or dynamiting of houses in his country may be a Klan member or sympathiser.

## Partners in Crime

The Federal Bureau of Investigation believes that at least 30 sheriffs, policemen and state highway patrolmen belonged to the White Knights of the Ku Klux of Mississippi before Gov. Paul B. Johnson and some cities took steps to purge them.

All these people share one goal. As stated by William Pierce Randel in a new book, "The Ku Klux Klan", the goal is "to preserve the right of a minority (white Anglo-Saxon Protestant) to declare itself superior to the rest of the population and to define true Americanism in terms of its own special traits, traditions and interests".

Some Southern liberals in recent years have refused to take the Klan seriously. With rare exceptions, the Klansman has no economic or social standing in his community. Most who appear at the rallies are portraits in despair. Negroes laugh at them in their sheets and robes.

There are, however, some

new aspects of the Klan of the 1960s in addition to the violence it has spawned, that many find disturbing.

The old Klan leaders who operated the Klan for personal profit have been replaced by humourless youngmen, in their 30s or early forties, who are deadly serious about their cause.

They have de-emphasised, but in no sense eliminated, hatred of Jews, Roman Catholics and Negroes, and they have taken a more prominent role in the complex of rightwing organisations concerned with stopping alleged subversion.

"We work closely with the John Birch Society and similar groups", said Robert M. Shelton Jr., the 36-year-old Imperial Wizard of the United Klans of America.

Another high Klan leader was asked what he thought would be ultimate solution to what he called the "Communist takeover in Washington".

"A coup", he said without hesitation. "We need to put somebody else in charge for a while. It might take a bloody revolution".

Mississippi, which until 1963 had been little organised Klan activity since Reconstruction, now has the most violent, the most secretive and the second largest Klan in the nation.

The White Knights have an estimated 2,000 members—all within the state. Meetings are held with great security precautions—at one rally two planes circled overhead and kept radio contact with guards on the ground.

Most Klansmen are in the lower income and education brackets. They are factory workers, mechanics, route salesmen and small businessmen. But the United Klans of America, Inc., Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, which has an estimated total of 5,000 members and operates throughout the South, has been reaching for middleclass respectability.

The White Knights were part of the original Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, a Louisiana organisation, until February of 1964 when they formed their own group.

The United Klans Grand Dragon for Alabama is a tall, erect man of 35. He says the majority of the people in his state are against "niggerism, Catholicism, Judaism and all the isms of the whole world". He is president of Local 359 of the International Association of Machinists.

"Most Klansmen are union members", he said in an interview. "I see McDonald David J. McDonald of the United Steelworkers of America) says he's going to kick out everybody who is a member of the Klan. I wish he would. We are seriously thinking about forming a Southern Labour Union".

Shelton, plans to set up all-white communities of Klansmen and their families and a Klan insurance business.



**CZECHOSLOVAKIA**

# National Committees In Economic And Cultural Development

NATIONAL committees constitute the foundation stone of the unified system of representative bodies in Czechoslovakia. During their nearly twenty years of existence they have proved their worth as bearers of state power and administration in all parts of Czechoslovakia at all levels.

It is through these national committees that the citizens take an active part in the management of national economy, in the raising of cultural level, and in the administration.

These national committees are an example of decentralisation of power in a unified administrative system.

These bodies are composed of representatives elected directly by the inhabitants of the constituency concerned which may be either a region, or a district, or a town and so on.

These national committees have Plenary sessions, councils and specialised commissions. The elected organs carry out their economic, cultural and social activities with the help of a staff of qualified workers. The whole machinery is divided into individual sections of the national committee organised, on the one hand, from the point of view of administrative needs and, on the other, with regard to subject matters to be dealt with.

## Enlarged Functions

In 1956, when new political-economic measures were taken by the Czechoslovak state, the position of the national committees changed to a great extent. A number of activities, namely, control of all enterprises and organisations of local economy, housing schemes, state farms, primary schools, small repair shops etc., were passed on to the national committees.

Two years later, the national committees took over the control

of general building and construction work and next year, their rights and responsibilities were further extended.

In 1963, an important step was taken in transferring the actual management of agricultural production from national committees to agricultural commissions i.e., organs of the central management of the Ministry of Agriculture.

Whereas plans of agricultural production are still subject to national committees' approval, actual targets are entrusted only to individual farmers. Specification of plans to other farming units, i.e. state farms and agricultural cooperatives, are made out by agricultural commissions.

The national committees' budget grew from 15,000 million crowns in 1954 to 35,000 million crowns in 1964. National committees now are in charge of one-quarter of all enterprises; they handle nearly one-quarter of all investment activities. Housing construction is the responsibility of national committees only.

## Industrial Production

Industrial Production controlled by national committees includes, first of all, production of local industries, turning-out of building materials and foodstuffs. Making of all kinds of goods for the inhabitants to their individual orders takes a prominent place. Thus local industry enterprises turn out, for example, 15 per cent of the total Czechoslovak furniture production.

A position of importance belongs to the making of machinery for repairs and maintenance which serves not only local industry works, but is destined notably for agriculture. In the food industry they take care of the total production of bread and pastries, the greater part of the beer production, and a considerable proportion of malt.

In the building trade, national committees control the SILNICE (Roads), National Corporation, and district and municipal building enterprises.

They take care of repairs and maintenance of the road network, of local communications and of housing within the area of their activities. Local building trade also handles orders for private construction against direct payment by individuals.

National committees direct all public motor transport, local transport in towns, part of water transport of local importance.

Wholly within the sphere of control by national committees are public catering organisations, i.e., the enterprise called "Restaurants and Catering Establishments", and also establishments of the Uhelne Sklady (coal stores), which provide the population with fuels and building materials.

The section concerned with public services covers a vast and varied range of activities of national committees. It ranges from hygienic and technical services to manufacture and trade; local transport; delivery vans and passenger taxi service, other transport and garages; and distribution.

The section of education, culture, health, and social security of the population, administered by national committees, includes more than 7,000 nursery schools, 12,000 elementary schools, nearly 400 general secondary schools, more than 700 schools for children requiring special care, some

2,000 apprentice schools and roughly 700 vocational schools.

Further, they arrange for supplying meals to school children in 6,700 school canteens and take care of children of employed parents in more than 5,500 school clubs.

Nearly all cultural establishments i.e. 80 theatres, 3,700 cinemas, 13,400 public people's libraries, nearly 10,000 educational clubs, more than 300 museums, nearly 80 art galleries, 16 culture and recreation parks, 13 zoological gardens and, under the heading of historical monuments preservation, also more than 100 State castles, are administered by national committees.

Further they are in charge of and administer nearly 8,500 health institutions such as hospitals, creches, polyclinics, health centres, dispensaries, child wel-

fare, advisory centres for women, etc., and some 400 old people's homes.

Apart from administering organisations and establishments directly subordinated, national committees carry on extensive economic activities in other economic fields.

They exercise a substantial influence on the dispersal of productive forces in the whole territory of the state. They produce a beneficial activity in improving the natural environment, i.e. reducing dust, noise, increasing the purity of water, etc.

In addition, national committees assist in securing all-state targets by coordinating the carrying out of individual tasks in their respective areas and thus they contribute towards a general development of national economy within the sphere of their activities.

seeds of dissension among the leaders of the Congolese liberation movements.

## AFRO-ASIA In The Headlines

### Arab World: Sorting Educational Problems

THE Federation of Arab Universities held its first conference last week in the UAR capital. Rectors of 12 universities from seven Arab countries sorted out problems of higher education in the Arab world.

On concluding deliberations, the conference decided to set up six standing technical committees for coordination of the educational work. The Arab League was requested to allocate annually for meeting the requirements of the Federation 2018 Egyptian pounds.

It was agreed that every member university will make every year a contribution of 500 Egyptian pounds to the central funds.

The Federation will be permanently housed at Cairo.

### Angolan Patriots Active

ANGOLAN patriots are dealing heavy blows at the Portuguese colonialists. In a communique issued by the People's Movement of Liberation of Angola, it has been disclosed that the patriotic guerrilla detachments have killed 85 Portuguese officers and men at Paril.

Bochelet refuted the reports published in some Western papers that he had allegedly agreed to talk with the agents of American imperialism in Leopoldville.

He denounced the attempts of the United States to sow

near the town of Saud, and set fire to two military trucks, seriously damaged two jeeps, and captured important military equipment including automatic weapons.

The Angolan guerrillas continue to hold the military front-line in Kahinda. They are conducting reconnaissance operations, laying mines, and destroying enemy's strategic and industrial installations.

The Mozambique patriots too have made news. They have brought down two Portuguese war planes which were on bombing sorties in the northern districts, the scene of a huge uprising of the African people.

### Congo: No Truck with US Stoges

DAVIDSON Bochelet, a leader of the National Liberation Council of the Congo (Leopoldville) has denied that he has agreed to negotiate with Tshombe. "I will not enter a government headed by this imperialist agent", he declared.

Bochelet refuted the reports published in some Western papers that he had allegedly agreed to talk with the agents of American imperialism in Leopoldville.

He denounced the attempts of the United States to sow

### USSR Boulevard in Pnomh Penh

PRINCE Nordom Sihanouk, in a ceremony in Pnomh Penh has named one of the central and the most beautiful streets of the Cambodian capital "USSR BOULEVARD".

He took this opportunity to express his government's gratitude to the Soviet government and people for their assistance and support.

He said that "we owe two of the most splendid achievements of contemporary Cambodia to the Soviet Union", and referred in this connection to the Khmero-Soviet Friendship Hospital and the technical institute of Pnomh Penh.

Appraising the role of Soviet aid to his country, Prince Sihanouk said: "The USSR renders us also great assistance in building our first hydro-electric power station. Soviet assistance in the development of our technical education and science, our economic development and, hence, in strengthening our national independence, is of absolutely exceptional importance".

Recalling the "firm and full" political and diplomatic support of Cambodia by the USSR, Prince Sihanouk said such a support, "is extremely valuable for us in view of the threats and refusal of the imperialists to recognise the neutrality and territorial integrity of Cambodia".

The "USSR BOULEVARD", concluded the Cambodian President, "will always be an expression of the steady friendship" between the two countries.

# Socialist World

**\*FROM CENTRE PAGES**

**BARBIL IRON ORE MINERS' STRIKE**—Even to secure the interim relief awarded by the Central Wage Board for Iron Ore Mining Industry as from 1.1.64, over 10,000 workers employed in the mining belt in Orissa in Keonjhar district had to go on a 13-day general strike from March 11, 1965.

The strike was successful and particularly significant was the participation by the women workers. In the manganese mines of Bird & Co., identical wage increases were not given and the strike there is continuing.

**PUNJAB TEXTILE WORKERS' STRUGGLE**—Demanding implementation of the statorily fixed minimum wages in the powerloom sector in Punjab, over 10,000 workers in Ludhiana struck work from March 27, 1965.

Earlier, the employers had resorted to large-scale lay-off to pressurise government against implementation of the new wage rates. The government which had yielded to the pressure of employers, has been forced to retract partially. It has announced a relief of 20 per cent increase in wages in 11 categories which it has exempted from the operation of the M.W. Committee's recommendations. On this partial victory, the strike was called off in Ludhiana.

In Amritsar, on April 10, about 15,000 textile workers went on strike on the above disputes. The strike was called by AITUC and INTUC jointly. It is still continuing.

Some of the other major struggles were the following:

**KERALA COIR FACTORY WORKERS' STRIKE**—On June 22, 1964 workers in the coir industry in Kerala went on a protest strike demanding DA as per recommendations of the Industrial Relations Committee.

**TOKEN STRIKE IN RAJHARA MINES**—On June 29, workers of the Rajhara mines went on a token strike over non-implementation of bipartite agreement and to seek redressal of other grievances.

**DELHI TEXTILE WORKERS' STRUGGLE**—The Kanra Mazdoor Ekta Union (AITUC) organised two-week hunger-strike in July-August and was preparing for a token strike when disputes were referred to a Board of Conciliation on 11.8.64. The Board's award has conceded some of the main demands.

**SHOLAPUR WORKERS' STRIKE**—On July 29 workers in Sholapur mills went on a token strike in sympathy with the hunger-strike which was being carried on demanding takeover of the Sholapur Spinning and Weaving Mills.

**CALCUTTA CORPORATION STRIKE**—From September 21 to 24 workers of the Calcutta Corporation went on strike protesting against police repression.

**COCHIN PORT WORKERS' STRIKE**—October 6 to 8 port workers in Cochin went on strike demanding supply of food-grains at subsidised rates.

**BEL WORKERS' STRUGGLE AGAINST VICTIMISATION AND FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF AWARD**—Demanding implementation of the tribunal award for reinstatement of Michael Louis, the BEL Employees' Union organised a series of demonstrations, hunger-strikes and a token stoppage. He was reinstated on January 4, 1965.

**CHIPPING & PAINTING WORKERS' STRIKE**—Chipping and painting workers of Bombay port went on strike from October 23 to December 2 de-

# AN YEAR OF MASSIVE ACTION BY WORKERS

manding improved service conditions.

**KANPUR CENTRAL WORKSHOP STRIKE**—The 81-day strike of about 1,800 workers in the UP Government Roadways Central Workshop in Kanpur was settled on December 2, 1964. The demands related to increase in DA, housing facilities, fixation of minimum wages, etc. These were referred to a conciliation board.

**JUTE WORKERS' TOKEN STRIKE FOR BONUS**—On December 1, 1964, two lakh jute

On February 20, 1964, there was a mass hunger strike of women workers and the management had to agree to suspend the clause pending verdict of the Supreme Court before which a case is pending.

On March 18, 1965, the workers won a signal victory when the Bombay City Civil Court held the no-marriage clause in service contracts void.

Fifteen thousand women marched to Maharashtra Assembly on March 6 to present a petition

Notable victories were won by the bank employees in their struggle against the continuation of the Bank Award which the government arbitrarily extended.

The work-to-rule movement launched in July-August 1964 virtually paralysed banking activities and eventually, a tripartite meeting was called and the bankers agreed to give important concessions, the chief of which was the ad hoc rise in DA, covering 8 points in the all-India index, to compensate for the faults in the compilation of the index.

The insurance employees through their struggle also obtained compensation for the faulty index, through an 8 per cent increase in DA.

The central government employees have waged a continuous battle for rise in DA to meet the ever-rising prices and the consequent fall in living standards, and this struggle continued vigorously during the past year.

As a result, they have been able to get some concessions. Two revisions of DA were announced by the government during this period, one in January last and the other as late as April 26.

The most notable feature of the period, however, was the determined manner in which employees of state governments waged consistent struggles for revision of pay scales and increase in dearness allowance.



Women teachers demonstrate in Calcutta, February 1965. Below, Mysore government employees demonstrate in Bangalore, February 1965.

workers in West Bengal went on strike demanding enforcement of the Bonus Commission's formula on bonus as against the Wage Board formula.

**NATIONAL RAYON STRIKE**—The 59-day-old strike of National Rayon workers in Bombay was called off on January 19, 1965. The strike began on an issue about dismissal of 80 workers and high-handed actions of the management.

**DURGAPUR STEEL STRIKE**—February 22 to 25, 1965 workers of Durgapur Steel plant went on strike protesting against arrest of workers inside steel plant.

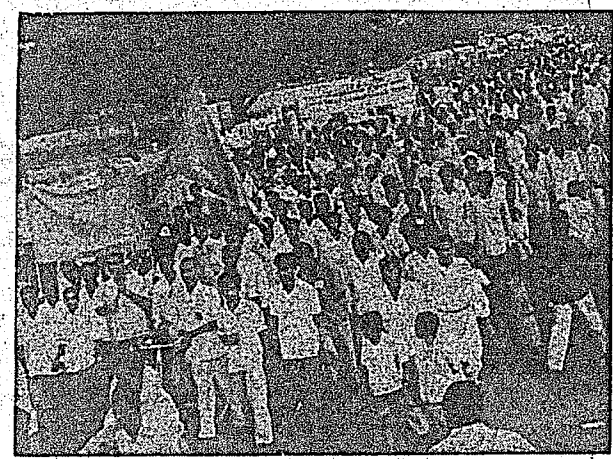
**RESERVE BANK TOKEN STRIKE**—Employees of the Reserve Bank throughout India went on a 90-minute token strike on February 24, 1965 protesting against direct recruitment on promotional posts.

A remarkable feature of the upsurge of the working class in this period has been the increasing participation of women workers in common struggles and over their own specific demands.

The workers of May & Baker and Roche Products went on strike from February 11, 1964 and February 24, 1964 respectively for their demands. Women workers of these concerns fully participated in it.

On February 26 over 12,000 workers belonging to various pharmaceutical firms went on a protest token strike and in this, again, women workers who are employed in the industry in large numbers fully participated.

One of the most obnoxious discriminations against women workers was the so-called no-marriage clause by which the employers, specially in pharmaceutical industry in Bombay, terminated the service of any woman employee on her marriage. The workers carried on a consistent campaign against it.



signed by one lakh working women.

On March 9, 1964, working women from cashew, coir, textile, etc., had staged an impressive demonstration at Trivandrum.

At Chandigarh, a huge demonstration was held on the same date in which peasant women also participated.

A convention of working women was held in Delhi on March 8, 1964.

Another significant feature of this period has been the high struggles of white collar workers in wide sectors.

School teachers in most states have similarly been on the move. Secondary school teachers have had two successful all-India actions—a Demands Day in January and a nationwide token hunger-strike in February.

The Bengal teachers observed a "cease work" movement from February 19 and a sit-down strike before the Raj Bhavan. The agitation was called off on March 7.

Teachers in Uttar Pradesh refrained from invigilation work from March 12 to 28 demanding better pay and service conditions.

Here also, Kerala showed the way. During December-January, the NGOs of Kerala launched an agitation for the appointment of a pay committee by observing Demands Day. They threatened a strike ballot in January following which the government announced a pay committee and granted interim relief.

A heroic struggle is being conducted by the Bihar government employees for the past four months. Unlike their Kerala brethren, they have not yet won.

The struggle began over the refusal of the government to implement even the unsatisfactory recommendations of a pay committee.

January 29 was observed by the employees as protest day. The families of the employees offered satyagraha before the Bihar Legislative Assembly on February 16 and 17. On March 23 one-and-a-half lakh employees of the Bihar government took mass casual leave, bringing to a standstill the entire governmental activity.

The employees had proposed en masse resignation on April 20, but they have been persuaded by the labour leaders to desist from such a step. The struggle is still continuing.

(This review is based on a report presented by the secretary of the AITUC to its general council at its recent meeting.)

Mysore is another state where the employees have conducted a prolonged and sustained agitation. The struggle was against the meagre five-rupee rise in DA which the government announced.

The employees returned this amount to the Chief Minister by money order. About 50 thousand such MOs were sent after February 1. The Chief Minister refused to receive the MOs.

Afterwards the employees decided to step up their agitation and held several demonstrations. The government ultimately came down and announced DA on the same scale as in neighbouring Madras—which is equivalent to what the central government employees are getting.

In Punjab after an agitation by the employees, beginning with demonstrations before offices in December last, the government announced many concessions.

An important gain was the merger of the existing DA into basic pay and increase in DA with effect from January 1965.

One of the bitterest battles between government and its employees was fought in far-away Assam. The main demand of the employees was to revise the unsatisfactory recommendations of the pay committee which itself had come into existence after a prolonged agitation.

On February 22 they observed a protest day and wore badges. From March 3 the secretariat staff started a "no work" movement which ended only on April 15 after the government had conceded most of the demands. The agitation was carried on even braving arrests and repression by the government.

In Maharashtra, government employees held a demonstration on January 15 demanding a new pay committee; another on February 15. On February 17, the government announced the appointment of a pay committee.

Uttar Pradesh government employees observed a demands week from February 5 to 10. A demonstration was held before UP Assembly House on January 27, another on February 10. Thousands of employees refused to take pay on February 1.

The employees succeeded partially when the UP government announced interim relief to the employees to be adjusted against the recommendations of a pay committee.

A special characteristic of the government employees movement in West Bengal was that it was carried out in coordination with the Central Government employees and workers of public sector enterprises.

A joint convention of government employees in all sectors was held on November 18. A demands day was observed on December 18.

Some concessions for the employees were announced by the Finance Minister during the budget session, an important item of which was rise in DA and relief in pension.

In Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madras and Orissa also, state governments have given relief to their employees both through the impact of such steps in other states and also under pressure from their own employees.

This, then, was how the tolling masses fared in their struggles during the past year. The future is reckoning them with more and more struggles for their rights and benefits. And the two immediate issues on which struggles loom ahead are trade union rights in public sector undertakings and minimum bonus in all industries.

(This review is based on a report presented by the secretary of the AITUC to its general council at its recent meeting.)

NEW AGE

Subscription Rates—

|                 |        |
|-----------------|--------|
| Inland: Yearly  | Rs. 12 |
| Half-yearly     | Rs. 6  |
| Quarterly       | Rs. 3  |
| Foreign: Yearly | Rs. 20 |
| Half-yearly     | Rs. 10 |

All cheques, drafts etc. are to be made payable to **T. Madhavan** and not to New Age.

Managerial Office  
7/4 Asaf Ali Road,  
New Delhi  
Phone: 271002 & 271794



# Language Issue And The Communist Party

\*FROM PAGE 12

protector of language and culture. Hitler had come to the arena as a great protector of German language and culture."

It is unfortunate that even after realising this historic truth and the lurking dangers to our country, this very Hindi-protagonist is angry with us because we are exposing the disruptive views of the Jan Sangh and of Morarji Desai on the language issue.

We are ridiculed for having handed over the job of presenting the correct demands of Hindi to Morarji Desai and the leaders of the Jan Sangh; that the reactionary leaders are exploiting our weaknesses etc. Instead of thinking about this, we are supposedly happy in issuing the decree that the slogan of immediate replacement of English is the slogan of Morarji and the Jan Sangh... On the question of removing English from the centre, we allegedly raise the bogey of Jan Sangh.

We think that the people who demand immediate replacement of English by Hindi at the centre, without taking into consideration the opposition of the non-Hindi speaking people, do not desire really any good to the cause of Hindi.

The good of Hindi lies in the direction of its becoming a language in the political and cultural life and above all, a popular language of all the people living in the Hindi areas, and that too quickly.

It is in the interest of Hindi that all the patriotic Indians accept it as a link language. But during the last few years, Dr. Raghuvir of the Jan Sangh and Seth Govind Das of the Congress, have made Hindi much more difficult.

The manner in which this distorted and difficult Hindi is being pressed for acceptance as the language at the centre is now bringing just the opposite result. This Hindi is fast becoming the

## May Day In USSR

\*FROM PAGE 14

chemical batteries for the relaying equipment.

In the field of international relations Washington's unceremonious cancellation of Shastri's visit has been widely noticed here.

PRAVDA mentioned "Washington's Machiavellian language" used in giving Johnson's reasons for the affront.

PRAVDA said "Anger is poor counsel. The United States will hardly influence by its move the policy of India, Pakistan or other Asian countries which condemn US aggression in Vietnam."

Commentators here called the US move as "irritated, rude and clumsy" and a violation of elementary courtesy towards a guest who was not even consulted beforehand.

Moscow gave a rousing welcome to the permanent mission of the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam which arrived here headed by Dug Quang Minh, member of the Front's Central Committee. The mission has been opened in Moscow in agreement with the Soviet-Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee.

language of a handful of pundits instead of becoming the language of the people in the Hindi-speaking states. This Hindi, instead of attracting the non-Hindi speaking people, is repelling them.

Never before the anger and opposition to Hindi was so widespread in our country as it is today. Even in its home-states, UP, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, Hindi is becoming an alien language. The more it is becoming the state language, so much more it is becoming alienated from the masses. And the most painful fact is that it is even suppressing its own friendly, sister language—Urdu.

It is in the best interest of Hindi what we, the CPI, had stated and was emphasised by Pandit Nehru.

### CPI Stand

The CPI had declared: "In every state of India, regional language should be made medium of administration and education without any further delay. For the purpose of communication between the centre and the states, and between the state governments, simple Hindi as a link language should replace English gradually and this should be done with the consent and voluntary cooperation of all non-Hindi speaking areas."

This was the view of Pandit Nehru too. But the Hindi which they advocated as a link language of the country is not the Raghuviri-Hindi but the Hindi used by the people. They used to call this Hindi as Hindustani and they wanted to implement it with the consent of the non-Hindi speaking people.

On the question of making Hindi the link language of the country, the views of the CPI, Pandit Nehru and of Gandhi are more or less the same. This is the only democratic way of re-

placing English by Hindi from the position of the link language today.

Among those who oppose this are some who are doing it consciously and some unconsciously as victims of ignorance and emotion, but both are doing harm to the country and to the Hindi language.

Our national movement and the Indian Constitution have given the place of national language not only to Hindi but to all regional languages. Thus all the languages have the same status. The main reason for Hindi's special place stems from the fact that besides being the state language of the Hindi-speaking regions, it is simultaneously the official (link) language of the country.

Is it not true that the people of non-Hindi speaking areas look at Hindi today with an eye of suspicion and danger? Is it not true that there is some basis behind these doubts and apprehensions? Is it not true that the Hindi fanatics have already in their own regions rendered Urdu homeless which is the language of over two crores of people?

There are still those people among the Hindi-enthusiasts who do not intend to impose Hindi on anybody. But pious wishes are

not enough. There should be correct implementation of the policy also. It is a matter of regret that the policy as regards a language at the centre is a policy of imposition of Hindi.

Some people even say: "The day Hindi-speaking people in an organised manner will force their representatives in the Lok Sabha to speak in Hindi and to perform all official work in Hindi, it will be the day on which the imperialism of English language will end.... The responsibility of removing Hindi and of strengthening the national unity, now rests with the Hindi-speaking states." (JANASHAKTI, March 14, Article by Dr. Rambilas Sharma)

This may be true for the Hindi-speaking areas but if this is applied as to the entire country, then it is palpably wrong. In the context of the entire country, the meaning of this is nothing but a call for the imposition of Hindi and in that are hidden the dangerous sparks of a civil war.

Hindi alone cannot end the domination of English imperialism. If it is able to do it somehow, then it will result in the domination of Hindi instead of English. The domination of English can be brought to an end by all the Indian languages together. The day when all the regional languages will become the media of administration and education, will also be the day when the English language will have been uprooted from the states.

It is only after that the inevitable domination of English at the centre will end. There will be no more groupings on the pro-Hindi and pro-English basis in the Lok Sabha. Every Indian

patriot, no matter to which area he belongs, will accept Hindi as a link language.

But this Hindi will not be the Raghuviri-Hindi. It will be the people's Hindi whose growth and development is going on along with the nation's economic and industrial growth.

The artificial Hindi which is expounded by a handful of pundits isolated from the masses, cannot become the language of the masses. Language is not the monopoly of the pundits. Like History, language is also created by the masses.

In Jamshedpur, Hatia, Bhilai, Rourkela, Durgapur, Bhopal and wherever the steel arms of free India are being built, people from different areas, who speak different languages, are working and living under one roof. It is there also is developing a new language—popular Hindi, the real link language of India.

It is the duty of all pundits who support the cause of the people, to embellish this language in order to make it more beautiful and perfect. Only simple and popular Hindi has got the force to remove English from the political and cultural life of the Hindi areas; only this Hindi can become a real link language of the entire country.

And for this we have to safeguard the rights of Urdu, the sister language of Hindi, and to secure the confidence and cooperation of all other languages. It is in this that the best interests of the country and of Hindi also are imbedded. This is the only democratic and popular solution of the language problem.

(April 25)

## soviet press is a tribune of the people

By IGOR SAKHAROV

Every year on May 5, the Soviet people observe the Press Day. On that day 53 years ago, the first issue of PRAVDA the newspaper founded by V. I. Lenin, was published. Since then it became a tradition to observe this day as the Soviet Press Day.

WAY back in the first years of Soviet power, V. I. Lenin, the founder of the Soviet state, gave a call to create a new press that would not fool and amuse the reader with political jokes and all kinds of trifles, but would raise urgent economic questions, and also help to seriously study and manage the economy of the country.

He considered that a newspaper must be not only a collective propagandist and agitator but also a collective organiser of the masses.

The Soviet Press which has taken shape and developed on the basis of these Leninist principles, serves today as the tribune of the people, reflecting as it does their interests and aspirations.

Its main function is to enlist the participation of the working people in the construction of a new society. It also helps to rear up and educate the people in the spirit of socialist ideals.

The Soviet press has become an aid of the people in all spheres of their life. Today 10,000 newspapers and 4,000 magazines and periodicals are being published in the Soviet Union.

General political newspapers are published jointly by Party organisations and local Soviets of the Union Republics, Autonomous Re-

publics, territories and regions; newspapers and magazines for workers of various industries are run by the trade unions; numerous creative organisations have also their own press.

The biggest Soviet newspapers like PRAVDA, IZVESTIA and TRUD regularly discuss questions of socialist production, labour efficiency, the quality of manufactured goods and consumer goods, construction, technical and scientific progress, and so on.

### Strong Ties With People

The power of the Soviet press lies in its strong ties with the millions of working people. Indeed, the people—the readers—take a direct and active part in the activities of the Soviet press.

Ordinary people often write to newspapers and magazines, raising questions of great social importance.

Many newspapers and magazines have departments and consultants' councils in which specialists in various fields work on a voluntary basis. They help the newspapers to select from the great stream of letters, the most important ones. This is done better by than

the journalists, as they are experts in the given field. The editorial offices publish many letters, thus starting a debate and inviting readers to discuss thoroughly any problem that is raised.

The Soviet press also widely discusses the most important draft laws and decisions prepared by the government.

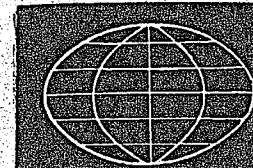
I shall cite only one example: during the nationwide discussion of the draft Programme of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, adopted by the 22nd Congress, Party organs, newspapers, magazines, radio and television, received more than 300,000 letters and articles containing many valuable proposals and suggestions from the working people. Many of them were published, the rest were sent to the commission which, was preparing the draft Programme.

Discussions in the press often reveal the necessity of changing old rules and norms, as a result of which new important state decrees come into being.

The Soviet press helps to solve major problems of economic management prompted by life.

Newspapers, as a rule, not only raise problems but also watch how this or that question discussed in the press, is solved, how advanced experience and scientific achievements are put into practice. For this reason, the Soviet press usually maintains a check on the effect of the most important articles and returns to the subject again.

This is one of the main aspects of the activity of Soviet newspapers and magazines.



### The World

The West German government is reported to be avidly planning to disrupt the Second Afro-Asian Solidarity Conference scheduled to be held at Algiers in June.

THE West German paper KOELNER STADTANZEIGER wrote a few days ago that the solidarity conference "causes increasing troubles to the Federal Government in connection with the smouldering Middle East crisis."

"According to government circles", says the paper, "a special staff was, therefore, formed in the Foreign Ministry some time ago which meets weekly and deliberates on all preventive and preparatory diplomatic actions. The Arabs particularly are causing troubles."

After the recent rebuff from the UAR in connection with the GDR President Ubricht's visit to Cairo, the West German government not only had to pipe down its tall claim of invoking the Hallstein doctrine against the UAR, but also to discontinue, at least openly, its arms supply to Israel.

The West German government obviously refused to learn the lesson. After the fiasco of the Hallstein doctrine, it sought to establish full diplomatic tie with Israel. This action was aimed at proving that West Germany treats with contempt the feelings of the Arab states on the issue of Israel.

The Arab countries, not being craven subjects to Bonn's empire refused to kowtow its line. They declared that in the event of recognition by West Germany of the Israel government, they would sever all ties with the former.

West Germany tried to laugh it out and took this to be just an empty outburst. They forgot that the lure of West German mark could never be strong enough to make the Arab states forget their sovereignty.

Already reports are available that the Arab states are going ahead in implementing their decision to withdraw their diplomatic missions from Bonn and nine Arab countries will have implemented this decision by the first week of June, by which time exchange of ambassadors between Bonn and Tel Aviv will have taken place.

But even now Bonn is trying its policy of blackmail: West German officials are going in a stream to various Arab countries warning them of 'dire consequences' in the event of severance of diplomatic tie with West Germany.

On the other hand, the special staff of the West German government, as reported by KOELNER STADTANZEIGER, appears to be working with the aim of preventing at all costs a discussion on the German question at the Afro-Asian conference at Algiers.

The West German government believes that it might be able to bring round at least a few governments in this region to speak out in

If Wishes Were Horses....

# Bonn Designs Against Afro-Asian Solidarity

all forms of inequality among big and small states. It has been very correctly pointed out in the communiqué that "the forces of colonialism and neo-colonialism continue their perilous activity" in Africa and it was therefore natural that both the Presidents endorsed the endeavours being made by the African Unity Organisation to strengthen African solidarity and unity.

The communiqué covers a very wide range of issues over which these two very important nonaligned countries have expressed same views but what is of significance is the stand taken on the issue of Vietnam. The two Presidents have emphasised the necessity of "opening without delay the

delay with the participation of the South Vietnam Liberation Front, to arrive at a settlement. This is a demand which all the nonaligned states must press for unitedly and strongly.

Obviously, the Bonn leaders are harbouring false hopes that the Afro-Asian countries would condone the neo-colonialist role of West Germany in Africa and Middle East, and its deep connections with the racist South African government, and last but not the least, its revanchist aims.



President Ben Bella of Algeria

negotiations aimed at achieving a peaceful and just solution—which would correspond to the aspirations of the Vietnamese people" as "it is time to end the blood-shed in that part of the world".

It is to be noted in this connection that both Ben Bella and Tito have pointed out that the US interference in the internal affairs of South Vietnam and the repeated military interventions against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam could not go on without dangerous consequences.

Both the governments have expressed on a number of occasions strong resentment at the continued bombing by US aircraft on the North Vietnam territory and demanded that such bombardments should discontinue forthwith.

Arriving at Algiers on April 15, President Tito in his speech pointedly demanded: "To create good atmosphere for the negotiations, it is imperative to stop immediately aggressive acts against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam."

To stop further deterioration in the situation in Vietnam what is necessary first of all is to ensure that the US bombings on North Vietnam would stop and second, talks must begin without

## FRANCE TO PULL OUT OF SEATO?

PRESIDENT de Gaulle's decision not to send French naval units to participate in the "Operation Seahorse"—an exercise designed to test the naval preparedness of the SEATO partners, due to be held in the China Sea from May 1 to 24, is clearly an expression of his government's disapproval of the US policy of interference in this part of the world, particularly in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Pakistan has also announced its decision to stay out of the exercise.

But his other decisions are much more significant. France will not be represented at the SEATO ministerial-level meeting, due early next month in London, by the Foreign Minister Maurice Couve de Murville. Instead, only an observer will attend the meeting.

Similarly, the SEATO military advisers' meeting which will precede the ministerial meeting, will also be attended by just an observer who is under strict orders from de Gaulle "not to take part in talks but to listen."

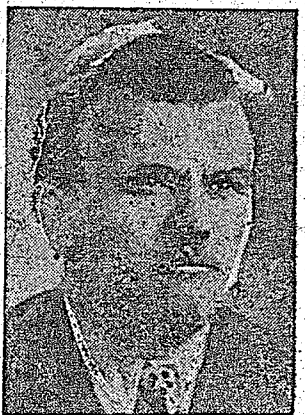
De Gaulle's decisions are welcome inasmuch as they indicate a measure of French resistance to the US line and also a clear hint that the US will not have from SEATO any unanimous endorsement of its policy in South East Asia.

It will therefore be no surprise if France finally decides to withdraw formally from the SEATO in the event of US insistence on the member-states to support its actions in Vietnam.

If France does pull out from SEATO, it will secure not only increased prestige in the nonaligned countries but also active response to its proposal of neutralisation of Vietnam.

## CANARD OF A COUP

THE Western press last week and the week before was full of stories about an abortive coup in Bulgaria which the govern-



President Traikov of Bulgaria

ment "crushed" by use of "brute force".

Speculations were rife as to whether the coup was pro-Peking or pro-Khrushchov. Inspired reports appeared how the Bulgarian frontiers have been closed to all traffic and mass-scale executions were on in the Bulgarian capital.

Perhaps, the Western press was toying with the idea of catering juicy stories as it did at the time of the Hungarian counter-revolution.

More recently, after Khrushchov's resignation, the Kremlinologists of the bourgeois press virtually suggested that a coup was in the offing in the Soviet Union.

The fact about the alleged coup in Bulgaria is that there has been no attempt of a coup, nor has there been any execution. No body has fled from that country and in no place has the border of Bulgaria been closed.

All that has happened is that some persons have been arrested in Sofia in connection with a case involving violation of Bulgarian law and among those held up are Tzolo Krustev, an official in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and General Anev, the military commander of Sofia.

A member of the central committee of the Bulgarian Party, Ivan Todorov-Gorunya, who was also involved in the case, upon learning that his criminal activities have been discovered, committed suicide.

The Western scribes coming to know these information immediately conjectured that since a Foreign Ministry official, a central committee member and a military general are involved, what else could the case be except an attempted coup! Imagination really runs riot in the Western press as regards the socialist world which is always expected to topple down in every gust of wind.

(April 27)

—Sadhan Mukherjee



# BASIC POLICIES ARE REAFFIRMED

## American Lobby Faces Utter Isolation in Lok Sabha Debate on Pak Aggression

By OUR PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENT

An air of determination and dedication swept through the Lok Sabha this week as the debate on Pakistan's attacks in the Rann of Kutch unfolded itself.

**T**HE passion and unanimity to defend the country's honour and territorial integrity displayed by all except a tiny pro-western minority has hardly a parallel in recent proceedings of Parliament.

The Lok Sabha wore a new look, which discarded frustration and rancour. But equally marked was the cool deliberation not to have any truck with chauvinism.

The determination to defend the country's integrity was coupled with the appeal for peaceful settlement of the dispute.

As Prime Minister Shastri said with a force which had a thundering impact:

"This is one of the most fateful moments of our times. I realise that both India and Pakistan stand poised at the cross-roads of history.

### Appeal to Reason

"The path of reason and sanity, of peace and harmony, is still open. . . But it is a path on which we cannot walk alone. It takes two to make friendship and peace".

If the government sought a mandate to commit the country for the defence against Pakistani onslaughts, Parliament gave this mandate in ample measure and with whole-heartedness.

But the mandate was coupled with an emphasis on the appeal to reason to what Hiren Mukherjee described as "our sister nation", Pakistan, and an emphatic charge to fight the enemies of the people within the country—the communalists and the profiteers.

The banner of secularism was to be protected at all costs.

The most lucid and reasoned performance came from Prime Minister Shastri when he depicted the situation faced by the country. It was certainly his greatest and finest performance.

Shastri marshalled the facts

in a clear array to prove undisputably Pakistan's act of "naked aggression".

Quoting Pakistan Foreign Minister Bhutto, who had said that the "dispute has arisen not because the boundary is undemarcated, but because the disputed territory is in India's adverse possession", Shastri pointed out that Pakistan had thus "chosen to mount an armed attack on territory over which Pakistan has never exercised possession and over which Pakistan in fact admits India's possession".

It was an attempt to take by force what Pakistan unilaterally laid claim to, but which, by the mass of evidence compiled by Shastri, could stand no scrutiny.

Was this call to arms to be allowed to have its course? It was with solemnity that Lok Sabha heard the Prime Minister declare:

"I should like to tell the House that on the Kutch border Pakistan has many advantages. But if Pakistan continues to discard reason and persists in its aggressive activities, our army will defend the country and it will decide its own strategy and the employment of its manpower and equipment in the manner which it deems best".

### No Idle Warning

This was no idle warning but a well-considered declaration which was coupled with yet another appeal for peace and amity.

To allow no misinterpretation to creep in, he reaffirmed the government's continued adherence to the policy of nonalignment, peaceful co-existence and disarmament.

Rejecting the voice of those who had implied that only by aligning with military blocs could India defend itself, Shastri pointed out these policies were basic since they enabled India to maintain its independence of policy and action.

In line with this policy, he offered to accept cease-fire

immediately on the terms which Pakistan itself had proposed earlier.

An important contribution in shaping the emotions with which the debate was packed came from Hiren Mukherjee, the Communist leader, who said that the Pakistani aggression was a "test of our nerves, a test of our united strength".

But he warned those who indulged in glib talk of war. The policy of peace was no weakness, but it had to be coupled with the nation's united determination to defend its territory.

### Two Prime Duties

Hiren Mukherjee charged the government with the responsibility to fulfil its two prime duties.

★ First, to hold the hand of communalists firmly. "I shudder to think of the consequences if communalists are allowed to have their way", he said.

★ The second precondition for winning the co-operation of the people was to maintain the price-line, which necessitated action to keep hoarders and profiteers in check.

The leader of the Communist Group tore to shreds the pleadings of those who wanted India to ally itself with American imperialism to defend itself.

Turning to the genesis of Pakistan, he said: let us not forget that "United States remains Pakistan's principal international patron". It was the American arms which facilitated Pakistan's present action on the Kutch borders.

It was the Anglo-American connivance which was Pakistan's biggest political weapon. The voice of those who sought India's entry into the Anglo-American camp was nothing but an invitation of disaster.

That it was not only a case of political patronage by imperialism for Pakistan but much more was revealed by V. K. Krishna Menon who, incidentally, was the main eye-sore of the pro-western speakers.

A billion dollars assis-

tance in military hardware for Pakistan and more than half her annual military budget met from outside—that was what Pakistan was receiving from the American ally, he said.

Menon emphasised the need to maintain India's basic policy while dealing with Pakistan and to relegate all talk of "confederation" from our minds.

A string of speeches from the Opposition as well as Congress benches served to emphasise the broad unity of purpose which gripped most sections in the Lok Sabha.

An exception however was the Swatantra leader, N. G. Ranga. His was the voice of despair and frustration.

He depicted a picture in which India was left alone in the world, in which everyone was hostile.

There was no one to fall back upon. Was the government relying on 450 million Indians? Ranga had no faith that the people could defend this country.

Arraigning India's policy of nonalignment and attributing to it all the failures of the country, Ranga drew up a dismal picture in which the only logic was to take the country into the American camp, to pin all

hope for defence on the Western block.

Not content with this, he sought to run down the Soviet Union's friendship for India. The diatribe against the Soviet Union seemed to occupy a special place in Ranga's attack on the government's policy since it was Soviet aid which seemed to stand between India and the western imperialists.

### Ranga's Fumbling

Even Ranga however found it difficult to deny Soviet friendship for India. So he said, what could "Soviet Russia" do for us? They had one little for Vietnam.

Had they? Ranga seemed half-convinced himself, and there was visible impact on Lok Sabha members.

Ranga however found very few allies. Even his erstwhile friends refused to toe his line. There was strong support for non-alignment, more than ever before, for obvious reasons.

As Hiren Mukherjee had revealed, Anglo-American imperialism was the fountain-head of Pakistan's campaign of hatred against India and imperialism alone sustained it.

## PAKISTAN BEHIND ALIGARH VARSITY INCIDENTS ?

ALIGARH: Pakistani instigation is suspected in the riotous actions of the student mob in Aligarh University on April 25, which resulted in Vice Chancellor Nawab Ali Yavar Jung being severely beaten, reports IPA.

**T**HE President of Student Action Committee, Baseer Ahmad Khan, who led the demonstration which ended up in the riot is alleged to be a Pak national.

The action committee is dominated by elements belonging to the Jamat Islami Ittehad-el-Muslimeen of Hyderabad and Muslim Tablighi Jammat.

It is also stated that a Pakistani Embassy official from New Delhi, believed to be the Naval Attache, visited Aligarh recently and held talks with some of the action committee members headed by Baseer Ahmad Khan.

The riotous action of the student mob after they broke through into the hall where the University Court was meeting showed the planned character of the happening.

The demonstrators came with effigies. Hidden in the effigies were hockey sticks, soda bottles and even brickbats.

While the students continued to throw brickbats at the glass windows as the Court proceedings began, the Registrar

ordered that all doors of the hall be thrown open to avoid further loss to the property.

A member of the Court is understood to have sent a note to the student mob saying that their demand for retention of 75 per cent seats had been rejected.

In fact this item was not on the agenda of the Court at all since it was only the Academic Council which could deal with the issue.

A notable fact of the riot was that neither the Registrar nor the Proctor received even the slightest injury.

While the Vice Chancellor was the main victim of the mob, others chosen for being belaboured were Prof. Ahmad Suroor, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, Prof. Mujeeb, Head of the Education Department, and Dr. Nurul Hasan of the Department of History.

All are known for their non-communal outlook which might have been the reason for singling them out for wreaking the wrath of the communal elements.